

1 **RESEARCH ARTICLE**

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3 **Effector-mediated plant lipoxygenase protein relocalisation triggers**
4 **susceptibility**

5
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30 **Short title:** Rip1 effector relocates Lox3 to suppress immunity

31 **One sentence summary:** Fungal PTI-inhibiting effector Rip1 relocalizes maize
32 lipoxygenase 3 to the plant nucleus to suppress PAMP-triggered ROS-burst
33 responses.

34 The author responsible for distribution of materials integral to the findings presented
35 in this article in accordance with the policy described in the Instructions for
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37 **ABSTRACT**

38 **The gall-inducing, biotrophic, maize-colonizing fungus *Ustilago maydis***
39 **secretates a complex effector blend in order to suppress defence and redirect**
40 **host metabolism in its favor. Coevolution between the pathogen effectome and**
41 **the host plant immune system shapes a multifaceted molecular network of**
42 **interactions that remain phenotypically unrecognized and functionally elusive**
43 **unless single players are depleted from the system. Here, we elucidate the ROS**
44 **burst interfering protein 1 (Rip1) effector, which is involved in suppression of**
45 **PAMP-triggered immunity suppression during biotrophy. We demonstrate its**
46 **functional conservation in several monocot infecting smuts and identified a**
47 **conserved, short C-terminal motif which is essential for Rip1-mediated PAMP-**
48 **triggered ROS-burst suppression. We found the maize susceptibility factor**
49 **lipoxygenase 3 (Zmlox3) to be directly bound by Rip1 and relocalised to the**
50 **plant nucleus. Nuclear relocalisation of Zmlox3 leads to partial ROS-burst**
51 **suppression. This function is independent of its enzymatic activity revealing a**
52 **so far non-identified activity independent function of ZmLox3. Most importantly,**
53 **whereas Zmlox3 maize mutants show increased resistance to *U. maydis***
54 **wildtype strains, rip1 deletion strains infecting Zmlox3 mutant overcome this**
55 **effect. This could indicate that Rip1-triggered host resistance depends on**
56 **ZmLox3 to be suppressed and that lox3 mutation-based maize resistance to *U.***
57 ***maydis* is dependent on the presence of functional Rip1. Together our results**
58 **reveal, that the *U. maydis* effector Rip1 acts in several cellular compartments as**
59 **PTI-suppressor and that targeting of ZmLox3 by Rip1 is responsible for the**
60 **suppression of Rip1- dependent reduced susceptibility of maize to *U. maydis*.**

61

62 **Introduction**

63 Plant colonisation by biotrophic pathogens requires sophisticated strategies for tissue
64 invasion, defence suppression and metabolic manipulation to loot nutrients necessary
65 for their growth and reproduction. The gall-inducing, biotrophic fungus *Ustilago maydis*
66 secretes a multifaceted effectome during maize plant colonization to achieve the
67 abovementioned tasks. Co-evolutionary forces on the effectome and the
68 corresponding host immune system shape plant-pathogen interactions and are
69 summarized in the famous ZigZag model, where pathogen recognition by host immune
70 receptors and recognition suppression by new effectors lead to compatible or
71 incompatible interactions over the evolutionary lifespan of this interaction (Jones and
72 Dangl, 2006). Building on the Co-evolution process leading to effector triggered
73 immunity (ETI) and effector triggered susceptibility (ETS), the iceberg model addresses
74 the point that only few nucleotide-binding domain leucine-rich repeat containing (NLR)
75 - effector combinations are genetically visible as NLR/avirulence effector pairs. The
76 vast majority stays in the interaction phenotypically silent due to ETS. This is supposed
77 to be symbolized by the iceberg of which also only a minor part is visible above water
78 level (Thordal-Christensen, 2020). Although the *Ustilago hordei* avr/R gene
79 interactions have been described (Ali et al., 2014), avr-triggered R gene responses in
80 the *U. maydis*/maize pathosystem have not yet been identified.

81 Most of the 1300 species among the smut fungi cause their disease symptoms in the
82 floral organs, rather exceptionally, *U. maydis* is able to cause gall-formation on all
83 aerial parts of its host plant *Zea mays* and its predecessor teosinte (Bauer et al., 2001).
84 To date, *U. maydis* effector proteins were shown to act in various tissues and
85 subcellular compartments targeting and modifying different molecules involved in plant
86 immunity (Darino et al., 2021; Giraldo and Valent, 2013; Hemetsberger et al., 2012;
87 Navarrete et al., 2021b). Generally, one differentiates between apoplastic effectors
88 (Doehlemann et al., 2009; Fukada et al., 2021; Mueller et al., 2013) that are acting in
89 the biotrophic interphase between the fungus and its host, and so called translocated
90 effectors which act in the symplast (Darino et al., 2021; Djamei et al., 2011; Kämper
91 et al., 2006; Lo Presti et al., 2015; Navarrete et al., 2021a; Redkar et al., 2015; Tanaka
92 et al., 2014; Uhse and Djamei, 2018).

93 The plant immune system perceives attacks by two major types of receptors. Pattern
94 recognition receptors (PRRs) recognize conserved non-self molecules (pathogen
95 associated molecular pattern (PAMPs), or damage associated molecular patterns

96 (DAMPs) leading to pattern triggered immunity (PTI). Pathogen-specific effectors, or
97 their activity, are perceived by NLR proteins leading to the strong effector-triggered
98 immunity (ETI) responses (Boller and Felix, 2009; Yuan et al., 2021). The
99 PAMPs/PRRs interaction induces intracellular signaling cascades that include a
100 cytosolic Ca²⁺ burst (Jeworutzki et al., 2010; Nomura et al., 2012; Ranf et al., 2011),
101 rapid extracellular ROS production (Chinchilla et al., 2007; Nühse et al., 2007) and
102 involvement of other small molecules such as nitric oxide and lipids (Foissner et al.,
103 2000; Okazaki and Saito, 2014; Raho et al., 2011). These signals trigger a dynamic
104 transcriptional reprogramming, leading to metabolic adaptations in the plant cells
105 which results in restricting pathogen colonization (Moore et al., 2011). ROS-
106 accumulation is not restricted to PTI-triggered immunity but is also involved in the
107 ultimate outcome in the ETI in form of the hypersensitive response that leads to cell
108 death. The partial dependency of ETI on functional PTI has been recently underlined
109 by genetic evidence placing the NADPH oxidase RBOHD as a central integrator of
110 both signaling pathways (Yuan et al., 2021, Ngou et al., 2021a).

111 One example of how the downstream signaling after effector recognition occurs has
112 been shown for the TIR-NBS-LRR NLR protein, Rps4, which needs to be translocated
113 to the nucleus to trigger a hypersensitive response (Sohn et al., 2014). This activity
114 depends on its interaction with EDS1, a lipase-like nucleo-cytoplasmic protein that
115 interacts with another lipase-like protein, PAD4. Both of these lipase-like proteins are
116 involved in downstream signaling induced by a number of NLRs. Although the N-
117 terminal lipase domain of EDS1 and PAD4 is conserved, it has been shown that its
118 activity is not needed for its function downstream of ETI (Dongus and Parker, 2021;
119 Lapin et al., 2020; Wagner et al., 2013).

120 Plant oxylipins are metabolites that are involved in numerous plant physiological
121 processes including plant defence (Genva et al., 2019; Wasternack and Feussner,
122 2018). Biosynthesis of oxylipins starts with the oxygenation of polyunsaturated fatty
123 acids such as linolenic acid (18:3) yielding reactive hydroperoxides which are then
124 substrates for either 9- or 13-lipoxygenases (LOX), α -dioxygenases (α -DOX), or
125 monooxygenases. The resulting molecules represent a host of different oxygenated
126 derivatives. Lipid hydroperoxides can also degrade into reactive α,β -unsaturated oxo
127 compounds capable of crosslinking proteins and DNA (Gaschler and Stockwell, 2017).
128 Immunolabelling of LOX-enzymes in plants indicates so far a cytoplasmic or plastid

129 localization (Demchenko et al., 2012)(Feussner et al., 1995). Maize 9-LOX
130 accumulates in plastids, cytoplasm and tonoplasts (Tolley et al., 2018).

131 LOX-derived oxylipins play an important role in plant defence responses (Cacas et al.,
132 2005; Christensen and Kolomiets, 2011; Estelle et al., 2020). For example, many 13-
133 LOX-derived compounds, including jasmonic acid (JA), 12-oxophytodienoic acid
134 (OPDA), and 13-hydroxyoctadecatrienoic acid (13-HOT), regulate plant defence
135 responses. Besides the 13-LOX pathway, the 9-LOX pathway was shown to activate
136 defence responses against *Pseudomonas spp* in *Arabidopsis thaliana* (Vicente et al.,
137 2012) or *Fusarium verticillioides* in maize (Christensen et al., 2014). Furthermore,
138 genetic and biochemical evidence supports Zmlox3 belonging to the group of 9-LOX
139 in *Z. mays*. It negatively modulates the PAMP-triggered extracellular ROS-burst. For
140 several fungal pathogens including *U. maydis*, Zmlox3 was shown to be a
141 susceptibility factor, disruption of which results in increased resistance (Gao et al.,
142 2007; Pathi et al., 2020).

143 In this study, we functionally characterize the ROS-burst-interfering effector protein
144 Rip1 (UMAG_04039) of *U. maydis* and provide evidence that this effector suppresses
145 PAMP-triggered ROS in various subcellular compartments. Importantly, we provide
146 biochemical and genetic evidence that Rip1 targets Zmlox3 to suppress PTI and Rip1-
147 mediated reduction of susceptibility of maize to *U. maydis*. On the mechanistic side,
148 we demonstrate that Rip1 relocates Zmlox3 to the nucleus and that nuclear Zmlox3
149 independent of its enzymatic activity leads to a reduced PAMP-triggered ROS-burst
150 responsiveness in plants, explaining partially the ROS-burst suppressive activities of
151 Rip1. We demonstrate functional conservation for various Rip1 orthologs and identify
152 a short, conserved, C-terminal motif that is essential for its ROS-burst suppressive
153 activity *in planta*.

154 **Results**

155 ***Rip1 is a small secreted fungal protein with ROS inhibiting activity in plants***

156 Rip1 is a putative *U. maydis* effector without known functional domains or motifs,
157 except for a predicted canonical signal peptide of the first 26 amino acids (aa) at the
158 very N-terminal part of the protein (SignalP 5.0) (Almagro Armenteros et al., 2019)
159 (Supplementary Fig. 1A). In the genome of *U. maydis*, the *rip1* gene is located on
160 chromosome 11, contains an intron (position 276-367) and encodes a 166 aa long

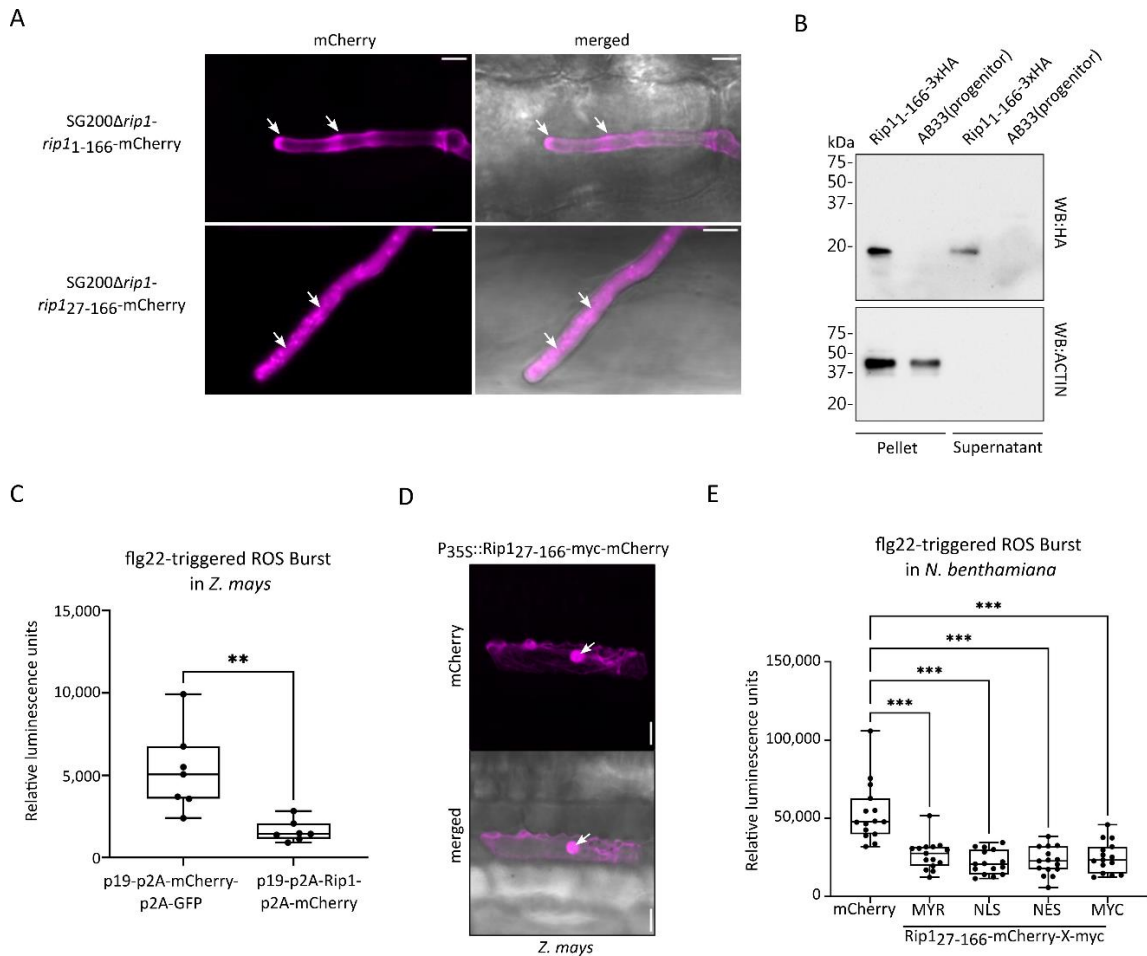
161 protein (Supplementary Fig. 1A). Unlike many other putative effector candidates in *U.*
162 *maydis*, *rip1* is not positioned in a cluster of other, co-regulated secreted protein-
163 encoding genes. Rip1 has orthologs in various smut species belonging to
164 Ustilaginaceae (Schuster et al., 2018) including *Sporisorium reilianum* (Sr14946),
165 *Sporisorium scitamineum* (SPSC_05323), *Ustilago hordei* (UHOR_13428), *Ustilago*
166 *bromivora* (UBRO_13428) and *Melanopsichium pennsylvanicum* (BN887_05943).
167 Transcriptomic time course experiments on *U. maydis* infected maize show a
168 significant upregulation of *rip1*, peaking four days post infection (Supplementary Fig.
169 1B) (Lanver et al., 2018). In order to test whether Rip1 is a secreted effector during
170 fungal infection, we generated Rip1-mCherry fusions with or without signal peptide
171 under the control of a strong biotrophy-induced promoter, Cmu1 (Djamei et al., 2011).
172 The unambiguous localisation at the edges of fungal hyphae and fungal tip indicated
173 a secretion of Rip1 by *U. maydis*, which was not observed for Rip1₂₇₋₁₆₆-mCherry
174 lacking its signal peptide (Fig. 1A). By osmolyte-induced plasmolysis of infected maize
175 leaf cells, free diffusion of full length Rip1-mCherry in the biotrophic interphase
176 between the fungus and the maize cells could be shown (Supplementary Fig. 1C).
177 Lastly, we verified the secretion of Rip1 in axenic culture. We took advantage of the
178 AB33 strain, in which b-filamentous growth can be induced by changing the nitrogen
179 source (Brachmann et al., 2001). The detection in western blot of P_{otef}::Rip1₁₋₁₆₆-3xHA
180 in both fractions, pellet and supernatant, confirms, that the protein contains a
181 functional signal peptide. In comparison, a non-secreted protein, actin, was used as a
182 lysis control and was only detected in the pellet fraction (Fig. 1B).

183 Many pathogen-derived effectors target PTI defence signaling in plants and the
184 PAMP-triggered ROS-burst response is one of the earliest responses in PAMP-
185 signaling. Therefore, we tested if Rip1 shows PTI suppressive activity by measuring
186 PAMP-induced ROS-accumulation *in planta*. Maize plants transiently expressing Rip1
187 lacking its endogenous signal peptide were used to retain accumulation in the native
188 host system. For transient expression, a foxtail mosaic virus vector was employed for
189 virus-mediated overexpression of a p19-p2A-Rip1₂₇₋₁₆₆-HA-p2A-mCherry construct,
190 introduced into whole maize seedlings through biolistic bombardment (Bouton et al.,
191 2018). The p2A ribosome skipping motifs (Kim et al., 2011) in the transformed
192 construct avoids a large tag that might interfere with Rip1 activity, while still being able
193 to monitor successful transformation and protein expression by fluorescence

194 microscopy. The p19 protein is a silencing suppressor that counteracts putatively
195 induced transgene-silencing of the host. Successfully transformed maize leaves were
196 observed after 7 days post bombardment by confocal microscopy and the integrity of
197 the fused proteins was confirmed by immunoblotting (Supplementary Fig. 1D and
198 Supplementary Fig. 1E). Afterwards, leaf discs of transformed leaf regions were
199 excised, challenged with the PAMP flg22 and ROS accumulation was determined by
200 a luminol-based assay, measuring chemiluminescence as a proxy for H₂O₂ production
201 (Smith and Heese, 2014). Indeed, Rip1 expression led to a significant suppression of
202 PAMP-triggered ROS accumulation compared to our control plants expressing p19-
203 p2A-mCherry-p2A-GFP (Fig. 1C). To elucidate if the host-target of Rip1 is conserved
204 between monocots and dicots, we chose the dicot plant *Nicotiana benthamiana*. For
205 expression of Rip1 in *N. benthamiana*, leaves were infiltrated with *Agrobacterium*
206 *tumefaciens* containing either P35S::Rip1₂₇₋₁₆₆-p2A-mCherry constructs or
207 P35S::mCherry as control. Two days after infiltration, leaf discs were excised, and
208 further used to measure flg22-triggered ROS burst activities. Rip1₂₇₋₁₆₆ expression led
209 to a strong suppression of ROS accumulation in comparison to the control, indicating
210 that Rip1 acts as a potent interspecies ROS burst suppressor (Supplementary Fig.
211 1F). To rule out that non-responsiveness of Rip1 expressing plants to the PAMP-
212 treatment is based on local cell-death of the plant tissue, we used trypan blue tissue
213 staining to document that no enhanced cell-death occurs upon Rip1 expression in *N.*
214 *benthamiana* (Fernández-Bautista et al., 2016) (Supplementary Fig. 1G). To further
215 assess the localisation of Rip1 within plant cells, using biolistic transformation in *Z.*
216 *mays* or *A. tumefaciens* mediated transformation in *N. benthamiana*, Rip1₂₇₋₁₆₆-
217 mCherry-myc expression constructs were delivered into the respective plant cells and
218 Rip1₂₇₋₁₆₆--mCherry-myc localisation was observed through confocal microscopy.
219 Rip1₂₇₋₁₆₆--mCherry-myc is localized to both nucleus and cytoplasm (Fig. 1D and
220 Supplementary Fig. 1H). In order to see if the mCherry fusion protein of Rip1 shows
221 ROS suppression activity and if a specific subcellular localization can be correlated to
222 it, we conducted a mislocalisation assay followed by flg22-induced ROS-production
223 measurements. Microscopic analysis verified the respective mislocalisations of
224 differently tagged Rip1₂₇₋₁₆₆ versions in *N. benthamiana* and the integrity of the fused
225 proteins was confirmed by western blot (Supplementary Fig. 1I and 1J). Strikingly,
226 misdirection of Rip1 to different cellular compartments by fusing a N-terminal
227 myristoylation signal (MYR) targeting it to the inside of the plasma membrane) or c-

228 terminal NLS (nuclear localisation signal), targeting Rip1 into the plant nucleus or c-
229 terminal NES (nuclear export signal), targeting the effector from the nucleus to the
230 plant cytoplasm), demonstrated highly significant ROS burst suppressive activities of
231 Rip1 in all tested cellular (sub-) compartments (Fig. 1E). We further noticed that
232 infiltrations of *A. tumefaciens* suspensions with an OD₆₀₀ at 0.2 in *N. benthamiana*
233 plants show an almost complete ROS burst suppression for all Rip1 generated
234 constructs. Therefore, we additionally tried infiltrations with different OD adjustments
235 to reduce overall effector expression in the plant as excessive amounts of Rip1 in the
236 plant cell might already saturate the system and therefore no subcellular activity
237 preference for Rip1 is detectable. Despite the agrobacterial load reduction to OD₆₀₀
238 set at 0.05 we still observed a strong ROS-burst suppression in *N. benthamiana*
239 triggered by flg22 (Supplementary Fig. 1K) and no subcellular preferences of Rip1
240 activity was obvious.

241 Using ipool-seq, we have previously demonstrated that Rip1 deletion has no
242 significant impact on virulence in seedling infection assays under laboratory conditions
243 (Uhse et al., 2018). In addition, to elucidate if SG200Δrip1 has an organ specific
244 phenotype we performed tassel infection assay (Redkar and Doehlemann, 2016),
245 which show no significant difference to the progenitor strain SG200 (Supplementary
246 Fig. 1L). This result is not surprising considering the functional redundancy of
247 symplastic PTI-inhibiting effectors, which have been identified so far in the *U. maydis*
248 effectome (Darino et al., 2021; Navarrete et al., 2021b, 2021a).



249

250 **Figure 1: Rip1 is a fungal secreted protein which suppresses PAMP-triggered ROS**
 251 **burst in several subcellular compartments of a plant cell. A.** Secretion of Rip1 in infected
 252 maize plants. Areas of cells from maize cv. B73 infected with *U. maydis* strains expressing
 253 mCherry fusions of Rip1 with (P_{Cmu1}::Rip1₁₋₁₆₆) or without signal peptide (P_{Cmu1}::Rip1₂₇₋₁₆₆)
 254 under the Cmu1 promoter are shown. Fluorescence was observed 5 days post infection. While
 255 secreted Rip1 strongly accumulates at the cell periphery of the hyphae and hyphal tip,
 256 localisation of Rip1 without signal peptide is evenly distributed within the hyphae, thereby
 257 forming aggregates (exemplarily indicated with white arrowheads). Scale bar = 5 μm. **B.**
 258 Secretion of Rip1 in axenic culture. Rip1₁₋₁₆₆-3xHA was expressed in the strain AB33 under the
 259 constitutive *otef* promoter. Total proteins were extracted from the pellet and secreted proteins
 260 were precipitated from the culture supernatant. The extracts were subjected to western blot
 261 with anti-HA or anti-Actin antibodies. Rip1₁₋₁₆₆-3xHA could be detected in both, pellet and
 262 supernatant whereas the non-secreted control, actin, was only detected in the pellet fraction.
 263 **C.** PAMP-triggered ROS burst assays in *Z. mays*. ROS accumulation in *Z. mays*, transiently
 264 overexpressing p19-p2A-Rip1₂₇₋₁₆₆-p2A-mCherry was monitored over 40 min after challenging
 265 with flg22. Plants expressing p19-p2A-mCherry-p2A-GFP were used as reference controls.
 266 Box plots indicate total accumulation of plant derived apoplastic ROS after PAMP-treatment
 267 based on detection of luminescent emissions. Displayed data show a pool of three biological
 268 replicates calculated for the total area under the curve; *Z. mays* n=7. Asterisks indicate
 269 statistically significant differences from the control (**p<0.01, Students t-test). **D.** Localisation
 270 of Rip1 (without signal peptide) in *Z. mays*. Transient expression of P35S::Rip1₂₇₋₁₆₆-myc-
 271 mCherry via biolistic bombardment in maize plant leaves was observed through confocal

272 microscopy. Rip1 showed a nucleo-cytoplasmic localisation. Arrows exemplarily mark plant
273 cell nuclei. Scale bar = 20 μ m. **E.** Subcellular mis-localisation assays of Rip1 reveal its ROS
274 burst suppression activity to be independent of the tested subcellular localisation. In *N.*
275 *benthamiana* transiently expressed Rip1₂₇₋₁₆₆ fused to different subcellular localisation signals
276 (MYR, NLS and NES) (x stands for either NLS or NES whereas MYR is fused to the N-terminal
277 part of Rip1₂₇₋₁₆₆) shows ROS burst suppression activity in all subcellular compartments tested.
278 Depicted data is a pool of three biological replicates; n=15. Asterisks indicate statistically
279 significant differences from the control (***) p<0.001, one-way ANOVA followed by Tukey's
280 test).

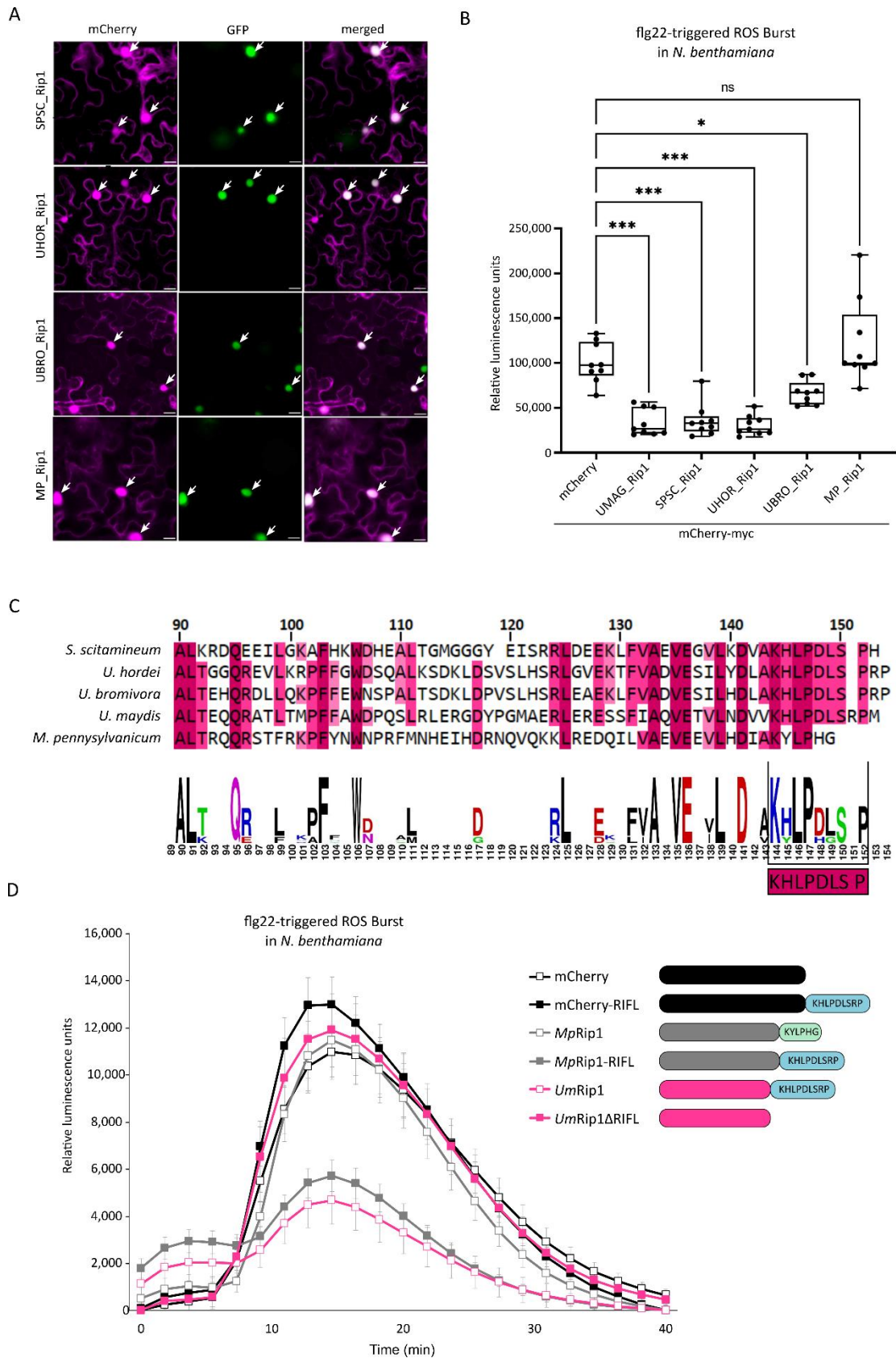
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282 **Functional analysis of Rip1 orthologs from other smut fungi leads to** 283 **identification of a unique ROS-burst suppressive motif**

284 Homology searches of the Rip1 protein sequence revealed several orthologs in other
285 smut fungi (Supplementary Fig. 2A). To address the question whether Rip1 orthologs
286 have similar functions, we performed localisation and ROS burst activity assays. For
287 this, we chose the orthologs of Rip1 from *S. scitamineum* (SPSC_05323), *U. hordei*
288 (UHOR_13428), *U. bromivora* (UBRO_13428) and *M. pennsylvanicum*
289 (BN887_05943) (Supplementary Fig. 2B). *N. benthamiana* plants were used to
290 transiently express these different Rip1 orthologs without their endogenous signal
291 peptide as mCherry fusion constructs. All ortholog constructs were successfully
292 expressed in *N. benthamiana* as confirmed by western blot (Supplementary Fig. 2C).
293 Confocal microscopy illustrated a localisation within the nucleus as well as the
294 cytoplasm for all of the tested Rip1 orthologs (Fig. 2A). Moreover, the ability of ROS
295 burst suppression after challenging with flg22 was observed among all tested
296 orthologs, except for the *M. pennsylvanicum* derived Rip1 ortholog, whose ROS levels
297 were comparable to that of mCherry control plants (Fig. 2B).

298 In order to determine if there is a critical region responsible for the ROS suppression,
299 we first designed several *U. maydis* Rip1 truncation versions using predicted structural
300 positions of α -helices as benchmarks with CLC Main Workbench 8.1 (Supplementary
301 Fig. 2D). While full length Rip1 was able to suppress ROS burst after treatment with
302 the flg22 peptide in infiltrated *N. benthamiana* plants, all Rip1 truncation versions
303 completely lost their ability to decrease the plant ROS accumulation, showing ROS
304 levels similar to the mCherry control (Supplementary Fig. 2E). Protein integrity was
305 confirmed by western blot (Supplementary Fig. 2F). Since the Rip1 ortholog from *M.*
306 *pennsylvanicum* was the only protein unable to suppress ROS burst in plants, we next

307 investigated whether protein sequence comparisons between all tested orthologs
308 might unravel cryptic motifs essential for ROS suppression functionality. Indeed, our
309 alignment revealed a K-H-L-P-D-L-S-R_(0,1)-P motif, designated as **Rip1 Functional**
310 (RIFL) motif, preserved at the C-terminus among all orthologs except for *M.*
311 *pennsylvanicum*, which harbors a truncated, degenerated sequence at this position
312 (Fig. 2C). To determine the importance of this motif for ROS burst suppression, we
313 generated motif deletion and insertion mutations using *UmRip1* or *MpRip1*,
314 respectively (Fig. 2D). We expressed the aforementioned constructs in *N.*
315 *benthamiana* and tested their ability to suppress ROS burst. Plants expressing free
316 mCherry were used as control. Protein integrity and localisation of tested constructs
317 in *N. benthamiana* were confirmed by western blot and confocal microscopy,
318 respectively (Supplementary Fig. 2G and 2H). Confocal microscopy analysis revealed
319 that the RIFL motif does not influence the localisation of Rip1-mCherry
320 (Supplementary Fig. 2H). Strikingly, we observed that Rip1 lacking the RIFL motif
321 failed to suppress ROS burst, whereas an insertion of the RIFL motif at the C-terminus
322 of *MpRip1* was sufficient to endow its ROS burst suppression function (Fig. 2D).
323 Fusion of RIFL alone to mCherry did not lead to ROS burst suppression, indicating
324 that additional Rip1 related sequence features are required for its ROS burst
325 suppressive function. Taken together, our results demonstrate that the C-terminal
326 RIFL motif is necessary for ROS burst suppressive activity of Rip1 and that one can
327 restore this PTI-suppressive function in the *M. pennsylvanicum* ortholog by fusing the
328 RIFL-motif to it.



329

330 **Figure 2: Rip1 orthologs suppress ROS burst in *N. benthamiana* plants.** **A.** Localisation
 331 of different Rip1 orthologs in *N. benthamiana* from *Sporisorium scitamineum* (SPSC_05323)
 332 (host plant sugarcane), *Ustilago hordei* (UHOR_13428) (host plant barley), *Ustilago bromivora*
 333 (UBRO_13428) (host plant Brachypodium) and *Melanopsichium pennsylvanicum*

334 (BN887_05943) (host plant Polygonaceae). Orthologs were fused to myc-mCherry, co-
335 expressed with P35S::GFP-NLS and localisation was assessed by confocal microscopy.
336 Localisation was observed in the nucleus and the cytoplasm for all orthologs. Left panel:
337 mCherry, middle panel: GFP, right panel: merged mCherry and GFP. Arrows exemplarily mark
338 plant cell nuclei. Scale bar = 20 μ m. **B.** *N. benthamiana* plants expressing different Rip1
339 orthologs driven by the constitutive promoter 35S were assessed for ROS activity. Box plots
340 represent the area under the ROS burst curve after challenging with PAMP-flg22 monitored
341 over 40 minutes based on a luminescence assay. All orthologs of Rip1 were able to
342 significantly suppress ROS burst, except plants expressing *MpRip1*. Shown data is a pool of
343 three biological replicates calculated as area under the curve; n=9. Asterisks indicate
344 statistically significant differences to the control (ns: non-significant, * p<0.05, *** p<0.05, one-
345 way ANOVA followed by Tukey's test). **C.** Part of the C-terminal protein sequence Clustal
346 alignment of Rip1 orthologs. Different shaded colors indicate global percentage identities of 3
347 or more identical aa among the proteins. Highly conserved C-terminal region present for all,
348 but *MpRip1* is highlighted with black box. Numbers on top indicate protein length in aa based
349 on signal peptide deleted sequences. **D.** Schematic representation of different deletion and
350 insertion mutation constructs of Rip1 and *MpRip1*. The RIFL motif (KHLPLDSRP) is important
351 for the ROS burst suppressive activity of Rip1 *in planta*. Expression of *UmRip1* lacking its
352 endogenous C-terminal RIFL motif shows similar ROS burst activity levels as mCherry control
353 plants. On the contrary, plants expressing *MpRip1* with a C-terminal RIFL motif replacement
354 show ROS-burst suppressive activity in comparison to the control plants. Curves represent
355 plant ROS-burst levels after challenging with flg22 monitored over 40 minutes based on a
356 luminescence assay. Shown data is a pool of three biological replicates; Error bars represent
357 SE, n=9.

358

359 ***Rip1 targets maize LOX3 (Zmlox3), a negative regulator of ROS generation***

360 As Rip1 likely targets a conserved plant pathway due to its ROS-burst suppressive
361 activity in maize as well as in the dicot *N. benthamiana*, we made use of the easy
362 accessibility of the latter model organism to perform co-immunoprecipitation-coupled
363 mass spectrometry in order to identify potential Rip1 plant interactors. For this
364 purpose, P35S::Rip1₂₇₋₁₆₆-mCherry-myc was expressed in *N. benthamiana* leaves,
365 pulled down with anti-myc magnetic beads and subjected to mass spectrometry for
366 protein complex identification. Plants expressing P35S::mCherry-mCherry-myc were
367 used as control. Protein integrity was assessed beforehand by western blot
368 (Supplementary Fig. 3A). Co-immunoprecipitation experiments were performed twice
369 and MS- identified proteins were combined for the analysis (Supplementary Fig. 3B).
370 Interestingly, the top hit of our results was a protein of approximately 95 kDa in weight,
371 identified on the SGN database (Sol Genomics Network) as LOX6
372 (Niben101Scf01434g03006.1). Previous studies indicate that LOXes are induced
373 during plant-pathogen interactions and are involved in plant PTI response, which
374 prompted us to further investigate its connection with Rip1 (Doehlemann et al., 2008;

375 Pathi et al., 2020). Using BLASTP, we identified the closest homolog of
376 Niben101Scf01434g03006.1 in maize to be LOX 3 (NP_001105515.1) with 60 percent
377 protein identity (Supplementary Fig. 3C and 3D). Next, we tested for the ability of Rip1
378 to directly interact with Zmlox3 using a directed yeast two-hybrid assay. A direct
379 interaction between Rip1 and Zmlox3 was confirmed in this system (Fig. 3a). Further,
380 to confirm this interaction, we performed co-immunoprecipitation in *N. benthamiana*
381 leaves by co-expressing P35S::Rip1₂₇₋₁₆₆-mCherry-myc and P35S::Zmlox3-GFP. We
382 extracted total proteins from leaves expressing either P35S::Rip1₂₇₋₁₆₆-mCherry-myc
383 or P35S::mCherry-mCherry-myc (control) and P35S::Zmlox3-GFP and
384 immunoprecipitated myc-tagged proteins with anti-myc magnetic beads. Zmlox3
385 protein co-immunoprecipitated with P35S::Rip1₂₇₋₁₆₆-mCherry-myc but not
386 P35S::mCherry-mCherry-myc when observed using Western Blot (Fig. 3B) that utilized
387 an anti-lox antibody which specifically binds to Zmlox3 (Supplementary Fig. 3E).

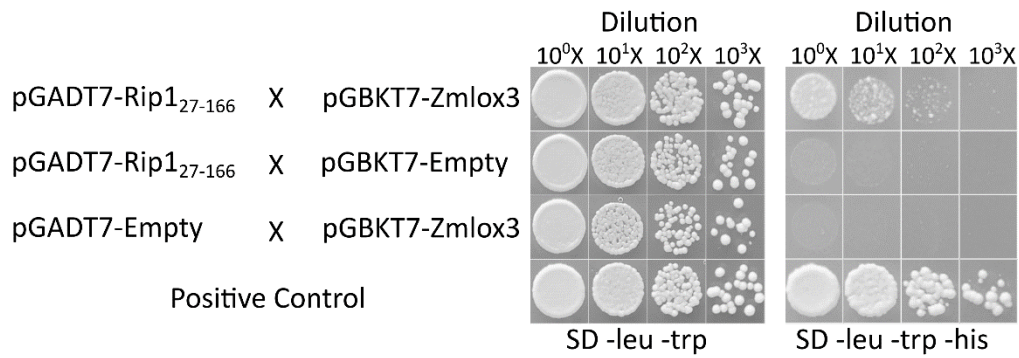
388 As Rip1 suppresses PTI-responses, we tested the role of its interacting LOX on
389 PAMP-triggered ROS accumulation by virus induced gene silencing (VIGS) followed
390 by PAMP-induced ROS measurements. For this purpose, we used a Tobacco rattle
391 virus (TRV) based silencing vector targeting a unique region of Nblox6 in *N.*
392 *benthamiana* (Supplementary Fig. 2F) (Fernandez-Pozo et al., 2015). Successful
393 VIGS of Nblox6 was determined by qPCR showing reduced expression levels of
394 Nblox6 in silenced plants (Supplementary Fig. 2G). Four weeks post infection (wpi),
395 tobacco plants show neither cell death indication in leaves nor any other obvious
396 phenotypical changes in comparison to the control plants (Supplementary Fig. 2H).
397 Later, VIGS plants were challenged with flg22 and ROS accumulation was monitored
398 by a luminol-based assay. Nblox6 silenced plants showed significantly higher
399 accumulation of ROS compared to control plants (Supplementary Fig. 2I) indicating a
400 negative role of Nblox6 in ROS generation.

401 In order to investigate if the maize LOX has a similar role in PAMP-triggered ROS-
402 accumulation, a transposon-mutagenized mutant maize line was used (Gao et al.,
403 2007). The maize *lox3-4* mutant line showed significantly higher ROS levels upon
404 PAMP flg22-treatment compared to wild type B73 (Fig. 3C). Altogether, these results
405 indicate a conserved function of maize LOX3 and its *N. benthamiana* ortholog Nblox6
406 as negative players of PAMP-triggered apoplastic ROS generation.

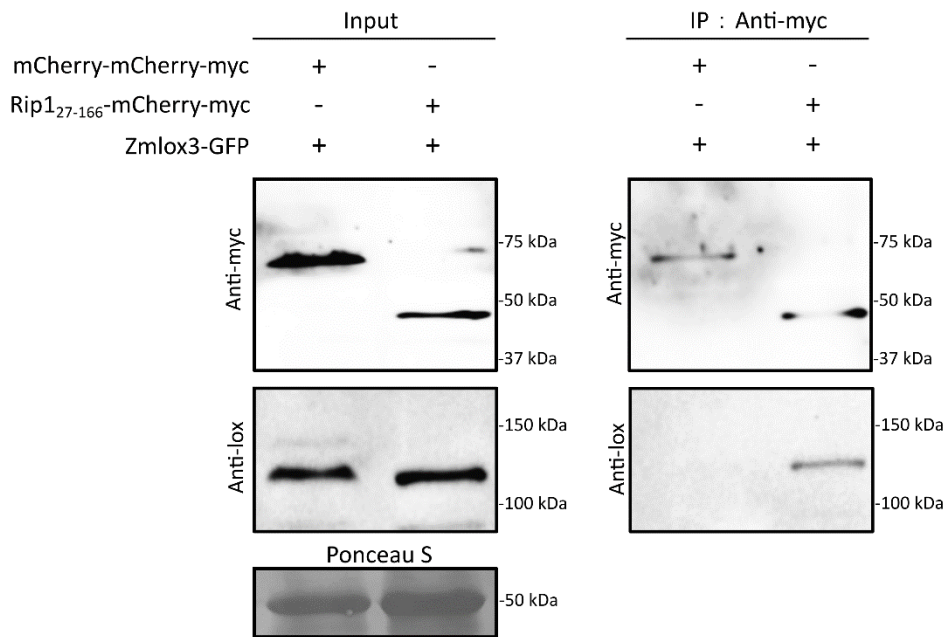
407 To test these results further, we overexpressed Zmlox3 under the strong constitutive
408 35S promoter (P35S::Zmlox3-GFP) in *N. benthamiana* leaves and challenged them
409 with flg22-PAMP to monitor ROS generation. We fused Zmlox3 with a C-terminal tag
410 leading to an enzymatically inactive protein since the conserved C-terminus in all
411 LOXs known so far is part of the active center (Newcomer and Brash, 2015).
412 Remarkably, overexpression of enzymatically inactive Zmlox3 in *N. benthamiana*
413 plants led to significantly reduced levels of ROS accumulation compared to control
414 plants (Fig. 3D). Similar results were also observed by overexpression of endogenous
415 C-terminally tagged Nblox6 in *N. benthamiana* under the 35S promoter
416 (Supplementary Fig. 3J).

417 To elucidate whether there is a correlation between Zmlox3, Rip1 and plant ROS
418 activity, we co-expressed Zmlox3 and Rip1₂₇₋₁₆₆ in *N. benthamiana* and monitored the
419 ROS accumulation after flg22-PAMP triggered ROS burst. By co-expressing both
420 interacting proteins in the plant cell, we observed that ROS-burst suppression activity
421 was strengthened significantly in the co-expressing plants (Fig. 3D).

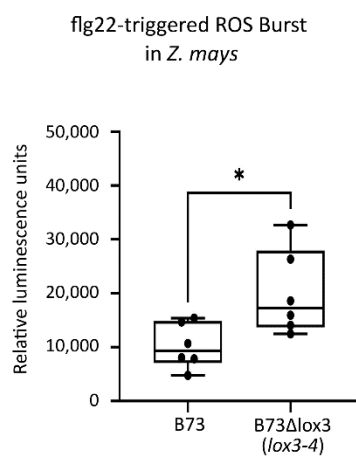
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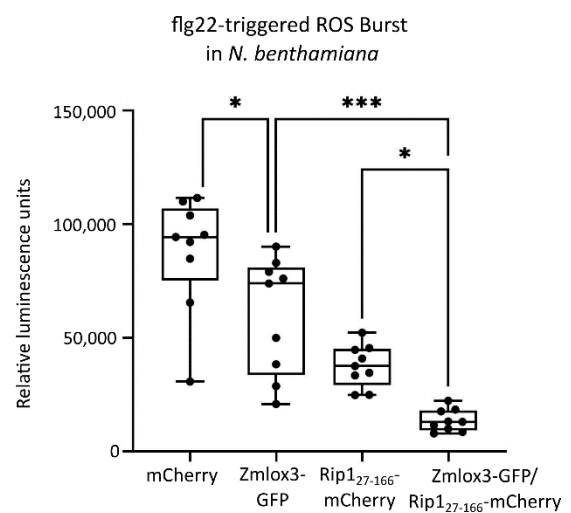
B



C



D



422

423

424

425

Figure 3: Rip1 targets maize LOX3 (Zmlox3), a negative regulator of PAMP-triggered ROS-burst. A. Direct interaction of Rip1 and Zmlox3 in a Yeast-two-Hybrid assay. Zmlox3

426 was cloned into pGBKT7 bait vectors and transformed into the yeast strain Ah109, whereas
427 Rip1 was cloned into pGADT7 activation vector and transformed into the yeast strain Y187.
428 Diploid yeast after mating, containing both plasmids, were dropped on selective synthetic
429 dropout media (SD) and yeast growth was monitored 4 days after spotting. Columns in each
430 panel represent serial decimal dilutions. Positive control represents a laboratory internal
431 reference of two strongly interacting proteins (other *U. maydis* effector and maize plant protein,
432 unpublished). The experiment was repeated 3 times independently with comparable results.
433 **B.** Co-immunoprecipitation (Co-IP) assay showing that Rip1 interacts with ZmLox3 in *N.*
434 *benthamiana*. We co-expressed P35S:Rip1₂₇₋₁₆₆-mCherry-myc or P35S:mCherry-mCherry-
435 myc (control) and P35S::Zmlox3-GFP in *N. benthamiana* leaves and performed a Co-IP using
436 anti-myc antibody. Western blot shows that Zmlox3 detected with Zmlox3-specific antibody
437 were co-purified with P35S:Rip1₂₇₋₁₆₆-mCherry-myc but not with P35S:mCherry-mCherry-myc
438 **C.** Knock-out lines of maize *lox3* (*lox3-4* mutant, Gao et al., 2007) show elevated ROS levels
439 after flg22 treatment. Mutant lines of *lox3* were grown for 14 days before leaves were used in
440 a flg22-PAMP triggered ROS burst assay. ROS accumulation was monitored over 40 minutes
441 with a luminescence-based assay. As control maize plants of the B73 accession were used.
442 Data is shown as box plots for the area under the curve of two pooled biological replicates,
443 n=6/replicate. Significant statistical differences to control plants: Student t-test, * p<0.05. **D.**
444 ROS burst inhibition effects are synergistically enhanced in the presence of both, expressed
445 Zmlox3 and Rip1 in *N. benthamiana*. Plants expressing P35S::Zmlox3-GFP, P35S::Rip1₂₇₋₁₆₆-
446 mCherry or both constructs in combination were infiltrated into *N. benthamiana* and flg22
447 triggered ROS burst was monitored over 40 minutes with a luminescence based assay. The
448 ROS burst suppressing activities of single infiltrated Zmlox3 and Rip1 overexpression
449 constructs were further significantly enhanced by co-infiltration of both constructs. The OD₆₀₀
450 for Zmlox3 was set to 0.2 and for Rip1 to 0.05, respectively. Data is shown as box plots for
451 the area under the curve of three pooled biological replicates, n=9/replicate. Significant
452 statistical differences of P35S::Zmlox3-GFP to control plants P35S::mCherry: Student t-test, *
453 p<0.05. Significant statistical differences of P35S::Zmlox3-GFP and P35S::Rip1₂₇₋₁₆₆-mCherry
454 to P35S::Zmlox3-GFP/ P35S::Rip1₂₇₋₁₆₆-mCherry: * p<0.05,*** p<0.05, one-way ANOVA
455 followed by Tukey's test.

456

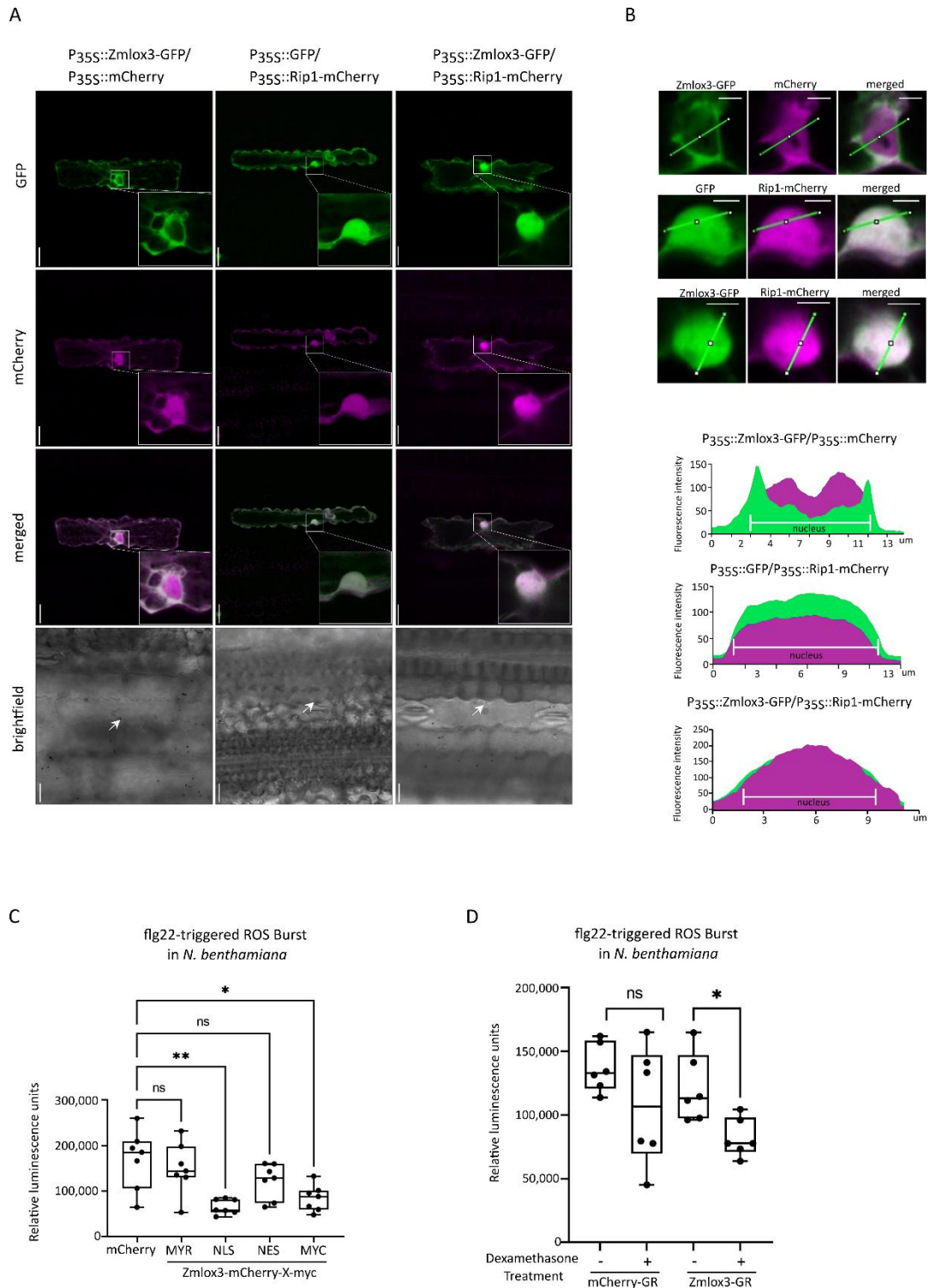
457 ***Relocalisation of enzymatically inactive Zmlox3 into the nucleus increases its*** 458 ***ROS suppressive activity***

459 Following the observation of elevated ROS suppression in *N. benthamiana* plants
460 expressing C-terminally tagged Zmlox3 and Rip1, we decided to resolve the
461 localisation of Zmlox3 and Rip1 in plant cells. Evaluation of *N. benthamiana* and *Z.*
462 *mays* plant tissue expressing P35S::ZmLox3-GFP co-infiltrated with P35S::mCherry,
463 which marks plant nuclei and cytoplasm, showed ZmLox3 to be localized mainly in the
464 cytosol, while only faint or no Zmlox3 derived fluorescent signals could be observed
465 within the plant nucleus for both plant species (Fig. 4A, Supplementary Fig. 4A and
466 4B). Intriguingly, when co-expressing Zmlox3-GFP together with the nucleo-
467 cytoplasmic Rip1-mCherry in these plants, a relocalisation of Zmlox3 into the plant
468 nuclei was revealed throughout the transformed tissues (Fig. 4A, Fig. 4B and

469 Supplementary Fig. 4A). To further test if Rip1 actively directs Zmlox3 into the plant
470 nucleus, we co-expressed a NES tagged version of Rip1 with Zmlox3 in *N.*
471 *benthamiana*. Our results show that Zmlox3 is no longer relocating into the nucleus
472 upon the restriction of Rip1 to the cytoplasm (Supplementary Fig. 4C). Consequently,
473 Rip1 was unable to leverage Zmlox3 to maximize ROS burst suppression
474 (Supplementary Fig 4D). To verify the protein integrity of the used constructs, a
475 western blot was performed (Supplementary Fig. 4E).

476 Given the results so far, the next line of inquiry was to determine whether there might
477 be a connection between the observed Rip1-induced nuclear translocation of Zmlox3
478 and its previously established involvement in plant immunity (Constantino et al., 2013,
479 p. 3; Gao et al., 2009, 2007; Pathi et al., 2020). To get more insight into a possible
480 localisation-dependent Zmlox3 effect on plant immunity, we performed a ROS burst
481 activity assessment of subcellularly mis-localized, terminally tagged Zmlox3 proteins.
482 For this purpose, we made use of MYR, NLS and NES tags by fusing them to the
483 coding region of Zmlox3 as mentioned before. After confirming successful Zmlox3 mis-
484 localisations (Supplementary Fig. 4F and Supplementary Fig. 4I), we performed ROS
485 burst assays in *N. benthamiana* as described before. Indeed, the specific targeting of
486 C-terminally tagged ZmLox3 into the plant nucleus led to significantly higher ROS
487 burst suppressions compared to plants expressing either free mCherry or MYR and
488 NES Zmlox3 fusions (Fig. 4C). To follow this up, we used a glucocorticoid receptor
489 (GR)-based inducible gene expression system, which allows for Dexamethasone-
490 induced nuclear translocation of respective fusion proteins. We fused the GR steroid-
491 binding domain C-terminally to ZmLox3 or mCherry as control, driven by the
492 constitutive 35S promoter and expressed these constructs in *N. benthamiana*. The GR
493 steroid-binding domain preserves the constitutively expressed Zmlox3 or mCherry
494 proteins within the cytoplasm. Upon application of Dexamethasone (DEX), the
495 translocation of Zmlox3-GR or mCherry-GR proteins into the nucleus is triggered
496 (Supplementary Fig. 4G and Supplementary Fig. 4H) (Brockmann et al., 2001). Plants
497 expressing P35S::Zmlox3-GR treated with DEX showed significantly higher ROS-
498 suppression activities compared to non-treated DEX plants or mCherry control plants,
499 confirming the importance of a nuclear localized Zmlox3 for its effect in ROS burst
500 suppression (Fig. 4D).

501 To test if C-terminally tagged versions of Zmlox3 are showing any detectable LOX
502 activity, we expressed ZmLox3 c-terminally fused to mCherry, mCherry-NLS or
503 mCherry-NES and N-terminally with a 6xHis-tag in *Escherichia coli* and affinity purified
504 the proteins to be tested in LOX assays. Whereas the N-terminally tagged control
505 ZmLox3 shows activity to both substrates, α -linolenic and linoleic acid, no such activity
506 could be detected *in vitro* for any of the C-terminally tagged versions of Zmlox3
507 (Supplemental Fig. 4J). Taking the Zmlox3 mislocalisation, ROS-burst assay results
508 and the enzymatic activity assays together, this indicates that the PTI-suppressive
509 property of native Zmlox3 is not connected to its enzymatic activity in the 9-LOX
510 pathway. Furthermore, our results demonstrate, that a nuclear localisation of Zmlox3
511 is critical and beneficial for its ROS suppression activity.



512

513 **Figure 4: Zmlox3 is translocated into the nucleus by Rip1 co-expression to increase its**
 514 **ROS suppressive activity.** A. Zmlox3 translocalizes into the nucleus in the presence of Rip1
 515 in *Z. mays* plants. Full length Zmlox3 was fused to GFP and Rip1 lacking its signal peptide
 516 was fused to mCherry under control of the cauliflower mosaic virus 35S promoter.
 517 P35S::mCherry and P35S::GFP were used as controls for the co-localisation assay,
 518 respectively. *Z. mays* leaves were co-bombarded with P35S::Zmlox3-GFP/ P35S::mCherry,
 519 P35S::Rip1₂₇₋₁₆₆-mCherry/ P35S::GFP or P35S::Zmlox3-GFP/ P35S::Rip1₂₇₋₁₆₆-mCherry and
 520 after 2 days fluorescence signals were observed by confocal microscopy. Upper panel: GFP,
 521 Upper middle panel: mCherry, Lower middle panel: merged mCherry and GFP, Lower panel:

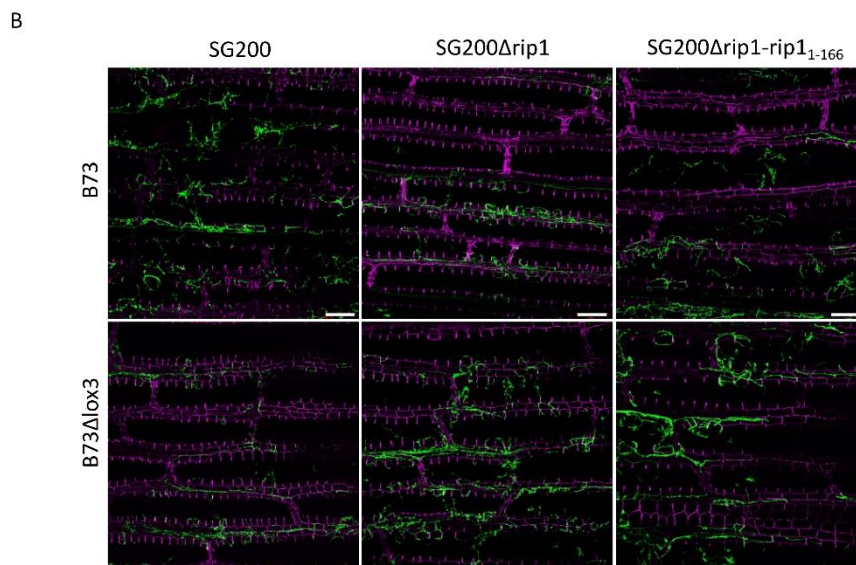
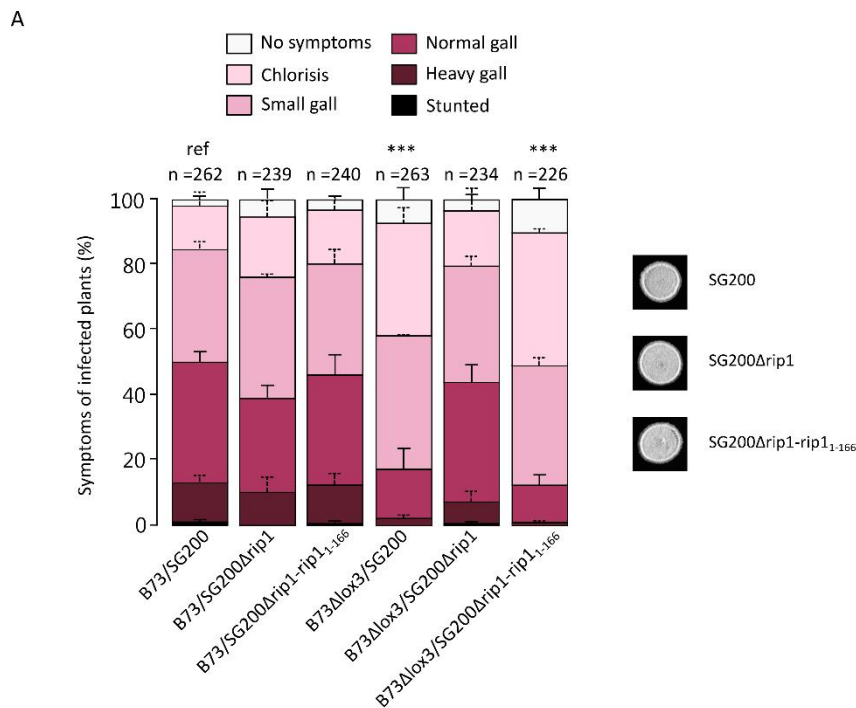
522 brightfield. Pictures are merged z-stack projections. Inlets represent magnified areas of plant
523 cell nuclei within the pictures. Arrows indicate position of the plant cell nucleus. Scale bar =
524 20 μm . **B.** Fluorescence intensity profiles of mCherry and GFP channel pictures along
525 transection lines (green) at nuclear regions are visualized as relative grey values (plots).
526 Purple plot areas represent mCherry intensity levels, green plot areas represent GFP intensity
527 levels. Zmlox3 in the presence of Rip1 shows increased nuclear GFP signals, while GFP
528 intensities decrease within the nucleus when Zmlox3 is co-expressed with mCherry control.
529 Pictures show a single plane of a z-stack from a. Scale bar = 5 μm . **C.** Subcellular mis-
530 localisation ROS-burst assay of Zmlox3 in *N. benthamiana* using different localisation tags
531 (MYR, NLS and NES). Highest ROS burst suppression activity was identified in nuclear
532 targeted ZmLox3 plants. Box plots represent the area under the ROS burst curve after
533 challenging with PAMP-flg22 monitored over 40 minutes based on a luminescence assay.
534 Shown data is a pool of three biological replicates; n=7. Asterisks indicate statistically
535 significant differences from the control (ns: non-significant, * p<0.05, ** p<0.05, one-way
536 ANOVA followed by Tukey's test). **D.** Glucocorticoid system-based nuclear translocation of
537 Zmlox3 enables ROS burst suppression. *N. benthamiana* plants were infiltrated with
538 P35S::Zmlox3 or P35S::mCherry (control) coupled to a binding domain of a glucocorticoid
539 receptor (GR) and were treated with DEX (dexamethasone) or H₂O after 24 hours. Box plots
540 represent the area under the ROS burst curve monitored over 40 minutes with a
541 luminescence-based assay. Data is shown as a pool of two biological replicates; n=6.
542 Significant statistical differences of P35S::Zmlox3-GR or P35S::mCherry-GR treated with DEX
543 to control plants P35S::Zmlox3-GR or P35S::mCherry-GR treated with H₂O. Student t-test, ns:
544 non-significant, * p<0.05.

545

546 ***Inactivation of Zmlox3 increases susceptibility of maize plants towards Ustilago*** 547 ***maydis in the absence of Rip1***

548 In our previous study, we showed that Zmlox3 is a susceptibility factor in the *U.*
549 *maydis*/maize interaction, hence *zmlox3* mutant maize shows moderate resistance to
550 *U. maydis* (Pathi et al., 2020). Therefore, we next investigated whether the absence
551 of Rip1 affects this increased resistance of lox3 mutation. Maize seedlings of B73 Δ lox3
552 (*lox3-4::Mu*) were infected with the solopathogenic strain SG200 or the respective
553 deletion strain SG200 Δ rip1. We also included the B73 maize seedling infection sets
554 as the wild-type control since B73 is the recurrent parent for lox3-4 mutant at the BC7
555 genetic stage. As expected, in B73, fungal disease scoring (Fig. 5A) showed, that the
556 symptoms induced by SG200 Δ rip1 were not different from those induced by SG200,
557 which coincides with the ipool-seq results (Uhse et al., 2018). On the contrary, infected
558 maize seedlings lacking lox3 showed significantly less infection symptoms compared
559 to the B73 wild type, which supports the results of our previous studies. Remarkably,
560 rip1 deletion strains infecting lox3 mutant maize seedlings gained back largely their
561 virulence, implying a Rip1 co-dependency for the previously observed partial
562 resistance phenotype of lox3 mutant. We further generated a complementation strain

563 of SG200 Δ *rip1* by ectopic integration of the *rip1* gene under the native *rip1* promoter
 564 into the well described *U. maydis ip* locus and used it for infection of the B73 Δ *lox3*
 565 mutant (Loubradou et al., 2001). Comparable to infections with the fungal progenitor
 566 strain, again significantly less infection symptoms were present, confirming that the
 567 aforementioned effects of the SG200 Δ *rip1* mutant strain on B73 Δ *lox3* mutant are
 568 Rip1-specific. The ability of the SG200 Δ *rip1* mutant strain to still penetrate epidermal
 569 cells in B73 and B73 Δ *lox3* were confirmed by the microscopic analysis (Fig. 5B).
 570 Taken together, these results indicate, that Rip1 without its plant target Zmlox3, is not
 571 able to promote full virulence, in contrast, that its presence is a requirement for the
 572 observed reduced susceptibility of B73 Δ *lox3* maize to *U. maydis* infection. .



573

574 **Figure 5: Presence of *rip1* in *Zmlox3* mutant maize plants is causative for the reduced**
575 **host colonization. A.** Virulence assays carried out in 7 days old maize seedlings cv. B73 and
576 B73 Δ Lox3 (*Zmlox3* deletion mutant, *lox3-4*) infected with the *U. maydis* progenitor strain
577 SG200, SG200 Δ *rip1* (*rip1* deletion strain) and the complementation strain of SG200 Δ *rip1*
578 (SG200 Δ *rip1-rip1*₁₋₁₆₆). The complementation strain was generated by using a full length Rip1
579 expression construct under the native Rip1 promoter. Symptom rating of *U. maydis*
580 SG200 Δ *rip1* strain showed no significant virulence defect in comparison to the progenitor
581 strain SG200 in maize cv. B73. Significantly less disease symptoms, however, were observed
582 in maize seedlings cv. B73 Δ Lox3 infected with SG200 and the complementation strain
583 SG200 Δ *rip1-rip1*. *U. maydis* SG200 Δ *rip1* caused in B73 Δ Lox3 infected maize plants nearly
584 full symptoms, implicating a negative effect of Rip1 on virulence in the absence of *ZmLox3*.
585 Data represent mean \pm SD from three independent experiments, n= total number of scored
586 plants. Significant differences between strains were analyzed by the Fisher's exact test and
587 multiple testing correction was performed using Benjamin-Hochberg. Asterisks indicate
588 statistical significance. (***) $p < 0.0001$. Controls (B73 and B73 Δ lox3 infected with SG200) of
589 this experiment were done in collaborations and used in the publication Pathi et al. 2021. **B.**
590 Microscopic analysis of Rip1 virulence phenotype in B73 and B73 Δ Lox3. Maize plants of cv.
591 B73 were infected with the progenitor strain SG200, the deletion strain SG200 Δ *rip1* or the
592 complementation strain SG200 Δ *rip1-rip1*₁₋₁₆₆, and harvested at 3 dpi. Pictures show the
593 intracellular proliferation of *U. maydis* in epidermal maize cells. Infected leaf tissue was stained
594 with WGA-AlexaFluor488 (green) to visualize fungal chitin and propidium iodide (red) to
595 observe plant cell walls. Pictures show that the progenitor strain SG200, the deletion strain
596 SG200 Δ *rip1* and the complementation strain SG200 Δ *rip1-rip1*₁₋₁₆₆ were able to penetrate
597 inside maize tissue from cv. B73 and cv. B73 B73 Δ Lox3. Z-stack pictures were made with
598 confocal microscopy. Scale bar = 100 μ m.

599

600 Discussion

601 The eternal co-evolutionary battle between plants and their pathogens led to tightly
602 interwoven host receptor-driven recognition and pathogen effector-driven signaling-
603 suppression events. Plants evolved a versatile repertoire of membrane bound and
604 cytosolic receptors that recognize conserved pathogen associated molecular patterns
605 or effectors and their activities (Zhou and Zhang, 2020). Pathogen effectomes on the
606 other hand, are selected to suppress both PAMP-triggered (PTI) and Effector-triggered
607 immunity (ETI) responses to ensure a compatible interaction. In both, PTI as well as
608 in ETI-responses, reactive oxygen species (ROS) play a critical role leading either to
609 the transient ROS-burst as part of early signaling or culminate in a hypersensitive
610 response, a programmed cell-death to restrict systemic spread of the pathogen (Jwa
611 and Hwang, 2017). Due to its relevance in defence, it is not surprising that *U. maydis*
612 evolved numerous functionally redundant effectors that suppress the accumulation of
613 ROS. This is exemplified by the Pleiades, an entire cluster of effectors, nine members

614 of which were shown to suppress PAMP-triggered ROS-burst *in planta* in different
615 mechanisms (Navarrete et al., 2021b). The fact that many *U. maydis* effectors target
616 PTI-responses like the PAMP-triggered ROS-burst explains the lack of a strong
617 virulence defect upon Rip1-deletion due to functional redundancy. More surprising was
618 the discovery, that the strong reduction in fungal virulence upon Zmlox3 mutant maize
619 infections could be rescued by a compensatory removal of *rip1* on the pathogen side.
620 One possible explanation of this observation could be that the effector Rip1 itself or its
621 activity leads to the induction of host defence responses in maize, whereby Rip1
622 binding to Zmlox3 is necessary to suppress ROS-mediated defense. In this case
623 ZmLox3 would be having a role as a negative regulator of Rip1 effector-triggered
624 defense in the maize/*U. maydis* interaction. Zmlox3 has been previously shown to be
625 involved in either susceptibility or resistance in maize in a pathogen-dependent
626 manner. Whereas Gao et al., 2008 and 2009 demonstrated a higher susceptibility of
627 *lox3* maize mutants to root knot nematodes and to fungi like *Aspergillus flavus* and
628 *Aspergillus nidulans*, Gao et al., 2007 and 2009 as well as Pathi et al., 2020
629 demonstrate for various fungal pathogens including *Fusarium verticillioides* (Gao et
630 al., 2007), *Colletotrichum graminicola* (Gao et al., 2007), *Cochliobolus heterostrophus*
631 (Gao et al., 2007), *Exserohilum spp* (Isakeit et al., 2007) and *U. maydis* (Pathi et al.,
632 2020) an increase of resistance for plants lacking Zmlox3. Additionally, Zmlox3 was
633 recently shown to be a major negative regulator of induced systemic responses
634 triggered by *Trichoderma virens* colonization of roots (Constantino et al., 2013; Wang
635 et al., 2020). This implies that the outcomes of LOX-governed host-pathogen
636 interactions are pathogen-specific. However, in the case of the *U. maydis*/maize
637 interaction, Zmlox3 is a susceptibility factor. In the case of the *Aspergillus*/maize
638 interaction, there were indication found of oxylipin signaling interplay between the host
639 and the fungus, leading to the speculation of signaling mimicry and respective
640 interference (Gao et al., 2009). In the case of *U. maydis*/*Zea mays*, considering the
641 necessity of the presence of Zmlox3 to suppress Rip1-dependent reduction of
642 susceptibility of maize to *U. maydis*, such a signaling mimicry scenario is not likely.

643 Moreover, we show that *U. maydis* secretes the translocated effector protein, Rip1, to
644 suppress PAMP-triggered ROS production in maize. This is partly achieved by direct
645 interaction with Zmlox3 and the resulting relocation of this enzyme from cytoplasm
646 to nucleus. Importantly, Rip1 has obviously more than one cellular target by which

647 ROS-burst suppression is achieved, as also cytosolic retention experiments still show
648 a saturated capacity to suppress ROS-burst *in planta* by MYR-Rip1 and Rip1-NES.
649 This feature of multifunctionality is shared with several other effectors. One recently
650 published example for *U. maydis* is Nkd1. This effector targets Topless-like proteins
651 (TPLs) and induces auxin signaling to suppresses PAMP-triggered ROS-burst. On the
652 other hand, its deletion causes a virulence defect that is not linked to its interaction
653 with TPLs (Navarrete et al., 2021a). Examples of other multifunctional effectors are
654 Avr3a from the oomycete *Phytophthora infestans* or AvrPiz-t from the rice blast fungus
655 *Magnaporthe oryzae* (He et al., 2020).

656 The finding that ZmLox3 ROS-burst suppressing activity is not linked with its
657 enzymatic LOX activity, but with the forced nuclear relocalisation opens a new field in
658 LOX research. Currently one can only deduce, that a direct ROS-buffering function of
659 the LOX products, that suppresses the apoplastic ROS-burst can be excluded in this
660 case. However, it is tempting to speculate, that the N-terminal C2-like-calcium binding
661 domain of Zmlox3 might play a role in this process (Newcomer and Brash, 2015).

662 Zmlox3-GFP predominately localized to the cytoplasm when expressed in maize and
663 tobacco plants. This type of localization pattern was also described for several
664 members and isoforms of the maize 9-Lox family in maize and *A. thaliana* roots (Tolley
665 et al., 2018). Interestingly, by using a universal anti-LOX antibody that recognizes
666 multiple types of LOX proteins, Demenchenko et al. (2011) reported a strong nuclear
667 Lox protein localization next to the infected plant cells specifically in the nitrogen
668 fixation zone in nodules produced by symbiotic rhizobia in the roots of the legume
669 plant *Medicago truncatula* (Demchenko et al., 2012). As symbiotic interactions also
670 rely on effector activities (Daguerre et al., 2016), one possible explanation for the
671 observed relocalisation of the LOX proteins could be bacterial effector activities similar
672 to Rip1 (Feussner et al., 1995). Alternatively, nuclear relocalisation could be triggered
673 by plant-specific developmental or external cues. Searching for those, we tested
674 various abiotic stresses and hormone treatments (data not shown) but could not detect
675 nuclear localizations of fluorescent protein-tagged Zmlox3 *in planta*. An active re-
676 localisation of lipoxygenases into the nucleus has been reported in mammalian
677 organisms (Brock et al., 1994; Luo et al., 2003). One type of LOX, the immunity and
678 defense related 5-lipoxygenase (5-LO), possess the ability of shuttling between the
679 cytoplasm and the nucleus, thereby regulating the leukotriene biosynthesis in

680 response to inflammatory or allergic diseases. It is suggested that it may be the result
681 of the phosphorylation status at the site of its NES motif or indirectly by interactions
682 with intermediate protein partner in a Ca²⁺-dependent manner (Flamand et al., 2009;
683 Hammarberg et al., 2000). As relocalisation of Zmlox3 to the nucleus occurs only if
684 also Rip1 is not constantly exported by a nuclear export sequence, it is likely that Rip1
685 carries Zmlox3 in a complex into the nucleus. An alternative hypothesis is that Rip1
686 might induce posttranslational modification triggering Zmlox3 nuclear relocalisation.

687 Previous studies have reported that Zmlox3 is mainly expressed in roots and tassel
688 but only weakly in leaf tissue (Constantino et al., 2013). These data contradict with the
689 observation that *U. maydis* is using Zmlox3 as a susceptibility factor (Pathi et al., 2020)
690 as this fungal pathogen infects only the aerial parts of the plant. On the other hand,
691 transcriptomic timecourse experiments demonstrated that *U. maydis* induces Zmlox3
692 strongly upon infection of maize seedlings (Doehlemann et al., 2008) and makes it
693 therefore at the infection site available for further manipulation by Rip1 during the
694 biotrophic phase as presented here.

695 ***Rip1 effectors harbor a terminal RIFL motif required for ROS burst suppression***

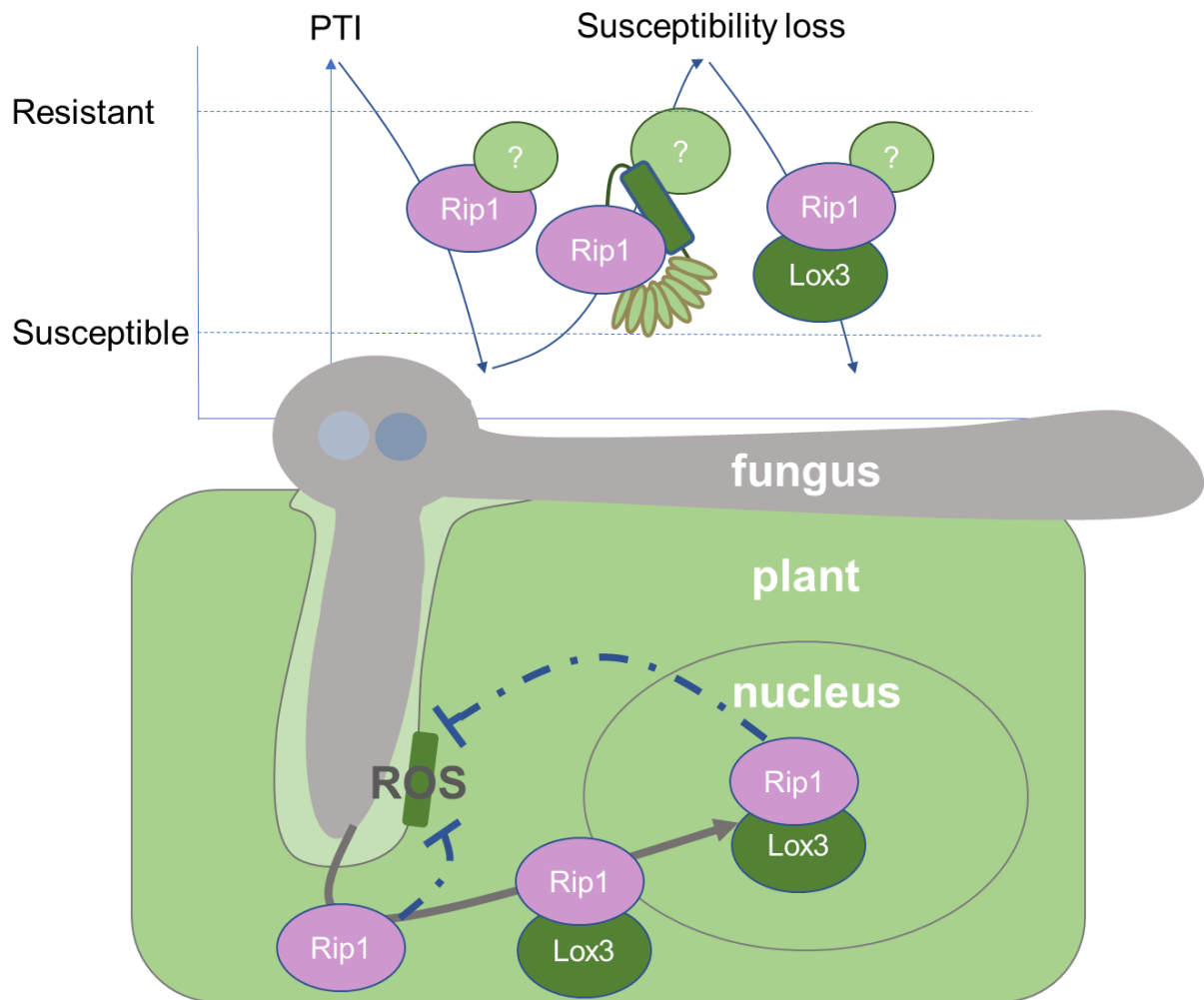
696 By testing four *U. maydis* Rip1 orthologs from other smut fungal species, we identified
697 three additional Rip1-like proteins that were able to effectively suppress plant ROS
698 burst. All of them belong to fungal genera that infect monocot hosts. In contrast, the
699 Rip1 ortholog from *M. pennsylvanicum*, which contains a similar overall protein identity
700 with the others, did not exert any ROS suppressive function. Intriguingly, *M.*
701 *pennsylvanicum* is a pathogen that infects dicot plants of the Polygonaceae family and
702 *MpRip1* does not possess a predicted signal peptide. This provides evidence for a
703 putative neo-functionalization of *MpRip1* within *M. pennsylvanicum*. A comparative
704 analysis of all Rip1 orthologous sequences revealed a C-terminal K-H-L-P-D-L-S-
705 R_(0,1)-P motif, named as RIFL motif, as an essential part of the Rip1 mediated ROS
706 burst suppression function that is present in all analyzed monocot-infecting sequenced
707 smut-species analyzed, but absent in *M. pennsylvanicum*. Surprisingly, fusion of RIFL
708 to *MpRip1* which shares an overall 34% amino acid similarity with *UmRip1* was enough
709 to recover its function as a ROS burst suppressor when expressed in planta. ROS
710 burst assays with an unrelated mCherry protein fused to the RIFL motif, however,
711 suggests that this motif alone is not sufficient for ROS burst suppression but works

712 only in the context of Rip1 like proteins. If the RIFL-motif is relevant for host protein
713 binding or necessary for the proper tertiary folding of Rip1 awaits future analysis.

714 The infection assays combining *rip1* deletion strains and *Zmlox3* mutant lines and the
715 respective combinations reveal that Rip1 in the context of the biotrophic interaction is
716 on its own a very good example for the iceberg model where recognition of effectors
717 and their activity keep each other usually in sum in a silent state(Thordal-Christensen,
718 2020). As Rip1 is widely conserved in smuts it can be assumed, that its virulence
719 promoting function supercedes its apparent costs which lead to reduced susceptibility
720 in the absence of *Zmlox3*. As Rip1 ROS-burst suppressive activities are demonstrated
721 in the monocot system maize as well as in the dicot *N. benthamiana* the targeted host-
722 pathways are highly conserved.

723 *Zmlox3* itself is required for full susceptibility by many fungal pathogens in maize (Gao
724 et al., 2007). Assuming that due to co-evolution these pathogens might all cause
725 effector-triggered immune responses, employing a negative regulator of immunity as
726 a neutralizing measure would make sense. Considering the recently demonstrated
727 dependency of full ETI responses on functional PTI responses underlines the
728 relevance of PTI-suppressing effectors like Rip1 for pathogens (Yuan et al., 2021,
729 Ngou et al., 2021b).

730 In conclusion, we have established that Rip1 is a multifunctional core effector that
731 targets several conserved processes in different subcellular compartments in dicots
732 and monocots. This leads first of all to suppression of PTI responses. Beside this, we
733 find evidence that Rip1-dependent decrease of susceptibility of maize for *U. maydis* is
734 overcome by the presence of *Zmlox3*. Our data implicate, that *Zmlox3* is a negative
735 regulator of immunity. We show, that the nuclear presence of *Zmlox3*, independent of
736 its known LOX activity is necessary for its ROS-burst suppressive function and that
737 Rip1 mediates *ZmLox3* nuclear relocalisation by direct interaction. Future research will
738 be needed to focus on the enigmatic LOX-activity independent function of *Zmlox3* and
739 its role in the plant nucleus in relation to plant immunity (Figure 6).



740

741 **Figure 6:** Model summarizing the role of Rip1 in the context of *U. maydis* maize interaction
 742 (left) and its specific interaction with Lox3 (right). (Rip1 = fungal effector, Lox3 = maize
 743 Lipoxygenase 3) left side: Rip1 suppresses PTI in the cytosol by a yet not identified
 744 mechanism. In the *U. maydis* /maize interaction, Rip1 is leading to Rip1-effector dependent
 745 loss of susceptibility of maize for *U. maydis*, but in presence of Lox3 compatibility is fully
 746 restored. Right: Rip1 is secreted by *U. maydis* and is translocated into the plant cell where it
 747 suppresses PTI responses. One of its targets is the maize lipoxygenase Lox3 which is shuttled
 748 by Rip1 into the nucleus where its lipoxygenase activity is not needed to contribute to ROS-
 749 burst suppression.

750

751

752

753 **Material and Methods**

754 Plasmids and cloning procedures

755 *Escherichia coli* Mach1 T1^R (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, MS, USA) cells were
 756 used for cloning purposes. All plasmids were generated using standard molecular

757 cloning procedures (Sambrook et al., 1989) or by the GreenGate system
758 (Lampropoulos et al., 2013). The modules used were either amplified by PCR or
759 obtained by the aforementioned published system. Plasmids used for the purpose of
760 the VIGS assay and the Y2H system, were based on the Gateway cloning system
761 (Katzen, 2007). Point mutations were generated using QuikChange Mutagenesis.
762 Restriction enzymes were purchased from New England Biolabs.

763 Generation of *U. maydis* strains and growth conditions

764 All *U. maydis* strains from this study are derived from the solopathogenic strain SG200
765 or AB33. For the deletion of *rip1*, strains were generated by gene replacement with a
766 hygromycin cassette via homologous recombination with PCR-generated
767 constructs (Bösch et al., 2016) or by insertions into the *ip* locus using p123 derivatives,
768 as described previously (Loubradou et al., 2001). All generated constructs were
769 sequenced prior to *U. maydis* transformation. For the complementation of $\Delta rip1$
770 mutants, linearized plasmids were integrated into the *ip* locus of SG200 $\Delta rip1$.

771 For induced filamentous growth assays, *U. maydis* strains were grown at 28°C with
772 overnight shaking in YEPS light medium. The culture was next day set to OD₆₀₀ = 1.0
773 in ddH₂O. The respective strains were spotted onto potato dextrose agar containing
774 1% activated charcoal after 2 days of growth.

775 All *U. maydis* strains were grown at 28°C in YEPSL (0.4% yeast extract, 0.4% peptone,
776 2% sucrose) and used for further experimental approaches.

777 Plant lines and plant growth conditions

778 Maize plants of the variety B73 and B73 $\Delta lox3$ seeds were used for the experiments in
779 this study.

780 *N. benthamiana* plants were grown in controlled short-day conditions (8h light/ 16h
781 dark cycle; 22°C). *Zea mays* cv. B73 and B73 $\Delta lox3$ (*lox3-4*) were grown in a
782 temperature-controlled greenhouse (14h light/ 10h dark cycle; 28°C/20°C) and used
783 for infection of *U. maydis*.

784 Maize and tassel infection assays

785 For disease scoring evaluation, *U. maydis* strains were grown in YEPSL (0.4% yeast
786 extract, 0.4% peptone, 2% sucrose) and cell suspensions in H₂O were adjusted to an

787 optical density at λ 600 nm of 1.0. into the stem of 7 days old maize seedlings of B73
788 or B73 Δ /ox3; cell suspensions were injected with a syringe as described (Kämper et
789 al., 2006). Disease symptoms were scored 7 days post infection according to a
790 previously developed scoring scheme (Kämper et al., 2006) and statistical analysis
791 was performed as previously described (Stirnberg and Djamei, 2016).
792 Tassel infection were done in Gaspé Flint and symptoms of infected tassels were
793 scored 14 days after the infection following the previous described scoring scheme
794 (Redkar and Doehlemann, 2016).

795

796 Biolistic bombardment in *Z. mays*

797 For microscopy, 14 days old maize leaves were used for biolistic transformation.
798 Plasmid DNA carrying the indicated gene under the CaMV35S promoter were coated
799 with 1.6 μ m gold particles and bombarded with the PDS-1000/He Particle Delivery
800 System (Biorad) at 1100 p.s.i. Confocal microscopy was performed 2 days post
801 transformation where fluorescence was observed. For ROS burst assays, 7 days old
802 whole maize plants were bombarded with the appropriate FoMV construct encoding
803 the respective gene and 8 to 9 days after, they were used for further analysis (Bouton
804 et al., 2018).

805

806 Cell death assay in *N. benthamiana*

807 For selectively coloring of dead tissues, trypan blue staining was performed
808 (Fernandez-Pozo et al., 2015). For this purpose, whole *N. benthamiana* leaves were
809 used and completely immersed in a fresh prepared trypan blue solution (85% lactic
810 acid, 99% glycerol, phenol, ddH₂O and trypan blue). Stained leaves after 30 minutes
811 were immediately washed with 98% ethanol a few times and then left in it overnight.
812 Ethanol solution was then so often replaced till chlorophyll was completely washed
813 out. Once colorless, ethanol was removed and replaced with 60% glycerol
814 solution. Microscopy

815 Confocal microscopy was performed with Zeiss LSM 700 or LSM 780 confocal
816 microscope. GFP was excited at 488 nm using an argon laser. Fluorescence emission
817 was collected between 500-540 nm. mCherry was excited at 561 nm and emission
818 was collected between 578-648 nm. Samples were placed on microscope slides,
819 mounted in water and sealed with a cover slip. Images were post-processed and

820 analyzed using ZEN (black edition v2.3) and FIJI (<https://imagej.net/Fiji>) software
821 packages. Images taken in red channels (mRFP, mCherry) were pseudo colored to
822 magenta.

823 Fungal proliferation in infected maize tissue was observed using wheatgerm agglutinin
824 (WGA) coupled to AlexaFluor488 (Invitrogen) which stains fungal hyphae. Propidium
825 iodide (Sigma-Aldrich, St. Louis, MO, USA) was used to stain the plant cell wall. The
826 area 1-3 cm below the infection point were excised and incubated into staining solution
827 (1 µg/mL propidium iodide, 10 µg/mL WGA-AF488). Microscopy images were taken
828 with Zeiss LSM780 confocal microscope. For WGA-AF488 the setting for excitation
829 were at λ 488 nm and emission at λ 500–540 nm.

830

831 Protein secretion in axenic culture and *in planta*

832 *U. maydis* strain AB33 was used for protein secretion assays. Strain Potef::*Rip1*₁₋₁₆₆-
833 HA was generated by insertion of plasmid p123-Potef::*Rip1*₁₋₁₆₆-HA into the *ip* locus of
834 AB33 (Aichinger et al., 2003). Total protein fractions of *U. maydis* from cell pellets and
835 culture supernatants were prepared as previously described by Djamei et al., 2011
836 (Djamei et al., 2011). Briefly, *U. maydis* cells were grown in CM medium with glucose.
837 Proteins from supernatants were precipitated with trichloroacetic acid (TCA)/Sodium
838 deoxycholate (DOC) and afterwards acetone-washed. Proteins from cell pellets and
839 supernatant fractions were separated by SDS-PAGE and a Western blot was
840 performed. Mouse monoclonal anti-hemagglutinin (HA; Vienna Biocenter Core
841 Facilities) and mouse anti-actin (Sigma Aldrich, Calbiochem
842 cat#CP01;lot#D00024369) antibodies were used for Western blot. Horseradish
843 peroxidase-conjugated anti-mouse IgG (Cytiva, NXA931-1ML) was used as
844 secondary antibody. Anti-Actin antibody was used as control for cell lysis as actin is
845 not supposed to be secreted.

846 *In planta* the secretion was confirmed via confocal microscopy using generated strains
847 SG200 Δ *rip1*-PCmu1::*rip1*₁₋₁₆₆-mCherry or SG200 Δ *rip1*-PCmu1::*rip1*₂₇₋₁₆₆-mCherry.
848 Both strains were injected into 7 days-old maize seedlings and the mCherry signal
849 was observed 5 days post infection.

850 Yeast transformation and yeast-two-hybrid interaction assays

851 For showing the interaction between *Rip1*₂₇₋₁₆₆ and *Zmlx3* we used the yeast two
852 hybrid assay Matchmaker™ GAL4 Two hybrid system (Clontech®, Mountain View,

853 CA, USA) following the manufacturer's protocol. The proteins tested for interaction
854 were cloned into pGBKT7 or pGADT7 vectors, respectively. Here, we fused the yeast
855 GAL4 binding (BD) to Zmlx3 and activation domain (AD) to Rip1 and transformed the
856 constructs into the yeast strains Y187 (MAT α) or AH109 (MAT a), respectively. We
857 selected yeast transformants after mating on selective dropout media (SD) lacking
858 only tryptophan (Trp) and leucine (Leu). Protein interactions were assessed on SD
859 selection medium lacking tryptophan, leucine, and histidine (His). Plates were
860 incubated on 28°C and interaction was observed 4 days later.

861

862 Protein production in *N. benthamiana* and Co-immunoprecipitation

863 Four week-old *N. benthamiana* plants were co-infiltrated with *A. tumefaciens* carrying
864 P35S::Rip1₁₂₇₋₁₆₆-mcherry-myc or P35S::mCherry-mcherry-myc and P35S::Zmlx3-
865 GFP in a 1:1 ratio resuspended in ARM buffer (Agrobacterium resuspension medium,
866 10 mM MES-NaOH pH 5.6, 10 mM MgCl₂, 150 μ M Acetosyringone). Two leaves from
867 each *N. benthamiana* plant were infiltrated and 48h later harvested and directly frozen
868 in liquid nitrogen. Total proteins were extracted from 450 mg sample tissue and
869 suspended in 2 ml IP buffer (HEPES 50 mM pH 7.5, NaCl 50 mM, Glycerol 10%, EDTA
870 1 mM, Triton X-100 0.05%, PMSF 1 mM and 1 protease inhibitor tablet; Roche).
871 Extracts were cleared by centrifugation 10 min at 14000 x g; step was repeated at
872 least 3 times. Protein pull-down was performed by adding 30 μ l of anti-myc magnetic
873 beads using the μ MACS™ MicroBeads system from Miltenyi Biotech (Bergisch
874 Gladbach, Germany) following the manufacturer's instructions. Briefly, samples were
875 washed 4 times with 300 μ l IP buffer and proteins were eluted by adding 120 μ l of 2x
876 SDS loading buffer at 95°C. 15-20 μ l of the extracts were analyzed by SDS-PAGE
877 followed by western blot with anti-myc (Santa Cruz Biotechnology, sc-789, lot#A1615)
878 or anti-Zmlx3 (Kaneka Eurogentech S.A.) antibodies. As secondary antibody anti-
879 rabbit IgG-HRP (Santa Cruz Biotechnology, sc-2357; lot#B0221) was used.
880 Experiments were repeated at least 2 times.

881

882 Protein production and Lipoxygenase Activity Assay

883 For *in vivo* Lipoxygenase activity assays, ZmLox3 c-terminally fused to mCherry,
884 mCherry-NLS or mCherry-NES and N-terminally tagged Zmlx3 with a 6xHis-tag were
885 expressed in *E. coli* and affinity purified. Briefly, *E. coli* BL21 carrying the appropriate
886 constructs were grown till OD₆₀₀=0.6 on 37°C. Afterwards, 1mM IPTG was added to

887 the cell cultures and were grow over night on 16°C. Cell cultures were harvested and
888 total proteins were extracted in 20ml Extraction buffer (50mM Hepes, pH 8.0, 200mM
889 NaCl, 1mM EDTA, 10% Glycerol , 20 mM Imidazole, 5mM beta-mercaptoethanol and
890 1mM PSMF). Samples were sonicated 5 times for 5 minutes with on-off modus to cool
891 down the samples on ice. Cell debris was removed by ultracentrifugation at 4°C for 30
892 minutes at 15000rpm. The supernatant was then put into a 15ml Flacon tube and His-
893 tag Ni NTA (Jena bioscience, AC-310-100) were applied and incubated for 1h shaking
894 on 4°C. Then, supernatant was put into a column and let it to flow through. 10 resin
895 volume of Wash buffer (50mM Hepes, pH 8.0, 200mM NaCl, 1mM EDTA, 10%
896 Glycerol , 50 mM Imidazole, 5mM beta-mercaptoethanol and 1mM PSMF) were
897 applied. Finally, the elution was carried out in a gradient with Elution buffer (50mM
898 Hepes, pH 8.0, 200mM NaCl, 1mM EDTA, 10% Glycerol ,100mM, 200mM ,300mM,
899 400mM, 500mM Imidazole, 5mM beta-mercaptoethanol and 1mM PSMF) and run on
900 a SDS-Page to visualize the proteins.

901 The Lipoxygenase activity assay was carried out as described by Xu et al., 2012 (Xu
902 et al., 2012). Here, the substrates linoleic acid and linolenic acid were dissolved in
903 absolute ethanol. Then around 2/3 of the prepared solution was supplemented with
904 Tween 20. After removing the ethanol by rotary evaporator the residues were
905 dissolved in 0.05 M Na₂HPO₄ and brought to a pH=9.0 with NaOH. Solutions were
906 stored at 4°C in dark. The activity of ZmLox3 with Linolenic acid or Linoleic acid was
907 measured in an absorbance at 234 nm on Thermo Scientific Spectronic Genesys 10
908 Bio UV-Visible Spectrophotometer. The reaction was initiated by adding into a
909 thermally equilibrated cuvette, containing 100 µL of substrate solution and 1 mL of
910 phosphate buffer, 25 µL of enzyme solution. The absorbance was recorded for 300
911 seconds. The experiment was repeated in two technical replicates.

912

913 Virus Induced Gene Silencing in *N. benthamiana*

914 Two-week old *N. benthamiana* plants were infiltrated with *A. tumefaciens* GV3101
915 (pSoup). Cells were transformed carrying the appropriate construct pTRV1, pTRV2-
916 Nblox6 and suspended in ARM buffer. Control plants were infiltrated with pTRV1 and
917 either pTRV2-GFP. Cell suspensions were adjusted to an optical density at λ=600nm
918 of 0.4. Suspensions of *A. tumefaciens* carrying pTRV1 and TRV2 with the respective
919 construct were combined together at a ratio 1:1 and syringe infiltrated with a needle.

920 After two to three weeks, leaf discs were punched and analyzed. Experiments were
921 repeated three times.

922

923 RNA extraction and Reverse transcriptase quantitative PCR

924 For expression levels of Nblox6 transcripts in VIGS plants, total RNA was isolated from
925 three independent replicates of *N. benthamiana* leaves four to five weeks old.

926 Complementary DNA (cDNA) was generated from total RNA using the iScript cDNA
927 Synthesis Kit (BioRad). The FastStart Universal SYBR Green Master mix (Roche) was
928 used to perform RT-qPCR experiments, according to manufacturer's protocol. The
929 relative amount of amplicons in the samples were calculated with the $2^{-\Delta\Delta C}$ method
930 (Livak & Schmittgen, 2001). Actin was used as reference gene (Nb AFD62804.1
931 (H9C954)).

932 Luminol-based ROS assays in *N. benthamiana* and *Z. mays*

933 *N. benthamiana* plants were grown for four to five weeks before *A. tumefaciens*
934 infiltration with the appropriate construct, resuspended in MES buffer to a final optical
935 density at 0.05 and 0.2. *Z. mays* plants were grown for seven days before biolistic
936 bombardment was performed. Leaf discs of infiltrated *N. benthamiana* plants were
937 punched 2 dpi and transformed maize surfaces indicated by mCherry fluorescence
938 were punched 8 to 9 dpi and floated on water over night. Water was then exchanged
939 with flg22 elicitation solution (10 µg/ml Peroxidase from Horseradish; Sigma Sigma-
940 Aldrich cat# P6782, 34 µg/ml L-012; Fujifilm WAKO cat# 120-04891 and 100 nM flg22
941 in H₂O). Detection of ROS-burst in plant leaf discs was monitored by
942 chemiluminescence over 45 minutes in a microplate reader (Tecan SparkR v 2.3 or
943 Synergy H1, BioTek). All experiments were performed with three or five plants and at
944 least repeated three times.

945

946 Pull-down assay and Mass Spectrometry

947 *Nicotiana benthamiana* leaves expressing Rip1₂₇₋₁₆₆-myc-mCherry were frozen in
948 liquid nitrogen and grounded with mortar and pestle. Total proteins from Rip1₂₇₋₁₆₆-
949 myc-mCherry and mcherry-myc-mCherry (used as control) were extracted as
950 described (Kobayashi et al., 2015). Total protein extracts (4mg/IP) were
951 immunopurified using anti-c-Myc antibody coupled very small magnetic beads

952 (MACS® Technology, Miltenyi) digested in column with trypsin, and analyzed in a
953 single run on the mass spectrometer (Hubner et al., 2010).

954 The resulting tryptic peptide mixture was desalted prior LC-MS/MS analysis on a C18
955 ZipTip (Omix C18 100 ul tips, Varian), and the purified peptide mixture was analyzed
956 by LC-MS/MS using a nanoflow RP-HPLC (LC program: linear gradient of 3-40 % B
957 in 100 min, solvent A: 0.1% formic acid in water, solvent B: 0.1% formic acid in
958 acetonitrile) on-line coupled to a linear ion trap-Orbitrap (Orbitrap-Fusion Lumos,
959 Thermo Fisher Scientific) mass spectrometer operating in positive ion mode. Data
960 acquisition was carried out in a data-dependent fashion, the 20 most abundant,
961 multiply charged ions were selected from each MS survey for MS/MS analysis (MS
962 spectra were acquired in the Orbitrap, and CID spectra in the linear ion trap).

963 Raw data were converted into peak lists using the in-house Proteome Discoverer (v
964 1.4) and searched against the Uniprot *Ustilago maydis* (USTMA) database
965 (downloaded 2019.6.12, 6808 proteins) and the *Nicotiana benthamiana* protein
966 database, 57140 proteins (Bombarely et al., 2012; Kourelis et al., 2019) using in-cloud
967 Protein Prospector search engine (v5.15.1) with the following parameters: enzyme:
968 trypsin with maximum 2 missed cleavage; mass accuracies: 5 ppm for precursor ions
969 and 0.6 Da for fragment ions (both monoisotopic); fixed modification:
970 carbamidomethylation of Cys residues; variable modifications: acetylation of protein
971 N-termini; Met oxidation; cyclization of N-terminal Gln residues, allowing maximum 2
972 variable modifications per peptide. Acceptance criteria: minimum scores: 22 and 15;
973 maximum E values: 0.01 and 0.05 for protein and peptide identifications, respectively.
974 Spectral counting was used to estimate relative abundance of individual proteins in
975 the no-antibody and c-Myc-mCherry negative controls and in the anti-c-Myc immuno
976 purified samples (Jankovics et al., 2018).

977 Protein sequence analysis

978 Signal peptide prediction was performed with the program SignalP 5.0
979 (<http://www.cbs.dtu.dk/services/SignalP/>) (Almagro Armenteros et al., 2019).
980 Sequence alignments were generated using Clustal Omega
981 (<http://www.ebi.ac.uk/Tools/msa/clustalo/>) (Sievers et al., 2011). Secondary alpha
982 helix structures were predicted with CLC Workbench 8.0. All images were processed
983 using Inkscape (<https://inkscape.org>) and ImageJ (Schindelin et al., 2012).

984 Gene accession numbers

985 *U. maydis* (UMAG_04039) Gene Acc. Number: A0A0D1DWK7; *Sporisorium*
986 *scitamineum* (SPSC_05323) Gene Acc. Number: CDS00260.1; *Ustilago hordei*
987 (UHOR_13428) Gene Acc. Number: CCF48877.1; *Ustilago bromivora* (UBRO_13428)
988 Gene Acc. Number: SAM84683.1 and *Melanopsichium pennsylvanicum*
989 (BN887_05943) Gene Acc. Number: CDI54766.1; *N. benthamina* lipoxygenase 6
990 Gene Niben101Scf01434g03006.1; *Zea mays* lipoxygenase 3 Gene Acc. Number:
991 NP_001105515.1.

992

993 Statistical analyses

994 Disease scoring in maize was evaluated using Fisher exact test, where the data was
995 processed through a R-script previously described (Stirnberg and Djamei, 2016).
996 Graphs and statistical analysis (the Student's t-test and Tukey's ANOVA) were
997 performed using GraphPad Prism 8.0.

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1007 **Acknowledgements**

1008 We thank the GMI (Vienna), the Plant Sciences Facility at Vienna BioCenter Core
1009 Facilities GmbH (VBCF) for support. Special thanks to Mr. Mathias Madalinski from
1010 the Protein Chemistry Core facility from VBC. We would also like to thank Dr. Krishna
1011 M. Pathi and Dr. Jochen Kumlehn from the Leibniz Institute of Plant Genetics and Crop
1012 Plant Research (IPK) for technical support. Additionally, we acknowledge Dr. Kostya
1013 Kanyuka from Rothamsted Research (UK) for kindly providing us the vector PV101 for
1014 virus-based protein expression in maize. We thank the Single Cell Omics Advanced
1015 Core Facility staff of the HCEMM and Biological Research Center for help with their
1016 resources and their support. We also thank Peter Baker, for the development and

1017 maintenance of the ELKH Cloud (<https://science-cloud.hu/>) for hosting the
1018 ProteinProspector search engine.

1019 The research leading to these results has received funding from the European
1020 Research Council under the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme ERC-
1021 2013-STG, Grant Agreement: 335691, the Austrian Science Fund (FWF): [I 3033-
1022 B22], the Austrian Academy of Sciences (OEAW) and the Deutsche
1023 Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG, German Research Foundation) under Germany's
1024 Excellence Strategy (EXC 2070-390732324). A.P-S. was supported by the
1025 Development and Innovation Office of Hungary (GINOP-2.3.2-15-2016-00032).

1026 **Author Contribution**

1027 Conceptualization: Indira Saado, Armin Djamei

1028 Funding acquisition: Armin Djamei

1029 Contributions:

1030 I.S., K.-S.C., R.B., A.A., F.N. conceived and performed experiments. F.N performed
1031 the initial identification of Rip1 as ROS Burst suppressive protein in plants. A.A.
1032 assisted with the TRV silencing and sample preparation for mass spectrometry
1033 experiments, K.-S.C. and R.B. assisted with microscopy experiments and data
1034 analysis. Mass spectrometry analysis was done by A.P.S.; LOX 3 mutant maize seeds
1035 were provided by M.V.K. and J.C.D. and I.F. helped with designing different LOX
1036 mutation versions and co-supervised experiments related to LOX activity. A.D.
1037 conceived the study and supervised the work. I.S. and A.D. wrote the manuscript with
1038 input from all co-authors.

1039 Methodology: Indira Saado, Armin Djamei

1040 Project administration: Indira Saado

1041 Supervision: Armin Djamei

1042 Writing: Indira Saado, Armin Djamei

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1044 Correspondence to Armin Djamei.

1045 **Competing interests**

1046 The authors declare no competing interests.

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