



NANOSENSORS AND MICROFLUIDICS

Techniques for **kinetic plant phenotyping** at the microscale

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Institute for Cell and Interaction Biology - HHU Düsseldorf

Cluster of Excellence in Plant Sciences - CEPLAS



Cluster of Excellence in Plant Sciences

SMART Plants for Tomorrow's Needs

Optimizing Plant Performance by
Mapping the Interface between
Development and **Metabolism**

RA 1

Theoretical Plant
Biology and **Data**
Science

RA 4

RA 3

PLANT PERFORMANCE

RA 2

Plant **Microbiota**
Nutritional Networks
and **Edaphic**
Adaptation

Synthetic and
Reconstruction
Biology



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Düsseldorf

JÜLICH
FORSCHUNGSZENTRUM

Universität
zu Köln



Max-Planck-Institut für
Pflanzenzüchtungsforschung

CEPLAS

Cluster of Excellence on Plant Sciences





More than 50 labs are members of CEPLAS



www.ceplas.eu



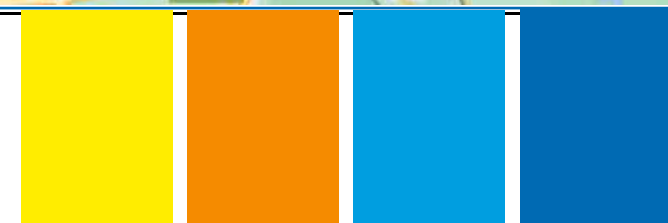
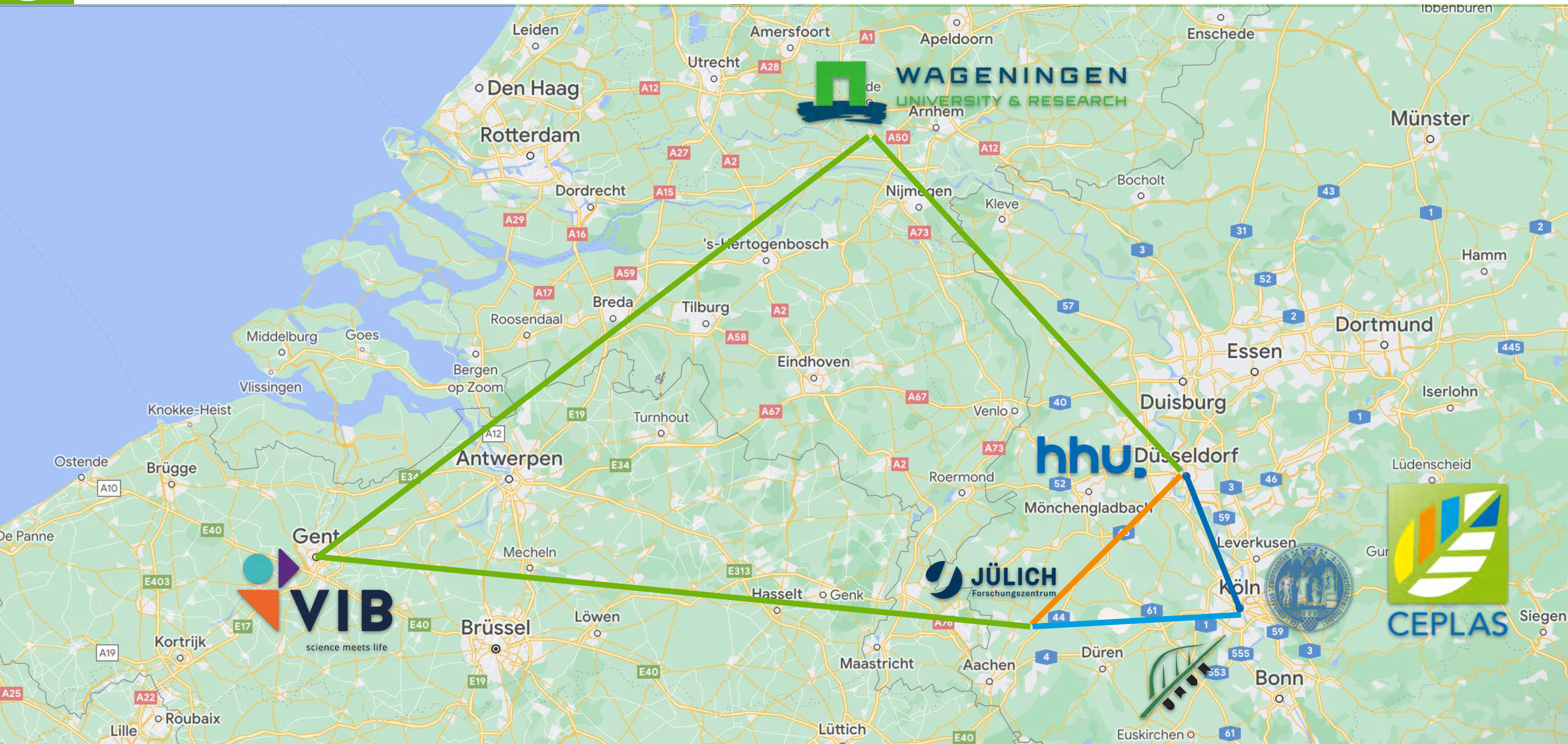
Academic cooperation & technology transfer



Dr. Günter Strittmatter
CEPLAS Technology Transfer and Cooperation Management

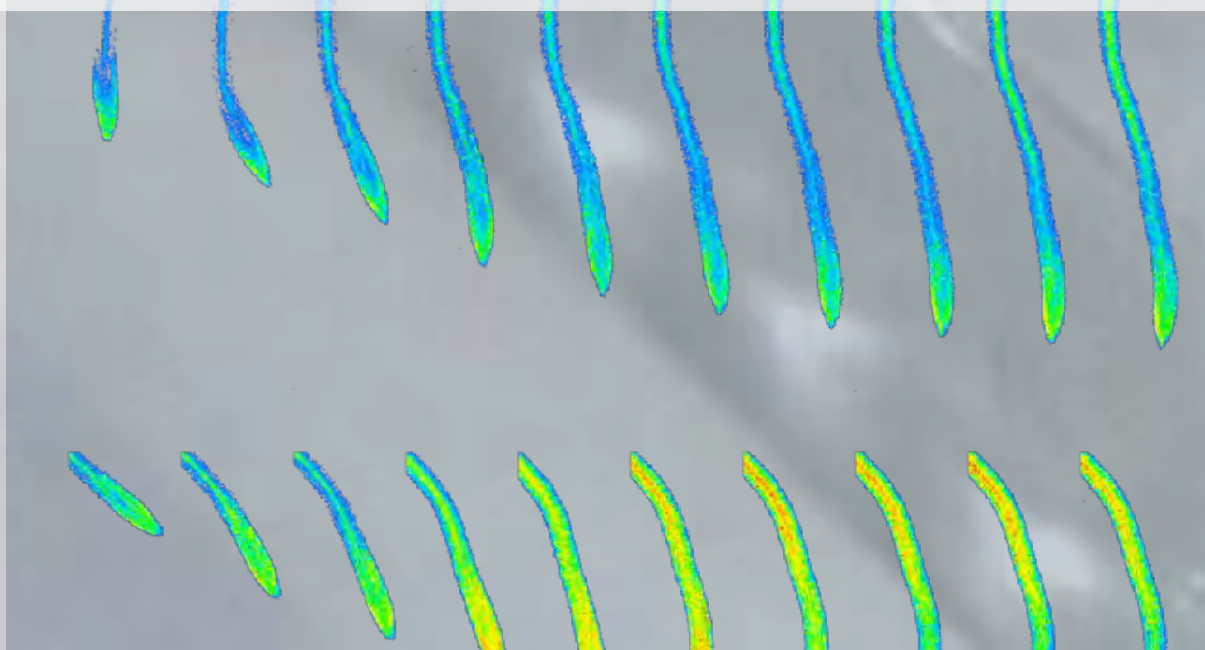


CEPLAS - Germany's Research Triangle for molecular plant sciences





NANOSENSORS AND **MICROFLUIDICS**
Techniques for **kinetic plant phenotyping** at the microscale



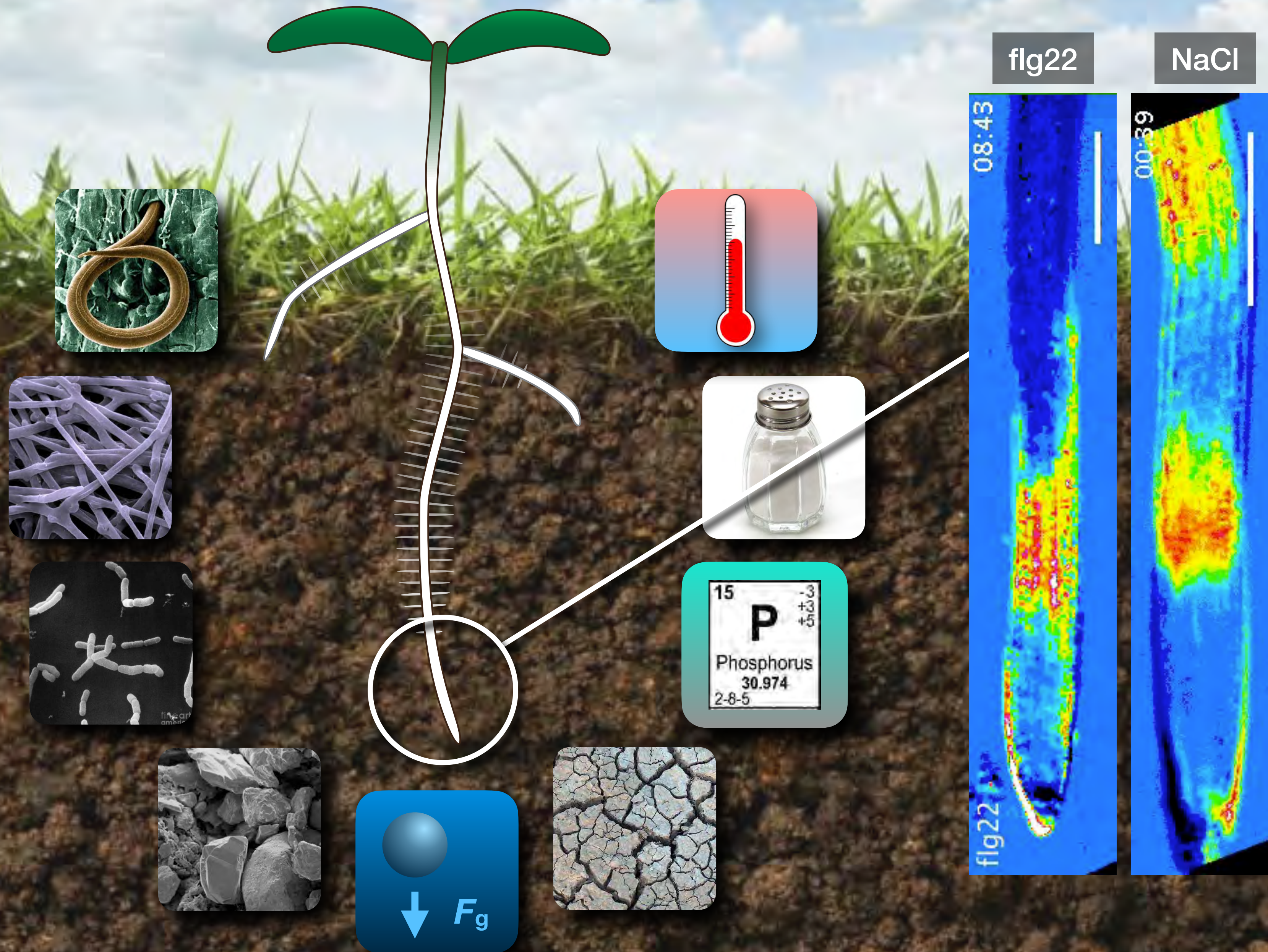
Kinetic phenotyping: probing plant performance under changing environmental conditions



Kinetic phenotyping: probing plant performance under changing environmental conditions



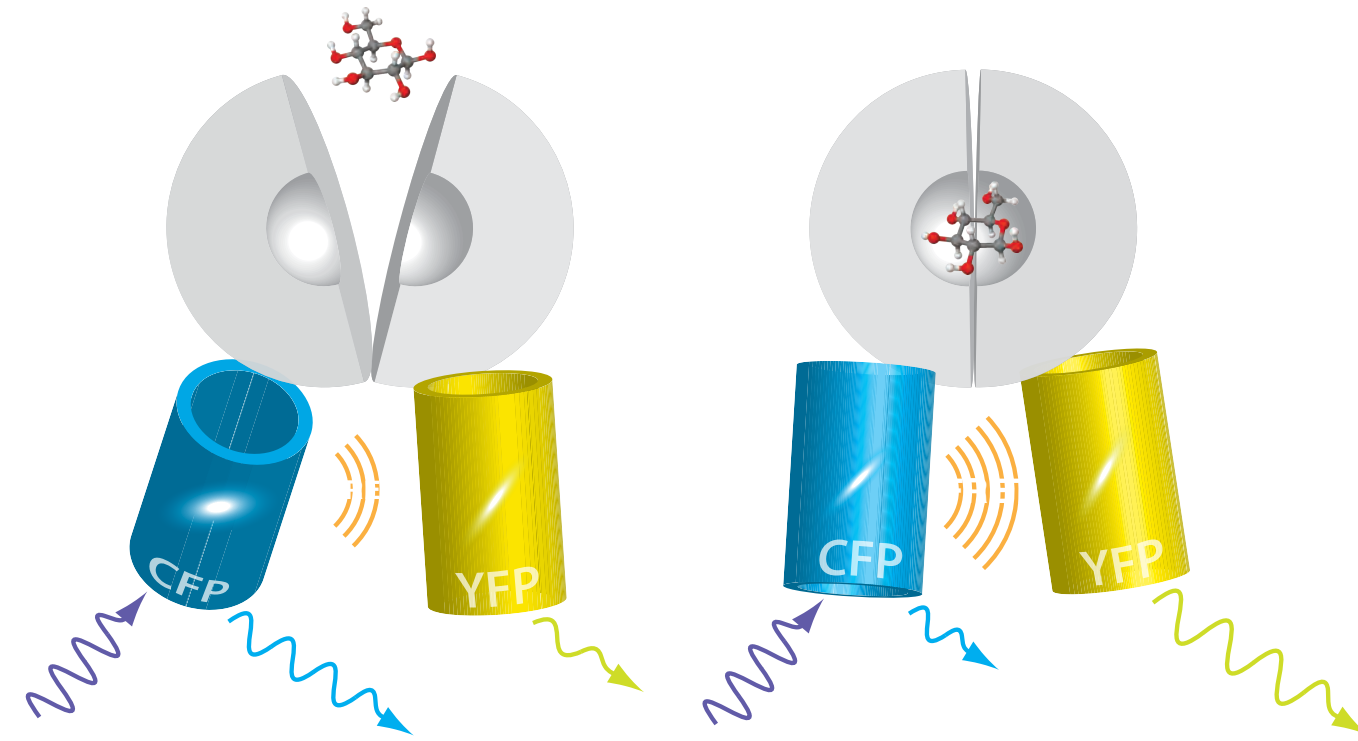
Kinetic phenotyping: probing plant performance under changing environmental conditions



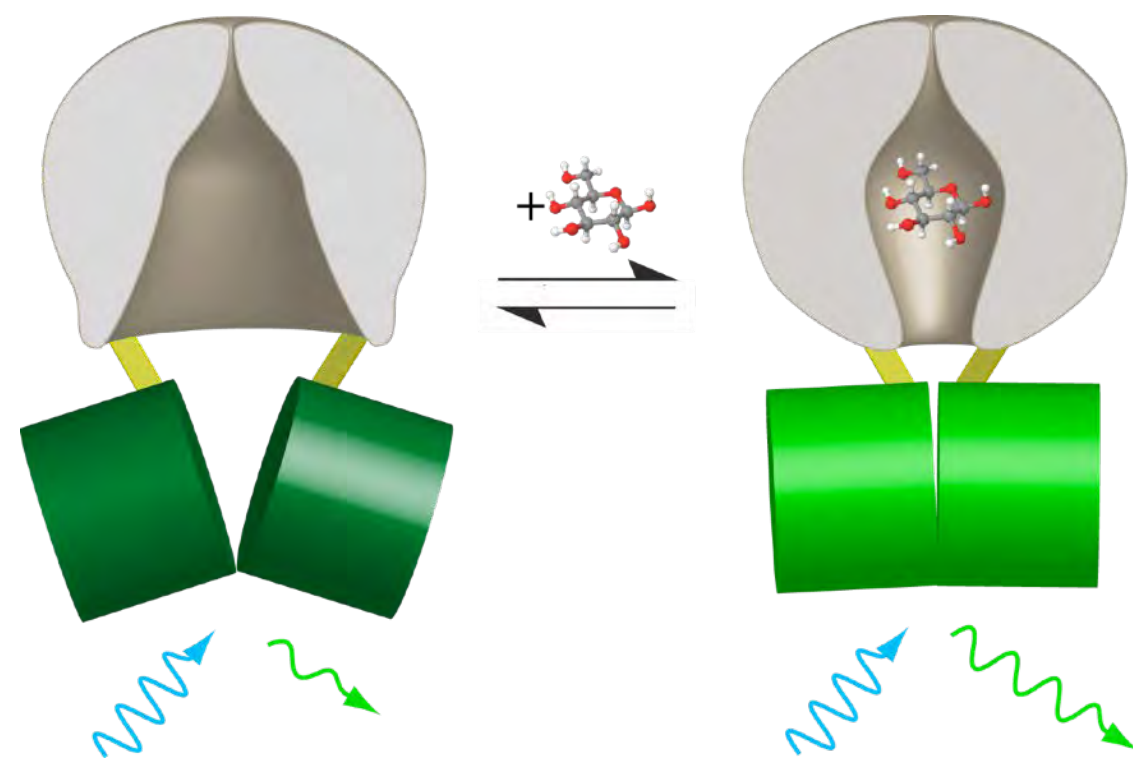


Biosensors for dynamic and quantitative imaging of small molecules

Ratiometric design



Intensiometric design



- minimally invasive; genetically encoded
- dynamic measurements
- subcellular targeting
- qualitative or quantitative (req. calibration)

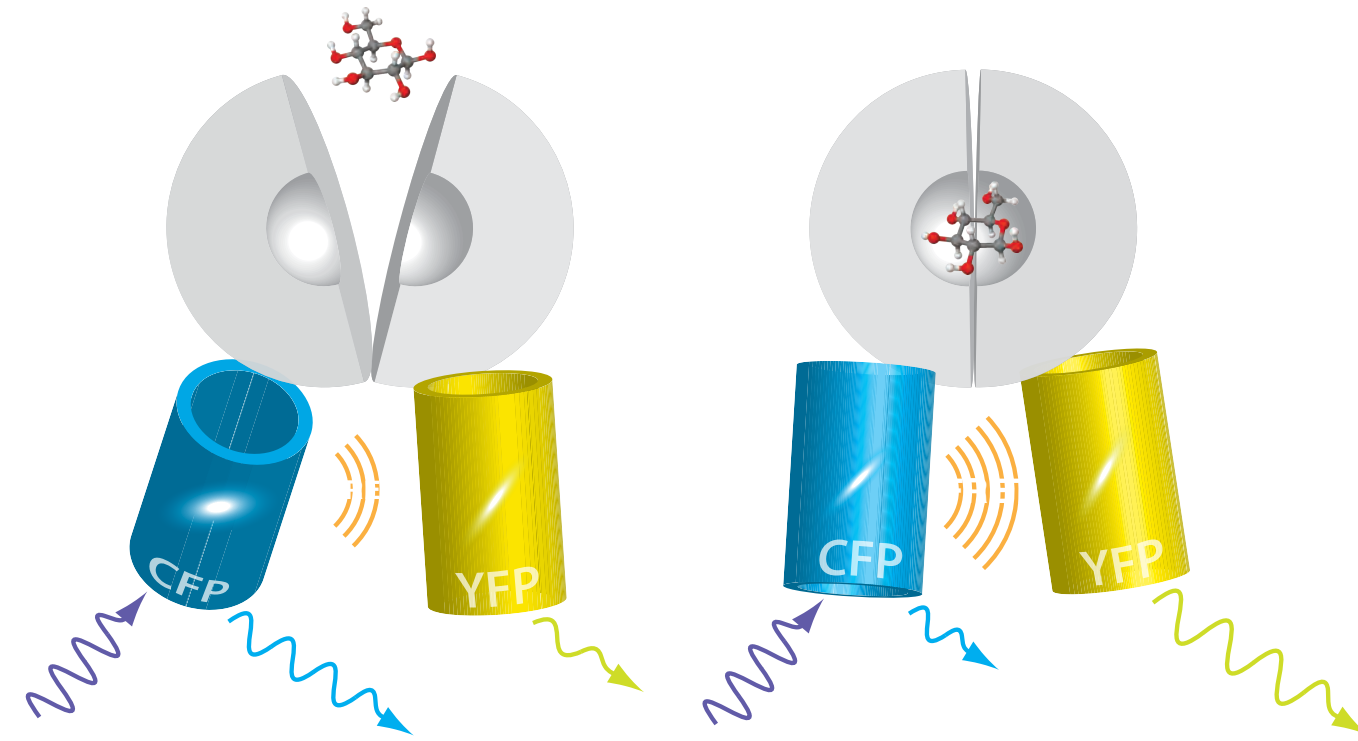
Grossmann et al. 2011 *Plant Cell*



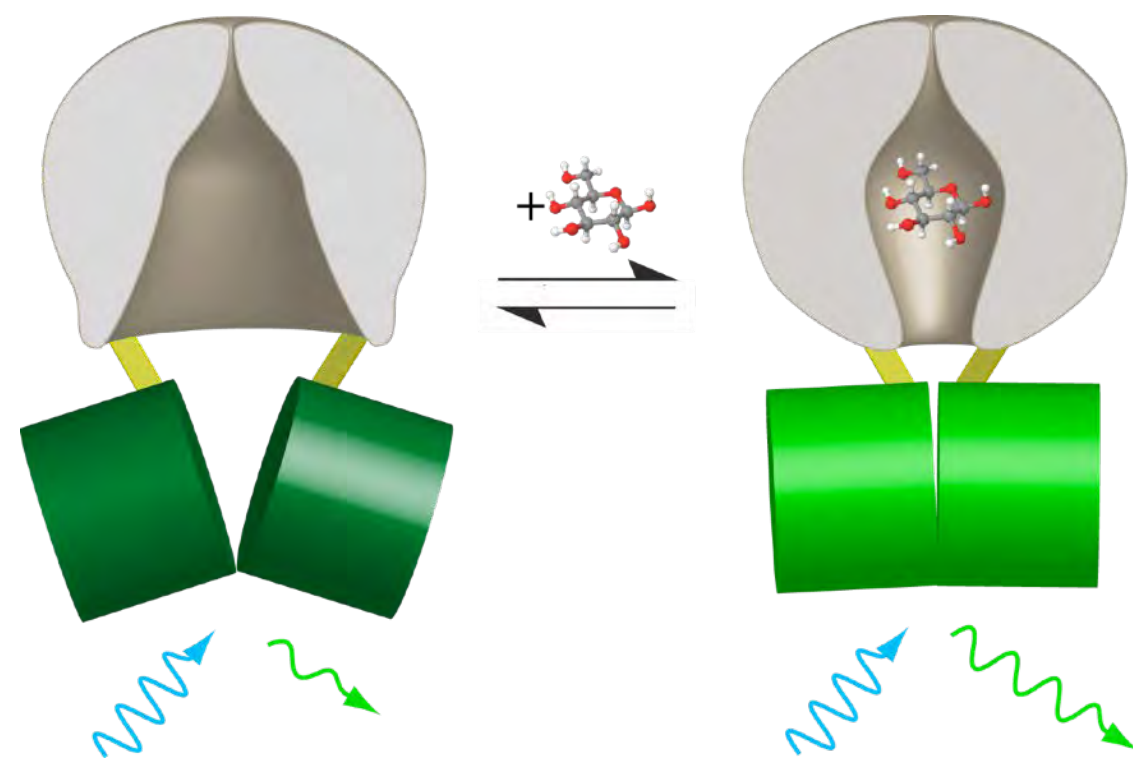


Biosensors for dynamic and quantitative imaging of small molecules

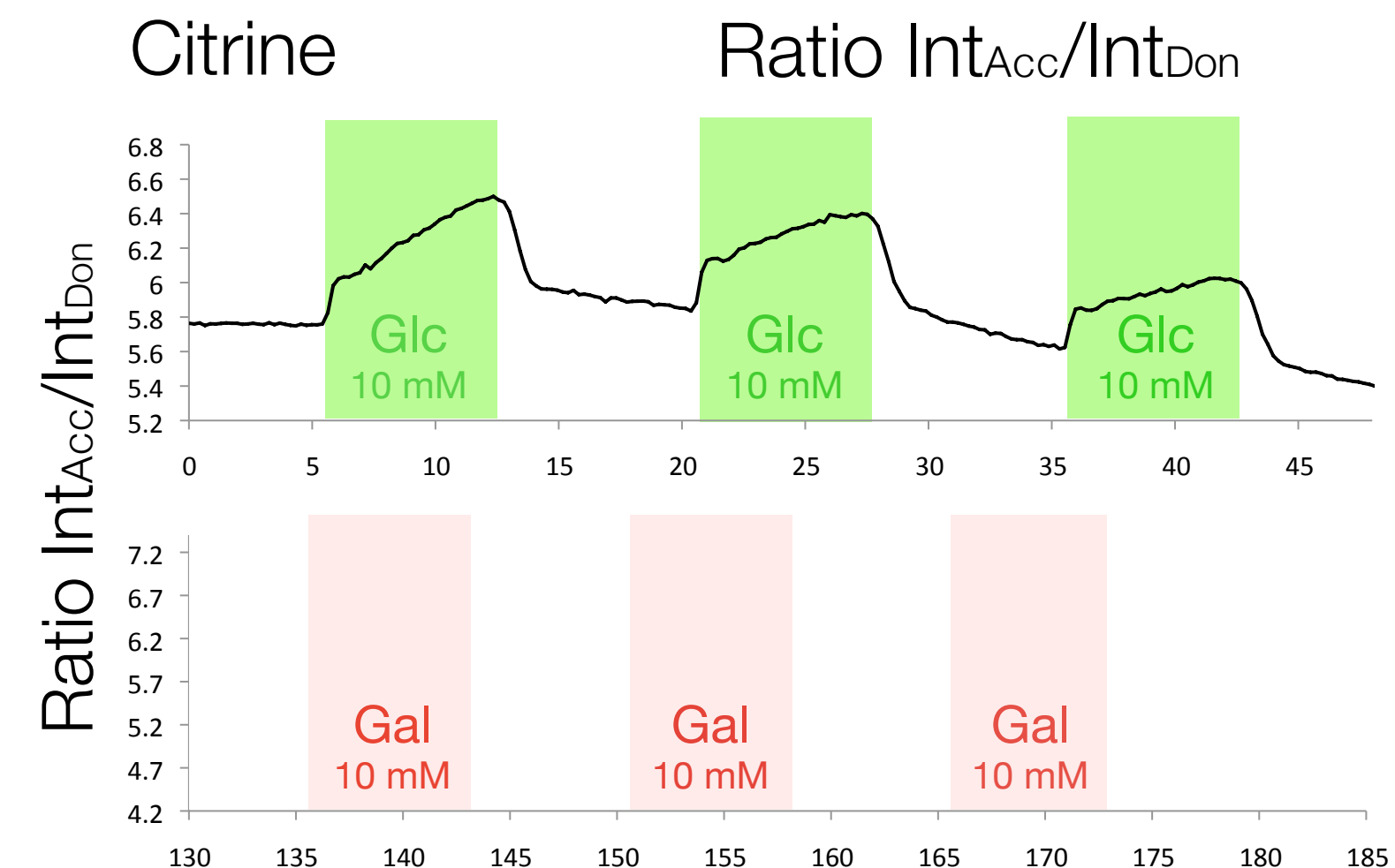
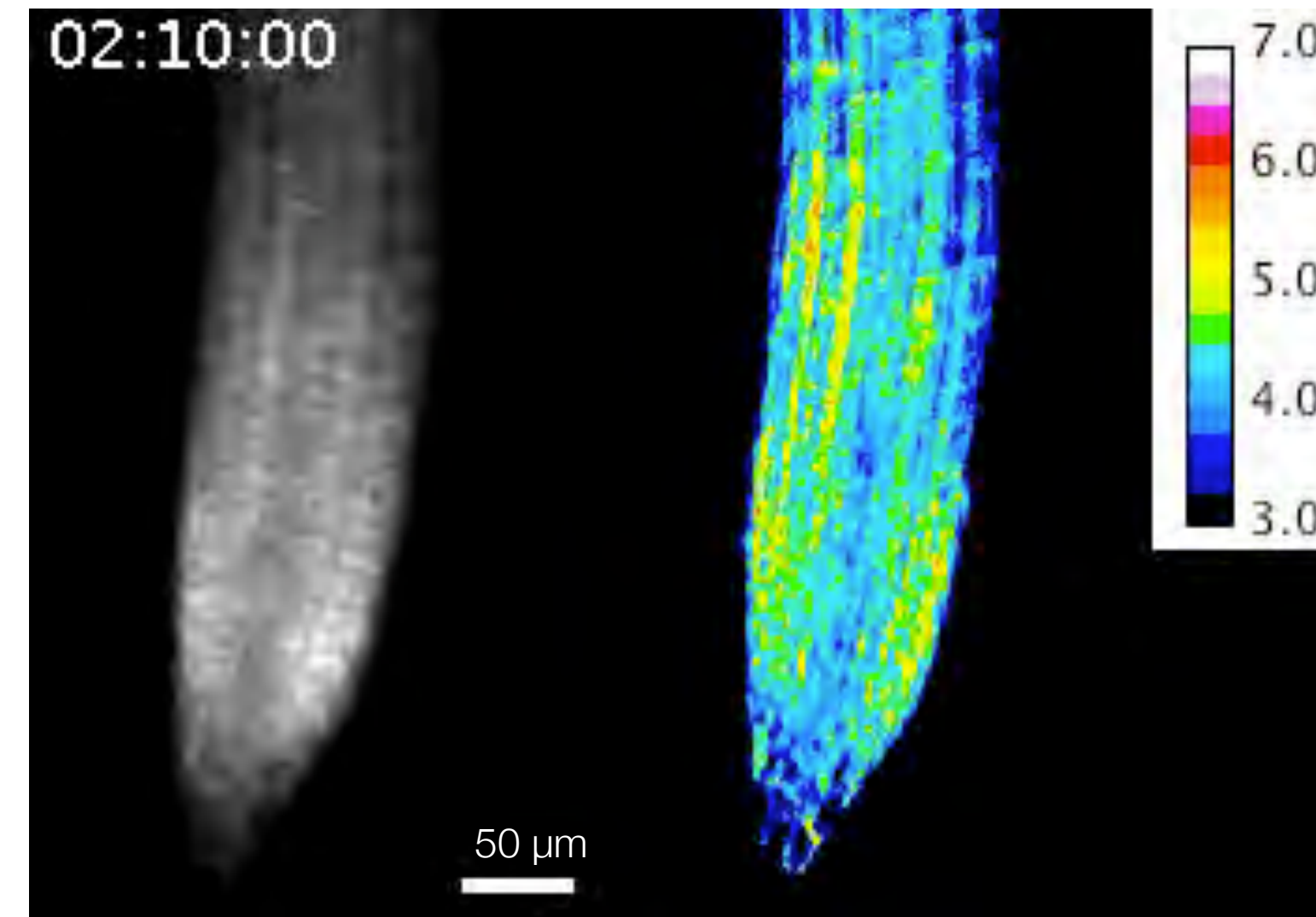
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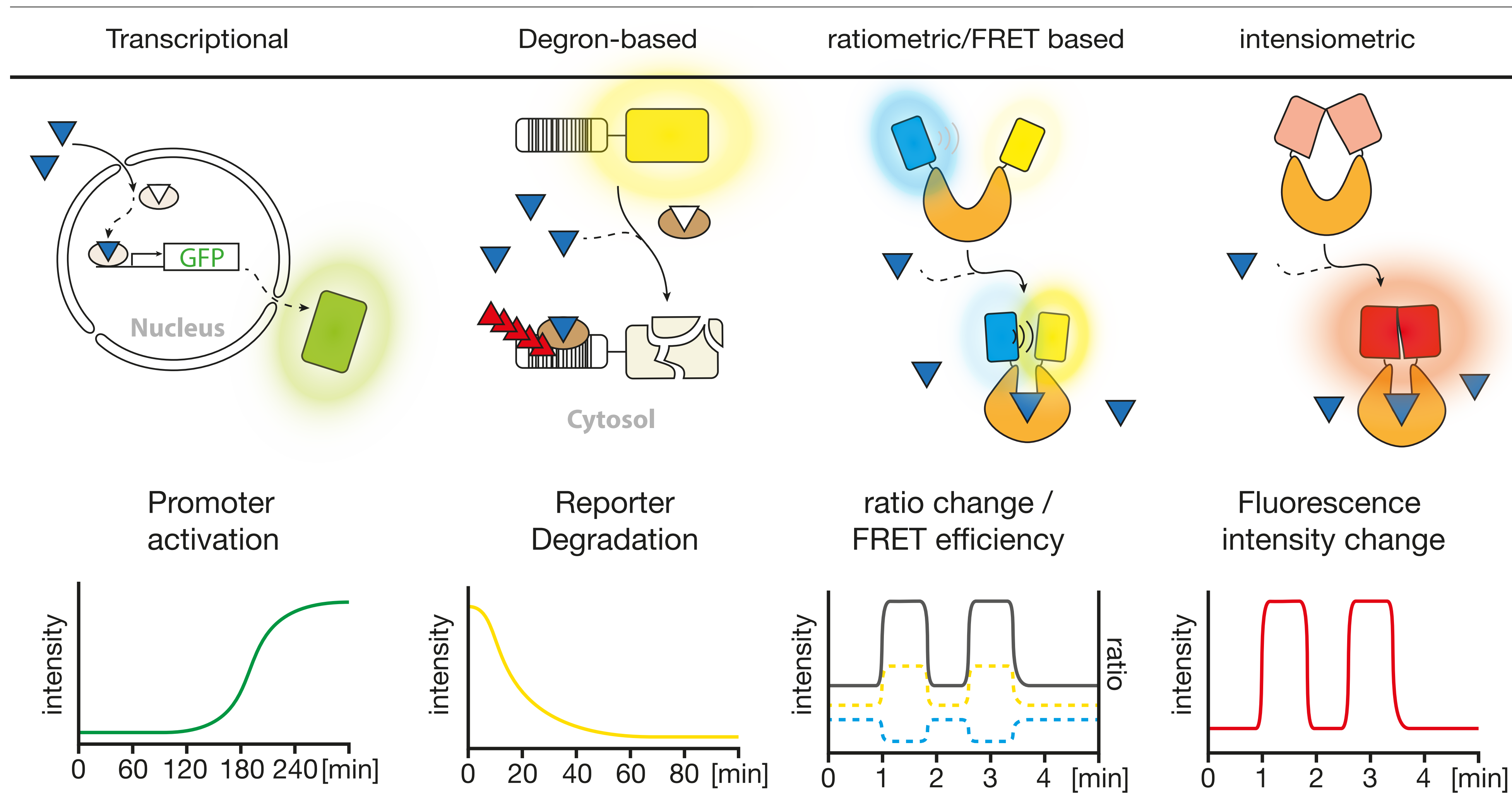


Roots expressing genetically encoded
FLIPglu FRET sensor

Grossmann et al. 2011 *Plant Cell*



Technologies for microscopic imaging of molecular dynamics

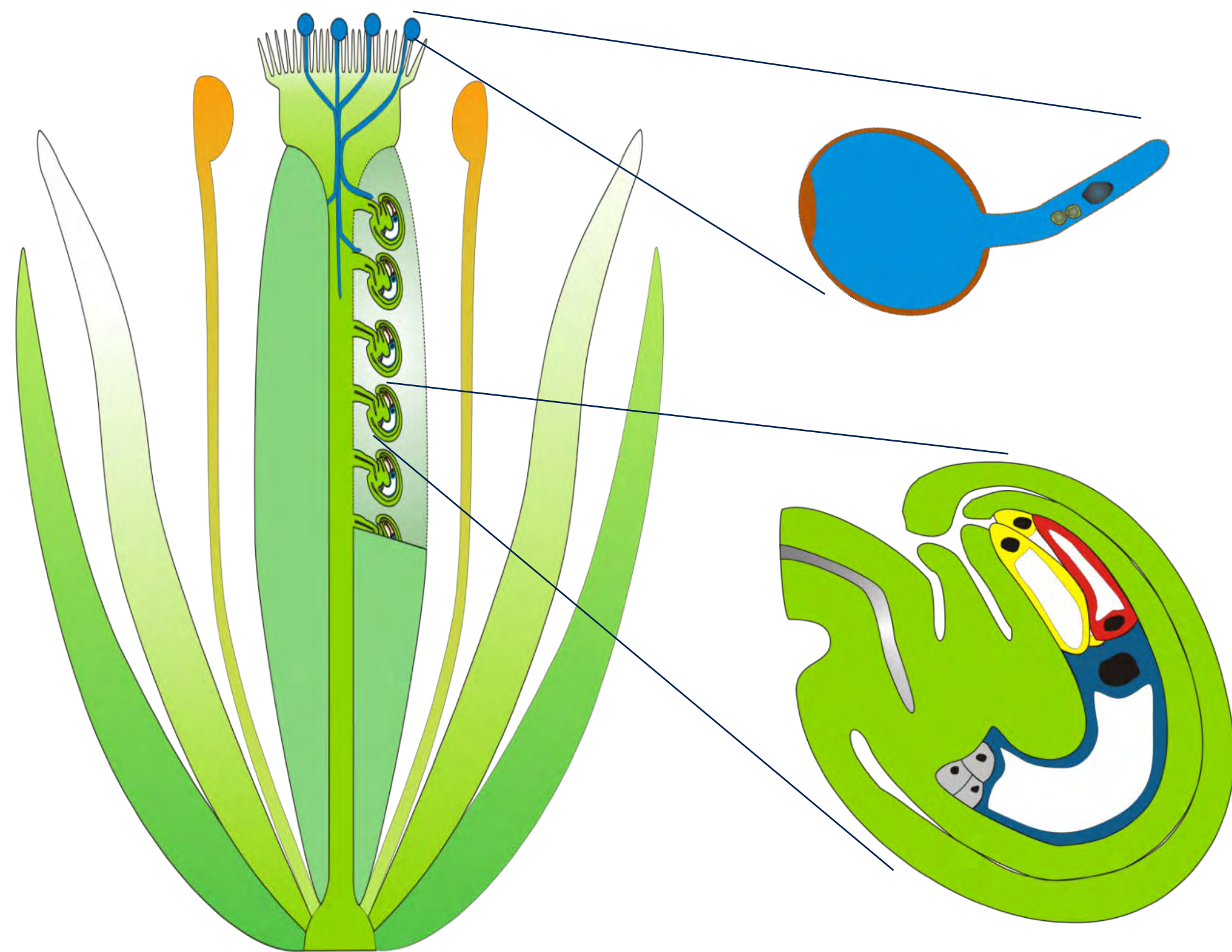


Uslu & Grossmann, *Curr Opin Plant Biol* 2015

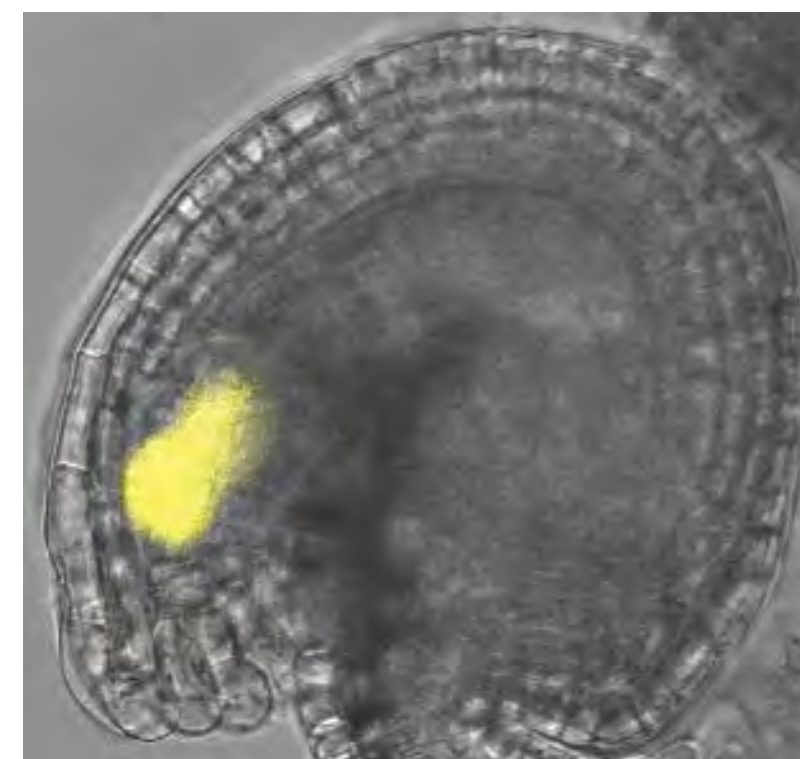


Calcium imaging during double fertilization

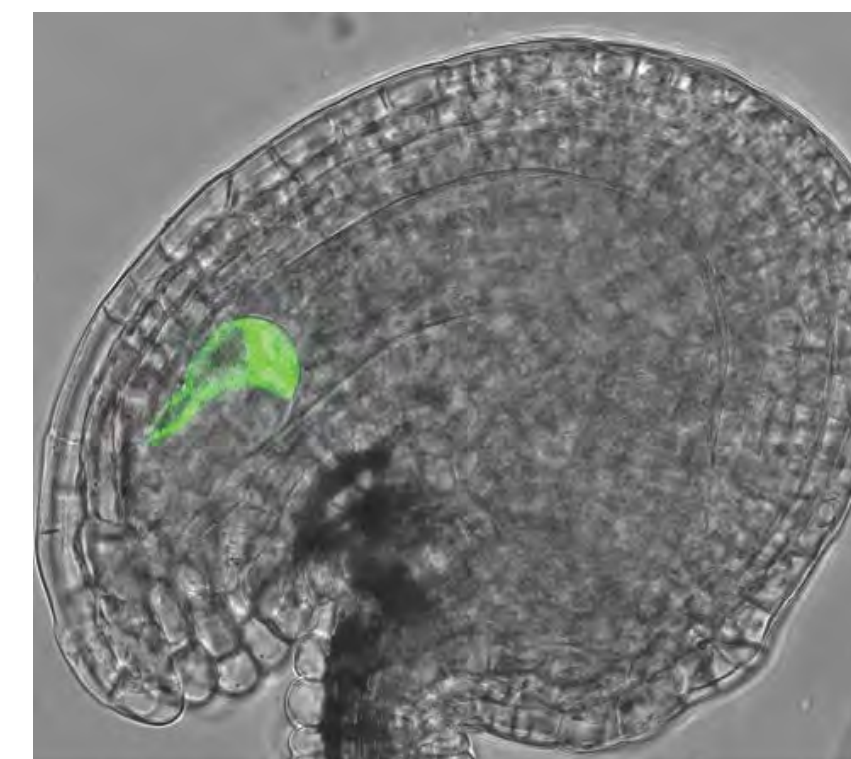
Male and female gametophytes in Arabidopsis



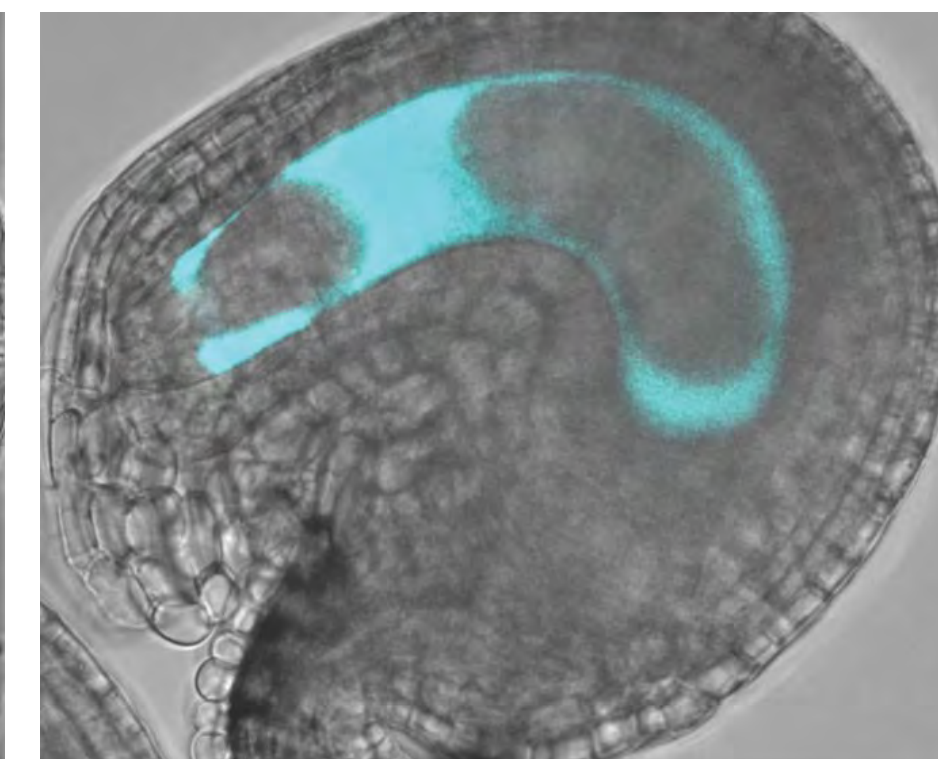
Synergids



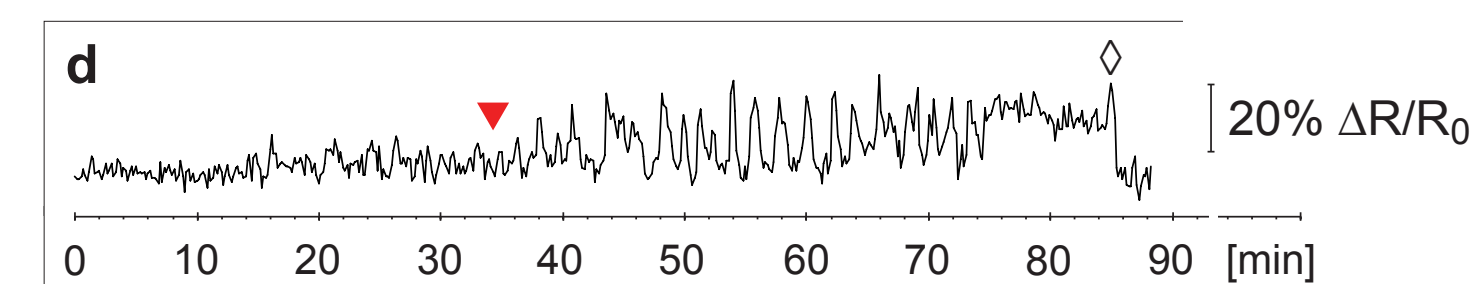
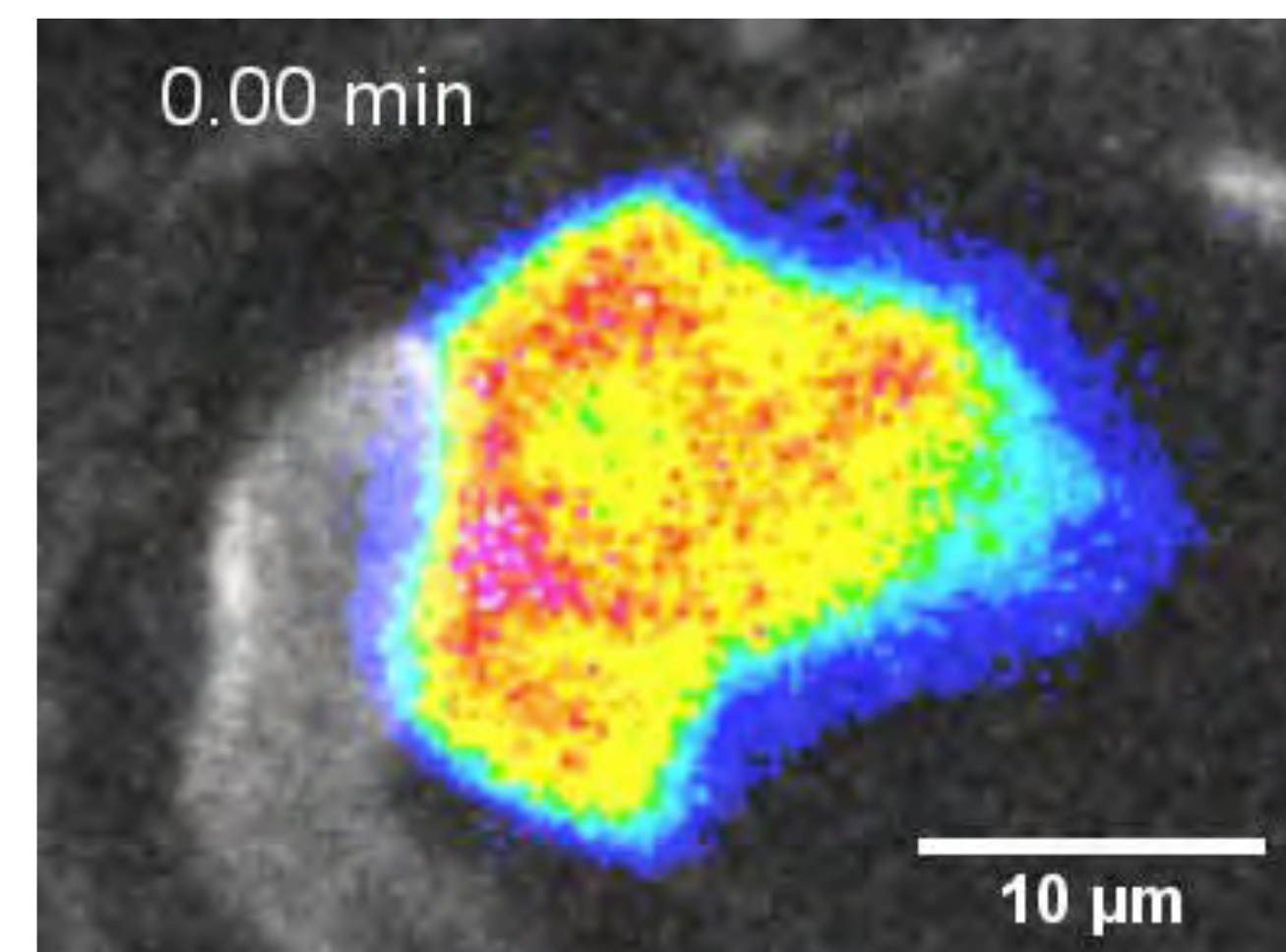
Egg cell



Central cell



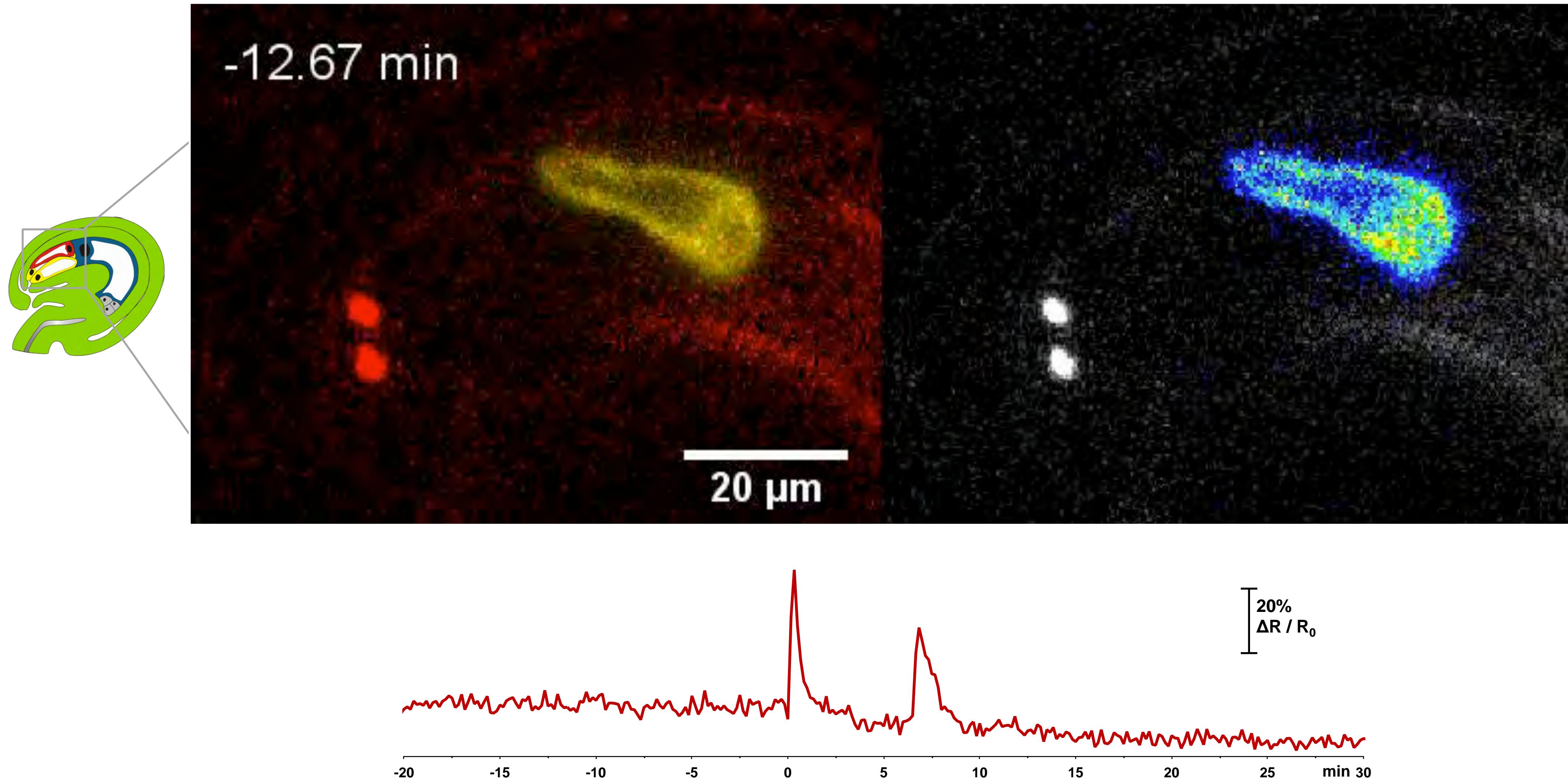
Synergids
expressing
CerTNL15



Denninger et al., 2014 *Nat Commun*



Calcium waves in the egg cell upon sperm cell arrival and gamete fusion

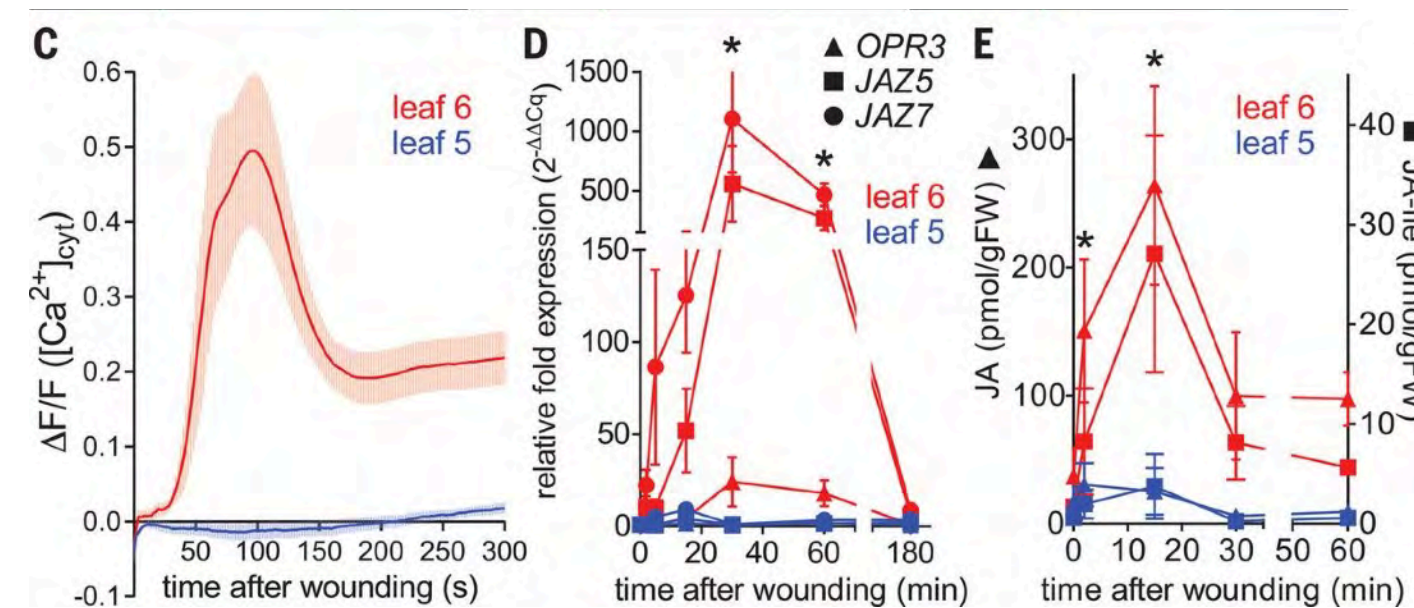
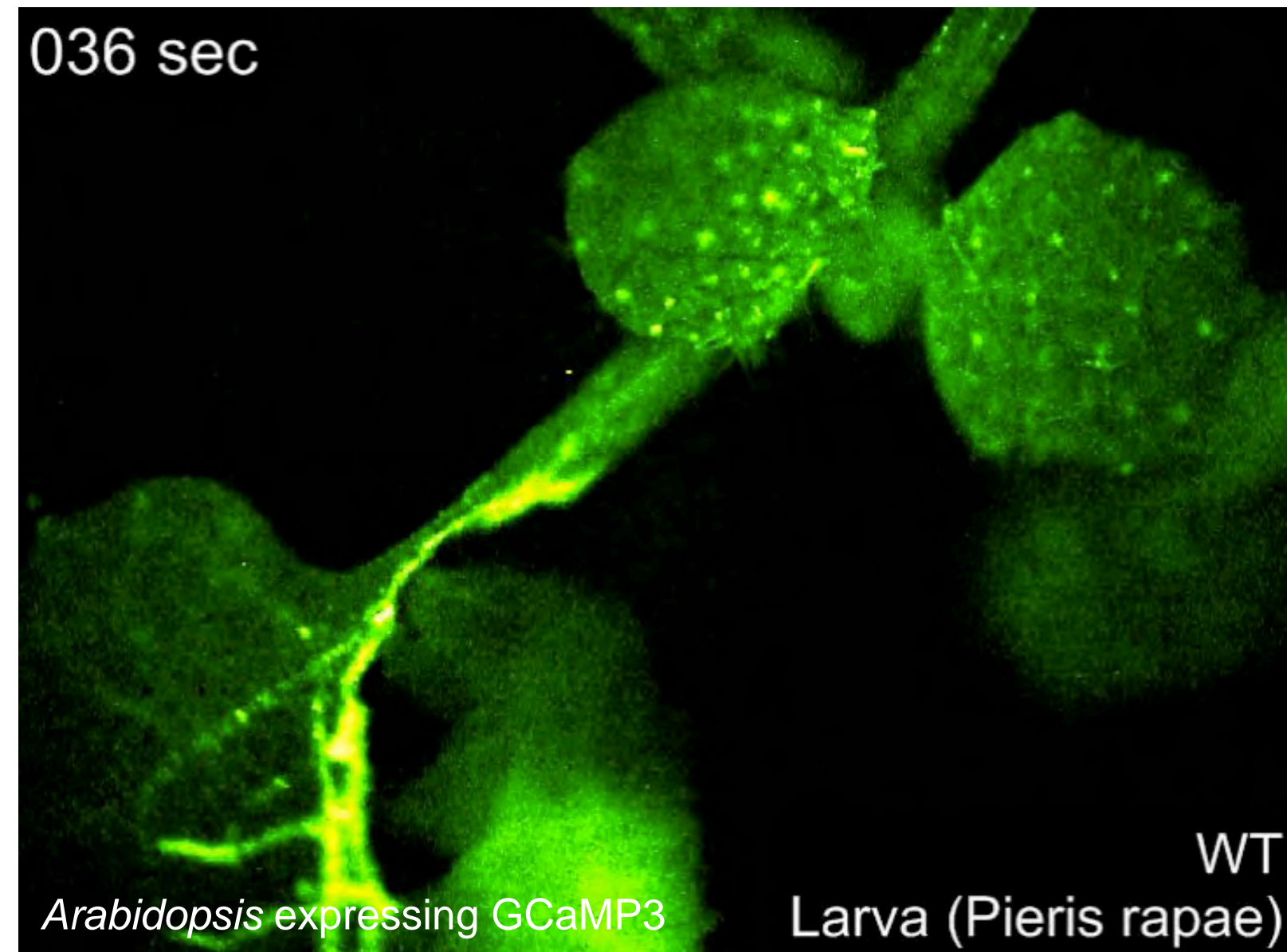


Denninger et al., 2014 *Nat Commun*



Successful defense is a matter of timing

Herbivory triggers Ca^{2+} waves towards younger leaves



Toyota et al. 2018 *Science*



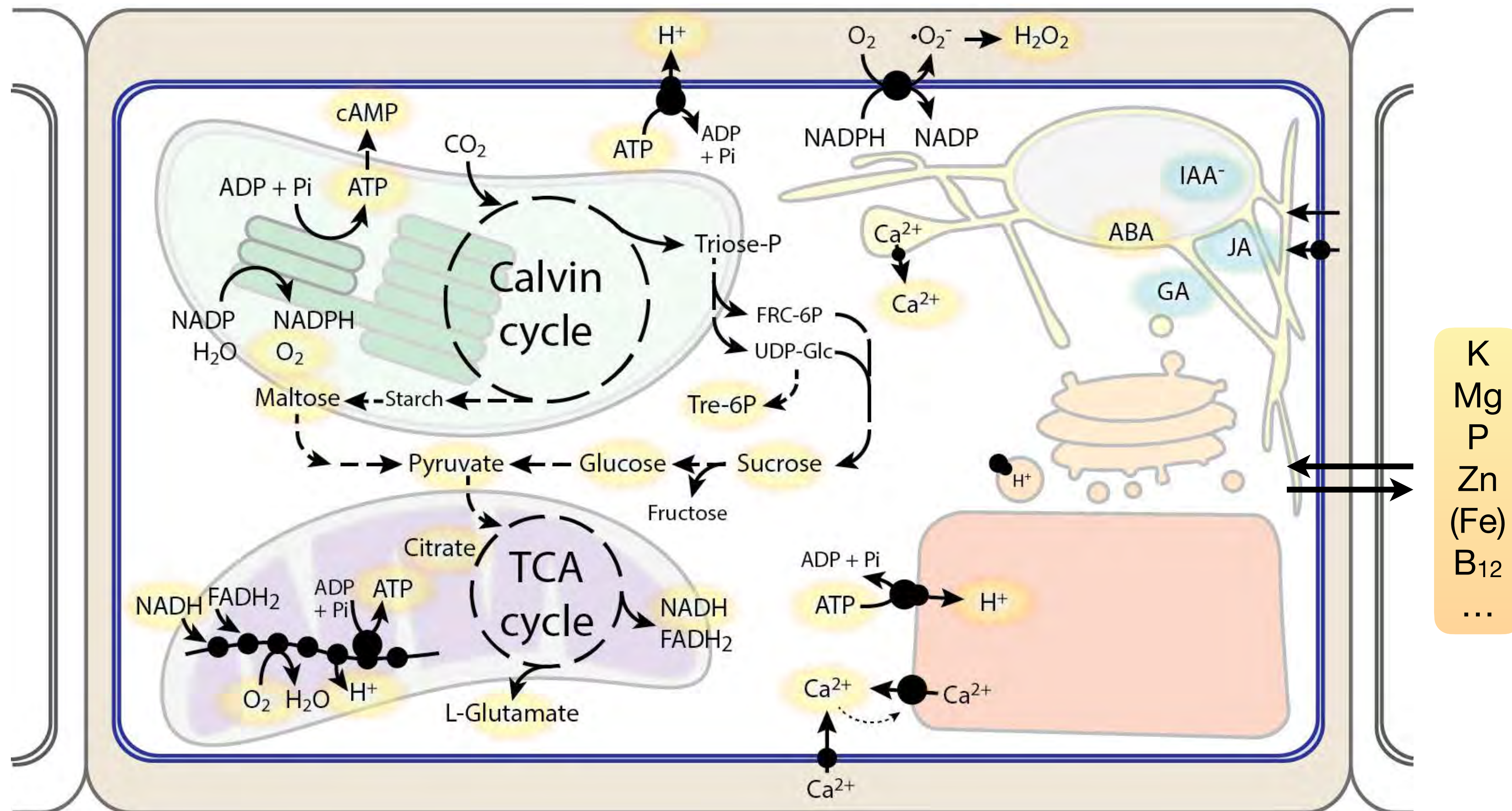
Time is critical for *any* successful acclimatization

Goal: understanding the mechanisms that determine the kinetics of molecular dynamics?



The ever-expanding Biosensor toolbox

... for a broad spectrum of nutrients, metabolites and signaling molecules.



■ <https://www.molecular-physiology.hhu.de/en/resources>

modified from Uslu & Grossmann, *Curr Opin Plant Biol* 2015

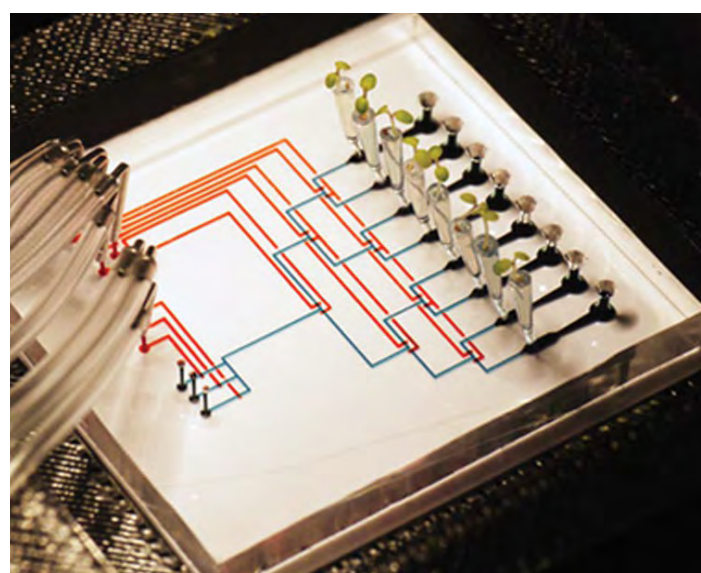
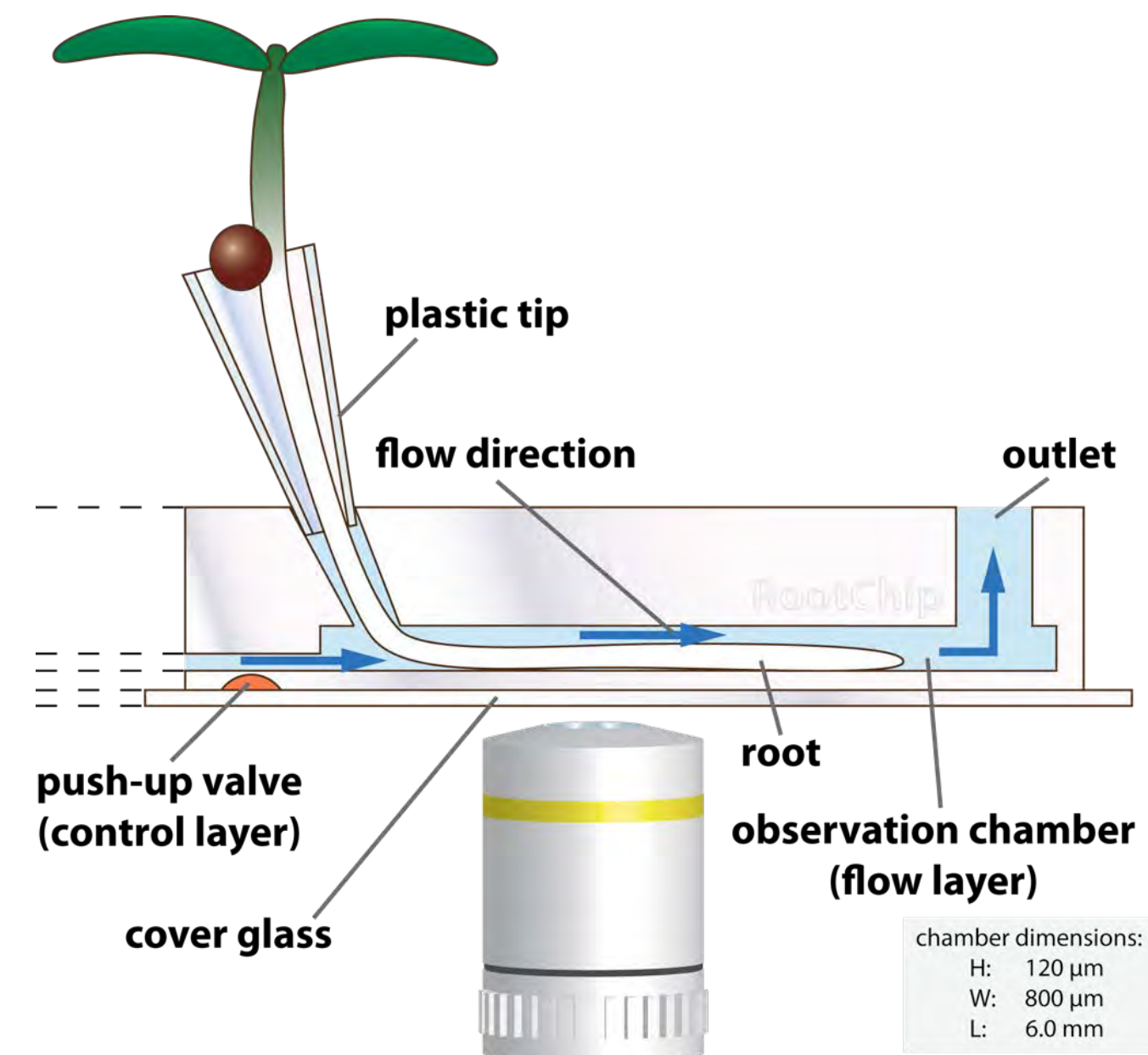


Devices for precision control of the root microenvironment

RootChip

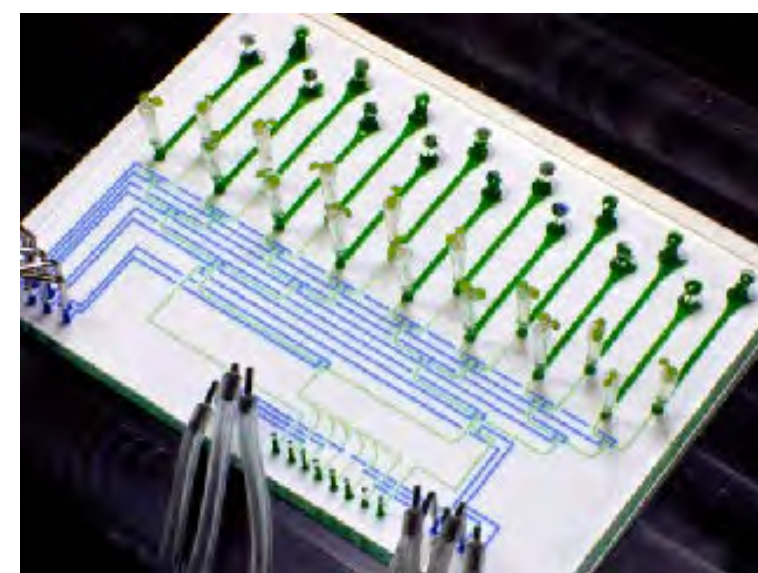
microfluidic perfusion and imaging platform for roots

- Individually controllable micro-perfusion chambers
- Root growth on chip = no specimen handling
- Parallelization & automation



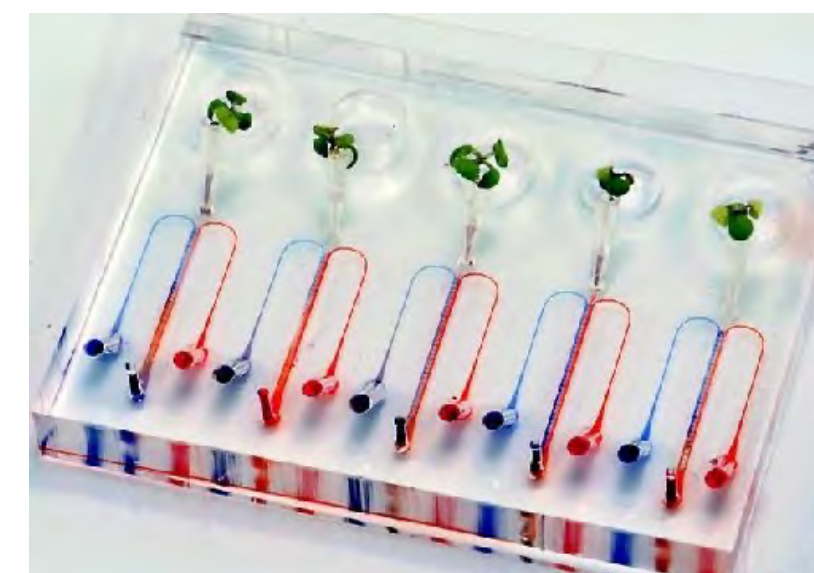
RootChip

Grossmann et al. 2011 *Plant Cell*
Grossmann et al. 2012 *JoVE*
Lanquar et al. 2013 *New Phytol*



RootChip16

Jones et al. 2014 *eLife*;
Denninger et al. 2014 *Nat Commun*
Keinath et al. 2015 *Mol Plant*
Souza et al. 2017 *Plant Phys*
Xing et al. 2017 *PNAS*
Brost et al. 2019 *Plant J*



dfRootChip

Stanley, Shrivastava et al. 2018 *New Phytol*
Stanley et al. 2018 *bio-protocol*



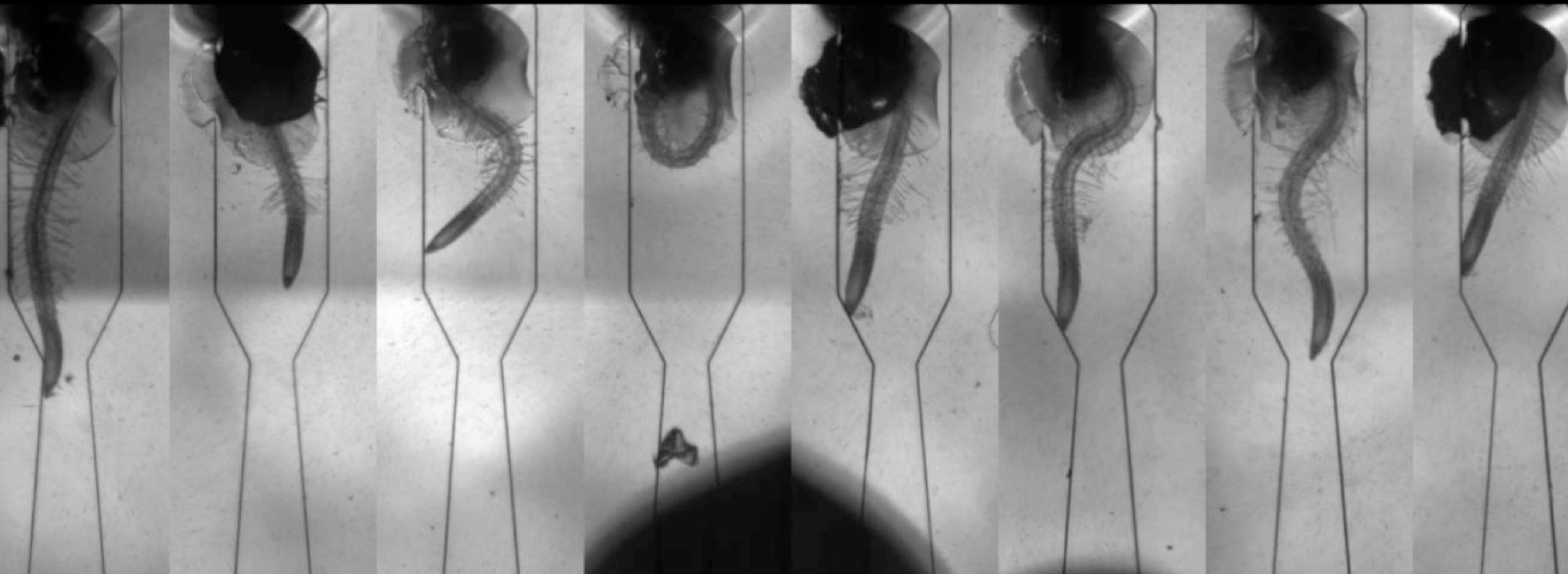
RootChip8S

Denninger, Reichelt et al 2019 *Curr Biol*
Guichard et al. 2020 *Meth Cell Biol*
Rizza et al. 2021 *PNAS*



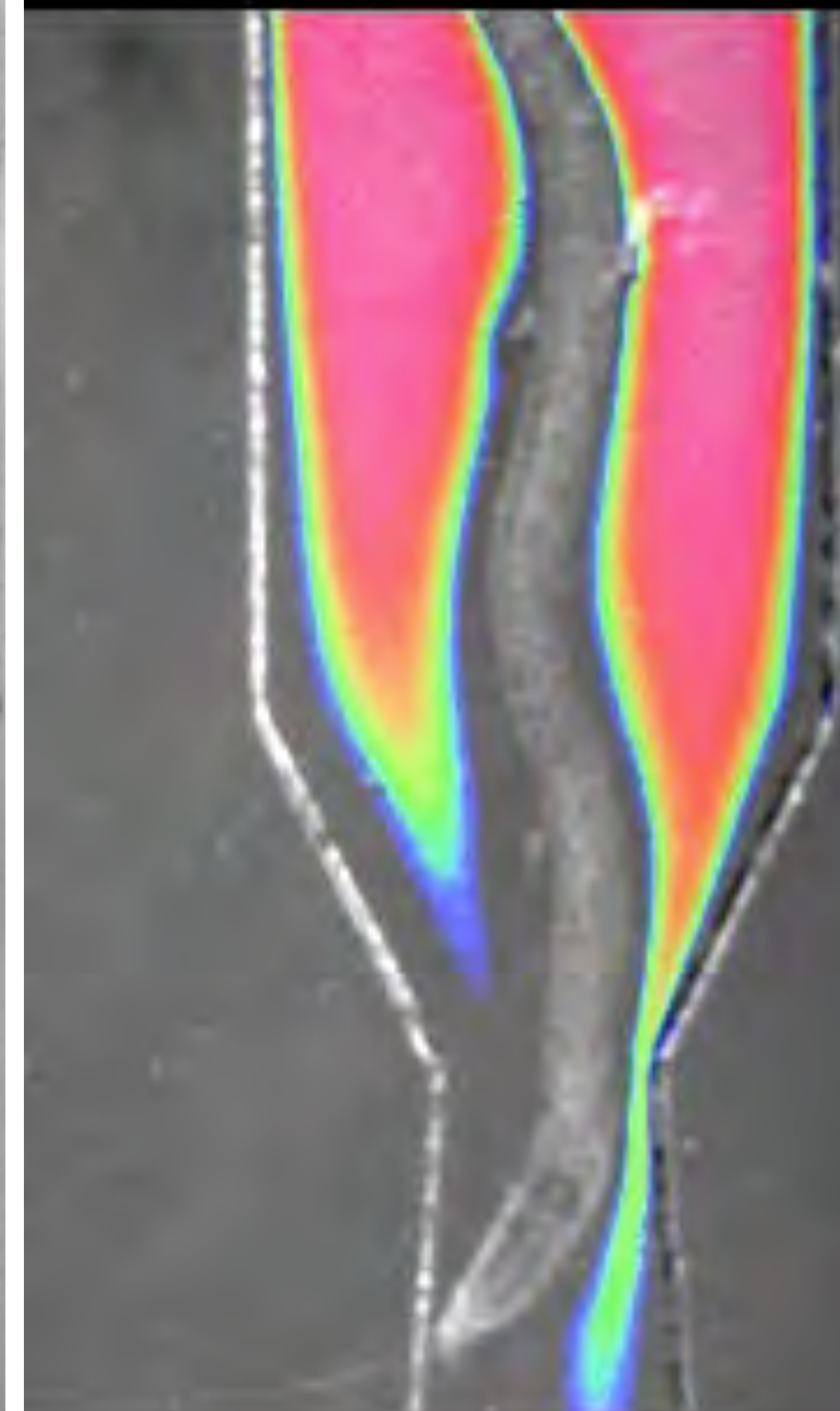
RootChip - microfluidic technology for precision control of the root microenvironment

12:30



500 μm

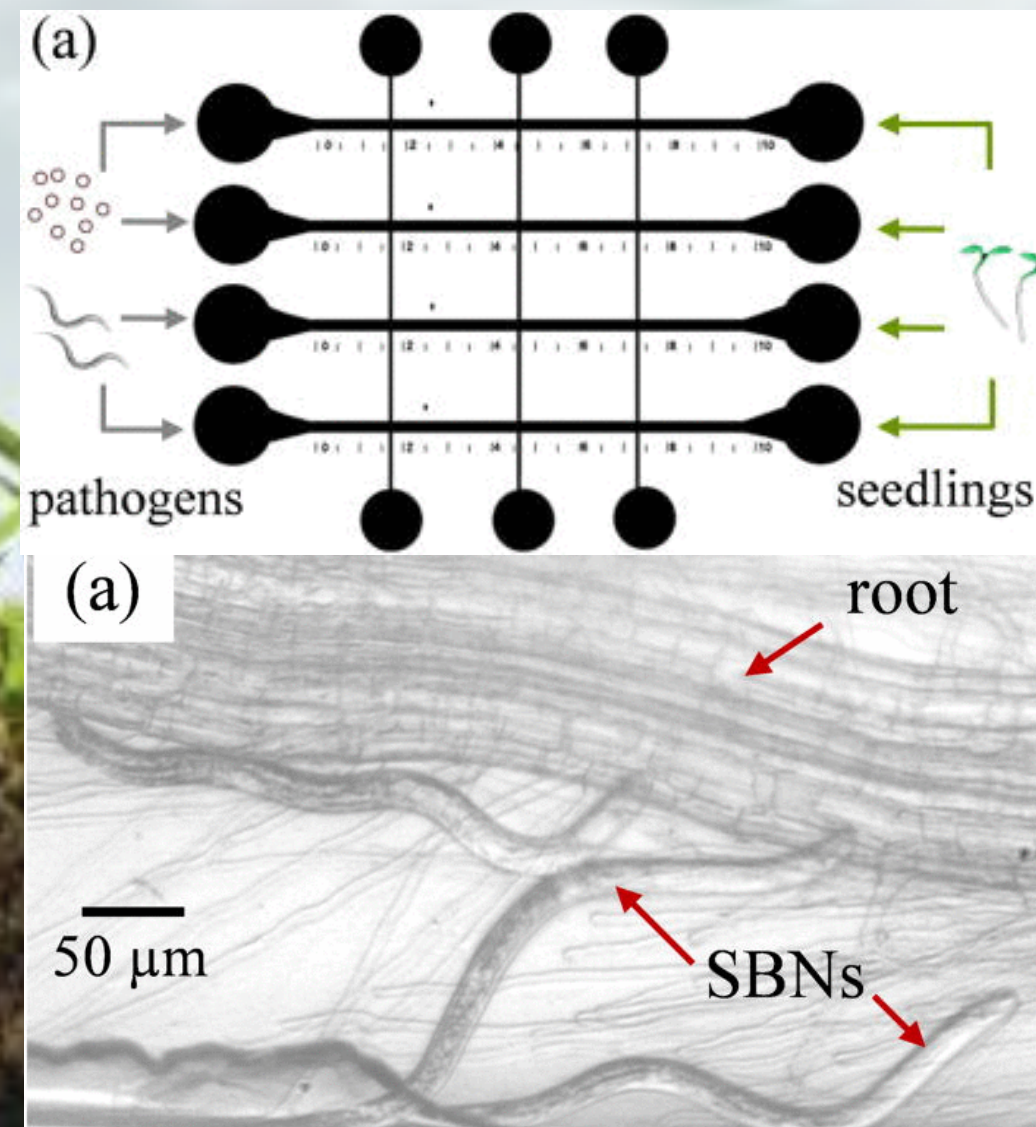
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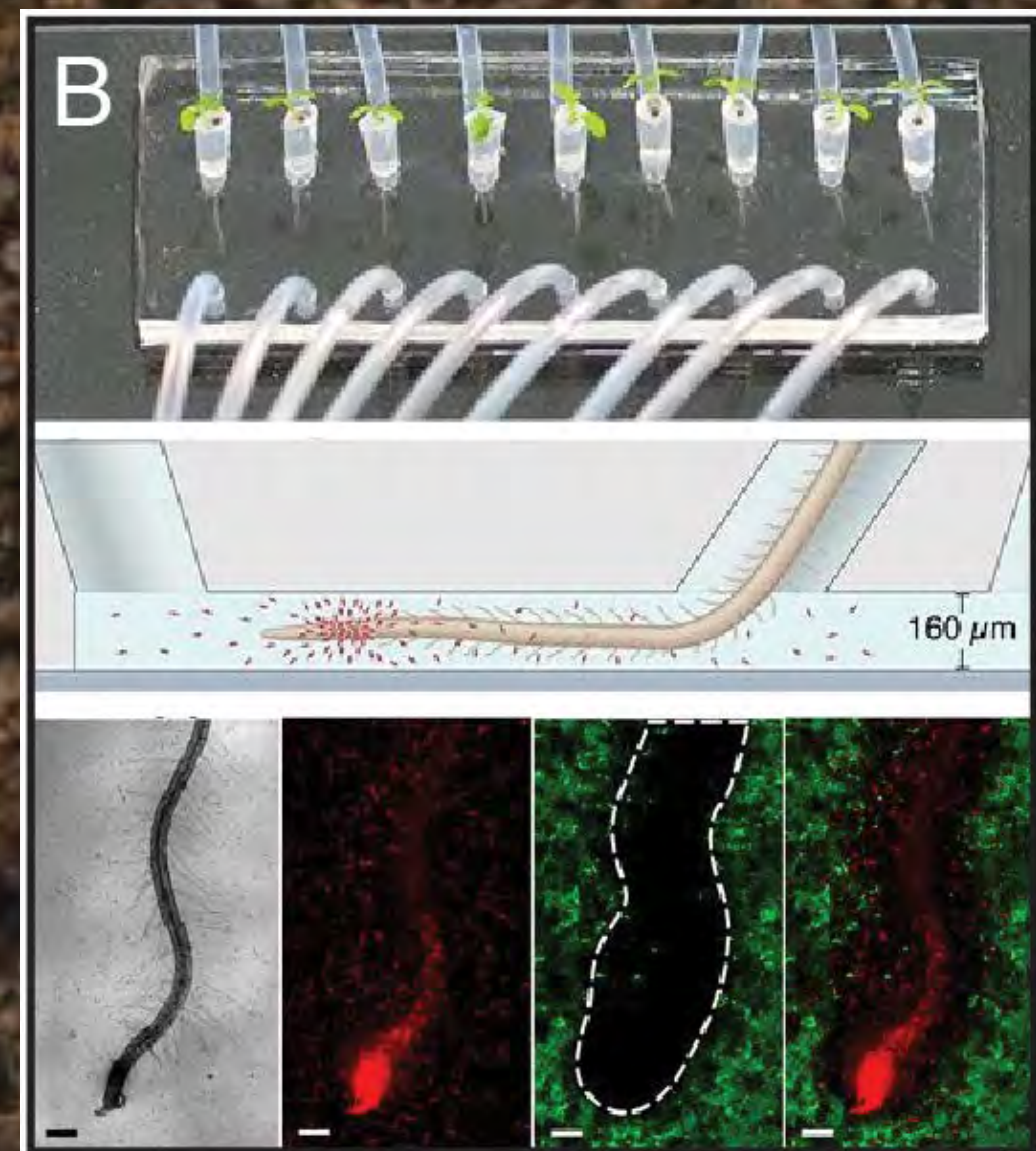
500 μm



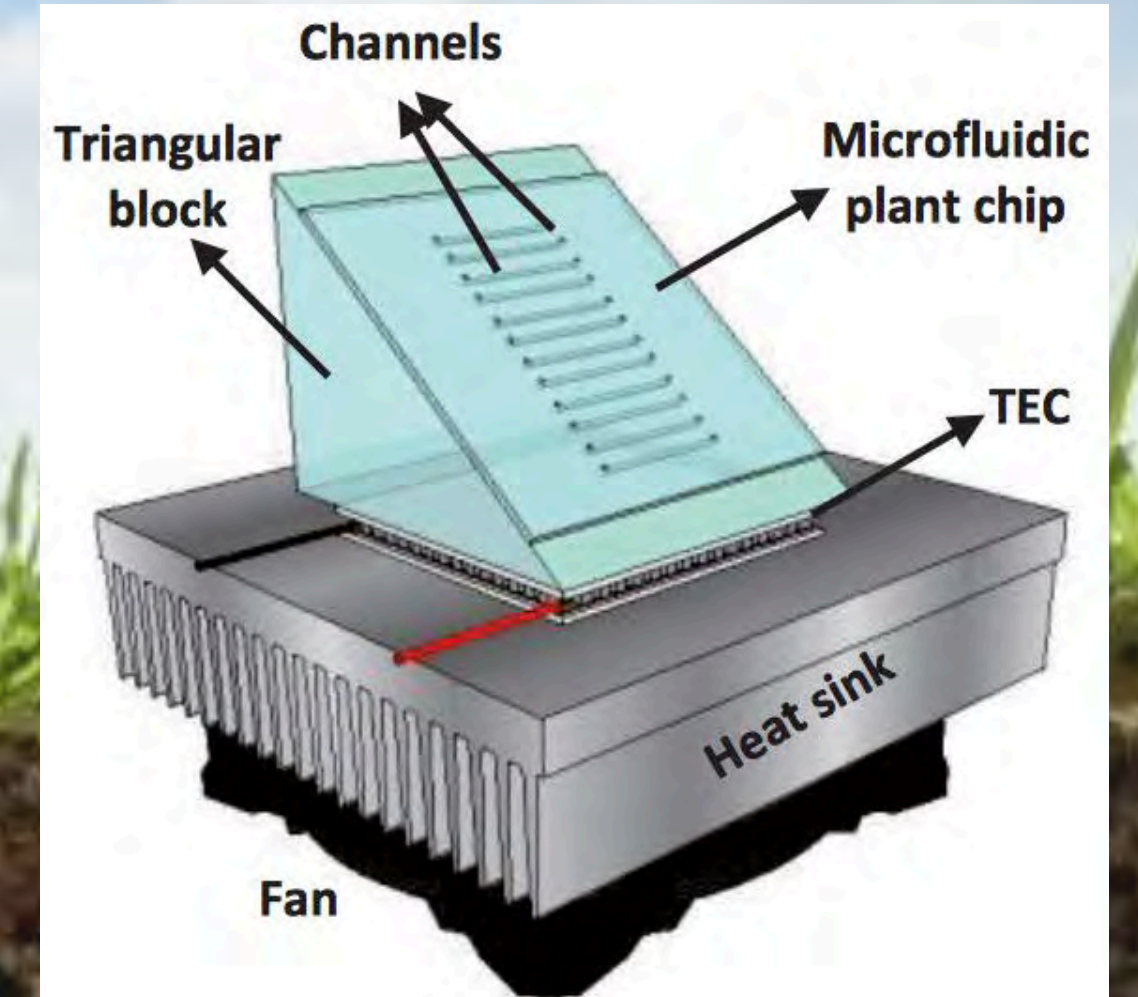
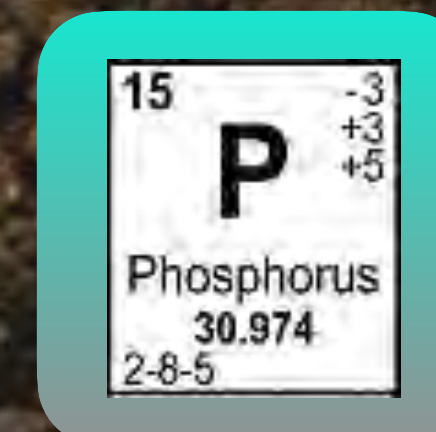
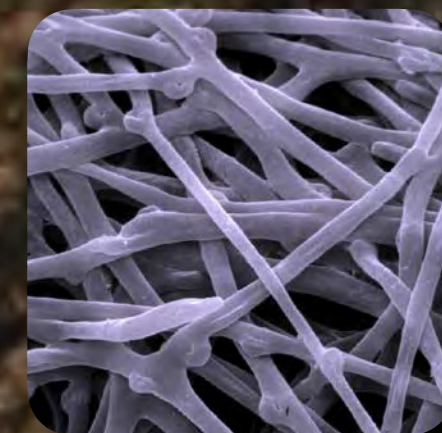
Microdevices for microscopic access to the „rhizosphere“



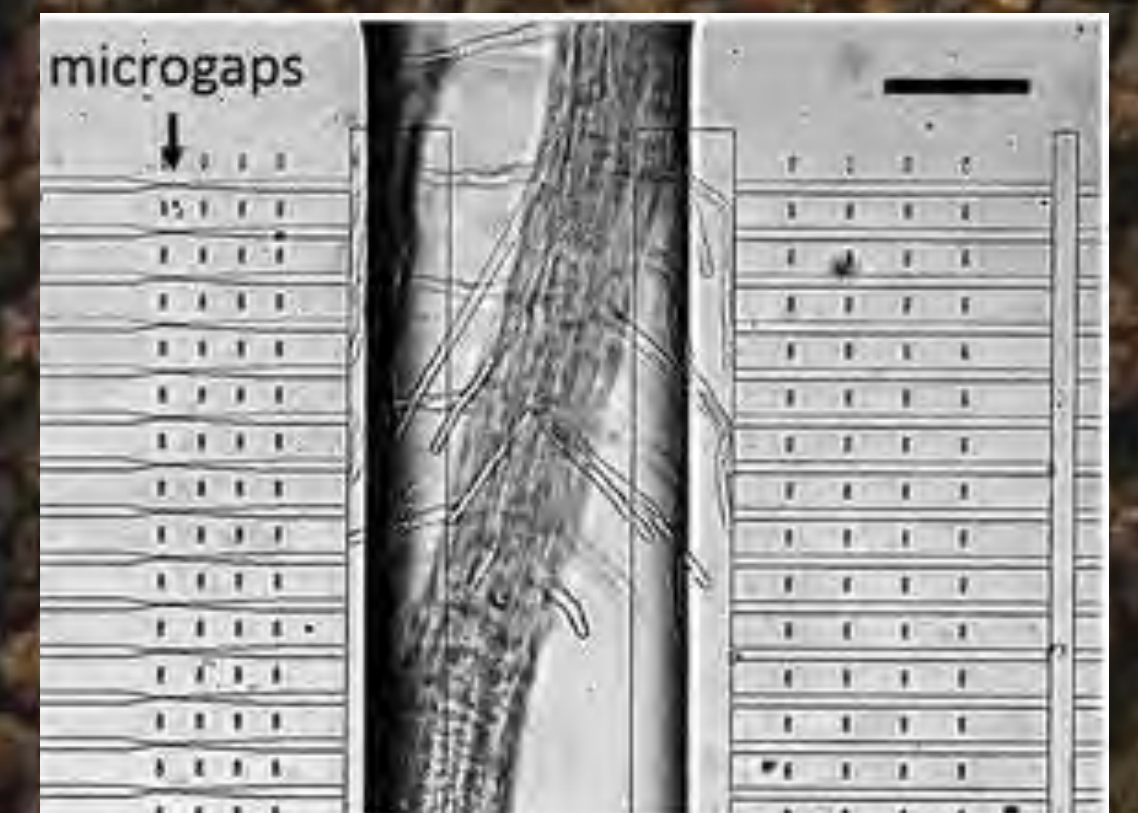
Parashar & Pandey 2011 *Appl Phys Lett*



Massalha et al. 2017 *PNAS*



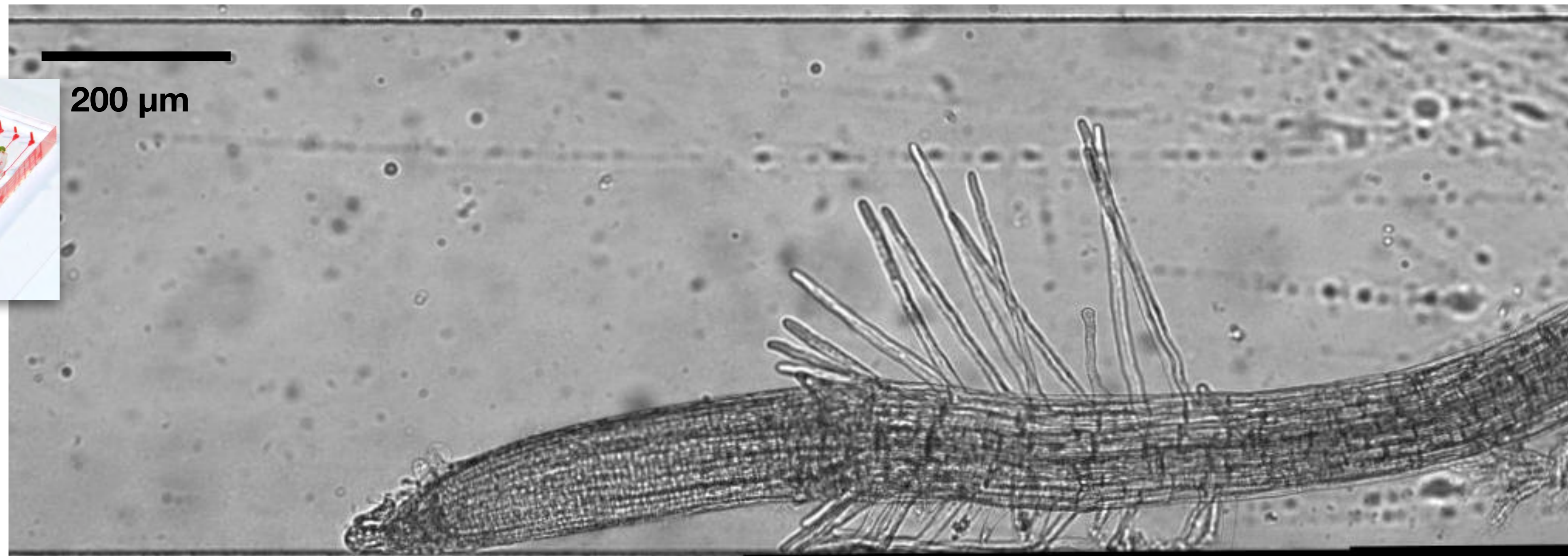
Wang et al 2017 *IEEE*



Yanagisawa et al. 2017 *Sci. Rep.*



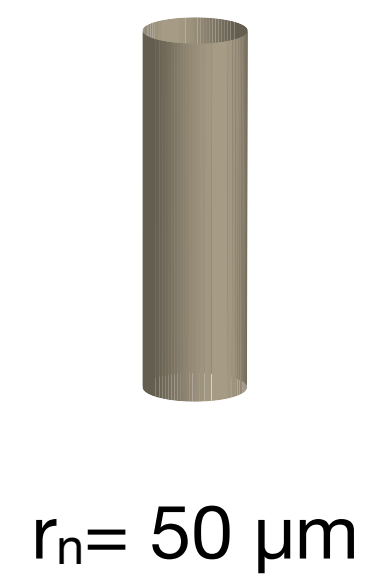
Adaptive response: root hairs enlarge the accessible substrate volume



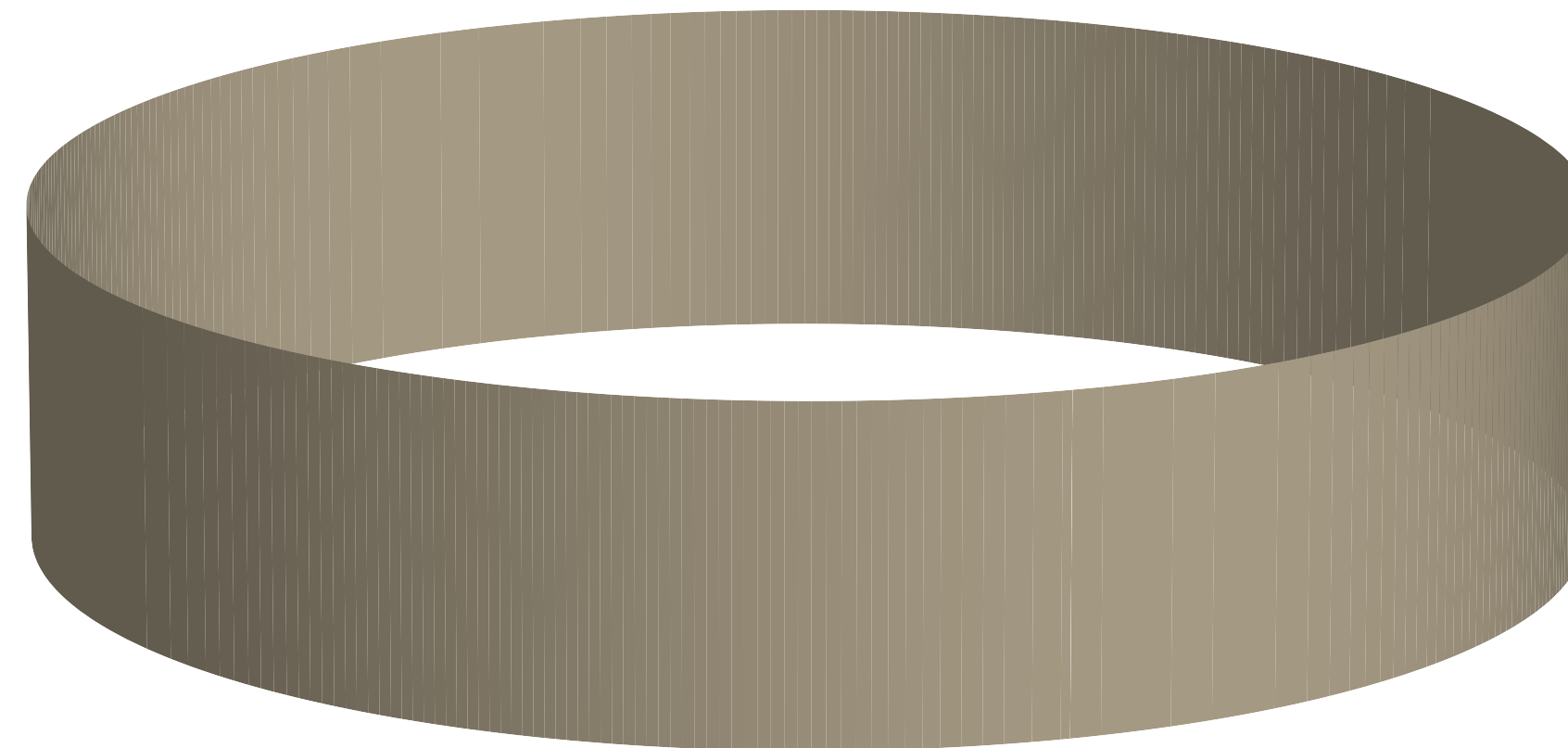
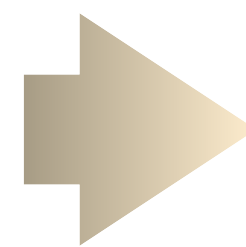
Arabidopsis root grown in the RootChip-8S

max. length: ~800 μm

credit: Vanessa Fuchs



$r_n = 50 \mu\text{m}$



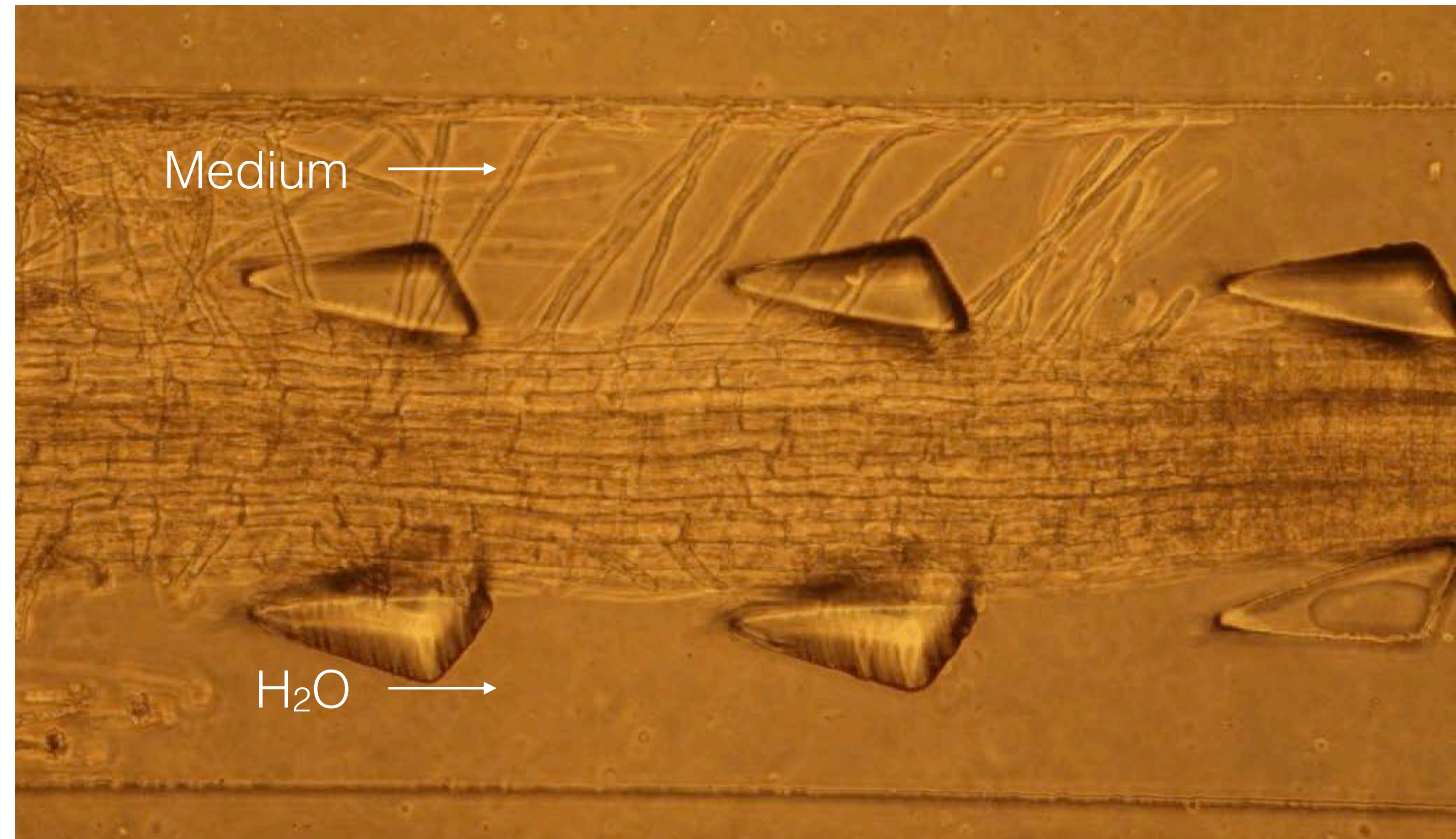
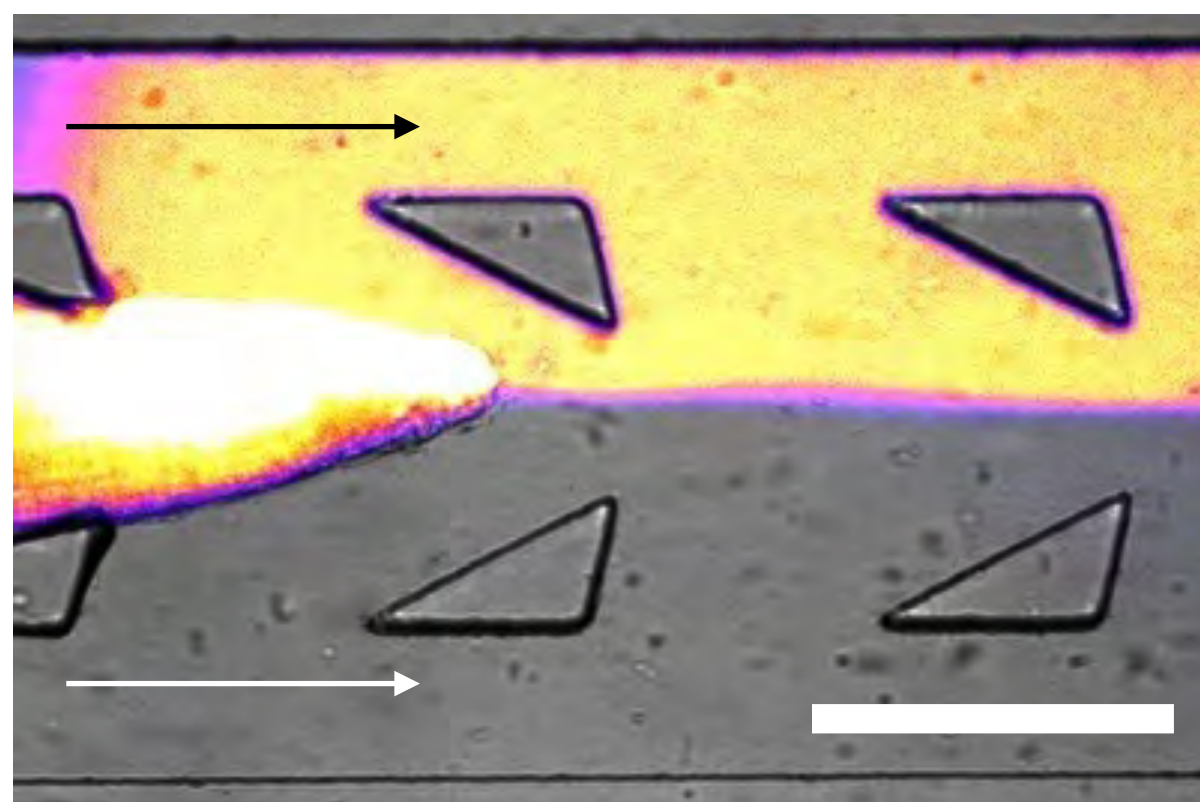
$r_h = 800 \mu\text{m}$

$V_h = 256 * V_n$



Using microfluidics to create asymmetric microenvironments for roots

Is root hair growth coordinated or cell-autonomously regulated?

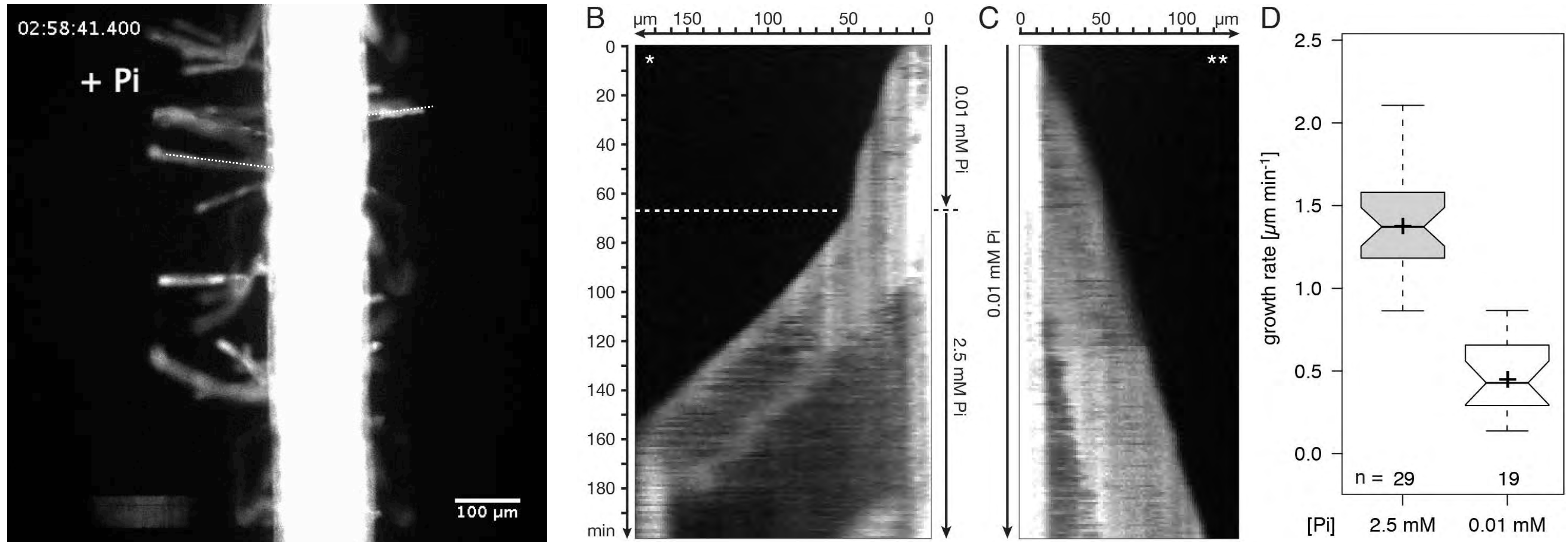


Claire Stanley
ETHZ
Jagriti Shrivastava

Stanley, Shrivastava et al. 2018 *New Phytol*



Root hairs respond to changing nutrient availability within minutes

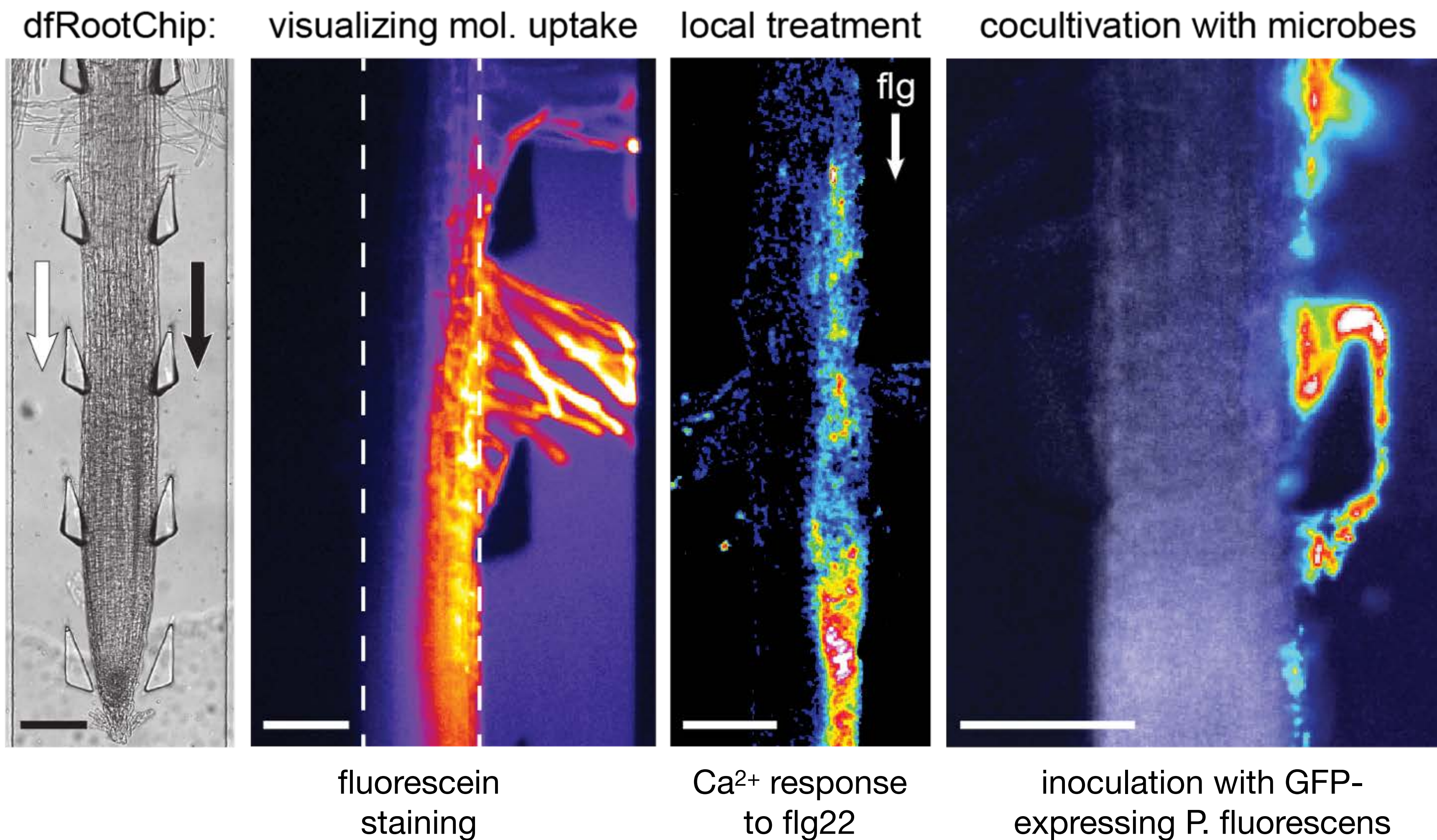


Rapid **cell-autonomous** adjustment of growth rate through **direct** regulation of the tip growth machinery

Stanley, Shrivastava et al. 2018 *New Phytol*



Asymmetric growth conditions in the dual-flow-RootChip

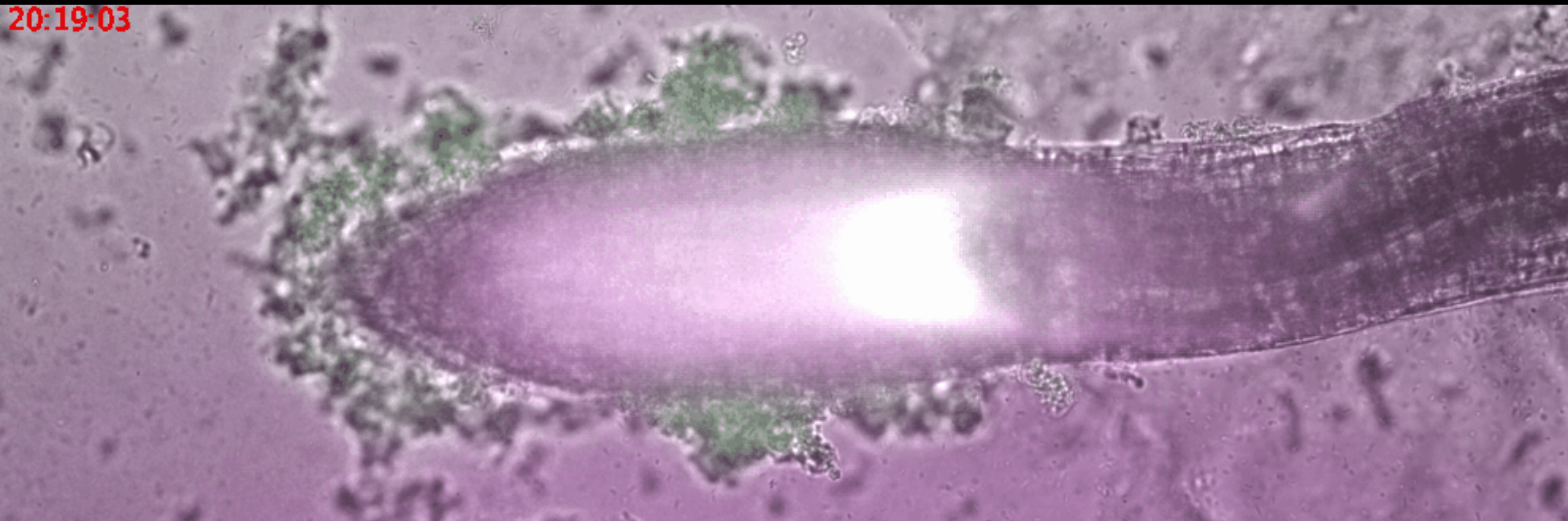


Stanley, Shrivastava et al. 2018 *New Phytol*



Tracking root-bacteria interactions and Ca^{2+} signaling *in planta*

20:19:03

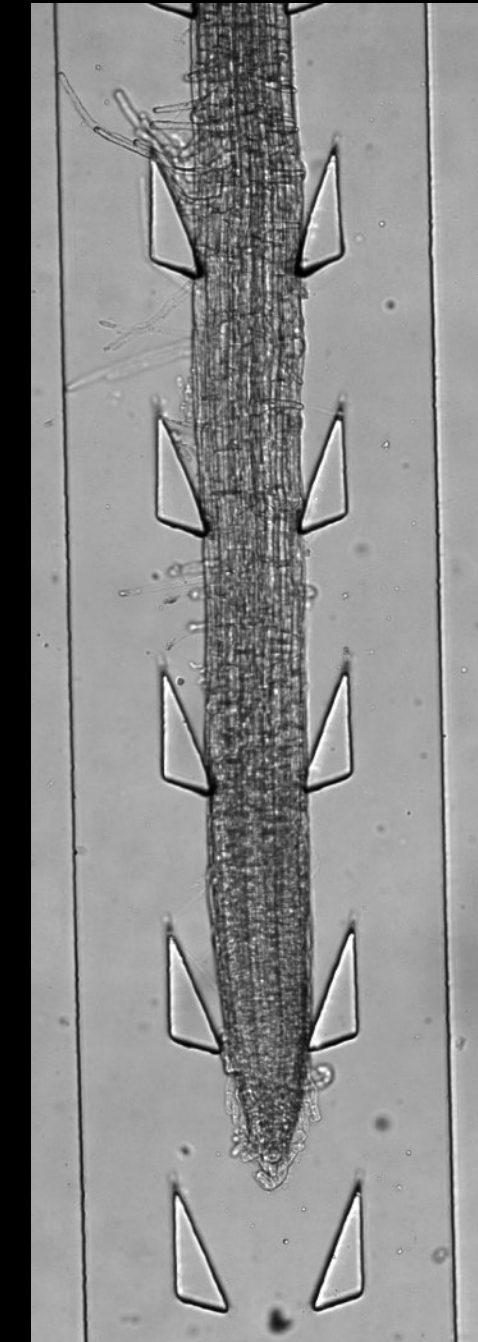
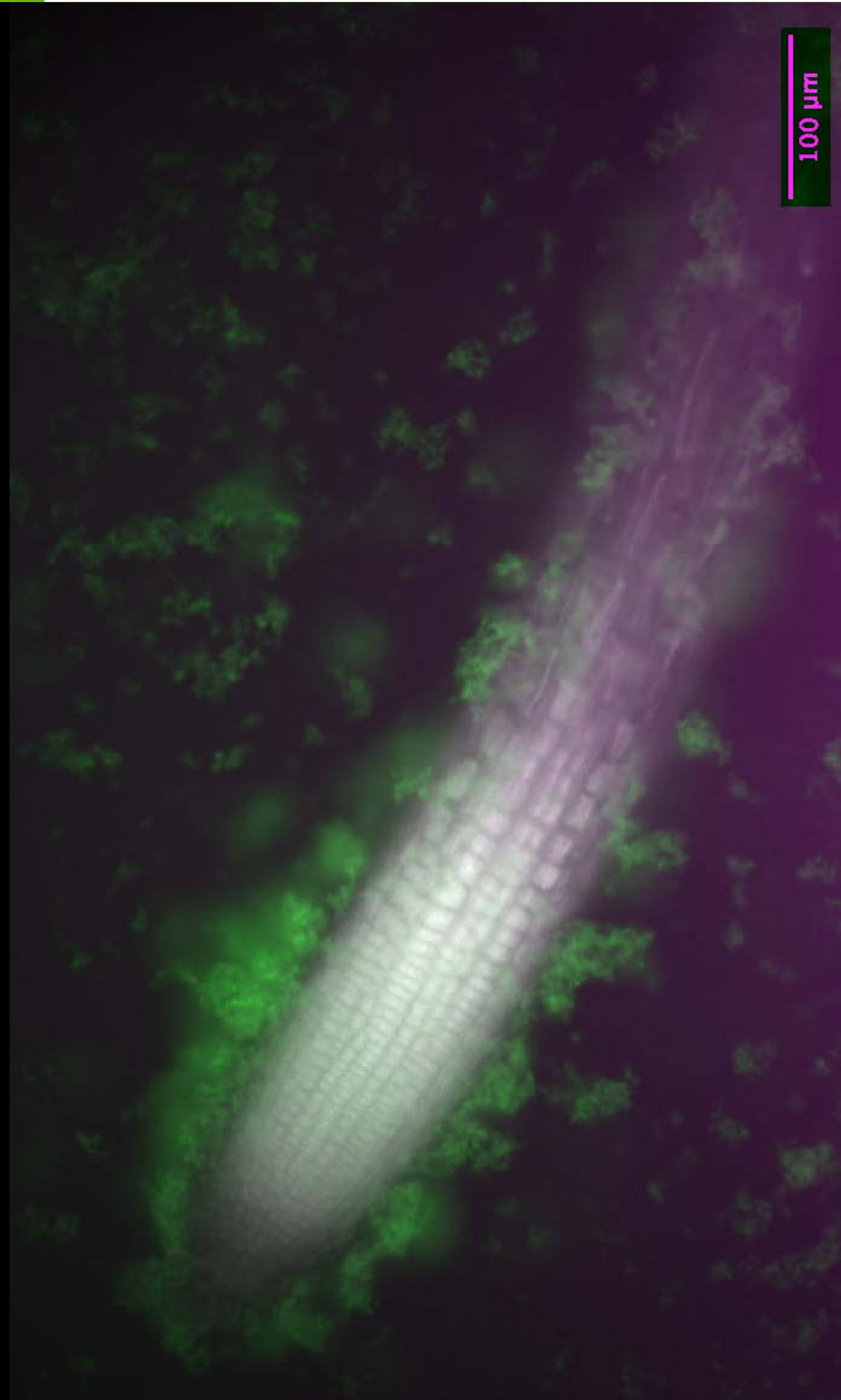


Arabidopsis thaliana vs *Bacillus* sp.

credit: Christian-Frederic Kaiser

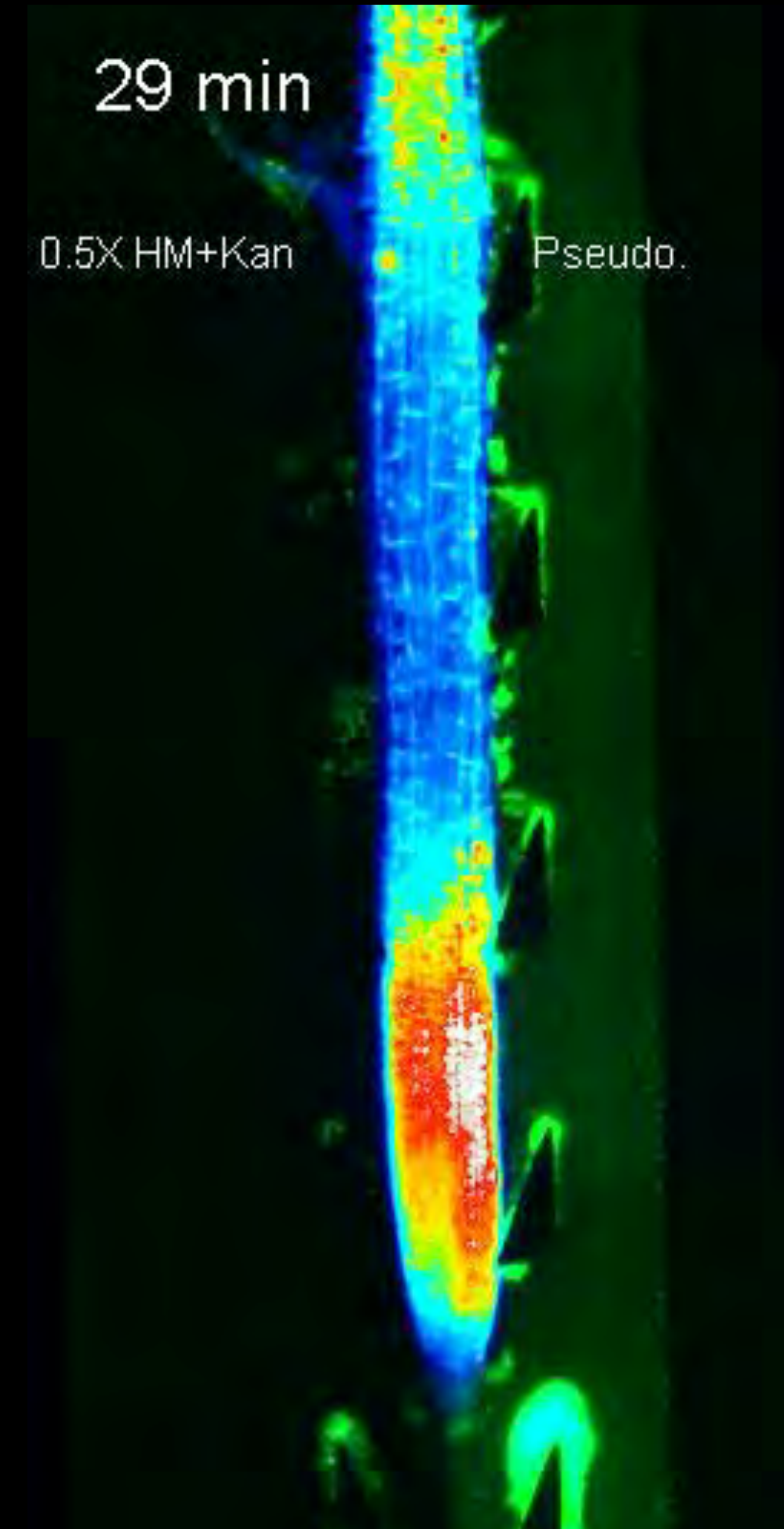


Tracking root-bacteria interactions and Ca^{2+} signaling *in planta*



RGECO1-expressing root
inoculated with
GFP-expressing
Pseudomonas fluorescens
(gift by Cara Haney)

Jagriti Shrivastava

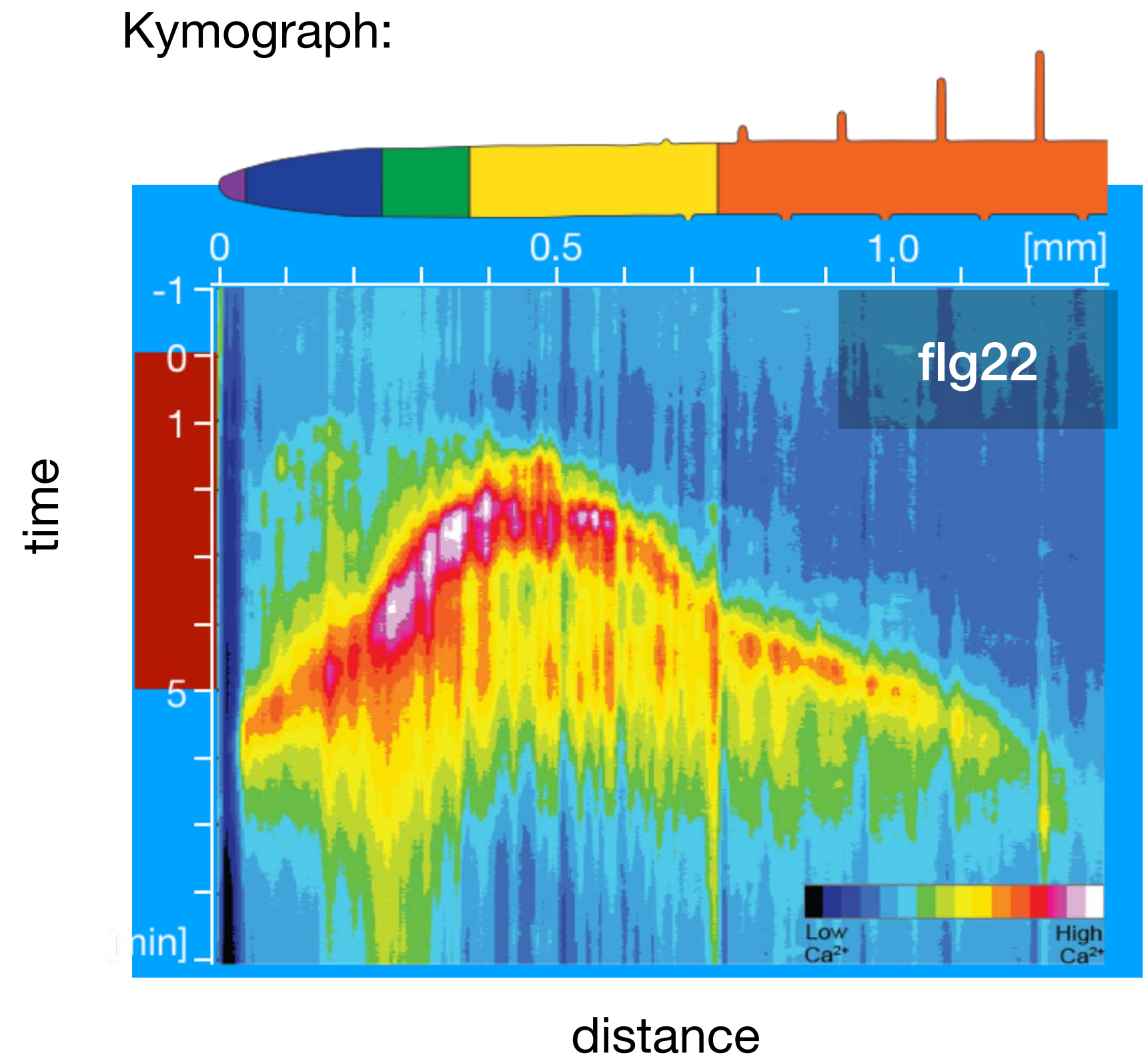
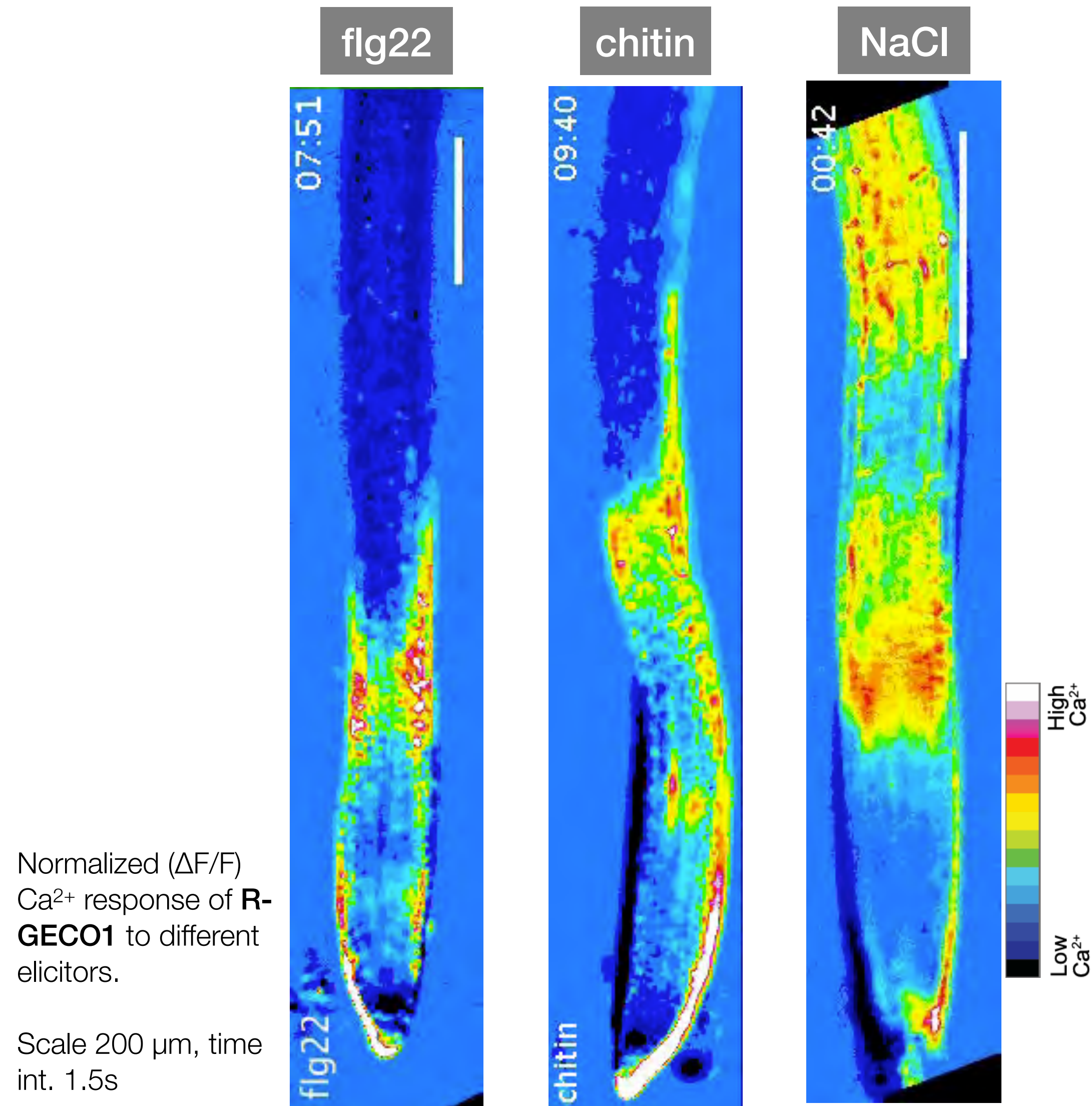


credit: Christian-Frederic Kaiser



How do plants perceive and respond to changing environmental conditions?

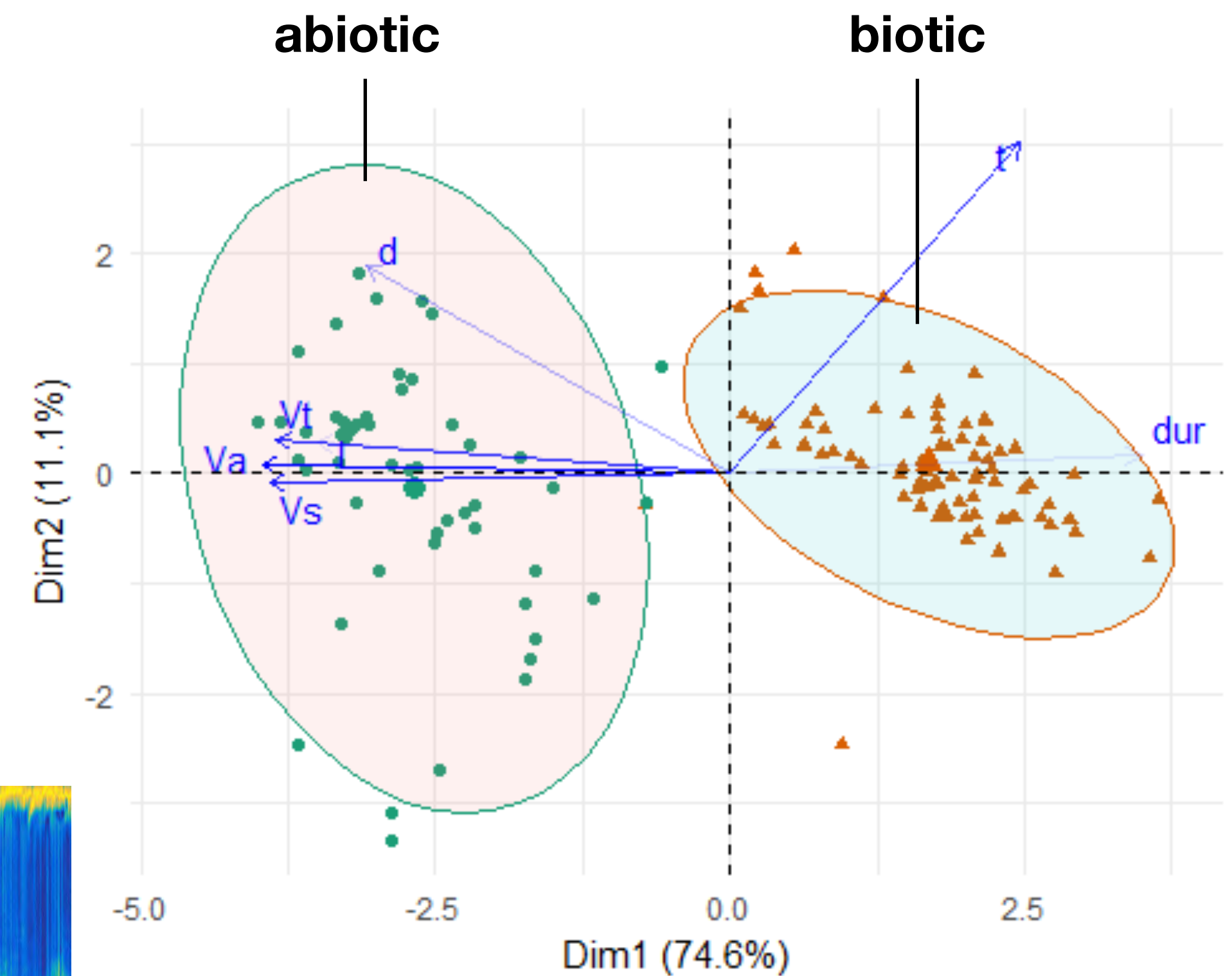
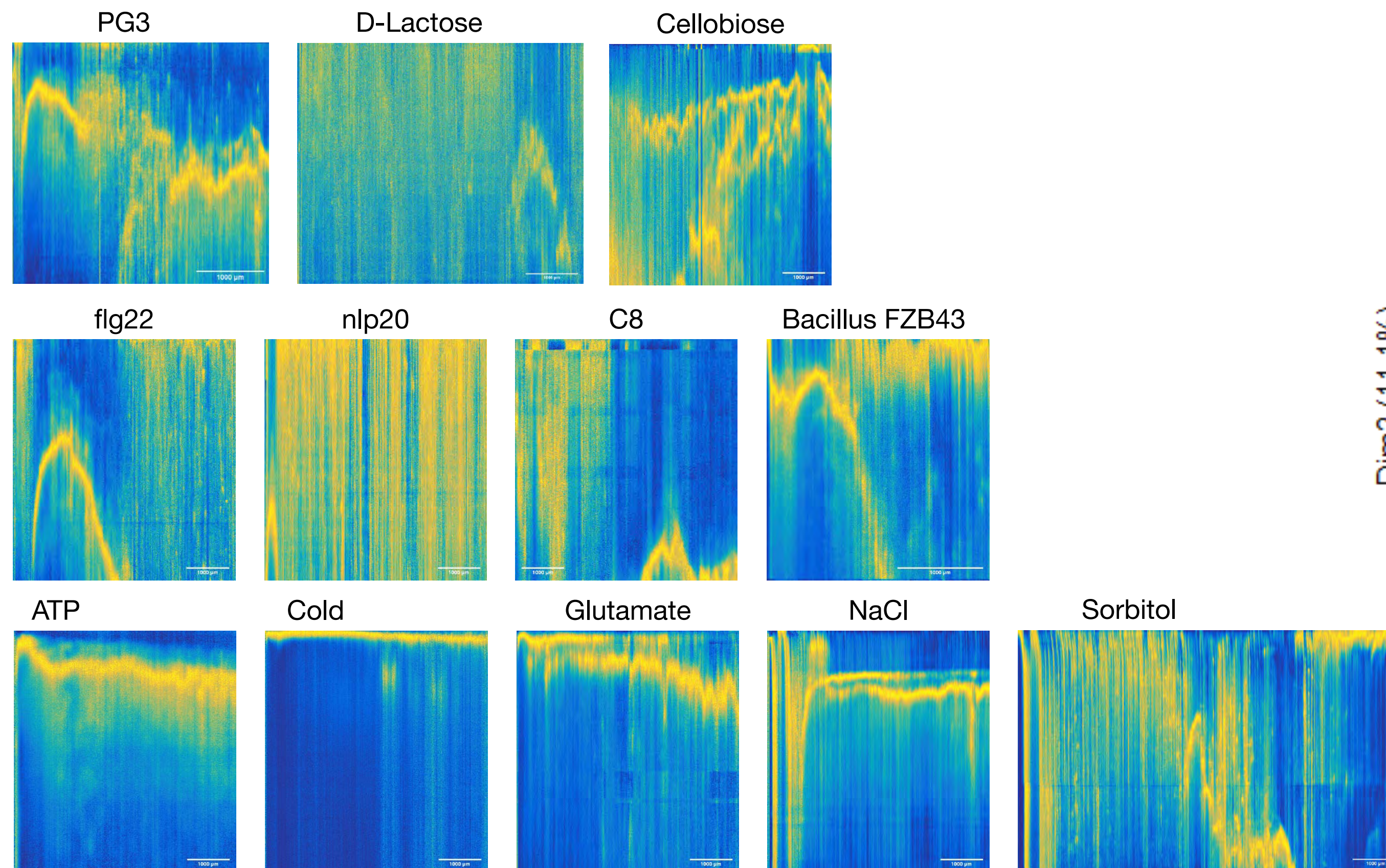
Ca²⁺ signaling as readout for the perception of stress conditions





'Fingerprinting' of different abiotic/biotic elicitors

Towards a calcium signaling atlas



Milan Zupunski





TAKE HOME

NANOSENSORS AND MICROFLUIDICS

Techniques for **kinetic plant phenotyping** at the microscale

SENSORS

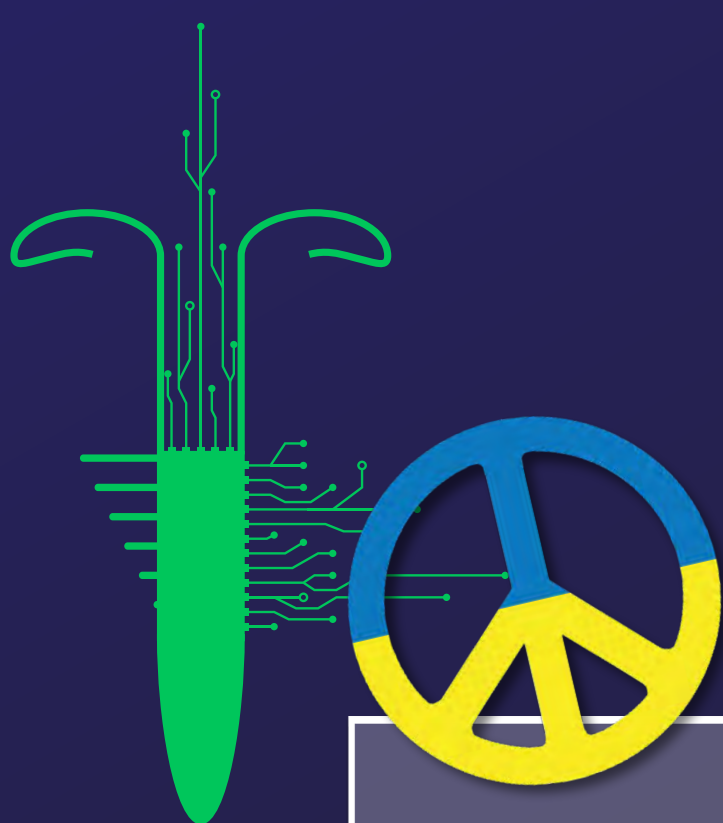
enable quantitative imaging of molecular uptake and signaling dynamics in living plant tissue.

MICRODEVICES

provide microscopic access and precise control over the plant microenvironment.

KINETIC PHENOTYPING

digital phenotyping at high spatiotemporal resolution probing dynamic (sub-)cellular responses to changing conditions.



Current team members:

Claudia Franken-Stemmler

Vanessa Fuchs

Michaela Gerads

Marjorie Guichard

Christian-Frederic Kaiser

Alex Kukreja

Tristan Wang

Daša Wernerová

Milan Župunski

THANK YOU

Alumni:

Enric Bertran Garcia de Ollala

Jonas Brandenburger

Rik Brugman

Philipp Denninger

Anna Denzler (n. Reichelt)

Till Franz

Aylin Haas

Janos Löffler

Jagriti Shrivastava

Collaborators on plant-environment interactions

Claire Stanley, Imperial College, London

Richard Lamar, Bio Huma Netics Inc.

Wolf Frommer, HHU

Karin Schumacher, U. Heidelberg

Matias Zurbriggen, HHU



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Cluster of Excellence on Plant Sciences



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DFG

**Heisenberg-
Programm**

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Forschungsgemeinschaft





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Opportunities for Cooperation in PPPs

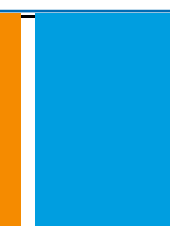
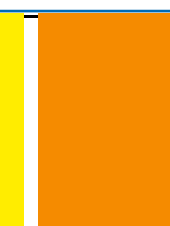
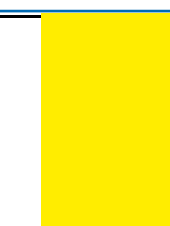




Technology transfer and cooperation management

From lab to field

- Technology Transfer Officer
- Active Scouting
- Establishing an Entrepreneurial Mindset
- CEPLAS Entrepreneurship Training Module (Design Thinking, Business Model Generation, IPR Protection, Start-up lectures)





Targets for Cooperations with Companies

From the CEPLAS point of view

- Integration of know-how/perspectives not present in CEPLAS; sustainable interaction with mutual benefit
- Participation in novel educational approaches
- Support of application relevant projects: integration of know-how and financial support
- Economic exploitation of research results; generation of ROI for public investment in research
- Opening career opportunities for scientists



Possible Elements of Cooperation

- Joint research projects in fields of mutual interest
- Sponsoring: CEPLAS Graduate School, Postdoctoral Fellows, Junior Research Groups
- Mentoring: early career researchers
- Internships
- Participation in teaching programs
- Membership in Steering Bodies
- Joint program for support of start-up foundations

Commercial exploitation rights according to contribution of partners



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Cluster of Excellence on Plant Sciences

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