



# La trasformazione genetica nella vite: applicazioni, benefici e rischi

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ACCADEMIA ITALIANA  
DELLA VITE E DEL VINO

GLI O.G.M. IN VITICOLTURA

sabato 3 dicembre 2011

la Biblioteca Internazionale "LA VIGNA" di Vicenza

# Parte 1<sup>a</sup>

# GM MOST CULTIVATED CROPS

Courtesy of UC Biotech Web site

**Corn**  
**40%**



**Soybeans**  
**81%**



**Cotton**  
**73%**



**Canola**  
**54%**

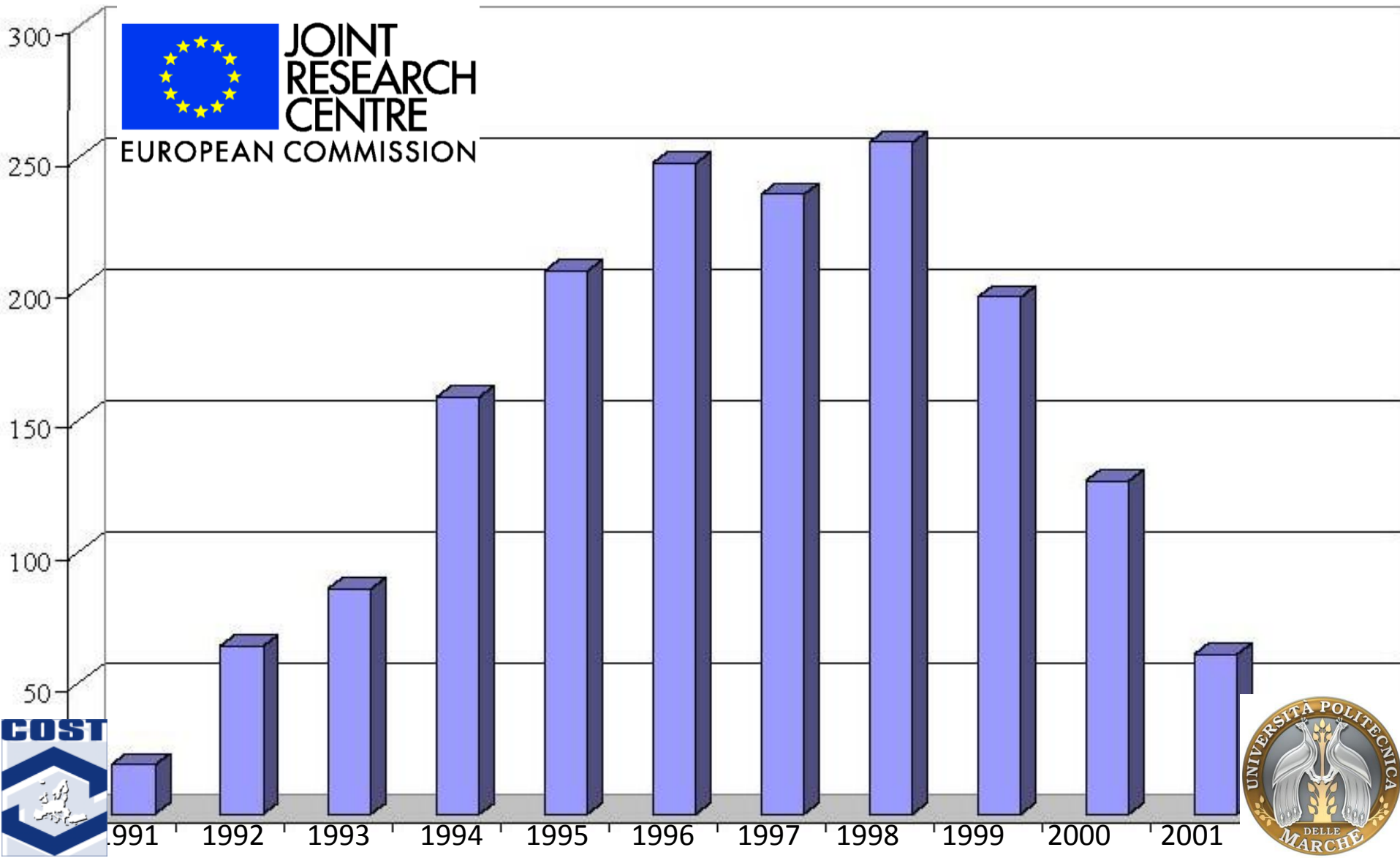


**Papaya**  
**53%**



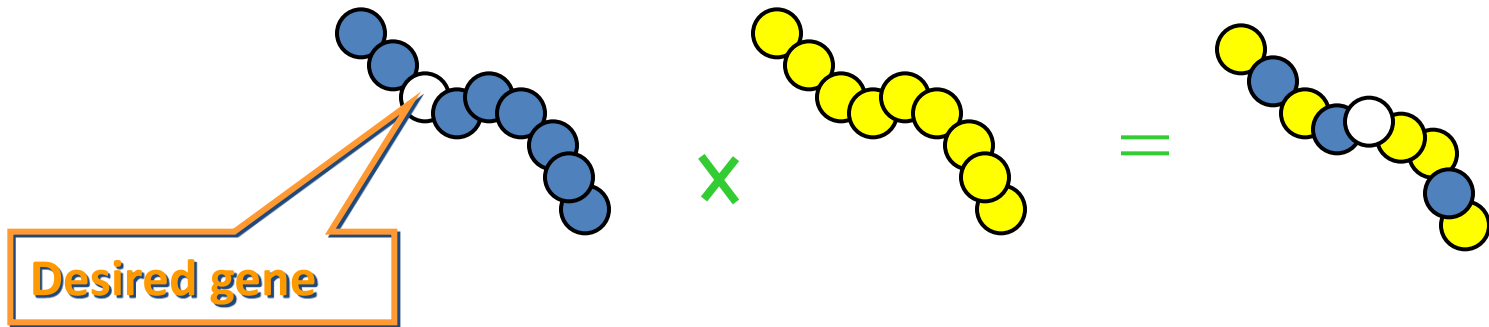
# GM Research Trend in Europe 1991-2002

Total number of permits and notification approved per year

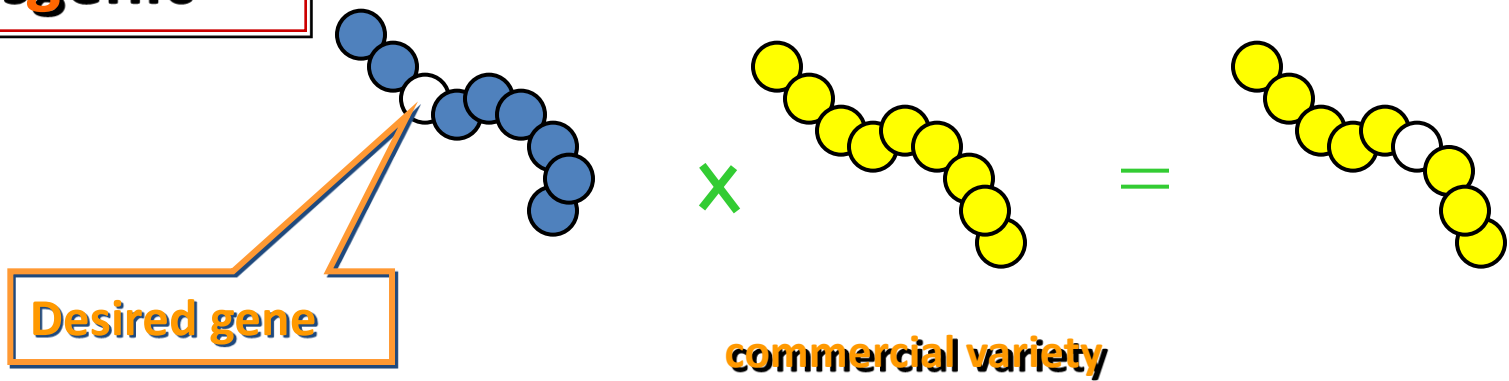


# Traditional

commercial variety



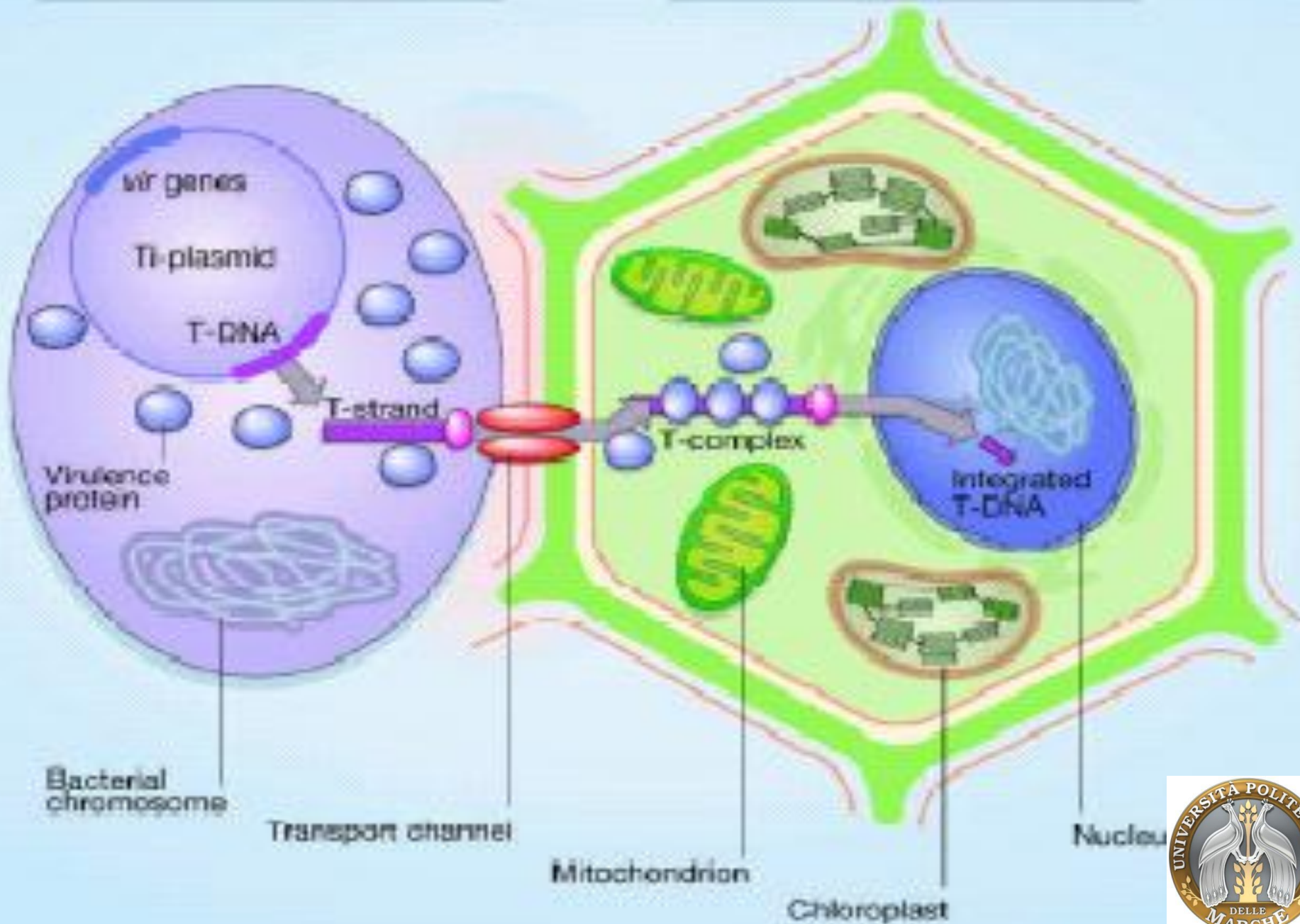
# Transgenic





*Agrobacterium tumefaciens*

Plant cell

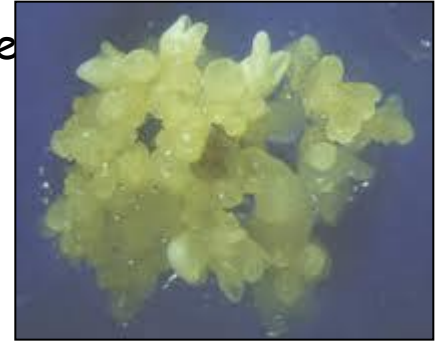


# Genetic transformation of grape

## via-Embryogenesis

transformation of embryogenic calli obtained from different tissues

- zygotic embryos
- leaves
- ovaries
- anther filaments

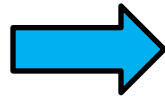


## Via-Organogenesis

based on the formation of a meristematic bulk with a high regenerative capacity, using adventitious shoots as a starting material.



Meristematic Bulk  
from adventitious shoot



Meristematic  
tissues

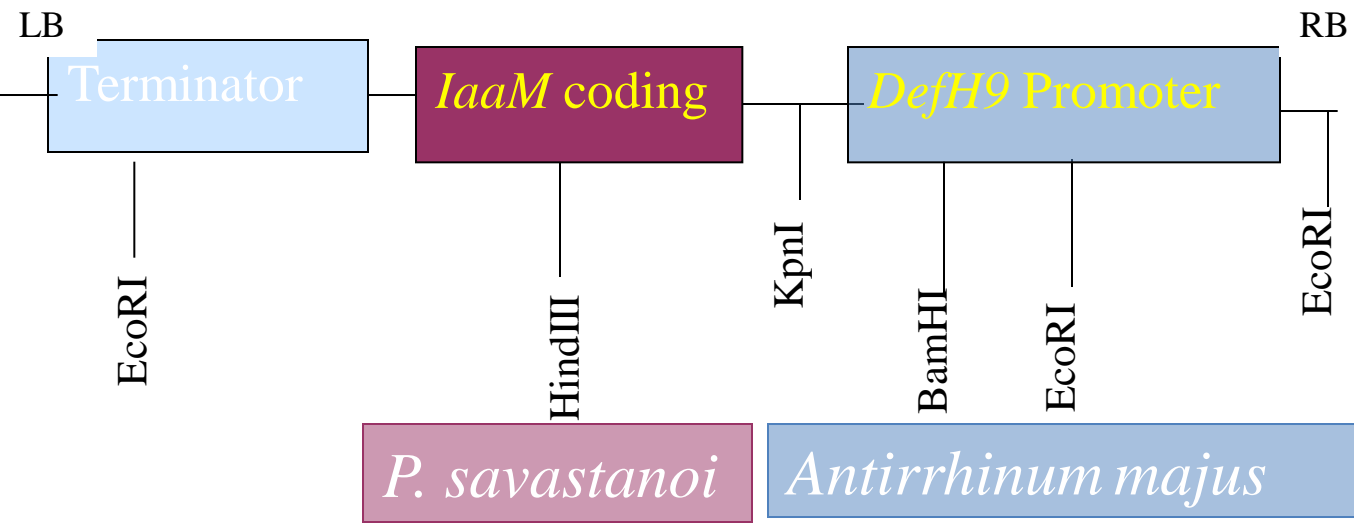


Regeneration

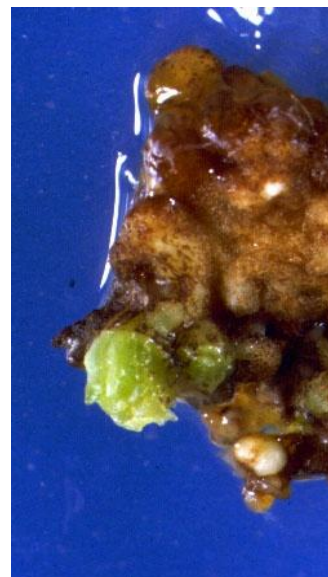
micropropagation

genetic transformation

# DefH9-IaaM Gene (Spena – UniVR)



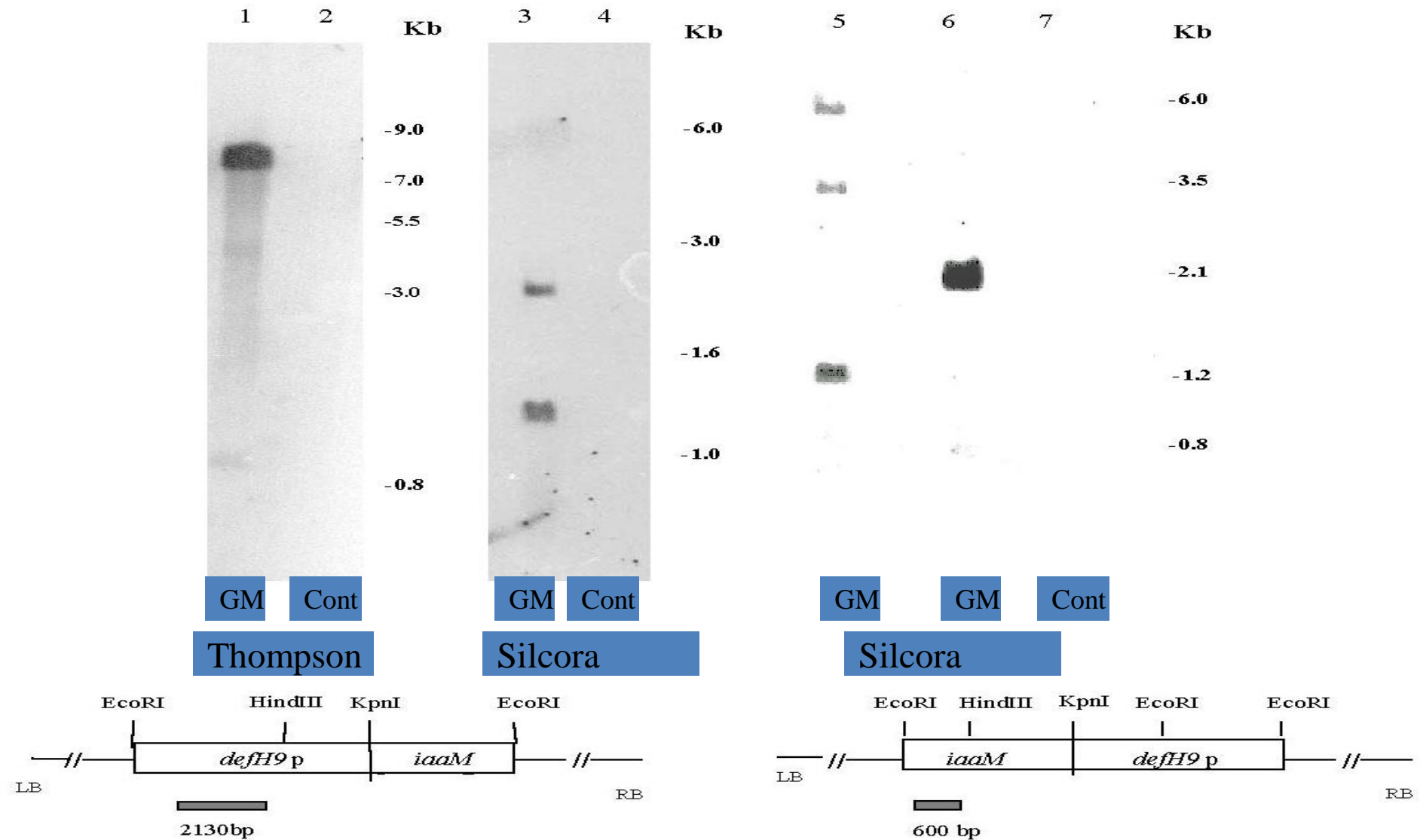
It confers expression within the placenta and the ovules and it has been used to confer parthenocarpic fruit development to several plant species and varieties (Rotino et al., 1997)



*From regeneration and selection to the open field (2001)*



# *DefH9-iaaM* Table Grape (Genomic DNA digested with *Hind*III)

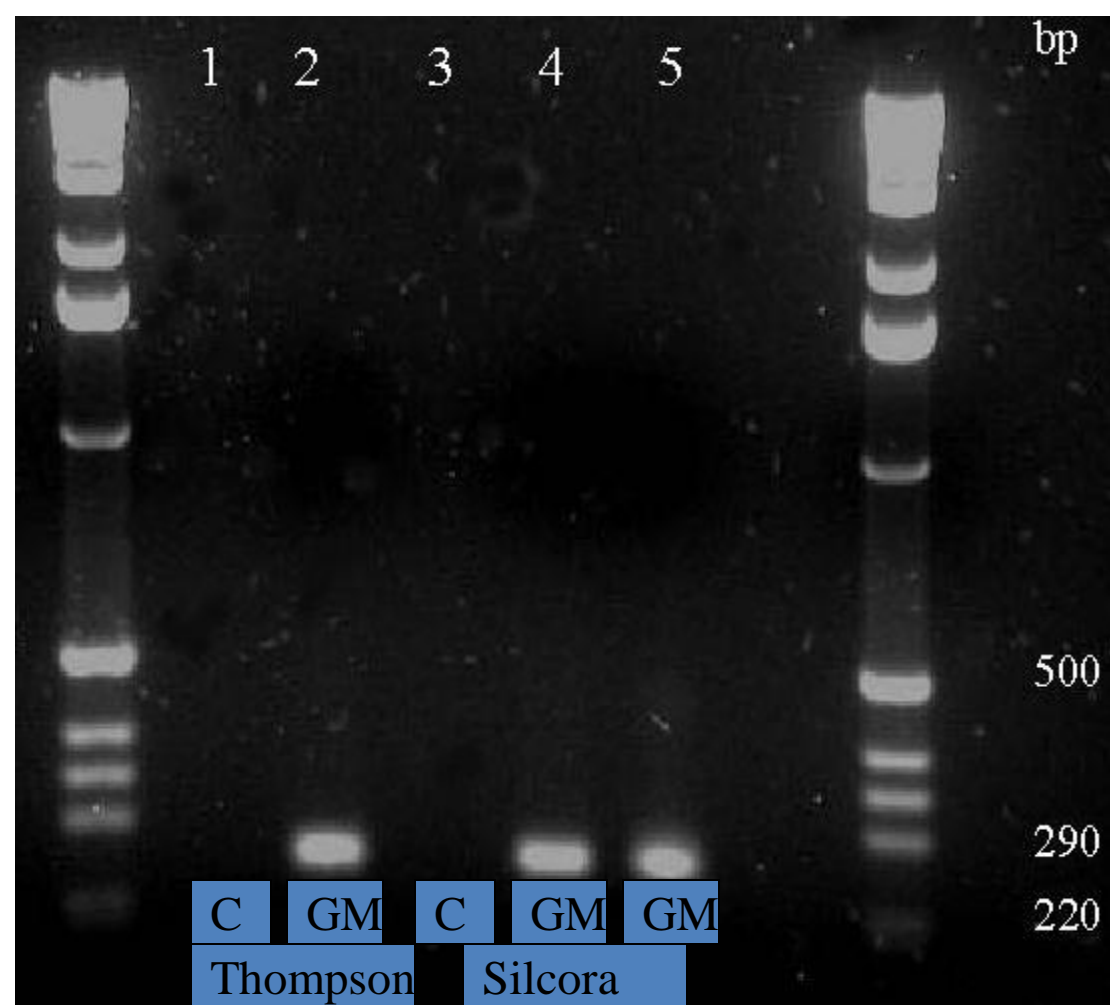


Schematic drawings of the constructs used for transformation of Silcora (right) and Thompson Seedless (left) plants and probes indicated with grey boxes. Only restriction sites relevant for Southern analysis are indicated.

## *DefH9-iaaM* expression in Table Grape

RT-PCR analysis performed with single strand cDNA synthesized from mRNA extracted from young flower initials of Thompson Seedless and Silcora control and transgenic plants.

The amplification product of 266 bp corresponds to the 5' end of the spliced *DefH9-iaaM* mRNA.



Flower initials transgenic for the *DefH9-iaaM* gene had an IAA content higher than controls (data not reported).

The *DefH9-iaaM* auxin-synthesizing gene does not however inhibit grape fruit ripening.

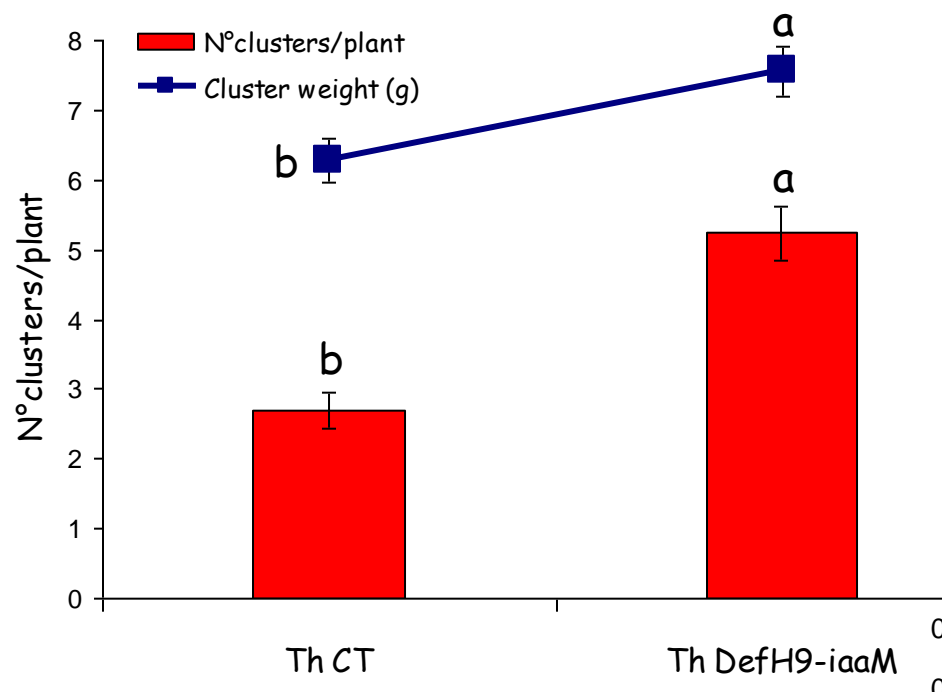




The experimental trial:  
'Thompson Seedless' Control and GM line: 32 plants each  
'Silcora' Control and GM lines (line A and line B): 16 plants each  
Vines were spaced at 2.5 x 1.5 m, trained with the 'double guyot' system.

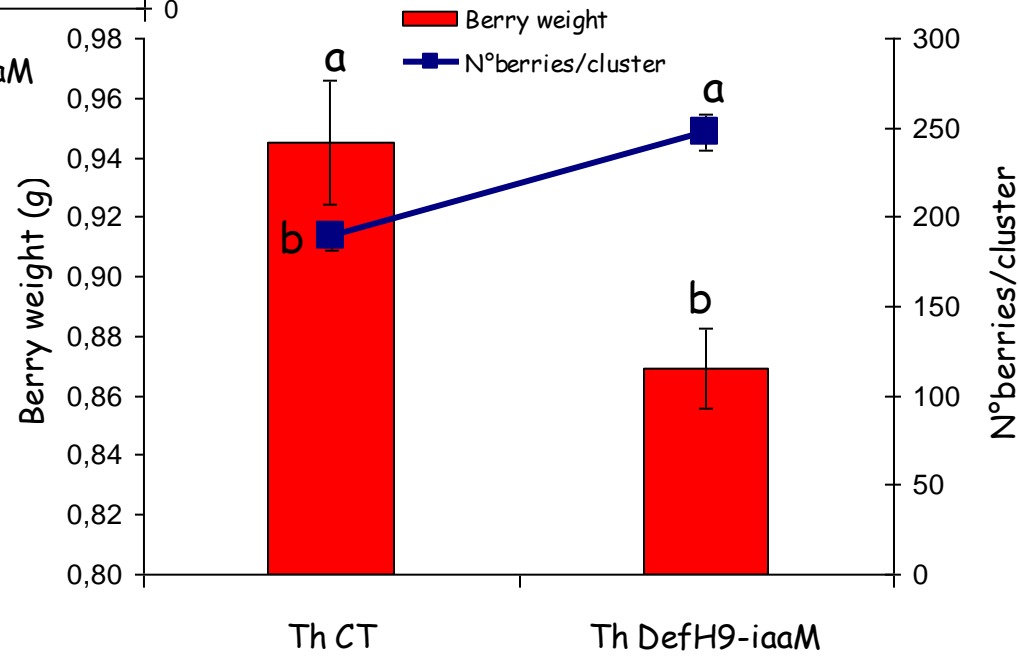


# 1. Thompson seedless yield



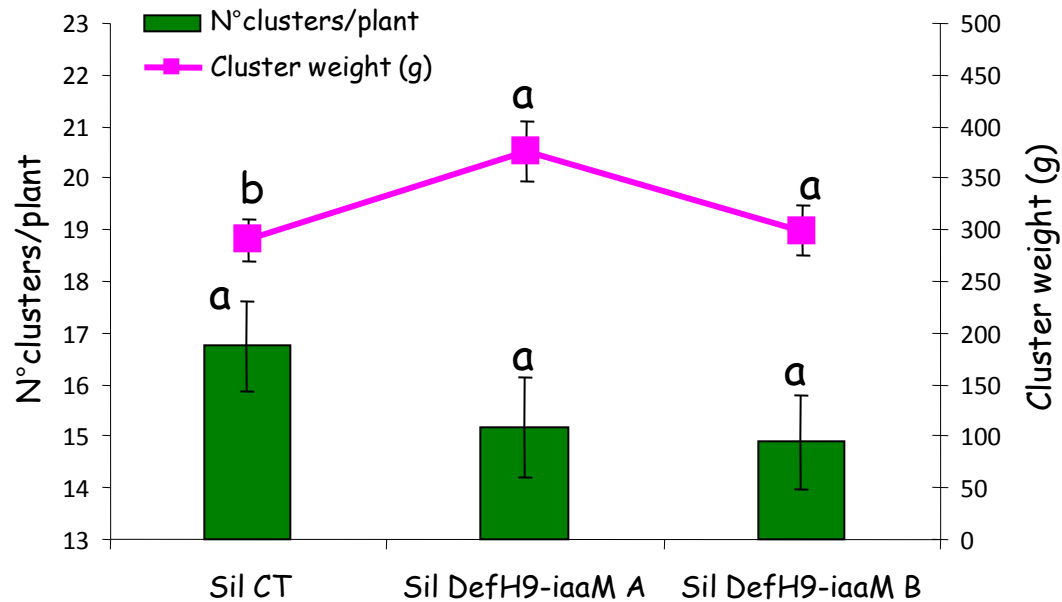
*DefH9-iaaM* gene effects on plant production, fruit and berry size cv. 'Thompson seedless'

Production cycles 2004-05-06  
 Mean<sub>±</sub>SE  
 Duncan's statistical test,  $P \leq 0.05$



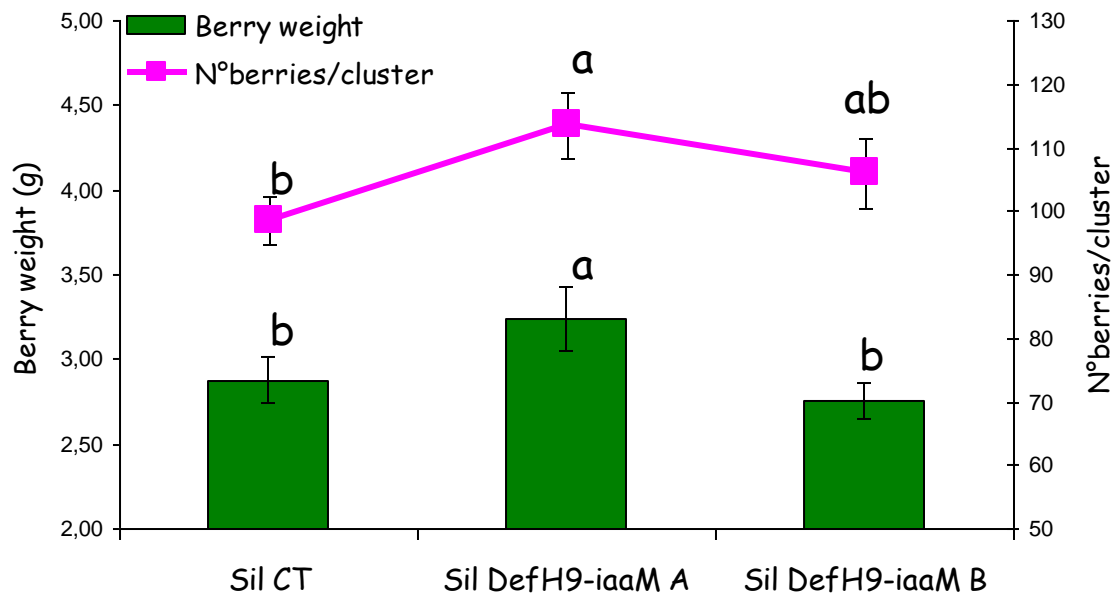


# 1. SILCORA Yield



*DefH9-iaaM* gene effects on plant production, fruit and berry size cv. 'Silcora'

Production cycles 2004-05-06  
 Mean<sub>±SE</sub>  
 Duncan's statistical test,  $P \leq 0.05$



# DefH9-iaaM gene effects on berry quality and nutritional values

Produc. cycles 2004-05-06	Soluble Solid Content (°B)	Titratable Acidity	pH	Tartaric Acid(g/L)	MalicAci (g/L)	Citric Acid (g/L)
Th CT	18.83±0.35 ns	9.62±0.35 a	3.14±0.02 b	8.58±0.27 ns	3.36±0.23 a	0.30±0.02 a
Th GM line	18.7±0.38 ns	7.97±0.24 b	3.22±0.03 a	8.35±0.19 ns	2.42±0.32 b	0.22±0.01 b
Sil CT	15.19±0.60 ns	5.48±0.40 ns	3.25±0.05 ns	7.03±0.36 ns	1.28±0.18 ns	0.11±0.01 ns
Sil line A	15.62±0.39 ns	5.43±0.39 ns	3.30±0.04 ns	6.67±0.32 ns	1.47±0.20 ns	0.12±0.01 ns
Sil line B	14.81±0.51 ns	5.92±0.36 ns	3.23±0.05 ns	7.04±0.33 ns	1.27±0.14 ns	0.10±0.01 ns

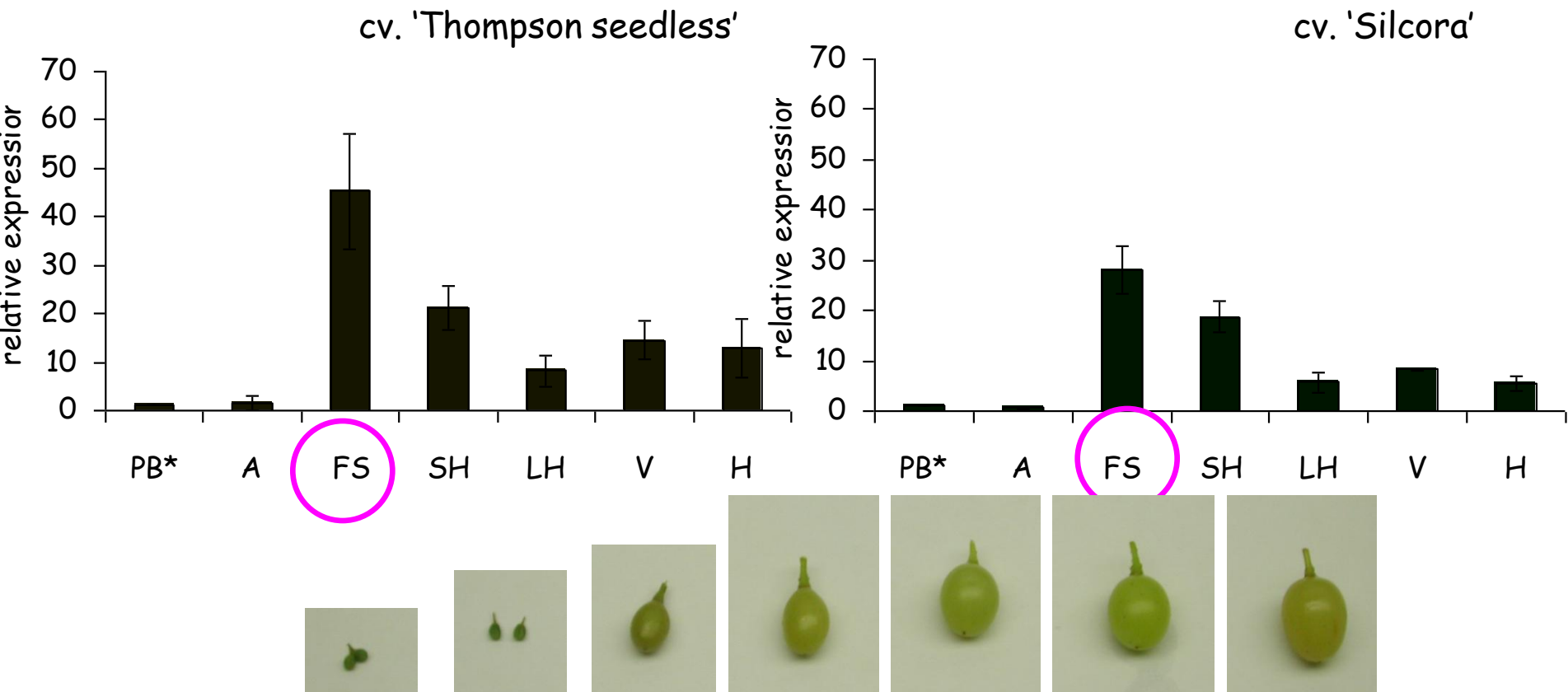
Mean±SE;  
Duncan's statistical test, P ≤ 0.05

Produc. cycles 2004- 05-06	TPH Mg GA/gfrutto	TEAC TroloxE(umo li/g)
Th CT	1.02±0.03 b	3.34±0.10 a
Th GM line	1.13±0.04 a	3.08±0.7 b
Sil CT	1.57±0.09 b	5.98±0.30 b
Sil GM line A	2.10±0.07 a	7.54±0.28 a
Sil GM line B	1.93±0.13 a	7.13±0.42 a

Mean±SE:



## *DefH9-iaaM* gene expression during berry development

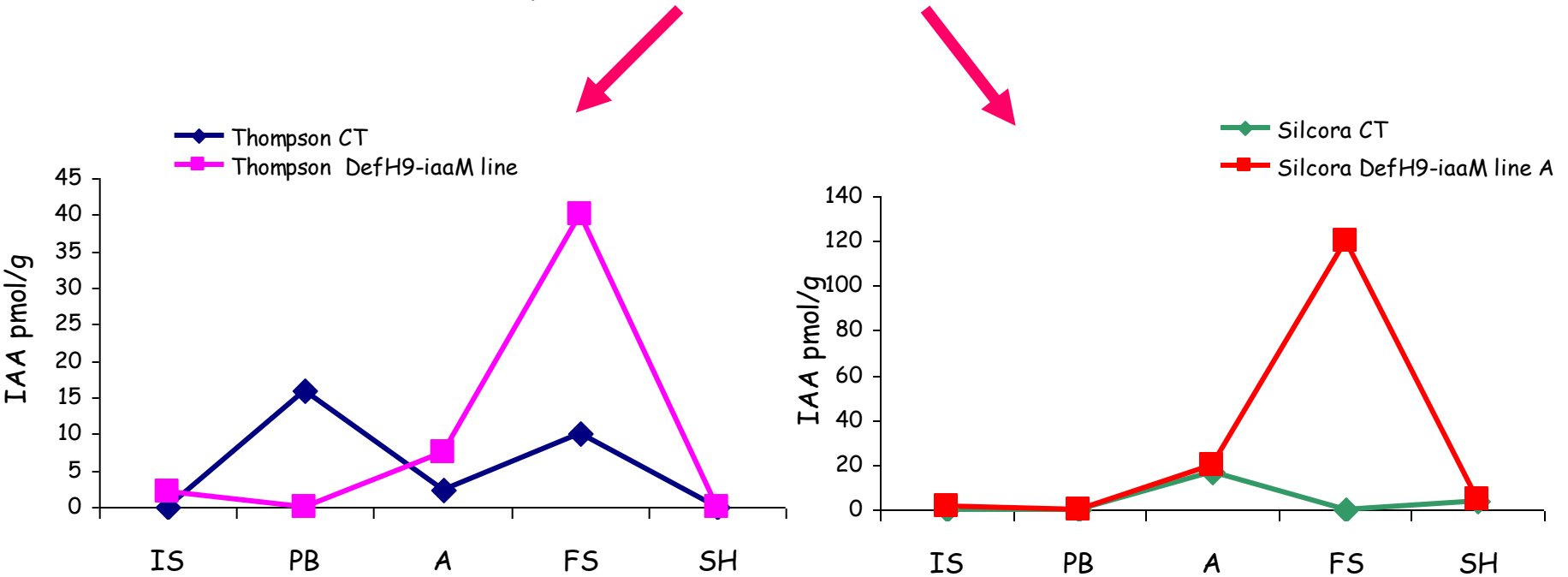


Fruit developmental phases: PB= pre-blooming; A= antesys; FS= fruit-set; SH= small hard fruit; LH= large hard fruit. Values are referred to PB, arbitrary set to 1.



## IAA content during berry development

GC-MS analysis on tissues samples  
Cv 'Thompson seedless' and 'Silcora' (control and GM line)



Fruit developmental phases: IS=inflorescences separated; PB=pre-blooming; A= antesis; FS=fruit-set; SH=small hard fruit







## La trasformazione genetica nella vite: applicazioni, benefici e rischi

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# Parte 2<sup>a</sup>

## NOW RUNNING PROJECTS:

Application of post transcriptional gene silencing (PTGS) to pathogen resistance in grape and functional genomics

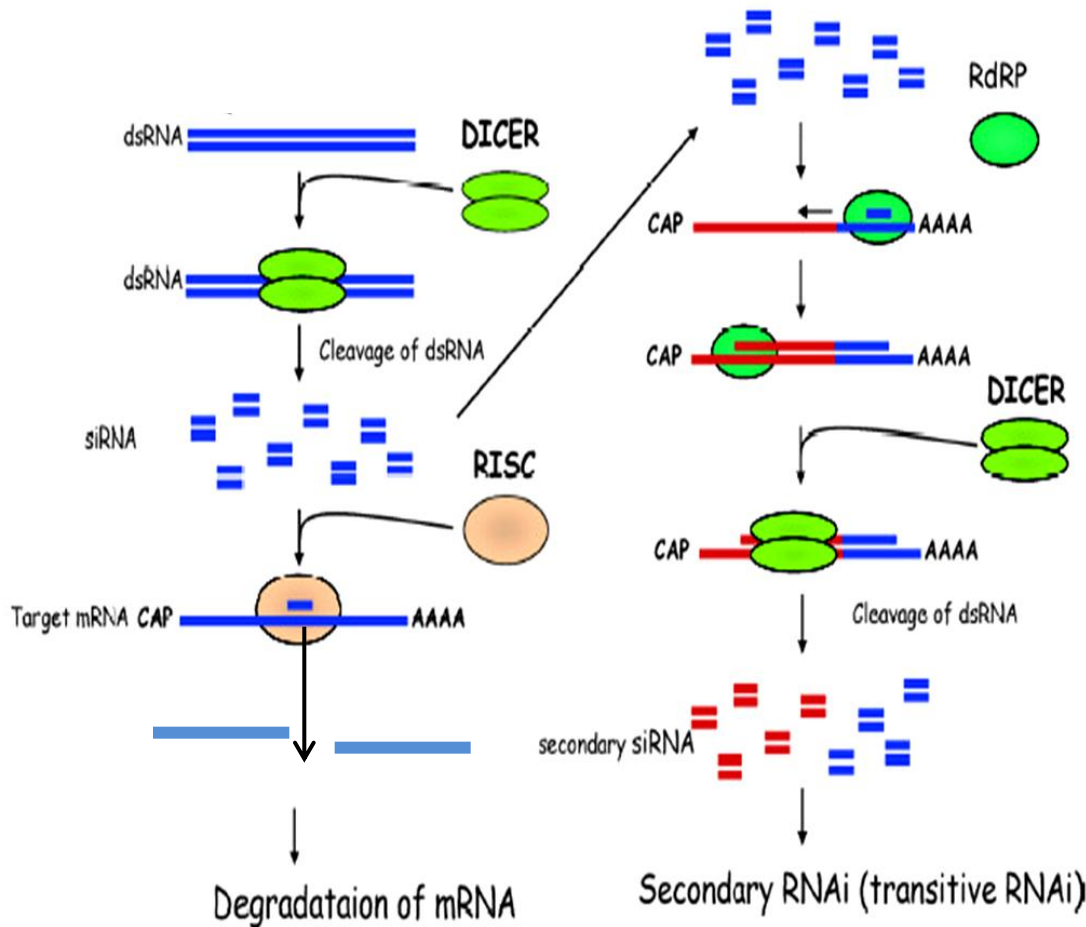
I. Study of techniques to confer virus resistance in grapevine through PTGS.

II. To identify grapevine homologous of the AUCSIA tomato genes, study their expression and investigate their function through PTGS-mediated genetic suppression.

**Implementation of a grape transformation method based on organogenesis**

# Post transcriptional gene silencing (PTGS)

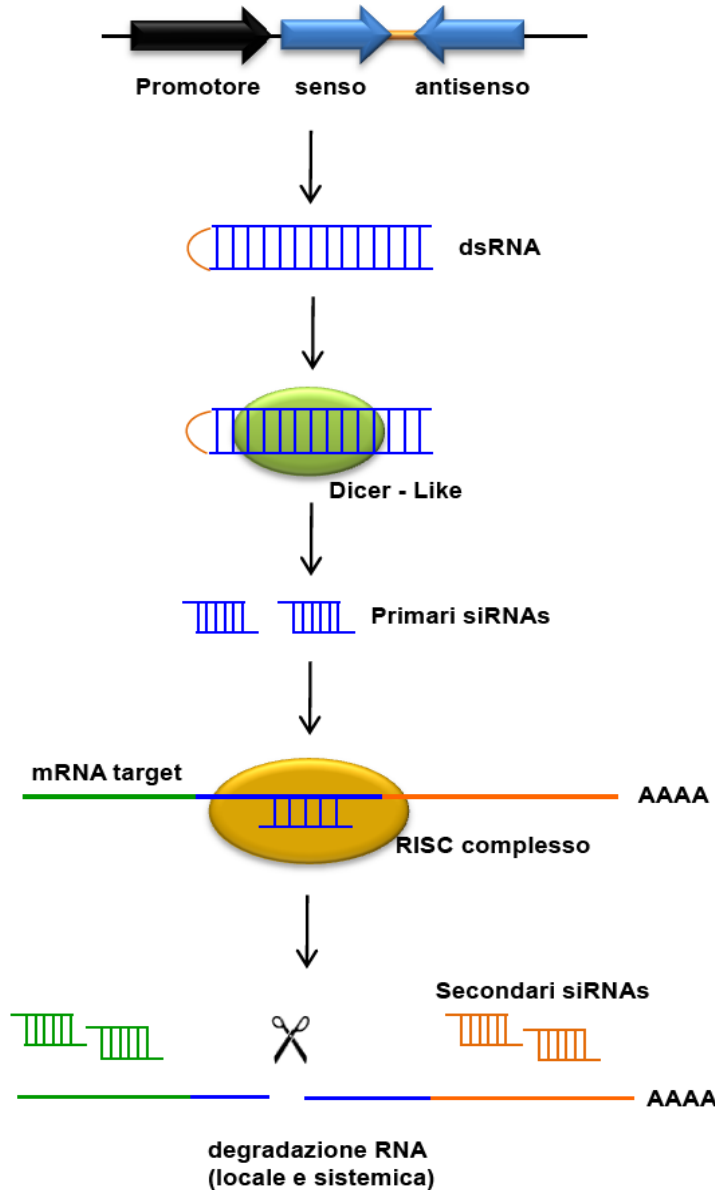
Post-transcriptional gene silencing (PTGS) is an ubiquitous mechanism of adaptive defence against viruses and mobile genetic elements



Double stranded RNA can be produced by inverted repeats, viral RNA or by the action of RNA-dependent RNA polymerase



**PTGS mechanism has proved to be a useful biotechnological tool to produce plants resistant to viruses.**



**Hairpin constructs, carrying parts of viral genome can be introduced in plants leading to the inhibition of viruses replication**

# I. Study of techniques to confer virus resistance in grapevine through PTGS

## Fanleaf disease

➤ The principal causative agent of this disease is the *Grapevine fanleaf virus (GFLV)*, often associated with other viruses such as the *Arabis Mosaic Virus (ArMV)*.

### ➤ Transmission:

- medium and long distance by propagation of infected material
- short distance by nematodes (*Xiphinema index* for *GFLV* and *Xiphinema diversicaudatum* for *ArMV*)

### ➤ The symptoms include:

- dwarfism
- reduced fruit productivity and quality
- alteration of leaf morphology



## Leafroll disease

➤ The disease is ascribed to different viruses belonging to Closterovirus and Ampelovirus genera

➤ 5 GLRaV (*Grapevine LeafRoll - Associated Virus*): *GLRaV-1*, *GLRaV-2*, *GLRaV-3*, *GLRaV-4*, *GLRaV-5* has been identified

### ➤ Transmission:

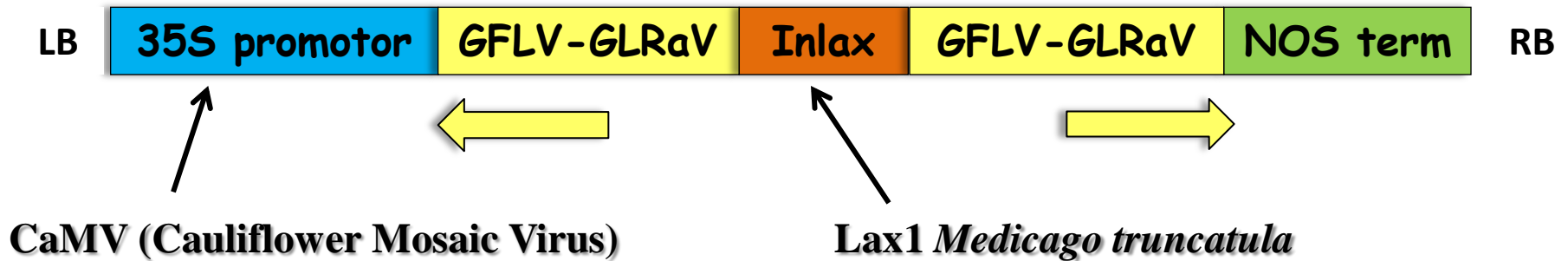
- infected material
- insects (*Planococcus*, *Pseudococcus* and *Pulvinaria vitis*)



# THE hpCONSTRUCT

Schematic drawing of the construct

*hpViruses GFLV-GLRaV*



The hairpin construct contains:

- a sequence of **200 bp** of the **GFLV RNA-dependent RNA polymerase** gene
- a sequence of **202 bp** of the **GLRaV3 RNA-dependent RNA polymerase** gene of the italian GLRaV3 isolate

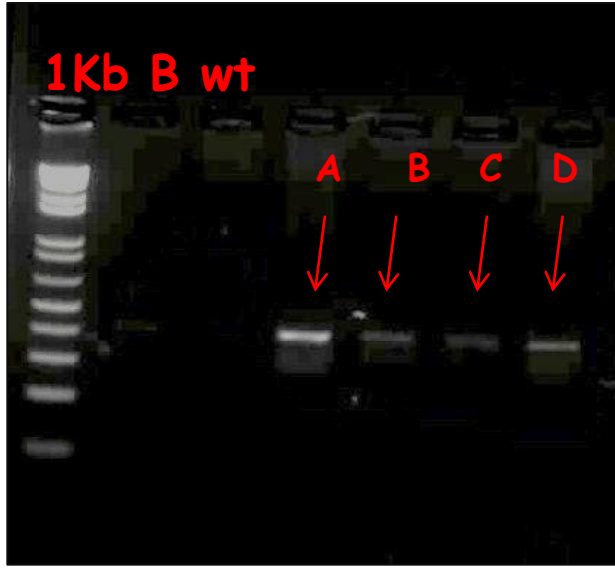
**Nicotiana benthamiana** is a **model plant** for viral infection studies



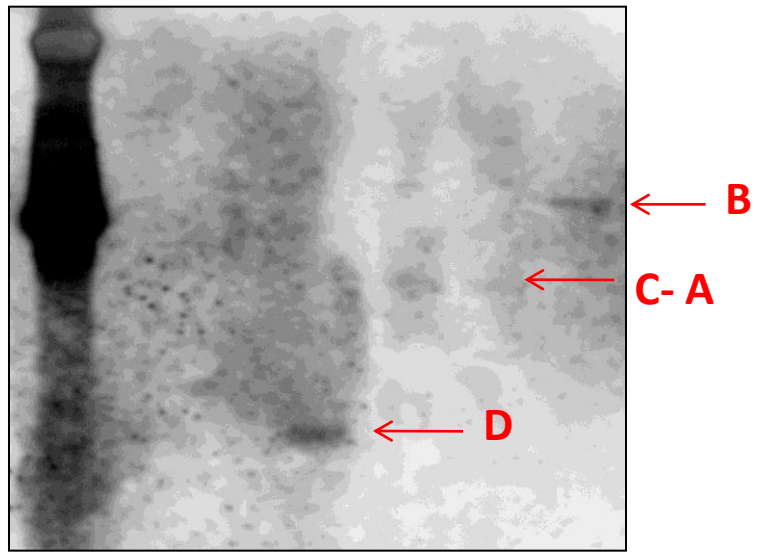
Genetic transformation with **hpViruses GFLV-GLRaV**

*Nicotiana benthamiana* independent lines transformed with the hpViruses GFLV-GLRaV construct

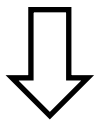
PCR analysis



Southern blot analysis



The T0 plants were backcrossed with wild-type plants and the T1 progeny were selected on kanamycin



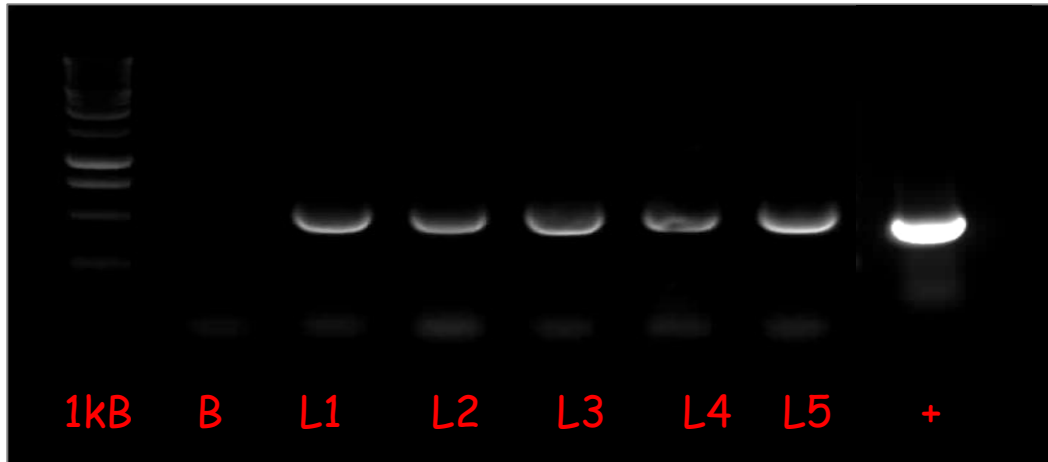
The transgenic T1 progeny plants were mechanically inoculated with the ArMV

Genetic construct containing only regulatory regions has been used as control in the infection experiments



CaMV (Cauliflower Mosaic Virus)

Lax1 *Medicago truncatula*

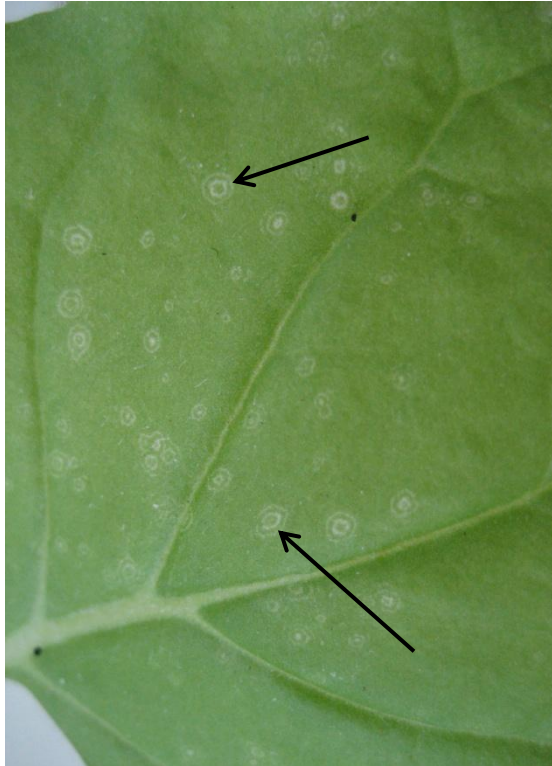


Five lines positive  
by PCR analysis



# Inoculation of *Nicotiana benthamiana* with **ArMV**

In collaboration with Prof.ssa Annalisa Polverari



## Local symptoms:

- chlorotic mottling

## Systemic symptoms:

- chlorotic bands along the veins
- curling of the leaves

To evaluate the systemic distribution of the **ArMV** virus 2-3 apical leaves were sampled two weeks after inoculation for the ELISA assays.

<u>Sample</u>	Absorbance 450 nm
<b>B</b>	<b>0.098</b>
Control +	1.873
hpViruses GGLV-GLRaV B5	2.030
<b>B6</b>	<b>0.095</b>
C6	1.911
C7	2.055
<b>C8</b>	<b>0.096</b>
D1	1.618
D3	2.036
<b>D4</b>	<b>0.099</b>
D6	1.893
<b>Prom/intr/term</b> F1	1.873
F5	1.795
G2	1.652

Preliminary data seem to indicate a greater **tendency in plants transformed with the construct hpViruses GFLV-GLRaV to limit the spread of the virus compared to wild-type plants.**

G5	1.870
<b>G8</b>	<b>0.098</b>
G10	1.864
G11	1.778
S1 (no inoculated)	0.104
S2 (no inoculated)	0.097
C.quinoa	2.060

# GENETIC TRANSFORMATION AND RIGENERATION of GRAPEVINE (*V. vinifera* L.) with the *hpViruses GFLV-GLRaV CONSTRUCT* and the *35S-GFP CONSTRUCT*

Proliferating shoots were subjected to chemical and mechanical treatments to induce the formation of meristematic bulks characterized by a strong capacity to differentiate adventitious shoots.

## • Initiation and maintenance of meristematic bulk



CORVINA



PINOT



1103 Paulsen

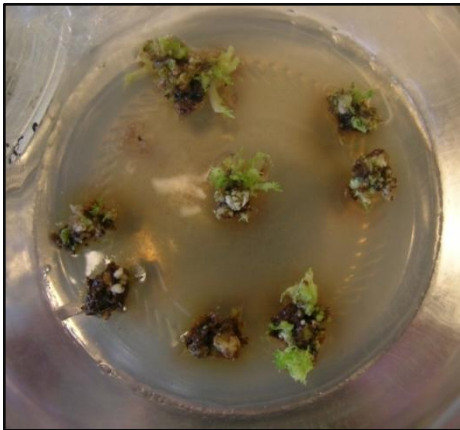
## • *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* infection



Slices (1cm<sup>2</sup>, 2 mm) obtained from the meristematic bulk were dipped in the bacterial suspension (*A. tumefaciens* strain GV2260 harbouring construct hpVirusesGFLV-GLRaV and *A. tumefaciens* strain GV2260 harbouring construct GFP.)



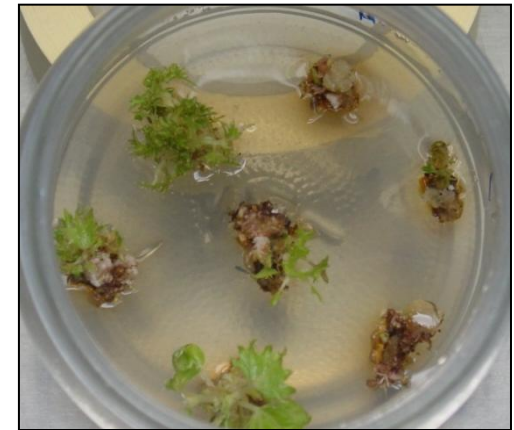
## • Shoot regeneration



CORVINA



PINOT



1103 PAULSEN

The regeneration tests done on the cultivar Corvina evidenced a low regenerative ability as compared to Pinot noir and 1103 Paulsen

## • Selection and rooting

I. Prolonged selection on medium containing **kanamycin 25mg l<sup>-1</sup>**

Rooting of **kanamycin 50mg l<sup>-1</sup>**

II. Selection at increasing concentrations of **kanamycin (25mg l<sup>-1</sup>, 35 mg l<sup>-1</sup> and 50 mg l<sup>-1</sup>)**

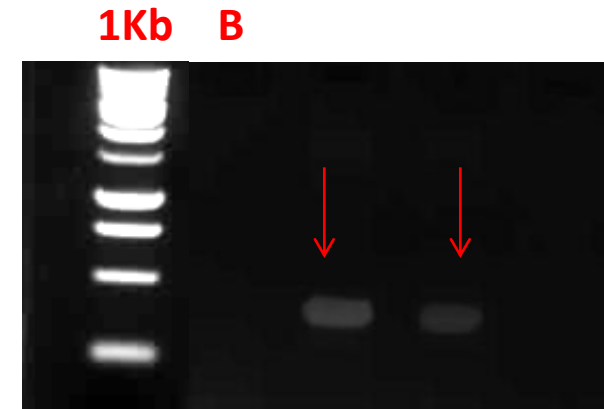
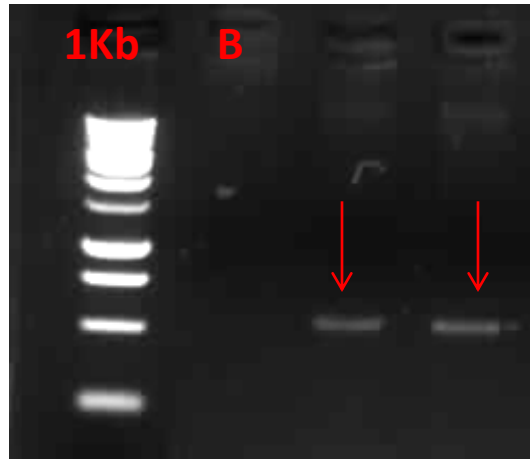
Rooting of **kanamycin 35-50mg l<sup>-1</sup>**



I. Selection of **kanamycin 25mg l<sup>-1</sup>** and rooting of **kanamycin 50mg l<sup>-1</sup>**

After **nine-ten months** of selection the shoots obtained were transferred on rooting substrate

**Two rooted CORVINA** lines positive by PCR analysis



**Pinot noir** and **1103Paulsen** transformed with the **hpVirusesGFLV-GLRaV** construct

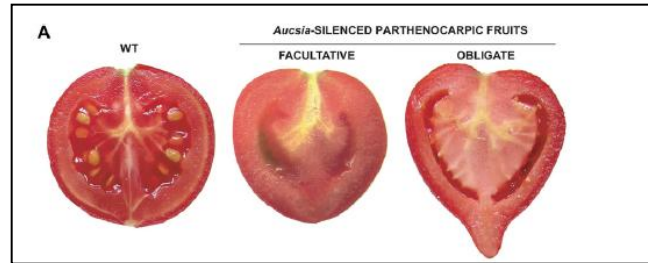
II. Selection at increasing concentrations of **kanamycin** (25mg l<sup>-1</sup>, 35 mg l<sup>-1</sup> and 50 mg l<sup>-1</sup>)

Rooting of **kanamycin 35-50mg l<sup>-1</sup>**





# Aucsia silenced plants



• Parthenocarpic fruit

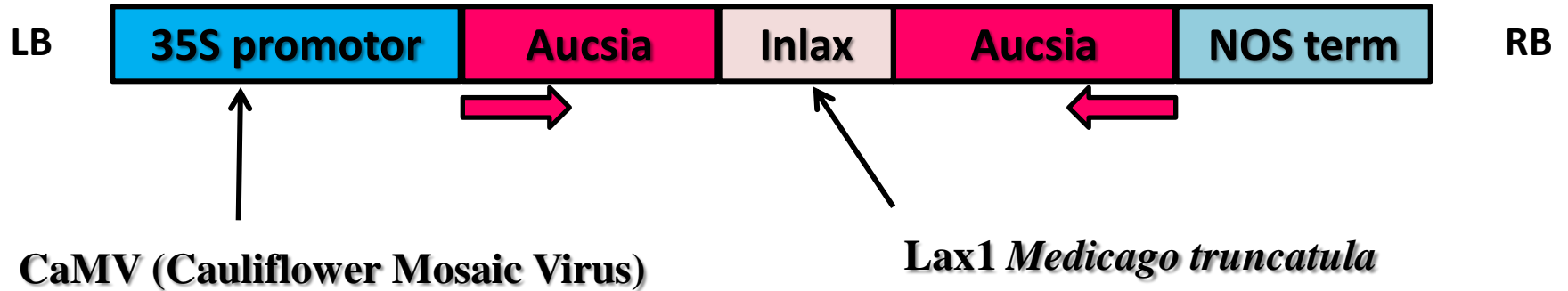
• Increase in IAA content of pre-anthesis in flower buds

Lines	Total IAA content (nmol g <sup>-1</sup> )
L276 1-1	113.6 ± 0.99
L276 7-1	261.0 ± 1.41
L276 WT	1.9 ± 0.33

• The fruits are reduced in size and weight

Lines	Fruit Set		Average weight (g)	
	n° of fruits/ n° of emasculated flowers	%	Emasculated	Selfed
L276 #1-1	4/9	44	13.49 ± 0.85***	38.98 ± 2.70***
L276 #4-1 <sup>S</sup>	7/7	100	35.47 ± 12.03**	38.43 ± 21.10*
L276 #7-1	6/11	54	28.77 ± 4.25***	34.29 ± 2.04***
L276 #8-2	10/15	67	40.14 ± 2.93***	48.38 ± 3.13*
L276 WT	0/15	0	-	81.29 ± 4.39
INB777 #7-1	20/25	80	18.27 ± 1.61***	48.72 ± 5.76**
INB777 #13-3	14/20	70	18.47 ± 1.36***	61.04 ± 5.55*
INB777 WT	0/20	0	-	77.40 ± 4.24

# THE VvAucsia1hp CONSTRUCT



Schematic drawing of the construct used for *V. vinifera* L transformation.

The hairpin construct contains:

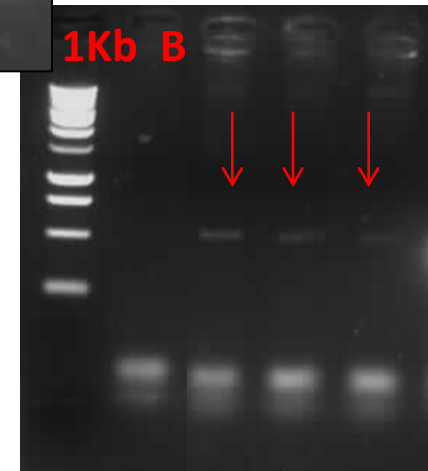
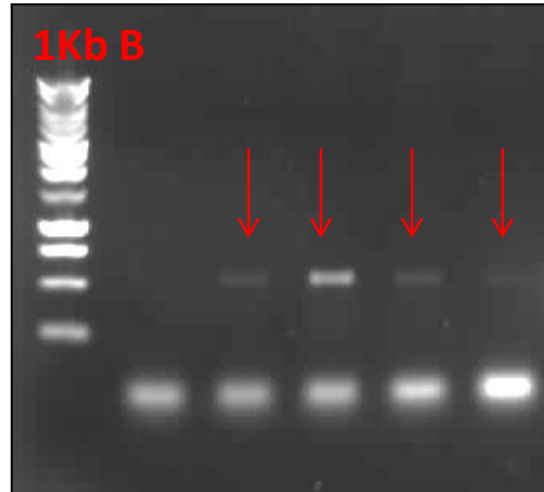
- a sequence of **200 bp** of the **VvAUCSIA1 gene**

# RESULTS

I. Selection of **kanamycin 25mg l<sup>-1</sup>** and rooting of **kanamycin 50mg l<sup>-1</sup>**

After **nine months** of selection the shoots obtained are transferred on rooting substrate

Seven lines rooted were positive to PCR analysis



## LA VITE TRANSGENICA NEL MONDO



- **Dennis J. Gray**
- **Professor of Developmental Biology**
- **University of Florida, IFAS**  
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# Why we need the open field trials with GM plants:

Assessment of risks and benefits



Assessment of benefits and risk

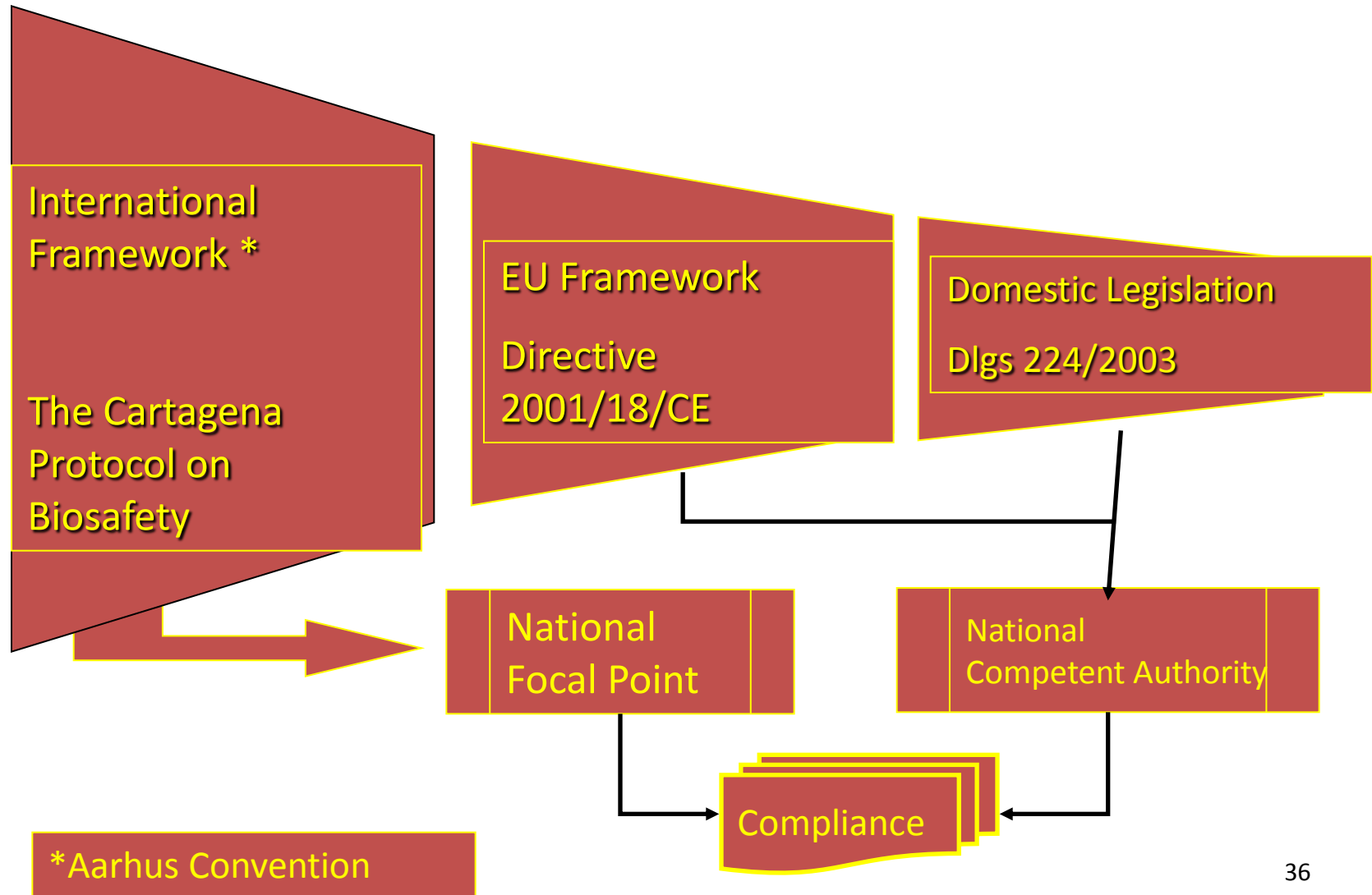
Which risks: environment?, Human Health?, the agricultural economy????

Which benefits: increased production efficiency and quality



# The Biosafety legal framework

## UNIDO-UPM E-BIOSAFETY MASTER



The European Commission adopted Directive 2001/18/EC (repealing Directive 90/220/EEC) to govern the deliberate release of GMOs into the environment.

- Risks for human health
- Risks for the environment
- Risks for agriculture systems

- **'CASE BY CASE'**  
(Gene and Plant Species)

- **'ON SCIENTIFIC BASE'**

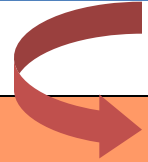
- Eliminate all the antibiotic markers with possible risks to human health and environment, followed by the EFSA opinion on the type of antibiotics (*nptII*).



# GMO Risks and Benefits evaluation

## EXPERIMENTAL TRIALS

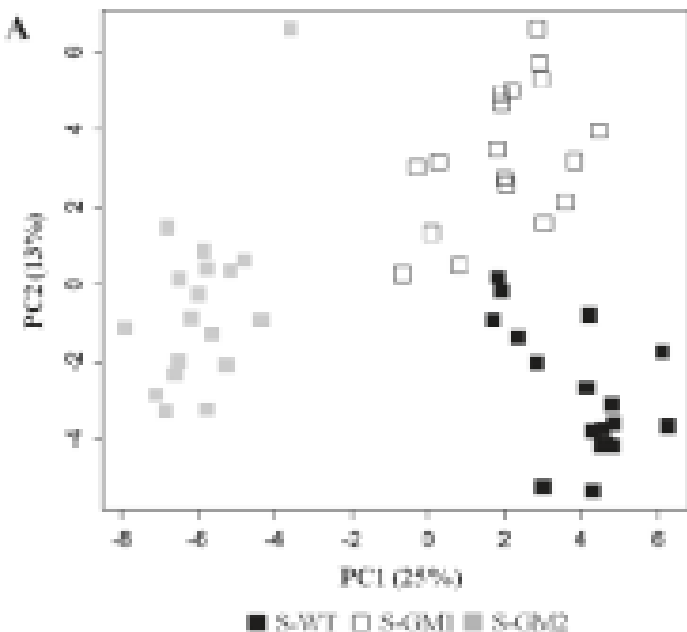
### INTERACTION OF COMPETENCES



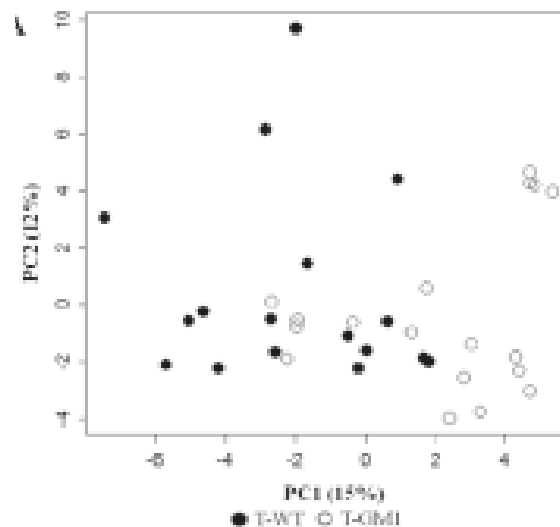
- Gene function in the donor organism.
- Gene effect on the phenotype.
- Evidence of toxicity and allergenic effects.
- Persistency and invasiveness in agriculture.
- Impact on non target organisms.
- Gene flow (soil-microorganisms, environment-plant)

Decree No. 224 has now been completed by the recent **Decree No. 5 (28/01/05)**, prepared by the **Minister of Agriculture**, that identified for the first time in Italy the major rules of **co-existence** between GMO and traditional cultivation systems (**Regions acceptance within June 2006**).

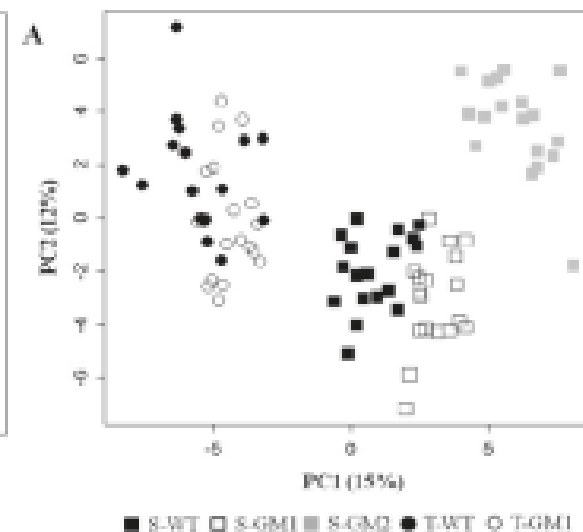
# UNICO ESEMPIO DI STUDIO METABOLOMICO MEDIANTE NMR IN VITE GM



**Figure 2.** Silcora sample multivariate analysis. (A) Score plot obtained by application of PCA on mean-centered and scaled spectral bins recorded on berry extracts of the Silcora cultivar. The first two PCs explain 25% (PC1) and 13% (PC2), respectively, of the total variance. (B, C) Loading plots for spectral bins, along PC1 and PC2, respectively. The black bins labeled with numbers are described in the text as representative of meaningful bins responsible of separation along the respective PC dimension.



**Figure 4.** Thompson samples multivariate analysis. (A) Score plot obtained by application of PCA on mean-centered and scaled spectral bins recorded on berry extracts of Thompson cultivar. The first two PCs explain 15% (PC1) and 12% (PC2), respectively, of the total variance. (B, C) Loading plots for spectral bins, along PC1 and PC2, respectively. The black bins labeled with numbers are described in the text as representative of meaningful bins responsible of separation along the respective PC dimension.



**Figure 6.** All grape sample multivariate analysis. (A) Score plot obtained by application of PCA on mean-centered and scaled spectral bins recorded on berry extracts of all cultivars and genotypes. The first two PCs explain 26% (PC1) and 12% (PC2), respectively, of the total variance. (B, C) Loading plots for spectral bins, along PC1 and PC2, respectively. The black bins labeled with numbers are described in the text as representative of meaningful bins responsible of separation along the respective PC dimension.

## Unsupervised Principal Component Analysis of NMR Metabolic Profiles for the Assessment of Substantial Equivalence of Transgenic Grapes (*Vitis vinifera*)

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# CONCLUSIONS

- First example of transformation of Corvina cultivar (after confirmation by Southern Blot analysis) with an antiviral construct
- Obtainment of transgenic lines- prototype for future virus resistance assessment
- Obtainment of transgenic lines for studying AUCSIA function during grape berry growth

## WORK in progress and future....

- Virus infection experiments on *Nicotiana benthamiana* plants and grape to test the efficiency of the hpconstruct for multiple resistance
- Production of Pinot noir and 1103Paulsen transformed with the hpVirusesGFLV-GLRaV construct
- Use the transgenic rootstock lines to test the possibility of conferring virus resistance to scion.





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# COUNTERTHINK



A GM GRAPE e  
is still missing  
on the market.

It can be a  
consumer  
Right but also of  
high Benefit  
for the growers.

REMEMBER: YOU VOTE WITH YOUR DOLLARS. WHAT YOU BUY IS WHAT YOU ENCOURAGE.