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#### A JOURNEY ALONG THE PATHWAY OF CAROTENOID BIOSYNTHESIS: MORE ENZYMES AND NEW ROUTES OF INTERACTIONS WITH PLANT METABOLISM

Joseph Hirschberg

Department of Genetics, Alexander Silberman Institute of Life Sciences, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem



#### The carotenoid pathway (ca. 1990)



#### Discovery of carotenoid pathways in bacteria

Rhodobacter capsulatus Armstrong et al. (1989)





Erwinia uredovora



### Cloning genes through inhibitor resistance

Isolating norflurazon-resistant mutations in *Synechococcus* 7942



Chamovitz et al. 1990



### Phytoene desaturase in plants



Pecker et al. 1992

# Cloning genes by color complementation

Construction of a cDNA library from the carotenoid-producing tissue in the vector  $\lambda$  ZAP II

Excision of plasmids in pBluescript vector

Transfection of plasmids into *E. coli* cells that produce a carotenoid precursor

Screening for a colored colony



Lotan & Hirschberg 1995

### The genetic approach



**1. Map-based ("positional") cloning of mutations** Arabidopsis, Tomato, Rice

#### 2. Genomics

Sequence-based candidate genes Gene expression profiles (transcriptomics)

Classic Biochemistry: Capsanthin-capsorubin synthase (CCS)

# The plant carotenoid pathway, 2011







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Cairns, 1999

## The genetic approach: Map-based cloning



New mutations isolated in the line M82

Navot Galpaz, Naama Menda, Dani Zamir

## The tomato introgression lines (IL)



Unique chromosomal segments from *S. pennellii* were introduced in to the genome of *S. lycopersicum*.

The tomato genome:

~750 cM

Size: 950 Mb

Map:

S. pennellii

S. lycopersicum



Eshed & Zamir, 1995

#### Carotenoid biosynthesis is genetically regulated



Gene expression during "Breaker"



Pecker et al. 1996

#### Carotenoid biosynthesis is genetically regulated



Gene expression during "Breaker"



Ronen et al. 1999

#### Carotenoid biosynthesis is genetically regulated



Gene expression during "Breaker"



Ronen et al. 2000

#### Fruit-carotenoid-deficient (Fcd) mutants



#### Fruit-carotenoid-deficient (Fcd) mutants



### Map-based cloning of Fcd1



- 1. Crossing Fcd1 (M82) X IL4-2 (S. pennellii).
- 2. F1 selfing.
- 3. 5000 F2 seedlings genotyped with markers Tg182 and Tg208.
- 4. 486 genetic recombinant plants identified, grown and phenotyped.
- 5. Genetic locus fine-mapped with new DNA markers
- 6. Candidate gene identified.



#### Fcd1 encodes IPP isomerase (IDI)

- MSLTTASASLQFLRRFIASPITSHSSLRLPKSSLLPNNTL
  41 PVSSLRCRFRCYSAASTTTMADAISDANMDAVQRRLMFED
  81 ECILVDENDHVVGHDTKYNCHLMEKIEAENLLHRAFSVFI \*Fcd1-1
   121 FNSKYELLLQQRSATKVTFPLVWTNTCCSHPLYRESELIE
   161 ENSLGVRNAAQRKLLDELGIPGEDVPVDQFIPLGRILYKA ΔFcd1-2
- 201 PSDGKWGEHELDYLLFMVREVNMKPNPDEVAEVKYVNREQ
- 241 LKELLRKADAGEEGLKLSPWFRLVVDNFLFKWWDHLEKGT

281 LKEVIDMKTIHKLT

*Fcd1-1*: W143 stop *Fcd1-2*: W206 Δ



#### Two IDI enzymes exist in plants

DMAPP





#### Two IDI enzymes exist in tomato



#### Do plastids need IDI?



#### Do plastids need IDI?

# Mutants in Arabidopsis lacking IDI1 do not show a clear phenotype.

*Okada et al. (2008) Plant Cell Physiol. 49:604; Phillips et al. (2008) Plant Cell, 20:677.* 

"Mutants specifically defective in IDI1 do not show changes in carotenoid levels, consistent with the dispensable role of this enzyme in plastids."

Rodriguez-Concepcion, M. (2010) Arch. Biochem. Biophys. 504:118-122.

#### No apparent phenotype in leaves of Fcd1-1



#### Expression of carotenoid genes in Fcd1 fruit



#### Differential expression of Idi1 and Idi2



Stages in fruit development: MG- mature green; B- breaker; R- ripe

#### Specific inhibition of IPP biosynthesis



#### Inhibition of cytoplasmic IPP synthesis in seedlings



### Inhibition of cytoplasmic IPP synthesis in fruit



#### Inhibition of plastidial IPP synthesis in fruit



#### **IDI1** is required in cotyledons



Carotenoids







#### **IDI1** is required during deetiolation

Etiolated seedling (14 days dark)







Carotenoid accumulation

140 M82 Fcd1-1 120 Fcd1-2 100 Toatl carotenoids [µg g<sup>-1</sup> FW] 80 60 40 20 0 20 30 Ö 10 40 50 Hours after exposure to light

Chlorophyll accumulation



#### Reduced yield in Fcd1 mutants



#### Alterations in fruit volatiles in Fcd1



Headspace solid phase micro-extraction GC-MS (SPME-GC-MS)



# IDI1 regulates isoprenoid production by adjusting the IPP:DMADP ratio



#### Conclusions from *Fcd1* characterization

- There are two IPP isomerase enzymes in tomato-IDI1 in the plastids and IDI2 in the cytoplasm.
- IDI2 is mainly expressed in vegetative tissues and is probably dispensable during fruit ripening.
- Fcd1 impairs the plastidial IPP isomerase (IDI1).
- Cytoplasmic IPP does not contribute to carotenoid biosynthesis.
- IDI1 is required to adjust the ratio of IPP:DMAPP in cases of high flux of isoprenoids toward GGPP, such as during carotenoid accumulation in chromoplasts and carotenoid and chlorophyll biosynthesis in developing leaves.

#### The mutant zeta (z) accumulates $\zeta$ -carotene

wt (M82) z-1



wt (M82)







#### Zeta impairs the 15-cis $\zeta$ -carotene isomerization



HPLC analysis of fruit carotenoids



# Light-driven isomerization of $\zeta$ -carotene in *zeta* leaves







Chen Gafni-Amsalem

# Photosynthesis-generated redox compensates for the mutation *zeta*



#### Carotenoid in roots of zeta plants



#### A Ziso-like gene exists in cyanobacteria

		1 60
Ziso 7942	(1)	
Ziso M82 f	(1)	MATSIFLSHPFSHLLSKHHKIPSPKQTIAIAYHSTNKPTTKTPFLPLPTSFFPFPSNPRK 61 120
Ziso 7942	(1)	
Ziso M82 f	(61)	EFWPISVGRTQTDEKDEILVVGEDSAEFELSKQKISSWVYFAGVLGVVLYVLNVVWIDNS 121 180
Ziso 7942	(1)	MPLSWWTPSHTIMLALLLFAIAHSGLAALRPWGETKIGARGYRILFALVS
Ziso M82 f	(121)	TGFGKSFIDSVS <mark>S</mark> ISDSPEI <mark>VMLSLTLIFAI</mark> VHSGLASLRDK <mark>GE</mark> EL <mark>IG</mark> ERAFRVLFAGVS 181
Ziso 7942	(52)	LPLAVVTISYFILHRYDGALLWQLQGIPWIAPLVWVLTAISFLLLYPATFNLLEIAAIAQ
Ziso M82 f	(181)	LPLAVSTIVYFINHRYDGVQLWQLNSVAGIHELVWISNFVSFFFLYPSTFNLLEVAAVDK 241 300
Ziso 7942	(112)	PQVRLYETGITRITRHPQTFGQILWCLAHSLWLGTSFMMVASAGLIAHHLFSIWHGDRRL
Ziso M82 f	(241)	PKMHLWETGIMRITRHPQLVGQVIWCLAHTLWIGNSVAVAASVGLIGHHLFGAWNGDRRL 301
Ziso 7942	(172)	QK <mark>RYGEAFE</mark> ALKS <mark>RTSIIPF</mark> LAIAQGKQTLVWKEFLRPAYLGVAIAIGLFWFAHRWIPQA
Ziso M82 f	(301)	AI <mark>RYGEAFE</mark> VVKNRTSIIPFAAILDGRQKLPEDYYKEFIRLPYLSITTLTLGAYFLHPIM 361
Ziso 7942	(232)	TAALAEIGW
Ziso M82 f	(361)	Q <mark>AA</mark> SYRLH <mark>W</mark>

### ZISO is a 15-cis-ζ-carotene in cyanobacteria

Knockout of *Ziso* in *S. elongatus* PCC7942

Carotenoid composition in *S. elongatus* PCC7942





Varda Mann

#### Ziso in cyanobacteria is part of a "redox operon"

#### Location of zisO in the genome of S. elongatus PCC7942



#### A tomato mutant deficient of NDH-M

Nashilevitz et al. The Plant Cell, 2010

A mutation in subunit M of NAD(P)H oxidoreductase provided evidence that specialized (secondary) metabolism in tomato fruit, including carotenoid biosynthesis, depends on the complex activity that modulates the redox state of PQ.



Orr<sup>Ds</sup>/ORR ORR/ORR



#### Expression of Ziso is upregulated during fruit ripening

Relative mRNA of *Ziso* was determined in fruits of M82 and two alleles of *zeta*.



Stages in fruit development. SG, small green; MG, mature green; B, Breaker; O, orange; R, ripe.

### **Conclusions on Ziso**

- ZISO is a trans-membrane protein, possibly a transporter, that provides a redox-related functions essential for *cis-trans* isomerization of 15,15' ζ-carotene.
- Photosynthetic redox can compensate for ZISO deficiency.
- ZISO is indispensable in non-photosynthetic tissues (fruit, flower, root).
- ZISO underscores the involvement of redox in plastid secondary metabolism.

# Open questions in carotenoid biosynthesis

#### 1. Biochemistry

- Mechanism of reactions (structure-function)
- Do enzyme function in complexes?
- Where exactly in the plastids?

#### 2. Regulation

- Gene expression (developmental; environmental)
- Metabolic regulation at the enzymatic level
- Interaction with other metabolic pathways

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