

Exploring Vitamin B9 Diversity for the Nutritional Improvement of Potato

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Outline

- I. Introduction/Background
- II. Objectives
- III. Conclusions/Perspectives
- IV. Acknowledgements



Outline

I. Introduction/Background

- Micronutrient Malnutrition
- Folate
- Sources and Deficiency
- Biofortification
- Potatoes

II. Objectives

III. Conclusions/Perspectives

IV. Acknowledgements

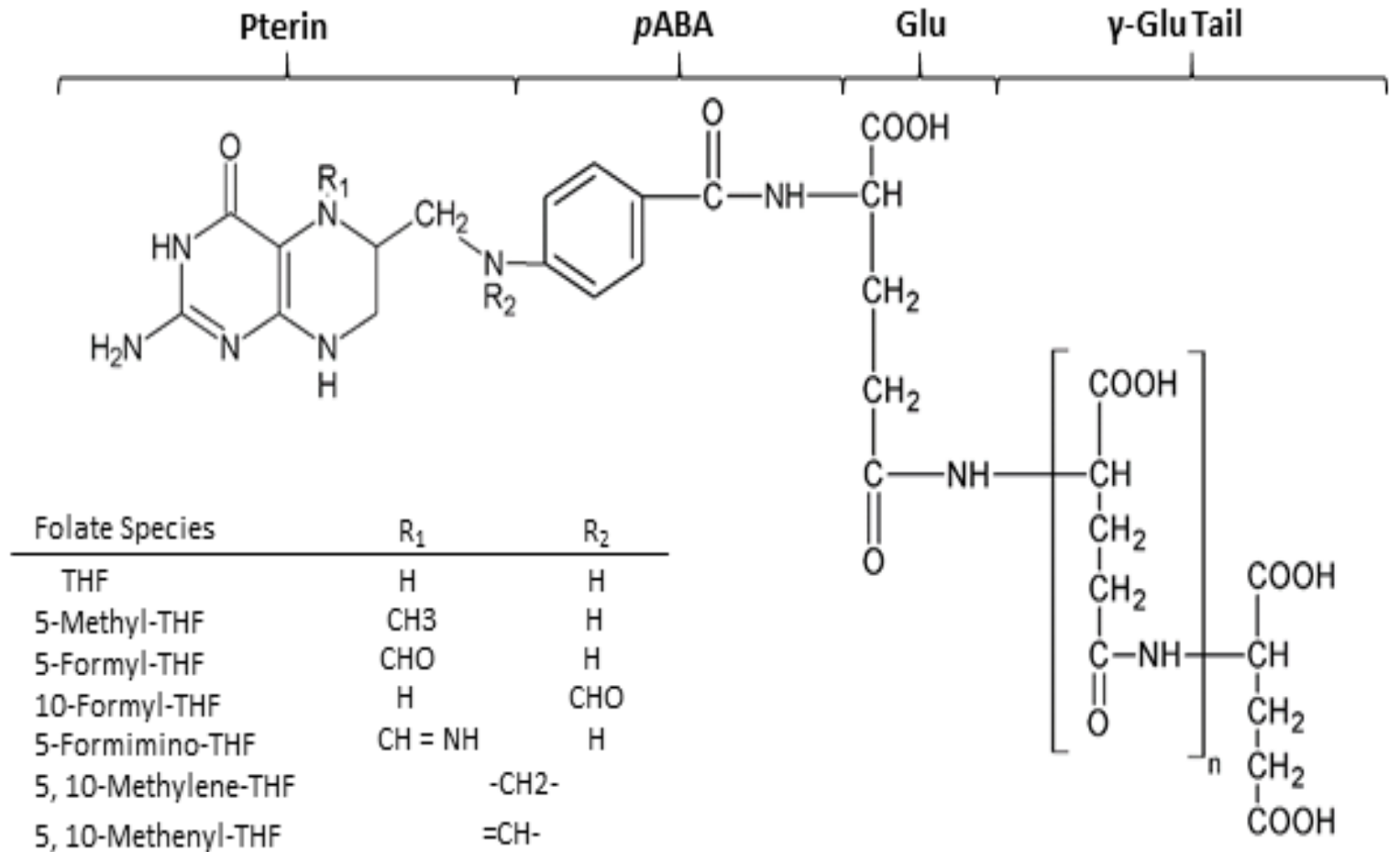


Micronutrient Malnutrition

- Negatively affects as many as 2 billion people worldwide
- Most commonly a deficiency in dietary intake of:
- Minerals: Ca, I, Fe, P, K, Na, Zn
- Vitamins: A, B1, B2, B3, B5, B6, B9, B12, C, D, E, K
- Phytochemicals: Carotenoids, Flavonoids...
- Main sources in human diets are plants

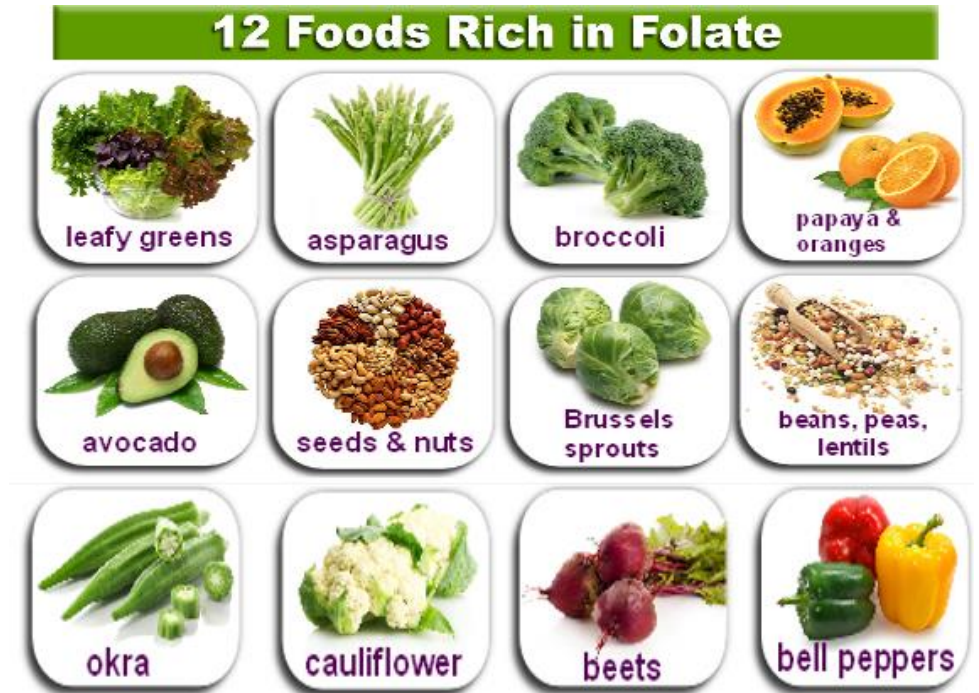
Folate – Water Soluble Vitamin B9

- Without adequate folate levels, cells are not able to biosynthesize nucleotides, metabolize amino acids, or utilize the methylation cycle properly



Folate Sources and Deficiency

- Plants are the major source of dietary folate
- Folate deficiency has been linked to:
 - a. Neural Tube Defects (NTDs) such as spina bifida and anencephaly
 - b. Cardiovascular diseases
 - c. Stroke
 - d. Anemia
 - e. Development of certain types of cancers
 - f. Impaired cognitive performance
- More than 75 countries have instituted folic acid fortification programs



Biofortification

- The process by which the nutritional quality of food crops is improved through conventional plant breeding or modern biotechnology (W.H.O.)
- Has additional advantages compared to industrial fortification alone:
 - a. More cost-effective and sustainable over time
 - b. Can impact areas that lack the political will, infrastructure, and money to utilize current fortification practices

Importance of Potato (*Solanum tuberosum* L.)

- Third most important food crop behind rice and wheat
- Considered as significant source of folate in their diets



Additional Potato Information

- 150g serving of potato (one medium sized russet) provides 6-10% of the 400 μ g RDA of folate
- Folate retention is high in potato tubers even after storage, processing, and cooking
- ~200 tuber bearing *Solanum* species representing enormous genetic diversity



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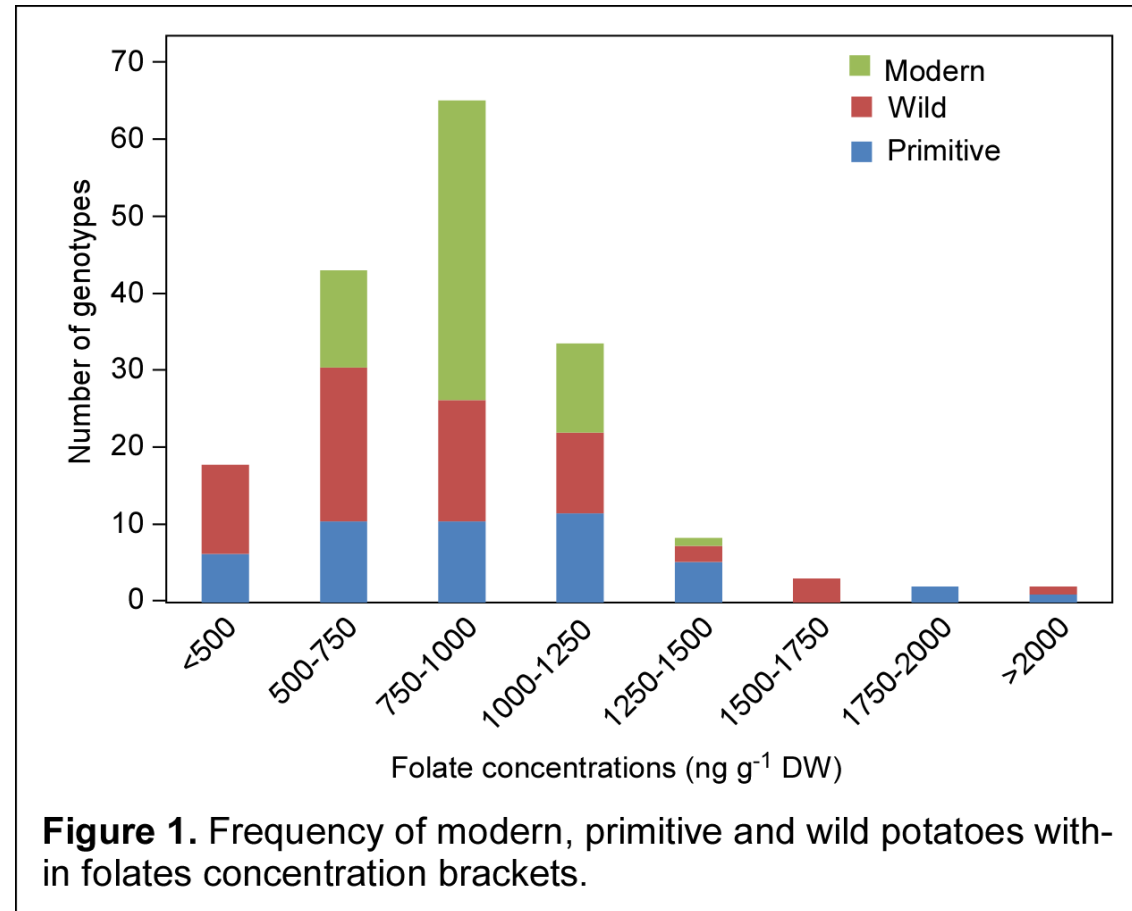
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Exploring Folate Diversity in Wild and Primitive Potatoes for Modern Crop Improvement

Previous Work in Folate Variability in Potatoes

- Wild and primitive cultivated species show the greatest range of folate content
- Further evaluating this wild and primitive germplasm is useful in identifying sources of high folate germplasm



Objectives

- Quantify folate content via tri-enzyme extraction and *Lactobacillus rhamnosus* microbiological assay
- Identify wild and primitive accessions that have high folate content



Potato Materials – Wild and Primitive Species

- 257 individual plants from 77 accessions representing 10 species evaluated with Russet Burbank as control
- Accessions were obtained from the U.S. Potato Genebank



Potato Materials – Wild and Primitive Species

Harvested Selections:

1. *S. acuale* (3 accessions, 4X)
2. *S. boliviense* (25 accessions, 2X)
3. *S. candolleianum* (3 accessions, 2X)
4. *S. chacoense* (2 accessions, 2X)
5. *S. stipuloideum* (3 accessions, 2X)
6. *S. demissum* (3 accessions, 6X)
7. *S. microdontum* (3 accessions, 2X)
8. *S. okadae* (3 accessions, 2X)
9. *S. tuberosum* subsp. *andigenum* (9 accessions, 2X & 4X)
10. *S. vernei* (23 accessions, 2X)



Tri-Enzyme Extraction Method

- General Principle: Folate species must be released from food matrices and processed without degrading the sample so determination can be performed
- HEPES/CHES buffer, protease, α -amylase, and conjugase allow for this with reasonable throughput

Tuber Sample

Homogenize in HEPES/CHES Buffer

Heat (10min at 100° C)

Ice Bath

Incubate with Protease (2hrs at 37° C)

Heat (5 min at 100° C)

Ice Bath

Incubate with α -amylase and conjugase
(2-3hrs at 37° C)

Heat (10min at 100° C)

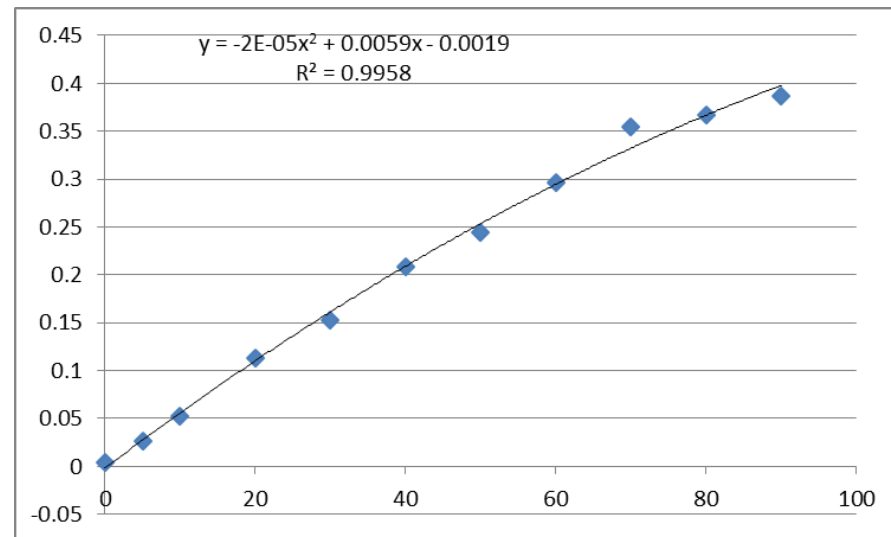
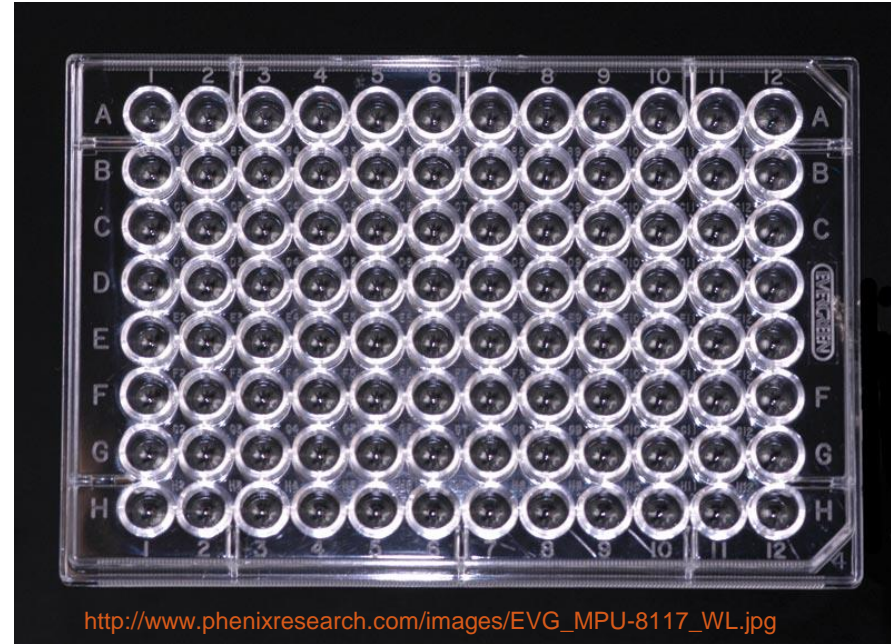
Ice Bath

Centrifuge

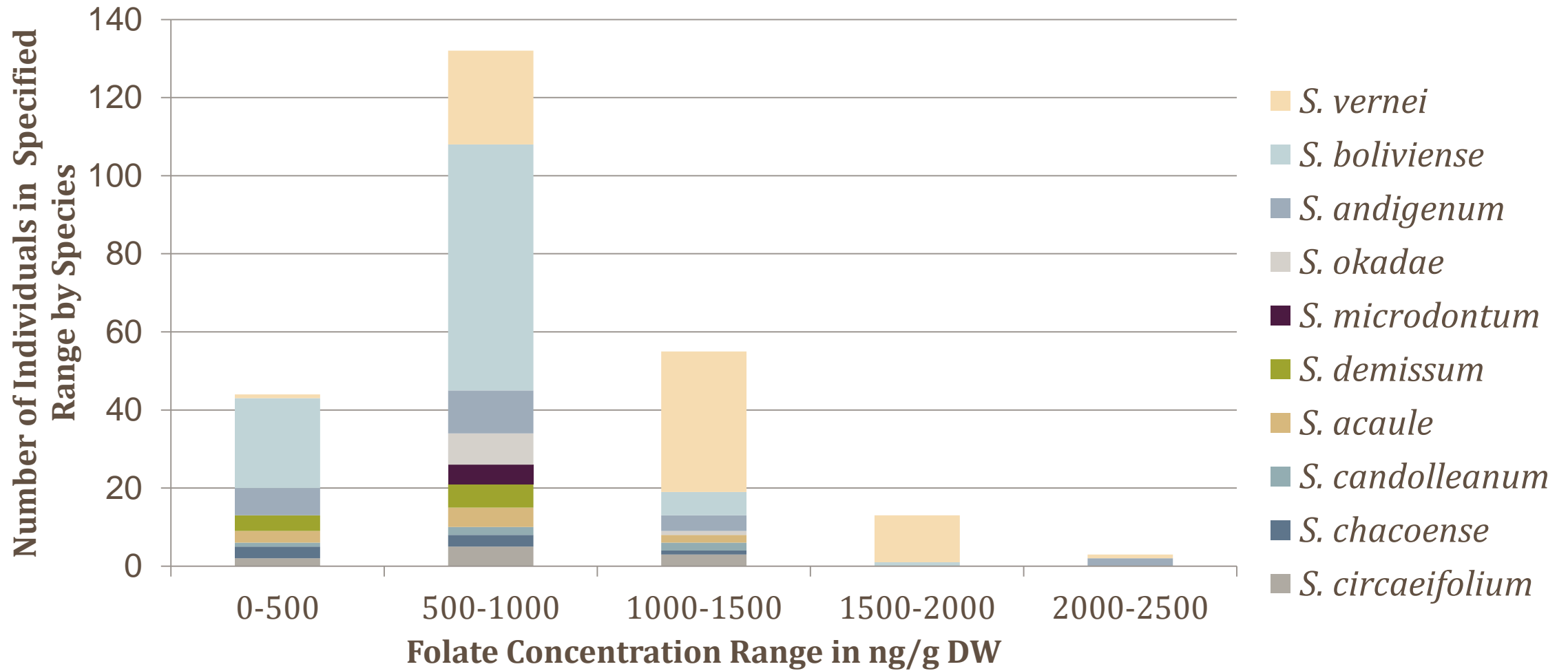
Storage at -80° C

Folate Determination

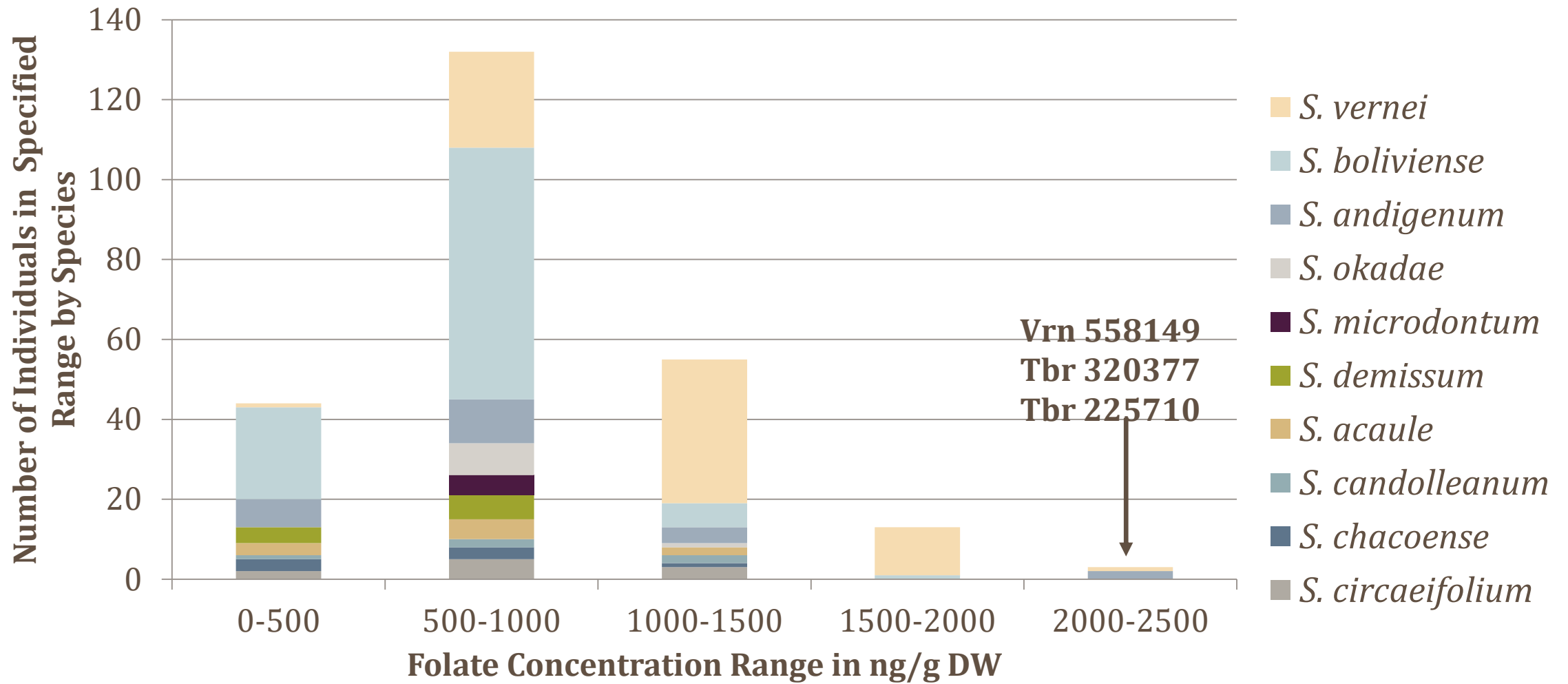
- Microbiological Assay using *L. rhamnosus*
- Wells loaded with Folic Acid Medium, standards, or samples
- Incubated for 18-24 hours
- Read with microplate reader
- Folate values calculated from standard curve



Wild and Primitive Species Folate Distribution

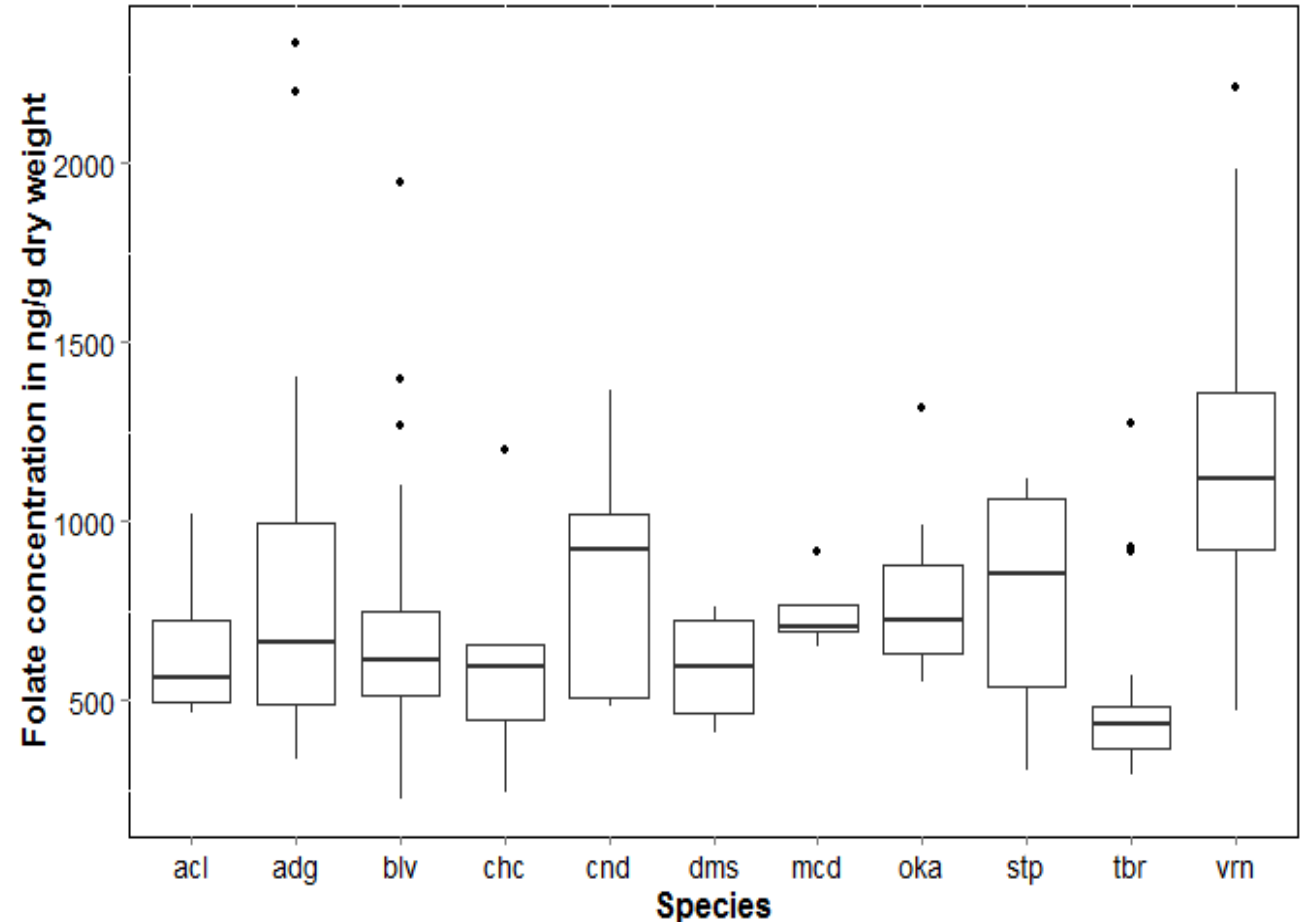


Wild and Primitive Species Folate Distribution



Summary

- Wild and primitive cultivated species showed a range of 220 – 2200 ng/g folate DW
- *S. Vernei* and *S. tuberosum* subsp. *andigenum* showed highest folate levels
- Increasing commercial cultivar's folate content to more than 2000 ng/g dry weight or more represents a 4X increase



Article

Exploring Folate Diversity in Wild and Primitive Potatoes for Modern Crop Improvement

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Academic Editors: Sean Mayes, Festo Massawe, Prakrit Somta and Wai Kuan Ho

Received: 27 October 2015 / Accepted: 25 November 2015 / Published: 8 December 2015

Abstract: Malnutrition is one of the world's largest health concerns. Folate (also known as vitamin B₉) is essential in the human diet, and without adequate folate intake, several serious health concerns, such as congenital birth defects and an increased risk of stroke and heart disease, can occur. Most people's folate intake remains sub-optimal, even in countries that have a folic acid food fortification program in place. Staple crops, such as potatoes, represent

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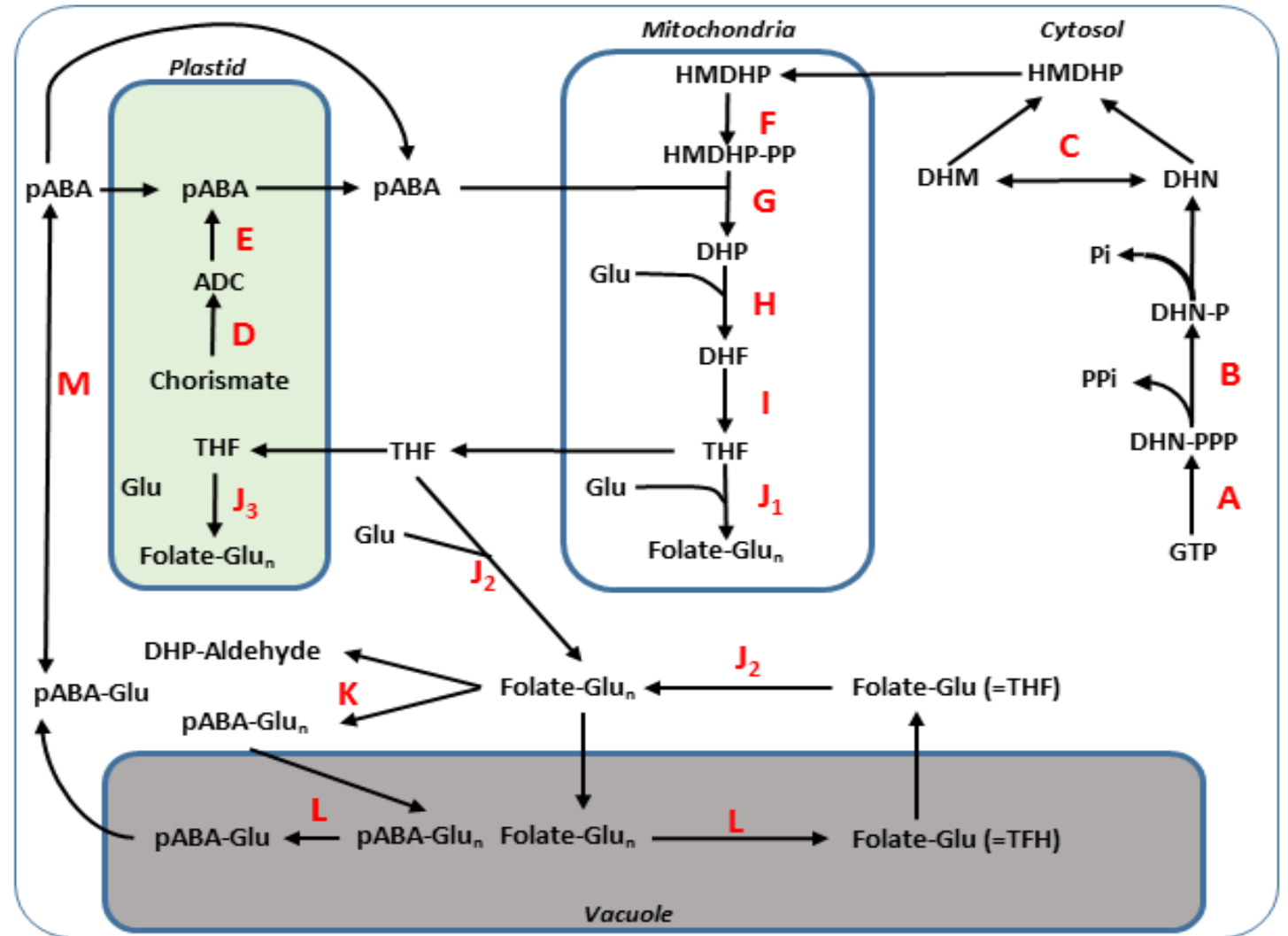
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Expression Levels of The γ -Glutamyl Hydroplase I Gene Correlate With Vitamin B9 Content in Potato Tubers

Objectives

- Identify how expression of folate-related genes contributes to folate accumulation
- Analyze RNA-Seq data to identify genes with differential expression in high/low folate genotypes
- Perform quantitative PCR (qPCR) to confirm the results of RNA-seq results in diverse germplasm



Materials

- High: fol 1.3, fol 1.6
- Low: fol 1.5, fol 1.11



Solanum boliviense PI 597736



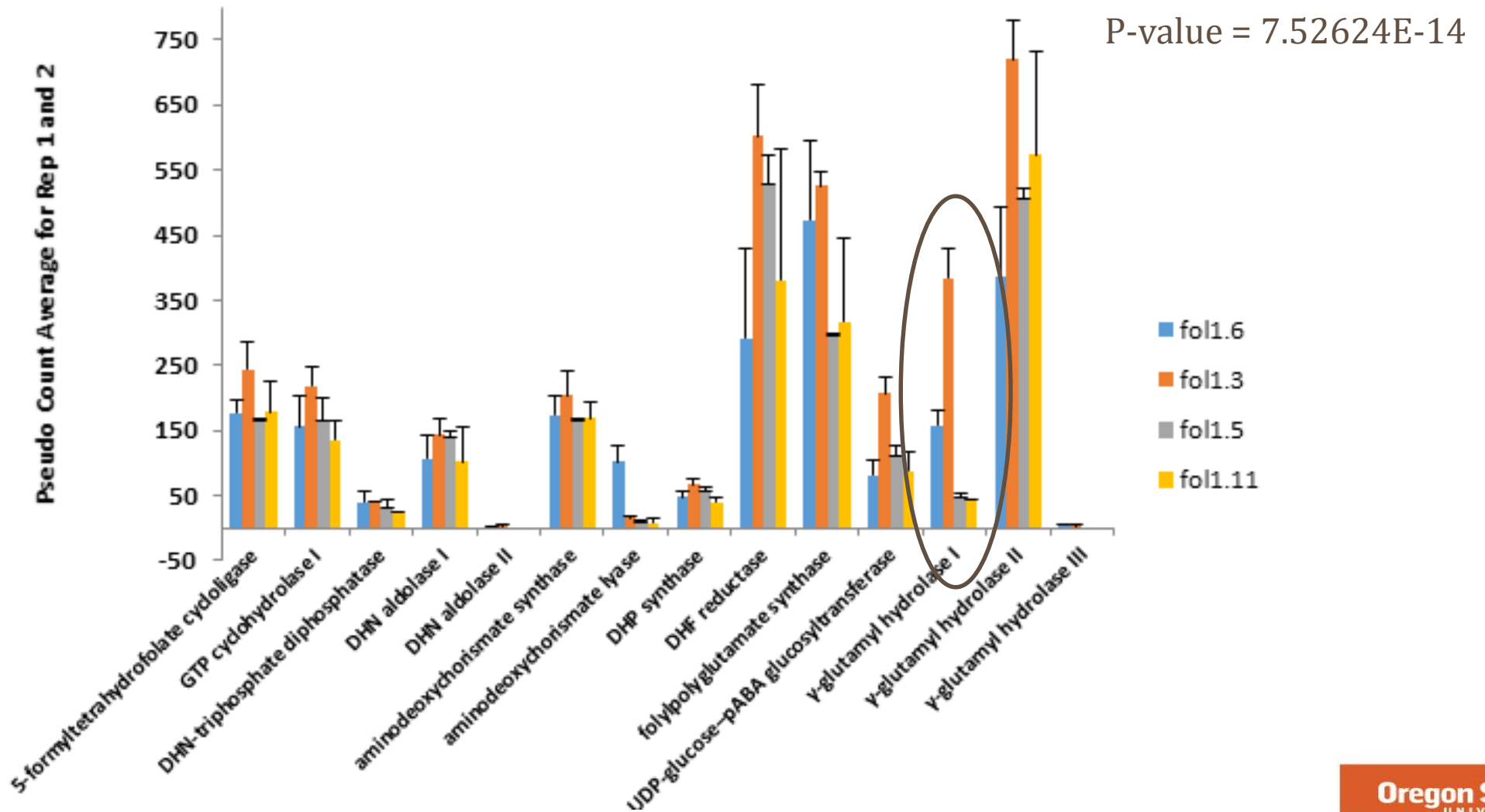
RNA-Sequence analysis
(2 technical reps, each
rep made of tubers
pooled from 3-4 plants)



Methods

- 1 Illumina HiSeq2000 lane (51 cycle V3 single end)
- TruSeq RNA Libraries quantified by qPCR
- Normalized to β -tubulin pseudocounts
- Mapping, assembly, and differences in expression determined by JEANS

Methods – RNA-sequence analysis



Materials

Sample	Folate concentration (ng/g DW)
BRR1 12	2373 ± 29
BRR1 27	471 ± 20
BRR3 90	2952 ± 277
BRR3 56	326 ± 21
Tbr 225710.3	2336 ± n.d.
Tbr 546023.4	626 ± 21
Vrn 558149.3	1688 ± 18
Vrn 500063.1	469 ± 16
Fol 1-3	1667 ± 113
Fol 1-5	810 ± 269
Fol 1-6	2137 ± 473
Fol 1-11	911 ± 67

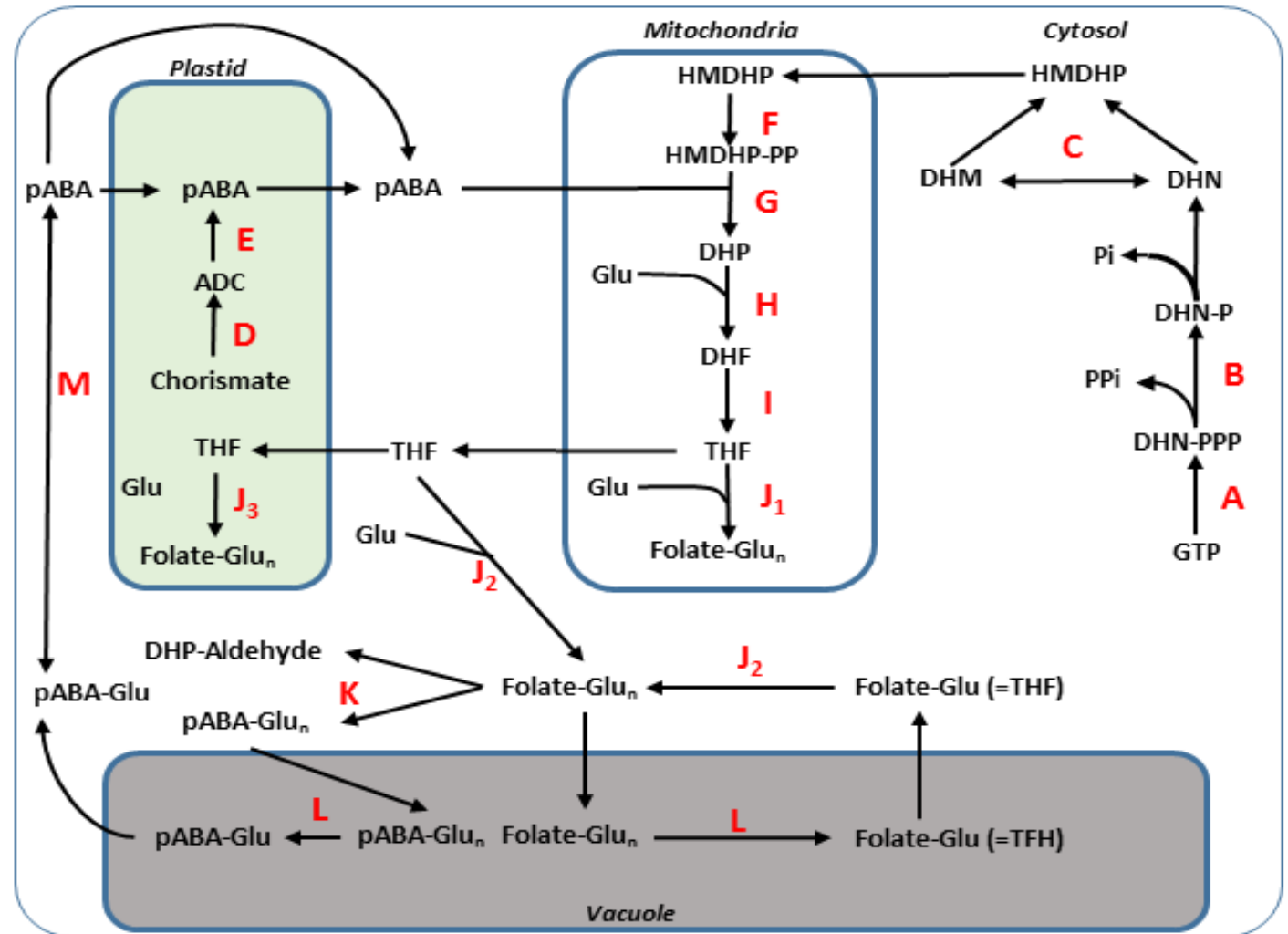


Results

High Folate Genotype	C _t Value	Low Folate Genotype	C _t Value	High/Low 2 ^{-ΔCt}	Fold Change in GGH1 Expression
BRR1 12	34.18	BRR1 27	31.74	0.189/0.018	10
BRR3 90	40.44	BRR3 56	36.71	3.33E -05/4.53E -04	0.1
Tbr PI 225710	29.66	Tbr PI 546023	38.84	3.00E -02/1.55E -02	2
Vrn PI 558149	35.33	Vrn PI 500063	40.78	6.25E -02/1.29E -04	481
Fol 1-6	32.01	Fol 1-11	35.41	7.10E -03/4.76E -04	15
Fol 1-6	32.01	Fol 1-5	39.82	7.10E -03/8.07E -05	88
Fol 1-3	30.90	Fol 1-11	35.41	1.13E -02/4.76E -04	24
Fol 1-3	30.90	Fol 1-5	39.82	1.13E -02/8.07E -05	140

Summary

- RNA-Seq data identified GGH1 with differential expression in high/low folate genotypes
- qPCR results confirmed this trend



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Single Nucleotide Polymorphism Markers Associated With High Folate Content from Wild Potato Species

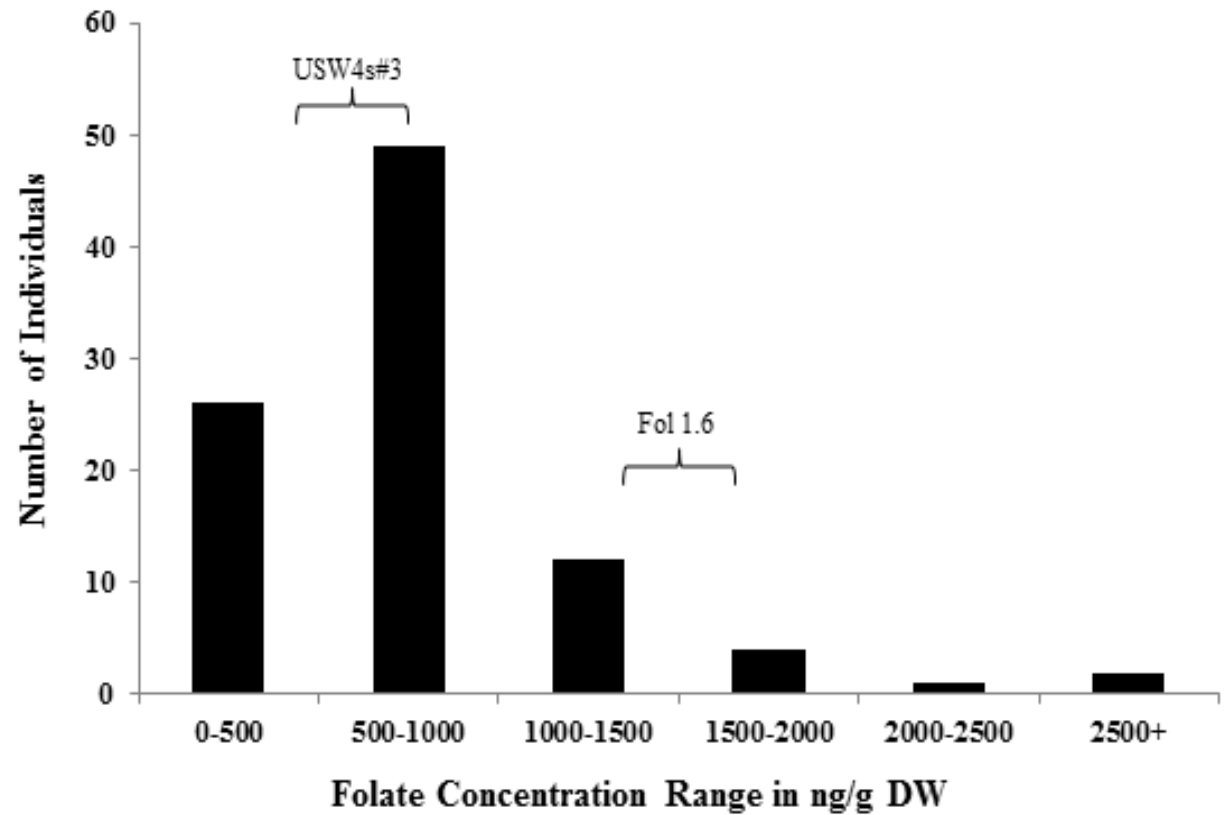
Objectives

- Use SNP genotyping platform to develop linkage maps
- Perform SNP-trait association
- Perform QTL single marker analysis
- Identify potential SNPs associated with high folate

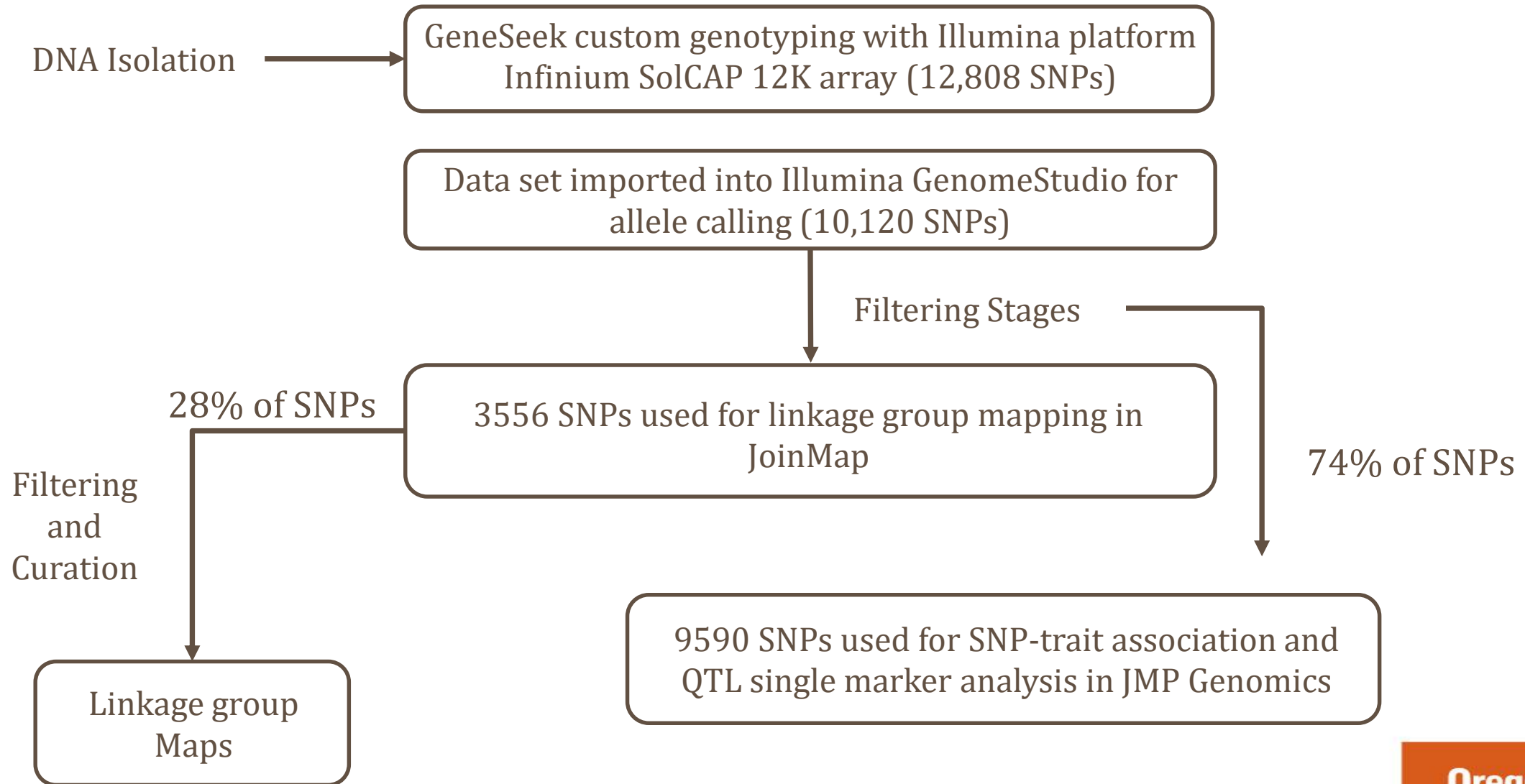


Materials

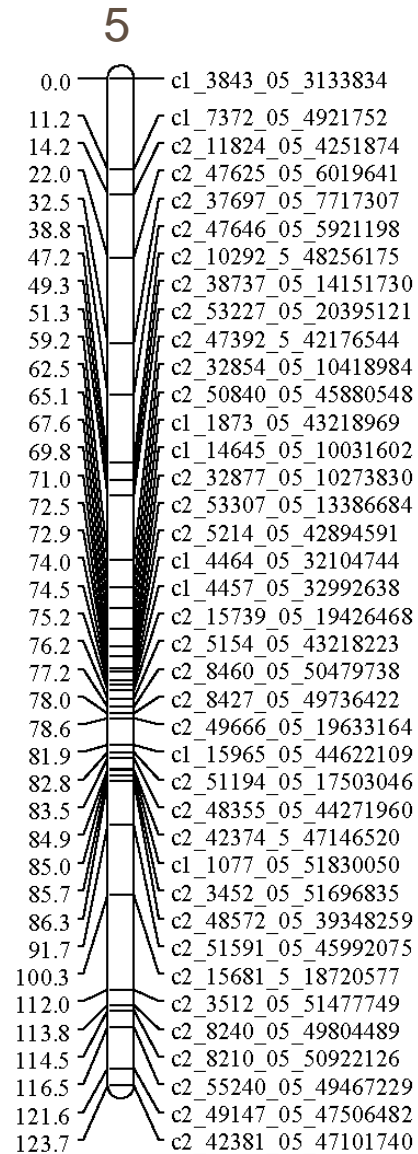
- BRR3 – F2 Diploid mapping population
- 94 individuals
- [USW4_{self}#3 x fol1.06_{blv597736}]F2



Workflow for SNP genotyping, mapping, and QTL Analysis



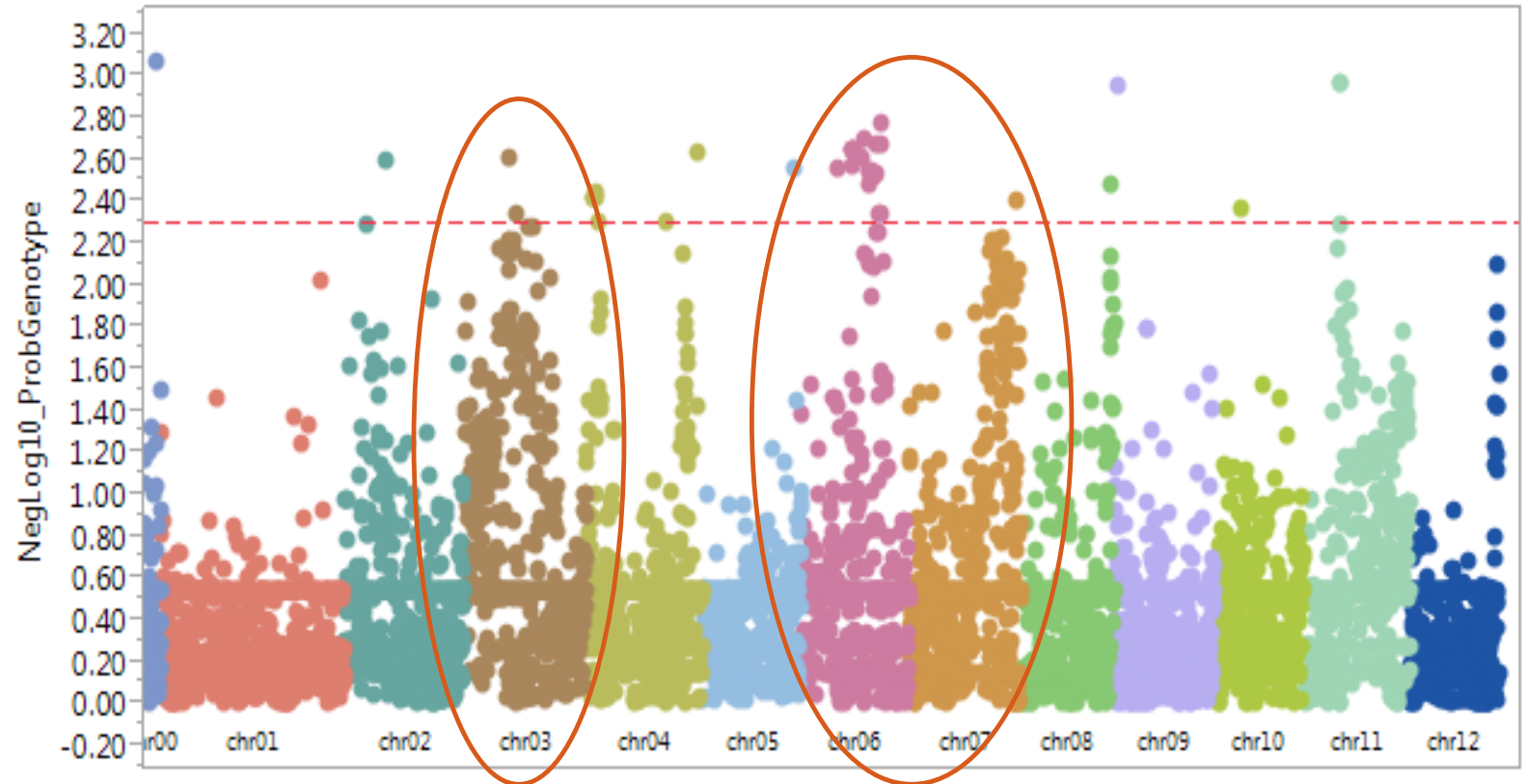
Results



	SNPs from Parents					
Linkage Group	USW4s#3	Fol	Number of Codominant markers	Group Length (cM)	Total SNPs per linkage group	Marker Coverage (markers/cM)
1	59	7	2	98.177	68	1.44
2	22	15	9	124.182	46	2.69
3	51	2	3	165.488	56	2.95
4	49	4	4	140.512	57	2.40
5	29	6	4	123.679	39	1.65
6	36	6	4	113.482	46	2.67
7	24	5	10	59.681	39	2.58
8	52	0	0	126.636	52	2.43
9	48	4	2	157.314	54	3.41
10	51	1	3	113.187	55	2.05
11	58	4	6	101.767	68	1.41
12	51	8	5	107.182	64	1.67
Total	530	62	52	1431.227	644	2.22

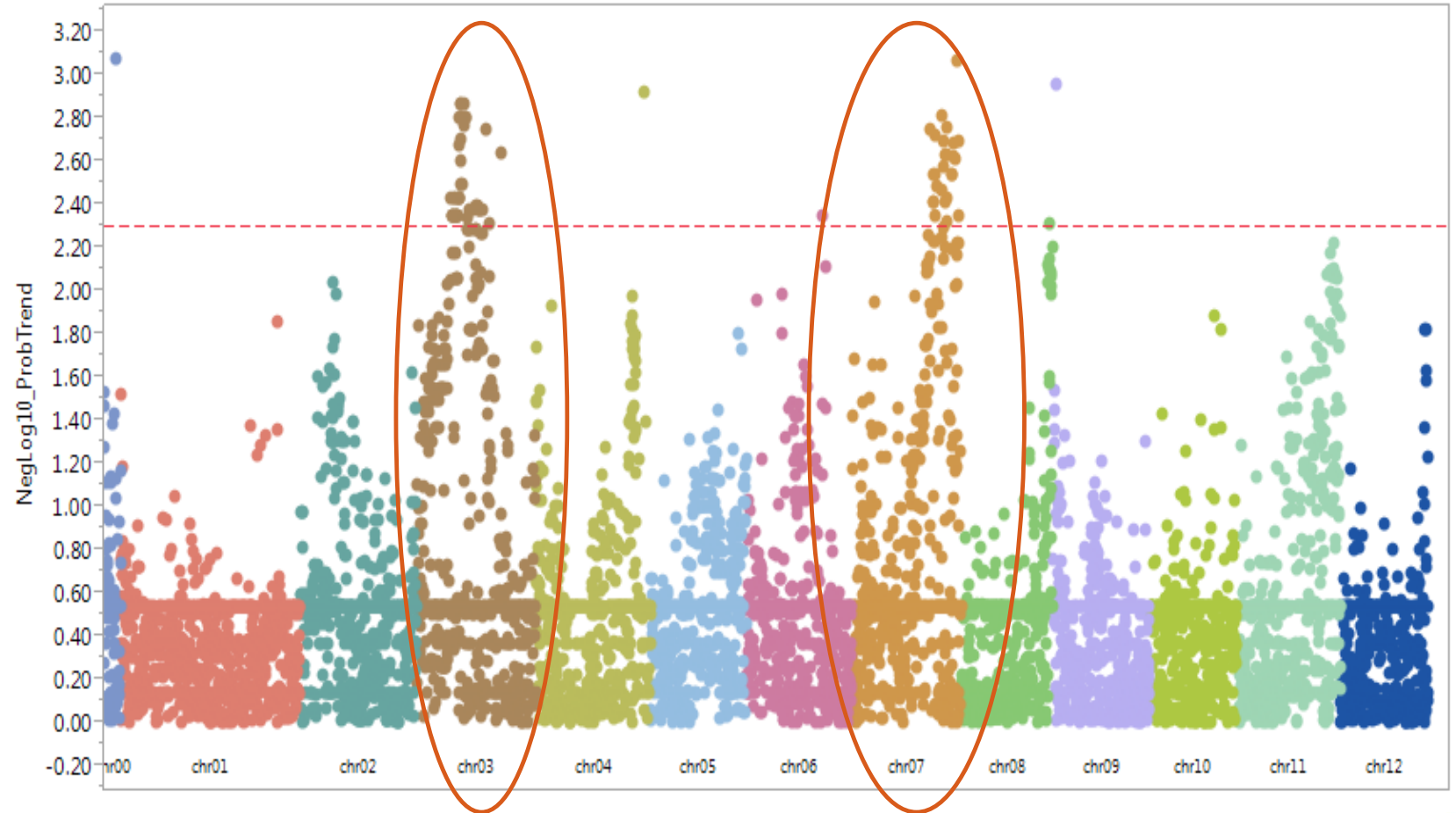
Results

- SNP-trait association identified 109 SNPs
- 86% or 94 SNPs were associated with chromosomes 3, 6, and 7
- 5-Formyltetrahydrofolate cycloligase (chromosome 3)
- Dihydrofolate (DHF) synthase (chromosome 6)
- γ -glutamyl hydrolase 1 (chromosome 7)



Results

- QTL single marker analysis identified 80 SNPs
- 94% or 75 SNPs were associated with chromosomes 3 and 7
- Potential QTLs are located in areas previously identified by SNP-trait association



Summary

- 73 common SNPs were identified from both analysis, 66 are located on chromosome 3 and 7

SNP_ID	CHR	POS	R-squared trend
solcap_snp_c2_53198	chr00	29279410	0.114572486
solcap_snp_c2_48372	chr03	39255217	0.105971323
solcap_snp_c2_48371	chr03	39255236	0.105971323
solcap_snp_c2_48369	chr03	39257162	0.105971323
solcap_snp_c2_35234	chr03	40992986	0.105971323
solcap_snp_c1_6875	chr03	41994529	0.103532909
solcap_snp_c2_10688	chr04	71592216	0.108221677
solcap_snp_c2_28223	chr07	51604961	0.10388895
solcap_snp_c2_18680	chr07	55283766	0.114219648
solcap_snp_c2_48597	chr09	778420	0.109861634

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Conclusions

- There is genetic material with significantly higher folate concentrations available for breeding purposes
- GGH1 expression correlates with high folate in tubers
- SNP genotyping and subsequent studies identified areas of the genome that are associated with high folate content and folate related genes



Future Research

- Continue folate studies in *S. vernei* and *S. tuberosum* subsp. *andigenum*
- Evaluate heritability of high folate traits
- Study gene expression of FPGS in conjunction with GGH1 to better understand folate accumulation in tubers
- Validation of identified SNPs for their potential to use in marker assisted breeding of high folate genotypes



Acknowledgements

- Dr. Aymeric Goyer
Matt Warman, Wei Dong, Taryn Goodwin, Mark Barnett
- Dr. Vidyasagar Sathuvalli
Solomon Yilma, Moises Aguilar, Stan Li, Sapinder Bali
- Dr. Laurent Deluc
- Dr. Ramesh Sagili
- Dr. John Bamberg, US Potato Gene Bank
- OSU HAREC Station

Funding Sources



United States Department of Agriculture
National Institute of Food and Agriculture

THANK YOU



