

## UNIVERSITA' DEGLI STUDI DI CATANIA

## Dipartimento di Scienze Biologiche, Geologiche e Ambientali

PHD IN SCIENZE GEOLOGICHE, BIOLOGICHE E AMBIENTALI Coordinatore: Prof.ssa Agata Di Stefano

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# Investigation on genes possibly involved in the response to heavy metals in *Cynara*

cardunculus L.

Ph.D. thesis

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XXX cycle

AA.AA. 2014÷2017

## Riassunto

Lo stress da metalli pesanti è uno stress di tipo abiotico che risulta molto pericoloso per la salute umana. Cadmio (Cd) ed arsenico (As) sono due metalli spesso presenti in terreni contaminati a causa di attività minerarie o altre attività industriali. Il Cd è uno dei più tossici tra questi, e quando assunto dall'uomo viene accumulato in fegato e reni, causando gravi danni a tali organi. L'As è un metalloide, esistente in natura in diversi stati di ossidazione: -3, 0, +3, e +5. La forma trivalente (arsenite) risulta essere più tossica della pentavalente (arsenate) Attraverso la catena alimentare, questi metalli entrano in contatto con l'uomo, causando malattie cardiovascolari e cancro. Alcune piante possono essere in grado di detossificare i suoli contaminati da sostanze tossiche, quali i metalli pesanti. Tale tecnica, nominata phytoremediation, è una metodologia economica che sfrutta la capacità di alcuni organismi vegetali di rimuovere i metalli pesanti dall'ambiante, trasformandoli in sostanze meno tossiche e meno reattive, o accumulandoli negli organi interni. È possibile, in base alla strategia adottata, classificare diversi processi: fitoestrazione, fitofiltrazione, fitostabilizzazione, fitovolatilizzazione e fitodegradazione. Nella tecnica di fitoestrazione, la pianta assorbe i metalli dal suolo, e accumula quest'ultimi negli organi interni in concentrazioni .100 - 1000 volte più elevate di una pianta non tollerante. Tali organismi vengono classificati come 'iperaccumulatori'. Il cardo (Cynara cardunculus L.) è una pianta pluriennale, particolarmente adattata all'ambiente mediterraneo in grado di tollerare moderate concentrazioni di NaCl e crescere in terreni inquinati. Tre taxa sono ad oggi riconosciute: C. cardunculus L. subsp. scolymus (L.) Hegi = C. cardunculus L. var. scolymus (L.) Hayek (carciofo), C. cardunculus L. var. altilis DC. (cardo domestico), and C. cardunculus L. var. sylvestris Lam. (cardo selvatico). Lo scopo di questo progetto è stato quello di indagare sui geni associati all'accumulo di metalli pesanti in C. cardunculus L. In particolare nell'ambito di questo lavoro l'influenza del genotipo, cardo coltivato e selvatico, è stata testata come percentuale di semi germinati su terreni contaminati da Cd, As e Cd + As alle concentrazioni di 0, 10. 50, 100 e 200 µM. Per lo svolgimento di questa prova, il genotipo altilis, e due genotipi sylvestris (A14SR e R14CT) sono stati considerati. Inoltre è stata valutata nelle due varietà, la capacità di crescere in terreni contaminati con metalli pesanti, misurando radici e germogli in piantine cresciute per tre settimane con Cd e As a 0, 25, 50 µM. Prendendo come modello tra i tre taxa, il cardo altilis, per i suoi possibili impieghi come specie che produce biomassa da destinare alla chimica verde, abbiamo ricercato in cardo dei geni ortologhi a quelli di altre piante che risultano essere associati alla tolleranza e accumulo di metalli pesanti. Per fare ciò abbiamo disegnato i primers di clonaggio tramite il programma primer3, per amplificare e clonare l'amplificato, sequenza target nel vettore utilizzabile per il sequenziamento. Le sequenze target sono state analizzate con l'utilizzo di tools bioinformatici (Blast, CodonCode, BioEdit, Clustal omega). Con questo metodo i geni di cardo probabilmente associati al trasporto e accumulo di metalli pesanti, sono stati identificati e caratterizzati. Abbiamo saggiato tramite l'uso della real-time PCR, i livelli trascrizionali di espressione genica sui seguenti geni: Natural resistance of macrophage isoforma 1 (NRAMP1) e 3 (NRAMP3), Zinc/Iron Protein 11 (ZIP11), Heavy metal ATPase 3 (HMA3), Phosphate transporter 1 (PHT1) e ABC transporter C1 (ABCC1). L'espressione è stata saggiata in piante delle varietà altilis e sylvestris (A14SR) cresciute per due e tre settimane su 1/2 MS medium contaminato con Cd e As a 0, 25, 50 µM. La normalizzazione dei dati è stata effettuata con l'utilizzo dei geni di riferimento EF1-alpha e GAPDH, isolati precedentemente e valutati in funzione della loro stabilità in diverse fasi di crescita di Cynara (altilis) non trattato.

I risultati hanno mostrato che il cardo è in grado di germinare in terreni contaminati da metalli pesanti, con una percentuale media di germinazione del 65.9 %, ottenuta dalle tre maggiori sorgenti di variabilità, includendo il tipo di metallo utilizzato e la sua concentrazione e il differente genotipo della pianta. Con riferimento alla germinazione, altilis è risultato il genotipo che meglio tollera il Cd durante la germinazione, con una percentuale del 83 %, e il sylvestris A14CT il genotipo che meglio tollera l'As durante tale fase (76 %). L'analisi della crescita della pianta in terreni contaminati ha evidenziato una riduzione della crescita nel genotipo altilis trattato con il Cd e non con l'As, mentre, in sylvestris una riduzione della crescita è stata causata dalla presenza di As alla concentrazione di 50 µM. La ricerca dei geni che in cardo domestico sono associati alla risposta ai metalli pesanti, ci ha permesso di identificare ed isolare sette geni: NRAMP1, NRAMP3, ZIP11, HMA, PCS (Phytochelatin Syntase), ABCC1, PHT. Su sei di questi (PCS è stato escluso) è stata effettuata, tramite RT-PCR, l'analisi quantitative di espressione genica sulle varietà sylvestris ed altilis. I risultati hanno mostrato un significativo incremento di espressione nella varietà sylvestris dei geni NRAMP3 e ZIP11 trattata con entrambi i metalli, e PHT e ABCC1, trattata con As.

In conclusione, *Cynara cardunculus* L. risulta capace di germinare in terreni contaminati con As e Cd, e la risposta alla germinazione risulta fortemente influenzata non solo dalla concentrazione e dal metallo, ma anche dal genotipo. Similmente, la crescita delle plantule è risultata influenzata dalla natura e concentrazione del metallo, e dal genotipo considerato. Per la prima volta i geni: PCS, NRAMP1, NRAMP3, ZIP11, HMA3, ABCC1, e PHT sono stati identificati in *C. cardunculus* L.. Le piante trattate hanno mostrato una variazione dei livelli trascrizionali di espressione che potrebbe essere dipesa dal tipo e concentrazione metallo, sul genotipo considerato, e dall'organo della pianta analizzato, radici o steli. Con particolare riferimento a quest'ultimo fattore studiato, nelle radici e steli di *sylvestris* trattati con As, un significativo incremento dei livelli di espressione dei geni NRAMP3, ZIP11, ABCC1 e PHT è stato monitorato Da questi dati, il *sylvestris* risulta la varietà più tollerante e utilizzabile per la detossificazione dei terreni contaminati da metalli pesanti.

Future analisi saranno necessarie, per comprendere pienamente i meccanismi utilizzati dalla pianta di cardo, durante il trasporto e accumulo di metalli pesanti. La tecnica di RNAseq potrebbe mettere in un luce la presenza di altri geni strettamente coinvolti in tale meccanismo.

## Abstract

In plants, heavy metals stress may ultimately lead to serious consequences for human health. Cadmium (Cd) and arsenic (As) are frequently found in soils contaminated by mining or other industrial activities. Through food chain, these metals may enter into the human body, causing cardiovascular diseases and cancer. Cardoon (Cynara cardunculus L.) is a perennial crop, particularly adapted to the Mediterranean environment. It is able to accumulate heavy metals from polluted soils and thus it seems to tolerate this stress. The aim of this thesis was to characterize the transcriptional modulation of six genes that may be involved in the response to heavy metals stress and accumulation in C. cardunculus L.. The rate of seed germination of two different C. cardunculus varieties, altilis and sylvestris, was scored on agar plates medium containing Cd, As and Cd + As at 0, 10. 50, 100 and 200 µM concentrations. Transcriptional levels of Natural resistance of macrophage isoforms 1 (NRAMP1) and 3 (NRAMP3), Zinc/Iron Protein 11 (ZIP11), Heavy metal ATPase 3 (HMA3), Phosphate transporter 1 (PHT1) and ABC transporter C1 (ABCC1) were assayed by real time PCR in the two cardoon varieties, *altilis* and *sylvestris*, grown for two or three weeks on solid <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> MS medium containing Cd or As at 0, 25 and 50 µM concentrations. The results showed that both cardoon varieties were able to germinate under heavy metals contamination but just in sylvestris a clear correlation with an increased level of expression of genes involved in Cd and As transport was observed.

## Acknowledgments

I would like to begin by expressing my thanks to my tutor Dr. Raccuia for having me enable to do this wonderful experience.

I thank to my co-tutor Dr. Puglia Giuseppe for teaching me how carry out the research and for helping and supporting during these three years of PhD.

I thank to Prof. Aarts Mark and Post doc Akkers Robert for welcoming in Wageningen University to improve my research on analysis of transcriptional levels.

I thank to my colleagues/ friends for their help and their important support during these three years.

I thank to my family to their supports.

Finally, I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to my boyfriend/husband for his support and patience, being close to me in this great goal.

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PREFACE

This work was done in collaboration with:



CNR - AGROFOOD Department - Institute for

Mediterranean Agriculture and Forest Systems of Catania, which funded all the thesis work.



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UNIVERSITY & RESEARCH, University of Wageningen.

A part of this work was done with the research group of Prof. Mark Aarts, laboratory of genetic, University of Wageningen, Netherland.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

Environmental pollution, by chemicals in particular, is one of the key factors responsible for the destruction of important biosphere components, leading to serious and irreparable damages to earth. It can be classified in three different types: air, water and soil pollution. These affect human health and ecosystems. The principal criteria used to evaluate the contamination of toxic elements are: bioaccumulation, toxicity, and persistence. Air pollution is a harmful form of environmental pollution. Most metals in the atmosphere, are associated with particles, (diameter between 0.01 and 100 µm), in a gaseous state. The presence of these particles and their increase, have been clearly associate with the occurrence of lung cancer, asthma, allergies, and various respiratory problems. Water pollution is mainly caused by industrial waste products released into lakes, rivers, and other water bodies. Trace elements, especially metals, are present as suspended colloids or are fixed by organic and mineral substances. They may originate by either natural processes or man's activities. Historically soil and water pollution have been considered separately by environmental policy makers, but of lately, they are seen as synergistic factors that can seriously threat agricultural production and human health (Rajaganapathy et al., 2011).

#### Soil pollution

Soil pollution is defined by the presence of toxic chemicals (pollutants or contaminants) in concentrations high enough to pose a risk to human health and/or to the ecosystem. Soil is a very specific component of the biosphere because it is involved in the transport of chemical elements and substances to the atmosphere, hydrosphere and biota. However, its most important role for human health, relates to the quality and safety of agricultural products (Wuana, et al., 2011).

Soil contaminants include metals, inorganic ions and salts (e.g. phosphates, carbonates, sulphates, nitrates), and many organic compounds (such as lipids, proteins, DNA, fatty acids, hydrocarbons, PAHs, alcohols, etc.). Soil contamination caused by metals is largely dependent on the agricultural practices carried out in crop farms. In fact, some phosphate

fertilizers contain potentially toxic elements, including As, Cd, Cr, Pd, Hg, Ni, and V (Mortvedt, 1996.) and some pesticides contain Cu and As as part of their formulation (Quinton and Catt, 2007). It is through fertilizers and pesticides that the contaminant enters within the food chain, polluting drinking water, and fodder (Rajaganapathy et al., 2011). Skin contact, ingestion, inhalation, and dermal absorption are the ways that human health can be exposed to the risk (Elliot, 2001).

#### Heavy metals pollution

The heavy metals (HMs) are metals with high electronegative charge and density greater than 5 g/cm<sup>3</sup>. HMs threat the sulphide bond between HMW (high molecular weight) proteins in the living system, using the outer-shell electrons (Agarwal, 2009). This kind of pollution not only degrades the quality of the atmosphere, water bodies, and food crops, but also affects the human and animal health by the mean of food chain (Dong et al., 2011). Cadmium and arsenic are very dangerous for human health. Both are frequently found in soils contaminated by mining or other industrial activities (Govil et al., 2007), irrigated with waste-water, fertilizers, soil amendments and pesticides (fig.1).



Figure 1. Scheme of possible source of heavy metals in the soil. Mahara et al., / Ecotoxicology and Environmental Safety 126 (2016) 111 - 121

The pollution level and potential ecological risk of the soils decrease in the following order: urban areas > waste disposal/treatment sites ~ industrial areas > agricultural lands ~ forest lands > water source protection areas (Hu et al., 2013). Arsenic is a metalloid of great relevance in environmental pollution, because of its toxicity and abundance (Peralta-Videa et al., 2009). It is released into the environment from smelting and mining processes, agricultural practices, fabrication and consumption of wood preservatives and food additives (Aldrich et al., 2003). About 3.5 million sites in the EU were estimated to be potentially contaminated with 0.5 million sites being highly contaminated and needing remediation. 400,000 polluted sites have been scored in European countries such as Germany, England, Denmark, Spain, Italy, Netherlands and Finland while Sweden, France, Hungary, Slovakia and Austria have 200,000 contaminated sites or less (Fig. 2) (Perez, 2012).



Figure 2. Map of the world with evidenced the sites contaminated with As http://www.bgs.ac.uk/arsenic/

Toxicity of HMs is not limited to humans or animals, but affects many other organisms, including plants. Under HMs excess, the plants show a biomass reduction, leaf chlorosis, root growth inhibition, and morphological alterations (Yadav et al., 2010; AArts et al., 2012). In plants, these types of contamination can also induce the production of reactive oxygen species (ROS), increasing lipid peroxidation and oxidative stress (Srivastava et

al., 2005). In humans, HMs are considered carcinogenic, or toxic, capable of causing damages on the central nervous system, liver, kidneys, heart, lungs, skin, and reproduction (Johnson, 1997).

#### Cadmium



Cadmium (atomic number 48) is a silver-grey brittle crystalline solid with atomic weight of 112.414, specific gravity 8.69, melting point 321.069 °C (at 28 atm), boiling point 767 °C, and heat of evaporation 99.87 kJ/mol. It is one of the most toxic metals that has by far a greater bioavailability than lead, arsenic, or mercury. It is a no-essential element except in marine diatoms where it can replace zinc in a specific isoform of carbonic anhydrase (Lane et al., 2005; Xu et al., 2008). In nature Cd concentration is very low and in non-contaminated soil it varies from 0.01 to 5 mg kg<sup>-1</sup> of soil (Kabata-Pendias, 2004). Its bioavailability in soil depends on the concentration, pH, organic matter content, clay content, soil moisture conditions, and availability of macro- and micronutrients (Welch and Norvell, 1999). When it is in contact with humans (by the means of food chain) is accumulated in the kidney or liver. Accumulation in high levels causes stomach irritation leading to vomiting and diarrhea, and sometimes death. Cadmium impairs kidney function, reduces bone density favouring the occurrence of fractures (Fig. 3). The high amount of Cd in the human body has also been associated with breast cancer, cardiovascular diseases and obstructive pulmonary diseases (Toxicological Profile for Cadmium, 2012 ATSDR).

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Figure 3. Health effects of Cadmium. Retrieved from: Akram (2012).

Cadmium is easily taken up by plant roots and leaf concentration greater than 5-10 mg Cd Kg<sup>-1</sup> dry weight are toxic to most plants (Sanchez-Pardo et al., 2015). The uptake is achieved by those systems that operate for the absorption of essential micronutrients, mainly Zinc, iron, and calcium. High concentration of this metal in plants usually causes stunted growth, chlorosis, necrosis, leaf curling and epinasty, brown and stunted roots. It has been demonstrated that plants treated with cadmium exhibit a decrease of chlorophyll amount, with inhibition of enzymes involved in chlorophyll synthesis. This happens because the chemical structure of chlorophyll can be affected by a substitution of  $Mg^{2+}$ , with heavy-metal ions, such as Cd<sup>2+</sup> (Küpper et al., 1998). A number of species have evolved Cd high-tolerance phenotype, mainly through exclusion mechanisms (Clemens, 2006; Verbruggen et al., 2009; Kupper and Kochian, 2010). There are some rare plants that display an exceptional capacity to accumulate Cd in their hypogeal biomass. These plants are recognized as Cd hyperaccumulators. Noccaea caerulescens (Lombi et al., 2000), Arabidopsis halleri (Bert et al., 2003; Zhao et al., 2006), Noccaea praecox (Vogel-Mikus et al., 2008), Sedum alfredii (Yang et al., 2004; Deng et al., 2007), Arabis paniculata (Tang et al., 2009), Viola baoghanensis (Liu et al., 2004; Wu et al., 2010), and Potentilla griffithii (Wang et al., 2009) can be used to clean-up the soil from this metal.

#### Arsenic



Arsenic (As), atomic number 33, is a silver-grey brittle crystalline solid with atomic weight of 74.9, specific gravity 5.73, melting point 817°C (at 28 atm), boiling point 613°C, and vapour pressure 1 mm Hg at 372°C (Mohan and Pittman, 2007). It is odourless and tasteless. Arsenic can combine with other elements to form inorganic and organic arsenicals (National Ground Water Association, 2001). In the environment, it is combined with oxygen, chlorine, and sulphur to form inorganic arsenic compounds. Organic arsenic compounds are used as pesticides, primarily on cotton plants (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, 2005). The metalloid exists in the -3, 0, +3, and +5 valence oxidation states (Mohan and Pittman, 2007), and in a variety of chemical forms in natural waters and sediments (Hasegawa et al., 2009). Inorganic species, arsenite  $[As^{3+}]$  and arsenate  $[As^{5+}]$ , are the predominant species in most environments (Andrianisa et al., 2008). The pH, redox conditions, surrounding mineral composition, influence the form (inorganic or organic) and the oxidation state of As.  $As^{3+}$  is predominant in reduced redox potential conditions (Hasegawa et al., 2009). The trivalent compounds (arsenite) are more toxic than the pentavalent compounds (arsenates), which are thermodynamically more stable (Ampiah-Bonney et al., 2007; Vaclavikova et al., 2008). However, the trivalent methylated arsenic species is more toxic than inorganic arsenic because they cause DNA breakdown (Vaclavikova et al., 2008). Particularly when exposure occurs over prolonged periods, it affects the health of millions of people causing skin and nerve damages and having carcinogen effects (fig. 4). The uptake by humans mainly occurs through drinking As-contaminated water and eating plants grown in contaminated soil.

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## Dangers of lead and arsenic poisoning

Sources: Alliance to End Childhood Lead Poisoning and news wires

Figure 4. The effects of As in human health. Levin, et al., 2008.

As is toxic also for plants. It causes reduction of root elongation and branching, leaf chlorosis, and the shrinking and even necrosis of the plant aerial parts (Carbonell-Barrachina et al., 1998).

AsV is the primary plant-available form of As in most areas. The uptake in plants occurs via the inorganic phosphate (Pi) uptake system, because Pi transporters cannot distinguish between the similar electrochemical profiles of Pi and AsV (Sanchez-Pardo, 2015). It crosses the plasma membrane of root cells, and it is rapidly reduced to arsenite once inside the cytoplasm. Since arsenate and phosphate behave as analogues with respect to their uptake, arsenate toxicity is linked to phosphorus nutrition, and high levels of phosphate can mitigate arsenate toxicity (Esteban et al., 2003; Sanchez-Pardo, 2015). To overcome this problem, various methods have been used such as ex-situ or in-situ soil washing (Dikinya and Areola, 2010) or chemical immobilization/stabilization of heavy metals in soil (Wang et al., 2009; Houben et al., 2012). In fact, in the last decade the value of metalaccumulating plants for the environmental remediation of heavy metal polluted soil has attracted increasing interest (Hernandez-Allica et al., 2008). During the remediation process these toxic elements are extracted or stabilized by plants and metabolized in their tissues. Phytoremediation is considered an economically profitable method of exploiting plants to extract contaminants from soil (Padmavathiamma and Li, 2007).

#### 1.1 Phytoremediation

Phytoremediation basically refers to the use of plants and/or association to microorganisms to partially or completely recover selected contaminants from soil, sludge, sediments, wastewater and ground water. It can be used for removal of organic pollutants as well as heavy metals. The term "phytoremediation" is a combination of two words: Greek *phyto* (meaning plant) and Latin *remedium* (meaning to correct an evil). This process is relatively cost-effective, efficient and eco-friendly compared with other remediation techniques (Wan, et al., 2016). The technique includes different processes such as phytoextraction, phytofiltration, phytostabilization, phytovolatilization and phytodegradation (Fig. 5) (Alkorta et al., 2004).



Figure 5. Different mechanisms of phytoremediation in plants. http://tinyurl.com/kolj52p

During phytoextraction, the metal is translocated from roots to shoots, through important biochemical process. The phytofiltration is another process, which includes rhizofiltration (use of plant roots), blastofiltration (use of seedlings) or caulofiltration (use of excised plant shoots) (Mesjasz-Przybylowicz et al., 2004). During phytovolatilization, the heavy metals absorbed by plants are converted into volatile forms, and released into the atmosphere. This process is limited by the fact that the metal is not completely removed but rather transferred from one medium (soil or water) to another (atmosphere), and can re-enter into soil and water. To reduce bioavailability and mobility of metals, the plants use two processes: phytostabilization or phytoimmobilization. By these processes the

plants reduce the toxic elements concentration in the soil and prevent food chain contamination (Dixit, et al., 2015). In the rhizosphere plants perform the immobilization of heavy metals by absorption through roots, precipitation and complex-formation or metal valence reduction (Poschenrieder, 2003). The plants metabolize organic pollution by the mean of enzymes such as dehalogenase and oxygenase, which are not dependent on rhizospheric microorganisms (Vishnoi and Srivastava, 2008).



Figure 6. Scheme on the advantage and limitation of the phytoremediation. (Tangahu, et al., 2011)

During phytoextraction, specific plant species can absorb and hyperaccumulate metal contaminants and/or excess of nutrients in harvestable root and shoot in soils. This process breaks down complex organic molecules into simpler molecule contaminants (EPA, U., 2000; Prassad, et al., 2003). There are different problems on phytoremediation use. In fact, harvested plant biomass resulting from phytoextraction may be classified as a hazardous waste, hence, disposal should be properly done. Contaminants may still enter the food chain through animals/insects that eat plant material containing toxic elements (Fig. 6) (Tangahu, at al., 2011).

In fact, for phytoremediation technology, expert project designers are required to select relevant species adapted for specific metals and regions (Alkorta et al., 2004). The plants to be used should not include food crops and this satisfies green chemistry material requirements (fig.7). Green chemistry, indeed, is an area of chemistry that uses agricultural raw materials with low environmental impact to create an innovative range of bio-products (bio-plastics, bio-lubricants), home and personal care products, plant protection, additives for the rubber (www.matrica.it).



Figure 7. The approach of green technology for cleaning the soil from heavy metals. Braz. J. Plant, 2005

As regards to heavy metal tolerance and accumulation, the plants are classified into three categories:

- *excluders*: plants which have high levels of heavy metals in the roots with shoot/root quotients lower than 1 (Boularbah et al., 2006);
- *indicators*: plant which reflects metal levels in the soil (Baker, 1995);
- *accumulators*: plant species that concentrate metals in their tissues to levels far exceeding those present in soil (Mganga et al., 2011).

Plants that accumulate high concentrations of metals in their shoots are called hyperaccumulators. These can take up toxic metal ions at level of thousands of ppm and the shoot-to-root metal concentration ratio is greater than one. Hyperaccumulators can concentrate heavy metals like Cd, Zn, Co, Mn, Ni, and Pb up to 100 or 1000 times those taken up by nonaccumulator (excluder) plants. Non-accumulating plants typically have a shoot-to-root ratio considerably less than one. Multiple mechanisms are involved in the tolerance of metal toxicity. Storage in the vacuole appears to be a major one. Some plant species have been identified for soil remediation including either no food high biomass plants (Landberg and Greger, 1996) or low biomass plants with high hyper-accumulating features such as *Thlaspi* and *Arabidopsis* species.

#### **1.2** Cynara cardunculus L.

Cardoon is a perennial species, belonging to Asteraceae family, particularly well adapted to the Mediterranean environments (Zohary and Basnizki, 1975; Raccuia et al., 2004a). It comprises three taxa, *C. cardunculus* L. subsp. *scolymus* (L.) Hegi = *C. cardunculus* L. var. *scolymus* (L.) Hayek (globe artichoke), *C. cardunculus* L. var. *altilis* DC. (leafy or domestic cardoon), and *C. cardunculus* L. var. *sylvestris* Lam. (wild cardoon), considered to be the wild ancestor of globe artichoke (Fig. 11) (Rottenberg and Zohary, 1996; Raccuia et al., 2004b).



Figure 11. Cynara cardunculus varieties. a) C. cardunculus L. var. scolymus (L.) Hayek (globe artichoke); b) C. cardunculus L. var. altilis DC. (domestic cardoon); C. cardunculus L. var. sylvestris Lam. (wild cardoon).

The aerial biomass is harvested every year at the end of the growth cycle. During that time, the plant canopy dries up and the fruits become ripe. Later on - when the climate conditions are favourable - some buds of the plant stock sprout and a leaf rosette is gradually formed. This is the beginning of a new growth cycle. The aboveground biomass produced is harvested once a year, in summer time (Fernandez et al., 2006). Cardoon could be considered as a facultative halophyte. It can grow on slightly saline soils. When salt level rises growth is inhibited (Raccuia et al., 2004a; Benlloch-Gonzàlez et al., 2005). For this feature it represents a species especially suitable for phytoremediation.

#### **1.2.1** Uses of Cynara cardunculus

Each Cynara cardunculus variety is used for a specific purpose.

Globe artichoke plays an important role in human nutrition, especially in the Mediterranean region. It is acknowledged for the benefits associated with its antioxidant contents (polyphenolic compounds) and for the presence of inulin which is a soluble food fibre that cannot be digested by humans and it is used as low-caloric replacement for fat (Lattanzio et al., 2009; Raccuia and Melilli, 2010). Globe Artichoke is also known as antidiabetic, choleretic, diuretic, cardiotonic agent (Kukic et al., 2008). Caffeic acid derivatives are the main phenolic compounds in artichoke heads and leaves, with a wide range of caffeoylquinic acid derivatives. Chlorogenic acid (5-*O*-caffeoylquinic acid) is the most important of these derivatives. Inulin belongs to a group of fructose-based polysaccharides called fructans, which are not digested in the small intestine because humans can't hydrolyse the fructan chain. For this reason is a low-caloric fibre that has potential for use in the production of fat-reduced foods (Frehner et al., 1984; Rapaille et al., 1995; Hellwege et al., 2000).

Leafy cardoon is an intensive growth crop with a high production of epigeal biomass, roots and grain used for green chemistry (Raccuia and Melilli, 2007, 2010). It is a very promising energy and biofuel crop. Its biomass has different uses. The lignocellulosic biomass is used for alternative energy production (solid biofuel) by combustion, pyrolysis and gasification (Gonzales, et al., 2004; Ochoa and Fandos, 2004). Biomass residues pellets combustion for domestic heating and raw material for green chemistry. With regard to the latter purpose, biomass can be used to prepare biodiesel from either the oil extracted from *C. cardunculus* L. seeds or the lignocellulosic fraction (Toscano et al., 2016).

#### **1.2.2** Cardoon for phytoremediation

In early studies, *C. cardunculus* was shown to be able of growing in a polluted environment. Hernandez-Allica (2007) reported that cardoon is able to translocate to the shoots the metal-chelate complexes (EDTA - Pb, Cd or Zn) even at high concentration levels. Into the stele EDTA (ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid) increases the root flux through the apoplast and then increases the metal shoot/root ratio. In addition, the Pb–EDTA complex is known to be less phytotoxic than free Pb<sup>2+</sup> or protonated EDTA metals (Tandy et al., 2006). Furthermore, EDTA combined with metals can reduce metal toxicity and, at the same time, efficiently enhance shoot accumulation increasing metal absorption and translocation via apoplast pathway.

Papazoglou et al., (2011) reported that under Cd treatment *C. cardunculus* grows and develops in a similar way as in the absence of cadmium showing no evident phytotoxicty symptoms. Furthermore, *C. cardunculus* has an efficient Cd translocation system from roots to shoots and growth is unaffected by the uptake activity. *C. cardunculus* can be initially considered as a Cd accumulator, because under elevated Cd soil concentrations, it shows high tolerance and accumulation in plant organs. The translocation factor from roots to shoots is higher than one. In contrast, cardoon does not tolerate elevated Ni concentrations, and could not be considered as Ni accumulators.

Llugany et al., in 2012 showed that root elongation in *C. cardunculus* plants, a reliable indicator for Cd sensitivity (Vázquez et al., 1992), is reduced of approximately 10% after 5 weeks of exposure to 5  $\mu$ M Cd. The leaves of treated plants displayed the same length respect to the untreated control. The metal is translocated from roots to shoots. In contrast, in presence of arsenic, As III or As V, cardoon retained the metal in the roots and phytoextraction is not feasible. According to these results, *C. cardunculus* plants can indeed be considered as good candidates for phytoremediation, and can be used as an energy crop on As polluted soils.

Recent studies (Spagnuolo, et al., 2017), reported that *C. cardunculus* is able to accumulate Cd and Pb in its organs. In fact, the distribution of the Cd between shoots and roots is homogeneous and the plants did not show any effect on photochemistry. Pb, instead, is accumulated only in roots. Cd caused the increase of the level of Rubisco and D1, two enzymes involved in photosynthesis, a response that is useful to neutralize

chloroplast damage and enhance photosynthesis efficiency. The accumulation of Pb in root, can explain the high increase of the HSP70 level induced in this organ in Pb-treated plants.

Recently, Leonardi (2017), showed that the combination of As and Cd compounds increased the resistance of plants promoting survival. Therefore, depending on metals concentration and the presence or absence of Cd, plants could be used as excluders of As in As-contaminated sites, or accumulators in sites co-contaminated by As and Cd, respectively.

#### 1.3 Heavy metals cellular metabolism

In general, plants with higher ability to reduce the toxicity effects are able to survive in heavy metal/metalloid contaminated sites and are promising candidates for phytoremediation purposes. Arsenic hyperaccumulation capacity seems to be confined to the Pteridaceae family of ferns. Cd hyperaccumulation is present only in some populations of *T. caerulescens, T. praecox*, and *Arabidopsis halleri*, all belonging to the *Brassicaceae* family, and *Sedum alfredii* (Crassulaceae). The use of several chelating agents, such as EDTA (ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid), EDDHA (ethylenediamine di(o-hyroxyphenylacetic acid), EGTA (ethylene glycol-O,O'-bis-[2-amino-ethyl]-N,N,N',N',-tetraacetic acid), and citric acid, has been used to enhance phytoextraction by mobilizing metals and increasing metal accumulation (Cooper et al., 1999).

To understand the mechanisms supporting phytoextraction of heavy metals, different gene expression studies with different type of metals (As, Cd, Zn, Fe etc.) and different concentrations of these (5, 10, 50...200  $\mu$ M) have been carried out. A large array of genes are constitutively highly expressed in Cd hyperaccumulators compared to a non-hyperaccumulating closely related species. Until now, transport to the storage organs, chelation, efflux from the plant body, or subcellular compartmentalization are the most common mechanisms used for detoxification. The similarity between Zn and P to Cd and As respectively, causes the toxicity of the latter because they tend to replace Zn and P in cellular metabolism.

#### 1.3.1 Genes associated with heavy metals transport

The plant use specific low-molecular-weight chelators to detoxify trace metal (-loid)s. By the mean of these proteins the contaminants are transported into the vacuoles. The uptake of Cd from the soil seems to occur mainly via Ca<sup>2+</sup>, Fe<sup>2+</sup>, Mn<sup>2+</sup>, and Zn<sup>2+</sup> transporters. The best-studied non-specific transporter is the ZIP IRT1, which is the major transporter responsible for high-affinity iron, zinc and consequently cadmium uptake from the soil. However, in T. caerulescens, model plant for Cd accumulation, there is no evidence that TcIRT1 can transport Cd from soil to roots and shoots. The As(V) is potentially toxic because can substitute for phosphate in phosphorylation reactions, including ATP synthesis, instead As(III) is mainly assimilated through members of the NIP (nodulin 26like intrinsic protein) subfamily of aquaporins (Verbruggen, et al., 2009) (Fig. 9). Toxicity of As(III) like that of Cd is probably primarily due to high sulphydryl reactivity. Both metals causes oxidative stress, and can deplete reduced glutathione, an important cellular antioxidant, through the formation of As(III)-glutathione or Cd-glutathione complexes [As(III)-GS3 or Cd(II)- GS2] and As(III)-induced or Cd-induced phytochelatin (PC) synthesis. Stress-responsive MAP kinases seem to be involved in transcriptional responses to Cd as they are activated possibly by ROS under Cd<sup>2+</sup> excess. Different genes are associated with HMs tolerance or accumulation.

Investigation on genes possibly involved in the response to heavy metals in Cynara cardunculus L.



Figure 9. Mechanisms to cope with arsenic or cadmium excess in plants. Verbruggen, et al., 2008.

#### **GLUTATHIONE**

The tripeptide glutathione (Glu-Cys-Gly), GSH, is synthesized by gammaglutamylcysteine synthetase (g-ECS) and glutathione synthetase (GS). It is involved in the control of cellular redox balance. Increasing GSH synthesis is considered a means of increasing metal (loid) binding capacity as well as a way to increase cellular defence against oxidative stress. GSH and Phytochelatins (PCs) chelate heavy metals and metalloids such as Cd, Cu, and As, facilitating their sequestration into vacuoles (Cobbett, 2000; Pilon-Smits, 2005).

#### PHYTOCHELATIN

Phytochelatin (PC) is a oligomers family characterised by the general structure (gGlu-Cys)n-Gly where n = 2-11. Synthesized from GSH, the reaction is catalysed by PC synthase (PCS). PCS is constitutively expressed, but to be active requires post-translational activation by metal(loid)s, as As and Cd. This protein is found in all plants, some fungi and animals. The formation of As–GS3 or Cd–GS2 thiolates, which act as high-affinity substrates for the enzyme, seems to be sufficient for its activation. PC

synthesis seems to be the main factor for basal Cd and As tolerance but not in hypertolerant plants or hyperaccumulators (Verbruggen et al., 2009). The induction of PC synthesis depends on the combination of PCSs and hazardous elements. Only As(III) can bind to thiols and activate PCS. PC synthesis under As(V) exposure may be limited by the arsenate reductase capacity, rather than by PC synthetic capacity itself.

This might explain why only combined expression of g-ECS and arsenate reductase (ArsC) substantially increased As(V) tolerance in *A. thaliana*. Heavy metal are immobilized in the endocellular compartment by complexation with organic acids, like malate, oxalate (Lutts et al., 2004), and malonate (Clemens, 2001), and PCs carries out sequestration (Gadapati and Macfie, 2006; Mishra et al., 2006), compartmentation into vacuoles (Kramer et al., 2000; Shevyakova et al., 2003) or simply blocking by epidermal cells (Solís-Domínguez et al., 2007).

#### ZRT-IRT-LIKE PROTEIN

ZRT-IRT-like Protein (ZIP) family were the first metal transporters to be identified in plants (Eide et al., 1996). Fifteen ZIP genes have been identified in *A. thaliana*, based on whole genome sequencing. They are transporters of divalent cations including  $Zn^{2+}$ ,  $Fe^{2+}$ ,  $Mn^{2+}$  and  $Cd^{2+}$  (Guerinot, 2000) and their expression is regulated by plant metal status that reflects environmental metal levels. ZIP proteins have eight putative transmembrane domains (TM) and contain a histidine repeat in the variable region that has been proposed as the metal binding and/or sensing site (Grossoehme et al., 2006).

*AtIRT1* transporter is involved in Fe and Cd uptake (Gallego et al., 2012; Romè et al., 2016), and with the other ZIP proteins transfer these metals from soil to roots (Guerinot, 2000). *ZNT1* and *ZNT2* are highly expressed in the roots of *T. caerulescens* while expression is barely responsive to the Zn status in the other parts of the plants (McGrath, et al., 2003). *ZNT1* and *ZNT2* show high-affinity uptake for  $Zn^{2+}$  as well as low-affinity uptake for  $Cd^{2+}$ . *AtZIP2* and *AtZIP4* are associated with Cd uptake in Cd treated plants, but their expression decreased significantly in Cd+Ca-treated plants (Aarts, et al., 2009).

#### HEAVY METAL TRANSPORTING ATPase

The P1B-type ATPases are a class of proteins, also named HMAs (Heavy Metal transporting ATPases), that operate in heavy metals transport and play a role in metal homeostasis and tolerance. In A. thaliana there are eight P1B-type ATPase members, subdivided into two major subgroups depending to the metal transported (Baxter et al., 2003). AtHMA1 to AtHMA4 classify into the Zn/Cd/Co/Pb transporting subgroup, while AtHMA5 to AtHMA8 belong to the Cu/Ag transporting subgroup, although AtHMA1 has also been shown to transport Zn, Cu and Ca (Axelsen and Palmgren, 1998; Kim et al., 2009). The P1B-ATPase HMA3 seems to be also involved in the vacuolar storage of Cd in non-hyperaccumulators, as demonstrated in A. thaliana (Verbruggen, et al., 2009). TcHMA3 belongs to the P1B-type ATPase subfamily. Members of this group transport several heavy metal ions from the cytosol to organelles or out of the cell (Williams and Mills, 2005). TcHMA3, in Cd hyperaccumulating ecotypes, is expressed in leaves where it is involved in transport and accumulation into the vacuole. By contrast, in species that are not hyper-accumulator, such as A. thaliana, the metal is transported to cells of the shoot such as hydathodes and guard cells (only in these type of cells) and does not accumulate in other leaf cells. In roots, HMA3 is predominantly expressed in the pericycle cells (Morel et al., 2009), and before xylem transport, the metal can be stored into the vacuole (Ueno, et al., 2011). The HMA4 role is to allow Cd and Zn efflux from the root symplasm into the xylem vessels, necessary for shoot hyperaccumulation. Its expression is up-regulated when these plants are exposed to high levels of Cd and Zn, whereas it is down-regulated in non-hyperaccumulator plants. Interestingly, the increased expression of HMA4 enhances the expression of genes belonging to the ZIP family, implicated in heavy metal uptake. This strongly suggests that the root-to-shoot translocation acts as a driving force of the hyperaccumulation (M. Hanikenne et al., 2008).

#### NATURAL RESISTANCE OF MACROPHAGES

NRAMPs, are membrane spanning proteins, characterized by nearly 12 highly hydrophobic transmembrane domains. They define a ubiquitous family of metal transporters with several homologues in fungi, animals, plants and bacteria (Cellier et al., 1995). Some Arabidopsis NRAMPs (AtNRAMP1, AtNRAMP3 and AtNRAMP4) are high affinity Fe transporters (Curie et al., 2000; Thomine et al., 2003), and AtNRAMP1, AtNRAMP3 and AtNRAMP4 are also associated with Mn transport (Cailliatte et al., 2010; Lanquar et al., 2010). In addition, several studies reported that NRAMPs also retain heavy metals transport (Ni and Cd) ability (Thomine et al., 2003; Oomen et al., 2009). In rice, OsNRAMP1 expression is induced during As stress at the same time of other stress responsive genes, transporters, heat-shock proteins, metallothioneins and sulphatemetabolizing proteins (Gautam et al., 2012). Furthermore, a few reports have revealed that As uptake in rice root is related to Fe availability in the soil and its accumulation was correlated with Fe in rice tissues (Zhao et al., 2010; Rahman et al., 2011). In transgenic rice lines over-expressing NRAMP1, significant higher accumulation of As was recorded in comparison to Wild Type.

NRAMP3 and NRAMP4 are responsible for  $Cd^{2+}$  efflux from the vacuole. Their overexpression increased Cd sensitivity in *Arabidopsis* and they are responsible for the release of vacuolar Fe<sup>2+</sup>. In *T. caerulescens* these are overexpressed both in roots and shoots where their roles are still unclear. The up-regulation of AtNRAMP4 in roots and shoots upon Cd stress may also be a consequence of Cd-induced decrease in Fe availability. The decrease of essential metals under Cd stress could be caused by the inability to recycle Fe and Mn from the vacuole into the chloroplast. Mn is involved in PSII photo activation, and Cd replacing the Mn in the PSII (Faller et al., 2005). For this reason Cd inhibits photosynthesis, by inhibiting PSII it activates a continual cycle of damage and repair (Edelman and Mattoo, 2008; Mollins, 2012).

#### PHOSPHATE TRANSPORTER

In plants, phosphate transport is involved in Arsenate uptake from the soil to the roots (Abedin et al., 2002; Meharg and Hartley-Whitaker, 2002; Wang et al., 2002). In *Pteris* 

*vittata* the influx of arsenate was strongly reduced by the presence of phosphate in the uptake solution. In *Arabidopsis*, overexpression of PHT1 or PHT7 causes hypersensitivity to arsenate, due to increased arsenic uptake, while arsenic resistance is enhanced through YCF1-mediated vacuolar sequestration (Smith, et al., 2013). The arsenate uptake is enhanced in P-deficient plants, as reported in barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) (Lee, 1982), and in the As non-resistant population of *H. lanatus* (Meharg et al., 2002). *P. vittata* can also hyperaccumulate As, when present as arsenite, but the uptake does not share the same transport systems for phosphate. In the absence of phosphate in the uptake solution, *P. vittata* assumed As (III) very slowly, at a rate that was about one-tenth of the arsenate influx, (Wang, et al., 2002).

#### ARSENATE REDUCTASE 2

Arsenate reductase (ACR2), like AtACR2 in *Arabidopsis* and OsACR2.1 and OsACR2.2 in rice, may be involved in AsV reduction (Dhankher et al., 2006; Duan et al., 2007). However, more recent evidence showed that canonical ACR2 arsenate reductase probably does not play a significant role in arsenate reduction (Liu et al., 2012; Chao et al., 2014). Instead, a novel arsenate reductase, HAC1 (High Arsenic Content1) (Chao et al., 2014), is critical for AsV reduction and AsV tolerance in *Arabidopsis*. This protein reduces AsV to AsIII in the outer cell layer of the roots, causing AsIII efflux out into the external environment (Chao et al., 2014).

#### ABCC1

AtABCC1 and AtABCC2, in *Arabidopsis*, mediate AsIII–PC complex transport to the vacuole. The overexpression of AtABCC1 increases As tolerance only when co-expressed with PCS, indicating the cooperation of PC synthesis and AsIII–PC complex transporters in plant As detoxification (Song et al., 2010).

The two genes are not synthesized de novo but they are constitutively present in a plant cell to rapidly respond to toxic metal (loid)s and xenobiotic stresses. In root rice, OsABCC1 is expressed in the exodermis and pericycle inducing the biosynthesis of thiol compounds that bind to As in cytoplasm (Song et al., 2014). Overexpressing transporters

for As sequestration in the shoots may lead to As accumulation in plants (Zhu and Rosen, 2009; Guo et al., 2012).





However, overexpression in the roots may decrease As accumulation in the shoots, because the metals is storage only in root and the uptake can not happen (Zhu and Rosen, 2009; Ueno et al., 2010). Because complexation of AsIII by thiols is a critical step for As transport into the vacuoles, in plants simultaneously expressing the ABC transporters and PC synthase, the rate-limiting step in PC biosynthesis, may maximize As sequestration (Fig. 10) (Chen, et al., 2017). As(V) exhibits a complex metabolism in plants, and apparently accumulation of PC–As complexes in the cytosol induces mechanisms that reduce the transfer of arsenic to the shoot (Song, et al., 2010).

## 2 Aim of work

Phytoremediation is a technique where specific plants are used for removing toxic elements, such as heavy metals, from contaminated soils. In order to preserve the quality of soils, waters and food, the use of specific plants for contaminants removal is considered an environmentally friendly technology, safe and cheap (Cunningham et al., 1995). Insofar, few studies have investigated about the molecular mechanisms that in plants are involved in heavy metal tolerance as a part of the more general phytoremediation response (Pollard et al., 2002).

In this PhD thesis we studied the response mechanisms to heavy metals stress in *Cynara cardunculus* L., with the aim of using this plant for phytoremediation purposes.

This research was carried out analysing the following different aspects:

- The influence of the genotype on seed germination in soil contaminated with Cd, As and a combination(s) of Cd + As;
- 2. The influence of these heavy metals on seedling growth;
- 3. The identification of cardoon orthologous of plant genes associated with heavy metals transport and accumulation;
- 4. The transcriptional modulation of genes involved in the response to different heavy metals stresses, in different genotypes and at different metal concentrations and the similarity of the gene expression response, activation or down regulation, between cardoon and accumulator model plants.

## 3 Materials and methods

During this research activity, five different trials were carried out to investigate on genes associated with heavy metals accumulation in *C. cardunculus*: germination test, seedling growth analysis, identification of genes associated with heavy metals transport, identification of genes usable as housekeeping genes, and analysis of the gene expression levels. Below are explicated the methodology used.

#### 3.1 Plant materials

For the different trials of this study, three genotypes were assessed: two wild cardoon genotype (*sylvestris*) and one domestic cardoon variety (*altilis*). All the three genotypes belonged to the *C. cardunculus* L. genetic bank of the section of U.O.S. Catania of the 'Istituto sui Sistemi Agricoli e Forestali del Mediterraneo (ISAFOM) CNR (Italy).

In particular, for the germination tests, we considered all three genotypes. The wild cardoon populations were collected in two very different sites of Eastern Sicily: the first placed at 900 m above sea level in the territory of Randazzo (CT) within Nebrodi Regional Park (R14CT) and the second placed in the territory of Augusta (SR) at 4 m above sea level within the industrial area (A14SR). The domestic cardoon (*Cynara cardunculus* var. *altilis* DC.), is a selected line to produce biomass for use in Green Chemistry by CNR-ISAFOM UOS Catania. The seed of all three genotype were harvested in the year 2014.

To carry out the molecular analyses, the seeds of the line of domestic cardoon (*Cynara cardunculus* var. *altilis* DC.) collected during the summer 2015, were grown in incubator at 25/15 °C and 12h of photoperiod and germinated seeds (GS) are used to identify the presence of genes associated with heavy metals transport.

To find the housekeeping genes usable during gene expression analyses, five different stages of plant cycle of *C. cardunculus* var. *altilis,* collected in 2015, were used: water imbibed seed (IDS), germinated seeds (GS), young leaf (YL), flower open head (capitulum) (OC4), and flower closed capitulum (CC1). IDS and GS samples were grown

in incubator at 25/15 °C and 12h of photoperiod. The seeds were sown with 3 mL bidistilled water on Whatman filter paper and were harvested respectively after 24 h and 48 h since imbibition time. YL, OC4 and CC1 samples were grown in the field where YL represents young leaf stage, CC1 the flower primordial and OC4 the final stage of heads flowering.

Three biological replicates were used in this study for the different conditions. All samples after harvesting were immediately frozen in liquid nitrogen and stored at -80 °C.

For the gene expression analyses, the seeds of *altilis* genotype and wild cardoon (A14SR) were collected during the summer 2015. The seeds were surface-sterilized with 0.5% (w/v) sodium hypochlorite for 1 minute, followed by three thorough rinses with sterile water. Three biological replicates, each of which, consist of two plants, were germinated and grew in  $\frac{1}{2}$  MS solid Medium with 0, 25 and 50  $\mu$ M of Cadmium Sulphate hydrate and Sodium Arsenate di–basic heptahydrate, in 20/25 °C of temperature and 12h light/dark cycle photoperiod.

The plants were harvested after two and three weeks, separated into shoots and roots, and immediately frozen in liquid nitrogen. The samples were grinded with sterile mortar and pestle in liquid nitrogen, and 100 mg of tissue were used for RNA extraction.

#### **3.2 Germination tests**

The experiments were carried out in agar medium contaminated with Cd and As at different concentrations (Di Salvatore et al., 2008). The solid medium consists in 9% plant agar and bidistilled water, at 5.5 - 6.0 pH. The seeds of R14CT, A14SR and "Altilis" were used for these tests.

The trials were conducted using a completely randomized block design with five replications. Three treatments were investigated: Cd, As and combined Cd + As solutions. Four different metal concentrations were used per treatment (10  $\mu$ M, 50  $\mu$ M, 100  $\mu$ M and 200  $\mu$ M), no metal concentration was used for the control (CTRL). To remove the issues associated with using variable form of metal salts as a source of heavy metals we used a pure single metal element solution (ICP standard solution, Sigma Aldrich) which has certified guaranteed purity (99.99 %) (Bae et al., 2014).

Seeds were surface-sterilized with 5% (w/v) sodium hypochlorite for 15 minutes, followed by three thorough rinses with sterile water. Then they were sown on Petri dishes, thirty per plate, containing 25 mL of agar medium supplemented, after autoclave sterilization, with heavy metals alone and combined at different concentration as described above and placed in a growth chamber under a 12/12 h light/dark cycle photoperiod at 25/15 °C thermoperiod. Germination was determined at 24 h intervals until no further germinated seeds were observed for three consecutive days. The seeds were considered germinated when there was radicle protrusion through the seed coat. Germination percentage was calculated by the ratio between the total number of germinated seeds and total number of seeds germinated at 0  $\mu$ M (this value was considered 100 %).

#### 3.3 Seedlings growth analysis

The experiment was carry out on *altilis* and *sylvestris* seedlings, growth in  $\frac{1}{2}$  MS medium under 0  $\mu$ M, 25  $\mu$ M and 50  $\mu$ M of Cd and As, at 20/25 °C and 12h photoperiod. The seedlings were harvested after 3 weeks, separated into shoot and root, and the length was measured. Shoot height was measured from culms base to the tip of the longest leaf and

root length was measured from the root-shoot junction to the tip of the longest root. These plant materials were used for the gene expression analysis.

## 3.4 Identification of cardoon genes likely associated with heavy metals transport and accumulation

To asses in cardoon the presence of the genes that usually are involved in heavy metals transport, different methodologies were carried out.

#### 3.4.1 RNA extractions

The RNA extraction, was performed on Germinated seeds (GS) without metal. 100 mg of seedling was grinded with mortar and pestle in liquid nitrogen. Total RNA was extracted using RNeasy Plant Mini Kit (QIAGEN, Germany), whose technology allows to capture RNA on a silica membrane spin filter. During the reaction, the DNase treatment was made to remove the gDNA residual. The extract was analysed with QIAxcell instrument by the mean of capillary electrophoresis, that measures the pick of 18S and 28S rRNA (the most abundant). The RNA purity and integrity were asses considering RIS number (RNA integrity score)., Reverse transcription reactions were performed by using ImProm-II<sup>TM</sup> Reverse Transcription System (Promega, Madison USA) according to the manufacturer's instructions. 1 µg of total RNA was used for the cDNA synthesis.

#### 3.4.2 Primer designing

To design the cloning primers for the genes of interest, the complete cds of other plants, such as *Arabidopsis* or *N. caerulescens*, were blasted, with BLASTx algorithm available at the NCBI website (http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov), against *Cynara* database (taxid: 59895). GI number obtained for each gene, was searched inside the artichoke genome sequences (Scaglione et al., 2016). Then we aligned the genomic cardoon sequences against the complete cds of the model plants using Clustal  $\Omega$  program (Sieveres et al., 2011). In the conserved domain, with high identity, we designed the cloning primers, using primer3 website (Rozen et al., 1999). We tried to amplify the entire sequence, using

two pairs of primers, one on the first part of the sequence, one on the last part, with an overlap region.

#### 3.4.3 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)

The polymerase chain reaction was used to understand if the genes are expressed in cardoon, and to obtain the RNA sequences in *C. cardunculus*. The cDNA was used as template to amplify the selected genes using cloning primers and PCR products were analysed on a 1.5% agarose gel.

The PCR was performed with PerfectTaq DNA polymerase (5 PRIME, Hilden, Germania), according to the manufacturer's instructions.

For the reaction 700 ng of cDNA were used. Different annealing temperatures were considered for the different genes amplified. The PCR products were check by the mean of Electrophorese on agarose gel at 1.5 %, and Gel Red is used as intercalates.

#### 3.4.4 Cloning and miniprep

The PCR products that showed a single band in agarose gel, were cloned into the pJET vector (CloneJET PCR Cloning Kit, Thermo Scientific). This vector contains a lethal gene eco47IR enables positive selection of recombinant plasmid, which is disrupted by ligation of a DNA insert into the cloning site (Fig.12).
Investigation on genes possibly involved in the response to heavy metals in Cynara cardunculus L.



Figure 12. Map of pJET1.2/blunt vector, with the restriction sites evidenced. Eco47IR is the lethal gene, bla is the gene that caused the Ampicillin resistance.

Only the cells with recombinant plasmids were able to propagate. The growth medium was LB - ampicillin (50 mg/L) plates, pH 7.0. After 12h at 37 °C the colonies were picked, put in 1 mL sterile water and a part stored in a LB - ampicillin plates for the future analyses, and a part vortexed for 10 sec. 10 µL of the latter, were used as template for the screening of the recombinant clones during colony PCR. The amplification was carried out with Taq My Taq at Ta of 60 °C. The vector primers used were: pJET1.2 forward sequencing primer 5'- CGACTCACTATAGGGAGAGCGGC- 3' and pJET1.2 reverse sequencing primer 5'- AAGAACATCGATTTTCCATGGCAG- 3' that are at the positions 310 and 428 of the vector respectively. The PCR products were verified on agarose gel at 1.5 %. Positive clones were incubated for 16 h at 37 °C in LB Lennox liquid broth with ampicillin. Plasmid DNA was extracted by the means of QIAprep Miniprep Kits (QIAGEN, Germany), that uses silica membrane technology (Fig. 13) and amplified using vector primers and Taq My Taq. Quantitative and qualitative analyses of extracted plasmid DNA were performed by using spectrophotometer.

Investigation on genes possibly involved in the response to heavy metals in Cynara cardunculus L.



Figure 13. Scheme of miniprep protocol, with the resuspension, column binding, column washing, DNA elution phases showed.

The sequences were analysed using Sanger method, with vector primers and the results were investigated with bioinformatics tools.

### 3.4.5 **Bioinformatics tools**

The 5' and 3' sequences of the genes obtained from sequencing were used to make the contigs using CodonCode software. Then the constructs were evaluated by comparing them with the nucleotide sequences deposited in National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) databases using the BLASTn algorithm. The sequences were blasted against all DNA and protein databases, and against *Cynara cardunculus* var. *scolymus* (taxid: 59895) using the BLASTx algorithm available at the NCBI website (http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov). The contigs were translate with Expasy program (Artimo et al., 2012) and the amino acidic sequences were blasted against all database and against *Cynara cardunculus* var. *scolymus* (taxid: 59895) with BLASTp algorithm. The sequences were aligned with the nucleotide and amino acidic sequences with the higher score during blast analyses, by using of Clustal  $\Omega$  program (Sieveres et al., 2011) and BioEdit program. (Hall, 1999).

### 3.5 Housekeeping gene isolation

Seven genes were selected to obtained reference genes for further quantitative analysis in cardoon plant. GAPDH (glyceraldehyde 3-phosphate dehydrogenase),  $\beta$ -TUBULIN, ACTIN, ELONGATION FACTOR, 18S, ANAPHASE PROMOTING COMPLEX and TRASDUCIN/WD40 were investigated. To obtain the sequence of the genes in cardoon plant, the sequences of DNA from *Arabidopsis* were selected and used as reference (Dekkers et al., 2012). The protocols used for the RNA extraction, cloning primer

designing, cloning and sequence analysis were the same of that described above, in paragraph 3.4.1. –.3.4.5. GS samples were used as template for PCR analyses.

### **3.5.1 Primer designing for qPCR**

To design the primers for the qPCR, Primer3 website (Rozen et al., 1999) was used. The parameters used for GAPDH,  $\beta$ -TUBULIN, ACTIN, ELONGATION FACTOR, 18S, ANAPHASE PROMOTING COMPLEX, WD40 (reference genes) were 70-150 bp the length of amplicones and 60-64 °C the melting temperature. The program used was Primer3 (Rozen et al., 1999).

### 3.5.2 qPCR

To analyse the stability of the reference genes Real time PCR was carried out. 100 ng of water imbibed seed (IDS), germinated seeds (GS), young leaf (YL), flower open head (capitulum) (OC4), and flower closed capitulum (CC1) cDNA and QuantiNova<sup>TM</sup> SYBR® Green PCR Kit (QIAGEN, Germany) were used. Three technical replicates were made for each sample. The RT–qPCRs were run on a Rotor Gene-6000 (QIAGEN, Germany) with the following condition: first step at 95 °C for 2 min and afterwards 40 cycles alternating between 5 s at 95 °C and 10 s at 63 °C. Each 20 µL reaction mixture consisted of: 10 µLof 2x QuantiNova SYBR Green PCR Master Mix, 1.25 µL each of forward and reverse primer (10 µM), and 1 µL of cDNA (100 ng). The Ct value was inserted manually, about at lower 1/3 or 1/2 of the linear phase of amplification.

### 3.5.3 Data analysis

The expression data of the seven reference genes were used for analyses with two Microsoft Excel-based statistical algorithms: geNorm (v 3) and NormFinder (v 0.953). The two software packages were used according to the manufacturer's instructions. The M value measured represents the "average expression stability". The RT–qPCR data were normalized per reference gene. The rate between the Ct at different conditions and the average of Ct of each gene were considered to compare the stability of HK genes, with reference to the geNorm and NormFinder user manuals.

#### **3.6 Gene expression analysis**

To assess the gene expression level of the gene associated with heavy metal tolerance, the seedlings of *altilis* and *sylvestris* varieties, grew for two and three weeks in  $\frac{1}{2}$  MS medium, contaminated with 0, 25, 50  $\mu$ M of Cd and As, according to the methodology described in paragraph 3.1, were used.

### 3.6.1 RNA extraction

Shoots and roots RNA extractions were based on Chang et al., 1993, modified for cardoon. To lysate the tissue, 600 µL of extraction buffer (CTAB 2 %, PVP 2 %, Tris-HCl 100mM (pH 8), EDTA 25 mM, NaCl 2 M), warmed at 65 °C plus 2 % βmercaptoethanol were added to 100 mg of the sample, mix completely by inverting and incubate at 65 °C with vigorous shaking every 3 min. To separate the two phases (organic and aqueous phases), 500 µL of Chloroform:IAA (24:1) were added, than vortex and centrifuged at 13000 rpm for 10 min at Room Temperature (RT). The upper layer was transferred in a new tube, and an equal volume of Chloroform: IAA (24:1) was added, than vortexed and centrifuged at 13000 rpm for 10 min at RT. The upper layer was transferred in a new tube, and an equal volume of cold isopropanol was added. To precipitate the RNA, LiCl at final concentration of 2 M was added to the sample, and incubated at 4 °C overnight. The next day the samples were centrifuged at 13000 rpm for 30 min at RT. The supernatant was discard, and the pellet was resuspended in 1 mL of DEPC water, 250 µL of LiCl 10 M and incubated for 3 hours on ice. Than the samples were centrifuged at 13000 rpm for 10 min at RT, and the supernatant was discarded. The pellet was washed in 250 µL of DEPC water, 25 µL of Sodium Acetate 3M and 1 mL of absolute ethanol. Than the RNA was precipitated for 3 hours at -20 °C. Than the samples were centrifuged at 13000 rpm for 10 min at RT, and the pellet resuspended in 50 µL of DEPC water. The RNA purity was tested with Nanodrop, and only the sample with the ratio  $260/280 \ge 2.00$  and the ratio  $260/230 \ge 2.00$  are used for the gene expression analysis. gDNA residue was eliminated with RQ1 RNase-Free DNase (Promega<sup>™</sup>, USA) treatment. The same protocol above described, in paragraph 3.4.1- 3.4.5. were used for the reverse transcription reaction, cloning and sequence analyses.

### 3.6.2 Primer designing

To design the primers for qPCR, the sequences obtained from the sequencing were used. After verification of these, with bioinformatics tools, the primers for NRAMP1, NRAMP3, ZIP11, HMA3, ABCC1, PHT (genes associated with heavy metals tolerance) were designed using primer3 website (Rozen et al., 1999), setting these parameters: 60  $^{\circ}$ C Ta, size of product 100 – 150 bp, 50 % GC, and when possible, the 3' – end of the primers, had to end with G or C, because more stables.

### 3.6.3 qPCR

For the reaction 600 ng of cDNA were added to master mix, including Syber green (promega), primers, and samples were puts on plates (Biorad) and in the qPCR machine (Biorad). The program of qPCR was denaturation 95 °C, 72 °C extension, and 60 °C annealing temperatures. The melt curves were asses for the different primers, and the quality check of the primers was made before use, with scalar dilutions with a range 5 (5, 25, 125, 625 fold). The expression levels were compared with the two genes housekeeping (EF1 alpha and GAPDH). The threshold was set at 1000 for each reaction. Ct values of each samples were used to analyse the data.

### 3.7 Data analysis

All data were submitted to the Barlett's test for the homogeneity of variance and then analysed using analysis of variance (ANOVA) with CoSTAT program. Angular transformation of the germination data, was carry out. Means were separated on the basis of the least significant different (LSD), when the 'F' test of ANOVA for treatments was significant at least at 0.05 probability level.

## 4 Results

### 4.1 Germination tests

Seeds germination was influenced by the genotypes, heavy metals, their concentrations, and the combination of these three parameters (Fig. 14). Response resulted strongly affected by the genotype (the line of domestic cardoon and two population of wild cardoon). The major differences were found between the two populations of *sylvestris* collected in very different sites of Eastern Sicily: the first grow at 900 m above sea level in the territory of Randazzo (CT) within Nebrodi Regional Park (R14CT) and the second grow in the territory of Augusta (SR) at 4 m above sea level within the industrial area (A14SR).



Figure 14. Seeds of Cardoon germinated in agar medium supplemented with Cd 50 um (left) and As 100 um (right) after 10 day from sowing.

As predicted, the ANOVA analyses showed that heavy metals concentration was the main cause of variation contributing for 64 % of the total (Table 1). In particular 'altilis', a selected line of cardoon, showed more tolerance to Cd and Cd + As treatments compared to wild cardoon R14CT, which belong to plants grown in uncontaminated soils. A14SR, grown in contaminated soils, resulted more tolerant to As, compared to the other genotypes. For this reason, the variety of *sylvestris* corresponding to the A14SR genotype was used in the transcriptional studies reported below. R14CT, the genotype harvested in

uncontaminated soil, showed the lower germination percentage compared to other genotypes, independently of the metal used.

Figure 15 shows the rate of germination at different concentrations of heavy metal. Data can be explained by the analysis of variance reported in table 1.

Source of Variation	Mean squares							
	Absolute value	% of total						
Genotype (G)	0.31 ***	12.50						
Metal (M)	0.38 ***	15.47						
Concentration (C)	1.58 ***	64.02						
G * M	0.08 ***	3.11						
G * C	0.03 ***	1.15						
M * C	0.04 ***	1.52						
G * M * C	0.05 ***	2.22						

Table 1. Analysis of variance of final germination percentage of cardoon with heavy metals and partition of the treatment of squares into main effect and interaction.

Germination, averaging the contribution of all the three sources of variation, was 65.9 %. Compared to this value, the A14SR genotype with 73.0 %, resulted the genotype with the most capacity to germinate in contaminated soil, and wild cardoon R14CT, with 54.07 %, the less tolerant.

Regarding the heavy metal used as contaminant in the soil, Cd was the less effective with a germination percentage of 77.0 % and a 17.23 % higher value than average. The germination under Cd + As, showed the largest decrease, 14.24 %, compared to the average value.

Compared to the interaction of the different factors, genotype x metal, with 3.11 %, results the main cause of variation. In particular, under Cd treatment, *altilis* genotype showed the highest germination percentage (83.0 %). Moreover, A14SR genotype showed the highest germination percentage (76.0 %) under As treatment. Instead. the genotype R14CT showed a lowest germination percentage under both treatments, 69.4 % and 45.6 %, respectively (Fig. 15).



Figure 15. Germination percentage of 'altilis', A14SR and R14CT at different treatments and concentrations. Different letters indicate significant differences at  $P \le 0.05$  among genotypes within the same concentration followig Student-Newman-Keuls test.

### 4.2 Seedling growth analysis

Seedlings length, measured after three weeks of treatments with 0, 25 and 50  $\mu$ M concentrations of either As or Cd, was differentially affected in the two varieties (fig.17). *Altilis* genotype showed growth similar to the control (CTRL, 0  $\mu$ M), under As treatment while under Cd treatment, a significant reduction in roots and shoots length was observed showing a lower tolerance to the metal than that observed in the previous germination phase. However, shoots, in contrast to roots, remain vitals with no evidence of chlorosis.

In *sylvestris* under both metals, roots and shoots length decreases with the increase of concentrations but at 25  $\mu$ M this is more evident with Cd than As.

In particular, the roots and shoots length, averaging the contribution of all the three sources of variation, including the different genotypes, was 2.99 cm and 2.97 cm respectively, with a ratio shoot / root  $\sim$ 1.

Compared to this value, the genotype *altilis*, with a ratio 1.2, resulted the variety with the highest epigeal part, while *sylvestris* with a ratio 0.65, resulted the genotype with the shortest aerial part.

As shown in table 3, the differences scored for both metals were significant.





Figure 17. Seedling of *altilis* (A) and *sylvestris* (B) 3 weeks old, growth in ½ MS solid medium under different concentration of metals.

In the variety *sylvestris* plants length decreased with Cd treatment. Root length resulted more than 2 folds lower compared to untreated controls (Fig. 18). Under As treatment, the effects of metal concentration were evident at 50  $\mu$ M. In fact, at 25  $\mu$ M, the seedlings grow, and the ratio shoot/roots is more than 1, in contrast to the control. At 50  $\mu$ M, the seeds germinated, but didn't grow, and the browning of the roots was evident.

The variance analysis showed a different behaviour in the two genotypes considered.

		sylves	tris		altilis Mean squares				
Source o	f	Mean sq	uares						
Variation	df	Absolute value	% of total	df	Absolute value	% of total			
Organ (O)	1	5.84 *	13.94	1	5.14 **	6.83			
Metal (M)	1	1.17 ns	2.80	1	30.25 ***	40.24			
concentration (C	) 2	15.13 ***	36.11	2	29.40 ***	39.11			
O * M	1	0.06 ns	0.15	1	1.14 ns	1.51			
O * C	2	16.97 ***	40.48	2	1.33 ns	1.77			
M * C	2	2.59 ns	6.18	2	7.62 ***	10.13			
O * M * C	2	0.15 ns	0.35	2	0.31 ns	0.41			

Table 3. Analysis of variance of plant length, separated in shoot and root, measured after 3 weeks of treatment with As and Cd. Partition of the treatment sum of squares into main effect and interaction.

As shown in table 3 in *sylvestris* variety, organ x concentration, with 16.97 %, results the main cause of variation with respect to all the factors considered.

On the contrary, in *altilis* variety, metal x concentration results the main and solely significant cause of variation.

In particular, with Cd, the increase of concentrations caused a reduction of seedling length that was 31% and 51% in *sylvestris* and 59% and 70% in *altilis*, at 25  $\mu$ M and 50  $\mu$ M compared to the control. With As treatment, the decrease was 21% and 100% in *sylvestris* and 14% and 28% in *altilis*, at 25  $\mu$ M and 50  $\mu$ M compared to the control.

The ratio root length/ seedling length was also influenced by the metal and concentration used. In particular, with Cd, the ratio was 80%, 42% and 47% at 0, 25 and 50  $\mu$ M respectively in *sylvestris*, while it was 43%, 39% and 33% in *altilis* at the same concentrations. With As treatment, the ratio was 80%, 35% at 0 and 25  $\mu$ M in *sylvestris* (at 50  $\mu$ M the plants germinate but didn't grown), while it was 43%, 49% and 52% in *altilis* at 0, 25 and 50  $\mu$ M, showing this latter no changes compared to control. The change of ratio shoot/roots is very strong in *sylvestris*, compared to both *altilis* and the control



Figure 18. Root and shoot lengths of 'altilis', and 'sylvestris' harvested after 3 weeks of treatment under different concentrations of As and Cd. The error bars indicate the Standard Deviation of three biological replicates.

### 4.3 Identification of cardoon genes likely associated with heavy metals transport and accumulation

Oligonucleotide primers designed on the annotated sequences of *Arabidopsis* or *Thlaspi* with the use of the primer3 website program were used for the isolation and characterization by PCR of orthologous cardoon genes putatively associated with heavy metals transport and accumulation (Supplementary Table 1). After sequencing, the genes identified in Cynara were NRAMP1, NRAMP3, ZIP11, HMA, ABCC1, PHT and PCS. Contigs obtained with the use of the BLASTn and BLASTp platforms are shown in Supplementary Tables 2 and 3. The BLASTn of the sequences against all database, resulted with a percentage of identities that was always > than 72 % (ST.2). The identities of the BLASTp against all database resulted > 76 %, and against *Cynara scolymus* scored > 91 % for all genes. These results, and the score obtained by BLAST, confirmed the identity and reliability of our sequences, not previously recognized in cardoon. In fact, the nucleotide sequences present in cardoon database are just predicted from amino acid sequences.

The query cover is a percent of the query sequence that overlaps the subject sequence. It resulted over 90 % in NRAMP3, PHT, and PCS but was very low in ABCC1. The Expect value (E) is a parameter that describes the number of hits that one 'expects' to see by chance when searching a database of a given size. It decreases exponentially as the Score (S) of the match increases. The E value was always low in our studies.

### 4.3.1 Alignment of sequences

To proceed with the identification of genes associated with heavy metals transport, different alignments of corresponding orthologous *A.Thaliana* proteins against the *Cynara* protein database were carried out. Table 4 shows BLASTx of the different isoforms known in *Arabidopsis* compared to *Cynara*. Different *A. thaliana* isoforms could not always find a corresponding accession protein in Cynara.

BLASTX OF ARABIDOPSIS AGAINST CYNARA											
PROTEIN	Max score	Total score	Query cover	<u>E value</u>	Ident	Accession					
NRAMP1	672	672	63%	0.0	70%	KVI06072.1					
NRAMP2	793	793	77%	0.0	81%	KVH98279.1					
NRAMP3	747	747	75%	0.0	77%	KVH98279.1					
NRAMP4	712	712	61%	0.0	71%	KVH98279.1					
NRAMP5	669	669	74%	0.0	68%	KVH98279.1					
NRAMP6	723	723	49%	0.0	71%	KVI06072.1					
PHT1.1	818	818	77%	0.0	79%	<u>KVH91481.1</u>					
PHT1.4	805	805	76%	0.0	84%	KVH91495.1					
PHT1.5	794	794	86%	0.0	76%	<u>KVH91481.1</u>					
PHT1.9	588	828	82%	0.0	55%	KVI05143.1					
PHT1.8	537	783	80%	0.0	55%	KVI05143.1					
PHT1.2	814	814	83%	0.0	80%	<u>KVH91481.1</u>					
PHT1.7	878	878	76%	0.0	85%	<u>KVH91495.1</u>					
DUT1 2	843	843	99%	0.0	79%	<u>KVH91481.1</u>					
PH11.5	843	843	99%	0.0	79%	<u>KVH91495.1</u>					
PHT1.6	705	705	99%	0.0	68%	<u>KVH91495.1</u>					
PHT2.1	676	676	70%	0.0	70%	KVI05770.1					
PHT3.1	547	547	53%	0.0	87%	KVI09253.1					
PHT3.2	512	512	70%	0.0	69%	KVI09253.1					
PHT3.3	430	430	53%	6.00E-149	67%	KVI08722.1					
PHT4.1	721	721	59%	0.0	83%	KVI03657.1					
PHT4.6	656	656	57%	0.0	78%	KVH97383.1					
PHT4.2	499	499	61%	3.00E-171	58%	KVH94681.1					
PHT4.3	635	635	55%	0.0	75%	<u>KVH94681.1</u>					
PHT4.5	282	282	34%	3.00E-90	63%	KVH93765.1					
PCS1	404	404	74%	2.00E-135	53%	<u>KVI12347.1</u>					
PCS2	404	404	83%	2.00E-136	49%	KVI12347.1					
HMA1	963	963	73%	0.0	70%	KVH92487.1					
HMA2	845	845	63%	0.0	64%	KVI01438.1					
HM A 3	631	828	71%	0.0	64%	KVH87487.1					
111/1745	579	765	79%	0.0	59%	<u>KVI01438.1</u>					
HMA4	732	732	48%	0.0	64%	KVI01438.1					
HMA5	1422	1422	93%	0.0	73%	KVH90063.1					
HMA6	955	955	66%	0.0	68%	KVI01812.1					
GAPDH	185	185	42%	8.00E-58	79%	KVH97848.1					
EF1A	175	175	11%	2.00E-51	72%	ACC99594.1					
ZIP1	298	298	60%	5.00E-98	60%	KVI02328.1					
ZIP2	383	383	62%	3.00E-131	66%	<u>KVI11955.1</u>					
ZIP3	275	275	58%	2.00E-88	53%	KVH89209.1					
ZIP4	346	346	66%	1.00E-114	65%	KVH52325.1					
ZIIP5	285	285	64%	3.00E-92	54%	KVH89209.1					
ZIP11	395	395	64%	3.00E-136	65%	KVI10407.1					
ABCC1	2090	2090	85%	0.0	66%	KVH87904.1					

Table 4. BLASTX of Arabidopsis gene isoforms against *Cynara* database.

Alignments of the nucleotide sequences (contigs resulted from cloning) against other plant species that showed a high score using BLASTn, can be found in the Appendix. Each nucleotide is identifiable by a different colour allowing an easy recognition of the nucleotide matches. These results showed a high similarity of the contigs resulted from the cloning with the sequences present in the annotated cds of the database, but the nucleotide sequence size was lower than that of the annotated cds

The amino acidic (aa) sequences of our contigs translate with Expasy program, were aligned with the database aa sequences by the mean of BLASTp algorithm. The results showed that in the different species, phylogenetically similar to *Cynara cardunculus* L., as *Helianthus annuus* L., the alignment has a high match number and high identity among the aa sequences.

### 4.4 Housekeeping genes analysis

GAPDH,  $\beta$ -TUBULIN, ACTIN, ELONGATION FACTOR, 18S, ANAPHASE PROMOTING COMPLEX and TRASDUCIN/WD40 housekeeping genes were assayed in different times of growth (water imbibed seed (IDS), germinated seeds (GS), young leaf (YL), flower open head (capitulum) (OC4), and flower closed capitulum (CC1)) to select which one was better suitable to act as reference in gene expression analyses. Cloning primers for such genes, used in PCR, are shown in Supplementary Table 4. The results of the contigs blasted with BLASTn and BLASTp are shown in Supplementary Tables 5 and 6. The identities of the BLASTp against all database were > 83%, and against *Cynara scolymus* > 88 % for all the genes assayed, except for GAPDH that was 61 %. The BLASTn of the sequences against all database, resulted with a percentage of identities always > than 85 % (ST. 6).

The dissociation curves during qPCR, showed the specificity and efficiency of the primers for real time PCR. As showed in figure 19, only a single peak was observed, for any of the tested housekeeping genes with the exception of  $\beta$ -TUBULIN that showed two peaks and was therefore discarded.

Ct values showed that the ribosomal 18S gene is the most expressed reference genes in the different developmental phases assayed (Fig. 18).

After geNorm analysis, all the selected housekeeping genes showed M value < 0.5, confirmatory of the stability of expression of the six selected genes for reference. Among them, the gene encoding for the ribosomal 18S subunit showed the lower stability value while WD40 and APC resulted the more stables (Fig. 20).



Figure 18. The gene expression pattern of selected housekeeping genes for reference. Three biological replicates are shown for each time of growth (GS, IDS, OC4, CC1 and YLB). Error bars show the standard deviation (SD) resulting from three replicates during qRT-PCR analysis. Under different times of growth the genes are stably expressed, 18s is the gene that shows the major variability <del>,</del>



Figure 19. The Dissociation curves with single peaks of the six reference genes analysed generated for all amplicons from three replicates for five times of growth.



#### Average expression stability value of control genes

Figure 20. Relative expression of the HKGs analysed, known in Arabidopsis references on 3 biological replicates for five times of growth and their average. The dates are normalized with the average of Ct value. The ratio between the effective Ct for each sample and the average of Ct of all samples is showed. 18S is the gene with more variability. Apc and Wd40 are more stably expressed genes.

The ratio between the effective Ct for each sample and the average of Ct of all samples was considered for each gene (Fig. 21). The results showed that for all genes, this ratio is near to 1, but in 18 S gene, the trend is different, with a ratio of 1.2 in CC1 samples.



Relative expression across the tissue

Relative expression across the tissue



Figure 21. Relative expression of traditional HKGs, known Arabidopsis references on 3 biological replicates for each tissue, and their average. The dates are normalized with the average of Ct value. The ratio between the effective Ct for each sample and the average of Ct of all samples is showed. 18S is the gene with more variability. Apc and Wd40 are the most stably genes

### 4.5 qRT-PCR analyses

The six genes identified in cardoon for the response to heavy metals (NRAMP1, NRAMP3, ZIP11, HMA, PHT and ABCC1) were suitable for the transcriptional analyses performed by qPCR. PCS was discarded because its dissociation curve showed two peaks. Overall, the qPCR results obtained from the six selected genes showed a different transcriptional response in-the different varieties of metal, time and concentration used. All data were normalized against GAPDH and EF1 alpha used as reference genes. The fold change represent how many time the gene is expressed compared to the untreated control. In both genotypes, *altilis* and *sylvestris*, transcriptional levels can be influenced by the concentration of metals in the medium, type of metals, and time of growth.

In NRAMP1, transcriptional levels resulted not influenced by the treatments used (type of metal, its concentration and time of growth) as showed in tab.5 and tab.6, with exception of root under As treatment, where genotype and interaction genotype x concentration resulted statistically significant. In shoots, *altilis* showed expression levels lower than control, while expression in *sylvestris* results highest at 25  $\mu$ M and then decreased at 50  $\mu$ M, with exception of As 2 weeks (fig.22). In roots, but not in shoots, the expression levels resulted similar to control in *altilis*, while it is down regulated in *sylvestris*. In particular, in *sylvestris* roots with As treatment, at 2 weeks, the expression decreases near to 0, but at 3 weeks is near to control. This result could be caused by different responses occurring during the exposition time. In particular, highly significant values, contributed by 2 of the 3 sources of variation (genotype, time and concentration of metal) were observed only in roots treated with As, as inferable by comparing the data reported in table 5 and 6.

Table 5. Analysis of variance of fold change of NRAMP1 gene expression respect to the CTRL in shoot and root of cardoon treated with Cd and partition of the treatment sum of squares into main effect and interaction.

	oot			root					
Source of	M	ean squ	lares			Me	ean squ	lares	
Variation	df	df Absolute value		% of tota	.1	df	Abso value	lute	% of total
genotype (G)	1	1.01	*	29.63		1	0.02	ns	1.38
time (T)	1	0.00	ns	0.03		1	0.03	ns	2.22
concentration (C)	2	0.98	*	28.52		2	0.41	ns	33.04
G * T	1	0.64	ns	18.70		1	0.47	ns	37.37
G * C	2	0.61	ns	17.69		2	0.07	ns	5.31
T * C	2	0.00	ns	0.01		2	0.10	ns	8.14
G * T * C	2	0.19	ns	5.43		2	0.16	ns	12.54

Table 6. Analysis of variance of fold change of NRAMP1 gene expression respect to the CTRL in shoot and root of cardoon treated with As and partition of the treatment sum of squares into main effect and interaction.

Source of Variation	sho Me	oot ean squa	res		roo Me	root Mean squares			
	df	Absolute value		% of total	df	Absolute value	% of total		
genotype (G)	1	0.06	ns	0.90	1	4.44 ***	46.92		
time (T)	1	0.47	*	7.35	1	0.13 ns	1.35		
concentration (C)	2	1.56	ns	24.59	2	1.25 **	13.24		
G * T	1	1.35	ns	21.31	1	1.55 **	16.39		
G * C	2	0.69	ns	10.89	2	1.14 ***	12.02		
Т * С	2	1.76	ns	27.87	2	0.56 ns	5.96		
G * T * C	2	0.45	ns	7.08	2	0.39 **	4.12		



NRAMP1

Figure 22. The level of gene expression of NRAMP1 in seedlings of *altilis* and *sylvestris* after 2 and 3 weeks of growth under Cd and As at different concentration. The fold change is the Ct value respect to the untreated control, that is made equal to 1. The error bars represents the error mean of three replicates.

The expression level of **NRAMP3** or 4 (the two proteins have the same accession number) resulted strongly influenced by the genotype and the time of growth. In shoots and roots, made the average of all the variable factors, transcriptional levels are over expressed in *sylvestris* and down regulated in *altilis*. In particular, after 3 weeks, it is observed an increase of expression levels in *sylvestris* that is at least 2 times than control at 25  $\mu$ M and 4 times than control at 50  $\mu$ M with both metals. In roots, which are closer

to contaminated medium, the increase of transcriptional levels is marked compared to shoots in both genotypes, with the highest value in *sylvestris* scored at 3 weeks. The type of metal, Cd or As, did not influence the relative expression of NRAMP3, because with both stresses, the transcriptional levels increased after 3 weeks compared to control in wild cardoon. However, with As, transcriptional level in *sylvestris* is 5.22 times more than *altilis*, with the highest value found in roots at 50  $\mu$ M after 3 weeks (fig.23). In particular, highly significant values, contributed by the 3 sources of variation (genotype, time and concentration of metal) were observed in root treated with As, as inferable by comparing the data reported in table 7 and 8.

Table 7. Analysis of variance of fold change of NRAMP3 gene expression respect to the CTRL in shoot and root of cardoon treated with Cd and partition of the treatment sum of squares into main effect and interaction.

Source of	sh M	oot ean squ	ıares		root Mean squares				
Variation	df	Absolute value		% of total		df	Absolu value	ıte	% of total
genotype (G)	1	7.00	**	28.90		1	12.84	*	16.59
time (T)	1	1.42	ns	5.84		1	7.99	ns	10.32
concentration (C)	2	1.61	ns	6.63		2	14.51	*	18.75
G * T	1	8.38	**	34.57		1	16.23	*	20.98
G * C	2	2.91	ns	11.99		2	11.58	*	14.97
T * C	2	0.73	ns	3.02		2	3.57	ns	4.61
G * T * C	2	2.19	ns	9.05		2	10.66	*	13.78

Table 8. Analysis of variance of fold change of NRAMP3 gene expression respect to the CTRL in shoot and root of cardoon treated with As and partition of the treatment sum of squares into main effect and interaction.

	she	oot		root				
Source of	M	ean squares		M	ean squares			
Variation	df	Absolute value	% of total	df	Absolute value	% of total		
genotype (G)	1	29.47 ***	19.26	1	256.34 ***	19.11		
time (T)	1	41.18 ***	26.91	1	245.44 ***	18.29		
concentration (C)	2	8.88 ***	5.80	2	118.24 ***	8.81		
G * T	1	34.37 ***	22.46	1	391.02 ***	29.14		
G * C	2	11.59 ***	7.58	2	99.62 ***	7.42		
T * C	2	12.89 ***	8.43	2	102.21 ***	7.62		
G * T * C	2	14.63 ***	9.56	2	128.85 ***	9.60		



Figure 23. The level of gene expression of NRAMP3 in seedlings of *altilis* and *sylvestris* growth 2 and 3 weeks under Cd and As at different concentration. The fold change is the Ct value respect to the control, that is considered 1. The error bars represents the error mean of three replicates.

Similarly to what observed with NRAMP3/4 the expression/transcriptional level of **ZIP11** is influenced by the genotype and time of growth. In both genotypes, the type of metal did not influence the transcriptional levels. In roots of *sylvestris* after 3 weeks, the level of ZIP11 mRNAs significantly increases in presence of Cd and As, while in *altilis* the transcriptional levels decrease with both metals.

In particular, highly significant values, contributed by the 3 sources of variation (genotype, time and concentration of metal) were observed in shoot treated with As, as inferable by comparing the data reported in table 9 and 10.

In shoot and roots, after 3 weeks transcriptional levels were up- regulated in *sylvestris* compared to control, while in *altilis*, the expression was down-regulated, allowing for the contribution of all the three sources of variation. In fact, in *sylvestris*, the transcriptional level resulted at 3 weeks 51.5 fold more than that in *altilis*. Although type of metal not influences the transcriptional levels, in *sylvestris*, As increase transcriptional levels 4 time more than Cd.

Table 9. Analysis of variance of fold change of ZIP11 gene expression respect to the CTRL in shoot and root of cardoon treated with Cd and partition of the treatment sum of squares into main effect and interaction.

	-				-		
	she	oot			Ro	oot	
Source of	Me	ean square	es		Me	ean squares	
Variation	df	Absolute	)	%t of total	df	Absolute	% of total
	uı	value		/01 01 10141	uı	value	70 01 total
genotype (G)	1	435.92	*	13.11	1	256.34 *	26.08
time (T)	1	503.78	*	15.15	1	245.90 *	25.02
concentration (C)	2	459.72	**	13.82	2	44.46 ns	4.52
G * T	1	477.43	*	14.36	1	248.37 *	25.27
G * C	2	473.41	**	14.24	2	64.11 ns	6.52
T * C	2	529.26	**	15.92	2	61.64 ns	6.27
G * T * C	2	445.84	**	13.41	2	62.11 ns	6.32

Table 10. Analysis of variance of fold change of ZIP11 gene expression respect to the CTRL in shoot and root of cardoon treated with As and partition of the treatment sum of squares into main effect and interaction.

	sho	oot			R	oot		
Source of	Me	ean squares			Μ	ean squar	es	
Variation	df	Absolute value		% of total	df	Absolutov value	e	% of total
genotype (G)	1	15554.67	**	22.01	1	314.07	*	24.25
time (T)	1	15861.47	**	22.44	1	286.82	*	22.15
concentration (C)	2	5961.16	*	8.44	2	91.99	ns	7.10
G * T	1	15461.28	**	21.88	1	320.44	*	24.75
G * C	2	5955.58	*	8.43	2	100.98	ns	7.80
T * C	2	6036.21	*	8.54	2	87.83	ns	6.78
G * T * C	2	5840.03	*	8.26	2	92.80	ns	7.17



Figure 24. The level of gene expression of ZIP11 in seedlings of *altilis* and *sylvestris* growth 2 and 3 weeks under Cd and As at different concentrations. The fold change is the Ct value respect to the control, that is considered 1. The error bars represents the error mean of three replicates.

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The expression level of HMA resulted influenced by concentration and genotype.

In particular, highly significant values, contributed by 2 of the 3 sources of variation (genotype, time and concentration of metal) were observed in root treated with Cd, as inferable by comparing the data reported in table 11 and 12.

Shoots and roots show similar response to stresses, averaging the contribution of all the three sources of variation, but transcriptional level at 3 weeks in shoots of *altilis* with As resulted 3 times more than *sylvestris* (fig.25). From these data, *altilis*, resulted over-express 1.36 times HMA transcript compared to *sylvestris* with As treatment.

Table 11. Analysis of variance of fold change of HMA gene expression respect to the CTRL in shoot and root of cardoon treated with Cd and partition of the treatment sum of squares into main effect and interaction.

Source of	sho Me	shoot Mean squares					root Mean squares			
Variation	df	Absolu value	ıte	% of total		df	Absolute value	% of total		
genotype (G)	1	0.23	ns	0.72		1	6.34 **	25.18		
time (T)	1	11.80	**	37.16		1	0.29 ns	1.17		
concentration (C)	2	1.02	ns	3.20	,	2	4.91 ***	19.49		
G * T	1	1.34	ns	4.23		1	2.53 *	10.04		
G * C	2	6.20	*	19.51	,	2	7.02 ***	27.91		
T * C	2	4.23	ns	13.32	-	2	1.48 ns	5.88		
G * T * C	2	6.95	*	21.87	,	2	2.60 *	10.33		

Table 12. Analysis of variance of fold change of HMA gene expression respect to the CTRL in shoot and root of cardoon treated with As and partition of the treatment sum of squares into main effect and interaction.

	sh	oot			ro	ot		
Source of	M	ean squa	res		M	ean squa	ires	
Variation	df	Absolut value	te	% of total	df	Absolu value	te	% of total
genotype (G)	1	13.47	ns	14.27	1	2.70	ns	4.23
time (T)	1	35.94	**	38.08	1	7.59	ns	11.88
concentration (C)	2	4.53	ns	4.81	2	12.07	**	18.89
G * T	1	18.79	*	19.91	1	6.65	ns	10.40
G * C	2	4.56	ns	4.84	2	8.92	*	13.96
T * C	2	11.08	ns	11.74	2	17.11	***	26.77
G * T * C	2	5.99	ns	6.35	2	8.86	*	13.87



Figure 25. The level of gene expression of HMA in seedlings of *altilis* and *sylvestris* growth 2 and 3 weeks under Cd and As at different concentrations. The fold change is the Ct value respect to the control, that is considered 1. The error bars represents the error mean of three replicates.

In ABCC1, transcriptional levels resulted influenced by the treatments used (type of metal and its concentration). In particular, highly significant values, contributed by the 3

sources of variation (genotype, time and concentration of metal) were observed in root treated with As, as inferable by comparing the data reported in table 13 and 14.

On average, transcriptional levels, resulted not affected by the organs (shoots and roots), but influenced by the type of metal. In fact, with As, and not with Cd, the transcriptional levels increase 2 times in *sylvestris* compared to *altilis* (fig. 26). In particular, in wild cardoon, in shoots at 3 weeks, and in roots with As at 2 and 3 weeks, the ABCC1 mRNA is up-regulated, showing a clear engagement of this transcript in As response.

Table 13. Analysis of variance of fold change of ABC gene expression respect to the CTRL in shoot and root of cardoon treated with Cd and partition of the treatment sum of squares into main effect and interaction.

Source of	she Me	shoot Mean squares					root Mean squares				
Variation	df	lf Absolute value		Percent of total	df	df Absolute value		Percent of total			
genotype (G)	1	0.10	ns	2.54	1	3.97	***	17.82			
time (T)	1	1.36	*	36.22	1	3.42	ns	15.33			
concentration (C)	2	0.03	ns	0.73	2	2.53	**	11.37			
G * T	1	0.67	ns	17.82	1	2.23	**	10.02			
G * C	2	0.49	ns	12.99	2	5.13	***	23.00			
T * C	2	0.39	ns	10.48	2	2.44	ns	10.95			
G * T * C	2	0.72	ns	19.22	2	2.57	**	11.51			

Table 14. Analysis of variance of fold change of ABC expression gene respect to the CTRL in shoot and root of cardoon treated with As and partition of the treatment sum of squares into main effect and interaction.

Source of	shoot Mean squares					root Mean squares			
Variation	df Absolute value		te	% of total	df	df Absolute value		% of total	
genotype (G)	1	3.88 *	*	15.13	1	9.79	***	37.33	
time (T)	1	8.75 *	**	34.13	1	0.90	ns	3.44	
concentration (C)	2	3.61 *	*	14.08	2	3.17	**	12.08	
G * T	1	2.25 *		8.77	1	4.15	**	15.83	
G * C	2	0.99 n	S	3.87	2	4.50	***	17.16	
T * C	2	5.36 *	**	20.93	2	1.16	ns	4.41	
G * T * C	2	0.79 n	S	3.09	2	2.56	**	9.75	



Figure 26. The level of gene expression of ABCC in seedlings of *altilis* and *sylvestris* growth 2 and 3 weeks under Cd and As at different concentrations. The fold change is the Ct value respect to the control, that is considered 1. The error bars represents the error mean of three replicates.

The transcriptional level of **PHT** was strongly influenced by the metal and genotype. In particular, highly significant values, contributed by the 3 sources of variation (genotype, time and concentration of metal) were observed in shoot and root treated with As, as inferable by comparing the data reported in table 15 and 16.

In roots, but not in shoots, the expression of the PHT transcript, averaging the contribution of all the three sources of variation, increases compared to control, and this is more evident in *sylvestris* than *altilis*. The type of metal had influenced the expression of PHT. In fact, with As, the transcriptional level resulted 2 times more than Cd. In particular, in the *sylvestris* roots, the expression increased linearly with the concentration of metal. After 2 weeks of treatment, the increase of transcriptional level was from 0 to 25 and from 25  $\mu$ M to 50  $\mu$ M 3 and 5 folds respectively (Fig. 27). Under As treatment the genotype, that is *sylvestris*, was the factor that more pronouncedly contributed to transcriptional increase in both roots and shoots after 3 weeks of treatment. (tab. 16).

Table 15. Analysis of variance of fold change of PHT gene expression respect to the CTRL in shoot and root of cardoon treated with Cd and partition of the treatment sum of squares into main effect and interaction.

Source of	shoot Mean squares					root Mean squares			
Variation	df	Abso value	lute	% of total	df	Absolute value	% of total		
genotype (G)	1	0.04	ns	1.00	1	6.15 ***	36.65		
time (T)	1	1.31	*	37.16	1	0.37 ns	2.19		
concentration (C)	2	0.68	ns	19.43	2	0.48 *	2.84		
G * T	1	0.68	ns	19.37	1	1.52 **	9.03		
G * C	2	0.07	ns	1.89	2	1.76 ***	10.46		
T * C	2	0.46	ns	13.08	2	2.46 ***	14.62		
G * T * C	2	0.28	ns	8.07	2	4.07 ***	24.22		

Table 16. Analysis of variance of fold change of PHT gene expression respect to the CTRL in shoot and root of cardoon treated with As and partition of the treatment sum of squares into main effect and interaction.

	shoot					root			
Source of	Mean squares				Mean squares				
Variation	df	Abso value	lute	% of total	df	Absolute value	% of total		
genotype (G)	1	4.58	***	14.54	1	24.53 ***	49.01		
time (T)	1	9.85	***	31.25	1	6.11 *	12.20		
concentration (C)	2	3.31	***	10.50	2	9.71 ***	19.39		
G * T	1	3.63	**	11.52	1	0.04 ns	0.08		
G * C	2	1.79	**	5.69	2	6.72 **	13.42		
T * C	2	7.13	***	22.62	2	2.24 ns	4.48		
G * T * C	2	1.22	*	3.88	2	0.71 ns	1.41		



Figure 27. The level of gene expression of PHT in seedlings of *altilis* and *sylvestris* growth 2 and 3 weeks under Cd and As at different concentrations. The fold change is the Ct value respect to the control that is considered 1. The error bars represents the error mean of three replicates.

# 5 Discussion

In the present study, seed germination, seedlings growth and transcriptional levels of gene expression of six genes, identified in domestic and wild cardoon and putatively involved in phytoremediation, were investigated after treatments with heavy metals, Cadmium and Arsenic.

Concentrations of these metals in not contaminated soils are Cd < 1 mg Kg<sup>-1</sup> and As < 5 mg Kg<sup>-1</sup>. Concentration limited decreed by D.Lgs 152/2006 are for Cd 2 mg Kg<sup>-1</sup> and for As 20 mg Kg<sup>-1</sup>. In our studied we used concentrations of 2.81 mg Kg<sup>-1</sup> and 5.6 mg Kg<sup>-1</sup> for Cd, 1.87 mg Kg<sup>-1</sup> and 3.7 mg Kg<sup>-1</sup> for As (corresponding to 25  $\mu$ M and 50  $\mu$ M). These value are low if compared to the actual situation out in the field but, as already reported (Aarts et al., 2012; Llugany at al., 2014). it was of importance that in our studies the plants could survive at the treatments (Aarts et al., 2012; Llugany at al., 2014).

With regard to germination measurements, although highly variable depending on the different contribution of the three main factors considered in this study, genotype, heavy metal type and its concentration, it is reported that cardoon is tolerant to Cd and As. In particular, the varieties *altilis* and *sylvestris* (A14SR) show similar percentage of germination with Cd, while under As stress, wild cardoon (A14SR) shows the best tolerance.

In fact, under 50  $\mu$ M Cd concentration, cardoon germination percentage, was similar to the untreated control in all genotype (> 95%). These data, are in in good association with transcriptional levels of the NRAMP3 and ZIP11 genes, which resulted up-regulated in *sylvestris* genotype, but in contrast to transcriptional levels on *altilis*. Furthermore, in response to Cd stress, these data are in contrast with the result obtained from Peralta and Li (2001) in *Medicago sativa* L. where at 5 ppm (44  $\mu$ M) of Cd, seed germination was reduced of 50%. Probably cardoon, that is able to growth close to the sea, resulted more tolerant to abiotic stress, than this plant. The same authors also showed an inhibition of germination up to 50 % in *Arabidopsis* at 10 mM Cd, after 12 h treatment of the embryos (Li, et al., 2005).

Under As treatment, germination percentage of cardoon seeds was heavily dependent on the genotype. In fact, the *sylvestris* genotype A14SR showed a significantly higher germination rate than that observed in the other genotypes (*altilis* and the *sylvestris* R14CT), and for this reason it was used as *sylvestris* variety in studies on transcriptional regulation. The experiments performed by Li et al., in 2007 showed that wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L.) seeds germination as well as root and shoot growth were stimulated at low concentrations of As (0–1 mg/kg). Such responses gradually decreased at higher As concentrations (5–20 mg/kg). In our results, at low As concentrations, the germination percentage of A14SR was the same as the untreated control, while at high concentrations, the decrease was inversely linear to increasing As amount. At 100 and 200  $\mu$ M of HMs, although germinated, plants eventually died for the extensive necrosis of the tissues.

With regard to seedlings growth, the two genotypes show different response to metals. In *sylvestris* root length decreased of 64% at 25  $\mu$ M Cd and 71% at 50  $\mu$ M Cd compared to 0  $\mu$ M. In *altilis* the increase of concentrations caused a reduction of seedling length of 59% and 70% with Cd at 25 and 50  $\mu$ M, while with As the reduction was lower than 30% with highest concentration. In agreement to order considered by Li et al. in 2007 on the influence of HMs (root length > root mass > shoot length > total mass (root plus shoot) > shoot mass > germination), the roots length in *sylvestris*, resulted more affected than total seedling length.

Compared to control, the inversion of ratio shoot/roots is present in *sylvestris*, but not in *altilis*. In fact with both metals, the ratio decreases in *sylvestris*, in particular with As the incident of roots decreases from 80% (0  $\mu$ M) to 35% (25  $\mu$ M), while not changes in *altilis*, compared to control. This results could be explain by transcriptional levels of the genes studied. In *altilis* up- regulation of the genes under As treatment is not observed and the seedling plants could be not uptake metals, and for this reason named 'resistant' for As treatment.

In fact in the order above describe, shoot length and germination percentage are affected by heavy metals lower than root length. Compared to cardoon, roots length and shoots height were more inhibited by comparative lower levels of arsenic in wheat seedlings (Li et al., 2007).

Preliminary to the transcriptional studies performed on cardoon genes putatively involved in HM response, six genes of reference for gene expression studies, were tested and then used in cardoon with relation to different development stages, because normalization is a key step to obtain reliable gene expression data by RT–qPCR. About these reference genes, we selected from literature, two 'classical' housekeeping genes such as ACTIN and 18S Ribosomal DNA genes, and other reference genes as GAPDH, WD40/TRASDUCIN, EF1 alpha and APC (anaphase promoting complex). The results showed that the 'classic' reference genes, ACTIN and 18s rDNA, resulted generally among the least stable genes in all developmental stages. However they can be used as reference genes, because they showed an acceptable value of "average expression stability". Our results are in accordance with Dekkers et al., 2012.

Seven genes, NRAMP1 and NRAMP3, ZIP11, HMA, ABCC1, PHT and PCS were identified in cardoon that could be possibly associated to heavy metals transport and accumulation response.

Transcriptional expression levels of six out of seven of the identified genes possibly involved in heavy metals stress response were investigated. PCS was also identified in cardoon, but it showed two peaks in the dissociation curve obtained, and was therefore discarded for qRT-PCR analysis. Ours results showed that in cardoon var. *sylvestris*, **NRAMP3** expression is up-regulated in roots by both As and Cd treatments. This result agrees with Fallen et al., (2005), where it was shown NRAMP3 and NRAMP4 are responsible for Cd<sup>2+</sup> efflux from the vacuole. Their overexpression increases Cd sensitivity in *Arabidopsis* and they are responsible for the release of vacuolar Fe<sup>2+</sup>. Instead, no data exists in literature on NRAMP3 expression with reference to As.

**NRAMP1** in var. *altilis* resulted up-regulated in roots under As treatment. This is agreement to Tiwara et al., 2016, that showed in *Oryza sativa*, the induction of NRAMP1 after As(III) exposure. Earlier studies reported that expression of OsNRAMP1 was induced during As stress in rice in addition to defence and stress responsive genes, transporters, heat-shock proteins, metallothioneins, sulphate-metabolizing proteins (Norton et al., 2008). However the data obtained in our studies, show not existence of clear response to the stress in both varieties, and we can considered this gene not involved in response to heavy metals in cardoon plant. Considering the results obtained with NRAMP3 and arsenic, we can hypothesize that NRAMP isoform implicated in response to this metal in *sylvestris* is not 1, like in rice (Tiwara et al., 2016), but it is the isoform 3 as we found it.

**ZIP proteins** are generally responsible for the metal-ion homeostasis through the uptake of cations into the cytosol (Colangelo and Guerinot, 2006). Usually ZIP transporters are involved in the uptake and accumulation of Fe and Zn, but may also be responsible for Cd or other heavy metals transport (Guerinot, 2000). In *Solanum torvum* roots, *IRT2* and *ZIP11*, are associated to Zn transport (Xu et al., 2012). In our study, transcriptional expression of the ZIP11 transporter of wild cardoon, was increased in shoot and roots by Cd treatment. Similarly, ZIP11 mRNA was found to increase after 3 weeks of exposure of the seedlings to As. The result obtained under As, is not in agreement with the literature of ZIP genes.

In cardoon ABCC1 transcriptional levels, measured under As treatment, in roots of var. sylvestris, resulted up-regulated compared to untreated control. The increase of the expression was influenced by the time of exposure, with the highest level at 50 µM after 3 weeks. A similar response was observed in shoots after 3 weeks of As treatment. In altilis, where seedling growth analysis showed low reduction length in shoot and root with As compared to untreated plants, significant differences was not observed in the transcriptional levels of the genes investigate compared to control with As treatment. May be the As is not uptake by *altilis*, such as not accumulator/resistant plants. In sylvestris seedlings, As treatment caused biomass reduction, because As uptake and storage at high toxic concentrations in the vacuole eventually lead to cell death. These results are in accordance to Song et al., (2010), who showed that Arabidopsis isoforms AtABCC1 and AtABCC2 mediate AsIII-PC complex transport to the vacuole, and overexpression of AtABCC1 increases As tolerance only when co-expressed with PCS. In rice, a similar ABC transporter, OsABCC1, is critical for the vacuolar AsIII–PC sequestration and As detoxification, thus reducing As accumulation in rice grains. For this reason, knockout of OsABCC1 leads to the increase of As sensitivity (Song et al., 2014).

The uptake of As(V) in plants occurs via inorganic phosphate (Pi) system, because Pi transporters cannot distinguish between the similar electrochemical profiles of Pi and AsV (Sanchez-Pardo, 2015). In our experiments, the **Phosphate transporter** resulted upregulated in roots under As treatment, in *sylvestris* genotype, where the increase of expression level was strongly influenced by the concentrations of metal. In *altilis*, the expression levels of ABCC1 and PHT resulted elevated also in control, for this reason, the variability on the gene expression levels was not observed.

These results are in according to Di Tusa et al., (2016) that showed in *Pteris vittata*, an increase of As accumulation when the plans express PvPht1;3. In *Arabidopsis*, the expression pattern of PHT1;1 in the presence of As(V) decreased significantly as compared to limiting Pi condition in the natural variants, while the expression of PHT1;4 was higher in presence of AsV to limiting Pi condition (Shukla et al., 2015).
## 6 Conclusion

The response mechanisms of *Cynara cardunculus* L. at heavy metals stress were investigated. Two different varieties were used in this thesis: *C. cardunculus* L. var. *altilis* D.C. (domestic cardoon) vs *C. cardunculus* L. var. *sylvestris* Lam. (wild cardoon).

Seed germination resulted primarily influenced by the genotype, regardless metal type and concentration used. Wild cardoon A14SR resulted more able to germinate and grow in soil contaminated with Arsenate. In soil contaminated by Cadmium wild cardoon A14SR and domestic cardoon were more able to germinate and grow than var. *sylvestris* R14CT.

Seedlings length was influenced by the combination of genotype and heavy metals concentration. The two genotypes, *altilis* and *sylvestris*, responded differently to stress. In *altilis* the ratio shoot/roots remains constant compared to control, and the seedling length was more affected by Cd than As (the latter is probably not absorbed by the plants) while in *sylvestris*, the ratio changes compared to control, and the seedling length at 25  $\mu$ M resulted affected less than 50 %, by both Cd and As as confirmed by the transcriptional analysis.

The *C. cardunculus* genes PCS, NRAMP1, NRAMP3, ZIP11, HMA3, ABCC1, and PHT, orthologous to genes shown to be involved in HM response in other plants, were identified and used as target sequences for transcriptional studies, with the exception of PCS.

Cardoon plants showed differential transcript levels that could be influenced by the genotype, metal used, concentration, and length of treatment/exposure. Compared to domestic cardoon, wild cardoon significantly increases the expression of genes involved in the Cadmium and Arsenate uptake (NRAMP3, ZIP11, ABCC and PHT) after 3 weeks of exposure. In leafy cardoon, expression patterns are less influenced by the concentration of the metal, and more influenced by the organ considered.

The gene expression levels of NRAMP3, ZIP11, ABCC and PHT that usually are activated in accumulator model plants under Cd or As stress, were activated also in wild cardoon: NRAMP3 and ZIP11 by both stresses, and ABCC1 and PHT just by As.

From this preliminary study we can conclude that *sylvestris* A14SR variety could be used for detoxification of soils polluted with heavy metals, especially if As is present. They should be considered good candidates for phytoremediation.

Until now, no information is available in literature, on the mechanisms that in *Cynara cardunculus* L. are involved in the uptake and accumulation of heavy metals.

For this reason further experiments will have to be performed to sort out which genes, including those of this study, are actually associated to the mechanisms activated by the plant during phytoremediation. RNAseq technique may be potentially useful to understand what are the genes associated with heavy metals accumulation, tolerance and transport in plants grown in contaminated soil.

A better knowledge of the molecular aspects of this process in *Cynara cardunculus* will help in the breeding and selection of new cardoon lines with improved features specifically suitable for phytoremediation purposes.

# 7 Supplementary Tables

Supplementary Table 1. PCR primers designed with primer3 website. Two pairs of primers were designed for each gene.

GENE	CLONING PRIMER CODE	FORWARD PRIMER SEQUENCE	REVERSE PRIMER SEQUENCE	Та
Nuturel Desistance	NR3_05	GATTACGCCAAGCTTTGGGCCGGGGAAGTTGTTGTGGATCA	GATTACGCCAAGCTTTGGAACCACGAGACCAACAAGAAGCTCT	60 °C
of Macrophage 3	NR3_06	TTGATGCTACAATCAACCGA	GGGCAGAGTAGTACCATCAC	57 °C
oj macropnage s	NR3_07	ACTTCTCGTAATCAAGGCCC	TTCCTCTTTCACTCACTCGG	<50 °C
Zinc Iron Protein 1	ZP1_06	TCAAAGGTGCATCTATTAACACA	AAGATGCATCCTCCAAGACC	50 °C
Line from 1 rotein 1	ZP1_07	TGTCTGTTGGTGCTTCTGAA	GCAAGAAGCGACATACAACCA	54 °C
Zinc Iron Protein ?	ZP2_06	CCCAAATCATGACAACTGCGA	CGGAAAAGGAGGTCATCATGG	55 °C
Line from 1 rotein 2	ZP2_07	ACCAACAGCAATACCCTCGA	ACTCAGCTCCCATGGCTATC	<50 °C
Zinc Iron Protein 6	ZP6_06	ACTTTGTGTGCCGCAGA	GGCCCATCCCTTCGAAG	<48 °C
Zinc Iron Protein 6	ZP6_07	AACGATGGGGATGTCACAG	ACTTCAAGCCCAAAGAGCA	52 °C
Zinc Iron Protein 0	ZP9_06	GACACCACTTGAAGCCTAACA	CCGGAAAAGAGAGCAACGTT	63 °C
Line from 1 rotein 9	ZP9_07	CCGTGGGAGTGAGAATGCAT	TCTGAATCCATGTCGACGGT	53 °C
Zine Inen Ductain 11	ZP11_06	ATCCCAGATCATAACAACAGCA	GATTGGAATCGCGGACACC	54 °C
Zinc Iron Protein 11	<b>7D</b> 11 07	GAGATTGTCCATAGAGCTTTCCA	CCATCCCTCCTTTCCTTTCT	18 °C
Heavy Metal ATPase	HM4_06	CATTGATGAACATAGCTCCTCAG	TGGAACTGATAACACCCTGCT	40°C
<i>4</i>	HM4_07	CGCACAGTCTCGTTCAGTTG	GGTTCCCACGTCCGCAAG	50 °C
Heat Shock Protein	HSP 06	CTCTACTTGAATCTGCCTCACT	TCATGGGACGCAAATGAAAAC	48 °C
23	HSP_07	GCTTGTATACATCCATCGGC	CGATAGTCATCTACCACCGG	51°C
Phytochelatin	PS2_06	ACGGGATAGATAATTGACGGAAA	CTAACGGGTTTTGCTGTGGG	63 °C
syntase 2	PS2_07	TCACCAATGCCATTCGTCAC	GTTCTTCCATCTCCTGCT	48 °C
Phosphate	PHT_06	GCATCTTCCTCATTCTCGCC	GTCATGGCCACCCTTTGTTT	48 °C
Transporter	PHT_07	GGTTTCCGGCATCTTCATCC	GCAACTCCAAGTGCTTAACG	48 °C

Supplementary	Table 2. BL	ASTn of the contig	s obtained from	the sequencing	against all database
11 /		0		1 0	8

ESM_4. The results of sequence alignment of sequenced clones and selected squences in NCBI											
Cono	Agassian num bar	Results of sequence alignment (blastn)									
Gene	Accession num ber	Query cover	Expect	Identities	Gaps						
NRAMP1	XM_010260353.2	74%	0.0	79%	1%						
NRAMP3/4	XM_013744626.1	99%	2.00E-81	74%	1%						
ZIP11	XM_004291513.2	99%	2.00E-52	78%	0%						
HMA	XM_010550291.1	87%	3.00E-75	72%	2%						
ABCC1	XM_017379379.1	44%	0.0	81%	1%						
PHT	KC812501.1	99%	0.0	82%	0%						
PCS	GQ372840.1	100%	0.0	93%	0%						

Supplementary Table 3. BLASTp of the contigs obtained from the sequencing against all database and against cynara scolymus.

ESM_1. Co	mparison of produ	ct of candidate	reference genes in <i>Cy</i>	nara carduncul	<i>lus</i> with orth	ologs sequen	ces						
G		ortholog	ortholog species	The results of BLASTP				cynara accession	The results of	The results of BLASTP			
Gene	sequence name	sequence	name species	<b>Total Score</b>	Expect	Identities	Positives	number	<b>Total Score</b>	Expect	Identities	Positives	
NRAMP1	cyn00008	OTG21116.1	Helianthus annuus	2044	0.0	82%	85%	KVI06072.1	2414	0.0	94%	94%	
NRAMP3/4	cyn00009	OTG06734.1	Helianthus annuus	1046	7.00E-139	91%	95%	KVH92457.1	1088	3.00E-148	96%	96%	
ZIP11	cyn00010	OTG07698.1	Helianthus annuus	931	2.00E-121	77%	83%	KVI10407.1	1110	4.00E-152	91%	91%	
HMA	cyn00011	OTG15082.1	Helianthus annuus	1781	0.0	85%	91%	KVI01438.1	1863	0.0	92%	91%	
ABCC1	cyn00012	OTG28642.1	Helianthus annuus	6476	0.0	76%	81%	KVH87904.1	8321	0.0	95%	95%	
PHT	cyn00013	AGK29560.1	Chrysanthemum x morifolium	1900	0.0	87%	90%	KVH91481.1	2024	0.0	93%	93%	
PCS	cyn00014	ACU44656.1	Sonchus arvensis	928	1.00E-121	91%	93%	KVI12347.1	661	8.00E-85	96%	95%	

Supplementary Table 4. Primer sequences designed with primer3 website for the reference genes. Two couples of primers are created for the cloning, and a couple for the qPCR

GENE	CLONING PRIMER CODE	FORWARD PRIMER SEQUENCE	REVERSE PRIMER SEQUENCE	Та	REAL TIME FORWARD PRIMER SEQUENCE	REAL TIME REVERSE PRIMER SEQUENCE	Tm	HOMOLOGOUS TO ARABIDOPSIS GENE
GLYCERALDEHYDE 3- PHOSPHATE DEHYDROGENASE	GAP_01 GAP_02	TGARTCHACYGGTGTCTTCA TGARTCHACYGGTGTCTTCA	TCRAYVACACGRGARCTGTA TCRAYVACACGRGARCTGTA	53 °C 50° C	AGTACGACAGTGTTCATGGCC	CTGAAGCCGAAAACAGCGAC	63 °C 63 °C	AT1G13440
6-TUBULIN	TUB_01 TUB_02	ATCCTGACCTTCTTCTTCCTCT GAGCAAACCCCACCATGAAG	TCTTAACCACTTGATTTCCGCC CAGATCGGTGCCAAGTTCTG	53 °C 53 °C	TATTACAACGAGGCCAGCGG	CAGGCCTGAAGATCTGTCCG	63 °C 63 °C	AT5G44340
ACTIN	ATA_01 ATA_02	ACCGAAGATATTCAGCCCCT	CTTAGGATTCAAAGGTGCCTCC TGTTGGAAGGTGCTGAGTGA	48 °C 48 °C	ACATGTTCACCACCACTGCC	GCTACTCTTTGCGGTTTCAAGC	63 °C 63 °C	AT3G18780
ELONGATION FACTOR	EFA_01 EFA_02	TCCTTCTTGTCCACGCTCTT	AGTTGGCCGTGTTGAAACTG GACTACTACCGGGCACTTGA	53 °C 48 °C	TGACCCCAGTTTCAACACGG	AAGAGGCCATCAGACAAGCC	63 °C 63 °C	AT5G63390
185	18S_06 18S_07	GGTTGATCCTGCCAGTAGTC	GCGGAGTCCTAWAAGCAACA GTTCACCTACGGAAACCTTGT	65 °C 48 °C	TGCGGCCCAGAACATCTAAG	CGAGACCTCAGCCTGCTAAC	63 °C 63 °C	AT2G01010.1
ANAPHASE PROMOTING COMPLEX	APC_01 APC_02	TGAGCTAATTGATTTATGGTGGC GATACCGGCTGCCCTTCA	TGACAAGCAAGCATGGATTGA GCTCCTGCCATTGAAGACTT	48 °С 53 °С	GCTCCAATGTGCGTATTTCAGT	TGAATATCGTGTTATGCTGGCTG	63 °С 63 °С	AT2G04663
WD40	WD40_01 WD4_02	GGTTGAGAGGGATGGAAAACA TCCTAAGATCCCACACTTTGACA	GTGGGATATGCGTCAAAGGG TGCAAGCAGGTGAAGGTAC	48 °C 48 °C	CATGGTTCTGAAAGGGCACAAG	CATCCCATGCCCTCAGTGTC	63 °С 63 °С	AT2G43770

ESM_4. The results of sequence alignment of sequenced clones and selected squences in NCBI										
Cono	A agossion number	Results of sequence alignment (blastn)								
Gene	Accession number	Query cover	Expect	Identities	Gaps					
EF1-α	NM_001247106.2	99%	0.0	87%	0%					
ACTIN	KJ634809.1	100%	0.0	96%	0%					
GAPDH	KF563904.1	99%	0.0	95%	0%					
WD40	XM_002277595.4	97%	5.00E-150	84%	0%					
APC	XM_016039563.1	95%	9.00E-96	86%	0%					
TUB	KP752084.1	85%	0.0	88%	0%					
18S	KT179688.1	100%	3.00E-170	100%	0%					

Supplementary Table 5. BLASTn of the sequence against all database

Supplementary Table 6. BLASTp of the contigs obtained from the sequencing against all database and against *cynara scolymu* 

	ESM_1. Comparison of product of candidate reference genes in Cynara cardunculus with orthologs sequences											
			ortholog		The results o	f BLASTP		cynara accession		The results of	BLASTP	
Gene	sequence name	ortholog sequence	species name	Total Score	Expect	Identities	Positives	nµmber	Total Score	Expect	Identities	Positives
			Solanum									
EF1-α	cyn00001	XP_015058086.1	pennellii	1862	0.0	92%	93%	KVI09543.1	1889	0.0	94%	94%
			Helianthus							0.0		
ACTIN	cyn00002	OTF93595.1	annuus	1629	0.0	92%	92%	KVI08516.1	1630	0.0	92%	92%
			Saussurea									
GAPDH	cyn00003	AGX26868.1	involucrata	617	2.00E-78	83%	86%	KVI10262.1	391	5.00E-45	61%	72%
			Helianthus									
WD40	cyn00004	OTG35852.1	annuus	873	2.00E-115	95%	96%	KVH91003.1	905	1.00E-123	91%	90%
			Helianthus									
APC	cyn00005	OTG04417.1	annuus	362	5.00E-37	87%	90%	KVH95643.1	375	2.00E-43	92%	93%
			Helianthus									
TUB	cyn00006	OTG08113.1	annuus	1285	6.00E-175	92%	92%	KVH94866.1	1176	2.00E-161	88%	89%
			Cirsium									
18S(*)	cyn00007	KT179661.1	undulatum	1164	0.0	100%		no available				

\*Blastn was applaied

GENE	PRIMER CODE	REAL TIME FORWARD PRIMER SEQUENCE	REAL TIME REVERSE PRIMER SEQUENCE	Tm
NRAMP1	NR1_01	GCAAGTGGAGCTCAAAGGTC	GGTCAAGAAACCCCTGCATA	60 °C
NRAMP3/4	NR3_02	GGTGTAAGGAAGTTAGAGGCCC	AGCTTTGGAACCACGAGACC	60 °C
ZIP11	ZIP11_06	TGCCTCGTTTCCTTTTCTTC	CTCGGGTGCTTCGTCGT	60 °C
HMA	HMA_07	CGGGCACGATTACTAGAGGA	CTAGCCTTGCTCTCGATGCT	60 °C
ABCC1	ABC_01	TAAGTCTTTCGCGTGCATTG	TTCTTCGCGAATGGTCTTTT	60 °C
PHT	PHT_02	AAGATTTCAGCAGGGACGAC	ACGACAACCGTCTTGGATTC	60 °C
PCS	PCS_02	AGCTTCAACCTTTGCTCCAG	CCAATCCACAATAGGCAGGT	60 °C

Supplementary Table 7. qPCR primers designed with primer3 website.

## 8 Appendix

lcl LERW01001852.1_cds_KVI0607 /M_010260353.2 PREDICTED: Nelu	10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 
lel LEEW01001852.1_cds_EW10607 /M_010260353.2 PREDICTED: Nelu	110         120         140         150         160         170         140         190         200           ОССАБТЕСТ СКС
lcl LERW01001852.1_cds_RW10607 7M_010260353.2 PREDICTED: Nelu	210 220 230 240 250 260 270 280 300 TOGGTCCTGG GTTTCTTGTT TCCATGCAT ACATGATC TGGAACTTT GAACGATC TTCAATCAGG AGCCCAGTAC AAGTATGAGG TACTTGGAT TGGGTCCTGG ATTTCTTGTT TCTATTGCAT ATATTGATCC TGGGAACTTT GAACGATC TTCAATCAGG AGCACAGTAC AAGTATGAGG TACTTGGAT
lcl LERM01001852.1_cds_EW10607 /M_010260353.2 PREDICTED: Nelu	310     320     330     340     350     360     370     380     390     400       TATATTORS GOLCLATEG CREACTER CATCUARCE TOGENECAN ACCESSOGET TOTENCESAN AND ACCESSOR TOTENCESAN ACCESSOR     TOTENCESAN ACCESSOR     1000000000000000000000000000000000000
lcl LERM01001852.1_cds_EW10607 7M_010260353.2 PREDICTED: Nelu	410 420 430 440 450 460 470 480 490 500 TATGAGAAGS TGACCAATAT CATTITUTIGG ATCITUGE AAATATOCAT AGTECTTET GACATTOCE AAGTATOGG CACAGCATT GCCETGAATA TACCCAAAGS TECCAAACT CATCETAGG CECETECEG AAATATOCAT AGTECCATE GACATCOCE AAGTACTOG GACAGCETT GCACTGAATA
lcl LERM01001852.1_cds_EW10607 /M_010260353.2_PREDICTED: Nelu	510         520         530         540         550         560         570         580         590         600           TGCTCTTCAA         TACTCCCAGTA         TGGTGTGGGG         TGCTCTTCAA         TACTCAGCACT         ACATCAGACA         ACTTGAGTA         TGGTGTGGGGG         TGGTGTGGGGG         TGGTGTGTGGTG         TGGTGTGGGG         TGGTGTGTGG         TGGTGTGTGG         TGGTGTGTGG         TGGTGTGTGGGG         TGGTGTGTGGGGG         TGGTGTGTGGGGG         TGGTGTGTGGGGG         TGGTGTGTGGGGGG         TGGTGTGTGGGGG         TGGTGTGTGGGGG         TGGTGTGTGGGGG         TGGTGTGTGGGGGG         TGGTGTGGGGGG         TGGTGTGGGGGG         TGGTGTGGGGGG         TGGTGTGTGGGGG         TGGTGTGGGGGG         TGGTGTGGGGG         TGGTGTGGGGG         TGGTGTGGGGG         TGGTGTGGGGG         TGGTGTGGGGG         TGGTGTGGGGG         TGGTGGGGGG         TGGTGGGGGG         TGGTGGGGGG         TGGTGGGGGG         TGGGGGGGG         TGGGGGGGGG         TGGGGGGGGG         TGGGGGGGGG         TGGGGGGGGG         TGGGGGGGGG         TGGGGGGGGG         TGGGGGGGGG         TGGGGGGGGGG         TGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGGG
lcl LERM01001852.1_cds_RM10607 7M_010260353.2 PREDICTED: Nelu	510         520         530         540         650         660         670         680         690         700           CTTGATTACT TTCTTGERAC TCCATATAGE TGCATATAGE GCTGTTTGTC         TTTGTGAGAG TTGGATTGCAAAACTGCAAAAACTGCAAAACTGCAAAAACTGCAAAACTGCAAAACTGCAAAACTGCAAAACTGCAAAAACTGAAAACTGCAAAAACTGAAAAACTGAAAAACTGAAAAAAAA
lcl LERM01001852.1_cds_EM10607 /M_010260353.2 PREDICTED: Nelu	710         720         730         740         750         760         770         780         790         800           COCCAGECA GOBGLAGOS TECTACAGOS CITUSANTE CACTOCITOS TECTATEGET ATECCOCACA ACCTITECT GARCTAGATE CITUSCETT         COCCAACTA AGGGLAATEG AGCTACTOGE CITUSANTE CACTOCITOS TECTATEGET ATECCOCACA ACCTETECT CEATECAGET TITEGECTIT
lc1 LEXM01001852.1_cds_XM10607 /M_010260353.2_PREDICTED: Nelu	810         820         830         840         850         870         880         890         900           CTAGGAAAAT ACCACGATICA GITAGIGGGA TCAAAGAGC ATGCCGATIT TACTIGATAG AAAGTGGCAT ACCCCTTAGTGAATATAT         CCCGAAGAAT TCCAAGAACT ATTCAAGAGC ATGCCGATIT TACTIGATAG AAAGTGGCAT TGCCTTGCCG GTGGCCTTC TGATTAATGT
lcl LERW01001852.1_cds_EW10607 /M_010260353.2 PREDICTED: Nelu	910 920 930 940 950 960 970 980 999 1000 ATOGOTIATA TCATTAGET GOTCAGTOR CAATTOC AATTOCACE CARTGATCA GAGAGTOR CAAGACTAG ATTOGAAA AGCCOCTTT ATOGOTIATA TCATTAGET GOTCOGTOR AATTOCACE AATTOGACT GAGAGACTGC AATGACTAG ATTOGAAA AGCCOCCTTT
lcl LERM01001852.1_cds_RM10607 /M_010260353.2 PREDICTED: Nelu	1010 1020 1030 1040 1050 1060 1070 1080 1090 1100 TTOETCAAGE CAATAATGT TCTAGGCAGE TGGAGETCAA AGECTITICE AATGCGTTA TGGGCATCAG GTCGAGGTTC GAACATATG TTGETC
lc1 LEXM01001852.1_cds_XM10607 /M_010260353.2 PREDICTED: Nelu	III0 II20 II30 II40 II50 II60 II70 II80 II00 I200 CTOGOCAGTA TETTATICIA GOGITTICTIG ACTIADETA GAGOCATEG CTTAGAAACC TOCTAACOO GIGCITAGOC ATAGTOCIA GICTAATIGT CAGGACAATA TETCATECAG GETTTICTIG ATTICCEAAT CACACCATEG ATACOGAACT TCITAACAAG ATECTTEGCA ATAGTOCIAA GICTAACAGT
lcl LERM01001852.1_cds_RM10607 /M_010260353.2 PREDICTED: Nelu	1210         1220         1230         1240         1250         1260         1270         1280         1290         1300           TGCTCTCATT         GGTGGATCOG         GGAGCTGG         GAAGTTAATT         ATCATAGCAT         CTAT         CTATCATAGCAT         CTAT
lc1 LEHN01001852.1_cds_ENT0607 /M_010260353.2 PREDICTED: Nelu	1310         1320         1330         1340         1350         1360         1370         1380         1300         1400
lcl LERM01001852.1_cds_RM10607 /M_010260353.2 PREDICTED: Nelu	1410 1420 1430 1440 1450 1460 1470 1480 1490 1500 
lc1 LEKW01001852.1_cds_KW10607 /M_010260353.2_PREDICTED: Nelu	1510 1520 1530 1540 1550 1560 1570 1580 1590 1600 TTATTIACC GORATTOGT ATCOGTGTT GOCCANANC ANGUACTCHT CACACUTT-AC GAGTCGTAA TCOCCGS AARTGAAA. GTATTTGC GGAATTGTT ACTTGGTCAT COGGAAGAAT AAAGAAGTAA CACACUTGCT GCCATTGGAG GAGTCAGTAA ACCUGCCGAG AAATAGCAAT
lcl LEXM01001852.1_cds_XM10607 /M_010260353.2 PREDICTED: Nelu	1610 1620 1630 1640 1650 1660 1670 1680 1690 1700 -GRAGIGETT COGETECAT TOSCICACEA AGAGAGACA TAGTTAGENT COLACTTOET CAGAAGAGA CALCTEGET AGAAAGAT TGTGACAATG AAATCTTATA TAGCETCOCC AGAGAAGATA TAGTAAGCAT GCAATTGCC CAAAGAAGGA TACCGGETGG TGTCAACTAA CTGATGCTCT
lc1 LERM01001852.1_cds_RM10607 /M_010260353.2 FREDICTED: Nelu	1710 1720 1730 1740 1750 1760 1770 1780 1790 1800 
lcl LERW01001852.1_cds_KW10607 /M_010260353.2 PREDICTED: Nelu	1820 1820 1830 1840 1850 1860 1870 1880 1890 1900 

Alignment of *Cynara scolymus* sequences NRAMP1 against *Nelumbo nucifera* metal transporter with BioEdit program. Different colours represent the different nucleotides.

cyn00009 7M_013744626.1 PREDICTED: Bras	10 2 	0 30 I	40 I GTTTTGTGGG	50 I TTATGGCTGA	GCTGGCGCTG GTTGGCTTTG	70 ATTGGAGCCG ATTGGATCTG	80 ATATTCAAGA ATATTCAAGA	90 AGTCATTGGA AGTCATTGGA	AGTGCCATTG AGTGCCATCG
сул00009 /M_013744626.1 PREDICTED: Втаз	110 11 CTCTCAAGAT TTTGACAAAT CTATCCAGAT TCTGACCAAT	GGGTTTTTAC GGGATCTTCC	CCCTTTGGGC CTCTCTGGGC	TGGTGTTCTT TGGTGTCGTT	ATCACTGCTT ATTACAGCTC	TTGATTGTTT TCGACTGTTT	CATCTTCCTG CGTCTTCTTG	TTTCTTGAAA TTTCTTGAGA	ACTATGGTGT ACTACGGAAT
сут.00009 2M_013744626.1 PREDICTED: Втаз	210 22 AAGGAAGTTA GAGGCCCTTT CAGGAAACTC GAGGCGGTTT	TTGCTGTTCT	TATAGCAGTA AATOGGAACA	ATGGCGATTT ATGGCGGTGG	CATTOGCATG	GATGTTTGGT GATGTTCGGT	280 GAAACGAAGC CAAGCCAAAC	CCAATGCTAA CAAGTGGCTC	AGAGCTTCTT TGAGCTTCTC
cyn00009 /M_013744626.1 PREDICTED: Bras	310 3: GTTGGTCTCG TGGTTCCAAA GTTGGCATAT TGGTACCGAA	COTCAATTOG	340 340 AAAACAATAC AGAACAATAC	350 	GGGAGTTGTT CGGAGTCGTG	GGCTGCATTA	380 TAATGCCTCA TAATGCCGCA	TAATGTGTTC CAACGTGTTC	TTACATTOGG CTCCACTCAG
сул.00009 /M_013744626.1 PREDICTED: Втаз	410 41 CACTTGTGCA GTCAAGAGAG CTCTCGTCCA ATCCCGTGA3	C GTTGATCDGA	GAAAAACTGG GGCAGAAGCA	CCGAGTCCGT CAGAGTCCAA	GAAGCCCTCA GAAGCCCTCA GAAGCTATAA	GATACTATTC ACTACTACAC	480 GATOGAGTOC GATOGAATOC	GGTATAGOGC ACGATOGCTC	TAGCTATCTC TCGCCGTCTC
cyn00009 2M_013744626.1 PREDICTED: Bras	510 51 GTTTATCATC AATCTTTTTC CTTCATGATC AACCTCTTCC	TAACGACTGT	S40 GTTTGCAAAG	GCGTTTTTTG GGCTTCTACA	GTACTGCAAT ACACOGACCT	570 TGCTGATACA GGCCGACAGC	580 ATTGGGCTCG ATCGGCCTGG	GAAATGOGGG TCAACGOGGG	TCAGTTTCTT TCAGTACCTC
сул.00009 /M_013744626.1 PREDICTED: Втаз	610 61 GAAGAAAGAT TOGGTGGOGG CAGGACAAGT AOGGAGGOGG	GTTGGTCCCG	ATTTTGTATA ATACTGTACA	TTTGGGCCGT TCTGGGGGGAT	TGGGTTGCTA	GCGGCCGGGC GCCGCTGGGC	AGAGCAGCAC	CATCACGGGC	ACTTATGCCG
сул.00009 /M_013744626.1 PREDICTED: Втаз	710 72 GGCAGTTTAT TATGGGCGGT GGCAGTTCAT CATGGGAGGC	TTTCTGAATT	TGAGATTGAA TCAAGATGAA	GAAATGGGCT GAAGTGGCTG	CGGGCCTTGA	770 TTACGAGAAG TCACGCGCAG	780 TTGTGCCATC CTGCGCGATC	ATTCCCACGT	TGGTCGTTGC TGATCGTCGC
сул00009 /M_013744626.1 PREDICTED: Втаз	810 81 ATTGATTTC GACAGTTCCC TCTGGTGTTT GATTCGTCTC	AGGATACTAT	GGATGTTTTG	AACGAGTGGC	TTAATGTGCT	TCAGGCGGTT TCAGTCCATT	CAGATCCCGT CAGATCCCGT	TCGCTCTCAT	TCCGTTGCTG
сул00009 /M_013744626.1 PREDICTED: Втаз	910 92 	to 930 	940     AGTTTCAAAA	950 I TCGGTCCTTT	960 	970 II GTCGCTTGGC	980 ····I···I TTGTTGCTGC	GCTTGTGATA	0 1000 I 
сул00009 /M_013744626.1 PREDICTED: Втаз	1010 10 GTTATCTGTT GCTTGAGTTC	20 103 	0 104 II AGGTTAGTGG	0 105	0 106 II ACCGGTTTTG	0 1071 II TGAGTGTGTT	0 108 ····I···I CACGGCTTCG	0 109 II TATGGTGCGT	0 1100 I TCATAGTCTA
сул00009 /M_013744626.1 PREDICTED: Втаз	CCTGATTGGT CGTGGCATTA	20 113 	0 114 II GTGCCGCTCT	0 115    AAAGCAGAGT	0 116 II CTAGTTGATG	0 1170     AGAATGGATG	0 118     GGGGACCAAA	0 119 	0 1200 II  TAACTCTGTT
сул00009 2M_013744626.1 PREDICTED: Bras	1210 12    TTGTTTTTGG ATCAGTAGGA	20 123 I 	0 124 ····I···I TGCTTGGCTT	0 125 I AAGTGTTTTG	0 126 I  TATAATATGT	0 1270 	0 128 II 	0 129 I TGGTTTTGTG	0 1300 I 
сут.00009 /M_013744626.1 PREDICTED: Втаз	1310 13 	20 133 1	0 134 I  ATGGGAGAAT	0 135 I TAATAAGATC	0  ATTTCACCA				

Alignment of NRAMP3 contigs against *Brassica oleracea* metal transporter Nramp3-like with BioEdit program. Different colours represent the different nucleotides.

cym00010 /M 004291513.2 PREDICTED: Frag	10 20 	30 	40 	50  AAGTCTTCCT	60 	70	80  CAACAAGTAT	90 	100 II ATCACACCAA
	110 12 	) 130 ···· ····	140	15i	0 160 I	170 	18 	0 190 ••••• ••••	200
Cyn00010 /M_004291513.2 PREDICTED: Frag	GAAAGTCTCC GTCATTACAT	TGCAGTACAA	CCCTTCTTTC	CATTCTOGTC	ттеттестес	AGTACGTACT	тететететт	CTGTACTACC	аласаласас
cyn00010 71_004291513.2 PREDICTED: Frag	210 220 	230 	240 I TCCCATGTCC	250 	0 260 	ATGCCTOGTT ATGCCTOGTT ATGCCTOGTT	28 TCCTTTTCTT CACTTCTCCT	CATCTCTCTC CCTCCTCATC	300 TTCCTCCTCC CTCCTCTCCC
cyn00010 7M_004291513.2 PREDICTED: Frag	310 32	CACGGCGGCG CACAGCGGCC	340 ATGATCADGG ADGGCGADGA	35 CGACGACGAA AGACGAGGAG	AAACCOGATG	370 CTGGAAAACC CAGAAAGCAA	AACCTCOGA	O 390 TCAAGATCCT GCTAGGCCTC	TGATTCTTGT TGATTCTGAC
cyr00010 7M_004291513.2 PREDICTED: Frag	410 422    GAAGATATGG TGTTTGATAC AAAGATCTGG TGTTTGATAG	TGGTGTTTCT TTATCTTTTT	TGGGACTTTC	450 ATTGGTGGTG ATCCCTGGAG	TTTCTCCTTA	470 CTTCTTCAAA CTTCTTGGAA	48 TGGAATGAGG TGGAATCAGG	GATTCTTGGT GTTTCTTGGT	500 TTTGGGTACC TCTTGGGACC
cyn00010 7M_004291513.2 PREDICTED: Frag	S10 S20 CAGTTOGCOG GOGGGOGTGTT CAGTTTGCTG GAGGOGTGTT	TCTTGGAACC TCTCGGGACA	540 GCCATGATGC GCTTTGATGC	ATTTCCAG	0 560 TGATGCCAAT TGATGCTGAT	GAAACTTTTC GAGACTTTTA	58 AAGATTTAAC AGGACTTGAC	CACCGTTGAA TGAGAAAGTG	600 TACCCTTTTG TACCCTTTTG
cyn00010 /M_004291513.2 PREDICTED: Frag	610 621 CTTTTATGCT GGCTTGTGGT CCTTCATGTT GGCTTGTGCT	GGTTATTTGC GGGTTCTTGA	GACTATGCT TGACAATGCT TGACAATGCT	CGCTGATTGC AGCTGATTGT	CTCATTTCTT GTCATTTCCT	ATGTTTATGG ATGTGTTTTC	AAAACAGCCA CAAGAAGAGG	AATGGGTCTG GATGGTGGCT	CTTCTGATGA CTGTTTCTGA
cyn00010 7M_004291513.2 PREDICTED: Frag	710 721 CCTTGAACAT CAAGGGAACA TCTTGAGACT CAAGGGAGTG	ACAGGAATGG	740 AAAAGAGTCG ACAAG-GCGT	AAAGACATCA	AGATTOGAAT	TCATCAG	CTTC CTTTGTAAAT	0 790 II GCATCTGTCG	800 I  CAAATGTAAG
cyn00010 7M_004291513.2 PREDICTED: Frag	810 821 TTCACTAGGA GACAGCATCT TTCACTTGGG GATAGTGTCT	B30 TGTTAATAGT TGTTGATTGT	840 CGCATTGTGT AGCCTTGTGT	850 TTCCATTCCG TTCCACTCAG	0 860 TCTTCGAAGG TCTTTGAGGG	870 AATCGCGATT CATTGCGATT	BB GGAATCGCCGG GGAGTTACTG	ACACCAAAGC	900 C-ATGCTTGG TGATGCTTGG
cym00010 /M_004291513.2 PREDICTED: Frag	910 921 AAAGCTCTAT GGACAATCTC AAAGCCTTAT GGACGATTTC	930 TCTTCACAAG TCTGCACAAG	940 ATCTTTGCAG GTATTTGCAG	951 CCATTGCAAT CCATTGCAAT	0 960 GGGAATTGCT GGGAATTGCT	970 CTTCTAAGAA CTTCTTOGTA	98 TGATTCCAGA TGATGCCTAA	CCGCCCTTTC CCGCCCTTTC	TTATCATGCG CTATCATGCG
cyn00010 7M_004291513.2 PREDICTED: Frag	1010 102 CATCTTACGC CTTTGCCTTT CTGCCTATGC TTTTGCATTT	0 1030 GGAATCTOGA GCTTCTTCAA	GTCCGATOGG	0 105 AGTOGCAATC TGTGGCCATT	GGGATCGTCA GGAATCATAA	D 1070 TCGATGCAAC TAGACGCAAC	GACACAGGGT	0 109 CGAGTTGCAG GCTGTGGCAG	ATTGGATATT
cyn00010 7M_004291513.2 PREDICTED: Frag	TGCGATATCG ATGGGAATTG	0 1130 CTTGTGGGGT CATGTGGAGT	O 114 OTTATATAT GTTTATCTAT GTTTATCTAT	GTATOGATAA GTAGCTGTAA	ACCATTTACT	0 1170 TCGAGGTT GGCCAAGGGT	ATCAGGCACA	A-AAGCCGTC ATAAGCCAGT	TTCAATCGAC
cyn00010 7M_004291513.2 PREDICTED: Frag	1210 122 ACTCOGAGCC TCAAATTGTT AAATCCCATT ACAAGTTTTT	0 1230 GGCTGTAACA GGCAGTGTTG	ATGGGAATAG	0 125 GGGTGATTGC GCGTTATAGC	0 126 TGTTGTTATG TGTTGTGATG	ATCTGGGACA	D 128 II ATCGDGGACA CTTGAAGACA	0 129 	0 1300 GATGCTTGGA TGTGCCTTTA
cjm00010 /M_004291513.2 PREDICTED: Frag	1310 132 	0 1330 CTTCACAAGA GTGAAAGAAT	) 134 TCTTTGCAGC GCATAATGAT	0 135 CATTGCAATG GCGTATATTG	0 136 GGAATTGCTC CATGCAGCTT	0 1370 TTCTAAGAAT TTTGGGAAGT	GATTCCAGAC	0 139 CGCCCTTTCT GGCCTAG	0 1400 TATCATGCGC GGTCATAGGT
cyn00010 /M_004291513.2 PREDICTED: Frag	1410 142	0 1430 GAATCTOGAG AATTTOGTAA	) 144 TCDGATCOGA AGTTATTAGT	0 145 GTCGCAATCG TCAGGCTACA	GGATCGTCAT	0 1470 CGATGCAACG CATTCCCA	ACACAGGGTC	0 149 GAGTTGCAGA AACTTTTACA	0 1500 TTGGATATTT CCATTT-CTC
cyn00010 /M_004291513.2 PREDICTED: Frag	1510 152 GCGATATCGA TGGGAATTGC CTGATTTGAA TTTTTCA	0 1530 TTGTGGGGTG TTGTTAAGTT	0 154 TTTATATATG GTGAGGTTTG	0 155 TATOGATAAA TTTGGCTTGA	0 156 	O 1570 CGAGGTTATC GGTGAACATC	AGGCACAAAA ATGTTAT	0 159 GCCGTCTTCA ATTTTGACAG	0 1600 ATOGACACTC ATTGAGAATT
cyn00010 7M_004291513.2 PREDICTED: Frag	1610 162 OGAGCCTCAA ATTGTTGGCT CA	0 1630   GTAACAATGG	) 164 II GAATAGGGGT	0 165 GATTGCTGTT	0 166 GTTATGATCT	GGG			

Alignment of ZIP11 contigs against *Fragaria vesca* zinc transporter 11-like with BioEdit program. Different colours represent the different nucleotides.

cyn00011 7M_010550291.1 PREDICTED: Tate	20 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 	
cyn00011 /M_010550291.1 PREDICTED: Tate	110         120         130         140         150         160         170         180         190         200           TGGITATATI AGTGITAAAA CTACTGCTCT AGCTGAAGCT TGTGTAGTGG CAAGAATGGC AAAGCTTGTT GAAGAGGCTC AAAATAATAA ATCTAAAACT         CGGTTACATA AGCGTGAAAA CCACTGCTTT AGCCGAAGAT TGCGTGGTGTG CAAGAATGGC AAAGCTAGTG GAAGAAGCTC AGAACGCAA AACACAAAACC	
cyn00011 /M_010550291.1 PREDICTED: Tate	210 220 230 240 250 260 270 280 290 300 CAGAGATATG TAGACAAATG TGCCAAGTAT TACACCCCAG CTGTTTGTGT AATAGCCGCC TGCTTGGCTG CAATACCAGC TGCTATGCGA GTTCACAACC CAGAGGTTTA TAGACAAATG CTCTCAGTAC TACACCCCAG CTGTTGTCAT AATATCAGCT TGTTTTGCCA TTATACCCGT TGCTCTGAGG GTCCGAAACC	
cyn00011 /M_010550291.1 PREDICTED: Tate	310 320 330 340 350 360 370 380 390 400 TOGACAAATG GTATCACTTG GCATTGGTG TTTTGGTAAG COCATGCCG TGTGGGCTTA TCTTGTCAAC GCCTGTTGCA GCATTCTGCG CATTGTCAAA CGAGCCATTG GTTTCGGTTA GCACTGGTTG TGTTAGTAAG TGCATGCCCT TGTGGGCTTC TCCTCTCCAC ACCAGTTGCC ACTTTCTGTG CACTCACAAA	
cjn00011 /M_010550291.1 PREDICTED: Tare	410 420 430 440 450 460 470 480 490 500 AGCAGCACA TECEGRACITE TAGTITAADG COCTGAATAC CITGAAACCE TITETACAGT CAAGTITAIT TGCTTGACA AAACDGGCAC AATCACTAAA GGCAGCCACG TEAGGACITE TGATCAAAGG AGGAGATTAT CITGAAACCE TATCCAAGAT CAAGATTGCT GCTTTGGATA AGACOGGAAC CATEACCAGA	
cyn00011 /M_010550291.1 PREDICTED: Tare	S10 S20 S30 S40 S50 S60 S70 S80 S90 600 GEAGAGTETE CTERECEARA CTECKTECK CCATTATES ACTOSEACAAATES CTETACTOSE TITEGAGCAT AGAGAGCAAG TETAGTCATE GEOGRATECA COGTECTEGA TITECAGATET CTECCOGAG ACATAAGTET TEACAGCETT CTTTACTOSE TITEGAGCAT AGAGAGCAAG TOGAGCEATE	
cyn00011 /M_010550291.1 PREDICTED: Tate	610 620 630 640 650 660 670 680 690 700 CAATOGCIGC AGCACITATA GACTACGCAC AGTCCOGITC AGITGAACCA CAACCAGACA ATGTGGAGGA AT-TCAAGAT ITTCCCGGGG AAGGAATTTA CAATGGCIGC TGCCAITGTG GACTATGCAA AATCCGTATC GGTTGAACCA TAACATGATG CAGTGGAGGA GTACCAGAAC TTTCCAGGT AAGGAATCTG	
cym00011 /M_010550291.1 PREDICTED: Tate	710         720         730         740         750         760         770         780         790         800           COGAAAGATT GATOGGAAOG ATATTTATAT TOGAAACCAA AAGATTGCCA TTAGAOCAGG GTGTTCAA         GTTCCAACAA ATGGGAGGGA TAACAATGAA         TGGGAAGATA GACGGGAAGA AAGATTGCCA TTAGAOCAGG GTGTTCAA         GTTCCAACAA ATGGGAGGGA TAACAATGAA         TGGGAAGATA GACGGGAAGA AAGATTGCCA TTAGAOCAGG GTGTTCAA         GTTCCAACAA ATGGGAGGAGTA TAACAATGAA	
cjn00011 /M_010550291.1 PREDICTED: Tare	810 820 830 840 850 860 870 880 890 900 GOGAAGTOGA TTOGGTACAT ATTITTOGOG TCTTCACCTG CTGGAATCTT TAGTCTCTC GATCTTGTC GAATCOGAGT GAAGGAAGCA CTOGAAGAAC GOGAAGACAG TTOGATACAT CTATGTAGGA GAAAGATTOG CAGGAGTTT CAATCTTTCA GACTCTTGTC GAACCOGAGC AGTTCAAGCG ATGAAGGAAC	
cyn00011 2M_010550291.1 PREDICTED: Tare	910 920 930 940 950 960 970 980 990 1000 TCAAATCAAT GGGAATTAAA ACAACCATGC TCACAGGAGA TTGTCAAGCC GCAGCCAATC ATGCACAAAA TCAGTTAGGG GGTGCACTAG AGGTGGTTCA TTAAATCTTT GGGTGTTAAA ACCACGAAGA TGACCAAGAA TGACCAAGAA ACAGCTAGGG AATGCTCTGG AGGTGTTCA	
cyn00011 /M_010550291.1 PREDICTED: Tare	1010 1020 1030 1040 1050 1060 1070 1080 1090 1100 TGEAGAACTT CTACCTCAAG ATAAAGCCAG AATTATCAAA GAAATTCAAA GGGAATTCCC AACAGCTATG GTGGAGATG GACTCAATGA TGCTCCTGCT TTCAGAGCTT CTTCCGCAAG ATAAAGCAAG AATCATCGAG GAGTTTAAGA GAGAAGGAGC AACCGCCATG GTAGGGGATG GACTGAATGA TGCACCGGCT	
cyn00011 2M_010550291.1 PREDICTED: Tare	III0 II20 II30 II40 II50 II60 II70 II80 II90 I200 TTAGCCACTG CAGATATTGG GATCTCAATG GGGGTTTCCG GATCAGGGT GGCTAACGAA ACTGGACACG TGATCCTTAT GTCGAACGAC ATCCGGAAAGA TTAGCTACTG CAGATATCGG AATCTCCATG GGATATCTG GTTCTGCACT CGCAACGACA TCATTCTCAT GTCTAATGAC ATCAGAAAGA	
cyn00011 2M_010550291.1 PREDICTED: Tate	1210         1220         1230         1240         1250         1260         1270         1280         1290         1300           TCCCAATAGE GETGAAGETT GECAGAAAAA CCOGEAGAAA AATATTOGAG AATATCTTTA TOGETATOGT TACEAAAGEC GETATAATTG CCTTGGECAT         TCCCGGAGGE TATAGAACTA GEAAGAAGAG CTAGETGGAA AGTTATACAG AACGTGGTTC TGTCGATATC TATAAAGGA GGGATTCTTG TCCGGCTTT	
cyn00011 /M_010550291.1 PREDICTED: Tate	1310 1320 1330 1340 1350 1360 1370 1380 TGCCGGCCAC CCCCTGGTTT GGGCAGCGGT TCTTGCGGAC GTGGGAACC	

Alignment of HMA contigs against *Tarenaya hassleriana* cadmium/zinc-transporting ATPase HMA3 with BioEdit program. Different colours represent the different nucleotides.

lcl LEENV01005726.1_cds_ENV88790 /M_017379379.1 PREDICTED: Dauc	TOGAGAACIT CCTCCAGITA GTGATGCACA TGTTATTATG AGAGGAACAG TTGCTTATGT CCCACAAGTG TCATGGATTT TCAACGCAAC TGTACGTGAC TGGAGAGCTT CCTGCTGTTG CAGATACTAG TGTTGTTATT AGGGGTACAG TGCTTATGT TCCACAAGTA TCATGGATCT TCAATGCAAC CGTACGTCAG
lcl LERM01005726.1_cds_RMR8790 /M_017379379.1 PREDICTED: Deuc	2210 2220 2230 2240 2250 2260 2270 2280 2200 2300 ALCATATTGT TOGGATCOGT CITITGAACCT GCAAGGTATG AGAAGACACT TGATGTAACT GCATTGCACC ATGACCTTGA GGTGCTTCCA GGTGGTGATC AATATACTAT TTGGATCTGT CITITGAACCT TCAAGGTATT CCAGGGCAAT AGATGTGACT GCATTGCGC ATGACCTTGA TTTGCTTCCC GGCGGTGATC
lcl LEEXM01005726.1_cds_EXM88790 /M_017379379.1 PREDICTED: Dauc	2310 2320 2330 240 2350 2300 2400 TTACCGARAT TGGTGANAG GOGGTCANTA TTAGTOGRAG ACANANGCA AGAGTITCCA TGGCTAGAGC TGTATACTCT AAGTCTGACG TTTATGTGTT TCACTGAAAT TGGTGANAGA GGAGTTATA TTAGTGGAGG ACANANGCAA AGAGTATCCA TGGCTAGAGC TGTATACTCA GATTCAGATG TGTATATATT
lcl LEKW01005726.1_cds_KWH8790 /M_017379379.1 PREDICTED: Dauc	2410 2420 2430 2440 2450 2460 2470 2480 2480 2500 TGATGATCCT TTGAGTCCTC TAGATCCTCA TGTGGGTCGA CAGGTCTTTG AGAATGTAT TAAAGAAGAA TTAAGAGGCA AAACACGTGT TCTAGTTACA TGATGACCCT TTAAGCGCTC TTGATGCTCA TGTGGCTCGA CAGGTTTTCG AAAAATGCAT CAAAGAAGAA CTGAAGGGGA GGACCAGAGT TTTAGTGACA
lcl LEEXV01005726.1_cds_EVM8790 /M_017379379.1 PREDICTED: Dave	2510 2520 2530 2540 2550 2560 2570 2580 2590 2600 AACCAACTAC ATTITCTTTC ACAAGTOGAT AGGATCCTCT TG5TCCATGA AGGATGGTG AAAGAGGAG GATCCTATGA AGGACTGTG AACCAGTTAC ATTITCTTTC TCAAGTAGAT AGGATCCTTC TAGTCCATGA TGGCATGGTG AAAGAGGAG GATCCTATGA AGGATTGTCA AACAATGGCA
lcl LEKV01005726.1_cds_KVH8790 /M_017379379.1 PREDICTED: Dave	2610         2620         2630         2640         2650         2670         2680         2690         2700           TACTCTTCCA GAGATTCCAG GAAAATGGA AGAATATGTG GAGAAAAG AAGAGGCAGG AGAGGCTGAT ACAAAGACAT CAATACCTGT         TACTCTTCCA AAAACGATG GAAAATGCAG GAAAAATGGA AGAATATGTG GAAGAAGAGG AAGAAGGGA AGACAAAGAA AGTCAAACTT TAAAACCTGT
lcl LEKW01005726.1_cds_KWH8790 /M_017379379.1 PREDICTED: Daue	2710 2720 2730 2740 2750 2760 2770 2780 2790 2800 
lcl LEKW01005726.1_cds_KWH8790 VM_017379379.1 PREDICTED: Dauc	2810         2820         2830         2840         2850         2860         2870         2880         2900           GGTGTTGTCA, GCTTTAARGT         TTTGAAGAGE         TATAAGAGE         CTGGTGGGTT         GGTGTTGTCA, GCTTTAARGT         TTTGAAGAGE         TATAAGAGE         CTGGTGGGTT         GGTGTTGTCA, GTTTGAAGAGE         TATAAGAGE         CATAGGAGE         GTGTGGGTT         GTGTTGATAC         TCTTCACGTG         TATGTATAC         ACAGAAGTAT
lcl LEKW01005726.1_cds_KWH8790 /M_017379379.1 PREDICTED: Dauc	2910 2920 2930 2940 2950 2960 2970 2980 2990 3000 TAAGAATACT GAGTAGCACG TGGTTAAGTA TTTGGACAGA GGAAAGCTCC COGAAGACCC ACAGCCCATT ATTCTATAAT CTTATAATAG CACTTCTATC TACGAGTTCT CAGTAGCACA TGGTTAAGTA TTTGGACAGA TGAAAGTACC CCAAAGAACC ATGGGCCAGG TTTCTACAAT CTGATATATT CACTTCTATC
lcl LEKW01005726.1_cds_KWH8790 /M_017379379.1 PREDICTED: Dauc	3010 3020 3030 3040 3050 3060 3070 3080 3090 3100 ACTOGSTCAA GITTINGSTGA CATTOGCAAA TTCTTITTING TIGATCATAA CAAGCCTTAA TGCTGCTCOG AAGTINGCAACA ANGCTANGCT TAACTCCATA ATTITITICAG GITCTINIGGA TTCATTINGG TIGATCCTAT CGAGCCTITA TGCAGCCAGA AGGINGCAAC AAGCTATGCT TAACTCCATA
lcl LEKN01005726.1_cds_KNH8790 /M_017379379.1 PREDICTED: Dauc	3110         3120         3130         3140         3150         3160         3170         3180         3190         3200           TTGAGAGCTC CTATGGTCTT         TTTGAGAGCTC CTATGGTCTT         TTTGCACACG AATCCCCCTTG         GACGTATCAT         GACAAGATC         TTGGTGACAT         AGATCGGACAT         GATCGGACAT
lcl LEKW01005726.1_cds_KWH8790 /M_017379379.1 PREDICTED: Dauc	3210         3220         3230         3240         3250         3260         3270         3280         3290         3300           TTGTGAACAT         GITTCTGGGT         CAAGTGTCGC         AGCTCTTGTC         AACCTTTGTC         CTAATAGGAT         TATTGAGCAC         CATGTCTCT         TGGGCAATTCT         TGGCCACTTCT         TGGCCACTTCTTC
lcl LEKV01005726.1_cds_KVH8790 VM_017379379.1 PREDICTED: Dauc	3310         3320         3330         3340         3350         3360         3370         3380         3390         3400           GTIGCIGITO TATGCACCTI ACCIGITATIA TORGAGOCACTI GOODGIAGG TAAAGCGATI GGATTOCATO ACAAGATOTO ACAATITIGGG         ACATITIGGG         ACATITIGGG         ACATITIGGA         ACATITIGGA
lcl LEKW01005726.1_cds_KWH8790 2M_017379379.1 PREDICTED: Dauc	3410 3420 3430 3440 3450 3460 3470 3480 3490 3500 GAAGCACTGA ATGGTTTATC TACCATTCGT GCATATANAG CITATGATCG AATGTCGANG ATTAATGGGA ATTCCATGGA CAATAATATC AGGTATACAT GAAGCCTTGA ATGGCCTGTC AACTATTCGT GCATATANAG CITATGATCG AATGGCCAAT ATTAATGGGA ATTCAATGGA CAACAATGTT AGATTTAACTC
lcl LEKV01005726.1_cds_KVH8790 /M_017379379.1 PREDICTED: Dauc	3510 3520 3530 3540 3550 3560 3570 3580 3590 3600 TAGTGAACAT GAGTGCAAAC COTTOGCTTG CAATCOGTT GGAAACCOTT GETGGGCTCA TGATTTGGTT GACTGCAACC TTTGCTGTTA TGCAAAATGG TTGTGAACAT GAGTGGAAAT CGTTGGCTTG CAATCOGATT AGAAACATTA GGGGGCGTTA TGATTTGGCT TACTGCAACT TTTGCTGTAA TGCAAAATGG
lcl LEKV01005726.1_cds_KVH8790 VM_017379379.1 PREDICTED: Dauc	3610         3620         3630         3640         3650         3670         3680         3690         3700           CLAGGCAAGA AATCAAGAAG CTTTTGCATC TACCATGGGT CTTCTTCTAA GTTATGCATT AAATATCACA TOCTTATTAA COGCTGTTCT TAGGCTTGCA         AAGGGCAGTA AATCAAGAAG CCTTTGCCTC TTCAATGGGT TTACTTCTTA GTTATGCTTT AAATATCACA TOCTTACTGA CTGCTGTATT GAGACTTGCA
lcl LEKW01005726.1_cds_KWH8790 /M_017379379.1 PREDICTED: Dauc	3710 3720 3730 3740 3750 3760 3770 3780 3790 3800 AGTCTAGCCG AGAATAGCTT GAAGGCTGTG GAGCGTGTTG GTACTTATAT TGAATGCCT TCTGAGGCTC CTCCGTTAT TGAAGACAAT OGOCCTCCAC AGTCTAGCTG AGAATAGTTT GAAGGCTGTT GAGCGTGTTG GCACATATAT AGAGTGCCT TCAGAGGCTC CTCCAGTAT TGAAGACAAC CGTCCTCCTC
lcl LEKV01005726.1_cds_KVH8790 2M_017379379.1 PREDICTED: Dauc	3810 3820 3830 3840 3850 3860 3870 3880 3890 3900 CTGGATGGCC TACATCGGGA TOGATCAAAT TIGAAAATGT TGTITTAGGC TATAGGCCTG AACTACCTCC TGTACTGCAT GGTTTGTCTT TCACAATTCC CTGGATGGCC TTCTTCTGGA TCCATCAAAT TIGAAGATGT TGTTCTACGT TATCGACCTG AACTACCTCC AGTGTTGCAT GGTTTATCAT TCAAGATTCC
lcl LEEW01005726.1_cds_EWH8790 7M_017379379.1 PREDICTED: Dauc	3910 3920 3930 3940 3950 3940 3950 3970 3980 3990 4000 CCCAACOGA AAGGTIGGAA TAGTIGGAAG GACOGAGGA GGCAAATCCA GCATGCTCAA TGCTITATIT OGTATCGTGG AACTGGAAAG AGGAAATATI TCCAATGAC AAGGTIGGAA TAGTIGGAAG GACTGGACAC GGAAATCGA GCATGCTCAA TGCTITATIT AGGTIGTIC AACTGGAAAG TGGCAGATC

Alignment of ABCC1 contigs against *Daucus carota subsp. sativus* ABC transporter C family member 2-like with BioEdit program. Different colours represent the different nucleotides.

cyn00013 KC812501.1 Chrysanthemum x mot	10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 
cyn00013 KC812501.1 Chrysanthemum x mor	110 120 130 140 150 160 170 180 190 200 
cyn00013 MC812501.1 Chrysanthemum x mor	210 220 230 240 250 260 270 280 290 300 TECETOGEC ATTECTOR CACCAAAT GETIGETOET ATCTACTACE ACAAAGAOGE TECACCEAAE COOGAAOSE TACCECTOE TETOETTE TECETTIGEC ATTEOETTAG TEACGAAATT GETAGGEAGA ATATATTACE ACGTAGAAGE TEOGECAAA CETOGAACCE TACCECTAG TETGAACTE
cyn00013 MC812501.1 Chrysanthemum x mor	310         320         330         340         350         360         370         380         390         400           TCAGTCACCE GTGCGCACT CGTTGGGACC CTCTGCGGTC AACTTTCTT TGGGTGGCCT GGTGACAAAA TGGGACGGAA AAAAGTCTAT GGTATGACAT         TCGGTTGCGCCT TGTTGGAACT CTATGTGGTC AACTCTTCTT CGGGTGGCCT GGTGACAAAA TGGGCCGAAA GAAAGTTTAC GGAATGACTT
cyn00013 KC812501.1 Chrysanthemum x mor	410       420       430       440       450       460       470       480       490       500         TAGECATCAT GETEXATEC TECHTOGECT COGETETATE GETEGAAAT GAAGEAEAAG GEGETEXEGE CACCETTEGE TECHTOGECT CEGGETEGAE       GAGEAEAAAG GEGETEXEGE CACCETTEGE TECHTOGECT TEGGETEGE       TEGGETEXEGE GACCETTEGE TECHTOGET TECHTOGEAE       TEGGETEAAAAG GEGEGAAAAG GEGEGAAAAG GEGEGAEGGE GACCETTEGE TECHTOGEAT TETGGETEAGE
cyn00013 MC812501.1 Chrysanthemum x mor	SIO S2O S3O S4O S5O S6O S7O S8O S9O 600 GTITOGGATC GGTGGTGATT ATCCCCTCTC GGCCACGATT ATGTCCGAAT ACCCTAACAA GAAAACCCGT GGTGCGTTTA TTGCCCGCGT TTTTGCTATG GTTTGGTATT GGAGGGGATT ATGCCTCTCTC GGCCACGATT ATGTCCGAAT ATGCCCGAAT ATGCCTACAA GAAAACCCGT GGTGCGTTTA TTGCTGCTGT TTTTGCTATG
cyn00013 MC812501.1 Chrysanthemum x mor	610         620         630         640         650         660         670         680         690         700           CAAGGETTEG         CA
cyn00013 MC812501.1 Chrysanthemum x mor	710         720         730         740         750         760         770         780         790         800           GETCCACAST         CCACAASCE         GACTATATCT         GGEGGATCA         CGEGGGATCA         CGEG
cyn00013 MC812501.1 Chrysanthemum x mor	RED
cyn00013 KC812501.1 Chrysanthemum x mor	910 920 930 940 950 960 970 980 990 1000 GTARAGAJAA TAGCTCAGA TACCAGAJAC TCATTGGAT TOTITICAA ACAATTCCC OGGGACATG GTCTCATT GCTOGAJAC ACCAGTACCT GTOGAGAJAA TTGCAGOGA CAAGAGTAAC TCATTGGGT TGTTCTCGAG AGAGTTCTT OGTOGCCATG GCCTCACTT ACTOGAACC ACCCCCACTT
cyn00013 KC812501.1 Chrysanthemum x mor	1010 1020 1030 1040 1050 1060 1070 1080 1090 1100 GETECTTACT TERCETTECT TERCETCAC ANALECTETT CERCENCE CENTERS GATECOGER GETECTAR TERCEGERA GETETTTECT AGRATICET TECTACECA ANALECTETT CERCENCE GTETTERCE AGRACETE GATECOGER GATECOGER GETECEANA TERCEGERA
cyn00013 MC812501.1 Chrysanthemum x mor	1110 1120 1130 1140 1150 1160 1170 1180 1190 1200 COECCAGETC TTCAAGETGE CCAAAGETCA AACCETGATT GESCTITECA GTACGETTCC COETTACTOE TTCACEGITE CETTCATOEA TATCATOEGA COECCAGETT TATAAAGTTE CAAAAGETCA AACCETAATC ECTCTITECA GTACTETCCC TEGTTACTOE TTCACTGTOE CTTTCATOEA TATCATAGEC
cyn00013 MC812501.1 Chrysanthemum x mor	1210 1220 1230 1240 1250 1260 1270 1280 1290 1300 OGITTEGGA TCCAACTCAT GEGATTCTTC TTCATGAOGE TETTCATET TECTCTCECC ATACCETACC ACCACTEGAC CTTACACEAC AACCETCTE OGITTEGGAA TCCAACTCAT GEGATTCTTT TTCATGACTE TATTCATERT OGCTCTTECA ATCCCETACC ACCACTEGAC CTTACATEGAA AACCETCTE
cyn00013 MC812501.1 Chrysanthemum x mor	1310 1320 1330 1340 1350 1360 1370 1380 1390 1400 GATTCATCAT CATGTATICA TTAACATTIT TCTTCGCCAA CTTCGGCCCT AACGCCACCA CTTTCGTCGT CCCTGCTGAA ATCTTCCCGG CAAGACTCAG GTTTTTGTGGT CATGTACTCA TTAACATTIT TCTTCGCCAA ATTTCGGCCCT AACGCCACCA CTTTTGTTGT CCCTGCTGAA ATCTTCCCAG CCAGGCTACG
cyn00013 KC812501.1 Chrysanthemum x mor	1410 1420 1430 1440 1450 1460 1470 1480 1490 1500 ATCCACTTGC CACGGTATCT COGCOGCTGC COGGAAAGCC GGTGCCATCG TOGGAGCTTA COGGTTTCTC TACGCTTCCC AAAGCACOGA CCCTAAAAA GTCCACTTGT CACGGTATAT COGCAGCAGC TGGGAAGGCT GGTGCCATTG TOGGAGCATA COGGTTTCTC TATGCTTCTC AAAGCACOGA TCCTCATAAG
cyn00013 KC812501.1 Chrysanthemum x mor	1510 1520 1530 1540 1550 1560 1570 1580 1590 1600 ACCGACCATE GCTACCCTCE TOSTATOGOS ATCAAGAACT COCTCATOST TOTOGOSOFIC ATCAATTICE TOSGGATOGE STITTACGTTT TTAGTOCOGO ACCGACAAGS GCTACCCTAC AGGTATOGA ATCAGGTACT COCTCATOST TOTOGGATCA ATCAATTICE TAGGTATOGC TITTACGTATE TOGTACCTG
cyn00013 KC812501.1 Chrysanthemum x mor	1610 1620 1630 1640 1650 AACCAAATGG CAAATGGCTG GAAGAATTAT COGGCGAGAAA TGAGGAAGAT GC AACCAAACGG CAAATCTCTC GAAGAATTAT CGGGTGAAAA TGAGGAGGGA ACCGAGCCT

Alignment of PHT contigs against *Chrysanthemum x morifolium* phosphate transporter 1 with BioEdit program. Different colours represent the different nucleotides.

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cyn00014											-
GQ372840.1 Sonchus arvensis ph	ATTTCAGATT	TCAGAATACT	TTAAAACOGT	TTGCTTCCGC	GGGTTCTTCT	GTTCCAACGA	ACCCTAGAAA	CACAGGAAAA	CGAAATTCAA	TCCAGTTGAT	Г
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cyn00014								TGCTTCT	TCTGAAGGGA	AGCAATTGT	Т
GQ372840.1 Sonchus arvensis ph	CICTAAAATC	TAATOOGATG	GUGATOGUAA	GTATATACAG	AAGAGCTUTU	CEATCHOUTC	CUGUTATTGA	THUCCHUR	TUTGAAGGGA	AGCAATTGT	г
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cyn00014	CATGGAAGCC	ACTCAAGGTG	GAACCATGGA	AGGTTTCTTT	AAGTTGATTT	CTTACTITCA	GACACAATCT	GAACCTGCCT	ATTGTGGATT	GGCTACCCT	C
GQ372840.1 Sonchus arvensis ph	CATGGAAGOC	ACTCAAGGTG	GAACCATGGA	AGGCTTCTTT	AAGCTGATCT	CHACTICCA	GACACAATOG	GAADCTODET	ATTGTGGATT	AGCTADUCT	C
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cyn00014	GCCATGGTTT	TGAATGCACT	TTCTATTGAT	COGGGTAGAA	AATGGAAAGG	TCCCTGGAGG	TOGTTTGATG	AATCTATGCT	GGACTGTTGC	GAGCCTTTG	G
GQ372840.1 Sonchus arvensis ph	GCCATGGTCT	TGAATGCACT	TTCCATTGAT	COGGGTAGAA	AATGGAAAGG	TCCCTGGAGG	TGGTTTGATG	AGTOCATGCT	GGACTGTTGT	GAGCCTTTG	G
		·····		·····	·····	···· ····			·····	···· ····]	1
cyn00014	AGAAGGTTAA	AGCCGAAGGC	ATTTCCTTTG	GGAAGGTTGT	ATGTTTGGCT	CATTGTGCTG	GAGCAAAGGT	TGAAGCTTTT	COCACAAATC	AAAGCAGTA	Т
GQ372840.1 Sonchus arvensis ph	AAAAGGTTAA	AGCCARAGGC	ATTTCATTTG	GGAAGGTTGT	GTGTTTGGCT	CATTGTGCTG	GAGCAAAAGT	TGAAGCTTTT	CGCACAAATC	AAAGTAACA	г
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		·····			·····				·····	····I····I	1
cyn00014	TGATGAATTC	COCAAGCATG	TTATTOCATO	CTCTACTTCT	GATGATCGTC	ATGTGATCTC	ATCATATAAC	AGAGCGACTT	TTAAACAGAC	AGGTACTOG	C
GQ372840.1 Sonchus arvensis ph	TGATGAATTT	COCAAGCATG	TTATIGOGIG	TICIACTICI	GATGATTGCC	ATGIGATUTU	ATCATATAAC	AGAGCAACTT	TTAAACAGAC	AGGTAGTGG	r
	611										
		·····[·····[			·····I·····I				·····I	·····	i
cyn00014	CACTTTTCAC	CTATTGGTGG	TTATCATGCT	GGAAGAGACA	TOOCATTAAT	TTTAGATGTT	GCACGTTTTA	AGTATCCTCC	TCACTOGGTT	CCACTTAAA	2
GQ372840.1 Sonchus arvensis ph	CACTIFICAC	CTATTOGTOG	CTATCATGCT	GGAAAGGACA	TOGCATTGAT	TITAGATGIT	GCADGCTTTA	AGTATOCTOC	TCATTOGGTT	CCACTTAAA	C
	210	1 72	0 79	0 74	1 75	0 76	0				
		····i	·····	·····	·····í						
cyr.00014	TACTTTGGGA	AGCTATOGAT	ACGTTGGATG	ATGCTAATGG	ATTTCCCAGA	GETTTCATOC	TAATAT				

Alignment of PCS contigs against *Sonchus arvensis* phytochelatin synthase (PCS1) with BioEdit program. Different colours represent the different nucleotides.

			10	20	30	40	50	60	1
cyn00008			METAANAFSQ	HPQFMETTNA	PLIESPETNQ	IVVPDKTSWK	NLFAYMETGP	GFLVSIAYID	PGNF
OTG21116.1	putative	NRAMP meta		<b>M</b> TNT	PLIESSDTNQ	IVVP <b>DK</b> TSWK	NFFAYLGP	GFLVSIAYID	PGNF
			110	120	130	140	150	16	0
cvn00008			VVTGRHLARH	CKNEVERVTN	TTIWTLARTS		GTAFALNMET	LENTPVWCGV	LLTG
OTG21116.1	putative	NRAMP meta	VVTGRHLAEH	CKNEYEKVTN	FILWILAEIS	IVACDIPEVI	GTAFALNM	LFNIPVWIGV	LLTG
	-								
			210	220	230	240	250	26	0
CYNUUUU8	potativa	NDAMD moto	GISKPDASEV	LYGLEVPOLK	GSGSTGLAIS	LLGAMETVME	TPHNLFLHSA	LVLSRKIPRS	VSGI
01021110.1	putative	NKAMI Meta	GISKEVASEV	LIGERVEQUE	030310LALS	LLGANV	MEHNLE LIIJA	LVLORKIERS	V.501
			310	320	. 330	340	350	36	n
									· · · ·
cyn00008			NLNPDDQKSC	<b>QDLDLNKASF</b>	LLKASNVLGK	WSSKVFAIAL	LASGQSSTIT	GTYAGQYVME	TQGF
OTG21116.1	putative	NRAMP meta	NLNPDDQKSC	<b>QDLDLNKASF</b>	LLRNVLGK	WSSKVFAIAL	LASGQSSTIT	GTYAGQYVMQ	GF
			410	420			) 450		0
cyn00008			GRLIIIASIS	G			-METTWIIGS	LIMETGINIY	FLVD
OTG21116.1	putative	NRAMP meta	GRLIIIASMI	LSFELPFALI	PLLKFTSSET	<b>KMGSHANSK</b> T	ISAITWIIGS	LIMGINIY	FLVD
			510	520	530	540	550		
cvn00008			GYLVLRKNKN	SSHLLALTSP	ECREMETERS	ASAAYGOPRE	DIVACNFLRR	GPLLMETOT	
OTG21116.1	putative	NRAMP meta	GYLVVRKNKE	SSHLLALTTP	ESREMERT	VSAYDGOPRO	DIVNMQLPQR	RTSNDAN	

Alignment of NRAMP1 translate sequences against *Helianthus annuus* NRAMP metal ion transporter 6. Different colours represent the different nucleotides.

cyn00009 OTG06734.1 KVH92457.1	putative natural re Natural resistance-	10     MSSHKKDSWM	20     LKRRSHRTIH	30     KGFQKIYSSF	40    THSGGQKKAK	50 II MSSDHHQP FAMPSDEHQR	60    LLPPESA LLGSDDAETA	YDPT YDPT
cyn00009 OTG06734.1 KVH92457.1	putative natural re Natural resistance-	110   MSIAFLDPGN MSIAFLDPGN	LEGDLQAGAI	AGYSLLWLLL	WATAIGLLVQ	LLSARLGVAT	160    GRHLAELCRE GRHLAELCRE	EYPN EYPN
cyn00009 OTG06734.1 KVH92457.1	putative natural re Natural resistance-	210    LPLWAGVLIT LPLWAGVLIT	AFDCFIFLFL	D 230     ENYGVRKLEA ENYGVRKLEA	D 240    META LFAFLIAVMA LFAVLIAVMA	250    ISFAWMETFG VSFAWMFG ISFAWMFG	260 ETKPNAKELL ETKPNAKELL ETKPNAKELL	VGLV VGLV VGLV
cyn00009 OTG06734.1 KVH92457.1	putative natural re Natural resistance-	310   RDVDPRKTGR REVDPTKTGR RDVDPRKTGR	320 VREALRYYSI VREALRYYSI VREALRYYSI	BIN STATES	) 340    IINLEVTTVF VINLEVTTVF IINLEVTTVF	350    AKAFFGTAIA AKAFFGTAIA AKAFFGTAIA	360    DTIGLGNAGQ DTIGLGNAGQ DTIGLGNAGQ	FLEE FLEE FLEE
cyn00009 OTG06734.1 KVH92457.1	putative natural re Natural resistance-	410 ETGGFLDLRL GGFLDLRL GGFLDLRL	420   KKWARALITR KKWARALITR KKWARALITR	SCAIIPTLVV SCAIIPTLVV SCAIIPTLVV SCAIIPTLVV	ALIFDSSEDT ALIFDSSEDT ALIFDSSEDT ALIFDSSEDT	METDVLNEWL LDVLNEWL MDVLNEWL	460   NVLQAVQIPF NVLQSIQIPF NVLQAVQIPF	ALIP ALIP ALIP ALIP
cyn00009 OTG06734.1 KVH92457.1	putative natural re Natural resistance-	510  YLLQQFFAEE YLLQQFFAEE	520  VTGVAFTSVV VSGTTFTSIV	0 530    IVFTVAYVAF VAFTVAYVAF	VVYLIWRSIT	VSTFGFLKLR VSTFGLFKSR	SQAA SQAT	

Alignment of NRAMP3 translate sequences against *Helianthus annuus* putative natural resistance associated macrophage protein 4. Different colours represent the different nucleotides.

	: 	10 	20 • • • •   • • • •	30 • • • •   • • • •	40 • • • • •   • • • •	50 • • • •   • • • •	60 • • • • •   • • • •	
cyn00010		-						meto
WI10407 1 Zing/iron permesse	MERNLEETS	L	FILLISAAA	HGGDDNDDDA	DEADEACED	LRSRSLILVK	TWCLITTEFA	TEIG
RVII0407.1 Zinc/110h permease	MERELET 15	-	I LLLLJAJA	10000000000	DEATERACKEN	LKSKSLILVK	INCLIEVELO	1110
		10	1.00		1.40	150	1.00	
		1						
cyn00010	ANETFODLT	T	VEYPFAFMET	LACGGYLLTM	ETLADCLISY	<b>VYGR</b> OPNGSA	SDDLEHQGNN	RNGR
OTG07698.1 putative zinc trans	ANETFEDLT	S	VEYPFAFM	LACGGYLLTM	FADNVISY	VYGKQS	GDDVEDQGET	RNGR
KVI10407.1 Zinc/iron permease	ANETFKDLT	Т	VEYPFAFM	LACGGYLLTM	LADCLISY	VYGKQPNGSA	SDD LEHQGNN	RNGR
	2	10	220	0 230	240	250	260	0
	· · · ·   · · · ·	1	· · · ·   · · · ·	· · · ·   · · · ·	· · · ·   · · · ·	· · · ·   · · · ·	· · · ·   · · · ·	
cyn00010	IAIGIADTK	A	XAWKALWTIS	LHKIFAAIAM	ETGIALLRME	TIPDRPFLSC	ASYAFAFGIS	SPIG
OTG07698.1 putative zinc trans	IAIGIADSK	A	DAWKALWTIS	LHKIFAAIAM	GIALLRM-	-IPDRPLLSC	ASYAFAFGIS	SPVG
KVI10407.1 Zinc/iron permease	IAIGIADTK	Α	DAWKALWTIS	LHKIFAAIAM	GIALLRM-	-IPDRPFLSC	ASYAFAFGIS	SPIG
	3	10	320	0 330	340	350	360	C
arm 0.001.0	CTNRLL DCV		AORDECTDED		TOT OUT AND	RETINDADCHO	CDCL RCCMP	DNLC
OTCO7698 1 putative ging trans	STNELLOCY	ž	AOKESSIDIE	SERELAVITE O		TWDMRGHQ	SRCLESSPET	DINL
WII0407 1 Zing/iron normona	STNELLOCY	ž	AORDECTOTO	CLET LAVIES				
KVII0407.1 ZINC/IION permease	SINILLROI	Υ.	Agressibie	SERLEAVING	IGVIAVM			
	4	10	420	0 430	0 440	) 450	460	נ
cyn00010	LESDRSRNR	Ď	RHRCNDTGSS	CRLDICDIDG	NCLWGVYICI	DEPETSRLSG	TKAVENNESE	POIV
OTG07698.1 putative zinc trans		_						
KVI10407.1 Zinc/iron permease		_						

Alignment of ZIP11 translate sequences against *Helianthus annuus* putative zinc transporter 11 precursor. Different colours represent the different nucleotides.

cyn00011 OTG15082.1 putative cadmium-tr XVI01438.1 Cation-transporting	10 20 30 40 59 40 70 80 10 11 NACOSSED ERSYIDAGI COSSEV-LIB RILEVLOVI INSATAFIET VIALIDALI SOLOMALI PREESIMEN RESOLOGINA PEPERADO NECOSSED ERSYIDAGI COSSEV-LIB RILEVLOVI INSATAFIET VIALIDALI SOLOMALI GREENAMEN RESOLOGINA PEPERADO	00
cyn00011 OTG15082.1 putative cadmium-tr RV101438.1 Cation-transporting	110         120         130         140         150         160         170         180         190         22           LLLLSFERM VSPPCMLALG XMMOTIPLY LKALASLESL REDINILIALI XAGGAVELKO VMEAGTIVEL LNISEMEZIE XSHKAXAMES SLLSIAPQTA         LLLLSFERM VSPPCMLALG XMMOTIPLI LKALASLESL REDINILIALI XAGGAVELKO VMEAGTIVEL LNISEMEZIE XSHKAXAMES SLLSIAPQTA	-
cyn00011 OTG15082.1 putative cadmium-tr RV101438.1 Cation-transporting	220         230         240         250         260         270         280         290         31	00 5 5 5
cyn00011 OTG15082.1 putative cadmium-tr RV101438.1 Cation-transporting	310 320 330 340 350 360 370 380 390 40 KILEWINEA KYTERANU ARLAAIRAA KETANGLIKI KYALAIMUN SECRALILIS TEMAATCALS KAATSOLUK GAZYLETIST MANCIENEN KILEWINEKA KYTERANU ARLAAIRAA KE-MINILIK KYALAIMUN SECRALILIS TEMAATCALS KAATSOLUK GAZYLETIST VASICIENEN KILEWINEKA KYTERANU ARLAAIRAA KE-MINILIK KYALAIMUN SECRALILIS TEMAATCALS KAATSOLUK GAZYLETIST VASICIENEN	00 3 3
cyn00011 OTG15082.1 putative cadmium-tr RM101438.1 Cation-transporting	40 40 40 40 40 40 40 40 40 40 40 40 40 4	00 5 5
cyn00011 OTG15082.1 putative cadmium-tr RMT01438.1 Cation-transporting	S10         S20         S30         S40         S50         S40         S70         S80         S90         61           DNBDKSIOY IFUSSENGI FSUSSECIO VMEALEELKS METOIKTINE TUTDOQUAA NHAQUUGA LEVMELLU (QUKRITILEI QEEFFINET DNBDKSIOY IFUSSENGI FSUSSECIO VMEALEELKS METOIKTINE TUTDOQUAA NHAQUUGA LEVMELLU (QUKRITILEI QEEFFINET DNBDKSIOY IFUSSENGI FSUSSECIO VMEALEELKS METOIKTINE TUTDOQUAA NHAQU-GA LEVMELLU (QUKRITILEI QEEFFINET DNBDKSIOY IFUSSENGI FSUSSECIO VMEALEELKS METOIKTINE TUTDOQUAA NHAQU-GA LEVMELLU (QUKRITILEI QEEFFINET)	00    - -
cyn00011 OTGI5082.1 putative cadmium-tr XMI01438.1 Cation-transporting cyn00011 OTGI5082.1 putative cadmium-tr XMI01438.1 Cation-transporting	X20         X20         X30         X40         X50         X60         X70         X80         X80         K60         K70         X80         X80         K60         K70         K80         K70 <th></th>	

Alignment of HMA translate sequences against *Helianthus annuus* putative cadmiumtransporting ATPase. Different colours represent the different nucleotides.

cyn00012 OTG28642.1 putative ABC transp RMR87904.1 AAA+ ATPase domain-	10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 METGENPENS YCEPAPINOW ETALENEERE YTFCATDSIX TGISHLMLIG TCLYRIWYK KNLENCREKL RSKIYNYWLG LLALYSTAEP LERLINETOV METEPLNS YCEPAPINOW ETALENEERE YTFCATDSIX TGISHLMLIG ZCLYRIWYK KDEKNERERE RSKIYNYWLG LLALYSTAEP LERLINE	
cyn00012 OTG28642.1 putative ABC transp RVM87904.1 AAA+ ATPase domain-	110 120 130 140 150 160 170 180 190 200 SARINDEETE LAPIZIVITV IEALMECE TEVRICETIN TEVRICEMENT VERIONIAL LEDANLINUX LOSSYTERY VLTYASEW IQNLONCLI SARINDEETE LAPIZIVITV IEALMECE - DRITCLETHVIVIZVEN PERIONIAL LEDANLINUX LOSSYTERY VLTYASEW IQNLONCLI SARINDEETE LAPIZIVITVI IEALMECH - PEVIGLETHVIVIZVEN PERIONIAL LEDANLINUX LOSSYTERY VLTYASEW IQNLONCLI	
cym00012 OTG28642.1 putative ABC transp RVH87904.1 AAA+ ATPase domain-	210         220         230         240         250         260         270         280         290         300           VYLPKLDPYP         GYTPIEXESL         DDAEYEELAG         GEDICPERATI NIISNIFFAM         WEITDPLASTS         LGYKRPLTEK         DIWKLDTWDQ         TETLISKAWI         VSTCIFEKEW           VYLPKLDPYP         GYTPIEXTESL         DDAEYEELAG         GEDICPERATI NIISNIFFAM         WEITDPLASTS         LGYKRPLTEK         DIWKLDTWDQ         TETLISKAWI         VSTCIFEKEW           VYLPKLDPYP         GYTPIEXTESL         DDAEYEELAG         GEDICPERATI NIISNIFFAM         MDPLMS         LGYKRPLTEK         DIWKLDTWDQ         TETLISKAWI         VSTCIFEKEW	
cyn00012 OfG28642.1 putative ABC transp RMH87904.1 AAA+ ATPase domain-	310 320 330 340 350 360 370 380 390 400 AZECRKYKW UNRALIKSLG GRSVQIN IGNDLSQFVG PILINQLLIG KLSANAPPL ISVSNDSLSF SFLILDNLQS NETGERGAPA IGYTYAFTIF AZENSKYKW LURALIKSLG GRSVQIN IGNDLSQFVG PILINQLLIG KLSANAPPL ISVSNDSLSF SFLILDNLQS NQERGPAQ IGYTYAFTIF	
cyn00012 OTG28642.1 putative ABC transp RVH87904.1 AAA+ ATPase domain-	410 420 430 440 450 460 470 480 490 500 VANUAVCE AQYRQIMMET INFORMATION INFOR	
cym00012 OFG28642.1 putative ABC transp RVH87904.1 AAA+ ATPase domain-	S10         S20         S30         S40         S50         S60         S70         S80         S90         600           CERARCIAS SHTVISHER CHERTSESS LORIDHERIGL HETHELLAM BETWER/AN ENDREMON VETELSHER KUCHT-LOSL HTEILINSIPV           SEL-UNTEP IQTUMSKIQ        RISKEG LORIDHERIGL HIEILAM DTVECYAM ENSEQEMON VETELSHYR (MCMLOSL HTEILINSIPV           CEAPHCIAS SHTVISHD        RISKEG LORIDHERIGL HIEILAM DTVECYAM ENSEQEMON VETELSHYR (MCMLOSL HTEILINSIPV           CEAPHCIAS SHTVISHD        RISKEG LORIDHERIGL HIEILAM DTVECYAM ENSEQEMON VETELSHYR (MCMLOSL HTEILINSIPV	
cym00012 OTG28642.1 putative ABC transp RM87904.1 AAA+ ATPase domain-	610         620         630         640         650         660         670         680         690         700           VVINUSTGET         TILLICOLIT         PARTFISIS         FINUERPLIM         TITTORDEPVL         TITTORDEPVL           VVINUSTGET         LILLICOLIT         PARTFISIS         FINUERPLIM         ENTITION         ANGLIGATED         FINUERPLIM         FINUERPLIM <th></th>	
cyn00012 OTG28642.1 putative ABC transp KMH87904.1 AAA+ ATPase domain-	710 720 730 740 750 760 770 780 700 800 SNINDIPIG SUMAVGSTG SOKTSLISH ETUGELPPUS DAMMETEG TWANPOWEN IFNATVEDNI LIGSPEPTK YEKTLDVTAL KNDLDVLPGG SNINLDIPIG SUMAVGSTG SOKTSLISHLGELPPUS DAMMERG TWANPOWEN IFNATVEDNI LIGSPEPTK YEKTLDVTAL UNDLDVLPGG SNINLDIPIG SUMAVGSTG SOKTSLISHLGELPPUS DAMMERG TWANPOWEN IFNATVEDNI LIGSPEPTK YEKTLDVTAL HIDLDVLPGG	
cyn00012 OfG26642.1 putative ABC transp RVH87904.1 AAA+ ATPase domain-	RED	
cym00012 OTG28642.1 putative ABC transp RMR87904.1 AAA+ ATPase domain- cym00012 OTG28642.1 putative ABC transp RMR87904.1 AAA+ ATPase domain-	#10         #20         #30         #40         #50         #60         #70         #80         #30         #00           DLTEIGER/V INSOCKERV SECTABLYKY SCHWYDDP LALDAWGE (WEEKTEKE LEGKTERUNT NQLIFLSON RILLWEGT         MEEGOSYEE         DLTEIGER/V NISOCKERV SECTABLYKY SCHWYDDP LALDAWGE (WEEKTEKE LEGKTERUNT NQLIFLSON RILLWEGT NMEEGOSYEE           DLTEIGER/V NISOCKERV SECTABLYKY SCHWYDDP LALDAWGE (WEEKTEKE LEGKTERUNT NQLIFLSON RILLWEGT NMEEGOSYEE         DLTEIGER/V NISOCKERV SECTABLYKY SCHWYDDP LALDAWGE (WEEKTEKE LEGKTERUNT NQLIFLSON RILLWEGT NMEEGOSYEE           910         920         930         940         950         960         970         980         990         1000           LSENWLEGK LITETENGRIK TEEVESKE EAGEADTKYS IFVTNOAGE LAKADAKKKI PESULIKJEE RETOWSFINV LKRYKDALGG WWWILLFCC         LSENWLEGK LITETENGRIK TEEVESKE EAGEADTKYS IFVTNOAGE LAKADAKKKI PESULIKJEE RETOWSFINV LKRYKDALGG WWWILLFCC           LSENWLEGK LITETENGRIK TEEVESKE EAGEADTKYS IFVTNOAGE LAKADAKKKI PESULIKJEE RETOWSFINV LKRYKDALGG WWWILLFCC         LSENWLEGK LITETENGRIK TEEVESKE EAGEADTKYS IFVTNOAGE LAKADAKKKI PESULIKJEE RETOWSFINV LKRYKDALGG WWWILLFCC	
cyn00012 OTG28642.1 putative ABC transp RMH87904.1 AAA+ ATPase domain- cyn00012 OTG28642.1 putative ABC transp RMH87904.1 AAA+ ATPase domain- cyn00012 OTG28642.1 putative ABC transp RMH87904.1 AAA+ ATPase domain-	310         320         330         340         350         360         870         380         390         900           DLTEIGERV NISOQKKW SETARAVYS KODVINDP LALDANCE (VEEKIEKE LOKITRVAT NQLIFLS(M) RILL/NEET VEESOSTE DLTEIGERV NISOQKKW SEARAVS NSDV/NDDP LALDANCE (VEEKIEKE LOKITRVAT NQLIFLS(M) RILL/NEET VEESOSTE DLTEIGERV NISOQKKW SEARAVS NSDV/NDDP LALDANCE (VEEKIEKE LOKITRVAT NQLIFLS(M) RILL/NEG MAESOSTE DLTEIGERV NISOQKKW SEARAVS NSDV/NDDP LALDANCE (VEEKIEKE LOKITRVAT NQLIFLS(M) RILL/NEG MAESOSTE DLTEIGERV NISOQKKW SEARAVS NSDV/NDDP LALDANCE (VEEKIEKE LOKITRVAT NQLIFLS(M) RILL/NEG MAESOSTE DLTEIGERV NISOQKKW SEARAVS NSDV/NDDP LALDANCE (VEEKIEKE LOKITRVAT NQLIFLS(M) RILL/NEG MAESOSTE DLTEIGERV NISOQKKW SEA-RAVS NSDV/NDDP LALDANCE (VEEKIEKE LOKITRVAT NQLIFLS(M) RILL/NEG MAESOSTE DLTEIGERV NISOQKKW SEA-RAVS NSDV/NDDP LALDANCE LARADAKSE PENDING NSULFLUCK NDLIFLS(M) RILL/NEG MAESOSTE DLTEIGERV NISOQKKW SEA-RAVS NSDV/NDDP LALDANCE LARADAKSE PENDING NSULFLUCK NDLIFLS(M) RILL/NEG MAESOSTE DLTEIGERV NISOQKKW SEARADAKSE SAGEADTER'S INVINONGE LARADAKSE PENDING NSULFLUCK NDLIFL LSENNALKK LETEINAGEN ETENVESKE EAGEADTER'S INVINONGE LARADAKSE PENDING SE RETOWNERNE LEKREDALGO WAVAULFCC LSENNALKK LETE-NARKE ENVEEKE EAGEADTER'S INVINONGE LARADAKSE PENDING SE RETOWNERNE LEKREDALGO WAVAULFCC           1600 <th></th>	
cyn00012 OTG28642.1 putative ABC transp RMR07904.1 AAA+ ATPase domain- cyn00012 OTG28642.1 putative ABC transp RMR07904.1 AAA+ ATPase domain- cyn00012 OTG28642.1 putative ABC transp RMR07904.1 AAA+ ATPase domain- Cyn00012 OTG28642.1 putative ABC transp RMR07904.1 AAA+ ATPase domain-	HID         HID <th></th>	
cyn00012 OTG28642.1 putative ABC transp EMH87904.1 AAA+ ATPase domain- cyn00012 OTG28642.1 putative ABC transp EMH87904.1 AAA+ ATPase domain-	HID         HID <th></th>	
cyn00012 OTG28642.1 putative ABC transp IXM87904.1 AAA+ ATPase domain- cyn00012 OTG28642.1 putative ABC transp IXM87904.1 AAA+ ATPase domain-	120         120 <th120< th=""> <th120< th=""> <th120< th=""></th120<></th120<></th120<>	
cyn00012 OTG28642.1 putative ABC transp RMR07904.1 AAA+ ATPase domain- cyn00012 OTG28642.1 putative ABC transp RMR07904.1 AAA+ ATPase domain-	210         220         230         840         250         860         270         820         800         900           DUTEIGERVY NISOOQUUW SIGTARAWS KERVANDOP LAALDAWER (WEEKIESE LAKITAVY NULHILGOO RILLWEEKE TWEEKISSE)         DUTEIGERVY NISOOQUUW SIGRAVS KERVANDOP LAALDAWER (WEEKIESE LAKITAVY NULHILGOO RILLWEEK TWEEKISSE)           DUTEIGERVY NISOOQUUW SIGRAVS KERVANDOP LAALDAWER (WEEKIESE LAKITAVY NULHILGOO RILLWEEK- MAESOSYEE           210         220         230         440         850         960         970         980         990         1000           LSENANLOK LIETEYMEKE SAGENDERTS KANNING KALENANDER SINGUARD FRANLIKEE ENTONETIN LIEKTAALGO WAWNILOC         LSENANLOK LIETEYMEKE SAGENDERTS KANNING LAKIDARGO FRANLIKEE ENTONETIN LIEKTAALGO WAWNILOC           LSENANLOK LIETEYMEKE SAGENDERTS KANNING LAKIDARGO FRANLIKEE ENTONETIN LIEKTAALGO WAWNILOC         LSENANLOK LIETEYMEKE SAGENDERTS KANNING LAKIDARGO FRANLIKEE ENTONETIN LIEKTAALGO WAWNILOC           LSENANLOK LIETEYMEKE FRANLYKAL LIQUUTIAN STRUITISI LAKIDARGA TUSIKAALAN TVERTITIPI GRIINERSD         1000	

Alignment of ABCC1 translate sequences against *Helianthus annuus* putative ABC transporter. Different colours represent the different nucleotides.

	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100
cyn00013										
AGK29560.1 phosphate transport	MAREQLOVLS	ALDSAKTOLY	RETAIVIAGM	GEFTDAYDLE	AISLVTKLLG	RIYYHVEGSP	RPGTLPPSVN	SSVIGVALVG	TLCGQLFFGW	LGDRMGRKRV
RVH91481.1 General substrate t	MAREQUOVEN	ALDLAKTOLY	HFTAIVIAGM	GEFTDAYDLE	AISLVTKLLG	RIYYHKDGAP	RPGTLPPOVA	SSVTGVALVG	TLCGQLFFGW	LGDRMGRRRV
	110	120	13	0 140	0 15	0 16	170	180	190	200
	····I····I	· · · · [ · · · · ]	· · · · [ · · · · ]		****1****1	****	· · · · [ · · · · ]	· · · · [ · · · · ]		· · · · [ · · · · ]
cyn00013	METVI	CSLASGLSFG	NEAQGMETA	TLCFFRFWLG	FGIGGDYPLS	ATIMETSEYA	NEETEGAFIA	AVEAMETOGE	GILASGWAL	IVSASFDHAF
AGE29560.1 phosphate transport	YOMTLALMW	CSFASGLSFG	NEAKGVMA	TLCFFRFWLG	FGIGGDYPLS	ATIMSEYA	NECTRGAFIA	AVEAMQGE	GILASGWAL	IVSASEDHAF
RVH91481.1 General substrate t	YCMTLAIMMI	CSLASGLSFG	NEAQGVMA	TLCFFRFWLG	FGIGGDYPLS	ATIMSEYA	NEETEGAFIA	AVEAMQGE	GILASGWAL	<b>IVSASEDHAF</b>
	210	220	23	0 24	25	0 26	270	280	290	300
										····1····1
cyn00013	NAPSYATDPI	GSTVPQADYI	WRIILMETEG	AIPAALTYYW	RMETRMETPE	TARYTALVAK	NARDAAODME	TARVLOVDIE	AEDORVEKIA (	ODTRNSFGLF
AGK29560.1 phosphate transport	NEPSYATNEV	LSTAPQSDYI	WRIILMFG	AIPAALTYYW	RMKMPE	TARYTALVAK	NARDAAODMA	RVLQVEIE	AEEHRVEKIA	ADKSNSFGLF
KVH91481.1 General substrate t	NAPSYATDPI	GSTVPQADYI	WRIILMFG	AIPAALTYYW	RMKMPE	TARYTALVAK	NAKOAAODMA	RVLQVDIE	AEDQRVEKIA (	OTRNSFGLF
	910	920		0 940	0 95		97/	980	990	400
cyn00013	SKOFLERHGL	HLLGTTSTWF	LLDIAFYSQN	LEOROVETAI	GWIPAAARME	TSATCEVERV	AKAQTLIALC	STVPGYWFTV	AFIDIIGREA	IQUMETGEFF
AGK29560.1 phosphate transport	SREFLERIGL	HLLGTTSTWF	LLDIAFYSQN	LEQROVETAI	GWIPAAAKMS	ATGEVYRV	AKAQTLIALC	STVPGYWETV	AFIDIIGREA	IQLMGFFF
KVH91481.1 General substrate t	SKOFLERHGL	HLLGTTSTWF	LLDIAFYSQN	LEQROVETAI	GWIPAAAKMS	ATGEVERV	AKAQTLIALC	STVPGYWETV	AFIDIIGREA	IQLMGFFF
	410				45				400	500
		·····		·····	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	·····	·····			
cyr.00013	METTVEMETE	ALAIPYHHWT	LHDINRLGFII	METYSLTFFF	ANFGPNATTF	WPAEIFPAR	LRSTCHGISA	AAGKAGAIVG	AYGELYASOS '	TOPKKTOHGY
AGK29560.1 phosphate transport	MTVEMF	ALAIPYHHWT	LHENRLGEW	MYSLTFFF	ANEGPNATTE	WPAEIFPAR	LRSTCHGISA	AAGKAGAIVG	AYGELYASOS '	TOPHKTOKGY
KVH91481.1 General substrate t	MTVEMF	ALAIPYHHWT	LHDNHLGFIV	MYSLTFFF	ANEGPNZTTE	WPAEIFPAR	LRSTCHGISA	AAGKAGAIVG	AYGELYASQS	TDPKKTDHGY
							· .			
cvn00013	PPGIGIKNSL	IVLOVINELG	METVETELVP	EPNGKSLEEL	SGENEED		-			
AGK29560.1 phosphate transport	PTGIGIRYSL	WLGI INFLG	MAFTELVP	EPNGKSLEEL	SCENEEGTEP	TGGTVAPA	-			
KVH91481.1 General substrate t	PPGIGIKNSL	IVLOVINELG	MVETELVP	EPNGKSLEEL	SCENEEDAEP	TSTTDHRTVP	v			

Alignment of PHT translate sequences against *Chrysanthemum x morifolium* phosphate transporter 1.

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