IDENTIFICATION OF A NEW GDSL LIPASE GENE FROM *Carica papaya* THAT IS REGULATED BY JASMONIC ACID

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**Introduction.** Lipases are lipolytic enzymes that catalyze the hydrolysis of ester bonds from triglycerides. In addition, under certain conditions they also catalyze a wide range of reactions with potential applications in different fields, like food, pharmaceutical and detergent industry \[1\]. *Carica papaya* is a remarkable source of plant lipases since its genome presents several lipolytic proteins, which expression, function and applications remain unknown.

In this work, an expression analysis of ten different sequences encoding for lipases was done, for the first time in *Carica papaya* leaves in order to identify new lipases with potential interesting applications.

**Methods.** Ten sequences were previously selected taking in count the hydrophobicity of the sequences and the corresponding PCR primers were designed. Leaves from *Carica* were sprayed with 1 mM Jasmionic Acid solution and the leaf tissue was cut at 0, 1, 4, 8 and 24 h post-treatment. The tissue was immediately frozen with liquid nitrogen and stored at -80°C until RNA extraction. Leaf tissue was ground to a fine powder in liquid nitrogen with mortar and pestle and RNA was extracted. cDNA was generated and PCR amplification was performed.

**Results.** The expression of one gene was identified in *Carica papaya* leaves under JA acid treatment after 24 hours treatment. This gene, named *CpLIP2*, is strongly induced by JA. To investigate *CpLIP2* expression kinetics in *Carica papaya* leaves after JA treatment, samples were taken at 0, 1, 4, 8 and 24 h post-treatment and its relative transcript levels were detected by end-point RT-PCR. *CpLIP2* transcripts accumulated from 4 h to 24 h post-treatment; the highest expression levels were observed at 8 h post-treatment and there was a slight decrease after 24 h (fig 1).

**Conclusions.** Analysis of the expression of different lipase sequences found in *Carica papaya* genome was performed for the first time in *Carica papaya* leaves. Ten sequences from *Carica papaya* encoding putative lipases were selected and analyzed for their expression after JA treatment of papaya leaves. Only one sequence, named *CpLIP2*, was expressed and its transcription was detected at 4, 8 and 24 h after JA induction. Since *CpLIP2* gene was induced by JA, it might be involved in biotic or abiotic stress response and its physiological role must be determined.

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**References.**
