

# The quest for grapevine resistance associated compounds: metabolomics as a promising approach

Marisa Maia<sup>1,2,3,#</sup>, Andreia Figueiredo<sup>2,\*</sup>, Marta Sousa Silva<sup>1,3,\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Laboratório de FTICR e Espectrometria de Massa Estrutural, FCUL, Portugal; <sup>2</sup> Biosystems & Integrative Sciences Institute (BioISI), FCUL, Portugal; <sup>3</sup> Centro de Química e Bioquímica, FCUL, Portugal; <sup>4</sup> Instituto Nacional de Investigação Agrária e Veterinária, Dois Portos, Portugal  
# [mрмаia@fc.ul.pt](mailto:mрмаia@fc.ul.pt); \*co-senior authors

## INTRODUCTION

The European Union is the world's leader in wine production, with almost half of the total vine-growing area. Portugal is the fifth wine producing country and the second with the highest collection of grapevine varieties [1].

The domesticated *V. vinifera* cultivars frequently used for wine production are highly susceptible to fungal diseases, which if not controlled, presents serious negative effects for the country's economy. Downy mildew is one of the most destructive vineyard diseases, affecting all the green parts of the vine (leaves, shoots and bunches), causing yield reduction with significant production losses and financial consequences [2].

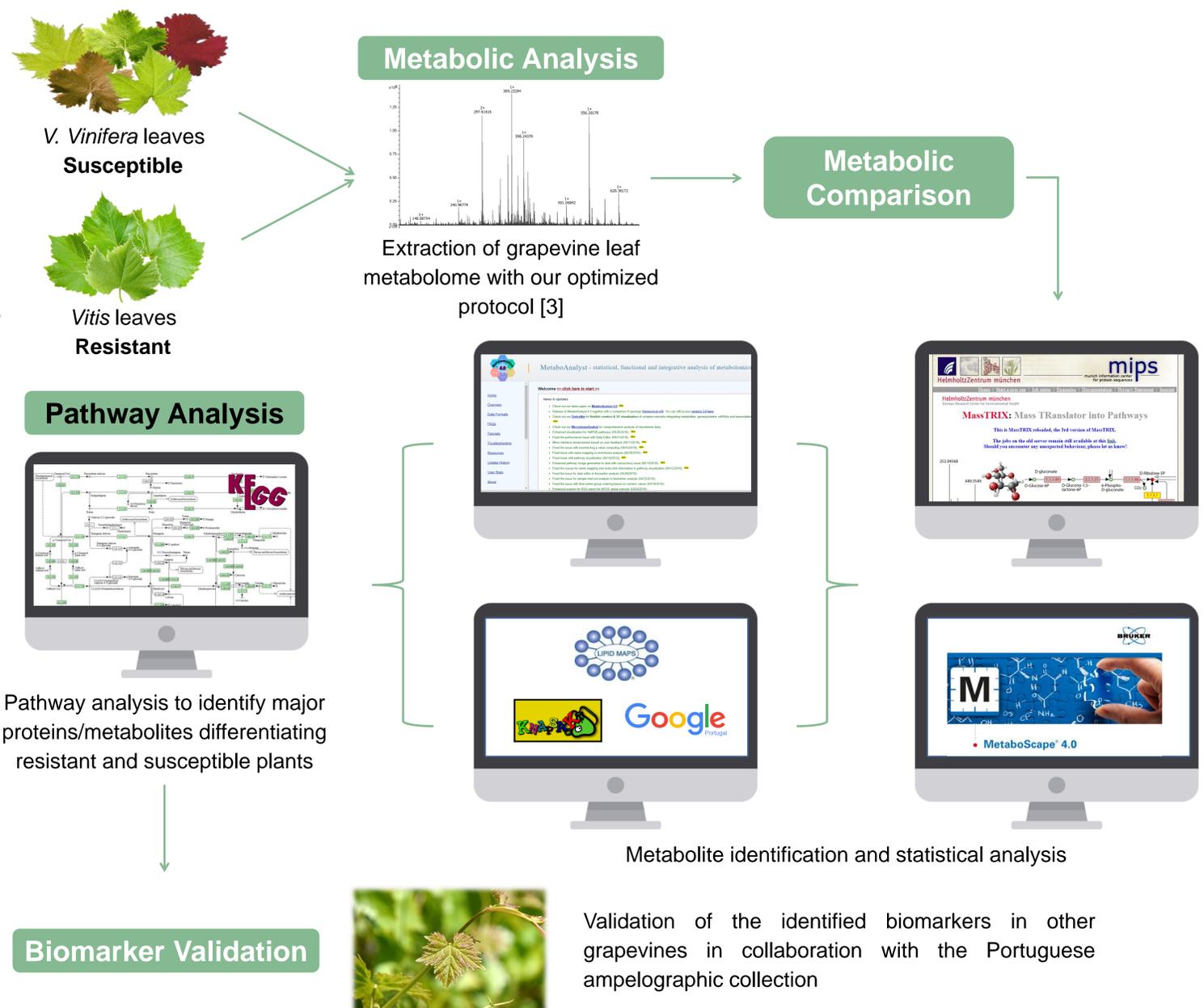
An alternative strategy to fungicide applications for disease prevention is the development of new grapevine varieties through breeding programs: combining the high degree of resistance of wild *Vitis* species (resistant to pathogens) with good berry quality for wine production of the domesticated *V. vinifera* (susceptible).

Through the metabolic characterization of grapevine leaves we aim to understand the innate resistance mechanism of *Vitis*, not only because plants contain a unique metabolome that change with the environment, development and upon fungal infections, but also to find resistance-associated biomarkers.

## MAJOR GOAL

Identification of grapevine metabolic biomarkers associated with resistance/susceptibility to fungal diseases that can be used as molecular screening traits in grapevine breeding programs

## EXPERIMENTAL APPROACH



## References

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