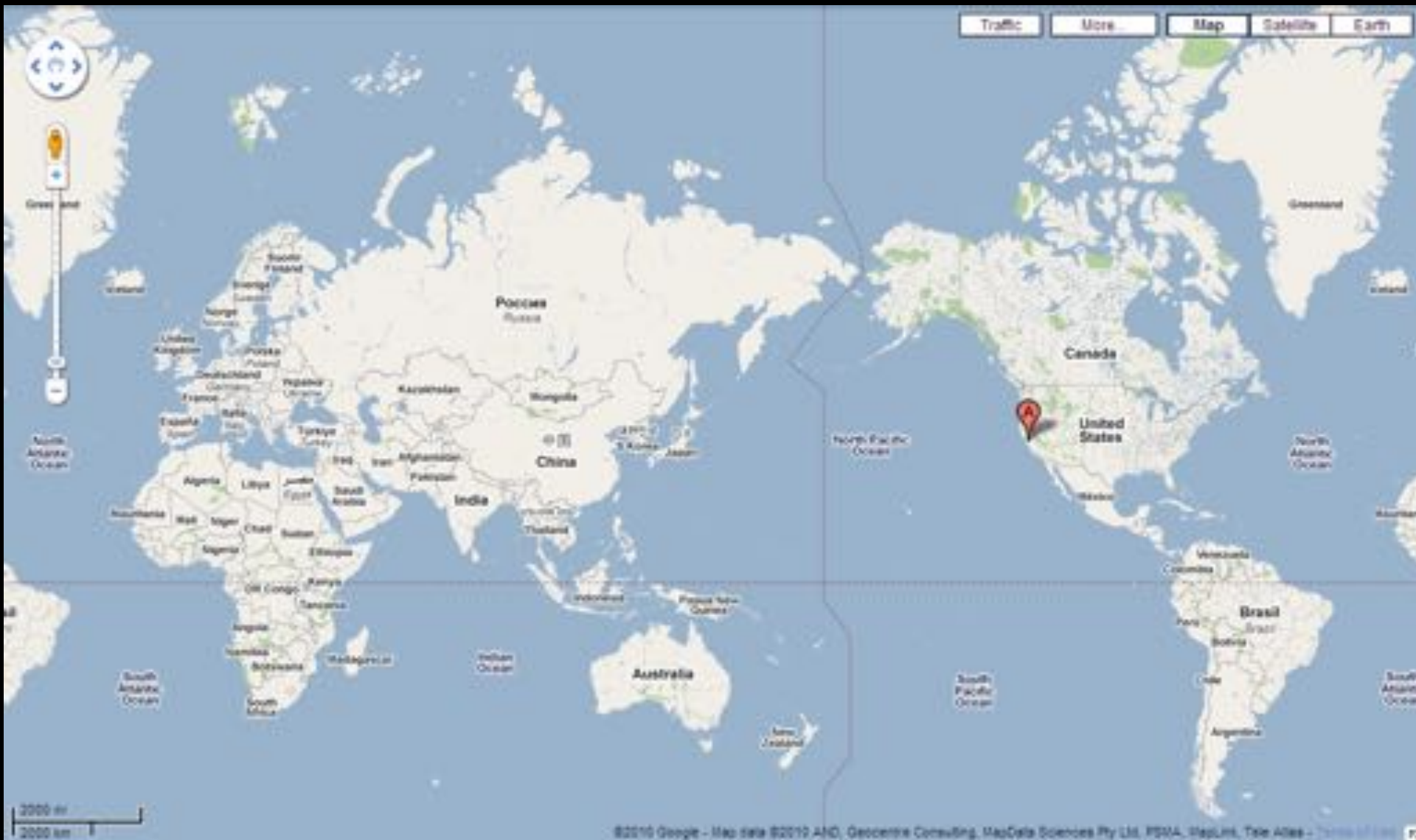




# Combining Computational Prediction and Manual Curation to Create Plant Metabolic Pathway Databases

Peifen Zhang  
Carnegie Institution For Science  
Department of Plant Biology

# Where We Are



# Who We Are



## PMN:

- Sue Rhee (*PI*)
- Kate Dreher (*curator*)
- Lee Chae (*Postdoc*)
- Anjo Chi (*programmer*)
- Cynthia Lee (*TAIR tech team*)
- Larry Ploetz (*TAIR tech team*)
- Shanker Singh (*TAIR tech team*)
- Bob Muller (*TAIR tech team*)

## Key Collaborators:

- Peter Karp (*MetaCyc, SRI*)
- Ron Caspi (*MetaCyc, SRI*)
- Lukas Mueller (*SGN*)
- Anuradha Pujar (*SGN*)



National Science Foundation  
WHERE DISCOVERIES BEGIN

<http://plantcyc.org>

# Outline

- Introduction and database snapshot
- Pathway database creation pipeline
- Manual curation
- Future work

# Introduction

- Background and rationale
  - Plants (food, feed, forest, medicine, biofuel...)
  - An ocean of sequences
    - More than 60 species in genome sequencing projects, hundreds in EST projects
  - Putting individual genes onto a network of metabolic reactions and pathways
    - Annotating, visualizing and analyzing at system level
  - AraCyc (Arabidopsis thaliana, TAIR/PMN)
    - predicted by using the Pathway Tools software, followed by manual curation

# Browsing Pathways

- Pathways
  - Biosynthesis (613 instances)
    - Amines and Polyamines Biosynthesis (14 instances)
    - Amino acids Biosynthesis (52 instances)
    - Aminoac...
    - Aromatic
    - Carbohydr...
    - Cell struc...
    - Cofactor...
    - Fatty Ac...
    - Hormone
    - Metabol...
    - Nucleosid...
    - Other Bio...
    - Secondar...
    - Sideroph...
  - Degradation
  - Detoxificati...
  - Generation
  - Superpathw...
  - Transport Pa...

## *PlantCyc* Pathways Class: Alkaloids Biosynthesis

### Summary:

This class contains biosynthetic pathways of alkaloids. Most alkaloids contain cyclic nitrogen. They function as defense compounds. Many alkaloids, including morphine and cocaine, have a high affinity for receptors of neurotransmitters and have pharmacological activities.

### Parent Classes:

Nitrogen-Containing Secondary Compounds Biosynthesis

### Child Classes:

Betalaine alkaloids (8) ,  
Indole alkaloids (5) ,  
Isoquinoline and Benzylisoquinoline alkaloids (9) ,  
Peptide alkaloids (0) ,  
Polyketide alkaloids (0) ,  
Purine alkaloids (4) ,  
Pyrrolidine, Piperidine and Pyridine alkaloids (3) ,  
Pyrrolizidine alkaloids (0) ,  
Quinoline alkaloids (2) ,  
Quinolizidine alkaloids (1) ,  
Terpenoid Alkaloids Biosynthesis (3) ,  
Tropane alkaloids (4)

### Instances:

(S)-reticuline biosynthesis I ,  
berberine biosynthesis ,  
bisbenzylisoquinoline alkaloid biosynthesis ,  
dehydroscoulerine biosynthesis ,  
laudanine biosynthesis ,  
magnoflorine biosynthesis ,  
morphine biosynthesis ,  
palmatine biosynthesis ,  
sanguinarine and macarpine biosynthesis

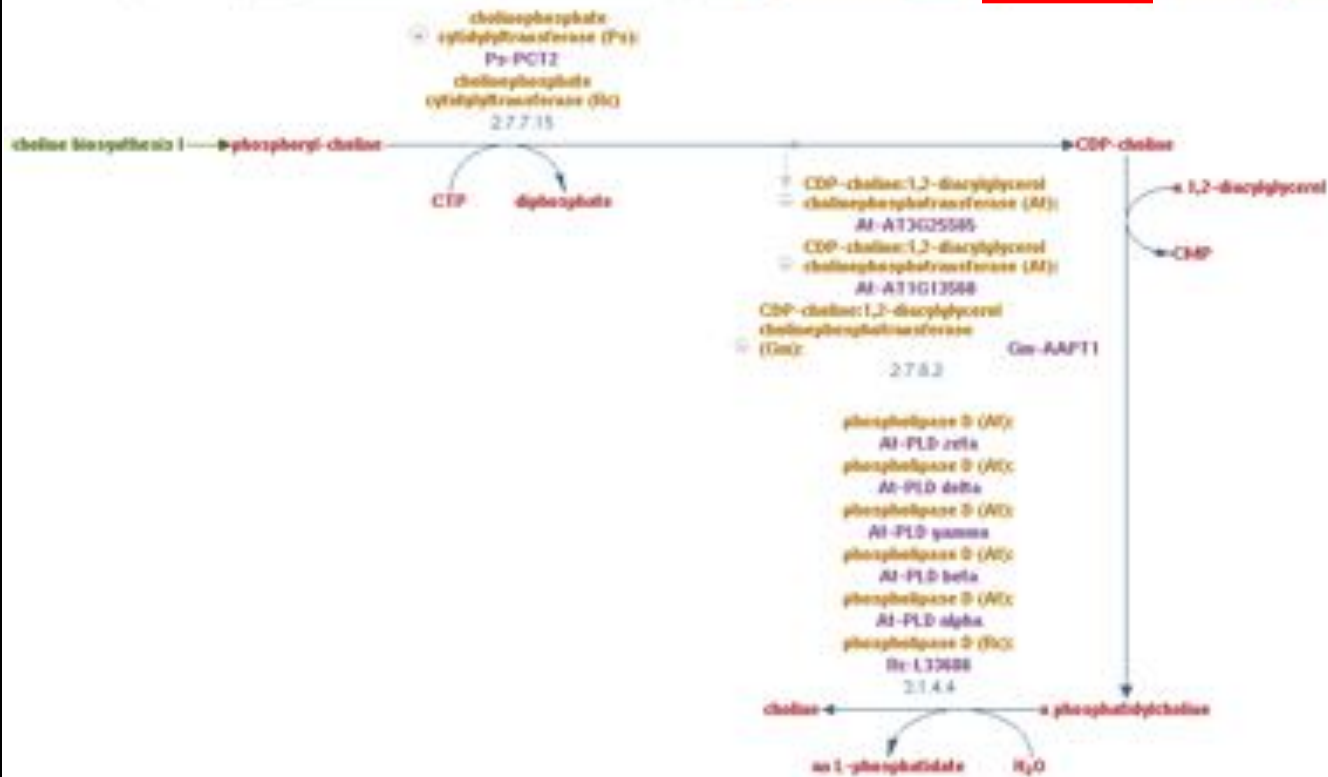




# A Typical Pathway Detail Page

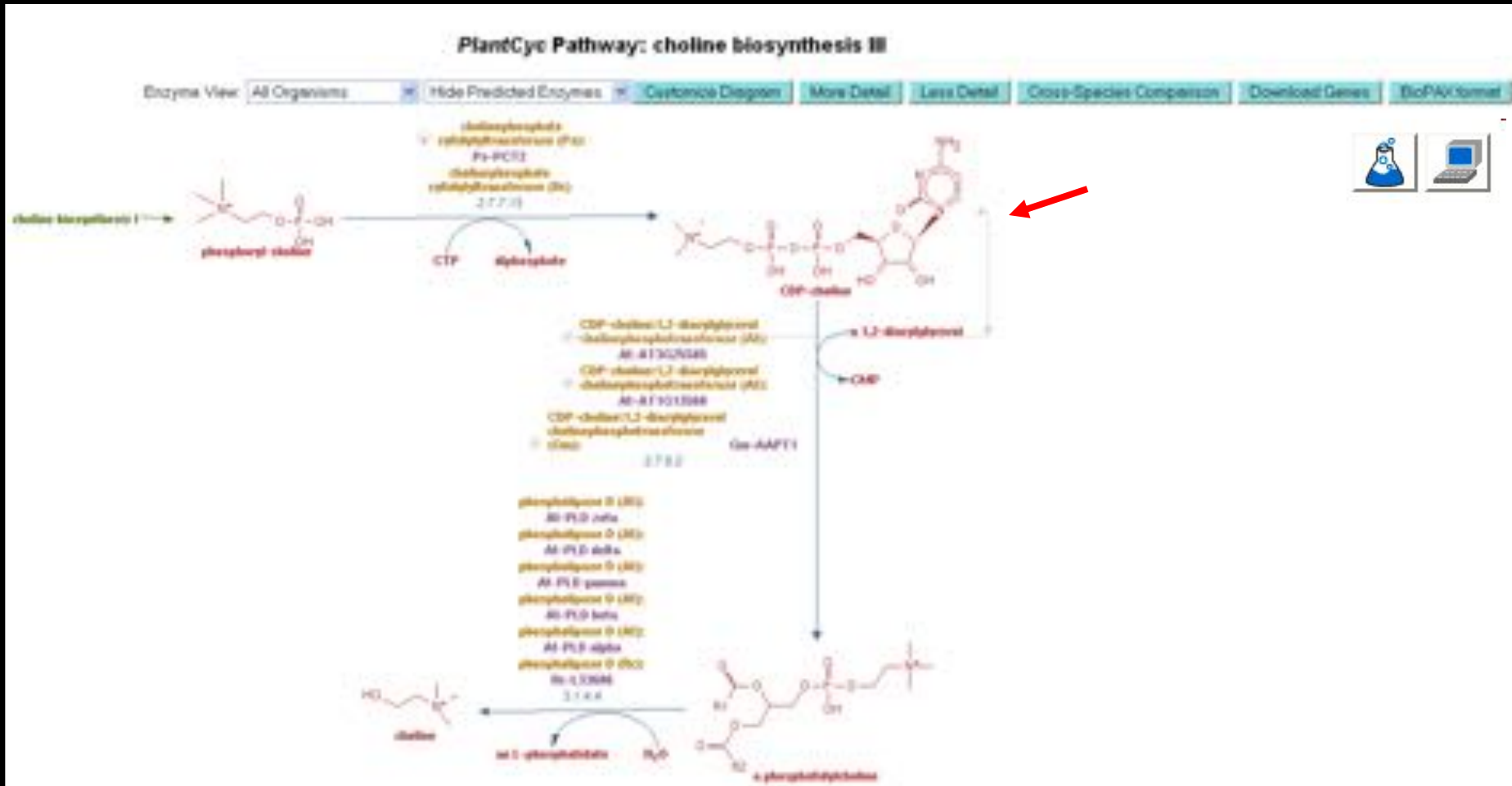
## PlantCyc Pathway: choline biosynthesis III

Enzyme View: [All Organisms](#) [Hide Predicted Enzymes](#) [Customize Diagram](#) **[More Detail](#)** [Less Detail](#) [Cross-Species Comparison](#) [Download Genes](#)





# Linking to Other Data Detail Pages



# Compound Detail Pages

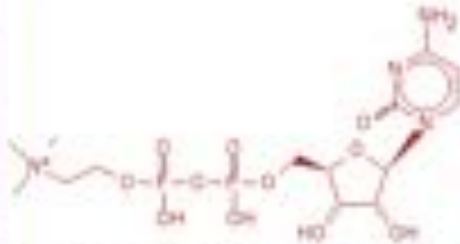
Synonyms: [cibcoline](#) , [cibcholone](#) , [cibfos](#) , [cylcholone](#) , [cytidine 5'-diphosphocholine](#) , [cytidine diphosphate choline](#)

Superclasses: [a nucleic acid component](#) -> [a base derivative](#)  
[a nucleic acid component](#) -> [a pyrimidine-related compound](#)

Empirical Formula:  $C_{14}H_{27}N_4O_{11}P_2$

Molecular Weight: 489.34 daltons

Molecular Weight / Formula



Smiles: C(=O)OP(O)(=O)OP(O)(=O)OCC[N+](=O)(C)C(C)C1OC(C(=O)O)C(=O)N(C)C2

Smiles / InChI

Unification Links: CAS:987-78-0

Gibbs Energy of Formation (kcal/mol, estimated): -116.7

In Pathway Reactions as a Reactant:

[phospholipid biosynthesis](#)  
[1,2-dicetylgeranyl](#) - **CDP-choline** -> [a phosphatidylcholine](#) + [CMP](#)

Appears as Reactant

[choline biosynthesis III](#)  
[1,2-dicetylgeranyl](#) - **CDP-choline** -> [a phosphatidylcholine](#) + [CMP](#)

In Pathway Reactions as a Product:

[phospholipid biosynthesis](#)  
[phosphorylcholine](#) + [CTP](#) -> **CDP-choline** + [diphosphate](#)

Appears as Product

[choline biosynthesis III](#)  
[phosphorylcholine](#) + [CTP](#) -> **CDP-choline** + [diphosphate](#)

# Enzyme Detail Pages

## Arabidopsis Enzyme: phosphatidyltransferase

Enzymatic reaction of: cholinephosphotransferase (phosphatidyltransferase)

$1,2\text{-diacylglycerol} + \text{CDP-choline} \rightleftharpoons \text{a phosphatidylcholine} + \text{CMP}$

The reaction direction shown, that is,  $A + B \rightleftharpoons C + D$  versus  $C + D \rightleftharpoons A + B$ , is in accordance with the Enzyme Commission system.

Reversibility of this reaction is unspecified.

In Pathways: [choline biosynthesis B](#), [phospholipid biosynthesis](#)

### Summary

Two cDNA's from *Arabidopsis thaliana* (AtAAP1, AtAAP2) have been isolated from an *Arabidopsis* cDNA library using the AAP cDNA from soybean as a heterologous hybridization probe. Both cDNA's encode aminoalcoholphosphotransferases involved in the nucleotide pathway of the biosynthesis of phosphatidylethanolamine (PE) and phosphatidylcholine (PC) as demonstrated by gene expression in yeast mutants lacking these enzyme activities. It has been demonstrated that both AtAAP1 and AtAAP2 convert CDP-ethanolamine and CDP-choline into the corresponding phosphatidylethanolamines although with slight differences regarding the substrate preference. AtAAP2 showed a higher preference for CDP-choline over CDP-ethanolamine in comparison to AtAAP1 and was also inhibited to a lesser degree by  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  and Cytidine monophosphate (CMP) than AtAAP1 [ [Goode99](#) ]. Both enzymes (AtAAP1, AtAAP2) were able to catalyze the reverse reaction supporting the proposal that diacylglycerol, involved as substrate in both PC and triacylglycerol biosynthesis [ [triacylglycerol biosynthesis](#) ], is in equilibrium with PC and maintains this equilibrium via the reversibility of the cholinephosphotransferase reaction [ [Stack85](#) ]. AtAAP1 and AtAAP2 seem to represent the only aminoalcoholphosphotransferases in *Arabidopsis* as concluded from the Southern blotting patterns. Both polypeptides contain seven membrane spanning regions as shown by their hydropathy files. This finding is in agreement with other AAP's isolated so far and confirms their localization in membranes [ [Goode99](#) ].

Inhibitors (Allosteric): [CMP](#) [ [Goode99](#) ]

Inhibitors (Unknecht): [Ca<sup>2+</sup>](#) [ [Goode99](#) ]

Primary Physiological Regulators of Enzyme Activity: [CMP](#)

### References

[Goode99](#), Goode JL, Dewey RG, (1999) "Characterization of aminoalcoholphosphotransferases from *Arabidopsis thaliana* and soybean." *Plant Physiol. Biochem.* 37(8): 645-652.

[Stack85](#), Stack CR, Roughan PG, Brown JA, Gardner SE, (1985) "Some properties of cholinephosphotransferase from developing safflower cotyledons." *Biochim. Biophys. Acta* (1985) 833: 439-446.

Evidence



Summary

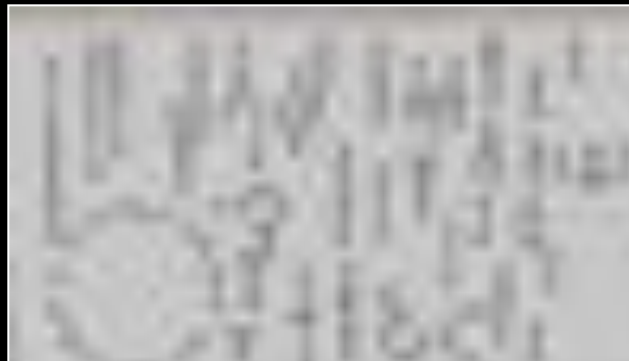
Inhibitors, Kinetic Parameters, etc.

# Visualizing and Interpreting Omics Data in a Metabolic Context



- Gene expression data
- Proteomic data
- Metabolic profiling data
- Reaction flux data

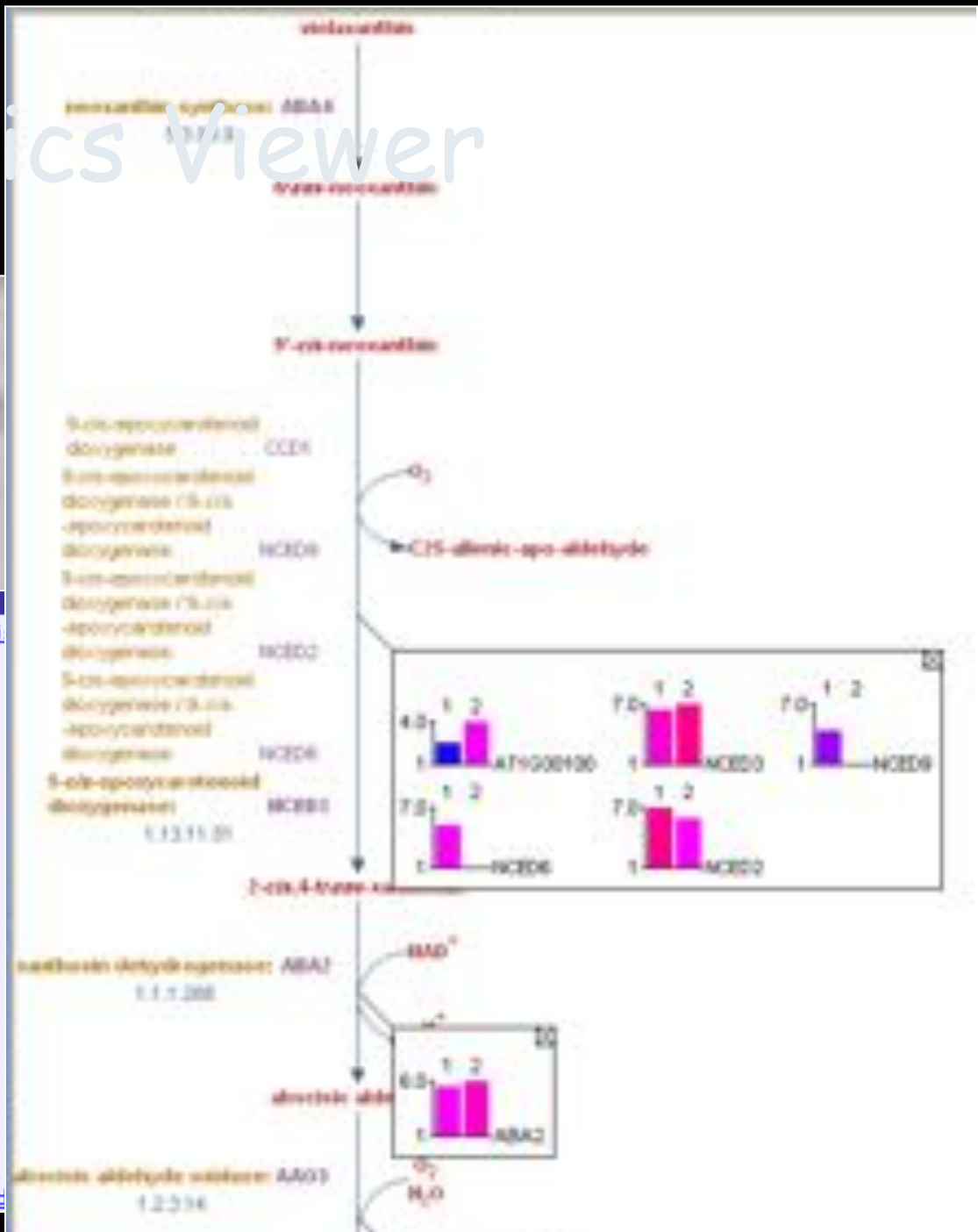
# Omics Viewer



**Navigate to...**  
 Pathway: [abscisic acid biosynthesis](#)  
 Compound: [violaxanthin](#)

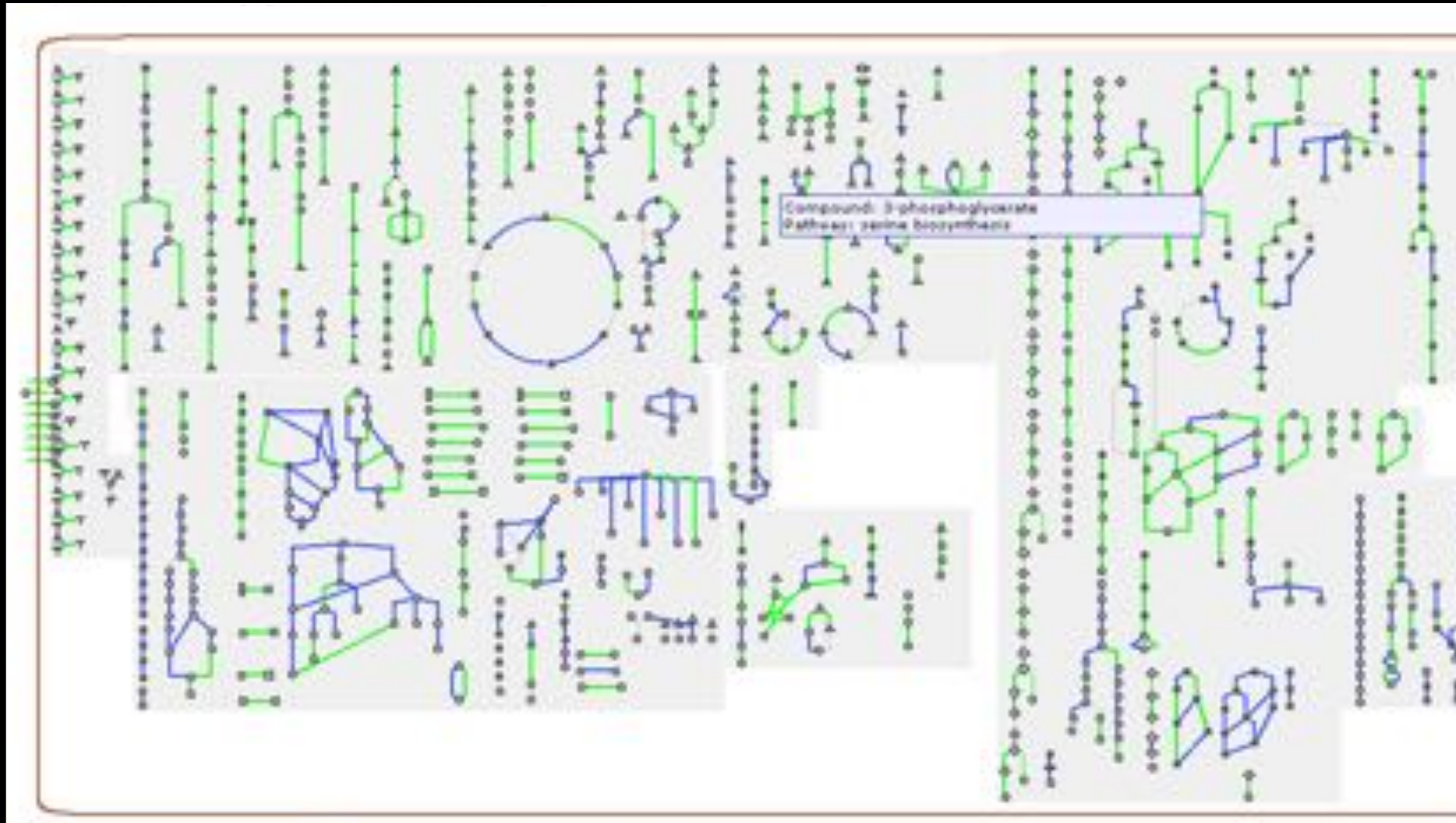
violaxanthin  
 |  
*trans*-neoxanthin  
 |  
 9'-*cis*-neoxanthin  
 |||  
 CCD1 NCED9 7.0  
 NCED2 4.0 NCED6 2.0  
 NCED3 6.0 AT2G44990  
 AT1G30100 2.0  
 |  
 xanthoxin  
 |  
 ABA2 5.0  
 |  
 abscisic aldehyde  
 |  
 AT3G43600 AO1  
 AAO4 AAO3 7.0  
 |  
 (+)-abscisate

[Printable version of this pathway](#)





# Comparing Across Species



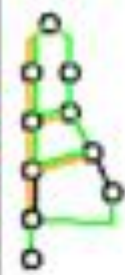
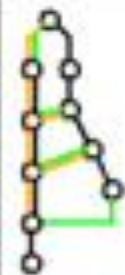


# Pathways

Table 1: Breakdown of Pathways by Pathway Class

This table presents  
down further to sh  
assigned to more t  
will see only those

- Biosynthesis
- Amines and Poly
- Amino acids Bios
- Aminoacyl-tRNA
- Aromatic Compo
- Carbohydrates B
- Cell structures B
- Cofactors, Prost
- Fatty Acids and
- Hormones Biosyr
- Metabolic Regul
- Nucleosides and
- Other Biosynthe
- Polysaccharides
- Secondary Metal
- Secondary Metal
- Siderophore Bio:

Pathway Class: Biosynthesis - Hormones Biosynthesis	AraCyc col	P. trichocarpa																									
<a href="#">cis-zeatin biosynth</a>	Organism	Evidence Glyph	Enzymes and Genes for brassinosteroid biosynthesis II																								
<a href="#">ent-kaurene biosyr</a>	AraCyc col		<table border="1"> <tr> <td>EC# 5.3.3.1</td> <td><math>\Delta^5-3</math>-ketosteroid isomerase:</td> </tr> <tr> <td>EC# 1.1.1.145</td> <td>3<math>\beta</math>-hydroxysteroid dehydrogenase:</td> </tr> <tr> <td>EC# 1.3.99.-</td> <td>sterol 5-alpha reductase: DET2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>EC# 1.14.13.-</td> <td>steroid 22<math>\alpha</math>-hydroxylase: DWF4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>RXN-712</td> <td>None</td> </tr> <tr> <td>EC# 1.14.13.-</td> <td>steroid 22<math>\alpha</math>-hydroxylase: DWF4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>EC# 1.14.13.-</td> <td>steroid 22<math>\alpha</math>-hydroxylase: DWF4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>EC# 1.14.13.-</td> <td>steroid 22<math>\alpha</math>-hydroxylase: DWF4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>RXN-4226</td> <td>SAX1: SAX1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>EC# 1.3.99.-</td> <td>sterol 5-alpha reductase: DET2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>RXN-4228</td> <td>None</td> </tr> <tr> <td>EC# 1.14.-.-</td> <td>23alpha hydroxylase / cathasterone 23<math>\alpha</math>-hydroxylase: CBB3</td> </tr> </table>	EC# 5.3.3.1	$\Delta^5-3$ -ketosteroid isomerase:	EC# 1.1.1.145	3 $\beta$ -hydroxysteroid dehydrogenase:	EC# 1.3.99.-	sterol 5-alpha reductase: DET2	EC# 1.14.13.-	steroid 22 $\alpha$ -hydroxylase: DWF4	RXN-712	None	EC# 1.14.13.-	steroid 22 $\alpha$ -hydroxylase: DWF4	EC# 1.14.13.-	steroid 22 $\alpha$ -hydroxylase: DWF4	EC# 1.14.13.-	steroid 22 $\alpha$ -hydroxylase: DWF4	RXN-4226	SAX1: SAX1	EC# 1.3.99.-	sterol 5-alpha reductase: DET2	RXN-4228	None	EC# 1.14.-.-	23alpha hydroxylase / cathasterone 23 $\alpha$ -hydroxylase: CBB3
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<a href="#">trans-zeatin biosyr</a>	P. trichocarpa		<table border="1"> <tr> <td>EC# 5.3.3.1</td> <td>None</td> </tr> <tr> <td>EC# 1.1.1.145</td> <td>None</td> </tr> <tr> <td>EC# 1.3.99.-</td> <td>None</td> </tr> <tr> <td>EC# 1.14.13.-</td> <td>monooxygenase: JGI-820024 monooxygenase: JGI-796803</td> </tr> <tr> <td>RXN-712</td> <td>None</td> </tr> <tr> <td>EC# 1.14.13.-</td> <td>monooxygenase: JGI-820024 monooxygenase: JGI-796803</td> </tr> <tr> <td>EC# 1.14.13.-</td> <td>monooxygenase: JGI-820024 monooxygenase: JGI-796803</td> </tr> <tr> <td>EC# 1.14.13.-</td> <td>monooxygenase: JGI-820024 monooxygenase: JGI-796803</td> </tr> </table>	EC# 5.3.3.1	None	EC# 1.1.1.145	None	EC# 1.3.99.-	None	EC# 1.14.13.-	monooxygenase: JGI-820024 monooxygenase: JGI-796803	RXN-712	None	EC# 1.14.13.-	monooxygenase: JGI-820024 monooxygenase: JGI-796803	EC# 1.14.13.-	monooxygenase: JGI-820024 monooxygenase: JGI-796803	EC# 1.14.13.-	monooxygenase: JGI-820024 monooxygenase: JGI-796803								
EC# 5.3.3.1	None																										
EC# 1.1.1.145	None																										
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<a href="#">abscisic acid biosyr</a>																											
<a href="#">abscisic acid glucos</a>																											
<a href="#">aldehyde oxidation</a>																											
<a href="#">brassinosteroid bio</a>																											
<a href="#">brassinosteroid bio</a>																											
<a href="#">brassinosteroid bio</a>																											
<a href="#">brassinosteroid bio</a>																											
<a href="#">cytokinins 7-N-gluc</a>																											
<a href="#">cytokinins 9-N-gluc</a>																											
<a href="#">cytokinins-O-glucos</a>																											
<a href="#">ethylene biosynthe</a>																											
<a href="#">GA<sub>12</sub> biosynthesis</a>																											
<a href="#">gibberellin biosynt</a>																											
<a href="#">gibberellin biosynt</a>																											
<a href="#">gibberellin biosynt</a>																											
<a href="#">hydroxyjasmonate</a>																											
<a href="#">IAA biosynthesis I</a>																											
<a href="#">IAA biosynthesis II</a>																											
<a href="#">IAA biosynthesis V</a>																											
<a href="#">indole-3-acetyl-ami</a>																											
<a href="#">jasmonic acid biosy</a>																											
<a href="#">jasmonoyl-amino a</a>																											

# Introduction (cont)

- Background and rationale
  - Plants (food, feed, forest, medicine, biofuel...)
  - An ocean of sequences
    - More than 60 species in genome sequencing projects, hundreds in EST projects
  - Putting individual genes onto a network of metabolic reactions and pathways
    - Annotating, visualizing and analyzing at system level
  - AraCyc (Arabidopsis thaliana, TAIR/PMN)
    - predicted by using the Pathway Tools software, followed by manual curation
  - Other plant pathway databases predicted by using the Pathway Tools
    - RiceCyc (Oryza sativa, Gramene)
    - MedicCyc (Medicago truncatula, Noble Foundation)
    - LycoCyc (Solanum lycopersicum, SGN), ...

# Pathway Prediction and Pathway Database Creation

- Infer the reactome of an organism from the enzymes present in its annotated genome
  - Mapping annotated enzyme sequences to reactions
- Infer the metabolic pathways of the organism from its reactome
  - Pathway-calling based on supporting evidence of reactions

## Annotated Sequences

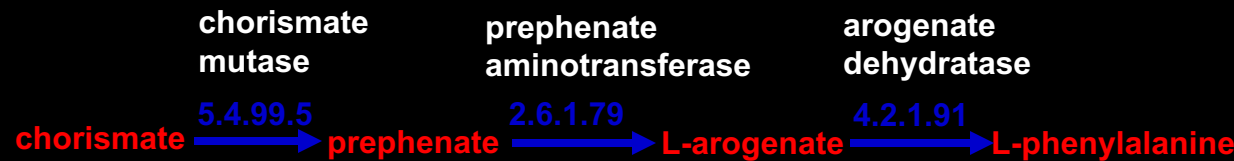
Protein sequence

AT1G69370

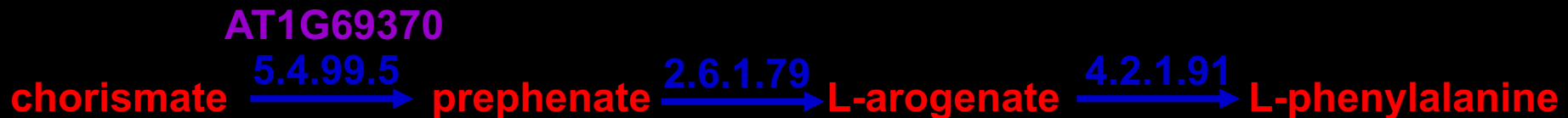
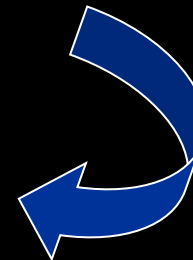


Enzyme function  
chorismate mutase

## Reference Pathway DB



## Pathway Tools



# Limitations

- Creating pathway databases includes three major components, and is resource-intensive
  - Sequence annotation
  - Reference pathway database
  - Pathway prediction, validation, refinement
- Heterogeneous sequence annotation protocols and varying levels of pathway validation impact quality and hinder meaningful cross-species comparison
  - Using a non-plant reference database causes many false-positive and false-negative pathway predictions

# Introducing the PMN

- Scope
  - A platform for plant metabolic pathway database creation
  - A community for data curation
    - Curators, editorial board, ally in other databases, researchers
- Major goals
  - Create a plant-specific reference pathway database (PlantCyc)
  - Create an enzyme sequence annotation pipeline
  - Enhance pathway prediction by using PlantCyc, and including an automated initial validation step
  - Create metabolic pathway databases for plant species
    - e.g. PoplarCyc (*Populus trichocarpa*), SoyCyc (soybean)



## Annotated Sequences

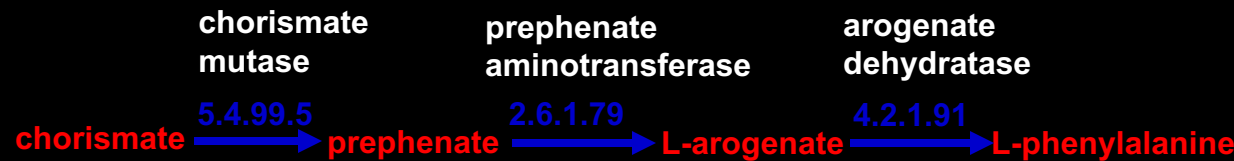
Protein sequence

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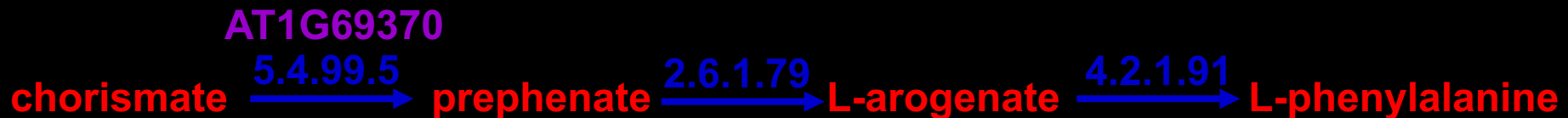
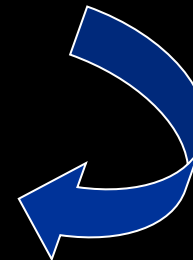


Enzyme function  
chorismate mutase

## Reference Pathway DB



## Pathway Tools



# PlantCyc Creation

- Nature
  - Multiple-species, plants-only, curator-reviewed pathways, primary and secondary metabolism
- Major Source
  - All AraCyc pathways and enzymes
  - Plant pathways and enzymes from MetaCyc
  - Additional pathways and enzymes manually curated and added
  - Enzymes from RiceCyc, LycoCyc and MedicCyc

# PMN Database Content Statistics

	PlantCyc 4.0	AraCyc 7.0	PoplarCyc 2.0
Pathways	685	369	288
Enzymes	11058	5506	3420
Reactions	2929	2418	1707
Compounds	2966	2719	1397
Organisms	343	1	1*

Valuable plant natural products, many are specialized metabolites that are limited to a few species or genus.

- medicinal: e.g. artemisinin and quinine (**treatment of malaria**), codeine and morphine (**pain-killer**), ginsenosides (**cardio-protectant**), lupenol (**antiinflammatory**), taxol and vinblastine (**anti-cancer**)
- industrial materials: e.g. **resin and rubber**
- food flavor and scents: e.g. capsaicin and piperine (**chili and pepper flavor**), geranyl acetate (**aroma of rose**) and menthol (**mint**).

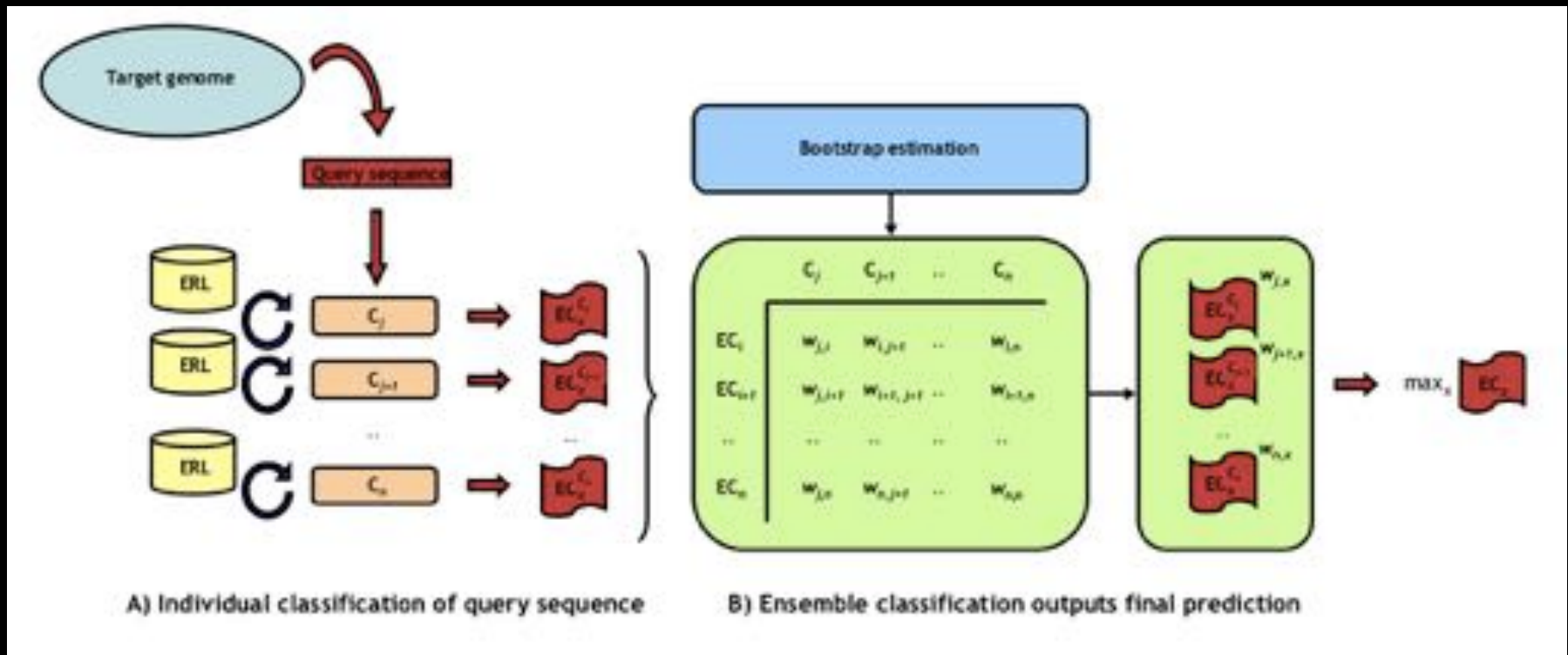
# Enzyme Sequence Annotation (version 1.0)

- Reference sequences, enzymes with known functions
  - 14,187 enzyme sequences compiled from UniProt, Brenda, MetaCyc, and TAIR
  - 3805 functional identifiers (full EC number, MetaCyc reaction id, GO id)
- Annotation methods
  - BLASTP
- Cut-off
  - unique e-value threshold for each functional identifier

# Enzyme Sequence Annotation (version 2.0)

- Reference sequences, proteins with known functions (ERL)
  - SwissProt
    - 117,000 proteins, 26,000 enzymes, 2,400 full EC numbers
  - Additional enzymes from MetaCyc, TAIR, Brenda and UniProt
  - Functional identifiers, full EC number, MetaCyc reaction id, GO id,
- Annotation methods
  - BLASTP
  - Priam (enzyme-specific, motif-based)
  - CatFam (enzyme-specific, motif-based)
- Function calling
  - Ensemble and voting

# Enzyme Sequence Annotation (version 2.0)



Lee Chae (unpublished)



## Annotated Sequences

Protein sequence

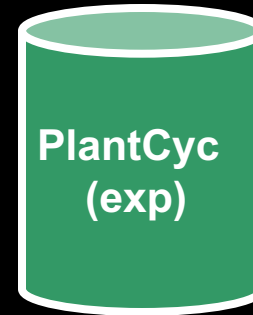
AT1G69370



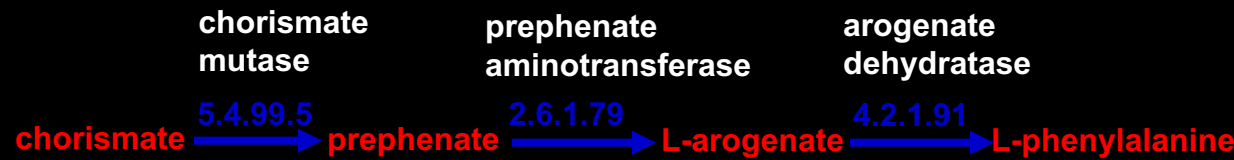
Enzyme function

5.4.99.5

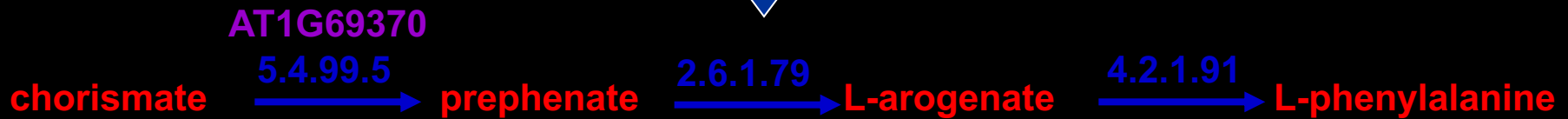
## Reference Pathway DB



PlantCyc  
(exp)

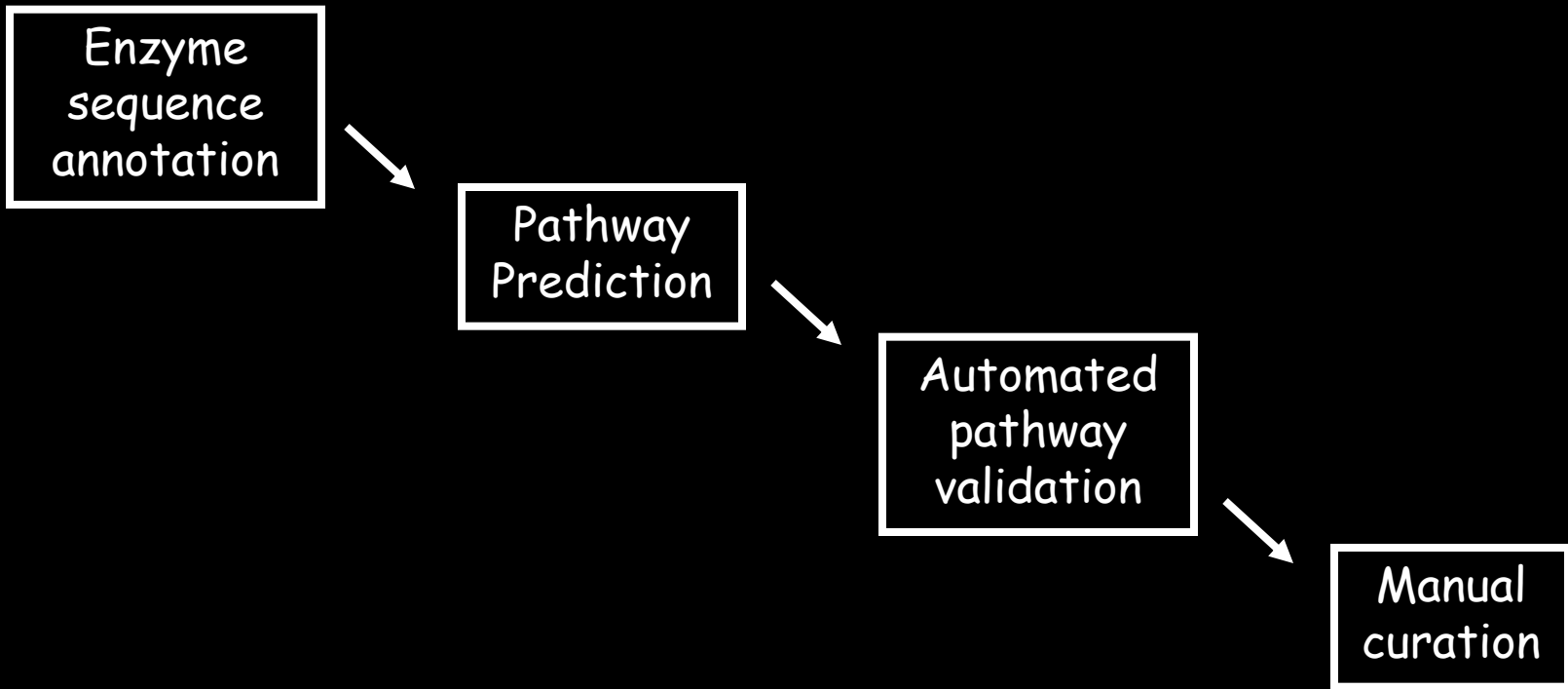


## Pathway Tools



# Automated Initial Pathway Validation

- Remove non-plant pathways
  - A list of 132 MetaCyc pathways
- Add universal plant pathways
  - A list of 115 PlantCyc pathways



# Manual Curation

## - Who

- Curators identify, read and enter information from published journal articles

## - What

- Remove false-positive pathway predictions
- Remove false-positive enzyme annotations
- Add missing pathways (pathway diagrams)
- Add missing enzymes
- Curate enzyme properties, kinetic data
- Update existing pathways (pathway diagrams)
- Add new reactions
- Add new compounds and curate compound structures

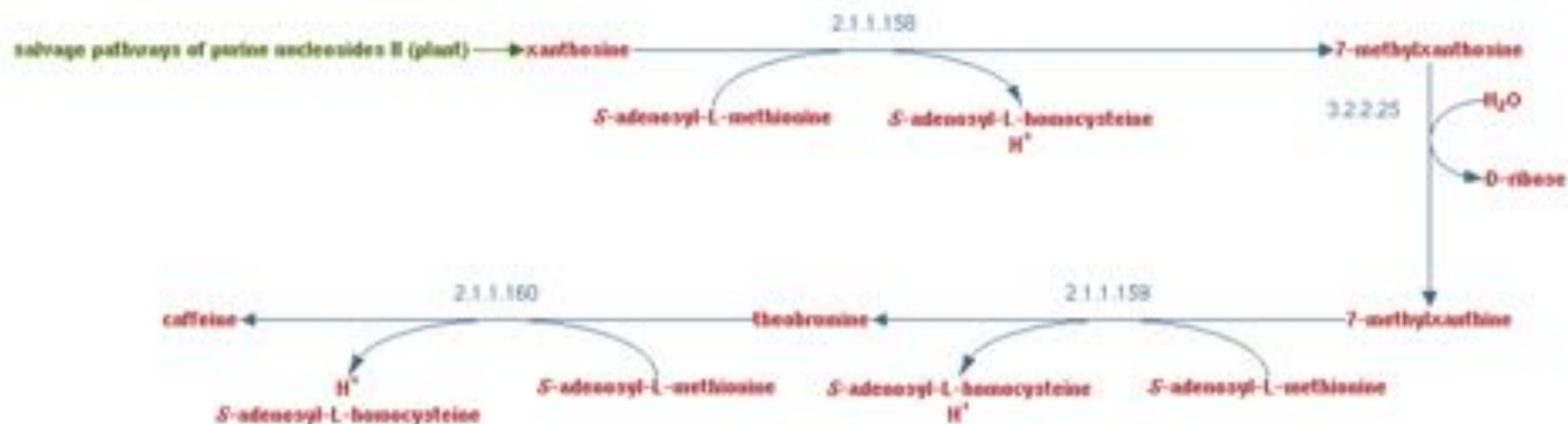
# Conventions Used in Curation and Data Presentation

- A pathway, as drawn in the text books, is a functional unit, regulated as a unit
- Pathway displayed is expected to operate as such in the individual species listed

## PlantCyc Pathway: caffeine biosynthesis I



Enzyme View:



If an enzyme name is shown in bold, there is experimental evidence for this enzymatic activity.

Superclasses: [Biosynthesis](#) → [Secondary Metabolites Biosynthesis](#) → [Nitrogen-Containing Secondary Compounds Biosynthesis](#) → [Alkaloids Biosynthesis](#) → [Purine alkaloids](#) → [Caffeine Biosynthesis](#)

Species Data Available for: [Camellia sinensis](#) , [Camellia sinensis assamica](#) , [Camellia taliensis](#) , [Coffea arabica](#) , [Coffea canephora](#)

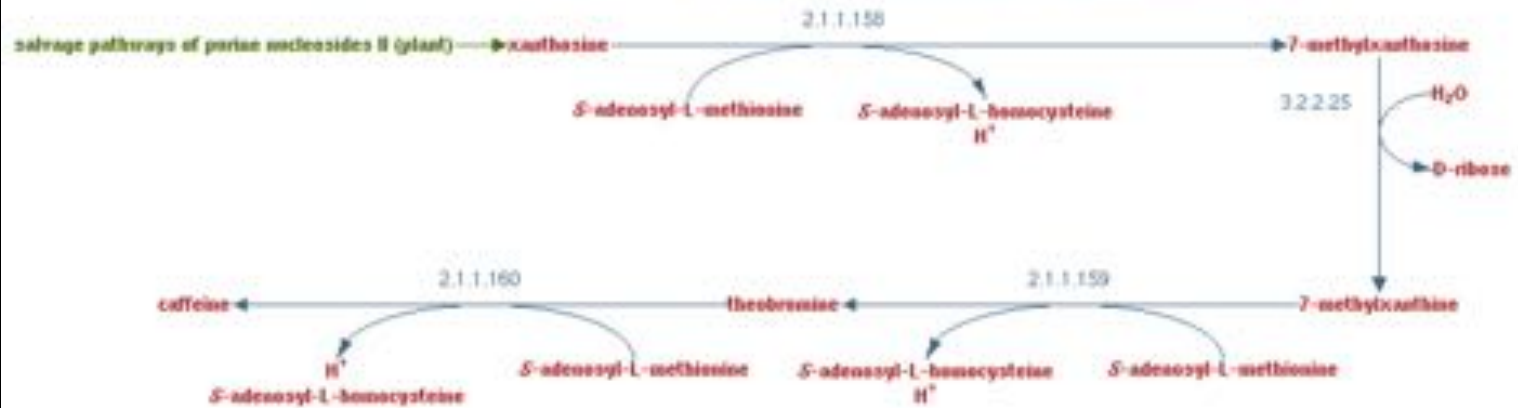


# Conventions Used in Curation and Data Presentation

- Pathway, as drawn in the text books, is a functional unit, regulated as a unit
- Pathway displayed is expected to operate as such in the individual species shown
- Alternative routes that have been observed in different organisms are curated separately as pathway variants

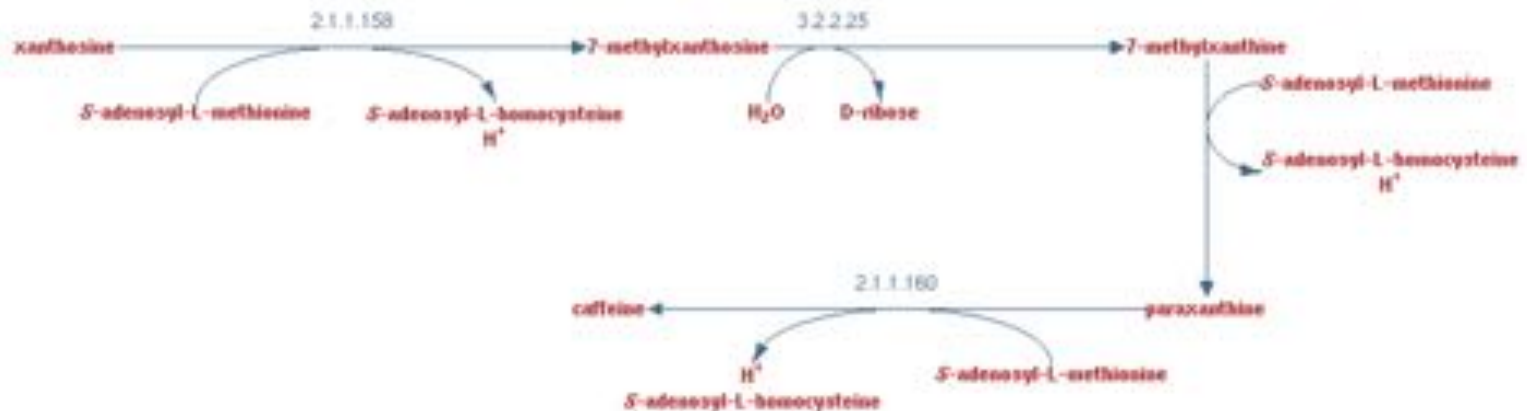
## PlantCyc Pathway: caffeine biosynthesis I

Enzyme View:



## PlantCyc Pathway: caffeine biosynthesis II (via paraxanthine)

Enzyme View:



# Conventions Used in Curation and Data Presentation

- Pathway, as drawn in the text books, is a functional unit, regulated as a unit
- Pathway displayed is expected to operate as such in the individual species shown
- Alternative routes that have been observed in different organisms are curated separately as pathway variants
- Mosaics combined of alternative routes from several different species are curated as superpathways
- Connected pathways, extended networks, are curated as superpathways



# Future Work

- Enhance pathway prediction and validation
  - Using additional evidence, such as presence of compounds, weighted confidence of enzyme annotations
- Refine pathways, hole-filling
  - Including non-sequence homology based information in enzyme function prediction, such as phylogenetic profiles, co-expression
- Add new data types, critical for strategic planning of metabolic engineering
  - Rate-limiting step
  - Transcriptional regulator
- Create new pathway databases
  - moss (*P. patens*), *Selaginella*, maize, cassava, wine grape ...

Thank you!