Mutants affecting the nucleoside metabolism

Lack of the plasma membrane located equilibrative nucleoside transporter 3 (AtENT3) and the extracellular nucleoside hydrolase 3 (AtNSH3) results in a disturbed extracellular nucleoside metabolism. This assumption is strengthened by growth experiments using cytotoxic substrate analoga (2-Chloro-Adenosine, Fluro-Uridine). Furthermore HPLC analysis reveal accumulations of uridine and adenosine in the apoplastic sap. Due to jasmonic acid depending expression of nsh3, pathogen analysis with nsh3/ent3 KO plants were performed. Interestingly the resulting lesions of the necrotrophic fungus Botrytis cinerea BMM were more than double as big in DKO plants in comparison to WT. We suggest that this could be a consequence of disturbed extracellular signaling processes and the respective plant response, or a nutrition effect improving fungal growth performance due to accumulated nucleosides. Whereas first analysis provided hints for a nutritional benefit, the plant response effect still remains elusive.