Phosphorus acquisition efficiency in arbuscular mycorrhizal maize is correlated with the abundance of root-external hyphae and the accumulation of transcripts encoding PHT1 phosphate transporters

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Word count: 5307 (Introduction: 833, Materials and Methods: 1560, Results: 1760, Discussion: 1091, Acknowledgements: 63).
Figures: 5 (All colour)
Tables: 2
Supporting Information as PDF; Fig.S1 – S5; Table S1 – S2

SUMMARY

- Plant interactions with arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi have long attracted interest for their potential to promote more efficient use of mineral resources in agriculture. Their widespread use, however, remains limited by understanding of the processes that determine the outcome of the symbiosis. In this study, variation in growth response to mycorrhizal inoculation was characterized in a panel of diverse maize lines.

- A panel of thirty maize lines was evaluated with and without inoculation with arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi. The line Oh43 was identified to show superior response and, along with five other reference lines, was characterized in greater detail in a split-compartment system, using ^{33}P to quantify mycorrhizal phosphorus uptake.

- Changes in relative growth between non-inoculated and inoculated plants indicated variation in host capacity to profit from the symbiosis. Shoot phosphate content, abundance of intra-radical and root-external fungal structures, mycorrhizal phosphorus uptake, and accumulation of transcripts encoding plant PHT1 family phosphate transporters varied among lines.

- Larger growth responses in Oh43 were correlated with extensive development of root-external hyphae, accumulation of specific *Pht1* transcripts and a high level of mycorrhizal phosphorus uptake. The data indicate that host genetic factors influence fungal growth strategy with an impact on plant performance.

Key words: arbuscular mycorrhiza, maize, PHT1, phosphorus, root-external hyphae

1 **INTRODUCTION**

2   The rising cost of agricultural inputs and an increasing awareness of the potential negative

3   environmental consequences of their use have resulted in ever greater interest in beneficial

4   crop-microbe interactions and their application (Perez-Montano *et al.*, 2014; Vance, 2014).

5   The most prevalent nutrient-delivering symbiosis is the association of plants with fungi of the

6   phylum *Glomeromycota*, resulting in the formation of arbuscular mycorrhizas (Smith &

7   Read, 2008). More than 80% of extant terrestrial plants establish arbuscular mycorrhizal

8   (AM) symbioses, and this fundamental capacity has been retained in major crop species

9   throughout the processes of domestication and improvement (*e.g.* Koide *et al.*, 1988; Hetrick

10   *et al.*, 1992; Kaeppler *et al.*, 2000; Sawers *et al.*, 2008). Concomitantly, these same crops

11   have retained a conserved molecular machinery required for symbiotic establishment and

12   nutrient exchange (Paszkowski *et al.*, 2002; Gutjahr *et al.*, 2008; Yang *et al.*, 2012; Willman

13   *et al.*, 2013).

14   The best characterized benefit of AM symbiosis is enhanced plant phosphorus (P)

15   nutrition. The efficiency with which crop plants convert P resources to yield (P Efficiency;

16   PE) can be partitioned between the efficiency of uptake (P Acquisition Efficiency; PAE), and

17   the efficiency of internal use (P Use Efficiency; PUE) (Rose *et al.*, 2011; Veneklaas *et al.*,

18   2012). Plants take up P in the form of phosphate (Pi), and PAE is typically low in agricultural

19   systems (15-20% of applied P taken up by plants; Syers *et al.*, 2008) as the result of the low

20   mobility of Pi in the soil and the ready formation of a zone of P depletion around the root. By

21   extending beyond the P depletion zone, the root-external hyphae of AM fungi increase the

22   extent of soil foraging and P uptake (Bucher, 2007). Physiological studies have demonstrated

23   that Pi uptake via AM fungi is a distinct functional alternative to direct uptake by the plant

24   (Smith *et al.*, 2003; Bucher, 2007), and, in a field setting, the majority of the Pi taken up by a

25 plant may be acquired via the mycorrhizal route (Schweiger and Jakobsen, 1999; Smith *et al.*,

26 2003; Yang *et al.*, 2012). Molecular analyses support the distinction between mycorrhizal and

27 direct P uptake, members of the plant PHT1 P transporter family having been identified to

28 play roles specific to the two pathways (Bucher, 2007). Where plants are competent to host

29 AM fungi, there is at least one family member acting predominantly, or exclusively, during

30 AM symbiosis (ZmPT6 in maize and variously named orthologs in other species; here, the

31 short form PT is used to refer to all PHT1 genes and proteins; Rausch *et al.*, 2001; Harrison *et*

32 *al.*, 2002; Paszkowski *et al.*, 2002; Glassop *et al.*, 2005; Nagy *et al.*, 2005; Maeda *et al.*,

33 2006; Caesar *et al.*, 2014; Walder *et al.*, 2015). In *Medicago truncatula*, the ZmPT6 ortholog

34 MtPT4 has been localized to the peri-arbuscular membrane (Harrison *et al.*, 2002; Kobae &

35 Hata, 2010; Pumplin *et al.*, 2012), consistent with a function as the principal route of P

36 uptake from fungus to plant.

37 While AM symbiosis can increase PAE and also provide enhanced tolerance to a

38 range of abiotic and biotic stresses (Smith & Read, 2008), such benefits are not provided

39 without cost. The plant host must supply carbohydrates to support fungal growth, diverting

40 photosynthetically fixed carbon away from primary productivity. Ultimately, the outcome, in

41 terms of the impact on plant growth and fitness (or yield in crop plants), will depend not only

42 on the specific plant-fungus combination (Walder *et al.*, 2012) but on the requirements and

43 limitations imposed by any given environment (Janos, 2007). In high-input agricultural

44 systems, AM symbiosis may provide no benefit to yield, or even be detrimental (Grace *et al.*,

45 2009), and it has been hypothesized that plant breeding may have promoted a weakening of

46 the mutualism in modern elite cultivars (Hetrick *et al.*, 1992, 1996). Drawing firm

47 conclusions as to impact of AM symbiosis, however, is difficult. Mycorrhizal response

48   (defined here as MR = M – NC, where M is the trait value for colonized plants and NC the

49   trait value for non-colonized plants) confounds plant adaptation to a given set of conditions

50   and capacity to benefit from the symbiosis *per se* (discussed in Sawers *et al.*, 2010). To

51   emphasize this distinction, the term dependence has been defined as the nutrient requirement

52   of a particular variety to attain a certain threshold level of performance (Janos *et al.*, 2007). In

53   practice, poorly adapted (*i.e.* highly dependent) varieties will typically show a large

54   performance increase following AM colonization (e.g. Hetrick *et al.*, 1992; Kaeppler *et al.*,

55   2000; Paszkowski & Boller, 2002): such varieties, although highly responsive, are clearly of

56   little agronomic interest. The question remains as to whether certain varieties derive greater

57   benefit from AM symbioses *per se* than others and to what extent plant breeding can optimize

58   these interactions for agricultural systems (Sawers *et al.*, 2008; Fester & Sawers, 2011).

59   The objective of this study was to identify maize line(s) highly responsive to

60   mycorrhiza inoculation, conducting detailed physiological analysis to demonstrate greater

61   benefit in selected line(s) when colonized.

62

63   **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

64   **Evaluation of response to *Funneliformis mosseae* in maize diversity panel**

65   A panel of 30 diverse maize lines, comprising the 26 diverse inbred founders of the maize

66   NAM population (McMullen *et al.*, 2009), Pa36 (a line tolerant of low P availability;

67   Kaeppler *et al.*, 2000), and the broadly used reference lines B73 and W22, and W64A (a line

68   used previously for study of AM symbiosis; Paszkowski *et al.*, 2006), was evaluated with

69   (M) or without (NC) inoculation with *F. mosseae* (isolate number 12, European Bank of

70   Glomales, http://www.kent.ac.uk/bio/beg/). Plants were grown in 1 litre pots in a mixture of

71   1:10 loam: quartz sand, as previously described (Sawers *et al.*, 2010). The greenhouse was

72   maintained at 28°C day/night temperature with a 12-h light period, including supplementary

73   light when required. Plants were fertilized three times per week with 100 ml of modified

74   Hoagland solution (Hoagland and Broyer, 1936) containing 10% (100μM) of the standard

75   concentration of KH_2PO_4, the potassium concentration being maintained by addition of KCl.

76   A total of 1200 plants (30 genotypes x 2 treatments x 20 replicates) were grown in a complete

77   block design, over five separate plantings, at the University of Lausanne, Switzerland. Plants

78   were harvest 8 weeks and shoot dry weight measured (SDW). For two plantings

79   (corresponding to six complete blocks) roots were collected also, and stained to confirm

80   efficacy of the fungal inoculum as previously described (Gutjahr *et al.*, 2008). Prior to

81   analysis of SDW, data was adjusted to account for differences among plantings. The main

82   effect of inoculation (mycorrhiza response (MR) = M – NC; Sawers *et al.*, 2010) was

83   estimated as the difference in means of M of NC groups and shown to be significant using a

84   *t*-test ($p < 0.001$). MR was estimated similarly for each genotype and a 95% *t*-interval

85   calculated for the difference M – NC. ANOVA (R statistics; R Core Team, 2016) was used to

86   compare SDW among the sixty line/treatment combinations ($p < 0.001$) and means groups

87   were calculated using least significant difference (R statistics agricolae::LSD.test; de

88   Mendiburu, 2016).

89

90   **Determination of elemental concentration by ICP-MS analysis**

91   Weighed tissue samples were digested in 2.5mL concentrated nitric acid (AR Select Grade,

92   VWR) with internal standard added (20ppb In, BDH Aristar Plus). Sample digestion and

93   dilution was carried out as described previously (Ziegler *et al.*, 2013). Elemental

94   concentrations of B, Na, Mg, Al, P, S, K, Ca, Mn, Fe, Co, Ni, Cu, Zn, As, Se, Rb, Mo, and

95   Cd were measured using an Elan 6000 DRC-e mass spectrometer (Perkin-Elmer SCIEX)

96   connected to a PFA microflow nebulizer (Elemental Scientific) and Apex HF desolvator

97   (Elemental Scientific). A control solution was run every tenth sample to correct for machine

98   drift both during a single run and between runs. Statistical analysis was conducted with R

99   statistics (see above).

Characterization of AM phosphorus uptake in six selected lines

101   Six maize lines, selected on the basis of pre-screening of a panel of 30 lines, were evaluated

102   at the Technical University of Denmark. Plants were grown in 2.4 L PVC tubes in accordance

103   with Smith *et al.* (2003). The growth medium (hereafter referred to as soil) was a 1:1 (w:w)

104   mixture of quartz sand and γ-irradiated soil (15 kGy) that had basal nutrients (Pearson &

105   Jakobsen, 1993) and KH_2PO_4 at nil, 15 or 90 mg P kg^{-1} added in solution and carefully

106   mixed into the soil. The P additions resulted in a bicarbonate-extractable P content of 7.9,

107   15.5 or 53.3 mg P kg^{-1} (Olsen *et al.*, 1954). The root/hyphae compartment (RHC) contained

108   2750 g soil and the hyphae compartment (HC) was a small plastic vial placed in the middle of

109   the RHC. The HC contained 55 g of ^{33}P-labeled soil (5 kBq g^{-1}) and was lined with a 25 μm

110   nylon mesh at both ends to prevent root in-growth. Seven weeks later, bicarbonate extracts of

111   HC had a specific activity (SA = ^{33}P/^{31}P) of 144.7, 79.9 or 29.4 kBq mg^{-1} P, corresponding to

112   no addition or addition of 15 or 90 mg P kg^{-1}. Each maize line was grown in 8 replicate pots

113   in half of which 140 g dry soil-root inoculum of *Rhizophagus irregularis* BEG87 was

114   thoroughly mixed into the growth medium. Filtered BEG87 inoculum leachings were added

115   to all pots as an attempt to establish the same soil microbial community (Pearson & Jakobsen,

116   1993). Two pre-germinated seeds were planted in each pot and thinned to one at the two leaf

117   stage. Plants were maintained under controlled conditions (12 hour day length at 500 µmol m$^-$

118   ^{2} sec^{-1}, 28/20°C day/night and 60 % relative humidity) and watered daily by weight to 70% of

119   the water holding capacity. Plants received supplemental N (NH$_4$NO$_3$), Mg and S (MgSO$_4^{2-}$)

120   periodically to additionally provide 375 mg N, 15 mg Mg and 20 mg S per pot. Shoots were

121   harvested at growth stage 51 (BBCH scale; tassel emergence at the top of the stem), oven

122   dried to constant weight at 70°C and dry weights were recorded. Root systems were carefully

123   washed clean using a pressurized water jet and a fine mesh to collect fine root pieces. Roots

124   were blotted dry and total fresh weight (FW) was recorded. Subsamples were taken for root

125   length/colonization measurement (1.5g FW, stored in 50% EtOH) and RNA extraction (1g,

126   flash-frozen in liquid nitrogen). Dried and ground shoot and root samples were oxidized in a

127   4:1 mixture (v:v) of 65% nitric:70% perchloric acids, and total P was determined by the

128   molybdate blue method using AutoAnalyzer 3 (Bran+Luebbe, Norderstedt, Germany). The

129   ^{33}P in shoot tissue was determined in the same digests in a Packard TR 1900 liquid

130   scintillation counter (PerkinElmer, Waltham, MA, USA). Specific activities of ^{33}P in shoots

131   and the specific activities in bicarbonate extracts of HC soil were used to estimate the amount

132   of P taken up from the HC in accordance with Smith et al. (2004). The abundance of total

133   fungal structures (hyphae, arbuscules or vesicles) or arbuscules specifically was evaluated

134   microscopically as percentage of root length using the grid-line intersect method (Newman,

135   1966) after clearing and staining (Kormanik & McGraw, 1982). The length of hyphae in HC

136   soil was measured by an aqueous extraction and membrane filter technique (Jakobsen *et al.*,

137   1992) with the modification that the stained filters were mounted on slides using immersion

138   oil instead of lactoglycerol-trypan blue solution in order to facilitate discrimination of AM

139   and non-AM fungal hyphae. Statistical analysis was conducted with R statistics (see above).

Bioinformatic identification of maize *Pht* genes

140

141 To identify a complete set of putative PHT1 encoding genes in maize, the *Saccharomyces*

142 *cerevisiae* PHO84 protein (Uniprot id P25297) was used as a BlastP query (Altschul *et al.*,

143 1990) to search the primary transcript predicted protein sequences from version 6a of the

144 annotated B73 maize genome (Schnable *et al.*, 2009), obtained from Phytozome 10

145 (Goodstein *et al.* 2012). Using a cut-off E-value of $1e^{-54}$, 13 gene-models were retrieved and

146 aligned using MUSCLE (Edgar, 2004). All 13 sequences contained the conserved

147 GGDYPLSATIxSE motif in helix 4 reported previously to be present in PHT proteins

148 (Karandashov & Bucher, 2005). The resulting block-alignment file was converted to

149 Stockholm 1.0 format, and used as input to hmmbuild (HMMER suite version 3.1b2) to

150 search (hmmsearch) the maize primary transcript predicted protein sequences for additional

151 PHT1 proteins. 35 new protein sequences were identified based on an inclusion threshold of

152 E-value <0.01. None of these additional sequences, however, contained the conserved

153 GGDYPLSATIxSE motif and consequently there were not considered to be authentic PHT1

154 proteins. The final list of 13 maize PHT1 genes was consistent with the report of Liu *et al.*,

155 2016.

Analysis of *ZmPt* transcript accumulation

156

157 Gene specific primers for real time PCR analysis of *ZmPt* transcript accumulation were

158 designed and successfully optimized for twelve of thirteen annotated genes (Table S2). All

159 primer sets were used in a preliminary characterization of B73 plants, and five sets (*Pt3*, *Pt1*,

160 *Pt6*, *Pt4*, *Pt5*,) selected on the basis of accumulation pattern for analysis of accumulation in

161 the roots of six maize lines grown in the P uptake experiment. Samples were prepared using

162 the LightCycler 480 SYBR green I master mix kit (Roche; Mannheim, Germany) before

163   analysis on a Roche 480 LightCycler. Each biological sample was analysed as three technical

164   replicates. Three water controls were used for each gene tested. qRT-PCR expression and

165   melting curves were calculated using the LightCycler 480 software (Roche, Version 1.5.9,

166   Mannheim, Germany). Samples were normalized to the geometric mean of expression levels

167   of 3 constitutive genes (*GAPDH, Cyclophilin2, ß-actin*) as described earlier (Gutjahr *et al.*,

168   2008). In addition to phosphate transporters were analysed together with an AM specific

169   marker gene *ZmAm3*, ortholog of *OsAM3* (Gutjahr *et al.*, 2008) and a *Rhizophagus*

170   *irregularis* elongation factor gene (Sokolski *et al.*, 2010). Statistical analysis was conducted

171   with R statistics (see above).

172

173   **Principal component analysis of combined growth, physiology and molecular data sets**

174   Pairwise correlations were calculated for a matrix of growth, physiological and molecular

175   data obtained from six selected lines as described above (shoot dry weight, shoot P content,

176   root dry weight, root P content, total colonization, arbuscule abundance, length of root-

177   external hyphae, P uptake from the hyphal compartment, accumulation of *Pt3*, *Pt1*, *Pt6*, *Pt4*,

178   *Pt5*, *Am3* and *RiEF* transcripts) using R statistics Hmisc::rcorr (Harrel FE, 2016)and the

179   results visualized using R statistics corrplot::corrplot (Wei & Simko, 2016). Principal

180   component analysis (PCA) was performed with R statistics ade4::dudi.pca (Dray & Dufour,

181   2007) using centered and scaled data, and the results visualized with ade4::scatter.

182

183   **RESULTS**

184   **The line Oh43 exhibits typical dependence but high mycorrhizal responsiveness**

185   To identify lines showing a typical level of dependence (defined here as growth in the

186   absence of inoculation) but high mycorrhiza response (MR), a panel of thirty diverse maize

187   lines (the parents of the maize Nested Association Mapping population and a number of

188   additional lines; see Materials and Methods) was evaluated with (M) or without (NC)

189   inoculation with the fungus *Funneliformis mosseae*. The composition of the diversity panel

190   was determined previously to maximize sampling of genetic diversity from global maize

191   breeding germplasm (McMullen *et al*., 2009). Use of this panel was designed to provide a

192   context to evaluate the relative performance of any given line, whether inoculated or not.

193   A total of 1200 plants (30 genotypes x 2 treatments x 20 replicates) were grown in a

194   complete block design, using 1L pots, in P limiting conditions, for a period of eight weeks

195   after emergence (V8 stage). Roots were harvested from 30% of the total experiment and

196   fungal structures by microscopic inspection to confirm the efficacy of inoculation

197   (*Supporting Information*). NC plants were confirmed to be free of fungal structures, while in

198   M plants, the level of colonization was generally high, with a mean of 57% ±0.7% (95%

199   interval for proportion) of root positions examined containing at least one type of fungal

200   structure (hyphae, arbuscules or vesicles), although a broad range of colonization was

201   observed (5% - 98%). For all experimental blocks, the aerial portion of the plants was dried

202   and shoot dry weight (SDW; g) determined (Table 1). Overall, the evaluated lines showed

203   greater growth when colonized by *F. mosseae* (Fig. S1), with a significant ($p < 0.001$)

204   increase in mean SDW from 1.05g in NC plants to 2.16 g in M plants, equating to panel-wide

205   MR of 1.1 ±0.08 g (MR = M – NC; 95% interval for difference in means). At the level of the

206   individual lines, all showed a significant increase in SDW following inoculation (Fig. 1a;

207   Table 1). The most responsive line Oh43 showed a significantly greater MR than the least

208   responsive line Mo18W (MR_{Oh43} = 1.85 ±0.54 g; MR_{Mo18W} = 0.72 ±0.28 g; 95% t-intervals

209   for MR do not overlap). The contrast in outcome between Oh43 and Mo18W was reflected

210   by rank-changing shifts in SDW relative to other lines in the panel between NC and M

211   conditions: Oh43 and Mo18W were similar to each other, and typical of the panel as a whole,

212   when not inoculated, but differed to each other and were outlying when inoculated (Fig. 1a,

213   b; Table 1; LSD, α = 0.05). The line Oh43, by exhibiting typical dependence but high MR,

214   fulfilled the criteria established to identify superior capacity to benefit from AM symbiosis.

215   Evaluation was conducted under P limiting conditions, and it was expected that

216   variation in growth would be driven largely by differences in P efficiency. Leaf P

217   concentration (ppm) was quantified using inductively coupled plasma-mass spectroscopy

218   (Table S1) and correlated positively with SDW in M plants (Fig. 1c; p<0.01, r^2 = 0.24). Leaf

219   P concentration was similar in Mo18W and Oh43 when non-colonized but different when

220   plants were inoculated (Fig. 1a, b; Table S1; LSD, α = 0.05), mirroring SDW, and suggesting

221   the difference in MR between the two lines to be the result of greater PAE in Oh43 when

222   colonized.

223   In summary, evaluation of shoot dry weight and P concentration in the diversity panel

224   identified the line Oh43 to be highly responsive to inoculation with *F. mosseae* on the basis

225   of functional differences in the symbiosis.

226

227   **High mycorrhizal responsiveness in Oh43 is correlated with abundant root-external**

228   **hyphae**

229   To characterize further the mechanistic basis of MR in Oh43, the line was evaluated in a

230   previously described split-compartment system, separating root/hyphae (RHC) and hyphae

231 compartments (HC) for direct quantification of AM mediated P uptake through ^{33}P labeling

232 (Smith *et al.*, 2003). Although it was not feasible to evaluate the complete panel in this more

233 detailed study, five additional lines were included to provide a context for interpretation of

234 the data, namely the low MR line Mo18W, the widely used reference lines B73 and Mo17,

235 and HP301 and Pa36, the lines that showed the highest and lowest NC SDW, respectively, in

236 the panel evaluation (Fig. 1; Table 1). Eight replicates of the six lines were evaluated at three

237 P levels (low = 7.9 mg P kg^{-1}; medium = 15.5 mg P kg^{-1}; high = 53.2 mg P kg^{-1}), with (M) or

238 without (NC) inoculation with *Rhizophagus irregularis*, a fungal species that has been

239 previously used with success in this system. Given that plants may respond differently to

240 different fungal species and strains (*e.g.* Angelard *et al.*, 2010), the following discussion and

241 further conclusions are confined to this *R. irregularis* experiment.

242   Plants were harvested at tassel emergence, and samples taken for measurement of

243 SDW, P content, and abundance of fungal structures. In addition, soil was collected from the

244 HC for quantification or root-external hyphae. In all lines, SDW increased with greater P

245 addition, irrespective of inoculation status (Fig. 2; Table2). In contrast, MR decreased from

246 positive to negative with increasing P availability (mean of six lines: low P, mean MR =

247 9.56g; medium P, mean MR = 3.95g, high P, mean MR = -1.57g), the ranking of the lines

248 with respect to MR changing also. At low P, Oh43 was more responsive than the other lines,

249 consistent with the results of the *Funneliformis mosseae* experiment, and remained highly

250 responsive at medium P, although exhibiting negative MR at high P (Fig. 2). As observed

251 previously in the *F. mosseae* experiment, SDW was correlated with shoot P content (Fig. 2).

252 Under low P, shoot P content in Oh43 was typical in non-inoculated plants, but high when

253 plants were colonized. Quantification of P uptake from the HC indicated that Oh43 was

254   indeed obtaining more P via the mycorrhizal pathway under low P than the other lines (Table

255   2). When the roots were examined, however, Oh43 was not more heavily colonized; indeed,

256   the proportion of root length containing arbuscules was marginally lower (Fig. 3a). was

257   observed to be significantly greater than in the other lines (Fig. 3b; Table 2). Among the six

258   lines, and across all three levels of P availability, a clear relationship was observed between P

259   uptake from the HC and the length of root-external hyphae (Fig. 3b). At high P, the growth

260   response was apparently saturated in the lines B73 and Pa36, which attained their maximum

261   growth irrespective of AM inoculation, although P content was lower in the shoots of M

262   plants than NC plants (*i.e.* PUE was greater in M plants). Interestingly, although inoculated

263   B73 and Pa36 plants showed equivalent growth, P uptake and abundance of intra-radical

264   fungal structures at high P, the length of root-external hyphae was greater in B73. Indeed,

265   B73 supported a generally high level of root-external hyphae: second only to Oh43 at low P,

266   and greater than all other lines at high P. Collectively, these data indicate that Oh43 is highly

267   responsive to inoculation with *R. irregularis* at low P availability, with concomitant extensive

268   development of root-external hyphae and high PAE in inoculated plants.

269

270   **Accumulation of *ZmPt* transcripts reflects functional differences among AM plants**

271   To obtain further evidence that MR variation was linked to functional differences among M

272   plants, accumulation of plant PHT1 phosphate transporter encoding transcripts (Fig. S3; Liu

273   *et al.*, 2016) was quantified in the roots of plants harvested from the *Rhizophagus irregularis*

274   experiment. A preliminary analysis using the line B73 (Fig. S4) and previous reports (Fig.

275   S6; Liu *et al.*, 2016) were used to select the transcripts *ZmPt1*, *ZmPt3*, *ZmPt4*, *ZmPt5* and

276   *ZmPt6* as being the most informative (based on tissue-specific expression and response to

277   inoculation) for quantification in the six lines (Fig. 4). Across the six lines, the accumulation

278   of *ZmPT* transcripts with respect to tissue type, inoculation with AM fungi and P availability

279   was similar to that in B73 (Fig. S5). Within broad qualitative trends, however, quantitative

280   differences were observed (Fig. 4).

281   To investigate patterns of variation in the accumulation of *ZmPt* transcripts, and to

282   integrate transcript accumulation data with plant growth and physiological measurements, a

283   principal component (PC) analysis was performed using the complete data set for M plants

284   under low P (Fig. 5). In addition, pairwise correlations were calculated directly among all

285   measurements (Fig. S5). The first two PCs captured 76% of the trait variation and well

286   separated the six lines (Fig. 5). As expected from the previous analysis, plant dry weight was

287   associated in the PC space with abundance of root-external hyphae, P uptake from the hyphae

288   compartment (PHC) and shoot P content (Fig.5, lower right quadrant). Accumulation of

289   *ZmPt1* and *ZmPt3* transcripts was associated with the same region of the PC space, and

290   accumulation of *ZmPt3* transcripts was found to be positively correlated with root dry weight

291   (RDW; $p < 0.05$) , root P content ($p < 0.1$) and PHC ($p < 0.1$). Abundance of intra-radical

292   fungal structures (%Col) was opposite to that of root-external hyphae in the PC space (Fig. 5,

293   upper left compared with lower right quadrants), and a negative correlation was found

294   between % Col and the length of root-external hyphae, suggesting a possible trade-off in the

295   pattern of fungal growth. This correlation was, however, not significant at the 0.1 level

296   indicating that this relationship did not hold for all lines. Accumulation of the marker

297   transcripts *Am3* and *RiEF* was associated with accumulation of *ZmPt4*, *ZmPt5* and *ZmPt6*,

298   and root P content (Fig. 5, upper right quadrant). Interestingly, although accumulation of

299   *ZmPt6* strongly differentiated NC and M plants (Fig. S5), among these six lines, when

300   inoculated, no correlation was observed between *ZmPt6* accumulation and arbuscule

301   abundance. Placing the lines on the PC space, Oh43 was separated from other lines on the

302   basis of PC2 (Fig. 5, lower right quadrant), associated with shoot P, length of root-external

303   hyphae, PHC and to a lesser extent accumulation of *ZmPt4* and *ZmPt5*. The lines Mo18W

304   and Hp301 were associated with low biomass and low levels of *ZmPt* transcript

305   accumulation, but high levels of intra-radical colonization (Fig. 5, upper left quadrant). Mo17

306   was distinct in accumulating high levels of AM associated transcripts, although with no

307   associated increase in colonization, development of root-external hyphae or MR. Taken as a

308   whole, physiological and molecular data support the interpretation that superior MR in Oh43

309   results from the nature of the fungal-plant interaction, and is not an artifact resulting from a

310   high level of dependence.

311   **DISCUSSION**

312   Data presented in this study reveal genetic variation in the capacity of maize varieties to

313   profit from AM symbiosis, beyond differences in plant dependence (Janos 2007; Sawers *et*

314   *al.*, 2008, 2010). Evaluation of the relative growth of thirty highly diverse lines (McMullen *et*

315   *al.*, 2009) with and without inoculation with *Funneliformis mosseae* distinguished those that

316   were highly responsive on the basis of poor performance in the absence of symbiosis (*i.e.*

317   highly dependent) from those that benefited more from the symbiosis *per se*. The line Oh43

318   was selected as an example of the latter. Support for this initial interpretation was obtained by

319   detailed physiological and molecular characterization linking superior responsiveness of

320   Oh43 to *Rhizophagus irregularis* with enhanced PAE in mycorrhizal plants and a greater

321   abundance of root-external hyphae.

322   Phosphorus limitation of plant growth results primarily from the low mobility of P in

323 the soil. In this study, it was observed that increased plant growth in AM colonized plants

324 was accompanied by greater shoot P content. Once P has reached the root-surface or been

325 delivered to the peri-arbuscular space, subsequent uptake by plant PHT1 transporters is not

326 predicted to limit PAE (Bucher, 2007). As is consistent, it was neither the extent of intra-

327 radical colonization nor the accumulation of *ZmPt6* transcripts (predicted to encode the major

328 peri-arbuscular membrane associated PT transporter) that showed the greatest correlation

329 with P uptake, but the abundance of root-external hyphae. This generally supports previous

330 studies (*e.g.* Schweiger & Jakobsen 1999, Jakobsen *et al.*, 2001, Yao *et al.*, 2001, Schnepf *et*

331 *al.*, 2008), including an evaluation of diverse fungal isolates used to inoculate a common

332 plant host, which found a similar correlation between fungal P uptake and hyphal length

333 (Munkvold *et al.*, 2004). Although a further report characterizing variation in mycorrhiza

334 response among four Chinese maize varieties did not reveal a clear relationship between P

335 uptake and the length of root-external hyphae (Chu *et al.*, 2013), this may reflect the specific

336 genotypes evaluated, or the fact that the contribution of mycorrhizal P uptake was not directly

337 quantified. A potential trade-off was observed between the abundance of intra-radical and

338 root-external fungal structures, the balance of which is apparently influenced by plant genetic

339 factors. Given the importance of hyphal abundance to PAE, the data suggest that

340 quantification of intra-radical structures alone is not predictive of P uptake via the

341 mycorrhizal pathway or growth response.

342   Prior physiological characterization has demonstrated that mycorrhizal P uptake is

343 not a simple addition to direct P uptake, but may represent a functional alternative: in the

344 extreme case, a colonized plant may obtain nearly all of its P requirement via the AM

345   pathway, whether as a result of down regulation of the direct pathway or owing to a greater

346   efficiency of fungal P foraging compared with that of plant roots (Smith *et al.*, 2003; Schnepf

347   *et al.*, 2008). Furthermore, the mycorrhizal pathway may remain important at higher P

348   availability, even when MR itself is small, or even negative. Following inoculation with *R.*

349   *irregularis*, the absolute quantity of P obtained via the AM pathway was greater at high P

350   than at low P, even though the abundance of intra-radical and root external fungal structures

351   was lower, presumably as the result of increased Pi in solution as the capacity of the soil to

352   adsorb P was saturated. Collectively, these data illustrate the complexity of determining

353   symbiotic outcome, and the range of plasticity among just six lines, with respect to just a

354   single environmental variable.

355   Transcriptome profiling has identified rice marker genes whose transcript

356   accumulation correlates well with the establishment and development of AM symbiosis,

357   differentiating colonized from non-colonized plants (*e.g.* Guimil *et al.*, 2005; Gutjahr *et al.*,

358   2015). In this study, transcripts encoding PHT1 phosphate transporters were quantified

359   primarily not to distinguish NC and M plants in general, but to investigate differences among

360   the different lines when colonized. Overall, AM colonization was positively correlated with

361   the accumulation of transcripts encoded by *Pt6*, and to a lesser extent those encoded by *Pt4,*

362   *Pt5* and *Pt2*, consistent with previous reports (Nagy *et al.*, 2006; Willmann *et al.*, 2013; Liu

363   *et al.*, 2016). Variation in the accumulation of the *ZmPt6* transcript, however, was largely

364   independent of differences in growth response to *R. irregularis*, although arbuscule

365   abundance itself was also a poor predictor of MR among the six lines evaluated in this study.

366   These observations are consistent with the interpretation that P transfer at the peri-arbuscular

367   interface is non-limiting, with respect to either arbuscule abundance or the concentration of

368   PT6 proteins in the peri-arbuscular membrane. PT6 protein, however, has been reported also

369   to regulate developmental responses to P limitation (Volpe *et al*., 2016), and variation in

370   *ZmPt6* accumulation may have additional significance beyond P transfer. A number of

371   additional maize *ZmPt* transcripts responded to AM inoculation, although they were less

372   abundant than those encoded by *ZmPt6*. Significantly, at low P, a mild positive correlation

373   was observed between accumulation of *ZmPt4* and *ZmPt5* transcripts and shoot biomass

374   among colonized plants, indicating a role in the regulation of the symbiosis. Accumulation of

375   *Pt1* and *Pt3* transcripts, although generally lower in M than NC plants, was positively

376   correlated with root and shoot dry weight among M lines. Accumulation of *ZmPt1* was

377   positively correlated also with P uptake from the hyphal compartment. Interestingly, the

378   correlation was stronger with dry weight than P content, indicating this may be more than a

379   secondary effect of differences in P accumulation. These observations, along with previous

380   characterization of *pt11* and *pt13* mutants in rice (Yang *et al*., 2012), suggest a role for PHT1

381   proteins not only in P uptake but in the fine tuning of cost-benefit in AM symbioses.

382   Previous characterization of variation in MR has placed an emphasis on the

383   development of intra-radical fungal structures, and marker transcripts have been identified

384   allowing molecular-based quantification of intra-radical colonization. In this study, it was

385   observed that variation in the abundance of root-external hyphae was better correlated than

386   levels of intra-radical colonization with plant growth response to inoculation with *R.*

387   *irregularis*. Although accumulation of the well characterized *ZmPt6* transcript was not

388   predictive of the abundance of extra-radical hyphae, correlations were observed between

389   transcripts encoded by other *ZmPt* genes, abundance of extra-radical hyphae and mycorrhiza

390   response. The identification of such variation, coupled with the availability of populations for

391   quantitative trait loci mapping (McMullen *et al.*, 2009), opens up the possibility to

392   characterize the genetic basis of host effects on the development of extra-radical hyphae, and

393   to develop molecular breeding strategies to target this important, but hard to evaluate,

394   component of the outcome of mycorrhizal symbiosis.

395

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTION

Diversity screen: RS, BW, UP. Ionomic analysis: IB. Physiological characterization of phosphate uptake in selected lines**:** SS, MG, IJ. Identification of *Pht1* genes and phylogenetic analysis: EGM, RCM, RS. Quantification of transcript accumulation: CQ, SS. Statistical analysis: JG, RS. Experimental design: UP, IJ, RS. All authors contributed to data interpretation and writing of the manuscript.

Table 1. Shoot dry weight of 30 maize lines grown with or without inoculation with *Funneliformis mosseae.* Shoot dry weight of 8 week-old non-colonized (NC; n = sample size) and mycorrhizal (M; inoculated with *F. mosseae*; n = sample size) plants. Means groups based on least significant difference (LSD) were calculated separately for NC and M plants at α = 0.05. Mycorrhiza response (MR) was calculated as M-NC, numbers in parentheses give a 95% confidence interval (CI) for the difference in means.

Line	NC (g)	n	NC LSD	M (g)	n	M LSD	MR (95% CI)
Oh43	0.96	20	ghijklm	2.81	20	ab	1.85 (1.31 ,2.38)
CML322	1.13	18	efghi	2.59	17	abcde	1.47 (0.8 ,2.14)
HP301	0.44	18	n	1.82	18	ij	1.37 (0.91 ,1.84)
A188	0.98	13	fghijklm	2.3	14	bcdefghi	1.32 (1.04 ,1.61)
W64	1.02	20	fghijkl	2.34	19	bcdefgh	1.32 (0.91 ,1.73)
B97	0.74	20	m	2.04	20	fghij	1.31 (0.89 ,1.73)
NC350	0.86	18	jklm	2.17	18	defghi	1.31 (0.8 ,1.81)
M162W	1	17	fghijkl	2.23	14	cdefghi	1.23 (0.86 ,1.61)
P39GB	0.87	18	ijklm	2.11	19	efghij	1.23 (0.79 ,1.67)
Pa36	1.67	15	a	2.91	15	a	1.23 (0.71 ,1.76)
Ms71	1.4	19	bcd	2.62	20	abcd	1.22 (0.71 ,1.73)
CML333	1.19	20	defg	2.4	20	abcdefg	1.2 (0.8 ,1.61)
Mo17	1.53	17	ab	2.7	20	abc	1.17 (0.7 ,1.64)
CML103	1.37	19	bcde	2.52	20	abcdef	1.15 (0.87 ,1.43)
CML52	0.81	19	klm	1.9	19	hij	1.1 (0.7 ,1.49)
Ki11	1.02	19	fghijkl	2.1	20	efghij	1.08 (0.75 ,1.42)
IL14H	0.96	14	fghijklm	2.03	15	fghij	1.07 (0.8 ,1.34)
B73	0.78	16	lm	1.82	17	ij	1.05 (0.78 ,1.31)
CML277	0.93	20	hijklm	1.96	20	ghij	1.03 (0.6 ,1.45)
CML228	1.38	19	bcd	2.35	20	bcdefgh	0.97 (0.66 ,1.27)
M37W	0.94	20	hijklm	1.91	19	hij	0.97 (0.38 ,1.57)
CML247	1.08	18	fghij	1.98	20	ghij	0.9 (0.62 ,1.18)
Tx303	0.7	18	mn	1.61	17	j	0.9 (0.46 ,1.34)
Ki3	0.94	20	hijklm	1.79	20	ij	0.85 (0.53 ,1.16)
Ky21	1.23	18	cdef	2.08	18	fghij	0.84 (0.49 ,1.19)
NC358	1.22	17	cdef	2.03	18	fghij	0.8 (0.42 ,1.19)
W22	1.15	17	defgh	1.93	16	ghij	0.78 (0.43 ,1.13)
Oh7b	1.05	20	fghijk	1.81	20	ij	0.76 (0.39 ,1.13)
Tzi8	1.48	15	abc	2.24	19	cdefghi	0.76 (0.38 ,1.15)

21

| Mo18W | 0.94 | 18 hijklm | 1.66 | 20 j | 0.72 (0.44, 1) |

Table 2 Characterization of six maize lines grown with or without inoculation with *Rhizophagus irregularis* and at three P levels. Shoot dry weight (SDW) and shoot P content (SP) of non-colonized (NC) and mycorrhizal (M) plants; Phosphorus obtained from the hyphae compartment (PHC) in M plants; % of root length containing fungal structures in M plants (Col); % of root length containing arbuscules in M plants (Arb); Hyphal length density in the hyphae compartment in M plants (HLD). Numbers are means and standard errors (n=4). Means groups based on least significant difference were calculated separately for each P level. For SDW and SP, means groups were calculated for NC and M plants together. For Col and Arb, means groups were calculated using square root transformed data.

Line	Shoot dry wt (g)		Shoot P content (mg)		P from HC (mg)	Col %	Arb %	HLD (m/g)
	NC	M	NC	M				
				$7.9\ mg\ P\ kg^{-1}$				
Oh43	6.3 (1.7) ef	18.6 (1.0) b	9.3 (2.3) ef	39.1 (2.3) a	0.54 (0.06) a	87.8 c	70.4 b	21.4 (2.5) a
Mo18W	4.0 (0.2) f	15.0 (0.5) cd	6.5 (0.4) fg	32.1 (0.2) b	0.34 (0.05) b	94.8 a	79.1 a	13.4 (0.8) bc
Pa36	14.0 (1.6) cd	22.0 (1.9) a	17.3 (0.6) d	39.5 (0.8) a	0.41 (0.06) b	93.9 ab	83.4 a	16.3 (2.9) b
Hp301	3.6 (0.7) f	13.8 (0.6) cd	5.9 (1.2) g	28.3 (1.1) c	0.20 (0.02) c	92.6 abc	77.9 ab	10.5 (0.7) c
B73	7.8 (1.6) e	16.6 (2.1) bc	9.8 (2.3) e	34.2 (1.1) b	0.41 (0.04) b	92.5 abc	84.6 a	17.0 (2.2) ab
Mo17	12.0 (0.5) d	19.0 (1.3) ab	16.7 (0.4) d	33.8 (0.9) b	0.41 (0.02) b	88.0 bc	78.7 ab	13.0 (0.8) bc
				$15.5\ mg\ P\ kg^{-1}$				
Oh43	18.3 (1.0) def	23.2 (1.3) b	29.7 (2.1) de	50.7 (1.4) a	0.83 (0.14) ab	89.5 bc	65.5 c	19.4 (3.1) a
Mo18W	12.7 (0.6) g	16.2 (0.9) ef	22.2 (1.0) f	42.3 (1.9) bc	0.68 (0.07) bc	96.8 a	82.1 a	14.7 (1.3) bc
Pa36	18.9 (2.7) cde	22.1 (1.6) bc	30.5 (2.4) d	49.9 (4.4) a	0.72 (0.1) abc	96.6 a	78.5 ab	14.2 (0.7) c
Hp301	15 (0.8) fg	17.5 (0.7) def	25.9 (0.6) def	38.1 (2.1) c	0.54 (0.1) c	91.7 b	76.8 ab	13.2 (1.5) c
B73	19.9 (1.8) bcd	27.1 (1.4) a	27.7 (1.0) de	45.9 (2.2) ab	0.92 (0.03) a	93.0 ab	72.9 b	18.9 (2.2) ab
Mo17	19.3 (1.4) cde	21.8 (0.7) bc	25.1 (2.2) ef	41.4 (0.6) bc	0.76 (0.1) ab	87.9 c	71.8 c	15.0 (0.8) abc
				$53.2\ mg\ P\ kg^{-1}$				
Oh43	30.8 (1.9) ab	27.1 (1.4) bc	73.5 (2.5) bc	68.8 (1.3) bcd	0.69 (0.1) b	74.7 b	45.0 a	13.9 (1.3) ab

Mo18W	25.2 (1.3) cd	22.4 (1.3) de	63.0 (3.3) de	58.8 (1.6) e	0.69 (0.03) b	84.0 a	55.7 a	10.2 (0.8) bc
Pa36	30.0 (1.8) ab	31.1 (2.5) a	93.0 (5.2) a	68.9 (2.4) bcd	0.81 (0.2) b	87.7 a	54.1 a	10.5 (1.4) abc
Hp301	27.9 (1.0) abc	21.3 (1.6) e	67.4 (2.6) cd	50.4 (4.3) f	0.53 (0.3) b	69.2 b	43.3 a	7.8 (0.88) c
B73	30.26 (1.14) ab	31.45 (2.19) a	75.66 (5.22) b	67.1 (1.61) cd	1.21 (0.05) a	86.59 a	43.46 a	14.34 (2.4) a
Mo17	24.6 (0.8) cde	26.0 (0.9) cd	63.0 (1.4) de	66.1 (3.0) cde	0.6 (0.2) b	87.1 a	53.7 a	10.6 (2.1) abc

FIGURE LEGENDS

Fig. 1. Maize lines varied in response to inoculation with *Funneliformis mosseae*. (a) Shoot dry weight (SDW, g; normalized with respect to differences among experimental plantings) of 30 diverse maize lines grown for 8 weeks with (M; right box) or without (NC left box) inoculation with the fungus *F. mosseae*. Boxes show 1st quartile, median and 3rd quartile. Whiskers extend to the most extreme points within 1.5x box length; outlying values beyond this range are not shown. The overall mean values of NC (1.05g, n=540) and M (2.16g, n=552) groups are shown by vertical lines. Lines are ordered by increasing mycorrhizal response (M-NC) from top to bottom. Letters adjacent to boxes indicate means groups, calculated for NC and M treatments collectively on the basis of least significant difference at $\alpha = 0.05$. Box shading indicates mean phosphorus content (P^{31}, ppm) in the shoot as determined by ionomic analysis, colour-key shown at the top of the panel. (b) Reaction norms (plot of phenotype against environment) for 30 diverse maize lines, contrasting shoot dry-weight (R SDW, g; residual SDW with respect to overall NC or M mean) of non-inoculated plants (NC) and plants inoculated with *F. mosseae* (M). Segments corresponding to six lines selected for further study are labeled and shown in bold. Point shading indicates shoot P content (ppm) as (a). (c) Shoot dry weight (SDW, g) as a function of shoot P content (P^{31}, ppm) in 30 maize lines inoculated with *F. mosseae* (points correspond to mean values). Linear fit (yellow line) and associated 95% confidence interval (shaded area) shown.

Fig. 2. Plant growth was correlated with phosphorus content in six maize lines inoculated with *Rhizophagus irregularis*. Shoot dry weight (Shoot DW; g) as a function of total phosphorus (P) content (Shoot P; mg) in six maize genotypes grown with (yellow circles) or without (open circles) inoculation

with *R. irregularis*, under three levels of P availability (7.9, 15.5, 53.2 mgP/kg). Points indicate the mean; whiskers extend +/- 1 standard error; trend lines based on a linear fit to individual observations for each treatment.

Fig. 3. Phosphorus uptake from the hyphal compartment was correlated with the abundance of root-external hyphae in six maize lines inoculated with *Rhizophagus irregularis*. (a) Percentage of total root length containing mycorrhizal structures (brown) and arbuscules (yellow) in six maize lines, grown under three levels of phosphorus (P) availability (7.9, 15.5 and 53.2 mgP Kg^{-1}) and inoculated with *R. irregularis*. Boxes show 1st quartile, median and 3rd quartile. Whiskers extend to the most extreme points within 1.5x box length. (b) Shoot P acquired from the hyphal compartment (Shoot P from ^{33}P soil, mg) as a function of the length of root-external hyphal (m g^{-1} soil).

Fig. 4. Accumulation of *ZmPt* transcripts responded in inoculation with *Rhizophagus irregularis*. Accumulation of six *ZmPt* (*Pt*) transcripts in root-samples of the lines B73, Mo17, Hp301, Pa36, Mo18W and Oh43, grown under low phosphorus (P) availability (7.9 mg kg^{-1}) with (M) or without (NC) inoculation with *R. irregularis*. Mean absolute transcript accumulation was determined from three biological replicates and scaled independently for each gene panel from white (minimum) to brown (maximum) accumulation. Letters indicate means groups based on least significant difference at α = 0.05, calculated independently for each gene. Accumulation of the maize marker transcript *ZmAm3* and the fungal transcript *RiEF* also shown.

Fig. 5. Molecular and physiological patterns were correlated in maize plants inoculated with *Rhizophagus irregularis*. Principle component analysis (PCA) of plant-growth, physiological and molecular observations of six maize lines grown under low phosphorus (P) availability (7.9 mg kg^{-1}) and inoculated with *R. irregularis*. . Biplot showing scores in the first two principal components (PC1: x-axis, PC2: y-axis) for traits (black arrows: shoot dry weight (shoot DW), shoot P, root dry weight (root DW), root P, total colonization (%Col), arbuscule abundance (%Arb), length of root-external hyphae (Hyphae), P uptake from the hyphal compartment (PHC), accumulation of *Pt1*, *Pt3, Pt4*, *Pt5*, *Pt6*, *Am3* and *RiEF* transcripts) and lines (B73,

25

Mo17, HP301, Pa36, Mo18W, Oh43). Points indicating the different lines are coloured by mycorrhizal response (MR, g) calculated as the difference in shoot dry weight in colonized and non-colonized plants.

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SUPPORTING INFORMATION

The following Supporting Information is available for this article:

Fig. S1 Inoculation with *Funneliformis mosseae* promotes growth in a panel of 30 diverse maize lines under low phosphorus availability

Fig. S2 PHT1 protein tree

Fig. S3 Maize *PHT1* transcripts accumulate throughout the plant life-cycle
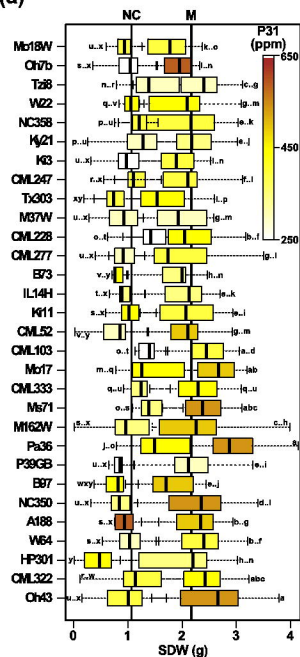
Fig. S4 Accumulation of transcripts encoding PHT1 proteins responds to phosphorus availability and inoculation with *Rhizophagus irregularis*.

Fig. S5 Accumulation of transcripts encoding PHT1 proteins is correlated with phosphorus accumulation and inoculation with *Rhizophagus irregularis* across diverse maize lines.
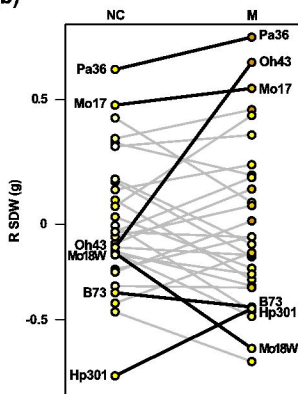
Table S1 Phosphorus concentration in the leaves of 30 maize lines grown with or without inoculation with *Funneliformis mosseae*.

Table S2 Primers used for real time PCR

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(a)

(b)

(c)

Three scatter plots showing Shoot DW (g) versus Shoot P (mg) at three phosphorus levels: 7.9 mgP/kg, 15.5 mgP/kg, and 53.2 mgP/kg.

7.9 mgP/kg — data points labeled Pa36, Mo17, Oh43, B73, Hp301, Mo18W, with $r^2=0.90$, $r^2=0.36$.

15.5 mgP/kg — data points labeled B73, Mo17, Oh43, Pa36, Oh43, Hp301, Mo18W, with $r^2=0.44$, $r^2=0.25$.

53.2 mgP/kg — data points labeled B73, Pa36, Oh43, Hp301, Mo17, Mo18W, Pa36, with $r^2=0.49$, $r^2=0.46$.

(a)

(b)

	B73	Mo17	H99r1	Pa36	Mo6w	Oh43	
Pt1	b	a	f	bcd	cd	bc	NC
	de	a	g	de	e	bcd	M
Pt3	cd	a	bc	bc	b	bc	NC
	e	de	f	e	f	e	M
Pt4	f	b	e	d	f	f	NC
	cd	a	d	b	de	c	M
Pt5	f	a	bc	cd	cd	cd	NC
	def	a	ef	b	de	ef	M
Pt6	f	de	f	e	d	de	NC
	bc	a	c	bc	c	b	M
AM3	e	e	e	e	e	e	NC
	bc	a	d	bc	c	b	M
RiEF	d	d	d	d	d	d	NC
	c	a	c	b	c	c	M

Color scales:
- *Pt1*: 0.9 – 0.5
- *Pt3*: 1.1 – 0.7
- *Pt4*: 0.6 – 0.2
- *Pt5*: 0.6 – 0.3
- *Pt6*: 1.2 – 0.6
- *AM3*: 1.2 – 0
- *RiEF*: 0.6 – 0

M Low P

RIEF
%Arb
Root P
Pt5
Mo17
HP301
%Col
Am3
Pt6
Pt4
Mo18W
Pa36
B73
Pt1
Pt3
Root DW
Shoot DW
MR (g)
12
Oh43
9.5
PHC
Shoot P
7
Hyphae