

1 **ATR2^{Cala2} from *Arabidopsis*-infecting downy mildew requires 4 TIR-NLR immune**
2 **receptors for full recognition**

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34 **Summary**

35 • *Arabidopsis* Col-0 RPP2A and RPP2B confer recognition of *Arabidopsis* downy mildew
36 (*Hyaloperonospora arabidopsidis* [*Hpa*]) isolate Cala2, but the identity of the recognized
37 ATR2^{Cala2} effector was unknown.

38 • To reveal ATR2^{Cala2}, an F₂ population was generated from a cross between *Hpa*-Cala2 and
39 *Hpa*-Noks1. We identified ATR2^{Cala2} as a non-canonical RxLR-type effector that carries a
40 signal peptide, a dEER motif, and WY domains but no RxLR motif. Recognition of ATR2^{Cala2}
41 and its effector function were verified by biolistic bombardment, ectopic expression and *Hpa*
42 infection.

43 • ATR2^{Cala2} is recognized in accession Col-0 but not in Ler-0 in which RPP2A and RPP2B
44 are absent. In ATR2^{Emoy2} and ATR2^{Noks1} alleles, a frameshift results in an early stop codon.
45 RPP2A and RPP2B are essential for the recognition of ATR2^{Cala2}. Stable and transient
46 expression of ATR2^{Cala2} under 35S promoter in *Arabidopsis* and *Nicotiana benthamiana*
47 enhances disease susceptibility.

48 • Two additional Col-0 TIR-NLR (TNL) genes (*RPP2C* and *RPP2D*) adjacent to *RPP2A* and
49 *RPP2B* are quantitatively required for full resistance to *Hpa*-Cala2.

50 • We compared *RPP2* haplotypes in multiple *Arabidopsis* accessions and showed that all 4
51 genes are present in all ATR2^{Cala2}-recognizing accessions.

52

53 Key Words: *Arabidopsis*, ATR2, RxLR effector, *Hyaloperonospora arabidopsidis*, plant
54 immunity, RPP2, TNL.

55

56 **Introduction**

57 Plants, like animals, are constantly exposed to potentially damaging pathogens, and like
58 invertebrates but unlike mammals, rely solely on innate immunity (Jones and Takemoto,
59 2004). The plant immune response is highly effective but must be activated early to thwart
60 pathogens, and activation requires detection of pathogen molecules by cell surface and
61 intracellular immune receptors. Cell-surface receptors usually detect relatively conserved
62 pathogen-associated molecular patterns (PAMPs) and activate pattern-triggered immunity
63 (PTI) (Monaghan and Zipfel, 2012; Boutrot and Zipfel, 2017). During plant-microbe co-
64 evolution, pathogens evolved the ability to deliver effector proteins to host cells that suppress
65 PTI, enabling pathogen growth (Feng and Zhou, 2012). In turn, plants evolved intracellular
66 immune receptors, often encoded by resistance (*R*) genes, that either directly or indirectly
67 detect the presence of pathogen effector proteins (Nürnberger et al., 2004; Chisholm et al,

68 2006; Jones and Dangl, 2006; Jones et al., 2016) and activate effector-triggered immunity
69 (ETI) (Dodds and Rathjen, 2010; Dangl et al., 2013). Recognized effectors are for historical
70 reasons often referred to as avirulence (Avr) proteins. Intracellular recognition usually
71 requires nucleotide-binding, leucine-rich repeat (NB-LRR, or NLR) immune receptors. NLR
72 activation results in an elevated immune response, characterized by generation of reactive
73 oxygen species, cell wall fortification, activation of defense-associated genes, and a localized
74 cell death known as the hypersensitive response (HR) (Spoel and Dong, 2012). Many cases of
75 matching *R* and *Avr* genes have been described (Jones and Dangl, 2006; Bernoux et al., 2011).
76 However, in some examples, disease resistance against a pathogen isolate or recognition of
77 an Avr protein, requires the coordinate function of pairs of NLR genes (Eitas and Dangl,
78 2010). Recent detailed studies on the *Arabidopsis* TIR-NLR pair RRS1 and RPS4, and the
79 rice CC-NLR pairs RGA4/RGA5 and Pik-1/Pik-2 reveal how such protein pairs function
80 together. The paired partners interact physically to form a receptor complex in which each
81 protein plays distinct roles in effector recognition or signalling activation, exemplifying a
82 conserved mode of action of NLR pairs in diverse plants (Cesari et al., 2014; Sarris et al.,
83 2015; Ma et al., 2018). Such gene pairs are often divergently transcribed. Interestingly, 10 of
84 11 pairs of TIR-NLR genes show a head-to-head configuration in *Arabidopsis* (Meyers et al.,
85 2003). Divergent transcription may assure balanced levels of the protein pair to meet a strict
86 stoichiometric requirement to act together, possibly in a complex (Narusaka et al., 2009).
87 However, the *Arabidopsis* *RPP2* locus that confers resistance to downy mildew (Sinapidou et
88 al., 2004), comprises two genes, *RPP2A* and *RPP2B* that are not divergently transcribed.

89 Downy mildews are obligate biotrophic oomycete pathogens and can cause severe
90 diseases on many different vegetable crops (Thines and Kamoun, 2010; Tör et al., 2023).
91 *Hyaloperonospora brassicae* causes severe disease in Chinese cabbage (*Brassica rapa* L. ssp.
92 *pekinensis*), which is native to China and is one of the most important vegetables in Asia. In
93 epidemic seasons with warm temperatures and high humidity, 80%-90% of Chinese cabbage
94 plants are infected by *H. brassicae*, leading to a 30%-50% reduction of production (Li et al.,
95 2011). Downy mildew caused by *Bremia lactucae* is the most important disease in lettuce
96 (*Lactuca sativa* L.) reducing yield and decreasing the quality of the marketable portion (Parra
97 et al., 2021). Downy mildew caused by *Plasmopara viticola* can lead to severe damage to
98 grapevines (Li et al., 2015). Cucumber (*Cucumis sativus* L.) downy mildew, caused by
99 *Pseudoperonospora cubensis*, is a major destructive and widespread disease of cucumber
100 plants (Zhang et al., 2019). There has been an increasing interest in the molecular
101 mechanisms of downy mildew resistance (Liu et al., 2021). The use of cultivars carrying

102 dominant resistant (*Dm*) genes in lettuce is the most effective way to control downy mildew
103 caused by *B. lactucae* (Parra et al., 2021). The model plant *Arabidopsis* is susceptible to the
104 downy mildew *Hyaloperonospora arabidopsidis* (*Hpa*) (Slusarenko and Schlaich, 2003).
105 Various *RPP* (Resistance to Peronospora parasitica, the former name of *Hpa*) genes in
106 different accessions confer resistance to specific *Hpa* isolates (Asai et al., 2018).

107 Obligate biotrophic pathogen races or isolates differ in their capacity to evade or
108 suppress host recognition (Oliver and Ipcho, 2004). Oomycete pathogens deploy effector
109 proteins, with a signal peptide and typically the signature amino acid motifs RxLR and DEER
110 (Rehmany et al., 2005). A subset of such effectors also carries a variable number of repeats of
111 a WY domain (Win et al., 2012). RxLR effectors has been intensively investigated since their
112 discovery (Anderson et al., 2015; Wood et al., 2020).

113 The *Arabidopsis/Hpa* pathosystem reveals extensive genetic diversity in host
114 *Resistance* (*RPP*) and cognate pathogen *ATR* (*A*rabidopsis *t*haliana *r*ecognized) genes
115 (Coates and Beynon, 2010; Asai et al., 2018). Using an *Hpa* reference genome (Baxter et al.,
116 2010), 475 *Hpa* gene models were identified that encode effector candidates in *Hpa*-Emoy2,
117 using the following criteria: (1) proteins with a signal peptide and canonical RxLR motif, like
118 *ATR1*, *ATR13*, and *ATR39* (*HaRxLs*) (Rehmany et al., 2005; Allen et al., 2004; Goritschnig
119 et al., 2012), (2) RxLR-like proteins with at least one non-canonical feature, like *ATR5*
120 (*HaRxLLs*) (Bailey et al., 2011), (3) putative Crinkler-like proteins with RxLR motif
121 (*HaRxLCRN*s) (Win et al., 2007), (4) homologous proteins based on amino acid sequence
122 similarity over the N-terminal region including a signal peptide and RxLR motif (e.g.,
123 *HaRxL1b*, *HaRxLL2b*, and *HaRxLCRN3b*) (Asai et al., 2014).

124 Several *RPP* genes, including *RPP1*, *RPP2A* and *RPP2B*, *RPP4*, *RPP5*, *RPP8*, *RPP13*,
125 and *RPP39* encode NLR immune receptors (Holub 2008). Genetic analyses of avirulence in
126 *Hpa* has confirmed a gene-for-gene relationship for *ATR* genes (Holub et al. 1994) with their
127 corresponding *RPP* genes. Recognized *Hpa* effectors *ATR1*, *AvrRPP4*, *ATR5*, *ATR13* and
128 *ATR39* have been identified for *RPP1*, *RPP4*, *RPP5*, *RPP13*, and *RPP39* (Allen et al., 2004;
129 Rehmany et al., 2005; Bailey et al., 2011; Goritschnig et al., 2012; Asai et al., 2018). For
130 example, the *RPP1* locus, which contains a complex resistance gene cluster, was originally
131 identified in *Arabidopsis* accession Wassilewskija (*Ws-2*) (Botella et al., 1998). Several
132 members of the *RPP1* gene family confer resistance against isolates of *Hpa* (Botella et al.,
133 1998; Rehmany et al., 2005; Sohn et al., 2007), including *RPP1*-*WsA*, *RPP1*-*WsB*, *RPP1*-
134 *WsC*, and *RPP1*-*NdA*, while *RPP1*-like genes from other accessions have been implicated in
135 hybrid incompatibility (Bomblies et al., 2007). Proteins encoded by two *RPP1* alleles have

136 been shown to recognize the cognate effector ATR1 from *Hpa* (Rehmany et al., 2005;
137 Krasileva et al., 2010; Ma et al., 2020). The R proteins RPP1-WsB and RPP1-NdA share a
138 common TNL domain architecture and are 87% identical at the amino acid level. Although
139 polymorphisms are present throughout their coding sequences, most of the differences occur
140 in the LRR region and include both single amino acid polymorphisms and short insertions
141 and deletions. ATR1 belongs to a simple locus in *Hpa* with allelic variants present in
142 different pathogen races (Rehmany et al., 2005; Krasileva et al., 2010). ATR1 carries an N-
143 terminal eukaryotic signal peptide and an RxLR motif (Rehmany et al., 2005; Birch et al.,
144 2006) and associates with its cognate RPP1 immune receptor via its LRR domain (Krasileva
145 et al., 2010). The tetrameric complex containing four RPP1 and four ATR1 molecules is
146 mediated by direct binding of ATR1 to a C-terminal jelly roll/Ig-like domain (C-JID) and the
147 LRRs of RPP1 (Ma et al., 2020).

148 RPP2A and RPP2B are both required for resistance to *Hpa* isolate Cala2 (Sinapidou et
149 al., 2004), but their cognate effector ATR2 was not identified previously. Adjacent to *RPP2A*
150 (*At4g19500*) and *RPP2B* (*At4g19510*) (Sinapidou et al., 2004) lie two other TNL encoding
151 genes (*At4g19520* and *At4g19530*, hereafter *RPP2C* and *RPP2D*). They comprise, in a head-
152 to-head conformation, a similar gene pair to RRS1 and RPS4, including a C-terminal
153 extended post-LRR domain. In this research, we aimed to clone and characterize *ATR2*,
154 investigate its virulence function and its contribution to effector recognition by the four genes
155 at the *RPP2* locus.

156 Using an F₂ population generated from a cross between *Hpa*-Cala2 and *Hpa*-Noks1
157 (Bailey et al, 2011), we positionally cloned *ATR2*. We show here that functional *ATR2* is
158 absent from the reference Emoy2 genome and its annotated proteome, that *ATR2* confers
159 elevated disease susceptibility when expressed *in planta* and that all four *RPP2* paralogs
160 contribute to its full recognition.

161

162 **Materials and Methods**

163 **Plant materials and growth**

164 *Arabidopsis* accessions, Col-0, Ler-0, Oy-0, Ws-2, Ws-2 *eds1* and CW84, which is an *Hpa*
165 susceptible recombinant inbred line generated from a cross between Col-0 and Ws-2 (Botella
166 et al., 1998) were grown at 22°C under short-day condition (10 h light/14 h dark) and
167 *Nicotiana benthamiana* plants were grown at 25 °C under a 16-h photoperiod and an 8-h dark
168 period in environmentally controlled growth cabinets.

169

170 **Positional cloning of *ATR2*^{Cala2}**

171 The crossing of *Hpa-Cala2* and *Hpa-Noks1* and production of F₂ mapping population from a
172 single-spored CaNo F₁ were described previously (Bailey et al., 2011). Initially, segregating
173 52 random CaNo F₂ isolates were bulked up on *Ws-eds1* seedlings and tested on Col-5 to
174 determine the genetic nature of *ATR2*. As the genomic sequences of parental isolates were
175 not available then, a similar approach to clone *ATR5* (Bailey et al., 2011) was taken where
176 DNA was isolated from individual CaNo F₂ isolates and a bulk segregant analysis was
177 employed to clone *ATR2*. Two different bulks were constructed from the CaNo F₂ individuals
178 (18 F₂s with *ATR2*/± and 17 with *atr2/atr2* genotypes) and AFLP was carried out with *EcoRI*
179 and *MseI* primer pairs as described (Bailey et al., 2011). Fifteen polymorphic AFLP
180 fragments were identified and converted to CAPS markers to map *ATR2* onto publicly
181 available BAC contigs. As the *Hpa-Emoy2* reference genome became available, we used
182 these markers to identify the *Hpa-Emoy2* SuperContig9. As the number of recombinants
183 were very low, additional CaNo F₂ isolates were generated and Illumina paired-end
184 sequencing data of CaNo F₂ bulks were obtained. As the genomic data for *Hpa-Cala2* and
185 *Hpa-Noks1* became available (Woods-Tör et al., 2018), the bulk sequences were mapped
186 onto *Hpa-Cala2* genome as described (Woods-Tör et al., 2018) and SNP markers were
187 identified within the interval. Further markers were generated from the identified SNP sites
188 and using a total of 130 CaNo F₂ isolates, we mapped *ATR2* to a 186.5 kb interval on *Hpa-*
189 *Cala2* SuperContig9. Further markers were generated and new F₂ isolates were obtained, and
190 the locus was mapped to a 112 kb interval. We compared genomic sequences of *Hpa-Emoy2*,
191 *Hpa-Noks1* and *Hpa-Cala2* for the interval to identify possible candidates for *ATR2*. All PCR
192 amplifications for mapping were performed as described (Woods-Tör et al., 2018).

193

194 **Pathogen assays**

195 *Hpa* isolates, *Hpa-Emoy2*, *Hpa-Noks1* and *Hpa-Cala2* were propagated and maintained by
196 weekly sub-culture on 14-day-old *Arabidopsis* seedlings. Preparation of inoculum for
197 experiments, and the assessment of sporulation were as described previously in Bailey et al.,
198 2011.

199 *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *tomato* (*Pst*) DC3000 was grown in King's B broth (10 g
200 peptone, 15 g glycerol, 1.5 g K₂HPO₄ and 5 mM MgSO₄ per litre) containing 50 µg ml⁻¹
201 rifampicin. Leaves of 5-week-old *Arabidopsis* plants were infiltrated with 10⁵ cfu ml⁻¹ of *Pst*

202 DC3000 using a needleless syringe. Bacterial growth was measured at 0- and 3-days post
203 inoculation (dpi).

204 *Phytophthora infestans* isolate 88069 was grown on Rye Agar at 19°C for 2 weeks.
205 Plates were flooded with 5 ml cold H₂O and scraped with a glass rod to release zoospores.
206 The resulting solution was collected in a falcon tube and zoospore numbers were counted
207 using a hemacytometer and adjusted to 2×10^4 zoospores/ml and 10 µl droplets were
208 inoculated onto the abaxial side of leaves of intact *N. benthamiana* plants. Inoculated leaves
209 were then stored on moist tissues in sealed boxes.

210

211 **Plasmid construction**

212 All the constructs used in this study were generated using USER (Uracil-Specific Excision
213 Reagent) enzyme cloning method (Geu-Flores et al. 2007). Briefly, target DNA to be cloned
214 into destination USER vectors, pICSLUS0003 or pICSLUS0004 (archived in TSL Synbio)
215 was amplified using *PfuTurbo*® C_x polymerase (Agilent Technologies) with uracil-
216 containing primer pair then assembled with desired tag (“Hellfire” including 6-His and 3-
217 FLAG epitopes), linearized vector and USER enzyme (NEB). For transient gene expression
218 in *N. benthamiana* or *N. tabacum*, *ATR2* candidates without signal peptide were cloned and
219 assembled.

220

221 **Bombardment and luciferase assays**

222 Co-bombardment assays were performed as described previously with some modifications
223 (Bailey et al., 2011). Briefly, *Arabidopsis* plants were grown with short-day condition until 6
224 weeks old. Detached leaves were placed on a 1% MS agar in a petri dish. One µm of
225 tungsten particles were coated with the plasmids carrying genes *ATR2* and luciferase under
226 35S promoter. Bombardments were performed using a Bio-Rad PDS-1000 (He) apparatus
227 with 1,100 p.s.i. rupture disks, as per manufacturer’s instructions. For each replicate, a leaf
228 from both test and control plant genotypes were co-bombarded together in a single shot.
229 Bombarded leaves were put into 10 ml plastic vials filled with water 1 cm from the bottom
230 and were incubated at 25°C for 20 h.

231 For the luciferase assay a Dual Reporter Luciferase Assay system (Promega) was used.
232 Four transiently bombarded leaf events were pooled together and crushed in Luciferase Cell
233 Culture Lysis buffer (Promega). The extract was centrifuged at 12,000 rpm for 10 min at 4 °C.
234 20 µl of the lysate was then dispersed in 96 well plate in triplicates and analyzed on
235 Varioskan Flash Instrument by injecting 100 µl of luciferase assay reagent II, which includes

236 substrate and reaction buffer. A 10 second read time was used to measure luciferase activity
237 for each well.

238

239 **Expression analysis**

240 Total RNA was isolated from three biological replicates using the RNeasy Plant Mini Kit
241 (Qiagen) with the Dnase treatment (Qiagen). cDNA was synthesised using SuperScript IV
242 Reverse Transcriptase (ThermoFisher). For *ATR2* gene expression analysis during *Hpa*
243 infection, reverse transcription (RT)-PCR was performed.

244

245 **Transient expression in *Nicotiana* species**

246 *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* GV3101 strain harbouring *ATR2* candidate fused to 35S
247 promoter was streaked on selective media and incubated at 28 °C for 24 hours. A single
248 colony from the streaked inoculum was transferred to liquid LB media with appropriate
249 antibiotic and incubated at 28 °C for 48 hours in a shaking incubator at 180 rpm. The cultures
250 were centrifuged at 3,000 rpm for 5 min and resuspended in infiltration buffer (10 mM
251 MgCl₂, 10 mM MES, pH 5.7) and acetosyringone was added to a final concentration of 200
252 μM at OD₆₀₀ of 1.0. The abaxial surface of 4-weeks old *N. tabacum* or *N. benthamiana* was
253 infiltrated with a 1 ml needleless syringe (Kim et al., 2015).

254

255 ***Arabidopsis* transformation**

256 *Arabidopsis* accessions Col-0 and Ler-0 expressing *ATR2* candidate gene, and CW84
257 expressing Col-*RPP2* cluster harbouring JAtY clone (Zhou et al., 2011) were transformed
258 using *A. tumefaciens* strain GV3101 by flower dipping method (Clough and Bent, 1998).

259

260 **RPP2 cluster haplotype analyses**

261 Full-length amino acid sequences of individual RPP2A, RPP2B, RPP2C and RPP2D from 64
262 different *Arabidopsis* accessions were extracted from pan-NLRome data (Van de Weyer et al.,
263 2019). Each group of RPP2 was aligned to each other using Geneious Prime software to
264 investigate haplotype patterns of RPP2 clusters. Pfam (Punta et al., 2012; [http://pfam-
265 legacy.xfam.org](http://pfam-legacy.xfam.org)) was used for domain analysis in RPP2 cluster.

266

267 **Protein structure modelling**

268 Protein tertiary structure model of full-length *ATR2*^{Cala2} was generated by Alphafold 2
269 (Jumper et al., 2021; Varadi et al., 2021). The region spanning the Y-WY sequences was

270 extracted and superimposed with the structure of full-length PsPSR2 using PyMOL
271 Molecular Graphics System, Version 1.2r3pre, LLC (Xiong et al., 2014; He et al., 2019; Hou
272 et al., 2019). Secondary structures and surface accessibility of $ATR2^{Cala2}$ were predicted by
273 NetSurfP-3.0 (Højie et al., 2022). Alignment with published LWY effectors revealed the
274 conserved W and Y residues in $ATR2^{Cala2}$ and the corresponding Y and WY modules (He et
275 al., 2019).

276

277 **Accessions**

278 Genomic sequences of parental isolates can be found under accession numbers
279 GCA_001414265.1 for *Hpa-Cala2*, GCA_001414525.1 for *Hpa-Noks1*, GCA_000173235.2
280 for *Hpa-Emoy2* in NCBI. The raw sequence reads from the genomics sequencing of bulks are
281 available from the Sequenced Read Archive (SRA) under accession numbers SRX13788375
282 (avirulent) and SRX13788374 (virulent). $ATR2^{Cala2}$ and $ATR2^{Emoy2}$ sequences were deposited
283 in NCBI (GenBank accession no. ON994189 and ON994190, respectively). Resistance (*R*)
284 gene sequence capture (RenSeq) raw sequencing data of FN2 (*rpp2a-1*) mutant is available
285 from the SRA (accession no. PRJNA955397).

286

287 **Results**

288 **Mapping *ATR2***

289 Positional cloning was used to identify the *ATR2* locus in *Hpa-Cala2*. A segregating CaNo F₂
290 population (Bailey et al., 2011) was used to define the *ATR2* locus. Initially, 52 randomly
291 chosen F₂ isolates were tested on Col-5. A single semi-dominant avirulence determinant
292 designated $ATR2^{Cala2}$ segregated in the F₂ population (avirulence:virulence ratio was 40:12,
293 with chi-square = 0.1025 and P = 0.74, Table S1). Bulked segregant analysis was used to
294 identify AFLP markers that are linked to *ATR2* in the CaNo F₂ population. AFLP markers
295 were cloned and converted to CAPS markers, which were then used for mapping *ATR2*. The
296 reference genome of *Hpa-Emoy2* was still being generated during this early mapping work
297 and genomic sequence data for *Hpa-Cala2* and *Hpa-Noks1* were not available. We screened
298 an *Hpa-Emoy2* BAC library (Rehmany et al., 2003) with the *ATR2*-linked CAPS markers.
299 Several BACs were identified, and BAC-end sequences were used to assemble a small contig
300 around the *ATR2* locus with markers that revealed one recombinant from one side and that
301 co-segregate on the other side with a gap in the middle (Fig. S1), making it difficult to narrow
302 the *ATR2* locus onto a single BAC (Fig. S1).

303 Once *Hpa*-Emoy2 genomic sequence became available, we transferred the AFLP-derived
304 CAPS markers to *Hpa*-Emoy2 SuperContig9, which helped us to identify the physical
305 location of the locus (Fig. S1, S2).

306 We then generated 100 bp paired-end Illumina HiSeq2500 sequencing data from the
307 two newly bulked (virulent and avirulent) pools, comprising 110 million reads for the virulent
308 bulk and 104 million reads for the avirulent bulk. We also utilized *Hpa*-Cala2 and *Hpa*-
309 Noks1 genomic sequences (Woods-Tör et al., 2018) to identify SNPs between *Hpa*-Cala2 and
310 *Hpa*-Noks1 genomes. Using new markers generated from these SNPs, we established an
311 interval of 186.5kb on *Hpa*-Emoy2 SuperContig9: 656515-843042 (Fig. S1). We generated
312 further markers and F₂ isolates and narrowed the *ATR2* locus to a 112 kb interval on *Hpa*-
313 Emoy2 SuperContig9: 708503-820527 (Table 1 and Table S2).

314

315 **Genes in the *ATR2* interval encode effector-like proteins.**

316 We then used comparative genomics for this region using *Hpa*-Cala2, *Hpa*-Noks1 and *Hpa*-
317 Emoy2 contigs, and found three putative candidate effector genes (*A2C1*, *A2C2* and *A2C3*,
318 for *ATR2* candidates 1, 2 or 3) (Fig. S2). *A2C1* and *A2C2* correspond to RxLL457, and
319 another RxLR protein, respectively (Fig. S3a, b, c). *A2C3* was predicted to encode a non-
320 canonical RXLR (GHVR) protein with dEER and WY motifs (Fig. 2a).

321 Recognition of these candidates by RPP2 was evaluated by biolistic co-bombardment
322 of 35S:*A2C1*, 2 or 3 constructs with 35S:*Luciferase* and assessing luciferase eclipse. If
323 localized cell-death is initiated upon *ATR2*^{Cala2} recognition, luciferase activity is
324 compromised compared to leaf tissues expressing luciferase only. An *Hpa*-Cala2-susceptible
325 recombinant inbred line *Arabidopsis* CW84 (Bailey et al., 2011) was used as a control.
326 CCG28, an oomycete *Albugo candida* effector which is recognized by Col-0 and CW84 was
327 also used as a positive control (Redkar et al., 2023). Reduced luciferase activity was observed
328 in CCG28-co-bombarded tissues, but no reduction was detected when either *A2C1*^{Noks1} or
329 *A2C1*^{Cala2} alleles or *A2C2*^{Emoy2} or *A2C2*^{Cala2} alleles were co-bombarded, indicating they are
330 not recognized in Col-0 or in CW84. Thus, neither of them is *ATR2*^{Cala2} (Fig. S3d). When
331 *A2C1* was transiently expressed with *RPP2A* and/or *RPP2B* on *N. benthamiana* or tobacco
332 leaves, no HR was observed while *AvrRPP4-RPP4* combination triggered strong HR, acting
333 as a positive control and confirming our bombardment assays (Fig. S4a). Protein expression
334 of epitope-tagged *A2C1* and *A2C2* was verified by protein gel blot (Fig. S4a). Similarly,
335 neither of *A2C2* alleles from *Hpa*-Emoy2, Cala2 or Noks1 triggered cell death in *N.*
336 *benthamiana* by transient expression alone or with *RPP2A* and/or *RPP2B* (Fig. S4b).

337

338 ***A2C3^{Cala2}* encodes an RxLR effector-like candidate for *ATR2^{Cala2}*.**

339 *A2C3* was identified in *Hpa-Cala2* after re-sequencing of the 5 kb upstream of *A2C1* and
340 *A2C2*, which includes a highly polymorphic region of *Cala2* compared to *Emoy2* (Fig. 1a).
341 We found a transposable element in this region of the *Hpa-Emoy2* genome and a 2.3 kb
342 deletion in *Hpa-Cala2*. We also found a cytosine insertion on the *Hpa-802071* coding region
343 in *Cala2* which created a frameshift in the *Hpa-802071* coding region (Fig. 1b). To determine
344 whether *A2C3^{Cala2}* co-segregates with recognition by *RPP2* in the F₂ population, *A2C3* alleles
345 were amplified and sequenced from 12 CaNo F₂ segregants, *Hpa-Emoy2*, *Hpa-Noks1* and
346 *Hpa-Cala2* (Fig. S5). All avirulent F₂s were homozygous- or heterozygous for *A2C3^{Cala2}*,
347 while all virulent F₂s were homozygous for *A2C3^{Emoy2/Noks1}* (Fig. 1c, S5c). Of *Hpa-Emoy2*,
348 *Hpa-Noks1* and *Hpa-Cala2*, only *Hpa-Cala2* carries this non-canonical RxLR effector
349 candidate (*A2C3^{Cala2}*), which has a signal peptide, a dEER, and Y and WY motifs (Fig. 2a,
350 S6a). *A2C3^{Emoy2}* and *A2C3^{Noks1}* alleles were identical to each other with early stop codons
351 caused by a frameshift. These data suggested *A2C3^{Cala2}* might be *ATR2^{Cala2}*. We analysed
352 synonymous and non-synonymous SNPs in *A2C3* alleles among 7 different *Hpa* isolates for
353 which genomic data are available. Many non-synonymous SNPs are found only in *Hpa-Cala2*,
354 indicating specificity of *A2C3^{Cala2}* (Table S3). Alignment of *A2C3^{Cala2}* with *Phytophthora*
355 LWY effectors revealed conserved W and Y residues and the corresponding Y and WY
356 modules of *A2C3^{Cala2}* (He et al., 2019). The Y-WY modules of *A2C3^{Cala2}* in an *A2C3^{Cala2}*
357 structural model predicted by AlphaFold 2 were extracted and superimposed with PsPSR2
358 which is a typical RxLR effector with one WY motif and six LWY motifs. This region was
359 well matched to PsPSR2 Y5-LWY6 (region from Y5 of LWY5 to LWY6) with Root Mean
360 Square Deviation (RMSD) = 2.305 (Fig. 2b). This structural comparison also revealed that
361 there is an L-like module between Y and WY modules of *A2C3^{Cala2}* even though this was not
362 predicted by amino acid sequence comparison (Fig. 2b, S6b).

363 We determined the expression of *A2C3^{Cala2}* alleles during *Hpa* infection. *Arabidopsis*
364 Oy-0 accession was infected with *Hpa-Emoy2* and Ler-0 was infected with *Hpa-Cala2*, and
365 Col-*eds1* was used as hyper-susceptible control. *A2C3^{Cala2}* is expressed at 3 dpi (Fig. S7a).
366 Previously, Asai et al. (2014) performed expression profiling of *Hpa* genes from *Hpa Emoy2*.
367 RNA-seq data of *Hpa-802071* (*A2C3^{Emoy2/Noks1}*) were retrieved from the data. Again,
368 *A2C3^{Emoy2/Noks1}* is induced after infection and shows the highest expression at 3 dpi (Fig. S7b).
369 We proceeded to further evaluate the *A2C3^{Cala2}* allele as a strong candidate for *ATR2^{Cala2}*.

370

371 ***A2C3^{Cala2}* triggers defence in Col-0**

372 When luciferase assays were performed to evaluate the recognition of *A2C3^{Cala2}* in
373 *Arabidopsis*, a reduction of at least 5-fold in luciferase activity was detected in Col-0
374 compared to empty vector (EV) control. Equal luciferase activity was detected in an *Hpa*-
375 susceptible recombinant inbred line *Arabidopsis* CW84 when leaf tissue was bombarded with
376 35S:*A2C3^{Cala2}* or EV. These results suggest that Col-0 but not CW84 can recognize *A2C3^{Cala2}*.
377 As before, CCG28 was recognized by WRR4A which served as a positive control (Fig. 2c)
378 (Redkar et al., 2023). Thus, our genetic investigations and bombardment experiments are
379 consistent with *A2C3^{Cala2}* being the avirulence determinant *ATR2^{Cala2}*, and we hence refer to
380 *A2C3^{Cala2}* as *ATR2^{Cala2}*. As an additional test of *ATR2^{Cala2}* detection by RPP2 in *Arabidopsis*,
381 *ATR2^{Cala2}* under 35S promoter was transformed into Col-0. Only three T₁ lines were selected
382 from antibiotic screening, and strikingly all three transformants showed strong dwarf
383 phenotype, consistent with recognition of *ATR2^{Cala2}* in *Arabidopsis* Col-0 background (Fig.
384 2d).

385

386 ***ATR2^{Cala2}* enhances susceptibility in the absence of host recognition**

387 Plant pathogen effector proteins that are translocated into host cells can attenuate host
388 defence. Many pathogen effectors interfere with cellular processes that are essential for
389 innate immunity.

390 To evaluate its virulence function, *ATR2^{Cala2}* was transiently expressed in *N.*
391 *benthamiana* leaves that were then inoculated with *P. infestans* race 88069. The *P. infestans*
392 lesion area was significantly larger in *ATR2^{Cala2}*-expressing leaf sectors than in GFP vector
393 control (Fig. 3a). At 7 dpi, lesion area in the *ATR2^{Cala2}*-expressing region was more than 4
394 times larger than that observed in GFP control region (Fig. 3b). Stable *ATR2^{Cala2}*-expressing
395 *Arabidopsis* lines (35S:*ATR2^{Cala2}*) were generated in Ler-0, which lacks *RPP2A* and *RPP2B*.
396 In contrast to *ATR2^{Cala2}* expressing Col-0, all transgenic lines selected grew similar to Ler-0
397 wild-type (Fig. 3c). Strikingly, all the transgenic lines were more susceptible to virulent *Pst*
398 DC3000 or *Hpa*-Cala2 compared to Ler-0 wild-type control (Fig. 3d, e). Ler-*eds1* was used
399 as hypersusceptible control. Collectively, these data show that in both *Arabidopsis* and *N.*
400 *benthamiana*, *ATR2^{Cala2}* expression can compromise plant innate immunity in the absence of
401 recognition by a cognate *R*-gene.

402

403 **In addition to RPP2A and RPP2B, two additional linked TNLs, RPP2C and RPP2D, are**
404 **required for full RPP2 function**

405 We tested the requirement for *RPP2A* (*At1g19500*) and *RPP2B* (*At1g19510*) in *ATR2^{Cala2}*
406 recognition. There are two other adjacent TIR-NB-LRR genes (*At1g19520* and *At4g19530*,
407 hereafter *RPP2C* and *RPP2D*) (Fig. S8a) that comprise a gene pair similar to *RRS1* and *RPS4*,
408 with C-terminal extended post-LRR domains and a head-to-head orientation (Fig. S8a, b).
409 *RPP2A* contains two TIR-NB-ARC domains connected by the *Arabidopsis* LSH1 and *Oryza*
410 G1 (ALOG) domain followed by LRRs towards its C-terminus. Post-LRR (PL) domains of
411 *RPP2B* and *RPP2D* are homologous to the *RPP1* C-terminal jelly-roll/Ig-like (C-JID) domain.
412 *RPP2C* harbours an additional TIR domain following an extended post-LRR domain (Fig.
413 S8b; Table S4). We obtained the fast neutron 2 (FN2) *rpp2a* mutant (Sinapidou et al, 2004),
414 and several T-DNA insertional mutants from GABI or SALK for *rpp2b*, *rpp2c* and *rpp2d*
415 (Fig. S8c). We combined sequence capture with Illumina sequencing (RenSeq) with DNA
416 from the FN2 (*rpp2a-1*) mutant and confirmed a 25 bp deletion in *RPP2A*. The *RPP2B*,
417 *RPP2C* and *RPP2D* mutations were also verified (Fig. S9). After inoculating mutants with
418 *Hpa-Cala2*, conidiospores were counted at 7 dpi. Ler-0 and *Ws-eds1* were used as susceptible
419 controls. While fewer than 1×10^2 spores/plant were detected in the resistant Col-0, around
420 4×10^3 spores/plant were detected on *rpp2a-1* and *rpp2b-1* mutants with similar values to
421 those obtained from Ler-0 (near 4.8×10^3 /plant), indicating *Cala2* resistance in Col-0 is
422 compromised by *rpp2a* or *rpp2b* mutations (Fig. 4a). Interestingly, *rpp2c-1* and *rpp2d-1*
423 mutants also showed compromised resistance to *Hpa-Cala2*. Around 1.2×10^3 to 1.3×10^3
424 spores/plant were counted from *rpp2c* and *rpp2d* mutants, suggesting *RPP2C* and *RPP2D*
425 also contribute to full resistance against *Hpa-Cala2* in Col-0 (Fig. 4a). Trailing necrosis was
426 observed on *rpp2c* and *rpp2d* mutants, while no necrosis was observed on Col-0 at 6 dpi (Fig.
427 S10a). To visualize cell death and hyphal growth, we performed trypan blue staining at 5 dpi
428 using infected cotyledons. Local cell death was observed on Col-0, and hyphal growth and
429 haustoria formation over the whole leaf was observed on *rpp2a*, *rpp2b* and Ler-0 cotyledons,
430 as well as *Ws-eds1*. Partial but restricted hyphal growth was detected on *rpp2c* and *rpp2d*
431 mutants (Fig. 4b). When *Hpa-Emoy2* was inoculated on to *rpp2a*, *rpp2b*, *rpp2c* and *rpp2d*
432 mutants, resistance was not compromised, due to *RPP4*-dependent resistance in Col-0 (van
433 der Biezen et al., 2002; Fig. S11), which is why the susceptible phenotypes are specific to
434 *Hpa-Cala2*.

435 To assess *ATR2^{Cala2}* recognition capacity by *RPP2* paralogs, luciferase eclipse assays
436 were conducted using individual Col-0 *rpp2a-1*, *rpp2b-1*, *rpp2c-1* and *rpp2d-1* mutants. The
437 luciferase activity was normalized to compare with that of EV control on Col-0 (Fig. 4c). The
438 normalized luciferase activity in each individual Col-0 *rpp2a* mutant and Col-0 with EV was

439 comparable with no significant differences indicating particle bombardment distributed well
440 through the leaves of Col-0 and each mutant. When *ATR2^{Cala2}* was bombarded together with
441 *35S:luciferase* on Col-0, normalized luciferase activity was strongly reduced, ranging from
442 0.004 to 0.007, while those on *rpp2a-1* or *rpp2b-1* still maintained a range of 0.86 to 1.55,
443 indicating *ATR2^{Cala2}* recognition is almost completely abolished in *rpp2a-1* and *rpp2b-1*
444 mutants. *ATR2^{Cala2}* was still recognized in *rpp2c-1* and *rpp2d-1* mutants, with normalized
445 activity ranging from 0.01 to 0.1 (Fig. 4c). Even though no statistically significant differences
446 were detected between *ATR2^{Cala2}*-bombarded Col-0, *rpp2c-1* and *rpp2d-1*, the average values
447 of the luciferase activities on *rpp2c-1* (mean, 0.024) and *rpp2d-1* (mean, 0.054) are almost 5-
448 10 times higher than on Col-0 (mean, 0.005) when co-bombarded with *ATR2^{Cala2}*, consistent
449 with *RPP2C* and *RPP2D* weakly contributing to *ATR2^{Cala2}* recognition.

450 Transgenic complementation assays with CW84 were carried out using JAtY 49E17
451 clone (Zhou et al., 2011), which harbours the whole *RPP2* cluster. While sporangiophore
452 formation was observed on CW84, complemented transgenic plants restored complete
453 resistance to *Hpa-Cala2* (Fig. S10b).

454 We transiently expressed *ATR2^{Cala2}* in *N. benthamiana* with *RPP2A* and/or *RPP2B*, but
455 no hypersensitive response (HR) was observed at 3 dpi (Fig. S12a). HR-like cell death was
456 observed when *ATR2^{Cala2}* allele was transiently co-expressed with *RPP2A*, *RPP2B*, *RPP2C*
457 and *RPP2D* at 5 dpi (Fig. S12b). These data indicate *RPP2C* and *RPP2D* are also required for
458 full *ATR2^{Cala2}*-triggered immunity.

459

460 **RPP2 haplotype diversity**

461 As the *RPP2* cluster containing *RPP2A*, *RPP2B*, *RPP2C* and *RPP2D* is required for full
462 *ATR2^{Cala2}*-triggered resistance, we assessed *RPP2* haplotype diversity in multiple
463 *Arabidopsis* accessions. An investigation of the *Arabidopsis* pan-NLRome (Van de Weyer et
464 al., 2019) enabled in-depth analysis for the *RPP2* cluster. We compared the *RPP2* cluster in
465 64 *A. thaliana* accessions (Fig. S13). Col-0, Oy-0, and Can-0 have the complete form of the
466 *RPP2* cluster, while other accessions lack some *RPP* genes or harbor incomplete (partial)
467 *RPP* genes (Fig. 5a). Interestingly, almost all accessions contain a complete form of *RPP2B*,
468 and 7 ecotypes among 21 harbor *RPP2A* while many of other ecotypes have incomplete
469 alleles of *RPP2A* (Fig. 5a). Almost half of accessions lack, or contain partial forms of,
470 *RPP2C* or *RPP2D* (Fig. 5a). Among 64 accessions, while only 17 accessions contain
471 complete *RPP2A* encoding TIR-NB-TIR-NB-LRR (TN-TNL) homologs, the *RPP2B*-
472 encoding TIR-NB-LRR (TNL) is well conserved in almost all accessions excluding Ler-0,

473 Rsch-4 and Vig-1 (Fig. S13, S14a). *RPP2C* is lacking or incomplete in more than 40
474 accessions and the amino acid length of *RPP2D* is quite diverse (Fig. S13). While *RPP2A*
475 haplotypes show structural diversity on their first TIR-NB-ARC domains, *RPP2B*, *RPP2C*
476 and *RPP2D* are more conserved in different *Arabidopsis* accessions (Fig. S14).

477 To monitor *ATR2^{Cala2}* recognition capacity, luciferase eclipse assay bombardment was
478 conducted with Col-0 (complete *RPP2* cluster), Ler-0 (*RPP2C* and *RPP2D* lacking), and Ws-
479 2 (partial *RPP2A* and *RPP2C* lacking). As expected, *ATR2^{Cala2}* is recognized in Col-0, while
480 Ler-0 and Ws-2 lack *ATR2^{Cala2}* recognition capacity indicating a critical role of *RPP2A* and
481 *RPP2B* for *ATR2^{Cala2}* recognition (Fig. 5c). Compared to other *RPP2* genes, *RPP2A* was
482 present in diverse forms. As shown in Fig. 5c, diverse accessions including Ws-2 lost the first
483 N-terminal TIR-NB-ARC domain. The TIR-NB-ARC defect in Ws-2 abolishes *ATR2^{Cala2}*
484 recognition.

485

486 Discussion

487 Downy mildews such as *B. lactucae* on lettuce (Parra et al., 2021), *P. viticola* on grapevines
488 (Li et al., 2015), *P. cubensis* on cucumber (Zhang et al., 2019) and *H. brassicae* on brassicas
489 (Liu et al., 2021) are destructive obligate oomycete phytopathogens on fruit and vegetable
490 crops (Thines and Kamoun, 2010; Tör et al., 2023). Genetic variation for downy mildew
491 resistance has also been studied in *Brassica* species such as *B. napus*, broccoli, non-heading
492 Chinese cabbage, and Chinese cabbage (Chen et al., 2008; Xiao et al., 2016). The 27 known
493 *Dm* genes in lettuce are located in gene clusters that encode NLRs (Parra et al., 2021). A
494 better understanding of resistance mechanisms to downy mildew is highly desirable.
495 *Arabidopsis* NLR-encoding *RPP* genes confer recognition of specific downy mildew races
496 and different *RPP* proteins specifically recognize their cognate downy mildew RxLR
497 effectors (Asai et al., 2018).

498 Most oomycete pathogens deploy secreted effector proteins, with the signature amino
499 acid motif RxLR, which enter plant cells where they promote virulence (Win et al., 2012;
500 Asai et al., 2014; Wood et al., 2020). The function and evolution of RxLR effectors have
501 been investigated since their discovery (Anderson et al., 2015). Comparative genomics
502 indicates that *RxLR* genes play a major role in virulence for downy mildews and
503 *Phytophthora* species. Although progress has been made, there is still much to learn about the
504 mechanisms of downy mildew virulence and host resistance. Most *P. infestans* and *Hpa*
505 effectors carry an RxLR motif.

506 We positionally identified *ATR2*^{Cala2} that encodes a non-canonical RxLR-like protein
507 recognized by *RPP2A* and *RPP2B*. *ATR2*^{Cala2} encodes an RxLR-like protein with an N-
508 terminal signal peptide, and dEER and C-terminal Y and WY modules. The *ATR2* alleles in
509 other *Hpa* strains are identical to the *ATR2*^{Emoy2} allele and lack GHVR, dEER and WY motifs
510 due to a frame shift resulting from a single nucleotide deletion. In the absence of recognition
511 by *RPP2A* and *RPP2B*, *ATR2*^{Cala2} expression enhances pathogen susceptibility *in planta*.
512 Furthermore, the head-to-head *RPP2C* and *RPP2D* genes which are adjacent to *RPP2A* and
513 *RPP2B* also contribute to full resistance to *Hpa*-Cala2. *ATR5* was the first example of a non-
514 canonical RxLR effector lacking the canonical RxLR motif but with an N-terminal signal
515 peptide and a canonical EER motif (Bailey et al., 2011). At the expected RxLR position,
516 *ATR5* carries Gly-Arg-Val-Arg (GRVR) instead of RxLR. *ATR2*^{Cala2} at this position carries
517 Gly-His-Val-Arg (GHVR) followed by a dEER motif. *ATR5* contains two WY motifs and
518 one LWY motif at its C-terminus (Fig. S15a). The Y-WY domain of *ATR2*^{Cala2} resembles the
519 LWY of *ATR5* based on Alphafold2 structural prediction (Fig. S15b). In the *Hpa* genome,
520 more than 150 genes encode for potentially secreted proteins like *ATR2*^{Cala2} that carry motifs
521 such as signal peptide and EER but lack the RxLR motif (Asai et al., 2014). This also been
522 seen in other oomycetes such as *Pseudoperonospora* and *Bremia* (Purayannur et al., 2020;
523 Wood et al., 2020; Nur et al., 2023). We conclude that although the RxLR motif is often
524 found in oomycete effectors, in *Hpa* as in other oomycetes, some divergence is permitted for
525 effector translocation. Therefore, additional *Hpa* effectors may exist that have not yet been
526 predicted.

527 *RPP2* was the first genetically defined *R*-gene locus shown to carry two NLR-encoding
528 genes, both of which are required for function (Sinapidou et al., 2004). The corresponding
529 recognized effector from *Hpa* enables investigations into how the *RPP2*-encoded immune
530 receptor complex functions. Recognized effectors are also valuable tools for investigating
531 plant/microbe interactions, since their host targets correspond to important plant defense
532 components. Most *R* gene pair-encoding NLR proteins, such as *Arabidopsis* RRS1-RPS4 that
533 recognize bacterial effectors AvrRps4 and PopP2, and rice RGA4-RGA5 recognizing rice
534 blast effectors AVR1-CO39 and AVR-Pia, are encoded by divergently transcribed genes
535 (Cesari et al., 2013; Ma et al., 2018), in contrast to *RPP2A* and *RPP2B* (Fig. S8a). Sensor
536 NLRs are dependent on executor (or helper) NLRs for downstream immune signalling
537 (Feehan et al., 2020). RRS1 functions as a sensor that reveals effectors that target WRKY
538 domain transcription factors, while RPS4 is an executor (Ma et al., 2018). Uniquely, *RPP2A*
539 contains two TIR-NB-ARC domains followed by LRR, and an ALOG domain which is

540 specific and conserved to land plants and has DNA-binding activity (Yoshida et al., 2009;
541 Naramoto et al., 2020; Beretta et al., 2023) between the two TIR-NB-ARC domains (Fig. S8).
542 Comparative analyses of RPP2A in diverse *Arabidopsis* accessions show that the main
543 variation in the RPP2A haplotype is the presence or absence of one N-terminal TIR-NB-ARC
544 (Fig. 5c, S13). RPP2B is a typical TIR-NLR resembling the executor NLR, RPS4. Compared
545 to RPP2A, RPP2B is relatively well conserved in different *Arabidopsis* accessions (Fig. S13,
546 S14a). Conceivably, RPP2A functions as a sensor for ATR2^{Cala2} and RPP2B functions as a
547 signal executor. TIR domains of plant NLRs are known to have nicotinamide adenine
548 dinucleotide hydrolase (NADase) activity, which requires a catalytic glutamate (E), that
549 activates defense (Wan et al., 2019). The C-JID domains of *Arabidopsis* RPP1 and *N.*
550 *benthamiana* ROQ1 (recognition of XopQ1) are required for pathogen effector recognition.
551 ATR1 binds to the C-JID and the LRRs of RPP1 leading to assembly of tetramers with
552 NADase activity (Ma et al., 2020). The LRR and C-JID of ROQ1 directly interact with
553 *Xanthomonas* effector (XopQ) allowing the NB-ARC domain to transition to an ATP-bound
554 state. Complex assembly results in TIR proximity that opens the NADase active site (Martin
555 et al., 2020). The first TIR on RPP2A has the catalytic E residue whereas the second TIR on
556 RPP2A lacks the conserved E residue (Table S4). The TIR of RPP2B has the conserved E
557 residue and a C-JID (Table S4), consistent with a role as executor. Still, the domains of
558 RPP2A and/or RPP2B that interact with ATR2^{Cala2} remain to be elucidated.

559 We also revealed the requirement for two additional *TIR-NB-LRR* genes, *RPP2C* and
560 *RPP2D*, adjacent to *RPP2A* and *RPP2B* and showed all 4 NLR proteins are required for full
561 resistance against *Hpa-Cala2*. A paired head-to-head *R*-gene structure is often found in plant
562 paired NLRs (Narusaka et al., 2009; Cesari et al., 2014; Saucet et al., 2021). *RPP2C* and
563 *RPP2D* form a head-to-head orientation similar to *RRS1-RPS4* (Narusaka et al., 2009; Ma et
564 al., 2018; Guo et al., 2020). The C-terminal post-LRR domain of RPS4 is homologous with
565 C-JID suggesting that it recognizes conformational changes in RRS1 upon effector
566 recognition (Saucet et al., 2021). The RPP2C post-LRR domain is homologous to that of
567 RRS1 but RPP2C contains a TIR domain on its C-terminal end instead of WRKY. RPP2D
568 contains a C-JID on its C-terminus homologous to that of RPS4 and RPP1 (Fig. S8; Table
569 S4). Many *Arabidopsis* accessions lack or have incomplete RPP2C but RPP2D is relatively
570 conserved among different accessions (Fig. S13). Even though *RPP2C* and *RPP2D* are
571 quantitatively required for full resistance against *Hpa-Cala2*, how this pair contributes to
572 ATR2^{Cala2} recognition remains unclear. Conceivably, their contribution could either be
573 additive, or by potentiating RPP2A/B-dependent recognition. We speculate that since both

574 RPP2A and RPP2C carry integrated TIR domains which do not contain a catalytic E residue,
575 ATR2^{Cala2} might function by interacting with and somehow suppressing functions of host TIR
576 domain-containing proteins. Interestingly, the TIR on RPP2C C-terminal end lacks the
577 catalytic E residue for NADase activity, while the first TIR on RPP2C has the E residue, and
578 RPP2D also has the E residue on its TIR (Table S4). We hypothesize that the second TIR on
579 RPP2A might function to detect ATR2^{Cala2} leading to conformational change via RPP2B
580 interaction with ATR2^{Cala2}. This could result in RPP2A/B resistosome activation enabling
581 signal transduction through activated NADase function of the first TIR on RPP2A and
582 RPP2B TIR. If the TIR in RPP2A lacking catalytic E functions as an effector decoy, the C-
583 terminal TIR on RPP2C might also act as an integrated decoy to detect ATR2^{Cala2}. However,
584 thus far we were unable to detect direct or indirect interaction between ATR2^{Cala2} and each
585 RPP2 protein. Further research is needed to define the effector recognition mechanisms for
586 these atypical NLR protein pairs.

587

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594

595 **Competing interests**

596 The authors declare no competing interests.

597

598 **Author contributions**

599 DSK, MT and JDGJ conceptualized and designed the research. DSK, AW-T, VC and OJF
600 conducted all experiments. DSK and MT performed the data analysis. VC and MT gave
601 critical intellectual input and provided materials for this work. YL and WM carried out
602 structural prediction and analyses of *Hpa* effectors. DSK, MT and JDGJ wrote the manuscript
603 with input from all co-authors.

604

605 **Data availability**

606 All the sequence data used in this study can be found in NCBI (See Materials and Methods).
607 The data supporting the findings of the study are available from the corresponding author
608 upon request.

609

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- 839

840 **Figure Legends**

841

842 **Fig. 1.** Genetic determination of $A2C3^{Cala2}$ co-segregation from avirulent F_2 isolates. (a)
843 Comparison of polymorphic region of *Cala2* with *Emoy2* from 742k to 747k of SuperContig9.
844 Screenshot was captured from IGV software. (b) Transposable element next to ‘802071’ on
845 *Emoy2* and 2.3kb deletion on *Cala2* of assigned region. $A2C3^{Cala2}$ allele is highlighted with
846 red colour. A cytosine (C) insertion at 746974 indicated with a black triangle. (c) Analyses of
847 homo- or heterozygosity, avirulent (Av) or virulent (V) on Col-0 and a segregated cytosine (C)
848 insertion in Av isolates at the frameshift region (746974) by sequencing from Fig. S5. Red:
849 *Cala2* homozygote; Yellow: *Noks1* homozygote; Orange: *Cala2-Noks1* heterozygote at $A2C3$.
850 Inserted cytosine was bold highlighted.

851

852 **Fig. 2.** $A2C3^{Cala2}$ recognition capacity in Col-0. (a) Schematic diagrams of $A2C3$ of *Hpa*
853 *Cala2* and *Emoy2*. (b) Alphafold 2 prediction of Y and WY modules of $A2C3^{Cala2}$, and super-
854 imposition with PsPSR2. PsPSR2 contains seven (L)WY units with Y5-LWY6 showing the
855 highest similarity with $A2C3^{Cala2}$. This structural comparison also revealed an “L” like fold
856 between the “Y” and “WY” sequence in $A2C3^{Cala2}$. (c) Biolistic bombardment of $A2C3$ with
857 luciferase into Col-0 and CW84 in which RPP2 is absent. Data are mean \pm standard
858 deviations from three independent experiments. Asterisks (***, $P < 0.001$; ****, $P < 0.0001$)
859 indicate statistical significance compared with luciferase alone in Col-0 or CW84 by two-way
860 ANOVA with Tukey’s multiple comparison test. EV, empty vector. (d) Transgenic
861 *Arabidopsis* Col-0 expressing *ATR2* under 35S promoter. Bar = 1 cm.

862

863 **Fig. 3.** Enhanced disease susceptibility resulting from exogenous $ATR2^{Cala2}$ expression. (a)
864 Phenotypes on *N. benthamiana* transiently expressing the *GFP* control (*GFP*) or
865 $ATR2^{Cala2}:YFP$ under the 35S promoter followed by *P. infestans* 88069 inoculation (2×10^4
866 zoospores / ml) 2 days after transient expression. Photos were taken 7 dai with *P. infestans*. (b)
867 Disease lesion area of *P. infestans* on *N. benthamiana* leaves. 40 lesion squares of each were
868 measured. (c) Generation of constitutively $ATR2^{Cala2}$ expressing transgenic *Arabidopsis* in
869 Ler-0 background. Bar = 1 cm. (d) Bacterial growth in Ler-0, $ATR2^{Cala2}$ -OX Ler-0 (# 1, # 2
870 and # 3) and *Ws-eds1* (*eds1*) as a hyper-susceptible control infected with *Pst* DC3000 (10^5
871 cfu / ml). (e) Quantification of conidiospores on wild-type and transgenic plants at 7 dai

872 infected with *Hpa* Cala2 (5×10^4 conidiospores / ml). Data are means \pm standard deviations
873 from three independent experiments. Asterisks indicate significant differences as determined
874 by Student's t-test ($P < 0.05$). According to Fisher's Least Significant Difference, LSD ($P <$
875 0.05), statistical significance was shown by different letters above each bar.

876

877 **Fig. 4.** Compromised *Hpa* Cala2 resistance in *rpp2* mutants. (a) Quantification of
878 conidiospores on Col-0, individual *rpp2* mutants from Col-0, Ler-0 and *Ws-eds1* at 7 dai
879 infected with *Hpa* Cala2 (5×10^4 conidiospores / ml). Data are means \pm standard deviations
880 from three independent experiments. According to Fisher's Least Significant Difference, LSD
881 ($P < 0.05$), statistical significance was shown by different letters above each bar. (b) Trypan
882 blue staining of *Hpa* hyphal growth on cotyledons at 5 dai. Hyphal growth region on *rpp2c*
883 and *rpp2d* mutants was enlarged to clearly show the *Hpa* hyphal development. (c) Luciferase
884 measurement upon biolistic bombardment into Col-0 and *rpp2* mutants. Statistical
885 significance compared with luciferase alone in Col-0 is indicated by asterisks (**, $P < 0.01$;
886 ***, $P < 0.001$) according to two-way ANOVA with Tukey's multiple comparison test.

887

888 **Fig. 5.** Differential *ATR2*^{Cala2} recognition capacity dependent on RPP2A haplotype. (a)
889 Heatmap diagram for RPP2 cluster haplotype analyses from 21 Arabidopsis ecotypes. (b)
890 Normalized luciferase activity by biolistic bombardment of *ATR2*^{Cala2} with luciferase into
891 Col-0, Ler-0 (*RPP2A*, *2B*-lacking) and *Ws-2* (partial *RPP2A*). Data are means \pm standard
892 deviations from three independent experiments. Asterisk indicates a significant difference as
893 determined by two-way ANOVA with Tukey's test (****, $P < 0.0001$). (c) RPP2A haplotype
894 analyses from 21 Arabidopsis ecotypes.

895

896 **Table 1.** Intervals of *ATR2* from CaNo F₂ isolates.

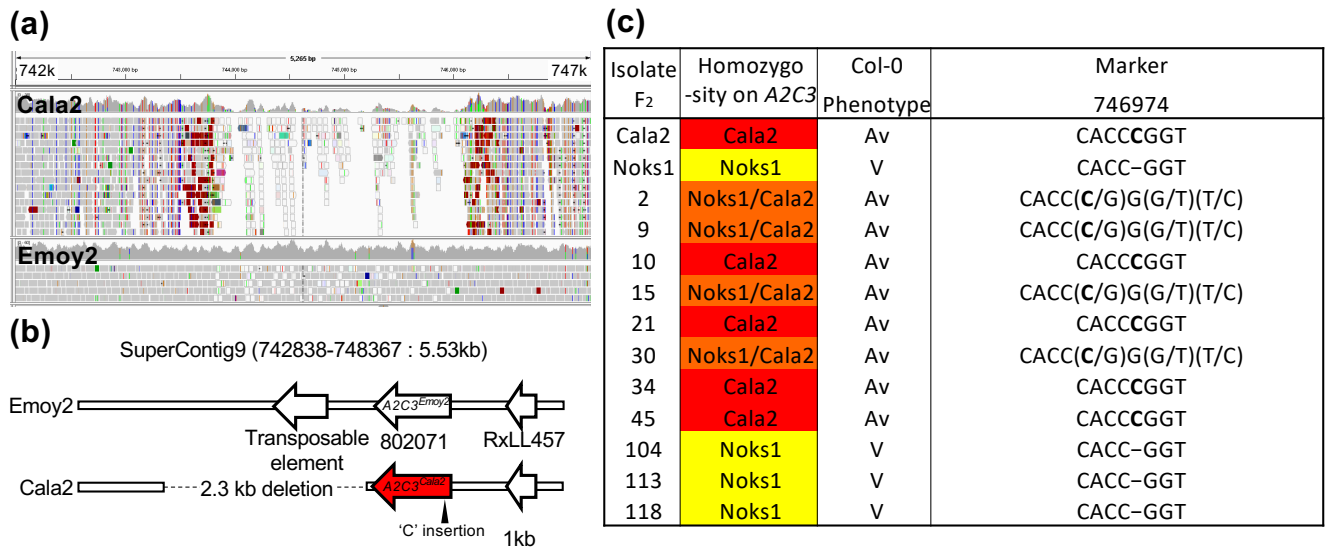


Figure 1. Genetic determination of $A2C3^{Cala2}$ co-segregation from avirulent F₂ isolates. (a) Comparison of highly-polymorphic region of Cala2 with Emoy2 from 742k to 747k of SuperContig9. Screenshot was captured from IGV software. (b) Transposable element next to '802071' on Emoy2 and 2.3kb deletion on Cala2 of assigned region. $A2C3^{cala2}$ allele is highlighted with red colour. A cytosine (C) insertion at 746974 indicated with a black triangle. (c) Analyses of homo- or heterozygosity, avirulent (Av) or virulent (V) on Col-0 and a segregated cytosine (C) insertion in Av isolates at the frameshift region (746974) by sequencing from Fig. S5. Red: Cala2 homozygote; Yellow: Noks1 homozygote; Orange: Cala2-Noks1 heterozygote on A2C3. Inserted cytosine was bold highlighted.

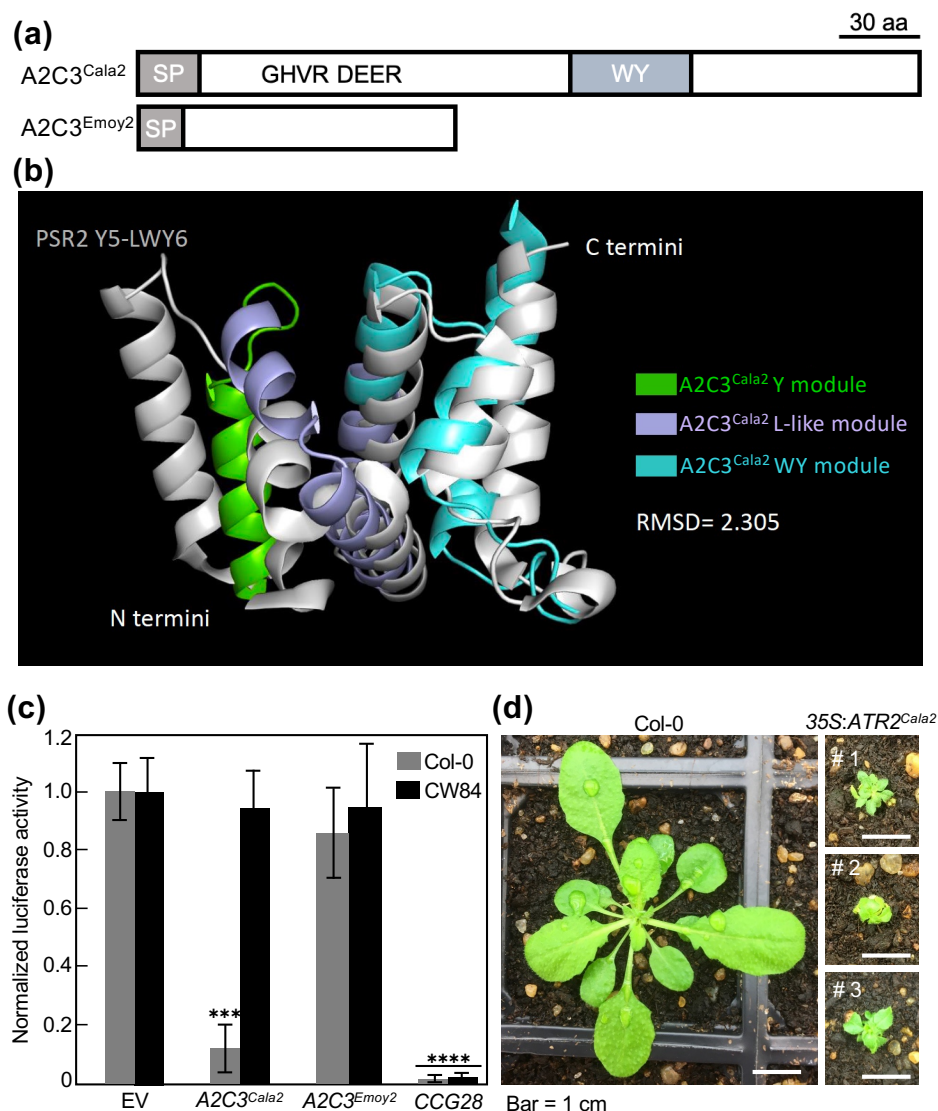


Figure 2. A2C3^{Cala2} recognition capacity in Col-0. (a) Schematic diagrams of A2C3 of *Hpa* Cala2 and Emoy2. (b) AlphaFold 2 prediction of Y and WY modules of A2C3^{Cala2}, and super-imposition with PsPSR2. PsPSR2 contains seven (L)WY units with Y5-LWY6 showing the highest similarity with ATR2^{Cala2}. This structural comparison also revealed an “L” like fold between the “Y” and “WY” sequence in ATR2^{Cala2}. (c) Biolistic bombardment of A2C3 with luciferase into Col-0 and CW84 in which RPP2 is absent. Data are mean \pm standard deviations from three independent experiments). Asterisks (***, $P < 0.001$; ****, $P < 0.0001$) indicate statistical significance compared with luciferase alone in Col-0 or CW84 by two-way ANOVA with Tukey’s multiple comparison test. EV, empty vector. (d) Transgenic Arabidopsis Col-0 expressing ATR2^{Cala2} under 35S promoter. Bar = 1 cm.

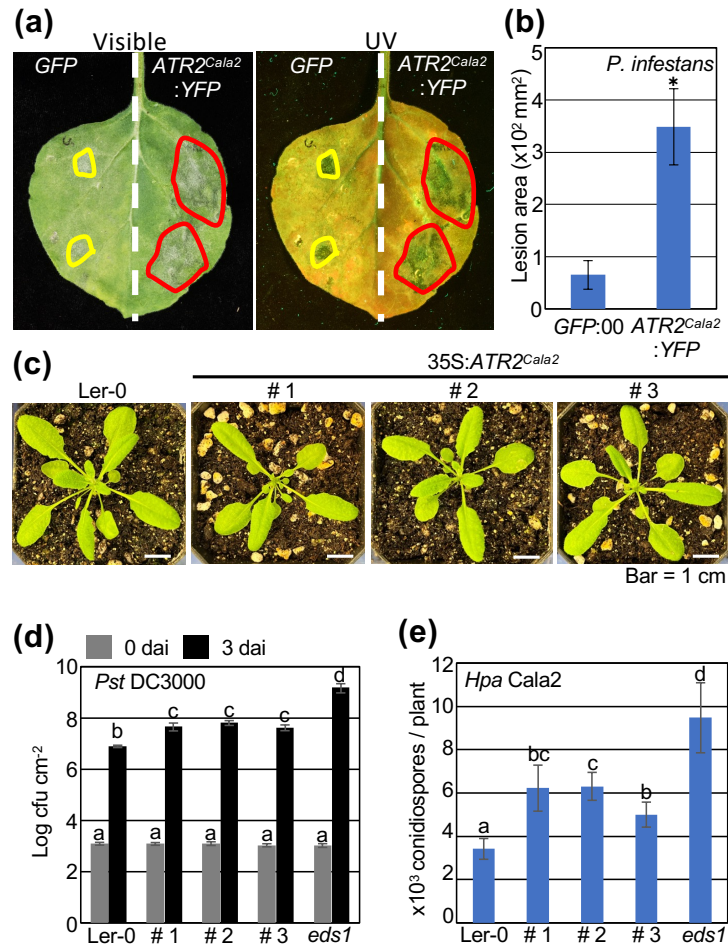


Figure 3. Enhanced disease susceptibility resulting from exogenous *ATR2^{Cala2}* expression. (a) Phenotypes on *N. benthamiana* transiently expressing the GFP control (*GFP*) or *ATR2^{Cala2}:YFP* under the 35S promoter followed by *P. infestans* 88069 inoculation (2×10^4 zoospores / ml) 2 days after transient expression. Photos were taken 7 dai with *P. infestans*. (b) Disease lesion area by *P. infestans* on *N. benthamiana* leaves. 40 lesion squares of each were measured. (c) Generation of constitutively *ATR2^{Cala2}* expressing transgenic *Arabidopsis* in Ler-0 background. Bar = 1 cm. (d) Bacterial growth in Ler-0, *ATR2^{Cala2}-OX* Ler-0 (# 1, # 2 and # 3) and *Ws-eds1* (*eds1*) as a hyper-susceptible control infected with *Pst* DC3000 (10^5 cfu / ml). (e) Quantification of conidiospores on wild-type and transgenic plants at 7 dai infected with *Hpa* Cala2 (5×10^4 conidiospores / ml). Data are means \pm standard deviations from three independent experiments. Asterisks indicate significant differences as determined by Student's t-test ($P < 0.05$). According to Fisher's Least Significant Difference, LSD ($P < 0.05$), statistical significance was shown by different letters above each bar.

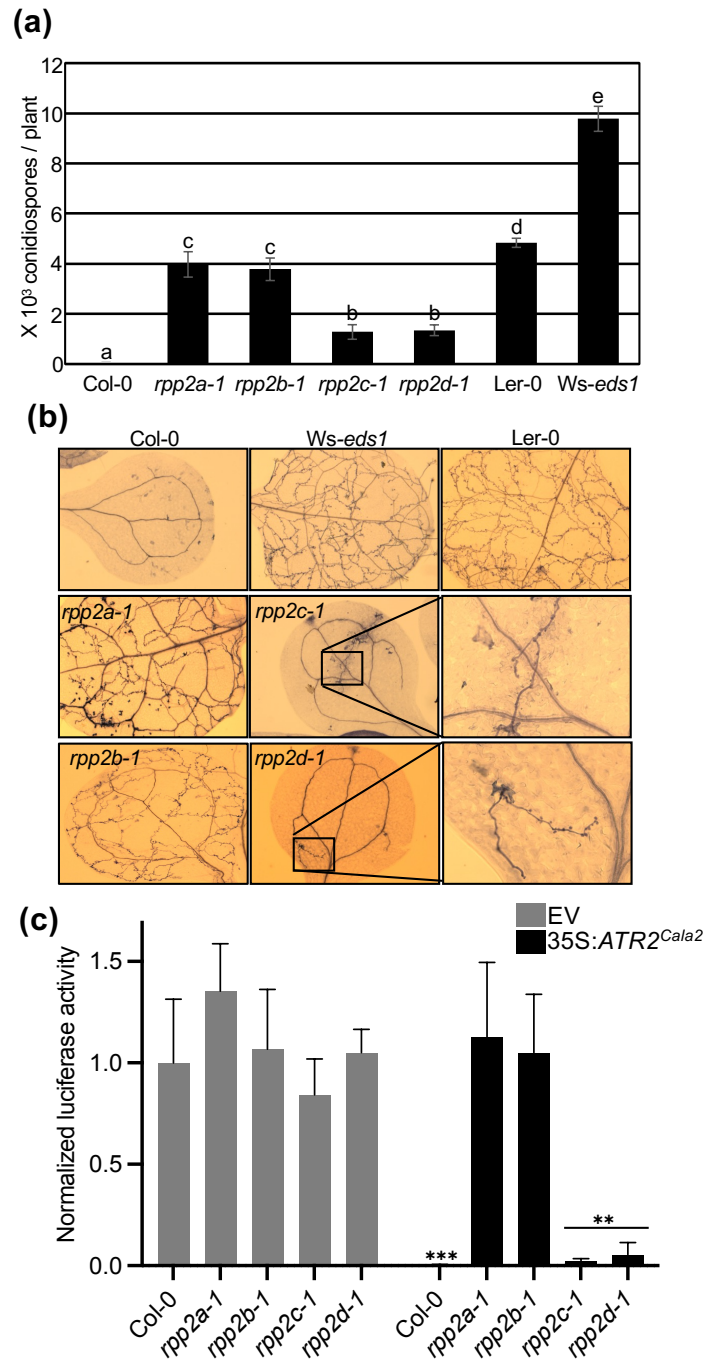


Figure 4. Compromised *Hpa* Cala2 resistance in *rpp2* mutants. (a) Quantification of conidiospores on Col-0, individual *rpp2* mutants from Col-0, Ler-0 and *Ws-eds1* at 7 dai infected with *Hpa* Cala2 (5×10^4 conidiospores / ml). Data are means \pm standard deviations from three independent experiments. According to Fisher's Least Significant Difference, LSD ($P < 0.05$), statistical significance was shown by different letters above each bar. (b) Trypan blue staining of *Hpa* hyphal growth on cotyledons at 5 dai. Hyphal growth region on *rpp2c* and *rpp2d* mutants was enlarged to clearly show the *Hpa* hyphal development. (c) Luciferase measurement upon biolistic bombardment into Col-0 and *rpp2* mutants. Statistical significance compared with luciferase alone in Col-0 is indicated by asterisks (**, $P < 0.01$; ***, $P < 0.001$) according to two-way ANOVA with Tukey's multiple comparison test.

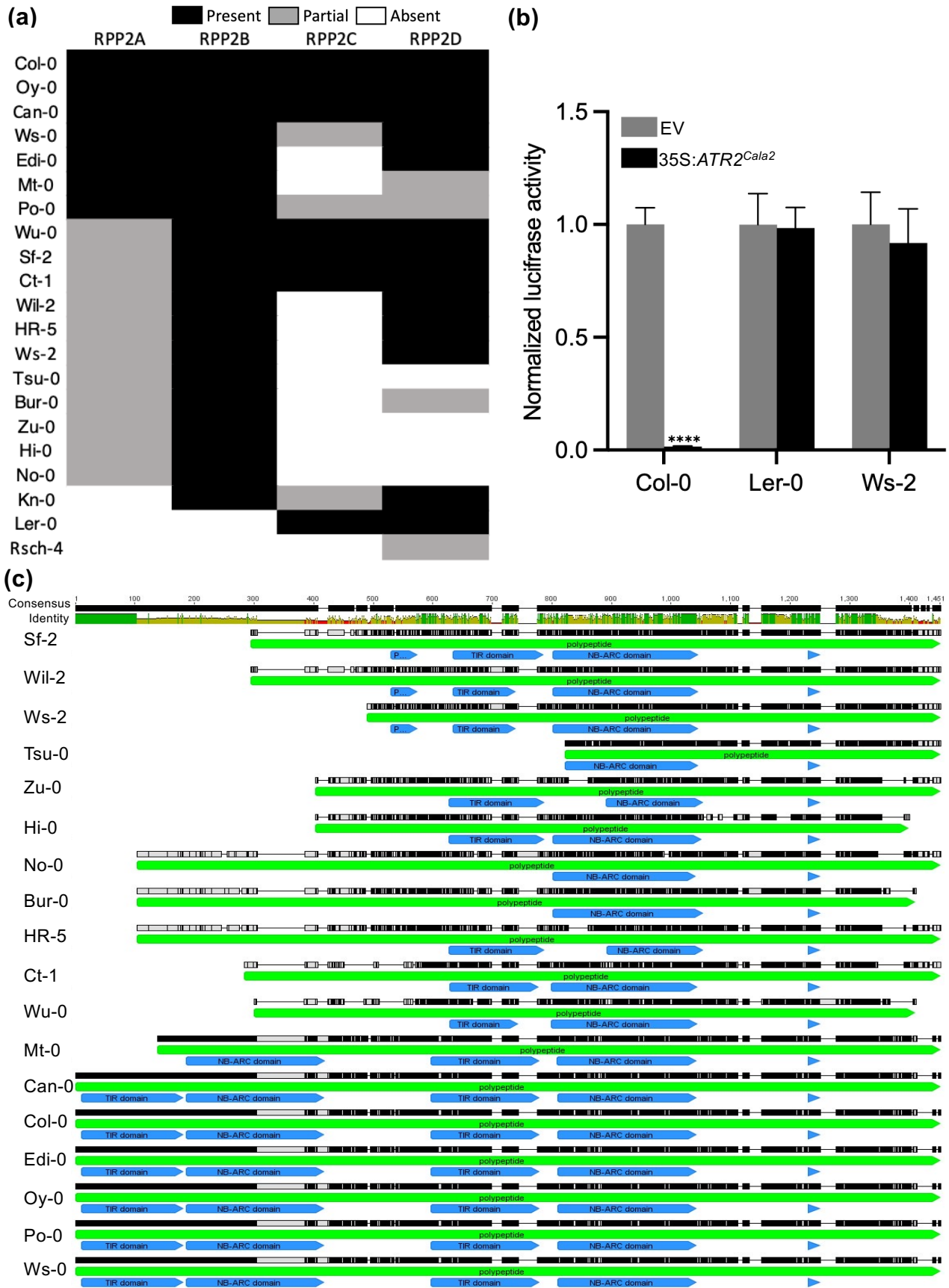


Figure 5. Differential *ATR2^{Cala2}* recognition capacity dependent on RPP2A haplotype. (a) Heatmap diagram for *RPP2* cluster haplotype analyses from 21 *Arabidopsis* accessions. (b) Normalized luciferase activity by biolistic bombardment of *ATR2^{Cala2}* with luciferase into Col-0, Ler-0 (*RPP2A*, 2B-lacking) and Ws-2 (partial *RPP2A*). Data are means \pm standard deviations from three independent experiments. Asterisk indicates a significant difference as determined by two-way ANOVA with Tukey's test (****, $P < 0.0001$). (c) *RPP2A* haplotype analyses from 21 *Arabidopsis* ecotypes.

Table 1. Intervals of *ATR2* from F2 CaNo F₂ isolates.

Isolate F2	Marker ^a							Col -0 Phenotype ^b
	656515	708503	759570	801023	820527	826062	843042	
Cala2	Cala2 ^c	Cala2	Cala2	Cala2	Cala2	Cala2	Cala2	Av
Noks1	Noks1 ^d	Noks1	Noks1	Noks1	Noks1	Noks1	Noks1	V
2	Noks1/Cala2 ^e						Noks1/Cala2	Av
9	Noks1/Cala2						Noks1/Cala2	Av
10	Noks1/Cala2						Noks1/Cala2	Av
15	Noks1/Cala2						Noks1/Cala2	Av
21	Cala2						Cala2	Av
30	Cala2	Noks1/Cala2	Noks1/Cala2	Noks1/Cala2	Noks1/Cala2	Noks1/Cala2	Noks1	Av
34	Noks1/Cala2	Cala2	Cala2	Cala2			Cala2	Av
45	Noks1	Cala2	Cala2	Cala2			Cala2	Av
104	Noks1						Noks1	V
113	Noks1	Noks1	Noks1	Noks1	Noks1	Noks1	Noks1/Cala2	V
118	Noks1						Noks1	V

^aEach marker number indicates nucleotide no. on SuperContig9 from Emoy2 genomic sequence as a reference.

^bVirulent (V) or avirulent (Av) on Col-0.

^cCala2 homozygote.

^dNoks1 homozygote.

^eCala2-Noks1 heterozygote.