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Genome-wide analysis of ATP binding cassette (ABC) transporters in tomato

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Abstract

ATP binding cassette (ABC) transporters are proteins that actively mediate the transport of a wide range of molecules, such as organic acids, metal ions, phytohormones and secondary metabolites. Therefore, ABC transporters must play indispensable roles in growth and development of tomato, including fruit development. Most ABC transporters have transmembrane domains (TMDs) and belong to the ABC protein family, which includes not only ABC transporters but also soluble ABC proteins lacking TMDs. In this study, we performed a genome-wide identification and expression analysis of genes encoding ABC proteins in tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum*), which is a valuable horticultural crop and a model plant for studying fleshy fruits. In the tomato genome, a total of 154 genes putatively encoding ABC transporters, including 9 ABCAs, 29 ABCBs, 26 ABCCs, 2 ABCDs, 2 ABCEs, 6 ABCFs, 70 ABCGs and 10 ABCIs, were identified. Gene expression data from the eFP Browser and reverse transcription-semi-quantitative PCR analysis revealed their tissue-specific and development-specific expression profiles. This work suggests physiological roles of ABC transporters in tomato and provides fundamental information for future studies of ABC transporters not only in tomato but also in other Solanaceae species.

Introduction

ATP binding cassette (ABC) proteins are proteins harboring an ATP binding domain, called nucleotide binding domain or fold (NBD/NBF), which contains highly conserved motifs, such as the Walker A and Walker B motifs, the ABC signature, the H loop and the Q loop [1]. ABC proteins are universally found in all organisms, including fungi, plants and animals [2]. Some members of the ABC proteins are soluble proteins and do not contain any transmembrane domain (TMD). The ABC proteins harboring TMDs are called ABC transporters and function as ATP-driven primary transporters for active transport of various molecules [3]. A typical functional ABC transporter contains 2 NBDs and 2 TMDs. The two NBDs synergistically bind and hydrolyze ATP to generate energy, which eventually causes conformational changes in the



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TMDs to create a pore for substrate transport, whiles the TMDs serve as a pathway for unidirectional transport of the substrate [1]. ABC transporters harboring two TMDs and two NBDs are called full-size ABC transporters. On the other hand, ABC transporters harboring only one TMD and one NBD are called half-size. ABC transporters encoded by four genes, two for TMDs and two for NBDs are so-called quarter-size ABC transporters [3,4].

ABC transporters are grouped into eight subfamilies, namely ABCA to ABCI. Plants do not have any ABCH subfamily. Generally, plants possess twice as many as ABC transporters as not in animals. It is assumed that this is due to the sessile nature of plants for growing under various biotic and abiotic stresses [5]. ABC transporters of plants are engaged in numerous functions, including secondary metabolite transport [6,7], heavy metal detoxification [8], antibiotic transport [9] and phytohormone transport [10,11]. ABC transporter counterparts in animal are also shown to function as ion channels, channel regulators [12,13] and in protein targeting [14].

A genome-wide analysis is the comprehensive identification of all genes of the respective family including their family members and organization of their information. This approach provides essential information, such as evolutionary history, diversity and relationship among genes and proteins, which serves as useful fundamental resources for further investigations. Genome-wide analyses of ABC transporters in Arabidopsis [15], rice [16], maize [17], *Lotus japonicus* [18], grape [19], pineapple [20], and *Hevea brasiliensis* [4] have already been performed. Whereas little is known about ABC transporters in Solanaceae, including tomato.

Tomato is an important vegetable crop and is often used as a model plant for studying developmental physiology of fleshy fruits recently. The advantages of tomato in research are the availability of its high quality whole genome sequencing data (Sol Genomics Network (SGN), <u>https://solgenomics.net/</u>) [21], expressed sequence tag (EST) database (TomatEST, <u>http://biosrv.cab.unina.it/tomatestdb/transcript_browser.html</u>) [22] and full-length cDNA resources (TOMATOMICS: <u>http://plantomics.mind.meiji.ac.jp/tomatomics/</u>) [23,24]. Transcriptome databases at Tomato eFP Browser (<u>http://bar.utoronto.ca/efp_tomato/cgi-bin/efpWeb.cgi</u>) [25,26] and SGN-TEA (<u>http://tea.solgenomics.net/</u>) [27] and metabolome database at MoTo DB (<u>http://www.transplantdb.eu/node/1843</u>) [28] are also available for tomato. Micro-Tom is a dwarf tomato variety and an excellent tool for genetic and physiological studies of fruit development and physiology, because of its small size and short lifecycle [29].

In this study, a genome wide analysis was performed to provide information of ABC proteins in tomato. A total of 154 genes putatively encoding ABC proteins were identified in tomato genome. Among these ABC proteins, 47 proteins are soluble ABC proteins lacking any TMDs, while 107 proteins contain TMDs and they are considered to function as ABC transporters. Phylogenetic analysis revealed the evolutionary relationships of tomato ABC proteins. In addition, protein structure, in silico and reverse transcription-semi-quantitative PCR gene expression analyses were performed to provide fundamental information for further ABC protein studies not only in tomato but also in other Solanaceae species.

Materials and methods

Identification of ABC proteins in tomato

The BLAST tool of Sol Genomics Network (SGN, <u>http://www.solgenomics.net/</u>) [21] was used for genome-wide identification of genes encoding ABC proteins in tomato. Known ABC proteins of tomato reported by Andolfo et al. [30] and some members of the Arabidopsis ABC subfamilies [15] were used as queries for BLAST search in the tomato genome (SL3.0 and ITAG3.10) [26]. Identified proteins with at least 30% similarity to the query sequence or E-value less than E-20 were selected. Presence of ABC signature, Walker A and Walker B motifs

was confirmed by using the Conserved Domain Database of NCBI (<u>https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.</u> <u>gov/cdd/</u>) [31]. The predicted genes encoding ABC proteins from SL3.0 of SGN were confirmed by comparing with another tomato genome database TMCSv1.2.1 from TOMA-TOMICS (<u>http://plantomics.mind.meiji.ac.jp/tomatomics/download.php</u>) [23,24].

Phylogenetic, in silico gene expression and protein structure analyses. Phylogenetic analysis was conducted to classify the identified ABC proteins into their respective subfamilies. Entire protein sequences of ABC proteins were aligned using the multiple sequence alignment tool of ClustalW program (http://www.genome.jp/tools/clustalw/) [32] and subjected to cluster analysis by the distance with the neighbor-joining method using MEGA6.06 software (Molecular Evolutionary Genetics Analysis, https://www.megasoftware.net/) [33]. Gene expression data of ABC proteins in various tomato tissues were obtained from the Tomato eFP Browser (http://bar.utoronto.ca/efp_tomato/cgi-bin/efpWeb.cgi) [25,26]. The Pfam web server (http://pfam.xfam.org/) [34] was used to characterize the topology of ABC proteins comprising TMD and NBD.

Plant materials. Tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum*) 'Micro-Tom' was used for gene expression analysis. The Micro-Tom strain used in this study was obtained from the National Bioresource Project (NBRP)-Tomato (http://tomato.nbrp.jp/browseSearchEn.html) with an accession number TOMJPF00001. Plants were grown in growth chamber (Biotron LPH-350S, NK Systems) adjusted to 25°C, 16 h light/8 h dark period and 60% relative humidity. Tap water was supplied twice a week. Half concentration of Otsuka liquid fertilizer (Otsuka Chemicals Co., Ltd.) was applied weekly. Young and mature leaves, root, stem, flower, developing fruit tissues at 3, 7, 14, 21, 28 days after pollination (DAP), breaker, orange and red stages were sampled, frozen in liquid nitrogen and stored at -80°C.

RNA extraction and RT-semi-quantitative PCR (RT-sqPCR) expression analysis. Extraction of total RNA from developing fruits at 14 and 21 DAP was performed using the RNA Suisui-R kit (Rizo). RNA of other tissues was isolated using TRIzol reagent (Life Technologies). PrimeScript RT reagent kit (Takara) was used to synthesize the cDNA. RT-sqPCR was conducted using SYBR Premix Ex Taq kit (Takara) and the ubiquitin gene, *SlUBQ* (*Solyc01g056940*) was used as an internal control. Primer sequences and PCR conditions are shown in <u>S1 Table</u>.

Results and discussion

Genome-wide identification of ABC proteins in tomato

To clarify the gene family of ABC proteins in tomato, BLAST search on tomato genome database Sol Genomics Network (SGN, <u>http://www.solgenomics.net/</u>) [21] was performed. We searched all the tomato ABC proteins using SL3.0 of SGN database. As a result, 154 genes potentially encoding ABC proteins were found (<u>Table 1</u>). Phylogenetic analysis of the tomato ABC proteins was performed and the obtained phylogenetic tree is shown in <u>Fig 1</u>.

In a previous study, Andolfo et al. [30] identified 180 ABC proteins in the tomato genome, whiles we found 154 ABC proteins. So we compared non-overlapping candidates between our study and Andolfo et al. [30] (S2 Table). In this study, 3 non-overlapping putative tomato ABC proteins were identified whereas 29 ABC proteins were identified only in Andolfo et al. [30] (S2 Table). All the 3 ABC proteins identified in this study have NBDs. On the other hand, the 29 ABC proteins found only in Andolfo et al. [30] have no NBD. Thus, we concluded that the 29 candidates without NBD in Andolfo et al. [30] are not ABC proteins and may be mispredicted. Therefore, we did not include them in our list (Table 1).

In addition, since some of the genes may not be computationally annotated in SL3.0 of SGN database, we confirmed the gene prediction of SL3.0 by comparing this database with

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Sub-	Gene	Locus	Size	Best hit EST	Topology	Old					Exp	press	ion				Abs
family	name		(AA)			name	L	R	B	F	F1	F2	F3	М	Bk	Rd	value
ABCA	SIABCA1	Solyc04g015970.2	1,910	SGN-E342230	(TMD-NBD)×2												26.7
	SIABCA2	Solyc03g113040.2	946	SGN-E1283433	TMD-NBD												10.9
	SIABCA3	Solyc03g113060.2	945	SGN-E1279186	TMD-NBD												41.1
	SIABCA4	Solyc06g070920.2	639	SGN-E547444	TMD-NBD												31.0
	SIABCA5	Solyc06g070940.2	944	SGN-E373720	TMD-NBD												21.7
	SIABCA6	Solyc06g070950.1	892	-	TMD-NBD												0.85
	SIABCA7	Solyc06g070960.1	927	-	TMD-NBD												0.57
	SIABCA8	Solyc03g113080.2	359	-	NBD												13.8
	SIABCA9	Solyc03g113070.2	577	-	NBD												11.7
ABCB	SIABCB1	Solyc02g071340.1	1,264	-	(TMD-NBD)×2												0.04
	SIABCB2	Solyc02g071350.2	1,264	-	(TMD-NBD)×2												1.89
	SIABCB3	Solyc02g087410.2	1,263	-	(TMD-NBD)×2												5.79
	SIABCB4	Solyc02g087870.2	1,250	SGN-E701700	(TMD-NBD)×2	SIMDR1											26.6
	SIABCB5	Solyc03g005860.2	1,260	-	(TMD-NBD)×2												0.14
	SIABCB6	Solyc03g093650.2	1,228	-	(TMD-NBD)×2												3.95
	SIABCB7	Solyc04g010310.2	1,286	SGN-E1249810	(TMD-NBD)×2												20.7
	SIABCB8	Solyc06g009280.1	1,290	-	(TMD-NBD)×2												5.56
	SIABCB9	Solyc06g009290.2		SGN-E550470	(TMD-NBD)×2	SIMDR2											47.3
	SIABCB10	Solyc06g072960.1		-	(TMD-NBD)×2												0.02
	SIABCB11	Solyc07g018130.1		-	(TMD-NBD)×2												0.04
	SIABCB12	Solyc07g064120.1		-	(TMD-NBD)×2												0.39
	SIABCB13	Solyc08g076720.2		SGN-E228826	(TMD-NBD)×2												25.8
	SIABCB14	Solyc09g008240.2		SGN-E315464	(TMD-NBD)×2												52.1
	SIABCB15	Solyc11g067310.1		-	(TMD-NBD)×2												0.61
	SIABCB16	Solyc12g098840.1		-	(TMD-NBD)×2												25.4
	SIABCB17	Solyc12g098870.1		-	(TMD-NBD)×2												2.89
	SIABCB18	Solyc11g067300.1		-	TMD-TMD-NBD-TMD-NBD												3.16
	SIABCB19	Solyc05g013890.1	955	-	NBD-TMD-NBD												0.28
	SIABCB20	Solyc03g026310.2	664	SGN-E1284789	TMD-NBD												32.4
	SIABCB21	Solyc03g114950.2	639	SGN-E746787	TMD-NBD												57.7
	SIABCB22	Solyc03g122050.1	673	-	TMD-NBD												0.20
	SIABCB23	Solyc03g122070.1	667	_	TMD-NBD												0.49
		Solyc09g009910.2	640	SGN-E1285685	TMD-NBD												3.52
		Solyc09g055350.2		SGN-E1270076	TMD-NBD												28.2
	SIABCB26	Solyc00g304030.1	1,081	_	NBD-TMD												0.00
	SIABCB27	Solyc12g049120.1	349	_	NBD												0.00
	SIABCB28	Solyc12g049130.1	108	_	NBD												0.00
	SIABCB29	Solyc12g070280.1	232	SGN-E276294	NBD												53.8
ABCC	SIABCC1	Solyc01g080640.2	1,499	SGN-E701199	(TMD-NBD)×2												116
00	SIABCC2	Solyc03g007530.2	1,468	SGN-E313421	(TMD-NBD)×2												15.2
	SIABCC3	Solyc03g117540.2	1,482	SGN-E230070	(TMD-NBD)×2												6.79
	SIABCC4	Solyc06g036490.1	1,194	-	(TMD-NBD)×2												0.02
	SIABCC5	Solyc07g065320.2	1,506	SGN-E206721	(TMD-NBD)×2												8.11
	SIABCC6	Solyc08g006880.2	1,627	SGN-E303088	(TMD-NBD)×2	SIMRP2											114
	SIABCC0 SIABCC7	Solyc08g000880.2	1,480	SGN-E1281130	(TMD-NBD)×2	on in 2											28.6
	SIABCC7	Solyc03g081890.2	1,480	SGN-E1281130	(TMD-NBD)×2												23.3
	Juneco	00190075007110.2	1,552	0011 1150/5/1												(Cor	

Table 1. Inventory of tomato ABC proteins with their in silico gene expression profiles.

(Continued)

Table 1. (Continued)

Sub-	Gene	Locus	Size	Best hit EST	Topology	Old					Exp	oress	ion				Abs
family	name		(AA)			name	L	R	B	F	F1	F2	F3	М	Bk	Rd	value
	SIABCC9	Solyc09g075020.2	1,514	SGN-E345495	(TMD-NBD)×2												66.0
	SIABCC10	Solyc10g019270.1	1,220	-	(TMD-NBD)×2												3.39
	SIABCC11	Solyc10g024420.1	1,478	SGN-E128420	(TMD-NBD)×2	SIMRP1											312
	SIABCC12	Solyc12g044820.1	1,459	SGN-E689095	(TMD-NBD)×2												53.8
	SIABCC13	Solyc05g014380.2	1,136	SGN-E1256841	TMD-NBD-TMD	SIMRP3											69.1
	SIABCC14	Solyc00g283010.1	646	-	TMD-NBD												1.38
	SIABCC15	Solyc11g065710.1	773	-	TMD-NBD												1.33
	SIABCC16	Solyc11g065720.1	652	-	TMD-NBD												1.65
	SIABCC17	Solyc12g036150.1	374	SGN-E213562	TMD-NBD												11.4
	SIABCC18	Solyc12g036140.1	486	-	NBD-TMD												13.1
	SIABCC19	Solyc02g044000.1	604	-	NBD												14.0
	SIABCC20	Solyc02g044050.1	492	-	NBD												7.49
	SIABCC21	Solyc05g014390.2	282	-	NBD												83.5
	SIABCC22	Solyc05g014500.1	90	-	NBD												22.7
	SIABCC23	Solyc06g036480.1	135	-	NBD												0.11
	SIABCC24	Solyc10g019280.1	54	-	NBD												0.00
	SIABCC25	Solyc12g036160.1	233	-	NBD												22.0
	SIABCC26	Solyc12g044810.1	166	-	NBD												16.2
ABCD	SIABCD1	Solyc04g055120.2	1,345	SGN-E707100	(TMD-NBD)×2												37.9
	SIABCD2	Solyc12g017420.1	706	SGN-E1282388	TMD-NBD												27.8
ABCE	SIABCE1	Solyc07g008340.2	579	SGN-E745894	NBD-NBD												79.6
	SIABCE2	Solyc08g075360.1	607	-	NBD-NBD												5.04
ABCF	SIABCF1	Solyc04g051800.2	696	SGN-E738084	NBD-NBD												296
	SIABCF2	Solyc06g074940.2	575	SGN-E745759	NBD-NBD												33.7
	SIABCF3	Solyc07g008610.1	696	SGN-E1284822	NBD-NBD												65.7
	SIABCF4	Solyc08g082850.2	717	SGN-E745898	NBD-NBD												131
	SIABCF5	Solyc10g012190.1	688	-	NBD-NBD												0.12
	SIABCF6	Solyc11g069090.1	602	SGN-E717588	NBD-NBD												1,277
ABCG	SIABCG1	Solyc01g006720.2	725	SGN-E539555	NBD-TMD												34.3
	SIABCG2	Solyc01g097430.2	839	-	NBD-TMD												12.7
	SIABCG3	Solyc01g105450.2	628	SGN-E320849	NBD-TMD												19.7
	SIABCG4	Solyc03g007690.1	598	SGN-E711119	NBD-TMD												42.2
	SIABCG5	Solyc03g019760.2	711	SGN-E345650	NBD-TMD												28.8
	SIABCG6	Solyc03g113690.1	659	-	NBD-TMD												1.06
	SIABCG7	Solyc04g006960.2	676	SGN-E205662	NBD-TMD	SIWBC8											4.69
	SIABCG8	Solyc04g010200.1	719	SGN-E1278817	NBD-TMD	SIWBC4											24.5
	SIABCG9	Solyc04g010210.1	715	SGN-E1282871	NBD-TMD	SIWBC5											4.28
	SIABCG10	Solyc04g070970.2	723	SGN-E328516	NBD-TMD												43.3
	SIABCG11	Solyc05g008350.2	711	SGN-E730349	NBD-TMD	SIWBC10											43.8
	SIABCG12	Solyc05g051530.2	531	SGN-E349400	NBD-TMD	SIWBC7											47.9
	SIABCG13	Solyc05g054890.2	751	SGN-E1255617	NBD-TMD	SIWBC3											6.54
	SIABCG14	Solyc05g056470.1	615	-	NBD-TMD												9.74
	SIABCG15	Solyc06g072090.1	661	-	NBD-TMD												0.47
	SIABCG16	Solyc06g072100.1	716	-	NBD-TMD												0.48
	SIABCG17	Solyc06g074970.1	603	SGN-E1260065	NBD-TMD	SIWBC6											11.5
	SIABCG18	Solyc07g053300.1	609	-	NBD-TMD												1.07
	SIABCG19	Solyc07g062630.1	622	_	NBD-TMD												0.28
	JIADCOIS	301yc07g002030.1	022	-													0.20

(Continued)

Table 1. (Continued)

Sub-	Gene	Locus	Size	Best hit EST	Topology	Old					Ex	press	ion				Abs
family	name		(AA)			name	L	R	B	F	F1	F2	F3	M	Bk	Rd	value
	SlABCG20	Solyc07g063400.2	614	-	NBD-TMD												5.50
	SIABCG21	Solyc08g005580.2	656	SGN-E211225	NBD-TMD												4.26
	SIABCG22	Solyc08g075430.2	647	SGN-E706558	NBD-TMD	SIWBC2											41.2
	SIABCG23	Solyc09g005970.1	739	SGN-E379457	NBD-TMD												3.11
	SIABCG24	Solyc09g098410.1	730	-	NBD-TMD												0.00
	SIABCG25	Solyc11g009100.1	650	SGN-E218423	NBD-TMD												31.3
	SIABCG26	Solyc11g065350.1	683	-	NBD-TMD												44.5
	SIABCG27	Solyc11g065360.1	689	-	NBD-TMD												5.93
	SIABCG28	Solyc11g069710.1	724	SGN-E1306745	NBD-TMD	SIWBC1											17.0
	SIABCG29	Solyc12g013630.1	629	-	NBD-TMD												12.4
	SIABCG30	Solyc12g013640.1	631	-	NBD-TMD												0.23
	SIABCG31	Solyc12g019620.1	838	SGN-E1245045	NBD-TMD	SIPDR2											1.08
	SIABCG32	Solyc12g019640.1	609	-	NBD-TMD												2.16
	SIABCG33	Solyc01g101070.2	1,448	SGN-E542052	(NBD-TMD)×2												11.8
	SIABCG34	Solyc02g081870.2	1,402	-	(NBD-TMD)×2												0.02
	SIABCG35	Solyc03g120980.2	1,501	SGN-E128965	(NBD-TMD)×2												93.8
	SIABCG36	Solyc05g018510.2	1,422	SGN-E699701	(NBD-TMD)×2	SIPDR1											43.2
	SIABCG37	Solyc05g053570.2	1,411	_	(NBD-TMD)×2												10.3
	SIABCG38	Solyc05g053590.2	1,413	_	(NBD-TMD)×2												50.1
	SIABCG39	Solyc05g053600.2	1,413	SGN-E1300502	(NBD-TMD)×2												16.6
	SIABCG40	Solyc05g053610.2	1,426	SGN-E357332	(NBD-TMD)×2												174
	SIABCG41	Solyc05g055330.2	1,479	-	(NBD-TMD)×2												18.5
	SIABCG42	Solyc05g055550.2	1,409	SGN-E546084	(NBD-TMD)×2					_							12.1
	SIABCG43	Solyc06g076930.1	1,426	SGN-E243451	(NBD-TMD)×2					_							20.7
	SIABCG44		1,455	SGN-E1249186	(NBD-TMD)×2					_							40.8
	SIABCG45	Solyc08g067620.2	1,454	-	(NBD-TMD)×2					_							18.5
	SIABCG46	Solyc03g007020.2	1,441	SGN-E541199	(NBD-TMD)×2					_							80.6
	SIABCG47	Solyc09g091670.2	1,429	SGN-E356859	(NBD-TMD)×2					_							16.1
	SIABCG48	Solyc11g007280.1	1,469	-	(NBD-TMD)×2					_							0.03
	SIABCG49	, , ,	1,469	-	(NBD-TMD)×2					_							0.03
	SIABCG49	Solyc11g007290.1	1,400	-	, ,					_							
	SIABCG50	Solyc11g007300.1	1,405	-	(NBD-TMD)×2					_							0.01 9.49
		Solyc11g067000.1		-	(NBD-TMD)×2		-			_							
	SIABCG52	, ,	1,426	-	(NBD-TMD)×2												0.63
	SlABCG53 SlABCG54		1,436	SGN-E546066	(NBD-TMD)×2 (NBD-TMD)×2			-									57.2
		, , ,	1,429	-													13.5
	SIABCG55	, 0	184	- SCN E219425	NBD												45.6
	SIABCG56		117	SGN-E218425	NBD												0.75
	SIABCG57		1,021	SGN-E286554	NBD												16.6
	SIABCG58		131	-	NBD					_							12.6
	SIABCG59		641	-	NBD												0.59
	SIABCG60	Solyc06g075020.2	1,095	-	NBD												2.26
	SIABCG61	, 0	227	SGN-E327102	NBD												6.66
	SIABCG62		1,092	SGN-E330243	NBD												9.86
	SIABCG63		343	SGN-E1293717	NBD	SIWBC9, 11											18.7
	SIABCG64	Solyc11g069820.1	1,094	-	NBD												2.63

(Continued)

Sub-	Gene	Locus	Size	Best hit EST	Topology	Old	Expression							Abs			
family	name		(AA)			name	L	R	B	F	F1	F2	F3	M	Bk	Rd	value
	SIABCG65	Solyc07g065780.1	446	-	NBD												15.2
	SIABCG66	Solyc11g018680.1	291	SGN-E717727	NBD												19.9
	SIABCG67	Solyc00g164680.1	491	-	NBD												28.9
	SIABCG68	Solyc02g055530.2	59	-	NBD												39.4
	SlABCG69	Solyc04g076170.1	190	-	NBD												18.9
	SIABCG70	Solyc09g042280.1	112	-	NBD												7.20
ABCI	SIABCI1	Solyc00g304030.1	1,081	-	NBD												0.00
	SIABCI2	Solyc01g100850.2	329	SGN-E1301393	NBD												52.8
	SIABCI3	Solyc02g068180.2	275	SGN-E1307012	NBD												22.3
	SIABCI4	Solyc03g117810.2	264	SGN-E1270799	NBD												105
	SIABCI5	Solyc04g056650.2	351	SGN-E700042	NBD												24.1
	SIABCI6	Solyc06g048540.2	313	SGN-E720007	NBD												130
	SIABCI7	Solyc06g068600.2	186	-	NBD												116
	SIABCI8	Solyc09g066470.2	287	SGN-E321321	NBD												79.0
	SIABCI9	Solyc11g069260.1	261	SGN-E302237	NBD												19.4
	SIABCI10	Solyc12g010220.1	230	SGN-E203090	NBD												8.15

Table 1. (Continued)

The best hit ESTs were found by blasting from SGN web server (https://solgenomics.net/). Pfam web server (http://pfam.xfam.org/) was used to identify the conserved domains (topology); NBD: nucleotide binding domain (ATP binding cassette domain); TMD: transmembrane domain. Gene expression profile data in various tomato organs and tissues was obtained from Tomato eFP Browser (http://bar.utoronto.ca/efp_tomato/cgi-bin/efpWeb.cgi). The gene expression levels (low to high) are indicated by the light to deep red color shades. L: leaf; R: root; bud; F: flower; F1: 1cm fruit; F2: 2cm fruit; F3: 3cm fruit; M: mature green; Bk: breaker; Rd: 10 days after breaker; Abs value: RPKM value of maximum gene expression level in various tomato organs and tissues for each gene.

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another tomato genome database, TMCSv1.2.1 from TOAMTOMICS [23,24] (S3 Table). As a result, no new tomato ABC proteins were found in TMCSv1.2.1. However, corresponding genes of *SlABCA8*, *SlABCC22*, *SlABCC24* and *SlABCG68* identified in SL3.0 were not identified in TMCSv1.2.1 (S3 Table). The tomato eFP browser showed gene expression data for *SlABCA8*, *SlABCC22* and *SlABCG68* (Table 1), suggesting that these genes may be functional genes. On the other hand, the tomato eFP browser showed no gene expression for *SlABCC24* (Table 1), suggesting that *SlABCC24* may have been mispredicted. The SL3.0 tomato genome database suggests only one transcript for one locus, on the other hand, TMCSv1.2.1 suggests several splicing variants for one locus (S3 Table).

Wider research coverage on ABC transporters has caused emergence of several naming schemes. In most cases, they were named based on the mutant characteristics. This eventually resulted in assigning different names to the same subfamily or selected members with common characteristics [35]. To conform to plant and animal ABC communities, the Human Genome Organization (HUGO) nomenclature system [35] was adopted to designate all putatively ABC proteins into their diverse subfamilies (Fig 1). A unified ABC nomenclature proposed by Verrier et al. [35] was also used to assign ABCA-ABCG and ABCI to all the eight subfamilies (Table 1).

The 154 ABC proteins identified in the tomato genome were grouped into 9 ABCAs, 29 ABCBs, 26 ABCCs, 2 ABCDs, 2 ABCEs, 6 ABCFs, 70 ABCGs and 10 ABCIs (<u>Table 1, Fig 1</u>). The most abundant subfamily members were ABCB, ABCC and ABCG; while ABCD and ABCE were the least abundant. This characteristic is similar to the distribution of ABC

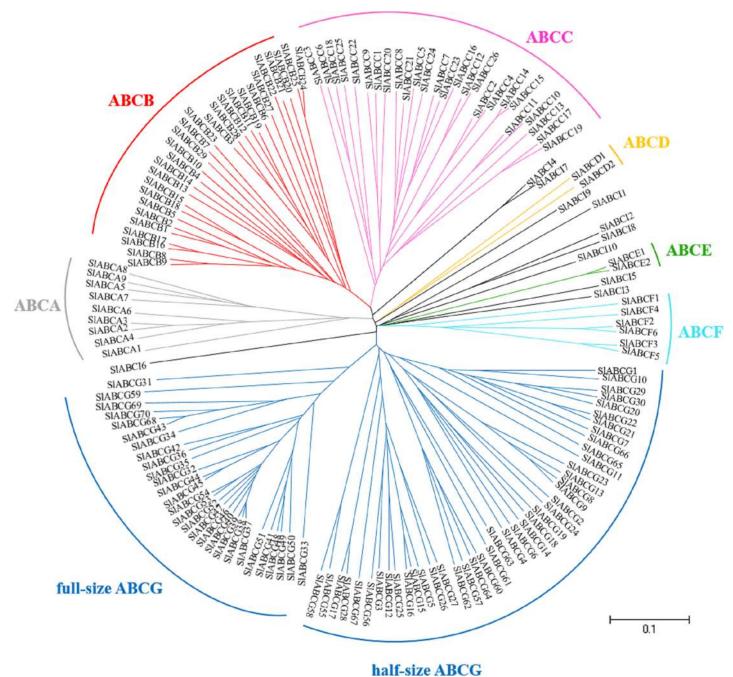


Fig 1. Phylogenetic tree of tomato ABC proteins. The 154 ABC proteins identified were subjected to phylogenetic analysis. Subfamily names (ABCA-I, except ABCH) correspond to the mammalian ABC transporter nomenclature. Tomato ABC proteins not clustered in ABCA-ABCG subfamilies are ABCIs. The scale indicated in the

figure shows 10% divergence between protein sequences.

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proteins in human [36] and other plants, such as Arabidopsis [15], rice [16], *L. japonica* [18] and *H. brasiliensis* [4]. At least one EST in the SGN database (http://www.solgenomics.net/) [21] was found for 78 genes. The reason for the absence of ESTs for the 69 genes could be that they are either expressed only under certain conditions or in specific cell types. Alternatively,

they could represent pseudogenes as suggested in genome-wide analysis of tomato aquaporins and sugar transporters [<u>37,38</u>].

A typical full-size of ABC protein has >1,200 amino acid residues [39]. The sizes of the 154 ABC proteins of tomato ranged from 50 to over 1,910 amino acid residues, although all of them possess at least one NBD as shown in Table 1. Some of the tomato ABC proteins with shorter sequences might be pseudogene or misannotation as suggested in the genome-wide analysis of tomato aquaporins and sugar transporters [37,38]. Among the 154 tomato ABC proteins (Table 1). On the other hand, the other 107 members possess TMDs and are considered as ABC transporters.

One of the unique features of ABC proteins is their topological diversity. Structural orientation and conserved domains for each protein predicted by the Pfam web server is shown in <u>Table 1</u>. Fifty-four ABC proteins are full-size proteins possessing (TMD-NBD)x2. Among these members, 32 exhibit a forward, while 22 have a reverse topology orientations. Fifty-three ABC proteins were half-size having (TMD-NBD)x1 or (NBD-TMD)x1. Among the half-size ABC proteins, 18 exhibit a forward and 35 a reverse domain orientations. Forty-seven ABC proteins are considered as quarter-size ABC transporter proteins. SIABCB19 and SIABCC13 were uniquely characterized with NBD-TMD-NBD and TMD-NBD-TMD orientations, respectively. Similar topological patterns were reported in ABC proteins of rice [16], maize [17] and *L. japonica* [18]. Such characteristics might have resulted from gene duplication or evolved to render specicific physiological functions [40].

The tomato ABC protein subfamilies

ABCA subfamily. The plant ABCA subfamily is made up of one full-size ABCA and several half-size ABCAs. In Arabidopsis, AtABCA1, also known as ABC one homologue (AOH), is the only full-size ABCA protein and is the largest ABC protein, consisting of 1,882 amino acid residues [15,16]. The remaining are half-size ABCAs are also called ABC two homologues (ATH). In tomato genome, 9 members of the ABCA subfamily were found (Table 1, Fig 2). SIABCA1 was the only full-size ABCA and the largest ABC protein identified, consisting of 1,910 amino acids residues (Table 1). On the other hand, 6 half-size and 2 quarter-size ABCAs were found in tomato genome. A major feature of the ABCA subfamily is the presence of one AOH full-size ABCA in dicots, including tomato (Table 1), Arabidopsis [15], *L. japonicas* [18] and grape [19], that so far has not been identified in monocots, such as rice [16] and maize [17]. This suggests that the function of this full-size ABCA is specific to dicots.

The functions of ABCAs in plants are currently almost unknown, although mammalian ABCAs have been shown to be involved in numerous functions, such as lipid metabolism, cholesterol homeostasis, intracellular trafficking, pulmonary surfactant secretion and retinal transport [41]. AtABCA1 was reported to be related in pollen germination, seed germination and seed maturation [18,19]. Transcriptome analysis in Arabidopsis roots has revealed that *AtATH14* and *AtATH15* expressions are responsive to salt stress [42]. Among the 9 *SlABCAs*, ESTs of 5 members were available. The gene expression profiles from the eFP Browser revealed that *SlABCA1* and *SlABCA2* are preferentially expressed in the root (<u>Table 1</u>) and they might be involved in secretion activity of roots. *SlABCA4-7* are expressed specifically in the flower, suggesting a specific functions in floral organs (<u>Table 1</u>).

ABCB subfamily. The ABCB subfamily is the second largest subfamily. Full-size ABCBs are known as multidrug resistance protein (MDR) or P-glycoprotein (PGP) and the half-size ABCBs are characterized with names such as transporter associated with antigen processing (TAP), ABC transporter of mitochondria (ATM) and lipid A-like exporter putative (LLP) [35].

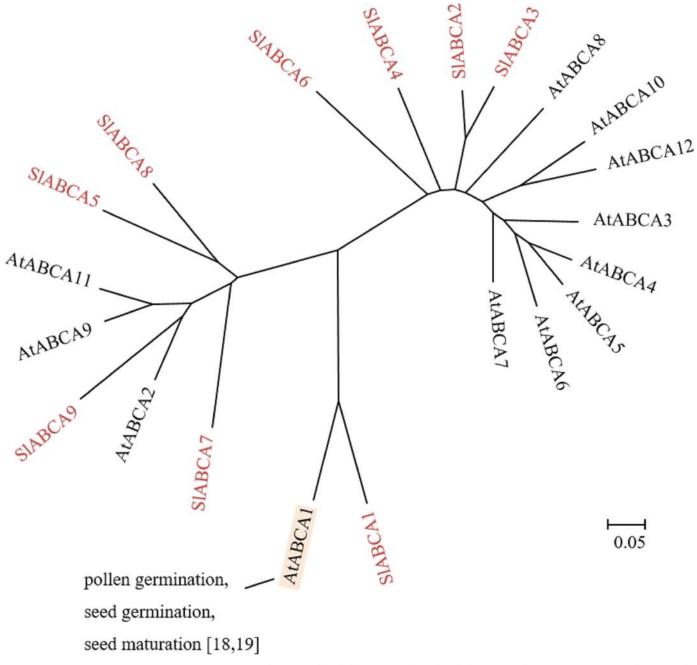


Fig 2. Phylogenetic tree of plant ABCA subfamily. ABCAs of tomato and Arabidopsis were subjected to phylogenetic analysis. Tomato ABCAs are shown in red. Physiological functions and references are indicated. The scale indicated in the figure shows 5% divergence between protein sequences.

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In the tomato genome, 29 members of this ABCB subfamily were identified and this comprises 18 full-size, 8 half-size and 3 quarter-size (<u>Table 1</u>) while in Arabidopsis, 22 full-size proteins, 6 half-size proteins and no quarter-size are identified. Surprisingly, according to the database, SIABCB18 contains 5 domains, i.e. TMD-TMD-NBD-TMD-NBD, and SIABCB19 contains 3 domains, i.e. NBD-TMD-NBD. These unique topological arrangements, i.e. additional TMDs or NBDs in their forward orientations maybe caused by a prediction error for the CDS or indicate that these sequences are pseudogenes (<u>Table 1</u>).

All the characterized full-size ABCBs in Arabidopsis are localized to the plasma membrane [43,44], whereas the half-size ABCBs, ATMs (AtABCB23-25) have been reported to reside in mitochondria [45,46] while TAPs (AtABCB26 and AtABCB27) have been detected in the chloroplast [47] and vacuolar membrane [8,48]. In humans, ABCBs are associated with multi-drug resistance [36], lipid transport [49], iron and peptide transports [50]. Plant ABCBs are associated with several physiological functions as shown in Fig 3. For instance, AtABCB1 [51], AtABCB4 [52], AtABCB14, AtABCB15 [53], AtABCB19 [54] and AtABCB21 [55] are implicated in auxin transport in Arabidopsis. AtACBB14 was also reported to be associated with regulation of stomatal opening and closing [44]. AtABCB23, AtABCB24 and AtABCB25 modulate Fe-S cluster biogenesis [56]. AtABCB25 is involved in molybdenum cofactor biosynthesis and heavy metal tolerance, probably through their function as glutathione disulfide (GSSG) transporters [57]. AtABCB27 and its homologue in barley, HvMDR2 are responsible for Al and Fe sequestration respectively [58,59]. In *Coptis japonica*, CjMDR1 transports berberine [60]. In wheat, TaMDR1 modulates aluminum toxicity responses and cadmium homeostasis [61]. In *Chlamydomonas reinhardtii*, CrCds1 mediates tolerance to cadmium [61,62].

In tomato, only 10 ESTs out of 29 the SIABCBs were available (<u>Table 1</u>, <u>Fig 3</u>). Based on the eFP Browser gene expression data, *SIABCB7*, *SIABCB13*, *SIABCB14*, *SIABCB18*, *SIABCB20*, *SIABCB21*, *SIABCB24*, *SIABCB25* and *SIABCB29* are ubiquitously expressed in all organs and tissues (<u>Table 1</u>), suggesting their responsibilities for basic cellular maintenance. Most of *SIABCBs* are highly expressed in the root. This may suggest an involvements of these SIABCBs in ion and heavy metal transports in roots.

ABCC subfamily. ABCCs are also called multidrug resistance-associated proteins (MRP) due to their function in transporting glutathione- and glucuronide-conjugates in drug-resistant animal cancer cells [35]. In plants, full-size ABCCs were earlier characterized and later half-size ABCCs were found in Arabidopsis and rice genomes and characterized [4,17]. In plants, most ABCCs are characterized as vacuolar localized proteins and few have been reported to reside on the plasma membrane [17]. Maize ZmMRP3 and grape VvABCC1 are involved in anthocyanin accumulation in vacuoles [6,7]. Arabidopsis AtABCC1-4 and wheat TaMRP1 are involved in transport of glutathione-conjugates [63]. Arabidopsis AtABCC5 [64], maize ZmMRP4 [65] and rice OsABCC13 [66] are implicated in phytate transport [67]. AtABCC2 and AtABCC3 are involved in chlorophyll catabolite transport [63]. AtABCC1 and AtABCC4 are implicated in folate transport [63]. AtABCC4 and AtABCC5 confer heavy metal resistance [68,69].

In the tomato genome, 26 members of the ABCC subfamily were found and this comprises 12 full-size, 6 half-size and 8 quarter-size ABCCs. SIABCC13 shows a unique protein structure, i.e. TMD–NBD–TMD (Table 1, Fig 4), however as for the non-typical ABCBs this might reflect a prediction error for the CDS or the presence of a pseudogene. SIABCC18 shows reverse orientation (NBD-TMD), which is different from other SIABCCs (TMD–NBD). ESTs for 11 ABCCs were available (Table 1). The gene expression profile of the tomato eFP Browser shows that *SIABCC1, SIABCC7, SIABCC10, SIABCC11, SIABCC13, SIABCC19, SIABCC20* and *SIABCC21* are preferentially expressed in the later stages of fruit development (Table 1). These *SIABCCs* might play important roles in fruit ripening, such as chlorophyll degradation and secondary metabolite accumulation in the vacuole.

ABCD subfamily. ABCDs are also known as peroxisomal membrane proteins (PMPs) and are localized in the peroxisomal membrane [70,71]. In humans, they are exclusively known to be half-size proteins with TMD-NBD orientation, whereas, in plants, both half- and full-size ABC proteins exist [15]. AtABCD1 is implicated in benzoic (BA) synthesis [72], transport of 12-oxophytodienoic acid (OPDA) [73] and jasmonic acids (JA) [74]. The *AtABCD1*

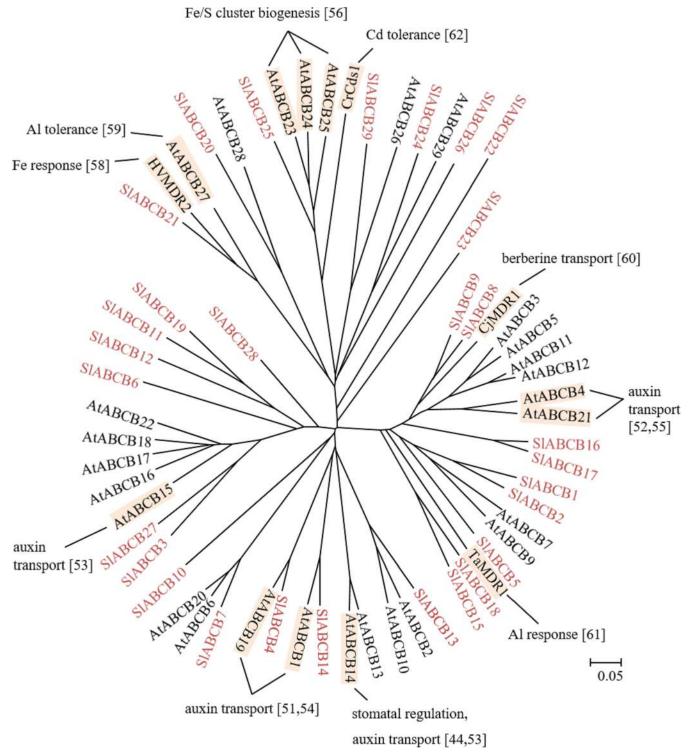


Fig 3. Phylogenetic tree of plant ABCB subfamily. ABCBs of tomato, Arabidopsis, barley (HvMDR2: BAC53613), wheat (TaMDR1: BAB85651), *Coptis japonica* (CjMDR1: BAB62040) and *Chlamydomonas reinhardtii* (CrCds1: AAQ19846) were subjected to phylogenetic analysis. Tomato ABCBs are shown in red. Physiological functions and references are indicated. The scale indicated in the figure shows 5% divergence between protein sequences.

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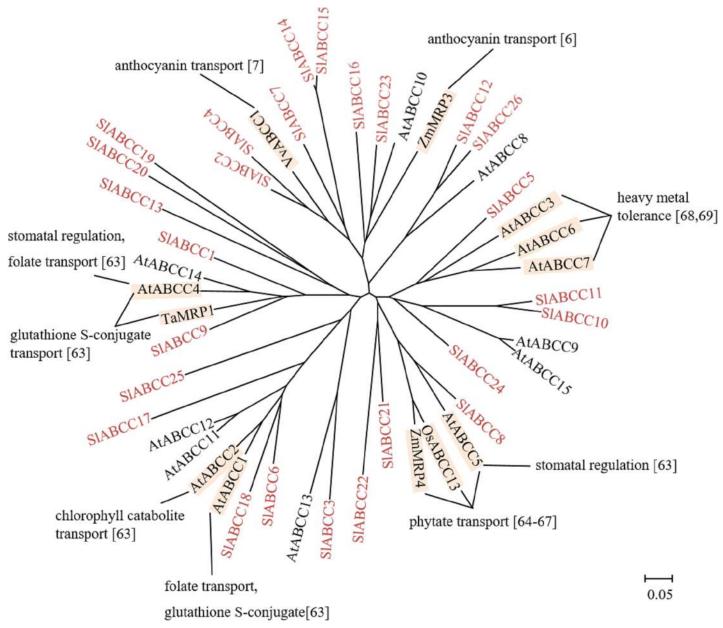


Fig 4. Phylogenetic tree of plant ABCC subfamily. ABCCs of tomato, Arabidopsis, rice (OsABCC13: *Os03g0142800*), maize (ZmMRP3: AAT37905, ZmMRP4: ABS81429), wheat (TaMRP1: AAL47686) and grape (VvABCC1: AGC23330) were subjected to phylogenetic analysis. Tomato ABCCs are shown in red. Physiological functions and references are indicated. The scale indicated in the figure shows 5% divergence between protein sequences.

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mutant is impaired in seed germination [75] and fertility [76]. The tomato genome contains one full-size and one half size ABCDs were found (Table 1, Fig 5). The gene expression profile of the tomato eFP Browser shows constitutive gene expression of both *SlABCDs* (Table 1). It is likely that these transporters exhibit similar functions as their Arabidopsis counterparts and that they are involved in peroxisomal import of long chain fatty acids.

ABCE subfamily. ABCEs, also called RNase L inhibitor (RLI), possess an N-terminal Fe-S domain, which interacts with nucleic acids [30]. All ABCE subfamily members are soluble ABC proteins harboring two conserved NBDs (NBD-NBD) [17]. In humans, only one ABCE



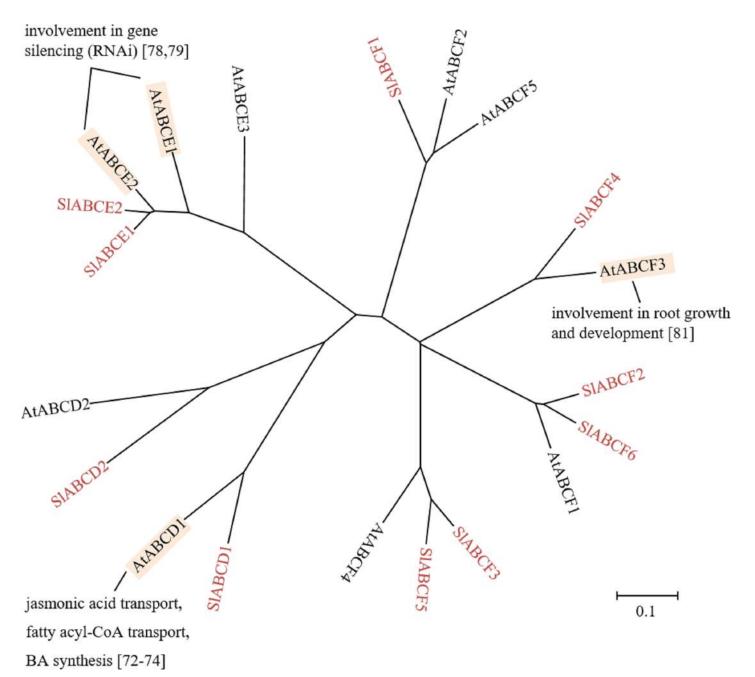


Fig 5. Phylogenetic tree of plant ABCD, ABCE and ABCF subfamilies. ABCDs, ABCEs and ABCFs of tomato and Arabidopsis were subjected to phylogenetic analysis. Tomato ABC proteins are shown in red. Physiological functions and references are indicated. The scale indicated in the figure shows 10% divergence between protein sequences.

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exists and it is involved in ribosome biogenesis and control of translation [77]. There are 3 ABCEs present in Arabidopsis and two each in rice [16], maize [17], grape [19], *L. japonicas* [18], *H. brasiliensis* [4] and also in tomato (Table 1, Fig 5). In Arabidopsis, AtABCE1 and ABCE2 are involved in RNA interference (RNAi) regulation [78,79]. Among the two tomato *SlABCEs*, only one EST of *SlABCE1* was available (Table 1). The tomato eFP Browser revealed that both *SlABCE1* and *SlABCE2* are expressed constitutively in all organs and tissues (Table 1)

and may play roles in ribosome biogenesis, control of translation and gene silencing regulation.

ABCF subfamily. ABCFs are also called general control non-repressible homologs (GCN). The ABCF subfamily is similar to the ABCE subfamily [17], because ABCFs are also soluble ABC proteins containing two fused NBDs (NBD-NBD). In yeast and humans, ABCFs are involved in gene expression regulation [16,80]. In Arabidopsis, 5 ABCFs are present and AtABCF3 is implicated in root growth [81]. In tomato, 6 ABCFs were identified and ESTs were available for 5 ABCFs (Table 1, Fig 5). The Tomato eFP Browser showed constitutive expressions for all 6 *SlABCFs* (Table 1).

ABCG subfamily. The ABCG subfamily is the largest subfamily in plants while only 5 ABCGs are present in humans [17]. The ABCG subfamily is made up of full-size and half-size ABC proteins, also called pleiotropic drug resistance (PDR) or white-brown complex (WBC), respectively [35]. All full-size and half-size ABCGs have two, respectively one NBD-TMD, respectively, and function as ABC transporters. In the tomato genome, 70 ABCGs were found, which are made up of 22 full-size, 32 half-size and 16 quarter-size ABC proteins (Table 1). This number is larger than the 44 ABCGs reported for Arabidopsis [15]. In humans, ABCGs function as transporters of cholesterol, urate, haem, and other pharmaceutical compounds [82]. On the other hand, in plants, ABCGs have been reported to transport various phytohormones, including abscisic acid (ABA), cytokinin, strigolactone and auxin derivatives [10].

One of the most widely studied ABC protein subfamily in plants are the full-size ABCGs, also called PDRs. A detailed review on plant full-size ABCGs is available [83,84] and a high-light on their functions is shown in Fig 6. The subcellular localization of full-size ABCGs is the plasma membrane [84]. Full-size ABCGs of Arabidopsis AtABCG32 [85], rice OsABCG31 [86], barley HvABCG31 [86] are involved in cuticle formation. The *N. plumbaginifolia* NpPDR1 [87] and duckweed SpTUR2 are known to participate in sclareol transport [88].

Half-size ABCGs are also called WBCs, have been reported to be localized in the plasma membrane, mitochondrial membrane, chloroplast membrane and cytoplasm [17]. The physiological roles of half-size ABCGs are summarized in Fig 7. In Arabidopsis, half-size ABCGs, i.e. AtABCG11-13 are implicated in cuticle formation [89–91]. On the other hand, AtABCG19 confers kanamycin resistance [9]. AtABCG25 has been reported to act as an ABA exporter [92] and AtABCG26 is involved in pollen development [93]. In cotton, GhWBC1 is involved in cotton yarn expansion [94].

The tomato eFP browser shows specific expressions of *SlABCG12*, *SlABCG16*, *SlABCG31*, *SlABCG32*, *SlABCG44*, *SlABCG45*, *SlABCG51*, *SlABCG52*, *SlABCG55* and *SlABCG58* (Table 1), suggesting their importance in root. *SlABCG25*, *SlABCG27*, *SlABCG29*, *SlABCG30*, *SlABCG43*, *SlABCG65*, *SlABCG68* and *SlABCG70* are expressed specifically in bud. Interestingly, only *SlABCG59*, which encodes a quarter-size ABCG, shows specific expression in mature fruit, although other *SlABCG5* are also expressed in fruits. Although we cannot guess the function of SlABCG59, it may play an important roles in tomato fruit maturation.

ABCI subfamily. ABCIs are also called non-intrinsic ABC proteins (NAPs). ABCIs are soluble ABC proteins possessing a single ATP binding domain [35]. In Arabidopsis, AtABCI1 and AtABCI2 are reported to be involved in cytochrome c maturation (CCM) [95]. AtABCI6-8 are implicated in biosynthesis of Fe/S cluster [96,97]. AtABCI13-15 are responsible for plastid lipid formation [97]. On the other hand, AtABCI16 and AtABCI17 confer tolerance to aluminum [8]. In the tomato genome, 10 *SlABCIs* have been identified and ESTs for 8 *SlABCIs* were available (Table 1, Fig 8). The gene expression profiles from the tomato eFP Browser showed that *SlABCI4, SlABCI6* and *SlABCI8* are constitutively expressed in roots and floral organs, respectively, and *SlABCI5, SlABCI6, SlABCI9 and SlABCI10* in developing fruits (Table 1), suggesting their specific functions in these organs and tissues.



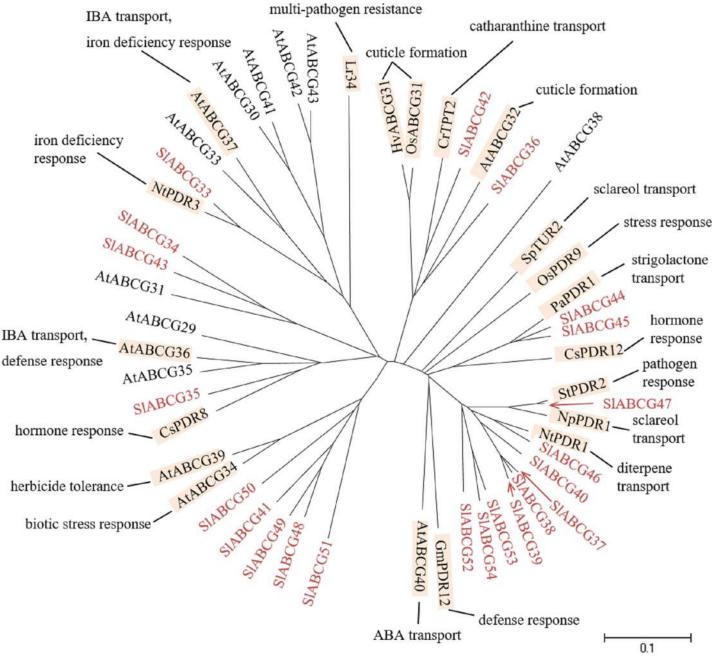


Fig 6. Phylogenetic tree of plant full-size ABCGs. ABCGs of tomato, Arabidopsis, rice (OsABCG31: *Os01g0177900*, OsPDR9: *Os01g0609300*), wheat (Lr34: ACN41354), barley (HvABCG31: NP_001237697), soybean (GmPDR12: NP_001237697), cucumber (CsPDR8: ACU82514, CsPDR12: ACU82515), *Nicotiana plumbaginifolia* (NpPDR1: Q949G3, NpPDR2: CAH40786), *N. tabacum* (NtPDR1: AGN95757, NtPDR3: CAH39853), petunia (PaPDR1: AFA43816), potato (StPDR2: AEB65936), periwinkle (CrTPT2: KC511771) and duckweed (SpTUR2: CAA94437) were subjected to phylogenetic. Tomato ABCGs are shown in red. Physiological functions and references are indicated. Details on the functions are reviewed in [83,84]. The scale indicated in the figure shows 10% divergence between protein sequences.

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Gene expression analysis

We chose SIABCB4, SIABCC11, SIABCG7, SIABCG8, SIABCG9, SIABCG12, SIABCG13, SIABCG17, SIABCG22, SIABCG28 and SIABCG36 for further gene expression analysis by RT-



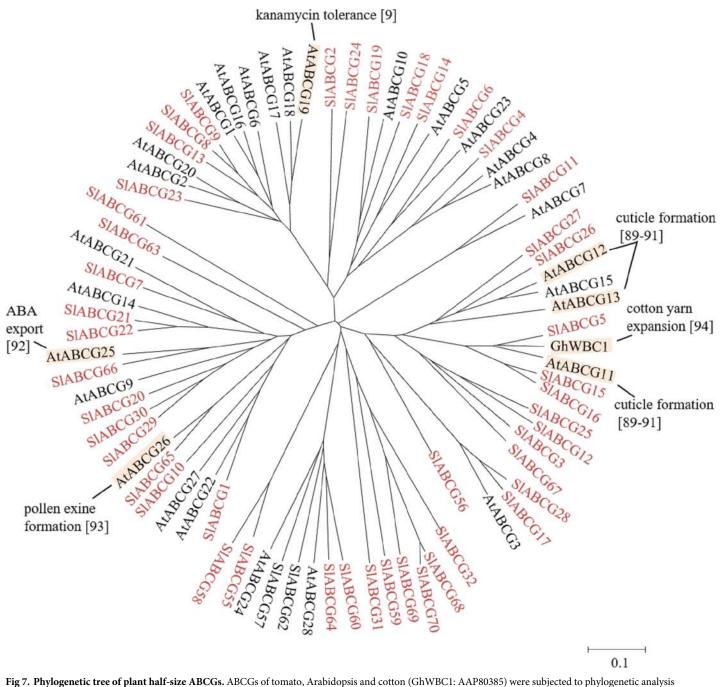


Fig 7. Phylogenetic tree of plant halt-size ABCGs. ABCGs of tomato, Arabidopsis and cotton (GhWBC1: AAP80385) were subjected to phylogenetic analysis phylogenetic analysis. Tomato ABCGs are shown in red. Physiological functions and references are indicated. The scale indicated in the figure shows 10% divergence between protein sequences.

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sqPCR (Fig 9). These genes were chosen because their full length cDNA sequences were available in TOMATOMICS database (<u>http://plantomics.mind.meiji.ac.jp/tomatomics/</u>). Therefore, we requested for their full length cDNA clones from National Bioresource Project (NBRP)-Tomato (<u>http://tomato.nbrp.jp/indexEn.html</u>) to sequence and then performed RTsqPCR to identify their expression patterns.

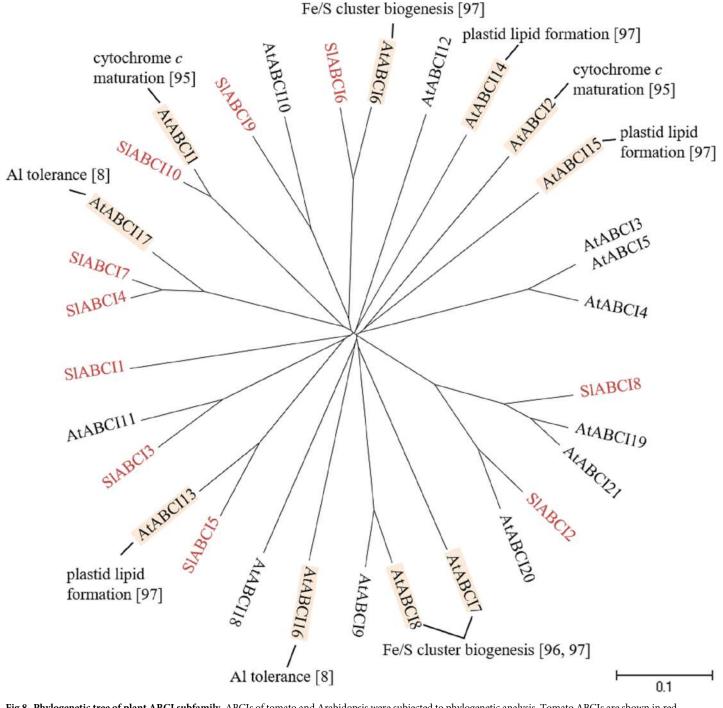


Fig 8. Phylogenetic tree of plant ABCI subfamily. ABCIs of tomato and Arabidopsis were subjected to phylogenetic analysis. Tomato ABCIs are shown in red. Physiological functions and references are indicated. The scale indicated in the figure shows 10% divergence between protein sequences.

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Gene expression was detected in various organs of 'MicroTom', i.e. leaf, stem, root, flower and developing fruits. In addition, to obtain a detailed gene expression profile in fruits, gene expressions in fruit peel and flesh at 10 DAP, breaker and red stages were investigated.



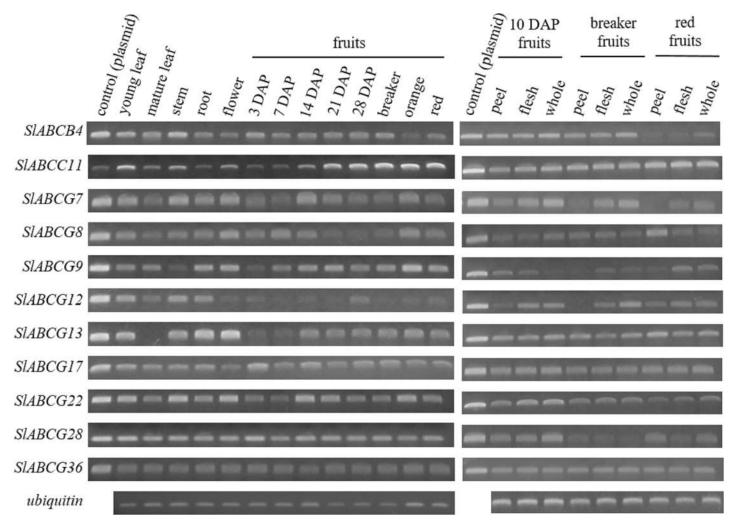


Fig 9. Gene expression analysis of selected ABC transporters in various tomato organs and tissues. RT-sqPCR analysis for selected tomato ABC transporters was performed using RNA extracted from the indicated organ or tissue and gene-specific primers (amplicons ~ 200 bp). Respective cDNA-containing plasmid was used as control. The ubiquitin gene was used as a constitutively expressed control gene. DAP: days after pollination.

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Although most *SlABCs* were ubiquitous expressed, some *SlABCs* exhibited a characteristic gene expression patterns (Fig 9).

SlABCB4 showed ubiquitous expression, but its transcript level was lower in mature fruits (Fig 9). The closest orthologue of SlABCB4 in Arabidopsis is AtACB19, and has been reported to transports auxin [98]. This suggests that SlABCB4 might be responsible for auxin transport in various organs of tomato. *SlABCC11* expression was high in mature leaf and fruits after 21 DAP (Fig 9). Although the function of SlABCC11 is unclear because no close orthologue of Arabidopsis exists (Fig 3), it may play important roles in the later part of tomato fruit development.

Functions of half-size SIABCGs, SIABCG7, SIABCG8, SIABCG9, SIABCG12, SIABCG13, SIABCG17, SIABCG22 and SIABCG28 are unclear, because no characterized orthologue exists (Fig 7). *SIABCG7, SIABCG8, SIABCG9, SIABCG12, SIABCG13, SIABCG17, SIABCG22* and *SIABCG28* showed different expression patterns and *SIABCG9, SIABCG13, SIABCG17, SIABCG22* and *SIABCG28* showed relatively higher expression levels in fruits (Fig 9), suggesting that they may play some their roles in fruit development and/or ripening.

SlABCG36, which encode a full-size SlABCG, showed ubiquitous expression in all organs (Fig 9). SlABCG36 is likely to transport metabolites involved in cuticle formation, because its closest orthologue of Arabidopsis, AtABCG32 is responsible for cuticle formation (Fig 6) [85]. Therefore we expected high *SlABCG36* expression in fruit peel. However, the differences in *SlABCG36* expressions between in fruit peel and flesh were not pronounced, although it was slightly higher in the peel than in flesh of red fruit (Fig 9).

Conclusion

This study revealed the presence of 154 putative ABC proteins in the tomato genome. Based on the phylogenetic analysis, the ABC proteins were grouped into their respective subfamilies, ABCA through to ABCI, except ABCH. Members of ABCG, ABCB and ABCC subfamilies were the most abundant, whiles ABCD and ABCE subfamilies were less abundant. Among the 154 tomato ABC proteins, 47 members are soluble ABC proteins, while 107 members encode for ABC transporters with TMDs. As far as we know, this study is the only genome-wide analysis of ABC proteins in the Solanaceae species. In this study, we provided the fundamental and exhaustive information about tomato ABC proteins, i.e. the list of all ABC proteins in tomato with their locus numbers (gene IDs), protein topology, best hit ESTs, gene expression data (Table 1) and phylogenetic trees of subfamily members and orthologues in other plants, showing the reported physiological functions (Figs 2-8). This information is indispensable for further studies of ABC proteins not only in tomato but also in other Solanaceae species. We hope this study will be useful to many researchers studying plant ABC proteins.

Supporting information

S1 Table. Primers and PCR conditions for RT-sqPCR. The forward and reverse primers, PCR condition and number of PCR cycles for each ABC transporter or control gene (*ubiqui-tin*) are shown.

(DOCX)

S2 Table. Comparison of non-overlapping tomato ABC proteins in this study and in Andolfo et al. 2015 and presence of nucleotide binding domain (NBD). The presence of nucleotide binding domain (NBD) was confirmed using Pfam web server (<u>http://pfam.xfam.org/</u>).

(XLSX)

S3 Table. Comparison of genes putatively encoding ABC proteins in two tomato genome databases, SL3.0 and ITAG3.10 from Sol Genomics Network and TMCSv1.2.1 from TOMATOMICS. Genes putatively encoding ABC proteins in TMCSv1.2.1 from TOMA-TOMICS (http://plantomics.mind.meiji.ac.jp/tomatomics/download.php) were obtained by blasting using the protein sequences (Table 1) from SL3.0 and ITAG3.10 of Sol Genomics Network (https://solgenomics.net/organism/Solanum_lycopersicum/genome). Identical genes between two different tomato genome databases and splicing variants were confirmed by comparing their positions in chromosome. (XLSX)

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