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**Modulations of visible light irradiance effects the  
photosynthetic phenotype in UV-B exposed  
*Arabidopsis thaliana***

A thesis presented in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree  
of

**Master of Science in Plant Biology**

At Massey University, Palmerston North, New Zealand



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**2015**



## Abstract

Photosynthesis is dependent upon energy provided by visible light from the electromagnetic spectrum. While such wavelengths of light are vital for resource assimilation to take place, we now also understand that other wavelengths of light may likely alter a plant's photosynthetic capability, including the ultraviolet (UV) radiation spectrum. The ultraviolet spectrum includes UV-A (315nm-400nm) and UV-B radiation (280nm-315nm). UV-B light has been of particular interest in recent years as changes in the ozone has resulted in increased UV-B radiation levels reaching the Earth's surface. Such scientific interest has resulted in many subsequent studies trying to understand how plants protect themselves against this powerful waveband. UV-B response in plants has been linked to both physiological and molecular changes in plants. That could be manipulated to protect plants against pathogens and increase crop yields. The quite recent discovery of the UV-B specific photoreceptor UVR8 showed how plants to respond to UV-B. A molecular pathway has begun to take shape for UVR8, with interactions with the transcription factors COP1 and HY5 necessary for activation. What is less understood are the subsequent interactions genes have with UVR8, to cause responses such as flavonoid accumulation and photosynthetic competency.

After previous research showed an increase in photosynthetic rate in lettuce in response to UV-B radiation this study aimed to find the photosynthetic response of *Arabidopsis thaliana* and possibly re-create the increase. To do this the photosynthetic rate was studied under various PAR levels alongside UV-B exposure to characterise the photosynthetic response. The accumulation of photo-protective compounds was also studied to see if their accumulation affected photosynthetic responses. Three different lines were studied; *Columbia-0*, *Landsberg erecta* and *uvr8-1*. The *uvr8-1* plants provided information on whether UVR8 is necessary for photosynthetic competency in *Arabidopsis*. qPCR studies of genes linked to the UVR8 pathway were also considered for their role in photosynthetic competency. The results in this thesis will show that manipulations of PAR, changes the UV-B photosynthetic response and that UVR8 is necessary for photosynthetic competency. ELIP1 and SIG5 are not mediated by UVR8 for photosynthetic competency. ELIP1 and SIG5 are possibly involved in UVR8 mediated accumulation of photo-protective compounds.



## Acknowledgements

There are many people who have helped me to complete this thesis over the last couple of years. To my supervisor Dr Jason Wargent, thank-you for giving me that job during a summer in my undergrad degree, it started me on the path towards working with you on this thesis. I don't think it would have happened without it. The conversations we have had helped me to understand how to go about my research, my data and the topic of UV greatly and also for the feedback as I wrote this thesis. I have learnt so much from you over the last few years, thank-you.

I would also like to thank the PGU staff Steve, Lindsay and Lesley for all their help in growing my plants, as well as the technical help with things didn't go quite right. Thanks also to Chris Rawlingson for helping when the IRGA broke down. To Dr Michael McManus for allowing me space in his lab to complete my qPCR work and to Srishti, Julia and Tina for teaching me how to do it and the rest of the C3.15 lab for their support. Thank-you Susanna Leung, who helped me to create the primers for my qPCR.

I thank the JP Skipworth Scholarship (Plant Biology) for support during the second year of my thesis.

I would also like to thank Rixta, you have been such an important sounding board for ideas and theories over the last year as I started to write up.

Thank-you to my partner Nick, for supporting with me when I came home frustrated or happy about my work and for putting up with me when I stayed up to all hours working on different things. I want to also thank my parents, Julie and Warren, for their constant support as I have completed my study as well as my brother and sister and the rest of my family. Also thank-you to my sister, Olivia, for the grammatical checks even when you didn't understand half the words I used.

Thank-you all so much as without your help and support this would not have been a reality.



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## Abbreviations

$A_{\max}$	net photosynthetic rate
BLRP	blue light responsive promoter
bp	base pairs
CFCs	chlorofluorocarbons
CHI	CHALCONE ISOMERASE
CHS	CHALCONE SYNTHASE
<i>Col-0</i>	<i>Columbia-0</i>
COP1	CONSTITUTIVELY PHOTOMORPHOGENIC 1
CP12	CHLOROPLAST PROTEIN 12
CP12-1	CHLOROPLAST PROTEIN 12-1
CP12-2	CHLOROPLAST PROTEIN 12-2
CP12-3	CHLOROPLAST PROTEIN 12-3
CRY	Cryptochrome
cry1	cryptochrome1
cry2	cryptochrome2
DAS	Days after sowing
ELIP1	EARLY LIGHT-INDUCIBLE PROTEIN 1
ELIP2	EARLY LIGHT-INDUCIBLE PROTEIN 2
FAD	Flavin Adenine Dinucleotide
FLS	FLAVONOL SYNTHASE
FMN	Flavin Mononucleotide
FR	far-red light
GADPH	glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate
HY5	ELONGATED HYPOCOTYL 5
HYH	HY5 HOMOLOG
IRGA	Infra-red gas analyser
<i>Ler</i>	<i>Landsberg erecta</i>
LOV	light, oxygen, voltage
MAPK	mitogen-activated protein kinases
MT	Metal halides
MTHF	methenyltetrahydrofolate
MYB111	MYB DOMAIN PROTEIN 111
MYB12	MYB DOMAIN PROTEIN 12
NBI	nitrogen balance index
nm	Nanometers
PAR	Photosynthetically active radiation
PCR	polymerase chain reaction
PHR1	PHOTOLYASE 1
PHY	Phytochrome
PHYA	phytochrome A
PHYB	phytochrome B
PHYE	phytochrome E

PKR	Phosphoribulokinase
PSII	photosystem II
qPCR	quantitative PCR
R	red light
RFR	red: far-red light
ROS	reactive oxygen species
RUP1	REPRESSOR OF UV-B PHOTOMORPHOGENESIS 1
RUP2	REPRESSOR OF UV-B PHOTOMORPHOGENESIS 2
SE	Standard error
SIG5	SIGMA FACTOR 5
TRP	Tryptophan
UV	Ultraviolet
UV-A	Ultraviolet-A
UV-B	Ultraviolet-B
UV <sub>BE</sub>	Biologically effective UV
UV-C	Ultraviolet-C
UVR3	UV REPAIR DEFECTIVE 3
UVR8	UV RESISTANCE LOCUS 8
VOC	volatile organic compounds
WFT	White fluorescent tubes
WL	White light
WUE	water use efficiency
ZTL	zeitlupes

