

1 **Title: Transcriptomic analysis for differential expression of genes involved in secondary**
2 **metabolite production in *Narcissus pseudonarcissus* field derived bulb and *in vitro* callus**

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19 Declarations of interest: none

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28 **ABSTRACT**

29 The Amaryllidaceae genus *Narcissus* contains diversified secondary metabolites, **which are**
30 **important sources of biologically active alkaloids.** The biochemical pathways for secondary
31 metabolite production require primary metabolites to undergo a series of modifications catalyzed
32 by several enzymes but the knowledge on their biosynthesis is very limited. This study is
33 undertaken to reveal the differential expression of transcripts related to secondary metabolites
34 biosynthesis in *Narcissus* basal plate and *in vitro* callus.

35 RNA-seq analysis of *Narcissus* basal plate (field) and *in vitro* callus ensued total 2153
36 differentially expressed transcripts and 83.46% of those were annotated. The largest gene group
37 was designated as uncharacterized proteins (10.24%) and the second largest group was genes
38 responsible for secondary metabolite production (8.88%). The genes involved in the biosynthesis
39 of alkaloids; cytochrome *P450s*, O-methyltransferases (*OMTs*), *NADP/NADPH* dehydrogenases
40 or reductases, *SAM*-synthetases or decarboxylases, 3-ketoacyl-CoA, acyl-CoA, cinnamoyl-CoA,
41 cinnamate 4-hydroxylase, alcohol dehydrogenase, caffeic acid, *N*-methyltransferase, and
42 *NADPH*-cytochrome *P450s* were present in both basal plate and callus. However, cytochrome
43 *P450s*, and *OMTs* which are responsible for regulating the later stage of alkaloids biosynthesis
44 were mainly up-regulated in field samples. Whereas, the enzymes involved in initial biosynthetic
45 pathways, fructose biphosphate adolase (FBA), aminotransferases, dehydrogenases, hydroxyl
46 methyl glutarate (HMT), and glutamate synthase (GS) leading to the biosynthesis of precursors of
47 secondary metabolites; tyrosine, phenylalanine, and tryptophan were up-regulated in callus.
48 Furthermore, Gene Ontology (GO) annotation of the transcripts and associated Kyoto
49 Encyclopedia of Genes and Genomes (KEGG) and Plant Reactome pathway maps were
50 postulated. This knowledge on probable genes or enzymes involved in secondary metabolism,
51 their networking pathway and molecular regulation in field and *in vitro* callus would provide a
52 deep insight into the *Narcissus* plant biology related to valuable metabolite production.

53 **Keywords:** *Narcissus*, RNA-Seq, secondary metabolism, alkaloids, gene expression

54 **1. Introduction**

55 A massive diversity of natural products or metabolites is produced by plants which possess wide-
56 ranging biological and metabolic activities (Hotchandani et al., 2019). The chemical compounds
57 extracted from plants are used for the semi-synthetic synthesis of pharmaceuticals where the
58 starting materials, extracted from plants, are modified chemically to obtain better stability,
59 specificity or action (Oksman-Caldentey and Inze, 2004). The Amaryllidaceae genus *Narcissus*
60 owns a vast range of alkaloids which are known as Amaryllidaceae alkaloids such as
61 galanthamine, lycorine, narciclasine, haemanthamine. Among these only galanthamine is
62 produced on a commercial scale for the pharmaceutical industry to treat early to mid-stage
63 Alzheimer's diseases (Takos and Rook, 2013). Lycorine and lycoramine from *Lycoris radiata*
64 (red spider lily) are used in Chinese traditional medicine. Since the ancient past, Amaryllidaceae
65 species have been used in traditional herbal medicine and the initial evidence of their therapeutic
66 application was recorded in the fourth century by the use of oil extracted from *N. poeticus* L. for
67 the treatment of uterine tumors (He et al., 2015). Amaryllidaceae alkaloids possess a number of
68 medicinal properties including inhibition of acetylcholinesterase and ascorbic acid biosynthesis,
69 cytotoxicity, anti-cancer, anti-tumor and anti-viral activities (Berkov et al., 2009; Tahchy et al.,
70 2010; Osorio et al., 2010; Berkov et al., 2014).

71 It is mostly expensive and challenging to extract valuable metabolites from naturally grown plant
72 due to the major insect pest infestation as well as environmental factors (Oksman-Caldentey and
73 Inze, 2004). Therefore, the biotechnological production of secondary metabolites in plant *in vitro*
74 cultures has become an attractive alternative to the extraction from whole plant than the
75 conventional method (Oksman-Caldentey and Inze, 2004; Ferdausi et al., 2021a). In addition,
76 tissue culture materials are uniform and free from all natural contaminants (Nalawade and Tsay,
77 2004); which may allow the easy extraction and purification of metabolites, and a cheaper method
78 for the production of stereo-chemically complex compounds than chemical synthesis-based
79 production (Oksman-Caldentey and Inze, 2004; Mulabagal and Tsay, 2004).

80 Due to the complex chemical structures, multifaceted metabolic networking, and limited
81 knowledge on the biosynthesis of plant secondary metabolites, their nature of production and
82 accumulation in plants is undistinguishable (Verpoorte et al., 2002). However, new technologies
83 such as biotechnology, metabolomics and transcriptomics are starting to give new insights on
84 plant secondary metabolism (Lubbe et al., 2013; Berkov et al., 2014). Secondary metabolites
85 production often requires the primary metabolites to undergo a series of modifications catalyzed
86 by enzymes such as cytochrome P450s, methyltransferases, glycosyltransferases and
87 acyltransferases. The putative genes involved in secondary metabolite production exist in families
88 with multiple members because of recurrent gene duplication (Ober, 2005). Some of those
89 putative genes are belong to small families (<10 members) involved in the production of a
90 specific secondary product such as cinnamate 4-hydroxylase (C4H); while others present in mid-
91 size families (10-100 members) such as cinnamoyl-CoA reductase (C3H) and terpene synthase.
92 Moreover, some genes are belong to very large families (>100 members) involved in the
93 production of a plethora of plant secondary metabolites which include the cytochrome P450s,
94 UDP-dependent glycosyltransferases, and methyltransferases (Zhao et al., 2014). Putative genes
95 including phenylalanine ammonia lyase (*PAL*), *N*-methyltransferase (*NMT*), cytochrome
96 P450s (*CYPs*), tyrosine decarboxylase (*TYDC*), *O*-methyltransferase (*OMT*), and other potentially
97 important candidate genes involved in Amaryllidaceae alkaloids synthesis have been identified in
98 *Lycoris* (Wang et al., 2013) and *Narcissus* (Kilgore et al., 2014; Kilgore et al., 2016a;
99 Hotchandani et al., 2019; Ferdausi et al., 2021b). One candidate gene for the methylation of
100 norbelladine to 4'-*O*-methylnorbelladine (norbelladine 4'-*O*-methyltransferase, *NpN4OMT*) has
101 been identified in *N. pseudonarcissus* and genes that co-express with it could be identified and
102 used as candidates for the other steps in the proposed Amaryllidaceae alkaloids biosynthetic
103 pathway (Kilgore et al., 2014). Furthermore, a cytochrome P450, *CYP96T1* has been identified
104 through comparative transcriptomics of *N. pseudonarcissus* and *Galanthus spp.* (Kilgore et al.,
105 2016a) which is capable of forming the products (10b*R*,4a*S*)-noroxomaritidine, and (10b*S*,4a*R*)-

106 noroxomaritidine from 4'-*O* methylnorbelladine (Kilgore et al., 2016b). Putative genes such as
107 *PAL*, *TYDC*, cytochrome P450, and *NpN4OMT* were also reported to be expressed in diverse
108 pattern in *in vitro* tissues of *N. pseudonarcissus* (Ferdausi et al., 2021b).

109 Next generation sequencing offers two approaches to transcriptome analysis in non-model plants,
110 the *de novo* which involves assembly then alignment techniques, in the case of limited or absence
111 of genomic or transcriptomic resources (Ward et al., 2012). And the mapping which is based on
112 aligning then assembling techniques that are completely dependent upon the existence of a
113 reference genome or transcriptome (Haas and Zody, 2010). RNA-seq makes the transcriptomic
114 experiments applicable for non-model plants where genomic resources are limited or completely
115 unavailable (Xiao et al., 2013). It offers a comprehensive understanding of transcriptome
116 complexity (Kumar et al., 2012) and allows the investigation of a dynamic range of expression
117 levels in non-model plant like *Narcissus* (Wang et al., 2009). It can detect the expressed
118 sequences in specific tissues at a specific time, as it does not require a reference genome to gain
119 specific and meaningful transcriptomic information (Strickler et al., 2012; Egan et al., 2012).

120 Otherwise, the reads obtained can be directly aligned with the reference, if genome or
121 transcriptome information is available (Weber et al., 2007; Mortazavi et al., 2008) which also has
122 been extensively used for non-model plants in the absence of genome or transcriptome
123 information by transcript reconstruction using *de novo* assembly (Wang et al., 2013, Kilgore et
124 al., 2014). It provides the capability to discover new genes and transcripts, and allows
125 measurement of transcript expression in a single assay (Trapnell et al., 2012; Nagalakshmi et al.,
126 2008). Implementation of RNA-seq can sometimes be challenging in plants because of their
127 complex structures, complicated genetic make-up, and lack of genomic resources (Strickler et al.,
128 2012). The biosynthetic genes involved in plant secondary metabolism are mainly structured in
129 complex enzymatic networks yielding several compounds rather than simple linear schemes
130 leading to a single compound. Thus, the discovery of the biosynthetic genes involved in the
131 production of secondary compounds becomes more challenging (Hall et al., 2013). Furthermore,

132 limited genomic resources are available for the most valuable specialized metabolites, and
133 generally in non-model plant species such as *Narcissus* (Strickler et al., 2012).
134 In our previous finding, the *N. pseudonarcissus* cv. Carlton bulb (basal plate) tissue exhibited the
135 high galanthamine content while *in vitro* callus was the lowest galanthamine producer (Ferdausi
136 at al., 2020). Furthermore, it was observed that the putative genes for the production of alkaloids
137 were highly expressed in field samples than the *in vitro* samples (Ferdausi et al., 2021b).
138 Therefore, a comprehensive transcriptomic analysis of tissues derived from natural (basal plate)
139 and *in vitro* (callus) conditions would provide a better understanding on the differential
140 expressions of genes involved in the biosynthesis of secondary metabolites in *Narcissus*.

141 **2. Materials and Methods**

142 *2.1 Plant tissues and chemicals*

143 Basal plate tissues (Ferdausi et al., 2020) of *Narcissus pseudonarcissus* cv. Carlton bulbs
144 supplied by New Generation Daffodil Ltd, UK and callus (Ferdausi et al., 2020) from the same
145 bulbs (twin-scale explants) grown on MS (Murashige and Skoog, 1962) basal medium
146 supplemented with 100 mg/l yeast extract, 50 mg/l ascorbic acid, 30 mg/l polyvinylpyrrolidone,
147 0.5 mg/l kinetin (KN), 1.5 mg/l benzyl amino purine (BAP) and 20 mg/l naphthalene acetic acid
148 (NAA) were used for RNA extraction. Basal plates and calli were cut into small pieces (1 to 2
149 mm thick), weighed (~150 mg) and stored in -80°C until required. The frozen tissues were ground
150 in a pestle and mortar under liquid nitrogen to achieve fine powder of tissues. After grinding,
151 ~100 mg of sample was transferred into 1.5 ml microfuge tubes and kept in liquid nitrogen to
152 avoid thawing. MS media, ascorbic acid, KN, BAP and NAA were purchased from Duchefa
153 Biochemie (Netherlands), polyvinylpyrrolidone from Sigma-Aldrich (UK) and yeast extract from
154 Thermo Scientific (Germany).

155 *2.2 Library preparation and Illumina sequencing*

156 Total RNA was extracted using the innuPREP Plant RNA Kit (Analytic Jena, Germany)
157 according to manufacturer's protocol with slight modification before wash-up stage by adding
158 DNase treatment (RNase-Free DNase Set, Qiagen) which was a column DNase treatment,
159 performed following RNeasy Plant mini kit (Qiagen) DNA digestion steps. NanoDrop
160 Spectrometer (Thermo, USA) and Qubit Quant-iT™ RNA Assay Kit (Thermo Fisher Scientific,
161 USA) were used to determine the initial quality and quantity of extracted RNA samples. In total
162 six samples, three basal plate tissues from three different Carlton bulbs and three callus samples
163 induced from the same bulbs were sent to the Centre of Genomic Research (CGR), University of
164 Liverpool, for RNA sequencing. Total RNA quality and RNA integrity (RIN) were tested again
165 by CGR using Agilent 2100 Bioanalyser (Agilent Technologies), which fulfilled the quality
166 requirement for further sample processing. rRNA depletion was performed using the Ribo-Zero
167 rRNA removal kit (Plant seed/ root) (Illumina, USA) following manufacturer's protocol. The
168 ScriptSeq v2 (Epicentre, USA) RNA-seq library preparation kit was used for library preparation,
169 which produces directional sequencing reads using a random-primed cDNA synthesis reaction.
170 The HiSeq 2500 System (Illumina, UK) was used for RNA sequencing.

171 *2.3 Data processing*

172 The raw FASTQ files were trimmed for the presence of Illumina adapter sequences
173 using Cutadapt version 1.2.1 (Martin, 2011). The option -O3 was used, so the 3' end of any reads,
174 which matched the adapter, sequence for 3 base pairs or more, was trimmed. The reads were
175 further trimmed using Sickle version 1.200 (GitHub) with a minimum window quality score of
176 20. After trimming, reads shorter than 10 base pairs were removed. Statistics were generated using
177 FASTQ-stats from EAUutils. After that the RNA-seq data in FASTQ format was released by CGR
178 and was available to download for further downstream analyses.

179 *2.4 RNA-seq analyses*

180 There was no reference genome available for *Narcissus* in databases. Kilgore et al., (2014)
181 reported a *N. pseudonarcissus* transcriptome assembly and the raw reads are available at the

182 MedPlant RNA Seq Database (<https://medplantnaseq.org/>) which was downloaded and used as a
183 reference transcriptome for further RNA-seq analyses.

184 The paired-end RNA-seq FASTQ files containing forward and reverse read files of three
185 replicates for basal plate and callus were used for characterizing differential expression. The
186 analyses were performed on Discovery Environment of CyVerse, following the tutorial: DE 002:
187 Characterizing *Differential Expression* with RNA-Seq (Tuxedo Method) (www.cyverse.org). The
188 method is based on the Tuxedo Suite; TopHat software was used for read alignment while
189 Cufflinks was used to assemble the aligned reads for the reconstruction of transcriptome.
190 Cuffmerge was applied to merge multiple conditions and Cuffdiff to calculate the differential
191 gene expressions. Finally, CummeRbund was used for the visualization of data (Trapnell et al.,
192 2012).

193 *2.5 Differentially expressed genes/ transcripts annotation*

194 The differentially expressed genes/ transcripts (Cuffdiff output) were annotated following a
195 BLAST search. A BLAST database containing proteins in the non-redundant protein database
196 related to plants was used to BLAST the transcriptome. The BLAST result of annotated genes/
197 transcripts provides an indication of the identity of transcripts that might be involved in
198 differential expression between the two conditions under study. The data obtained was completely
199 un-curated and based on top hits from the BLAST output.

200 *2.6 Functional annotations and pathway analysis*

201 The differentially expressed transcripts, significant at q-value (corrected p-values) ≤ 0.05 , in basal
202 plate and callus were then annotated to their Gene Ontology categories using UniProt Gene
203 Ontology (www.uniprot.org) web tools. Further, GO terms for UniProt Gene Ontology annotated
204 transcripts were obtained using EMBL-EBI Quick GO-Beta Gene Ontology and GO Annotations
205 (www.ebi.ac.uk/QuickGO-Beta). The transcripts detected in basal plate and callus were mapped
206 to the KEGG pathway mapper (www.genome.jp/kegg/mapper.html) and also mapped with the

207 curated Plant Reactome (plantreactome.gramene.org) for *Oryza sativa* to obtain a postulated
208 pathway for *Narcissus* basal plate and callus transcripts.

209 Figure 1 represented an overview of the methods used for Illumina sequencing and of the
210 subsequent data analysis.

211 **3. Results**

212 *3.1 Raw reads trimming and filtering*

213 Among the six sequenced samples one basal plate sample (CBS2) showed poor statistics in post-
214 run, with mapping to rRNA at a level of about 74% whereas the other samples showed mapping
215 at about 1 to 12%. The variation of 1 to 12% is not unusual and acceptable, but the mapping
216 variation in CBS2 was questionable and unpredicted even though it was collected and processed
217 using the same methods used for other two replicates of basal plate (CBS1 and CBS2). The
218 average base quality score for all samples and replicates were >30, which indicated base call
219 accuracy of 99.9%. More than 95% of total raw reads were recovered after trimming and filtering
220 i.e. 97.7% in callus (CAL1), 97.5% in CAL2, 96.05% in CAL3, 96.6% in CBS1 and 97.2% in
221 CBS3, except for CBS2 (92.2%). The results of the adapter trimming and quality filtering for
222 Carlton basal plate and callus samples are available in Supplementary 1, Table S1 (Carlton basal
223 plate) and Table S2 (callus).

224 *3.2 Differential gene expression*

225 A *Narcissus* transcriptome assembly was obtained from MedPlant RNA Seq Databases
226 (<https://medplantrnaseq.org/>) and used for *Narcissus pseudonarcissus* cv. Carlton basal plate and
227 *in vitro* callus RNA-seq read alignment. The TopHat read mapping showed a moderate mapping
228 coverage ranging from about 35% to 48% of total input in all samples under study except one
229 replicate of basal plate, CBS2 which was about 19% (Table 1).

230 The TopHat analysis parameters were set as default to an anchor length of 8, maximum number of
231 mismatches that can appear in the anchor region of spliced alignment to 0 (zero), minimum intron
232 length, 70 bp and maximum intron length, 50000 bp. Maximum number of alignments to be

233 allowed (alignment score) was of 20, number of mismatches allowed in each segment for reads
234 mapped independently was 2, minimum length of read segment was 20 bp and meta-pair inner
235 distance was 50bp. These parameters were set for reporting the best possible alignment which
236 may greatly increase the mapping accuracy at the expense of an increase in running time and rate
237 of alignment.

238 The transcript assembly output obtained from Cufflinks detected a total of 2153 differentially
239 expressed and regulated transcripts in two conditions under study (field derived basal plate and *in*
240 *vitro* grown callus). About 83.46 % transcripts were annotated among the 2153 differentially
241 expressed genes using a BLAST search against UniProt, SwissProt, RefSeq and TAIR reported in
242 Supplementary 2 (Appendix 1). About 64.21% genes were detected as up-regulated in callus,
243 whereas 35.79% were up-regulated in the basal plate. However, many of these transcripts were
244 not significantly different between the two conditions (Figure 2). The distribution of all
245 significant differentially expressed genes ($-\log_{10}(\text{p-value}) \geq 2.0$) in Figure 2 showed that the
246 genes on positive \log_2 axis were up-regulated in callus, hence were down regulated in basal plate,
247 while genes on negative \log_2 axis were up-regulated in basal plate and down regulated in callus. A
248 total of 206 genes (9.57%) were detected as significantly up or down regulated in basal plate and
249 callus with q-values (corrected p-values) of ≤ 0.05 . The mapping details of all 206 genes
250 (annotated) with their corresponding \log_2 (fold change), total FPKM, regulation pattern, and q-
251 values are reported in Supplementary 2 (Appendix 2). Among the 206 significant differentially
252 expressed genes, 95 genes were found to be up-regulated in callus and down regulated in basal
253 plate and 111 genes were up-regulated in basal plate, hence down regulated in callus.

254 The eleven most abundant gene groups that contributed to 41.7% of the total annotated genes
255 were detected in *Narcissus* transcriptome data (Figure 3). The largest gene group was
256 uncharacterized proteins (10.24%) followed by the genes responsible for secondary metabolite
257 production (8.88%) which included cytochrome P450s, methyltransferases, CoA-reductases,
258 NADP/ NADH dependent reductases, cinnamate-4-hydroxylases (C4H), hydrolases, aldo-keto

259 reductases, oxidoreductases, and others (Supplementary 2; Appendix 3). The third largest group
260 was denoted for tissue differentiation (4.06%) and stress-related proteins (4.06%) such as
261 pathogenesis related, universal stress, zinc finger, and chitin or chitinase like proteins
262 (Supplementary 2; Appendix 4). Other ample groups detected were tissue differentiation related
263 proteins such as ERF, AP2-domain containing, heat-shock, homeobox-containing and glutathione
264 *S*-transferases, other transcription factors, ATP/GTP binding, ubiquitin ligases/hydrolases and
265 sugar, and amino acid synthase related proteins (Figure 3; Supplementary 2; Appendix 4).
266 The Cuffdiff output showed the differential expressions (Figure 4) of top fifty transcripts with *q*-
267 values of ≤ 0.01 based on total FPKM-values and \log_2 (fold change). The transcripts in black box
268 are present in both basal plate and callus tissues in different levels, whereas, the red box
269 represents the transcripts expressed in basal plate but not in callus and the transcripts expressed in
270 callus are marked in blue box (Figure 4).

271 3.3 Genes or transcripts related to secondary metabolism

272 The probable genes/ transcripts involved in the secondary metabolite production detected in the
273 *Narcissus* transcriptome data among the 206 significantly differential expressed genes based on
274 their BLAST annotations were grouped into the five major categories such as phenylpropanoid
275 pathway related enzymes (Cytochrome P450s), methyltransferases, *NADP/NADPH* dependent
276 reductases, oxidoreductases, and hydrolases (Table 2). Moreover, other notable genes related to
277 secondary metabolism in plants i.e. phenolic compounds, lectins, polypeptides etc. were also
278 observed in *Narcissus* basal plate and callus (Table 2). The significant genes with *q*-value of \leq
279 0.05 are shown here but other transcripts (*q*-value greater than 0.05) related to Amaryllidaceae
280 alkaloid biosynthesis and other secondary metabolite productions were also detected in *Narcissus*
281 transcriptome data. The data for those transcripts i.e. Cytochrome P450s, methyltransferases, *S*-
282 adenosyl-*L*-methionine decarboxylases, *NADP/NADPH* reductases, CoA reductase/ ligases,
283 hydrolases and others, with their corresponding *q*-values has been listed in Supplementary 2;
284 Appendix 3.

285 3.4 Other notable gene/ transcript groups of interest

286 Beside secondary metabolism related genes, important genes related to tissue growth and
287 development such as tissue differentiation (callus and shoot formation), stress or defense related
288 protein, and ATP synthase were detected in *Narcissus* transcriptome data (Figure 5,
289 Supplementary 2; Appendix 4). The stress related transcripts were highly present in callus tissues
290 along with ATP binding, glutathione S-transferases, ubiquitin, zinc finger, and splicing factors
291 related transcripts than basal plate. Those for heat-shock proteins, which are also responsible for
292 stress factors and callus formation, were detected in greater numbers in callus. Conversely,
293 maximum transcripts of genes responsible for tissue differentiation such as ethylene response
294 factors, AP2-domain containing, and homeobox DNA binding proteins were detected in basal
295 plate (Figure 5).

296 3.5 Functional annotation of *Narcissus* transcripts

297 The Gene Ontology (GO) annotations of 100 out of 111 transcripts were obtained via UniProt
298 which were detected as significantly ($q\text{-value} \leq 0.05$) up-regulated in basal plate. Few of the
299 transcripts were assigned to more than one GO category. It was observed that 55 transcripts were
300 assigned to molecular function with the most enriched terms being binding and catalytic activity,
301 35 transcripts were assigned to cellular component with cell part, organelle, and
302 membrane/membrane part being the most enriched terms. Moreover, 49 transcripts were assigned
303 to the biological process category showing metabolic process, cellular process, and single-
304 organism process as the most enriched terms (Figure 6a).

305 The functional annotations of 90 among the 95 significantly ($q\text{-value} \leq 0.05$) up-regulated
306 transcripts were acquired in callus. The UniProt GO analysis in callus revealed 62 transcripts
307 assigned to the molecular function with catalytic activity and binding as the most enriched terms.
308 Besides, 40 transcripts were assigned to cellular component indicating cell, cell part, and
309 membrane as the top three categories and biological process category showed the assignment of

310 55 transcripts with the most enriched terms being the cellular process, metabolic process, and
311 single-organism process (Figure 6b).

312 Furthermore, the EMBL-EBI Quick GO-Beta annotation ([www.ebi.ac.uk/QuickGO-](http://www.ebi.ac.uk/QuickGO-Beta/annotations)
313 [Beta/annotations](http://www.ebi.ac.uk/QuickGO-Beta/annotations)) was used to assign the detected transcripts to complement GO functionality
314 predictions with GO terms. A total of 365 GO terms for 111 basal plate and 618 GO terms for 95
315 callus transcripts were acquired which was substantially more than that obtained from UniProt.
316 As shown in Figure 7, in case of basal plate, 162 (44.38%) GO terms were assigned for molecular
317 function, 112 (30.68%) for biological process, and 91 (24.93%) for cellular component. Similarly,
318 275 (44.5%), 196 (31.72%), and 147 (23.79%) GO terms were assigned for molecular function,
319 biological process, and cellular component respectively in callus. The proportions assigned to
320 each category were therefore essentially the same for both tissues but with several terms to each
321 transcript. In addition, secondary metabolism related GO terms were possible to detect using
322 Quick GO-Beta annotations, which were not found in UniProt GO annotation such as GO terms
323 for *O*-methyltransferase activity (GO:0008171), methyltransferase activity (GO:0008168), and S-
324 adenosylmethionine-dependent methyltransferase activity (GO:0008757) were found in basal
325 plate that were not present in callus. The top three GO terms for basal plate, assigned to molecular
326 functions were metal ion binding (GO:0046872), oxidoreductase activity (GO:0016491), and
327 DNA binding (GO:0003677). On the other hand, ATP binding (GO:0005524), catalytic activity
328 (GO:0003824), nucleotide binding (GO:0000166), oxidoreductase activity (GO:0016491),
329 transferases activity (GO:0016740) were the top assigned molecular functions related GO terms
330 detected in callus (Figure 7; Supplementary 2; Appendix 5). A full list of all annotated GO terms
331 (Quick GO-Beta) detected in basal plate and callus with their corresponding gene descriptions are
332 in Supplementary 2; Appendix 5.

333 *3.6 Pathway analyses of Narcissus transcripts*

334 The UniProt IDs of basal plate and callus transcripts were separately mapped to their
335 corresponding KEGG Orthology (KO) using the UniProtKB Retrieve/ID mapping tool. A total of

336 28 KO for basal plate and 78 for callus were retrieved by mapping against the corresponding
337 UniProt IDs. The KO IDs were then mapped to KEGG Pathway Mapper that yielded a total of 55
338 mapped pathways for basal plate and 78 KEGG pathways for callus. It was evident that the
339 mapped pathways for basal plate with highest number of hits (enzyme classes) were mainly
340 corresponded with the pathways related to secondary metabolite production (Supplementary 1;
341 Table S3). Likewise, the KEGG pathways mapped in callus were also found to be related to
342 secondary metabolism. Moreover, carbon metabolism and glycolysis related pathways were
343 detected in callus that was not found in basal plate (Supplementary 1; Table S4). Pathways related
344 to aromatic amino acid metabolism were present in both basal plate and callus (Supplementary 1;
345 Table S3 and Table S4).

346 The Plant Reactome database (plantreactome.gramene.org) for plant metabolomic and regulatory
347 pathways is a freely accessible, curated and peer reviewed pathway database which provided an
348 alternative way to map metabolic pathways of *Narcissus* transcripts. The KO IDs obtained from
349 UniProtKB Retrieve/ID mapping tool were mapped back to UniProtKB IDs for both basal plate
350 and callus that yielded 45 and 120 UniProt genes corresponding to *Oryza sativa* for basal plate
351 and callus respectively. These UniProt genes were mapped to the Plant Reactome *Oryza sativa*
352 pathway database which revealed 14 and 26 pathways for basal plate and callus respectively. The
353 pathways related to secondary metabolism (according to database) and central metabolism are
354 represented in Table 3 and the details of all detected pathways are reported in Supplementary 1;
355 Table S5.

356 The postulated pathway of secondary metabolite biosynthesis in *Narcissus*, based on KEGG and
357 Plant Reactome showed differential enzyme expressions (basal plate, callus and both) yielding
358 different secondary metabolites including alkaloids (isoquinoline, indole, quinoline, terpenoids,
359 and Amaryllidaceae alkaloids), plant hormone synthesis, lignin biosynthesis as well as pathways
360 related to amino acid (phenylalanine, tyrosine and tryptophan) metabolism (Figure 8).

361 **4. Discussion**

362 Secondary metabolites produced by plants are invaluable sources of medicines, food additives,
363 and industrial products, being widely used for human benefits. However, a little is known about
364 the genes or enzymes involved in the biosynthesis or accumulation of these metabolites in whole
365 plant as well as in plant cell cultures (Wang et al., 2019; Karuppusamy, 2009). *Narcissus* is a
366 well-reported genus producing a wide range of metabolites along with pharmaceutically important
367 alkaloids such as galanthamine, lycorine, lycoramine, narciclasine, haemanthamine (Ferdausi et
368 al., 2020; Lubbe et al., 2013, Takos and Rook, 2013). The bulbs, especially the basal plate of
369 *Narcissus* showed the production of the highest amount of galanthamine, one of the
370 pharmaceutically important alkaloids along with other related metabolites. While, the *in vitro*
371 induced callus indicated the lowest galanthamine content using gas chromatography-mass
372 spectrophotometry (Ferdausi et al., 2020). However, relative expression analysis using RT-PCR
373 showed the diverse expression pattern of putative transcripts involved in the secondary
374 metabolites production such as *PAL*, *TYDC*, *OMT*, and P450s in field as well as in *in vitro* tissues
375 of *Narcissus* (Ferdausi et al., 2021b). Hence, further transcriptome and pathway analyses are
376 required to have a deep insight on the genes involved and their metabolic networking and
377 regulation in valuable secondary metabolites production in *Narcissus*. Transcriptome analysis
378 (RNA-seq) is an effective platform for the identification and functional characterization of novel
379 candidate genes as well as to identify genes encoding uncharacterized enzymes (Desgagné-Penix
380 et al., 2010). Hence, a RNA-seq platform, which has been established as a valuable technology
381 for transcriptome studies in non-model plants such as *Narcissus* for which genomic information in
382 limited (Hotchandani et al., 2019; Park et al., 2019), was taken into account for transcriptome
383 comparison of *Narcissus pseudonarcissus* cv. Carlton basal plate and callus in terms of secondary
384 metabolites production.

385 Six (6) sequence libraries of basal plate (3) and callus (3) were generated but one replicate of
386 basal plate (CBS2) showed very high mapping (74%) to rRNA due to inadequate rRNA depletion
387 and poor statistics in post-run; although it was processed and treated as all others samples and

388 showed good results in initial quality check on Bioanalyser (RIN > 7; clear 18S and 28S peaks
389 and 28S/ 18S ratios 1.5-2.0) (Ward et al., 2012; Johnson et al., 2012). This result indicates that the
390 measurements of RNA quality unfortunately cannot always predict successful sequencing as well
391 as could affect the measurement of gene expression (Romero et al., 2014). Repeating the
392 sequencing of one sample was not possible due to the expense and limitation of CGR sequencing
393 protocol set-up.

394 In case of non-model plants, *de novo* assembly is often used (Kilgore et al., 2014, Kilgore et al.,
395 2016a, Hotchandani et al., 2019), nevertheless, mapping strategy has also been reported as more
396 applicable for differential expression analysis in non-model plants (Vijay et al., 2013). The
397 *Narcissus* basal plate and callus transcriptome sequences of this study were mapped to *Narcissus*
398 *spp.* transcriptome data published on MedPlant RNA Seq Database (<https://medplantnaseq.org/>)
399 (Kilgore et al., 2014). Differential gene expression analysis for *Narcissus* basal plate and callus
400 transcriptome data was performed on Discovery Environment (Oliver et al., 2013) and
401 Atmosphere of a well-documented cyber-infrastructure CyVerse which was previously known as
402 iPlant Collaborative (Goff et al., 2011). Typically, read alignment rate more than 50% is required
403 to obtain an optimum differential expression analysis but lower mapping rates may be obtained
404 due to the lack of complete annotated genome, poor read quality or the presence of contaminants
405 (Trapnell et al., 2012). The sequence alignment of our data to MedPlant *Narcissus* transcriptome
406 using TopHat showed overall mapping coverage ranging from around 35% to 48% of total input
407 except for one replicates of basal plate (19%) which indicated a moderate mapping coverage. The
408 mapping rate obtained from our results might be due to the lack of complete annotated
409 transcriptome or poor read quality of one replicates of basal plate. Moreover, the reference
410 transcriptome of *Narcissus spp.* used could be from different variety as it was not confirmed as
411 Carlton and reported to be likely Carlton (Kilgore et al., 2014) and thus the presence of SNPs and
412 other polymorphism may affect the mapping. Furthermore, the reference transcriptome assembly
413 constructed based on daffodil leaf, inflorescence and bulb samples (Kilgore et al., 2014). Whereas

414 the *Narcissus* transcriptome data in this study obtained from Carlton basal plate and *in vitro* tissue
415 (Callus), which might also affect the overall mapping for sample divergence. However, read
416 alignment rate ranging from 17% to 94% using TopHat has been reported previously, which was
417 acceptable for differential analysis (Trapnell et al., 2009).

418 The aligned reads after assembly (Cufflinks) resulted in a total of 2153 Cuff genes which allows
419 the identification of genes in any system and also suggests experiments to establish their
420 regulation pattern (Trapnell et al., 2010). The Cuffdiff outputs provided a number of files
421 (Trapnell et al., 2012) to study 2153 differentially expressed and regulated genes; among which
422 64.21% transcripts were up-regulated in callus and 35.79% were up-regulated in basal plate, this
423 could be due to the higher mapping rate of callus transcriptome than the basal plate. However,
424 206 genes or transcripts were detected as significant differentially expressed (q -values ≤ 0.05) in
425 the two conditions under study where higher numbers of significant different genes were up-
426 regulated in basal plate (111) than in callus (95).

427 Approximately, 79% of the differentially expressed genes were annotated which revealed eleven
428 abundant gene groups of which uncharacterized proteins (10.24%), secondary metabolism related
429 proteins (8.88%), stress related proteins (4.06%), tissue (callus/shoot) differentiation (4.06%),
430 ATP/GTP binding (3.82%), and transcription factors (3.06%) were the mostly enriched groups.
431 Transcriptome analysis of opium poppy cell cultures showed the presence of secondary
432 metabolism related genes such as the most abundance transcripts encoding putative cytochrome
433 P450 with the next abundant enzymes involved in the biosynthesis of *S*-adenosylmethionine such
434 as SAM synthetase. Other abundant transcripts were defense/stress response proteins, peroxidase,
435 pathogenesis-related proteins, and ubiquitin (Desgagné-Penix et al., 2010), which were also found
436 as major gene groups in our samples (Figure 3; Figure 5).

437 The most abundant transcripts associated with plant growth, development, metabolism, defense,
438 transport, and cellular structure were obtained from our dataset which were commonly reported in
439 other plants (Desgagné-Penix et al., 2010; Délano-Frier et al., 2011; Desgagné-Penix et al., 2012).

440 The most significantly (q-value ≤ 0.05) up-regulated genes detected in basal plate were secondary
441 metabolism related enzymes involved in the later stage of secondary metabolite or alkaloid
442 biosynthesis; such as cytochrome *P450s*, *OMTs*, *NADP/NADPH* dehydrogenases/ reductases and
443 *S*-adenosylmethionine synthetases/ decarboxylases, and lectins (Berkov et al., 2014; Singh and
444 Desgagné-Penix, 2017). Other important transcripts which were found to be up-regulated in basal
445 plate with q-values higher than 0.05 and related to secondary metabolism were 3-ketoacyl-CoA,
446 acyl-CoA, cinnamoyl-CoA, cinnamate 4-hydroxylase, alcohol dehydrogenase, and caffeic acid *O*-
447 methyltransferase (Zhao et al., 2014; Sengupta et al., 2015). A candidate *O*-methyltransferase;
448 (*NpN4OMT*) responsible for the methylation of norbelladine to intermediate precursor 4'-*O*-
449 methylnorbelladine (Kilgore et al., 2014) and cytochrome *P450* (*CYP96T1*) catalyzing the para-
450 para *C-C* phenol coupling (Kilgore et al., 2016a) in the Amaryllidaceae alkaloid biosynthesis have
451 already been proposed in *N. pseudonarcissus*. The plant *O*-methylation reactions are mostly
452 catalyzed by *SAM*-dependent methyltransferases (Liscombe et al., 2012). Other probable enzymes
453 related to alkaloid biosynthesis in Amaryllidaceae were also detected in basal plate such as aldo-
454 keto reductases, and alcohol dehydrogenase, reported for the reduction of ketones, aldehydes, *C-C*
455 double bond, and imines (Sengupta et al., 2015).

456 Conversely, the significantly up-regulated genes (q-values ≤ 0.05) in callus were related to the
457 enzymes involved in the primary metabolism, such as fructose biphosphate adolase,
458 aminotransferases, dehydrogenases, hydroxyl methyl glutarate, and glutamate synthase. However,
459 other secondary metabolism related enzymes were detected in callus with q-values > 0.05
460 including cinnamoyl/ coumarate/ enoyl CoA reductases, *N*-methyltransferases, *NADPH*-
461 cytochrome *P450s*, *S*-adenosylmethionine synthetases, and alcohol dehydrogenases. The
462 methyltransferases detected in callus were either probable *N*-methyltransferases or (*SAM*)
463 dependent *N*-methyltransferases which have been reported in cell cultures of *P. bracteatum* and
464 other benzylisoquinoline alkaloid producing species (Liscombe et al., 2009). The *in vitro* cultures
465 of *C. roseus*, *Camptotheca acuminata* and *R. serpentina* also showed the identification of

466 transcripts related to alkaloid biosynthesis, i.e. *N*-methyltransferases, *O*-methyltransferases, and
467 *NADPH*-cytochrome P450 reductases (Góngora-Castillo et al., 2012). The alkaloids related to
468 putative transcripts *OMT*, *NMT*, *SAM* were found to be expressed in higher level than the P450-
469 dependant enzymes in opium poppy cell cultures (Desgagné-Penix et al., 2010).

470 Besides the secondary metabolism related genes, most of the transcription factors and *ERF/ AP2*
471 domain containing proteins were detected in basal plate while the stress related and heat-shock
472 proteins were mainly discovered in callus. Transcription factors of *ERF/ AP2* family have been
473 found to trigger shoot regeneration and cell differentiation (Neelakandan and Wang, 2012).
474 Another crucial enzyme for plant growth and shoot regeneration is glutathione-*S*-transferases
475 (Gong et al., 2005), which was identified, in both basal plate and callus. A homeobox protein was
476 recognized in the *Narcissus* basal plate and callus and members of this family reported in
477 *Arabidopsis* and *Brassica* to promote callus induction and somatic embryogenesis (Neelakandan
478 and Wang, 2012). The heat-shock proteins mostly identified in *Narcissus* callus has been reported
479 to be expressed during callus formation in *Arabidopsis* (Ogawa et al., 2007). The enzymes
480 cinnamoyl-CoA, cinnamate 4-hydroxylase, caffeic acid *O*-methyltransferase, and coumarate
481 ligase/reductases detected in *Narcissus* basal plate and callus, play an important role in
482 phenylpropanoid pathway through hydroxylation leading to diverse plant alkaloids (Singh and
483 Desgagné-Penix, 2014).

484 The gene functions assigned by the Gene Ontology database are mainly based on model
485 organisms (Wolf, 2013) hence; there are no GO annotations available for species closely related
486 to *Narcissus*. However, the UniProt GO annotation tool was applied successfully in previous
487 *Narcissus* project (Pulman, 2015) and was reported in other non-model plants (Guo et al., 2013;
488 Lee et al., 2014). Unlike ours, in *Lycoris*, an Amaryllidaceae species the GO annotation showed
489 three major GO categories i.e. molecular function, biological process, and cellular component
490 being the most associated transcripts to binding and catalytic activity, metabolic, and cellular
491 process and cell, and cell parts respectively (Wang et al., 2013; Park et al., 2019). The Quick GO-

492 Beta annotation provides Gene Ontology (GO) annotations to proteins in the UniProtKb, which
493 includes a large number of high-quality functional annotations across a broad taxonomic
494 range (Huntley et al., 2015). Therefore, detection of GO terms related to secondary metabolism
495 such as *O*-methyltransferase activity, oxidoreductase activity, *S*-adenosylmethionine dependent
496 methyltransferase activity, NADH dehydrogenase activity were possible which were detected in
497 basal plate but not in callus.

498 The gene function information obtained from Gene Ontology alone is not sufficient to provide
499 knowledge about biosynthetic pathways. Therefore, it is important to map the genes of interest to
500 candidate metabolic pathways (Wolf, 2013). KEGG is one of the largest pathway databases
501 (Ogata et al., 1999) and also extensively used in non-model plant studies (Xiao et al., 2013). In
502 both basal plate and callus the central metabolic pathways and biosynthesis of secondary
503 metabolites were the most enriched pathways with the highest number of assigned enzymes.
504 Some human disease (e.g. Parkinson's and Huntington's disease) related pathways were also
505 detected in both tissues which is an example where an inappropriate pathway annotation is made
506 since KEGG is a large database that is particularly rich in information on pathways from human
507 and animals, as well as data on plants and microbes. Therefore, it was worthwhile to compare this
508 result with a plant-specific database; the Plant Reactome which is a plant pathway database based
509 on curated *Oryza sativa* reference pathways (Tello-Ruiz et al., 2015). The most notable pathways
510 were phenylpropanoid biosynthesis, amino acid metabolism, flavonoid biosynthesis, and *S*-
511 adenosyl-*L*-methionine cycle. Both KEGG and Plant Reactome pathway analyses showed the
512 detection of secondary metabolism related pathways in both basal plate and callus. The postulated
513 pathway (Figure 8) generated in this study based on KEGG and Plant Reactome results showed
514 that the transcripts (i.e. cytochrome P450s and *OMTs*) involved in the Amaryllidaceae alkaloid
515 biosynthesis (Wang et al., 2013; Kilgore et al., 2014; Kilgore et al., 2016a) were mainly up-
516 regulated in field samples. Whereas, the enzymes involved in initial pathways (fructose
517 biphosphate adolase, aminotransferases, dehydrogenases, hydroxyl methyl glutarate, and

518 glutamate synthase) leading to the biosynthesis of precursors (tyrosine, phenylalanine, and
519 tryptophan) for secondary metabolites were up-regulated in callus which could be in accordance
520 with the higher accumulation of Amaryllidaceae alkaloids in field tissues than *in vitro* tissues in
521 *Narcissus* (Berkov et al., 2009; Tahchy et al., 2011; Ferdausi et al., 2020).

522 Our previous study showed the relative expression of these putative genes in basal plate and
523 callus. The relative expressions of P450s and NpO4OMT were high in basal plate while PAL and
524 TYDC showed relatively higher expression pattern in callus (Ferdausi et al., 2021b). This finding
525 could be correlated with the detection of transcripts related to P450s and OMTs in basal plate
526 involved in later stage of Amaryllidaceae alkaloids biosynthesis. And the high expression of PAL
527 and TYDC in callus could be correlated with the phenylalanine and tyrosine metabolism related
528 transcripts, involved in the initial biosynthetic pathway (Figure 8). Moreover, carbon metabolism
529 and glycolysis related pathways were detected in callus which could be related to the more active
530 heterotrophic metabolism of the callus tissues. Our previous NMR-based metabolomic study
531 reported the high accumulation of Amaryllidaceae alkaloid precursors such as tyrosine, tyramine,
532 succinylacetone, p-cresol and 3-phenylpropionate in *Narcissus* basal plate. While the metabolites
533 related to carbohydrate metabolism such as sucrose, glucose, galactose, lactose were detected in
534 callus (Ferdausi et al., 2020). Therefore, the previous findings on metabolomics and relative
535 expression of putative genes could be correlated with the findings of the present study.

536 The link between expression of pathway genes and biosynthesis of their final product is complex.
537 For example, the transcriptome analysis of opium poppy cell culture showed the complete
538 absence of expression of *TYDC*, salutaridine synthase (*SalSyn*), salutaridine reductase (*SalR*),
539 codeine *O*-demethylase (*CODM*), with low levels of (R,S)-reticuline 7-*O*-methyltransferase
540 (*7OMT*) and (R,S)-norreticuline 7-*O*-methyltransferase (*N7OMT*), all of which are known
541 benzyloisoquinoline alkaloid biosynthetic enzymes in opium poppy. The absence or low
542 expression of these transcripts was linked to the absence of morphine in opium poppy cell
543 cultures (Desgagné-Penix et al., 2010). However, another study showed the relative expression of

544 peroxidases involved in the biosynthesis of hispidol, flavonoids in *Medicago truncatula* through
545 phenylpropanoid pathway (Farag et al., 2009). This study showed that the peroxidase transcripts
546 were almost equally expressed in both field derived tissues (leaf, stem, flower etc.) and *in vitro*
547 cultures elicited with either methyl jasmonate or yeast extract. In alkaloid biosynthesis in *C.*
548 *roseus*, the expression of pathway transcripts (e.g. *CYP72A57*, *OMTs*, *NMTs*, *NADPH*-reductase,
549 hydroxylase, peroxidase) involved in the biosynthesis of monoterpene indole alkaloids including
550 vinblastine (Góngora-Castillo et al., 2012) showed equal expression of *CYP72A57* and *OMTs* in
551 field tissues (leaf, stem, flower, and root) and callus cultures. The other transcripts were more
552 highly expressed in field tissues than callus cultures.

553 Furthermore, the transcripts leading to other alkaloids (isoquinoline, indole, and quinoline) were
554 basically detected in both tissues which could suggest callus as a suitable material for the
555 biosynthesis of other alkaloids/secondary metabolites than Amaryllidaceae alkaloids. This could
556 also suggest a link between Amaryllidaceae alkaloid pathways to the defense or stress response in
557 *Narcissus* as phenylpropanoid, hormone, flavonoid biosynthesis, and mevalonate pathways are
558 linked to the biosynthesis of a diversity of secondary metabolites related to plant defense or stress
559 response (Dixon, 2001).

560 The 206 (9.5% of total) transcripts were found to be significant differentially expressed (q-value
561 ≤ 0.05) which might be a reason, that many important transcripts such as *PAL* and *TYDC*, involved
562 in phenylalanine and tyrosine metabolism were not detected in differential expression analysis.
563 Whereas, the candidate genes predicted in this project, involved in Amaryllidaceae alkaloid
564 biosynthesis, such as *PAL* and *TYDC* have been previously identified using experimental methods
565 in *N. pseudonarcissus* (Pulman, 2015; Kilgore et al., 2014, Kilgore et al., 2016a, Ferdausi et al.,
566 2021a) and *L. aurea* (Wang et al., 2013). Therefore, future work should be concerned with the
567 reconstruction of a reference transcriptome using *de novo* assembly techniques such as Trinity
568 (Grabherr et al., 2011), MIRA (Chevreux et al., 2004) or SOAPdenovo (Ward et al., 2012).

569 **Conclusion**

570 Secondary metabolism in plant is critically influenced by the plant growth environment as well as
571 tissue type. Therefore, the present study revealed the differential expression pattern of genes or
572 transcripts, biosynthetic pathways leading to the different secondary metabolites, and their
573 molecular regulation in *N. pseudonarcissus* field grown bulb (basal plate) and tissue culture
574 derived callus. The findings also revealed that the major secondary metabolites related transcripts
575 involved in later biosynthetic pathways were mainly up-regulated in basal plate while transcripts
576 related to initial pathways of secondary metabolites biosynthesis and stress response factors were
577 up-regulated in callus. This study also showed the transcriptomic differences between two
578 different tissue types' organized tissue such as basal plate and unorganized tissue, callus.
579 However, further complete annotation of *Narcissus* reference transcriptome would be better for
580 the confident identification of novel transcripts involved in secondary metabolite production in
581 *Narcissus* field and *in vitro* tissues.

582 **Data availability statement**

583 The reference *Narcissus* transcriptome used in this study is available on MedPlant RNA Seq
584 Database (<https://medplantrnaseq.org/>).

585 **Conflict of interest**

586 The authors declare that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial
587 relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

588 **Author's contributions**

589 Conceptualization, M. J. and A. F.; Methodology, M. J., X. C. and A. F.; Investigation, M. J., X.
590 C., and A. F.; Writing - Original Draft, A. F; Writing – Review & Editing, M. J. and X. C.;
591 Funding Acquisition, A. F; Data acquisition, analysis and interpretation, A. F., Resources, M. J.
592 and X. C.; Supervision, M. J and X. C.

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601 **Supplementary materials**

602 The supplementary materials of this study can be found online as Supplementary 1 and
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824 **Table caption list:**

825 **Table 1** TopHat output obtained from *Narcissus* RNA-seq data (Discovery Environment,
826 CyVerse) against *Narcissus* transcriptome from MedPlant RNA-Seq Databases

827 **Table 2** Probable genes related to secondary metabolite production detected in *Narcissus* basal
828 plate and callus transcriptome data (significant genes with q-value ≤ 0.05)

829 **Table 3** Pathways related to secondary metabolite production and central metabolism, detected in
830 *N. pseudonarcissus* basal plate and callus by mapping to curated *Oryza sativa* pathway database
831 (Plant Reactome).

832 **Figure caption list:**

833 **Fig. 1.** An overview of methods used for the *N. pseudonarcissus* cv. Carlton transcriptome (RNA-
834 seq) data analysis

835 **Fig. 2.** Volcano plot (CummeRbund) indicating the presence of differentially expressed genes
836 between Carlton basal plate and callus. Significantly, expressed genes are indicated by blue dots
837 and red dots are representing the non-significant genes.

838 **Fig. 3.** Distribution patterns of the eleven abundant gene groups that were differentially expressed
839 between basal plate and callus. The percentages contributed 41.7% to the total annotated genes
840 (83.46%).

841 **Fig. 4.** Heatmaps generated using CummeRbund for top 50 transcripts sorted by Cuffdiff showing
842 differential expression pattern of transcripts in Carlton basal plate and callus. Blue box =
843 transcripts expressed in callus, red box = transcripts expressed in Carlton basal plate and black
844 box = transcripts expressed in both tissues

845 **Fig. 5.** The abundance of important gene groups besides secondary metabolism related genes
846 detected as differentially expressed in basal plate and callus with q-values ≤ 1.0 .

847 **Fig. 6.** The UniProt Gene Ontology (GO) analysis of significantly up-regulated transcripts
848 detected in (a) basal plate and (b) callus (q-value ≤ 0.05). The numbers in bracket represent the

849 total transcripts assigned for the respective GO categories. Several transcripts were assigned to
850 more than one category.

851 **Fig. 7.** An overview of GO assignment for basal plate and callus GO IDs annotated against
852 significant up-regulated transcripts at q-value ≤ 0.05 ; using EMBL-EBI Quick GO-Beta
853 annotations. GO terms contributing less than 1% are not included.

854 **Fig. 8.** Metabolic networks from D-Glucose to secondary metabolites in *N. pseudonarcissus*
855 developed from KEGG and Plant Reactome pathway analyses. The postulated transcripts (*italics*)
856 corresponding to enzymes expressed in different *Narcissus* tissues are labeled in different colors;
857 callus (blue), basal plate (purple) and both callus and basal plate (red) next to arrows were
858 identified in the *Narcissus* transcriptome data. HMG= Hydroxyl methyl glutarate; ERF= Ethylene
859 response factor; PAL = Phenyl ammonia lyase; TYDC = Tyrosine decarboxylase; AUX=Auxin
860 related enzyme; OMT = *O*-methyltransferase.

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875 **Table 1**

Samples	Read alignment rate (% of input)		Overall read alignment rate (%)	Concordant pair alignment rate (%)
	Left read	Right read		
CBS1	35.1	33.8	34.5	30
CBS2	19.3	19	19.1	17.1
CBS3	48.6	47.3	47.9	40.9
CAL1	41.8	39.4	40.6	35.5
CAL2	36.5	35.5	36	31.8
CAL3	40.3	38.1	39.2	33.4

876 CBS = Carlton basal plate; CAL = Callus; 1, 2, 3 = three replicates of basal plate and callus

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Table 2

Gene ID	UniProt ID	Regulation	log2 (fold change)	q-value	Gene function
1. Phenylpropanoid pathway related					
XLOC_001204	O04892A0A1	CBS-UP	-	0.007	cytochrome P450
XLOC_002108	24SCB7	CBS-UP	-	0.007	cytochrome P450
2. Methyltransferases					
XLOC_001033	B9SGP1	CBS-UP	-	0.006	<i>O</i> -methyltransferase
XLOC_001843	K4CXY9	CBS-UP	3.05	0.002	<i>O</i> -methyltransferase
XLOC_000957	Q5DNB1	CBS-UP	1.78	0.013	<i>S</i> -adenosylmethionine synthase
XLOC_000735	F6H5H8	CBS-UP	-	0.006	<i>O</i> -methyltransferase
XLOC_002003	A0A0P0YCT2	CAL-UP	2.01	0.011	<i>S</i> -methyltransferase
XLOC_000918	A0A0V0I0R3	CAL-UP	-	0.0006	hydroquinone methyltransferase
3. NADP/ NADPH related					
XLOC_000518	B9T8W8	CBS-UP	2.11	0.004	NADH dehydrogenase
XLOC_001407	Q9SLN8	CBS-UP	2.18	0.006	(NADP(+)) reductase
XLOC_001713	E5G6F3	CAL-UP	3.05	0.049	NAD/ NADP binding
4. Oxidoreductase activity related					
XLOC_001731	Q9AV39	CBS-UP	2.09	0.045	Os10g0545200 protein
XLOC_001235	T2DPZ9	CBS-UP	-	0.00060.	cytochrome b
XLOC_001407	M0SZ88	CBS-UP	2.18	045	uncharacterized
XLOC_001110	M8AU02	CAL-UP	3.21	0.033	aldehyde dehydrogenase
XLOC_000371	M0TCR0	CAL-UP	-	0.00060.	uncharacterized
XLOC_002051	F2NYJ0	CAL-UP	-	00060.0	anaerobic reductase
XLOC_002072	O24428	CAL-UP	-	006	stearoyl-ACP desaturase
5. Hydrolase activity related					
XLOC_000089	A0A078EUD2	CBS-UP	2.93	0.023	BnaAnng00280D
XLOC_000792	K4NZ15	CBS-UP	-	0.00060.	lipase
XLOC_001578	K4NZ15	CBS-UP	-	0006	uncharacterized
XLOC_000006	Q9LLC2	CAL-UP	2.88	0.011	xyloglucan endo-transglucosylase
XLOC_000580	M0TI33	CAL-UP	-	0.00060.	xyloglucan endo-transglucosylase
XLOC_001722	A5BND5	CAL-UP	-	00060.0	xyloglucan endo-transglucosylase
XLOC_001883	F6GXE7	CAL-UP	-	006	xyloglucan endo-transglucosylase
Others					
XLOC_000536	K4P0T2	CBS-UP	-	0.0007	lectin
XLOC_000616	W5VXS2	CBS-UP	-	0.0007	polyphenol oxidase
XLOC_001502	G8XUP0	CBS-UP	-	0.0007	Lectin
XLOC_001926	C9W8B3	CBS-UP	-	0.0007	lectin
XLOC_002069	Q40422	CBS-UP	-	0.0007	mannose specific lectin
XLOC_000485	G3GC08	CBS-UP	6.00	0.0038	Lipoxygenase
XLOC_000278	A0A0B0MIR6	CBS-UP	2.64	0.0212	proactivator polypeptide
XLOC_001282	K7P8F2	CBS-UP	2.58	0.0383	aspartic acid protease
XLOC_001804	F4JLV7	CBS-UP	-	0.0007	lipid-transfer
XLOC_001339	G9M5T0	CAL-UP	4.67	0.0254	Lectin
XLOC_000721	K3ZUW3	CAL-UP	1.90	0.0113	Uncharacterized
XLOC_001055	E0CWD0	CAL-UP	2.80	0.0007	alcohol dehydrogenase
XLOC_001373	Q9XHL5	CAL-UP	-	0.0034	3-hydroxy-3-methylglutaryl-coenzyme A reductase
XLOC_000638	J5JKX7	CAL-UP	-	0.0007	PAP2 superfamily
XLOC_001712	Q5XEP9	CAL-UP	-	0.0007	3-ketoacyl-CoA synthase

CBS-UP = genes up-regulated in basal plate (down regulated in callus); CAL-UP = genes up-regulated in callus (down regulated in basal plate); (-) indicates the transcripts are either expressed in basal plate or callus but not in both, therefore showing no fold change.

Table 3

Carlton basal plate						
Pathway name	Entities found	Entities total	Entities p-value	Entities FDR	Mapped entities (UniProt ID)	<i>Narcissus</i> transcript IDs
Plant pathways	6	1499				
S-adenosyl-L-methionine cycle	2	6	0.013	0.09	Q9LGU6; Q0DKY4	XLOC_000957, XLOC_000323, XLOC_001134, XLOC_001181, XLOC_001596, XLOC_002071
Phenylpropanoid biosynthesis	3	26	0.03	0.11	A2Y626; Q6ERR3; B8BB38	XLOC_000518, XLOC_001407, XLOC_001126, XLOC_000218, XLOC_001299, XLOC_000831, XLOC_000898
Secondary metabolite biosynthesis	3	203	0.94	0.94	A2Y626; Q6ERR3; B8BB38	XLOC_000518, XLOC_001407, XLOC_001126, XLOC_000218, XLOC_001299, XLOC_000831, XLOC_000898, XLOC_000263, XLOC_000481, XLOC_000686, XLOC_000163, XLOC_000396, XLOC_001312
Amino acid metabolism	3	211	0.95	0.95	Q9LGU6; Q0DKY4; Q0JC10	XLOC_000397, XLOC_000094
Hormone biosynthesis	2	449	0.99	0.99	Q9LGU6; Q0DKY4	XLOC_000957, XLOC_000323, XLOC_001134, XLOC_001181, XLOC_001596, XLOC_002071
Callus						
Plant pathways	31	1499				
Phenylpropanoid biosynthesis	8	26	0.001	0.015	Q6YYZ2; Q6ERR3; Q0DV32; Q67W82; P17814; B8BB38; Q42982; Q6ETN3	XLOC_001712, XLOC_001713, XLOC_001353, XLOC_001227, XLOC_001353, XLOC_000670, XLOC_001171, XLOC_001310, XLOC_001760, XLOC_000155, XLOC_001462, XLOC_001484, XLOC_001597, XLOC_001851, XLOC_000446, XLOC_001557
Flavonoid biosynthesis	6	18	0.003	0.03	Q6YYZ2; Q0DV32; Q67W82; P17814; Q42982; Q6ETN3	XLOC_001227, XLOC_001353
Glutamate biosynthesis	2	2	0.011	0.05	Q0JKD0; Q0DG35	XLOC_000259, XLOC_000583, XLOC_000892, XLOC_00145, XLOC_00373
Mevalonate pathway	2	15	0.33	0.47	Q9XHL5; Q0J0M8	XLOC_001373, XLOC_001760
S-adenosyl-L-methionine cycle	1	6	0.37	0.47	Q2QLY5	XLOC_001333, XLOC_001791, XLOC_000186, XLOC_001350, XLOC_001633
Amino acid metabolism	4	211	0.99	0.99	Q2QLY5; Q0JKD0; Q0DG35; P37833	XLOC_001611, XLOC_000822, XLOC_001825, XLOC_002003, XLOC_000364

p-value = probability that the overlap between the query and the pathway has occurred by chance; FDR = probability corrected for multiple comparisons.