

# METABOSCAPE – A METABOLITE PROFILING PIPELINE DRIVEN BY AUTOMATIC COMPOUND IDENTIFICATION

OR

## HOW TO LINK HRAM QTOF PLANT METABOLOMICS DATA TO BIOLOGY

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## Outline

- If you want to automate data processing workflows in Metabolomics you have to be able to rely on the raw data.
- Introducing MetaboScape. Turning MS data into knowledge!
  - An example studying the “war” between plants and insects!

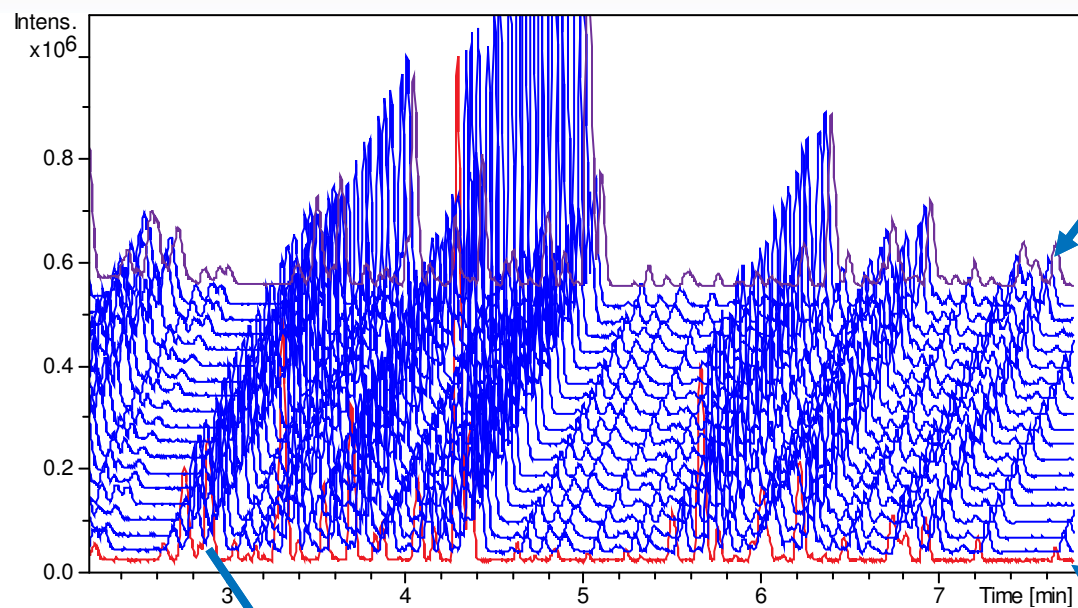


## Automatic data processing workflows in Metabolomics rely on the raw data quality



- The metabolome is an **extremely complex** mixture of chemically **diverse small molecules** covering a **large dynamic range of concentrations**.
- Robustness **and** Sensitivity **and** Dynamic range **and** High resolution, mass accuracy and isotopic fidelity in **one scan mode** at **LC speed** is absolute must in metabolomics.
- So, lets have a look at the capabilities of a QTOF instrument. Can this technology fulfill these needs?

# Instrument robustness: >100 injections of complex human Urine sample



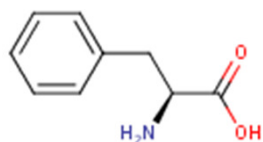
Sample Injection #100

selected BPCs from sequence of human urine sample injected 100 times

Sample Injection #1



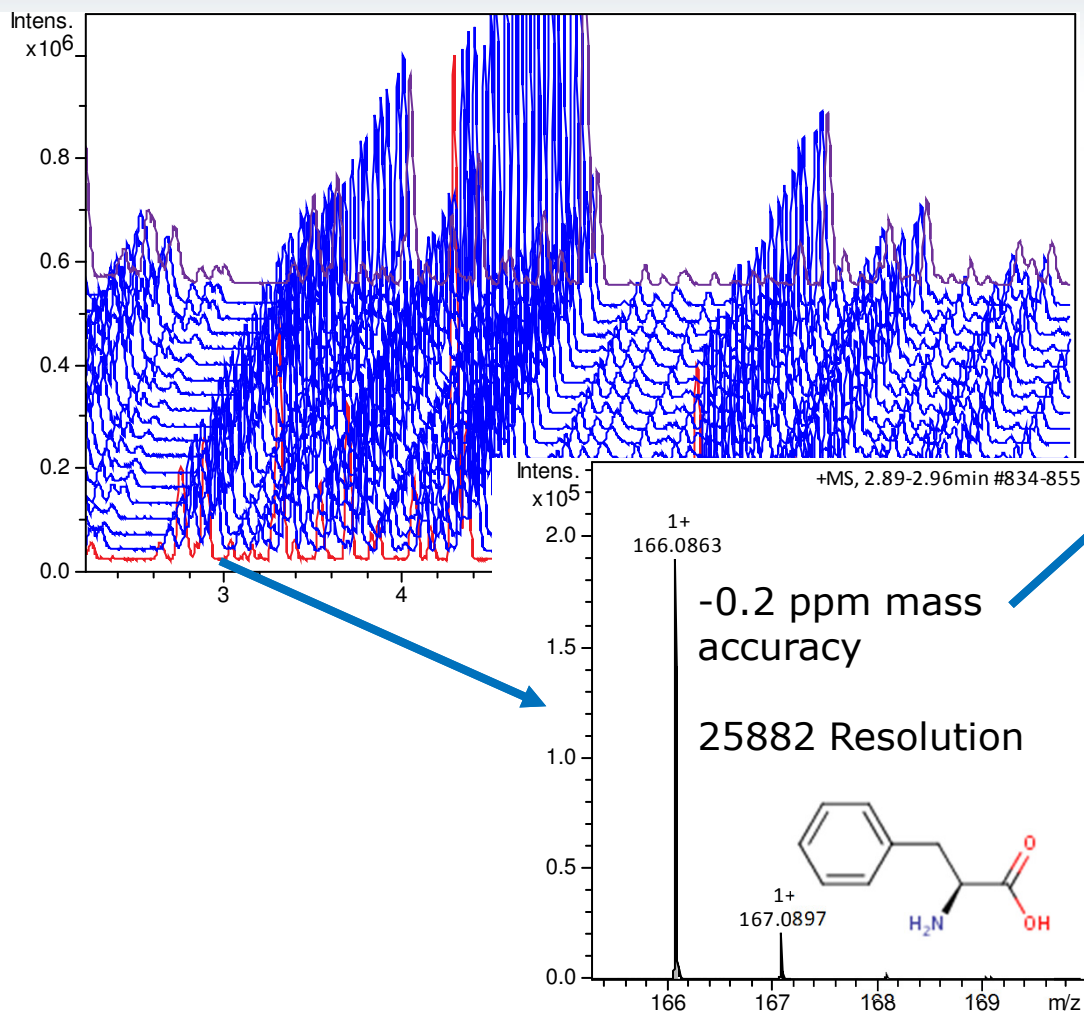
Phenylalanine peak



	Peak Area
Average	730594
StDEV	19720
CV	2.70

Peak area for phenylalanine deviates less than 3% (n=100 injections).

Example - Phenylalanine: **SmartFormula** provides the **correct molecular formula** based on accurate mass and isotopic pattern fit:  $C_9H_{12}O_2$



SmartFormula Manually

Lower formula:

Upper formula:

Note: for m < 2000 the elements C, H, N, and O are considered implicitly.

Adducts, pos.   Collect adducts

Adducts, neg.

Measured m/z  Tolerance:  mDa Charge:

Meas. m/z	#	Ion Formula	m/z	err [ppm]	mSigma
166.0863	1	C9H12NO2	166.0863	-0.2	4.4

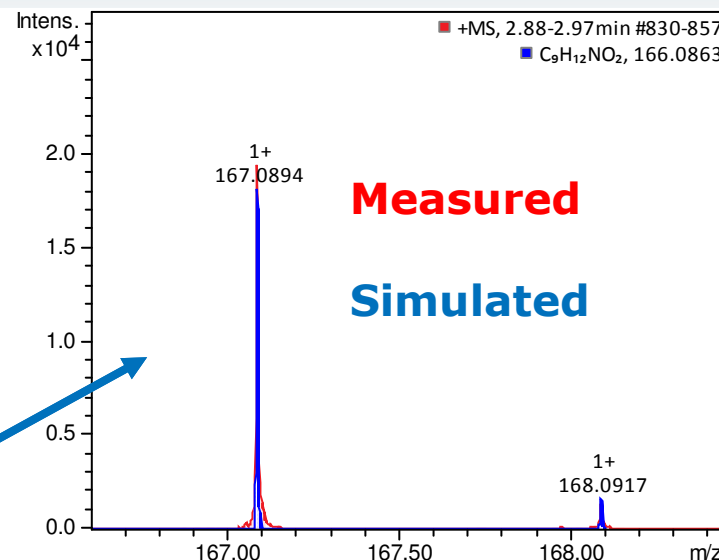
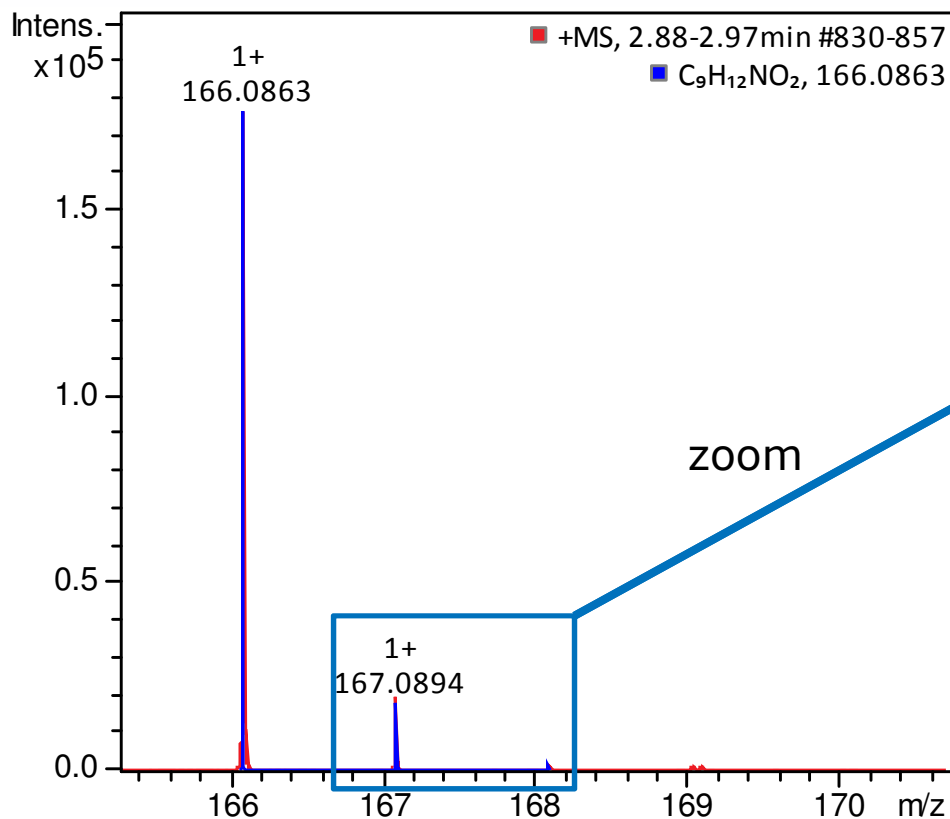
Automatically locate monoisotopic peak Maximum number of formulae

Check rings plus double bonds Minimum  Maximum

Filter H/C element ratio Minimum H/C:  Maximum H/C:

Estimate carbon number  Generate immediately

SmartFormula makes use of the perfect fit between measured and simulated spectrum



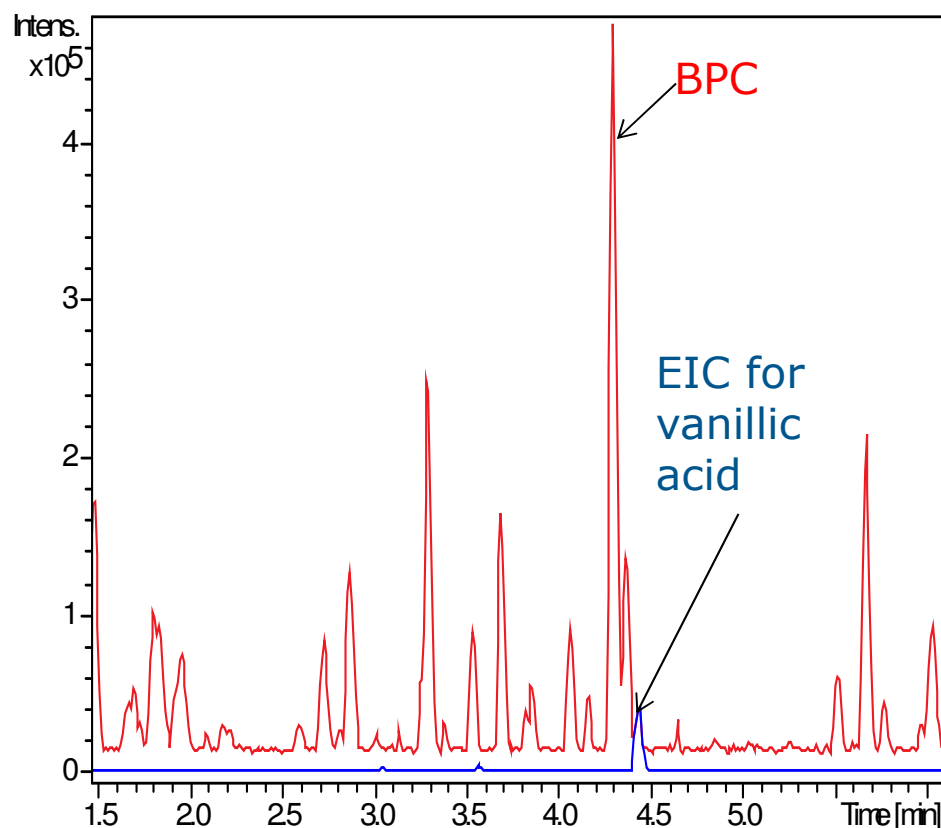
Measured m/z: 166.0863    Tolerance: 2    mDa

Meas. m/z	#	Ion Formula	m/z	err [ppm]	mSigma
166.0863	1	C9H12NO2	166.0863	-0.2	4.4

Mass accuracy & isotopic fidelity  
= **confidence** in ID

expressed in a low  
mSigma value

## Reliable ID of target compounds vanillic acid spiked into the urine sample



Target compound spiked into the human urine sample can be detected by creating a high resolution EIC trace for the target mass 169.0495m/z.

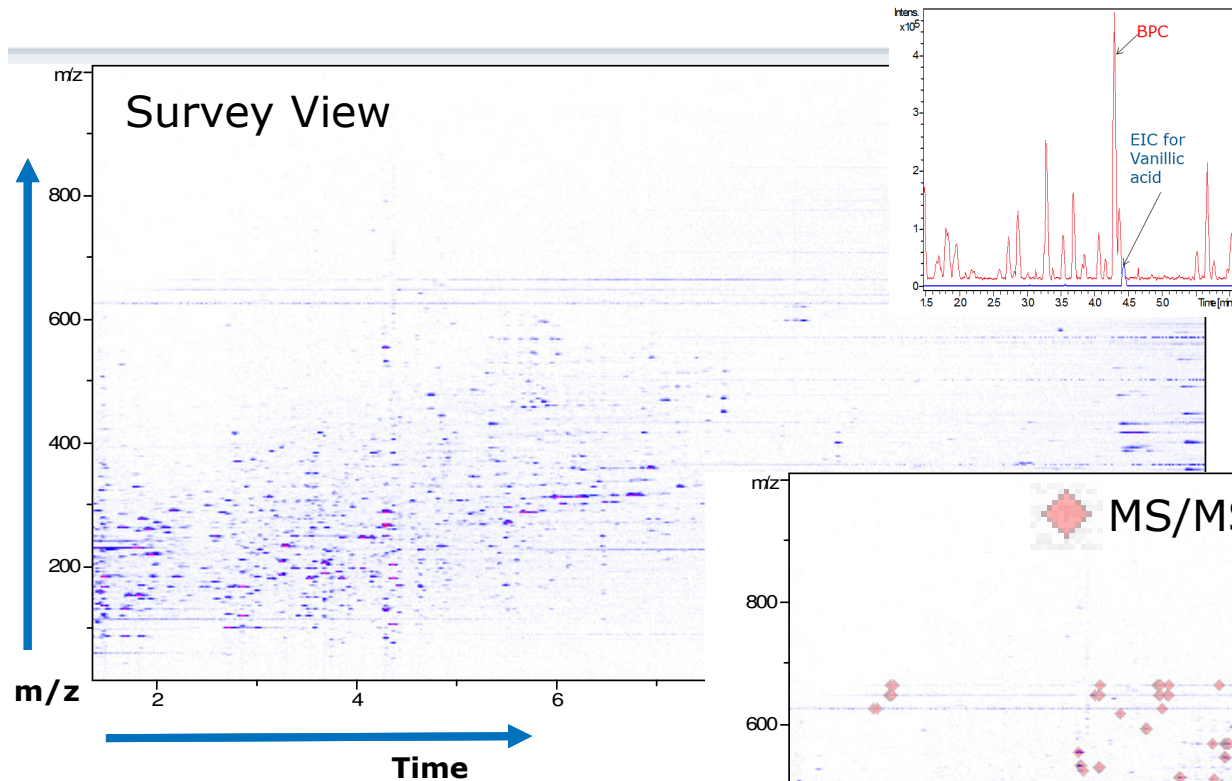
Detection by **high resolution EIC**

Basis for hrEIC  
=  
mass stability across  
entire dynamic  
concentration range



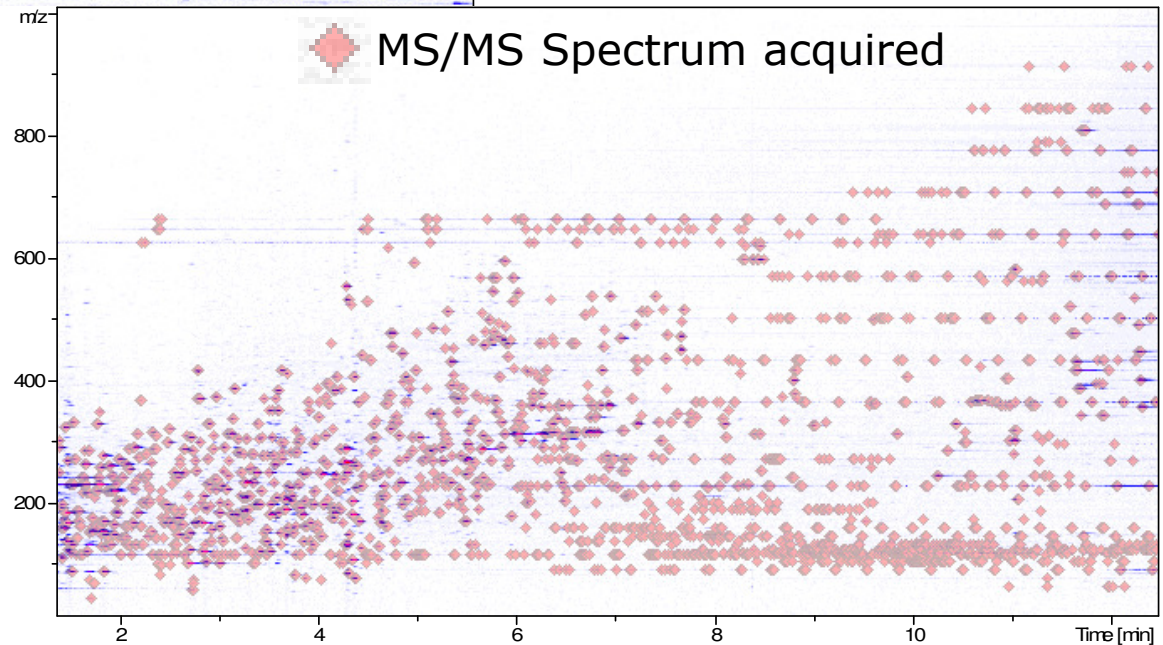
## Impact II - High dynamic range in MS/MS:

up to 50Hz instrument scan speed combined with easy to use Instant Expertise software



Human **urine** sample spiked with vanillic acid

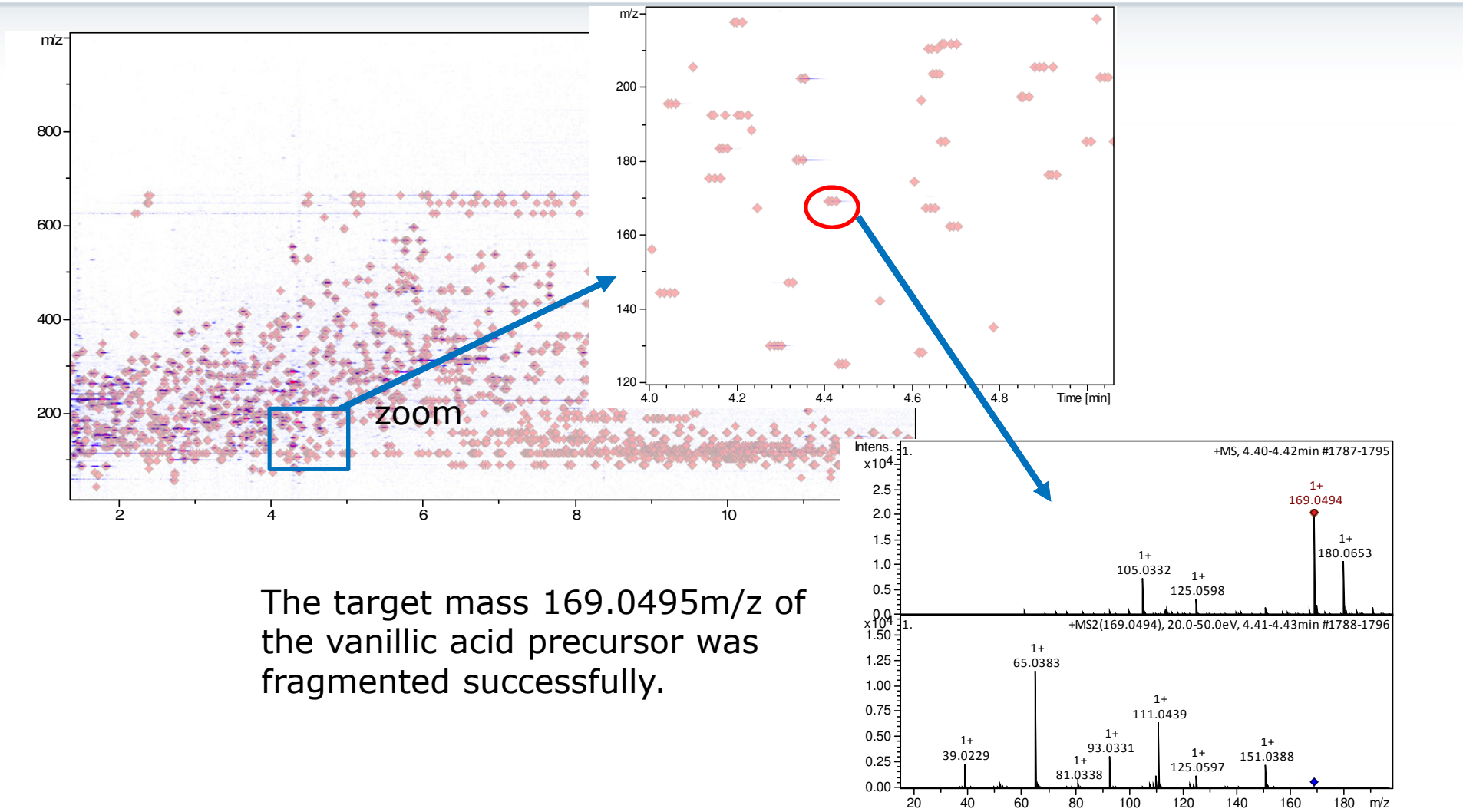
- Impact II
- 4296 MS/MS spectra acquired at this sample complexity level



All precursor ions fragmented in **"one shot" acquisition**.

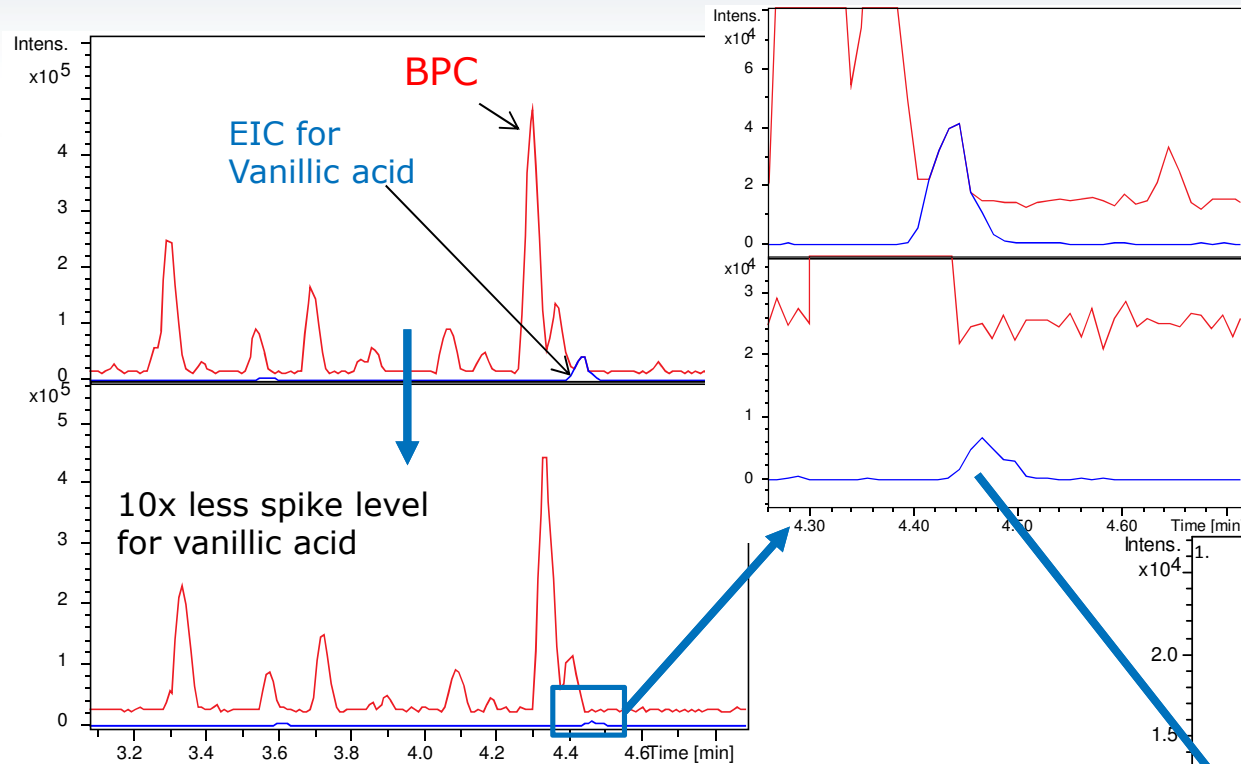


Instant Expertise selected vanillic acid spiked into the sample for MS/MS fragmentation



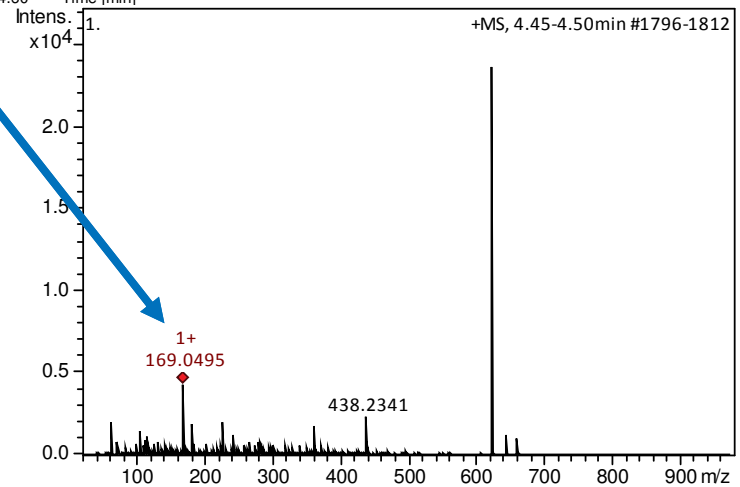


10x lower concentration is still fragmented  
-> high dynamic range in MS & MS/MS data acquisition



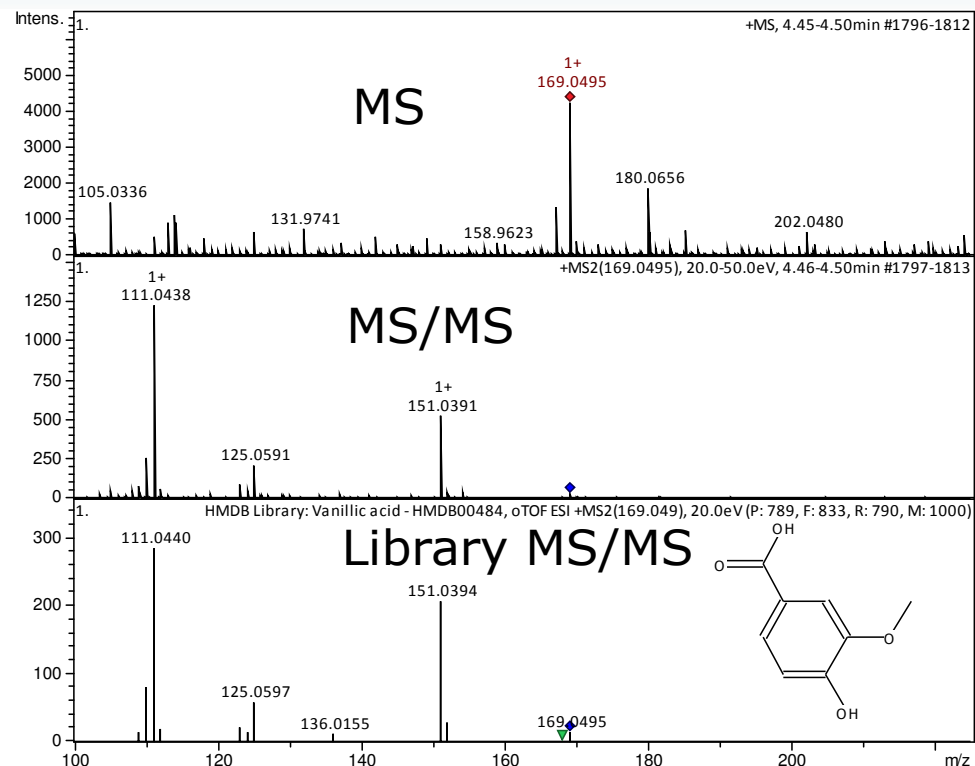
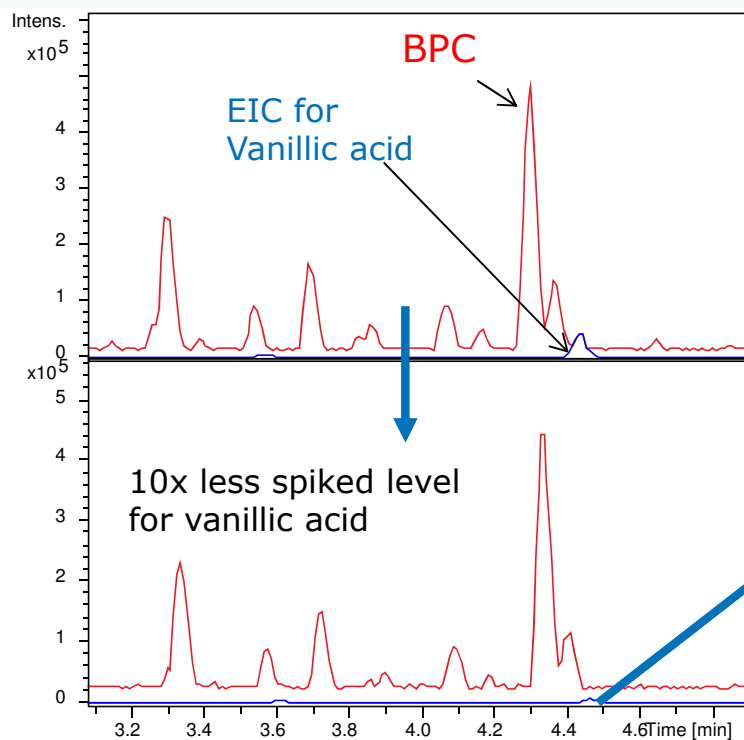
Precursor was picked for fragmentation by the Instant Expertise method!

Confidence in the data.  
Even low abundant precursor ions are fragmented in complex samples.





# MS/MS spectrum enables identification via Bruker HMDB Metabolite Library query



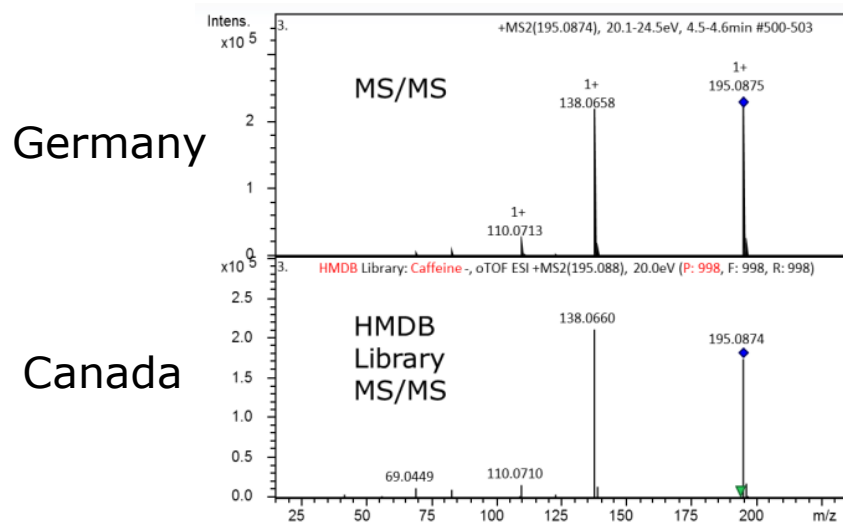
MS/MS data acquired permits confident ID via spectral library query. In this case via the **Bruker HMDB Metabolite Library**.

# Deeper insights with the Bruker HMDB Metabolite Library “Human Metabolome Data Base” (HMDB)



Acquired in collaboration with the “**HMDB** team” at the University of Alberta.  
Lead by **Profs. Liang Li and David Wishart**.

- **~800** pure reference standards , measured on an **impact HD QTOF**
- up to **5** different **collision energies**, each mass spectrum **manually curated**



Perfect matching between  
Library and experimental  
spectrum.

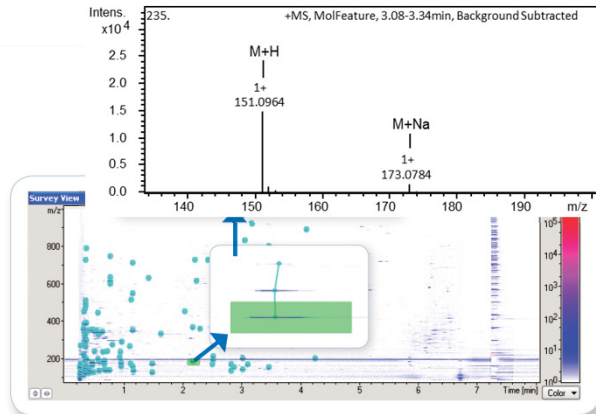
# Non- targeted & targeted Metabolomics



**Both** can be addressed using one ESI-TOF-MS data set

## Non-targeted Metabolomics:

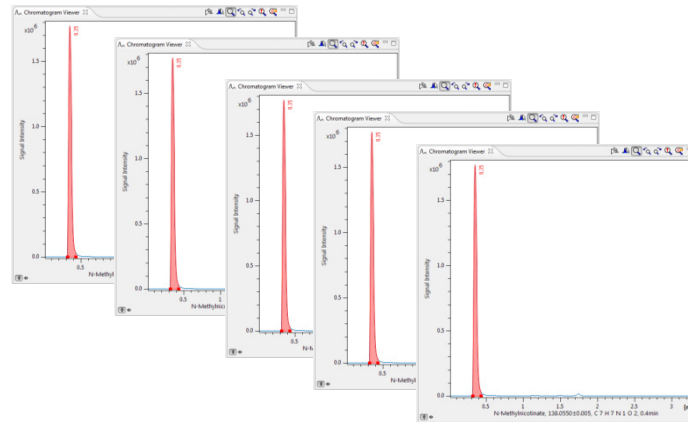
- “Think” extract all **Features** first



**MetaboScape**

## Targeted Metabolomics:

- “Think” **hrEICs** – if you know what you are looking for



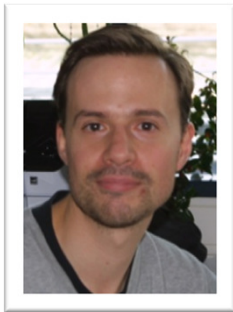
**PathwayScreener**

# Acknowledgement



The study presented was conducted in collaboration with

Sven Heiling, Klaus Gase, Ian T. Baldwin  
Max Planck Institute for Chemical Ecology, Molecular Ecology Department, Jena, Germany



Emmanuel Gaquerel  
Centre for Organismal Studies Heidelberg,  
Plant Defense Metabolism Research Group, Heidelberg,  
Germany



Max Planck Society

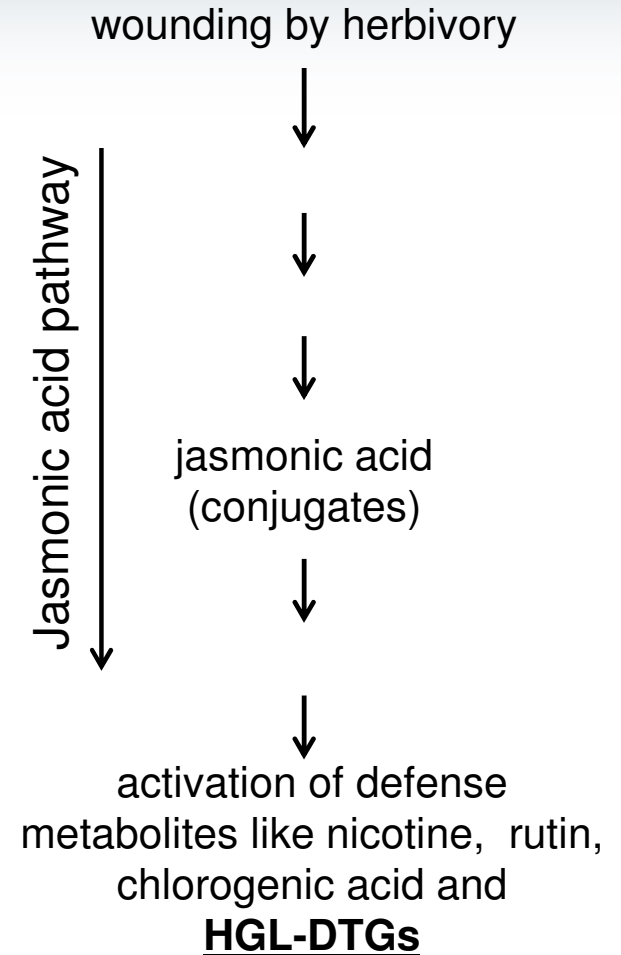
MAX-PLANCK-GESELLSCHAFT

## Introduction – tobacco plants have enemies...

*Manduca sexta* induces the Jasmonic acid pathway which activates plant defense mechanisms



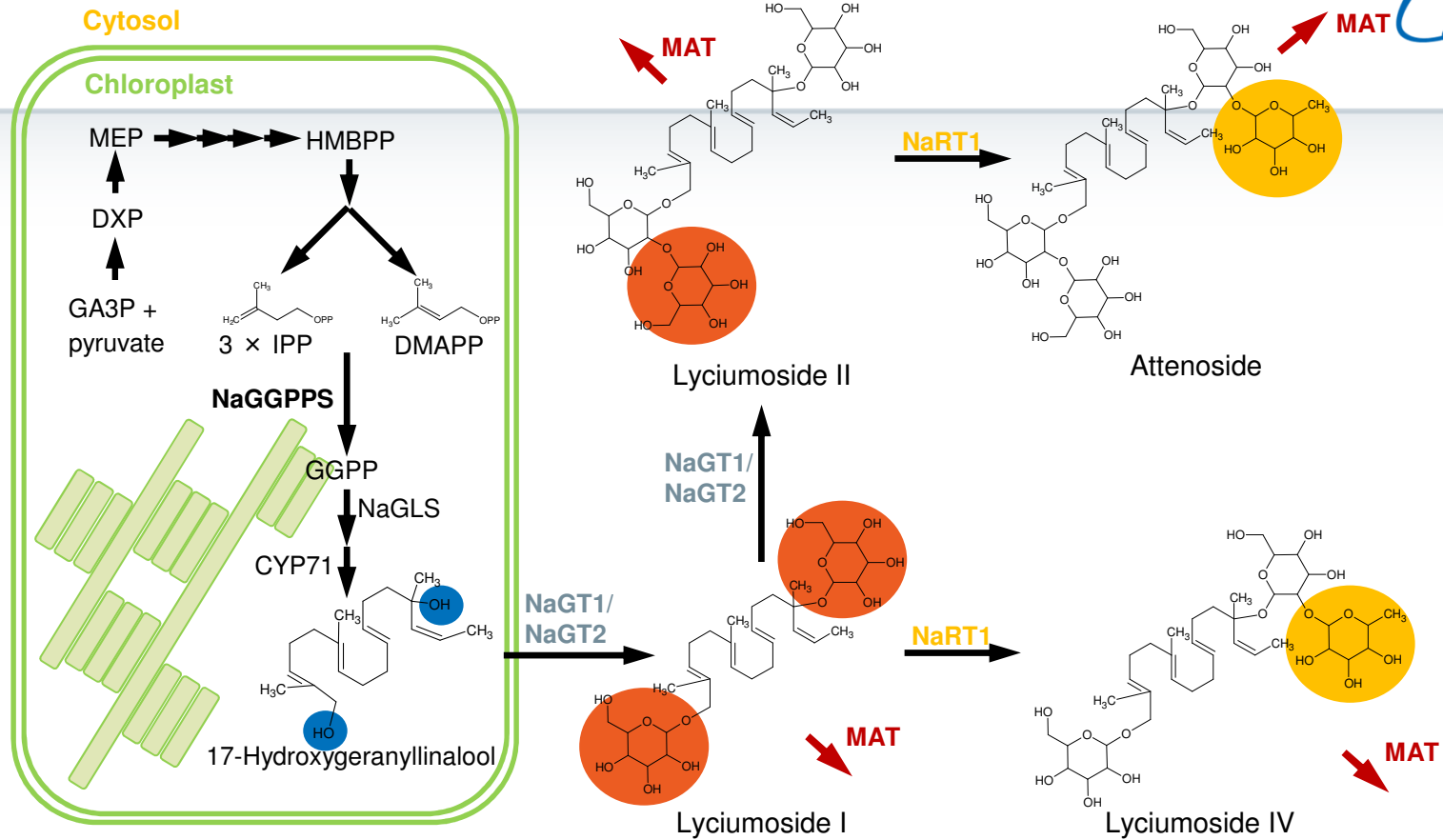
- Specialist *Manduca sexta* – mayor pest on various solanaceae species
- feeds on green leaf material





# Introduction

## 17-HGL-DTG biosynthesis



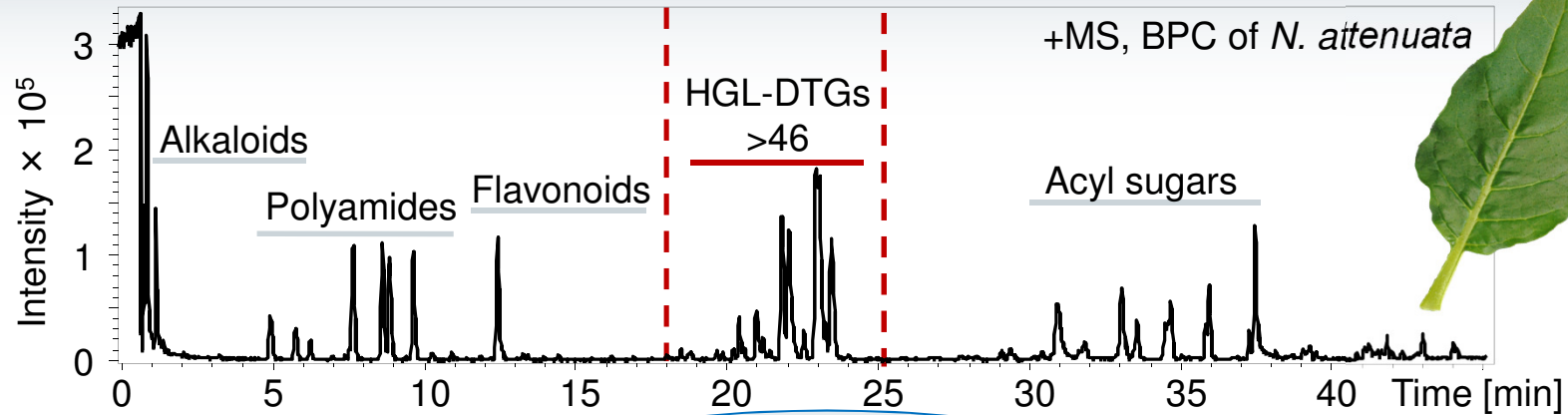
- 17-HGL is glucosylated at C-3 and C-17 hydroxy groups
- HGL-DTGs can be further glycosylated by either glucose or rhamnose
- HGL-DTGs can be malonylated up to three times
- Until now we identified **46 HGL-DTGs** in *N. attenuata*

These 2 genes will be important later in this talk

**NaRT1**

**NaGT1**

# Databases of HRAM MS features



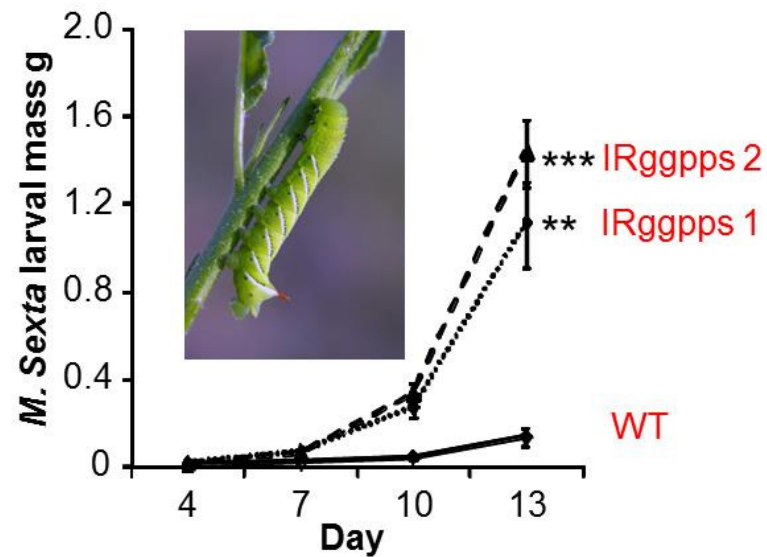
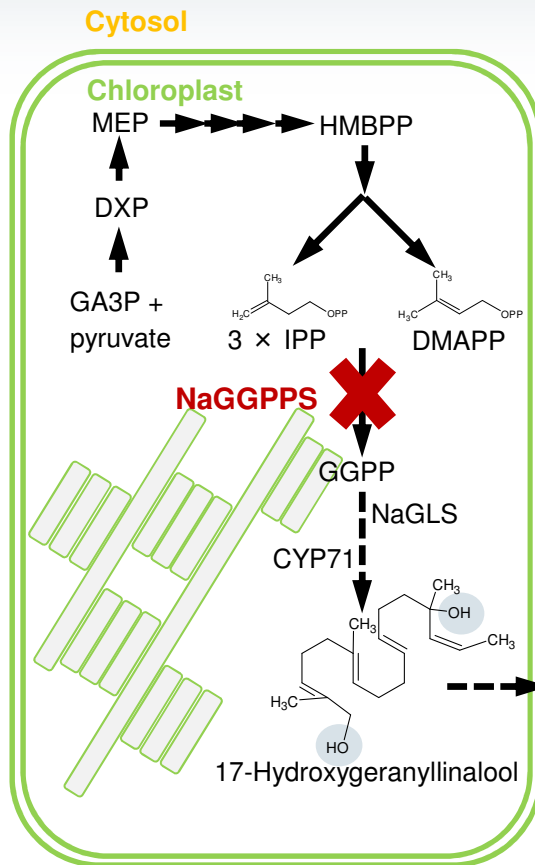
## In-house database

- high resolution mass spectrometry database
- 137 HGL-DTGs in 35 different solanaceous species
- 46 HGL-DTGs in *N. attenuata*
- detailed fragmentation information (IS-CID, MS, MS/MS) leading to 955 non-redundant explained fragments

## In-house database

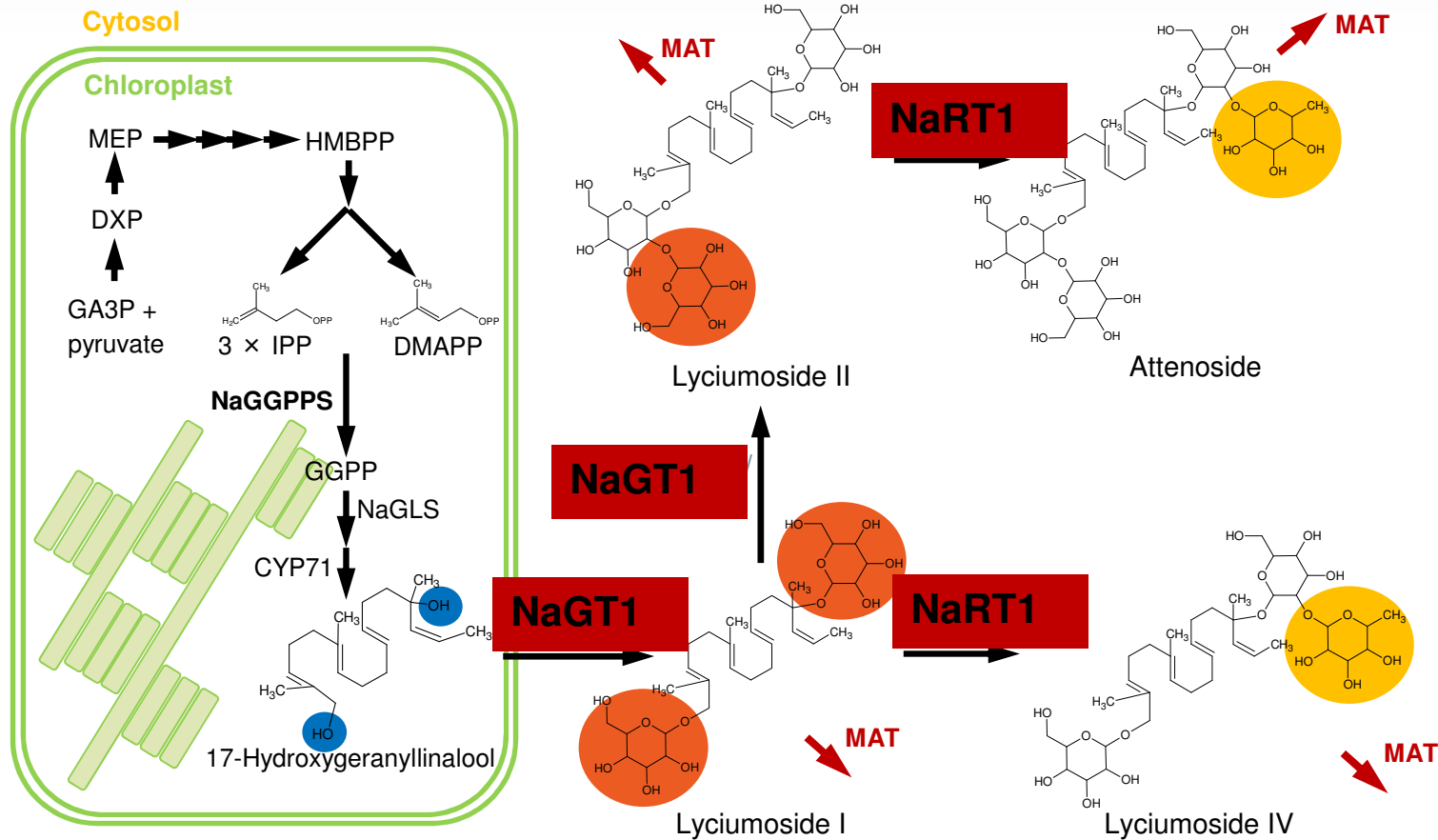
- 30 polyamides
- 15 acyl sugars
- 15 flavonoids
- 7 amino acids
- 4 alkaloids
- others

# Ecological function of HGL-DTGs



- Silencing NaGGPPS decreases the total HGL-DTG concentration
- Total HGL-DTGs have a significant effect on the growth of the specialist herbivore *M. sexta*

# What is the biological effect if NaGT1 or NaRT1 are silenced?





# “Silencing” NaGT1 causes a severe plant phenotype, buds mostly stalled, multiple branching

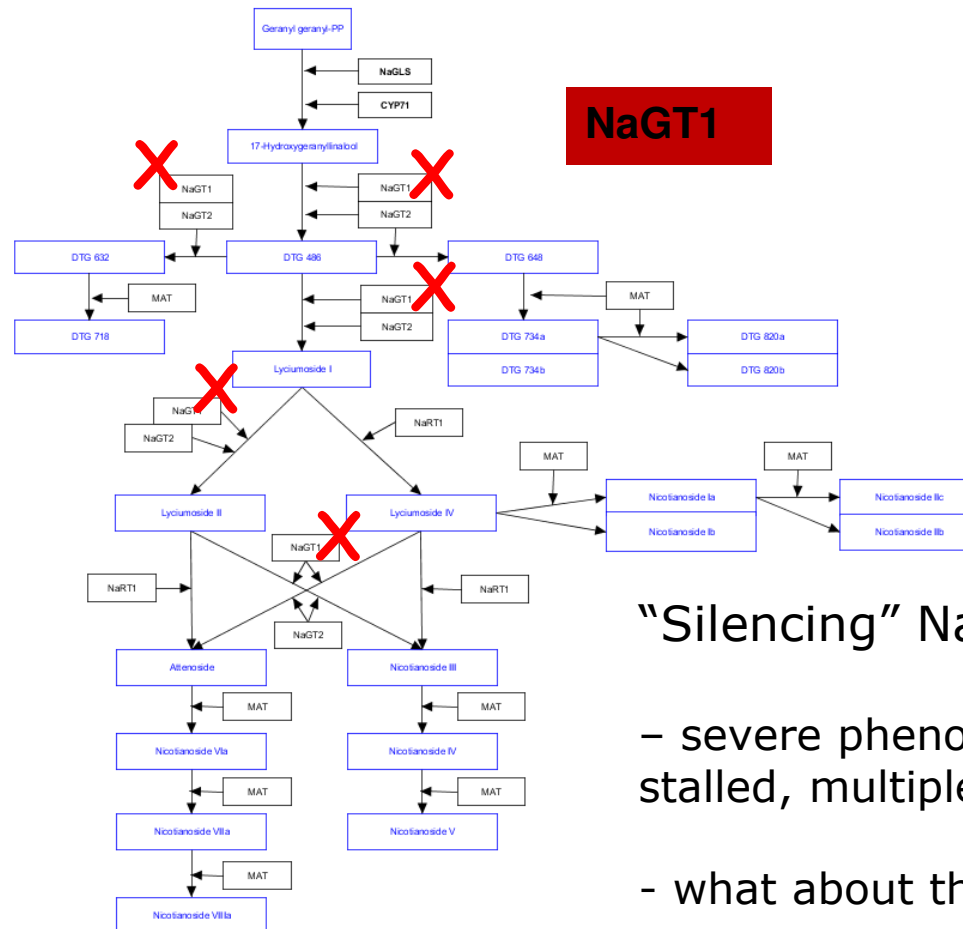


## „HGL-DTG biosynthesis“

WT



NaGT1



NaGT1

## “Silencing” NaGT1

- severe phenotype, buds mostly stalled, multiple branching
- what about the metabolome?



Pathway designed by Sven Heiling with PathVisio

# Metabolic profiling of WT, GT1 & RT1 tobacco plants



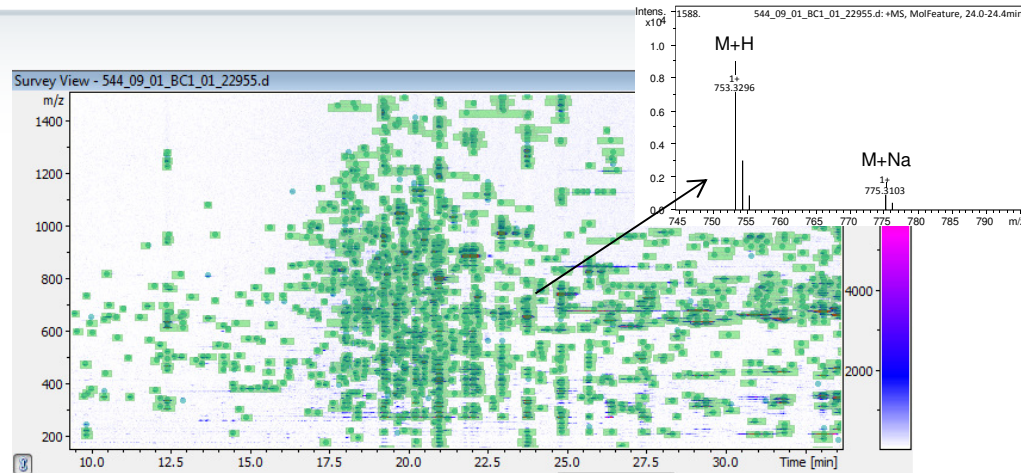
Seamless data acquisition of LC-MS/MS measurements for the three *N. attenuata* lines via **impact II** & **Instant Expertise™**





# Metabolic profiling of WT, GT1 & RT1 tobacco plants

Seamless data evaluation by MetaboScape

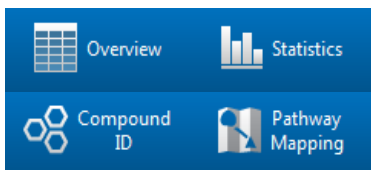


## Comprehensive feature extraction by "Find Molecular Features" algorithm

- Combines adducts, charge states and isotopes belonging to the same compound detected within a sample
- ~3300 FMF compounds extracted per sample

- **Combining** extracted FMF features resulted in **3539 buckets** for further analysis in novel **MetaboScape** software

Bucket	RT [min]	Mass m/z	Name	Molecular Formula	AQ	Include	WT_02_B48_01...	WT_01_B02_01...	WT_04_B02_01...	WT_05_B02_01...	WT_01_B02_01...	518_05_01_081...	518_05_02_081...	518_05_01_014...	518_05_04_044...
3537	0.88min	381.0...													
3538	0.88min	383.0...													
3539	0.87min	219.0...													

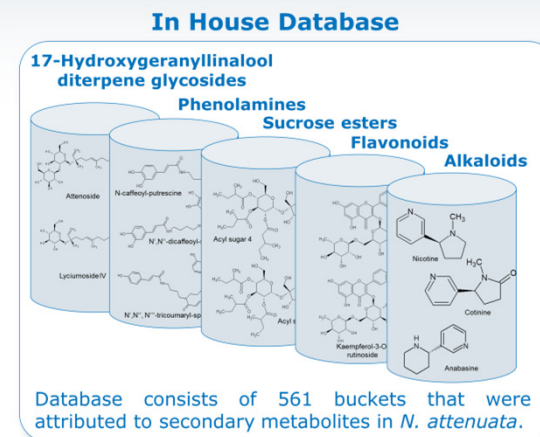


# Automatic identification of known compound >550 buckets

Fast and confident de-replication using in-house DB



- **3539 buckets** from extracted FMF features in HRAM LC-MS data of samples from WT, GT1 and RT
- **Database in simple CSV format** of 561 fragments consists of molecular formula, name and retention time
- MetaboScape – with one push of a button: Automatically & confidently annotate **561 buckets**



Bucket	RT [min]	Meas. m/z	Name	Molecular For...	AQ	Include	WT_02_BA8_01...	WT_03_BC2_01...	WT_04_BB2_01...	WT_05_BC6_01...	WT_01_BC8_01...	538_05_01_BB1...	538_05_02_BB3...	538
544	18.86min : 287....	18.86	287.23602	Unknown diterpene aglyc...	C <sub>20</sub> H <sub>30</sub> O		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
545	17.94min : 287....	17.94	287.23622	Unknown diterpene aglyc...	C <sub>20</sub> H <sub>32</sub> O <sub>2</sub>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
546	18.11min : 287....	18.11	287.23622	Unknown diterpene aglyc...	C <sub>20</sub> H <sub>30</sub> O		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1909	0	1178	0	0	0	0
547	18.38min : 287....	18.38	287.23606	Unknown diterpene aglyc...	C <sub>20</sub> H <sub>30</sub> O		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
548	14.16min : 595....	14.16	595.16384	kaempferol-3-rutinoside	C <sub>27</sub> H <sub>30</sub> O <sub>15</sub>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3142	2220	0	0	3185	5003	2435
549	14.17min : 287....	14.17	287.05402	kaempferol-3-rutinoside, ...	C <sub>21</sub> H <sub>32</sub> O <sub>6</sub>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1216	0	1019	0	0	0	0
550	14.16min : 449....	14.16	449.10672	kaempferol-3-rutinoside, ...	C <sub>21</sub> H <sub>30</sub> O <sub>11</sub>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1375	920	1251	0	1383	1751	850
551	1.01min : 161.0...	1.01	161.04566	nicotine	C <sub>10</sub> H <sub>14</sub> N <sub>2</sub>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3454	1987	2988	2821	0	3180	2494
552	1.24min : 163.1...	1.24	163.12275	nicotine	C <sub>10</sub> H <sub>14</sub> N <sub>2</sub>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	387671	630357	663802	494714	511427	510515	664261
553	1.01min : 157.0...	1.01	157.01201	nicotine	C <sub>10</sub> H <sub>14</sub> N <sub>2</sub>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	6798	5805	7000	6974	5375	7896	6192
554	0.96min : 163.1...	0.96	163.12304	nicotine	C <sub>10</sub> H <sub>14</sub> N <sub>2</sub>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	711589	1023345	959225	963968	1057463	992241	1136156
555	37.72min : 149....	37.72	149.02352	phthalic anhydride - cont...	C <sub>8</sub> H <sub>4</sub> O <sub>3</sub>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	0	3353	3696	0	3631	0	3003
556	37.33min : 149....	37.33	149.02353	phthalic anhydride - cont...	C <sub>8</sub> H <sub>4</sub> O <sub>3</sub>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	46024	43791	43068	56201	53045	54504	52969
557	10.02min : 303....	10.02	303.04912	quercetin	C <sub>15</sub> H <sub>10</sub> O <sub>7</sub>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1926	2771	2177	1786	1934	1805	1833
558	10.02min : 627....	10.02	627.15420	quercetin 3-O-beta-D-gl...	C <sub>27</sub> H <sub>30</sub> O <sub>17</sub>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	0	2285	0	2317	1726	2151	0
559	10.01min : 649....	10.01	649.13601	quercetin 3-O-beta-D-gl...	C <sub>27</sub> H <sub>30</sub> O <sub>17</sub>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2086	0	1957	0	0	0	1580
560	13.07min : 303....	13.07	303.04967	quercetin fragment	C <sub>15</sub> H <sub>10</sub> O <sub>7</sub>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1657	1589	1191	0	0	1790	0
561	10.02min : 465....	10.02	465.10304	quercetin glucopyranoside	C <sub>21</sub> H <sub>30</sub> O <sub>13</sub>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	950	1304	952	1363	827	964	962
562	44.70min : 702....	44.70	702.86123				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	0	0	0	0	1875	1482	0
563	44.67min : 226....	44.67	226.95126				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	0	5686	0	0	0	0	5752
564	44.59min : 515....	44.59	515.38908		C <sub>21</sub> H <sub>30</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	0	465	425	510	0	620	0

# Seamless identification of unknowns

Automated molecular formula generation using SmartFormula



	Bucket	RT [min]	Meas. m/z ▲	Name	Molecular Formula	AQ
2424	21.05min : 831.344m/z	21.05	831.344		C <sub>48</sub> H <sub>42</sub> N <sub>12</sub> S	
2425	17.92min : 831.394m/z	17.92	831.394		C <sub>38</sub> H <sub>54</sub> O <sub>18</sub>	
2426	17.68min : 831.394m/z	17.68	831.394		C <sub>32</sub> H <sub>52</sub> N <sub>10</sub> O <sub>10</sub> PS	
2427	37.15min : 831.450m/z	37.15	831.450		C <sub>32</sub> H <sub>55</sub> N <sub>20</sub> O <sub>5</sub> P	
2428	38.11min : 831.475m/z	38.11	831.475		C <sub>37</sub> H <sub>50</sub> N <sub>24</sub>	

- Remaining ~ **3000 features automatically assigned** with candidate molecular formula with SmartFormula™

Annotate with SmartFormula

Configure SmartFormula to annotate the bucket table.

Elements: CHNOPS

Tolerances and Scoring

m/z:   mDa

mSigma:

Boundaries

Lower formula:   estimate carbon number

Upper formula:   auto upper formula



# Seamless identification of relevant compounds

Automated molecular formula generation using SmartFormula & structural assignment through DB query



- ~ **3000 features automatically assigned** with candidate molecular formula with SmartFormula™

	Bucket	RT [min]	Meas. m/z ▲	Name	Molecular Formula	AQ
2424	21.05min : 831.344m/z	21.05	831.344		C <sub>49</sub> H <sub>42</sub> N <sub>12</sub> S	
2425	17.92min : 831.394m/z	17.92	831.394		C <sub>38</sub> H <sub>54</sub> O <sub>18</sub>	
2426	17.68min : 831.394m/z	17.68	831.394		C <sub>32</sub> H <sub>51</sub> N <sub>10</sub> O <sub>10</sub> PS	
2427	37.15min : 831.450m/z	37.15	831.450		C <sub>32</sub> H <sub>55</sub> N <sub>20</sub> O <sub>5</sub> P	
2428	38.11min : 831.475m/z	38.11	831.475		C <sub>37</sub> H <sub>50</sub> N <sub>24</sub>	

Composition Custom Adducts Element Ratios Filters

Lower formula: C<sub>36</sub>  estimate carbon number

Upper formula: C<sub>78</sub>H<sub>128</sub>N<sub>25</sub>O<sub>27</sub>  auto upper formula

C 36-78, H 0-126, N 0-25, O 0-27

Note: for m < 2000 the elements C, H, N, and O are considered implicitly.

## SmartFormula™

Generate  auto

#	Neutral Formula	Calc. mass	Ions	Ion	Ion Formula	Calc. m/z
1	C <sub>38</sub> H <sub>64</sub> O <sub>18</sub>	808.4093		[M-NH <sub>4</sub> ] <sup>+</sup>	C <sub>38</sub> H <sub>68</sub> N <sub>18</sub> <sup>+</sup>	826.4431
2	C <sub>36</sub> H <sub>52</sub> N <sub>14</sub> O <sub>8</sub>	808.4093		[M-NH <sub>4</sub> ] <sup>+</sup>	C <sub>36</sub> H <sub>56</sub> N <sub>15</sub> O <sub>8</sub> <sup>+</sup>	826.4431
3	C <sub>45</sub> H <sub>60</sub> O <sub>13</sub>	808.4034		[M-NH <sub>4</sub> ] <sup>+</sup>	C <sub>45</sub> H <sub>64</sub> N <sub>13</sub> <sup>+</sup>	826.4372

- Followed by structural assignment through public database (KEGG\*, CheBI, PubChem) queries.

C<sub>38</sub>H<sub>54</sub>O<sub>18</sub> = M Search

Search for:  Formula  Name

	Compound	Compoun...	Database
1	(2E,6E)-3,7,11-Trimethyl-2,6,10-dodecatrien-1-yl alpha-L-arabinop...	8804570	ChemSpider
2	3-[[4-O-(6-Deoxy-alpha-L-mannopyranosyl)-beta-D-glucopyrano...	22913925	ChemSpider

Path URL

1	22913925	http://www.chemspider.com/Search.aspx?q=22913925
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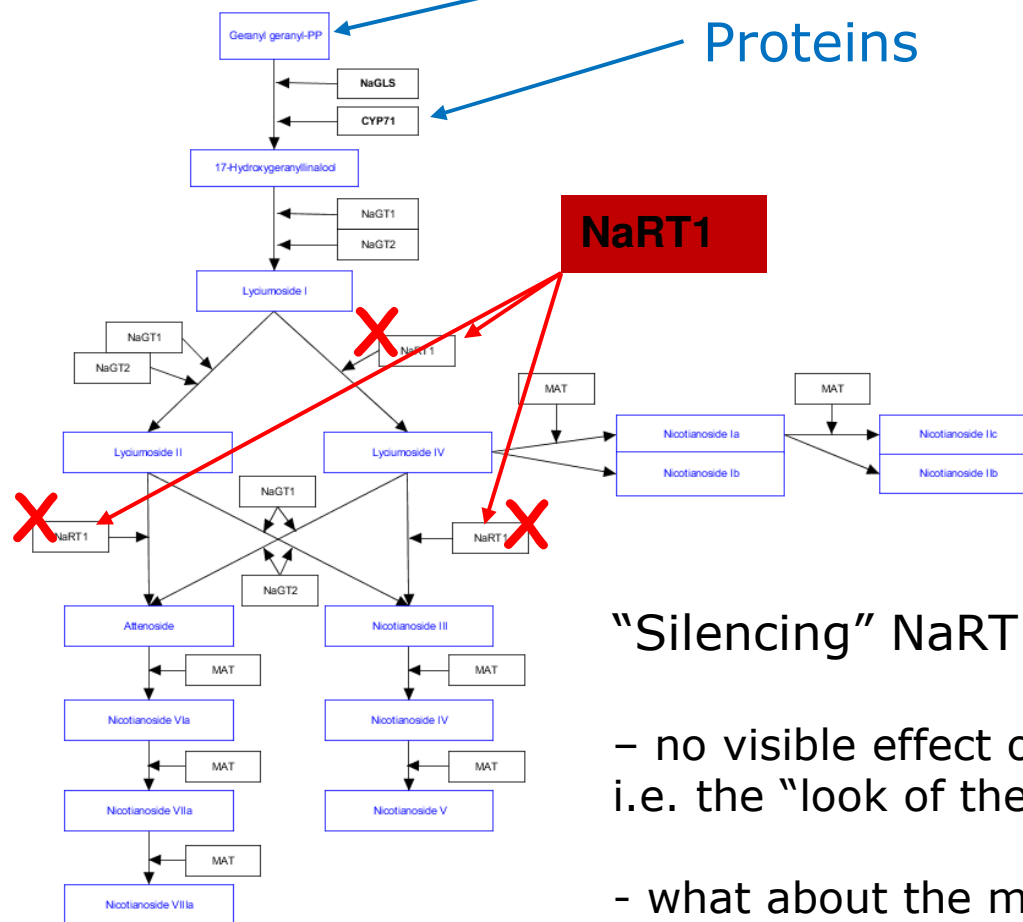
# MetaboScape 1.0

Pathway mapping of identified target compounds links data to the underlying biology



„HGL-DTG biosynthesis“

Metabolites  
Proteins



“Silencing” NaRT1

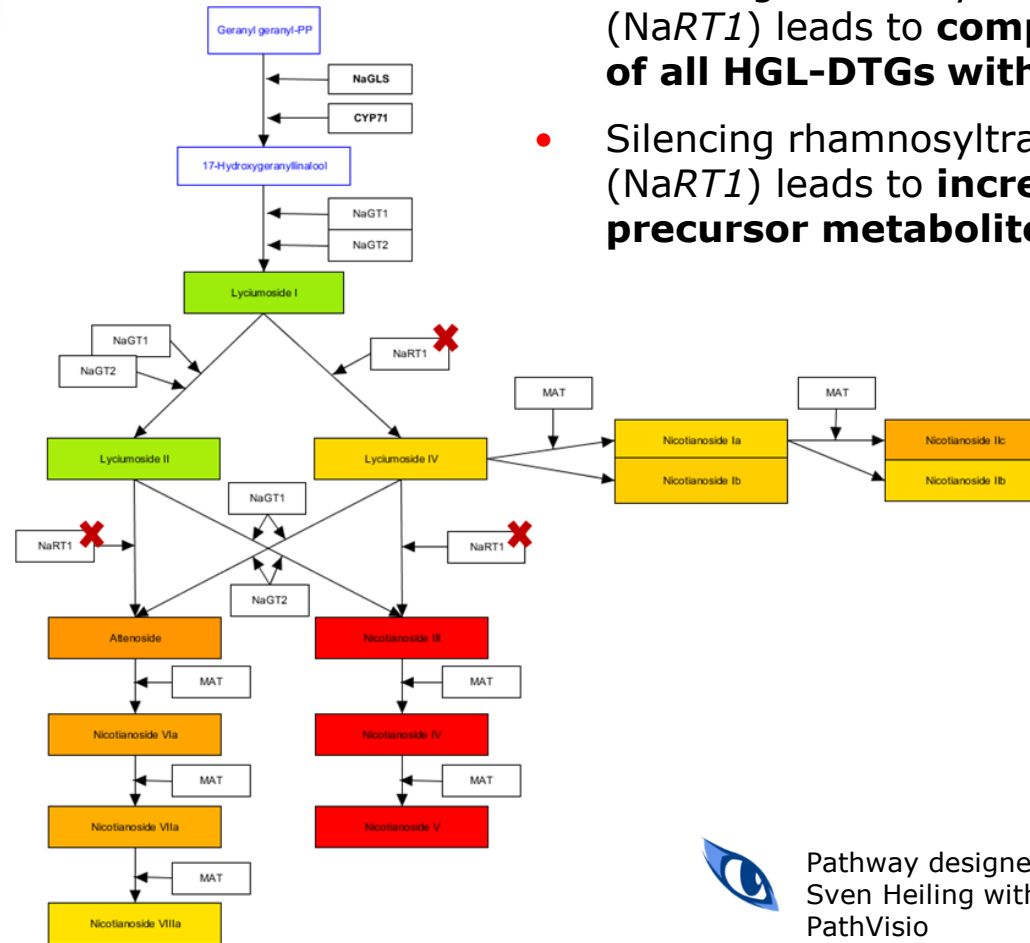
- no visible effect on Phenotype, i.e. the “look of the plant”
- what about the metabolome?

# MetaboScape 1.0

Pathway mapping of identified target compounds links data to the underlying biology



## „HGL-DTG biosynthesis“



- Silencing rhamnosyltransferase (NaRT1) leads to **complete reduction of all HGL-DTGs with rhamnose**
- Silencing rhamnosyltransferase (NaRT1) leads to **increase in precursor metabolites**



Pathway designed by Sven Heiling with PathVisio

+10  
log2 - fold change toWT  
-10



# MetaboScape 1.0

Pathway mapping of identified target compounds links data to the underlying biology

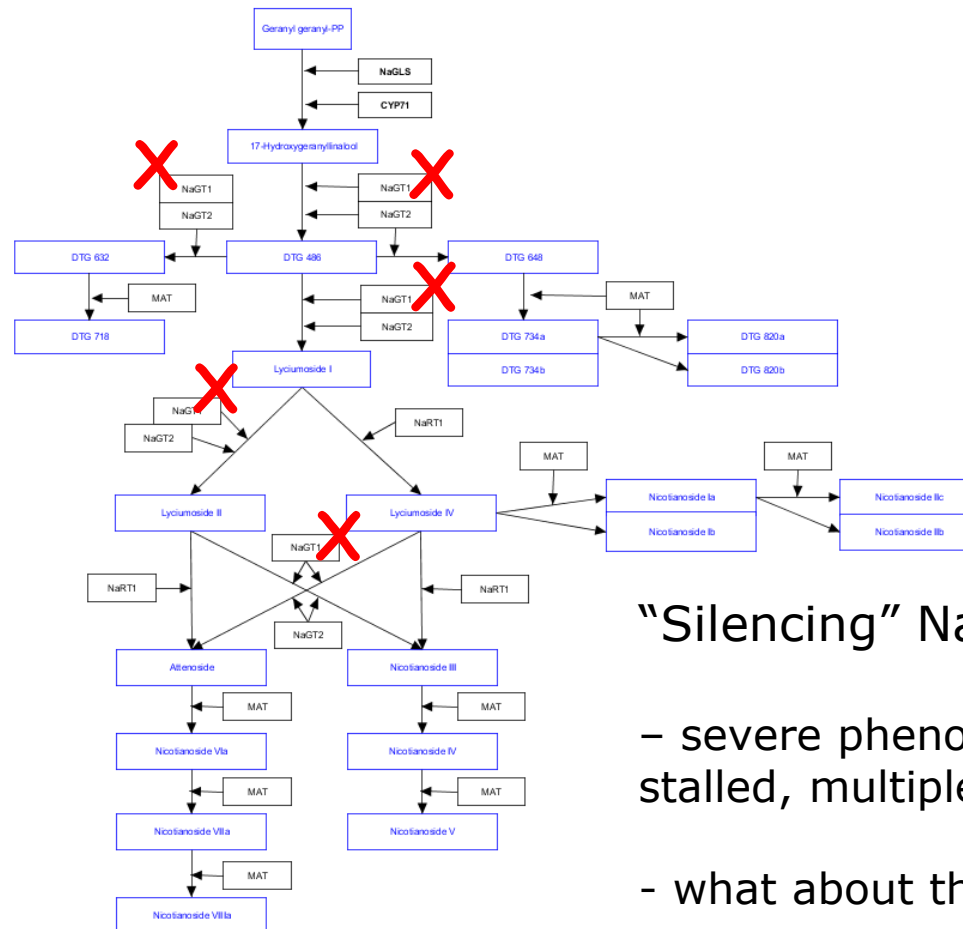


## „HGL-DTG biosynthesis“

WT



NaGT1



“Silencing” NaGT1

- severe phenotype, buds mostly stalled, multiple branching
- what about the metabolome?



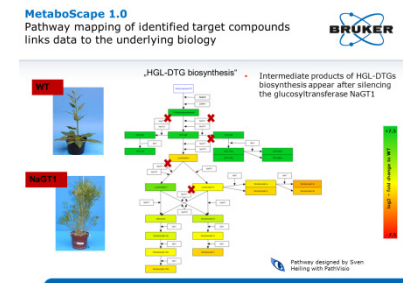
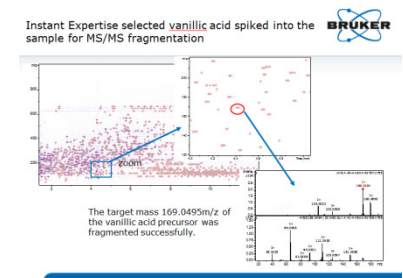
Pathway designed by Sven Heiling with PathVisio

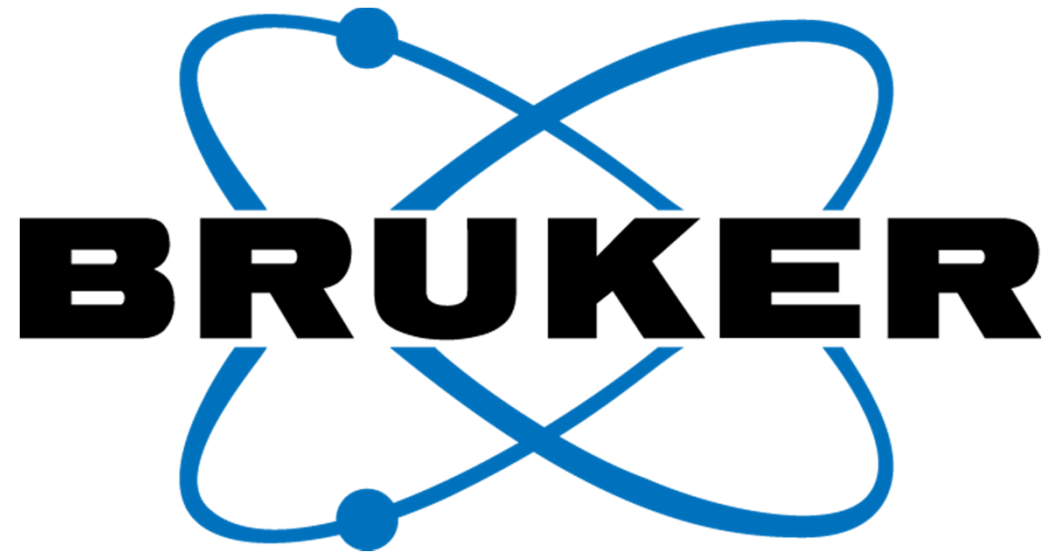




## Outline -> Summary

- If you want to automate data processing workflows in Metabolomics you have to be able to rely on the raw data.
  - Robustness and Sensitivity and Dynamic range and High resolution, mass accuracy and isotopic fidelity in one scan mode at LC speed is absolute must in Metabolomics: Impact II
- Introducing MetaboScape. Turning MS data into knowledge!
  - MetaboScape combines statistical data mining, automatic compound identification routines, and pathway mapping functionalities for linking MS data to biology in discovery metabolomics.
  - Here, enabling to detected and link diverse biological effects in genetically silenced lines of *N. attenuata* impaired in the biosynthetic steps of HGL-DTGs.





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