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► To cite this version:

C. Bonnot, A. Hénocq, C. Gaumétou, Emmanuelle Morin, Annegret Kohler, et al.. Regulation of ectomycorrhizal symbiosis by nutrient signalling in poplar. 3rd MPIterMic - ARBRE workshop on Molecular Plant Fungal Interactions, Nov 2018, Cologne, Germany. hal-04187772

HAL Id: hal-04187772

<https://hal.science/hal-04187772>

Submitted on 25 Aug 2023

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Regulation of ectomycorrhizal symbiosis by nutrient signalling in poplar

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Rationale

Ectomycorrhizal fungi (ECM) provide mineral nutrient to trees in exchange for organic carbon.

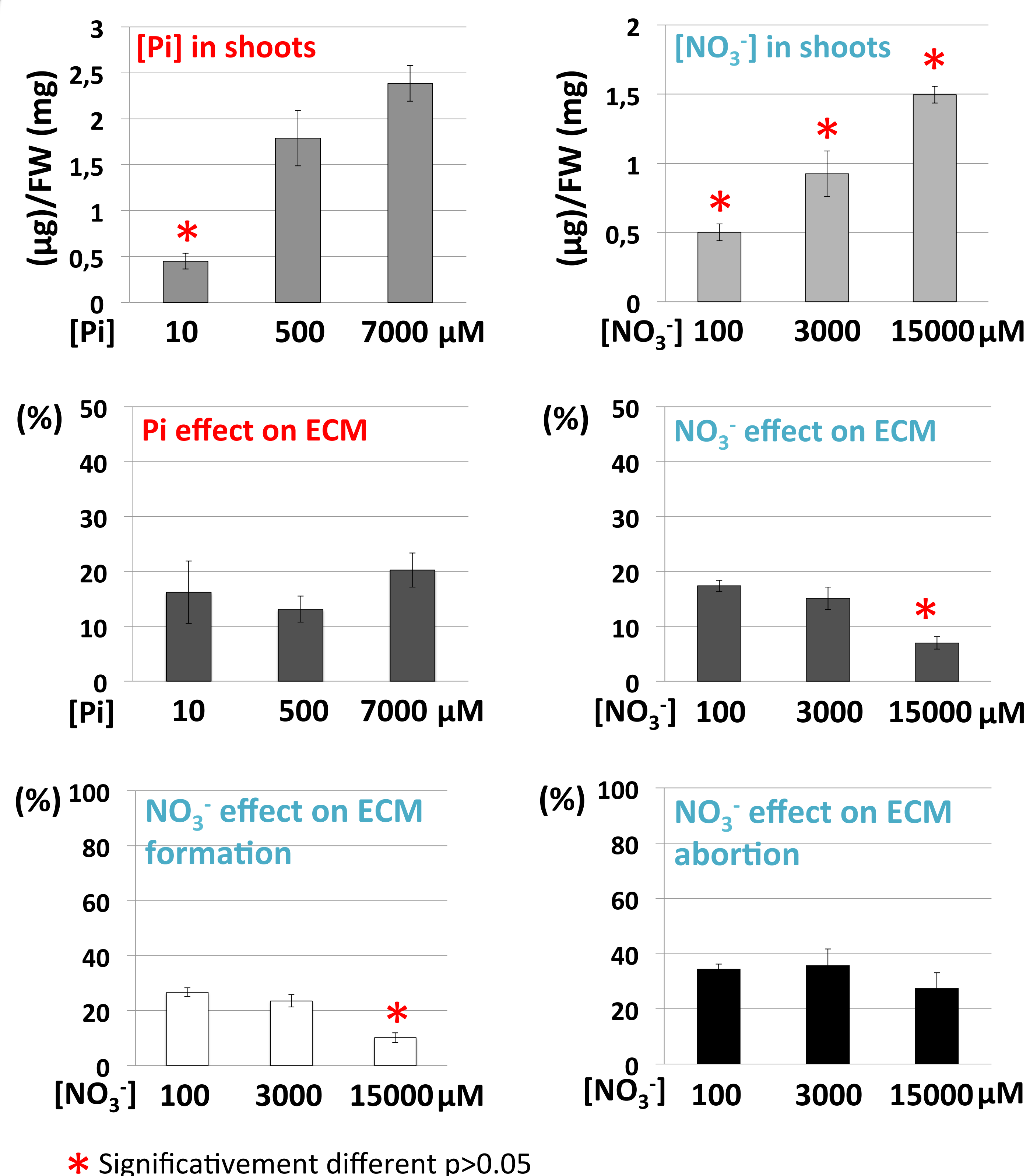
Not to spend resources inefficiently, **trees should integrate nutritional cues to regulate these symbiotic associations.**

CLE and CEP Small-Secreted Peptides mediate the **nutrient stress signals** regulating symbiosis with nitrogen-fixing bacteria in Legumes.

We want to investigate **whether and how trees nutrient signals control ECM associations** by:

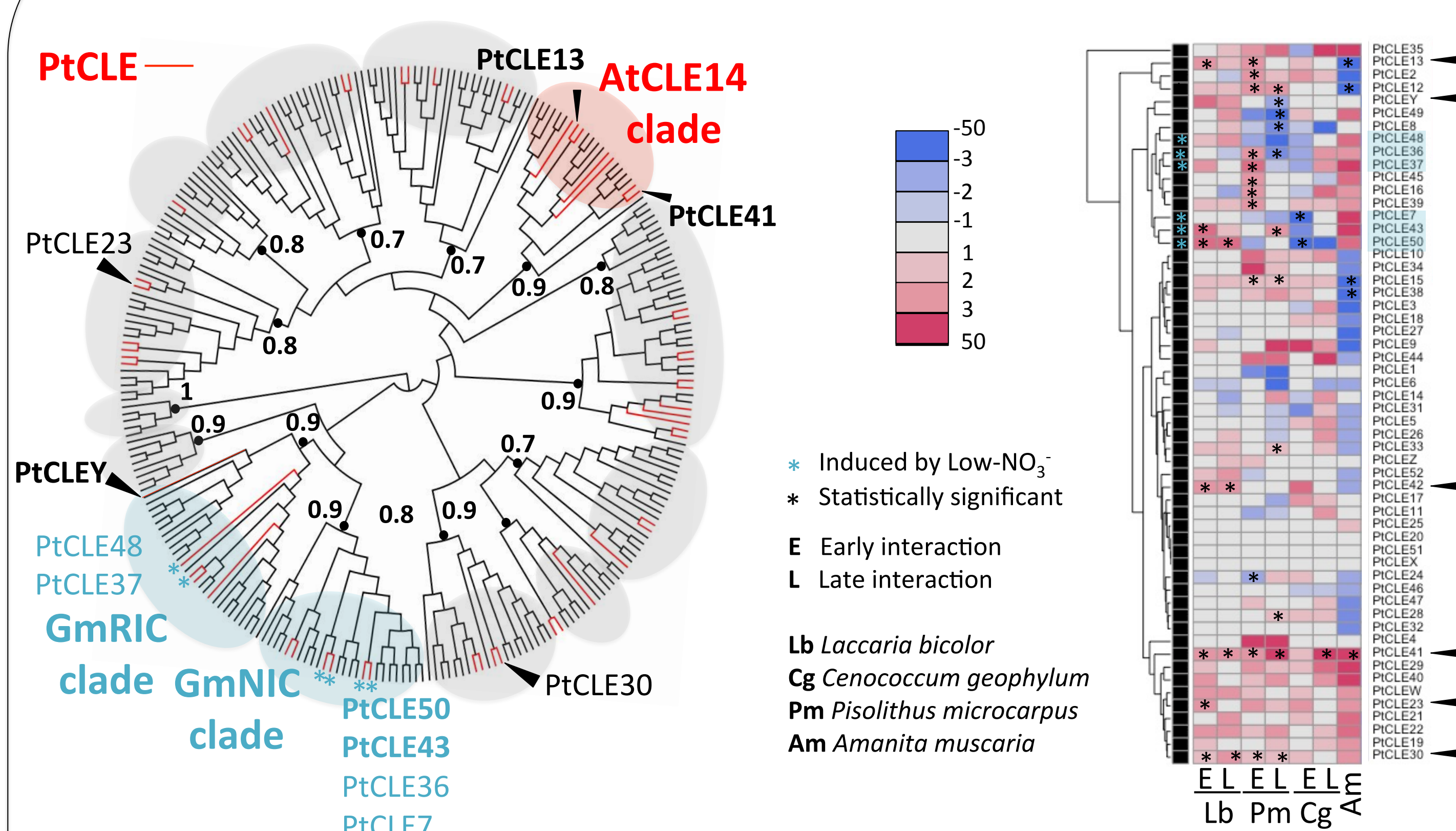
- Characterizing the effects of nutrient stresses on ECM symbiosis in *Populus canescens* associated to the fungus *Laccaria bicolor*
- Identifying CLE and CEP members in *Populus*
- Assessing their role in the transduction of nutrient signals regulating *Populus-Laccaria* ECM by transcriptomics and secretomics.

Nutrient availability regulates ECM

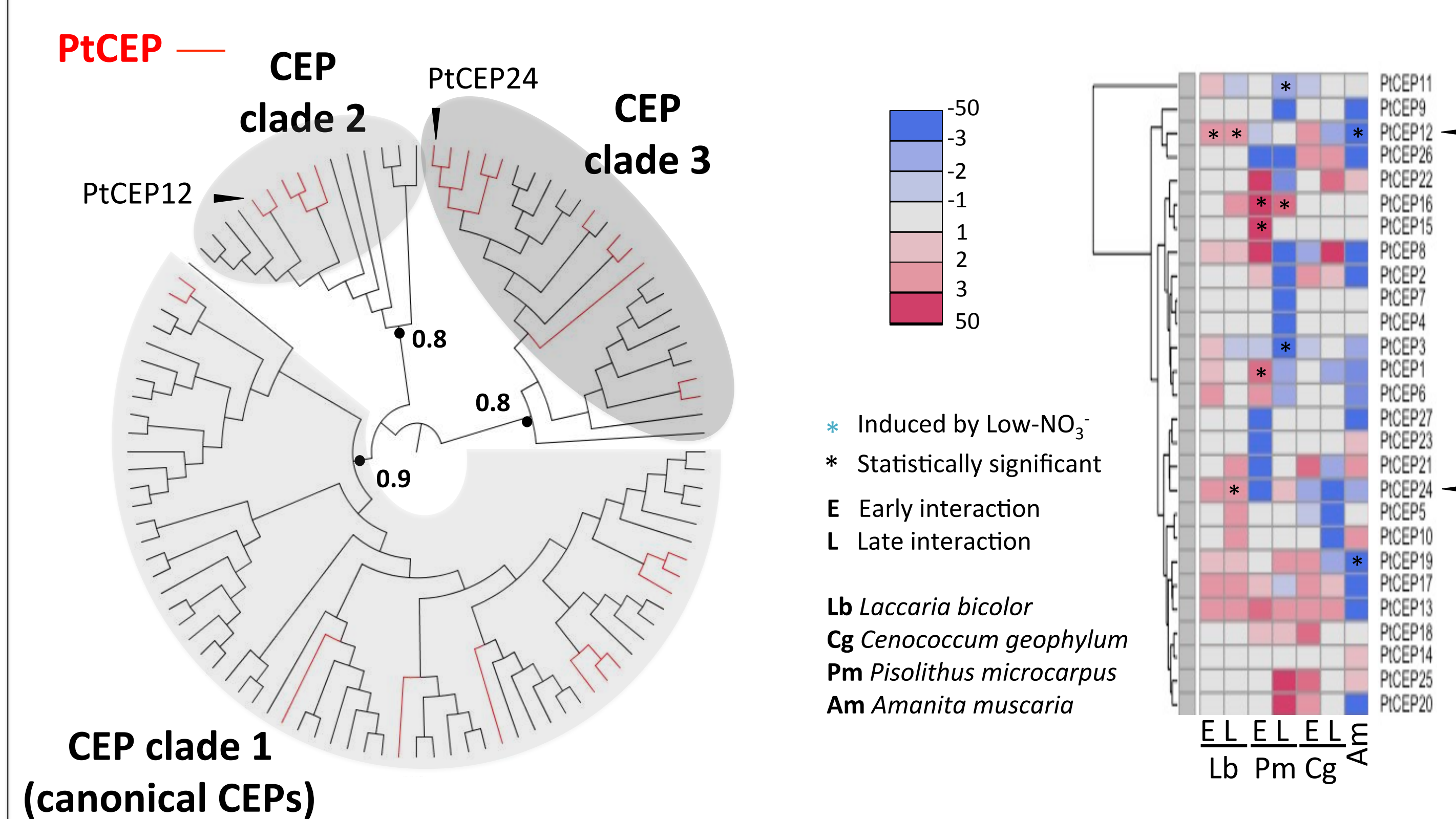


- **NO₃⁻** and **Pi** availability in soil affect their concentrations in poplar
- ECM symbiosis is regulated by **[NO₃⁻]** **BUT NOT** by **[Pi]** availability
- **[NO₃⁻]** availability represses ECM formation

Poplar CLE and CEP families



- The expression of some poplar CLEs (*) is enhanced by low **[NO₃⁻]**
- Some poplar CLE genes are upregulated by ECM (—)



- Some poplar CEP genes are upregulated by ECM (—)

Conclusion

- *Populus canescens* regulates its association to *Laccaria bicolor* in response to **NO₃⁻**.
- Poplar CLEs transcriptionally upregulated by **N stresses** and orthologous to legumes CLEs mediating **N stresses** signals could mediate the transduction of the signal repressing ECM symbiosis in response to **NO₃⁻** excess in poplar.
- In legumes, pre-existing nodules repress the formation of new nodules, through action of CLE peptides. The ECM-mediated transcriptional induction of poplar CLEs and CEPs suggests similar auto-regulation of ECM symbiosis.



This work was supported by a grant overseen by the French National Research Agency (ANR) as part of the "Investissements d'Avenir" program (ANR-11-LABX-0002-01, Lab of Excellence ARBRE)

