

1 **Resource Article**

2

3 **The transcriptome of soybean reproductive tissues subjected to**  
4 **water deficit, heat stress, and a combination of water deficit and**  
5 **heat stress.**

6

7

8 **Ranjita Sinha<sup>1</sup>, Sai Preethi Induri<sup>2</sup>, María Ángeles Peláez-Vico<sup>1</sup>, Adama Tukuli<sup>2</sup>, Benjamin**  
9 **Shostak<sup>1</sup>, Sara I. Zandalinas<sup>3</sup>, Trupti Joshi<sup>2,4,5</sup>, Felix B. Fritschi<sup>1</sup>, and Ron Mittler<sup>1,6\*</sup>**

10

11 <sup>1</sup>Division of Plant Sciences and Technology, College of Agriculture Food and Natural Resources  
12 and Interdisciplinary Plant Group, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO 65211, USA.

13 <sup>2</sup>Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, University of Missouri, Columbia,  
14 MO 65211, USA.

15 <sup>3</sup>Department of Biology, Biochemistry and Environmental Sciences, University Jaume I. Av. de  
16 Vicent Sos Baynat, s/n, Castelló de la Plana, 12071, Spain.

17 <sup>4</sup>Institute for Data Science and Informatics and Interdisciplinary Plant Group, University of  
18 Missouri, Columbia, MO 65211, USA.

19 <sup>5</sup>Department of Health Management and Informatics, and Christopher S. Bond Life Sciences  
20 Center, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO 65211, USA.

21 <sup>6</sup>Department of Surgery, University of Missouri School of Medicine, Christopher S. Bond Life  
22 Sciences Center, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO 65201, USA.

23 \*Author for correspondence: [mittlerr@missouri.edu](mailto:mittlerr@missouri.edu)

24

25 **Running Title:** Transcriptome of reproductive tissues during stress

26 **Key Words:** Transcriptomics, stress combination, drought, heat, anther, ovule, stigma, sepals,  
27 leaf, pods.

## 28 **SUMMARY**

29 Global warming and climate change are driving an alarming increase in the frequency and intensity  
30 of extreme climate events, such as droughts, heat waves, and their combination, inflicting heavy  
31 losses to agricultural production. Recent studies revealed that the transcriptomic responses of  
32 different crops to water deficit (WD) or heat stress (HS) is very different from that to a combination  
33 of WD+HS. In addition, it was found that the effects of WD, HS, and WD+HS are significantly  
34 more devastating when these stresses occur during the reproductive growth phase of crops,  
35 compared to vegetative growth. As the molecular responses of different reproductive and  
36 vegetative tissues of plants to WD, HS, or WD+HS could be different from each other, and these  
37 differences could impact many current and future breeding and/or engineering attempts to enhance  
38 the resilience of crops to climate change, we conducted a transcriptomic analysis of different  
39 soybean (*Glycine max*) tissues to WD, HS, and WD+HS. Here we present a reference  
40 transcriptomic dataset that includes the response of soybean leaf, pod, anther, stigma, ovary, and  
41 sepal to WD, HS, and WD+HS conditions. Mining this data set for the expression pattern of  
42 different stress-response transcripts revealed that each tissue had a unique transcriptomic response  
43 to each of the different stress conditions. This finding is important as it suggests that attempting to  
44 enhance the overall resilience of crops to climate change could require a coordinated approach that  
45 simultaneously alters the expression of different groups of transcripts in different tissues in a  
46 stress-specific manner.

47

## 48 **SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT**

49 A reference transcriptomic dataset of different reproductive tissues of soybean subjected to water  
50 deficit, heat stress, and their combination, generated by this study, reveals that different tissues  
51 display different responses to these stress conditions. Attempting to enhance the resilience of crops  
52 to different stress combinations, associated with climate change, might therefore require  
53 simultaneously altering the expression of different sets of transcripts in different tissues in a  
54 coordinated and stress-specific manner.

55

56

## 57 INTRODUCTION

58 Global warming is driving an alarming increase in the frequency and intensity of climate extremes,  
59 such as droughts, floods, cold snaps and/or heat waves, inflicting heavy losses to agricultural  
60 production and causing food insecurities that destabilize different societies worldwide (Lobell and  
61 Gourджи, 2012; Lesk et al., 2016; Alizadeh et al., 2020; Overpeck and Udall, 2020; Brás et al.,  
62 2021; Masson-Delmotte et al., 2021; Zandalinas et al., 2021; Lesk et al., 2022). In addition to the  
63 costly effects of each of these individual climate events (*e.g.*, droughts, floods, or heat waves), in  
64 some instances two or more climate extremes can impact crops simultaneously, *e.g.*, when a heat  
65 wave occurs during droughts or floods (*e.g.*, Mazdiyasi and AghaKouchak, 2015; Hao et al.,  
66 2018; Alizadeh et al., 2020; Overpeck and Udall, 2020; Zandalinas et al., 2021; Lesk et al., 2022).  
67 Historically, a combination of drought and heat wave had a devastating impact on agriculture,  
68 surpassing the effects of each individual condition and resulting in heavy losses to grain production  
69 in major crops such as maize, soybean, rice, and wheat (Mittler, 2006; Lobell and Gourджи, 2012;  
70 Suzuki et al., 2014; Mahrookashani et al., 2017; Cohen et al., 2021b; Bheemanahalli et al., 2022;  
71 Liu et al., 2022). Multiple studies have now revealed that the occurrence of drought and heat wave  
72 episodes is gradually increasing in recent years due to global warming and climate change, posing  
73 a heightened risk to agriculture (*e.g.*, AghaKouchak et al., 2014; Alizadeh et al., 2020; Potopová  
74 et al., 2021; Zandalinas et al., 2021). The effects of water deficit and heat stress combination on  
75 crop yield was also found to be significantly more devastating when the two stresses coincide  
76 during the reproductive growth phase of crops, compared to during vegetative growth (*e.g.*, Suzuki  
77 et al., 2014; Mahrookashani et al., 2017; Lawas et al., 2018; Cohen et al., 2021b; Sinha et al., 2021;  
78 Bheemanahalli et al., 2022; Liu et al., 2022).

79 The impact of water deficit, heat stress, and/or their combination on reproductive processes of  
80 major crops has been the subject of intense research efforts and improving the tolerance of  
81 reproductive tissues to these stress conditions is a major goal of breeders and the agricultural  
82 biotech industry worldwide (*e.g.*, Prasad et al., 2008; Fang et al., 2010; Rang et al., 2011; Jin et  
83 al., 2013; Su et al., 2013; Jagadish et al., 2015; Oury et al., 2016a; Mahrookashani et al., 2017;  
84 Lawas et al., 2018; Bheemanahalli et al., 2019; Gaur et al., 2019; Lippmann et al., 2019; Reichardt  
85 et al., 2020; Da Costa et al., 2022; Ishimaru et al., 2022; Rivero et al., 2022). As the development  
86 and maturation of reproductive tissues, the fertilization process, embryogenesis, and seed

87 maturation, involve the coordination of multiple developmental, stress-response, and/or  
88 programmed cell death (PCD) pathways, under controlled conditions, it was hypothesized that any  
89 stress, such as heat stress (HS), water deficit (WD), or their combination (*i.e.*, WD+HS), could  
90 alter the balance between development and stress response pathways and impair the entire  
91 reproductive process (Endo et al., 2009; Jin et al., 2013; Su et al., 2013; Ma et al., 2014; Oury et  
92 al., 2016b; Djanaguiraman et al., 2018; Begcy et al., 2019; Bheemanahalli et al., 2019; Fábíán et  
93 al., 2019; del Olmo et al., 2019; Santiago and Sharkey, 2019; Hedhly et al., 2020; Lohani et al.,  
94 2020; Chaturvedi et al., 2021; Sze et al., 2021; Santiago et al., 2021; Sinha et al., 2021; Zhang et  
95 al., 2021; Lu et al., 2022; Mareri and Cai, 2022). For example, the activation of stress response  
96 pathways, such as those inducing desiccation tolerance, could occur too early during the pollen or  
97 seed maturation processes under WD conditions, and the activation of PCD pathways in the  
98 tapetum during the development of pollens could occur too early under HS conditions. Of  
99 particular importance to the synchronization of reproductive processes under controlled growth  
100 conditions are transient changes in the levels of stress hormones such as abscisic acid (ABA) and  
101 jasmonic acid (JA), and/or reactive oxygen species (ROS), that accompany baseline reproductive  
102 processes and play a key role in harmonizing them. The levels of ABA, JA, and/or ROS can  
103 however be altered in reproductive tissues during stresses such as WD, HS, or WD+HS, which  
104 may disrupt the delicate and coordinated function of these signaling molecules, required for the  
105 baseline regulation of plant reproductive processes, and impair overall reproduction and yield (*e.g.*,  
106 reviewed in Sze et al., 2021; Santiago et al., 2021; Sinha et al., 2021).

107 We recently conducted a comparative transcriptomic analysis of the response of whole flower,  
108 pod, and leaf, to WD, HS, and WD+HS, in soybean (*Glycine max*) plants and found that the  
109 transcriptomic response of reproductive tissues (whole flower or pod) was different from that of  
110 leaf to each of these stresses, as well as their combination (Cohen et al., 2021a; Sinha et al., 2022b;  
111 Sinha et al., 2022a). In addition, we found that, in contrast to stomata on leaf which remained  
112 closed during WD+HS combination to prevent water loss, stomata of sepal and pod remained open  
113 during this stress combination (Sinha et al., 2022a; Sinha et al., 2022b). This differential stomatal  
114 response between reproductive (flower and pod) and vegetative (leaf) tissues was accompanied by  
115 a differential transpiration response (high in flower and pod and low in leaf), that protected  
116 reproductive tissues from overheating during the stress combination (at the expense of leaves). We

117 termed this newly discovered acclimation response of plants ‘Differential transpiration’ (Sinha et  
118 al., 2022b).

119 As the transcriptomic response of different tissues of plants to WD+HS combination was found to  
120 be different between different tissues (whole flower, pod, and leaf), and this difference could  
121 impact many current and future breeding and/or engineering attempts to enhance the resilience of  
122 crops to climate change, we expanded the transcriptomic analysis of different plant tissues to  
123 WD+HS combination to include anther, stigma, ovary, and sepal. Here we present a reference  
124 transcriptomic dataset that includes the response of soybean leaf, pod, anther, stigma, ovary, and  
125 sepal to WD, HS, or a combination of WD+HS. Mining this data set for the expression pattern of  
126 HS-, WD-, hormone-, and ROS-related transcripts revealed distinct expression patterns for specific  
127 pathways in different tissues during different stress conditions and increased our overall  
128 understanding of the different molecular processes that occur in plants during a combination of  
129 WD+HS. Future mining of the dataset presented in this study could lead to the identification of  
130 new pathways and genes that may be used to enhance the resilience of crops to heat waves,  
131 droughts, and their combination, preventing losses estimated in billions of dollars to agriculture  
132 and increasing food security worldwide. Our findings are also important as they suggest that  
133 attempting to enhance the overall resilience of crops to different stresses, and/or their  
134 combinations, could require strategies that simultaneously target and coordinate multiple stress-  
135 response pathways in different tissues.

136

137

## 138 **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

139

### 140 **Growth conditions, sampling, and differences in the basal transcriptome of different tissues**

141 To study the transcriptomic response of different soybean (*Glycine max*, cv *Magellan*) tissues to  
142 conditions of WD, HS, or a combination of WD+HS, we grew plants under controlled growth  
143 conditions in chambers as previously described (Cohen et al., 2021a; Sinha et al., 2022a; Sinha et  
144 al., 2022b). When plants started flowering (R1 stage) we induced conditions of WD, HS, or  
145 WD+HS (Sinha et al., 2022b) and maintained these conditions for 10-15 days before starting to  
146 sample the different plant tissues. This design ensured that all sampled tissues developed on plants

147 subjected to the different stress conditions. In addition, and as previously described, all flowers  
148 used for the transcriptomic analysis presented in the current study were at stages II and III (unopen  
149 flowers undergoing self-pollination) from plants at the R2 stage (Sinha et al., 2022b), and all pods  
150 were at a length of about 3 cm and contained developing seeds (Sinha et al., 2022a). Leaves and  
151 pods were sampled and immediately flash frozen in liquid nitrogen as previously described (Sinha  
152 et al., 2022a; Sinha et al., 2022b; Cohen et al., 2021a), while flowers were dissected as shown in  
153 Figure 1a and the different flower tissues (sepals, anthers, ovary, and stigma) were immediately  
154 flash frozen in liquid nitrogen. All tissues were processed for RNA-Seq analysis using the same  
155 protocols and all RNA was sequenced by Novogene co. Ltd (<https://en.novogene.com/>;  
156 Sacramento, CA, USA) using NovaSeq 6000 PE150 [Supplementary Tables S1-S36; GSE218146,  
157 GSE213479, GSE153951, and GSE186317, generated by this study and Sinha et al., (2022a),  
158 Sinha et al., (2022b), and Cohen et al., (2021a)]. All previously- (leaf and pod) and newly- (sepals,  
159 anthers, ovary, and stigma) generated raw RNA-Seq data were re-processed together and subjected  
160 to all post sequencing analyses steps as described in Sinha et al., (2022b).

161 To initiate our stress-response RNA-Seq tissue specific analysis in soybean, we compared  
162 the basal expression level of all transcripts with an FPKM (Fragments Per Kilo base of transcript  
163 per Million mapped fragments) value higher than 5 under controlled growth conditions, between  
164 the different tissues (Supplementary Tables S1-S6). As shown in Figure 1b, leaf, anther, ovary,  
165 sepal, pod, and stigma had more than 2,000, 1,700, 1,000, 600, 600, and 200 unique transcripts  
166 expressed, respectively (Supplementary Tables S7-S12). In contrast, more than 5,300 transcripts  
167 were commonly expressed in all tissues, while over 1,100 transcripts were common to all  
168 reproductive tissues, and over 940 transcripts were common to stigma and ovary (Figure 1b;  
169 Supplementary Tables S13-S15). The analysis shown in Figure 1 demonstrates that different  
170 tissues contain different sets of transcripts, and that stigma may be different from ovary by a few  
171 hundred transcripts only. Taken together, the sets of transcripts obtained from each tissue (Figure  
172 1b; Supplementary Tables S1-S33) indicate that the sampling strategy used (Figure 1a) could  
173 discern differences in the response of each tissue to WD, HS, or WD+HS, and that comparisons  
174 performed between these tissues could reveal biologically significant differences in the response  
175 of each tissue to the different stress treatments studied.

176

177 **Differential transcriptomic responses to WD, HS, or a combination of WD+HS within and**  
178 **between the different tissues**

179 To examine the response of each individual tissue to WD, HS, or WD+HS and compare responses  
180 among tissues, we generated Venn diagrams for each tissue (Figure 2). This analysis revealed that  
181 each tissue displayed a transcriptomic response that was specific to WD+HS. In anther and pod  
182 this response contained over 7,500 and 9,500 transcripts respectively, while in leaf, sepal, ovary,  
183 and stigma it contained over 4,500, 3,600, 5,000, and 4,900 transcripts, respectively. This finding  
184 suggests that compared to all other tissues, anther and pod may require a more extensive response  
185 to the WD+HS combination. An additional interesting finding that emerged from the data shown  
186 in Figure 2 is that the transcriptomic response of all reproductive tissues studied included fewer  
187 transcripts (359, 1155, 204, 525, and 822 transcripts in pod, sepal, anther, stigma, and ovary,  
188 respectively) than that of leaf (over 4,600 transcripts) in response to WD stress. This finding  
189 suggests that in contrast to leaf, reproductive tissues might be better protected during WD stress,  
190 perhaps because they represent a primary sink tissue of the plant (Harrison et al., 2022). In contrast  
191 to the transcriptomic responses of leaf, pod, and sepal (over 3,000, 2,400, and 4,300 transcripts,  
192 respectively), the transcriptomic responses of anther, stigma, and ovary to HS was more robust  
193 (over 7,000 transcripts in each tissue). This finding could suggest that anther, stigma, and ovary  
194 are more sensitive to HS and require a more extensive transcriptomic response to acclimate to  
195 these conditions than leaf, pod, and sepal.

196 To compare between the responses of the different tissues to HS, WD, or WD+HS, we used  
197 UpSet plots (Figure 3). This analysis revealed a very low overlap between the total transcriptomic  
198 response of each tissue to WD (0 transcripts common to all tissues), with leaf and sepal displaying  
199 the highest similarity in their response to WD (Figure 3a). A much higher overlap between the  
200 total transcriptomic response of the different tissues was found to HS, with stigma and ovary and  
201 stigma and anther showing the greatest overlap in transcript expression to this stress (Figure 3b).  
202 Interestingly, only 74 transcripts were common to all tissues in response to HS, demonstrating that  
203 each of the different tissues had a unique transcriptomic response to HS (Figure 3b). A unique  
204 response was also found in all tissues to the combination of WD+HS with anther, pod, leaf, and  
205 ovary showing the highest number of unique WD+HS transcripts (over 4,300, 2,600, 2,100, and  
206 1,300, respectively). In contrast to WD (Figure 3a), and HS (Figure 3b), a good overlap was  
207 however found between the total transcriptomic response of each tissue to WD+HS, with ovary

208 and stigma, anther and stigma, and anther and pod, showing the greatest overlap in transcript  
209 expression (Figure 3c). In addition, more than 560 transcripts were found to be common to the  
210 total transcriptomic response of all tissues to WD+HS (Figure 3c). When comparing the  
211 transcriptomic responses that were specific in each tissue to WD+HS (Figure 2), a much lower  
212 overall similarity was nevertheless found between the different tissues with only 16 transcripts  
213 common to all tissues (Figure 3d). Anther and pod, pod and leaf, and pod and ovary displayed the  
214 highest overlap between the different tissues (905, 706, and 650 transcripts, respectively) to  
215 WD+HS (Figure 3d).

216 The findings presented in Figures 2 and 3 demonstrate that each tissue has a unique  
217 transcriptomic response to WD, HS, or WD+HS and that the responses of the different tissues to  
218 the different stress conditions vary. These findings suggest that the chances of attempting to induce  
219 resilience of all plant tissues to WD, HS, or WD+HS using alterations in the expression pattern of  
220 only one gene, or one pathway, are slim, and that a more focused effort should be made to study  
221 tissue specific responses to WD, HS, or WD+HS conditions.

222

### 223 **Expression of HS-, WD-, ABA-, and ROS-related transcripts in the different tissues in** 224 **response to WD, HS, or a combination of WD+HS**

225 To mine the transcriptomic data obtained from the different tissues developing on plants subjected  
226 to CT, WD, HS, or WD+HS, we focused on selected pathways that play important roles in the  
227 acclimation of plants to HS, WD, and/or oxidative stress (Schöffl et al., 1998; Frank et al., 2009;  
228 Giorno et al., 2010; Liu and Howell, 2010; Suzuki et al., 2011, 2014; Howell, 2013; Sun et al.,  
229 2013; Fragkostefanakis et al., 2016; Ohama et al., 2017; Zhang et al., 2017; Zandalinas et al., 2018;  
230 Singh et al., 2021; Mittler et al., 2022). As illustrated in Figure 4, comparing the expression pattern  
231 of heat shock transcription factors (HSFs; Figure 4a) that regulate many cytosolic, mitochondrial  
232 and chloroplastic heat stress responses, and endoplasmic reticulum (ER)-related heat response  
233 pathways (the unfolded protein response pathway; UPR; Figure 4b), during WD, HS, or WD+HS,  
234 revealed several differences in the way each tissue responded to the different stress conditions. In  
235 contrast to leaf, for example, reproductive tissues did not alter the expression of many HS-response  
236 transcripts in response to WD. In addition, unlike Arabidopsis, in which the UPR was shown to  
237 play a prominent role in protecting reproductive tissues during HS (Howell, 2013; Deng et al.,  
238 2016), the expression of many transcripts involved in both the ER (UPR) and HSF pathways was



239 elevated in response to HS or WD+HS in soybean reproductive tissues (Figure 4). This finding  
240 suggests that HSFs and the UPR pathway are both involved in the response of reproductive and  
241 vegetative soybean tissues to these stresses. Although HSFs displayed an overall similar response  
242 to HS and WD+HS among tissues, some differences were found between the expression of specific  
243 HSFs in response to these two conditions [*e.g.*, HSF2B (GLYMA\_01G217400) was mostly  
244 expressed during HS in flower organs, and HSF2A (GLYMA\_13G105700) was mostly expressed  
245 during WD+HS in pod, stigma, and ovary; Figure 4a]. In addition, some ER (UPR) responses were  
246 specific to leaf in response to all stresses, while other ER responses were specific to anther in  
247 response to HS or WD+HS, and some were specific to leaf in response to WD (Figure 4b).

248 Differences in the expression of selected drought-response and ROS scavenging transcripts  
249 could also be found between the different tissues in response to the different stress treatments  
250 (Figure 5). For example, several drought-response transcripts were highly expressed in pod during  
251 WD+HS, but not during WD or HS (Figure 5a). In addition, compared to leaf, several different  
252 drought-response transcripts were specifically expressed in reproductive tissues in response to HS,  
253 or WD+HS, but not WD (Figure 5a). In contrast to all other tissues, anther displayed an enhanced  
254 expression of ROS-scavenging transcripts such as those encoding ascorbate peroxidase 1 and 2  
255 (APX1 and APX2) in response to HS or WD+HS (Figure 5b). In addition, in contrast to leaf, a  
256 group of ROS scavenging transcripts including glutathione peroxidase 7 (GPX7) and copper/zinc  
257 superoxide dismutase 3 (CSD3) was upregulated in almost all reproductive tissues in response to  
258 HS or WD+HS (Figure 5b).

259 As shown in Figure 6, while the expression of many transcripts encoding ABA biosynthesis  
260 enzymes was upregulated during WD+HS in all tissues, many of these transcripts were not  
261 upregulated in response to WD or HS (Figure 6a). In an apparent balancing act, however, the  
262 expression of many transcripts encoding ABA degradation enzymes was also upregulated in all  
263 tissues during WD+HS (Figure 6a). The expression of one transcript encoding the ABA  
264 degradation enzyme ABA 8'-hydroxylase (CYP707A4; GLYMA\_07G212700) was specific to  
265 sepal, ovary and pod during HS and WD+HS, suggesting that this isozyme of CYP707A might be  
266 responsible for the accumulation of dihydrophaseic acid (DPA) during HS and WD+HS in whole  
267 flowers and the opening of stomata on sepal and pod during these stress conditions (Sinha et al.,  
268 2022b; Sinha et al., 2022a; Figure 6a). Interestingly, compared to leaf, the expression of most  
269 transcripts encoding ABA biosynthesis and degradation enzymes was not upregulated in

270 reproductive tissues during WD (Figure 6a). This finding could suggest that during WD, ABA is  
271 mobilized from leaves or roots to reproductive tissues, rather than synthesized/degraded in these  
272 tissues, or that reproductive tissues are less sensitive than other plant tissues to WD due to being a  
273 prime sink tissue (Harrison et al., 2022).

274 Analysis of the expression pattern of transcripts encoding the superoxide radical (ROS)-  
275 generating enzyme respiratory burst oxidize homolog (RBOH), that plays a key role in the  
276 regulation of ROS signaling during plant development and abiotic/biotic stresses (Suzuki et al.,  
277 2011; Wang et al., 2020; Devireddy et al., 2021; Mittler et al., 2022), in the different tissues in  
278 response to the different stress conditions further revealed that the expression of transcripts  
279 encoding numerous RBOHs is suppressed in many of the tissues in response to WD+HS (Figure  
280 6b). The expression of transcripts encoding specific RBOH isozymes was however elevated in a  
281 few of the tissues. The complex pattern of RBOH expression in the different tissues in response to  
282 the different stress treatments could suggest that ROS levels in the different flower organs, pod  
283 and leaf are determined by an interplay between the expression of different ROS scavenging  
284 (Figure 5b) and ROS producing (Figure 6b) enzymes during the different stresses, and that this  
285 interplay is different among the different tissues.

286 As an example for a unique response that appeared in only one tissue type for only one  
287 stress condition, we focused on the Auxin Response Factor (ARF) pathway. As shown in Figure  
288 6c, the expression of many transcripts regulated by the ARF pathway (GO annotation:  
289 GO:0032012; regulation of ARF protein signal transduction) was suppressed in anther specifically  
290 during a combination of WD+HS. As the expression of several ROS scavenging transcripts was  
291 significantly elevated in anther during WD+HS combination (Figure 5b), and auxin and ROS  
292 signaling interact (Blomster et al., 2011; Devireddy et al., 2021), it is possible that this unique  
293 response of the ARF pathway during WD+HS is associated with ROS and auxin responses in  
294 anther during stress combination (Figures 6c and 5b).

295 Taken together, the results presented in Figures 4-6 reveal that the responses of many of  
296 the different plant tissues to WD, HS, or WD+HS are mediated by different pathways, and/or  
297 different transcripts that belong to the same pathway. These could involve an interplay between  
298 and within the HSF and UPR pathways (Figure 4), the ROS scavenging and production pathways  
299 (Figures 5b and 6b), the ABA synthesis and degradation pathways (Figures 5a and 6a), and the  
300 auxin and ROS pathways (Figures 5b and 6c). Future mining efforts of the reference dataset

301 generated by this study, for the involvement of additional pathways in the different tissues in  
302 response to the different stress conditions, could eventually lead to a more comprehensive  
303 understanding of the acclimation process of different reproductive tissues to WD, HS, and/or  
304 WD+HS. This could in turn lead to the development of new strategies to enhance the resilience of  
305 soybean to various climate change-associated stresses/stress combinations.

306

### 307 **Network analysis of HSFA2 in ovule in response to WD, HS, or a combination of WD+HS**

308 To demonstrate the utility of the comparative reference transcriptomic dataset obtained by our  
309 study, we conducted a limited network regulatory study of one gene (*i.e.*, HSFA2) using the  
310 GENIE3 platform (Huynh-Thu et al., 2010). HSFA2 is a central regulator of the HSF network in  
311 different plants (Liu and Charng, 2013; Lämke et al., 2016; Ohama et al., 2017), and is encoded in  
312 soybean by 5 genes (Figures 4a and 7). As not much is known about the response of ovary to  
313 different stresses in soybean, we focused on the response of ovary to WD, HS, or WD+HS. As  
314 shown in Figure 7a, the expression of all 5 transcripts encoding HSFA2 was unaltered in response  
315 to WD (shown by yellow triangles in Figure 7a), resulting in a very limited response of transcripts  
316 associated with this transcription factor (TF). The few HSFA2-associated transcripts that did show  
317 altered expression in Figure 7a could be regulated by other stress response regulatory transcripts  
318 that may belong to the HSF network, or to other HS/WD/WD+HS-response networks (Figures 4-  
319 6). In contrast to WD, four HSFA2 transcripts were upregulated in ovary in response to HS (shown  
320 by red triangles in Figure 7b) and the expression of many more transcripts associated with HSFA2s  
321 was altered (Figure 7a, 7b). These included 95 transcripts that were upregulated and 84 that were  
322 downregulated. Included in these transcripts were several small heat shock proteins (sHSPs) like  
323 sHSP20 and sHSP17.6, HSFA6B, and several proteins involved in PCD regulation  
324 (Supplementary Tables S34-S36). In response to WD+HS all 5 transcripts encoding HSFA2 were  
325 upregulated (shown by red triangles in Figure 7c) resulting in an even more extensive response  
326 that included 137 and 133 transcripts that were up or down regulated, respectively, and included  
327 different sets of heat and drought response proteins, such as those encoding dehydration responsive  
328 element-binding 2C (DREB2C), and proteins involved in proline, pyruvate and  
329 phosphoenolpyruvate metabolism/signaling (Figure 7a, 7c; Supplementary Tables S34-S36).  
330 Interestingly, very little overlap was found between the transcripts associated with HSFA2  
331 expression during WD, HS, or WD+HS in ovary (Figure 7d).

332 Taken together, the findings presented in Figure 7 reveal that different HSFA2-associated  
333 regulatory networks are triggered in ovary during responses to WD, HS, or HS+WD, and that some  
334 transcripts belonging to these networks could also be associated with the expression of other  
335 transcripts that are unknown at present. Identifying additional HS, WD, and WD+HS networks  
336 and regulators in ovary could provide new lead pathways and genes that may be useful for breeding  
337 and engineering efforts to enhance the resilience of reproductive tissues of crops to WD, HS, or  
338 WD+HS conditions.

339

### 340 **Identification of reproductive tissue-specific transcripts in soybean**

341 A key outcome of the current study is the finding that different tissues of soybean responded  
342 differently to WD, HS, and WD+HS (Figures 3-7). Augmenting the resilience of crops to different  
343 stress conditions might therefore require simultaneously altering the expression of specific  
344 pathways and/or transcripts in a tissue-specific manner. However, very few tissue-specific  
345 promoters that could be used for such efforts are available in soybean. To begin identifying tissue-  
346 specific promoters in soybean, with a focus on reproductive tissues, we identified transcripts that  
347 may be driven by these promoters based on their expression pattern under non-stress conditions in  
348 our dataset (FPKM > 2 for a specific tissue while FPKM < 1 for all other tissues). Next, we  
349 determined the differential expression of the selected transcripts in response to WD, HS, or  
350 WD+HS and kept only transcripts that were not suppressed under any of these conditions (to  
351 establish that the tissue specific transcripts identified are not suppressed during stress and their  
352 promoters could potentially be used to drive tissue- or stress-response transgenes under control  
353 conditions as well as during stress). The expression of the transcripts selected as described above  
354 was also tested in all other tissues in response to WD, HS, or WD+HS, and transcripts that  
355 responded in any other tissue to these stresses, were removed (to eliminate transcripts that are not  
356 tissue-specific under stress). Finally, the expression of the remaining reproductive tissue-specific  
357 transcripts was determined in the soybean eFP browser ([http://bar.utoronto.ca/eplant\\_soybean/](http://bar.utoronto.ca/eplant_soybean/)),  
358 and only transcripts that were flower- or pod-specific in both the eFP browser and our dataset were  
359 maintained. As shown in Table 1 (most abundant 5 transcripts for each tissue) and Supplemental  
360 Table S37 (full list), several reproductive tissue-specific transcripts were identified using this  
361 protocol for ovary, anther, pod, and sepal (but not stigma that had a high overlap with ovary; Figure  
362 1b). Because the expression level of these transcripts could be regulated at the transcriptional

363 and/or post-transcriptional level, additional studies using promoters fused to reporter genes such  
364 as green fluorescent protein are needed to determine whether the promoters driving the expression  
365 of these reproductive tissue-specific transcripts could be used in future studies as tissue-specific  
366 promoters.

367

## 368 **SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS**

369 The comparative RNA-Seq dataset generated as a resource by this work provides an important  
370 transcriptomic reference for the expression of WD-, HS-, and/or WD+HS-response transcripts in  
371 different reproductive and vegetative tissues of soybean. Importantly, it reveals that different  
372 tissues respond differently to each of these stresses, as well as to their combination (Figures 2-7).  
373 This finding is important as it suggests that attempting to enhance the resilience of crops to  
374 different stresses and their combination might require a coordinated approach that simultaneously  
375 alters the expression of different groups of transcripts in different tissues in a stress-specific  
376 manner. In future studies the baseline reference transcriptomic dataset generated by this study  
377 could be refined and augmented using approaches such as single-cell sequencing to generate a  
378 comprehensive spatial and temporal expression atlas of the responses of each cell in each tissue to  
379 the different stressful conditions. In addition, hormone, transcript, protein, and metabolite levels  
380 in each tissue could be determined at different times during the application of WD, HS, or WD+HS  
381 to plants, and additional molecular and metabolic studies of reproductive tissues under field  
382 conditions could be conducted. Further studies focusing on many of the tissue-specific transcripts  
383 identified by this study (Table 1; Supplemental Table S37) could also identify reproductive tissue-  
384 specific promoters that could be used in future efforts to augment the tolerance of crops such as  
385 soybean to climate change-driven stresses and weather events.

386

387

388

## 389 **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

390

### 391 **Soybean growth and stress treatments**

392 Soybean (*Glycine max*, cv *Magellan*) seeds were coated with *Bradyrhizobium japonicum* inoculum  
393 (N-DURE, Verdesian Life Sciences, NC, USA) and germinated for a week in Promix BX (Premier

394 Tech Horticulture; PA, USA), under short day growth condition (12-h light/12-h dark), at 28/24  
395 °C day/night temperature and 1000  $\mu\text{mol photons m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$  in a growth chamber (BDR16, Conviron;  
396 Canada). The temperature of the chambers was ramped from 24 to 28 °C between 6.00-8.00 AM  
397 and decreased to 24 °C from 16.00-20.00 PM. Five-day-old seedlings were transplanted into pots  
398 containing 1 kg mixture of Promix BX and perlite (Miracle-Gro® Perlite, Miracle-Gro,  
399 Marysville, OH, USA) mixed in ratio of 10:1 and soaked with 1 l of water-fertilizer (Zack's classic  
400 blossom booster 10-30-20; JR peters Inc., USA) mix (Sinha et al., 2022b). For the next 16-18 days,  
401 until first open flower (R1 developmental stage; Fehr et al., 1971), plants were grown under 28/24  
402 °C day/night temperatures and 1000  $\mu\text{mol photons m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$  light intensity (12-h light/12-h dark  
403 photoperiod). Plants were irrigated twice a week with fertilizer (Zack's classic blossom booster  
404 10-30-20; JR peters Inc., USA; Cohen et al., 2021a; Sinha et al., 2022b). At R1, plants were  
405 randomly divided into control (CT), and 3 stress categories as water-deficit (WD), heat stress (HS),  
406 and a combination of water-deficit and heat stress (WD+HS) in four identical BDR16 growth  
407 chambers placed side-by-side in the same room (Sinha et al., 2022b). The relative humidity of  
408 chambers was maintained at about 50-60% in all chambers. The plants under WD and WD+HS  
409 treatments were irrigated daily with only 30% of the water (and fertilizer) available for  
410 transpiration as described previously (Cohen et al., 2021a; Sinha et al., 2022b), while plants in the  
411 CT and HS treatments were irrigated with 100% of the water available for transpiration. For HS  
412 and WD+HS treatments, temperature of chambers was increased to 38 °C day and 28 °C night  
413 temperature by ramping the temperature up between 6.00-8.00 AM and decreasing it down to 28  
414 °C between 16.00-20.00 PM.

415

#### 416 **Sample collection and RNA isolation**

417 Sampling of all tissues begun 10-15 days after the different stress conditions were initiated (Sinha  
418 et al., 2022b; Sinha et al., 2022a; Cohen et al., 2021a). All flowers used for the transcriptomic  
419 analysis presented in this study were at stages II and III (unopen flowers undergoing self-  
420 pollination) from plants at the R2 stage (Sinha et al., 2022b). Unopened flowers from plants grown  
421 under the different growth conditions were rapidly dissected (Figure 1a) and sepal, anther, stigma,  
422 and ovary were quickly frozen in liquid nitrogen. Flower organs, leaves, and pods of soybean  
423 plants were collected between 11.30 AM-12:30 PM (Cohen et al., 2021a; Sinha et al., 2022b). All

424 flowers used in this study were at stages II and III (unopen flowers undergoing self-pollination)  
425 from plants at the R2 stage, and all pods were at a length of about 3 cm and contained developing  
426 seeds (Sinha et al., 2022a, 2022b). For each biological repeat, flower organs were pooled together  
427 from 15-20 different plants and pods and leaves were pooled from 8-10 different plants (Sinha et  
428 al., 2022a; Cohen et al., 2021a; Sinha et al., 2022b). RNA from sepal, pod, leaf, and ovary was  
429 isolated using RNeasy plant mini kit (Qiagen, Germantown, MD, USA) whereas RNA from anther  
430 and stigma was isolated using RNeasy Micro Kit (Qiagen, Germantown, MD, USA).

431

### 432 **RNA sequencing and data analysis**

433 RNA libraries were prepared using standard Illumina protocols and RNA sequencing was  
434 performed using NovaSeq 6000 PE150 by Novogene co. Ltd (<https://en.novogene.com/>;  
435 Sacramento, CA, USA). Read quality control was performed using Trim Galore v0.6.4  
436 ([https://www.bioinformatics.babraham.ac.uk/projects/trim\\_galore/](https://www.bioinformatics.babraham.ac.uk/projects/trim_galore/)) & FastQC v0.11.9  
437 (<https://www.bioinformatics.babraham.ac.uk/projects/fastqc/>). The RNA-seq reads were aligned  
438 to the reference genome for Soybean - Glycine max v2.1 (downloaded from  
439 [ftp://ftp.ensemblgenomes.org/pub/plants/release-51/fasta/glycine\\_max/dna/](ftp://ftp.ensemblgenomes.org/pub/plants/release-51/fasta/glycine_max/dna/)), using Hisat2 short  
440 read aligner (Kim et al., 2019). Intermediate file processing of sam to sorted bam conversion was  
441 carried out using samtools v1.9 (Danecek et al., 2021). Transcript abundance in levels expressed  
442 as FPKM was generated using the Cufflinks tool from the Tuxedo suite (Trapnell et al., 2012),  
443 guided by genome annotation files downloaded from the same source. Differential gene expression  
444 analysis was performed using Cuffdiff tool (Trapnell et al., 2013), from the same Tuxedo suite.  
445 Differentially expressed transcripts were defined as those that had adjusted  $p < 0.05$  (negative  
446 binomial Wald test followed by Benjamini–Hochberg correction). Functional annotation and  
447 quantification of overrepresented GO terms ( $p < 0.05$ ) were conducted using g:profiler (Raudvere  
448 et al., 2019). Venn diagrams were created in VENNY 2.1 (BioinfoGP,CNB-CSIC) and Upset Plots  
449 were created in upsetr ([gehlenborglab.shinyapps.io](https://gehlenborglab.shinyapps.io/upsetr/); Conway et al., 2017). Heatmaps were  
450 generated in Morpheus (<https://software.broadinstitute.org/morpheus>).

451

### 452 **Gene Regulatory Network Analysis**

453 The R package GENIE3 (1.18.0; Huynh-Thu et al., 2010), which infers a gene regulatory network  
454 (in the form of a weighted adjacency matrix) using gene expression data, was used to identify the  
455 targets of HSFA2 in ovary tissue using the Random Forest tree calculation method. The higher the  
456 weights, the more likely are the regulatory connections between the TF's and their targets. A cutoff  
457 of 0.31, 0.32, 0.35 weights was used for ovary under WD, HS, and WD+HS respectively to get the  
458 top regulatory connections. This cutoff weighted adjacency matrix was later used to generate a  
459 gene regulatory network using Cytoscape tool (3.9.1; Otasek et al., 2019), an open-source platform  
460 for visualizing complex networks. For each network, a styling table was created, with up-regulated  
461 genes styled as red if the log<sub>2</sub> fold change is greater than 0, and down-regulated genes styled as  
462 green if the log<sub>2</sub> fold change is less than 0. In each network, transcription factor encoding  
463 transcripts were represented in a triangle shape and differentially expressed transcripts in ellipse  
464 shape. TFs are represented by blue color, whereas HSFA2 is represented by yellow color for easier  
465 identification.

466

### 467 **Selection of reproductive tissue-specific transcripts**

468 Transcripts expressed in specific reproductive organs were initially identified based on FPKM  
469 levels of each transcript under nonstress (CT) conditions. Transcripts with an FPKM level of > 2  
470 for a specific tissue (*e.g.*, anther) and <1 for all other tissues (*e.g.*, sepal, stigma, ovary, pod, and  
471 leaf) were selected. In the second step, differential expression of the selected transcripts was  
472 determined under WD, HS or WD+HS in the RNAseq data of each specific tissue. Transcripts  
473 with down-regulated expression were removed from the selected list (to avoid suppression of the  
474 tissue specific expression during stress). Further, the expression of transcripts selected in the  
475 second step was determined in the RNAseq datasets of all other tissues and transcripts having any  
476 differential (up/down-regulated) expression under any of the stress conditions (WD, HS, or  
477 WD+HS) in other tissues were removed. In the final step, the selected transcripts were checked  
478 for tissue specific expression in the soybean eFP browser ([http://bar.utoronto.ca/eplant\\_soybean/](http://bar.utoronto.ca/eplant_soybean/))  
479 and transcripts having expression only in flowers (anther, sepal, ovary, stigma) or pods were  
480 maintained as tissue specific transcripts (Table 1; Supplemental Table S37). For the tissue-specific  
481 expression of different transcripts under control conditions (Figure 1b), the transcript expression  
482 cutoff used was > 5 FPKM.



483

## 484 **Statistical analysis**

485 All experiments were conducted in 3 biological repeats each with tissues pooled from 8-20  
486 different plants (Flower organs were pooled together from 15-20 different plants and pods and  
487 leaves were pooled from 8-10 different plants). Significant changes in transcript expression  
488 compared to control was defined as adjusted  $P < 0.05$  (negative binomial Wald test followed by  
489 Benjamini–Hochberg correction).

490

## 491 **SUPPLEMENTARY TABLES**

492 **Table S1.** List of transcripts with FPKM>5 in anther of soybean plants when grown under control  
493 (CT) condition (Figure 1b).

494 **Table S2.** List of transcripts with FPKM>5 in ovary of soybean plants when grown under control  
495 (CT) condition (Figure 1b).

496 **Table S3.** List of transcripts with FPKM>5 in sepal of soybean plants when grown under control  
497 (CT) condition (Figure 1b).

498 **Table S4.** List of transcripts with FPKM>5 in stigma of soybean plants when grown under control  
499 (CT) condition (Figure 1b).

500 **Table S5.** List of transcripts with FPKM>5 in pod of soybean plants when grown under control  
501 (CT) condition (Figure 1b).

502 **Table S6.** List of transcripts with FPKM>5 in leaf of soybean plants when grown under control  
503 (CT) condition (Figure 1b).

504 **Table S7.** List of transcripts with FPKM>5 unique to leaf of soybean plants when grown under  
505 control (CT) condition (Figure 1b).

506 **Table S8.** List of transcripts with FPKM>5 unique to anther of soybean plants when grown under  
507 control (CT) condition (Figure 1b).

508 **Table S9.** List of transcripts with FPKM>5 unique to ovary of soybean plants when grown under  
509 control (CT) condition (Figure 1b).

510 **Table S10.** List of transcripts with FPKM>5 unique to sepal of soybean plants when grown under  
511 control (CT) condition (Figure 1b).

512 **Table S11.** List of transcripts with FPKM>5 unique to pod of soybean plants when grown under  
513 control (CT) condition (Figure 1b).

514 **Table S12.** List of transcripts with FPKM>5 unique to stigma of soybean plants when grown under  
515 control (CT) condition (Figure 1b).

516 **Table S13.** List of transcripts with FPKM>5 commonly expressed in flower organs, leaf and pod  
517 of soybean plants when grown under control (CT) condition (Figure 1b).

518 **Table S14.** List of transcripts with FPKM>5 commonly expressed in reproductive organs of  
519 soybean plants when grown under control (CT) condition (Figure 1b).

520 **Table S15.** List of transcripts with FPKM>5 common between stigma and ovary of soybean plants  
521 when under control (CT) condition (Figure 1b).

522 **Table S16.** Transcripts differentially expressed in anther of soybean plants subjected to water  
523 deficit stress (WD).

524 **Table S17.** Transcripts differentially expressed in anther of soybean plants subjected to heat stress  
525 (HS).

526 **Table S18.** Transcripts differentially expressed in anther of soybean plants subjected to  
527 combination of water deficit and heat stress (WD+HS).

528 **Table S19.** Transcripts differentially expressed in ovary of soybean plants subjected to water  
529 deficit stress (WD).

530 **Table S20.** Transcripts differentially expressed in ovary of soybean plants subjected to heat stress  
531 (HS).

532 **Table S21.** Transcripts differentially expressed in ovary of soybean plants subjected to  
533 combination of water deficit and heat stress (WD+HS).

534 **Table S22.** Transcripts differentially expressed in sepal of soybean plants subjected to water  
535 deficit stress (WD).

536 **Table S23.** Transcripts differentially expressed in sepal of soybean plants subjected to heat stress  
537 (HS).

538 **Table S24.** Transcripts differentially expressed in sepal of soybean plants subjected to  
539 combination of water deficit and heat stress (WD+HS).

540 **Table S25.** Transcripts differentially expressed in stigma of soybean plants subjected to water  
541 deficit stress (WD).

542 **Table S26.** Transcripts differentially expressed in stigma of soybean plants subjected to heat stress  
543 (HS).

544 **Table S27.** Transcripts differentially expressed in stigma of soybean plants subjected to  
545 combination of water deficit and heat stress (WD+HS).

546 **Table S28.** Transcripts differentially expressed in pod of soybean plants subjected to water deficit  
547 stress (WD).

548 **Table S29.** Transcripts differentially expressed in pod of soybean plants subjected to heat stress  
549 (HS).

550 **Table S30.** Transcripts differentially expressed in pod of soybean plants subjected to combination  
551 of water deficit and heat stress (WD+HS).

552 **Table S31.** Transcripts differentially expressed in leaf of soybean plants subjected to water deficit  
553 stress (WD).

554 **Table S32.** Transcripts differentially expressed in leaf of soybean plants subjected to heat stress  
555 (HS).

556 **Table S33.** Transcripts differentially expressed in leaf of soybean plants subjected to combination  
557 of water deficit and heat stress (WD+HS).

558 **Table S34.** List of transcripts associated with HSFA2 transcription factor in ovule of soybean  
559 plants subjected to WD stress.

560 **Table S35.** List of transcripts associated with HSFA2 transcription factor in ovule of soybean  
561 plants subjected to HS stress.

562 **Table S36.** List of transcripts associated with HSFA2 transcription factor in ovule of soybean  
563 plants subjected to WD+HS stress.

564 **Table S37.** Soybean reproductive tissue-specific transcripts.

565

566

## 567 **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

568 This work was supported by funding from the National Science Foundation (IOS-2110017, IOS-  
569 1353886, IOS-1932639), Interdisciplinary Plant Group, and University of Missouri.

570

571

## 572 **AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS**

573 R.S., S.P.I, M.A.P.V, A.T., and B.S. performed experiments and analyzed the data. R.M., F.B.F,  
574 R.S., T.J., M.A.P.V and S.I.Z. designed experiments, analyzed the data, and/or wrote the  
575 manuscript.

576

577

## 578 **DATA AVAILABILITY**

579 Transcript abundance and differentially expressed transcripts can be accessed interactively via the  
580 Differential Expression tool in SoyKB (<https://soykb.org/DiffExp/diffExp.php>; Joshi et al., 2012,  
581 2014), a comprehensive all-inclusive web resource for soybean. RNA-Seq data was deposited in  
582 Gene Expression Omnibus (GEO), under the following accession numbers: GSE218146,  
583 GSE213479, GSE218146, and GSE186317.

584

585 **REFERENCES**

- 586
- 587 **AghaKouchak A, Cheng L, Mazdidasni O, Farahmand A** (2014) Global warming and changes  
588 in risk of concurrent climate extremes: Insights from the 2014 California drought. *Geophys*  
589 *Res Lett* **41**: 8847–8852
- 590 **Alizadeh MR, Adamowski J, Nikoo MR, AghaKouchak A, Dennison P, Sadegh M** (2020) A  
591 century of observations reveals increasing likelihood of continental-scale compound dry-hot  
592 extremes. *Sci Adv* **6**: 1–12
- 593 **Begcy K, Nosenko T, Zhou LZ, Fragner L, Weckwerth W, Dresselhaus T** (2019) Male sterility  
594 in maize after transient heat stress during the tetrad stage of pollen development. *Plant Physiol*  
595 **181**: 683–700
- 596 **Bheemanahalli R, Ramamoorthy P, Poudel S, Samiappan S, Wijewardane N, Reddy KR**  
597 (2022) Effects of drought and heat stresses during reproductive stage on pollen germination,  
598 yield, and leaf reflectance properties in maize (*Zea mays L.*). *Plant Direct* **6**: 1–14
- 599 **Bheemanahalli R, Sunoj VSJ, Saripalli G, Prasad PVV, Balyan HS, Gupta PK, Grant N, Gill**  
600 **KS, Jagadish SVK** (2019) Quantifying the impact of heat stress on pollen germination, seed  
601 set, and grain filling in spring wheat. *Crop Sci* **59**: 684–696
- 602 **Blomster T, Salojärvi J, Sipari N, Brosché M, Ahlfors R, Keinänen M, Overmyer K,**  
603 **Kangasjärvi J** (2011) Apoplastic reactive oxygen species transiently decrease auxin  
604 signaling and cause stress-induced morphogenic response in Arabidopsis. *Plant Physiol* **157**:  
605 1866–1883
- 606 **Brás TA, Seixas J, Carvalhais N, Jagermeyr J** (2021) Severity of drought and heatwave crop  
607 losses tripled over the last five decades in Europe. *Environ Res Lett*. doi: 10.1088/1748-  
608 9326/abf004
- 609 **Chaturvedi P, Wiese AJ, Ghatak A, Závěská Drábková L, Weckwerth W, Honys D** (2021)  
610 Heat stress response mechanisms in pollen development. *New Phytol* **231**: 571–585
- 611 **Cohen I, Zandalinas SI, Fritschi FB, Sengupta S, Fichman Y, Azad K, Mittler R** (2021a) The  
612 impact of water deficit and heat stress combination on the molecular response, physiology,  
613 and seed production of soybean. *Physiol Plant* **172**: 41–52
- 614 **Cohen I, Zandalinas SI, Huck C, Fritschi FB, Mittler R** (2021b) Meta-analysis of drought and  
615 heat stress combination impact on crop yield and yield components. *Physiol Plant* **171**: 66–

- 616 76
- 617 **Conway JR, Lex A, Gehlenborg N** (2017) UpSetR: An R package for the visualization of  
618 intersecting sets and their properties. *Bioinformatics* **33**: 2938–2940
- 619 **Da Costa MVJ, Ramegowda V, Ramakrishnan P, Nataraja KN, Sheshshayee MS** (2022)  
620 Comparative metabolite profiling of rice contrasts reveal combined drought and heat stress  
621 signatures in flag leaf and spikelets. *Plant Sci* **320**: 111262
- 622 **Danecek P, Bonfield JK, Liddle J, Marshall J, Ohan V, Pollard MO, Whitwham A, Keane**  
623 **T, McCarthy SA, Davies RM, et al** (2021) Twelve years of SAMtools and BCFtools.  
624 *Gigascience* **10**: giab008
- 625 **Deng Y, Srivastava R, Quilichini TD, Dong H, Bao Y, Horner HT, Howell SH** (2016) IRE1, a  
626 component of the unfolded protein response signaling pathway, protects pollen development  
627 in Arabidopsis from heat stress. *Plant J* **88**: 193–204
- 628 **Devireddy AR, Zandalinas SI, Fichman Y, Mittler R** (2021) Integration of reactive oxygen  
629 species and hormone signaling during abiotic stress. *Plant J* **105**: 459–476
- 630 **Djanaguiraman M, Perumal R, Jagadish SVK, Ciampitti IA, Welti R, Prasad PVV** (2018)  
631 Sensitivity of sorghum pollen and pistil to high-temperature stress. *Plant Cell Environ* **41**:  
632 1065–1082
- 633 **Endo M, Tsuchiya T, Hamada K, Kawamura S, Yano K, Ohshima M, Higashitani A,**  
634 **Watanabe M, Kawagishi-Kobayashi M** (2009) High temperatures cause male sterility in  
635 rice plants with transcriptional alterations during pollen development. *Plant Cell Physiol* **50**:  
636 1911–1922
- 637 **Fábián A, Sáfrán E, Szabó-Eitel G, Barnabás B, Jäger K** (2019) Stigma functionality and  
638 fertility are reduced by heat and drought co-stress in wheat. *Front Plant Sci* **10**: 1–18
- 639 **Fang X, Turner NC, Yan G, Li F, Siddique KHM** (2010) Flower numbers, pod production,  
640 pollen viability, and pistil function are reduced and flower and pod abortion increased in  
641 chickpea (*Cicer arietinum* L.) under terminal drought. *J Exp Bot* **61**: 335–345
- 642 **Fehr WR, Caviness CE, Burmood DT, Pennington JS** (1971) Stage of development  
643 descriptions for soybeans, *Glycine max* (L.) Merrill. *Crop Sci* **11**: 929–931
- 644 **Fragkostefanakis S, Mesihovic A, Hu Y, Schleiff E** (2016) Unfolded protein response in pollen  
645 development and heat stress tolerance. *Plant Reprod* **29**: 81–91
- 646 **Frank G, Pressman E, Ophir R, Althan L, Shaked R, Freedman M, Shen S, Firon N** (2009)

- 647 Transcriptional profiling of maturing tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum* L.) microspores reveals  
648 the involvement of heat shock proteins, ROS scavengers, hormones, and sugars in the heat  
649 stress response. *J Exp Bot* **60**: 3891–3908
- 650 **Gaur PM, Samineni S, Thudi M, Tripathi S, Sajja SB, Jayalakshmi V, Mannur DM,**  
651 **Vijayakumar AG, Ganga Rao NVPR, Ojiewo C, et al** (2019) Integrated breeding  
652 approaches for improving drought and heat adaptation in chickpea (*Cicer arietinum* L.). *Plant*  
653 *Breed* **138**: 389–400
- 654 **Giorno F, Wolters-Arts M, Grillo S, Scharf KD, Vriezen WH, Mariani C** (2010)  
655 Developmental and heat stress-regulated expression of HsfA2 and small heat shock proteins  
656 in tomato anthers. *J Exp Bot* **61**: 453–462
- 657 **Hao Z, Hao F, Singh VP, Zhang X** (2018) Changes in the severity of compound drought and hot  
658 extremes over global land areas. *Environ Res Lett.* doi: 10.1088/1748-9326/aace96
- 659 **Harrison Day BL, Carins-Murphy MR, Brodribb TJ** (2022) Reproductive water supply is  
660 prioritized during drought in tomato. *Plant Cell Environ.* **45**: 69-79.
- 661 **Hedhly A, Nestorova A, Herrmann A, Grossniklaus U** (2020) Acute heat stress during stamen  
662 development affects both the germline and sporophytic lineages in *Arabidopsis thaliana* (L.)  
663 Heynh. *Environ Exp Bot* **173**: 1–8
- 664 **Howell SH** (2013) Endoplasmic reticulum stress responses in plants. *Annu Rev Plant Biol* **64**:  
665 477–499
- 666 **Huynh-Thu VA, Irrthum A, Wehenkel L, Geurts P** (2010) Inferring regulatory networks from  
667 expression data using tree-based methods. *PLoS One* **5**: 1–10
- 668 **Ishimaru T, Sasaki K, Lumanglas PD, Leo U, Cabral C, Ye C, Yoshimoto M, Kumar A,**  
669 **Henry A** (2022) Effect of drought stress on flowering characteristics in rice (*Oryza sativa*  
670 *L.*): a study using genotypes contrasting in drought tolerance and flower opening time. *Plant*  
671 *Prod Sci* **25**: 359–370
- 672 **Jagadish SVK, Murty MVR, Quick WP** (2015) Rice responses to rising temperatures -  
673 challenges, perspectives and future directions. *Plant, Cell Environ* **38**: 1686–1698
- 674 **Jin Y, Yang H, Wei Z, Ma H, Ge X** (2013) Rice male development under drought stress:  
675 Phenotypic changes and stage-dependent transcriptomic reprogramming. *Mol Plant* **6**: 1630–  
676 1645
- 677 **Joshi T, Patil K, Fitzpatrick MR, Franklin LD, Yao Q, Cook JR, Wang Z, Libault M,**

- 678 **Brechenmacher L, Valliyodan B et al.** (2012) Soybean knowledge base (SoyKB): a web  
679 resource for soybean translational genomics. *BMC Genomics* **13**: S15.
- 680 **Joshi T, Fitzpatrick MR, Chen S, Liu Y, Zhang H, Endacott RZ, Gaudiello EC, Stacey G,**  
681 **Nguyen HT, Xu D** (2014) Soybean knowledge base (SoyKB): a web resource for integration  
682 of soybean translational genomics and molecular breeding. *Nucleic Acids Research* **42**:  
683 D1245–D1252.
- 684 **Kim D, Paggi JM, Park C, Bennett C, Salzberg SL** (2019) Graph-based genome alignment and  
685 genotyping with HISAT2 and HISAT-genotype. *Nat Biotechnol* **37**: 907–915
- 686 **Lämke J, Brzezinka K, Altmann S, Bäurle I** (2016) A hit-and-run heat shock factor governs  
687 sustained histone methylation and transcriptional stress memory. *EMBO J* **35**: 162–175
- 688 **Lawas LMF, Shi W, Yoshimoto M, Hasegawa T, Hinch DK, Zuther E, Jagadish SVK** (2018)  
689 Combined drought and heat stress impact during flowering and grain filling in contrasting  
690 rice cultivars grown under field conditions. *F Crop Res* **229**: 66–77
- 691 **Lesk C, Anderson W, Rigden A, Coast O, Jägermeyr J, Mcdermid S** (2022) Compound heat  
692 and moisture extreme impacts on global crop yields under climate change. *Nat Rev Earth*  
693 *Env.* doi: <https://doi.org/10.1038/s43017-022-00368-8>
- 694 **Lesk C, Rowhani P, Ramankutty N** (2016) Influence of extreme weather disasters on global  
695 crop production. *Nature* **529**: 84–87
- 696 **Lippmann R, Babben S, Menger A, Delker C, Quint M** (2019) Development of Wild and  
697 Cultivated Plants under Global Warming Conditions. *Curr Biol* **29**: R1326–R1338
- 698 **Liu H chin, Charng Y yung** (2013) Common and distinct functions of Arabidopsis class A1 and  
699 A2 heat shock factors in diverse abiotic stress responses and development. *Plant Physiol* **163**:  
700 276–290
- 701 **Liu JX, Howell SH** (2010) Endoplasmic reticulum protein quality control and its relationship to  
702 environmental stress responses in plants. *Plant Cell* **22**: 2930–2942
- 703 **Liu X, Yu Y, Huang S, Xu C, Wang X, Gao J, Meng Q, Wang P** (2022) The impact of drought  
704 and heat stress at flowering on maize kernel filling: Insights from the field and laboratory.  
705 *Agric For Meteorol* **312**: 108733
- 706 **Lobell DB, Gourdji SM** (2012) The influence of climate change on global crop productivity.  
707 *Plant Physiol* **160**: 1686–1697
- 708 **Lohani N, Singh MB, Bhalla PL** (2020) High temperature susceptibility of sexual reproduction



- 709 in crop plants. *J Exp Bot* **71**: 555–568
- 710 **Lu X, O'Neill CM, Warner S, Xiong Q, Chen X, Wells R, Penfield S** (2022) Winter warming  
711 post floral initiation delays flowering via bud dormancy activation and affects yield in a  
712 winter annual crop. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A* **119**: 1–7
- 713 **Ma X, Sukiran NL, Ma H, Su Z** (2014) Moderate drought causes dramatic floral transcriptomic  
714 reprogramming to ensure successful reproductive development in *Arabidopsis*. *BMC Plant*  
715 *Biol* **14**: 1–16
- 716 **Mahrookashani A, Siebert S, Hüging H, Ewert F** (2017) Independent and combined effects of  
717 high temperature and drought stress around anthesis on wheat. *J Agron Crop Sci* **203**: 453–  
718 463
- 719 **Mareri L, Cai G** (2022) Pollen priming for more efficient reproduction in a heating world: what  
720 we know, what we need to know. *Plant Stress* **3**: 100060
- 721 **Masson-Delmotte V, Zhai P, Pirani A, Connors SL, Péan C, Berger S, Caud N, Chen Y,**  
722 **Goldfarb L, Gomis MI, et al** (2021) IPCC, 2021: Climate Change 2021: The Physical  
723 Science Basis. Contribution of Working Group I to the Sixth Assessment Report of the  
724 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.
- 725 **Mazdiyasi O, AghaKouchak A** (2015) Substantial increase in concurrent droughts and  
726 heatwaves in the United States. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A* **112**: 11484–11489
- 727 **Mittler R** (2006) Abiotic stress, the field environment and stress combination. *Trends Plant Sci*  
728 **11**: 15–19
- 729 **Mittler R, Zandalinas SI, Fichman Y, Van Breusegem F** (2022) Reactive oxygen species  
730 signalling in plant stress responses. *Nat Rev Mol Cell Biol*. doi: 10.1038/s41580-022-00499-  
731 2
- 732 **Ohama N, Sato H, Shinozaki K, Yamaguchi-Shinozaki K** (2017) Transcriptional regulatory  
733 network of plant heat stress response. *Trends Plant Sci* **22**: 53–65
- 734 **del Olmo I, Poza-Viejo L, Piñeiro M, Jarillo JA, Crevillén P** (2019) High ambient temperature  
735 leads to reduced FT expression and delayed flowering in *Brassica rapa* via a mechanism  
736 associated with H2A.Z dynamics. *Plant J* **100**: 343–356
- 737 **Otasek D, Morris JH, Bouças J, Pico AR, Demchak B** (2019) Cytoscape Automation:  
738 Empowering workflow-based network analysis. *Genome Biol* **20**: 1–15
- 739 **Oury V, Caldeira CF, Prodhomme D, Pichon JP, Gibon Y, Tardieu F, Turc O** (2016a) Is

- 740 change in ovary carbon status a cause or a consequence of maize ovary abortion in water  
741 deficit during flowering? *Plant Physiol* **171**: 997–1008
- 742 **Oury V, Tardieu F, Turc O** (2016b) Ovary apical abortion under water deficit is caused by  
743 changes in sequential development of ovaries and in silk growth rate in maize. *Plant Physiol*  
744 **171**: 986–996
- 745 **Overpeck JT, Udall B** (2020) Climate change and the aridification of North America. *Proc Natl*  
746 *Acad Sci U S A* **117**: 11856–11858
- 747 **Potopová V, Lhotka O, Možný M, Musiolková M** (2021) Vulnerability of hop-yields due to  
748 compound drought and heat events over European key-hop regions. *Int J Climatol* **41**: E2136–  
749 E2158
- 750 **Prasad PVV, Pisipati SR, Mutava RN, Tuinstra MR** (2008) Sensitivity of grain sorghum to  
751 high temperature stress during reproductive development. *Crop Sci* **48**: 1911–1917
- 752 **Rang ZW, Jagadish SVK, Zhou QM, Craufurd PQ, Heuer S** (2011) Effect of high temperature  
753 and water stress on pollen germination and spikelet fertility in rice. *Environ Exp Bot* **70**: 58–  
754 65
- 755 **Raudvere U, Kolberg L, Kuzmin I, Arak T, Adler P, Peterson H, Vilo J** (2019) g:Profiler: a  
756 web server for functional enrichment analysis and conversions of gene lists (2019 update).  
757 *Nucleic Acids Res* **47**: W191–W198
- 758 **Reichardt S, Piepho HP, Stintzi A, Schaller A** (2020) Peptide signaling for drought-induced  
759 tomato flower drop. *Science* **367**: 1482–1485
- 760 **Rivero RM, Mittler R, Blumwald E, Zandalinas SI** (2022) Developing climate-resilient crops:  
761 improving plant tolerance to stress combination. *Plant J* **109**: 373–389
- 762 **Santiago JP, Sharkey TD** (2019) Pollen development at high temperature and role of carbon and  
763 nitrogen metabolites. *Plant Cell Environ* **42**: 2759–2775
- 764 **Santiago JP, Soltani A, Bresson MM, Preiser AL, Lowry DB, Sharkey TD** (2021) Contrasting  
765 anther glucose 6-phosphate dehydrogenase activities between two bean varieties suggest an  
766 important role in reproductive heat tolerance. *Plant Cell Environ*. doi: 10.1111/pce.14057
- 767 **Schöffl F, Prandl R, Reindl A** (1998) Update on signal transduction regulation of the heat-shock  
768 response. *Plant Physiol* **117**: 1135–1141
- 769 **Singh MB, Lohani N, Bhalla PL** (2021) The role of endoplasmic reticulum stress response in  
770 pollen development and heat stress tolerance. *Front Plant Sci* **12**: 1–12

- 771 **Sinha R, Fritschi FB, Zandalinas SI, Mittler R** (2021) The impact of stress combination on  
772 reproductive processes in crops. *Plant Sci* **311**: 111007
- 773 **Sinha R, Shostak B, Induri SP, Sen S, Zandalinas SI** (2022a) Differential transpiration between  
774 pods and leaves during stress combination in soybean. *Plant Physiol*, *In press*, bioRxiv  
775 2022.12.20.521196
- 776 **Sinha R, Zandalinas SI, Fichman Y, Sen S, Zeng S, Gómez-Cadenas A, Joshi T, Fritschi FB,**  
777 **Mittler R** (2022b) Differential regulation of flower transpiration during abiotic stress in  
778 annual plants. *New Phytol* **235**: 611–629
- 779 **Su Z, Ma X, Guo H, Sukiran NL, Guo B, Assmann SM, Ma H** (2013) Flower development  
780 under drought stress: Morphological and transcriptomic analyses reveal acute responses and  
781 long-term acclimation in *Arabidopsis*. *Plant Cell* **25**: 3785–3807
- 782 **Sun L, Yang ZT, Song ZT, Wang MJ, Sun L, Lu SJ, Liu JX** (2013) The plant-specific  
783 transcription factor gene NAC103 is induced by bZIP60 through a new cis-regulatory element  
784 to modulate the unfolded protein response in *Arabidopsis*. *Plant J* **76**: 274–286
- 785 **Suzuki N, Rivero RM, Shulaev V, Blumwald E, Mittler R** (2014) Abiotic and biotic stress  
786 combinations. *New Phytol.* **203**: 32-43
- 787 **Suzuki N, Miller G, Morales J, Shulaev V, Torres MA, Mittler R** (2011) Respiratory burst  
788 oxidases: The engines of ROS signaling. *Curr Opin Plant Biol* **14**: 691–699
- 789 **Sze H, Palanivelu R, Harper JF, Johnson MA** (2021) Holistic insights from pollen omics: co-  
790 opting stress-responsive genes and ER-mediated proteostasis for male fertility. *Plant Physiol.*  
791 **187**: 2361-2380.
- 792 **Trapnell C, Hendrickson DG, Sauvageau M, Goff L, Rinn JL, Pachter L** (2013) Differential  
793 analysis of gene regulation at transcript resolution with RNA-seq. *Nat Biotechnol* **31**: 46–53
- 794 **Trapnell C, Roberts A, Goff L, Pertea G, Kim D, Kelley DR, Pimentel H, Salzberg SL, Rinn**  
795 **JL, Pachter L** (2012) Differential gene and transcript expression analysis of RNA-seq  
796 experiments with TopHat and Cufflinks. *Nat Protoc* **7**: 562–578
- 797 **Wang R, He F, Ning Y, Wang GL** (2020) Fine-tuning of rboh-mediated ros signaling in plant  
798 immunity. *Trends Plant Sci* **25**: 1060–1062
- 799 **Zandalinas SI, Fritschi FB, Mittler R** (2021) Global warming, climate change, and  
800 environmental pollution: Recipe for a multifactorial stress combination disaster. *Trends Plant*  
801 *Sci* **26**: 588–599

- 802 **Zandalinas SI, Mittler R, Balfagón D, Arbona V, Gómez-Cadenas A** (2018) Plant adaptations  
803 to the combination of drought and high temperatures. *Physiol Plant* **162**: 2–12
- 804 **Zhang SS, Yang H, Ding L, Song ZT, Ma H, Chang F, Liu JX** (2017) Tissue-specific  
805 transcriptomics reveals an important role of the unfolded protein response in maintaining  
806 fertility upon heat stress in arabidopsis. *Plant Cell* **29**: 1007–1023
- 807 **Zhang Z, Hu M, Xu W, Wang Y, Huang K, Zhang C, Wen J** (2021) Understanding the  
808 molecular mechanism of anther development under abiotic stresses. *Plant Mol Biol* **105**: 1–  
809 10
- 810

811 **FIGURE LEGENDS**

812

813 **Figure 1.** Similarities and differences in the basal transcriptome of the different soybean tissues  
814 obtained from plants grown under controlled growth conditions. (a) An illustration depicting the  
815 different plant organs used for the transcriptome analysis. (b) An UpSet plot of the overlap in basal  
816 transcript expression between the different tissues obtained from plants grown under control  
817 conditions. All experiments were conducted in 3 biological repeats each with tissues pooled from  
818 8-20 different plants (depending on tissue type).

819

820 **Figure 2.** Differential transcriptomic responses to water deficit, heat stress, or a combination of  
821 water deficit and heat stress in each of the different tissues. Venn diagrams of the overlap between  
822 the transcriptomic responses of leaf, pod, sepal, anther, stigma, and ovary to water deficit, heat  
823 stress, or a combination of water deficit and heat stress are shown. All experiments were conducted  
824 in 3 biological repeats each with tissues pooled from 8-20 different plants (depending on tissue  
825 type). Significant changes in transcript expression compared to control were defined as adjusted  
826  $P < 0.05$  (negative binomial Wald test followed by Benjamini–Hochberg correction).  
827 Abbreviations: WD, water deficit; HS, heat stress, WD+HS, a combination of WD and HS.

828

829 **Figure 3.** Overlap between the transcriptomic responses of leaf, pod, sepal, anther, stigma, and  
830 ovary to water deficit, heat stress, or a combination of water deficit and heat stress. UpSet plots  
831 depicting the overlap in transcriptomic responses to water deficit (a), heat stress (b), or a  
832 combination of water deficit and heat stress (c) between leaf, pod, sepal, anther, stigma, and ovary  
833 are shown. (d) An UpSet plot showing the overlap between the different transcripts that are  
834 uniquely expressed in each tissue in response to a combination of water deficit and heat stress  
835 (From Figure 2). All experiments were conducted in 3 biological repeats each with tissues pooled  
836 from 8-20 different plants (depending on tissue type). Significant changes in transcript expression  
837 compared to control were defined as adjusted  $P < 0.05$  (negative binomial Wald test followed by  
838 Benjamini–Hochberg correction).

839

840 **Figure 4.** Differential expression of transcripts encoding selected heat stress response transcripts  
841 in leaf, pod, sepal, anther, stigma, and ovary in response to water deficit, heat stress, or a

842 combination of water deficit and heat stress. Heat maps depicting the expression of transcripts  
843 encoding for soybean heat shock transcription factors (a) and transcripts encoding soybean  
844 endoplasmic reticulum unfolded protein response proteins (b) are shown. Only transcripts with a  
845 significant expression level compared to control are shown. All experiments were conducted in 3  
846 biological repeats each with tissues pooled from 8-20 different plants (depending on tissue type).  
847 Significant changes in transcript expression compared to control were defined as adjusted  $P < 0.05$   
848 (negative binomial Wald test followed by Benjamini–Hochberg correction). Abbreviations: WD,  
849 water deficit; HS, heat stress; WD+HS, a combination of WD and HS; HSF, heat shock  
850 transcription factor.

851

852 **Figure 5.** Differential expression of transcripts encoding selected drought and reactive oxygen  
853 species response proteins in leaf, pod, sepal, anther, stigma, and ovary in response to water deficit,  
854 heat stress, or a combination of water deficit and heat stress. Heat maps depicting the expression  
855 of selected soybean drought response transcripts (a) and transcripts encoding different proteins  
856 involved in reactive oxygen species scavenging and signaling (b) are shown. Only transcripts with  
857 a significant expression level compared to control are shown. All experiments were conducted in  
858 3 biological repeats each with tissues pooled from 8-20 different plants (depending on tissue type).  
859 Significant changes in transcript expression compared to control were defined as adjusted  $P < 0.05$   
860 (negative binomial Wald test followed by Benjamini–Hochberg correction). Abbreviations: WD,  
861 water deficit; HS, heat stress; WD+HS, a combination of WD and HS.

862

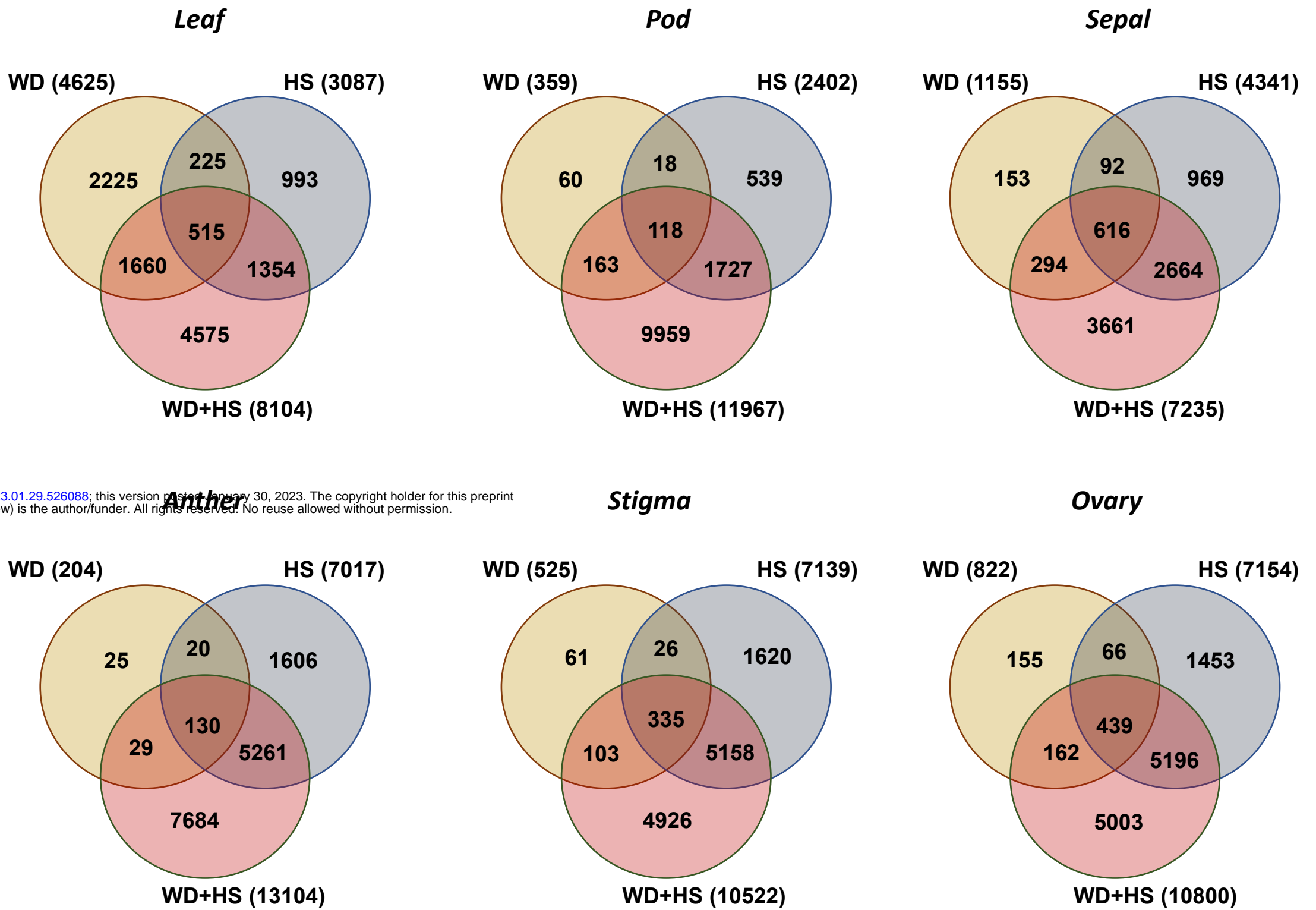
863 **Figure 6.** Differential expression of transcripts encoding abscisic acid metabolism, respiratory  
864 burst oxidase homologs, and auxin response factor signaling in leaf, pod, sepal, anther, stigma,  
865 and ovary in response to water deficit, heat stress, or a combination of water deficit and heat stress.  
866 Heat maps depicting the expression of transcripts encoding proteins involved in abscisic acid  
867 biosynthesis and degradation (a), the superoxide producing respiratory burst oxidase homologs  
868 (b), and auxin response factor signaling (c) are shown. Only transcripts with a significant  
869 expression level compared to control are shown. All experiments were conducted in 3 biological  
870 repeats each with tissues pooled from 8-20 different plants (depending on tissue type). Significant  
871 changes in transcript expression compared to control were defined as adjusted  $P < 0.05$  (negative  
872 binomial Wald test followed by Benjamini–Hochberg correction). Abbreviations: WD, water

873 deficit; HS, heat stress; WD+HS, a combination of WD and HS; RBOH, respiratory burst oxidase  
874 homolog; ABA, abscisic acid.

875  
876 **Figure 7.** Transcriptional regulatory network analysis for heat shock transcription factor A2  
877 (HSFA2) in ovary of soybean plants subjected to water deficit, heat stress, or a combination of  
878 water deficit and heat stress. (a) to (c), gene regulatory network maps for all five soybean HSFA2s  
879 in response to water deficit (a), heat stress (b), or water deficit and heat stress (c). A heat map for  
880 the expression of all HSFA2s in all tissues under the different conditions, extracted from Figure  
881 4a, is included in (a). (d) Venn diagram showing the overlap between all transcripts associated  
882 with HSFA2 function under the different stress conditions (water deficit, heat stress, or a  
883 combination of water deficit and heat stress). GENIE3, which infers a weighted adjacency matrix  
884 derived from Random forests using gene expression data, was used to identify HSFA2 targets, and  
885 Cytoscape3.9.1 was used to generate the different regulatory maps. A cutoff of 0.31, 0.32, 0.35  
886 weights was used to obtain the top regulatory connections. Abbreviations: WD, water deficit; HS,  
887 heat stress, WD+HS, a combination of WD and HS; HSFA2, heat shock transcription factor A2.  
888

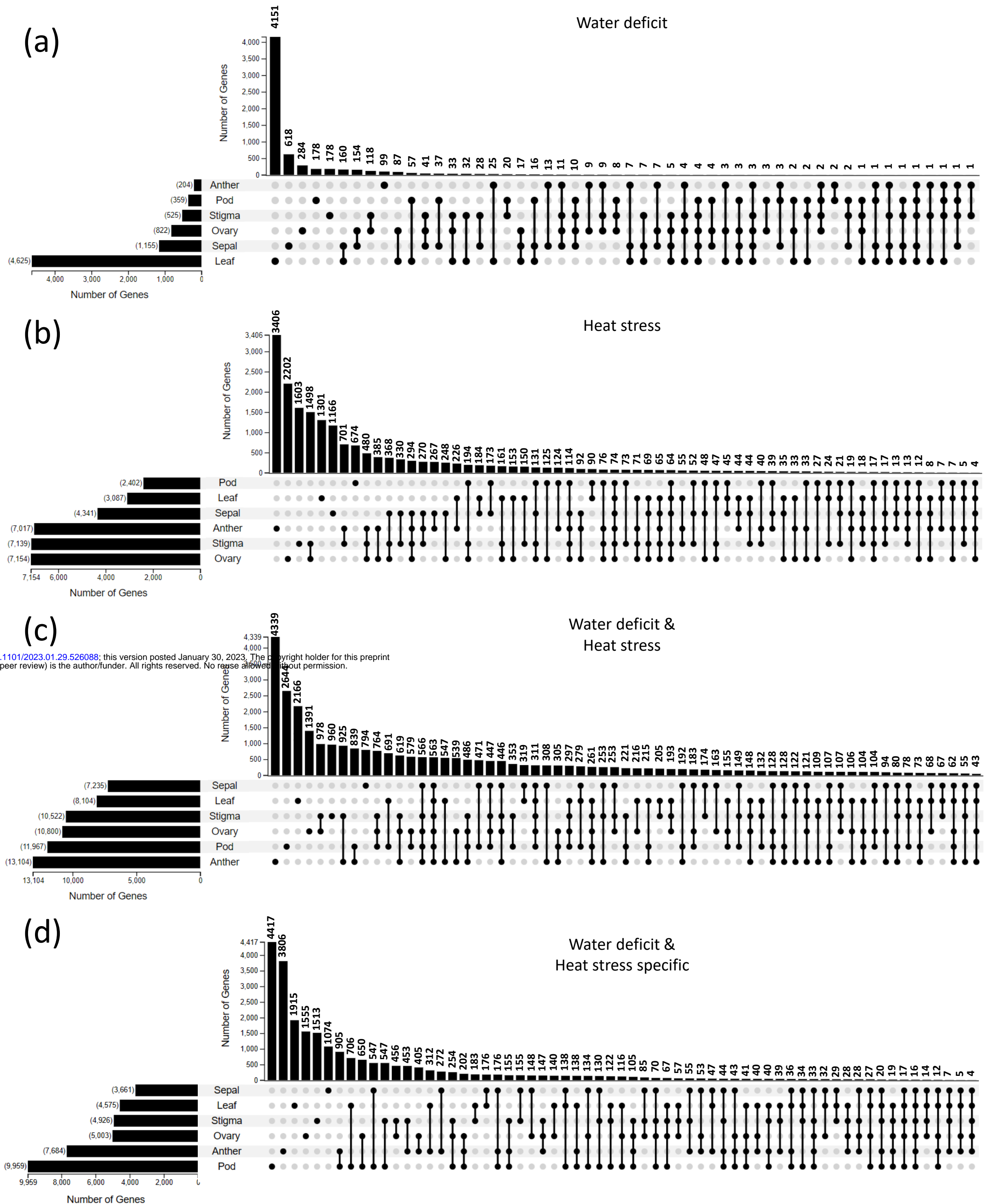






2023.01.29.526088; this version posted January 30, 2023. The copyright holder for this preprint (which was not certified by peer review) is the author/funder. All rights reserved. No reuse allowed without permission.

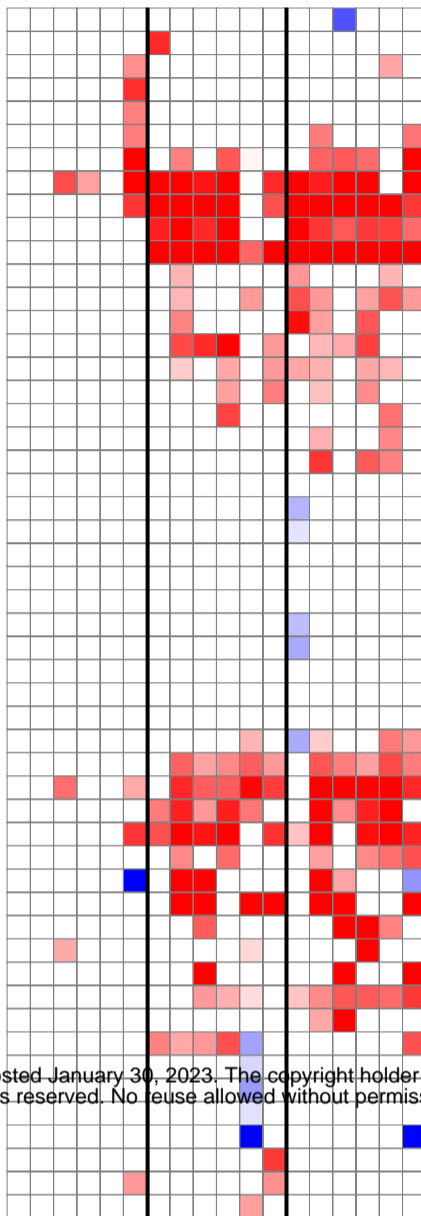
**Figure 2.** Differential transcriptomic responses to water deficit, heat stress, or a combination of water deficit and heat stress in each of the different tissues. Venn diagrams of the overlap between the transcriptomic responses of leaf, pod, sepal, anther, stigma, and ovary to water deficit, heat stress, or a combination of water deficit and heat stress are shown. All experiments were conducted in 3 biological repeats each with tissues pooled from 8-20 different plants (depending on tissue type). Significant changes in transcript expression compared to control were defined as adjusted  $P < 0.05$  (negative binomial Wald test followed by Benjamini–Hochberg correction). Abbreviations: WD, water deficit; HS, heat stress, WD+HS, a combination of WD and HS.



(a)

WD HS WD+HS

Anther Ovary Sepal Stigma Pod Leaf

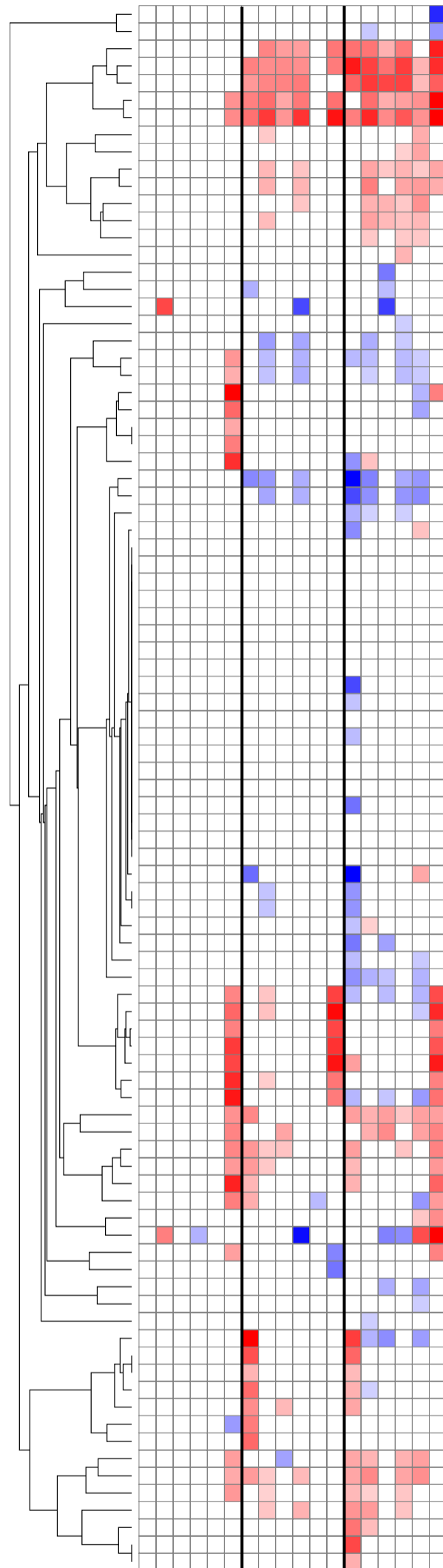


-2.00 0.00 2.00

(b)

WD HS WD+HS

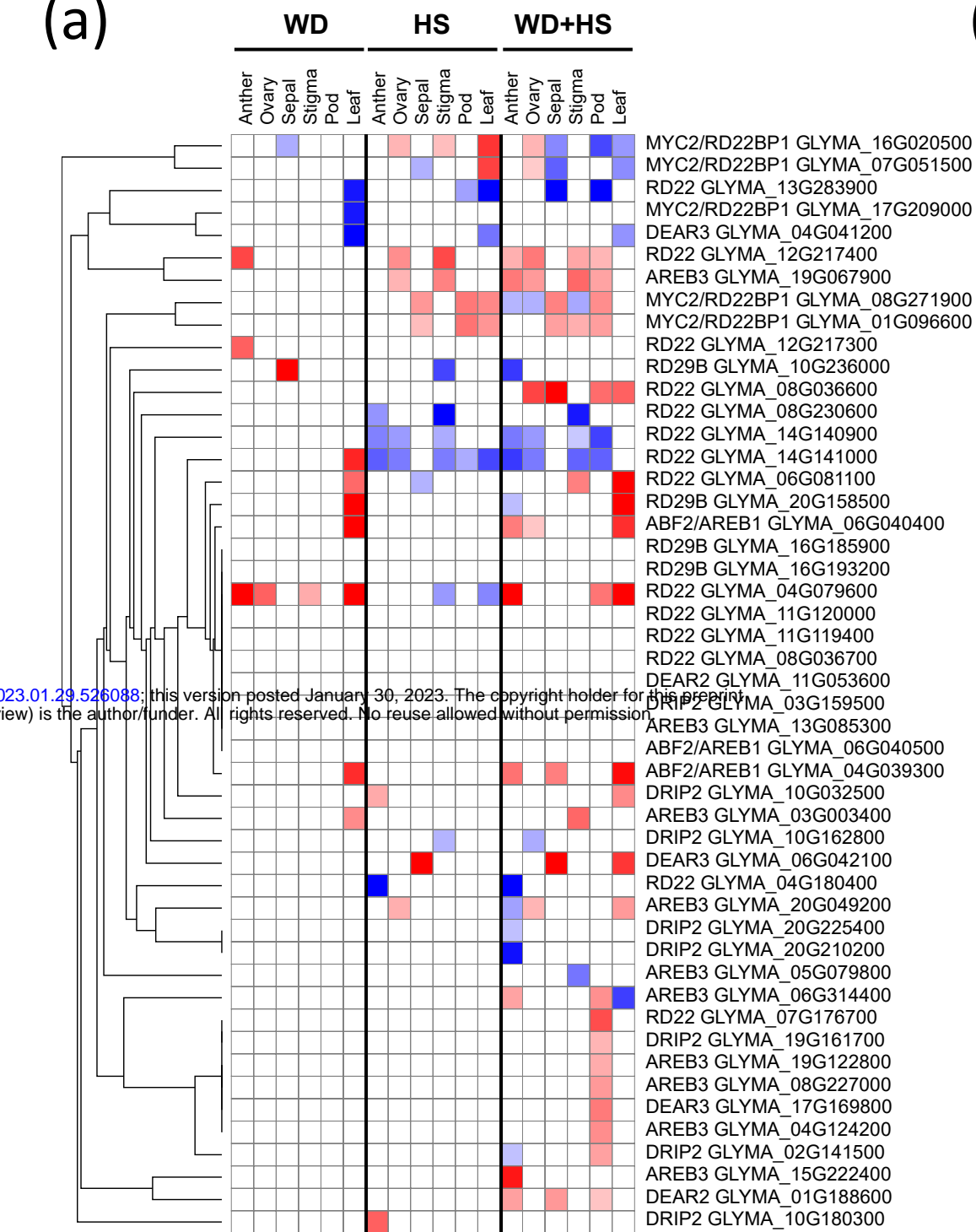
Anther Ovary Sepal Stigma Pod Leaf



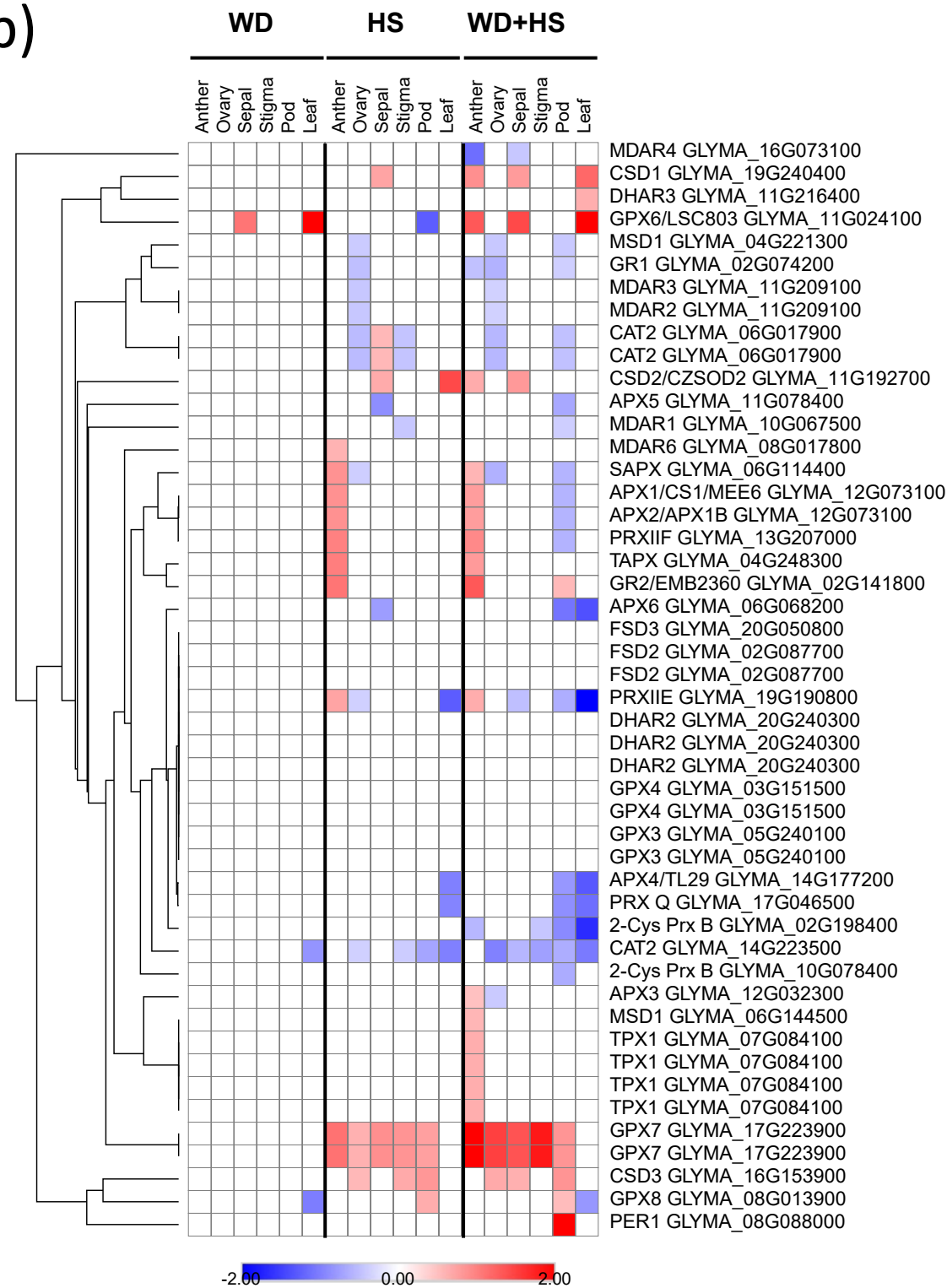
526088; this version posted January 30, 2023. The copyright holder for this preprint (which was not certified by peer review) is the author/funder. All rights reserved. No reuse allowed without permission.

**Figure 4.** Differential expression of transcripts encoding selected heat stress response transcripts in leaf, pod, sepal, anther, stigma, and ovary in response to water deficit, heat stress, or a combination of water deficit and heat stress. Heat maps depicting the expression of transcripts encoding for soybean heat shock transcription factors (a) and transcripts encoding soybean endoplasmic reticulum unfolded protein response proteins (b) are shown. Only transcripts with a significant expression level compared to control are shown. All experiments were conducted in 3 biological repeats each with tissues pooled from 8-20 different plants (depending on tissue type). Significant changes in transcript expression compared to control were defined as adjusted  $P < 0.05$  (negative binomial Wald test followed by Benjamini–Hochberg correction). Abbreviations: WD, water deficit; HS, heat stress; WD+HS, a combination of WD and HS; HSF, heat shock transcription factor.

(a)

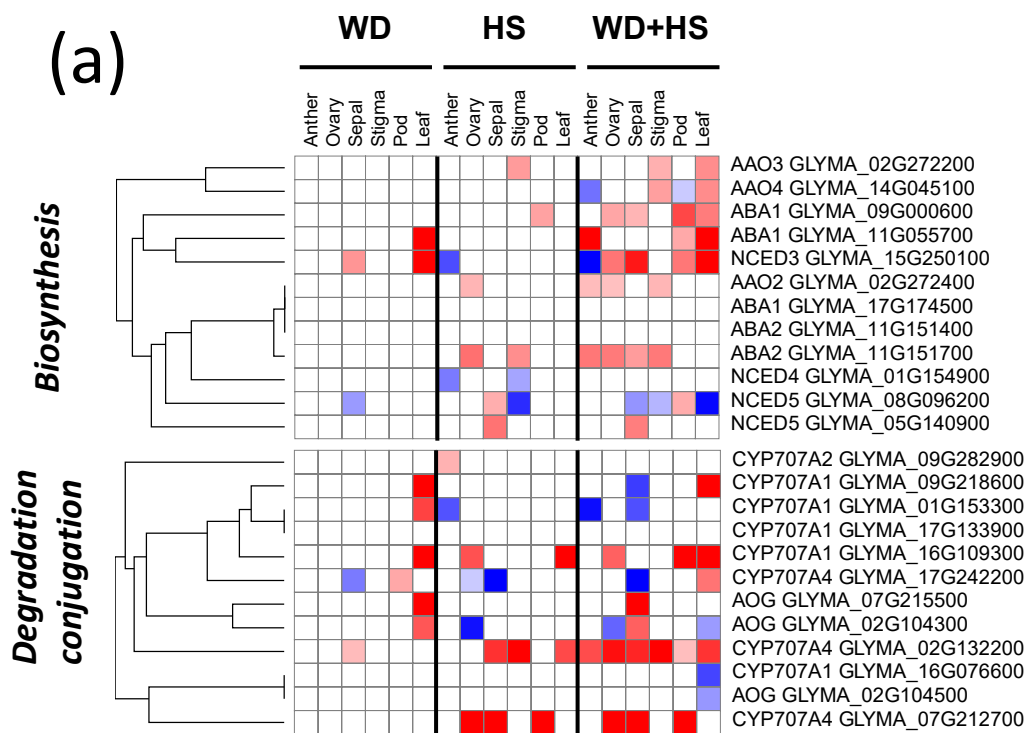


(b)

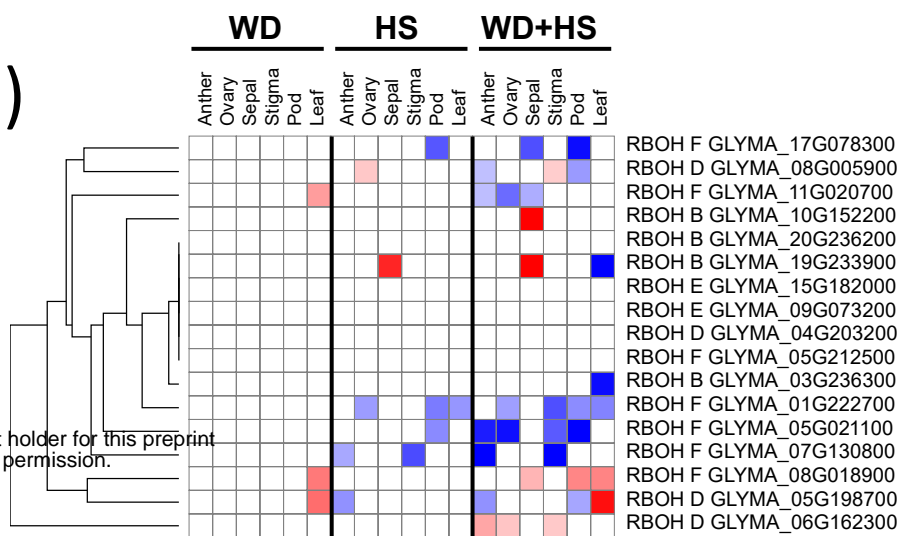


**Figure 5.** Differential expression of transcripts encoding selected drought and reactive oxygen species response proteins in leaf, pod, sepal, anther, stigma, and ovary in response to water deficit, heat stress, or a combination of water deficit and heat stress. Heat maps depicting the expression of selected soybean drought response transcripts (a) and transcripts encoding different proteins involved in reactive oxygen species scavenging and signaling (b) are shown. Only transcripts with a significant expression level compared to control are shown. All experiments were conducted in 3 biological repeats each with tissues pooled from 8-20 different plants (depending on tissue type). Significant changes in transcript expression compared to control were defined as adjusted  $P < 0.05$  (negative binomial Wald test followed by Benjamini–Hochberg correction). Abbreviations: WD, water deficit; HS, heat stress; WD+HS, a combination of WD and HS.

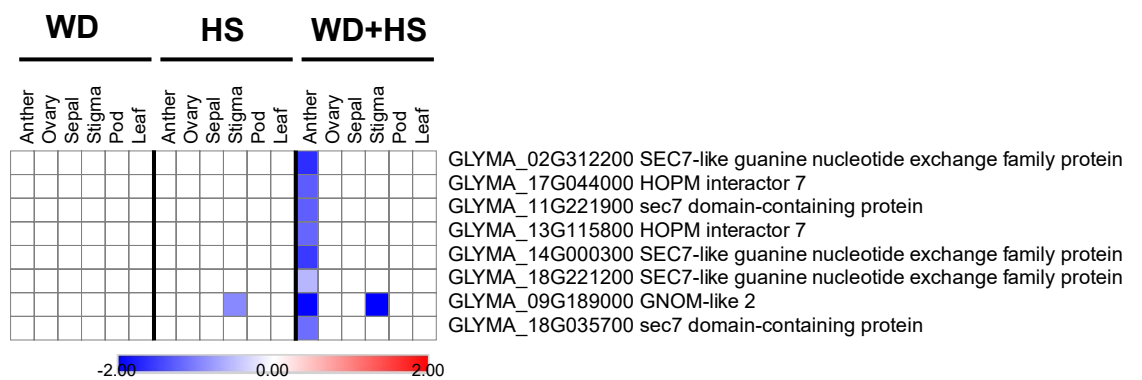
(a)



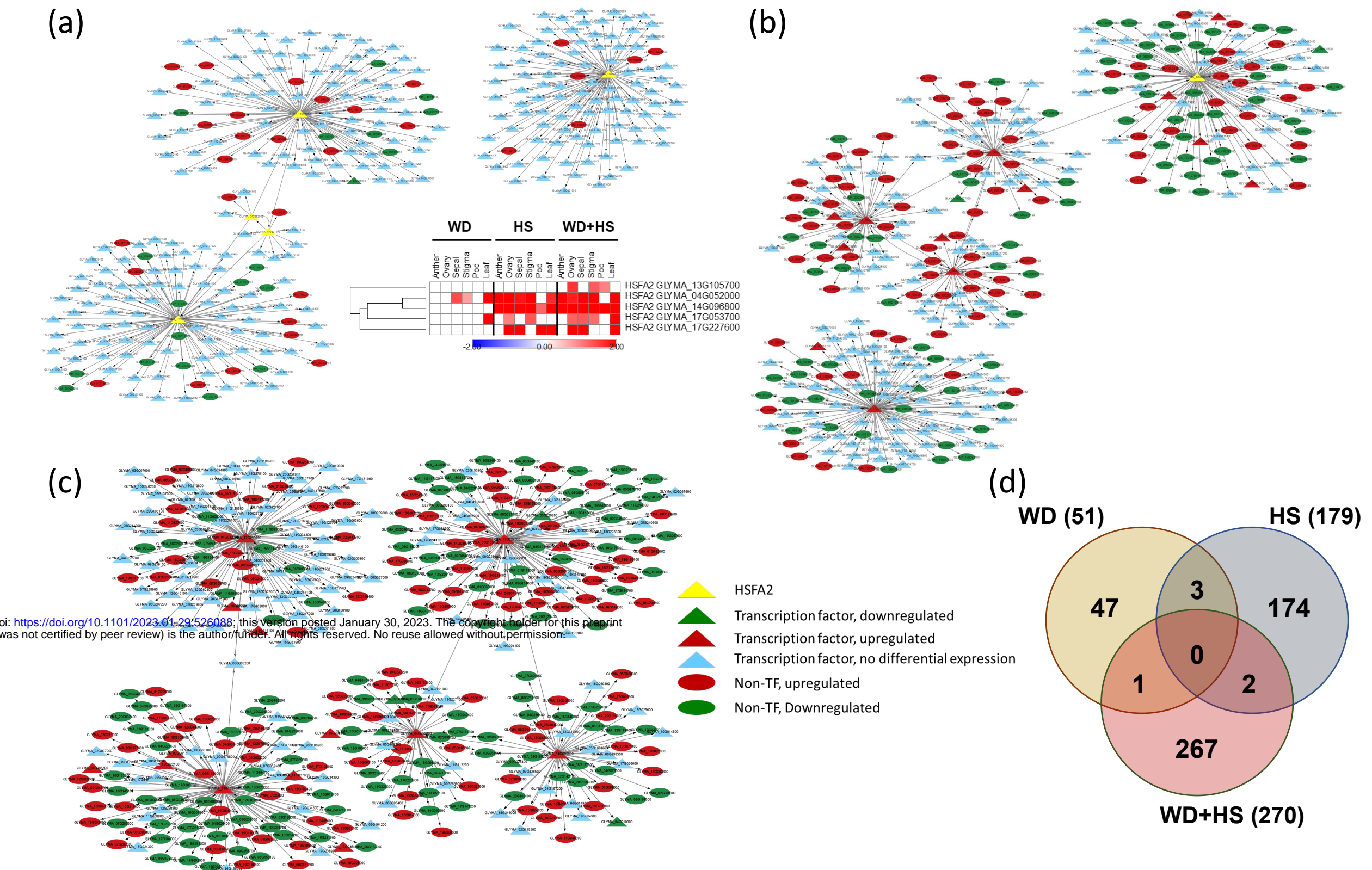
(b)



(c)



**Figure 6.** Differential expression of transcripts encoding abscisic acid metabolism, respiratory burst oxidase homologs, and auxin response factor signaling in leaf, pod, sepal, anther, stigma, and ovary in response to water deficit, heat stress, or a combination of water deficit and heat stress. Heat maps depicting the expression of transcripts encoding proteins involved in abscisic acid biosynthesis and degradation (a), the superoxide producing respiratory burst oxidase homologs (b), and auxin response factor signaling (c) are shown. Only transcripts with a significant expression level compared to control are shown. All experiments were conducted in 3 biological repeats each with tissues pooled from 8-20 different plants (depending on tissue type). Significant changes in transcript expression compared to control were defined as adjusted  $P < 0.05$  (negative binomial Wald test followed by Benjamini–Hochberg correction). Abbreviations: WD, water deficit; HS, heat stress; WD+HS, a combination of WD and HS; RBOH, respiratory burst oxidase homolog; ABA, abscisic acid.



doi: <https://doi.org/10.1101/2023.01.29.526088>; this version posted January 30, 2023. The copyright holder for this preprint (which was not certified by peer review) is the author/funder. All rights reserved. No reuse allowed without permission.

**Figure 7.** Transcriptional regulatory network analysis for heat shock transcription factor A2 (HSFA2) in ovary of soybean plants subjected to water deficit, heat stress, or a combination of water deficit and heat stress. (a) to (c), gene regulatory network maps for all five soybean HSFA2s in response to water deficit (a), heat stress (b) or water deficit and heat stress (c). A heat map for the expression of all HSFA2s in all tissues under the different conditions, extracted from Figure 4a, is included in (a). (d) Venn diagram showing the overlap between all transcripts associated with HSFA2 function under the different stress conditions (water deficit, heat stress or a combination of water deficit and heat stress). GENIE3, which infers a weighted adjacency matrix derived from Random forests using gene expression data, was used to identify HSFA2 targets, and Cytoscape3.9.1 was used to generate the different regulatory maps. A cutoff of 0.31, 0.32, 0.35 weights was used to obtain the top regulatory connections. Abbreviations: WD, water deficit; HS, heat stress, WD+HS, a combination of WD and HS; HSFA2, heat shock transcription factor A2.

**Table 1.** Soybean reproductive tissue-specific transcripts

<i>Gene ID</i>		<i>Arabidopsis homolog</i>		<i>FPKM</i>					
Transcripts specific to ovary									
				Ovary	Anther	Stigma	Pod	Sepal	Leaf
<b>GLYMA_10G271300</b>	Beta-1,3-N-Acetylglucosaminyltransferase family protein	AT4G32105.1	<b>8.57</b>	0.07	0.07	0.14	0.22	0.00	
<b>GLYMA_08G235100</b>	PROTEIN CASPARIAN STRIP INTEGRITY FACTOR 1-RELATED	AT4G34600.1	<b>5.66</b>	0.00	0.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	
<b>GLYMA_11G197000</b>	Thionin related (TAP1)		<b>4.08</b>	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.00	0.00	
<b>GLYMA_16G114000</b>	Glucan endo-1,3-beta-glucosidase-like	AT4G16260.1	<b>2.81</b>	0.30	0.06	0.00	0.08	0.00	
<b>GLYMA_16G113200</b>	Glucan endo-1,3-beta-glucosidase-like	AT4G16260.1	<b>2.56</b>	0.16	0.07	0.00	0.03	0.00	
Transcripts specific to Pod									
				Pod	Anther	Stigma	Ovary	Sepal	Leaf
<b>GLYMA_09G084200</b>	glycine-rich cell wall structural protein-like		<b>97.89</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.33	0.00	
<b>GLYMA_18G277700</b>	SCR-like 11	AT4G15733.1	<b>93.62</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.06	
<b>GLYMA_13G039300</b>	Gibberellin-regulated family protein	AT2G30810.1	<b>94.35</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
<b>GLYMA_17G083600</b>	strictosidine synthase 2	AT1G74020.1	<b>55.73</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
<b>GLYMA_02G281500</b>	Bifunctional inhibitor/lipid-transfer protein/seed storage 2S albumin superfamily protein	AT4G33355.1	<b>59.38</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Transcripts specific to Anther									
				Anther	Stigma	Ovary	Pod	Sepal	Leaf
<b>GLYMA_04G092000</b>	uncharacterized protein LOC100789691	AT1G58122.1	<b>549.56</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>GLYMA_12G011100</b>	Ca <sup>2+</sup> -ATPase N terminal autoinhibitory domain	AT1G27770.1	<b>25.91</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.22
<b>GLYMA_19G262800</b>	GDSL-like Lipase/Acylhydrolase superfamily protein	AT5G40990.1	<b>9.64</b>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>GLYMA_05G171200</b>	amino acid transporter 1	AT4G21120.1	<b>12.38</b>	0.58	0.08	0.00	0.11	0.00	
<b>GLYMA_10G073000</b>	UV EXCISION REPAIR PROTEIN RAD23	AT4G05230.1	<b>11.75</b>	0.35	0.00	0.00	0.09	0.00	
Transcripts specific to Sepal									
				Sepal	Anther	Ovary	Pod	Stigma	Leaf
<b>GLYMA_08G269800</b>	MADS-box transcription factor 6	AT1G69120.1	<b>49.30</b>	0.32	0.58	0.08	0.44	0.03	
<b>GLYMA_02G121600</b>	MADS-box transcription factor 6	AT1G69120.1	<b>34.28</b>	0.19	0.03	0.36	0.01	0.07	

<b>GLYMA_03G183200</b>	SAUR-like auxin-responsive protein family, Auxin-induced protein, ARG7	AT2G28085.1	<b>24.80</b>	0.00	0.30	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>GLYMA_13G062100</b>	Unknown protein	AT3G29034.1	<b>7.68</b>	0.14	0.06	0.04	0.12	0.03
<b>GLYMA_20G148500</b>	transcription factor CYCLOIDEA-like isoform X3, TCP	AT1G67260.2	<b>3.70</b>	0.00	0.07	0.00	0.02	0.00