

Deciphering the dynamics of metabolic pathways influencing by controlled atmosphere during post-harvest physiology of cultivated strawberry fruit

José G. Vallarino¹, Carmen Soria², Zoran Nikoloski³, Lothar Willmitzer³, Victoriano Valpuesta¹, Alisdair R. Fernie³, and Sonia Osorio¹ *.

¹ Instituto de Hortofruticultura Subtropical y Mediterránea (IHSM-UMA-CSIC), Departamento de Biología Molecular y Bioquímica, Facultad de Ciencias, Universidad de Málaga, Campus de Teatinos s/n, E-29071 Málaga, Spain.

² Área de Mejora y Biotecnología IFAPA-CIFA Málaga, Cortijo de la Cruz, E-29140 Málaga, Spain

³ Max-Planck-Institut für Molekulare Pflanzenphysiologie, Am Mühlenberg 1, D-14476 Potsdam-Golm, Germany.

* Corresponding author.

Abstract.

Strawberry (*Fragaria* × *ananassa*) fruit is highly appreciated due to its delicate aroma, flavor and nutritional value. However, fruits are highly perishable and deteriorate quickly at ambient temperature. Controlled atmosphere storage is commonly used to prevent fruit decay; however it affects fruit quality causing physiological disorders. In the present work, High-throughput metabolomics technologies allow the quantitation of (relative) metabolite levels and allow determine the metabolic dynamics associated with postharvest in different controlled atmosphere storage. Five varieties of strawberry fruits (*F. ananassa* cvs. Camarosa, Candonga, Amiga, Santa Clara, and Fortuna) with different aroma, taste, and postharvest behavior were stored at 4°C in two different atmosphere compositions, i) 10% CO₂ and ii) 0.35 ppm O₃ at 0, 3, 6, and 10 days after harvesting and compared to fruits stored at 4°C. Novel methods for analyzing the resulting multiple data tables revealed preserved dynamics of metabolic processes across species. We identify key metabolites, which prime the fruit to cope with different decay situations, which likely greatly accelerate the design and the improvement of plant breeding programs.

Funding: Ministerio de Ciencia e Innovación, Spain (Ramón and Cajal contract).