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Abstract

Philodendron bipinnatifidum inflorescences heat up to 42°C and thermoregulate. We investigated whether they generate heat via the cytochrome oxidase pathway uncoupled by uncoupling proteins (pUCPs), or the alternative oxidase (AOX). Contribution of AOX and pUCPs to heating in fertile (FM) and sterile (SM) male florets was determined using a combination of oxygen isotope discrimination, protein and substrate analyses. FM and SM florets thermoregulated independently for up to 30h ex planta. In both floret types, AOX contributed more than 90% of respiratory flux during peak heating. AOX protein increased 5-fold with the onset of thermogenesis in both floret types, whereas pUCP remained low throughout development. These data indicate that AOX is primarily responsible for heating, despite FM and SM florets potentially using different substrates, carbohydrates and lipids, respectively. Measurements of discrimination between O₂ isotopes in strongly respiring SM florets were affected by diffusion; however, this diffusional limitation was largely overcome using elevated O₂. The first in vivo respiratory flux measurements in an arum show AOX contributes the bulk of heating in *P. bipinnatifidum*. Fine scale regulation of AOX activity is post translational. We also demonstrate that elevated O₂ can aid measurement of respiratory pathway fluxes in dense tissues.

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**In the heat of the night – alternative pathway respiration drives thermogenesis
in *Philodendron bipinnatifidum***

Running title: Alternative oxidase heats *Philodendron*

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Summary

- *Philodendron bipinnatifidum* inflorescences heat up to 42°C and thermoregulate. We investigated whether they generate heat via the cytochrome oxidase pathway uncoupled by uncoupling proteins (pUCPs), or the alternative oxidase (AOX).
- Contribution of AOX and pUCPs to heating in fertile (FM) and sterile (SM) male florets was determined using a combination of oxygen isotope discrimination, protein and substrate analyses.
- FM and SM florets thermoregulated independently for up to 30h *ex planta*. In both floret types, AOX contributed more than 90% of respiratory flux during peak heating. AOX protein increased 5-fold with the onset of thermogenesis in both floret types, whereas pUCP remained low throughout development. These data indicate that AOX is primarily responsible for heating, despite FM and SM florets potentially using different substrates, carbohydrates and lipids, respectively. Measurements of discrimination between O₂ isotopes in strongly respiring SM florets were affected by diffusion; however, this diffusional limitation was largely overcome using elevated O₂.
- The first *in vivo* respiratory flux measurements in an arum show AOX contributes the bulk of heating in *P. bipinnatifidum*. Fine scale regulation of AOX activity is post-translational. We also demonstrate that elevated O₂ can aid measurement of respiratory pathway fluxes in dense tissues.

Key Words

Alternative oxidase (AOX), Araceae, diffusion limitation, *Philodendron bipinnatifidum*, plant uncoupling proteins (pUCPs), plant thermogenesis, stable isotope measurements of respiration.

53 **Introduction**

54 Thermogenesis in the reproductive organs of plants is known to occur in the Cycadaceae (Tang *et al.*, 1987), and in Angiosperms, including both eudicots (e.g. Nelumbonaceae; Miyake, 1898) and
 55 *al.*, 1987), and in Angiosperms, including both eudicots (e.g. Nelumbonaceae; Miyake, 1898) and
 56 monocots (e.g. Araceae; Lance, 1974). The Araceae contains more thermogenic species than any
 57 other family (Meeuse, 1975; Meeuse & Raskin, 1988; Gibernau *et al.*, 2005), and has attracted
 58 much attention from researchers aiming to understand heating mechanisms (Wagner *et al.*, 1998;
 59 Ito *et al.*, 2003; Crichton *et al.*, 2005; Ito & Seymour, 2005; Onda *et al.*, 2008; Wagner *et al.*,
 60 2008), or to characterise the ecological significance of thermogenesis in plant-pollinator
 61 interactions (Gottsberger, 1999; Gibernau & Barab  , 2002). Amongst thermogenic arums, the
 62 capacity for heat generation differs markedly, from approximately 1-2  C above ambient
 63 temperature in *Monstera obliqua* (Chouteau *et al.*, 2007) to 34  C above in *Philodendron*
 64 *bipinnatifidum* (syn. *P. selloum*; Nagy *et al.*, 1972; Seymour *et al.*, 1983). In addition to this
 65 substantial thermogenic capacity, *P. bipinnatifidum* is also noteworthy as one of a small number
 66 of thermogenic species that can maintain a relatively constant floral temperature by regulating
 67 heat production in response to variations in ambient air temperature (Nagy *et al.*, 1972; Knutson,
 68 1974; Seymour & Schultze-Motel, 1996). Despite the attention they have received, the specific
 69 mechanisms of heating and thermoregulation have yet to be determined in the thermogenic
 70 Araceae, including *P. bipinnatifidum*.

71

72 Respiration using the ubiquitous cytochrome *c* oxidase (COX) pathway is coupled to ATP
 73 production. By contrast, in thermogenic plants, heat generation occurs via high respiratory fluxes
 74 uncoupled from ATP production, by two possible mechanisms. The first is the alternative
 75 pathway of respiration, which branches from the main mitochondrial electron transport chain at
 76 ubiquinone and for which the alternative oxidase (AOX) is the terminal oxidase. This pathway
 77 bypasses two sites of proton translocation (complexes III and IV), but can still be coupled to
 78 electron transport at a third site, complex I. Ubiquitous in plants (Vanlerberghe & McIntosh,

1997), and expressed at high levels in thermogenic tissues (Grant *et al.*, 2008), AOX genes are also present in fungi, protists and many animal lineages (McDonald & Vanlerberghe, 2006; McDonald, 2008). The second possible mechanism for heat generation involves plant uncoupling proteins (pUCPs) which act by dissipating the electrochemical gradient, and uncoupling respiratory electron transport from ATP regeneration. Whilst pUCPs are often assumed to only uncouple the COX pathway it is also possible that pUCPs could totally uncouple the AOX pathway to generate maximum heat. Some literature has suggested that substrates utilised can indicate the pathway responsible for heating (Sluse *et al.*, 1998; Ito & Seymour, 2005). Lipids, the major substrate for UCP1 mediated non-shivering thermogenesis in mammalian brown adipose tissue (Lowell & Spiegelman, 2000) are therefore assumed to also be the substrate for pUCPs. Conversely, it is often assumed that the AOX pathway utilises carbohydrate rather than lipid metabolism as free fatty acids have been found to inhibit AOX activity *in vitro* (Sluse *et al.*, 1998).

The only means to definitively demonstrate that AOX is involved in heat production *in vivo* is to quantify alternative pathway flux using stable O₂ isotope discrimination techniques (Ribas-Carbo *et al.*, 1995; Day *et al.*, 1996). Using this approach with thermoregulatory sacred lotus (*Nelumbo nucifera*), it has been demonstrated that up to 93% of total respiration was via the AOX pathway in heating flowers (Watling *et al.*, 2006; Grant *et al.*, 2008). Subsequent protein and substrate data demonstrated that AOX is solely responsible for heat generation in this eudicot (Grant *et al.*, 2008; Grant *et al.*, in press). Measurements of respiratory fluxes and discrimination using isotope techniques have not been possible in thermogenic Araceae to date because of the high diffusional resistances in these structurally dense tissues (Guy *et al.*, 1989).

The majority of studies of *P. bipinnatifidum* have focused on heating in the band of SM florets (Nagy *et al.*, 1972; Seymour *et al.*, 1984; Seymour, 1999) which are the source of up to 70% of

inflorescence heat (Seymour, 1999). Based largely on transcript abundances in different tissues, it has been suggested that pUCPs are the likely mechanism for thermogenesis in SM florets of *P. bipinnatifidum* (Ito & Seymour, 2005). Furthermore, a respiratory quotient of 0.83 has been reported for *P. bipinnatifidum* consistent with respiration switching from carbohydrate to lipid metabolism prior to heating (Walker *et al.*, 1983; Seymour *et al.*, 1984) and thus also implicating pUCPs. AOX transcripts however, also appeared to increase in heating SM florets of this species (Ito & Seymour, 2005). Importantly transcript abundance is not necessarily correlated with protein abundance or enzyme activity, and expression of AOX and pUCP in non-thermogenic and thermogenic tissues of *P. bipinnatifidum* has not been investigated. Co-expression of both pUCP and AOX proteins has been reported in thermogenic tissues of some other aroids, suggesting the possibility that both may play a role in thermogenesis (Onda *et al.*, 2008; Wagner *et al.*, 2008).

This study used *P. bipinnatifidum* as a model for the first *in vivo* measurements of AOX pathway flux during thermogenesis in an arum. Specifically we aimed to investigate whether isotopic discrimination was affected by diffusion during peak respiration in SM florets, by conducting measurements under different O₂ partial pressures. We also characterised heating patterns and mechanisms in the little studied fertile male (FM) florets. Here we present physiological and biochemical data that support a major role for AOX in heating in both SM and FM florets of *P. bipinnatifidum in vivo*. We also show how diffusional limitations to discrimination in dense tissues can be largely overcome by measuring stable O₂ isotope discrimination under elevated O₂.

127 ***Materials and Methods***

128 *Plant Material*

129 *Philodendron bipinnatifidum* Schott ex Endl. (syn. *P. selloum* K.Koch.) spadices were sampled
 130 from the Adelaide Botanic Gardens, South Australia, and a private garden in Wollongong, New
 131 South Wales during November to December, 2006 and 2007. In Adelaide, spadices were sampled
 132 at five of the six developmental stages described below; we were not able to access plants to
 133 capture stage D. The entire spadix was removed and transported to the lab in a sealed plastic bag.
 134 Spadices were immediately dissected into floret types for respiration measurements, and protein
 135 and substrate analyses. Samples for mitochondrial protein analysis were stored on ice, and tissue
 136 samples for substrate analysis (lipid, carbohydrate) were snap frozen in liquid N₂ and stored at –
 137 80°C until analysed.

138
 139 Further measurements of respiration and oxygen isotope discrimination were undertaken during
 140 the Northern summer, June-July 2009, using plants from private gardens in Palo Alto, California.

141

142 *Thermogenic stages*

143 Temperatures of SM and FM florets, non-thermogenic spathe tissue, and air were logged every
 144 three min, throughout the three to four day flowering period using Thermochron i-Buttons
 145 (Maxim Integrated Products, Inc, Sunnyvale, CA). When inflorescences were sampled, air and
 146 floret temperatures, including non-thermogenic female florets and spathe temperature, were taken
 147 using a needle thermocouple inserted into the florets and a Fluke model 52 digital thermometer
 148 (Fluke Corp., Everett, WA, USA). There was no significant difference between i-Button and
 149 thermocouple temperatures. Nor were there significant differences between heating of
 150 inflorescences in Adelaide, Wollongong or Palo Alto.

151

Independence of heating in FM and SM florets was assessed by dissecting the spadix into three sections: female florets, FM florets and SM florets. Floret temperatures for each section, and non-thermogenic spathe temperature were logged in the laboratory (RT=approx. 24°C) using i-Buttons over two days.

Several distinct stages were identified, similar to those described in Seymour (1999) based on the heating pattern of the SM florets. The six stages were: pre-thermogenesis (stage A); shoulder (stage B), an initial phase of increasing temperature; peak thermogenesis (stage C), a distinct burst of heating of relatively short duration (< 1 h); the dip (stage D), a sharp decline in temperature after stage C; the plateau (stage E), 8-12 h of relatively constant elevated temperature; and post-thermogenesis (stage F), when heating has ceased after the pollen is shed toward the end of the plateau (Fig. 1).

Respiration and Discrimination Analysis

Oxygen isotope discrimination during respiration of FM and SM florets, at each developmental stage, was determined using the on-line oxygen isotope technique described in Watling *et al.* (2006). The isotopic discrimination factors (D) and partitioning of electrons between the cytochrome and alternative pathways were calculated as previously described (Guy *et al.*, 1989; Henry *et al.*, 1999). The r^2 of all unconstrained linear regressions between $-\ln f$ and $\ln (R/R_o)$, with a minimum of six data points, was at least 0.992. Discrimination endpoints for the alternative ($\Delta a = 25.6 \pm 1.2\text{‰}$; mean \pm SD) and cytochrome ($\Delta c = 16.4 \pm 2.9\text{‰}$) oxidases were determined (using SM and FM florets incubated with either 16 mM KCN or 25 mM SHAM (in 0.05% DMSO), respectively) and used to calculate flux through the alternative and cytochrome pathways in uninhibited tissues as described in Ribas-Carbo *et al.*, (2005). Female florets are not

thermogenic, and preliminary measurements found very low respiration rates, hence no further analyses were performed.

Because diffusional limitations in dense tissues can influence accurate determination of D , further measurements were made under a range of O_2 partial pressures. Biochemical discrimination during respiration is a function of the ratio of internal to ambient O_2 partial pressures (P_i/P_a) as described by equation 1 (Angert & Luz, 2001).

$$D_{\text{total}} = D_d + (D_r - D_d)P_i/P_a \quad (1)$$

Where, D_{total} is the measured discrimination, which is a function of D_d , the discrimination due to diffusion through the tissues (florets), D_r , biochemical discrimination occurring during respiration, and P_i/P_a (i.e. diffusion from air into the tissues). Diffusion through floret tissue is assumed to be in liquid phase, and thus discrimination will be negligible (Farquhar & Lloyd, 1993). Thus, $D_d = 0$ in this case. Equation 1 then simplifies to:

$$D_{\text{total}} = D_r * P_i/P_a \quad (2)$$

From Equation 2, it follows that if P_i/P_a is low, then accurate determination of discrimination during respiration will not be possible. To determine whether oxygen isotope fractionation was diffusionally limited during peak heating, we made measurements on stage C, SM florets over a range of O_2 partial pressures, from ambient (21% O_2) to three times ambient (63% O_2) by introducing pure O_2 into the chamber. Mean endpoints for SM florets under elevated O_2 were ($\Delta a = 27.1 \pm 1.0\text{‰}$ and $\Delta c = 18.3 \pm 0.5\text{‰}$; mean \pm SD). Measurements in air immediately following those made under increased O_2 supply indicated that there was no oxygen toxicity with total

respiration rates unchanged by O₂ elevation (Supporting Information Fig. S1). These experiments were conducted in Palo Alto.

Isolation of Mitochondrial Proteins

Isolation of washed mitochondrial proteins was based on the method of Day *et al.* (1985). The preparation of mitochondrial proteins, and protein quantification followed methods described in Grant *et al.* (2008). Protein concentrations were determined using the method of Bradford (1976) with known quantities of BSA as standards.

SDS-PAGE and immunoblotting

Mitochondrial proteins separated by SDS-PAGE were transferred to PVDF membranes and detected by chemiluminescence as previously described (Grant *et al.*, 2008). Immunoblotting was performed using the mouse monoclonal primary antibodies AOA (1:500, raised against the alternative oxidase of *Sauromatum guttatum* Schott; Elthon *et al.*, 1989) and PM035 from the mitochondrial marker protein porin (1:500, raised against *Zea mays* purified porin protein, Dr T Elthon, Lincoln, NE, USA). The rabbit polyclonal primary antibodies used were anti-COXII (1:1000, raised against subunit II of cytochrome *c* oxidase, Agrisera) and anti-SoyUCP (1:10 000, raised against *Glycine max* L. Merr purified pUCP; Considine *et al.*, 2001). For detection of AOX, pUCP and COXII, 60 µg of mitochondrial protein was loaded while only 10 µg was needed for detection of porin. AOX, pUCP and COXII protein levels are given relative to porin which acts as a loading control (Pring *et al.*, 2006). The total amount of mitochondrial protein extracted (g⁻¹ FW), and porin levels were similar across all developmental stages in all florets (data not shown). The AOX protein was present in the reduced and oxidised form; therefore mitochondrial isolates were incubated in the presence of 5mM DTT to completely reduce the protein. Serial dilutions confirmed linearity of the response of all proteins. Chemiluminescence

(SuperSignal West Femto Maximum Sensitivity Substrate; Pierce, Rockford, IL, USA) was used for the detection of the horse radish peroxidase-conjugated secondary antibodies. Densitometry quantification of the protein bands was made by a Fluorchem 8900 Gel Imager (Alpha Innotech, San Leandro, CA) with subsequent analysis using Fluorchem IS-8900 software (Alpha Innotech, San Leandro, CA).

Soluble carbohydrate and starch determination

Philodendron bipinnatifidum florets from each stage were assayed for soluble carbohydrates and starch as described in Grant *et al.* (2008). Briefly, soluble carbohydrates were extracted by heating florets (mean 0.023 g FW) in 80% ethanol (solvent:tissue, 30:1, v/w) at 70°C for 10 min. Glucose (glc), fructose (fru) and sucrose (suc) were determined sequentially following the addition of hexokinase (0.5U; Roche 1426362), phosphoglucose isomerase (0.6U; Roche 127396) and invertase (8U; Sigma I-4504), respectively. Absorbance was measured at 340 nm using a SpectraMax Plus 384 microplate reader (Molecular Devices, Sunnyvale, CA). Starch was determined from the remaining tissue, which was ground in H₂O, autoclaved, and incubated with α -amylase (20U; Sigma A-3176) and amyloglucosidase (14U; Fluka 10115) at 37°C for 4.5 h to convert starch to glc. An aliquot was then assayed for glc as described above.

Lipid analysis

Total lipid was extracted from 0.4 g of frozen floret tissue using standard methods (Folch *et al.*, 1957) with minor changes as described. The frozen tissue was ground to a fine powder in liquid N₂ using a mortar and pestle and further homogenised with 10 ml of chloroform:methanol (2:1, v/v) containing butylated hydroxytoluene (0.01%, w/v) as an antioxidant. The homogenised samples were incubated at 4°C overnight on a rotator. Total lipids were separated into triacylglycerides (TAG - neutral lipids) and phospholipids (PL - charged lipids) by sequential

elution from Sep-Pac silica columns (Waters, Milford, MA) with hexane and ethyl acetate, respectively. Samples were dried at 37°C under N₂ in pre-weighed vials. Fatty acid composition of TAGs was then determined. Samples were trans-methylated using the method of Lepage and Roy (1986). The fatty acid methyl esters were separated by gas-liquid chromatography on a Shimadzu GC 17A (Shimadzu, Sydney, Australia) with a Varian WCOT Fused Silica Column (50 m x 0.25 mm ID, CP7419, Sydney, Australia). Fatty acids were identified using retention times of an external standard (F.A.M.E Supelco, Bellefonte, PA), and quantified against a heneicosanoic acid (21:0) internal standard (Sigma Aldrich, Sydney, Australia).

Statistical Analysis

Changes in respiratory pathways and relative AOX, COXII and pUCP protein with respect to developmental stage and between floret types were investigated by analysis of variance (ANOVA). Where ANOVA revealed significant differences, Tukey HSD post hoc tests were applied in order to identify significantly different means. Data were tested for normality using the Shapiro-Wilk W Test. Bartlett's test was applied to ensure homogeneity of variances. Where these assumptions were not satisfied, data were square root or cube root transformed before analysis. All analyses were undertaken using JMP 5.1 (SAS Institute Inc.).

Results

Characterisation of thermogenesis

The pattern of heating for SM florets was similar to that reported by Seymour (1999), but we also observed a distinct and independent pattern of heating in the FM florets, that has not previously been reported in *P. bipinnatifidum*. Mean FM floret temperature at peak thermogenesis (stage C) was 5.5°C lower than in SM florets ($t_{26,0}=8.2$, $P<0.0001$; Table I), but there were no significant

275 differences in mean temperatures between floret types at other thermogenic stages (Table I). At
 276 peak thermogenesis mean FM floret temperature ranged from 34.0 to 38.1°C ($35.7 \pm 1.4^\circ\text{C}$, mean
 277 \pm SD, $n=14$) against ambient temperatures ranging from 15 to 30.2°C. Peak temperatures in SM
 278 florets ranged from 37 to 41.5°C ($40.1 \pm 1.4^\circ\text{C}$, $n=14$) across the same range of air temperatures.
 279 The slope of the linear regression between peak (stage C) temperature and ambient temperature
 280 (T_a) in FM florets (FM peak $T = 0.18 * T_a + 31.1$; $P=0.04$) was significantly different from unity
 281 ($t_{14}=6.7$, $P<0.05$), but similar to zero indicating strong thermoregulation. SM florets also
 282 regulated peak temperature; the slope of the SM floret peak temperature versus T_a relationship
 283 was 0.14, similar to previously reported values for SM florets (Nagy *et al.*, 1972; Seymour *et al.*,
 284 1983). Peak temperatures of FM and SM florets were not correlated with either total spadix mass,
 285 or the mass of the specific floret types (data not shown). Dip (stage D) temperatures remained
 286 above ambient in both SM and FM florets (Table I). FM florets reached their minimum
 287 temperature earlier than SM florets, and began to increase earlier to the thermoregulatory plateau
 288 (stage E), during which they maintained a mean temperature of $29.0 \pm 1.6^\circ\text{C}$ for 8 to 12 h by
 289 heating from 2 to 11.1°C above ambient temperature (Fig 1). The period of temperature
 290 regulation at stage E was of longer duration in FM florets than SM florets, which maintained a
 291 similar mean plateau temperature ($28.8 \pm 2.2^\circ\text{C}$; Table I).
 292
 293 SM and FM florets from dissected spadices continued to heat *ex planta* and exhibited the same
 294 pattern of heating as intact inflorescences, for up to 30 h after detachment (Fig. 1b,c). When
 295 detached late during stage B (5 pm) peak thermogenesis was achieved rapidly, FM and SM
 296 florets reaching maxima of 37.7°C and 39.8°C, respectively (Fig. 1b). If florets were sampled
 297 earlier during stage B (1 pm), the peak was broader, and maxima lower (33.3°C and 36.7°C for
 298 FM and SM florets, respectively; Fig. 1c). All maxima were within the range of peak
 299 temperatures recorded for intact spadices (Table I).
 300

301 *Respiratory fluxes*

302 Mean total respiratory flux increased 2.6-fold with the onset of heating in FM florets ($F_{3,21}=4.2$,
 303 $P=0.0200$; Fig. 2a). This increase was largely accounted for by the significant 3.8-fold increase in
 304 AOX flux from $0.013 \pm 0.006 \mu\text{mol O}_2 \text{ g FW}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ in stage A (pre-thermogenesis) to its maximum
 305 mean value of $0.051 \pm 0.013 \mu\text{mol O}_2 \text{ g FW}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ at stage B ($F_{3,21}=3.4$, $P=0.0421$; Fig. 2a). Across
 306 the thermogenic stages (B-E), AOX accounted for, on average, between 44.2 and 74.2% of total
 307 respiratory flux in FM florets, and the highest proportion of flux via AOX was 92%. Mean COX
 308 flux comprised less than 41% of total flux in FM florets across thermogenic stages B-E, and was
 309 similar across all developmental stages (Fig. 2a). In FM florets, both discrimination (D; $r^2=0.35$,
 310 $P=0.0029$) and AOX flux ($r^2=0.77$, $P<0.0001$) were strongly positively correlated with total
 311 respiratory flux (data not shown). That high AOX fluxes were measured when total respiration
 312 rates were high, suggests that oxygen fractionation in the FM floret tissue was not diffusionally
 313 limited, or that any limitation was minimal.

314

315 As stage C is brief, it is possible that inflorescences were sampled after peak temperature had
 316 been reached and it appears that peak fluxes in FM florets were not captured (cf. Fig. 2a & 2b),
 317 thus relationships between fluxes and heating in these florets were analysed excluding stage C
 318 samples. Total respiratory flux ($\text{flux}=0.0074*\text{heating}+0.016$, $r^2=0.55$, $P=0.0007$; Fig. 3a) and
 319 AOX flux ($\text{flux}=0.0062*\text{heating}+0.0022$, $r^2=0.60$, $P=0.0003$; Fig. 3c), were significantly
 320 positively correlated with heating in FM florets, variation in AOX flux accounting for 60% of the
 321 variation in floret heating across all thermogenic stages. Consistent with the absence of
 322 substantial changes in COX flux between developmental stages (Fig. 2a), there was no
 323 correlation between COX flux and heating in FM florets (Fig. 3c).

324

325 Respiratory fluxes in SM florets differed from those in FM florets across the developmental
 326 stages (Fig. 2b). Mean total respiratory flux increased significantly with the onset of

thermogenesis ($F_{3,20}=8.40$, $P=0.0012$), and continued to increase to peak thermogenic stage C when the highest respiratory flux in either floret was recorded ($0.106 \pm 0.013 \mu\text{mol O}_2 \text{ g FW}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$; Fig. 2b). This suggests that peak fluxes associated with maximum heating in SM florets at stage C were captured (Fig. 2b); thus they were included in regression analysis (Fig. 3b). As in FM florets, there was a significant positive correlation between total respiratory flux and heating in SM florets ($\text{flux}=0.0060*\text{heating}+0.0090$, $r^2=0.78$, $P<0.0001$; Fig. 3b). In contrast, however, apparent AOX flux in SM florets remained low throughout development (Fig. 3d) and was less than one third of the maximum AOX flux recorded in FM florets ($0.094 \mu\text{mol O}_2 \text{ g FW}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$; Fig. 3c).

To investigate whether these apparently low AOX fluxes were a consequence of diffusion influencing discrimination between isotopes (Ribas-Carbo *et al.*, 2005) we made measurements during peak heating under a range of O_2 partial pressures. Diffusional limitation to fractionation could occur in dense tissues because of the greater depletion of ^{16}O relative to ^{18}O , leading to a change in the intracellular isotope ratio of the source gas (Guy *et al.*, 1989). These O_2 experiments demonstrated a clear diffusional effect on isotopic discrimination in strongly heating tissues, as total respiratory flux did not increase with increased O_2 supply, however, D values did (Fig. 4 and Table II). In contrast to measurements made in air, where mean AOX fluxes were only $15.7 \pm 4.5\%$, the mean AOX flux in stage C SM florets was $70.8 \pm 2.5\%$ under increased O_2 (Table II). We found no evidence of any toxic effects of elevated O_2 on these tissues (Fig. 4; Supporting Information Fig. S1), nor was there any evidence that AOX activity was stimulated by elevated O_2 as: (1) total respiration did not change with O_2 in either floret type (Fig. 4 for SM florets), (2) in SM florets with lower respiration rates, consecutive measures in air and O_2 provided identical low values for both AOX and total respiratory flux, and (3) similarly high AOX fluxes were recorded in both air and elevated O_2 in FM tissues (data not shown). Thus the use of elevated O_2 did not alter the AOX flux, rather it altered our ability to measure AOX flux

accurately, especially in the strongly respiring (heating) stage C florets (Table II; Supporting Information Fig. S1).

As respiration was saturated at 21% O₂ (Fig. 4), increasing O₂ partial pressures will result in an increase in Pi/Pa, thus largely overcoming the diffusional limitation observed at 21% O₂ and enabling more accurate measurement of true discrimination. This is illustrated by the theoretical response of Dt to changes in O₂ concentration, determined using equation 2. In this example, Dr=27.1 (the discrimination endpoint for AOX measured under elevated O₂), and Pi/Pa was determined using Equation 3 across Pa from 0 to 100%.

$$Pi/Pa = (Pa-G)/Pa \quad (3)$$

Where G, the diffusion gradient (Pa-Pi), is a function of the diffusion resistance of the floret tissue (R), and the respiration rate (J), such that G=R*J. We cannot measure R directly, but it was assumed to remain constant, and as there was no change in J as O₂% increased above 21%, G should not change with O₂ (Fig. 4). Therefore, G was adjusted to fit the observed discrimination data, G=7.5% giving the best fit (Fig. 4). While this curve indicates that at Pa above 60% O₂ there will still be some diffusional limitation, it is clear that the error in measuring D at these O₂ concentrations (where Pi/Pa is at least 0.8) is very small, especially relative to biological variation. In addition, this approach provides the possibility of estimating R if Dr is known, and assumed not to change with O₂.

AOX, pUCP, and COXII proteins during thermogenesis

In FM florets, there was a significant 5.4-fold increase in AOX protein (relative to porin) between stages A and B, corresponding with the onset of thermogenesis (Fig. 5a). Subsequently, AOX

levels remained high during the thermogenic stages B-E, and on average decreased by 62% post-thermogenesis between stages E and F, although this was not statistically significant (Fig. 5a). Similarly, the expression of COXII increased significantly (5.1-fold) between stages A and B with the onset of thermogenesis (Fig. 5d). COXII was then maintained at similar levels throughout subsequent developmental stages (Fig. 5d). By contrast, no significant increase in expression of pUCP was detected in FM florets either at the onset of thermogenesis (Fig. 5g), or in subsequent stages. There were no correlations between AOX, COXII or pUCP expression and heating in FM florets (data not shown), nor was there a correlation between AOX content and respiratory flux via the AOX in FM florets (data not shown). This was because levels of these proteins remained constant during stages B-E, while heating varied with changes in ambient temperature. Similarly, neither COXII nor pUCP content correlated with COX flux in FM florets (data not shown).

In SM florets, there was a trend towards increasing AOX with the onset of thermogenesis, and AOX then declined significantly between peak (stage C) and post-thermogenesis (stage F; Fig. 5b). Similarly, there was a significant increase in expression of COXII from pre-thermogenesis to peak (stage C) followed by a significant decline (Fig. 5e). Despite a similar pattern of expression for pUCP, results for this protein were not significant (Fig. 5h). As with FM florets, there were no correlations between AOX, COXII or pUCP expression and heating in SM florets. Similarly, neither pUCP nor COXII protein expressions were correlated with respiratory flux via COX, nor were AOX content and AOX flux correlated (data not shown).

Mitochondrial proteins, AOX, COXII and pUCP (relative to porin), were similar across all stages in female florets (Fig. 5c,f,i). Relative AOX content was significantly lower in female florets (non-thermogenic) than SM and FM florets (2-way ANOVA, $F_{2,7}=9.9$, $P=0.002$; Fig. 5c). By contrast, relative COXII and pUCP contents were similar across all floret types (Fig. 5).

404

405 *Substrates - carbohydrates and lipids.*

406 Total triacylglyceride (TAG) concentrations were significantly higher in SM florets than FM

407 florets ($F_{1,54}=23.4$, $P<0.0001$; Fig. 6a,b) particularly across stages A-C. In SM florets, TAG

408 content decreased significantly, by 63%, from peak thermogenesis (stage C) to plateau (stage E;

409 $P<0.0001$; Fig. 6b). By contrast, in FM florets TAGs remained similar throughout pre-

410 thermogenic and thermogenic stages (A-E), only declining significantly post-thermogenesis once

411 pollen was shed ($P=0.0031$; Fig. 6a). Total TAG content in both floret types was not significantly

412 correlated with either floret heating or respiratory fluxes across the developmental series (data not

413 shown).

414

415 Conversely, SM florets had significantly lower concentrations of starch than FM florets (2-way

416 ANOVA $F_{1,53}=27.9$, $P<0.0001$; Fig. 6c,d). Across stages A-E, mean starch concentrations of FM417 florets (mean \pm SE, 5.0 ± 0.6 mg g⁻¹ FW) were almost three times greater than SM florets ($1.7 \pm$ 418 0.3 mg g⁻¹ FW; Fig. 6c,d). Starch content was high in pre-thermogenic FM florets, and remained

419 similar throughout the thermogenic stages, declining significantly by 82% post-thermogenesis

420 (stage F; Fig. 6c). In contrast to FM florets, no significant change in starch content was detected

421 in SM florets across the developmental series (Fig. 6d). Starch content was not significantly

422 correlated with either floret heating or respiratory fluxes across the developmental series (data not

423 shown). Total soluble carbohydrate content of SM and FM florets was similar and did not vary

424 across stages (data not shown).

425

426 **Discussion**

427 This study has three key findings. First, despite apparently using different fuels, heat production

428 in both fertile and sterile male florets of *P. bipinnatifidum* occurs predominantly via the

alternative pathway. Second, both male floret types can maintain their thermoregulatory activity *ex planta* for up to 30 h. Finally, with the exception of the sacred lotus (Watling *et al.*, 2006; Grant *et al.*, 2008), measurements of respiratory fluxes and discrimination using isotope techniques have not been possible in other thermogenic tissues to date because of the high diffusional resistances (Guy *et al.*, 1989). Our third key finding that diffusional effects on O₂ isotope discrimination in dense tissues can be largely overcome by using elevated O₂ partial pressures provides an important advance in stable isotope measurements of respiration.

Thermogenesis and thermoregulation by fertile male florets

We demonstrated that fertile male (FM) florets heat in a pattern similar to that characterised for sterile male (SM) florets except that FM florets typically commenced heating earlier than SM florets, and had a less pronounced peak and dip than SM florets. Furthermore, measurements of dissected inflorescences in the lab demonstrated that both floret types heat independently.

In the current study, heating in both SM and FM florets lasted for at least 30 h following excision from the plant, and was similar to that recorded on intact inflorescences. This contrasts with previous studies reporting that excision of spadices from *P. bipinnatifidum* stimulates a respiratory burst lasting only 1-2 h, with respiration dropping to very low rates 2 h after removal from the plant (Seymour *et al.*, 1983; Seymour, 1991), but is similar to *P. melinonii* where isolated FM and SM florets heated for at least 14 h once cut from the plant (Seymour & Gibernau, 2008). The duration and magnitude of heating in isolated FM and SM florets suggests that all that is required for heat generation (e.g. fuel) and for temperature regulation (e.g. signalling) is contained within the detached inflorescence. Consistent with this, our data indicated that thermogenesis is unlikely to be limited by substrate (lipid or carbohydrate) supply. Calorimetric studies of *P. bipinnatifidum* spadices also concluded that there was no substrate

import into the inflorescence during thermogenesis (Seymour, 1991). In contrast, thermogenesis in other aroids, e.g. *Symplocarpus foetidus* (skunk cabbage) relies on carbohydrate import, and inflorescence heating ceases upon removal from the plant (Knutson, 1974; Ito, *et al.*, 2003).

Mechanisms of heating in P. bipinnatifidum

We identified a clear relationship between *in vivo* alternative pathway (AOX) flux and heating in both FM and SM florets of *P. bipinnatifidum*. Based on our oxygen isotope measurements, the AOX pathway accounts for the bulk of respiratory activity in both of these thermogenic tissues, and indeed the proportions of flux via AOX in SM florets (96%) are the highest measured to date (Ribas-Carbo *et al.*, 2005; Watling *et al.*, 2006; Grant *et al.*, 2008). The high proportions of AOX flux in both FM (up to 92%) and SM florets are similar to those reported in the thermoregulatory receptacles of *N. nucifera* where up to 93% of respiration was via AOX in the most strongly heating flowers, and where AOX flux was strongly correlated with heating (Watling *et al.*, 2006; Grant *et al.*, 2008). Similarly, 78% of total respiratory flux was via the AOX in isolated mitochondria of thermogenic *Symplocarpus foetidus* (Guy *et al.*, 1989). In our study, SM florets, which reach the highest peak temperatures (Table I), also had the highest mean total respiration rate ($0.15 \mu\text{mol O}_2 \text{ g FW}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$; stage C), although peak respiration rates may not have been captured in FM florets (Fig 2a). Given the high proportional engagement of the alternative pathway in *P. bipinnatifidum* thermogenic tissues, fluxes via the AOX are substantial, up to $0.094 \mu\text{mol O}_2 \text{ g FW}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ and $0.15 \mu\text{mol O}_2 \text{ g FW}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ in FM and SM florets, respectively.

Our finding that discrimination was essentially the same in FM florets in air or elevated O_2 suggests that diffusional limitations were not an issue with FM florets. In contrast, diffusional limitations to discrimination were observed in SM florets but were essentially overcome by increasing the O_2 concentration, which confirmed that the majority of the respiratory flux in stage

C and E florets is via the AOX pathway. The use of higher O₂ partial pressures to largely mitigate the effects of diffusional limitations to discrimination in these dense tissues opens up the possibility of using stable isotope methodologies not only to measure alternative pathway flux in thermogenic plants, but also in other diffusionally limited tissues. That SM florets displayed O₂ diffusional limitations, but FM florets did not could be a result of the higher total respiration rates in SM florets, and/or be due to differences in floret morphology. For example, FM florets have a higher surface area to volume ratio and thinner cuticle than SM florets (Grant, 2010).

The strong relationship between AOX flux and heating in FM florets, and the substantial proportions of total flux via AOX in both FM and SM florets, suggest there is little room for contribution by pUCPs, except alongside AOX to totally uncouple respiration via concurrent operation of pUCPs and AOX (Onda *et al.*, 2008; Wagner *et al.*, 2008). If pUCPs alone were responsible for heat generation in *P. bipinnatifidum*, then we would expect an increase in flux through the cytochrome pathway during thermogenesis; however we detected no change in COX flux during heating by FM florets across all thermogenic stages, and comparatively low proportions of total flux via COX in peak heating SM florets when measured under increased O₂ supply. Our protein data further support the substantial role for AOX in thermogenesis in *P. bipinnatifidum*; whereas AOX increases in thermogenic tissues and stages, pUCP does not. Synchronicity between onset of thermogenic activity and the increase in AOX protein in both floret types is similar to the pattern found in sacred lotus (Grant *et al.*, 2008), but contrasts with other Araceae (e.g. *Sauromatum guttatum* and *Arum maculatum*) where significant increases in AOX protein precede the onset of thermogenesis by several days (Rhoads & McIntosh, 1992; Chivasa *et al.*, 1999).

503 Our data provide evidence for developmental regulation of thermogenesis at the level of protein
 504 synthesis in *P. bipinnatifidum*; however no significant relationship between AOX protein content
 505 and AOX flux was detected during the thermogenic stages. This indicates that fine scale post-
 506 translational regulation of AOX activity most likely occurs and is responsible for regulating heat
 507 production. Activation of AOX is controlled, in part, by the redox status of the protein which is
 508 regulated via the formation of disulfide bonds between conserved cysteine residues (Rhoads *et*
 509 *al.*, 1998). At least one isoform of AOX from *P. bipinnatifidum* contains the regulatory cysteines
 510 (Ito & Seymour, 2005; Grant *et al.*, 2009); however, around 40% of the protein resists oxidation
 511 by diamide (Grant, 2010) suggesting it may lack this redox control. The activity of the reduced
 512 protein can be further moderated by effectors such as α -keto acids (e.g. pyruvate, succinate)
 513 (Rhoads *et al.*, 1998), the specific effector varying depending on the AOX isoform. For example,
 514 AOX from thermogenic *N. nucifera* also shows significant redox insensitivity, and stimulation of
 515 AOX occurs via succinate rather than pyruvate (Grant *et al.*, 2009). An AOX which is not redox
 516 regulated (Onda *et al.*, 2007; Grant *et al.*, 2009) but is controlled by effectors could provide
 517 greater control of AOX flux for the precise temperature control these plants achieve over a
 518 prolonged period. By contrast, AOX from *Sauromatum guttatum*, which does not thermoregulate
 519 but rather heats in a single burst (Meeuse, 1966; Meeuse & Raskin, 1988), is constitutively active
 520 (Crichton *et al.*, 2005).

521

522 The co-occurrence of AOX and pUCP in thermogenic tissues, such as *P. bipinnatifidum*, has
 523 raised speculation that both may contribute to heating, but to date there is little evidence that
 524 pUCPs function in heat generation in plants (Grant *et al.*, 2008; Wagner *et al.*, 2008). Based on
 525 *pUCP* and *AOX* transcript abundances, the mechanism of thermogenesis in *P. bipinnatifidum* was
 526 assumed to be pUCPs (Ito & Seymour, 2005); however, our data clearly demonstrate a
 527 predominant role for AOX in heating in this species. Between 70-96% of total flux was via the

alternative pathway in heating FM and SM florets, AOX protein increased specifically in thermogenic male tissues, and no significant difference in amounts of pUCP was found between non-thermogenic and thermogenic stages. If pUCP operated alongside AOX in these tissues we would expect concurrent increases in both proteins throughout thermogenesis. Intriguingly, we did observe an increase in COXII protein with the onset of thermogenesis in both FM and SM florets. Relative amounts, however, were very similar to those observed in non-thermogenic female florets unlike AOX protein which was several fold higher in male as compared to female florets.

Studies indicating that lipids were used as respiratory substrates in thermogenic *P. bipinnatifidum* florets have been used to support a role for pUCPs in thermogenesis in this species (Ito & Seymour, 2005). The assumption derives from the fact that lipids are the substrate for animal UCPs (Argyropoulos & Harper, 2002), and that fatty acids (e.g. linoleic acid) which stimulate pUCP inhibit AOX activity (Sluse *et al.*, 1998). Calorimetric studies yielding a respiratory quotient of 0.83, and C isotope analyses suggest that spadices switch from carbohydrate to direct lipid oxidation once the spathe opens and thermogenesis commences (Nagy *et al.*, 1972; Walker *et al.*, 1983; Seymour *et al.*, 1984). We found significant declines in lipid content (total TAGs) towards the end of the thermogenic phase and post-thermogenesis in both SM and FM florets, consistent with lipid oxidation during thermogenesis. In addition, in FM florets, concurrent with the decline in TAGs post-thermogenesis, total starch content also decreased significantly. It is difficult to draw definitive conclusions about the specific substrate for thermogenesis in FM florets because changes in starch and lipids during anthesis may also be associated with maturation of male florets. Nevertheless, the significant decline in starch in FM florets is similar to that recorded in other thermogenic species, including the sacred lotus receptacle (Grant *et al.*, 2008), *Symplocarpus foetidus* and *Arum maculatum* (ap Rees *et al.*, 1976; ap Rees *et al.*, 1977). By contrast, other Araceae may use both lipids and carbohydrates (e.g. *Sauromatum guttatum*;

554 Wilson & Smith, 1971). Our flux and protein data strongly support a role for AOX and
555 demonstrate that AOX and pUCP activity can not be inferred based on substrate type alone. It
556 does seem, however, that lipids are the major substrate for thermogenesis in SM florets of *P.*
557 *bipinnatifidum*. If so, this suggests that AOX activity may not be as sensitive to fatty acids in
558 these tissues as has been observed in non-thermogenic plants such as tomato (Sluse *et al.*, 1998).
559

560 *Conclusion*

561 In summary, we have shown that both sterile and fertile male florets of *P. bipinnatifidum* have
562 independent thermoregulatory phases that persist *ex planta*. Thermogenic activity is driven
563 predominantly via increased flux through the alternative respiratory pathway in both floret types.
564 Whilst increased expression of AOX protein during the thermogenic phase provides the capacity
565 for the increased AOX flux, fine scale regulation of AOX activity must also occur. Although both
566 floret types primarily use the alternative pathway to produce heat, the respiratory fuel appears to
567 differ with lipids and carbohydrates more predominant in SM and FM florets, respectively. A
568 further important finding of this study is that diffusional limitations, that have to date prevented
569 measurements of oxygen fractionation in most thermogenic species, can be mostly overcome, or
570 potentially estimated, as a result of measurement at elevated partial pressures of oxygen. This
571 latter finding provides an important advance to studies aimed at understanding the mechanisms
572 that regulate heating in thermogenic plants, and roles of AOX in dense tissues of non-
573 thermogenic plants. This study clearly demonstrates the importance of functional measurements
574 of respiratory pathways to compliment molecular studies.

575

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Supporting Information

Figure S1. Total respiratory flux and flux via the AOX pathway in sterile male *Philodendron bipinnatifidum* florets; respiration and discrimination were measured sequentially, first in increased oxygen, second in air, and third in increased oxygen.

Figure Legends

Figure 1. Typical temperature traces for sterile and fertile male florets of *Philodendron bipinnatifidum* (a) *in planta* and (b) excised from the plant, and (c) photographs of inflorescences at the developmental stages (A-F). In (a) temperatures traces are means of three inflorescences logged concurrently shown relative to air temperature over the same two day period. Time is Standard Eastern Australian summer time. Letters indicate thermogenic stages: B shoulder, C peak thermogenesis, D dip, E plateau and F post-thermogenesis. N.B. Stage A pre-thermogenesis not shown. Sunrise was 05:48 and sunset was 19:38. Temperature traces of excised fertile and sterile male florets, and non-thermogenic spathe tissue recorded in the laboratory are from spadices sampled late (5pm) and early (1pm) during stage B.

Figure 2. (a) Total respiratory flux (grey +white) and fluxes through the AOX (white) and COX (grey) pathways by developmental stage in fertile male florets, and (b) total respiratory flux by developmental stage in sterile male (SM) florets of *Philodendron bipinnatifidum*. Diffusional limitations in SM florets prevented accurate determination of electron partitioning, thus, only total flux is shown in (b). Developmental stages: A pre-thermogenesis, B shoulder, C peak, E plateau (refer to Fig. 1a for details). Stage C/D: FM peak fluxes were not apparently captured (see Fig. 3a) and samples are likely a mix of stages C and D (dip). Letters indicate significant differences at $P < 0.05$. Data are means \pm SE of $n=4-7$ samples.

Figure 3. Relationships between total respiratory flux and heating in (a) FM florets and (b) SM florets, and between AOX (solid circles) and COX flux (open triangles) and floret heating in (c) fertile male florets and (d) sterile male florets. Heating was measured as the difference in temperature between FM florets (T_{mf}) or SM florets (T_{smf}), and adjacent non-thermogenic spathe tissue (T_{sp}). Peak thermogenic stage C FM florets were excluded from correlations for

both (a); total respiration (open circles) and (c); AOX (open circles) and COX fluxes (closed triangles). The regression equations are included in the text. Correlations between COX and AOX fluxes and heating not shown for SM florets due to potential diffusional limitation of isotope fractionation in air.

Figure 4. Theoretical discrimination (D_t ; lines) as a function of external O_2 (%) determined from equation 2 and using $D_r=27.1$ (discrimination endpoint for AOX measured under elevated O_2). P_i/P_a was calculated using $P_i/P_a=(P_a-G)/P_a$, where G is the diffusion gradient, which was assumed to remain constant as there was no change in respiration rate as O_2 was increased above 21%, as shown by the relative flux rates (closed circles) which vary little from 1 (horizontal line; mean \pm SD, 1.0 ± 0.05). D_t response curves are shown for diffusion gradients (G) of 5.0% (solid line), 7.5% (dashed line) or 10% (dotted line). Using $G=7.5\%$ gave the best fit for the actual isotopic discrimination data (D_t) for stage C SM florets (open triangles). For D_t measurements, $n=15$ floret samples from 5 inflorescences.

Figure 5. Densitometry results of chemiluminescent signals from western blots of AOX (a, b, d), COXII (d, e, f) and pUCP (g, h, i) proteins presented relative to Porin in fertile male florets (left panels), sterile male florets (centre panels) and female florets (right panels) of *Philodendron bipinnatifidum* during development. Developmental stages: A pre-thermogenesis, B shoulder, C peak, E plateau, F post-thermogenesis (refer to Fig. 1a for details). Different letters indicate significant differences between stages at $P<0.05$. Data are means \pm SE of $n=3-6$ samples.

Figure 6. Changes in total triacylglyceride content (a, b), and starch content (c, d) in fertile (left panels) and sterile (right panels) male florets of *Philodendron bipinnatifidum* during development. Developmental stages: A pre-thermogenesis, B shoulder, C peak, E plateau, F

post-thermogenesis (refer to Fig. 1a for details). Different letters indicate significant differences between stages at $P<0.05$. Data are means \pm SE of $n=4-6$ samples.

Table I. Mean floret temperature (\pm SD, $n=7-14$) and range of heating* for fertile male (FM) and sterile male (SM) florets of attached inflorescences of *P. bipinnatifidum* during development.

		Pre-thermogenic Stage A	Shoulder Stage B	Peak Stage C	Dip Stage D	Plateau Stage E
FM	Temperature ($^{\circ}\text{C}$)	25.8 ± 6.6	30.3 ± 2.7	$35.7 \pm 1.4^{\text{a}}$	22.9 ± 2.5	29.0 ± 1.6
Florets	Range ($^{\circ}\text{C}$)	0.3-2.8	1.2-9.7	5.1-21.0	2.5-8.5	2.0-11.1
SM	Temperature ($^{\circ}\text{C}$)	24.4 ± 7.3	30.7 ± 1.6	$40.1 \pm 1.4^{\text{b}}$	22.5 ± 1.9	28.8 ± 2.2
Florets	Range ($^{\circ}\text{C}$)	0-3.2	2.7-10.6	8.1-26.5	3.5-7.0	1.3-13.9

*Heating was calculated as the difference between floret temperature and temperature of the non-thermogenic spathe tissue.

^{a,b} letters indicate a significant difference in peak temperatures between FM and SM florets ($t_{26,0}=8.19$, $P<0.0001$), no significant differences were found for the other developmental stages.

Table II. Mean proportion and range (%) of total respiratory flux via the alternative pathway (AOX) in *Philodendron bipinnatifidum* sterile male florets during stages C and E, measured in air ($n=4-5$) and in on average 55% O₂ ($n=3-4$).

	Mean proportion of flux via AOX (% ± SE)	Range of flux via AOX (%)	Mean proportion of flux via AOX (% ± SE)	Range of flux via AOX (%)
Stage	Measured in air		Measured in ~55% O ₂	
Peak (C)	15.7 ± 4.5	6.7 - 28.0	70.8 ± 2.5	52.3 – 95.5
Plateau (E)	28.9 ± 12.2	0 - 59.6	63.3 ± 5.2	42.0 – 87.5

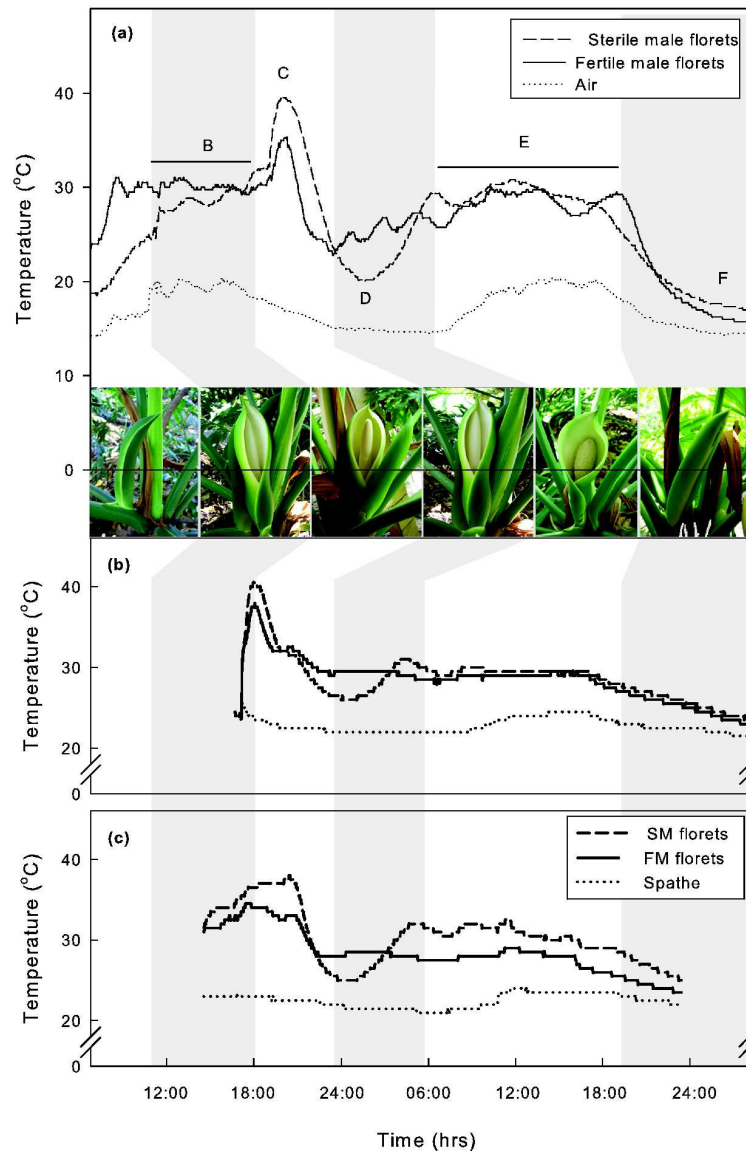


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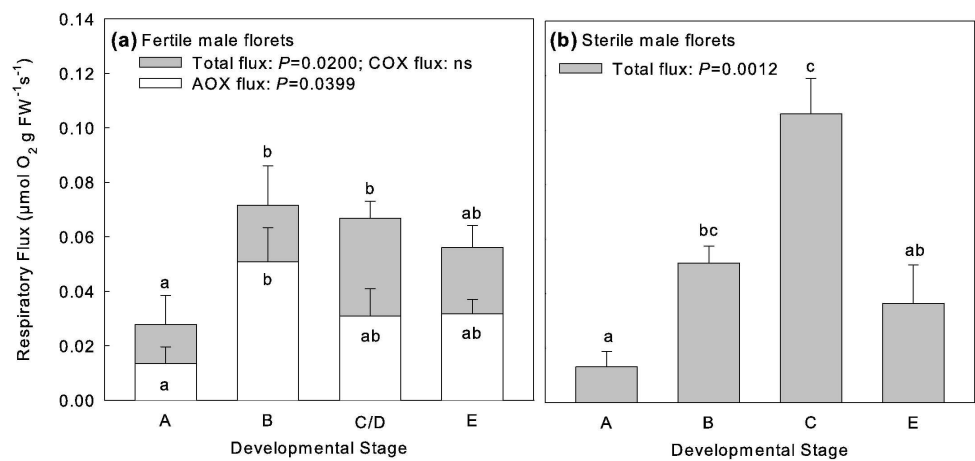


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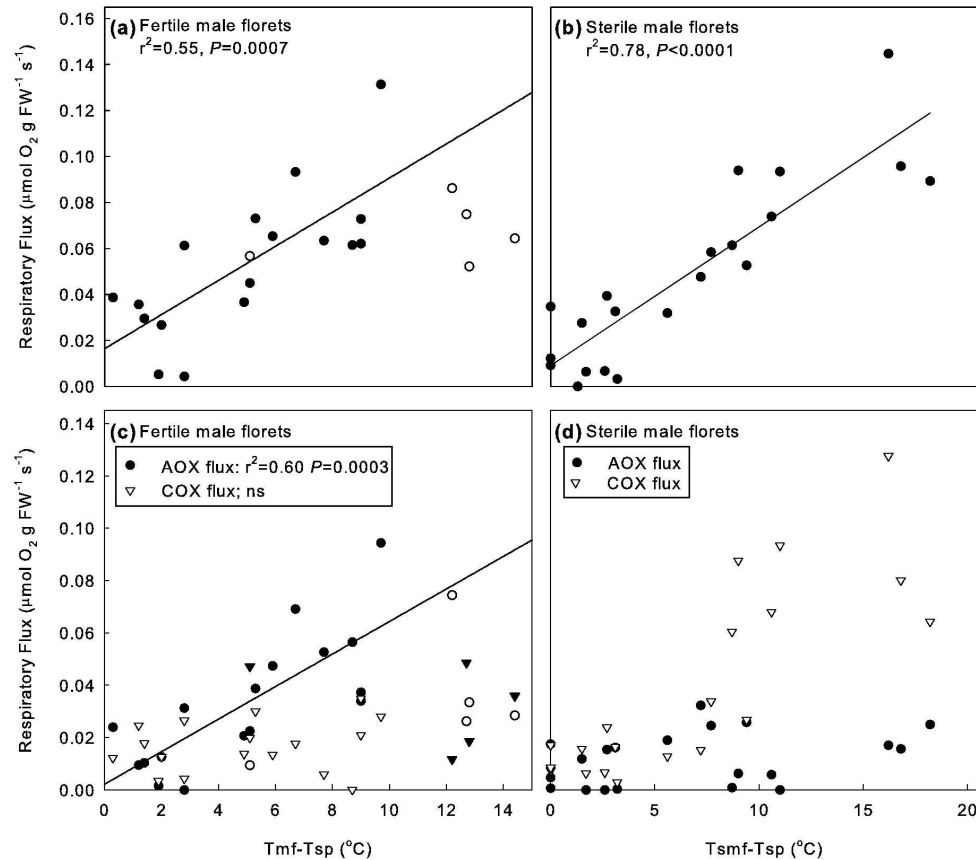


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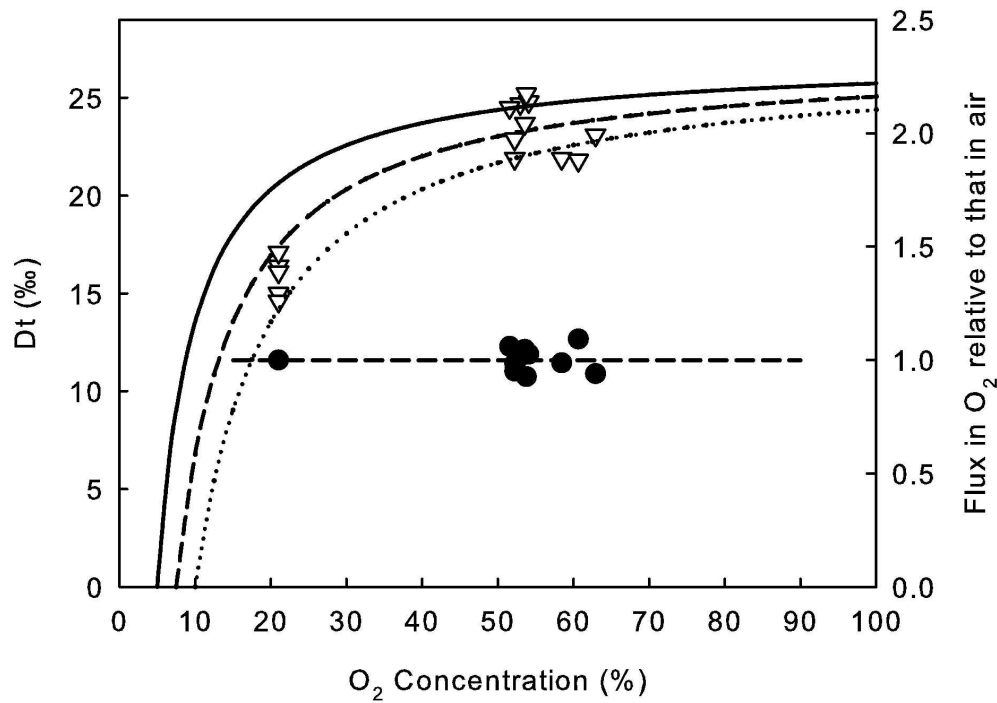


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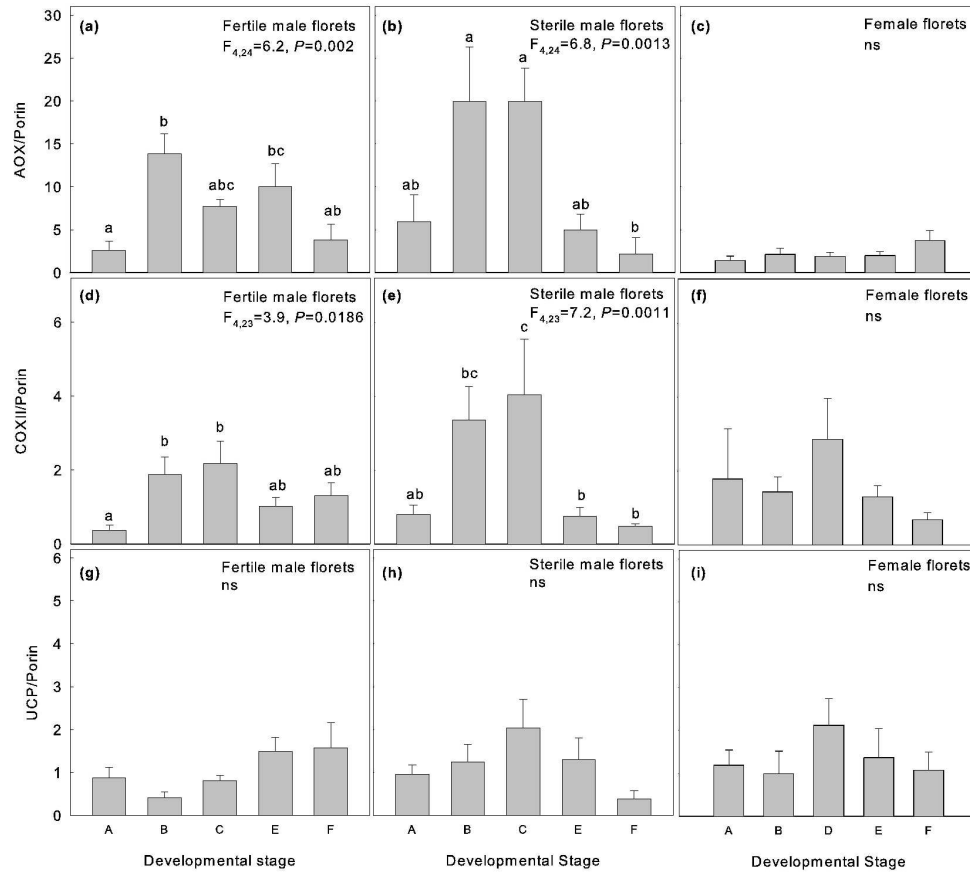


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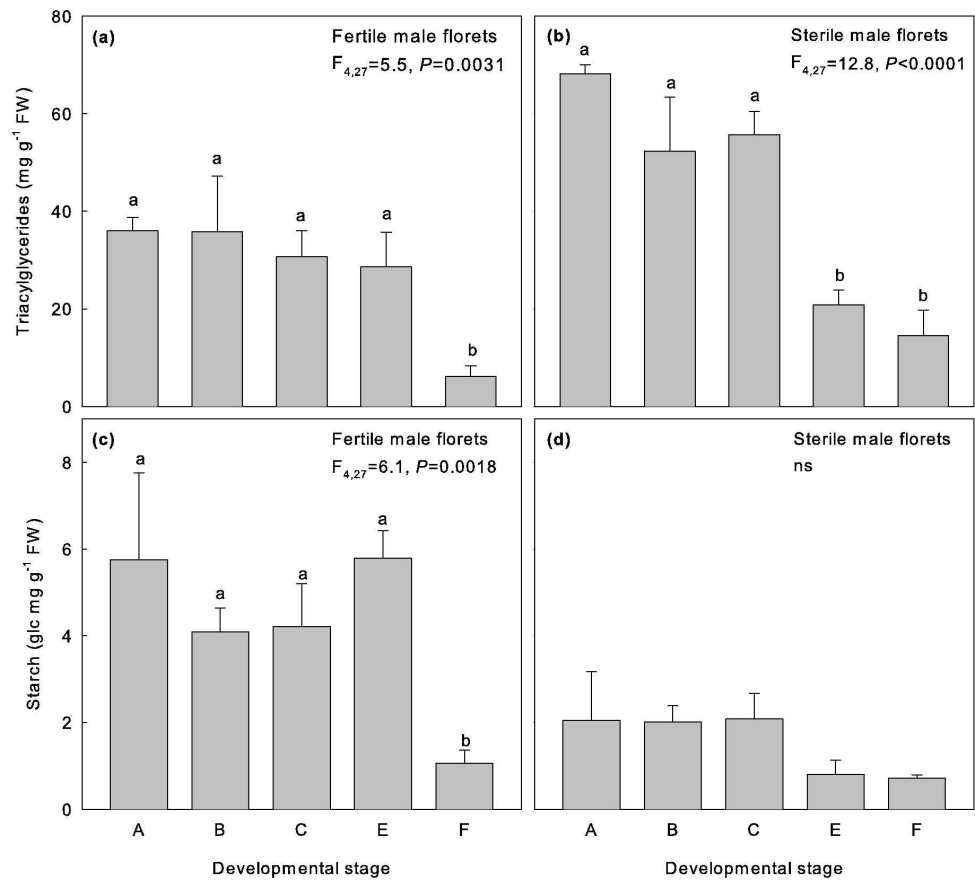


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