

Biosynthesis and Modulation of Terpenoid Indole Alkaloids in *Catharanthus roseus*: A Review of Targeting Genes and Secondary Metabolites

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Abstract

The medicinal plant *C. roseus* synthesizes biologically active alkaloids via the terpenoid indole alkaloid (TIAs) biosynthetic pathway. Most of these alkaloids have high therapeutic value, such as vinblastine and vincristine. Plant signaling components, plant hormones, precursors, growth hormones, prenylated proteins, and transcriptomic factors regulate the complex networks of TIA biosynthesis. For many years, researchers have been evaluating the scientific value of the TIA biosynthetic pathway and its potential in commercial applications for market opportunities. Metabolic engineering has revealed the major blocks in metabolic pathways regulated at the molecular level, unknown structures, metabolites, genes, enzyme expression, and regulatory genes. Conceptually, this information is necessary to create transgenic plants and microorganisms for the commercial production of high-value dimer alkaloids, such as vinca alkaloids, vinblastine, and vincristine. In this review, we present current knowledge of the regulatory mechanisms of these components in the *C. roseus* TIA pathway, from genes to metabolites.

Keywords: Metabolites, Vinblastine and Vincristine, Plant signalling components, Terpenoid indole alkaloids, Transcriptomic factors

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TIAs are the main producers of alkaloids in plants, with over 3000 alkaloids discovered to date. Alkaloids are nitrogen-containing natural products that are mostly derived from amino acids, including Phe, Tyr, Trp, Lys, and Orn.¹ More than 50 biosynthetic events, composed of genes, enzymes, regulators, and intra-/intercellular transporters, occur in the biosynthesis of TIAs in *C. roseus*.² The common precursor for all TIAs is strictosidine, which can be converted into a series of monoterpene indole alkaloids (MIAs) with diverse structures and biological functions.¹ Strictosidine is an essential intermediate derived from the condensation reaction of secologanin with tryptamine, catalyzed by strictosidine synthase (STR) (EC 4.3.3.2),³ in alkaloid biosynthesis and is an important step in TIAs biosynthesis.⁴ Strictosidine, which is comprised of tryptamine and a C¹⁰ component made up of iridoid secologanin. Several bioactive compounds are biologically important in animals. However, these are only found in eight plant species and the most important are Apocynaceae, the dogbane family (order Gentianales) of flowering plants, Loganiaceae family (order Gentianales), and Rubiaceae or coffee, madder, or bedstraw family. However, these are only found in eight plant species (the most important of which are *Apocynaceae*, *Loganiaceae*, and *Rubiaceae*). Some TIAs have been used to fabricate medicines, including the anti-malarial quinine isolated from *Cinchona officinalis*, the antineoplastic (camptothecin) from *Camptotheca acuminata*, homeopathic medicine (strychnine) from *Strychnos nux-vomica*, reserpine from *Rauwolfia species*, and the anticancer agents, vinblastine and vincristine, from *Cataranthus roseus*.⁵

Cataranthus roseus (*C. roseus*) is considered a pharmaceutical factory and is associated with a high cost owing to its broad range of applications. *C. roseus* (>130) is an essential biosynthesis plant in the pharmaceutical industry. In addition to the most popular bisindole alkaloids, ajmalicine, an antihypertensive, and serpentine, a sedative (vinblastine and vincristine) are derived from *C. roseus*. The high price of these TIAs is caused by the extremely low content of dimer alkaloids in *C. roseus* and the difficulty associated with their extraction and purification. These two dimer vinca alkaloids are formed by the coupling of catharanthine (a derivative of

strictosidine) and vindoline.⁶ Vinblastine and vincristine act as anticancer alkaloids, which are well explained by their metabolic engineering effects.⁷⁶ Although comprehensive chemical synthesis of these complex alkaloids is of research interest, owing to their low yields, they are unlikely to be used economically. The hydrophobic reaction of the vindoline and catharanthine combination, which causes precipitation owing to the peroxidase compounds in the plant species, has been biologically replicated and is currently used to combine more polymers. An in vitro production method was developed based on plant cell cultivation practices or using *C. roseus* hair cultivation roots. However, vindoline, which is one of the substrates for bisindole alkaloids, was not produced using this method. Investigators must completely understand the gene, biomolecular enzymes, and intermediate and regulatory mechanisms of the TIA biosynthesis pathway to develop new sources of bioactive molecules (Fig. 1).

***C. roseus* and secondary metabolites**

C. roseus is an effective herbal medicine that has a family of secondary metabolites containing terpenoid indole alkaloids (TIAs). More than 130 TIAs are known to be biosynthesized.⁷ Owing to their therapeutic abilities, the serpentine, ajmalicine, and the bisindole alkaloids, vinblastine, vincristine, and -3,4-anhydrovinblastine, were assessed for several decades, which led to their commercialization (serpentine, ajmalicine, and the bisindole alkaloids vinblastine, vincristine, and -3,4-anhydrovinblastine). Vincristine and vinblastine are two approved alkaloids for the treatment of a variety of cancers.⁷ Because the quantity of these plant metabolites is very small, it is difficult to isolate them.^{8,9} As behavioral challenges, such as climate change, pests, and geographical and seasonal boundaries, remain unaffected, plant tissue harvesting is considered an alternative approach for the biosynthesis of bioactive molecules. Owing to regulatory restrictions, alkaloid production in undifferentiated cells is very low or possibly non-existent, which is clearly a hindrance to commercial-scale manufacturing.¹⁰ Currently, metabolic engineering is considered a possible remedy to avoid the major controlling issues. Overexpression of heterologous or endogenous genes encoding rate-limiting

processes, suppression of competitive pathways, or overexpression of regulatory transcription factors are possible solutions for bypassing bottlenecks.

Plant metabolism is a complex network that produces metabolites through metabolic pathways. The metabolome is not only the outcome of its genome and proteome, but also a biological response to its surroundings. People benefit from plant metabolic products because plants produce an extensive range of fascinating and beneficial molecules, including dietary supplements, pigments, pesticides, fragrances, and medications. Important efforts have been made to study the regulation of plant secondary metabolism to increase the convenience of these biologically active compounds for human use. Hormonal elicitation, precursor feeding, oxidative stress, and genetic alterations have been employed to modify critical metabolite processes in plants. However, routes do not function in isolation and must always be interconnected with other pathways that are metabolically very active. Engineering used in the production of metabolites can have an impact on other pathways; therefore, changing just one pathway is not always the best option.

Advanced analysis regarding the biosynthesis route and its regulation significantly promotes successful metabolic engineering. Many enzymatic stages in TIA biosynthesis have been scrutinized and studied.¹ The accessibility of recombinant technologies with genomics and metabolomics techniques have encouraged the development of the metabolic engineering MIAs pathway.¹¹ To the best of our knowledge, many enzymatic stages of TIA biosynthesis remain unknown. Main transcription activators and repressors (Table 1) regulate primary metabolism in the TIA pathway. ORCA3 is a master regulator of the release of cytokines involved in primary metabolism as well as the TIA pathway, but not all of them. As a result, other unidentified regulatory proteins that influence various groups of genes in the pathway must exist. Identifying additional transcription factors, enzymatic processes, and their associated genes will thus allow us to better understand the TIA pathway and may allow us to modify plant cells to generate necessary alkaloids

in high quantities in an industrial production system.

Several investigations on alkaloid-producing plants have revealed that alkaloid production and accumulation are tightly controlled processes.¹² MIAs are abundant in active metabolite plants, making them a rich source of medicinal therapies. Alkaloids such as antineoplastics (vinblastine and vincristine), antihypertensives (ajmalicine and ajmaline), and antimalarial (quinine) belong to this class. To draw conclusions from the large amounts of data obtained using high genomics technology, advanced bioinformatics tools are necessary. Studies combining transcriptomes and expression profiling have enabled assessments of the synthesis of plant-derived medicines in *C. roseus*¹³⁻¹⁵ as well as a better understanding of plant metabolic activities.

Essential Components of Tia Biosynthesis

In *C. roseus*, TIA biosynthesis, which is comprised of at least 30 coordinated enzyme steps, produces at least 35 recognized intermediate enzymes. The pathway requires at least four cellular components and at least five major subcellular compartments in each of these cells, implying that transport is a substantial rate key factor involving, among other things, physicochemical properties, and various types of active selective proteins that are transported from cells to other areas.¹⁶ Thirty biosynthetic genes and four different types of target proteins have been cloned and discovered to date. Unfortunately, there are still unresolved aspects of TIA biosynthesis. In *C. roseus*, alkaloids are formed via the combination of two principal metabolic processes, namely the shikimate and secoiridoid processes, which contribute the indole and terpene moieties to the essential backbone of strictosidine.^{7,17} Metabolic engineering is a technique that uses gene transfer technologies to alter metabolic pathways and metabolite production. With an increase in the understanding of the TIA pathway and its metabolic genes, metabolic engineering of TIA biosynthesis in *C. roseus* is being used to increase the yields of selected TIAs.

TIAs in *C. roseus* have been the focus of excellent contributions and extensive in-depth studies in different categories. The genes,

enzyme(s), transcription factors, transmediate pathways, and divisions of TIA production in *C. roseus* cell cultures, hairy roots, and plants have been assessed using omics technologies, such as genome, transcriptomics, proteomics, and metabolism. These technologies will be extremely useful for elucidating most of the unsolved sections of the iridoid pathway, such as catharanthine production, transport, and signaling, and control by transcription factors, such as the octadecanoid-responsive Catharanthus APATELA2-domain. ORCAs

Biosynthesis of alkaloid and its role in *C. roseus*

In *C. roseus*, TIA biosynthesis, which is comprised of at least 30 coordinated enzyme steps, produces at least thirty-five known precursors proteins. The pathway requires at least four cellular components and at least five major subcellular compartments in each of these cells, implying that transport is a substantial rate key factor involving, among other things, physiochemical principles and various types of active selective transporter proteins.¹⁶ Thirty biosynthetic genes and four different types of target proteins have been cloned and discovered to date. Unfortunately, there are still unsolved aspects of TIA biosynthesis. In *C. roseus*, alkaloids are formed via the combination of two principal components that are involved in metabolic processes, namely the shikimate and secoiridoid pathways, which contribute the indole and terpene moieties to the essential backbone of strictosidine.^{7,17}

The Biosynthetic Pathways for Shikimate-chorismate-indole and its localization

The shikimate pathway, which begins with phosphoenolpyruvate and erythrose-4-phosphate and concludes with chorismite,¹⁸ is a significant metabolic pathway for both primary and secondary metabolism. Anthranilate synthase (AS) on the branch leading to tryptophan; chorismate mutase (CM) upon its branch leads to phenylalanine and tyrosine; isochorismate synthase (ICS) on the branch leads to isochorismate, salicylates, and 2,3dihydrobenzoic acid (2,3dihydrobenzoic acid (2,3dihydrobenzo)).¹⁹ The aromatic tryptophan is formed by the anthranilate route, which provides the indole moiety for TIAs (Fig. 2). The first major protein that is mainly used in the production of tryptophan and indole-3-acetic acid, AS, is

composed of two large (-subunits) and two small (-subunits) subunits.²⁰ The -subunit of AS catalyzes the conversion of chorismate to anthranilate and is subject to feedback inhibition mediated by tryptophan.^{21,22} The tryptophan route is assumed to begin in plastids.²³ As the TDC enzyme primarily functions in the cytoplasm, tryptophan must exit plastids and enter the cytosol, where it is decarboxylated by TDC to yield tryptamine, which is then moved to the cell vacuole and condensed with secologanin. The phenylpropanoid pathway genes, *PAL*, *C4H*, and *CHS*, are expressed in the leaf epidermis of *C. roseus*.^{24,25}

The MEP-secoiridoid pathway and its localization

TIA terpenoids are derived in part from secologanin, which is produced via the secoiridoid pathway, and geranyl pyrophosphate, a universal monoterpene precursor (GPP). Isopentenyl diphosphate (IPP) is the basic precursor of all isoprenoids and is produced in plants via two different approaches. Approach one is the mevalonate pathway, which produces triterpenes (sterols) and some sesquiterpenes.^{26,27} The MEP pathway has seven enzymatic steps which begins from the condensation of pyruvate and glyceraldehyde 3 phosphate to the end of IPP synthesis.²⁸ The first step of the MEP pathway is catalyzed by 1 deoxy Dxylulose 5 phosphate synthase (DXS), which catalyzes the condensation of pyruvate and glyceraldehyde 3 phosphate to 1 deoxy Dxylulose 5 phosphate. The enzyme, 1 deoxy Dxylulose 5 phosphate reductoisomerase, converts this product to 2 Cmethyl Deritriol 4 phosphate (DXR). The final IPP product is converted to dimethylallyl diphosphate (DMAPP) by isopentenyl diphosphate isomerase (IDI). The coding gene has been cloned from many channels, such as CrIDI1. IPPI is the abbreviated name of this enzyme in all tissues. CrIDI1 produces short- and long-term transcripts, resulting in an N-terminal transit peptide (TP), with or without protein.²⁹ GPP synthase (GPPS) condenses IPP and DMAPP to produce geranyl diphosphate (GPP), which is the entry point for the production of monoterpenoids. It is the key step in monoterpene branching to the TIA pathway after IPP is produced. The enzyme belongs to the short-chain prenyltransferase family through the MEP pathway.³⁰ The protein sequences encoded by the three genes from *C. roseus* were

found to be similar to the large and small subunits of heteromeric GPPS and homopolymeric GPPS.³¹ CrGPPS. LSU is a diterpene enzyme that produces GPP and geranyl diphosphate (GGPP). CrGPPS. SSU can be used as the main regulator of TIA biosynthesis to a certain extent, and CrGPPS is the homopolymerase that forms GPP. CrGPPS. LSU and heteromeric CrGPPS.LSU are stable under normal conditions. LSU/CrGPPS is a combination of LSU and CrGPPS. In *C. roseus*, SSU provides a GPP reference level for TIA production. The enhanced expression of SSU under biotic and abiotic stresses can increase GPPS activity through the interaction of LSU and SSU, thereby promoting the GPP cluster of TIA. The secoiridoid pathway begins with the formation of geraniol and ends with the production of secologanin. In 2011, only three well-formed stages (including enzymes and linked genes) were found. One enzyme is cytochrome geraniol 10-hydroxylase (P450), also known as geraniol 8-oxidase, which is responsible for the hydroxylation of geraniol to 8-hydroxygeraniol.^{32,33} One of the other two enzymes participate in the iridoid pathway. Maleic acid methyltransferase (LAMT)²⁵ catalyzes the methylation of loganin and cytochromes, which catalyze the conversion of loganin in the synthesis of seroganin. P450 (CYP).^{35,36} The final enzyme is ganic acid synthase. The geraniol synthase (GES) enzyme³⁷ has been cloned, including in *C. roseus*, and is a member of the terpene synthase and iris synthase (IS) family; it is a type of short-chain oxidoreductase-recruited cyclase.³⁸ Purified recombinant GES protein was used to prepare a catalyst for GPP conformation in GPP, and the km value for GPP was 58.5 μ M. The role of the IS enzyme is to circulate in the iris of eight geraniums, possibly combining the preliminary NAD (P) H-dependent reduction step with the additives from Diels Alder to Michael.³⁸ Importantly, the remaining four stages of enzymes have been discovered, and their coding genes have been cloned.³⁹⁻⁴¹ In the presence of NAD +, the enzymes 8-hydroxygeraniol, 8-hydroxygeraniol, and 8-oxygeraniol after G8O (8HG0) can be oxidized to substrates 8-hydroxygeraniol and 8-hydroxygeraniol. The aldehyde group on alcohol and 8-oxygeranal is used for the 8-catalytic enzyme conversion of CYPgalo7 oxidase to oxidize acid (7DLGT), which uses glucose UDP

as a sugar donor to form 7-deoxypolysaccharide acid, which converts the enzyme iridial into 7-deoxypolysaccharide acid. The final step in the formation of the loganin backbone protein is catalyzed by the production of loganic acid (7DLH) 7deoxyhydroxylase, which is also linked to the almost identical P450 subfamily of SLS.⁴⁰ These results enabled the full characterization of the secoiridoid pathway. Clarification clearly shows the progress in the elucidation of biosynthesis. First, purification of the enzyme and sequence analysis of a part of the AA sequence were performed. Accordingly, the metabolites of each step in a pathway could be understood and biologically active compounds for use as substrates for test enzymes were generated. Therefore, in recent years, a lack of understanding of the iridoid pathways has been a major obstacle. However, recently developed rapid sequencing methods have opened up new opportunities. For example, transcriptome sequence data were obtained from *C. rosesplants* and cellular extract cultures. This method is effective in the EU Smart Cell Project, which aims to link transcriptional tumors, protective proteins, and microbiome data under a variety of conditions, select genetic markers, and then overexpress and test the putative activity of the encoded protein. Secoyid approach.^{36,34} The identified genes can also be silenced, and the components can be determined by analyzing the intermediate genes found in plants. DeLuca et al. used gene sequencing databases for medicinal genomes and plant proteomics.^{39,41} In addition to elucidating the TIA pathway, its cellular and subcellular locations have already been reported. The main site of expression of the gene in the MEP pathway (such as DXR, DXS, MECS, HDS, and IDI)^{24,43} are endothelium-associated parenchymal cells (IPAP) around the mother pulp or in the armpit. The upper part of the connective tissue of the leaf. In situ hybridization RNA has been shown to be found in IPAP transcripts, such as GES, IS, 8HG0, IO, 7DLGT, 7DLH, and G8O, such as the MEP gene.³⁷⁻⁴⁰ Such finding indicates that the roradic acid produced by these cells is transported, for example, to the epidermal cells, where the enzyme LAMT mechanizes roradic acid. In the epidermis, the secologanin synthase (SLS) gene product that provides CYP72A1 also

has the highest possible expression, catalyzing the formation of the final oxidation step of iridoid glycosides.^{36,44,45} In situ RNA hybridization revealed that GES, IS, 8HGO, IO, 7DLGT, 7DLH, and G8O transcripts and genes involved in the MEP pathway were found in IPAP.³⁷⁻⁴⁰ Such finding indicates that the lognic acid produced by these cells is transported to epithelial tissue cells, such as LAMT enzyme-mechanized lognic acid. In this epidermis, the unique secologanin synthase (SLS) gene that provides CYP72A1 also has the highest possible expression, catalyzing the final oxidation step to form iridoid glycosides.^{36,44,45} Lognic acid is a transportable precursor that can move from IPAP to the epidermis, which means that this transport is a key bio-rate controller for flux in the production of secologanin. It also elaborates on the subcellular compartmentalization of the MEP secoiridoid pathway. The plastid contains the MEP pathway.¹⁶ HDS was detected in thylakoid-free bundles filled with a long matrix from plastids.⁴⁶ IDI is located in the chloroplast, mitochondrial membrane, and peroxisome in *C. roseus* cells and is fused with green fluorescent protein (GFP).²⁹ CrGPPS. SSu is a plastid, and CrGPPS is a mitochondrial function that depends on the location of GFP.³¹ GES was found in the matrix and plastid matrix after the transient transformation. Rose cells with yellow fluorescent protein fusion pattern.³⁷ The endoplasmic reticulum (ER) has been clearly identified as the location of G8O.⁴⁶

Using fluorescent protein fusion and bimolecular fluorescence complementation tests, IS was shown to be completely localized in the cytoplasm.³⁸ Using the fusion of green fluorescent tagged protein (GFP) in *C. roseus* cells and the mCherry marker, IO and 7DLH were found to be related to ER, while 8HGO and 7DLGT are soluble proteins found in the cytoplasm and the nucleus.⁴⁰ In the cytosol, LAMT forms a homodimer, whereas SLS binds to the ER through an N-terminal helical loop.⁴⁷ This is consistent with the hypothesis that ganic acid is a transport intermediate, which is methylated in the cytoplasmic compartment and then further oxidized in the ER to produce secologanin during the uptake of epidermal cells. These findings indicate a possible mechanism for the export of GPP from the plastid chromosome to the ER and the cytoplasmic binding enzymatic

reaction to produce iridoids through the matrix.

The Monoindole alkaloid biosynthesis and its localization

The MIA class in a heavily branched pathway is supported by specific transcription factors.⁷⁸ Tryptophan is the precursor for all indole alkaloids that undergo decarboxylation to form tryptamine. The MIA pathway starts with the Mannich reaction⁷⁷ of tryptamine and secologanin, which yields strictosidine, a key substrate produced by STR, from which the metabolic ions are then guided into various TIA biosynthetic pathways.⁵ Although STR is produced by a single gene, *C. roseus* has at least seven isotypes, all of which are usually the result of post-translational changes, primarily glycosylation, such as STR cinchona.⁴⁸⁻⁵⁰ Strictosidine undergoes deglycosylation in the presence of strictosidine-D glucosidase (SGD),^{79,80} which yields strictosidine aglycone, an unstable and highly reactive methanolamine that exists in several forms.^{50,51} Strictosidine aglycone endures three steps, and cathelamine is the precursor of ajmalicine and tetrahydroalstonine.⁸¹ Cathenamine serves as the connection point between two different types of TIAs: 1) cathenamine is reduced to ajmalicine and then to serpentine by alstonine synthase,⁸² 2) the imine salt of catechamine and the cofactor NADPH are converted to four by tetrahydroalstonine. Hydrocarbon, which then becomes oxidized to alanine. Reversible conversion to 4.21 dehydrogenated geissoschizine, which can form vinblastine and vincristine through the madanine stem. The biosynthetic pathway of Vendolin is well known, and it begins with tabersonine. There are 7 enzymatic catalytic steps in this process: 1) tabersonine 16-hydroxylasetabersonine 16-hydroxylase (T16H) results in 16-hydroxy tabersonine⁸³; 2) tabersonine 16-O-methyltransferase (16OMT) results in 16-methoxy hydroxytabersonin⁸⁴; 3) tabersonine 3-oxygenase results in (3R)-3-Hydroxy 16-methoxy -1,2-dide hydro 2,3 - dihydrotabersonine⁸⁵; 4) 3-hydroxy-1,2-didehydro-2,3-dihydrotabersonine reductase results in 16-methoxy-2,3-dihydro-3-hydroxytabersonine⁸⁵; 5) 3-hydroxy-16-methoxy-2,3-dihydrotabersonine N-methyltransferase results in Desacetoxyvindoline⁸⁴; 6) deacetoxyvindoline 4-hydroxylase (D4H) is hydroxylated at the 4-position of deacetyl

Vindoline⁸⁶; and 7) deacetylvindoline- O- acetyl transferase (DAT) converts to acetylate deacetyl vindoline to form vindoline.⁸⁷ Except for the unidentified hydroxylase, the genes for the other five enzymes have been cloned and described. Furthermore, T16H and SGD mRNA have been found to be more common in the epidermis.^{52,25} The anterior and posterior epidermal cell extracts were found to have the highest 16OMT activity, while the whole leaf extract were found to have the highest NMT activity, indicating that it was found in the chloroplast thylakoid. Records (STR and MAT) exist in prodermal and cortical cells near the apical root meristem in underground cells.^{53,54} In short-term conversion attempts, the STRGFP signal occurs in the vacuole.⁵⁵ STR is designated as a vacuole through the ER to the Golgi to the vacuole route. SGD is a dichotomous NLS centered on the nucleus and tends to multimerize in this compartment of the cell.⁵⁶ In transient transformation experiments, STR GFP signals are generated in vacuoles.⁵⁵ The STR is directed to the vacuole through the ER to the Golgi to the vacuole pathway. SGD is a dichotomous NLS that targets the nucleus and tends to multimerize in this cell compartment.⁵⁶ The subcellular location of the vindoline pathway is well known.

The bisindole alkaloids and their localization

The combination of vinblastine and vinblastine to form anhydrovinblastine is catalyzed by 3', 4' anhydrovinblastine synthase (AVLBS), which belongs to the class III alkaline peroxidase family.⁵⁷ Vinblastine is formed from dehydrated vinblastine or its imine ion and is then converted to vincristine.¹⁰ Peroxidase is a group of isozymes that exists in all plant species and is involved in many physiological functions. In *C. roseus*, novel peroxidase genes, including CrPrx, CrPrx3, and CrPrx4 have been cloned and reported. However, the enzymes and genes involved in the next two stages are poorly understood. In subcellular localization investigations, CrPrx1 is believed to localize to vacuoles⁵⁷ while CrPrx is largely apoplast.^{58,59}

Metabolic Bioengineering of The Pathway in *C. roseus*

Metabolic bioengineering is a technique that uses gene transfer to alter metabolic pathways and metabolite synthesis. Metabolic engineering of TIA biosynthesis in roses has been utilized to boost the production of certain TIAs as knowledge of the TIA pathways and metabolic genes has increased. Different types of TIA pathway genes have been found to be overexpressed in rose cells, hairy roots, and plants, with varying impacts on TIA synthesis and the complete metabolome.

Table 1. The work of TIAs, their functions and the factory that produces them

Different alkaloids	Bioactivity	Plants/species
Ajmalicine.	Lipid-lowering activity	<i>C. roseus</i>
Camptothecine	Anticancerous drug	<i>Camptotheca acuminata</i>
Ellipticine.	Antitumourigenic drug	<i>Ochrosia elliptica</i>
Emetine	Anti-protozoan	<i>Carapichea ipecacuanha</i>
Quinidine.	Class I Alkalant mediator (Ia) in the heart system	<i>Cinchona</i> spp
Quinine.	Antibacterial drug	<i>Cinchona</i> spp.
Rèscinamine	Anti-hypertension	<i>Rauwolfia</i> spp.
Reserpine	Antipsychotic-agent, Antihypertensive	<i>Rauwolfia serpentina</i>
Serpentine	Soporific acceleration drug	<i>C. roseus</i>
Strychnene.	Mutagen on mouse and use ib homeopathic	<i>Strychnosnux-vomica</i>
Toxiferine	Tubocurarine toxin, muscle relaxant	<i>Strychnostoxifera</i>
Vinblastine,	Antitumor	<i>C. roseus</i>
Vincristine	Anticancer activity	<i>C. roseus</i>
Vincamine	Peripheral vasodilators increase blood flow to nerve growth in the brain	<i>Vinca minor</i>
Yohimbine	Mild monoamine oxidase inhibitors with aphrodisiac and aphrodisiac effects	<i>Corynante Yohimbe</i>

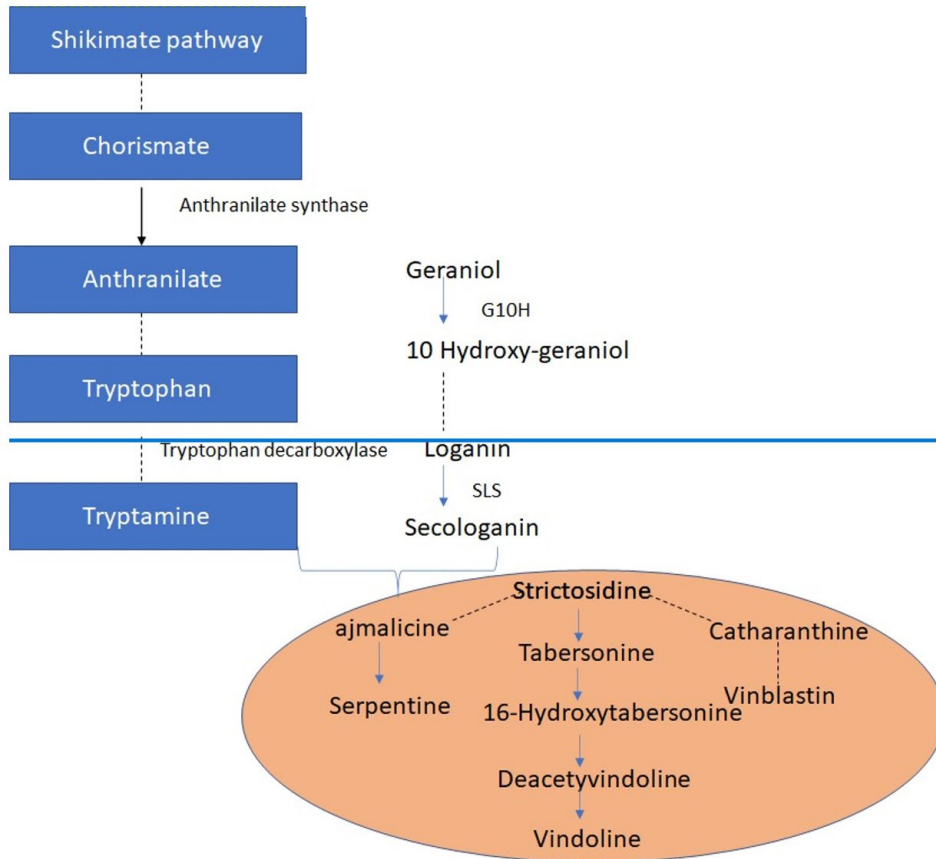


Fig. 1. TIA metabolic pathway in *C.roseus*. Single enzymatic reactions are indicated by solid arrow, while numerous enzymatic conversions are indicated by dashed arrows

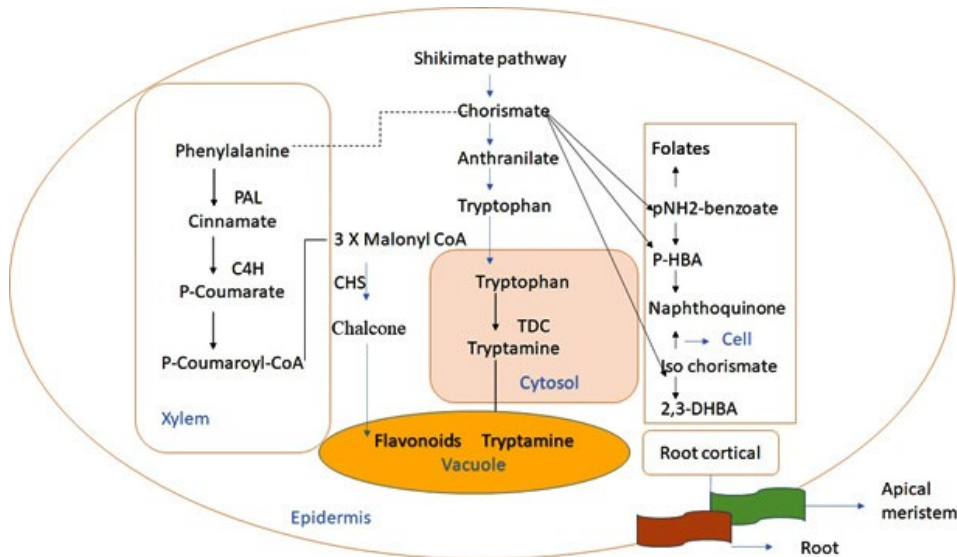


Fig. 2. The shikimate chorismate indole pathway and its division at the intercellular and subcellular levels. The solid arrow represent a one step reaction; broken arrows represent multiple reactions or unidentified reactions

Omics Tool Plus System Biology

To predict gene function, researchers use a combination of omics to characterize the coordination of complex interactions with plant metabolic networks in the course of biological processes from the perspective of systems biology.⁶⁰ A combination of transcriptomics, metabolomics, and unidirectional methods can represent a potential filter network of genetic metabolites.⁶¹ From a biological point of view, integration with other omics is used to predict gene function and biological processes and characterize complex interactions and coordination of plant metabolic networks.⁶⁰ The combination of one-way approaches, such as transcription and metabolism, can uncover putative gene metabolite networks,⁶¹ identify candidate genes for specific metabolic pathways,⁶² and examine genetic function by overexpression.^{61,63} Several omics techniques are integrated to predict genetic function and analyze the complex interactions and coordination of plant metabolic networks in biological processes used in biological systems.⁶⁰ The combination of non-targeted techniques, such as transcription and metabolism, can uncover possible networks of gene metabolism⁶¹ and screen promising genes for certain biosynthetic processes.⁶² A remarkable example is the study of the circadian clock mechanism in *Arabidopsis thaliana*.⁶⁰ The biological importance of pseudo-response regulators (PRR 9, 7, and 5) in *Arabidopsis* was studied using two arrhythmogenic plants, an overpressurized Circadian Clock Associated 1 strain (CCA1ox), and triple mutations PRR 9, 7, and 5 (d975). Metabolic profiling revealed that d975 exhibited a significant increase in TCA cycle intermediates, while CCA1ox exhibited fewer changes in primary metabolism. The metabolic profile of the induced cell culture of *C. roseus* was associated with the genome-wide transcriptional profile of the amplified fragment length polymorphism of cDNA to generate a range of session tags. Codes and metabolites linked to the TIA of *C. roseus*.⁶⁴ A hitherto unknown network of genes and metabolites was discovered by comparing the expression profiles of 417 gene markers with the cumulative form of 178 metabolite peaks. According to these networks, many branches of the biosynthesis of terpene indole alkaloids and many other metabolic processes are controlled

by different hormones. These networks have also led to the discovery of genes and metabolites involved in the production of indole terpenoid alkaloids. Therefore, the combination of multiple omics technologies is expected to help identify key regulatory genes and characterize pathway interactions in different processes, to ultimately reveal systemic coordination and communication in the metabolic network of plants.

CONCLUSION AND FUTURE ASPECTS

Based on current knowledge of *C. roseus*, we sought to summarize how various types of small molecules affect the TIA biosynthetic pathway. In recent decades, due to the development of new technologies in molecular biology and molecular biochemistry, great progress in understanding TIA biosynthesis and regulation in *C. roseus* has been made. However, there are still many areas that have not yet been investigated. Further studies are needed to identify genes, enzymes, structural intermediates, and genes involved in pathway control. This information is necessary for the development of transgenic plants, plant cells, and microorganisms to commercialize extremely valuable dimeric alkaloids.

Plant genetic manipulation, plant cell culture, and microorganisms have failed to produce TIA at an economically viable cost. Further, this route is more complicated than a series of enzymatic steps. The compartmentalization of plant pathways includes many cell types. One of the challenging questions is whether compartments exist in these cells. Due to the complexity of the pathway, cell suspension culture cannot be used to assess all stages. The logistics for successful biosynthesis must be established, which means that all intermediates, as well as all cofactors and ATP needed for biochemical reactions, must exist at the right time, in the right quantity, and in the right place.

The TIA pathway does not exist in isolation throughout the plant's metabolic network, but instead crosses and interacts with other branching pathways, which implies that it is part of a complex matrix. Accordingly, the total amount of carbon that plants contain for TIA biosynthesis must be elucidated. Ultimately, a systems biology approach is needed to address some of these challenges, which means that all omics are needed to identify

the missing links in dynamic mapping of the TIA and biosynthetic system. The availability of the complete transcriptome sequence of a variety of indole-producing plants under various conditions will help identify the structural genes involved in these pathways. Regulatory genes can be more difficult to identify as the regulation of biosynthesis varies from species to species. Even within a single plant, the regulation between the TIA production areas and the specific cells that process different parts of the cascade can vary. Therefore, a unicellular method will become a key tool in deciphering the pathway, regulation, and physiological relevance of alkaloids in plants. Single-cell research is crucial in terms of compartments and transport, because the different types of cells involved are expected to have different modes of selective transporters that are used to absorb and extrude intermediates into various cell compartments and whole cells. For example, in a leaf, iridoid-producing cells are more likely to have transporters to squeeze out organic acids, whereas epidermal cells will have transporters to selectively receive this chemical. This transporter may not be present in non-alkaloid-producing cells, or may be replaced by a transporter that squeezes out the intermediate. Furthermore, the specific accumulation of alkaloids in specific cells requires specialized absorption and/or extrusion of alkaloids. A long and difficult journey still exists to gain a full understanding of TIA biosynthesis, which will be very useful for better understanding the metabolism of antioxidants in plants. Undoubtedly, such research will provide insights for the production of dimer alkaloids, similar to the discovery of the coupling method of vinblastine and ventolin⁶⁵ resulting in the chemical production of dimers on an industrial scale. Secondary metabolites are unique among the many chemicals produced by gene expression owing to their wide range of applications, including drugs, fragrances and perfumes, dyes and pigments, pesticides, and food additives. Alkaloids are a class of low-molecular-weight nitrogen-containing organic molecules with heterocyclic structures, which account for a large proportion of these metabolites. They are particularly important due to their multiple biological activities, including therapeutic capabilities⁶ and their key ecological role. The biosynthesis and

accumulation of alkaloids are properly regulated processes, according to several studies on alkaloid-producing plants. Among alkaloid plants, the indole monoterpene alkaloid plant is a rich source of numerous medications. Compounds, such as vinblastine and vincristine (anti-tumor), vincristine and vincristine (antihypertensive), and amaricine and amarine (anti-malarial drugs) are examples of such molecules. Extracting information from a large amount of information generated by high-throughput genomics technology requires powerful bioinformatics tools. Research using transcriptomes and expression profiles provides an opportunity to better understand plant metabolism and enable analyses of the formation of plant-derived drugs from *C. roseus*.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.

AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTION

All authors listed have made a substantial, direct and intellectual contribution to the work, and approved it for publication.

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DATA AVAILABILITY

All datasets generated or analyzed during this study are included in the manuscript.

ETHICS STATEMENT

Not applicable.

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