



Spatial origin of the extracellular ATP-induced cytosolic calcium signature in *Arabidopsis thaliana* roots; wave formation and variation with phosphate nutrition

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Supplementary Video 1.avi Supplementary Video 2.avi Supplementary Video 3.avi Supplementary Video 4.avi Supplementary Video 5.avi	

1 **Research Paper**

2 **Spatial origin of the extracellular ATP-induced cytosolic calcium signature in *Arabidopsis***
3 ***thaliana* roots; wave formation and variation with phosphate nutrition**

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13 **Key words:** *Arabidopsis*, calcium, extracellular ATP, phosphate, root, signature, wave.

14 **Short title:** Extracellular ATP calcium signature and wave.

15 **One sentence summary:** Extracellular ATP increases cytosolic free calcium at the root apex
16 of *Arabidopsis* with a secondary semi-autonomous sub-apical elevation; these elevations
17 vary with inorganic phosphate nutrition and are consistent with a propagative wave.

18 **Abbreviations:** AUC, area under the curve. $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$, cytosolic free calcium. DORN1, Does not
19 Respond to Nucleotides1. eATP, extracellular ATP. Pi, inorganic phosphate.

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- 26 • Extracellular ATP (eATP) increases cytosolic free calcium ($[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$) as a specific second
27 messenger “signature” through the plasma membrane DORN1/P2K1 receptor.
28 Previous studies revealed a biphasic signature in *Arabidopsis thaliana* roots that is
29 altered by inorganic phosphate (Pi) deprivation. The relationship between the two
30 phases of the signature and possible wave formation have been tested as a function
31 of Pi nutrition.
- 32 • The bioluminescent aequorin and intensimetric GCaMP3 reporters were used to
33 resolve the spatial origin of the eATP $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$ signature in *Arabidopsis* root tips.
34 Application of eATP only to the root apex allowed $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$ wave resolution without
35 the confounding effects of eATP delivery by superfusion.
- 36 • The first apical millimetre of the root generates the first $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$ increase by eATP
37 regardless of nutritional status. The second increase occurs sub-apically in the root
38 hair zone, has some autonomy and is significantly reduced in Pi-starved roots. A
39 significant component of the Pi-replete signature does not require DORN1/P2K1 but
40 Pi-starved roots appear to have an absolute requirement for that receptor.
41 Application of eATP specifically to the apex provides evidence for cell to cell
42 propagation of a $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$ wave that diminishes sub-apically.
- 43 • The apex maintains a robust $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$ increase (even under Pi starvation) that is the
44 basis of a propagative wave, with implications for the ability of the root’s eATP
45 signalling systems to signal systemically. Partial autonomy of the sub-apical region
46 may be relevant to the perception of eATP from microbes. eATP-induced $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$
47 increase may not have always have an obligate requirement for DORN1/P2K1.

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50 Introduction

51 Extracellular ATP is a plant cell regulator. It is involved in the maintenance of cell viability,
52 growth and development (Chivasa et al., 2005; Clark et al., 2010; Wu et al., 2018), stomatal
53 aperture regulation (Chen et al., 2018), abiotic stress responses (Hou et al., 2018), wounding

54 and immunity (Choi et al., 2014a; Tripathi et al., 2018; Jewell et al., 2019; Nizam et al., 2019;
55 Kumar et al., 2020). Application of ATP to plant tissue causes increases free cytosolic Ca^{2+}
56 ($[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_{\text{cyt}}$; Demidchik et al., 2003; Choi et al., 2014a; Matthus 2019a-c). Stimulus-specific
57 $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_{\text{cyt}}$ elevations, or “signatures”, are decoded by specific suites of Ca^{2+} -binding proteins to
58 direct transcriptional or physiological responses (Lenzoni et al., 2018). eATP can evoke
59 $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_{\text{cyt}}$ signatures in *Arabidopsis* seedlings (Jeter et al., 2004; Tanaka et al., 2010; Choi et al.,
60 2014a; Chen et al., 2018; Lenzoni et al., 2018), leaves (Tanaka et al., 2010; Matthus et al.,
61 2019c; Mohammad-Sidik et al., 2021) and roots (e.g., Demidchik et al., 2003, 2009; Tanaka et
62 al., 2010; Costa et al., 2013; Shi et al., 2015; Kelner et al., 2018; Matthus et al., 2019a-c;
63 Krogman et al., 2020; Waadt et al., 2020; Mohammad-Sidik et al., 2021). Studies on
64 *Arabidopsis* seedlings and roots suggest that eATP-induced $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_{\text{cyt}}$ elevation is totally reliant
65 on the plasma membrane DORN1 (Does not Respond to Nucleotides1)/P2K1 eATP receptor
66 (Choi et al., 2014a; Chen et al., 2018; Matthus et al., 2019c). This Ca^{2+} signalling directs a
67 transcriptional response through the Ca^{2+} -dependent CAMTA3 transcriptional regulator
68 (Jewell et al., 2019).

69

70 The eATP-induced $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_{\text{cyt}}$ signature in *Arabidopsis* roots is influenced by inorganic phosphate
71 (Pi) nutrition (Matthus et al., 2019a). Pi-replete excised root tips sustained a biphasic $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_{\text{cyt}}$
72 increase in response to eATP. In contrast, Pi-starved excised root tips only supported a
73 monophasic eATP-induced $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_{\text{cyt}}$ increase – the second phase of $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_{\text{cyt}}$ increase was
74 absent (Matthus et al., 2019a). Those findings, from using aequorin as a luminometric
75 reporter of $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_{\text{cyt}}$, were corroborated by using the ratiometric $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_{\text{cyt}}$ reporter Yellow
76 Cameleon 3.6 (YC3.6) to permit spatial resolution. Pi-replete intact roots sustained a biphasic
77 eATP-induced $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_{\text{cyt}}$ increase, with the first increment at the apex followed by a second,
78 sub-apical one. The second, sub-apical $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_{\text{cyt}}$ increase was absent in Pi-starved roots
79 (Matthus et al., 2019a). The mechanism for suppression of that second sub-apical $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_{\text{cyt}}$
80 increase as a consequence of Pi nutrition remains unknown but at the phenomenological level
81 it relates to iron (Fe) availability (Matthus et al., 2019a,b). The second sub-apical $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_{\text{cyt}}$
82 increase was restored in Pi-starved roots by removing Fe from the growth medium (Matthus
83 et al., 2019a).

84 As the transcriptional response to a $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$ signature depends on its temporal phases
85 (Lenzoni et al., 2018), it is important to understand whether the first eATP-induced $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$
86 elevation activates the second and to what extent the second increase is autonomous. This is
87 also relevant to the phenomenon of “Ca²⁺ waves”, in which a $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$ signal may be
88 propagated along a tissue (Choi et al., 2014b; Evans et al., 2016; Nguyen et al., 2018) to evoke
89 a distal response. To date, a $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$ wave has been detected in *Arabidopsis* roots challenged
90 with salt stress (Choi et al., 2014b; Evans et al., 2016) and a $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$ wave has been suggested
91 to occur in response to eATP (Costa et al., 2013; Matthus et al., 2019c; Krogman et al., 2020).
92 Studies on eATP have been limited by superfusive eATP application to the whole root. In this
93 study, the spatial origin of the root’s apical eATP-induced $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$ elevation has been
94 examined further (using aequorin and the GFP-based intensimetric $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$ reporter
95 GCaMP3; Vincent et al., 2017). These $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$ reporters have also been used to test the
96 relationship between the apical and sup-apical eATP-induced $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$ elevations, as a function
97 of Pi nutrition. In wave studies, a simple technique has allowed eATP application only to the
98 apex, overcoming the limitation of superfusion.

99 **Materials and methods**

100 **Plant material and growth conditions**

101 *Arabidopsis thaliana* Col-0 constitutively expressing cytosolic (apo)aequorin or GCaMP3 were
102 as previously described (Matthus et al., 2019a,c). The *dorn1-1* mutant constitutively
103 expressing cytosolic (apo)aequorin was as described by Choi et al. (2014a) and Matthus et al.
104 (2019a,c). Growth conditions were as described by Matthus et al. (2019a). Growth medium
105 was half strength Murashige and Skoog with vitamins (Duchefa) and 0.8 % (w/v) agar (Bacto
106 agar, BD Biosciences), pH 5.6; “half MS”. This contained 0.625 mM phosphate (“full Pi”). A
107 custom-made MS without Pi was used for “zero Pi” conditions (Duchefa, DU1072) and KCl
108 substituted for missing potassium from KH_2PO_4 exclusion (Matthus et al., 2019a).

109 **Root growth assay**

110 Col and *dorn1-1* (both constitutively expressing cytosolic (apo)aequorin) were grown on full
111 or zero Pi medium for 11 days. Plates were scanned using an Epson scanner with 300 dpi
112 resolution. ImageJ software with the plugin NeuronJ plugin was used to quantify primary root
113 length (the 8 to 11 day interval).

114 **Aequorin luminometry**

115 Excised 1 cm long root tips (with or without the first apical millimetre excised) of 10-day old
116 seedlings were incubated overnight, in darkness at room temperature in 100 μ l half MS
117 containing 10 μ M coelenterazine (NanoLight Technology), pH 5.6 with MES/Tris (Sigma). Half
118 MS medium had the same nutrient status (i.e., full Pi or zero Pi) as the plants were grown on.
119 One root tip (1 cm long with or without the first apical millimetre excised) was placed per well
120 (containing 100 μ l of the appropriate full Pi or zero Pi half MS) in a white 96-well plate (Greiner
121 Bio-One). Luminescence was recorded every second for 200 s (FLUOstar OPTIMA plate reader,
122 BMG Labtech). After 35 s, 100 μ l of control (full Pi or zero Pi half MS) or test solution (plus 1
123 mM ATP; Melford) were added. Discharge solution (final concentration: 10 % (v/v) ethanol, 1
124 M CaCl₂) was injected after 120 s. [Ca²⁺]_{cyt} and changes in [Ca²⁺]_{cyt} were estimated according
125 to Matthus et al. (2019a) in which peak maxima were detected in set time frames. Total
126 [Ca²⁺]_{cyt} mobilised was estimated as “Area Under the Curve” (AUC; Lenzoni et al., 2018;
127 Matthus et al., 2019a). A summary schematic is shown in Fig. 1.

128 **Imaging of GCaMP3**

129 Roots or tips from 10- to 11-day old seedlings were placed on growth plates or in “wave”
130 experiments, a root was placed across a gap in growth medium agar (Matthus et al., 2019c;
131 Fig. S1). Recovery was for 5 to 10 minutes. Solution (3 μ l) was applied by pipette; control
132 solution (full Pi or zero Pi liquid half MS) \pm 1 mM eATP. Imaging was with a Stereo microscope
133 M205 FA (Leica), with a DFC365FX camera (Leica) and a Sola SE365 light source (Lumencor);
134 excitation 470/40 nm, emission every 5 s at 525/50 nm, gain of 2.0 and 30 x magnification.
135 ImageJ Fiji was used to process GCaMP3 GFP signal intensities, fitting regions of interest (Roi)
136 with the ‘ROI Manager’ tool. Z-axis profiles were plotted for each Roi, and background signal
137 was subtracted. Data normalization was as described by Vincent et al. (2017): $\Delta F/F_0 = (F - F_0)/F_0$
138 where F is the fluorescence signal and F₀ is the baseline fluorescence signal. Maximal response
139 was $\Delta F_{\max}/F_0$. Intensiometric false-colour videos of response to control solution or ATP were
140 compiled from a representative time series.

141 **Statistical analyses**

142 Analyses used R software (www.r-project.org, version 3.5.1). An ANOVA, Welch two sample
143 *t*-test or paired Student’s *t*-test was used to test for statistically significant differences, using

144 a significance threshold of $p < 0.05$. When using an ANOVA, the Tukey HSD *post-hoc* test was
145 employed to determine differences among the groups.

146

147 Results

148 The first millimetre of the root apex is essential for the initial response to eATP

149 Root apical dissection was used to determine the spatial origin of the eATP-induced $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$
150 signature. Either the apical first centimetre of a root (termed “intact”) was used or such root
151 tips were further dissected by removal of approximately the first apical millimetre (termed
152 “cut”). The first apical millimetre was removed as imaging with YC3.6 indicated that this
153 region was responsible for the first eATP-induced $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$ elevation (Matthus et al., 2019a).

154 In control experiments, solution added to intact root tips caused the characteristic
155 monophasic “touch” response” (Matthus et al., 2019a,2020; Mohammad-Sidik et al., 2021).
156 Maximum $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$ touch response of full Pi-grown “intact” tips (Fig. 2A) was significantly
157 greater than those (“cut”) lacking the apical first millimetre ($p < 0.001$, Fig. 2B). Pi-starved tips
158 responded less to mechanical stimulation than full Pi-grown root tips, regardless of whether
159 the apical first millimetre was present (Fig. 2B). The same pattern was observed when
160 analysing the area under the curve (AUC, estimating total $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$ mobilised ; Fig. 2C). eATP
161 (1 mM) caused an initial $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$ touch peak followed by two eATP-specific peaks in full Pi-
162 grown intact tips (Fig. 3A). Pi-starved intact root tips showed the dampened $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$ signature
163 (Fig. 3A), with significantly diminished touch and peak 2 responses compared to full Pi-grown
164 intact root tips (touch, $p < 0.001$; peak 1, $p = 0.9$; peak 2, $p < 0.001$) and overall lower AUC
165 ($p < 0.001$). These responses resembled the $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$ signatures of intact aequorin-expressing
166 Col-0 root tips to 1 mM eATP reported by Matthus et al. (2019a), using the same conditions.

167 Removing the apical 1 mm of the tip had no significant effect on touch response when eATP
168 was added, regardless of growth regime (Fig. 3B). However, full Pi-grown tips lacking the
169 apical first millimetre also lacked the characteristic eATP-induced peak 1. Mean $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$
170 decreased to almost pre-treatment baseline level before showing another increase in $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$,
171 which temporally aligned with the peak 2 observed in intact root tips from full Pi-grown plants
172 (Fig. 3A). Although the loss of peak 1 appeared striking (Fig. 3A) the effect was not statistically
173 significant ($p = 0.057$; Fig. 3C). However, in the absence of the first peak, the method of

174 detecting maxima in the sampling phase (Fig. 1) could report values from the end of the touch
175 response or beginning of peak 2, overestimating the $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$ of cut tips. When the mean \pm SEM
176 $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$ of full Pi-grown intact tips was compared to that of cut tips at 50 s (a time-point within
177 the mean peak 1 of full Pi-grown intact tips), the response of cut tips was significantly lower
178 than intact tips (cut, 0.04 ± 0.01 μ M at 50 s; intact, 0.26 ± 0.01 μ M at 50 s; $p < 0.001$; Fig. 3A),
179 suggesting that the apical first millimetre of the root supports the first eATP-induced $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$
180 elevation in Pi-replete conditions. Peak 2 maxima of full Pi-grown cut tips were not
181 significantly lower than intact tips, whether using phase analysis or comparing equivalent
182 time points (Fig. 3D). AUC was significantly lower in full Pi-grown cut root tips compared to
183 intact root tips (Fig. 3E).

184 Removal of the apical first millimetre abolished the eATP-specific $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$ increase in zero Pi-
185 grown root tips (Fig. 3A). Mean $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$ of cut tips was significantly lower than intact tips in
186 the phases encompassing peak 1 (Fig. 3C) and 2 (Fig. 3D). This was also the case when
187 considering equivalent time points (e.g., peak 1 at 52 s, $p < 0.001$; peak 2 at 102 s, $p < 0.005$).
188 AUC was significantly lower in zero Pi-grown cut root tips compared to intact root tips (Fig.
189 3E). Overall, the data show that the apical first millimetre of the root tip is a key site for the
190 generation of the first eATP-induced $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$ increase regardless of Pi growth status. At this
191 level of resolution, any dependency of peak 2 on peak 1 appears more likely in Pi-starved
192 roots.

193

194 **DORN1/P2K1 may not be the only eATP receptor in roots**

195 The $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$ response to eATP of Pi-replete whole *Arabidopsis* roots appears to be wholly
196 reliant on the DORN1/P2K1 receptor (Matthus et al., 2019c). Whether it is needed for the
197 eATP response of Pi-starved roots is unknown. In growth experiments, Pi deprivation
198 impaired primary root growth of both Col and the *dorn1-1* loss of function mutant, both
199 constitutively expressing (apo)aequorin. Col mean \pm SEM primary root length decreased
200 significantly from 4.88 ± 0.06 cm in full Pi to 3.31 ± 0.06 cm in -Pi ($p < 0.001$; 106 and 100 roots
201 respectively in 3 independent trials) while *dorn1-1* decreased significantly from 3.81 ± 0.04 cm
202 to 2.22 ± 0.05 cm respectively ($p < 0.001$; 90 and 99 roots respectively in 3 independent trials).
203 Although the *dorn1-1* roots were significantly shorter than Col under full Pi ($p < 0.001$) and
204 zero Pi ($p < 0.01$), the decrease in mean root length on Pi starvation of the two genotypes was

205 similar (1.57 cm for Col, 1.59 for *dorn1-1*), suggesting that growth inhibition was independent
206 of DORN1/P2K1. The requirement of DORN1/P2K1 for the response of Pi-starved and Pi-
207 replete root apices was tested here, using “intact” 1 cm root tips of the *dorn1-1* loss of
208 function mutant (Fig. 4). In response to control solution, maximal $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$ increase was
209 significantly higher in full Pi-grown root tips (Col-0, $0.57 \pm 0.07 \mu M$; *dorn1-1*: $0.49 \pm 0.06 \mu M$)
210 than in zero Pi-grown root tips (Col-0, $0.13 \pm 0.03 \mu M$; *dorn1-1*, $0.17 \pm 0.05 \mu M$) for both
211 genotypes (Col-0, $p < 0.001$; *dorn1-1*, $p = 0.001$), but did not differ significantly between the
212 genotypes for either Pi condition (Fig. 4A). AUC was significantly higher in full Pi-grown root
213 tips than zero Pi-grown, regardless of genotype (Col-0, $p = 0.001$; *dorn1-1*, $p = 0.002$), and did
214 not differ significantly between genotypes (Fig. 4B). In response to 1 mM eATP, Pi-starved
215 Col-0 had a significantly diminished second eATP-specific peak (full Pi, $0.26 \pm 0.01 \mu M$; zero Pi,
216 $0.13 \pm 0.01 \mu M$, $p < 0.001$; Fig. 4C) and significantly lower AUC compared to Pi-replete root tips
217 ($p < 0.001$; Fig. 4D). The *dorn1-1* response to eATP was dominated by the touch response which
218 did not differ significantly from Col-0, regardless of Pi status ($p \geq 0.424$; Fig. 4C). However, a
219 significant increase in $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$ was evident in Pi-replete *dorn1-1* after the touch response,
220 within the 51-80 s analysis “window” ($0.11 \pm 0.004 \mu M$, $p < 0.001$, paired *t*-test; Fig. 4C inset).
221 Pi-starved *dorn1-1* lacked this response. These results point to a DORN1/P2K1-independent
222 pathway in Pi-replete root tips that is lost under Pi deprivation.

223

224 **Pi-starved roots are impaired in sub-apical $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$ increase in response to eATP measured** 225 **with GCaMP3**

226 To afford spatial resolution of $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$ changes, Col-0 expressing cytosolic GCaMP3 was
227 challenged with control solution (Supplemental Videos 1 and 2) or 1 mM eATP (Supplemental
228 Videos 3 and 4). Two Roi (“Region of interest”) were then analysed to assess spatial
229 differences in the response to eATP (Fig. 5). The apical “Roi A” was within the first millimetre
230 of the apex and “Roi C” was distal at 2.5 mm. Control solution led to little change in
231 fluorescence (Fig. 5A-F). There were no significant differences in normalised fluorescence
232 maxima between Pi-grown and Pi-starved roots in Roi A ($p = 0.999$) or Roi C ($p = 0.998$; Fig. 5C,F).
233 Full Pi-grown root tips showed a significant fluorescence increase in Roi A with 1 mM eATP
234 (compared to control) that reached its maximal amplitude within 10 s (Fig. 5D-F; normalised
235 fluorescence maxima, $p < 0.001$). After a time lag of approximately 50 s, a significant increase

236 in fluorescence maximum was found in Roi C (Fig. 5A-C; $p < 0.001$), with the response to eATP's
237 being significantly stronger in Roi C compared to Roi A (normalized fluorescence maxima,
238 $p < 0.001$).

239 Zero Pi-grown root tips also responded significantly more strongly to eATP than to control
240 treatment in Roi A (Fig. 5D-F; normalised fluorescence maxima, $p = 0.002$). Although the
241 kinetics of the response were altered in zero Pi-grown roots (Fig. 5D,E), the eATP-induced
242 normalised maximum in Roi A was not significantly different from full Pi-grown roots
243 ($p = 0.118$). In contrast to full Pi-grown roots, those grown without Pi showed a weak response
244 to eATP treatment in Roi C (Fig. 5A-C; $p = 0.58$). Thus, these data confirm the observations from
245 aequorin trials; the first millimetre of the apex supports the first eATP-induced $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$
246 increase regardless of Pi nutritional status. The spatial resolution afforded by GCaMP3
247 resolves a secondary and sub-apical eATP-induced $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$ increase, distal to the first
248 millimetre, that is weaker in Pi-starved roots.

249

250 **The sub-apical eATP-induced $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$ increase is not fully autonomous and relies in part on** 251 **the apical increase**

252 Full Pi-grown GCaMP3-expressing roots were dissected to investigate whether the first apical
253 millimetre influenced the magnitude of the eATP-induced sub-apical second $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$ peak.
254 The apical first millimetre was excised and imaged alongside the remaining distal root
255 "stump" so they received treatment simultaneously (Supplementary Video 5), then compared
256 with intact roots. Roi A was positioned at the apical root tip, Roi C was positioned 2.5 mm
257 from the apical root tip (white boxes in Fig. 6A). After a slight decrease in fluorescence due to
258 treatment application at 20 s, 1 mM eATP led to an immediate and strong increase in
259 fluorescence intensity in Roi A of both intact and cut roots (Fig. 6B). While intact root Roi A
260 supported a broad monophasic increase (grey trace; Fig. 6B), cut root tip Roi A exhibited a
261 much narrower peak, followed by a smaller shoulder (light green trace; Fig. 6B,C).
262 Nevertheless, normalised maximum response in Roi A was not significantly affected by apical
263 excision (Fig. 6D; $p = 0.975$). eATP triggered a more gradual fluorescence increase in Roi C, with
264 apical excision's having little effect on time-course (Fig. 6B,C). However, intact roots had a
265 significantly higher normalised fluorescence maximum in Roi C (Fig. 6D; $p < 0.001$). These
266 results suggest that sub-apical regions can respond directly to eATP but, at the finer spatial

267 resolution afforded by GCaMP3 compared to aequorin, part of their $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$ increase is
268 determined by the initial $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$ increase at the apex.

269

270 **Transmission of an eATP-induced $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$ signal from the apex in Pi-starved roots**

271 The finding of a semi-autonomous sub-apical $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$ increase in response to superfusion with
272 eATP necessitated application of eATP to the apex only. This allowed further tests of the
273 relationship between apical and sub-apical $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$ elevations in a possible “wave”. A
274 GCaMP3-expressing Pi-starved root was placed over an air gap in the underlying agar
275 medium, thus isolating the regions on either side of that gap from addition of eATP (Fig.S1).
276 The air gap began approximately 1 mm from the root apex such that the apical tissue likely to
277 generate the first $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$ peak was in contact with the agar. Three Roi were set: at the apex
278 (Roi A), over the air gap (Roi B) and in the mature zone (Roi C at 2.5 mm from the apex; Fig.
279 7A). Control solution had no effect (Fig. 7B-J). eATP applied to the apex caused a rapid and
280 significant increase in fluorescence with no recovery to baseline level (Roi A, $p < 0.001$; Fig. 7B,
281 E, H). Smaller but significant transient fluorescence increases (normalised maxima compared
282 to control) were detected later in the root section over the air gap (Roi B; Fig. 7C-J; $p = 0.04$)
283 and in the mature zone (Roi C; Fig. 7C-J; $p = 0.02$). Roi C was in the equivalent position to Roi C
284 in the superfusion experiment (2.5 mm from apex; Fig. 5A-C). In the latter, eATP did not
285 induce a significant $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$ elevation (due to variation) in Roi C but it is important to note
286 that the mean peak normalised increase in this region was five times greater under
287 superfusion than when eATP was applied only to the apex (mean \pm SEM superfusion Roi C,
288 0.25 ± 0.11 ; apical application and resultant response in Roi C, 0.05 ± 0.01). As the mature
289 zone was not exposed to eATP, the results suggest a cell to cell propagative mechanism for
290 $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$ over short distance.

291

292 **Discussion**

293 Root apices are key to the plant’s sensing of and adaptive responses to heterogeneity in soil
294 conditions. Pi starvation results in altered abiotic stress-induced $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$ signatures in
295 *Arabidopsis* root tips (Matthus et al., 2019a). These include the response to mechanical stress;
296 Pi-starved root tips or whole roots expressing cytosolic aequorin were found to have a lower

297 $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$ touch response than Pi-replete root tips (Matthus et al., 2019a,2020). This
298 phenomenon was also observed here (Fig. 2). Mechanical stimulation can evoke a spatially
299 complex $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$ signature and sensitivity varies along the root (Monshausen et al., 2009;
300 Krogman et al., 2020). The simple **experiment** of removing the first apical millimetre of full Pi-
301 grown root tips significantly reduced (but did not abolish) their touch response, helping to
302 site the origin of this mechanically-induced $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$ signature. Pi-starved root tips were
303 unaffected by excision of the first apical millimetre, suggesting that their $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$ touch
304 response originates more sub-apically. These Pi-dependent changes in the touch response
305 were not evident in the trials using GCaMP3 as the $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$ reporter. This may be due to the
306 differences in mechanical stress experienced by the root tip as a consequence of different
307 solution application methods (pump injection for aequorin versus pipette application for
308 GCaMP3) or differences in experimental handling/conditions that could change the root's
309 touch sensitivity. It is unlikely to reflect the sensitivity of GCaMP3 as it has a far higher Kd for
310 Ca^{2+} (405 nM to 660 nM) than aequorin (7 to 13 μ M). The mechanistic basis of the dampened
311 touch response of Pi-starved aequorin-expressing roots could have a variety of origins,
312 including downregulation of mechano-sensitive Ca^{2+} influx pathways involving the plasma
313 membrane proteins MCA1 (Mid1-Complementing Activity1; Okamoto et al., 2021), AtPiezo
314 (Fang et al., 2021) or DEK1 (Defective Kernel 1; Tran et al., 2017). It would be interesting to
315 determine whether Pi-starved roots also have aberrant touch-induced hormonal responses,
316 such as impaired regulation of ethylene and jasmonic acid, and whether these relate to touch-
317 induced changes in root system architecture (Chehab et al., 2012; Jacobsen et al., 2021;
318 Okamoto et al., 2021). This could be relevant to the challenge of breeding crops for
319 compacted and Pi-poor soil (Kolb et al., 2017).

320

321 The primary root apex is also a hotspot of extracellular ATP accumulation (Weerasinghe et al.,
322 2009) and the abundance of the DORN1/P2K1 eATP receptor is greater there than in distal
323 regions (Matthus et al., 2019c). The mechanical stress experienced as roots grow through soil
324 is sufficient to promote further eATP accumulation, regulated by plasma membrane
325 heterotrimeric G proteins (Weerasinghe et al., 2009). Salt, osmotic, and cold stress can also
326 increase eATP accumulation by roots (Dark et al., 2011; Deng et al., 2015; Lang et al., 2014),
327 as can wounding and endophyte colonisation (Dark et al., 2011; Nizam et al., 2019). eATP

328 appears able to stimulate root adaptive responses, affording protection against abiotic stress
329 (Lang et al., 2014), limiting colonisation of the endophyte *Serendipita indica* (Nizam et al.,
330 2019) and enhancing protection against pathogens (Kumar et al., 2020). Using excised root
331 tips to study the eATP-evoked $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$ signature helps to negate any possible effects of
332 changes in root architecture caused by Pi deprivation (Matthus et al., 2019a). Moreover, using
333 tips rather than whole roots has permitted resolution of a small but significant DORN1/P2K1-
334 independent pathway to $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$ elevation in Pi-replete roots (Fig. 4C). This was lost under Pi-
335 starvation. DORN1-P2K1 expression does not respond to Pi starvation (Lin et al., 2011; Lan et
336 al., 2012; [genevestigator.com](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6888888/)), neither to nitrogen nor K^+ deficiency (Kellermeier et al., 2014).
337 However, the abundance of DORN1/P2K1 in roots has been reported to increase on Pi
338 starvation (Lan et al., 2012). These data suggest that DORN1-P2K1 remains operational under
339 nutrient shortages to effect a robust eATP signalling system and that the impaired second
340 eATP-induced $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$ response of Pi-starved roots may not simply be due to lack of the
341 receptor in the sub-apical region. That the putative DORN1-P2K1-independent pathway was
342 Pi-sensitive may help resolve its mechanistic basis. Recently a DORN1/P2K1-independent
343 $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$ elevation was observed in leaves (Matthus et al., 2019c) and results here in roots
344 augment the findings of Zhu et al. (2018, 2020), that eATP effects on roots may not always
345 require DORN1/P2K1.

346 It is clear from use of both aequorin and GCaMP3 trials that Pi-starvation impairs the eATP-
347 induced $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$ response, in agreement with a previous study using aequorin and YC3.6
348 (Matthus et al., 2019a). Specifically, the second eATP-induced $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$ elevation is
349 consistently weakened. Excision experiments using aequorin revealed that the first apical
350 millimetre of Pi-replete root tips is essential for the first eATP-induced $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$ peak and
351 seemingly the entire $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$ response of Pi-starved root tips (Fig. 1). That first apical
352 millimetre includes the root cap, meristem and elongation zone; as previously stated it is a
353 region of high eATP accumulation and DORN1/P2K1 eATP receptor abundance. The spatial
354 resolution afforded by GCaMP3 showed that the kinetics of the $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$ response to eATP
355 within the first apical millimetre was influenced by Pi nutrition (Fig. 5). This, in addition to
356 overall change in $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$ signature, could be relevant to any downstream transcriptional
357 response as modelling suggests that decay time strongly influences those events (Lenzoni et
358 al., 2018). It would be interesting to determine whether such an altered transcriptional

359 response governed by the first eATP-induced $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$ peak in that first apical millimetre could
360 be involved in the altered root growth that occurs on Pi starvation, although preliminary
361 experiments here suggested that inhibition of primary root growth was independent of
362 DORN1/P2K1. Excision experiments with GCaMP3 showed that sub-apical regions can
363 respond directly to eATP indicating a level of autonomy, but with a weaker response than in
364 intact roots. This autonomy could be important for the root's ability to sense eATP emanating
365 from microbes in the vicinity. The use of an air gap in underlying growth medium permitted
366 application of eATP only to the apex, allowing the effect of Pi starvation on the sub-apical
367 response to be resolved clearly and without any confounding effects that excision or
368 superfusion with eATP might cause. Although small, a significant $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$ increase occurred in
369 the mature zone (beyond the air gap) when eATP was added to the apex. This is consistent
370 with a $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$ "wave" that propagates from the apex but gradually diminishes. As the
371 GCaMP3 reporter is comparably insensitive to subtle changes in $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$, the data presented
372 likely underestimate the extent of any systemic $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$ signal propagation compared to the
373 more sensitive reporter (YCnano-65) used in studying salt-induced-waves (Choi et al., 2014b).
374 Nevertheless, the intensimetric GCaMP3 reporter promises ease of imaging using a less
375 specific microscope set-up.

376 The salt-induced $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$ wave is underpinned by RBOHD and the vacuolar Ca^{2+} release
377 channel TPC1 (Two Pore Channel1; Evans et al., 2016). As DORN1/P2K1 interacts with RBOHD
378 in guard cells (Chen et al., 2018), and is involved in eATP regulation of root hair growth (Clark
379 et al., 2010), this NADPH oxidase may reprise its role in the root eATP-induced wave. As with
380 the salt wave, the plasma membrane Ca^{2+} channels that contribute to initiation and
381 propagation need to be identified at the genetic level. It has been suggested that
382 DORN1/P2K1 could generate cyclic nucleotides that could activate Cyclic Nucleotide-Gated
383 Channels (CNGC) (Sun et al., 2021). CNGC14 has been tested in Pi-replete conditions and
384 found not to be involved (Shih et al., 2015). However, CNGC2, CNGC4 and CNGC6 have since
385 been shown to contribute to the root's eATP-induced $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$ elevation in Pi-replete
386 conditions (Duong et al., 2021; Wang et al., 2022). Of the Glutamate Receptor-Like family
387 (GLR), GLR3.3 and GLR3.6 are involved in leaf wounding and signal propagation (Vincent et
388 al., 2017). It is tempting to place them in the eATP-induced signature and wave, particularly
389 if (as in tea) Pi deficiency decreases glutamate (Ding et al., 2017). This might help explain the

390 diminution of the sub-apical component. As yet, no putative Ca^{2+} channels have been found
391 to be downregulated at the protein level in response to Pi deprivation (e.g., Lan et al., 2012).
392 Neither have they been found in phosphorylation studies of Pi deprivation (Duan et al., 2013).
393 Annexins may have Ca^{2+} transport capacity but are multifunctional proteins (Laohavisit and
394 Davies, 2010). *Arabidopsis* Annexin4 can support an eATP-induced $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_{\text{cyt}}$ elevation when
395 expressed in HEK cells (Ma et al., 2019) while Annexin1 supports a significant proportion of
396 the whole root $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_{\text{cyt}}$ response to eATP (Mohammad-Sidik et al., 2021). Identification of the
397 components involved will greatly improve understanding of the eATP-induced signature and
398 wave as a function of Pi nutrition, helping to elucidate the downstream consequences in roots
399 and potentially shoots.

400

401 **Supplementary data**

402 **Supplementary Fig. S1.** Brightfield image of a phosphate-starved *Arabidopsis* root laid across
403 an air-gap on an agar plate to carry out GCaMP3 “wave” experiments.

404

405 **Supplementary Video 1** Full Pi-grown Col-0 root expressing GCaMP3 responding to control
406 solution added at 20 s after start of image acquisition; scale bar, 1 mm.

407 **Supplementary Video 2** Zero Pi-grown Col-0 root expressing GCaMP3 responding to control
408 solution added at 20 s after start of image acquisition; scale bar, 1 mm.

409 **Supplementary Video 3** Full Pi-grown Col-0 root expressing GCaMP3 responding to 1 mM ATP
410 added at 20 s after start of image acquisition; scale bar, 1 mm.

411 **Supplementary Video 4** Zero Pi-grown Col-0 root expressing GCaMP3 responding to 1 mM
412 ATP added at 20 s after start of image acquisition; scale bar, 1 mm.

413 **Supplementary Video 5** Full Pi-grown Col-0 root expressing GCaMP3, with apex excised and
414 placed next to remaining stump, responding to 1 mM ATP added at 20 s after start of image
415 acquisition; scale bar, 1 mm.

416

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577

578 **Figure Legends**

579 **Fig. 1. Schematic of [Ca²⁺]_{cyt} analysis from aequorin time-course data.** Each value was
580 calculated with the average baseline value (i) subtracted. Touch peak was the highest value
581 of the touch response due to mechanical stimulus from the treatment application (ii; 35 – 41
582 s or 35 – 155 s for control solution). Maximum Peak 1 (iii; 42-63 s) and Maximum Peak 2 (iv;

583 64-155 s) were the maximum value for each peak. Total $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$ accumulation (v) was
584 obtained by integrating the area under the curve (AUC).

585

586 **Fig. 2. The $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$ response of Pi-replete and Pi-starved intact or cut root tips to control**
587 **solution.** *Arabidopsis* Col-0 aequorin-expressing seedlings were grown on full or zero Pi
588 medium. Root tips (1 cm; "root tip intact") or cut root tips (1 cm of root tip with the apical 1
589 mm cut off) were challenged with control solution applied at 35 s, and $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$ was measured
590 for 155 s. (A) Mechanical stimulation (caused by control solution); time course trace
591 represents mean \pm SEM from 2 independent trials, with $n = 5$ individual intact root tips, and
592 3 independent trials, with $n = 15$ individual cut root tips averaged per data point. Time course
593 data were analysed for (B) touch maximum, (C) area under the curve (AUC), all baseline-
594 subtracted, with each dot representing an individual data point. In the boxplot, each dot
595 represents an individual data point. The thick middle line denotes the median, separating the
596 upper and lower half of the data; the hinges (box outline) denote median of the upper and
597 the lower half of the data, respectively; the bars denote entirety of data excluding outliers.
598 Analysis of variance (ANOVA) with *post-hoc* Tukey Test was used to assess statistical
599 differences. Significance levels (p -values): *** (<0.001), n.s. (not significant).

600 **Fig. 3. The $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$ response of Pi-replete and Pi-starved intact or cut root tips to eATP.**
601 *Arabidopsis* Col-0 aequorin-expressing seedlings were grown on full or zero Pi medium. Root
602 tips (1 cm; "root tip intact") or cut root tips (1 cm of root tip with the apical 1 mm cut off)
603 were challenged with 1 mM eATP applied at 35 s, and $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$ was measured for 155 s. (A)
604 eATP; time course trace represents mean \pm SEM from 2 independent trials, with $n = 5$
605 individual intact root tips, and 3 independent trials, with $n = 19$ individual cut root tips
606 averaged per data point. Time course data were analysed for (B) touch maximum, (C) Peak 1
607 maxima, (D) Peak 2 maxima and (E) area under the curve (AUC), all baseline-subtracted, with
608 each dot representing an individual data point. In the boxplot, each dot represents an
609 individual data point. The thick middle line denotes the median, separating the upper and
610 lower half of the data; the hinges (box outline) denote median of the upper and the lower
611 half of the data, respectively; the bars denote entirety of data excluding outliers. Analysis of

612 variance (ANOVA) with *post-hoc* Tukey Test was used to assess statistical differences.
 613 Significance levels (*p*-values): *** (<0.001), n.s. (not significant).

614

615 **Fig. 4. The $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$ response to extracellular ATP requires DORN1/P2K1.** Col-0 and *dorn1-1*
 616 were grown on full or zero Pi. Root tips (1 cm) were challenged at 35 s. (A) Control solution;
 617 mean \pm standard error of mean (SEM) time course from 3 independent trials, with *n* = 13 - 18
 618 individual root tips averaged per data point. Maximal $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$ increase did not differ
 619 significantly between the genotypes for either Pi condition. (B) Time course data were
 620 analysed for area under the curve (AUC), baseline-subtracted, with each dot representing an
 621 individual data point. Boxplot middle line denotes median. Comparisons shown are Col-0
 622 versus *dorn1-1* for full Pi and zero Pi. (C-D) Responses to 1 mM eATP (3 independent trials, *n*
 623 = 16 – 18 individual root tips per growth condition and genotype). In (C) pink arrowhead points
 624 to the significant $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$ increase in Pi-replete *dorn1-1*, an enlarged version of which is shown
 625 in the pink inset box. Analysis of variance (ANOVA) with *post-hoc* Tukey Test was used to
 626 assess statistical differences. Significance levels (*p*-values): *** (<0.001), n.s. (not significant).

627

628 **Fig. 5. The $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$ response to eATP in specific regions of root tips using an intensiometric**
 629 **reporter.** *Arabidopsis* Col-0 expressing cytosolic GCaMP3 was grown on either full or zero Pi
 630 medium for 10 days. Control or 1 mM eATP treatment solution was applied 20 s after the start
 631 of image acquisition to the root tip of a seedling resting on gel-based growth medium, and
 632 imaged for 250 s in total. On the left, example root tip with annotated regions of interest
 633 ('Roi', white boxes), scale bar: 1 mm. (A, B): Roi C; (D, E): Roi A. (A, D) Mean GFP fluorescence
 634 intensity \pm SEM, background subtracted, and (B, E) normalized GFP fluorescence ($\Delta F/F_0$) \pm
 635 SEM; data from 3 independent trials, with *n* = 4 - 7 individual roots per growth condition and
 636 treatment. (C, F) Extracted normalized fluorescence maxima ($\Delta F_{max}/F_0$). Boxplot thick line
 637 denotes median. Analysis of variance (ANOVA) with *post-hoc* Tukey Test was used to assess
 638 statistical differences. Significance levels (*p*-values): *** (<0.001), n.s. (not significant).

639

640 **Fig. 6. Root dissection reveals that the sub-apical $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$ response to eATP is not fully**
641 **autonomous.** *Arabidopsis* Col-0 expressing the cytosolic GCaMP3 was grown on half MS
642 growth medium (full Pi). Primary roots of 10-day old seedlings were modified prior to the
643 assays by excising 0.8 – 1 mm of apical root tip (“cut root”) or left as “intact root”. Twenty
644 seconds after the start of image acquisition, control or 1 mM eATP solution was applied to
645 the root tip (and stump) which were then imaged for 250 s in total. (A) Root micrographs
646 depicting cut root (yellow dashed line indicates site of cut, with root tip’s being placed next
647 to root stump), and intact root, including regions of interest used for analysis (Roi A, Roi C;
648 indicated by white boxes). Scale bar: 1 mm. (B) Mean GFP fluorescence intensity \pm SEM,
649 background subtracted, and (C) normalized GFP fluorescence ($\Delta F/F_0$) \pm SEM; data from 3
650 independent trials, with $n = 6 - 9$ individual roots per root modification. (D) Extracted
651 normalized fluorescence maxima ($\Delta F_{max}/F_0$) of individual Roi, each dot represents an
652 individual data point, boxplot thick line denotes median. Analysis of variance (ANOVA) with
653 *post-hoc* Tukey Test was used to assess statistical differences. Significance levels (p -values):
654 *** (<0.001), n.s. (not significant).

655
656 **Fig. 7. Localised eATP application to the root tip causes progressive $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$ increases in the**
657 **root.** (A) Schematic of a 10-day old *Arabidopsis* Pi-starved Col-0 seedling (expressing cytosolic
658 GCaMP3) placed across a gap in the growth medium agar (Supplementary Fig. S2). Annotated
659 regions of interest (‘Roi’) were used for analysis, scale bar: 1 mm. Twenty seconds after the
660 start of image acquisition, 3 μ l of control or 1 mM eATP solution was applied to the root tip
661 (indicated by arrow) and then imaged for in total 495 s. (B, C, D) Mean GFP fluorescence
662 intensity \pm SEM, background subtracted, and (E, F, G) normalized GFP fluorescence ($\Delta F/F_0$) \pm
663 SEM for Roi A, B and C respectively. Data are from 3 independent trials, with $n = 3$ individual
664 roots for control treatments per growth condition, and $n = 6 - 9$ individual roots per eATP
665 treatment and growth condition. (H, I, J) Extracted normalized fluorescence maxima
666 ($\Delta F_{max}/F_0$) for Roi A, B and C respectively. Each dot represents an individual data point, middle
667 line denotes median. Significance levels (p -values, Welch two sample t -test) in H-J: ***
668 (<0.001), * (<0.05), n.s. (>0.05).

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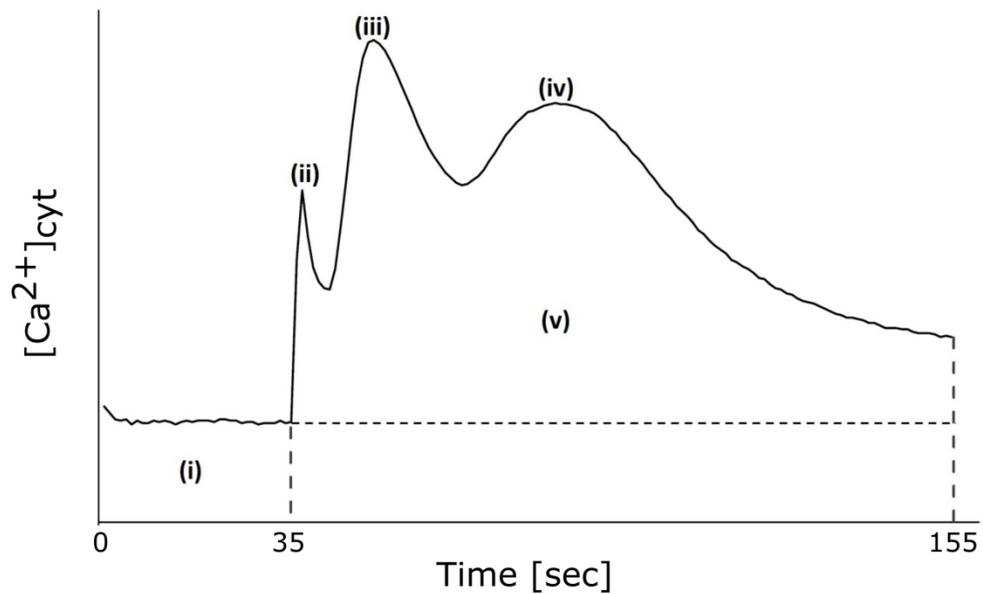


Fig. 1. Schematic of $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$ analysis from aequorin time-course data. Each value was calculated with the average baseline value (i) subtracted. Touch peak was the highest value of the touch response due to mechanical stimulus from the treatment application (ii; 35 – 41 s or 35 – 155 s for control solution). Maximum Peak 1 (iii; 42-63 s) and Maximum Peak 2 (iv; 64-155 s) were the maximum value for each peak. Total $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$ accumulation (v) was obtained by integrating the area under the curve (AUC).

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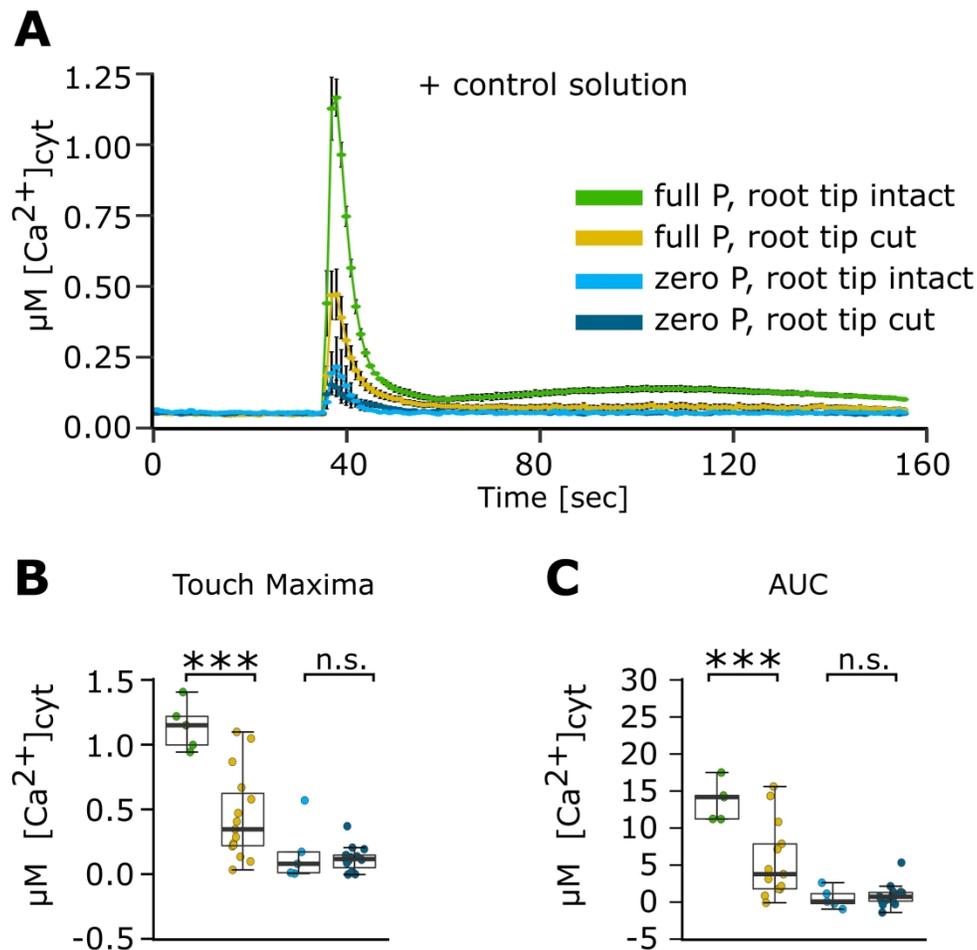


Fig. 2. The $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$ response of Pi-replete and Pi-starved intact or cut root tips to control solution. Arabidopsis Col-0 aequorin-expressing seedlings were grown on full or zero Pi medium. Root tips (1 cm; "root tip intact") or cut root tips (1 cm of root tip with the apical 1 mm cut off) were challenged with control solution applied at 35 s, and $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$ was measured for 155 s. (A) Mechanical stimulation (caused by control solution); time course trace represents mean \pm SEM from 2 independent trials, with $n = 5$ individual intact root tips, and 3 independent trials, with $n = 15$ individual cut root tips averaged per data point. Time course data were analysed for (B) touch maximum, (C) area under the curve (AUC), all baseline-subtracted, with each dot representing an individual data point. In the boxplot, each dot represents an individual data point. The thick middle line denotes the median, separating the upper and lower half of the data; the hinges (box outline) denote median of the upper and the lower half of the data, respectively; the bars denote entirety of data excluding outliers. Analysis of variance (ANOVA) with post-hoc Tukey Test was used to assess statistical differences. Significance levels (p-values): *** (<0.001), n.s. (not significant).

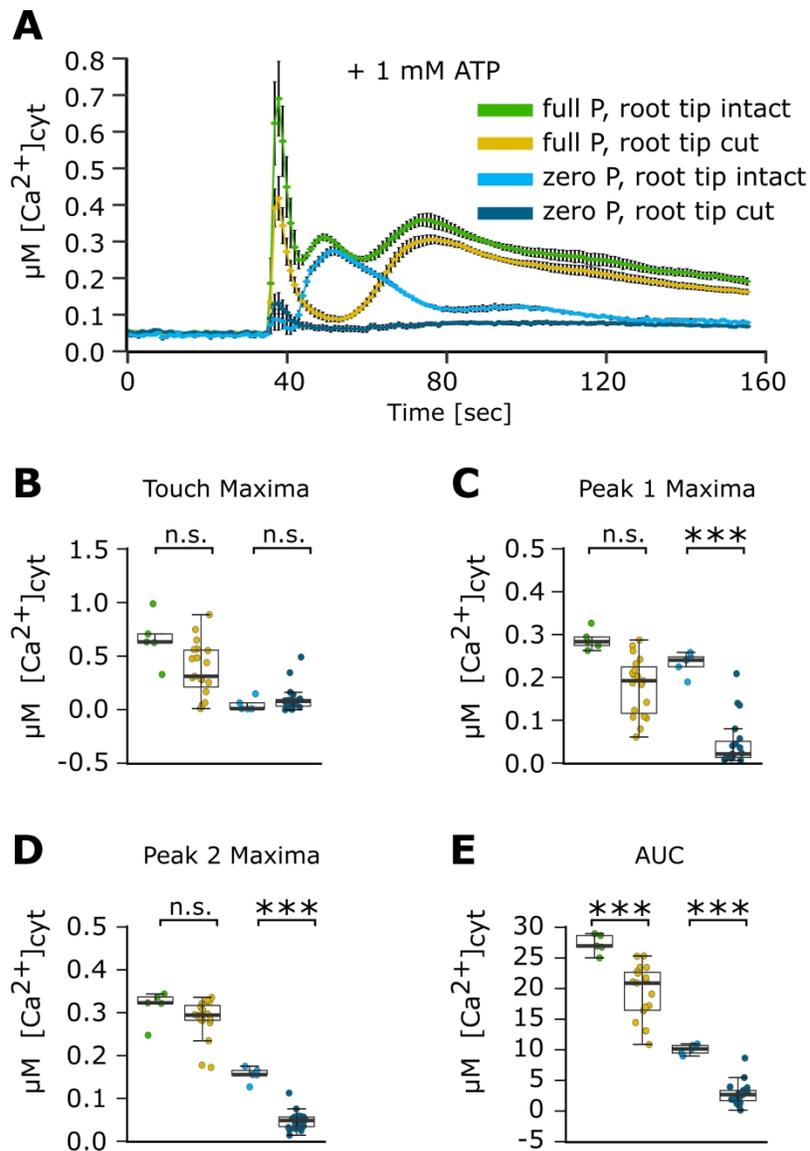


Fig. 3. The $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$ response of Pi-replete and Pi-starved intact or cut root tips to eATP. Arabidopsis Col-0 aequorin-expressing seedlings were grown on full or zero Pi medium. Root tips (1 cm; "root tip intact") or cut root tips (1 cm of root tip with the apical 1 mm cut off) were challenged with 1 mM eATP applied at 35 s, and $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$ was measured for 155 s. (A) eATP; time course trace represents mean \pm SEM from 2 independent trials, with $n = 5$ individual intact root tips, and 3 independent trials, with $n = 19$ individual cut root tips averaged per data point. Time course data were analysed for (B) touch maximum, (C) Peak 1 maxima, (D) Peak 2 maxima and (E) area under the curve (AUC), all baseline-subtracted, with each dot representing an individual data point. In the boxplot, each dot represents an individual data point. The thick middle line denotes the median, separating the upper and lower half of the data; the hinges (box outline) denote median of the upper and the lower half of the data, respectively; the bars denote entirety of data excluding outliers. Analysis of variance (ANOVA) with post-hoc Tukey Test was used to assess statistical differences. Significance levels (p-values): *** (<0.001), n.s. (not significant).

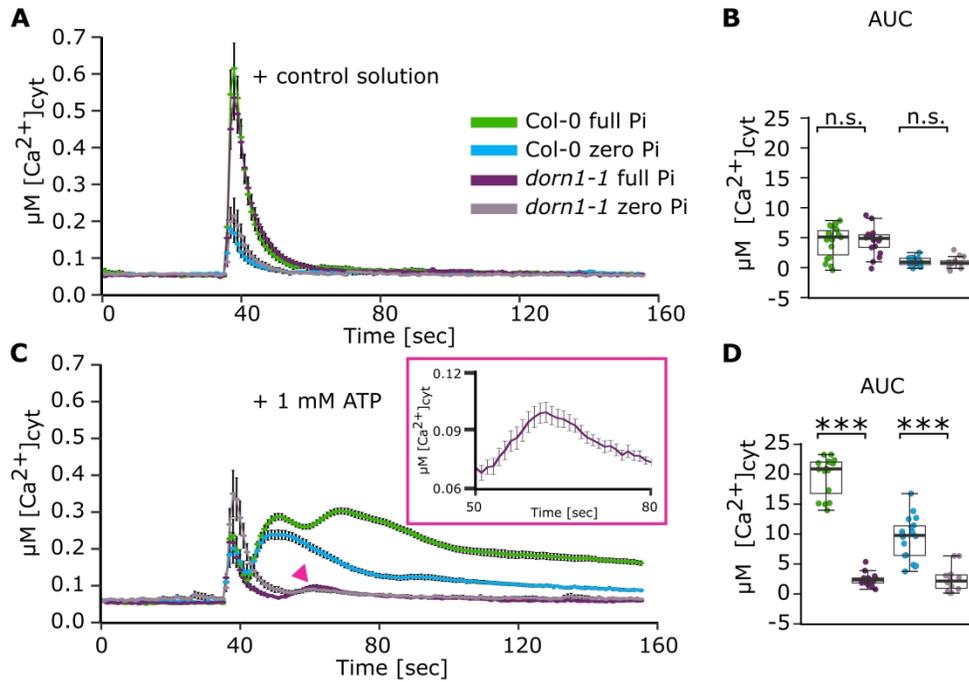


Fig. 4. The $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_{\text{cyt}}$ response to extracellular ATP requires DORN1/P2K1. Col-0 and *dorn1-1* were grown on full or zero Pi. Root tips (1 cm) were challenged at 35 s. (A) Control solution; mean \pm standard error of mean (SEM) time course from 3 independent trials, with $n = 13 - 18$ individual root tips averaged per data point. Maximal $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_{\text{cyt}}$ increase did not differ significantly between the genotypes for either Pi condition. (B) Time course data were analysed for area under the curve (AUC), baseline-subtracted, with each dot representing an individual data point. Boxplot middle line denotes median. Comparisons shown are Col-0 versus *dorn1-1* for full Pi and zero Pi. (C-D) Responses to 1 mM eATP (3 independent trials, $n = 16 - 18$ individual root tips per growth condition and genotype). In (C) pink arrowhead points to the significant $[\text{Ca}^{2+}]_{\text{cyt}}$ increase in Pi-replete *dorn1-1*, an enlarged version of which is shown in the pink inset box. Analysis of variance (ANOVA) with post-hoc Tukey Test was used to assess statistical differences. Significance levels (p-values): *** (<0.001), n.s. (not significant).

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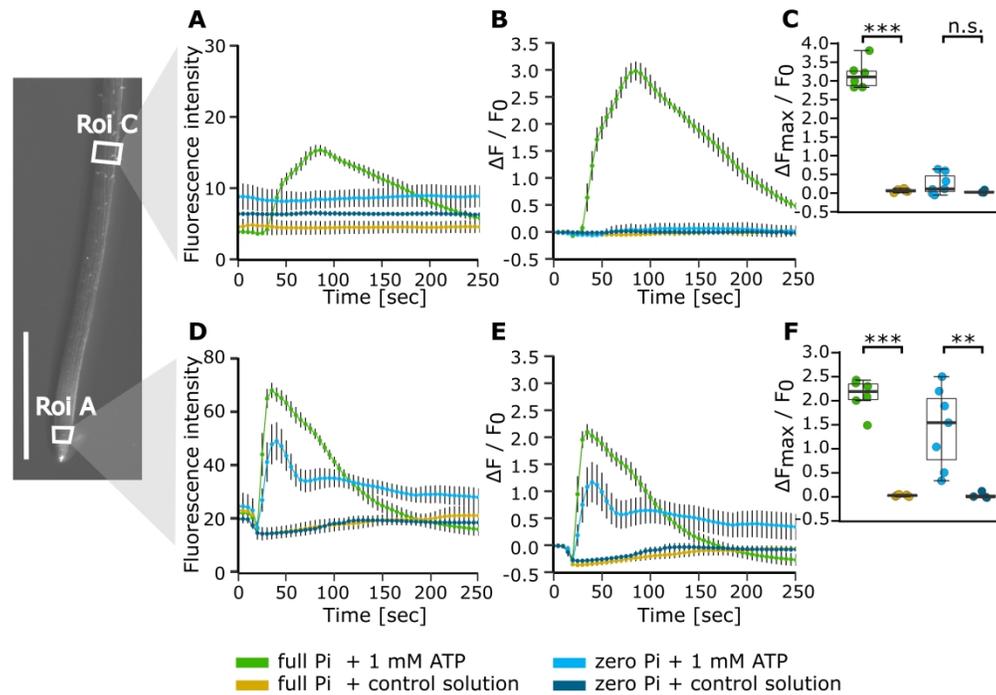


Fig. 5. The $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$ response to eATP in specific regions of root tips using an intensimetric reporter. *Arabidopsis Col-0* expressing cytosolic GCaMP3 was grown on either full or zero Pi medium for 10 days. Control or 1 mM eATP treatment solution was applied 20 s after the start of image acquisition to the root tip of a seedling resting on gel-based growth medium, and imaged for 250 s in total. On the left, example root tip with annotated regions of interest ('Roi', white boxes), scale bar: 1 mm. (A, B): Roi C; (D, E): Roi A. (A, D) Mean GFP fluorescence intensity \pm SEM, background subtracted, and (B, E) normalized GFP fluorescence ($\Delta F / F_0$) \pm SEM; data from 3 independent trials, with $n = 4 - 7$ individual roots per growth condition and treatment. (C, F) Extracted normalized fluorescence maxima ($\Delta F_{max} / F_0$). Boxplot thick line denotes median. Analysis of variance (ANOVA) with post-hoc Tukey Test was used to assess statistical differences. Significance levels (p-values): *** (< 0.001), n.s. (not significant).

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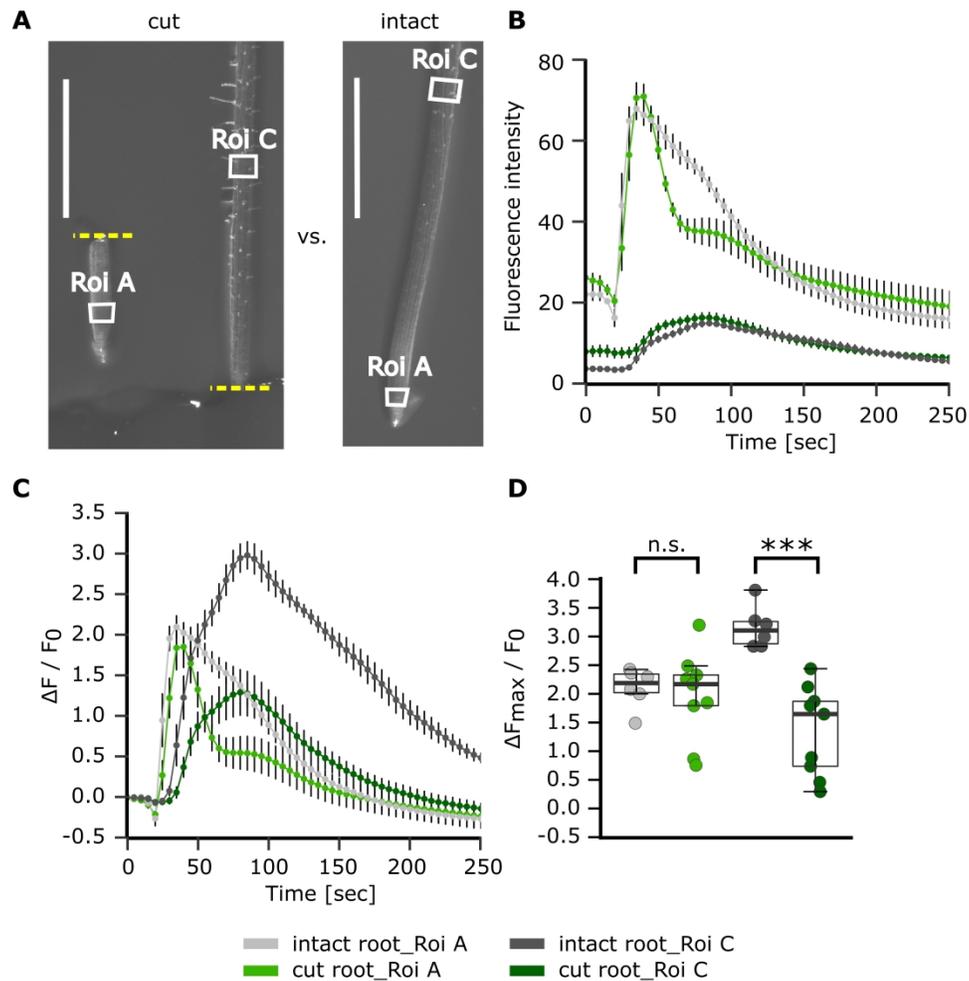


Fig. 6. Root dissection reveals that the sub-apical $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$ response to eATP is not fully autonomous. *Arabidopsis Col-0* expressing the cytosolic GCaMP3 was grown on half MS growth medium (full Pi). Primary roots of 10-day old seedlings were modified prior to the assays by excising 0.8 – 1 mm of apical root tip ("cut root") or left as "intact root". Twenty seconds after the start of image acquisition, control or 1 mM eATP solution was applied to the root tip (and stump) which were then imaged for 250 s in total. (A) Root micrographs depicting cut root (yellow dashed line indicates site of cut, with root tip's being placed next to root stump), and intact root, including regions of interest used for analysis (Roi A, Roi C; indicated by white boxes). Scale bar: 1 mm. (B) Mean GFP fluorescence intensity \pm SEM, background subtracted, and (C) normalized GFP fluorescence ($\Delta F/F_0$) \pm SEM; data from 3 independent trials, with $n = 6 - 9$ individual roots per root modification. (D) Extracted normalized fluorescence maxima ($\Delta F_{max}/F_0$) of individual Roi, each dot represents an individual data point, boxplot thick line denotes median. Analysis of variance (ANOVA) with post-hoc Tukey Test was used to assess statistical differences. Significance levels (p-values): *** (<0.001), n.s. (not significant).

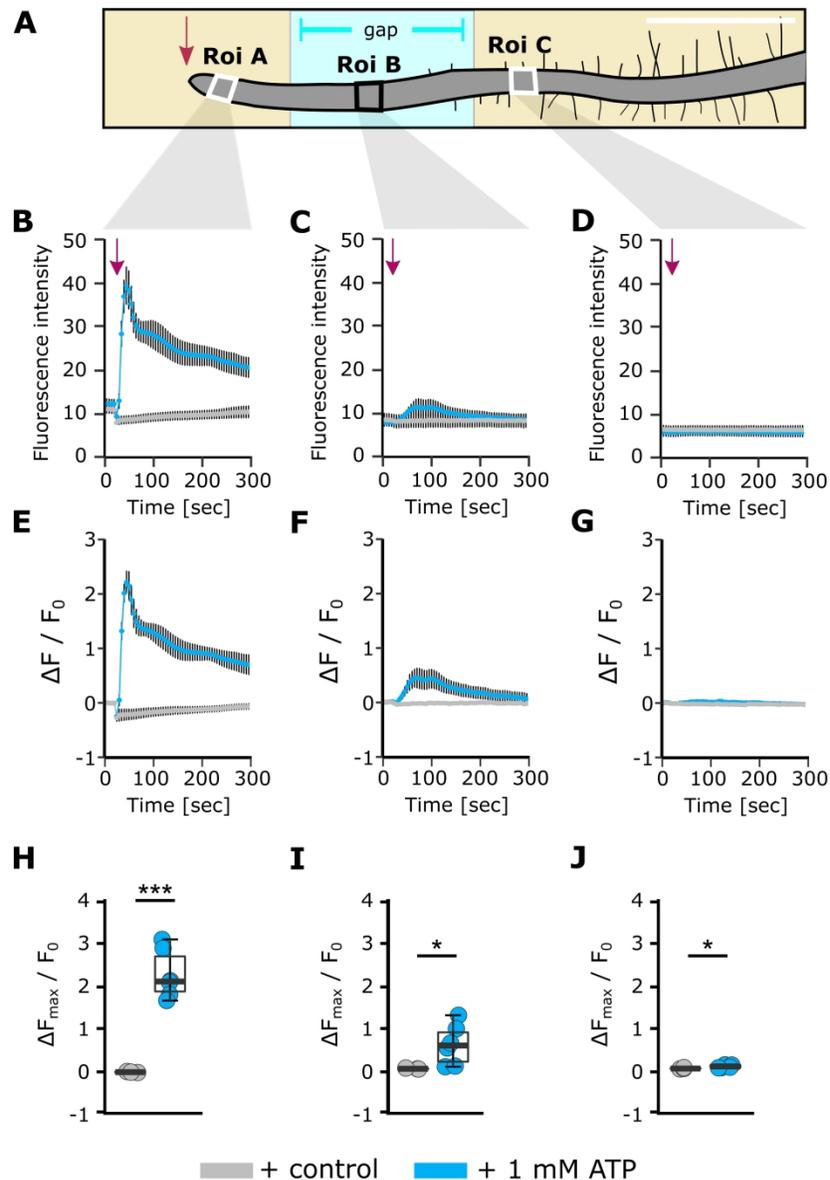


Fig. 7. Localised eATP application to the root tip causes progressive $[Ca^{2+}]_{cyt}$ increases in the root. (A) Schematic of a 10-day old Arabidopsis Pi-starved Col-0 seedling (expressing cytosolic GCaMP3) placed across a gap in the growth medium agar (Supplementary Fig. S2). Annotated regions of interest ('Roi') were used for analysis, scale bar: 1 mm. Twenty seconds after the start of image acquisition, 3 μ l of control or 1 mM eATP solution was applied to the root tip (indicated by arrow) and then imaged for in total 495 s. (B, C, D) Mean GFP fluorescence intensity \pm SEM, background subtracted, and (E, F, G) normalized GFP fluorescence ($\Delta F / F_0$) \pm SEM for Roi A, B and C respectively. Data are from 3 independent trials, with $n = 3$ individual roots for control treatments per growth condition, and $n = 6 - 9$ individual roots per eATP treatment and growth condition. (H, I, J) Extracted normalized fluorescence maxima ($\Delta F_{max} / F_0$) for Roi A, B and C respectively. Each dot represents an individual data point, middle line denotes median. Significance levels (p-values, Welch two sample t-test) in H-J: *** (< 0.001), * (< 0.05), n.s. (> 0.05).

Supplementary Figure

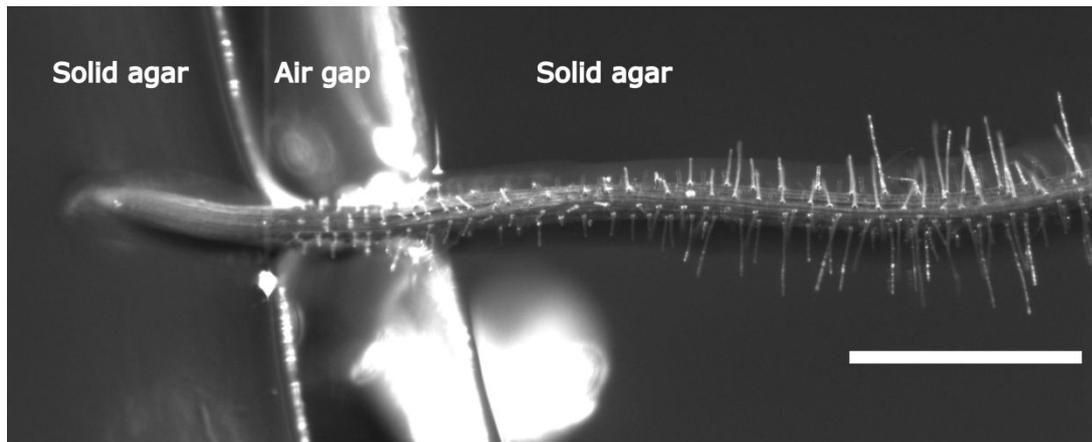


Fig. S1. Brightfield image of a phosphate-starved *Arabidopsis* root laid across an air-gap on an agar plate to carry out GCaMP3 “wave” experiments. Scale bar: 1mm.