



14 **Abstract:**

15 Common bean (*Phaseolus vulgaris* L.) is the most important grain legume for  
16 direct human consumption. Proteomic studies in legumes have increased  
17 significantly in the last years but few studies have been performed to date in *P.*  
18 *vulgaris*. We report here a proteomic analysis of bean seeds by two-dimensional  
19 electrophoresis (2-DE). Three different protein extraction methods (TCA–  
20 acetone, phenol and the commercial clean-up kit) were used taking into account  
21 that the extractome can have a determinant impact on the level of quality of  
22 downstream protein separation and identification. To demonstrate the quality of  
23 the 2-DE analysis, a selection of 50 gel spots was used in protein identification  
24 by mass spectrometry (MALDI-TOF MS and MALDI-TOF/TOF). The results  
25 showed that a considerable proportion of spots (70%) were identified in spite of  
26 incomplete genome/protein databases for bean and other legume species. Most  
27 identified proteins corresponded to storage protein, carbohydrate metabolism,  
28 defense and stress response, including proteins highly abundant in the seed of  
29 *P. vulgaris* such as the phaseolin, the phytohemagglutinin and the lectinrelated  
30  $\alpha$ -amylase inhibitor.

31 **Keywords:** *Phaseolus vulgaris*, Seed proteome, Two-dimensional  
32 electrophoresis, Mass spectrometry, Protein extraction methods

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## 35        **1. Introduction**

36    Common bean, *Phaseolus vulgaris* L., is one of the most ancient crops in the  
37    world and the most important source of proteins for many countries,  
38    fundamentally in America, Africa and Asia. Bean seed appears, moreover, to be  
39    a source of vitamins, dietetic fiber, and minerals, without unsaturated fatty acids.  
40    This is one of the reasons why bean seed intake is related to a decrease in the  
41    risk of suffering from heart stroke, colon cancer and gastrointestinal diseases  
42    [1,2]. Common bean was suggested to be a diploid model species within the  
43    legume family [3], since it displays particular characteristics with regard to its  
44    breeding (it is considered an extreme selfing species, about 95% of selfing on  
45    average), and its ability to fix atmospheric nitrogen through a symbiotic  
46    relationship with *Rhizobium* bacteria [4], apart from its specific model of evolution  
47    where multiple domestications took place in America from wild populations. In this  
48    respect, the genetic diversity in common bean is organized in two major  
49    geographic gene pools, the Mesoamerican and Andean gene pools. Independent  
50    domestication events in Mesoamerica and the Andes have led to two distinct  
51    cultivated gene pools which are the result of the evolution under both natural  
52    conditions and cultivation [5,6].

53    In recent years, large-scale profiling and identification of proteins based on two-  
54    dimensional electrophoresis (2-DE) and mass spectrometry (MS) have been  
55    carried out in legume species principally in the model legume *Medicago*  
56    *truncatula* [7–10]. In a less extent, proteomic studies have been also performed  
57    in other legume species such as *Lotus japonicus* [11], *Pisum sativum* [12,13],  
58    *Glycine max* [14,15] and *Pithecellobium dulce* [16]. Nevertheless, to our  
59    knowledge no systematic study of the proteome of the common bean *P. vulgaris*

60 has yet been performed, although in this species proteomic technologies have  
61 been used for studying specific problems relative to host–pathogen molecular  
62 interactions and seed storage protein deficiency [17–20]. On the other hand, gene  
63 cloning and sequencing in the common bean have produced a number of  
64 complete coding sequences (CDSs) for genes involved in insect and disease  
65 resistance and important traits for common bean productivity. Also the number of  
66 expressed sequence tags (ESTs) available in EST collections has increased  
67 markedly in the recent years [3,21]. At this moment, two international projects for  
68 sequencing the whole genome of *Phaseolus vulgaris* are in progress: PhasIbeAm  
69 (Latin-American Science & Technology Development Programme) and the Bean  
70 CAP (USA). Synergy between proteome and genome information is expected to  
71 produce a more integrated knowledge for this species.

72 In this work, an approximation to the seed proteome of the common bean is  
73 performed by using two-dimensional gel electrophoresis (2-DE) to separate seed  
74 proteins from ICA Pijao genotype (domesticated genotype from Colombia  
75 belonging to the Mesoamerican gene pool).

76

## 77        **2. Material and Methods**

78    Three different protein extraction methods were used: trichloroacetic acid–  
79    acetone (TCA–acetone) [22], phenol [23] and the commercial clean-up kit  
80    (GE Healthcare). Each extraction protocol was replicated four times from a tissue  
81    resulting from pooling three single seeds. Approximately 250 µg of the total  
82    protein was loaded on 24-cm Reading Strips IPGs (immobilized pH gradients,  
83    Bio-Rad Laboratories) with 4–7 pH linear gradients for the first-dimension  
84    separation (see Supplementary material). The SDS-polyacrylamide gel  
85    electrophoresis (SDS-PAGE) for the second-dimension separation was carried  
86    out in an Ettan Dalt six gel system (GE Healthcare, Uppsala, Sweden). Gels were  
87    stained with Sypro Ruby® stain (Bio-Rad Laboratories) and digitalized using the  
88    Fujifilm LAS-3000 Imager system. Subsequently, 2-DE gels were stained with  
89    silver stain for visual inspection. Optimization of the 2-DE run conditions was  
90    accomplished in order to obtain gels with the highest resolution, separation of the  
91    protein spots, the lowest background staining and the highest reproducibility.

## 92        **3. Results and discussion**

93    Fig. 1 shows representative 2-DE gels of seed proteins for each of the three  
94    extraction protocols. All three methods resulted in good quality, well-resolved  
95    gels, with reduced vertical and horizontal streaking and smearing. However the  
96    phenol method gave place to the clearest gel background, increased resolution  
97    of protein spots and less streaking on both horizontal and vertical dimensions as  
98    compared to the TCA–acetone and clean-up methods. Image analysis with  
99    PDQuest™ Advanced software v8.0.1 (Bio-Rad Laboratories) allowed us to  
100    generate a total number of 571 spots matched among gels. The spatial  
101    distribution of the matched spots along the 2-DE gel showed differences among

102 protocols. Thus, when gel images were split into four sections or quadrants (Q1–  
103 4) numbered 1 to 4 clockwise, starting from the top left corner, a higher number  
104 of spots were observed in quadrant Q2 for the phenol method (ANOVA test:  
105  $F=7.27$ ,  $P=0.013$ ; Supplementary Fig. S1 and Supplementary Table S1).  
106 Therefore, the phenol method captured more proteins with less acidic pI and  
107 higher Mr than TCA–acetone and clean-up methods. This observation adds to  
108 the evidence suggesting that the phenol method increases the number of high Mr  
109 protein spots for the more neutral and basic gel region from protein extracts of  
110 cotton, apple, tomato and the eukhalophyte *S. europaea*, as compared to TCA–  
111 acetone [24–26]. However, Saravanan and Rose [23] did not detect a consistent  
112 differential pattern for pI or Mr between TCA–acetone and phenol methods.

113 A multivariate analysis for normalized volume of the matched spots was  
114 performed by means of a principal component analysis (PCA). Fig. 2A shows the  
115 score plot for the principal components (PCs) one and two, which explained  
116 27.4% and 15.0% of the variation, respectively. The first principal component  
117 clearly separates phenol samples from the other two samples, while TCA–  
118 acetone and clean-up samples are separated by the second principal component.  
119 Fig. 2B shows the loading plot for PC1 and PC2 where those variables (spots)  
120 responsible for the separation observed in the score plot can be seen. A large  
121 number of spots presented high positive loadings for PC1 which indicated that all  
122 these spots are highly correlated and they are involved in the separation of the  
123 phenol samples from the other two extraction protocols. An ordinary statistical  
124 analysis was also performed in order to detect quantitative differences for  
125 normalized volume of matched spots between extraction methods. This analysis  
126 revealed that 322 out of 571 spots (56.4%) presented a fold change higher than

127 2 between protocols being these differences statistically significant by the Mann–  
128 Whitney test ( $P < 0.05$ ), while the remaining 249 spots (43.6%) were shared by all  
129 three extraction protocols (Supplementary Tables S2 and S3, and Supplementary  
130 Fig. S2). There were 150 spots unique in phenol which presented a significant  
131 enhanced volume in this protocol as compared to 25 unique spots in TCA–  
132 acetone and 39 in clean-up. For any protocol, the great majority of unique spots  
133 were located in quadrant Q2 corresponding to proteins of higher pI and Mr.  
134 Overall, our results suggest the phenol method as the first choice for protein  
135 extraction in bean seed proteomic approaches because it gives rise to high-  
136 quality 2-DE gels, the largest amount of spots for less acidic proteins of high  
137 molecular weight and the largest number of spots with increased volume.  
138 However, TCA–acetone and clean-up extractions could add enriched proteome  
139 coverage.

140 The compatibility of gel-based bean seed proteomic analyses with mass  
141 spectrometry (MS) was tested from the analyses of 50 excised gel spots  
142 differentially or not differentially extracted by the three protein extraction protocols  
143 assayed (Supplementary Fig. S3). A combination of matrix-assisted laser-  
144 desorption/ionization time-of-flight mass spectrometry (MALDI-TOF MS) and  
145 MALDI-TOF/TOF was used in protein identification of tryptic digested spots (see  
146 Supplementary material). MS data were obtained in an automated analysis loop  
147 using 4800 MALDI-TOF/ TOF analyzer (Applied Biosystems). Peptide mass  
148 fingerprinting (PMF) and peptide fragmentation spectra data of each sample were  
149 combined through the GPS Explorer Software v3.6 (Applied Biosystems) using  
150 Mascot software v2.1. (Matrix Science) to search against a non-identical protein  
151 database (NCBI nr release data 20100526). Our study shows that separation of

152 TCA–acetone, phenol and clean-up extractomes by 2-DE was efficient in  
153 achieving optimal identification of bean seed proteins (Table 1 and  
154 Supplementary Table S4). We were able to identify up to 70% of 50 excised gel  
155 spots. From the 35 resolved spots, 40 different proteins were successfully  
156 identified because four spots (26, 66, 83 and 486) yielded more than one  
157 confident identification. Most of the identified proteins corresponded to *P. vulgaris*  
158 (67.5%) or other legume species (15%): *Phaseolus acutifolius*, *L. japonicus*, *P.*  
159 *sativum*, *Daucus carota* and *Vigna unguiculata*. This efficiency of identification is  
160 within the range of efficiency reported in previous proteomic studies carried out  
161 in seeds of a variety of plant species including the model plant *Arabidopsis*  
162 *thaliana* (Supplementary Table S5), in spite of the limited number of available  
163 sequences in databases when bean genome sequencing projects are still in  
164 progress. Several factors contributed to increase the number of identifications.  
165 First, a large number of excised gel spots (40%) were identified as being  
166 phaseolins (PHS), the lectin phytohemagglutinin (PHA) or the lectin-related  $\alpha$ -  
167 amylase inhibitor ( $\alpha$ AI), well characterized bean proteins that make up to about  
168 70% of total bean seed protein [20]. Second, information on genomes of other  
169 plant species was also very useful for the identification of highly conserved  
170 metabolism enzymes. Finally, most of the identifications were made using high-  
171 quality spectra derived from MS/MS rather than through PMF of the tryptic digested  
172 spots.

173 A number of protein spots exhibited remarkable discrepancies between the  
174 theoretical and experimental values in Mr and/or pI. In addition, different spots  
175 were identified as the same protein. These discrepancies in Mr and/or pI could  
176 correspond to isoforms generated by a variety of causes, including post-

177 translational modifications, alternative splicing and the occurrence of multigene  
178 families. The following two examples show, however, that proteolysis can be a  
179 major factor at work here. First, PHS is encoded by a small gene family of 6–10  
180 tightly linked sequences that consists of two subfamilies ( $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ ) encoding  
181 polypeptide size classes  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ . These polypeptide size classes were previously  
182 resolved by 2-DE within a range in  $M_r$  from 52.0 to 45.0 kDa and or pIs near pH  
183 5 [27,28], whereas the fifteen phaseolins spots (62, 66, 81, 83, 105, 110, 111,  
184 224, 296, 311, 354, 355, 356, 368, 496) identified in our study ranged in  $M_r$   
185 from 51.1 to 17.7 and in pI from 6.5 to 4.6. It has been reported that no substantial  
186 changes in the molecular structure of PHS are detectable before 7–10 days  
187 following seed germination when PHS is then degraded by proteolytic enzymes  
188 into discrete clusters of fragments of 27–23 kDa [29]. In contrast, our study  
189 suggests the occurrence of partial proteolysis of the PHS prior to seed  
190 germination. Second,  $\alpha$ AI is considered to be a truncated form of PHA that is  
191 synthesized as a precursor polypeptide of approximately 40 kDa and then post-  
192 translationally processed to several polypeptides in the  $M_r$  range from 15 to 18  
193 kDa [30,31].

194 Accordingly, we identified  $\alpha$ AI spots with an experimental  $M_r$  of approximately  
195 27.2 and 15.1 kDa, which might correspond to polypeptide fragments arising from  
196 successive proteolysis of the precursor polypeptide. Overall, the great  
197 reproducibility of spots over replicates and extraction protocols together with the  
198 fact that phenol-based method minimizes the proteolysis during extraction, make  
199 in vitro proteolysis less likely.

200 The proteins identified by MS were classified in different groups corresponding to  
201 their presumed biological function: storage protein, carbohydrate metabolism,

202 defense, stress response, detoxification, growth and development, protein  
203 transport and nitrogen metabolism (Table 1; Supplementary Fig. S4).

204 Most identified protein spots corresponded to storage protein (37.5%),  
205 carbohydrate metabolism (22.5%), defense (17.5%) and stress response  
206 (10.0%). Nevertheless, each extraction method provided a differentiated profile  
207 of the bean seed proteome when identified proteins were grouped into functional  
208 categories: the TCA–acetone and clean-up methods extracted the highest  
209 amount of storage and defense proteins whereas the phenol method extracted  
210 the highest amount of carbohydrate metabolism proteins. In addition, remarkable  
211 differences were also detected among protocols when identified proteins were  
212 classified in glycosylated (phaseolins and lectins family) vs. the remainder non-  
213 glycosylated proteins (Supplementary Fig. S4).

214 Thus, the number of glycosylated/non-glycosylated protein spots showing  
215 significant enhanced extraction was 15/3, 1/8 and 13/1 for TCA–acetone, phenol  
216 and clean-up, respectively. It follows that TCA–acetone and clean-up gave  
217 enriched seed extracts of glycoproteins as compared to phenol (Fisher's exact  
218 test,  $P < 0.001$ ). On the contrary, previous studies with tomato and some species  
219 of fruits have shown that the phenol-based method yielded greater number of  
220 glycoproteins than TCA-based methods [23,32]. However, our results must be  
221 cautiously interpreted because pI and Mr experimental values were generally  
222 lower for glycosylated than for non-glycosylated proteins (Mann–Whitney test,  
223  $P < 0.05$  and  $P < 0.001$  for pI and Mr, respectively) and the aforementioned  
224 observations suggest that the phenol method was less efficient to extract acidic  
225 proteins of low molecular weight. Therefore, differences in pI and Mr among  
226 glycosylated and non-glycosylated proteins might be underlying glycosylation-

227 dependent extraction patterns over protocols. In addition, many identified  
228 glycoproteins (64%) were actually degradation products of PHS with unknown  
229 levels of glycosylation. In this regard, it has been reported that PHS has three  
230 different N-linked oligosaccharide side chains attached to Asn amino acid  
231 residues: two glycosylation sites at position 252 and one at position 341, the  
232 numbering starting with the N-terminal methionine of the signal peptide [28]. But  
233 MSMS analyses revealed that most (64.3%) PHS fragments (spots 105, 224,  
234 296, 311, 354, 355, 356, 368, and 496) identified in our study corresponded to  
235 the C-terminal sequence (positions from 257 to 421) that does not contain two  
236 canonical glycosylation sites. Therefore, the differential extraction patterns of  
237 bean seed glycoproteins detected among protocols might be more apparent than  
238 real.

239 Supplementary data associated with this article can be found, in the online  
240 version, at doi:10.1016/j.jprot.2010.10.004.

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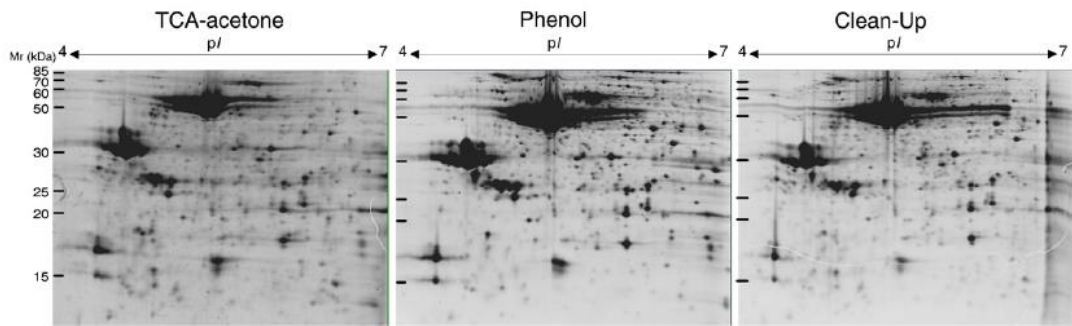
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348 **CAPTIONS TO FIGURE**

349 **Figure 1.** Representative 2-DE gels of proteins from bean seed extracted by  
350 three different protocols: TCA–acetone, phenol and clean-up. Proteins were  
351 separated on a linear pH 4–7 gradient in the first dimension and visualized using  
352 Sypro Ruby® staining. The approximate positions of molecular mass markers  
353 (kDa) are indicated on the left of the figure.

354 **Figure 2.** Principal component analysis for normalized volume of spots. A) Score  
355 plot for principal components (PCs) one and two. B) Loading plot for PC1 and  
356 PC2 (loadings were computed only for those spots presenting statistically  
357 significant differences between protein extraction methods by the Mann–Whitney  
358 tests).

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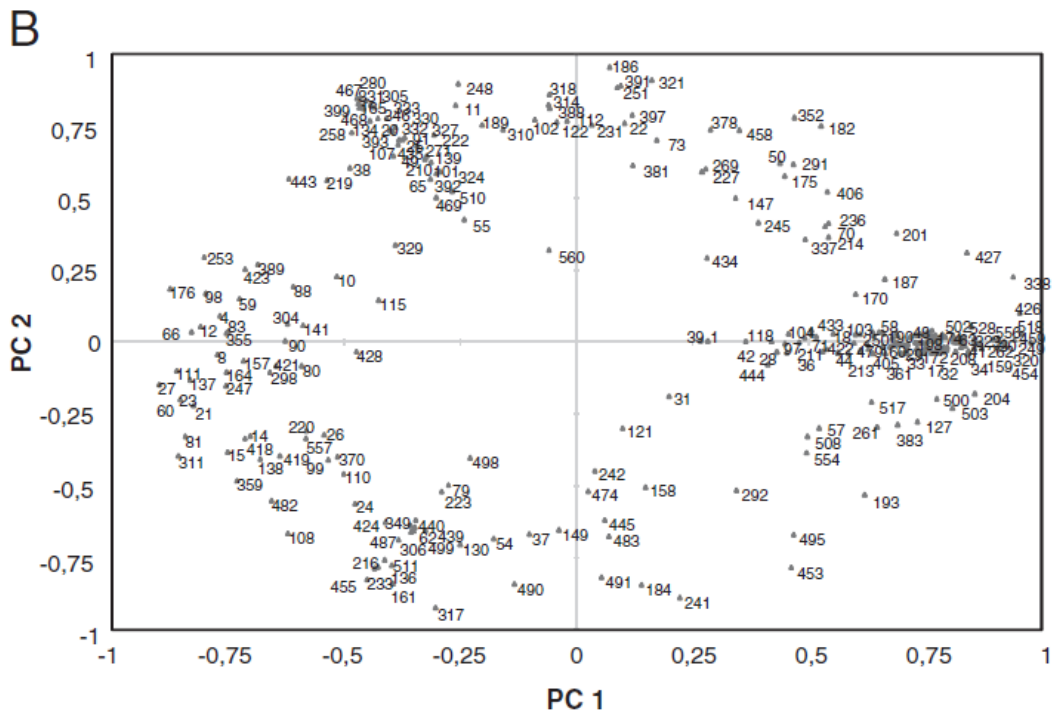
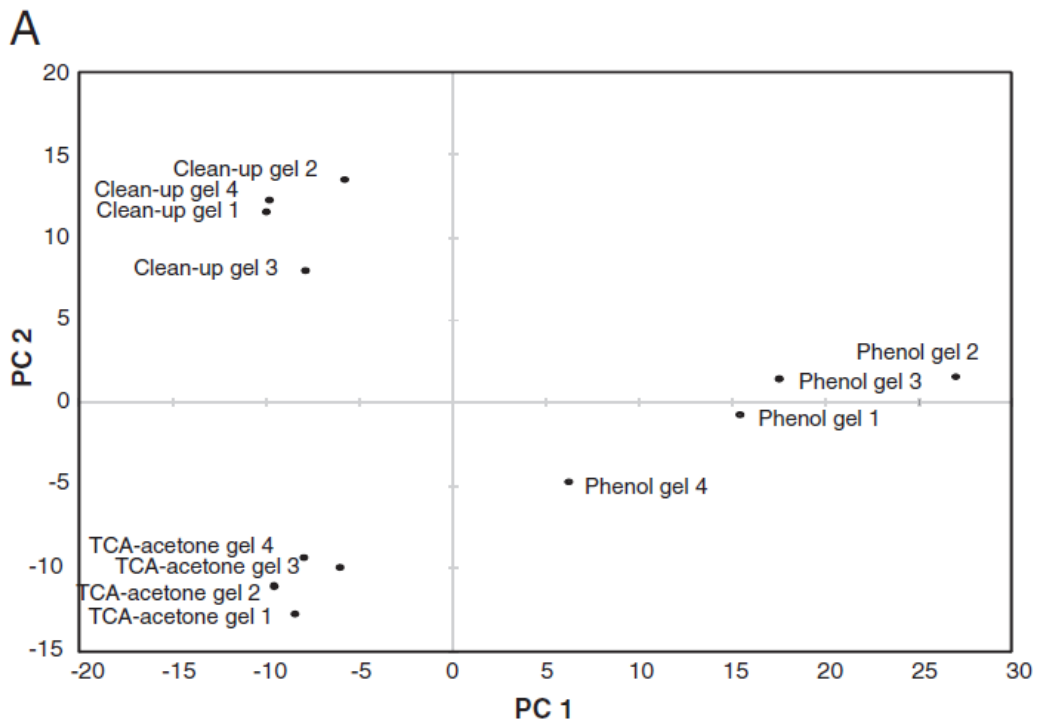


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361 **Figure 1.**

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365 **Figure 2.**

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369 **Table 1.** List of 2-DE-based identified *P.vulgaris* seed proteins by MALDI-TOF  
 370 and MALDI-TOF/TOF

Spot no.	Protein identity	Mascot score	Match/ % Cov.	Mr (kDa)		pI	
				Theo.	Exp.	Theo.	Exp.
Storage protein							
62	Phaseolin, $\alpha$ -type ( <i>P. vulgaris</i> )	563	13/33	49.2	18.3	5.3	4.9
66	Phaseolin — ( <i>P. vulgaris</i> )	174	9/23	48.4	26.4	5.4	4.6
81	Phaseolin, $\alpha$ type — ( <i>P. vulgaris</i> )	556	20/60	49.2	39.4	5.3	5.0
83	Phaseolin — ( <i>P. vulgaris</i> )	251	15/43	47.5	51.1	5.0	4.9
105	Phaseolin — ( <i>P. vulgaris</i> )	60	5/14	47.5	19.6	5.4	5.3
110	Phaseolin, chain A — ( <i>P. vulgaris</i> )	97	9/32	45.0	17.7	5.2	5.0
111	Phaseolin, chain A — ( <i>P. vulgaris</i> )	420	12/30	45.0	18.5	5.2	5.0
224	Phaseolin — ( <i>P. vulgaris</i> )	388	12/36	48.4	20.7	5.3	5.7
296	Phaseolin — ( <i>P. vulgaris</i> )	444	12/29	47.5	25.3	5.4	6.1
311	Phaseolin — ( <i>P. vulgaris</i> )	335	12/34	47.5	30.4	5.4	5.9
354	Phaseolin, $\alpha$ -type — ( <i>P. vulgaris</i> )	391	16/36	49.2	21.1	5.3	6.3
355	Phaseolin, $\alpha$ -type — ( <i>P. vulgaris</i> )	302	12/34	49.2	23.8	5.3	6.3
356	Phaseolin — ( <i>P. vulgaris</i> )	509	12/34	47.5	19.9	5.4	6.1
368	Phaseolin, $\alpha$ -type — ( <i>P. vulgaris</i> )	348	15/31	49.2	26.0	5.3	6.1
496	Phaseolin — ( <i>P. vulgaris</i> )	69	5/14	48.8	25.6	5.4	6.5
Carbohydrate metabolism							
121	$\alpha$ -1,4 glucan phosphorylase L isozyme, chloroplastic/amyloplastic — ( <i>Triticum aestivum</i> )	81	6/13	52.1	29.7	5.0	5.3
183	Glucose and ribitol dehydrogenase — ( <i>Daucus carota</i> )	64	3/8	31.7	18.6	6.3	5.6
325	Malate dehydrogenase [NADP], chloroplastic- ( <i>Zea mays</i> )	162	16/44	35.9	39.8	5.8	6.0
404	Ribulose 1,5-bisphosphate carboxylase-oxygenase, large subunit — ( <i>Callaeum septentrionale</i> )	754	25/53	52.1	64.1	6.1	6.2
460	Ribulose 1,5-bisphosphate carboxylase-oxygenase, large subunit — ( <i>Piptanthus nepalensis</i> )	136	9/24	50.8	60.5	6.3	6.3
472	Ribulose 1,5-bisphosphate carboxylase-oxygenase, large subunit — ( <i>Dipogon lignosus</i> )	676	22/53	49.9	63.4	6.3	6.1
426	Granule-bound starch synthase I — ( <i>P. vulgaris</i> )	316	5/11	67.6	18.6	6.4	6.5
427	Granule-bound starch synthase I — ( <i>P. vulgaris</i> )	414	9/19	67.6	18.0	6.4	6.5
457	Phosphoglycerate kinase — ( <i>Arabidopsis thaliana</i> )	63	4/13	42.2	43.5	5.5	6.3
Defense							
5	$\alpha$ -Amylase inhibitor $\beta$ subunit — ( <i>P. vulgaris</i> )	359	6/69	15.4	15.1	4.7	4.4
26	$\alpha$ -Amylase inhibitor $\beta$ subunit — ( <i>P. vulgaris</i> )	134	6/68	15.4	27.2	4.7	4.4
83	$\alpha$ -Amylase inhibitor like protein — ( <i>P. vulgaris</i> )	95	3/17	28.9	51.1	4.95	4.9
26	Phytohemagglutinin — ( <i>P. vulgaris</i> )	443	11/53	29.7	27.2	4.8	4.4
66	Phytohemagglutinin — ( <i>P. vulgaris</i> )	104	9/43	29.8	26.4	5.0	4.6
27	Lectin — ( <i>P. vulgaris</i> )	462	8/42	29.6	26.8	4.8	4.6
66	Lectin — ( <i>P. vulgaris</i> )	100	4/20	29.6	26.4	4.8	4.6
Stress response							
360	Heat-shock cognate — ( <i>D. carota</i> )	136	4/17	18.5	18.2	10.6	6.1
523	Pv42p — ( <i>P. vulgaris</i> )	105	6/21	41.6	43.1	6.5	6.5
486	Superoxide dismutase [Mn] — ( <i>Pisum sativum</i> )	98	4/20	26.7	25.6	7.2	5.7
554	Dehydrin — ( <i>Vigna unguiculata</i> )	92	1/10	26.5	27.3	6.0	6.9
Detoxification							
43	Putative glutathione S-transferase — ( <i>Phaseolus acutifolius</i> )	86	2/13	24.8	38.0	5.6	6.0
486	NAD-dependent formate dehydrogenase — ( <i>Oryza sativa</i> )	87	4/10	41.4	25.6	6.9	6.5
Growth and development							
441	IAA-protein conjugate — ( <i>P. vulgaris</i> )	413	23/53	35.5	36.4	6.2	6.4
Protein transport							
500	GTP-binding nuclear protein Ran1A — ( <i>Lotus japonicus</i> )	260	10/52	24.1	27.4	6.7	6.7
Nitrogen metabolism							
524	Glutamine synthetase $\beta$ 2, cytosolic — ( <i>P. vulgaris</i> )	57	3/42	39.3	41.1	6.1	6.4

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