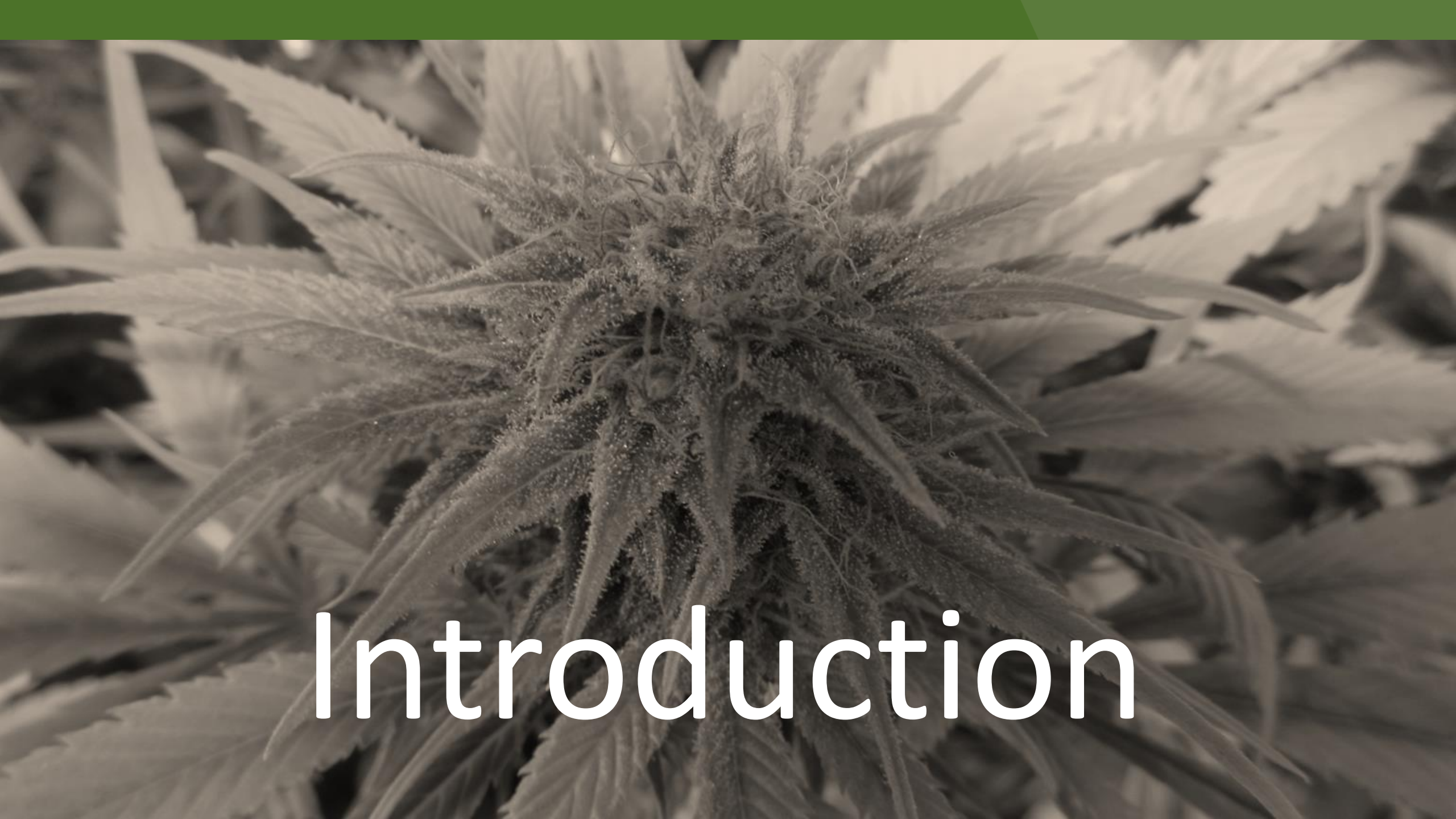




Proteomics tools for medicinal cannabis

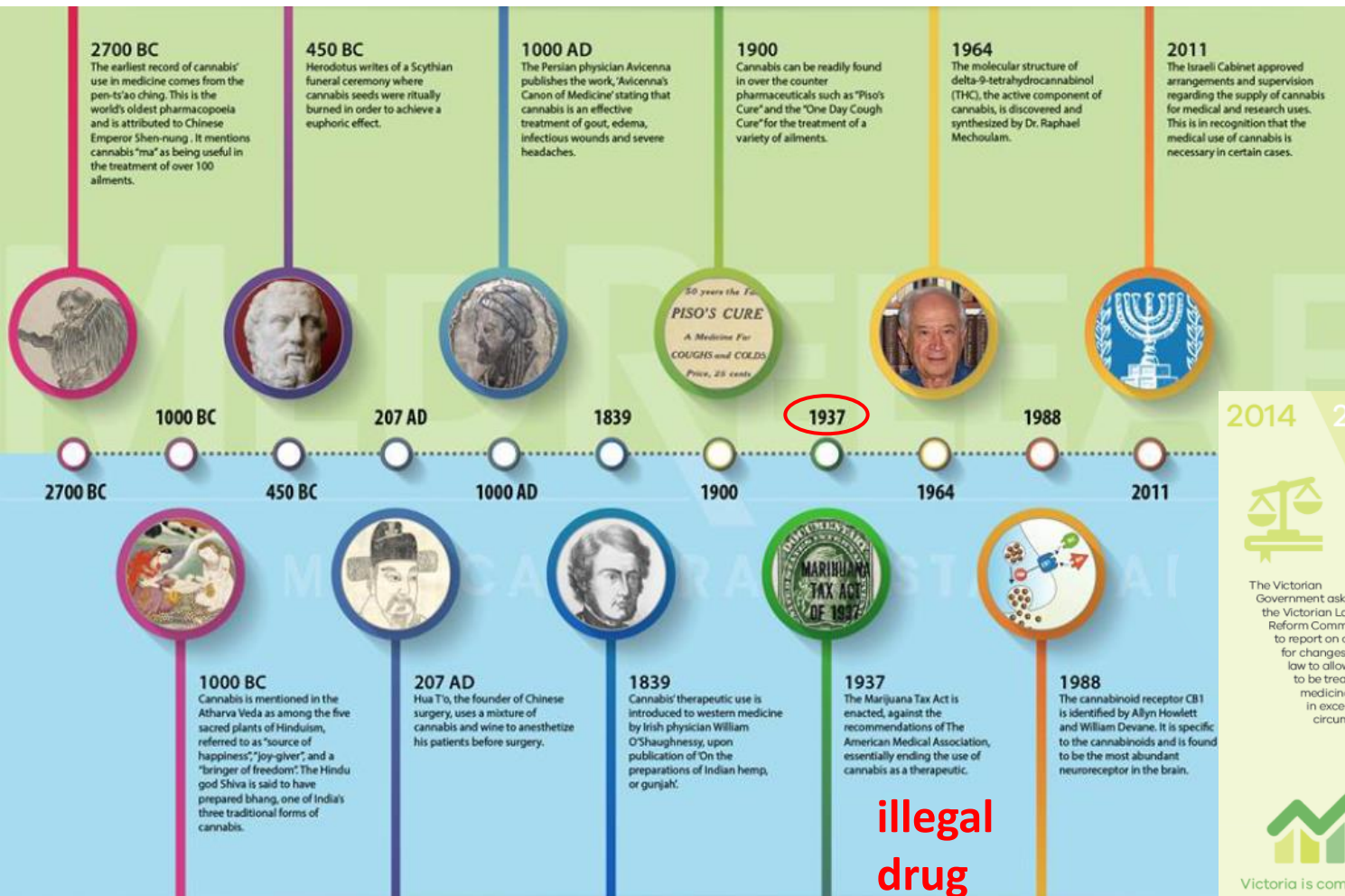
Dr Delphine Vincent

13/12/2019



Introduction

History of cannabis and legislation



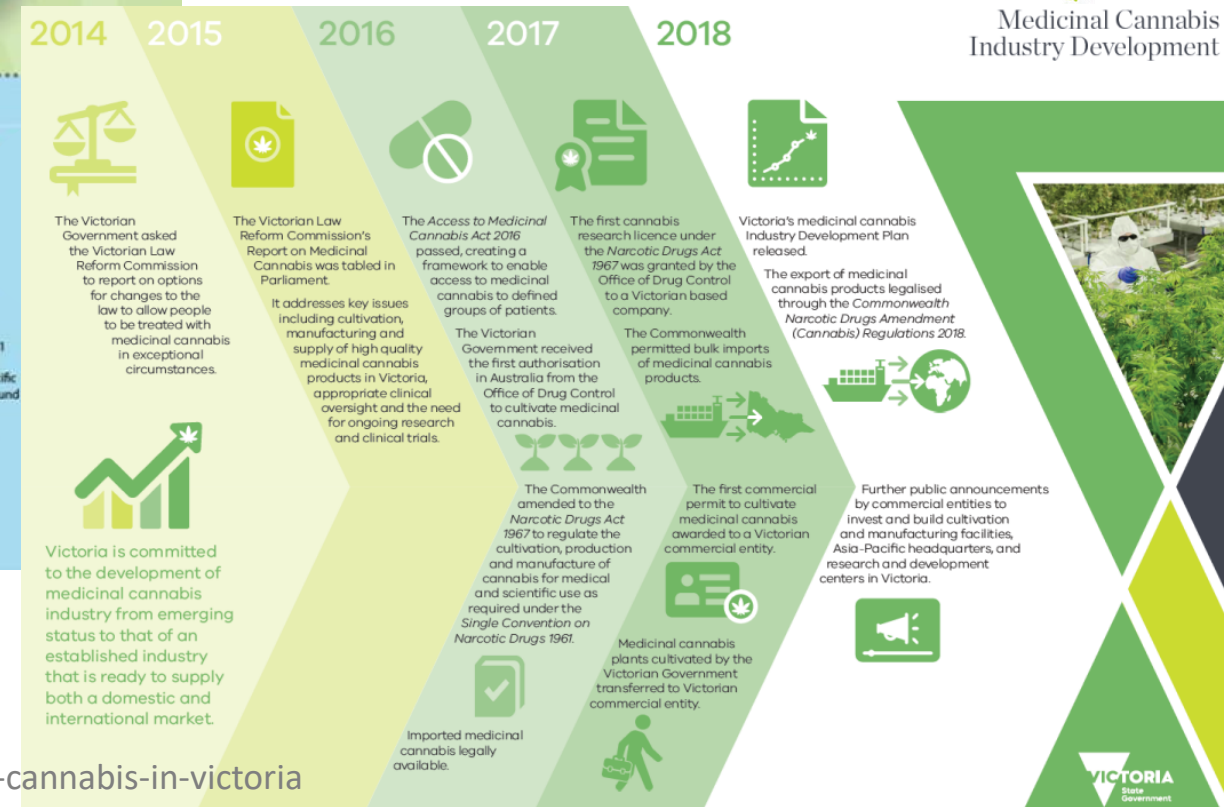
Hand et al, 2016

<https://djpr.vic.gov.au/medicinal-cannabis-in-victoria>

Australia

Dec 2015: Andrews Government (VIC) introduces the Access to Medicinal Cannabis Bill 2015 (cultivation, manufacture and distribution). First Australian government to legalise medicinal cannabis.

Priority: Children with severe epilepsy.
(SOURCE: www.parliament.vic.gov.au)



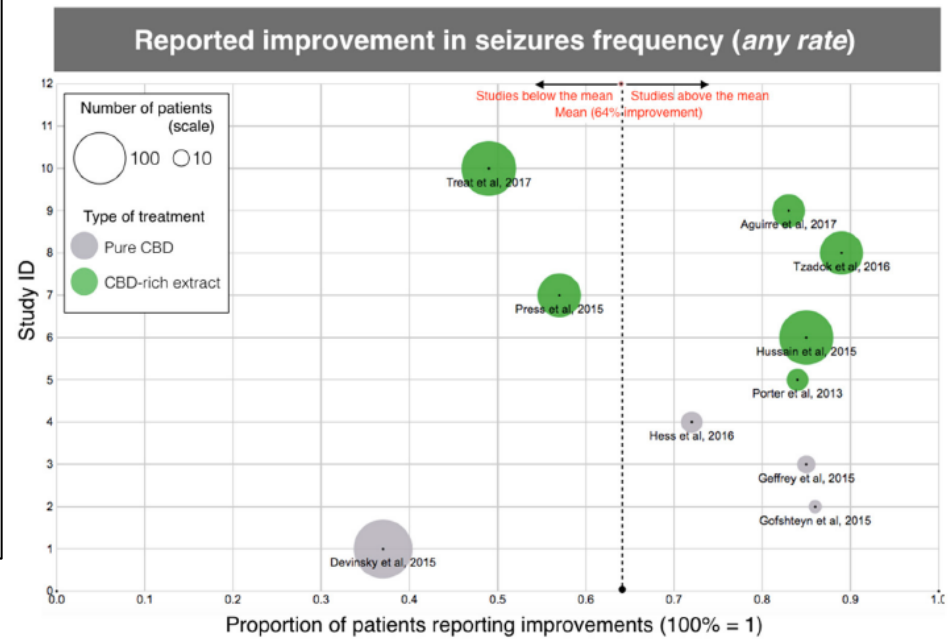
Medicinal cannabis and high CBD content for epilepsy



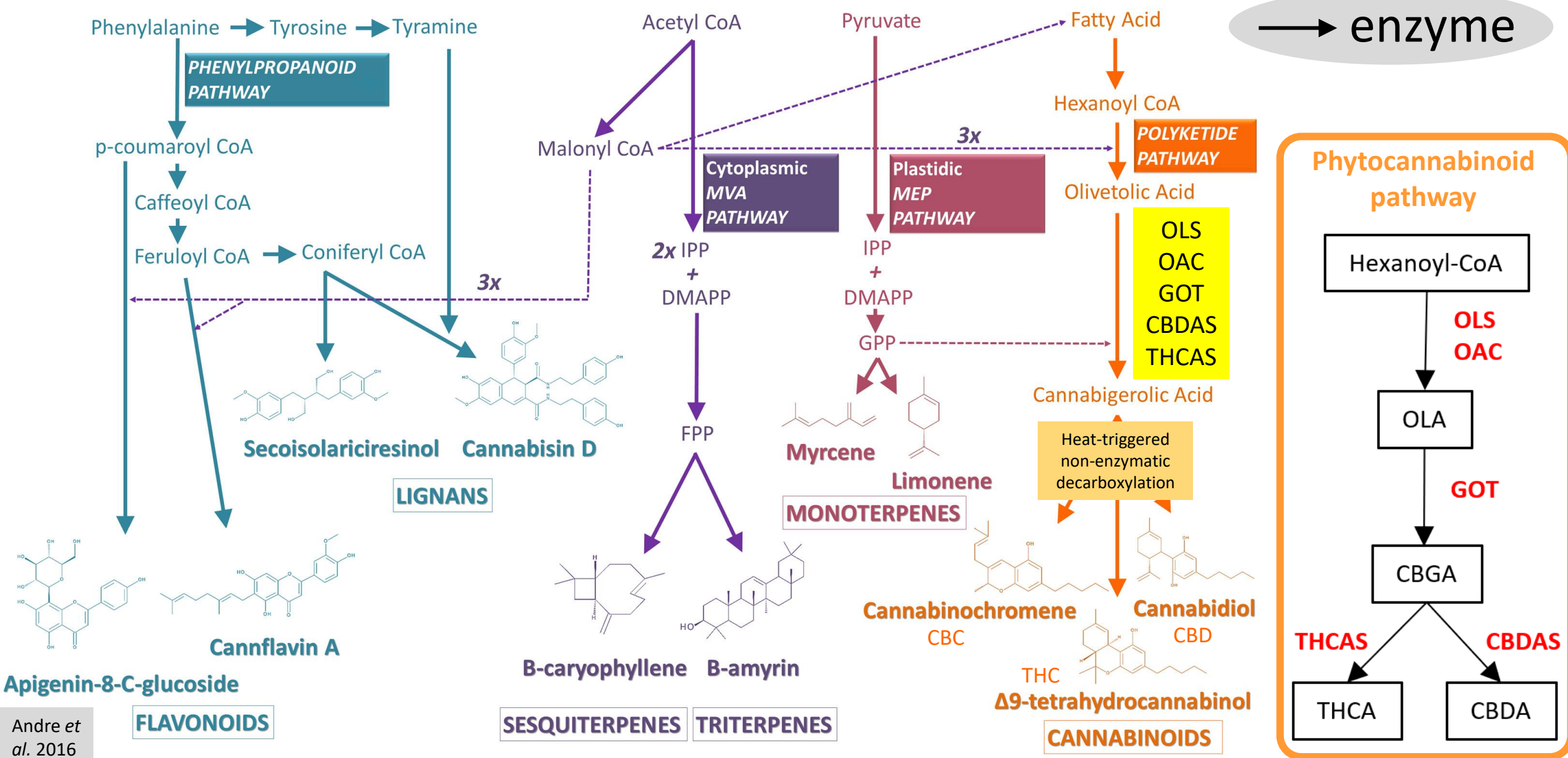
MEDICAL CONDITION	POTENTIAL MEDICAL BENEFITS
Cancer patient undergoing chemotherapy treatment.	Aids in pain management and enhances appetite.
Glaucoma caused by poor blood supply to the optic nerve fibres.	Decreases pressure inside the eye.
Epileptic seizures.	Controls seizures by binding to the brain cells responsible for controlling excitability and regulating relaxation.
Alzheimer diseases.	Slows the formation of amyloid plaques by blocking the enzyme in the brain that makes them.
Painful symptoms of multiple sclerosis.	Binds to receptors in the nerves and muscles to relieve pain.
Treatment for Hepatitis C infection (negative side effects).	Helps lessens treatment side effects such as nausea, muscle aches, loss of appetite, and depression.
Inflammatory bowel diseases like Crohn's disease.	Interacts with cells in the body that play an important role in gut function and immune responses.
Parkinson's disease.	Significantly reduces pain and tremors and improves sleep for Parkinson's disease patients.
Concussion or other traumatic injury.	Lessens the bruising of the brain and helps with healing mechanisms after a traumatic injury.

EverBlu report 2017

Treatment with cannabidiol (CBD)-based products significantly reduces epileptic seizure frequency. (Pamplona et al, 2018)



Cannabis secondary metabolism

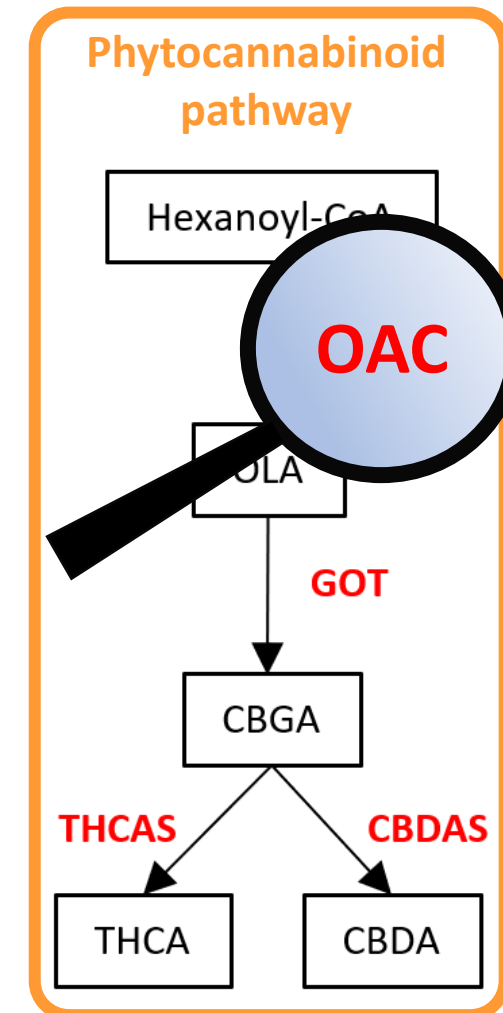
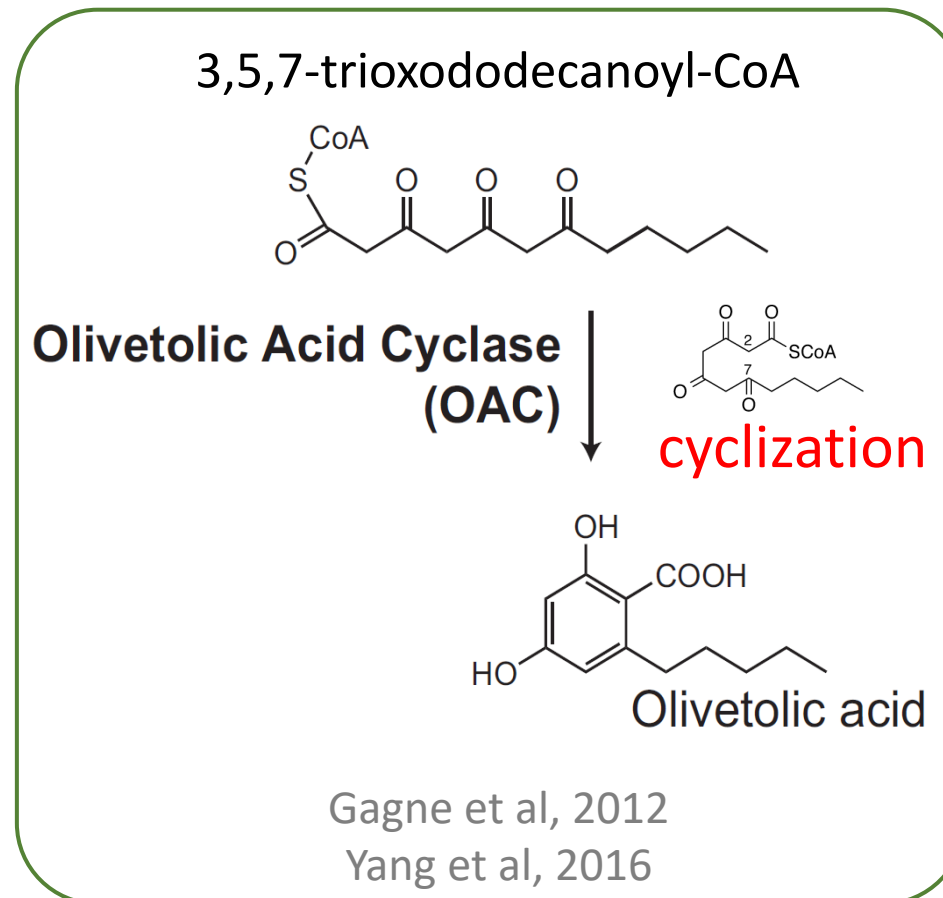
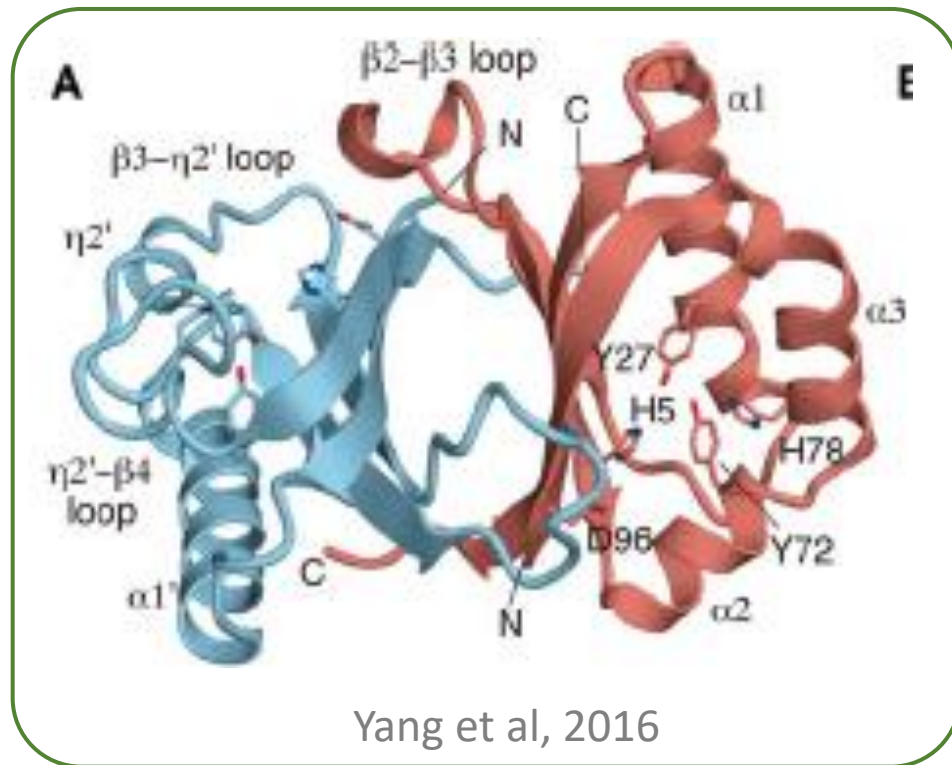


Focus on olivetolic acid cyclase (OAC UniProtKB I6WU39)

Mature sequence 1-101 AA (12kDa), homodimer.

Cytoplasmic (not secreted)

Ligands: 3 x Magnesium



Focus on THCA synthase (THCAS UniProtKB Q8GTB6)

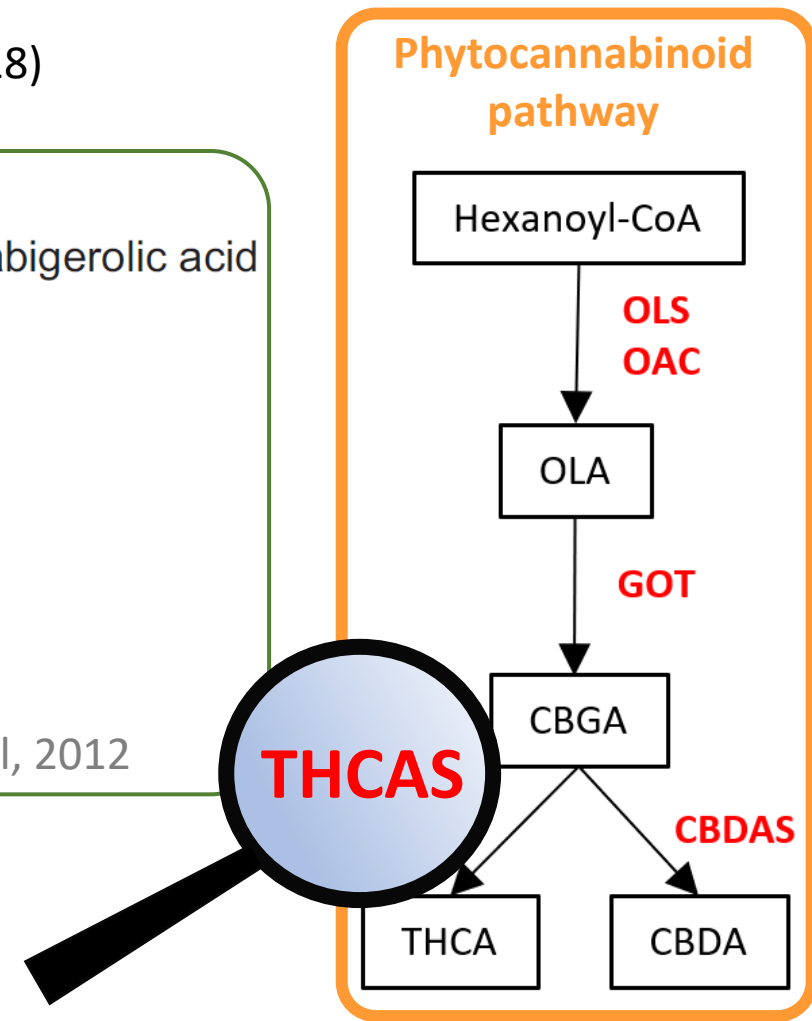
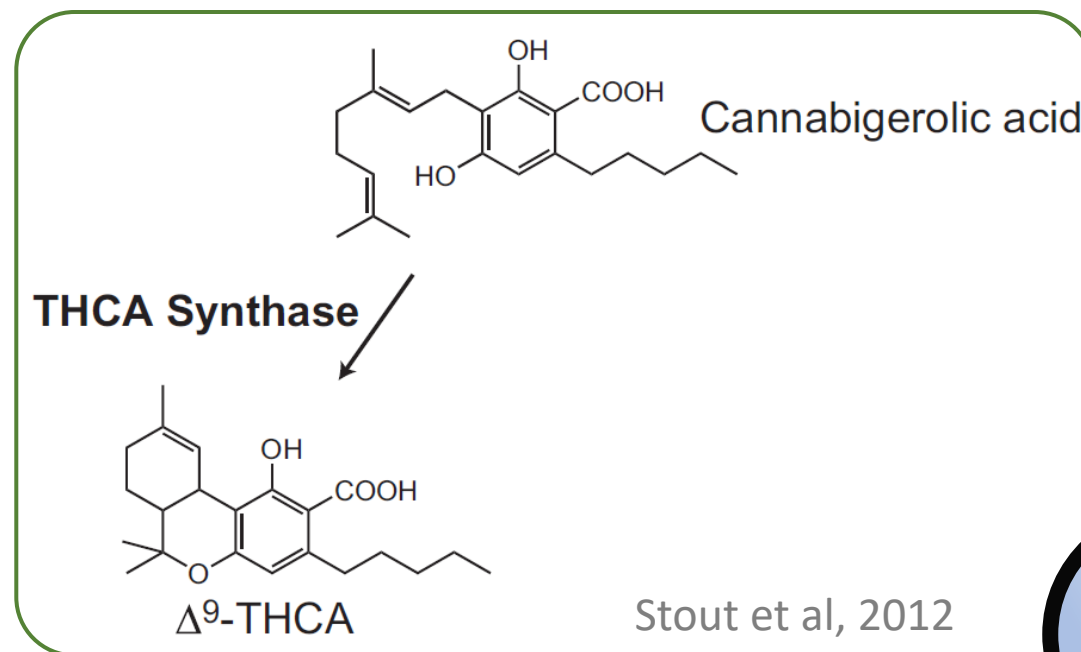
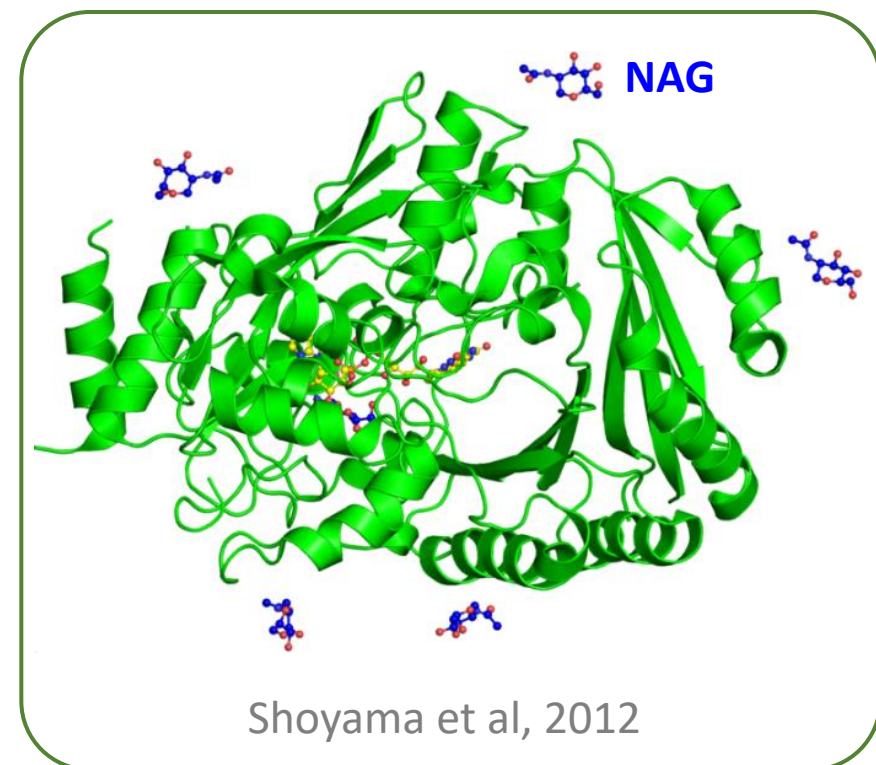
Extracellular (secreted): Signal Peptide (SP) 1-28 AA; mature sequence 29-545 AA (62kDa)

Flavoprotein Cofactor Flavin-adenosine dinucleotide (FAD), disulfide bond (C37-C99)

Ligands: 7(+1) x N-acetyl-D-glucosamine (NAG or GlcNAc, mass=221) (attached to asparagine N residues)

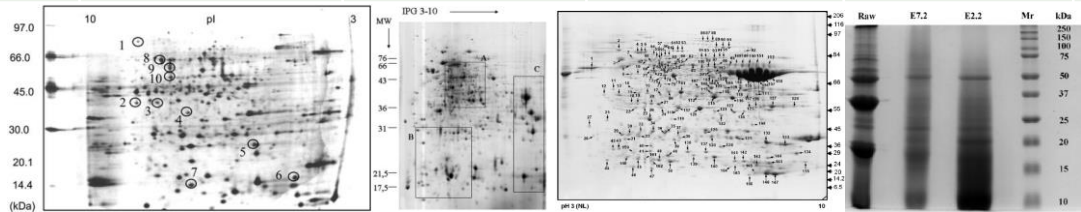
Position of NAG on AA sequence: **N2**, N65, N89, N168, N297, N305, N329, N467, N499

Some glycosylated N are not needed for enzymatic activity (N89, N499) (Zirpel et al, 2018)



Cannabis proteomics up to 2018

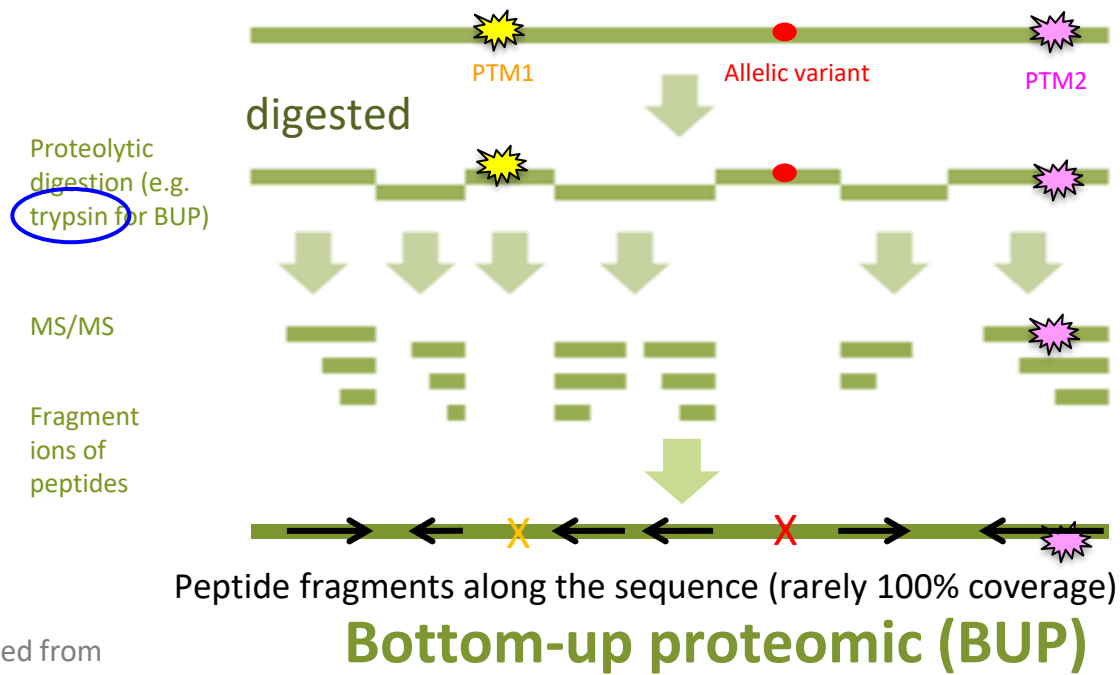
LITERATURE	Raharjo et al, 2004	Bona et al, 2007	Park et al, 2012	Aiello et al, 2016	Behr et al, 2018	SUMMARY
Tissues	leaves, flowers, trichomes	roots	hempseed flour	hempseed flour	hypocotyls	1/5 study on flowers/trichomes (where phytocannabinoids accumulate)
Powder homogenisation		Tris/sucrose/thiourea/DTT	Sucrose/Na-phosphate	Tris/NaCl/CHAPS		3/5, different buffers
Protein precipitation	10%TCA/2ME/acetone		10%TCA/H2O	20%TCA/H2O	20%/DTT/acetone	4/5, always TCA, 2/5 with acetone
Phase partition		Phenol/NH4 acetate				1/5
Protein resuspension	Urea/CHAPS/DTT	Urea/CHAPS/Triton/DTT	Urea/thiourea/CHAPS/Tris/DTE	Tris/NaCl/CHAPS	Urea/thiourea/CHAPS/Tris	4/5 urea-based solutions, different composition
Protein separation	2-DE	2-DE	2-DE	1-DE	1-DE, 2-D DIGE	5/5 gel-based separation
Protein digestion	trypsin	trypsin	trypsin	trypsin	trypsin	5/5 trypsin
Protein identification	PMF	nLC-MS/MS	nLC-MS/MS	nLC-MS/MS	PMF	2/5 PMF, 3/5 nLC-MS/MS





Materials - Methods

Complementary proteomics strategies



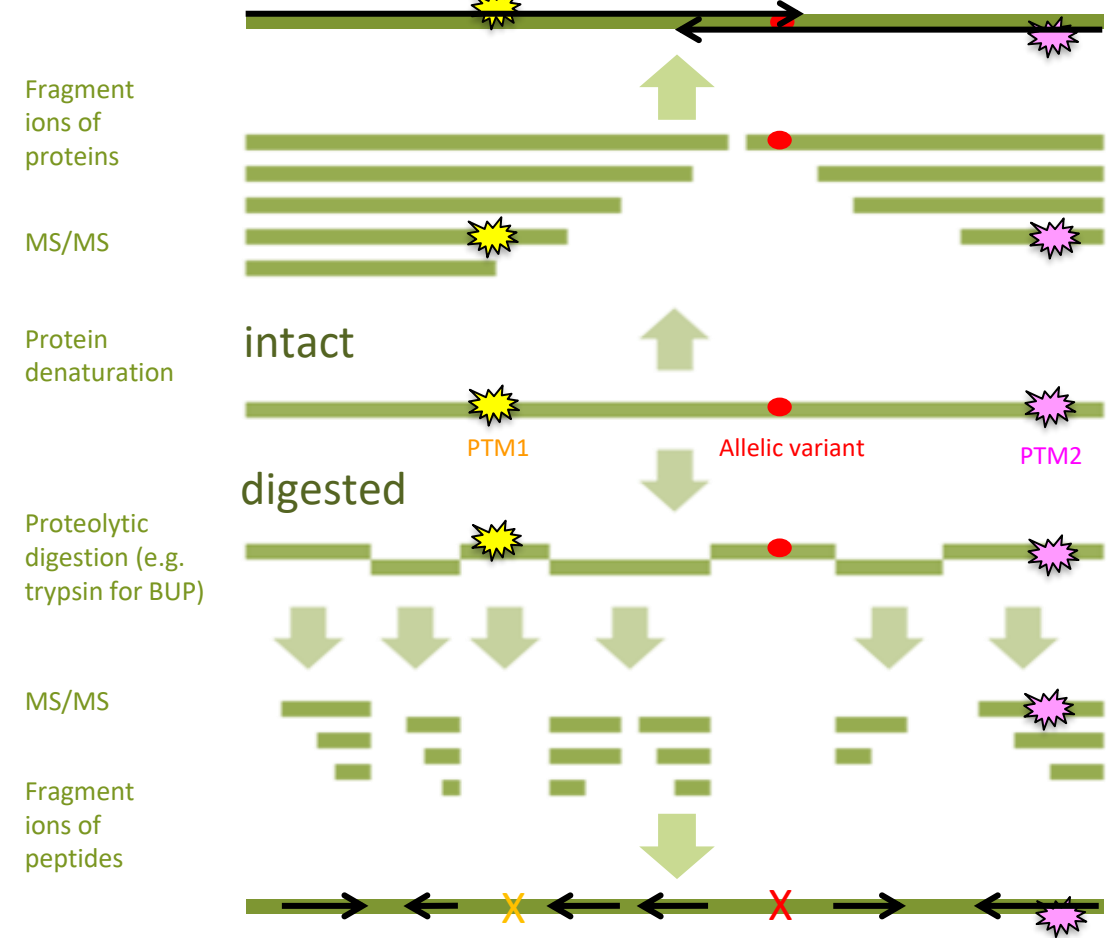
(adapted from Wikipedia)

Complementary proteomics strategies

Top-down proteomics (TDP)

Fragmentation of whole protein from N- and C-termini (100% coverage)

Highly complementary



Peptide fragments along the sequence (rarely 100% coverage)

Bottom-up proteomic (BUP)

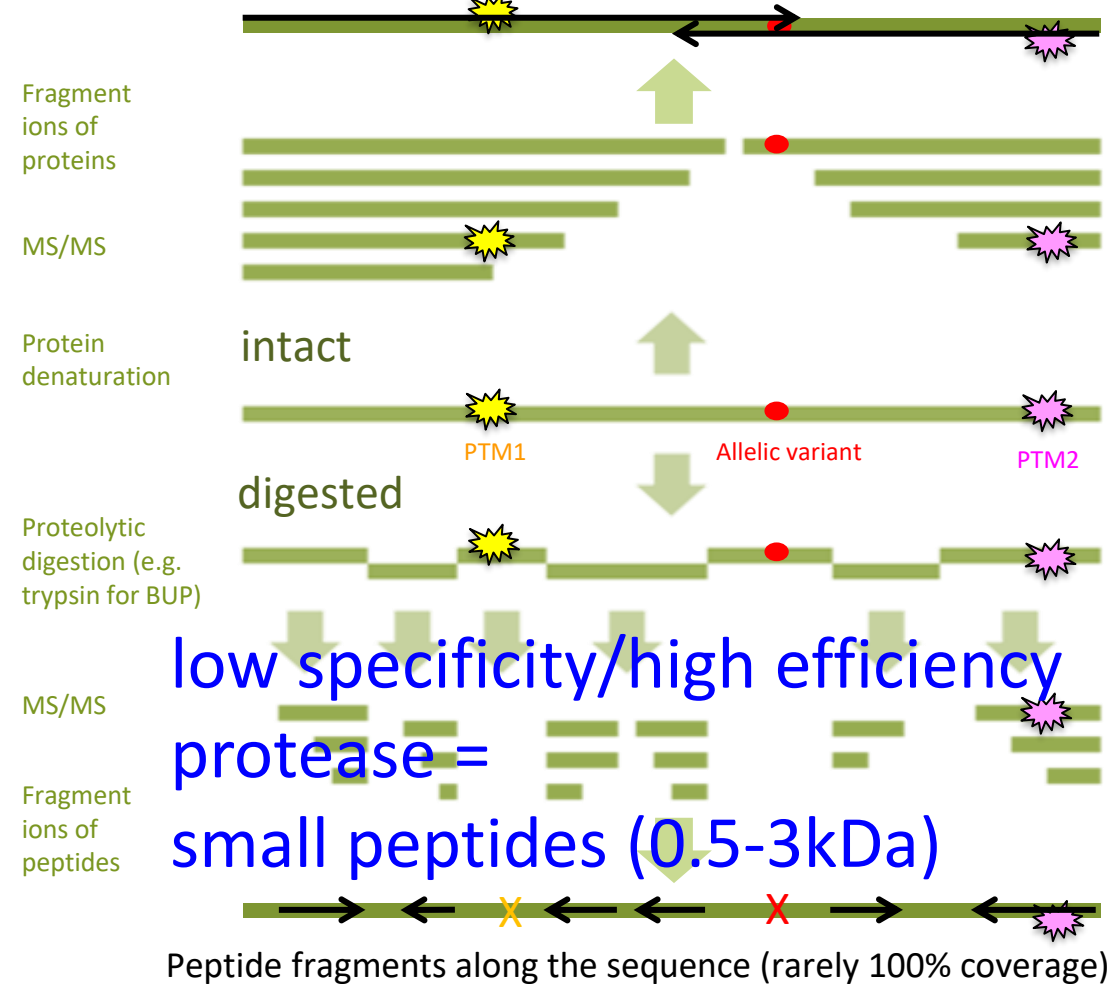
(adapted from Wikipedia)

Complementary proteomics strategies

Highly complementary

Top-down proteomics (TDP)

Fragmentation of whole protein from N- and C-termini (100% coverage)



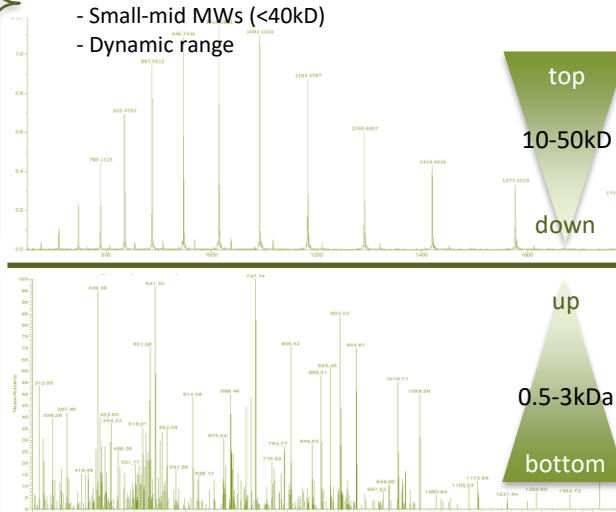
Bottom-up proteomic (BUP)

(Vincent et al; 2016, 2018, 2019; Raynes et al. 2018)

Top-down proteomics (proteins)

- + Protein quantitation
- + Allelic variation
- + PTM analysis
- + Protein processing
- Complexity of the sample
- Relatively new approach
- Small-mid MWs (<40kD)
- Dynamic range

proteoforms



- + Most mature technique
- + Widely used, lots of tools
- + All MWs
- + Complex samples
- Dynamic range
- PTM analysis
- Allelic variation
- Protein processing
- Protein quantitation

Bottom-up proteomics (peptides)

(Vincent et al; 2009; 2011; 2012; 2015, 2019)

(adapted from Wikipedia)

MDP: bringing the best of both BUP and TDP worlds

Highly complementary

Top-down proteomics (TDP)

Fragmentation of whole protein from N- and C-termini (100% coverage)

Fragment ions of proteins

MS/MS

Protein denaturation

intact

PTM1

Allelic variant

PTM2

digested

Proteolytic digestion (e.g. trypsin for BUP, GluC for MDP)

MS/MS

Fragment ions of peptides

high specificity/low efficiency
protease =
large peptides (3-10kDa)

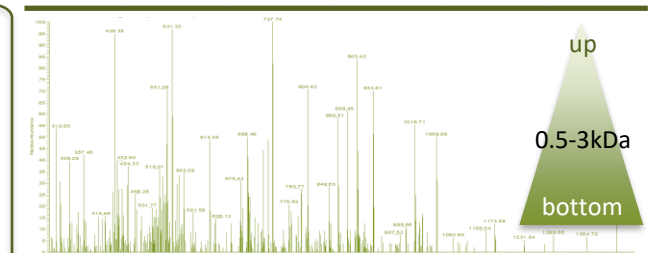
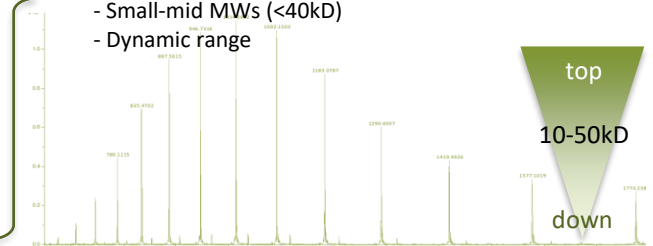
Peptide fragments along the sequence (closer to 100% coverage)

Bottom-up proteomic (BUP)

Middle-down proteomics (MDP)

Top-down proteomics (proteins)

- + Protein quantitation
- + Allelic variation
- + PTM analysis
- + Protein processing
- Complexity of the sample
- Relatively new approach
- Small-mid MWs (<40kD)
- Dynamic range



Proteases don't always get it right! Missed cleavage...

Miscleavages have been reported as a result of the protease skipping a seemingly cleavable residue.

Example: tryptic digest of 4-coumarate:CoA ligase (4CL) (trypsin targets R and K residues)

...TEAGPVLTM~~S~~LAF~~A~~E~~K~~AFDV~~K~~AGACGTVV~~R~~NAEMKIVDPETGSSLPRNQPGEICIRGDQIMKGYLNDKESTKNTIDKEGWLHTGDIGFVDDDD...



- Miscleavages produce longer peptides.
- Indispensable to discover PTMs.
- Very advantageous for MDP, provided your mass analyser can see them!
- Miscleavages + specific proteases that target rare AAs produce even longer peptides.
- However, a typical BUP study searches for max 2 missed cleavages. Discussed here...

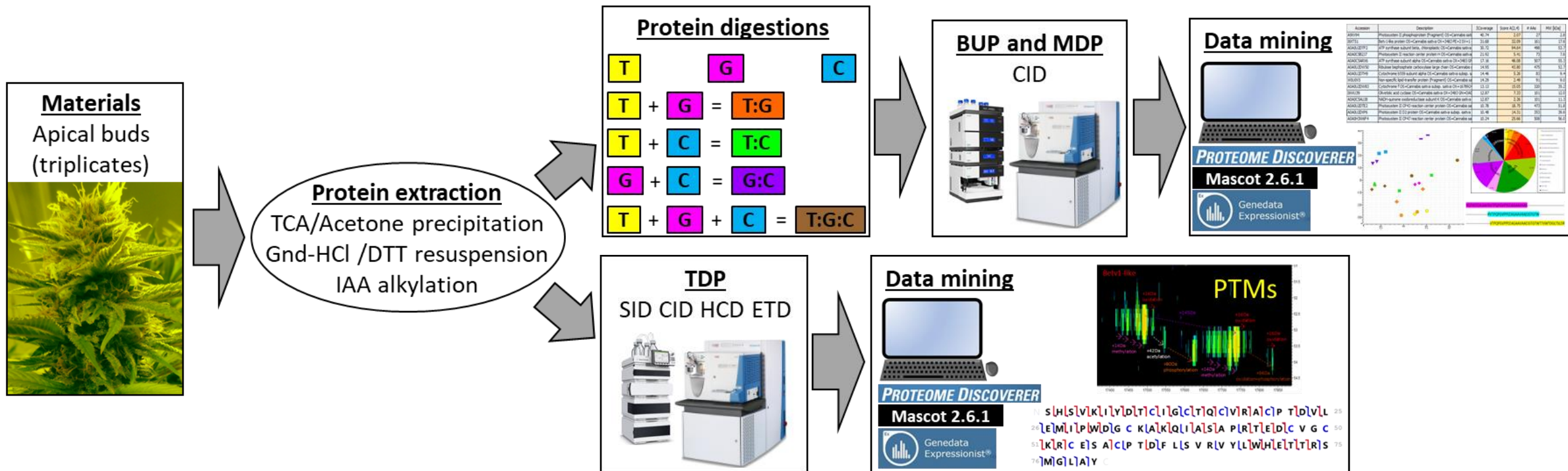
Proof-of-concept studies

- Overall experimental design

1st experiment: optimisation of protein extraction from mature buds for BUP (trypsin).

2nd experiment: optimisation of protein digestion for protein identification using BUP and MDP.

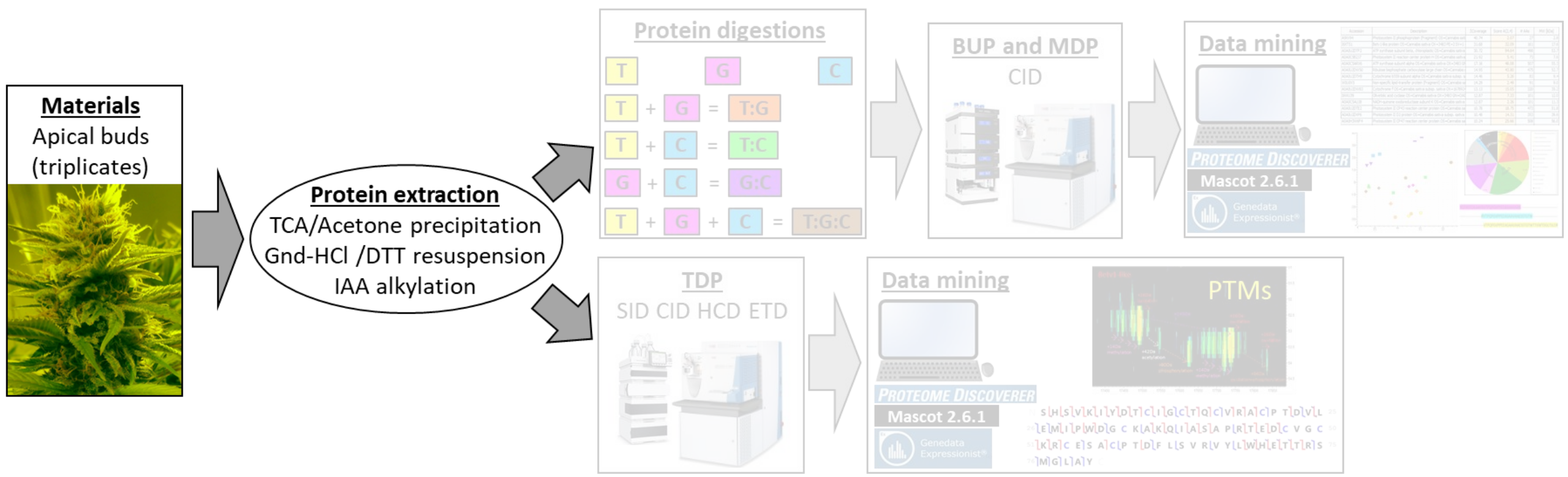
3rd experiment: optimisation of intact protein analysis and sequencing using TDP.





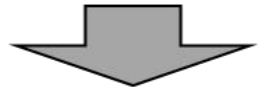
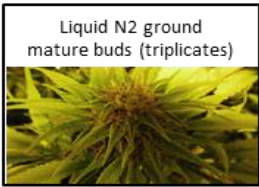
Results

Optimisation of protein extraction

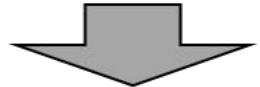


1. Bottom-up proteomics (BUP)

Experimental design



Extraction Solutions	
<u>TCA/DTT/A solution:</u> 10% TCA 10mM DTT acetone	<u>TCA/DTT/EtOH solution:</u> 10% TCA 10mM DTT EtOH
<u>Urea buffer:</u> 6M urea, 10mM DTT, 10mM Tris-HCl pH 8.0, 75mM NaCl, 0.05% SDS.	<u>Gnd-HCl buffer:</u> 6M Gdn-HCl, 10mM DTT, 5.37 mM sodium citrate tribasic 2H2O, 0.1 M Bis-Tris.



Extraction number	TCA/DTT/A precipitation	TCA/DTT/E precipitation	Urea buffer resuspension	Gnd-HCl buffer resuspension	Extraction Name
Extraction 1	no	no	yes	no	AB1
Extraction 2	no	no	no	yes	AB2
Extraction 3	yes	no	yes	no	AB3
Extraction 4	yes	no	no	yes	AB4
Extraction 5	no	yes	yes	no	AB5
Extraction 6	no	yes	no	yes	AB6

18 apical bud extracts

Extraction number	Urea buffer resuspension	Gnd-HCl buffer resuspension	Extraction Name
Extraction 1	yes	no	T1
Extraction 2	no	yes	T2

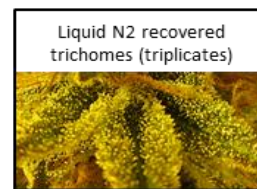
6 trichome extracts

1. Bottom-up proteomics (BUP)

Experimental design



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<u>TCA/DTT/A solution:</u> 10% TCA 10mM DTT acetone	<u>TCA/DTT/EtOH solution:</u> 10% TCA 10mM DTT EtOH
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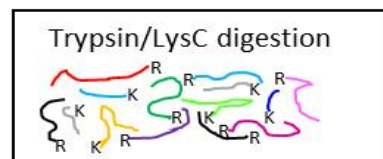


Extraction number	TCA/DTT/A precipitation	TCA/DTT/E precipitation	Urea buffer resuspension	Gnd-HCl buffer resuspension	Extraction Name
Extraction 1	no	no	yes	no	AB1
Extraction 2	no	no	no	yes	AB2
Extraction 3	yes	no	yes	no	AB3
Extraction 4	yes	no	no	yes	AB4
Extraction 5	no	yes	yes	no	AB5
Extraction 6	no	yes	no	yes	AB6

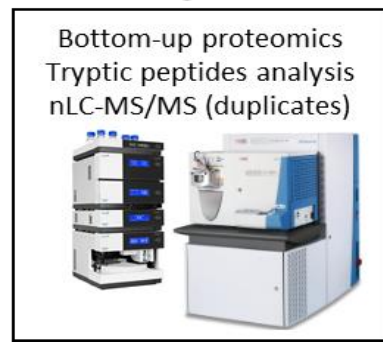
18 apical bud extracts

Extraction number	Urea buffer resuspension	Gnd-HCl buffer resuspension	Extraction Name
Extraction 1	yes	no	T1
Extraction 2	no	yes	T2

6 trichome extracts



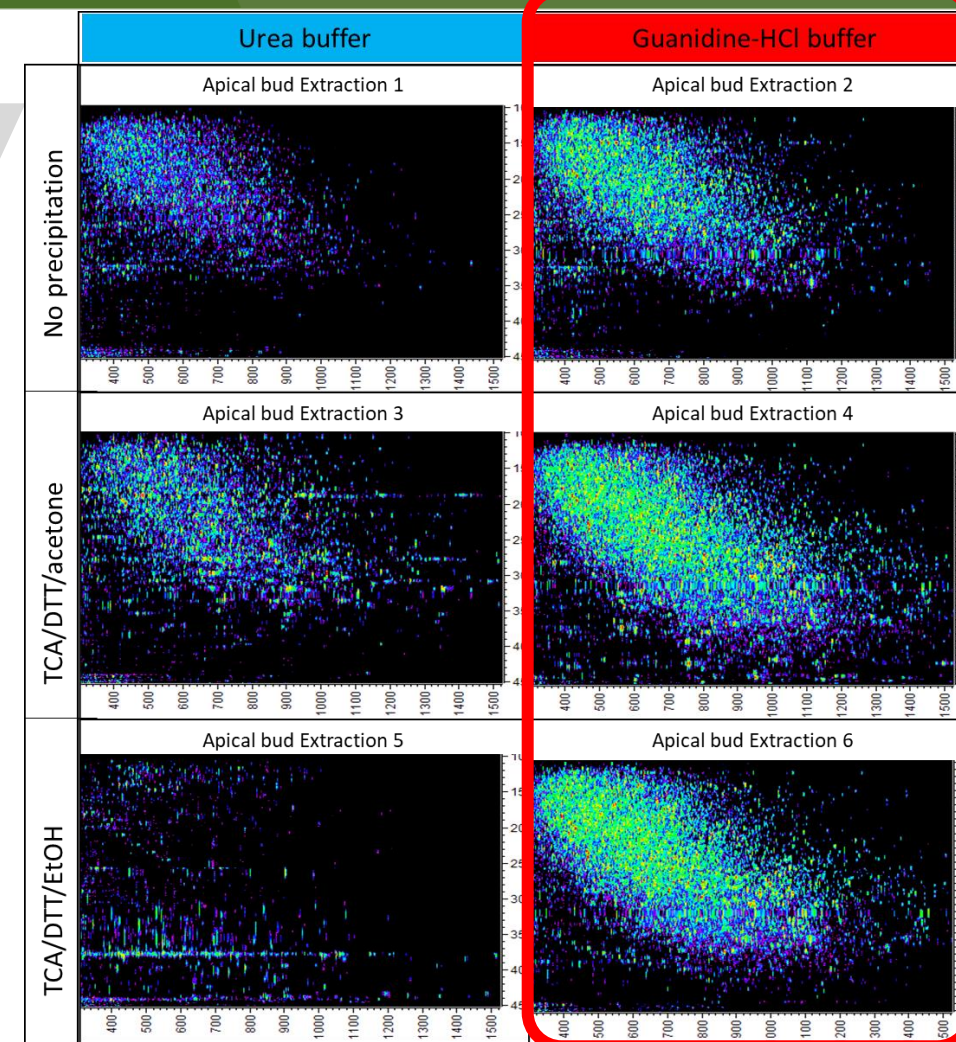
Trypsin (K,R) + LysC (K)
Medium specificity ("ms")
High efficiency ("he")



Database search, data processing and statistical analyses

PROTEOME DISCOVERER 1.4

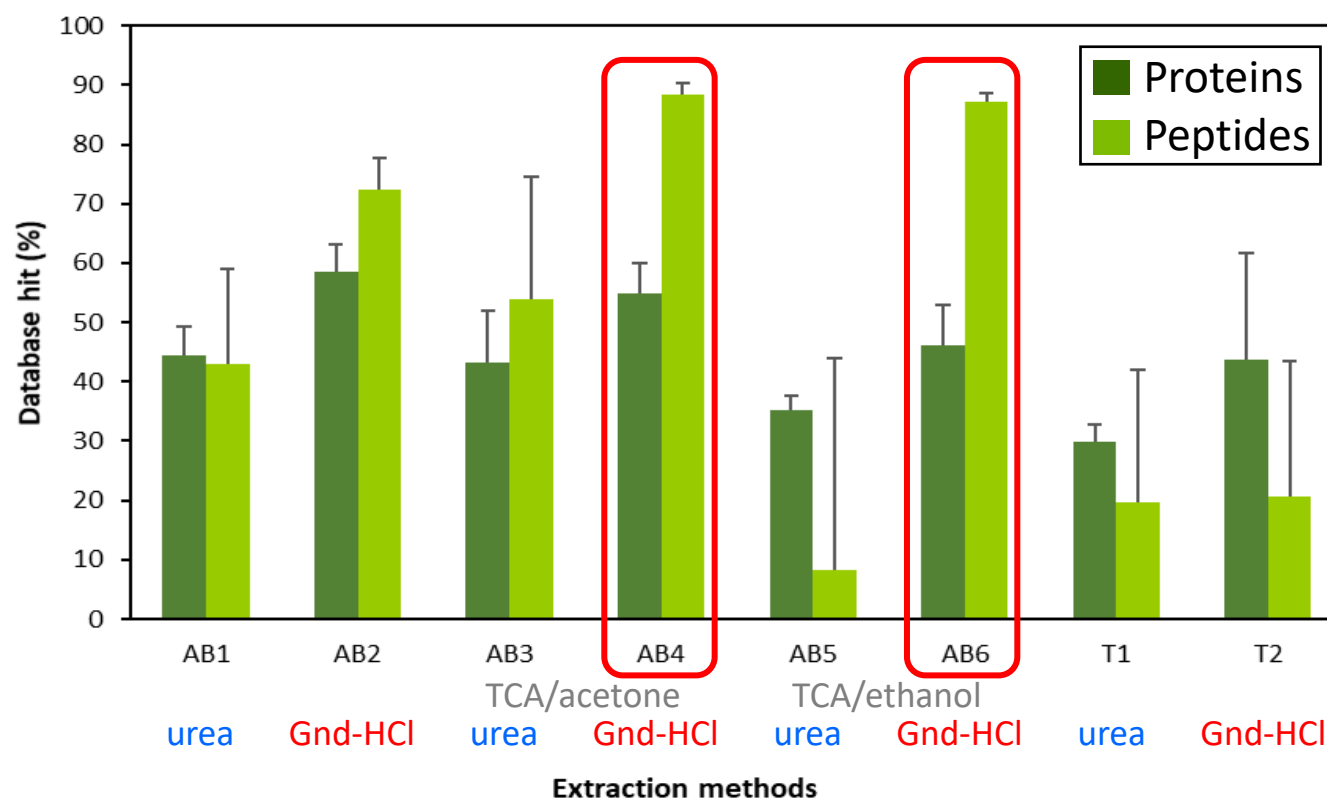
Genedata Expressionist®



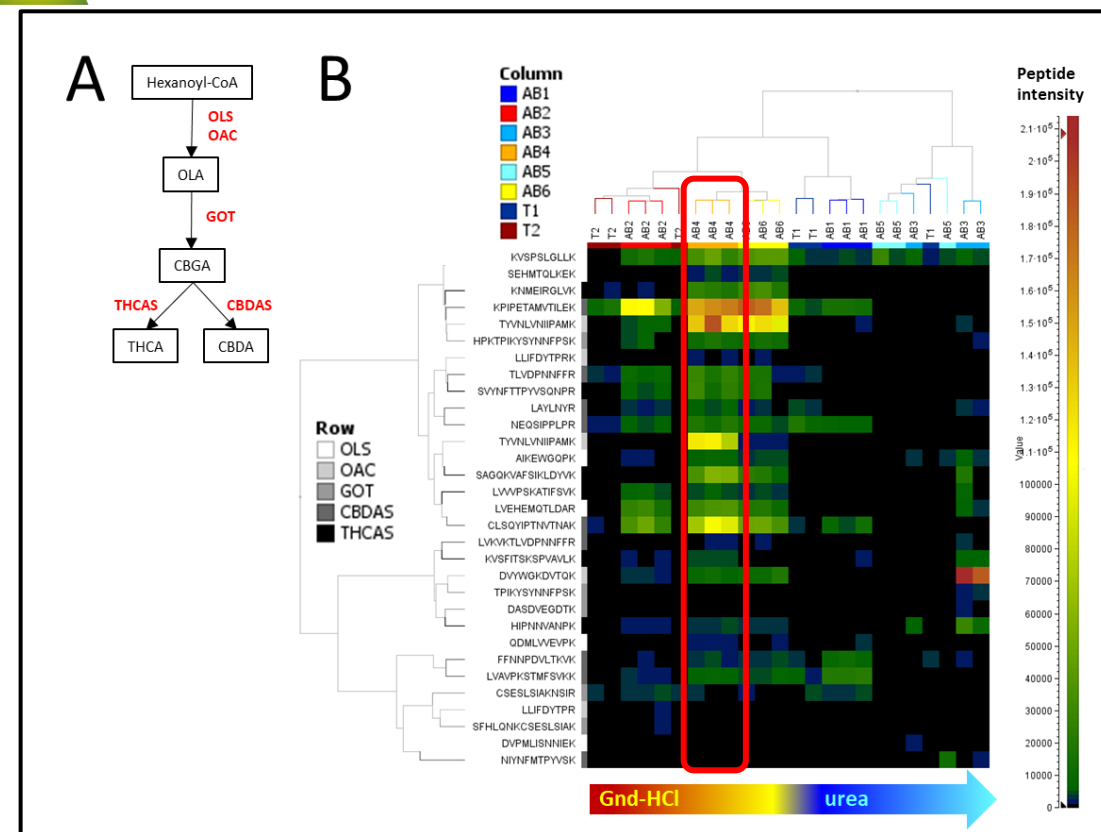
1. Bottom-up proteomics (BUP)

160 proteins identified from 5,675 peptides using BUP.

Percentage of identifications per extraction methods



Methods AB4 and AB6 are the only methods that recover enzymes involved in the phytocannabinoid biosynthesis.



Methods AB4 and AB6 (TCA/A or TCA/E precipitation, Gnd-HCl resuspension) are the best protein extraction methods for mature buds (more identities, more reproducible).

Method chosen: AB4 (TCA/A → Gnd-HCl)

1. Bottom-up proteomics (BUP)

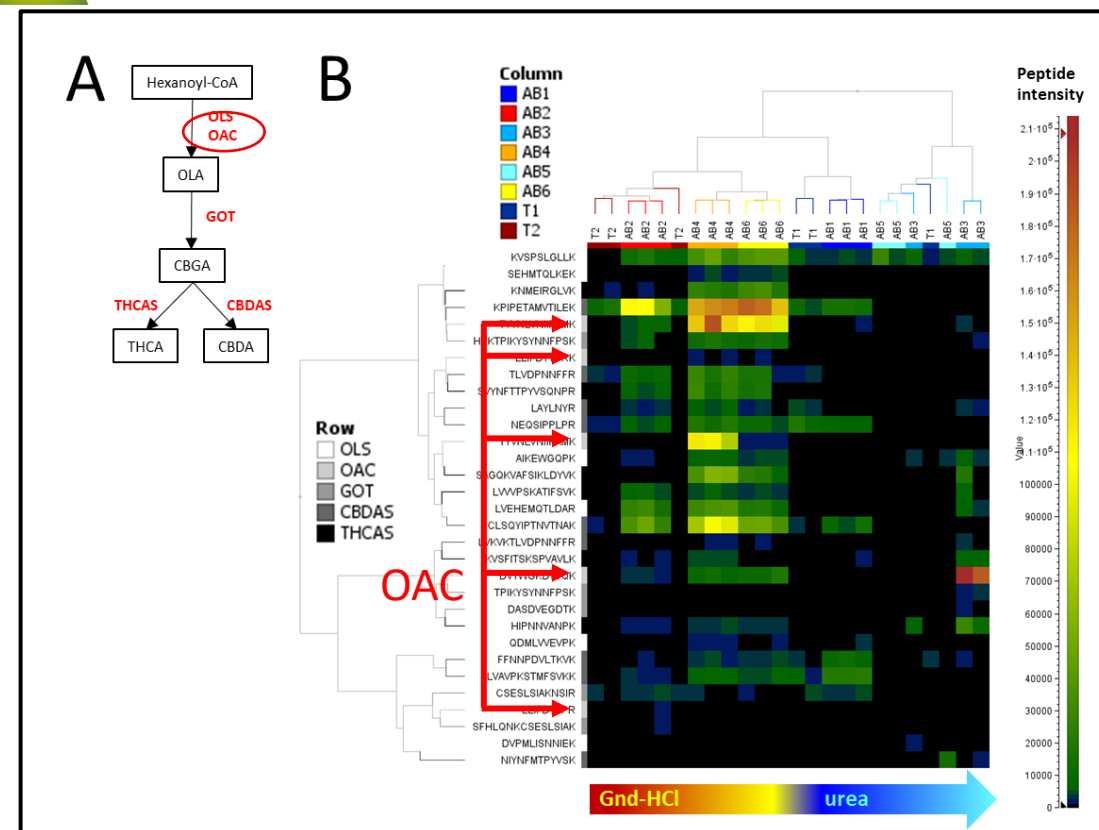
Focus on:

- OAC (olivetolic acid cyclase) (101 AAs, 12kDa)
- THCAS (tetrahydrocannabinolic acid synthase) (516 AAs, 59kDa)

OAC 34% coverage, no PTM (2 miscleavages)

>sp|I6WU39|OLIAC_CANSA Olivetolic acid cyclase OS=Cannabis sativa

MAVKHLIVLKFDEITEAQKEEFFKTYVNLVNIIPAMKDVYWGKDVTQKNKEEGYTHIVEVTFESVETIQDYIIHPAHVGFQDVYRSFWEKLLIFDYTPRK



1. Bottom-up proteomics (BUP)

Focus on:

- OAC (olivetolic acid cyclase) (101 AAs, 12kDa)
- THCAS (tetrahydrocannabinolic acid synthase) (516 AAs, 59kDa)

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MAVKHLIVLKFDEITEAQKEEFFKTYVNLVNIIPAMKDVYWGKDVDTQKNKEEGYTHIVEVTFESVETIQDYIIHPAHVGFQDVYRSFWEKLLIFDYTPRK

THCAS 12% coverage, no PTM (2 miscleavages)

>sp|Q8GTB6|29-545|THCAS_CANSA Tetrahydrocannabinolic acid synthase OS=Cannabis sativa

NPRENFLKCFSKHIPNNVANPKLVYTQHDQLYMSILNSTIQNLRFISDTTPKPLVIVTPSNNSHIQATILCSKKVGLQIRTRSGGHDAEGMSYISQVPFVV

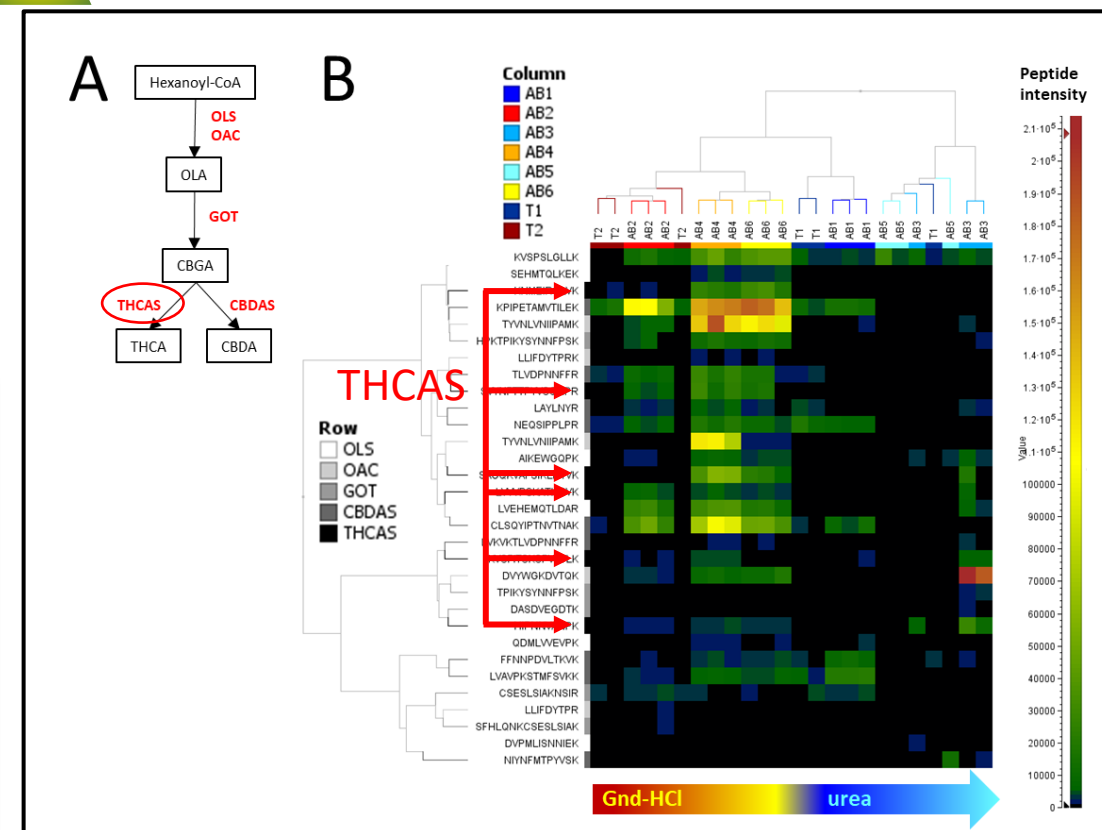
VDLRNMHSIKIDVHSQTAWVEAGATLGEVYYWINEKNENLSFPGGYCPTVGVGGHFSGGGYGALMRNYGLAADNIIDAHLVNVDGKVLDRKSMG

EDLFWAIRGGGGENFGIIAAWKIKLVAVPSKSTIFSVKKNMEIHGLVKLFENKWQNIAYKYDKDLVLMTHFITKNITDNHGKKNKTTVHGYFSSIFHGGVD

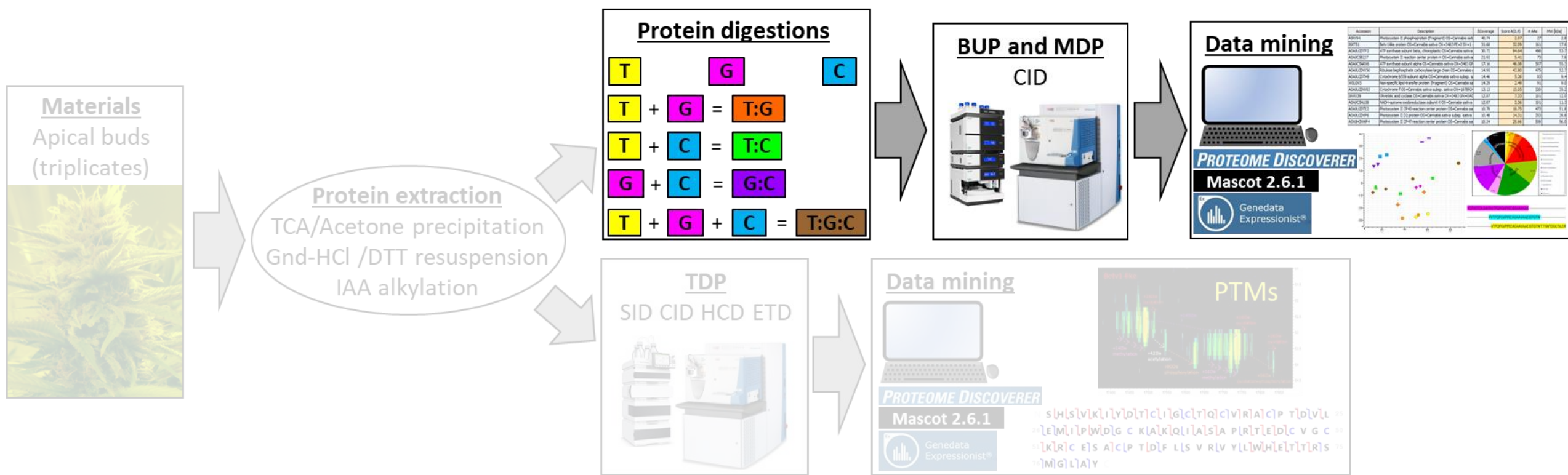
SLVDLMNKSFPGLIKKTDCKEFSWIDTTIFYSGVVNFNTANFKKEILLDRSAGKKTAFSIKLDYVKKPIPETAMVKILEKLYEEDVGAGMYVLYPYGGIME

EISESAIPFPHRAGIMYELWYTASWEKQEDNEKHINWVRSVYNFTTPYVSQNPRLAYLNYRDLGKTNHASPNNTQARIWGEKYFGKNFNRLVKV

KTKVDPNNFFRNEQSIPPLPHHH

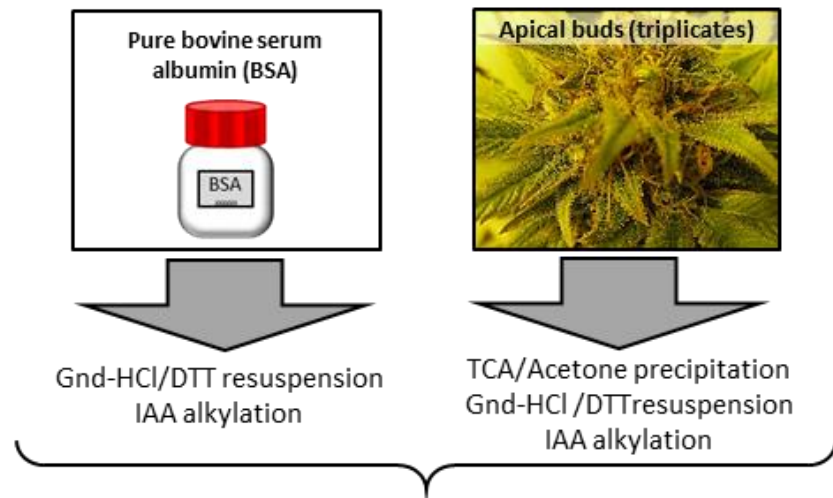


Optimisation of protein digestion



2. Middle-down proteomics (MDP)

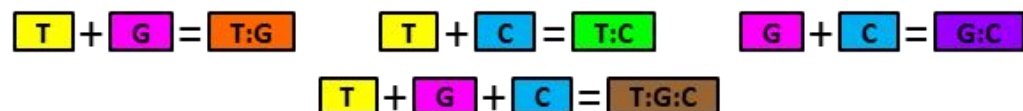
Experimental design



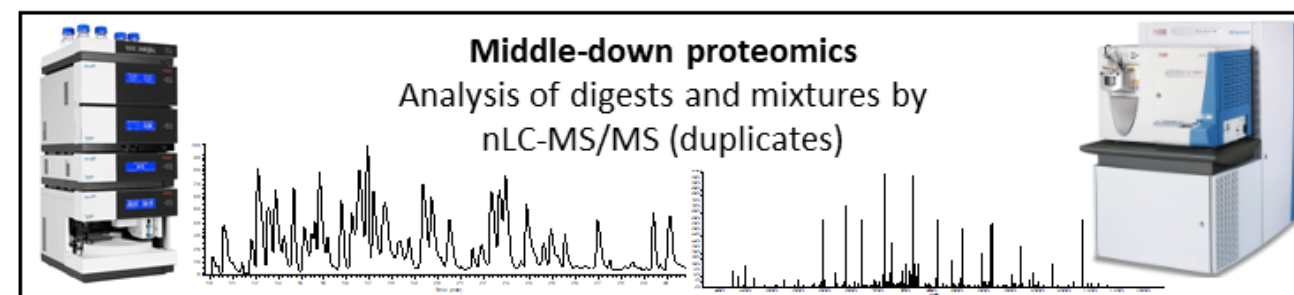
Protein digestion using 3 proteases

Enzyme code	ms\he	hs\le	ls\me	AA targeted
T	yes	no	no	R, K
G	no	yes	no	E, D
C	no	no	yes	Y, F, W, L
T->G	yes	yes	no	R, K, E, D
T->C	yes	no	yes	R, K, Y, F, W, L
G->C	no	yes	yes	E, D, Y, F, W, L
T->G->C	yes	yes	yes	R, K, E, D, Y, F, W, L

Mixture of digests (1:1 v/v or 1:1:1 v/v/v)



Peptide digests

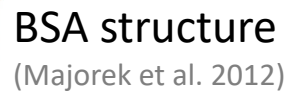

Database search,
data processing and
statistical analyses

PROTEOME DISCOVERER 1.4

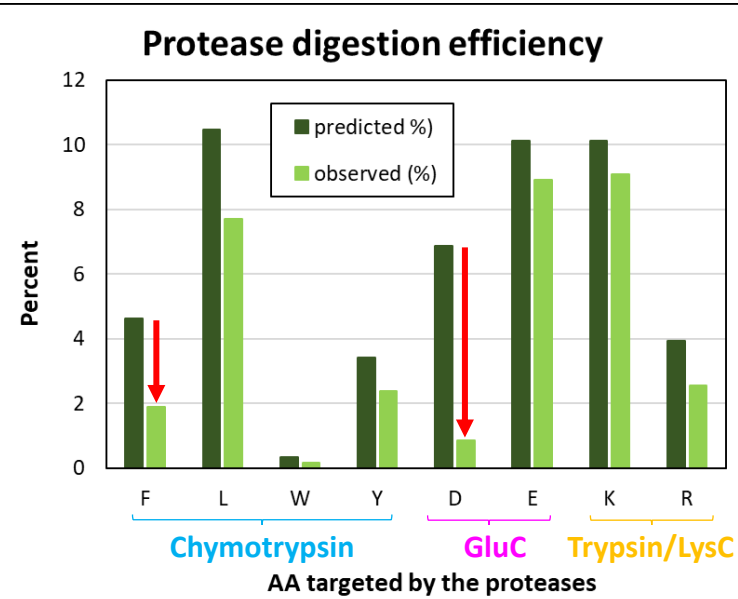
Genedata
Expressionist®

1. Digestion tests on BSA
2. Application to cannabis samples

1. Benchmarking using bovine serum albumin (BSA)



Mature form:
583 AAs, 66kDa

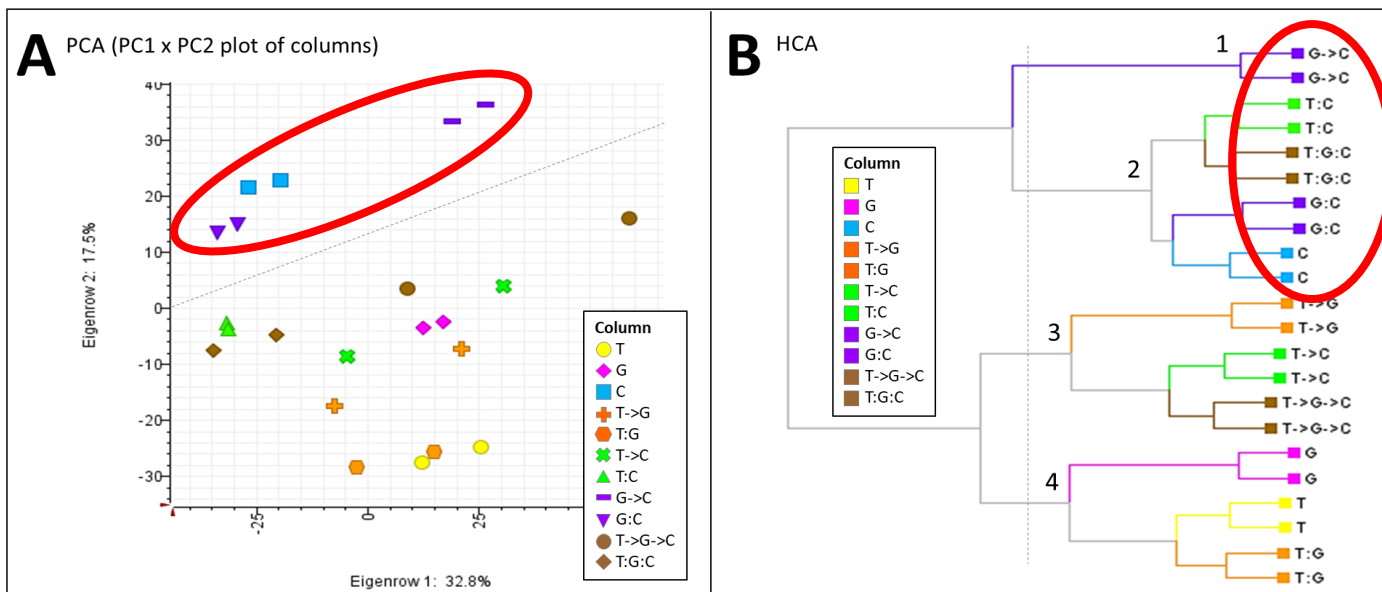


Digestion efficiency varies from one protease to another.
F and D residues often miscleaved.

BSA peptides elute from 9-39 min (9-39% ACN)
along 300-1600 m/z .

2. Middle-down proteomics (MDP)

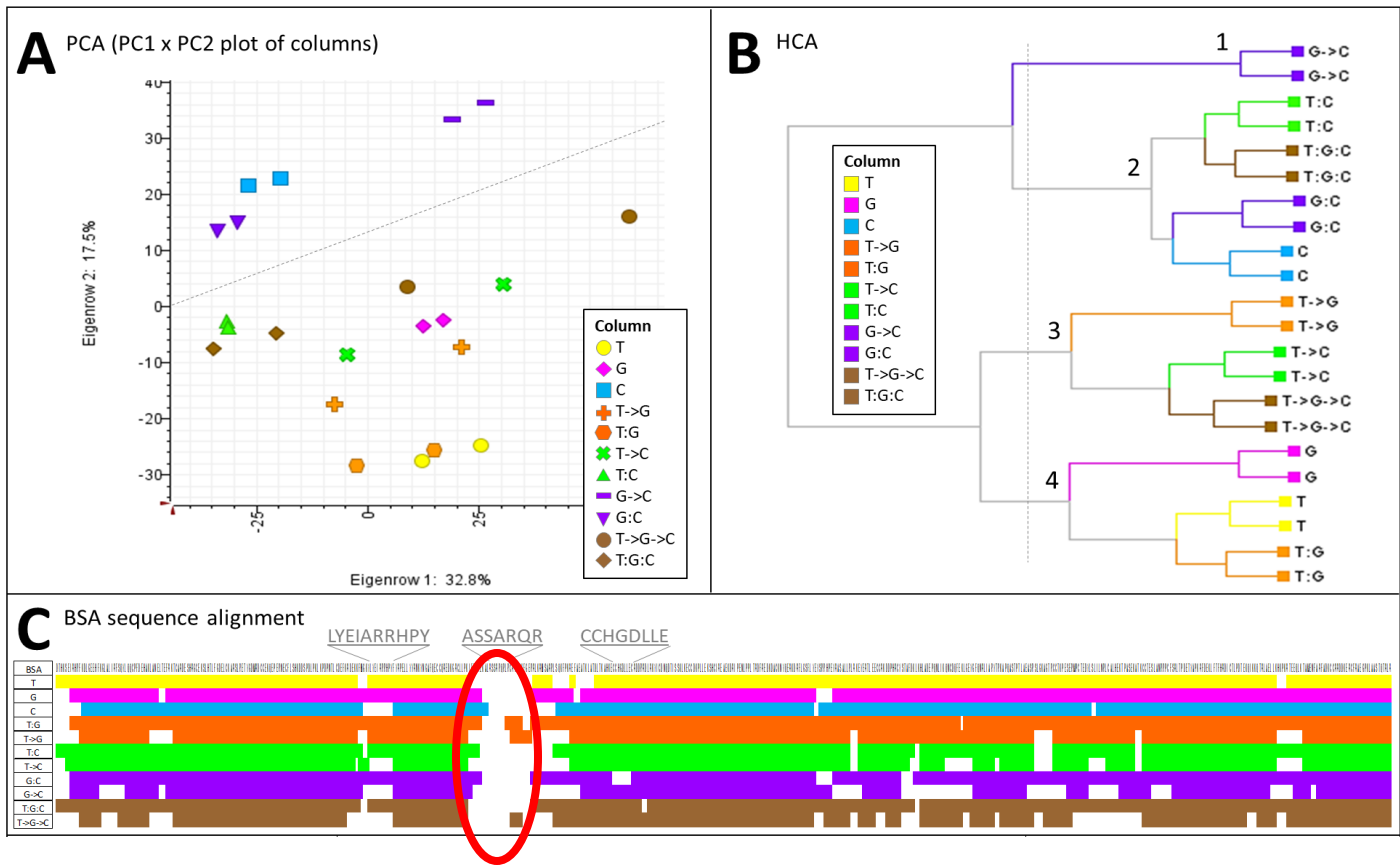
1. Benchmarking using bovine serum albumin (BSA)



- Reproducible analyses.
- Digestions with C (C, GC, TC) more orthogonal than with T and/or G.

2. Middle-down proteomics (MDP)

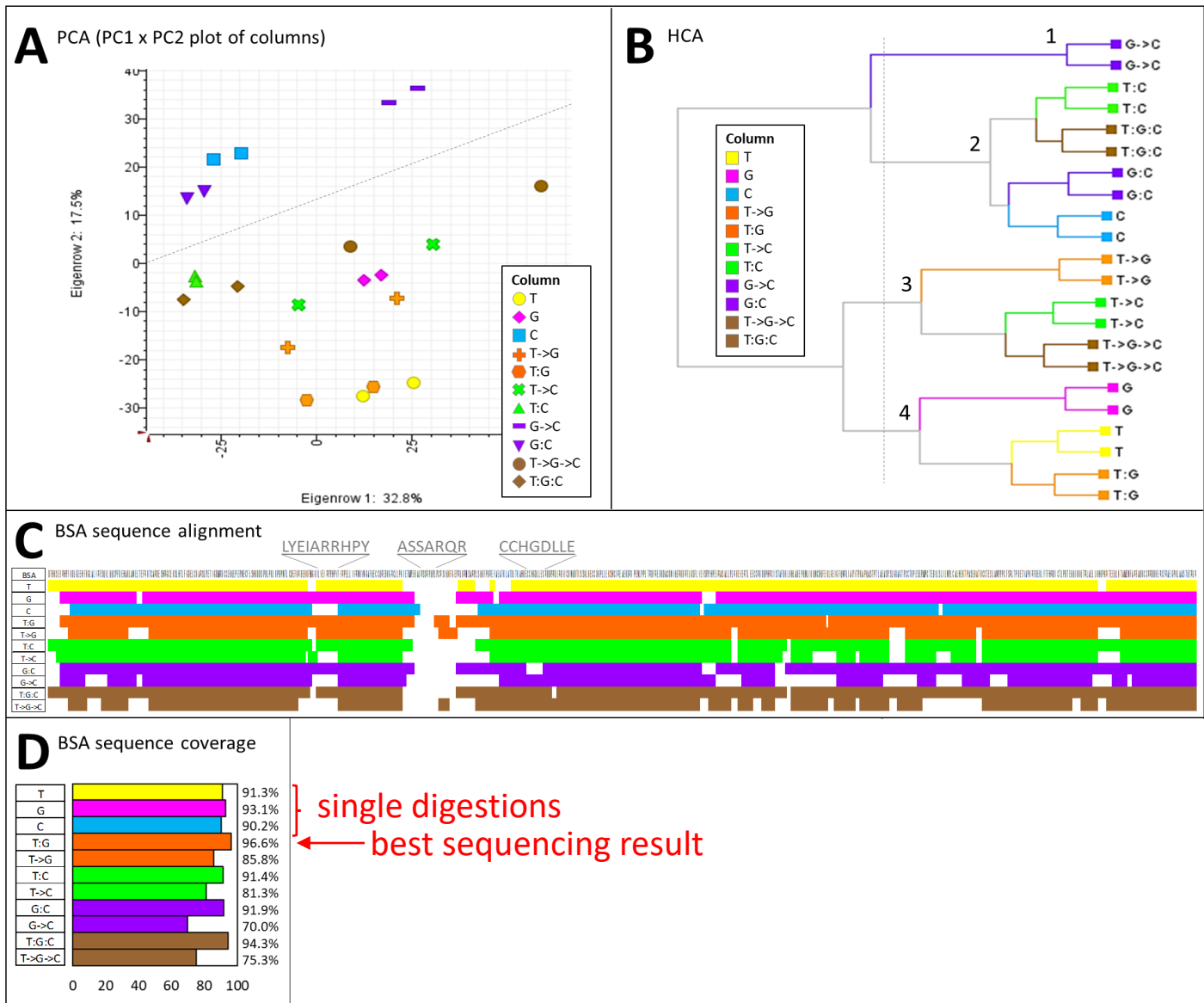
1. Benchmarking using bovine serum albumin (BSA)



- Reproducible analyses.
- Digestions with C (C, GC, TC) more orthogonal than with T and/or G.
- BSA sequence areas resisting digestion.

2. Middle-down proteomics (MDP)

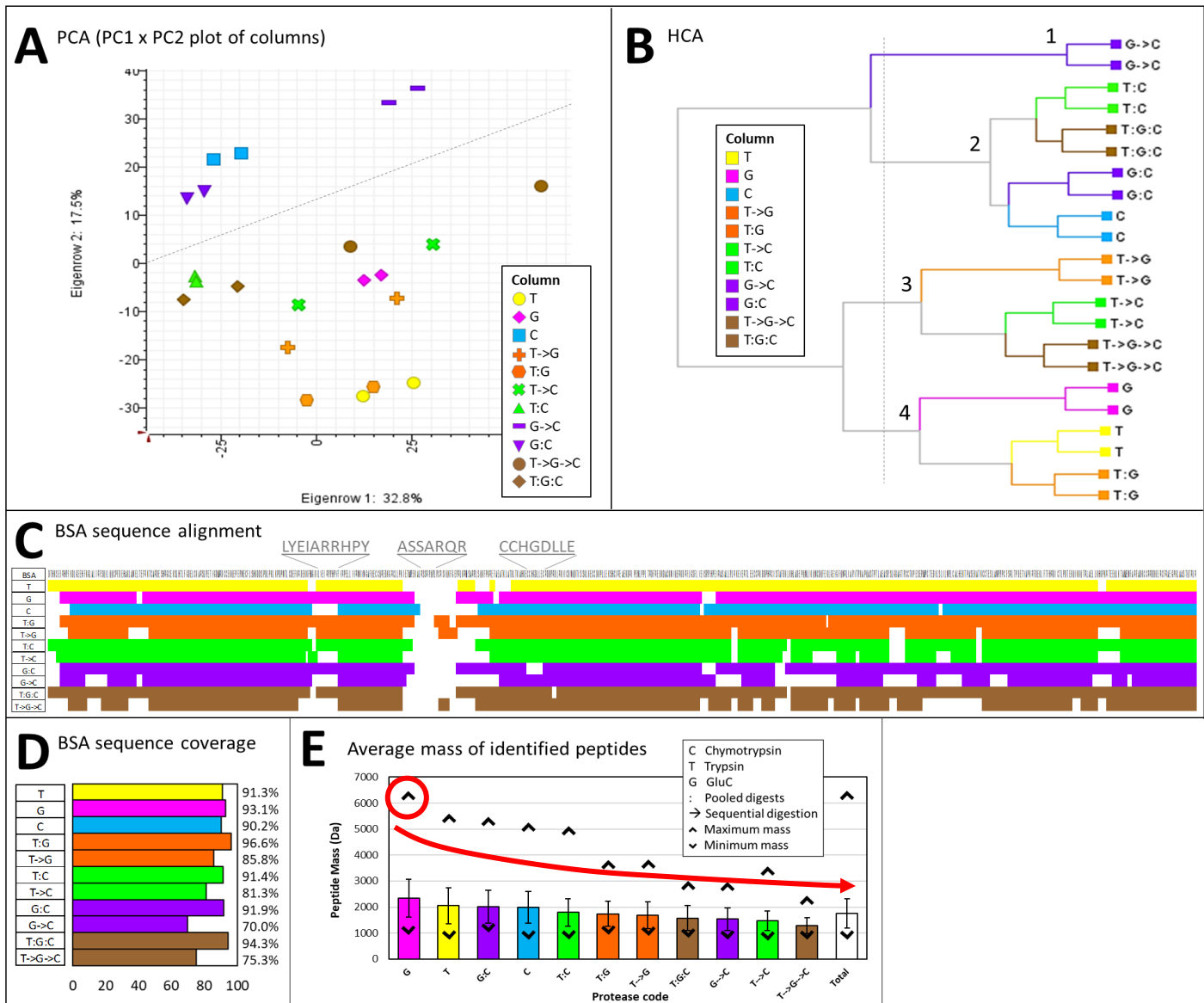
1. Benchmarking using bovine serum albumin (BSA)



- Reproducible analyses.
- Digestions with C (C, GC, TC) more orthogonal than with T and/or G.
- BSA sequence areas resisting digestion.
- Excellent coverage (>90%) using single digestions
- Best coverage using T:G (96.6%).

2. Middle-down proteomics (MDP)

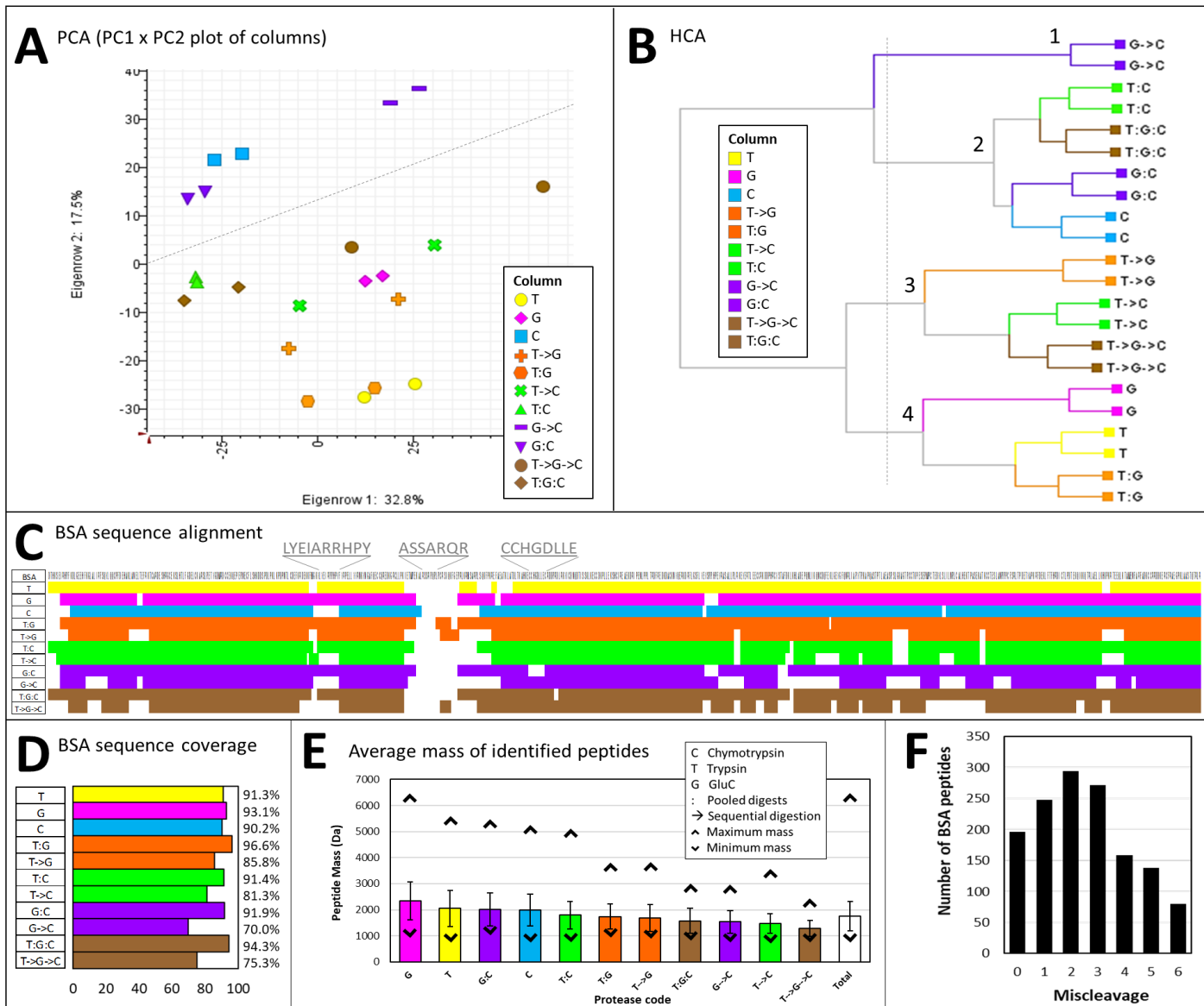
1. Benchmarking using bovine serum albumin (BSA)



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- Peptide size decrease when proteases of Is/he are combined
- G produced largest BSA peptides (>6KDa).

2. Middle-down proteomics (MDP)

1. Benchmarking using bovine serum albumin (BSA)

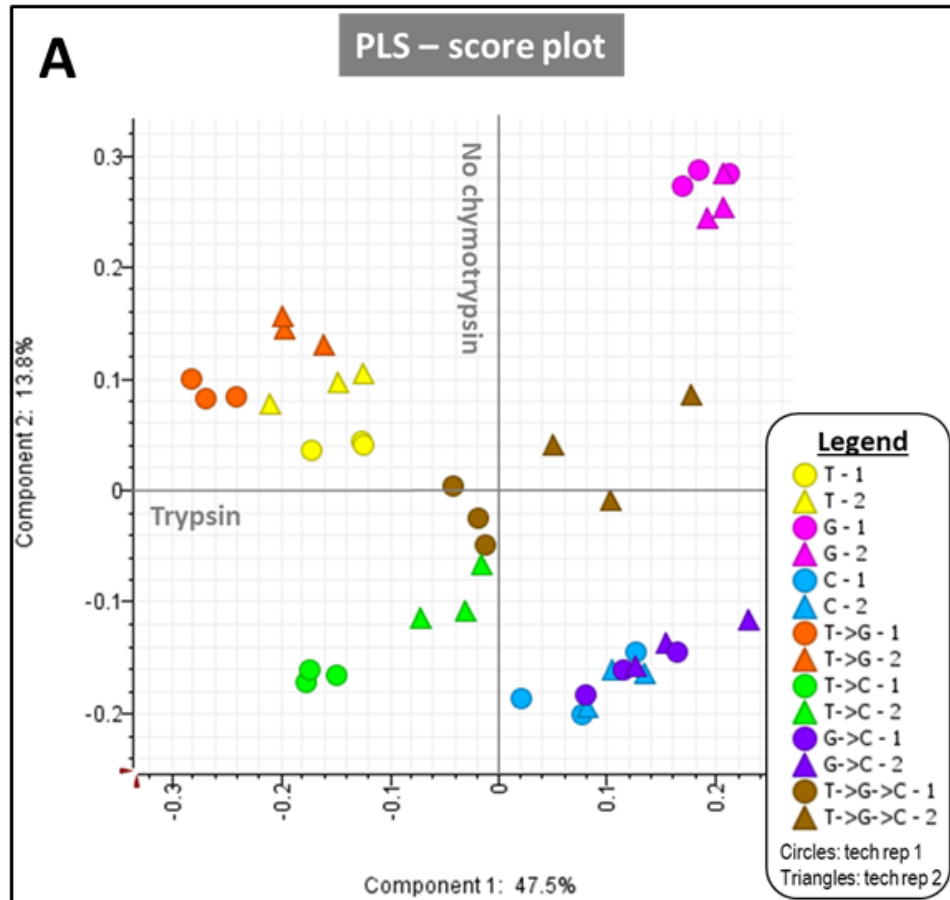


- Reproducible analyses.
- Digestions with C (C, GC, TC) more orthogonal than with T and/or G.
- BSA sequence areas resisting digestion.
- Excellent coverage (>90%) using single digestions
- Best coverage using T:G (96.6%).
- Peptide size decrease when proteases of ls/he are combined
- G produced largest BSA peptides (>6KDa).
- Up to 6 miscleavages observed.
- T&C peak at 2; G peaks at 3.

Digestions were successful on BSA therefore they could be tested on cannabis proteins.

2. Middle-down proteomics (MDP)

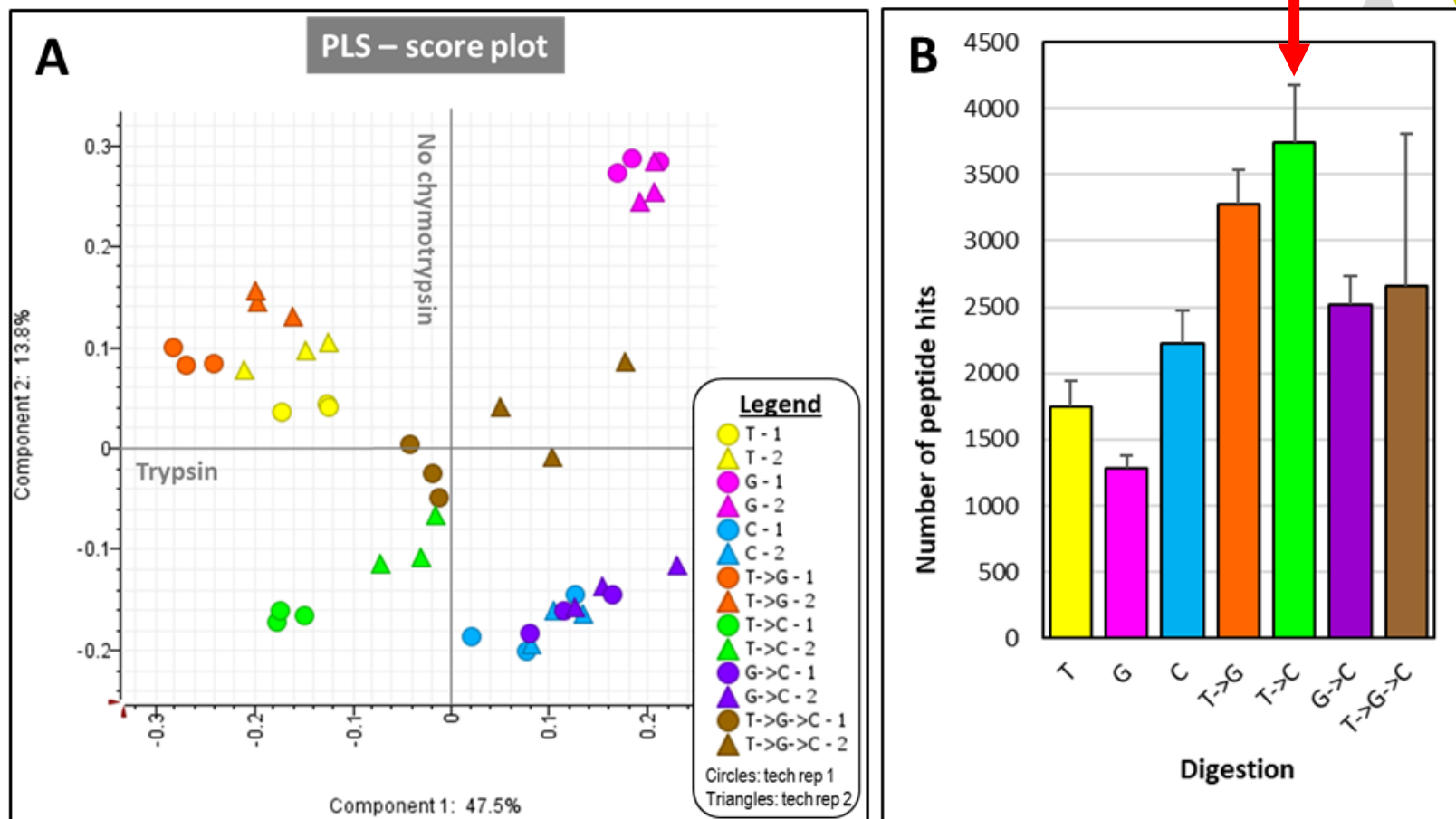
2. Cannabis results



- Reproducible analyses.

2. Middle-down proteomics (MDP)

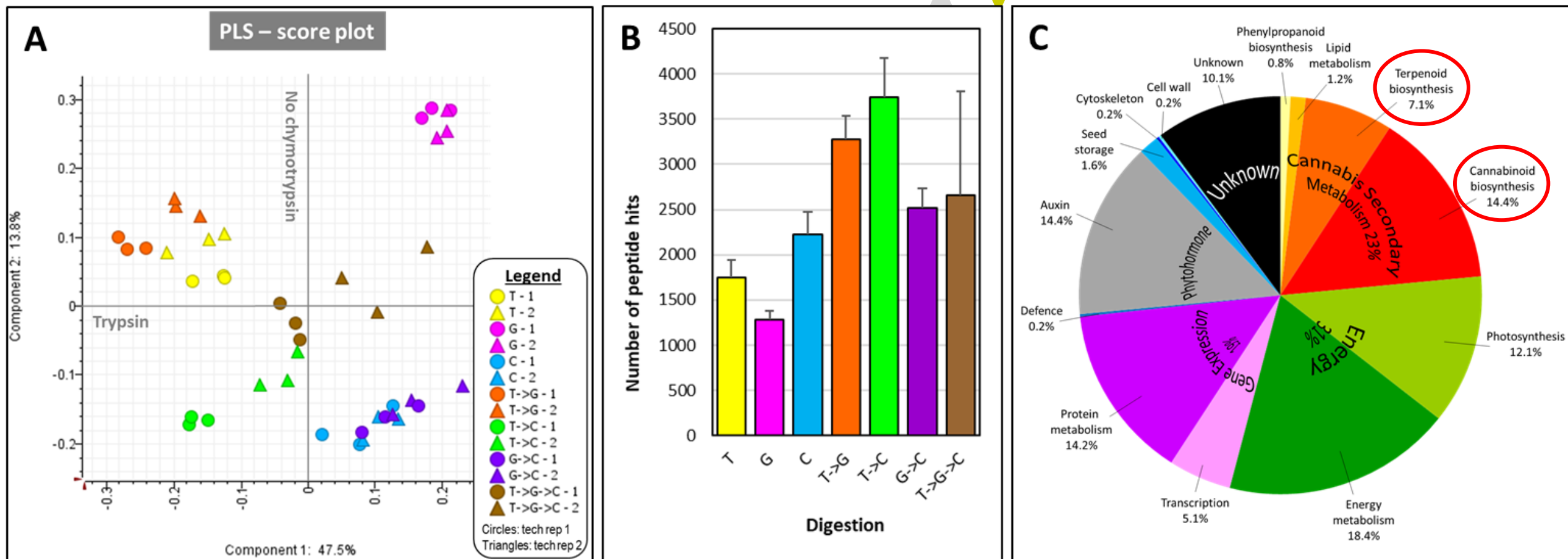
2. Cannabis results



- Reproducible analyses.
- Most peptides identified with TC.

2. Middle-down proteomics (MDP)

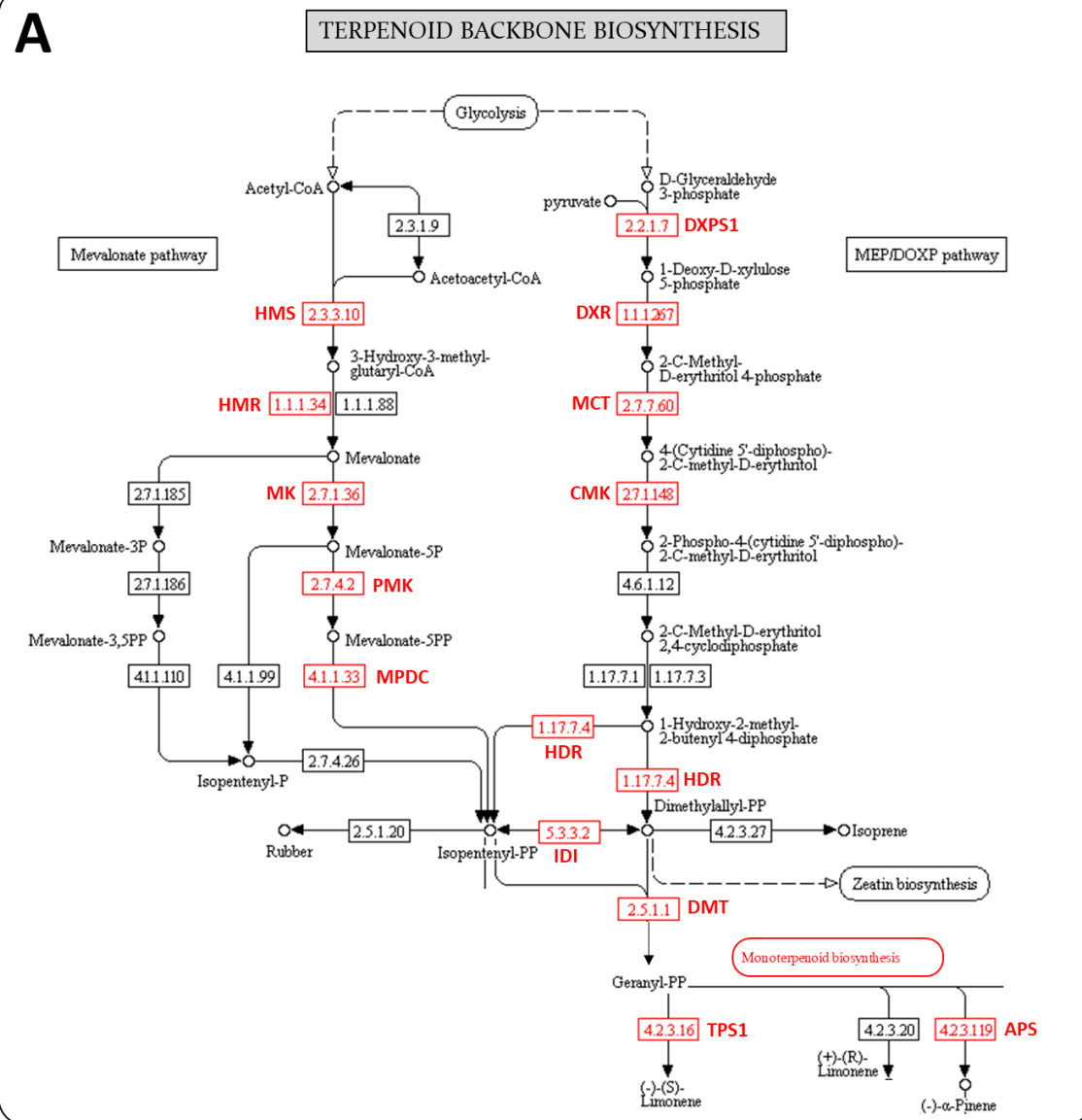
2. Cannabis results



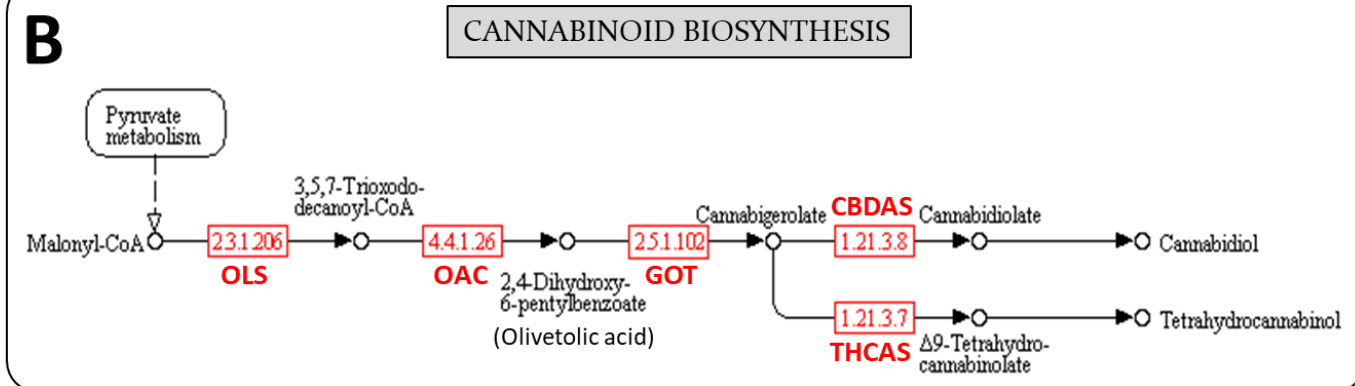
- Reproducible analyses.
- Most peptides identified with TC.
- 27,123 unique peptides identified, 494 accessions and 229 annotations (30% more than BUP).
- Secondary metabolism 23%, energy 31% (photosynthesis 12%), gene expression 19% (protein 14%).

2. Middle-down proteomics (MDP)

2. Cannabis results

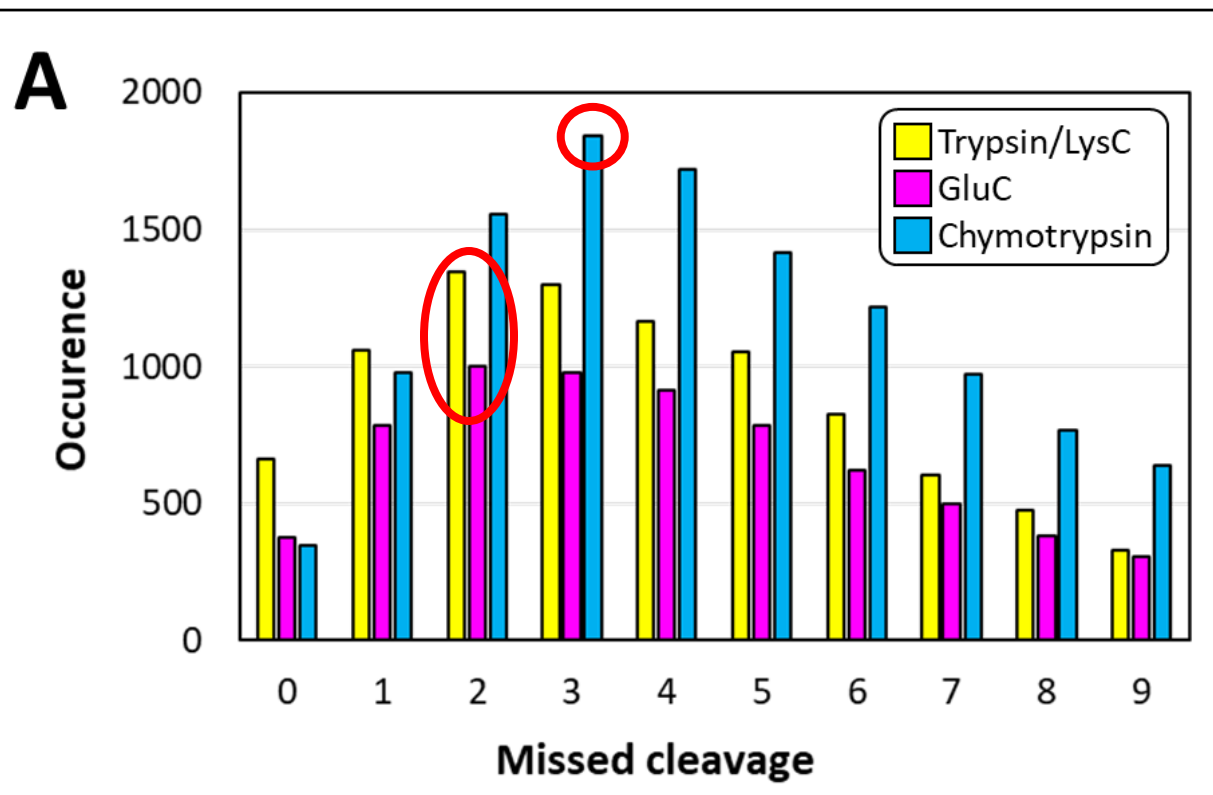


In red, cannabis enzymes identified in this study.



2. Middle-down proteomics (MDP)

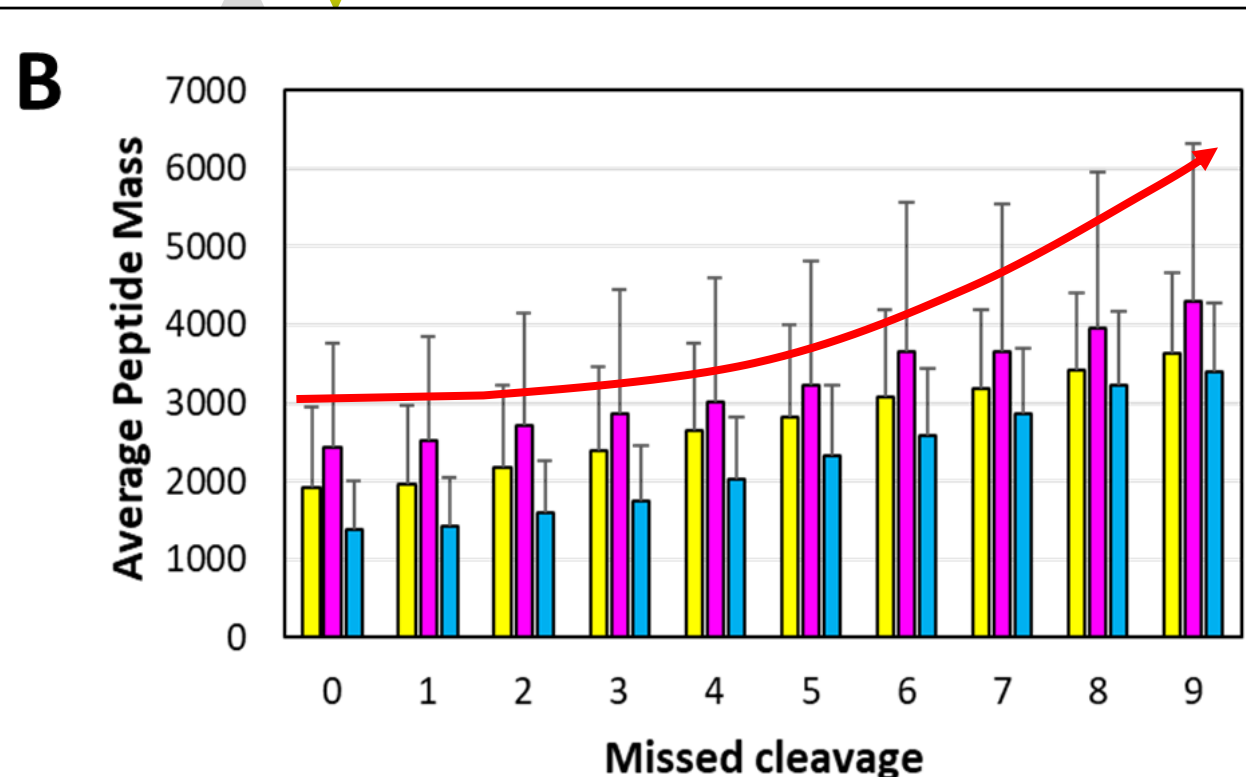
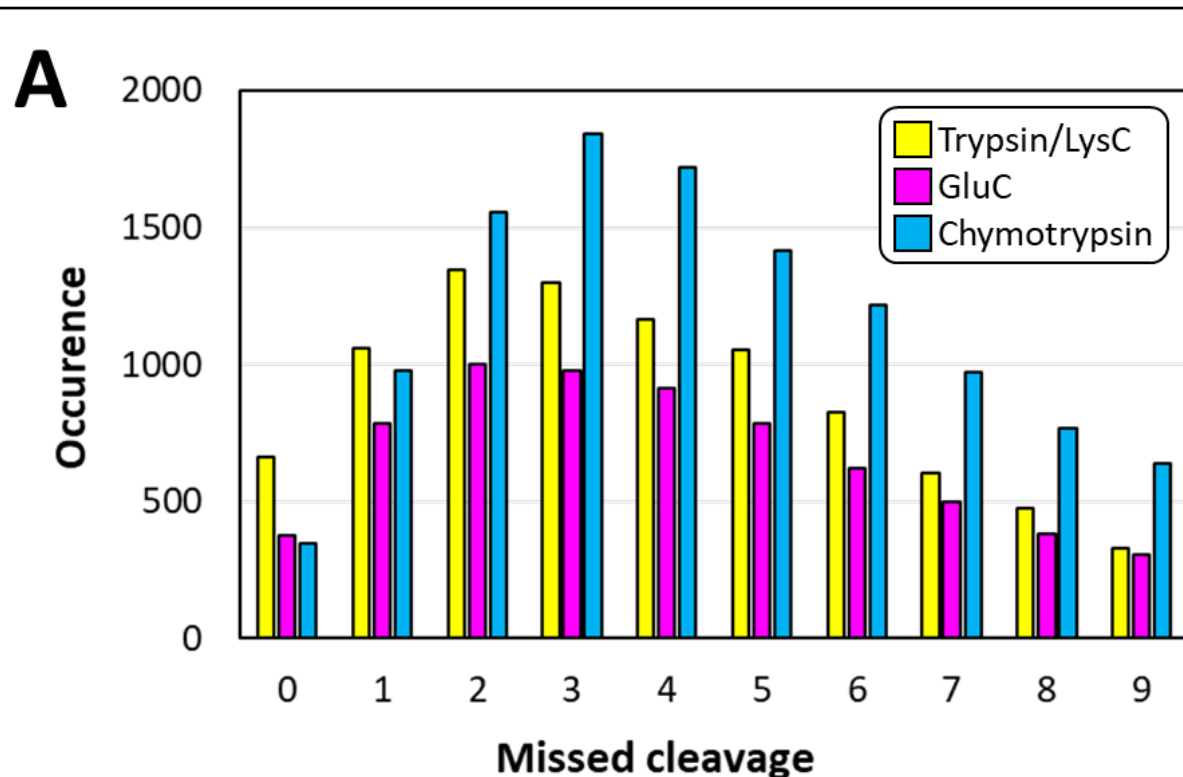
2. Cannabis results



- Up to 9 miscleavages.
- Miscleavage frequency is protease-dependent.

2. Middle-down proteomics (MDP)

2. Cannabis results



- Up to 9 miscleavages.
- Miscleavage frequency is protease-dependent.
- Peptide size increase with number of miscleavages, irrespective of the protease used.

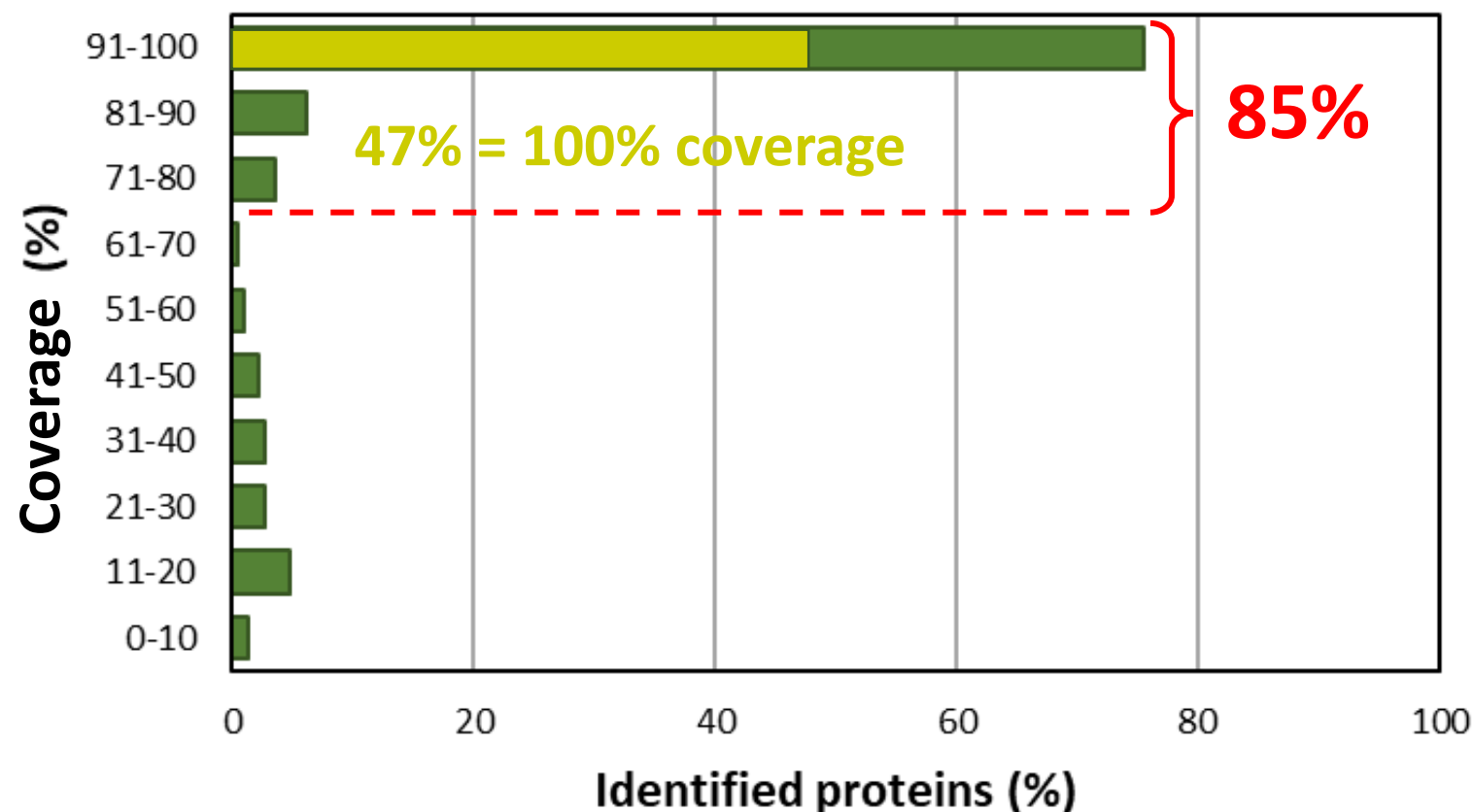
Shotgun proteomics study should apply more than 2 missed cleavages!

2. Middle-down proteomics (MDP)

2. Cannabis results



Distribution of identified proteins per coverage



- Coverage rate spans 6-100% in a MW-dependent manner.
- Most proteins (85%) identified with coverage > 70%.
- Almost half (47%) fully covered (100% coverage).
- PTMs discovered

2. Middle-down proteomics (MDP)

2. Cannabis results

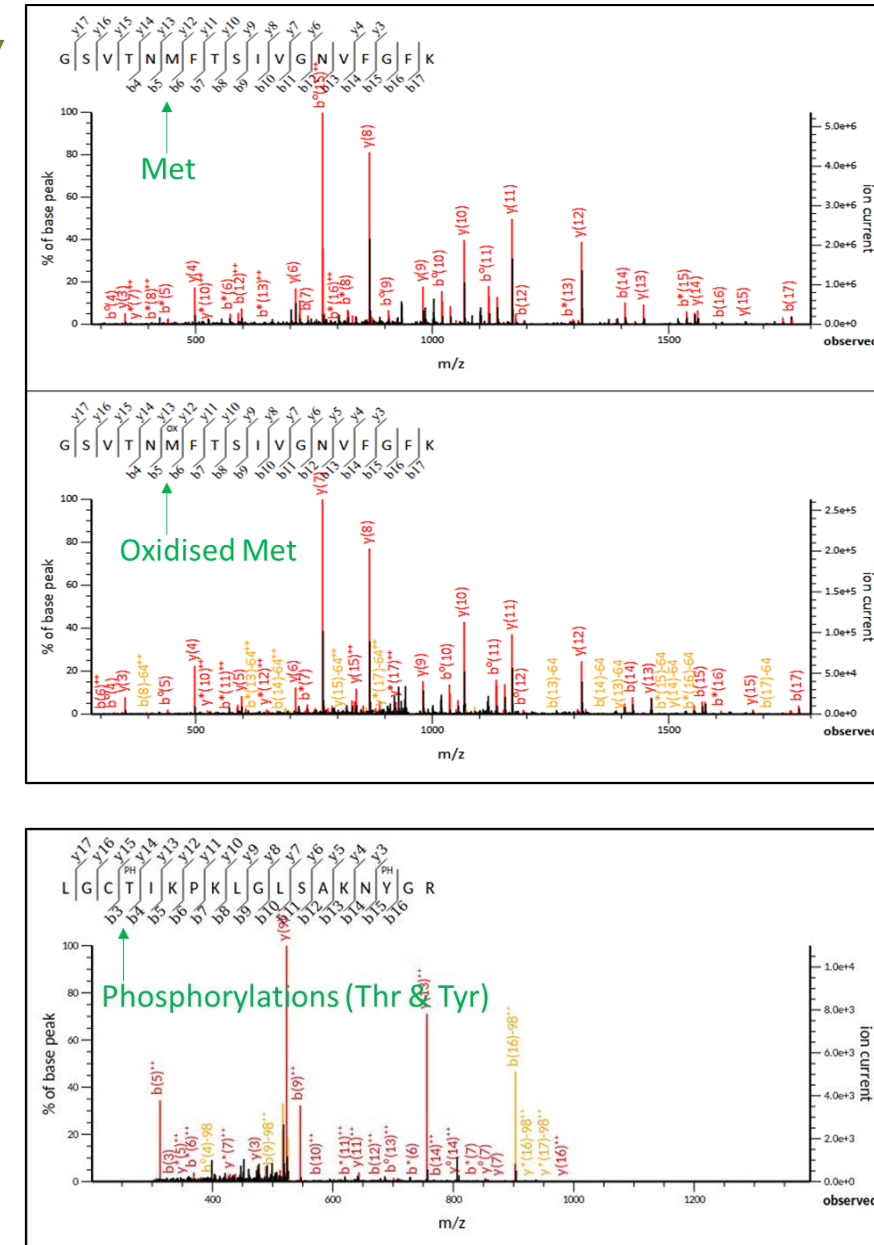
- PTMs discovered

	Fixed modifications	Dynamic modifications			
Proteases	Carbamidomethylation	Acetylation	Phosphorylation	Oxidation	Total
Trypsin/LysC	1362	296	6213	2927	10798
Chymotrypsin	1483	238	7683	3520	12924
GluC	1396	149	4820	2789	9154
Total	4241	683	18716	9236	32876

Multiproteases needed to achieve 100% coverage and identify PTMs.

Focus on:

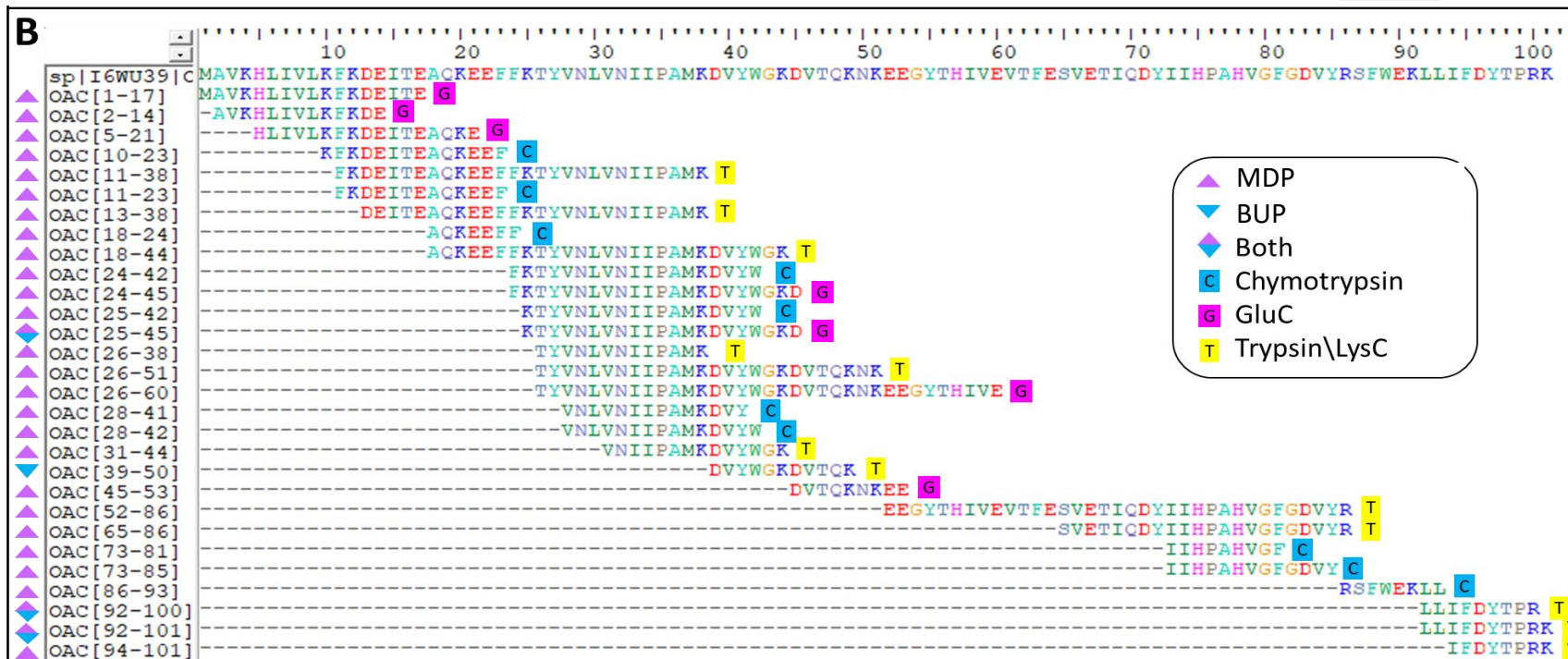
- OAC (olivetolic acid cyclase) (101 AAs, 12kDa)
- THCAS (tetrahydrocannabinolic acid synthase) (516 AAs, 59kDa)



2. Middle-down proteomics (MDP)

2. Cannabis results

Focus on: OAC (100% sequence coverage) (34% BUP)



C

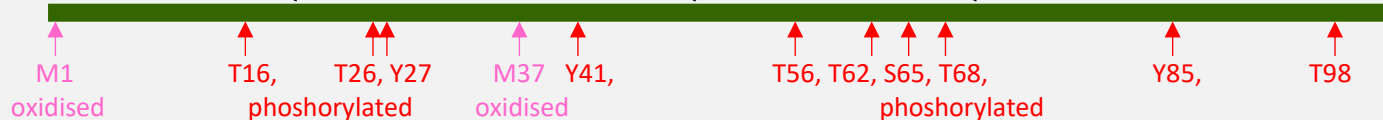
BUP: OAC 34% coverage (Trypsin only, max 2 missed cleavages)

MDP: OAC 100% coverage (Trypsin/LysC 85%, GluC 57%, Chymotrypsin 53%, max 10 missed cleavages)

OAC 100% coverage + PTMs (10 miscleavages)

>sp|I6WU39|OLIAC_CANSA Olivetolic acid cyclase OS=Cannabis sativa OX=3483 GN=OAC PE=1 SV=1

MAVKHLIVLKFDEITEAQKEEFFKTYVNLVNIIPAMKDVYWGKDVTQKNKEEGYTHIVEVTFESVETIQDYIIHPAHVGFVGDVYRSFEKLLIFDYTPRK



2. Middle-down proteomics

2. Cannabis results

Focus on: THCAS

Peptide Sequence	Modifications	MH+ [Da]	# Missed Cleavages
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ILKENPNLCAY	C9(Carbamidomethyl)	1334.68	2
SMGEDLFWAIR	M2(Oxidation)	1340.63	4
KLYEEDVGAGMY		1374.63	5
GGGGENFGIIAAWK		1376.70	3
WGVLFGFGPGLTVE		1478.77	3
KPIPETAMVKILEK	K1(Methyl); M8(Oxidation)	1626.96	3
SKHIPNNVANPKLVY		1693.94	2
ILEKLYEEDVGAGMY		1729.84	6
GMSYISQVPFVVDLR		1809.96	3
ENPNLCAYEAPSLDAR	C6(Carbamidomethyl)	1819.83	4
GLAADNIIDAHLVNVDGK		1834.98	3
GGIMEEISESAIPFPHR		1869.93	3
IDVHSQTAWVEAGATLGE		1883.92	3
AGGTVLRLAKDLAENNK	N-Term(Acetyl); T4(Phospho); K10(Methyl)	1906.00	4
NRLVKVTKVDPNNF	N-Term(Acetyl); K5(Acetyl); T8(Phospho)	1935.99	4
YFGKNFNRLVKVTK	N-Term(Acetyl); K4(Methyl); T14(Phospho)	1978.07	7
NYGLAADNIIDAHLVNVDGK		2112.08	4
LVSAAQTILPDSGAIIDGHLRE		2278.18	4
LGKEAATKAIKEWQPKSK	T7(Phospho); K11(Methyl); S18(Phospho); K19(Acetyl)	2286.14	7
VKKPIPETAMVKILEKLY	T8(Phospho); K12(Methyl); K16(Acetyl); Y18(Phospho)	2316.19	5
TTIFYSGWNFNTANFKKE	T1(Phospho); T13(Phospho); K18(Methyl)	2354.07	6
IKLVAVPSKSTIFS VKKNME	S14(Phospho); K16(Methyl); K17(Acetyl); M19(Oxidation)	2371.29	5
LN YRDLDLGKTNHASPNNY	K10(Methyl); N18(NAG)	2440.20	5
VLYPYGGIMEEISESAIPFPHR		2505.25	4
KIKLVAVPSKSTIFS VKKNME	S9(Phospho); S15(Phospho); K18(Methyl); M20(Oxidation)	2537.30	6
ITHLVFCTTSGVDMPGADYQLTK	C7(Carbamidomethyl)	2554.26	4
WIAHPGGPAILDQVESKLALKTE	K17(Methyl); K21(Acetyl); T22(Phospho)	2609.35	5
LDYVKKPIPETAMVKILEKLY	Y3(Phospho); T11(Phospho); K19(Acetyl); Y21(Phospho)	2773.34	7
IDVHSQTAWVEAGATLGEVYYWINEK		2979.47	8
AEGPATIMAIGTATPANCVLQSEYPDYYFR	C18(Carbamidomethyl)	3306.57	6
AFKPLGISDWNSLFWIAHPGGPAILDQVESK		3393.79	7
GGGGENFGIIAAWKIKLVAVPSKSTIFS VKK	K16(Methyl); T25(Phospho); S28(Phospho); K30(Acetyl)	3418.82	8
DKDLVLMTHFITKNITDNHGKNKTTVHGY	K23(Acetyl); Y29(Phospho)	3462.71	8
CTTSGVDMPGADYQLTKLLGLRPSVKRLMMY	C1(Carbamidomethyl); Y13(Phospho); K17(Methyl); K26(Methyl); Y31(Phospho)	3689.74	6
YDKDLVLMTHFITKNITDNHGKNKTTVHGY	Y1(Phospho); K3(Methyl); K22(Methyl); Y30(Phospho)	3691.71	9
LYEEDVGAGMYVLYPYGGIMEEISESAIPFPHR		3732.77	9
SLNEAFKPLGISDWNSLFWIAHPGGPAILDQVESK		3836.95	8
KHINWVRSVYNFTTPYVSQNPRLAYLN YR	K1(Methyl); S8(Phospho); S18(Phospho); Y28(Phospho)	3853.81	9
QLTKLLGLRPSVKRLMMYQQGCFAGGTVLRLAKD	T3(Phospho); C22(Carbamidomethyl)	3929.05	7
ITAVTFRGPNDTHLDSL VGQALFGDGS AALIVGSDPIPE		3951.05	6
ISDITPKPLVIVTPSNNSHIQATILCSKKVGLQIRTR	T5(Phospho); K7(Methyl); C26(Carbamidomethyl); T36(Phospho)	4260.25	4
GQPKSKITHLVFCTTSGVDMPGADYQLTKLLGLRPSVK	T8(Phospho); C13(Carbamidomethyl); T28(Phospho); K38(Acetyl)	4345.18	7
ISDITPKPLVIVTPSNNSHIQATILCSKKVGLQIRTRSGGHD	K7(Methyl); S15(Phospho); C26(Carbamidomethyl); S27(Phospho); K28(Acetyl)	4755.41	5
ISDITPKPLVIVTPSNNSHIQATILCSKKVGLQIRTRSGGHDAE	S15(Phospho); C26(Carbamidomethyl); K28(Methyl); K29(Acetyl)	4875.54	6

2. Middle-down proteomics

2. Cannabis results

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LNRYRDLGLKTNHASPNNY	K10(Methyl); N18(NAG)	2440.20	5
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	K17(Methyl); K21(Acetyl); T22(Phospho)	2609.35	5
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BY	Y1(Phospho); K3(Methyl); K22(Methyl); Y30(Phospho)	3691.71	9
FPHR		3732.77	9
LDQVESK		3836.95	8
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ITAVTFRGPN DTHLDSL VGQALFGDGS AALIVGSDPIPE		3951.05	6
ISD TTPKPLVIVTPSNNSHIQATILCSKKVGLQIRTR	T5(Phospho); K7(Methyl); C26(Carbamidomethyl); T36(Phospho)	4260.25	4
GQPKSKITHLVFCTTSGVDMPGADYQLTKLLGLRPSVK	T8(Phospho); C13(Carbamidomethyl); T28(Phospho); K38(Acetyl)	4345.18	7
ISD TTPKPLVIVTPSNNSHIQATILCSKKVGLQIRTRSGGHD	K7(Methyl); S15(Phospho); C26(Carbamidomethyl); S27(Phospho); K28(Acetyl)	4755.41	5
ISD TTPKPLVIVTPSNNSHIQATILCSKKVGLQIRTRSGGHDAE	S15(Phospho); C26(Carbamidomethyl); K28(Methyl); K29(Acetyl)	4875.54	

THCAS 72% coverage, many PTMs (10 miscleavages)

>sp|Q8GTB6|29-545|THCAS_CANSA Tetrahydrocannabinolic acid synthase OS=Cannabis sativa
NPRENFLKCF**SKHIPNNVANPKLVYT**QHDQLYMSILNSTIQNLR**FISDTPKPLVIVTPSNNSHIQATILCSKKVGLQIRTRSGGHDAEGMSYISQVFPFVV**
VDLRNMHSIKIDVHSQTAWVEAGATLGEVYYWINEKNENLSFPGG**YCPTVGVGGHFSGGGYGALMRNYGLAADNIIDAHLVNVDGKVLDRKSMG**
EDLFWAIRGGGGENFGIIAAWKIKLVAVPSKSTIFS VKKNMEIHGLVKLF**NKWQNIAYKYDKDLVLMTHFITKNITDNHGKNKTTVHG**YSSIFHGGVD
SLVDLMNKSFP ELGIKKT DCK**EFSWIDTTIFYSGVVNFNTANFKKE**ILLDRSAGKKTAFSI**KLDYVKKPIPETAMVKILEKLYEEDVGAGMYVLYPYGGIME**
EISESAIPFPHRAGIMYELWYTASWEKQEDNE**KHINWVRSVYNFTTPYVSQNPRLAYLN**YRDLDLGKTNHASPNNYTQARIWGEKYFGKNFNRLVKV
KTKVDPNNFFRNEQSIPPLPPHHH

2. Middle-down proteomics

2. Cannabis results

Focus on: THCAS

- peptide masses 1-5kDa
- most peptides contain > 2 miscleavages
- 72% sequence coverage (12% BUP)
- Most peptides are modified

THCAS 72% coverage, many PTMs (10 miscleavages)

>sp|Q8GTB6|29-545|THCAS_CANSA Tetrahydrocannabinolic acid synthase OS=Cannabis sativa
NPRENFLKCF**SKHIPNNVANPKLVYT**QHDQLYMSILNSTIQNLR**ISDTPKPLVIVTPSNNSHIQATILCSKKVGLQIRTRSGGHDAEGMSYISQVFPFVV**
VDLRNMHSIKIDVHSQTAWVEAGATLGEVYYWINEKNENLSFPGG**YCPTVGVGGHFSGGGYGALMRNYGLAADNIIDAHLVNVVDGKVLDRKSMG**
EDLFWAIRGGGGENFGIIAAWKIKLVAVPSKSTIFSVKKNME**IEHGLVKLFNKWQNIAYKYDKDLVLMTHFITKNITDNHGKKNKTTVHG**YSSIFHGGVD
SLVDLMNKSFPELGIKKTDC**EF**SWIDTT**IFYSGVNFNTANFKKE**ILLDRSAGKKTAF**SIKLDYVKKPIPETAMVKILEKLYEEDVGAGMYVL**YPYGGIME
EISESAIPFPHRAGIMYELWYTASWEKQEDNE**KHINWVRSVYNFTTPYVSQNPRLAYLN**YRDLDL**GKTNHASPNNYTQARIWGEKYFGKFNRLVKV**
KTKVDPNNFFRNEQSIPPLPPHHH

Peptide Sequence	Modifications	MH+ [Da]	# Missed Cleavages
IDVHSQTAW		1056.52	1
IDVHSQTAWVE		1284.63	2
SMGEDLFWAIR		1324.64	4
ILKENPNLCAY	C9(Carbamidomethyl)	1334.68	2
SMGEDLFWAIR	M2(Oxidation)	1340.63	4
KLYEEDVGAGMY		1374.63	5
GGGGENFGIIAAWK		1376.70	3
WGVLFGFGPGLTVE		1478.77	3
KPIPETAMVKILEK	K1(Methyl); M8(Oxidation)	1626.96	3
SKHIPNNVANPKLVY		1693.94	2
ILEKLYEEDVGAGMY		1729.84	6
GMSYISQVFPFVVDLR		1809.96	3
ENPNLCAYEAPSLDAR	C6(Carbamidomethyl)	1819.83	4
GLAADNIIDAHLVNVVDGK		1834.98	3
GGIMEISESAIPFPHR		1869.93	3
IDVHSQTAWVEAGATLGE		1883.92	3
AGGTVLR LA KDLAENNK	N-Term(Acetyl); T4(Phospho); K10(Methyl)	1906.00	4
NRLVKVTKVDPNNF	N-Term(Acetyl); K5(Acetyl); T8(Phospho)	1935.99	4
YFGKNFNR LV KVTK	N-Term(Acetyl); K4(Methyl); T14(Phospho)	1978.07	7
NYGLAADNIIDAHLVNVVDGK		2112.08	4
LVSAAQTILPDS GA IDGHLRE		2278.18	4
LGKEAATKA KE WGQPKSK	T7(Phospho); K11(Methyl); S18(Phospho); K19(Acetyl)	2286.14	7
VKKPIPETAMVKILEKLY	T8(Phospho); K12(Methyl); K16(Acetyl); Y18(Phospho)	2316.19	5
TTIFYSGWN FN TANFKKE	T1(Phospho); T13(Phospho); K18(Methyl)	2354.07	6
IKLVAVPSKSTIFS VK KNME	S14(Phospho); K16(Methyl); K17(Acetyl); M19(Oxidation)	2371.29	5
	K10(Methyl); N18(NAG)	2440.20	5
		2505.25	4
	S9(Phospho); S15(Phospho); K18(Methyl); M20(Oxidation)	2537.30	6
	C7(Carbamidomethyl)	2554.26	4
	K17(Methyl); K21(Acetyl); T22(Phospho)	2609.35	5
	Y3(Phospho); T11(Phospho); K19(Acetyl); Y21(Phospho)	2773.34	7
		2979.47	8
FR	C18(Carbamidomethyl)	3306.57	6
ESK		3393.79	7
KK	K16(Methyl); T25(Phospho); S28(Phospho); K30(Acetyl)	3418.82	8
Y	K23(Acetyl); Y29(Phospho)	3462.71	8
MMY	C1(Carbamidomethyl); Y13(Phospho); K17(Methyl); K26(Methyl); Y31(Phospho)	3689.74	6
BY	Y1(Phospho); K3(Methyl); K22(Methyl); Y30(Phospho)	3691.71	9
FPHR		3732.77	9
LDQVESK		3836.95	8
R	K1(Methyl); S8(Phospho); S18(Phospho); Y28(Phospho)	3853.81	9
ITAVTFRGPNDTHLDSL VG QALFGDGSAA LI VGSDPIPE	T3(Phospho); C22(Carbamidomethyl)	3929.05	7
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GQPKSKITHLV CT TS GV DMPGADYQLTKLLGLRPSVK	T8(Phospho); C13(Carbamidomethyl); T28(Phospho); K38(Acetyl)	4345.18	7
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2. Middle-down proteomics

2. Cannabis results

Focus on: THCAS

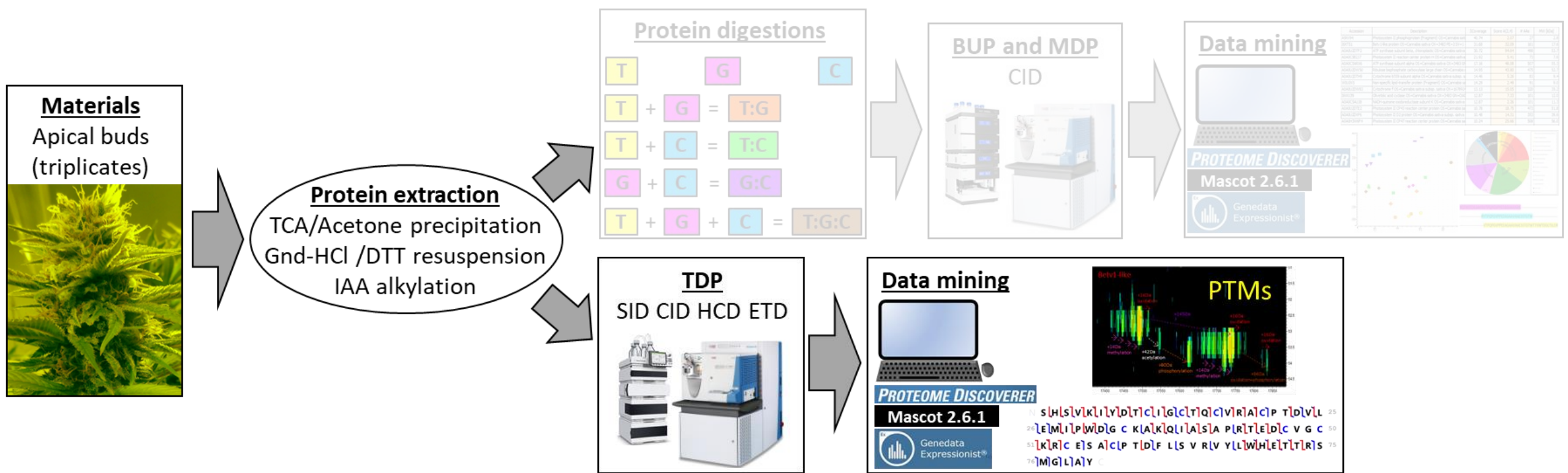
- peptide masses 1-5kDa
- most peptides contain > 2 miscleavages
- 72% sequence coverage (12% BUP)
- Most peptides are modified
- 2/7 NAG ligands found (N329 and N467)
- Other dynamic PTMs: methylations, phosphorylation, acetylation, oxidation

THCAS 72% coverage, many PTMs (10 miscleavages)

>sp|Q8GTB6|29-545|THCAS_CANSA Tetrahydrocannabinolic acid synthase OS=Cannabis sativa
NPRENFLKCF**SKHIPNNVANPKLVY**TQHDQLYMSILNSTIQNLR**ISD**TPKPLVIVTPSNNSHIQATILCSKKVGLQIRTRSGGHD**AE**GMSYISQVPFVV
VDLRNMHSIK**IDVHSQTAWVEAGATLGEVYYWINEK**NENLSFPGG**YCPTVGVG**GHFSGGGYGALMRNYGLAADNIIDAHLVNVDGK**V**LD**R**KS**SMG**
EDLFWAIRGGGGENFGIIAAWKIKLVAVPSKSTIFSVKKNMEIHGLVKLF**NKWQNIAYKYDKDLVLMTHFITKNITDNHGKKNKTTVHG**YFSSIFHGGVD
SLVDLMNKSFPELGIKKTDC**EF**SWIDTTIFYSGVVNFNTAN**FK**KEILLDRSAGKKTAFSIK**LDYVKKPIPETAMVKILEKLYEEDVGAGMYVL**YPYGGIME
EISESAIPFPHRAGIMYELWYTASWEKQEDNE**KHINWVRSVYNFTTPYVSQNPRLAYLN**YRDLDL**GKTNHASPN**NYTQARIWGEKYFGKFNRLVKV
KTKVDPNNFFRNEQSIPPLPPHHH

Peptide Sequence	Modifications	MH+ [Da]	# Missed Cleavages
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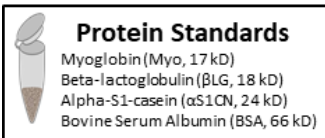
Optimisation of intact protein analysis



3. Top-down proteomics (TDP)

Experimental design

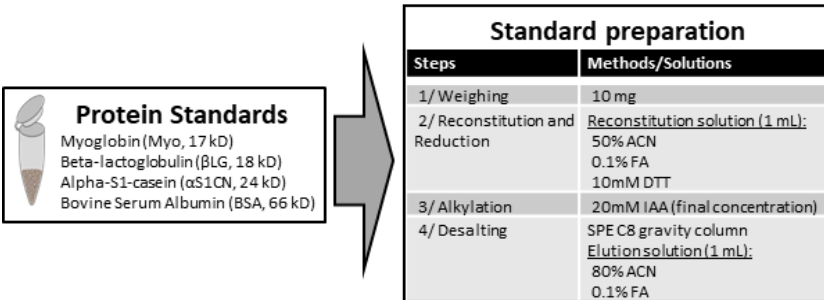
1. Benchmarking MS/MS fragmentation using protein standards



3. Top-down proteomics (TDP)

Experimental design

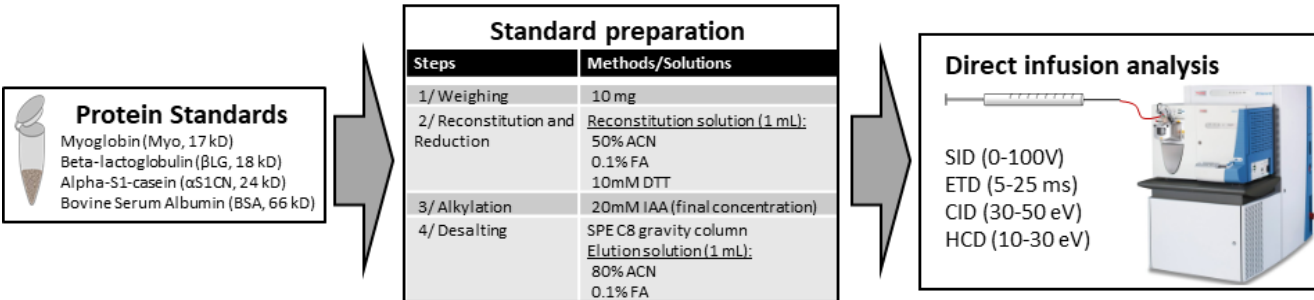
1. Benchmarking MS/MS fragmentation using protein standards



3. Top-down proteomics (TDP)

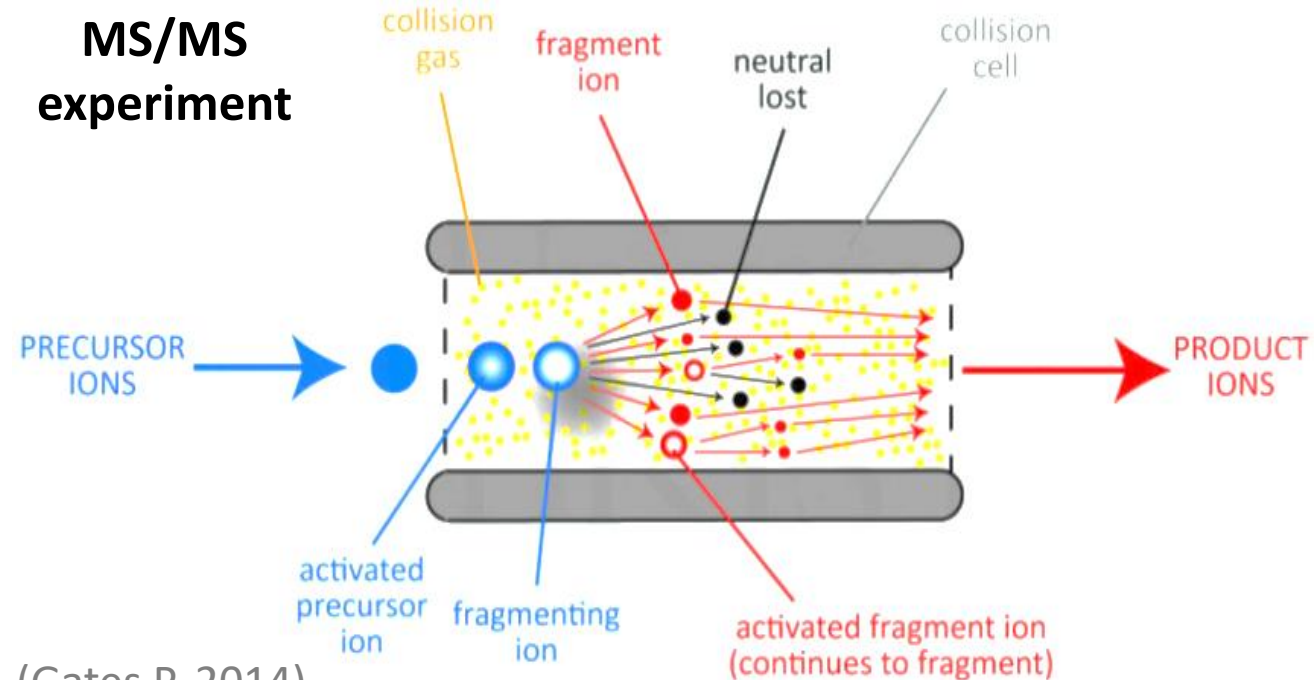
Experimental design

1. Benchmarking MS/MS fragmentation using protein standards



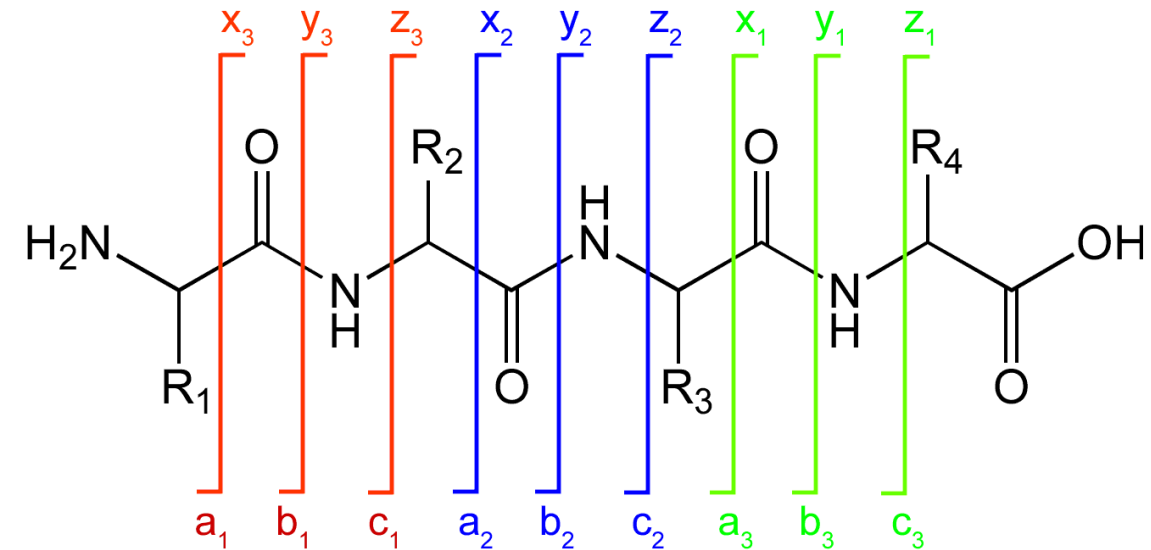
SID, CID, HCD → b-ions and y-ions
 ETD → c-ions and z-ions

MS/MS experiment



(Gates P, 2014)

Fragmentation notation

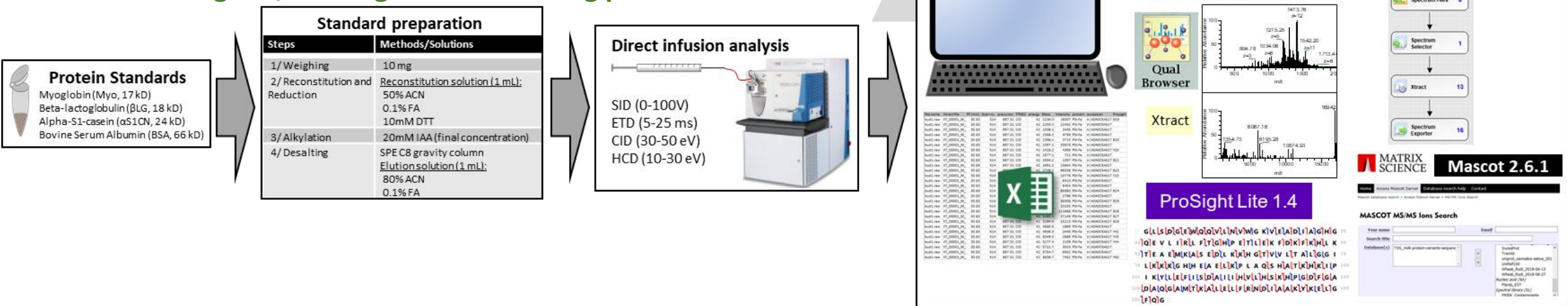


(SOURCE: wikipedia)

3. Top-down proteomics (TDP)

Experimental design

1. Benchmarking MS/MS fragmentation using protein standards

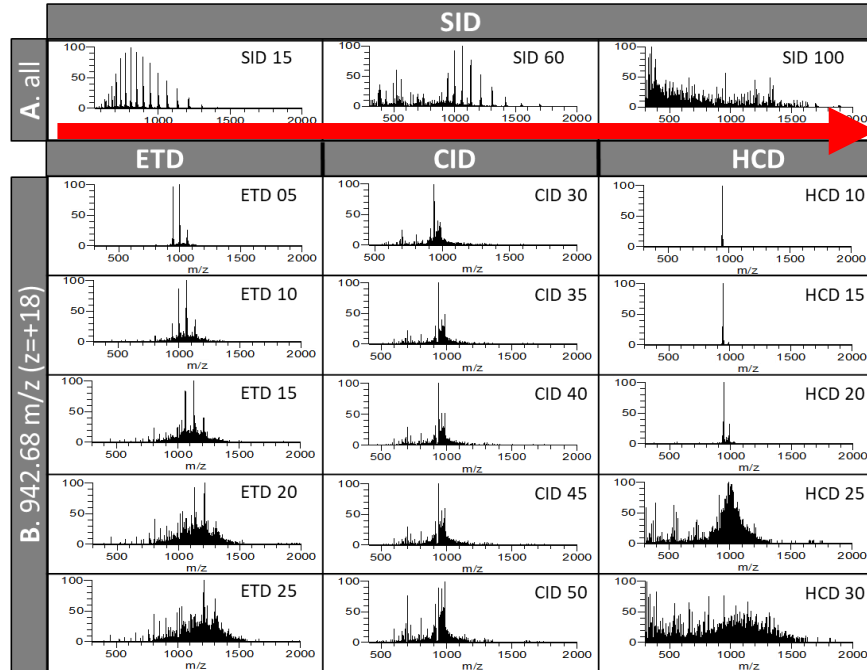


Example: Myoglobin (P68082 MYG_HORSE, 153 AAs, 17kD)



3. Top-down proteomics (TDP)

MS/MS spectra of myoglobin



more
fragments as
SID energy
increases

more
fragments
as ETD, CID,
HCD energy
increases



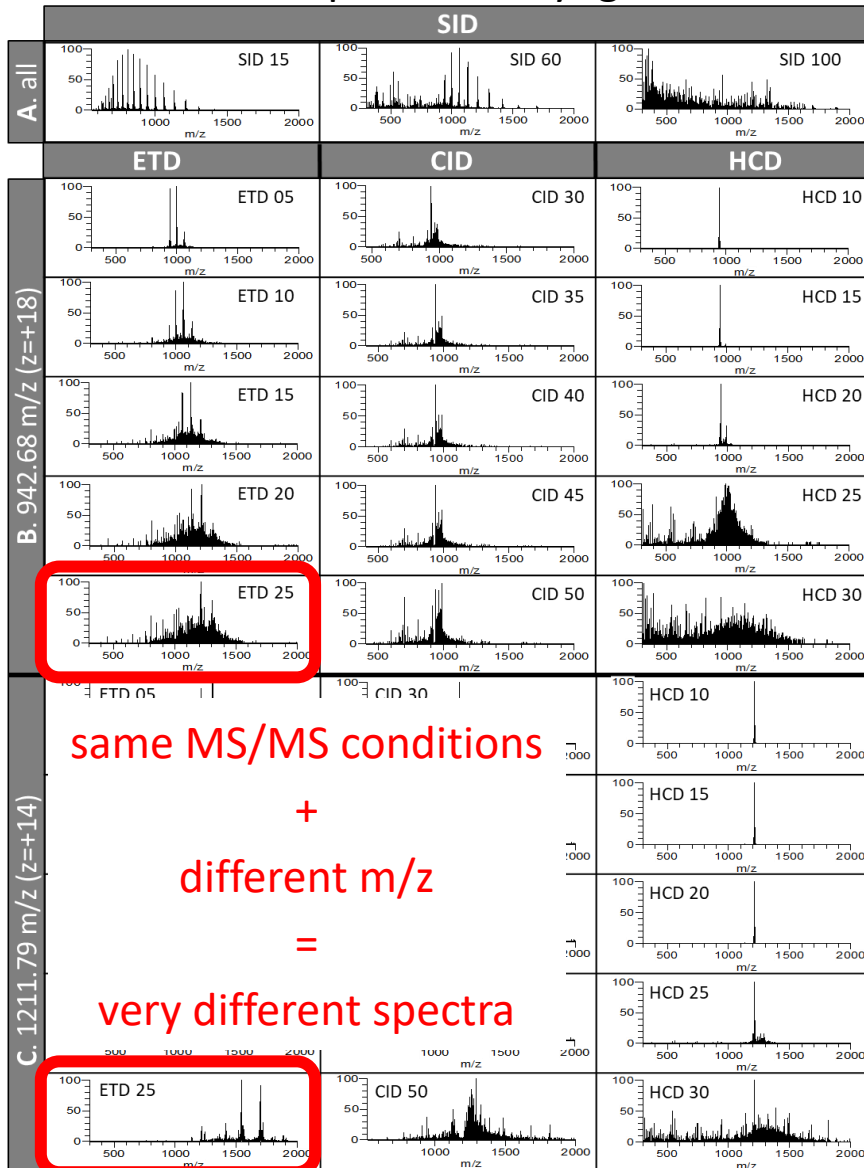
- Each MS/MS mode produces different fragmentation patterns in an energy-dependent way.

3. Top-down proteomics (TDP)

MS/MS spectra of myoglobin

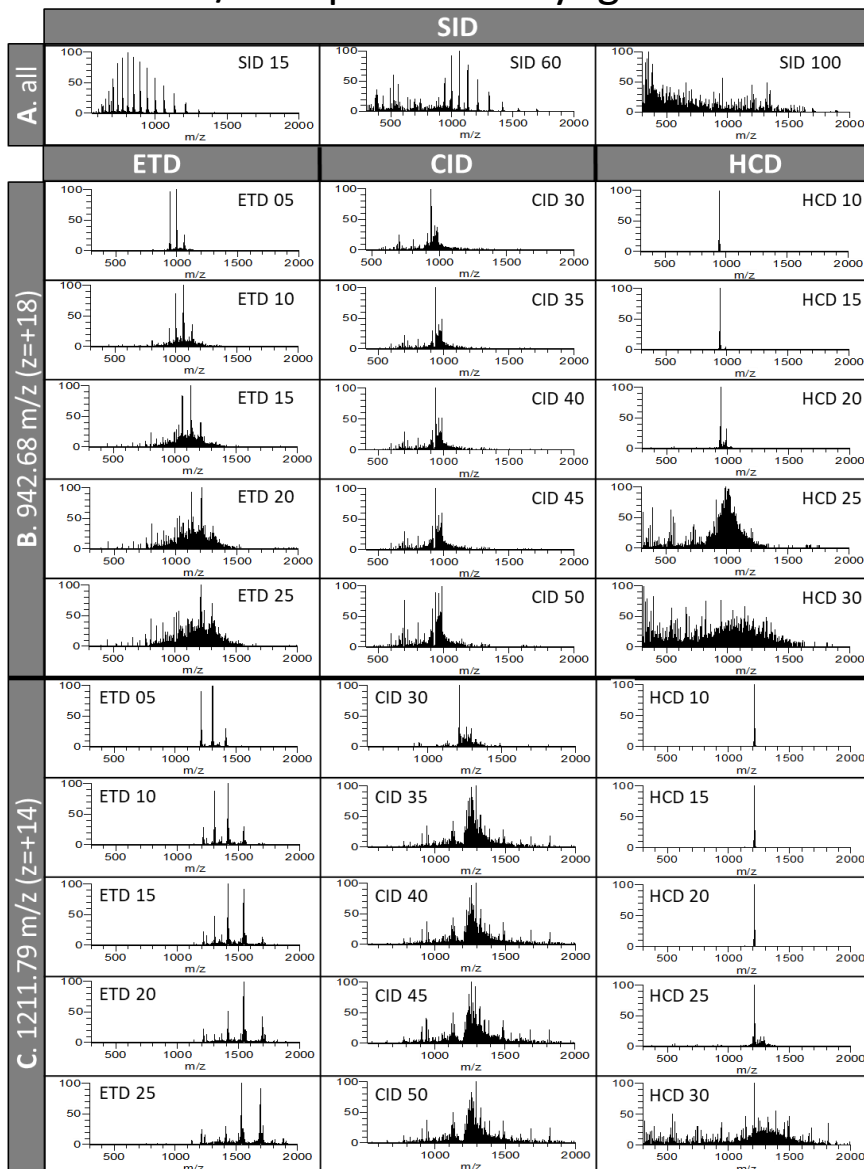


- Each MS/MS mode produces different fragmentation patterns in an energy-dependent way.
- Fragmentation efficiency is precursor-dependent.



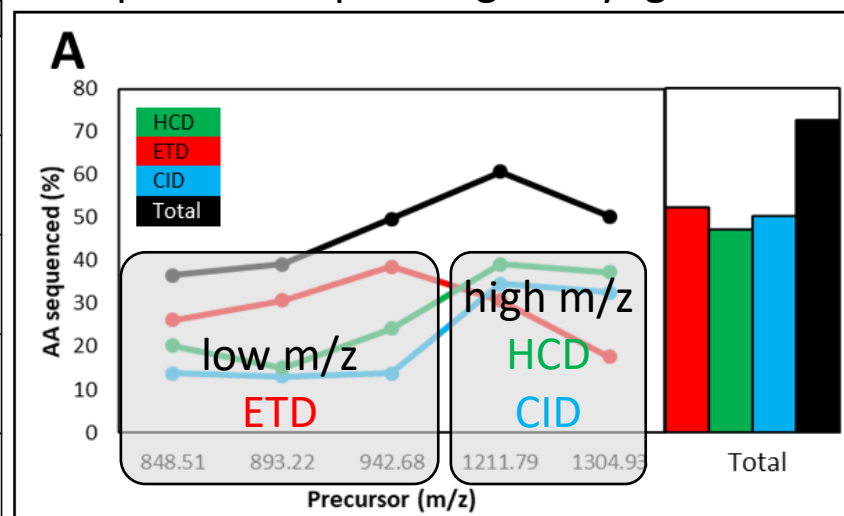
3. Top-down proteomics (TDP)

MS/MS spectra of myoglobin



- Each MS/MS mode produces different fragmentation patterns in an energy-dependent way.
- Fragmentation efficiency is precursor-dependent.

Top-down sequencing of myoglobin

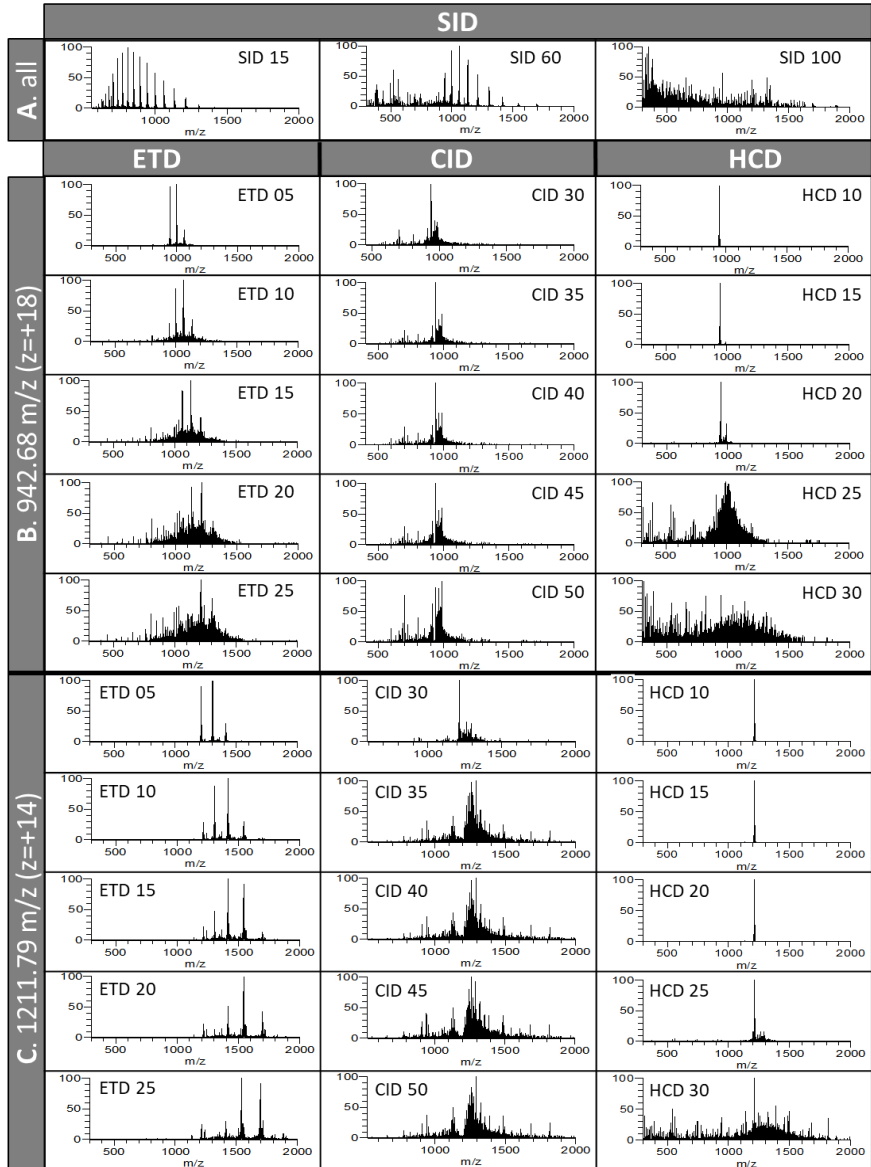


- ETD is complementary to CID and HCD MS/MS modes.

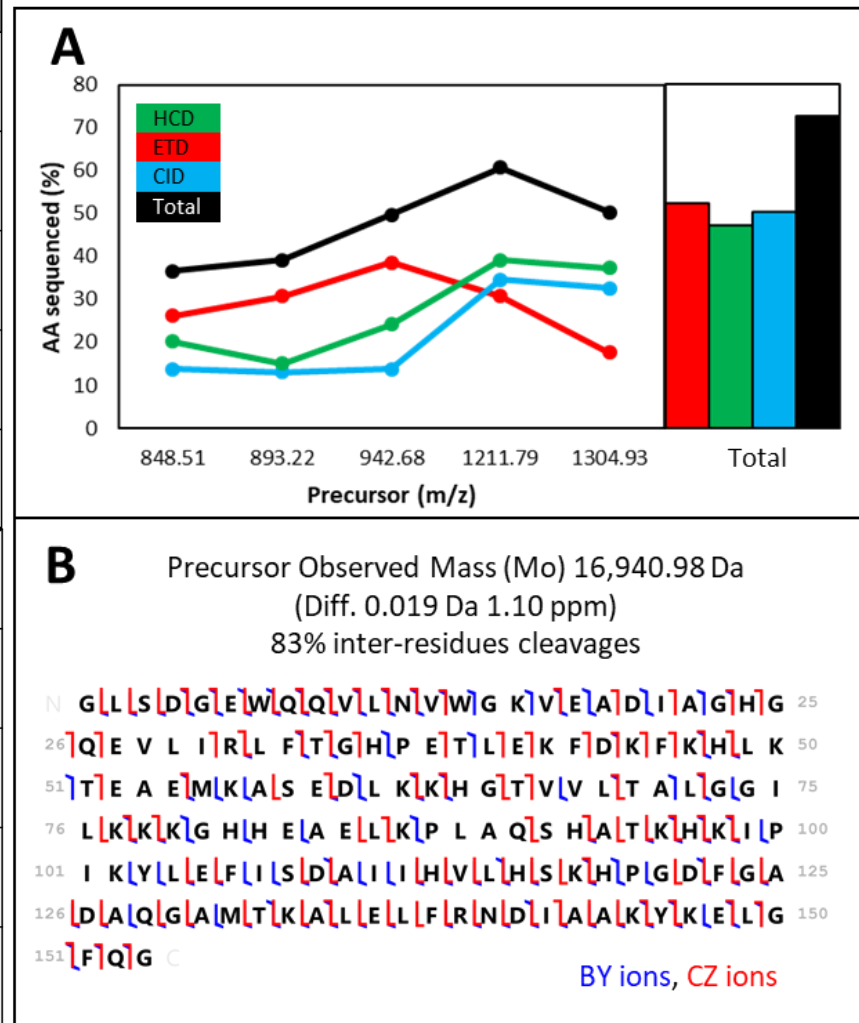
3. Top-down proteomics (TDP)

- Each MS/MS mode produces different fragmentation patterns in an energy-dependent way.
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MS/MS spectra of myoglobin



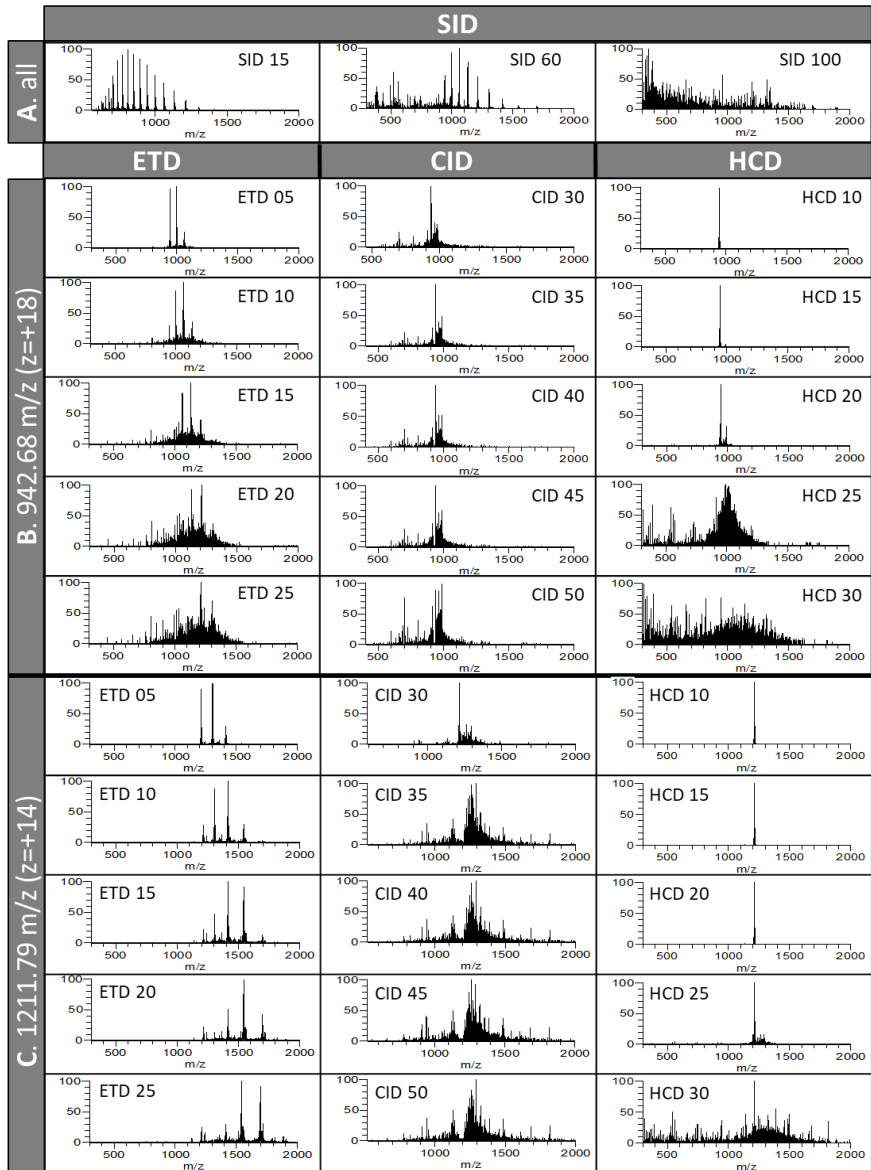
Top-down sequencing of myoglobin



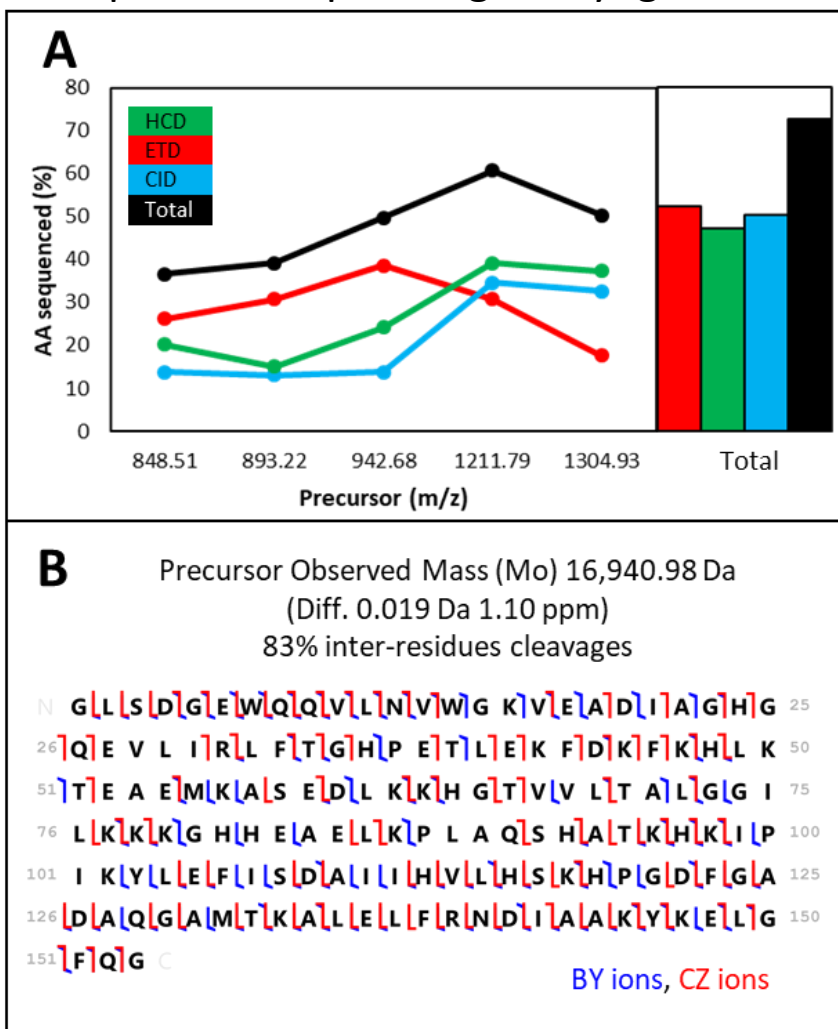
- ETD is complementary to CID and HCD MS/MS modes.
- 83% myoglobin residues fragmented.
- Identified myoglobin fragments give 100% coverage.

3. Top-down proteomics (TDP)

MS/MS spectra of myoglobin

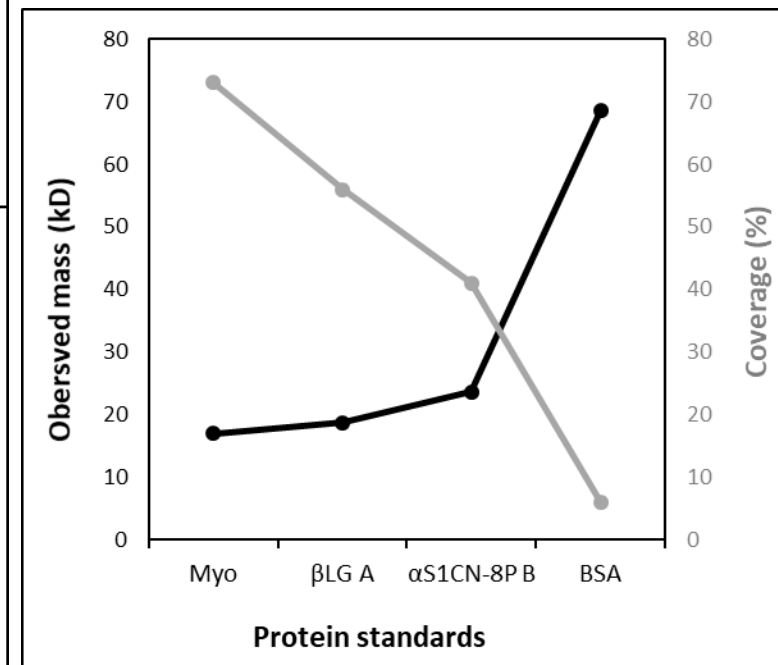


Top-down sequencing of myoglobin



- Each MS/MS mode produces different fragmentation patterns in an energy-dependent way.
- Fragmentation efficiency is precursor-dependent.

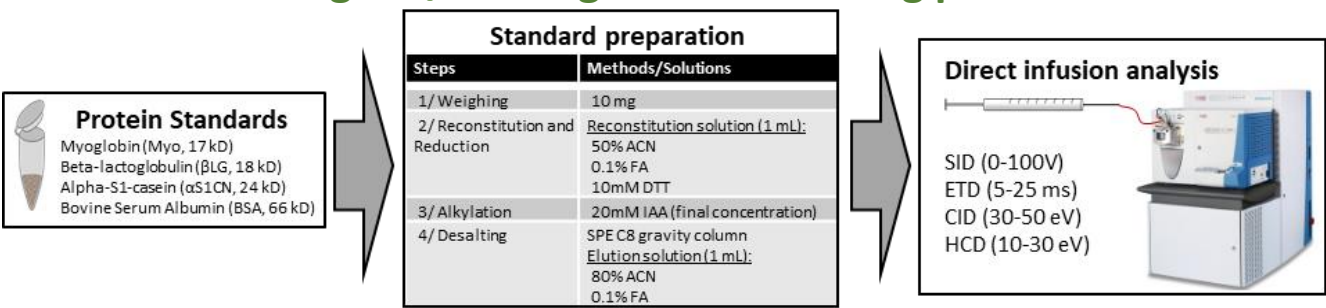
- ETD is complementary to SID, CID and HCD MS/MS modes.
- 83% myoglobin residues fragmented.
- Identified myoglobin fragments give 100% coverage.
- Sequencing success ↓ with ↑ MWs.



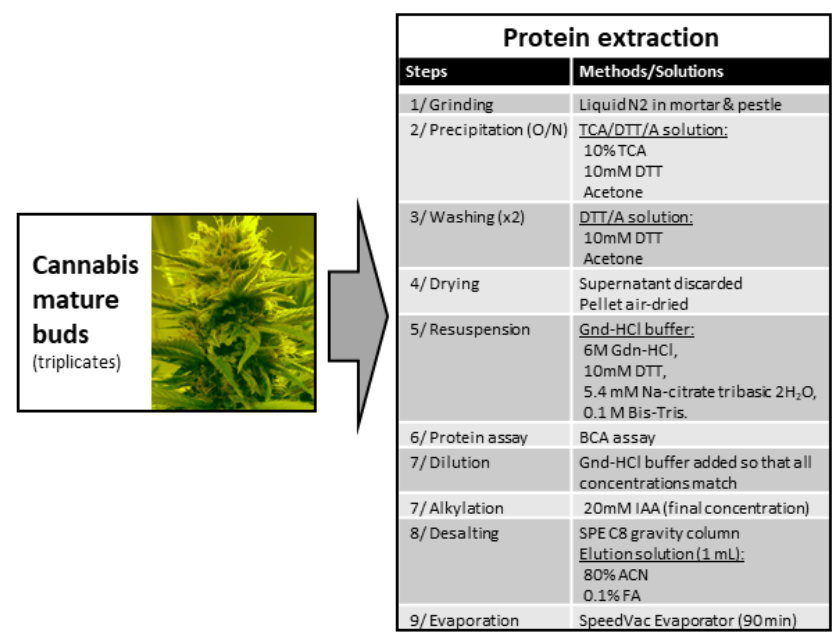
3. Top-down proteomics (TDP)

Experimental design

1. Benchmarking MS/MS fragmentation using protein standards



2. Apply best MS/MS methods to cannabis extracts



Data processing



Manual search
SID ETD CID HCD
Xcalibur 3.1

Qual Browser

Xtract

ProSight Lite 1.4

Automatic search
ETD CID HCD
Proteome Discoverer 2.2



MATRIX SCIENCE
Mascot 2.6.1

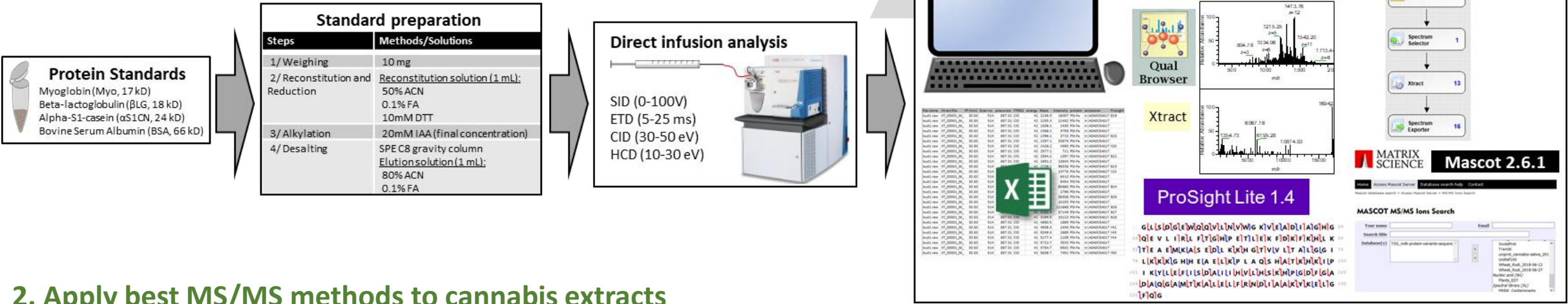
MASCOT MS/MS Ions Search



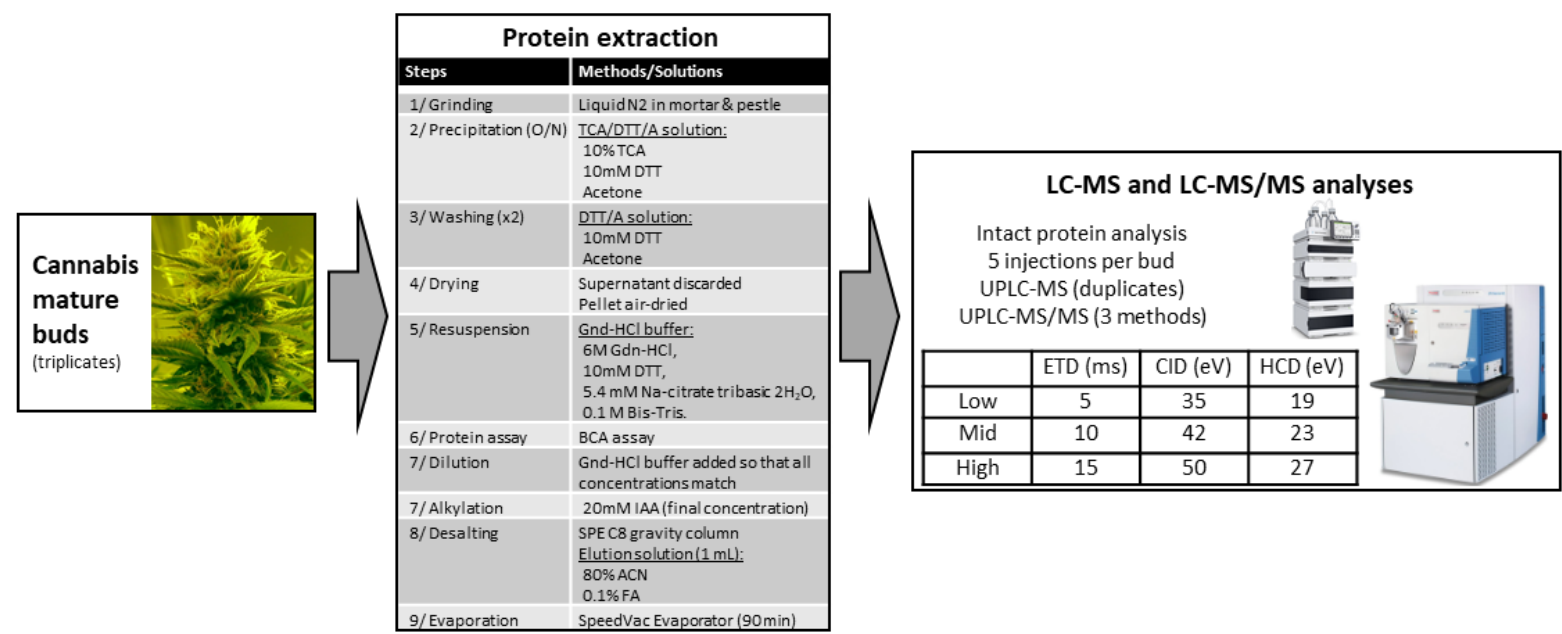
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Experimental design

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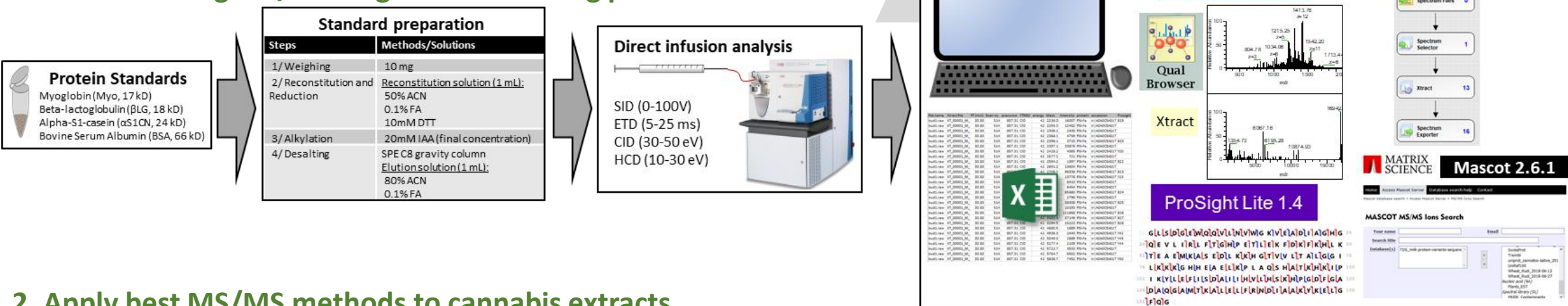
2. Apply best MS/MS methods to cannabis extracts



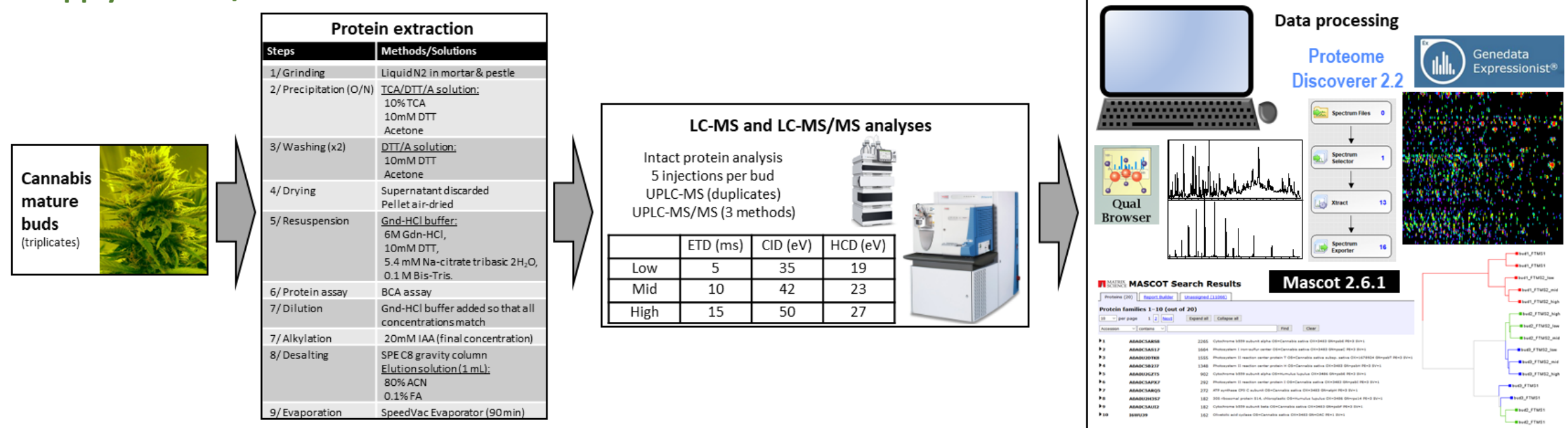
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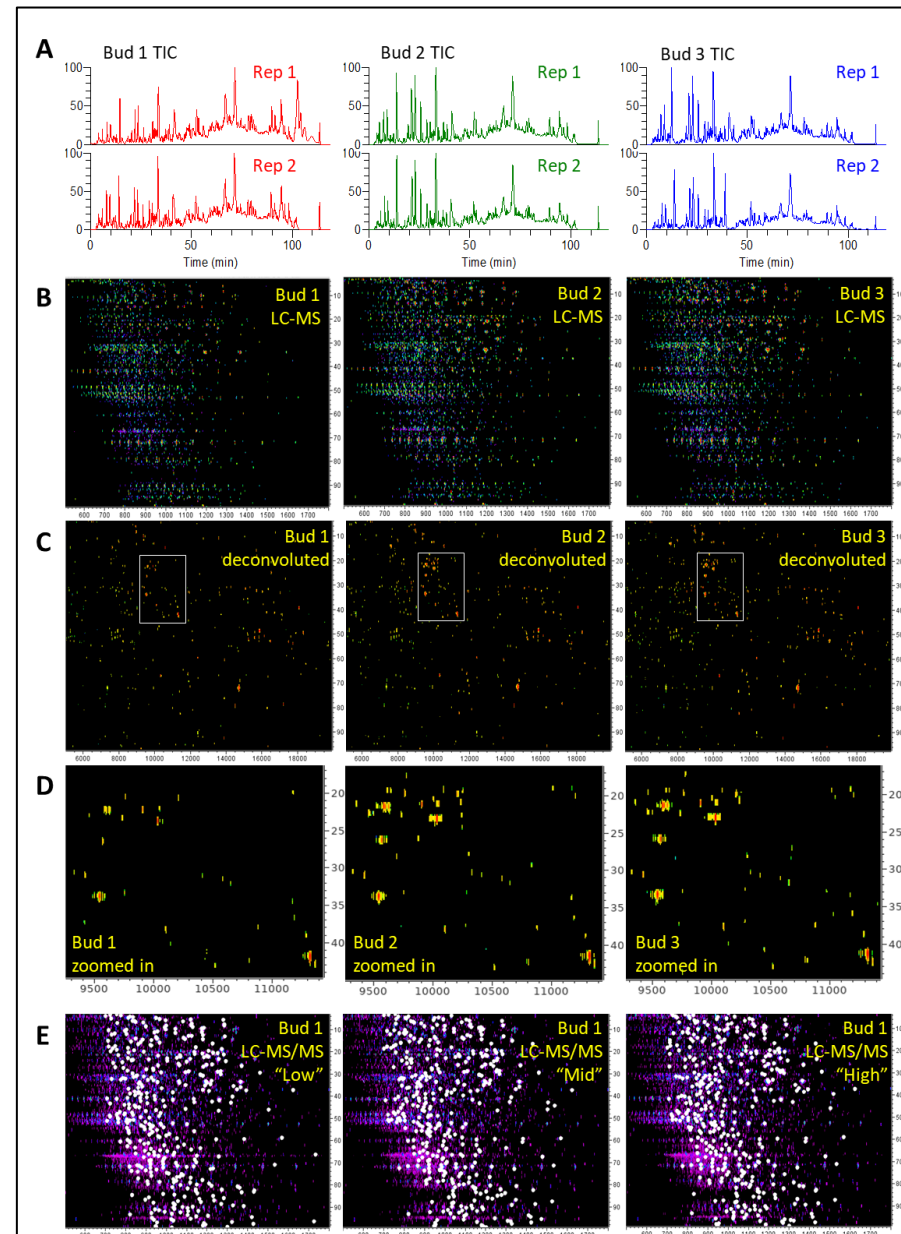
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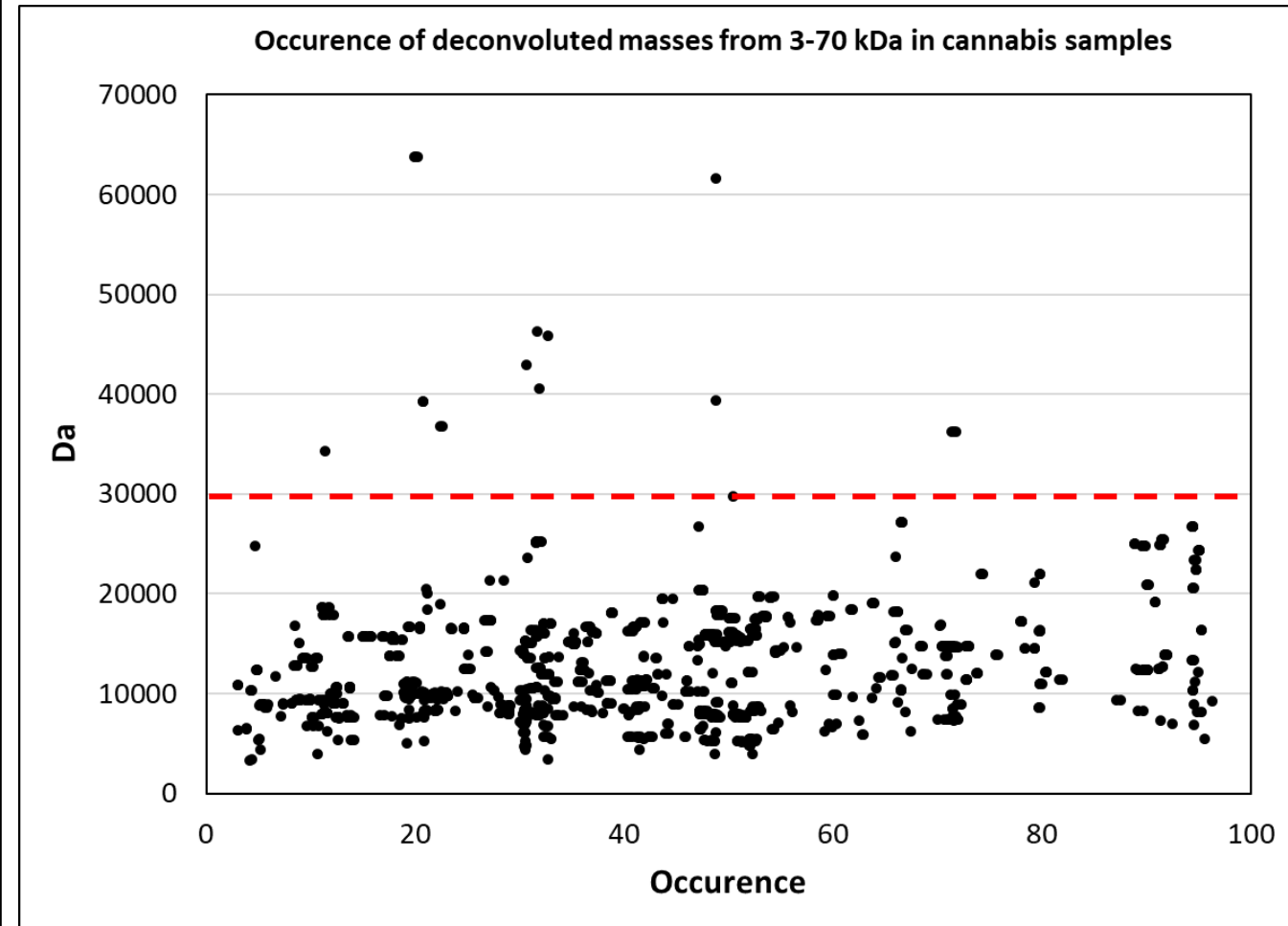
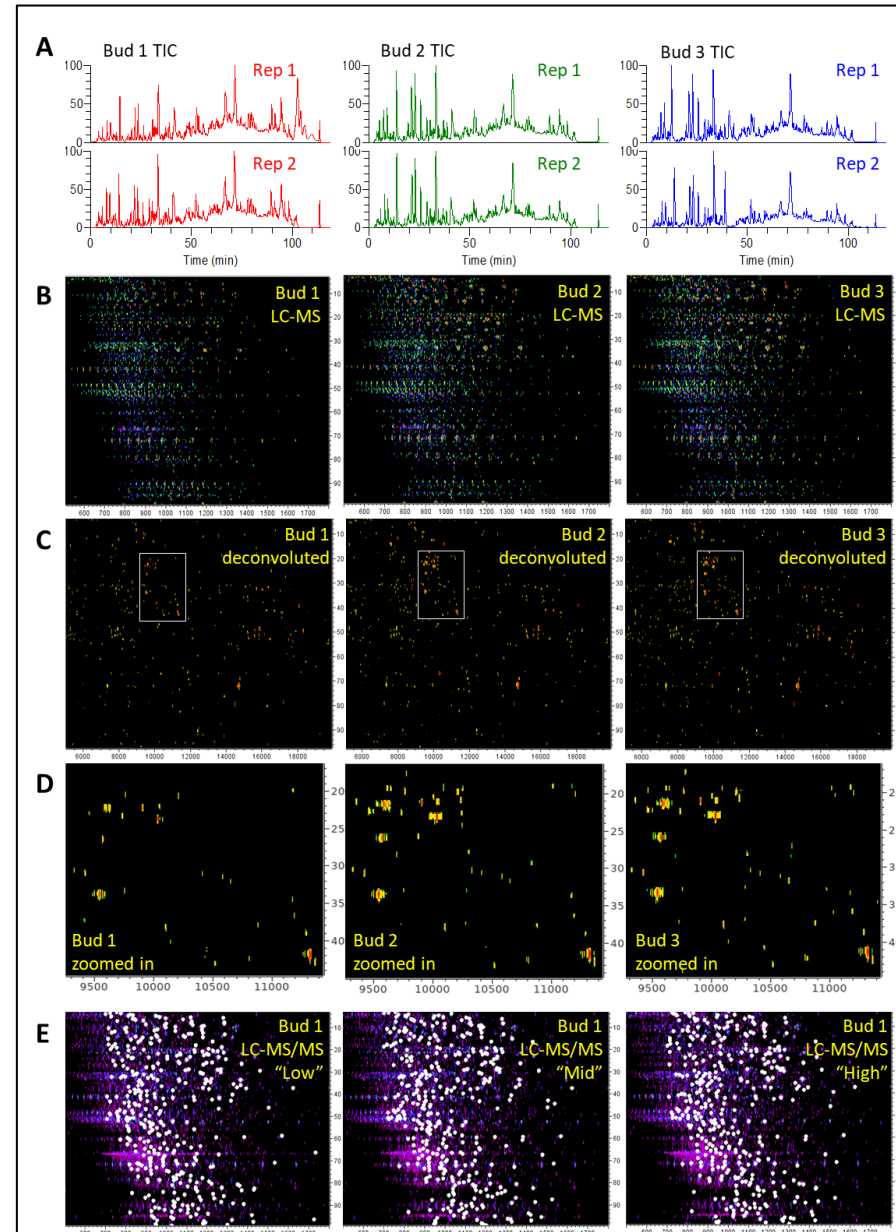
- Excellent reproducibility



3. Top-down proteomics (TDP)



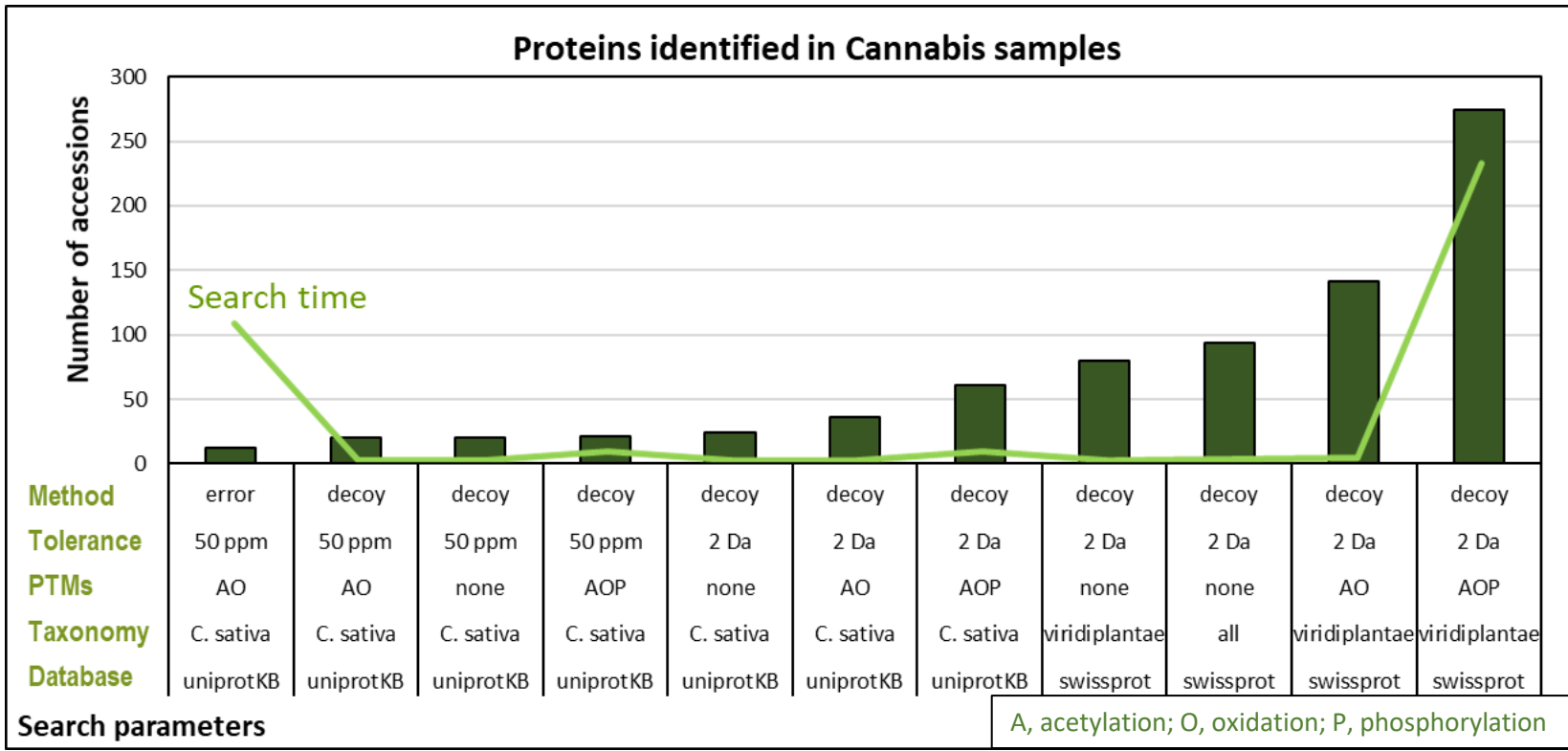
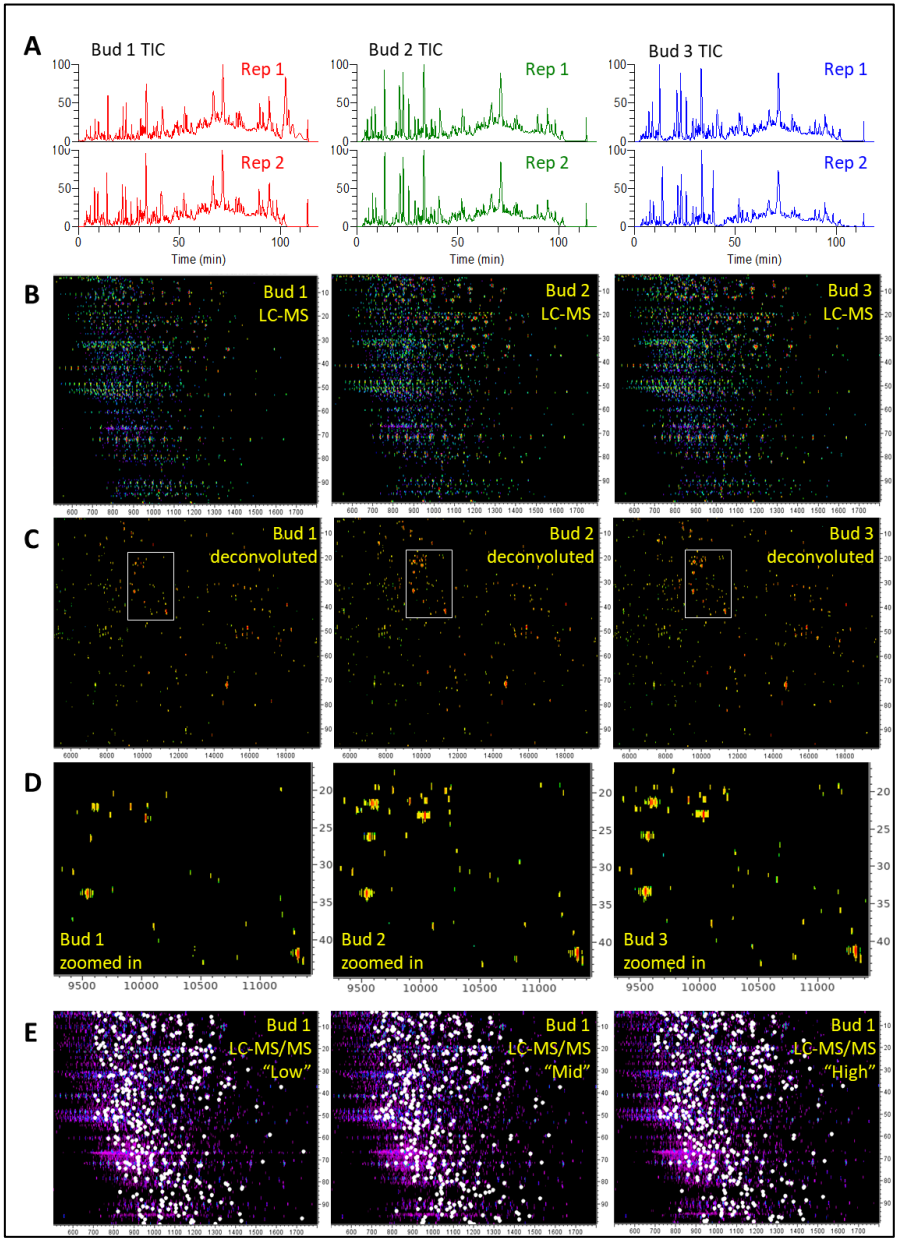
- Excellent reproducibility
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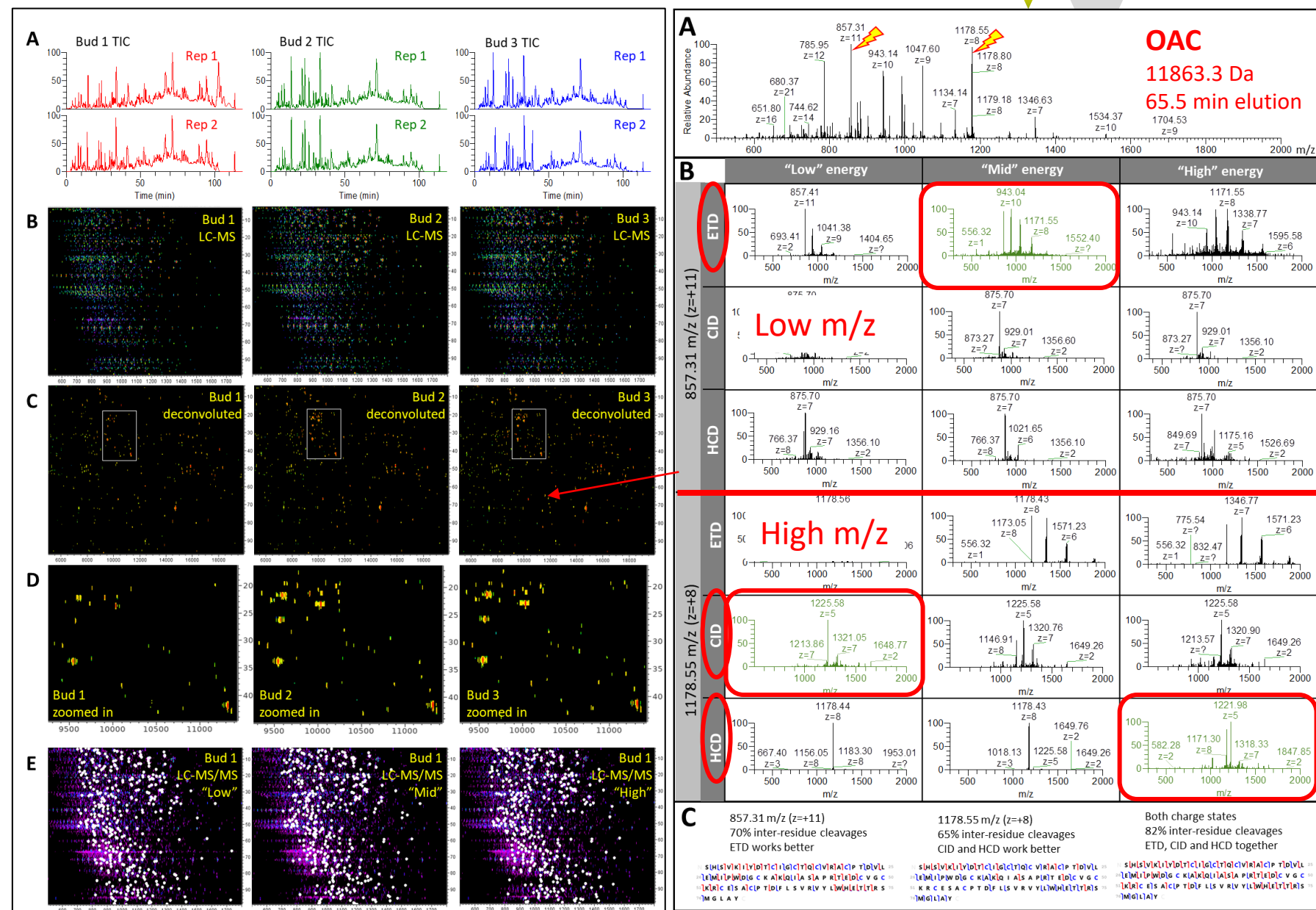


- Excellent reproducibility
- Most cannabis proteins <30kDa
- 11,250 MS/MS spectra
- 213-1863 (2-17%) matched in Mascot
- Search time spanned min to weeks depending on the DB and parameters (PTMs)!



3. Top-down proteomics (TDP)

Focus on OAC:
Elutes at 64-66 min (40%ACN)
Low m/z → ETD
High m/z → HCD, CID



3. Top-down proteomics (TDP)

MASCOT Search Results

Protein View: I6WU39|OLIAAC_CANSA

Olivetolic acid cyclase OS=Cannabis sativa OX=3483 GN=OAC PE=1 SV=1

Database: OAC_I6WU39
Score: 270
Monoisotopic mass (M_r): 11994
Calculated pI: 5.77

Sequence similarity is available as [an NCBI BLAST search of I6WU39|OLIAAC_CANSA against nr.](#)

Search parameters

MS data file: 2019-05-04_MC_buds123_export-mgf_1s.mgf
Enzyme: NoCleave: cuts C-term side of J unless next residue is ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ.
Variable modifications: [Methyl \(K\)](#), [Acetyl \(K\)](#), [Acetyl \(Protein N-term\)](#), [Acetyl \(N-term\)](#), [Oxidation \(M\)](#), [Phospho \(ST\)](#), [Phospho \(Y\)](#)

Protein sequence coverage: 99%

Matched peptides shown in **bold red**.

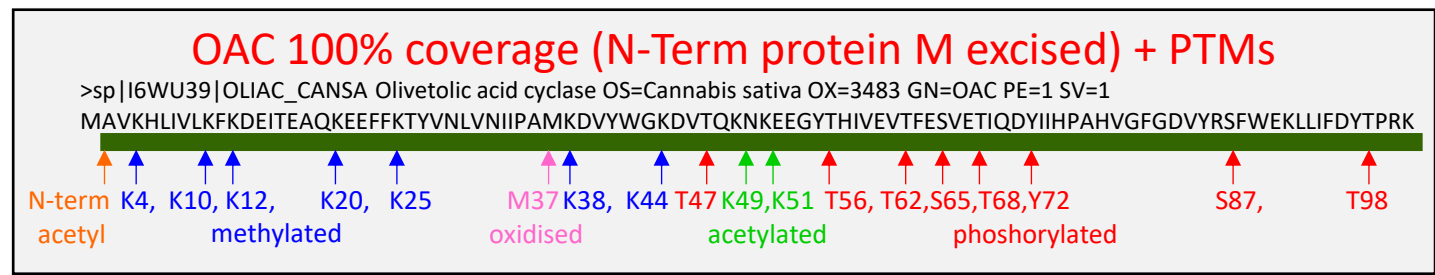
1 **MAVRLIVLKFDEITEAQKEEFFKTYVNLVNIIPAMKDVYWGKDVTPRK**
51 **KEEGYTHIVEVTFESVETIQDYIIHPAHVGFQDVYRSFWEKLLIFDYTPRK**
101 **K**

Unformatted sequence string: [101 residues](#) (for pasting into other applications).

Sort by ☒ residue number ☐ increasing mass ☐ decreasing mass
Show ☒ matched peptides only ☐ predicted peptides also

Query	Start	End	Observed	Mr(expt)	Mr(calc)	Δ	M	Score	Expect	Rank	U	Peptide
6704	2	101	11866.3070	11865.2997	11863.1629	0.0180	0	20	0.04	1	U	M.AVKHLIVLKFDEITEAQKEEFFKTYVNLVNIIPAMKDVYWGKDVTPRKQNKKEGYTHIVEVTFESVETIQDYIIHPAHVGFQDVYRSFWEKLLIFDYTPRK.-
6795	2	101	11910.3060	11909.2987	11905.1735	0.0347	0	54	4.1e-05	1	U	M.AVKHLIVLKFDEITEAQKEEFFKTYVNLVNIIPAMKDVYWGKDVTPRKQNKKEGYTHIVEVTFESVETIQDYIIHPAHVGFQDVYRSFWEKLLIFDYTPRK.- + Acetyl (K)
6702	2	101	11866.3070	11865.2997	11943.1292	-0.6517	0	48	5.4e-05	1	U	M.AVKHLIVLKFDEITEAQKEEFFKTYVNLVNIIPAMKDVYWGKDVTPRKQNKKEGYTHIVEVTFESVETIQDYIIHPAHVGFQDVYRSFWEKLLIFDYTPRK.- + Phospho (ST)
6703	2	101	11866.3070	11865.2997	11943.1292	-0.6517	0	45	0.00013	1	U	M.AVKHLIVLKFDEITEAQKEEFFKTYVNLVNIIPAMKDVYWGKDVTPRKQNKKEGYTHIVEVTFESVETIQDYIIHPAHVGFQDVYRSFWEKLLIFDYTPRK.- + Phospho (ST)
6725	2	101	11869.2875	11868.2802	11943.1292	-0.6267	0	60	4.1e-06	1	U	M.AVKHLIVLKFDEITEAQKEEFFKTYVNLVNIIPAMKDVYWGKDVTPRKQNKKEGYTHIVEVTFESVETIQDYIIHPAHVGFQDVYRSFWEKLLIFDYTPRK.- + Phospho (ST)
6729	2	101	11869.2935	11868.2862	11943.1292	-0.6267	0	25	0.014	1	U	M.AVKHLIVLKFDEITEAQKEEFFKTYVNLVNIIPAMKDVYWGKDVTPRKQNKKEGYTHIVEVTFESVETIQDYIIHPAHVGFQDVYRSFWEKLLIFDYTPRK.- + Phospho (ST)
6732	2	101	11869.3080	11868.3007	11943.1292	-0.6265	0	39	0.00055	1	U	M.AVKHLIVLKFDEITEAQKEEFFKTYVNLVNIIPAMKDVYWGKDVTPRKQNKKEGYTHIVEVTFESVETIQDYIIHPAHVGFQDVYRSFWEKLLIFDYTPRK.- + Phospho (ST)
6733	2	101	11869.3080	11868.3007	11943.1292	-0.6265	0	31	0.0034	1	U	M.AVKHLIVLKFDEITEAQKEEFFKTYVNLVNIIPAMKDVYWGKDVTPRKQNKKEGYTHIVEVTFESVETIQDYIIHPAHVGFQDVYRSFWEKLLIFDYTPRK.- + Phospho (ST)
6735	2	101	11870.2102	11869.2030	11943.1292	-0.6190	0	38	0.00069	1	U	M.AVKHLIVLKFDEITEAQKEEFFKTYVNLVNIIPAMKDVYWGKDVTPRKQNKKEGYTHIVEVTFESVETIQDYIIHPAHVGFQDVYRSFWEKLLIFDYTPRK.- + Phospho (ST)
6723	2	101	11869.2875	11868.2802	11957.1449	-0.7432	0	21	0.035	1	U	M.AVKHLIVLKFDEITEAQKEEFFKTYVNLVNIIPAMKDVYWGKDVTPRKQNKKEGYTHIVEVTFESVETIQDYIIHPAHVGFQDVYRSFWEKLLIFDYTPRK.- + Methyl (K); Phospho (ST)
6727	2	101	11869.2935	11868.2862	11957.1449	-0.7431	0	41	0.00033	1	U	M.AVKHLIVLKFDEITEAQKEEFFKTYVNLVNIIPAMKDVYWGKDVTPRKQNKKEGYTHIVEVTFESVETIQDYIIHPAHVGFQDVYRSFWEKLLIFDYTPRK.- + Methyl (K); Phospho (ST)
6728	2	101	11869.2935	11868.2862	11957.1449	-0.7431	0	29	0.0058	1	U	M.AVKHLIVLKFDEITEAQKEEFFKTYVNLVNIIPAMKDVYWGKDVTPRKQNKKEGYTHIVEVTFESVETIQDYIIHPAHVGFQDVYRSFWEKLLIFDYTPRK.- + Methyl (K); Phospho (ST)
6713	2	101	11868.1750	11867.1677	11961.1997	-0.7861	0	26	0.011	1	U	M.AVKHLIVLKFDEITEAQKEEFFKTYVNLVNIIPAMKDVYWGKDVTPRKQNKKEGYTHIVEVTFESVETIQDYIIHPAHVGFQDVYRSFWEKLLIFDYTPRK.- + Methyl (K); 2 Acetyl (K)
6831	2	101	11995.3102	11994.3029	12001.1711	-0.0572	0	24	0.0061	1	U	M.AVKHLIVLKFDEITEAQKEEFFKTYVNLVNIIPAMKDVYWGKDVTPRKQNKKEGYTHIVEVTFESVETIQDYIIHPAHVGFQDVYRSFWEKLLIFDYTPRK.- + 3 Methyl (K); Oxidation (M); Phospho (ST)
6830	2	101	11983.3118	11982.3045	12079.1218	-0.8015	0	42	0.0022	1	U	M.AVKHLIVLKFDEITEAQKEEFFKTYVNLVNIIPAMKDVYWGKDVTPRKQNKKEGYTHIVEVTFESVETIQDYIIHPAHVGFQDVYRSFWEKLLIFDYTPRK.- + Methyl (K); Acetyl (K); Phospho (ST); Phospho (Y)

Focus on OAC:
Elutes at 64-66 min (40%ACN)
Low m/z → ETD
High m/z → HCD, CID

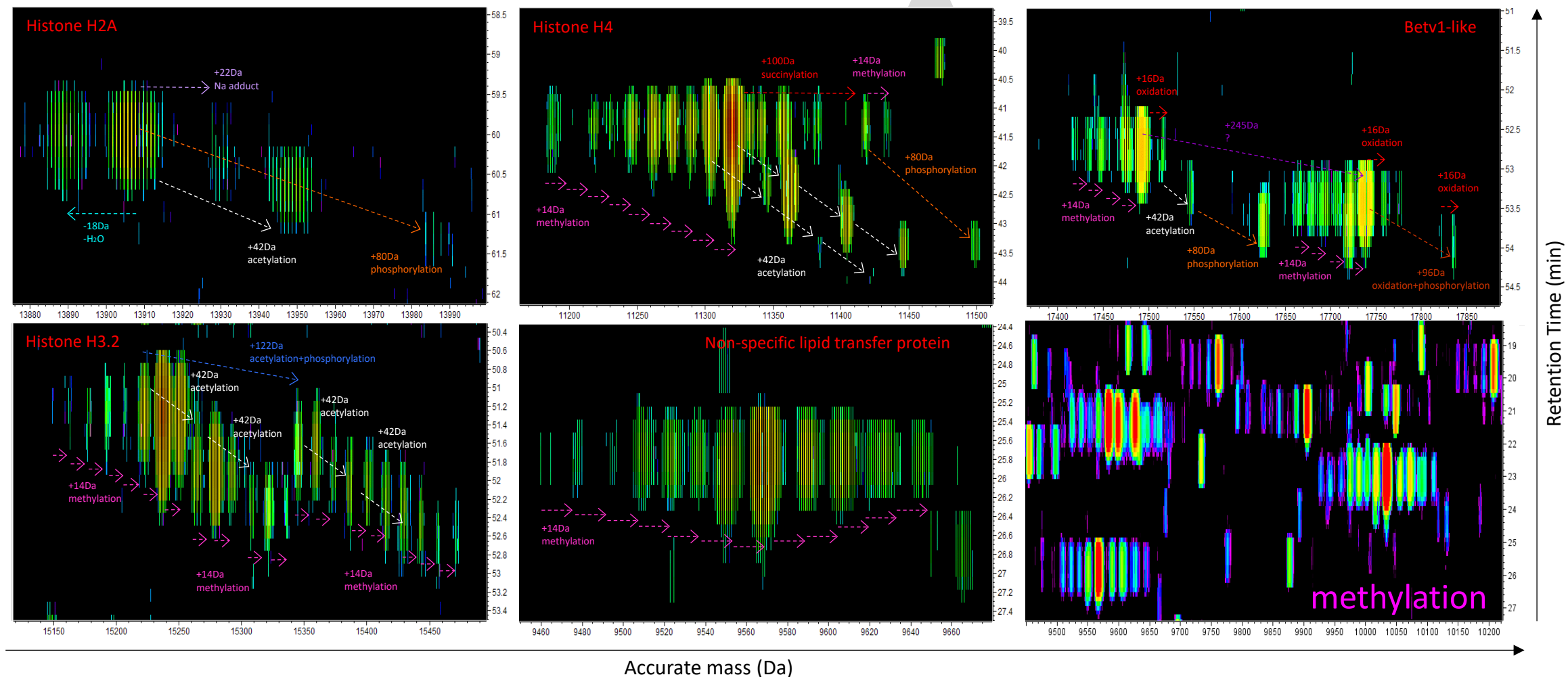


N-term M excision of OAC and PTMs not referenced in UniprotKB

OAC proteoforms

3. Top-down proteomics (TDP)

Examples of PTMs discovered by TDP.



46 cannabis proteins identified, 136 proteoforms with different PTMs (N-term M excision, N-term acetylation, methylation, acetylation, phosphorylation).

3. Top-down proteomics (TDP)

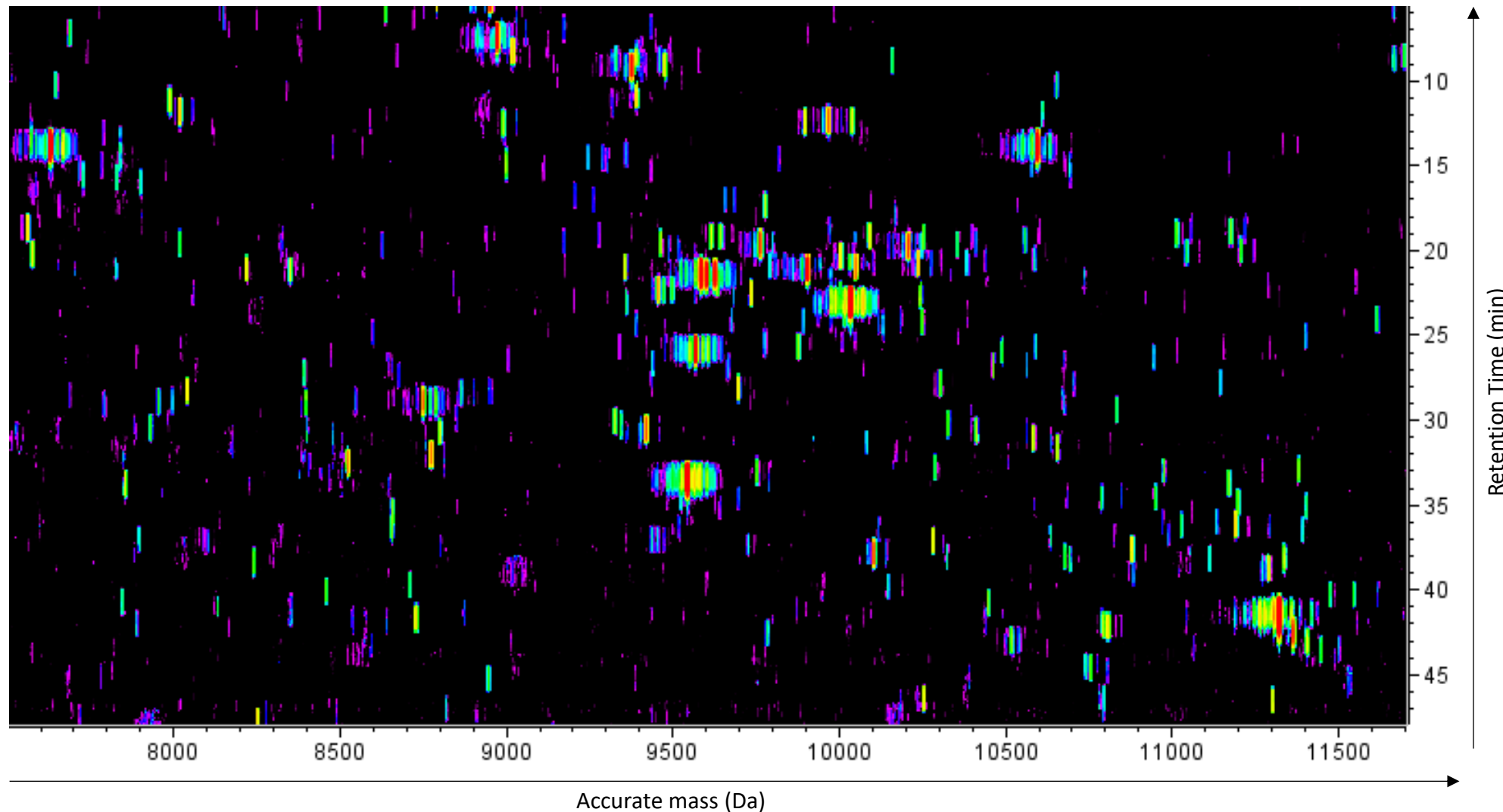
Protein methylation.



Cannabis proteins heavily methylated.

K methylation of histones determines chromatin structure and affect gene expression.

K methylation of non-histone proteins enables protein-protein interactions.





Conclusions



- **BUP**: Robust qualitative method that gives access to phytocannabinoid enzymes [1].
- **MDP**: Similar to BUP with greater sequence coverage and more proteins identified [2].
- **TDP**: Quantitative method but mostly unknown features. Proteoforms of identified proteins [3].

Highly complementary strategies.
Validates genome annotation (proteogenomics).

Future directions
Apply each of these methods to various cultivars of medicinal cannabis and hemp.

	BUP ¹	MDP ²	TDP ³
speed	-	--	++
costs	+	++	--
tools	+	+	-
identities	+	++	--
quantitative	-	-	++
proteoforms	-	+	+++

PUBLICATIONS

1. Vincent, D.; Rochfort, S.; Spangenberg, G. Optimisation of protein extraction from medicinal cannabis mature buds for bottom-up proteomics. *Molecules* 2019, 24, 659. doi:10.3390/molecules24040659.

2. Vincent, D.; Ezernieks, V.; Rochfort, S.; Spangenberg, G. A multiple protease strategy to optimise shotgun proteomics of medicinal cannabis mature buds. *International Journal of Molecular Sciences* 2019, 20, 5630; doi:10.3390/ijms20225630.

3. Vincent, D.; Binos, S.; Rochfort, S.; Spangenberg, G. Top-down proteomics of medicinal cannabis. *Proteomes* 2019, 7, 33. doi:10.3390/proteomes7040033.



Thank you!