

UNIVERSIDADE ESTADUAL PAULISTA - UNESP

CAMPUS DE JABOTICABAL

**THE INVESTIGATION OF FACTORS POTENTIALLY
INVOLVED IN RESISTANCE TO *Bacillus thuringiensis* IN
NATIVE *Plutella xylostella* (L.) (LEPIDOPTERA:
PLUTELLIDAE) POPULATIONS**

Caroline Placidi De Bortoli

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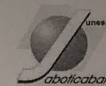
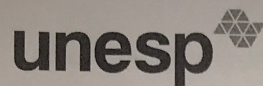
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TÍTULO DA TESE: THE INVESTIGATION OF FACTORS POTENTIALLY INVOLVED IN RESISTANCE TO *Bacillus thuringiensis* IN NATIVE *Plutella xylostella* (L.) (LEPIDOPTERA: PLUTELLIDAE) POPULATIONS

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“Without commitment you will never start, but without consistency you will never finish.”

Denzel Washington

For my parents, Mariangela and Sergio, and for my husband, Rafael, for the support, encouragement, companionship, affection and unconditional love.

DEDICATION

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
LIST OF TABLES.....	iii
LIST OF FIGURES.....	v
RESUMO.....	ix
ABSTRACT.....	xi
1. INTRODUCTION.....	1
2. LITERATURE REVIEW.....	7
2.1. <i>Plutella xylostella</i>	7
2.1.1. Damage.....	8
2.1.2. Control.....	9
2.2. <i>Bacillus thuringiensis</i>	11
2.2.1. General aspects.....	11
2.2.2. The toxins and its insecticidal activity.....	14
2.2.3. Mode of action.....	16
2.2.4. Resistance.....	23
3. EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURES.....	27
3.1. Insect populations.....	27
3.2. Cry1Ac preparation.....	28
3.3. HD-1 preparation.....	29
3.4. Gut dissection.....	29
3.5. RNA extraction.....	30
3.6. RNA agarose gel.....	30
3.7. RNA quantification.....	31
3.8. cDNA Synthesis – Prime Script™ 1st strand cDNA Synthesis (TAKARA BIO INC).....	32
3.9. Polymerase chain reaction (PCR).....	32

3.10. Agarose gel.....	34
3.11. DNA electrophoresis on agarose gel.....	34
3.12. PCR purification.....	34
3.13. PCR purification from agarose gel band.....	35
3.14. Sequencing.....	36
3.15. Quantitative real-time PCR (qRT-PCR).....	37
3.16. Lethal concentration (LC ₅₀) bioassays with Cry1Ac toxin.....	38
3.17. Backcrossing the resistant population with the lab susceptible population.....	39
3.18. Complementation tests between Bt and NO-QAGE.....	40
3.19. Lethal concentration (LC ₅₀) bioassays with HD-1.....	41
3.20. Statistical analyses.....	42
4. RESULTS.....	43
4.1. Lethal concentration (LC ₅₀) bioassays with Cry1Ac toxin.....	43
4.2. Lethal concentration (LC ₅₀) bioassays with HD-1.....	44
4.3. RNA extraction.....	44
4.4. RNA quantification.....	47
4.5. cDNA Synthesis.....	49
4.6. Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) to confirm successful production of cDNA.....	49
4.7. Quantitative real-time PCR (qRT-PCR).....	51
4.8. Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) – ABCC2 gene.....	58
4.9. ABCC2 Sequencing.....	63
4.10. Backcrossing the resistant population with the lab susceptible population.....	80
4.11. Complementation tests between Bt and NO-QAGE.....	82
5. DISCUSSION.....	85
6. CONCLUSIONS.....	89
7. REFERENCES.....	90

LIST OF TABLES

	Page
Table 1: List of Primers along with their specifications used in the PCR.....	33
Table 2: List of Primers along with their specifications used for sequencing.....	36
Table 3: List of Primers along with their specifications used in the qPCR.....	37
Table 4: Probit analysis concentration-mortality response with Cry1Ac protein of <i>Bacillus thuringiensis</i> against second-instar <i>Plutella xylostella</i> larvae of different strains from Brazil and Hawaii.....	43
Table 5: Probit analysis concentration-mortality response with HD1 of <i>Bacillus thuringiensis</i> against second-instar <i>Plutella xylostella</i> larvae from resistant and susceptible Brazilian populations.....	44
Table 6: Total RNA concentration (ng/μl) and ratio of absorbance at 260 nm and 280 nm of 3 different samples of PX, PC, PA, SBT, Bt and NO-QA populations.....	48
Table 7: Total DNA concentration (ng/μl) and ratio of absorbance at 260 nm and 280 nm of samples of PX, PC, PA, SBT, Bt and NO-QA populations, samples combined.....	63
Table 8. Probit analysis concentration-mortality response with Cry1Ac protein of <i>Bacillus thuringiensis</i> against second-instar <i>Plutella xylostella</i> larvae of crossing between NO-QA resistant male population X Bt Brazilian resistant female population.....	82
Table 9. Probit analysis concentration-mortality response with Cry1Ac protein of <i>Bacillus thuringiensis</i> against second-instar <i>Plutella xylostella</i> larvae of crossing between NO-QA resistant female population X Bt Brazilian resistant male population.....	83
Table 10. Probit analysis concentration-mortality response with HD-1 strain of <i>Bacillus thuringiensis</i> against second-instar <i>Plutella xylostella</i> larvae of	

crossing between NO-QA resistant male population X Bt Brazilian resistant female population.....	83
Table 11. Probit analysis concentration-mortality response with HD-1 strain of <i>Bacillus thuringiensis</i> against second-instar <i>Plutella xylostella</i> larvae of crossing between NO-QA resistant female population X Bt Brazilian resistant male population.....	84

LIST OF FIGURES

	Page
<p>Figure 1: Gel red agarose electrophoresis. Lane 1: population PX, RNA from 2 guts; Lane 2: population Bt generation 109, RNA from 1 gut; Lane 3: population PC, RNA from 7 guts; Lane 4: population PA, RNA from 5 guts; Lane 5: population Bt generation 109, RNA from 13 gut; Lane 6: population SBT, RNA from 10 guts.....</p>	45
<p>Figure 2: Gel red agarose electrophoresis. Lane 1: population PX sample 1; Lane 2: population PX sample 2; Lane 3: population PA, sample 1; Lane 4: population PA, sample 2; Lane 5: population SBT, sample 1; Lane 6: population SBT, sample 2; Lane 7: population Bt, generation 110; Lane 8: population Bt, generation 109; Lane 9: population PC, sample 1; Lane 10: population PC, sample 2. All of the RNA samples were extracted from 10 guts.....</p>	46
<p>Figure 3: Gel red agarose electrophoresis. Lane 1: population PX; Lane 2: population PC; Lane 3: population PA; Lane 4: population Bt generation 111; Lane 5: population SBT. All of the RNA samples were extracted from 40 guts.....</p>	47
<p>Figure 4: Gel red agarose electrophoresis. Lane 1: DNA ladder 1Kb; Lane 2: ABCC2 gene; Lane 3: MAP4K4 gene; Lane 4: L32 gene; Lane 5: ALP gene and Lane 6 CDKAL1. All the genes were tested against population SBT.....</p>	50
<p>Figure 5: Gel red agarose electrophoresis. Lane 1: DNA ladder 100 bp; Lane 2: SBT population; Lane 3: PC population, sample 1; Lane 4: PC population, sample 2. All the populations were tested against gene CDKAL1.....</p>	51
<p>Figure 6. Relative expression levels of CDKAL1, L32, MAP and ALP as determined by qPCR in midguts of fourth-instar larvae from susceptible</p>	

and resistant *Plutella xylostella* strains. Expression of the ribosomal protein L32 gene was used as the internal reference gene to normalize datasets and calculate relative expression levels, which were reached assigning a value of 1 to the expression levels in SBT samples..... 52

Figure 7. Relative expression levels of CDKAL1, L32, MAP and ALP as determined by qPCR in midguts of fourth-instar larvae from susceptible and resistant *Plutella xylostella* strains. Expression of the ribosomal protein L32 gene was used as the internal reference gene to normalize datasets and calculate relative expression levels, which were reached assigning a value of 1 to the expression levels in SBT samples..... 53

Figure 8. Relative expression levels of ABCC2, APN, MAP and ALP as determined by qPCR in midguts of fourth-instar larvae from susceptible and resistant *Plutella xylostella* strains. Expression of the ribosomal protein L32 gene was used as the internal reference gene to normalize datasets and calculate relative expression levels, which were reached assigning a value of 1 to the expression levels in SBT samples..... 54

Figure 9. Relative expression levels of ABCC2, APN, MAP and ALP as determined by qPCR in midguts of fourth-instar larvae from susceptible and resistant *Plutella xylostella* strains. Expression of the ribosomal protein L32 gene was used as the internal reference gene to normalize datasets and calculate relative expression levels, which were reached assigning a value of 1 to the expression levels in SBT samples..... 55

Figure 10. Relative expression levels of ABCC2, APN, MAP and ALP as determined by qPCR in midguts of fourth-instar larvae from susceptible and resistant *Plutella xylostella* strains. Expression of the ribosomal protein L32 gene was used as the internal reference gene to normalize datasets and calculate relative expression levels, which were reached assigning a value of 1 to the expression levels in SBT samples..... 56

Figure 11. Relative expression levels of ABCC2, APN, MAP and ALP as determined by qPCR in midguts of fourth-instar larvae from susceptible

and resistant <i>Plutella xylostella</i> strains. Expression of the ribosomal protein L32 gene was used as the internal reference gene to normalize datasets and calculate relative expression levels, which were reached assigning a value of 1 to the expression levels in SBT samples.....	57
Figure 12: Gel red agarose electrophoresis. Lane 1: DNA ladder 1 Kb; Lane 2: SBT population PCR ABCC2 Full Length.....	58
Figure 13: Gel red agarose electrophoresis. Lane 1: DNA ladder 1 Kb; Lane 2: NO-QA population PCR ABCC2 Full Length.....	59
Figure 14: Gel red agarose electrophoresis. Lane 1: DNA ladder 1 Kb; Lane 2: PA population; Lane 3: Bt population; Lane 4: Px population; Lane 5: PC population; PCR ABCC2 Full Length.....	59
Figure 15: Gel red agarose electrophoresis. Lanes 1, 2, 3 and 4: PX population; Lanes 5, 6, 7 and 8: Bt population; nested PCR ABCC2 Full Length.....	60
Figure 16: Gel red agarose electrophoresis. Lanes 1, 2, 3 and 4: PA population; Lanes 5, 6, 7 and 8: PC population; nested PCR ABCC2 Full Length.....	60
Figure 17: Gel red agarose electrophoresis. Lanes 1, 2, 3 and 4: SBT population; Lanes 5, 6, 7 and 8: NO-QA population; nested PCR ABCC2 Full Length.....	61
Figure 18: Gel red agarose electrophoresis. Lanes 1, 2, 3 and 4: Bt population; Lanes 5, 6, 7 and 8: PA population; nested PCR Purified products from agarose gel.....	61
Figure 19: Gel red agarose electrophoresis. Lanes 1, 2, 3 and 4: PC population; Lanes 5, 6, 7 and 8: Px population; nested PCR Purified products from agarose gel.....	62
Figure 20: Gel red agarose electrophoresis. Lanes 1, 2, 3 and 4: NO-QA population; Lanes 5, 6, SBT population; nested PCR Purified products from agarose gel 7 and 8.....	62
Figure 21: Schematic of ABCC2 displaying 12 transmembrane domains	

predicted using Phobius (<http://phobius.sbc.su.se/>) and two nucleotide-binding domains (NBD), showing the deleted region, in the Bt-resistant individuals, of the protein..... 80

**INVESTIGAÇÃO DE FATORES POTENCIALMENTE ENVOLVIDOS NA
RESISTÊNCIA AO *Bacillus thuringiensis* EM POPULAÇÕES NATIVAS DE *Plutella
xylostella* (L.) (LEPIDOPTERA: PLUTELLIDAE)**

RESUMO - *Plutella xylostella* é uma praga de grande importância para as crucíferas em todo o mundo. Embora seja controlada com inseticidas sintéticos e biológicos, ela pode desenvolver resistência rapidamente a uma variedade de inseticidas. Os biopesticidas mais comuns utilizados para controlar *P. xylostella* são baseados na bactéria entomopatogênica *Bacillus thuringiensis*. Embora muitos estudos tenham sido realizados com Bt, o modo de ação ainda não é totalmente compreendido. Uma grande diversidade de genes é diferencialmente expressa no intestino médio de insetos resistentes, o que sugere que vários processos celulares podem estar envolvidos na resistência. Descobertas recentes mostraram que as mutações no gene que codifica o transportador ABCC2 são responsáveis pela resistência às toxinas Bt em diferentes espécies de insetos. O objetivo desta pesquisa foi testar a hipótese de que a susceptibilidade de *P. xylostella* a Bt se correlaciona com o nível de expressão dos componentes desse regulador de estresse. Os níveis de expressão dos genes ALP, APN, CDKAL 1, MAP4K4 e ABCC2 foi comparado utilizando qPCR, entre populações suscetíveis e resistentes de *P. xylostella*. A investigação da sequência de DNA do cDNA do ABCC2 foi realizada, por PCR e sequenciamento, para testar a hipótese de que a susceptibilidade de *P. xylostella* a Bt se correlaciona com mutações no gene ABCC2. Foram realizados retrocruzamentos entre populações suscetíveis e resistentes e cruzamentos de complementação entre populações resistentes. Nossa pesquisa demonstrou que não há padrões na expressão dos genes testados demonstrando nenhuma associação entre expressão e resistência/susceptibilidade. No entanto, ao investigar a sequência do gene ABCC2, encontrou-se uma mutação no gene da população brasileira resistente, que poderia ser responsável pela causa da resistência

da população estudada neste trabalho. Os ensaios de retrocruzamentos não confirmaram que a resistência foi devida à supressão de 1 pb encontrada, no entanto, os ensaios complementares indicaram que a população brasileira compartilha um alelo de resistência com a população havaiana resistente.

Palavras-chave: ABCC2, mecanismo de ação, resistência, suscetibilidade, traça-das-crucíferas, virulência.

**THE INVESTIGATION OF FACTORS POTENTIALLY INVOLVED IN RESISTANCE TO
Bacillus thuringiensis IN NATIVE *Plutella xylostella* (L.) (LEPIDOPTERA:
PLUTELLIDAE) POPULATIONS**

ABSTRACT - *Plutella xylostella* is a major insect pest of cruciferous crops worldwide. Although controlled with both synthetic and biological insecticides it can rapidly evolve resistance to a variety of insecticides. The most common biopesticides used to control *P. xylostella* are based on the entomopathogenic bacterium *Bacillus thuringiensis*. Although many studies have been performed on Bt, the mode of action is still not fully understood. A wide diversity of genes are differentially expressed in the midgut of resistant insects, this suggests that a variety of cell processes may be involved in the preservation of resistance. Recent discoveries have shown that mutations in the gene encoding an ABCC2 transporter are responsible for resistance to Bt toxins in various different insect species. The aim of this research was to test the hypothesis that the susceptibility of *P. xylostella* to Bt correlates with the level of expression of components of this putative stress-response regulon. The level of expression of ALP, APN, CDKAL 1, MAP4K4 and ABCC2 genes were compared using qPCR, between susceptible and resistant *P. xylostella* populations. The investigation of the DNA sequence of ABCC2 cDNA was performed, through PCR and sequencing, to test the hypothesis that the susceptibility of *P. xylostella* to Bt correlates with mutations on the ABCC2 gene. Backcrosses between susceptible and resistant populations and complementation cross between resistant populations were performed. Our research demonstrated that there were no patterns in the expression of the genes tested demonstrating no association between expression and resistance/susceptibility. However, when investigating the ABCC2 gene sequence, a mutation in the gene of the Brazilian resistant population was found, which could be responsible for the resistance of the Brazilian population studied in this research. Backcrossing assays didn't confirm that the resistance was due to the

1bp deletion found, however complementation assays indicated that the resistant Brazilian population shares a resistance allele with the resistant Hawaiian population.

Keywords: ABCC2, mode of action, resistance, susceptibility, diamondback moth, virulence.

1. INTRODUCTION

The diamondback moth, *Plutella xylostella* (Linnaeus, 1758) (Lepidoptera: Plutellidae) is the most destructive pest of cruciferous plants worldwide (SARFRAZ et al., 2006). Although controlled with both synthetic and biological insecticides populations of this species can rapidly evolve resistance to a variety of insecticides (SAYYED et al., 2008). Insecticidal *B. thuringiensis* toxins were thus extremely valuable as a substitute for broad-spectrum synthetic insecticides as they gave effective control of *P. xylostella* with minimal non-target effects on parasitoids and predators (SASTROSISWOJO; SASTRODIHARDJO, 1986). Also, Bt toxins pose few, if any, health hazards for producers and consumers (SCHNEPF et al., 1998). *P. xylostella* resistance to Bt toxin is now widespread in the field (FERRÉ; VAN RIE, 2002; SAYYED et al., 2005; TABASHNIK et al., 1994) and thus there is a great risk that injudicious use of insecticides will lead to the selection of multiple resistant pest populations.

Bioinsecticides based on the entomopathogenic bacterium *Bacillus thuringiensis* Berliner (Bt) (Bacillaceae) are the most common biopesticides used to control *P. xylostella* (VAN FRANKENHUYZEN, 2009; JURAT-FUENTES; JACKSON, 2012). A number of studies have observed susceptibility variations to Bt in different populations of *P. xylostella* from countries in Latin America, Europe and various Brazilian states (POLANCZYK et al., 2005; MONNERAT et al., 2006). Roux et al. (2007) used an ISSR-PCR technique to differentiate 19 *P. xylostella* populations from several countries. The authors emphasized that in the tropics the high number of generations per year may favor the emergence of mutations and thus increases the discrimination between individuals, and the high selection pressure caused by the indiscriminate application of pesticides favors the emergence of tolerant or resistant populations of this insect. *P. xylostella* was the first insect in which field resistance to Bt was identified (TABASHNIK, 1994). This increased the interest of Bt researchers about this pest (SAYYED et al.,

2005; MONNERAT et al., 2007; GONG et al., 2010; DE BORTOLI et al., 2012; FIUZA et al., 2017).

In 1901, a Japanese researcher named Ishiwata isolated a pathogenic *Bacillus* sp. from larvae of *Bombyx mori* Linnaeus, 1758 (Lepidoptera: Bombycidae) and named "sotto disease bacillus". In 1911, Berliner isolated a bacillus that killed larvae of *Ephestia kuehniella* (Zeller, 1879) (Lepidoptera: Pyralidae) and, in 1915, the same scientist described and named Bt, in honor of the province of Thuringia, in Germany, where the first infected insect was found (HABIB; ANDRADE, 1998; GLARE; O'CALLAGHAM, 2000). In 1915, Berliner mentioned the existence of crystals in spore cultures of Bt, but the activity of these crystals was only later discovered (POLANCZYK; ALVES, 2003). Hannay (1953) was the first researcher to relate the crystals, called by him as parasporal bodies, with the pathogenicity of Bt, due to the possible formation of a toxic substance that caused the death of the insects, as evidenced by Angus (1968) (HABIB, ANDRADE, 1998).

Bioinsecticides based on Bt have been available worldwide since the 1970s and has a long history of successful use in the biocontrol of insect pests in agriculture and forestry and against disease vectors (CAB, 2010; BRAVO et al., 2011; SANCHIS, 2011; JURAT-FUENTES; JACKSON, 2012; VACHON; LAPRADE; SCHWARTZ, 2012). By 2010, 300 Bt-based biopesticides (70% of them are *Bt kurstaki* based) accounted for 53% of the worldwide market for biopesticides, representing an annual turnover of 210 million dollars. The Americas concentrates 50% of the consumption, particularly the USA and Canada, with Latin America are responsible for 8–10% of the total consumption (CAB, 2010; POLANCZYK; DE BORTOLI; DE BORTOLI, 2012; POLANCZYK et al., 2017). Specifically for Brazil, until the end of 2016 there was 105 registered biological products, being 12 Bt based (POLANCZYK et al., 2017). Various transgenic crops that express insecticidal Bt toxins have been grown over a rapidly increasing area (JAMES, 2016; JURAT-FUENTES; JACKSON, 2012).

Although many studies have been carried out on Bt, the mode of action is still uncertain. After ingestion of spores/crystals by the insect, the crystals are solubilized and then to a greater or lesser extent are cleaved by the digestive proteases down to a

protease-resistant core (the so-called active toxin). These toxins can pass through the peritrophic membrane, bind to specific receptors located on the apical membrane of the midgut columnar cells and form pores in the membrane. These pores interfere with cell physiology by abolishing transmembrane ionic gradients and can lead to colloid-osmotic lysis of the cells due to the massive influx of solutes from the midgut lumen. In turn, destruction of the cells results in extensive damage to the midgut epithelial tissue and death of the intoxicated larvae. The insect can also suffer from starvation, since shortly after ingestion of the toxin the insect ceases feeding (COPPING; MENN, 2000; CRICKMORE, 2006; JURAT-FUENTES; JACKSON, 2012; VACHON; LAPRADE; SCHWARTZ, 2012).

An elaborate model involving the sequential binding of the toxins to different membrane receptors has been proposed to describe the events leading to membrane insertion and pore formation. However, it has also been proposed that, in contradiction to mechanism, Bt toxins function by activating intracellular signaling pathways which lead to the necrotic death of their target cells without the need for pore formation (BRAVO et al., 2007). Vachon et al. (2012) pointed out that the available information still supports the notion that Bt Cry toxins act by forming pores, but most events leading to their formation, following binding of the activated toxins to their receptors, remain relatively poorly understood.

Heckel (2012) and Hernández-Martínez et al. (2012) complicated the understanding of the mechanism of action of Bt toxins by the discovery that mutations in the gene encoding an ABCC2 transporter are responsible for resistance to Bt toxins in four different insect species. Baxter et al. (2011) cloned and sequenced the orthologue from *P. xylostella* using a genomic BAC library constructed from a susceptible strain Geneva88As ABCC2. Verification through PCR amplification from Bt-susceptible (Geneva88) and Bt-resistant (NO-QAGE) midgut cDNA demonstrated that the gene contains 26 exons and that the resistant strain NO-QAGE contained a 30-bp deletion in exon 20, which is predicted to remove the 12th and final transmembrane domain and aberrantly position the carboxyl-terminal outside the cell. If this gene is translated and

inserted into the midgut membrane, a core ATP-binding loop is expected to be nonfunctional.

The superfamily of ABC proteins takes its name from the ATP binding cassette, an intracellular domain that binds and hydrolyzes ATP in a cycle that drives transport of molecules across a lipid bilayer membrane. The functional transporter consists of two cytosolic nucleotide-binding domains (NBDs) that bind and hydrolyze ATP and two integral transmembrane (HECKEL, 2012). The biological function of ABCC2 is unknown, but its similarity to multidrug resistance proteins suggests that it could export small hydrophobic toxins from midgut epithelial cells for eventual elimination in the feces. Heckel (2012) speculates that ABCC2 could function as one of the toxin binding proteins in the sequential binding model discussed by Bravo (2007) and further proposes that binding of the toxin to ABCC2 only occurs when the transporter is in its open configuration. When the transporter closes then the toxin is pushed into the membrane. This transient interaction between the toxin and ABCC2 may explain why no one has yet identified ABCC2 as a toxin binding protein.

Hernández-Martínez et al. (2012) suggested an alternative model in which ABCC2 is indirectly affecting the mechanism of action of the Bt toxins. Mutations in the gene encoding ABCC2 affect its function which then affects the physiology of the cell in some way that then affects the ability of the Bt toxin to form a pore. Both papers conclude that the functional role of the ABCC2 protein remains to be established, but that mutations in it clearly have significant consequences on the susceptibility of insects to Bt. What is unknown is how the mutations on ABCC2 results in a particular changes in expression of genes. One possibility is that mutations in *abcc2* in some way simulates a pathogen attack and the cells express genes in response to counter attack (AYRA-PARDO et al., 2015).

Ocelotl et al. (2017) also found that ABCC2 is associated with Bt Cry1Ac toxin oligomerization and membrane insertion in diamondback moth. Different larval gut proteins, such as cadherin, facilitates oligomerization, membrane insertion and pore formation when binding to Cry1Ac. ABCC2 facilitates Cry1Ac oligomerization and

oligomer membrane insertion in *P. xylostella*, therefore ABCC2 mutation also affects the association of Cry1Ac oligomer with the membrane.

On the other hand Guo et al. (2015) found no association between mutations in ABCC genes and resistance. They, subsequent compared levels of expression for all five ABCC genes in *BtR-1* locus in susceptible and resistant strains using qPCR.

One important gene that is involved in the early stages of the specific response to the pathogen is CDKAL1. This gene is involved in ER maintenance homeostasis. During the infection by Bt, the ER homeostasis secretory system in midgut epithelial cells is challenged. The early protected function of the CDKAL1 could derive from a role in the midgut cellular proteins ER maturation required to repair the cytotoxic damage and restore ER homeostasis (AYRA-PARDO et al., 2015). An overexpression of this gene would be beneficial so the insects would survive the Bt intoxication. Therefore, if CDKAL1 is involved in cell protein quality control, the suppression of this gene in the midgut would affect the ability of the *P. xylostella* larvae to survive ingestion of this pathogen. This gene is expected to be up-regulated in resistant *P. xylostella* populations.

Mitogen-activated protein kinase (MAPK) signaling pathway has been described to control immune defensive responses to Bt Cry toxins in insects (CANCINO-RODEZNO et al., 2010). Therefore, it is possible that the MAPK signaling pathway may be the common route that can regulate the expression of diverse receptors genes (GUO et al., 2015). If this pathway leads to the expression receptors, this gene would have an altered function or expression levels in resistant *P. xylostella* populations.

Amino peptidase N (APN) and Alkaline Phosphatase (ALP) are known receptors and their activity were reduced in resistant strains (GUO et al., 2015). The expression of APN and ALP genes are down-regulated in resistant strains.

ABCC2 is another important gene, since it was proposed that its role is a receptor protein involved in facilitating insertion of Cry1A oligomers into the membrane (HECKEL, 2012).

Guo et al. 2015 revealed that ABCC2 was significantly down-regulated in the resistant populations as was the expression of another putative receptor ALP. They also

found that MAP4K4 was constitutively up-regulated in larvae from all resistant strains compared to the susceptible strain. RNAi silencing of ABCC2 and MAP4K4 resulted in a significant increase in larvae susceptibility to Bt. Guo et al. (2015) also speculate that a mutation that increased the expression of MAP4K4 indirectly reduced the expression of the receptors ALP and ABCC2.

The aim of this research was to test the hypothesis that the susceptibility of *P. xylostella* to Bt correlates with the level of expression of components of this putative stress-response regulon. The level of expression of ALP, APN, CDKAL 1, MAP4K4 and ABCC2 genes were compared between susceptible and resistant *P. xylostella* populations. These genes were chosen because it was proven to have a clear pattern on the susceptible and resistant (GUO et al., 2005).

In our study, we also investigated the DNA sequence of ABCC2 cDNA to test the hypothesis that the susceptibility of *P. xylostella* to Bt correlates with mutations on the ABCC2 gene.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. *Plutella xylostella*

Diamondback moth, *P. xylostella*, is probably of Mediterranean Europe origin, the same origin of the Cruciferae Family plants. It is an cosmopolitan pest, found in various productive regions of the world independent of the climate conditions (DIAS; SOARES; MONNERAT, 2004; MAU; KESSING, 2007). Furthermore, this pest has the ability to migrate to different climate zones (CHAPMAN et al., 2002; COULSON et al., 2002).

Plutella xylostella is a short-cycle insect, in which temperature is a determining factor, because in warmer conditions the cycle can be only 12 days, while in regions with milder temperatures it is prolonged totaling 20-25 days. The number of generations varies from 5 to 10 per year, depending on the climatic conditions and the availability of food, and the population density of the pest can vary greatly from year to year (DIAS; SOARES; MONNERAT, 2004).

Females lay their eggs on the abaxial face of the leaves, usually accompanying the veins, in an isolated or grouped form (THULER, 2009). They are very fertile, laying up to 350 eggs during their life cycle. The eggs are yellow, small, elliptical, flattened and with undulating reliefs. They are deposited alone or in groups of 2 or 3, the incubation period is 2 to 4 days (DE BORTOLI et al., 2013).

After 3 or 4 days, the larvae hatch and penetrate the inside of the leaf, starting to feed on the parenchyma, for 2 or 3 days. They then leave the gallery and begin to feed on the lower leaf epidermis (DE BORTOLI et al., 2013). The larvae is initially whitish, soon acquiring light green color with a brown head; on their body are noticed dark and sparse small "hair". It presents four larval stages, in the fourth is when they begin the cocoon confection (MONNERAT, 1995). They reach maximum development after 9 to 10 days of hatching, reaching 8 to 10 mm in length (DE BORTOLI et al., 2013).

The pupae is easily recognized inside a silk cocoon, woven with interlaced threads, which helps the fixation to the plant, usually on the underside of the leaves. About 4 days after the pupae is formed, the adult emerges (DE BORTOLI et al., 2013).

Adults have a nocturnal habit and during the day they shelter between the leaves. In males, the posterior margin of the anterior wings is white and when they are resting there is a characteristic spot (diamond shape) on the dorsal surface (DE BORTOLI et al., 2013). Adults have sexual dimorphism, distinguishing males and females by observing the ventral part of the insect: the male has a slit at the end of the abdomen, while the female has two dark circular spots on both sides of the end of the abdomen.

The biological characteristics of this pest vary according to the type of Brassicaceae in which the insect feeds (DE BORTOLI et al., 2013).

2.1.1. Damage

There is a direct relationship between the phenological development of the crop and the increase of damage caused by *P. xylostella*, and it is often necessary to introduce control measures at the beginning of plant development (SILVA et al., 2003).

When in low populations, the larvae prefer younger leaves and, in high populations, the insects are distributed throughout the plant. Usually the locations of the plant where the moth is found provides protection against predators, parasitoids and even against insecticides. In cabbage plants, larvae and pupae are found in the lower part of the leaves that surround the heads. When located on external leaves, larvae and pupae are found in the lower part of the leaves (CASTELO BRANCO; FRANÇA; VILLAS BOAS, 1997).

When the larvae consumes cabbage leaves, the leaves become with a lacy appearance, and when they feed on the cabbage heads they cause holes, reducing the quantitative and the commercial value of the product (FREITAS LUZ; SABOYA; SILVA-

PEREIRA, 2002). The larvae do not feed only on leaves: in broccoli and cauliflower they can consume inflorescences and, in Brussels sprouts, shoots (TIBA, 2008).

Cabbage is attacked from the formation of the head to harvest, with damage levels close to 20% of infested plants (VACARI et al., 2008). Cabbage crop damage can be up to 95%, depending on the crop region and planting season (CZEPAK et al., 2005).

In the State of São Paulo, *P. xylostella* causes variable damage, reducing cabbage yield by up to 60% (IMENES et al., 2002). Severe attacks, mainly caused during the driest periods of the year, can cause total losses in the field production (MEDEIROS et al., 2003). The damages also cause depreciation of the product, delay plant growth and even death of plants.

In the southeastern USA, *P. xylostella* is the main lepidopteran defoliator in canola (BUNTIN, 1990; RAMACHANDRAN; BUNTIN; ALL, 2000). In Texas, it can cause annual losses of \$ 40-70 million in cabbage and \$ 400,000 in broccoli crops if they are not treated properly (SHELTON, 2004). Without proper management of the pest, more than \$ 500 million is lost for hindering broccoli crops in California unusable and \$ 80 million in cabbage in New York (SHELTON, 2004). In Canada, crucifer's moth also occurs annually in Brassicaceae, and in years of high pest outbreaks there are substantial crop losses (DOSDALL et al., 2001).

2.1.2. Control

The control of diamondback moth since the mid-twentieth century is basically done by means of chemical insecticides, due to their supposed efficacy and ease of application (TIBA, 2008). One of the difficulties in the control of this pest is related to the cultivated areas that are maintained throughout the year, with plants at different ages, providing to the insect abundant and continuous amount of food (IMENES et al., 2002).

Resistance can develop through different physiological mechanisms. For chemical products, could be a reduction in penetration by the cuticle (NOPPUN; SAITO,

MIATA, 1989), alteration at the target site for organophosphates and carbamates (LIU; TZENG; SUN, 1982; YU; NGUYEN, 1999; MAA et al., 1996), decreased nerve sensibility (HAMA; KONO; SATO, 1987) and degradation of metabolism involving enzymes such as glutathione S-transferase to parathion (KAO; HUN; SUN, 1989), a microsomal P-450 monooxygenase for pyrethroids (YAO; HUNG; SUN, 1988; HUNG; SUN, 1989) and carboxylesterase for malathion (MAA; LIAO, 2000). And the resistance of *P. xylostella* to Bt can be due to several factors, among them gut bacteria, that can influence the susceptibility of the insects to Bt; and the presence of esterases, which have the ability to promote detoxification and mutations in the ABBC2 gene (GUNNING et al., 2005; JOHNSTON; CRICKMORE, 2009; BAXTER, 2011).

In addition, frequent applications of large quantities of pesticides, without due care, cause serious environmental, animal and human health impacts. In the environment, these products accumulate and often do not reach only the target site of application, spreading and contaminating water sources and other biomes, causing ecological imbalance. In relation to human health, intoxication may occur through direct contact with the products or due to residues in the food consumed, most often "in natura".

Studies have shown alternative techniques to chemical control, such as: the use of pheromones (MICHEREFF et al., 2000), trap cultivars (CHARLESTON; KFIR, 2000; BADENAS-PEREZ; SHELTON; NAULT, 2004), resistant varieties (MELO; CASTELO BRANCO; MADEIRA, 1994; THULER; DE BORTOLI; HOFFMANN-CAMPO, 2007), insecticidal plants (TORRES; BARROS; OLIVEIRA, 2001), use of natural products extracted from plants (NEVES; NOGUEIRA, 1996), and the use of biological control agents, such as parasitoids, predators and entomopathogenic microorganisms (DIAS; SOARES; MONNERAT, 2004).

The use of entomopathogens in pest control is advantageous because it avoids ecological imbalances in the agroecosystem, since most of them are specific to the target insects and selective to the natural enemies. In addition to causing direct mortality, pathogens can affect the biological and reproductive characteristics of insects; can be associated with other compatible control methods; reduce the costs of

agricultural production; does not pollute the environment and are not toxic to humans and other animals, if correctly selected and handled (ALVES, 1998).

Among these microorganisms, the most used and studied for most agricultural pests, such as *P. xylostella*, is the bacterium Bt (MONNERAT et al., 1999; CASTELO BRANCO et al., 2003; MEDEIROS et al., 2005).

2.2. *Bacillus thuringiensis*

2.2.1. General aspects

The first commercial product based on the bacterium Bt, Sporeine, was developed and marketed in France in the 1930s for the control of flour moth larvae, *E. kuehniella* (LAMBERT; PEFEROEN, 1992; RAMOS, 2008).

The use of the entomopathogen increased in the early 1950s, in the United States, mainly Lepidoptera control (BEEGLE; YAMAMOTO, 1992). In the early 1970s, there were several products for the control of Lepidoptera, being discovered Bt var. *israelenses*, active against Diptera and used in the control of insect vectors of diseases, mainly of the genus *Aedes*, *Culex*, *Anopheles* and *Simulium*. In 1983, Bt var. *tenebrionis* was discovered, used to control coleopteran larvae (GLARE; O'CALLAGHAM, 2000).

Among the Bt Cry toxins identified as promising for insect control, 59 were tested against 71 lepidopteran species and 43 were tested for *P. xylostella* (VAN FRANKENHUYZEN, 2009).

Bacillus thuringiensis is a sporulating bacterium with rod-shaped spores that produces crystalline inclusions during sporulation (O'CALLAGHAM, 2000; CRICKMORE, 2006; GLARE; JURAT-FUENTES; JACKSON, 2012).

These crystals contain toxins-proteins, known as δ -endotoxins, which are responsible for the toxic activity of Bt against Coleoptera, Diptera, Hemiptera,

Hymenoptera, Isoptera, Lepidoptera and Orthoptera (DE MAAGD; BRAVO; CRICKMORE, 2001; VAN FRANKENHUYZEN, 2009; BRAVO et al., 2011; WU et al., 2011). Toxicity has also been reported for some species of nematodes, protozoa, mites and *Leishmania major*, the parasite that causes leishmaniasis (EDWARDS; PAYNE; SOARES, 1988; FEITELSON, 1994; GUTIÉRREZ; GONÇALVES, 2006; SILVEIRA et al., 2007; AMANCHI; HUSSAIN, 2008; EL-SADAWY et al., 2008).

Bacillus thuringiensis is a bacterium of the family Bacillaceae, gram and catalase positive, aerobic, and can also grow in anaerobiosis between 10 and 45 °C (GLARE; O'CALLAGHAM, 2000); chemoheterotrophic, whose ideal growth temperature is around 30 ± 2 °C (MORAES; CAPALBO, 1986). Its vegetative cells, as mentioned, are rod-shaped, measuring about 1.0 to 2.0 µm wide by 3.0 to 5.0 µm in length. Spores formation occurs between elliptical and cylindrical, in central position, with a sporangia not clearly extended (HABIB; ANDRADE, 1998; GLARE; O'CALLAGHAM, 2000). Bt can be found in different regions of the world and in several substrates such as soil, water, dead insects and surface of some plants (HOFTE; WHITELEY, 1989).

This bacterium develops under aerobic conditions in artificial media quite easily. Under certain constraints, such as nutrient limitation or the accumulation of undesirable metabolites, Bt begins the sporulation process and synthesizes the protein toxin containing crystal (YAMAMOTO; DEAN, 2000; JURAT-FUENTES; JACKSON, 2012). The crystal may be responsible for over 25% of the dry weight of the cell. The amount of toxin produced in the laboratory (approximately 0.5 mg protein.mL⁻¹ of culture medium) and the size of the crystal indicates that each cell has to synthesize 2×10^{-6} δ-endotoxin molecules to form a crystal (AGAISSE; LERECLUS, 1995). These toxins are encoded by *cry* genes and different *cry* genes in a strain can direct the synthesis of related proteins that are stored in either a single or multiple crystals of distinct shape (JURAT-FUENTES; JACKSON, 2012).

The life cycle of this entomopathogen can be divided into two main phases, one of vegetative growth, in which the bacterium multiplies by bipartition, and another one of sporulation, which consists in the differentiation of the bacterium into spores. When the spore is in an environment favorable to its growth, with adequate nutrients and

temperature, it can germinate and initiate the vegetative growth (MONNERAT; PRAÇA, 2006).

This bacterium differs from the others because it produces during the sporulation process a protein inclusion called crystal. These crystals, Cry proteins, have a toxic effect and confer entomopathogenic activity against more than 300 species of insects and mites (GLARE; O'CALLAGHAM, 2000; MONNERAT; BRAVO, 2000; VAN FRANKENYUZEN, 2009; VAN FRANKENYUZEN, 2013).

Bt-based insecticides have a long history of successful use in agriculture and forestry biological control of insect pests, as well as vectors of diseases (CAB, 2010; BRAVO et al., 2011; SANCHIS, 2011; JURAT-FUENTES; JACKSON, 2012; VACHON; LAPRADE; SCHWARTZ, 2012).

More than 300 Bt-based biopesticides (70% of them with *Bt var. kurstaki*) account for 53% of the world market for bio-insecticides, generating around US\$ 120-140,000,000 per year. The Americas account for almost 50% of this consumption, particularly the US and Canada, with Latin America accounting for only 8-10% of total consumption (CAB, 2010; POLANCZYK; DE BORTOLI; DE BORTOLI, 2012). In addition, several transgenic plants, which express Bt toxins, are grown in large areas (JAMES, 2016; JURAT-FUENTES; JACKSON, 2012).

Bt strains are isolated from soil samples, rivers, surface plants, plant remains, dead insects and small mammals, cobwebs, stored grains and uninhabited places (BRAVO et al., 1998; FORSYTH; LOGAN, 2000; SWIECICKA; FIEDORUK; BEDNARZ, 2002; BIZZARRI; BISHOP, 2007; KONECKA; KAZNOWSKI; ZIEMNICKA, 2007; THAMMASITTIRONG; ATTATHOM, 2008). Several and extensive Bt screening projects have reported that the most prolific environments for isolating strains is the dust and materials associated with grain storage (BERNHARD; JARRET; MEADOWS, 1997).

This bacterium develops easily in artificial media under aerobic conditions. With the limitation of nutrients or the accumulation of undesirable metabolites, Bt enters the sporulation process and synthesizes the protein(s) containing the crystal (; YAMAMOTO; DEAN, 2000; JURAT-FUENTES; JACKSON, 2012).

Due to the high activity of Bt toxins against a wide range of agricultural pests, extensive prospecting programs were conducted by several research groups to identify Bt strains with new/broad spectrum insecticides. Numerous publications have reported the identification of crystal-forming proteins and the cloning and sequencing of crystalline protein genes (GLARE; O'CALLAGHAM, 2000). A problem related to the lack of a uniform nomenclature for these genes arose, causing the initial literature to become quite confusing. Hofte and Whiteley (1989) presented a Cry classification based on amino acid sequences and action spectrum of toxins. In this classification Cry I toxins showed activity against insects of the order Lepidoptera, Cry II against Lepidoptera and Diptera, Cry III against Coleoptera and Cry IV against Diptera, being the Cyt class defined and separated, since it did not show homology with the Cry toxins and whose members demonstrated an overall "in vivo" cytolytic activity. After some time it was realized that this classification was not adequate, since similar toxins had different specificities, and new toxins with double activity against larvae of Lepidoptera and Coleoptera were discovered and called Cry V, creating, therefore, great confusion in the nomenclature (TAYLOR; TIPPET; GIBB, 1992). Because of this, in 1994, an International Committee was created and proposed a classification based solely on amino acid sequences. In the new classification, Roman numerals were replaced by Arabic numerals and four levels were defined (CRICKMORE et al., 1998). The constant updating of this data can be viewed on the Internet at: <http://www.lifesci.sussex.ac.uk/home/NeilCrickmore/Bt/>. Close to 950 different toxin genes have been cloned and classified in 74 groups of Cry, 3 groups of Cyt, and 3 groups of Vip proteins (CRICKMORE et al. 2016).

2.2.2. The toxins and its insecticidal activity

The entomopathogenic activity of Bt is mainly related to the production of crystalline inclusions called δ -endotoxins or Cry proteins in the stationary phase, which

are accumulated in the mother cell during sporulation (AGAISSE; LERECLUS, 1995; YAMAMOTO; DEAN, 2000). These crystalline inclusions may contain one or more Cry proteins and each toxin is encoded by a specific cry gene (LI et al., 1991).

In addition to the Cry proteins, Bt also produces another toxin with insecticidal activity, which can increase the toxicity of δ -endotoxins, such as α -exotoxin, β -exotoxin, hemolysins, exoenzymes and vegetative insecticidal proteins (VIPs) (HABIB; ANDRADE, 1998). Spores may also contribute to the virulence of the bacterium performing synergistic action along with the Cry proteins (JOHNSON; MCGAUGHEY, 1996).

Under unfavorable nutritional conditions, Bt disrupts cell division and initiates the sporulation process. During the sporulation phase occurs the production of δ -endotoxins or Cry proteins. δ -endotoxins accumulate in the mother cell compartment and, at the end of sporulation, a crystal is released along with the spore. There are two types of δ -endotoxins: Cry proteins and Cyt proteins. The action spectrum of δ -endotoxins is usually restricted to certain orders of insects, such as Lepidoptera, Coleoptera, Hymenoptera, Diptera or nematodes and mites (HABIB; ANDRADE, 1998; SCHNEPF et al., 1998).

B. thuringiensis can produce one or more Cry proteins with molecular mass ranging from 40 to 140 kDa (SERAFINI; BARROS; AZEVEDO, 2002). The shape of the crystal is determined by the composition and structure of the δ -endotoxins present, and can vary between bipyramidal, cuboidal, ovoid, rhomboid and spherical, or even having no definite shape (HABIB; ANDRADE, 1998; POLANCZYK; ALVES, 2003).

Cry proteins are classified into 70 groups and different subgroups, depending on the degree of similarity of their amino acids. These proteins are encoded by more than 665 already sequenced cry genes (CRICKMORE, 2013).

Cyt proteins show no homology with Cry proteins and have cytolytic activity, presenting affinity for unsaturated fatty acids in the lipid portion of the cell membrane (THOMAS; ELLAR, 1983). The Cyt proteins are constituted by the Cyt1 and Cyt2 groups; the Cyt1 are: Cyt1Aa, Cyt1Ab and Cyt1Ba (THIERY et al., 1997), and the Cyt2: Cyt2Aa, Cyt2Ba, Cyt2Bb, Cyt2Bc e Cyt2Ca. They have molecular mass of 27-30 kDa

and toxicity to insects of the order Diptera. In addition, the Cyt2Ca protein also exhibits activity against Coleoptera (CRICKMORE et al., 1998).

2.2.3. Mode of action

The mode of action of Cry proteins involves several steps, such as: ingestion of the spore-crystal complex by the susceptible larvae, solubilization and processing of the toxin, receptor binding, membrane insertion, pore formation and cytolysis. Cry proteins are in the form of pro-toxins and need to be activated by proteases to release toxic fragments (SCHNEPF et al., 1998; MONNERAT; BRAVO, 2000).

In order for the protoxin to be solubilized, it must come into contact with the alkaline pH of the midgut of the target insect larvae (KNOWLES, 1994). Differences in solubilization may contribute to determining changes in the degree of toxicity between Cry proteins (ARONSON et al., 1991). After the solubilization, the pro-toxins are processed by special proteases present in the insect's midgut, in order to release the toxic fragment (TOJO; AIZAWA, 1983). Proteolytic cleavage is an important factor that may contribute to determining specificity; the main type of digestive protease in insects of the orders Lepidoptera and Diptera is the serine protease type, whereas for Coleoptera they are mainly cysteine and aspartic proteases (DE MAAGD; BRAVO; CRICKMORE, 2001).

Upon activation, Cry proteins pass through the peritrophic membrane of the midgut, a protective coating, and reach the target site and bind to specific receptors present on the microvilli of the midgut columnar cells of susceptible insect larvae (ZHANG et al., 2012). Cry toxins interact with specific receptors, being an important factor for toxicity and specificity, determining the action spectrum of δ -endotoxins (MONNERAT; BRAVO, 2000; DE MAAGD; BRAVO; CRICKMORE, 2001; BRAVO; GILL; SOBERÓN, 2007). Then the formation of pores occur leading to cell lysis and extravasation of the intestinal contents into the hemocoel (COPPING; MENN, 2000;

PRAÇA et al., 2004). Alternatively, the binding of Cry toxins to the cadherin protein in the midgut could activate a cell signaling pathway, leading to cell death (ZHANG et al., 2005; ZHANG et al., 2006).

The symptoms of intoxication in insects are: anorexia, intestinal paralysis, vomiting, diarrhea, total paralysis and subsequent septicemia, leading the insect to death (GUPTA et al., 1985; BRAVO; JANSENS; PEFEROEN, 1992; MONNERAT; BRAVO, 2000).

Although many insects are susceptible to Cry toxins, Bt's mode of action is not yet well defined. After ingestion of spores/crystals by the insect, the crystals are dissolved and then to a greater or lesser degree, they are cleaved by digestive proteases and transformed into active toxins. These toxins pass through the peritrophic membrane, binding to specific receptors located on the apical membrane of the midgut columnar cells, forming pores in the membrane. The formation of these pores results in the interference of cell physiology by suppression of the trans-membronic ionic gradients, which can lead to colloid-osmotic lysis of the cells due to a massive influx of solutes into the lumen of the midgut. In turn, the destruction of the cells results in great damage to the epithelial tissue of the midgut and death of the intoxicated larvae. Insects can also suffer from starvation, since, shortly after ingestion of the toxin, the insect stops feeding itself (COPPING; MENN, 2000; CRICKMORE, 2006; JURAT-FUENTES; JACKSON, 2012; VACHON; LAPRADE; SCHWARTZ, 2012).

In recent years, an elaborate model involving the sequential attachment of toxins to different membrane receptors has been proposed to describe the events leading to membrane insertion and pore formation. However, it has also been proposed that, in contradistinction to this mechanism, Bt toxins function through the activation of intracellular signaling pathways leading to the necrotic death of their target cells, without the need for pore formation (BRAVO; GILL; SOBERÓN, 2007). Vachon, Laprade and Schwartz (2012) pointed out that the available information still supports the idea that Bt toxins act through pore formation, but most of the events that lead to its formation, after binding of the active toxins in the receptors, remain little known. The understanding of the mechanism of action of Bt toxins has been complicated recently by the discovery

that mutations in the gene encoding an ABCC2 transporter are responsible for resistance to Bt toxins in four different insect species (HECKEL, 2012; HERNÁNDEZ-MARTÍNEZ et al., 2012). The Bt Cry1Ac resistance locus (BtR-1) in the NO-QA strain of *P. xylostella* from Hawaii was originally identified using anonymous AFLP markers (HECKEL et al., 1999). A sequenced AFLP marker linked to BtR-1 contained coding sequence for the predicted gene Thyroid Hormone Receptor Interactor 12 (GenBank JN030496), which has an orthologue located on chromosome 15 of *B. mori*. Predicted proteins from *B. mori* chromosome 15 were compared using BLAST against a *P. xylostella* transcriptome (454-ESTs) to design specific primers for linkage mapping. Sixteen genes, including that encoding ABCC2, were mapped in most progeny in backcrosses to NO-QA (3 families, 184 bioassay survivors, 46 controls).

The superfamily of ABC proteins takes its name from binding with ATP, an intracellular domain that binds and hydrolyzes ATP in a cycle that carries the transport of molecules across a lipid bilayer membrane. The functional transporter consists of two cytosolic nucleotide binding domains (NBDs) that bind and hydrolyze ATP and two integral transmembrane domains (HECKEL, 2012). The biological function of the ABCC2 gene is unknown, but its resemblance to multidrug resistance proteins suggests that it could export small hydrophobic toxins from intestinal epithelial cells to eventual fecal elimination. Heckel (2012) speculates that the ABCC2 gene could function as one of the binding proteins in the sequential binding model discussed by Bravo; Gill and Soberón (2007), and further proposes that the binding of the toxin to the ABCC2 gene only occurs when the carrier is in its open configuration. When the carrier closes, the toxin is pushed into the membrane. This transient interaction between the toxin and the ABCC2 gene may explain why this gene has not yet been identified as a toxin binding protein.

Hernández-Martínez et al. (2012) suggested an alternative model in which the ABCC2 gene would be indirectly affecting the mechanism of action of Bt toxins. Mutations in the gene encoding ABCC2 affect its function, which in turn affects the physiology of the cell, so it interferes with the ability of the Bt toxin to form the pore. Both studies conclude that the functional role of ABCC2 protein has not yet been established,

but that mutations clearly have significant consequences on insect susceptibility to Bt. What is unknown is how the mutations on ABCC2 results in a particular changes in expression of genes. One possibility is that mutations in *abcc2* in some way simulates a pathogen attack and the cells express genes in response to counter attack (AYRA-PARDO et al., 2015).

As ABCC2 was correlated with Cry1Ac resistance in *Chloridea virescens* (F., 1777) (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae), the orthologue from *P. xylostella* was cloned and sequenced using a genomic BAC library constructed from a susceptible strain Geneva88 (BAXTER et al., 2011). The gene contains 26 exons, and these were verified through PCR amplification from Bt-susceptible (Geneva88) and Bt-resistant (NO-QAGE) midgut cDNA. The resistant strain NO-QAGE contained a 30-bp deletion in exon 20, which is predicted to remove the 12th and final transmembrane domain and aberrantly position the carboxyl-terminal outside the cell. If this gene is translated and inserted into the midgut membrane, a core ATP-binding loop is expected to be nonfunctional.

In two controversial studies, Broderick, Raffa and Handelsman (2006) and Broderick et al. (2009) suggested that Bt is incapable of killing *Lymantria dispar* (Linnaeus, 1758) (Lepidoptera: Lymantriidae), *Manduca sexta* Linnaeus, 1763 (Lepidoptera: Sphingidae), *Pieris rapae* (Linnaeus, 1758) (Lepidoptera: Pieridae) and *Vanessa cardui* (Linnaeus, 1758) (Lepidoptera: Nymphalidae) in the absence of intestinal bacteria. Previous exposure of larvae to a combination of four antibiotics to eliminate gut bacteria severely reduced the toxicity of a commercial Bt preparation. Reinfection of larvae with an *Enterobacter* sp. rescued the toxicity of Dipel®. A subsequent study by Johnston and Crickmore (2009) showed that the loss of product activity was a result of the direct effect of the residual antibiotics on the larvae and living bacteria present in the Dipel product. Not only did they conclude that native gut bacteria were not necessary for Bt toxicity, but in fact, they showed that the presence of native intestinal bacteria helped protect the insect against Bt. In summarizing these data, Raymond et al. (2010) concluded that Bt is mainly a pathogenic agent for insects and that its main means of reproduction is insect cadaver, and that it does not require the help of other microorganisms to express its pathogenicity.

Laboratory studies with *Spodoptera exigua* (Huebner, 1808) (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae) identified a group of proteins, known as REPAT (REsponse to PATHogens) proteins were found to be up-regulated in response to not only Cry toxins, but also to Bt and other microbial pathogens (HERRERO et al., 2007). Further studies on *S. exigua* identified novel members of the *repat* gene family and showed higher expression of some members in a Bt-resistant colony in comparison with a susceptible colony (HERNÁNDEZ-MARTÍNEZ et al., 2010). Eight different *repat* genes had been described, all of them hypothetically encoding for relatively small proteins (less than 20 kDa) and their expression was restricted to the midgut cells (HERRERO et al., 2007; HERNÁNDEZ-RODRÍGUEZ; FERRÉ; HERRERO, 2009; HERNÁNDEZ-MARTÍNEZ et al., 2010; NAVARRO-CERRILLO et al., 2012). This family of genes was found exclusively in *Spodoptera* spp. and they lacked clear homologs in other insect species.

Navarro-Cerrillo et al. (2013) analysed the comprehensive larval transcriptome from *S. exigua* to verify the presence of novel *repat*-homolog sequences. These analyses revealed the presence of at least 46 *repat* genes in *S. exigua*, establishing a new gene superfamily in this species. These authors showed that phylogenetic analysis and studies of conserved motifs in these hypothetical proteins have allowed their classification in two main classes, α REPAT and β REPAT. Studies on the transcriptional response of *repat* genes have shown that α REPAT and β REPAT differ in their sequence but also in the pattern of regulation. The α REPAT were mainly regulated in response to the Cry1Ca toxin from Bt but not to the increase in the midgut microbiota load. In contrast, β REPAT were neither responding to Cry1Ca toxin nor to midgut microbiota. This high diversity found in their sequence and in their expression profile suggests that REPAT proteins may be involved in multiple processes that could be of relevance for the understanding of the insect gut physiology.

Genomic and proteomic approaches have begun to unravel how invertebrate defenses respond to Bt toxins on a biochemical and cellular level: a global functional analysis in the nematode *Caenorhabditis elegans* (Moupas, 1900) (Rhabditida: Rhabditidae) highlighted the importance of two MAPK pathways, p38 and JNK (KAO et al., 2011). The p38 pathway was also implicated in the protection of the lepidopteran

Manduca sexta (Linnaeus, 1763) (Lepidoptera: Sphingidae) and the dipteran *Aedes aegypti* (Linnaeus, 1762) (Diptera: Culicidae) against Cry toxins (CANCINO-RODEZNO et al., 2010). In general, exposure to Bt results in the altered expression of many genes including the *repat* superfamily that are induced by a variety of pathogens (NAVARRO-CERILLO et al., 2013). Various different functions have been subscribed to the insect genes that are differentially expressed upon exposure to Bt including immune defense (VAN MUNSTER et al., 2007; GUO et al., 2011; PASCUAL et al., 2012; YAO et al., 2014,); toxin activation or binding (CANDAS et al., 2003; VAN MUNSTER et al., 2007; LEI et al., 2014; YAO et al., 2014); oxidative or general metabolism (CANDAS et al., 2003; MEUNIER et al., 2006; GUO et al., 2011) and stress response (MEUNIER et al., 2006; VAN MUNSTER et al., 2007).

Several studies have also used genomic/proteomic methods to compare Bt resistant insects with their susceptible counterparts to look for differences that could account for the resistant phenotype. Candas et al. (2003) identified differences in proteinase levels, which could affect toxin activation, as well as an increased oxidative metabolism in a resistant strain of Indian Meal Moth (*Plodia interpunctella* (Hübner, 1813) (Lepidoptera: Pyralidae)). Guo et al. (2011) compared resistant and susceptible strains of the sugarcane borer (*Diatraea saccharalis* (Fabricius, 1794) (Lepidoptera: Crambidae)) and found differences in expression of nearly 400, mainly metabolic-related genes. Lei et al. (2014) used RNA-sequencing to compare susceptible and resistant strains of *P. xylostella* and found that the majority of this insect's genes were differentially expressed between the two strains.

Hernández-Martínez et al. (2010) compared Bt resistant and susceptible strains of *S. exigua* and found that about a fifth of the genes tested were differentially expressed. Interestingly they also found that some of the genes that were induced in the susceptible insect upon exposure to Bt were constitutively overexpressed in the resistant strain. More recently a mutation in *abcc2* was also linked to resistance in this strain and RNAi silencing of *abcc2* in a susceptible strain of *S. exigua* not only decreased its susceptibility to Cry toxins but also resulted in the up-regulation of a

number of genes previously found to be induced in response to intoxication and constitutively expressed in the resistant strain (PARK et al., 2014).

Despite the large number of genes that are differentially expressed in insects exposed to Bt, or that have developed resistance to Bt, attempts have been made to validate the importance of individual genes. The role of one of the *repat* genes was tested by producing recombinant protein in a baculovirus expression system. This protein (REPAT1) was found to protect *S. exigua* from pathogen attack (HERRERO et al., 2007). RNAi is a technique that has proved successful in insects and has been used to investigate the importance of several differentially expressed genes. Yang et al. (2010) used RNAi to demonstrate that expression suppression of a putative toxin receptor (APN), that was down-regulated in a resistant strain of *D. saccharalis*, reduced the effectiveness of the Bt Cry1Ab toxin towards the susceptible strain. As well as for putative receptors RNAi has been used to show that expression suppression of the following differentially expressed genes affected susceptibility to Bt: a trypsin like protease from *S. frugiperda* (RODRÍGUEZ-CABRERA et al., 2010); Apolipoprotein-III from *Tribolium castaneum* (Herbst, 1797) (Coleoptera: Tenebrionidae) (CONTRERAS, RAUSELL; REAL, 2013); HSP90, ATP synthase subunit B and actin from *A. aegypti* (CANCINO-RODEZNO et al., 2012). More recently it has been shown that in a resistant strain of *P. xylostella* known as Karak many genes are constitutively up regulated (AYRA-PARDO, et al., 2015). RNAi suppression of some of these genes, including a putative ER co-chaperone PxSDF2L1, resulted in an increased susceptibility to Bt. These unpublished data match those found in *S. exigua* where a single mutation (possibly in *abcc2* in both insects) resulted in the constitutive up regulation of many genes, silencing of which altered the susceptibility to Bt. It is unlikely that all of the up regulated genes are directly involved in Bt toxicity and so a likely scenario is that they form part of a complex stress-response regulon. Some aspect of that stress response (e.g. the shedding / modification / down regulation of the toxin receptor) could directly affect susceptibility to Bt, whilst suppression of other components (e.g. through RNAi) could also influence susceptibility indirectly through a feedback mechanism.

2.2.4. Resistance

Although Bt was used in leaf sprays for more than 30 years, commercialization in 1996 of the first genetically modified plants protected against insect (Bt plants) increased the importance of Bt as a source of insecticidal proteins for the control of pest insects (HERNÁNDEZ-MARTÍNEZ et al., 2012). The excessive use of Bt proteins in sprays or Bt plants led to the evolution of insect resistance in the field (FERRÉ; VAN RIE, 2002; TABASHNIK; VAN RENSBURG; CARRIÈRE, 2009). Field resistance to Bt was first described in populations of *P. xylostella* (KIRSCH; SCHMUTTERER, 1988; TABASHNIK et al., 1990; FERRÉ et al., 1991; FERRÉ; VAN RIE, 2002). One of the first resistant colonies was derived from a Hawaiian population that had been selected for resistance to Dipel® in the field and that was additionally selected in the laboratory for resistance to the same product (TABASHNIK; FINSON; JOHNSON, 1991). Insects from this population showed "mode 1" resistance, which implies strong resistance to at least one Cry1A protein (in this case Cry1Aa, Cry1Ab, Cry1Ac, all three found in Dipel®), little or no cross-resistance to Cry1C, recessive inheritance and reduced binding to at least one Cry1A protein (TABASHNIK et al., 1998).

Tabashnik and Carrière (2017) analyzed global monitoring data reported during the first two decades of transgenic crops. The cases of pest resistance to Bt crystalline (Cry) proteins produced by transgenic crops increased from 3 in 2005 to 16 in 2016. By contrast, in 17 other cases there was no decrease in pest susceptibility to Bt crops, including the recently introduced transgenic corn that produces a Bt vegetative insecticidal protein (Vip). Recessive inheritance of pest resistance has favored sustained susceptibility, but even when inheritance is not recessive, abundant refuges of non-Bt host plants have substantially delayed resistance.

The intensive use of chemicals selected resistant populations, and in these situations the farmer usually increases the frequency of applications and the dosages, in most cases, to no success. In general, a large number of applications are used per cycle of the crop, reaching 15 or 20, regardless of the presence of the pest (pre-established

applications) (GUAN-SOON, 1990; CARBALLO, 1992; SAMPSON, 1992). In Brazil, it is observed that the number of applications can vary from one to four per week, and in addition, the high biotic potential of this insect favors the manifestation of resistance, which makes it difficult to manage the pest (CASTELO BRANCO et al., 2001, THULER, 2006).

The resistance of this insect to DDT was observed in 1953 (ANKERSMIT, 1953) and to Bt in 1980 (TABASHNIK et al., 1990; SHELTON; ROBERTSON; TANG, 1993; TABASHNIK, 1994). In 1989, according to Georghiou and Lagunes-Tejada (1991), about 50 chemical insecticides were known to which populations of *P. xylostella* had resistance. In the 1990s, there were reports of insect-resistant moth populations of pyrethroid and phosphorous groups in the Federal District (CASTELO BRANCO, FRANCE, VILLAS BOAS, 1997). In addition, resistance to abamectin and deltamethrin has also been demonstrated (CASTELO BRANCO; MELO, 2002; PRAÇA et al., 2010).

Other characterizations showed that resistant insects showed cross resistance to Cry1F and Cry1J (TABASHNIK et al., 1994; TABASHNIK et al., 1996). Genetic studies indicated that resistance to Cry1A and Cry1F proteins was determined by a single autosomal "locus" (TABASHNIK et al., 1997a), and that in the offspring of that population the Cry1Ac resistance gene was genetically linked to a membrane transporter gene (ABCC2 gene) (BAXTER et al., 2011).

Any change in the complex pathway of the pathogenesis of Bt could potentially provoke resistance to Bt toxins in insects (ZHANG et al., 2012), being that resistance mechanisms can be diverse (GRIFFITTS; AROIAN, 2005; JURAT-FUENTES; ADANG, 2006; HECKEL et al., 2007), including alteration of Cry toxin solubilization and intestinal proteases, decreased peritrophic membrane permeability to Cry toxins, enhanced insect immune response, sequestering increase of toxins in the midgut by esterase production, and most importantly, reduction of toxin binding with the midgut membrane (SCHNEPF et al., 1998; TABASHNIK et al., 1998; OPPERT, 1999; HAYAKAWA et al., 2004; RAHMAN et al., 2004; GUNNING et al., 2005; MA et al., 2005). Among these resistance mechanisms, the most common is the reduction of toxin binding to midgut cells, which in different insects include mutations at Cry toxin receptors, such as cadherin (CAD),

aminopeptidase-N (APN), alkaline phosphatase (ALP) and mutations in ABCC2 transporter (PARDO-LÓPEZ; SOBERÓN; BRAVO, 2013).

Cadherin in the midgut of Lepidoptera was shown to be the functional receptor for the Cry1A toxin by demonstrating the acquired sensitivity of cells in culture after introduction and expression of a cadherin gene (NAGAMATSU et al., 1999; GOMEZ et al., 2001; DORSCH et al., 2002; HUA; JURAT-FUENTES; ADANG, 2004; FLANNAGAN et al., 2005; XIE et al., 2005; ZHANG et al., 2005). Results obtained by Zhang et al. (2012) indicated that there was no change in the amount of cadherin in *Trichoplusia ni* (Huebner, 1802) (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae) resistant to Cry1Ac, and in vitro binding by the overlap of the toxin under analysis was not different for susceptible individuals. Thus, the role of cadherin in the binding of Cry toxins in the midgut of insects is complex and still needs to be better understood.

For susceptible *P. xylostella* an integrated model was proposed for the binding sites of Cry1A and Cry1Fa proteins (BALLESTER et al., 1999). In this model, at least two binding sites are involved: one that is shared by Cry1Aa, Cry1Ab, Cry1Ac and Cry1Fa, and a second that is specific for Cry1Aa and apparently does not contribute to its toxicity. Another study with resistant larvae showed extremely reduced binding to Cry1Ab and Cry1Ac, but not to Cry1Aa (TABASHNIK et al., 1997b). It was therefore proposed that the resistance of individuals from this population was due to a mutation that altered the common binding site for Cry1Aa, Cry1Ab, Cry1Ac and Cry1F.

In another study, strong correlation was found between cross-resistance and loss of binding to Cry1Fa (HERNÁNDEZ-MARTÍNEZ et al., 2012), complementing the previous results for Cry1Aa, Cry1Ab and Cry1Ac. The lack of binding to Cry1Fa in resistant individuals supports the model proposed by Ballester et al. (1999), of common binding site for CryAb, Cry1Ac and Cry1Fa. The populations of *T. ni* and *P. xylostella* presented a different pattern of cross-resistance, although both resistance phenotypes showed a link to the same "locus" ABCC2 (HERNÁNDEZ-MARTÍNEZ et al., 2012). This may represent different mutations in the ABCC2 gene affecting susceptibility to toxins in different ways (for example, at different toxin binding sites), although the lack of current evidence indicates the functionality of the ABCC2 gene as a binding site for the toxins of

Bt. Alternatively, it is possible that mutations in this gene affect the susceptibility to toxins indirectly. Individuals of *T. ni* from a resistant colony had reduced expression of aminopeptidase N (APN1), which is a known receptor for Bt toxins (TIEWSIRI; WONG, 2011). Thus, while mutations in ABCC2 may confer insect resistance, the effect may be indirect and, as a consequence, the resistant phenotype may reflect differences in physiology between species (HERNÁNDEZ-MARTÍNEZ et al., 2012).

3. EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURES

Bioassays took place in Dr. Neil Crickmore's laboratory, at the School of Life Sciences - University of Sussex, Falmer, Brighton, United Kingdom and in the Laboratory of Microbial Control of Arthropods Pest, at FCAV-Unesp, Jaboticabal, SP, Brazil.

3.1. Insect populations

Five *P. xylostella* populations were brought from Laboratory of Insect Rearing and Biology, UNESP, Jaboticabal, SP, Brazil to Dr. Neil Crickmore's laboratory to continue the rearing and follow through with the experiments. Also the rearing were continued in Laboratory of Microbial Control of Arthropods Pest. For the insects rearing, the methodology used was described by Barros and Vendramim (1999).

One Hawaiian population was also used for the bioassays; this population was provided by Dr. Ben Raymond from University of Exeter, Penryn Campus, Penryn, Cornwall, United Kingdom.

Description of the populations:

Population 1 (PC) - collection date: May 19, 2008 – collected in cabbage plants in the city of Alegre - ES (Brazil), in commercial area with history of insecticide application.

Population 2 (PA) - collection date: July 22, 2008 – collected in cabbage plants in the city of Alegre - ES, in commercial area with history of insecticide application.

Population 3 (Px) - collection date: January 15, 2007 – collected in cabbage plants in the city of Recife - PE (Brazil), in commercial area with history of insecticide application.

Population 4 (SBT) - collection date: July 5, 2010 – collected in cabbage plants in the city of Jaboticabal - SP, in an organic area with no history of insecticide application.

Population 5 (Bt) - collection date: May 19, 2008 – collected in cabbage plants in the city of Alegre - ES. It has been for 125 generations in the lab and selected each generation with Bt HD-1 (3×10^6 spores/mL).

Population 6 (NO-QA) - it is from Hawaii, collected on the year of 1989 (TABASHNIK et al., 1990). It's a highly resistant population. Selected with insecticidal Cry1Ac and has a known defect in ABCC2 (Baxter et al., 2011).

Organic cabbage was bought on a daily bases from Brighton's supermarket for the rearing in UK and for the rearing in Brazil, green houses were maintained to plant cabbages for the rearing.

3.2. Cry1Ac Preparation

The gene was cloned into the pGEM vector in *E. coli* JM109 cells. For protein expression, a loop-full of cells (from plate), were used to incubate 10 mL of LB medium containing the appropriate antibiotics at 37°C overnight. The cultures were transferred in 500 mL of 2x LB medium, containing the appropriate antibiotic and incubated at 37°C on an orbital flatbed shaker (Gallenkamp), at 100 rev/min. Cells were harvested after 48 hours by 10 min centrifugation at 10,000 rpm at 4°C.

The resulted pellet from the *E. coli* cultured cells resuspended in 30ml of 0.5M NaCl, 2% (v/v) Triton X-100 and was sonicated six 30-second periods (at 24 microns). After sonication, centrifugation followed at 13,000rpm for 15 min at 4°C followed in a SS-34 rotor (Beckman). The pellet was washed three times with 30 ml of ice-cold buffer containing 2% Triton-X 100, 0.5M NaCl, then was washed five times with 30ml of ice cold 0.5M NaCl buffer, and two times with 100 ml of ice-cold distilled water. The final pellet was resuspended in 5ml of 50mM Tris-HCl, 50mM EDTA, 15% (w/v) sucrose, pH 8.0 buffer.

3.3. HD-1 Preparation

B. thuringiensis strain *B. thuringiensis* var. *kurstaki* HD-1 (Lepidoptera-specific) was provided by Dr. Manuel Victor Franco Lemos. The strain was obtained from *Bacillus* stock center USA. HD-1 was multiplied in Petri dishes with culture medium NA "Nutrient Agar" (meat extract 1.5 g/L, yeast extract 1.5 g/L, sodium chloride 5 g/L, bacterial peptone 5 g/L and agar 15 g/L) and incubated at 28°C during 5 days for development and sporulation of the bacteria. After this period, the bacterial contents was transferred to Falcon tube containing 10 mL of autoclaved deionized water and 0.05% Tween 20®. The suspension was homogenized and the mixture with spores, crystals and vegetative cells was subjected to three consecutive washes. The supernatant was discarded, in order to eliminate extracellular toxins, such as β -exotoxins, water was added, the pellet resuspended and centrifuged at 3600 rpm for 20 minutes. After the last centrifugation, a new suspension was obtained and two serial dilutions was made for spore counting in NeuBauer's chamber (ALVES; MORAES, 1998) and standardization of the suspension used in the concentration desired.

3.4. Gut dissection

Approximately 40 guts from forth instar larvae from each population were dissected on a Petri dish containing RNAlater® (SIGMA-ALDRICH) with ice bellow. The guts were preserved in 1.5 ml Eppendorf tube with 1ml of RNAlater® (SIGMA-ALDRICH) and stored at -80°C in the freezer for further experimentation.

3.5. RNA extraction

RNA was extracted from approximately 40 *P. xylostella* dissected guts using RNeasy® Plus Mini Kit (QIAGEN). The guts were put in a glass mortar (1ml tissue grinder - WHEATON® USA) with 350 µl RLT Plus (RLT plus 3.5 µl of β-mercaptoethanol). Using a glass pestle, they were ground up by moving the pestle up and down. Then the homogenized lysate was transferred to a QIAshredder (QIAGEN) spin column placed in a 2 ml collection tube by pipetting. Then the spin column was centrifuged for 2 minutes at high velocity. The column was discarded. Added 350 µl of 70% ethanol to the flow-through, and mixed well by pipetting. Up to 700 µl of the sample, including any precipitate was transferred to an RNeasy spin column placed in a 2 ml collection tube. Then centrifuged for 15 s at $\geq 8000 \times g$. The flow-through was discarded. Then 700 µl of Buffer RW1 was added to the RNeasy spin column. Centrifuged for 15 s at $\geq 8000 \times g$. The flow-through was discarded. Added 500 µl of Buffer RPE to the RNeasy spin column. Then centrifuged for 15 s at $\geq 8000 \times g$. The flow-through was discarded. Another 500 µl of Buffer RPE was added to the RNeasy spin column. Then centrifuged for 2 min at $\geq 8000 \times g$. The flow-through was discarded. The RNeasy spin column was then placed in a new 2 ml collection tube and centrifuged at full speed for 1 min. Afterwards the RNeasy spin column was then placed in a new 1.5 ml collection tube. 40 µl of RNase-free water was added directly to the spin column membrane and centrifuged for 1min at $\geq 8000 \times g$ to elute the RNA. The RNA was stored at -80°C in the freezer for further experimentation.

3.6. RNA agarose gel

Agarose (0.5 gr.) was weighted and placed in a sterile glass bottle and then 36 ml of distilled deionized water here added. The bottle was then heated in the microwave,

mixing occasionally until the agarose were completely diluted. Meanwhile, a water bath was heated up to 70°C.

In another glass bottle, 5 ml of 10x MOPS (3-(*N*-Morpholino)-propanesulfonic acid) buffer were added and in a third glass bottle 2.75 ml of 36.5-38% formaldehyde solution were added.

The three bottles were put in water bath at 70°C for a few minutes, after they heat up; the three contents were mixed in one bottle and added 2 µl of GelRed™ nucleic acid stain, it was mixed gently and poured in to the mold with the comb, then was left to set.

While the gel was setting, the samples were prepared this way: in an Eppendorf tube were added 4 µl of distilled deionized water, 2 µl of 36.5-38% formaldehyde solution, 2 µl 10x MOPS (3-(*N*-Morpholino)-propanesulfonic acid), 9 µl of Formamide, 2 µl RNA template, 5 µl RNA loading buffer (2 µl of 0.5M EDTA, 500 µl of glycerol 50%, 498 µl of distilled deionized water and 0.4% of Bromophenol Blue). The samples were then heated for 10 minutes at 70°C in a Block Thermostat, after they were placed on ice for 1 minute. 15 µl of the sample were loaded on the gel. The electrophoresis was performed in 60V/400mA during 60 min, running buffer was 1x MOPS (3-(*N*-Morpholino)-propanesulfonic acid). The results were visualized and analyzed through an ultraviolet transilluminator Gel Doc™ EZ Imager (BIO-RAD®) coupled to a software image analysis (Image Lab™ Software – version 4.0).

3.7. RNA quantification

Absorbance measurements were made on Thermo Scientific NanoDrop 2000 spectrophotometer (Thermo Scientific). The ratio of absorbance at 260 nm and 280 nm was used to access the purity of RNA. A ratio of ~2.0 is generally accepted as “pure” for RNA. First the pedestal was wiped clean with a tissue, then 1 µL of RNase free water was pipetted to de pedestal and the program was blanked. After that, the pedestal was

wiped clean again and 1 μ L sample was loaded and measured. The pedestal was wiped clean with a tissue between every sample.

3.8. cDNA Synthesis – Prime Script™ 1st strand cDNA Synthesis (TAKARA BIO INC)

The first mixture was prepared in individual 0.6 ml Thin Wall Flat Cap PCR Tube with the following reagents and volume: Oligo dT Primer (50 μ M) - 1 μ l; dNTP Mixture (10 mM) - 1 μ l; Template RNA (1 μ g) - 1 μ l; RNase free deionized water - 7 μ l.

The mixture was incubated for 5 min at 65°C, then immediately cooled on ice. After that, a second mixture was prepared with the following reagents and volumes: Template RNA Primer Mixture (from step above) - 10 μ l; 5X PrimeScript Buffer - 4 μ l; RNase Inhibitor (40 U/ μ l) - 0.5 μ l; PrimeScript RTase (200 U/ μ) - 1.0 μ l; RNase free deionized water - 4.5 μ l.

The second reaction mixture was mixed gently and incubated for 10 min at 30°C, for 45 min at 42°C and for 5 min at 95°C to inactivate the enzyme, then cooled on ice and stored at -20°C in the freezer for further experimentation.

3.9. Polymerase chain reaction (PCR)

The reaction was performed using the PfuUltra II Hotstart 2x Master Mix - Agilent Technologies. The components and volumes used were: cDNA - 1.0 μ l; Forward Primer 10 pmol/ μ - 1.0 μ l; Reverse Primer 10 pmol/ μ - 1.0 μ l; Master Mix - 25.0 μ l; Nuclease-free water - 22.0 μ l.

The Primers along with their specifications used in the PCR for this study are listed below (Table 1).

Table 1. List of Primers along with their specifications used in the PCR

Primers	Sequence (5' ->3')	Length (pb)	Product size (pb)
MAP4K4 F	CATCAACTGGCTCCGTCTG	19	188
MAP4K4 R	TCATCTTCGGTGACATCCATC	21	
ABCC2 F	AGTCTTGGCACGCAAACGG	19	103
ABCC2 R	CGAACAGACGCATGAAGGACAT	22	
ALP F	GCACACACCATGACCGTAGCAG	22	169
ALP R	GGCTCTTCGTGACATCG	17	
CDKAL1 F	GTCGGACACAACGAGTTCTACG	22	148
CDKAL1 R	CAGTTAAACCGGGCATCTTTGGC	23	
L32 F	CCAATTTACCGCCCTACC	18	120
L32 R	TACCCTGTTGTCAATACCTCT	21	
PxABCC2 Full length F	CCATTGTATGGGTATTAGGTG	21	4119
PxABCC2 Full length R	CTAAGSTACAAGCTATCATTGAG	23	

The mixture was prepared in 0.6 ml Thin Wall Flat Cap PCR individual's tube, briefly centrifuged to spin down the contents and eliminate any air bubbles. The thermal sequence and amplification timing were: an initial denaturation at 94 °C for 2 min followed by 35 cycles of: denaturation at 95°C for 45 sec.; annealing at 50°C for 45 sec. and elongation at 72°C for 30 sec., followed by final extension at 72°C for 3 min. For the ABCC2 full length gene the thermal sequence and amplification timing were: an initial denaturation at 95°C for 2 min followed by 30 cycles of: denaturation at 95°C for 1 min.; annealing at 59 °C for 20 sec. and elongation at 72 °C for 2 min., followed by final extension at 72 °C for 3 min.

3.10. Agarose gel

Agarose (0.6 g for 2% agarose gel or 0.3 g 1% agarose gel) was weighted and placed in a sterile glass bottle and then 30 ml of 1 x TBE distilled. The bottle was then heated in the microwave, mixing occasionally until the agarose were completely dissolved. After, the mixture was left to cool down for about 15 minutes. When it had already cooled down, 1.5 µl of GelRed™ nucleic acid was added then it was mixed gently and poured in to the mold with the comb, then left to dry.

3.11. DNA electrophoresis on agarose gel

The amplified products were submitted to horizontal electrophoresis on 1 or 2% agarose gels stained with GelRed™ Nucleic Acid stain (Biotium®) (1.5 µl/30ml) in running buffer TBE 1X pH 8.0 (89 mM Tris; 89 mM Boric Acid; 2 mM EDTA). 5 µl of the amplified product plus 2 µl of DNA loading buffer were load up in the gel wells. The electrophoresis was performed at 120V/400mA for 50 min. For the determination of the amplified products, we used a molecular weight marker (100 pb DNA Ladder, BioLabs®). The results were visualized and analyzed through an ultraviolet transilluminator Gel Doc™ EZ Imager (BIO-RAD®) coupled to a software image analysis (Image Lab™ Software – version 4.0).

3.12. PCR purification

The PCR products were purified using the QIAprep® Spin Miniprep Kit. 250 µl of PB buffer was added to 50 µl of the PCR products, the mixture were transferred to a

spin column in a collection tube, centrifuged and the flow-through discarded. 750 µl of PE buffer was added to the spin column, centrifuged and the flow-through discarded. The spin column was centrifuged again to dry, the collection tube with the flow-through was discarded and the spin column placed in a new Eppendorf tube. 30 µl of buffer EB was added in the middle of the cotton ring; it was left to set for 1 min. and centrifuged for 1 min. The Eppendorf tube containing the purified PCR product was stored at -20°C for sequencing.

3.13. PCR purification from agarose gel band

After the PCR reactions, the band relative to the amplicons were cut from the agarose gel with a scalpel blade, and placed in Eppendorfs® tubes properly identified. Further, the extraction of the PCR products from the agarose gel was performed using the QIAquick® Gel Extraction Kit (250) (Qiagen®)

QG buffer (600 µl) were added to the Eppendorfs® and placed in a Block Thermostat to heat at 50-55° C, mixed occasionally until the band had completely dissolved. The Eppendorfs® were centrifuged for 5 sec. and with pipettes all the contents from the Eppendorfs® were transferred to a spin column in a collection tube provided on the Kit. After transferred, the mixtures were centrifuged for 30 sec. and the flow-through discarded. The membrane was then washed with 500 µl of QG buffer, centrifuged for 30 sec. and the flow-through discarded. 750 µl of PE Buffer was added, centrifuged for 30 sec. and the flow-through discarded. Another centrifuged for 30 seconds was performed to dry the membrane. The spin column was transferred to a new Eppendorf tube, 30 µl of EB buffer was added to the middle of the cotton ring in the membrane, incubated for 1 min. at room temperature and centrifuged for 1 min. The Eppendorf tube containing the purified PCR product was stored at -20°C for further sequencing.

3.14. Sequencing

Samples from all 6 populations were sent for sequencing to Eurofins MWG Operon- Europe and tested against the primers listed on Table 2.

Table 2. List of Primers along with their specifications used for sequencing

Primers	Sequence (5'→3')	Length (pb)
PxABCC2 Full length F	CCATTGTATGGGTATTAGGTG	21
PxABCC2 Full length R	CTAAGSTACAAGCTATCATTGAG	23
PxABCC2N1F	GCCTTCMTGTTCTGCACTACTTC	24
PxABCC2N1R	CGCAGCGTGGCCGAGAACAACA	24
PxABCC2N2F	GGGCGGGCAGGCGGACAC	18
PxABCC2N2R	GATAATATAGACGCGAGGTAGACG	24
PxABCC2N3F	TGCCTGCAGCCCGACTTCAA	20
PxABCC2N3R	GCCCGTTTGCCTGCCGAGACTTG	23
PxABCC2N4F	CATCGTGGGCCTGTTCTCTGTCA	23
PxABCC2N4R	TGCTGGTCCTTGTCCTCCCTCAC	22
PxABCC2N5F	CGGAGCTGGTGGAAACGCAAATC	22
PxABCC2N5R	GGCAGCACGCGTCGCACACCTT	22
PxABCC2Cterm	CATGGACAAGGGTGAAGTGGTG	22
PxABCC2Nterm	GGTATGGCGTTCCCGAGCAG	20

3.15. Quantitative real-time PCR (qRT-PCR)

The reaction were performed using the Power SYBR[®] Green PCR Master mix (Applied Biosystems by Thermo Fisher Scientific). The components and volumes used were: cDNA - 1.0 µl; Forward Primer (200 nM) - 1.0 µl; Reverse Primer (200 nM) - 1.0 µl; Master Mix - 10.0 µl; Nuclease-free water - 7.0 µl.

The Primers along with their specifications used in the qPCR for this study are listed below on Table 3.

Table 3. List of Primers along with their specifications used in the qPCR

Primers	Sequence (5'→3')	Length (pb)	Product size (pb)
MAP4K4 F	CATCAACTGGCTCCGTCTG	19	188
MAP4K4 R	TCATCTTCGGTGACATCCATC	21	
ABCC2 F	AGTCTTGGCACGCAAACGG	19	103
ABCC2 R	CGAACAGACGCATGAAGGACAT	22	
ALP F	GCACACACCATGACCGTAGCAG	22	169
ALP R	GGCTCTTCGTGACATCG	17	
CDKAL1 F	GTCGGACACAACGAGTTCTACG	22	148
CDKAL1 R	CAGTTAAACCGGGCATCTTTGGC	23	
L32 F	CCAATTTACCGCCCTACC	18	120
L32 R	TACCCTGTTGTCAATACCTCT	21	
APN F	TCACTGAGTCCCATCCCA	19	157
APN R	TGCCAGACGGCACATTTT	18	

Negative control reactions included ddH₂O instead of cDNA template, which resulted in no amplified products. The mixtures were pipetted in each well of a 96-well

reaction plate, the plate was sealed, briefly centrifuged to spin down the contents and eliminate any air bubbles. The amplification reaction was performed on ABI PRISM 7700 Sequence Detection System (Applied Biosystems). The qPCR program included Holding Stage at 95°C for 10 min., 40 cycling Stage at 95°C for 15 sec. and 60°C for 1 min., Melt Curve Stage at 95°C for 15 sec., 60°C for 1 min. and 95°C for 15 sec.. Relative quantification was performed using the $2^{-\Delta\Delta C_t}$ method, expression levels were normalized to the ribosomal protein L32 gene (GenBank accession no. AB180441) and the expression ratio was estimated as described previously (HERRERO, 2007). Three technical replicates and three biological replicates were used for each treatment.

3.16. Lethal concentration (LC₅₀) bioassays with Cry1Ac toxin

For this bioassay, leaf discs of Chinese cabbage 4 cm diameter were immersed for 10 sec. in 30 ml Cry1Ac toxin suspensions (toxin, distilled deionized water, 50 µl/ml Triton-X 100[®]); the control treated only with water plus Triton-X 100[®]. After that, the leaves were left to dry at room temperature, the discs were individualized in 4.5 cm diameter Petri dishes, with moistened filter paper below. 20 sec. instar larvae of each population were placed on a leaf disc and assayed against different Cry1Ac toxin concentrations, each disc was considered 1 repetition, and 3 repetitions per treatment were observed, and repeated for each population. Mortality was recorded 3 days after treatment and 50% lethal concentration (LC₅₀) was estimated by Probit analyses (SAS INSTITUTE, 2002).

The concentrations of the Cry1Ac tested were: 0.001 µg/ml, 0.006 µg/ml, 0.025 µg/ml, 0.05 µg/ml, 0.1 µg/ml, 0.2 µg/ml, 0.5 µg/ml, 0.75 µg/ml; 1.0 µg/ml; 1.5 µg/ml, for populations PX, PC, SBT, PA; 0.05 µg/ml, 0.2 µg/ml, 0.75 µg/ml, 1.0 µg/ml, 1.5 µg/ml, 2.0 µg/ml, 2.5 µg/ml, 3.0 µg/ml, 3.5 µg/ml, 4.5 µg/ml, 5.5 µg/ml, for population Bt and 0.75 µg/ml, 1.0 µg/ml, 1.5 µg/ml, 2.5 µg/ml, 3.0 µg/ml, 3.5 µg/ml, 4.5 µg/ml, 5.5 µg/ml, and 7.5 µg/ml for population NO-QA.

The Petri dishes were wrapped with PVC cling film and kept in a test chamber with temperature 25 ± 1 °C, relative humidity of $70 \pm 10\%$ and photoperiod of 12L: 12D hour. After three days were carried out assessments and recorded the number of dead larvae in each treatment. Those larvae that did not move when touched with a fine bristles brush were considered dead.

3.17. Backcrossing the resistant population with the lab susceptible population

Bioassays were performed at the Laboratory of Microbial Control of Arthropods Pest (UNESP, Jaboticabal).

In order that meaningful comparisons could be made between the resistant and susceptible strains of *P. xylostella* near isogenic populations of the two needed to be established. This was achieved by repeatedly backcrossing the resistant with the susceptible lines and selecting for resistant offspring.

There is no meiotic recombination in lepidopteran females, so genes that are linked in females will remain linked in chromosomes handed down by the mother (WANG, 2011). Since we wanted to move the resistance allele to the susceptible background this is best done by mating resistant males with susceptible females. Therefore, Bt resistant males were crossed with susceptible females from PX population, and the offspring was reared on fresh kale leaves without toxin. Individuals from this F1 generation were randomly mated, and second-instar larvae of the F2 progeny were treated with a discriminating dose of HD-1 Bt strain, that is known to kill heterozygous (but not homozygous resistant) individuals, resulting in 40-70 % mortality. Bt HD-1 strain was diluted in sterile deionized distilled water containing 50 µl/ml Triton-X 100[®]. The surviving larvae were reared to pupation, and then males were backcrossed with females from the susceptible PX population. This process was repeated for eight generations. In every even generation (F2, F4, F6 and F8), after 3 days of the HD-1 spraying, survived larvae were collected and stored individually in Eppendorfs with 75%

ethanol solutions for further testing in Dr. Neil Crickmore's lab. A DNasy prep were carried out and then amplified the region around the mutation from genomic DNA. New primers where designed to avoid any intron/exon boundaries. These are:

BtMutF (21mer):

5'- GAG CTG GTG GAA CGC AAA TCC - 3'

BtMutR (18mer):

5'- CTT CCC GGA TCC CAC GGG - 3'

The F primer was then used for sequencing at Eurofins.

3.18. Complementation tests between Bt and NO-QAGE

The genetic basis of resistance in Brazilian Bt population is unknown whereas in NO-QAGE it has been mapped to the *abcc2* gene (BAXTER, 2011). To establish whether resistance in Bt population is also in *abcc2* reciprocal male and female, crosses was performed between the two strains. Offspring were then assayed against discriminatory doses of HD-1 and Cry1Ac toxin. Leaf discs of Kale 4 cm diameter were immersed for 10 sec. in 30 ml HD-1 and Cry1Ac suspensions (HD-1 or Cry1Ac, distilled deionized water, 50 µl/ml Triton-X 100[®]); the control treated only with water plus Triton-X 100[®]. After that, the leaves were left to dry at room temperature, the discs were individualized in 4.5 cm diameter Petri dishes, with moistened filter paper below. 20 sec. instar larvae of each population were placed on a leaf disc and assayed against different HD-1 and Cry1Ac concentrations, each disc was considered 1 repetition, and 3 repetitions per treatment were observed, and repeated for each population. Mortality was recorded 3 days after treatment and 50% lethal concentration (LC₅₀) was estimated by Probit analyses (SAS INSTITUTE, 2002).

The concentrations of the Cry1Ac tested were: 0.5 µg/ml, 0.75 µg/ml, 1.0 µg/ml, 1.5 µg/ml, 2.5 µg/ml, 3.5 µg/ml, 4.5 µg/ml, 5.5 µg/ml and 7.5 µg/ml. And of the HD-1 were: 1.2x10⁵ spores/ml, 1.6x10⁵ spores/ml, 2.4x10⁵ spores/ml, 1.2x10⁶ spores/ml,

2.4×10^6 spores/ml, 3×10^6 spores/ml, 4×10^6 spores/ml, 6×10^6 spores/ml and 9×10^6 spores/ml.

The Petri dishes were wrapped with PVC cling film and kept in a test chamber with temperature 25 ± 1 °C, relative humidity of $70 \pm 10\%$ and photoperiod of 12L: 12D hour. After three days were carried out assessments and recorded the number of dead larvae in each treatment. Those larvae that did not move when touched with a fine bristles brush were considered dead.

Concentration-mortality response was performed with Cry1Ac protein of Bt against second-instar *P. xylostella* larvae of crossing between NO-QA resistant male population X Bt Brazilian resistant female population and crossing between NO-QA resistant female population X Bt Brazilian resistant male population on the first, second, sixth, seventh and eighth generations.

Also concentration-mortality response was performed with HD1 protein of Bt against second-instar *P. xylostella* larvae of crossing between NO-QA resistant male population X Bt Brazilian resistant female population and crossing between NO-QA resistant female population X Bt Brazilian resistant male population on the first, second, sixth, and seventh generations.

3.19. Lethal concentration (LC₅₀) bioassays with HD-1

For this bioassay, leaf discs of Chinese cabbage 4 cm diameter were immersed for 10 seconds in 30 ml HD-1 suspensions (HD-1, distilled deionized water, 50 µl/ml Triton-X 100[®]); the control treated only with water plus Triton-X 100[®]. After that, the leaves were left to dry at room temperature, the discs were individualized in 4.5 cm diameter Petri dishes, with moistened filter paper below. Twenty second instar larvae of each population were placed on a leaf disc and assayed against different HD-1 concentrations, each disc was considered 1 replication, and 3 replications per treatment were observed, and repeated for each population. Mortality was recorded 3 days after

treatment and 50% lethal concentration (LC_{50}) was estimated by Probit analyses (SAS INSTITUTE, 2002).

The concentrations of the HD-1 tested were: 2.4×10^2 spores/ml, 1.6×10^3 spores/ml, 2.4×10^3 spores/ml, 1.6×10^4 spores/ml, 2.4×10^4 spores/ml, 1.6×10^5 spores/ml, 2.4×10^5 spores/ml, 1.6×10^6 spores/ml and 2.4×10^6 spores/ml for the PX susceptible population and 1.2×10^5 spores/ml, 1.6×10^5 spores/ml, 2.4×10^5 spores/ml, 1.2×10^6 spores/ml, 2.4×10^6 spores/ml, 3×10^6 spores/ml, 4×10^6 spores/ml, 6×10^6 spores/ml and 9×10^6 spores/ml for the Bt resistant population.

The Petri dishes were wrapped with PVC cling film and kept in a test chamber with temperature 25 ± 1 °C, relative humidity of $70 \pm 10\%$ and photoperiod of 12L: 12D hour. After three days were carried out assessments and recorded the number of dead larvae in each treatment. Those larvae that did not move when touched with a fine bristles brush were considered dead.

3.20. Statistical analyses

The mortality concentrations data were taken to regression Probit analysis (FINNEY, 1971) and obtained the median lethal concentration values (LC_{50}) using the SAS software (SAS INSTITUTE, 2002). Differences between the LC_{50} values were significant when 95% of confidence limit of one treatment did not overlap with the confidence limit of the other treatment.

4. RESULTS

4.1. Lethal concentration (LC₅₀) bioassays with Cry1Ac toxin

The relative toxicity of the Bt Cry1Ac protein presented different effect for the populations of *P. xylostella* used, being more effective for the populations PA, PC, PX and SBT, which is demonstrated by the lower values found for LC₅₀. The toxicity was significantly higher for populations Bt and NO-QA. The LC₅₀ was 78.7 times higher for Bt population than the LC₅₀ estimated for population PX and 94.4 higher for NO-QA (Table 4). Biologically, the resistance ratio must be greater than 200 times in relation to the susceptible population for a given population to be considered resistant. Another important point to be highlighted is that the mortality of the control was less than 5% until the fifth day of evaluation. Both resistant populations showed high levels of resistance to Cry1Ac (>50 fold).

Table 4. Probit analysis concentration-mortality response with Cry1Ac protein of *Bacillus thuringiensis* against second-instar *Plutella xylostella* larvae of different strains from Brazil and Hawaii.

Populations	n ^a	LC ₅₀ (95% C.I.) (µg/mL)	Slope ± SE	χ ²	DF	P-value	RR ^b
Bt	60	1.26 (0.94-1.75)	1.09 ± 0.20	2.35	4	0.6707	78.7
PA	60	0.022 (0.016-0.031)	0.98 ± 0.09	8.92	5	0.1124	1.37
PC	60	0.001 (0.0007-0.0028)	0.65 ± 0.06	5.97	4	0.2016	0.062
PX	60	0.016 (0.0028-0.0728)	0.67 ± 0.12	6.96	3	0.0731	
SBT	60	0.058 (0.0329-0.1090)	0.61 ± 0.09	3.96	3	0.2654	3.62
NO-QA	60	1.51 (1.25-1.78)	1.94 ± 0.21	3.95	5	0.5569	94.4

^a n = number of insects per concentration;

^b RR (resistance ratio) = LC₅₀ test population/LC₅₀ PX population.

4.2. Lethal concentration (LC₅₀) bioassays with HD-1

The LC₅₀ estimated for the HD1 strain was 1054 fold higher for the resistant population than susceptible population. The relative toxicity of the Bt HD1 strain presented different biological activity for the populations of *P. xylostella* used, being more effective for the population Px, which is demonstrated by the lower values found for LC₅₀. The HD1 strain showed LC₅₀ values of 9.8×10^5 spores/mL to resistant population and 0.93×10^3 to susceptible population (Table 5). Biologically, the resistance ratio must be greater than 10 times in relation to the susceptible population for a given population to be considered resistant, so this prove that our Bt population is indeed resistant.

Table 5. Probit analysis concentration-mortality response with HD1 of *Bacillus thuringiensis* against second-instar *Plutella xylostella* larvae from resistant and susceptible Brazilian populations.

Populations	n ^a	CL ₅₀ (95% C.I.) (spores/mL)	Slope ± SE	χ ²	DF	P-value	RR ^b
Bt	60	9.8×10^5 (4.8×10^5 - 2.2×10^6)	0.44 ± 0.10	1.60	4	0.8093	1054
PX		0.93×10^3 (1.8×10^3 - 2.8×10^3)	0.35 ± 0.05	2.51	4	0.6428	

^an = number of insects;

^bRR(resistance ratio) = CL₅₀ resistance population/CL₅₀ test population.

4.3. RNA extraction

To start with, we extracted RNA from different amount of guts, to establish how many guts would be enough to get sufficient amount of RNA for further experimentation. To see if the RNA extraction using the RNeasy[®] Plus Mini Kit (QIAGEN) did work and

how efficient it was, electrophoresis was performed on a RNA agarose gel (Figures 1, 2 and 3).

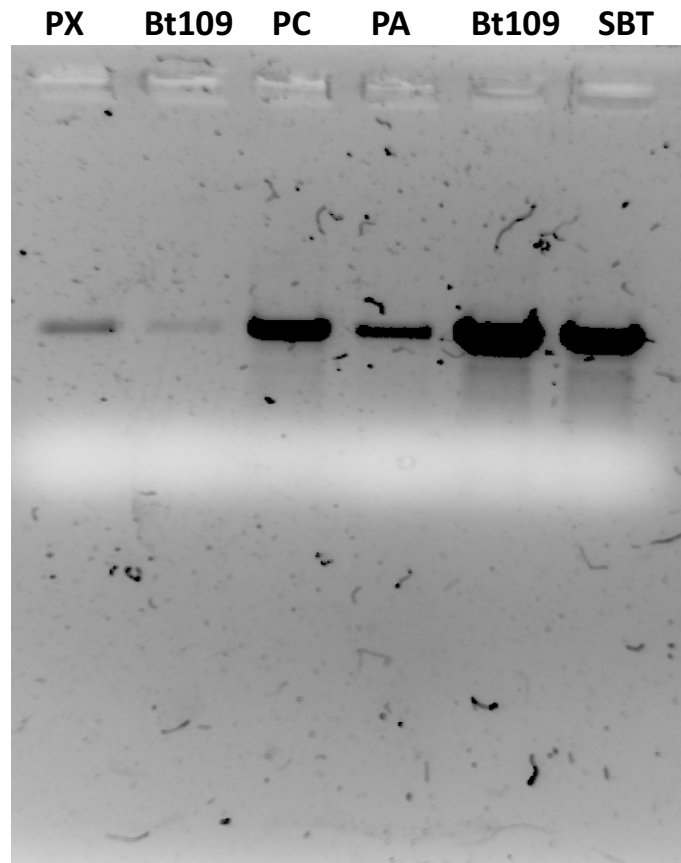


Figure 1: Gel red agarose electrophoresis. Lane 1: population PX, RNA from 2 guts; Lane 2: population Bt generation 109, RNA from 1 gut; Lane 3: population PC, RNA from 7 guts; Lane 4: population PA, RNA from 5 guts; Lane 5: population Bt generation 109, RNA from 13 gut; Lane 6: population SBT, RNA from 10 guts.

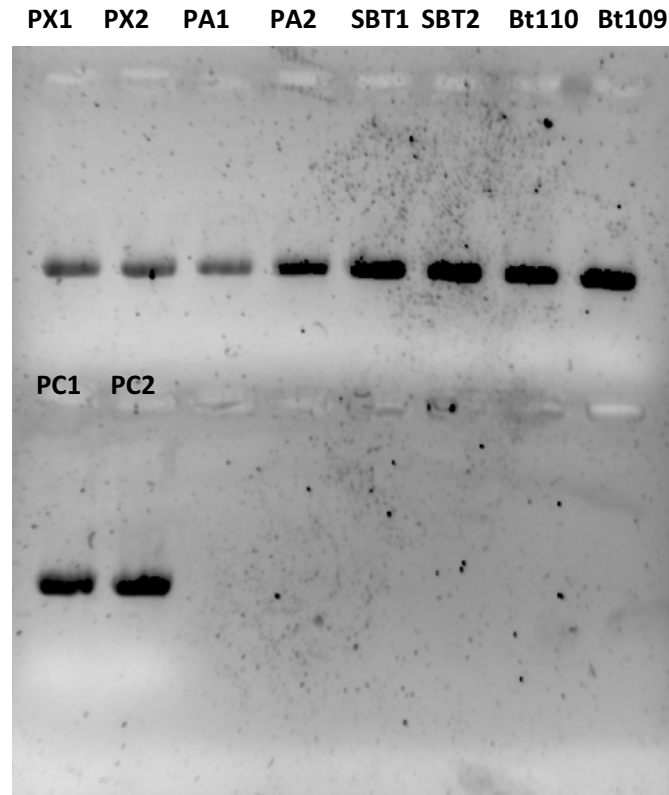


Figure 2: Gel red agarose electrophoresis. Lane 1: population PX sample 1; Lane 2: population PX sample 2; Lane 3: population PA, sample 1; Lane 4: population PA, sample 2; Lane 5: population SBT, sample 1; Lane 6: population SBT, sample 2; Lane 7: population Bt, generation 110; Lane 8: population Bt, generation 109; Lane 9: population PC, sample 1; Lane 10: population PC, sample 2. All of the RNA samples were extracted from 10 guts.

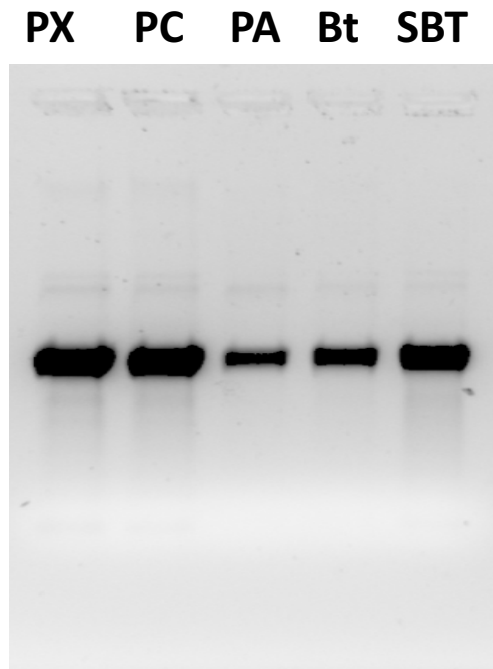


Figure 3: Gel red agarose electrophoresis. Lane 1: population PX; Lane 2: population PC; Lane 3: population PA; Lane 4: population Bt generation 111; Lane 5: population SBT. All of the RNA samples were extracted from 40 guts

RNA extracted from over 7 guts gave us sufficient amount, but we established that a good amount of RNA for further experimentation would be extracted from 40 guts.

4.4. RNA quantification

For a more accurate measurement of the RNA concentration and its purity, absorbance measurements were made on Thermo Scientific NanoDrop 2000 spectrophotometer (Thermo Scientific). The ratio of absorbance at 260 nm and 280 nm is used to assess the purity of RNA. A ratio of ~2.0 is generally accepted as “pure” for RNA. Total RNA concentration (ng/μl) and ratio of absorbance at 260 nm and 280 nm of

3 different samples of PX, PC, PA, SBT, Bt and NO-QA populations are shown on Table 6.

Table 6. Total RNA concentration (ng/μl) and ratio of absorbance at 260 nm and 280 nm of 3 different samples of PX, PC, PA, SBT, Bt and NO-QA populations.

Population sample	Concentration (ng/μl)	260 / 280 Ratio
PX sample 1	1357	2.1
PX sample 2	785	2.1
PX sample 3	1000	2.13
PA sample 1	602	2.1
PA sample 2	413	2.1
PA sample 3	600	2.14
PC sample 1	1660	2.1
PC sample 2	826	2.1
PC sample 3	830	2.14
SBT sample 1	1024	2.09
SBT sample 2	884	2.1
SBT sample 3	900	2.14
Bt109 sample 1	973.5	2.1
Bt110 sample 2	935	2.1
Bt111 sample 3	470	2.1
NO-QA sample 1	1128	2.1
NO-QA1 sample 2	1179	2.1
NO-QA2 sample 3	1065.2	2.09

Knowing the concentration of the RNA samples, we were able to calculate the amount to use for the cDNA synthesis. The Prime Script™ 1st strand cDNA Synthesis Kit (TAKARA BIO INC) required 1 μg - 100 ng/μl of total RNA per reaction.

4.5. cDNA Synthesis

The cDNA was synthesized using the Prime Script™ 1st strand cDNA Synthesis (TAKARA BIO INC) kit according to the manufacture instructions.

4.6. Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) to confirm successful production of cDNA

Since the qPCR, with the cDNA template extracted with the High Capacity cDNA Reverse Transcription Kit, gave poor expression data, we decided to perform a PCR before performing another qPCR, using the cDNA sample extracted using the TAKARA Kit from populations SBT and PC. Figures 4 and 5 show that the cDNA synthesis using the Prime Script™ 1st strand cDNA Synthesis (TAKARA BIO INC) did work, and gave products of the expected size, so we went ahead and performed the qPCR with the new cDNA.

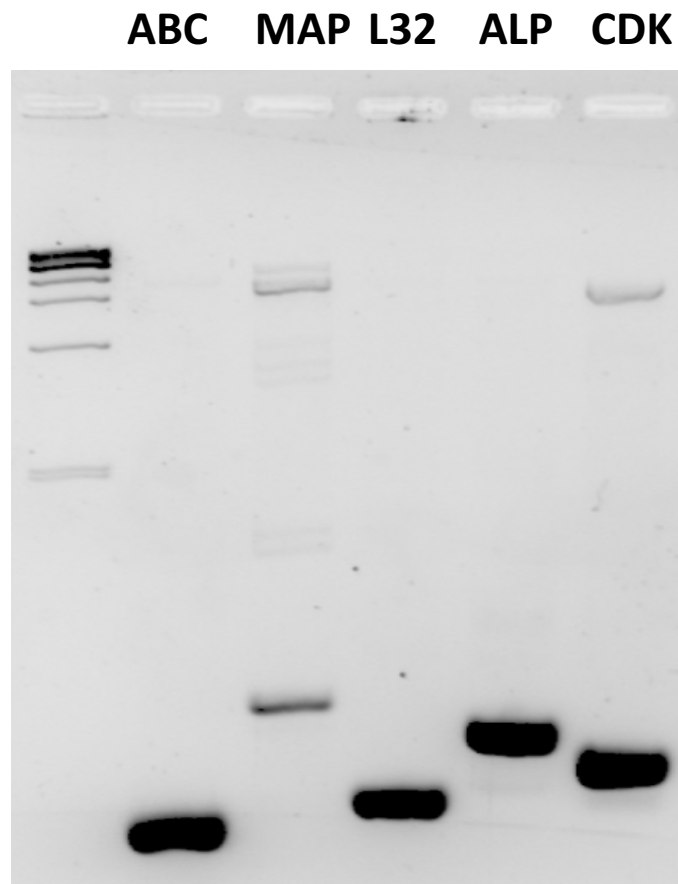


Figure 4: Gel red agarose electrophoresis. Lane 1: DNA ladder 1Kb; Lane 2: ABCC2 gene; Lane 3: MAP4K4 gene; Lane 4: L32 gene; Lane 5: ALP gene and Lane 6 CDKAL1. All the genes were tested against population SBT.

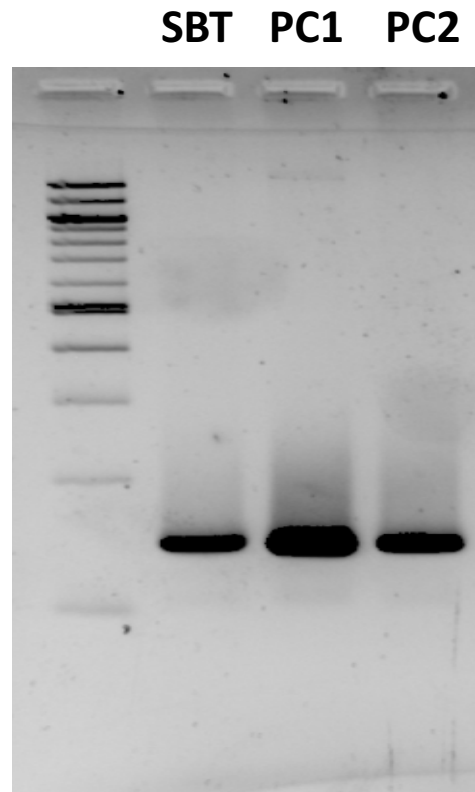


Figure 5: Gel red agarose electrophoresis. Lane 1: DNA ladder 100 bp; Lane 2: SBT population; Lane 3: PC population, sample 1; Lane 4: PC population, sample 2. All the populations were tested against gene CDKAL1.

4.7. Quantitative real-time PCR (qRT-PCR)

Figures 6 to 11 shows the relative expression levels of ABCC2, ALP, APN, MAP4K4, and CDKAL1 by qPCR in midguts of fourth-instar larvae from susceptible and resistant *P. xylostella* strains. Expression of the ribosomal protein L32 gene was used as the internal reference gene to normalize datasets and calculate relative expression levels, which were calculated assigning a value of 1 to the expression levels in SBT samples. Gene expression was observed, the results are shown bellow.

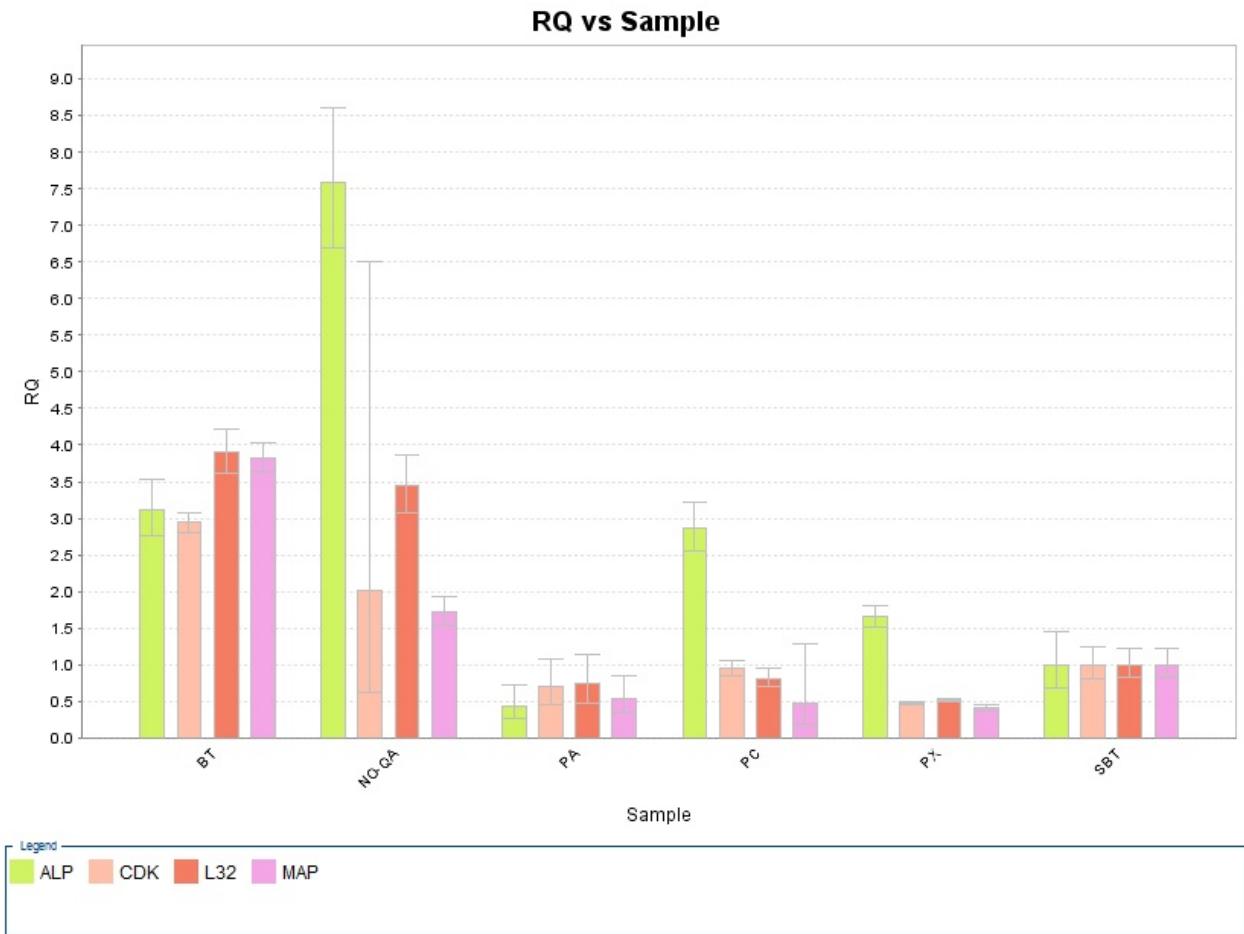


Figure 6. Relative expression levels of CDKAL1, L32, MAP and ALP as determined by qPCR in midguts of fourth-instar larvae from susceptible and resistant *Plutella xylostella* strains. Expression of the ribosomal protein L32 gene was used as the internal reference gene to normalize datasets and calculate relative expression levels, which were reached assigning a value of 1 to the expression levels in SBT samples.

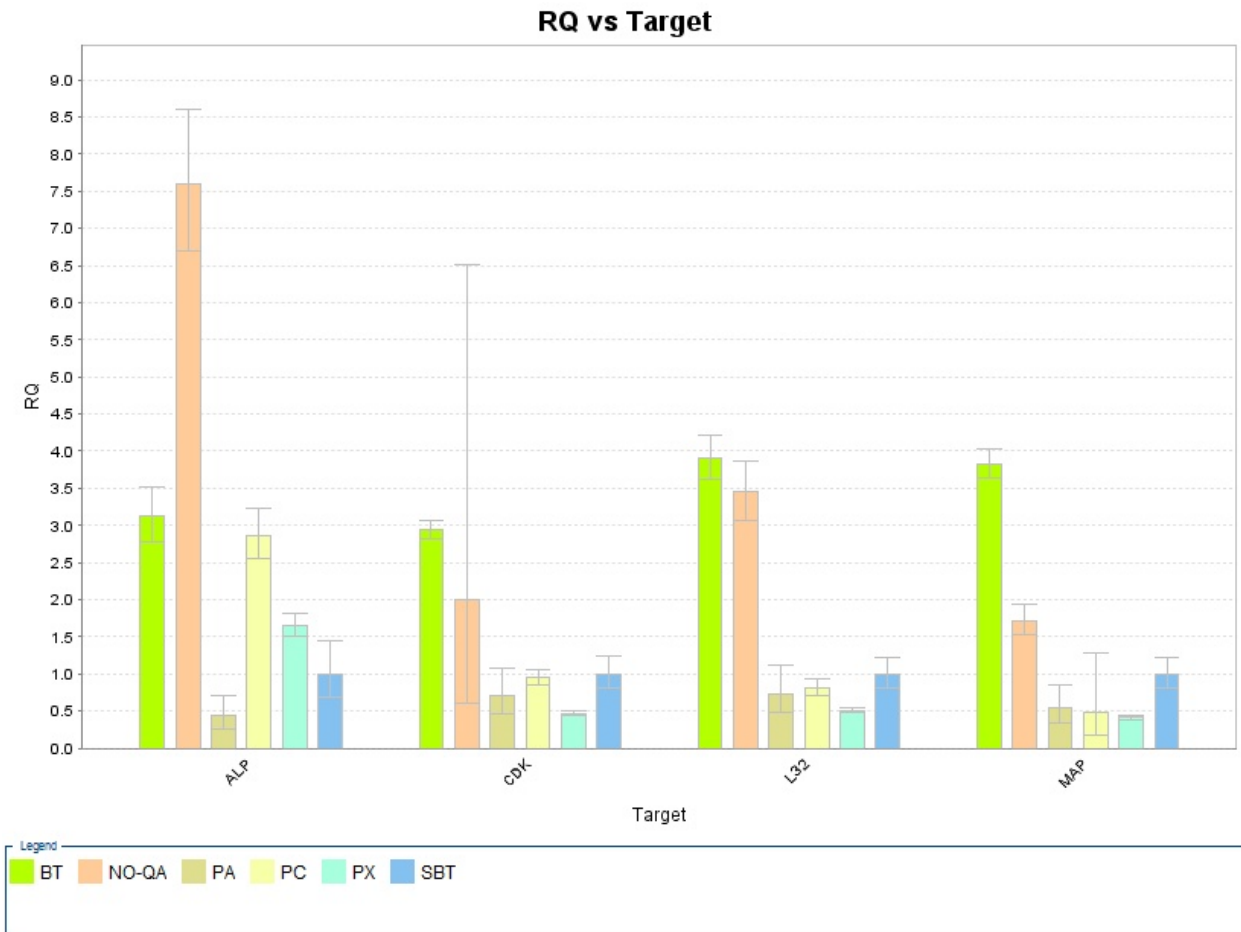


Figure 7. Relative expression levels of CDKAL1, L32, MAP and ALP as determined by qPCR in midguts of fourth-instar larvae from susceptible and resistant *Plutella xylostella* strains. Expression of the ribosomal protein L32 gene was used as the internal reference gene to normalize datasets and calculate relative expression levels, which were reached assigning a value of 1 to the expression levels in SBT samples.

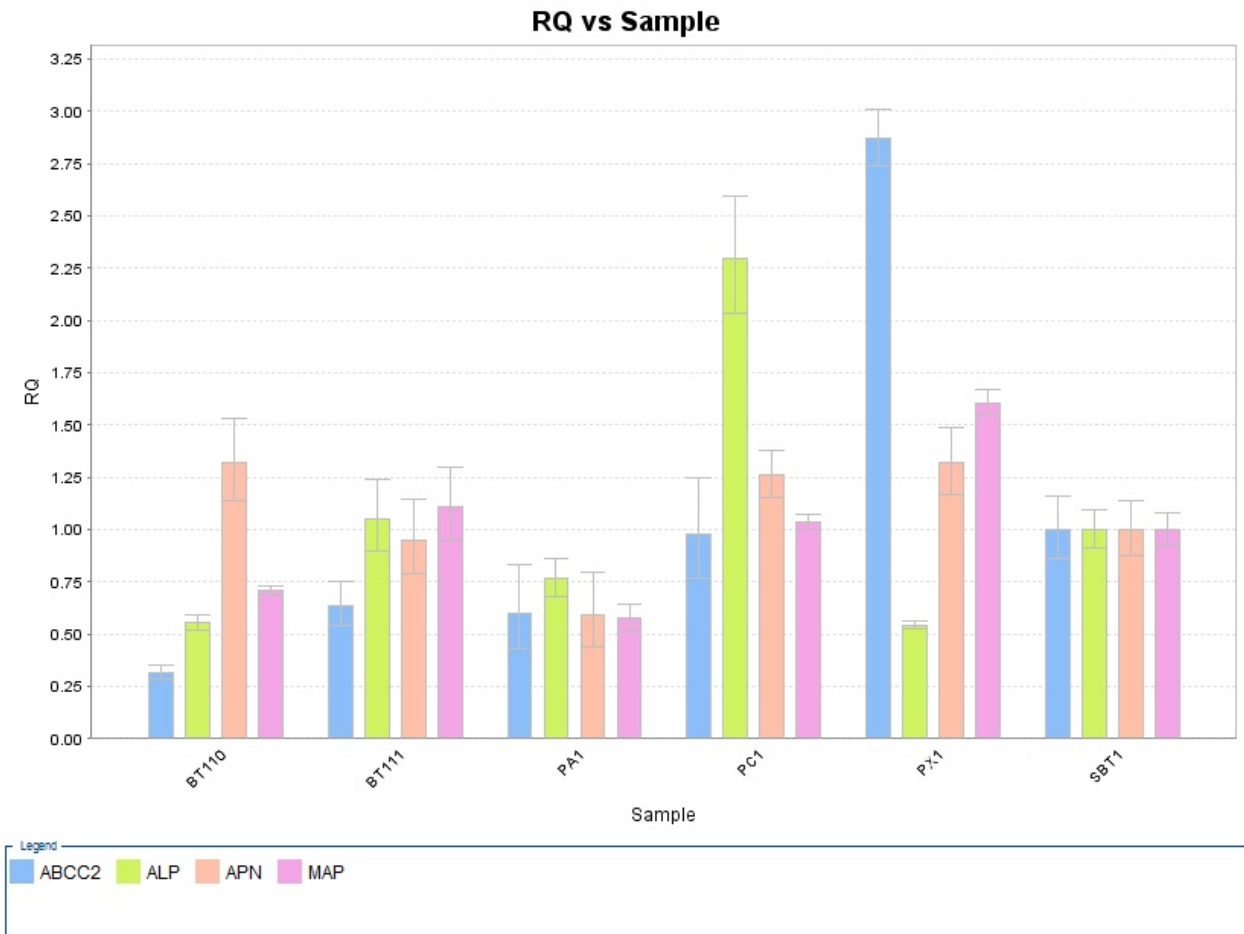


Figure 8. Relative expression levels of ABCC2, APN, MAP and ALP as determined by qPCR in midguts of fourth-instar larvae from susceptible and resistant *Plutella xylostella* strains. Expression of the ribosomal protein L32 gene was used as the internal reference gene to normalize datasets and calculate relative expression levels, which were reached assigning a value of 1 to the expression levels in SBT samples.

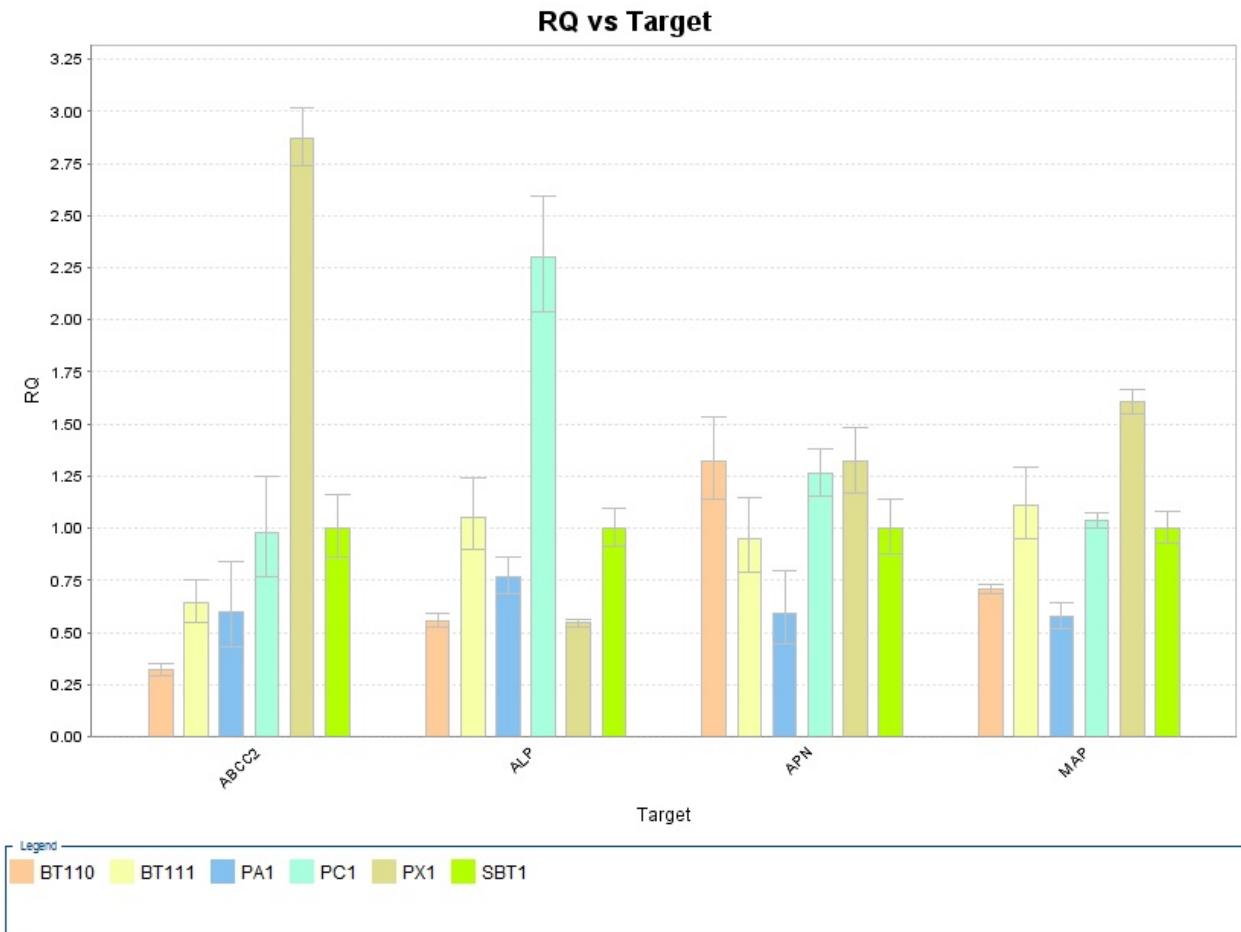


Figure 9. Relative expression levels of ABCC2, APN, MAP and ALP as determined by qPCR in midguts of fourth-instar larvae from susceptible and resistant *Plutella xylostella* strains. Expression of the ribosomal protein L32 gene was used as the internal reference gene to normalize datasets and calculate relative expression levels, which were reached assigning a value of 1 to the expression levels in SBT samples.

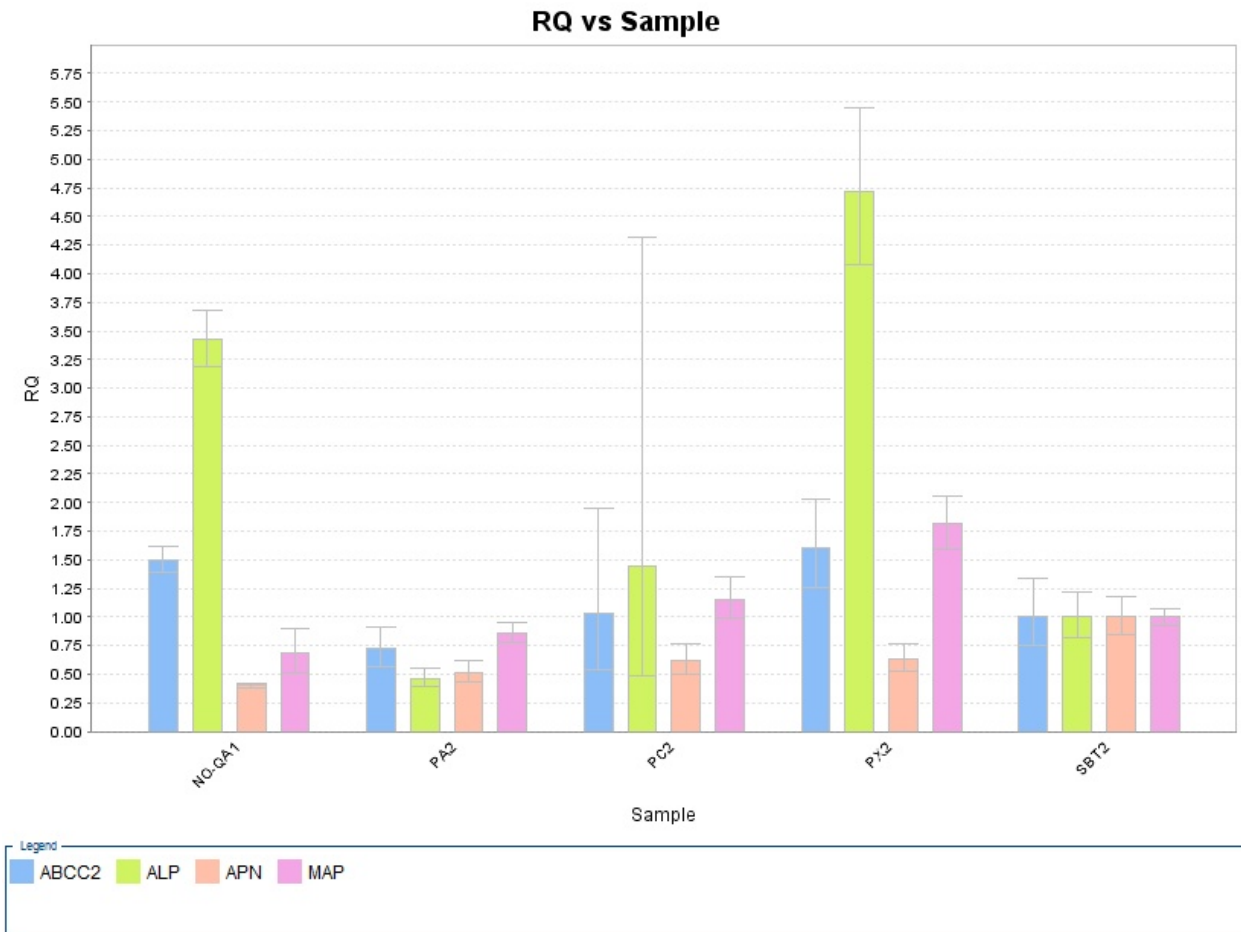


Figure 10. Relative expression levels of ABCC2, APN, MAP and ALP as determined by qPCR in midguts of fourth-instar larvae from susceptible and resistant *Plutella xylostella* strains. Expression of the ribosomal protein L32 gene was used as the internal reference gene to normalize datasets and calculate relative expression levels, which were reached assigning a value of 1 to the expression levels in SBT samples.

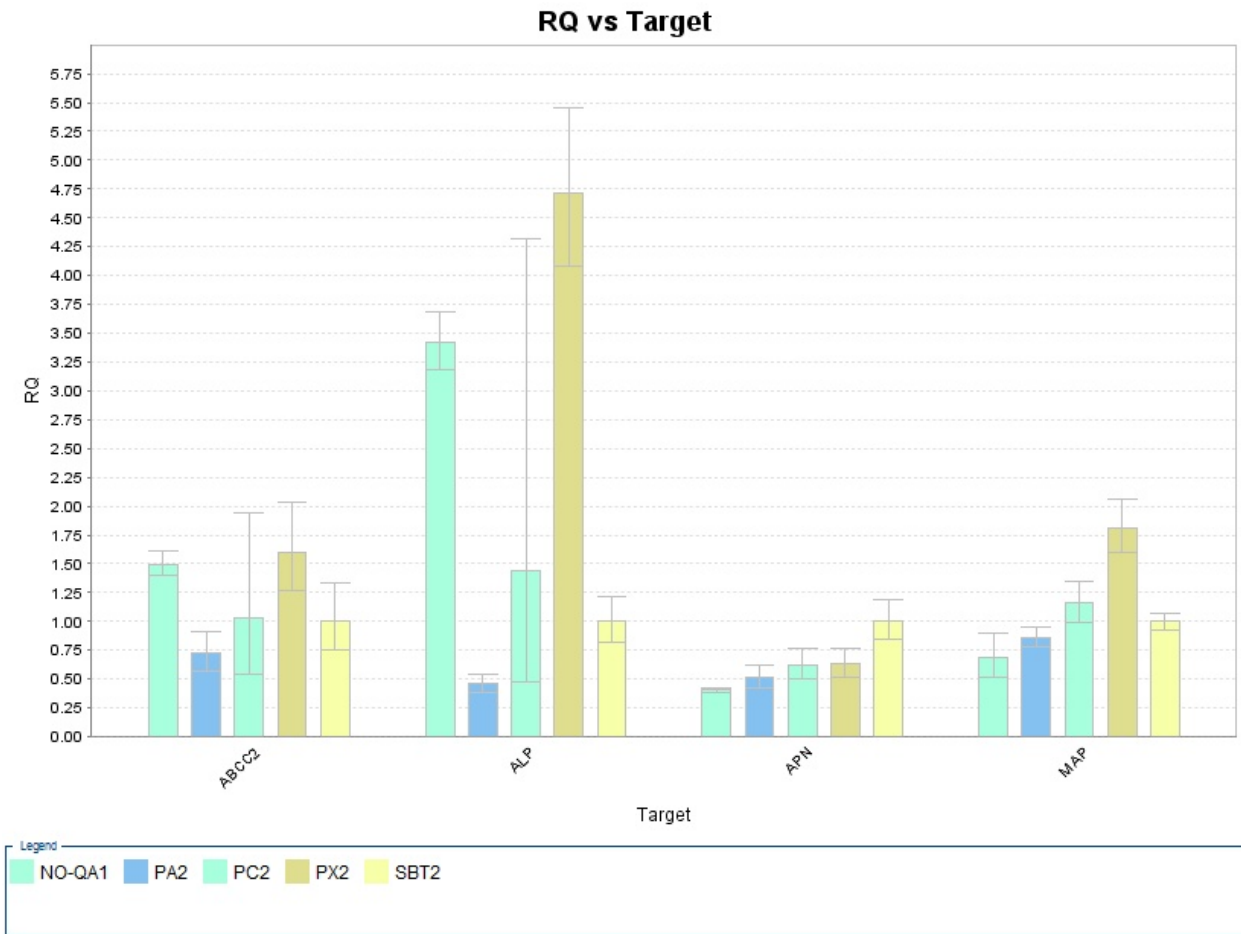


Figure 11. Relative expression levels of ABCC2, APN, MAP and ALP as determined by qPCR in midguts of fourth-instar larvae from susceptible and resistant *Plutella xylostella* strains. Expression of the ribosomal protein L32 gene was used as the internal reference gene to normalize datasets and calculate relative expression levels, which were reached assigning a value of 1 to the expression levels in SBT samples.

The relative expression levels of all genes tested in all of the *P. xylostella* populations failed to show any pattern. The experiment where performed in triplicates and even so, each time, the level of expression where different and non-consistent.

4.8. Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) – ABCC2 gene

The band was very clear on the 1% agarose gel (Figures 12, 13 and 14), so PCR purification was performed with ABCC2 full length gene from the PCR product and the samples were sent for sequencing.

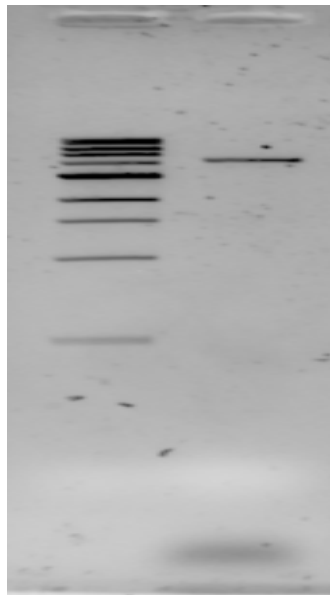


Figure 12: Gel red agarose electrophoresis. Lane 1: DNA ladder 1 Kb; Lane 2: SBT population PCR ABCC2 Full Length.

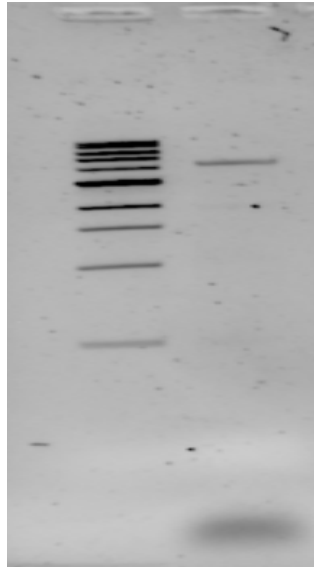


Figure 13: Gel red agarose electrophoresis. Lane 1: DNA ladder 1 Kb; Lane 2: NO-QA population PCR ABCC2 Full Length.

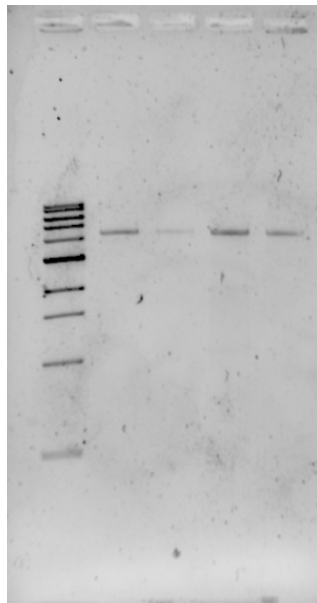


Figure 14: Gel red agarose electrophoresis. Lane 1: DNA ladder 1 Kb; Lane 2: PA population; Lane 3: Bt population; Lane 4: Px population; Lane 5: PC population; PCR ABCC2 Full Length.

Nested PCRs were performed to improve the amount of the DNA to get better results. In this case we had different bands on the gel (Figures 15, 16 and 17) so we purified the samples from the gel before sending for sequencing. The purified samples are shown in Figures 18, 19 and 20.

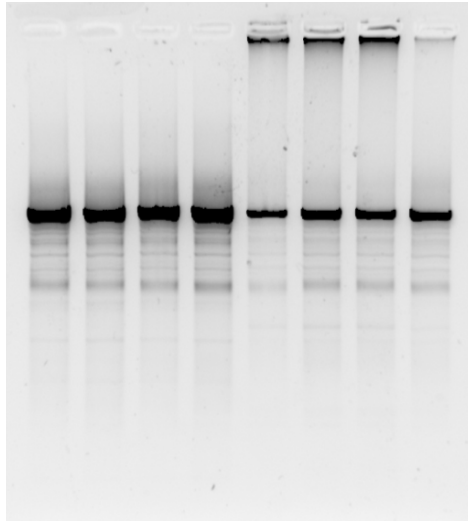


Figure 15: Gel red agarose electrophoresis. Lanes 1, 2, 3 and 4: PX population; Lanes 5, 6, 7 and 8: Bt population; nested PCR ABCC2 Full Length.

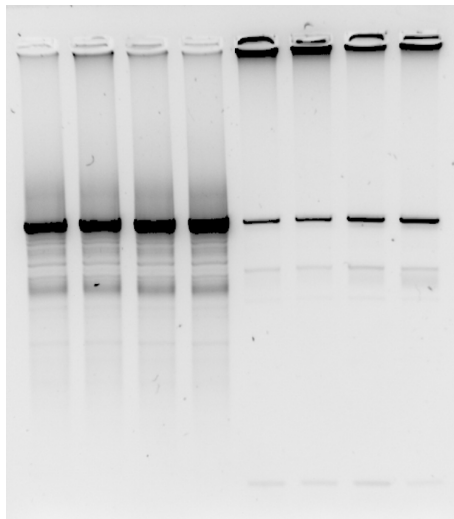


Figure 16: Gel red agarose electrophoresis. Lanes 1, 2, 3 and 4: PA population; Lanes 5, 6, 7 and 8: PC population; nested PCR ABCC2 Full Length.

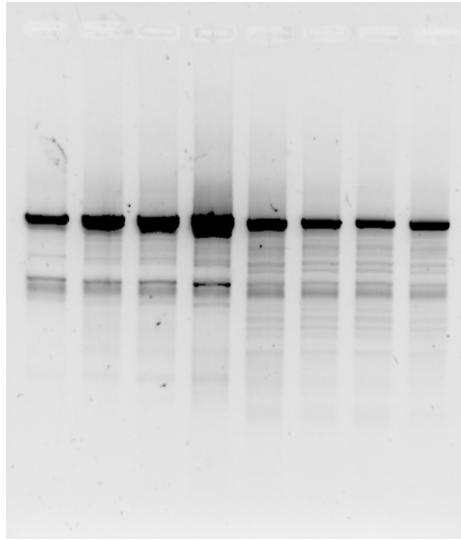


Figure 17: Gel red agarose electrophoresis. Lanes 1, 2, 3 and 4: SBT population; Lanes 5, 6, 7 and 8: NO-QA population; nested PCR ABCC2 Full Length.

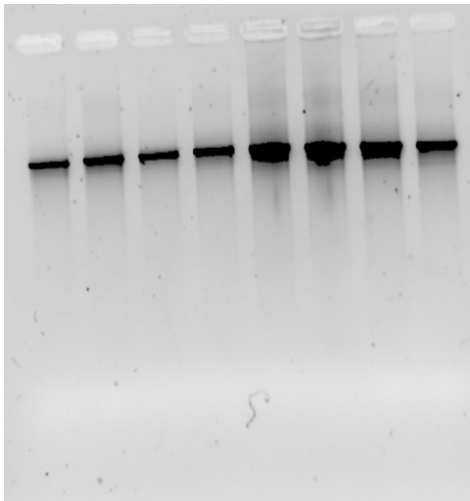


Figure 18: Gel red agarose electrophoresis. Lanes 1, 2, 3 and 4: Bt population; Lanes 5, 6, 7 and 8: PA population; nested PCR Purified products from agarose gel.

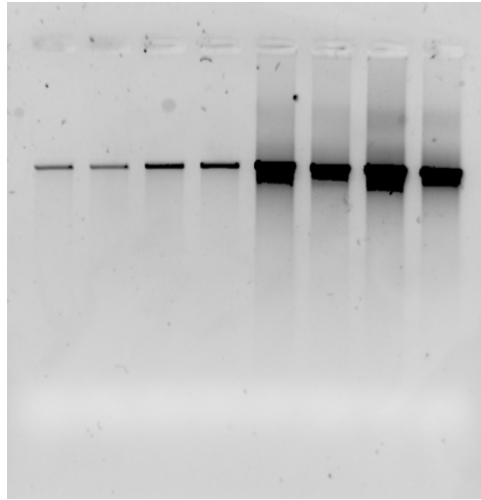


Figure 19: Gel red agarose electrophoresis. Lanes 1, 2, 3 and 4: PC population; Lanes 5, 6, 7 and 8: Px population; nested PCR Purified products from agarose gel.

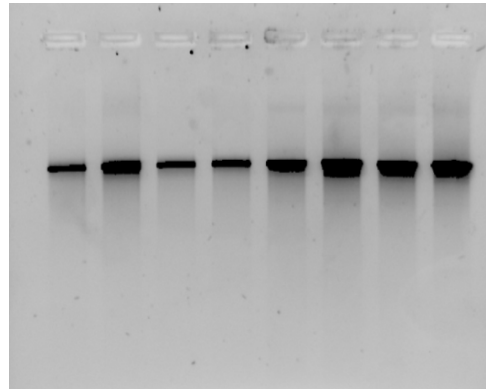


Figure 20: Gel red agarose electrophoresis. Lanes 1, 2, 3 and 4: NO-QA population; Lanes 5, 6, 7 and 8: SBT population; nestedPCR Purified products from agarose gel.

Absorbance measurements were also made on Thermo Scientific NanoDrop 2000 spectrophotometer (Thermo Scientific) for all the samples before sending for sequencing (Table 7).

Table 7. Total DNA concentration (ng/μl) and ratio of absorbance at 260 nm and 280 nm of samples of PX, PC, PA, SBT, Bt and NO-QA populations, samples combined.

Population sample	Concentration (ng/μl)	260 / 280 Ratio
PX	10.2	1.89
PA	9.2	2.53
PC	4.2	3.9
SBT	7.9	2.33
Bt	21.4	1.55
NO-QA	8.7	1.95

Samples from all 6 populations were sent for sequencing to Eurofins MWG Operon- Europe and tested against the following primers: PxABCC2 Full length F, PxABCC2 Full length R, PxABCC2N1F, PxABCC2N1R, PxABCC2N2F, PxABCC2N2R, PxABCC2N3F, PxABCC2N3R, PxABCC2N4F, PxABCC2N4R, PxABCC2N5F, PxABCC2N5R, PxABCC2Cterm and PxABCC2Nterm (Table 2).

4.9. ABCC2 Sequencing

ABCC2 mutations in this gene have been shown to cause resistance to Bt in several insects and in particular a deletion was identified in a resistant population of *P. xylostella* (BAXTER, 2011). Therefore we decided to check whether or not these same deletions, or other mutations in this gene, were present in our strains.

The whole ABCC2 gene from populations Px, PA, SBT, Bt and NO-QA was sequenced and then the sequences were aligned as shown on Appendix 1.

There was one region on the Bt population that was problematic, the primers designed to give us data across that region had all failed to give a clear sequence.

However when we went back to the actual data the peaks were very clear and we were able to work out that at a point in that region there were two sequences. One is the expected sequence (i.e. same as Px) the other contained a 1 base pair deletion. We excluded the overlapping parts and aligned the gene sequences. The deletion is highlighted on the alignment bellow. Clearly this deletion could be responsible for the resistant phenotype.

Below the consensus sequence alignment off all the populations without the sequences overlapping. In bold and underlined is the T that was found deleted in the Bt population and the bold region is normally found deleted in the ABCC2 gene of the NO-QA population:

```

NOQA          ATGGAAAACGGAAGCGGAGCCCGGAAAGAGTCGGAAGAGAAGAAAGAGGTGAAGAAGGGC 60
BTDELETED    ATGGAAAACGGAAGCGGAGCCCGGAAAGAGTCGGAAGAGAAGAAAGAGGTGAAGAAGGGC 60
BT           ATGGAAAACGGAAGCGGAGCCCGGAAAGAGTCGGAAGAGAAGAAAGAGGTGAAGAAGGGC 60
SBT          ATGGAAAACGGAAGCGGAGCCCGGAAAGAGTCGGAAGAGAAGAAAGAGGTGAAGAAGGGC 60
PA           ATGGAAAACGGAAGCGGAGCCCGGAAAGAGTCGGAAGAGAAGAAAGAGGTGAAGAAGGGC 60
PX           ATGGAAAACGGAAGCGGAGCCCGGAAAGAGTCGGAAGAGAAGAAAGAGGTGAAGAAGGGC 60
*****

NOQA          AAACCCAACGTGCTGTCCCGGCTGTTTCATGTGCTGGGTGTGCCCGTGCTGGTGGGCGGC 120
BTDELETED    AAACCCAACGTGCTGTACCGGCTGTTTCATGTGCTGGGTGTGCCCGTGCTGGTGGGCGGC 120
BT           AAACCCAACGTGCTGTACCGGCTGTTTCATGTGCTGGGTGTGCCCGTGCTGGTGGGCGGC 120
SBT          AAACCCAACGTGCTGTACCGGCTGTTTCATGTGCTGGGTGTGCCCGTGCTGGTGGGCGGC 120
PA           AAACCCAACGTGCTGTACCGGCTGTTTCATGTGCTGGGTGTGCCCGTGCTGGTGGGCGGC 120
PX           AAACCCAACGTGCTGTACCGGCTGTTTCATGTGCTGGGTGTGCCCGTGCTGGTGGGCGGC 120
*****

NOQA          AACCGGCGCGACGTGGAGGAGCGGGACCTCATACCGCCGCCAGCGCCAAGTACAAGTCC 180
BTDELETED    AACCGGCGCGACGTGGAGGAGCGGGACCTCATACCGCCGCCAGCGCCAAGTACAAGTCC 180
BT           AACCGGCGCGACGTGGAGGAGCGGGACCTCATACCGCCGCCAGCGCCAAGTACAAGTCC 180
SBT          AACCGGCGCGACGTGGAGGAGCGGGACCTCATACCGCCGCCAGCGCCAAGTACAAGTCC 180
PA           AACCGGCGCGACGTGGAGGAGCGGGACCTCATACCGCCGCCAGCGCCAAGTACAAGTCC 180
PX           AACCGGCGCGACGTGGAGGAGCGGGACCTCATACCGCCGCCAGCGCCAAGTACAAGTCC 180
*****

NOQA          GAGTCTCTCGGAGACAAGTTTCAAAGGTACTGGCTAGAAGAGCTGGGTCTGGCGACGCAG 240
BTDELETED    GAGTCTCTCGGAGACAAGTTTCAAAGGTACTGGCTAGAAGAGCTGGGTCTGGCGACGCAG 240
BT           GAGTCTCTCGGAGACAAGTTTCAAAGGTACTGGCTAGAAGAGCTGGGTCTGGCGACGCAG 240
SBT          GAGTCTCTCGGAGACAAGTTTCAAAGGTACTGGCTAGAAGAGCTGGGTCTGGCGACGCAG 240
PA           GAGTCTCTCGGAGACAAGTTTCAAAGGTACTGGCTAGAAGAGCTGGGTCTGGCGACGCAG 240
PX           GAGTCTCTCGGAGACAAGTTTCAAAGGTACTGGCTAGAAGAGCTGGGTCTGGCGACGCAG 240
*****

```

NOQA CGGGGGTGGCGCCGTCGCTGTGGCGGGCGCTGCGCCGCGCCTTCTGGCTGTCCTACATG 300
 BTDELETED CGGGGGTGGCGCCGTCGCTGTGGCGGGCGCTGCGCCGCGCCTTCTGGCTGTCCTACATG 300
 BT CGGGGGTGGCGCCGTCGCTGTGGCGGGCGCTGCGCCGCGCCTTCTGGCTGTCCTACATG 300
 SBT CGGGGGTGGCGCCGTCGCTGTGGCGGGCGCTGCGCCGCGCCTTCTGGCTGTCCTACATG 300
 PA CGGGGGTGGCGCCGTCGCTGTGGCGGGCGCTGCGCCGCGCCTTCTGGCTGTCCTACATG 300
 PX CGGGGGTGGCGCCGTCGCTGTGGCGGGCGCTGCGCCGCGCCTTCTGGCTGTCCTACATG 300

NOQA CCGGGCGCGTGTGCTGCTCGGGAACGCCATACCCAGGACCATCCAGCCGCTGCTATTC 360
 BTDELETED CCGGGCGCGTGTGCTGCTCGGGAACGCCATACCCAGGACCATCCAGCCGCTGCTATTC 360
 BT CCGGGCGCGTGTGCTGCTCGGGAACGCCATACCCAGGACCATCCAGCCGCTGCTATTC 360
 SBT CCGGGCGCGTGTGCTGCTCGGGAACGCCATACCCAGGACCATCCAGCCGCTGCTATTC 360
 PA CCGGGCGCGTGTGCTGCTCGGGAACGCCATACCCAGGACCATCCAGCCGCTGCTATTC 360
 PX CCGGGCGCGTGTGCTGCTCGGGAACGCCATACCCAGGACCATCCAGCCGCTGCTATTC 360

NOQA ACGCGGCTGCTCTCCTATTGGTCGGCGGACAGCACCATGACCCGACTGGAGGCCGGATAT 420
 BTDELETED ACGCGGCTGCTCTCCTATTGGTCGGCGGACAGCACCATGACCCGACTGGAGGCCGGATAT 420
 BT ACGCGGCTGCTCTCCTATTGGTCGGCGGACAGCACCATGACCCGACTGGAGGCCGGATAT 420
 SBT ACGCGGCTGCTCTCCTATTGGTCGGCGGACAGCACCATGACCCGACTGGAGGCCGGATAT 420
 PA ACGCGGCTGCTCTCCTATTGGTCGGCGGACAGCACCATGACCCGACTGGAGGCCGGATAT 420
 PX ACGCGGCTGCTCTCCTATTGGTCGGCGGACAGCACCATGACCCGACTGGAGGCCGGATAT 420

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 SBT TGGGCCATGGGCATGCTGCTGTGCAACTTCTGGCCATGGTGTGCCACCACCACAACACG 480
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 BTDELETED CTGTTTCGTCGGCCGCTTTGGCATGAAAGTCAGGATTGCCTGTTGCTCGCTGCTCTATCGG 540
 BT CTGTTTCGTCGGCCGCTTTGGCATGAAAGTCAGGATTGCCTGTTGCTCGCTGCTCTATCGG 540
 SBT CTGTTTCGTCGGCCGCTTTGGCATGAAAGTCAGGATTGCCTGTTGCTCGCTGCTCTATCGG 540
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 PA CTGATGTCGAACGACGTGGCGCGCTTCGACTACGCCTTCATGTTTCCTGCACTACTTCTGG 660
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 PX GGGGTGTCGATGCGCGTGCGCCGCGGCAAGCTGGCCGCCATCA~~T~~CGGACCCGTGGGATCC 1500

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 PA CGG GACAACATCCTCTTCCGGGTGCCGTATGACTCCAAGAAATATAAGAAGGTGTGCGAC 1680
 PX CGG GACAACATCCTCTTCCGGGTGCCGTATGACTCCAAGAAATATAAGAAGGTGTGCGAC 1680

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 PA GAG CGCGGCGTATCGCTGTCCGGGGGCGAGCGCGCACGGATCAACCTGGCCCGCGCCGTG 1800
 PX GAG CGCGGCGTATCGCTGTCCGGGGGCGAGCGCGCACGGATCAACCTGGCCCGCGCCGTG 1800

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NOQA GGTGAGGCGCGCAAGGAGCAGGTGCAGGCGGCGGAGGAGCGCGCTCCGGGAACCTCAAG 2220
 BTDELETED GGTGAGGCGCGCAAGGAGCAGGTGCAGGCGGCGGAGGAGCGCGCTCCGGGAACCTCAAG 2219
 BT GGTGAGGCGCGCAAGGAGCAGGTGCAGGCGGCGGAGGAGCGCGCTCCGGGAACCTCAAG 2220
 SBT GGTGAGGCGCGCAAGGAGCAGGTGCAGGCGGCGGAGGAGCGCGCTCCGGGAACCTCAAG 2220
 PA GGTGAGGCGCGCAAGGAGCAGGTGCAGGCGGCGGAGGAGCGCGCTCCGGGAACCTCAAG 2220
 PX GGTGAGGCGCGCAAGGAGCAGGTGCAGGCGGCGGAGGAGCGCGCTCCGGGAACCTCAAG 2220

NOQA TGGGAGGTGTTTCGCGAGGTACCTGGTCTCCGTGGACTCCTGGGCCATCGTGGCGCTCACG 2280
 BTDELETED TGGGAGGTGTTTCGCGAGGTACCTGGTCTCCGTGGACTCCTGGGCCATCGTGGCGCTCACG 2279
 BT TGGGAGGTGTTTCGCGAGGTACCTGGTCTCCGTGGACTCCTGGGCCATCGTGGCGCTCACG 2280
 SBT TGGGAGGTGTTTCGCGAGGTACCTGGTCTCCGTGGACTCCTGGGCCATCGTGGCGCTCACG 2280
 PA TGGGAGGTGTTTCGCGAGGTACCTGGTCTCCGTGGACTCCTGGGCCATCGTGGCGCTCACG 2280
 PX TGGGAGGTGTTTCGCGAGGTACCTGGTCTCCGTGGACTCCTGGGCCATCGTGGCGCTCACG 2280

NOQA CTCACCGGATGCTCATCACGCAGGGGGCGGCGTCTCCACCGACTACTGGCTCAGCTTC 2340
 BTDELETED CTCACCGGATGCTCATCACGCAGGGGGCGGCGTCTCCACCGACTACTGGCTCAGCTTC 2339
 BT CTCACCGGATGCTCATCACGCAGGGGGCGGCGTCTCCACCGACTACTGGCTCAGCTTC 2340
 SBT CTCACCGGATGCTCATCACGCAGGGGGCGGCGTCTCCACCGACTACTGGCTCAGCTTC 2340
 PA CTCACCGGATGCTCATCACGCAGGGGGCGGCGTCTCCACCGACTACTGGCTCAGCTTC 2340
 PX CTCACCGGATGCTCATCACGCAGGGGGCGGCGTCTCCACCGACTACTGGCTCAGCTTC 2340

NOQA TGGACAAATCAAGTTGATGGATACATACAAGACCTGCCAGATGGGGAGGAACCAGATCCA 2400
 BTDELETED TGGACAAATCAAGTTGATGGATACATACAAGACCTGCCAGATGGGGAGGAACCAGATCCA 2399
 BT TGGACAAATCAAGTTGATGGATACATACAAGACCTGCCAGATGGGGAGGAACCAGATCCA 2400
 SBT TGGACAAATCAAGTTGATGGATACATACAAGACCTGCCAGATGGGGAGGAACCAGATCCA 2400
 PA TGGACAAATCAAGTTGATGGATACATACAAGACCTGCCAGATGGGGAGGAACCAGATCCA 2400
 PX TGGACAAATCAAGTTGATGGATACATACAAGACCTGCCAGATGGGGAGGAACCAGATCCA 2400

NOQA AGTCTCGACACGCAAACGGGCATCCTGCAGACGGGCCAGTACGTGTACATCTACGGCGCG 2460
 BTDELETED AGTCTCGACACGCAAACGGGCATCCTGCAGACGGGCCAGTACGTGTACATCTACGGCGCG 2459
 BT AGTCTCGACACGCAAACGGGCATCCTGCAGACGGGCCAGTACGTGTACATCTACGGCGCG 2460
 SBT AGTCTCGACACGCAAACGGGCATCCTGCAGACGGGCCAGTACGTGTACATCTACGGCGCG 2460
 PA AGTCTCGACACGCAAACGGGCATCCTGCAGACGGGCCAGTACGTGTACATCTACGGCGCG 2460
 PX AGTCTCGACACGCAAACGGGCATCCTGCAGACGGGCCAGTACGTGTACATCTACGGCGCG 2460

NOQA CTGGTGCTCACCATCATCGTGATGTCCTTCATGCGTCTGTTTCGGCTTCGTGACCATGACC 2520
 BTDELETED CTGGTGCTCACCATCATCGTGATGTCCTTCATGCGTCTGTTTCGGCTTCGTGACCATGACC 2519
 BT CTGGTGCTCACCATCATCGTGATGTCCTTCATGCGTCTGTTTCGGCTTCGTGACCATGACC 2520
 SBT CTGGTGCTCACCATCATCGTGATGTCCTTCATGCGTCTGTTTCGGCTTCGTGACCATGACC 2520
 PA CTGGTGCTCACCATCATCGTGATGTCCTTCATGCGTCTGTTTCGGCTTCGTGACCATGACC 2520
 PX CTGGTGCTCACCATCATCGTGATGTCCTTCATGCGTCTGTTTCGGCTTCGTGACCATGACC 2520

NOQA ATGCGCGCCGCCCAACATACACGACCTCATGTTCCGCAACCTCATCCGCGCCACCATG 2580
 BTDELETED ATGCGCGCCGCCCAACATACACGACCTCATGTTCCGCAACCTCATCCGCGCCACCATG 2579
 BT ATGCGCGCCGCCCAACATACACGACCTCATGTTCCGCAACCTCATCCGCGCCACCATG 2580
 SBT ATGCGCGCCGCCCAACATACACGACCTCATGTTCCGCAACCTCATCCGCGCCACCATG 2580
 PA ATGCGCGCCGCCCAACATACACGACCTCATGTTCCGCAACCTCATCCGCGCCACCATG 2580
 PX ATGCGCGCCGCCCAACATACACGACCTCATGTTCCGCAACCTCATCCGCGCCACCATG 2580

NOQA CGCTTCTTTGATACTAATCCTTCAGGTCGCGTGCTTAACCGGTTCTCCAAAGACATGGGC 2640
 BTDELETED CGCTTCTTTGATACTAATCCTTCAGGTCGCGTGCTTAACCGGTTCTCCAAAGACATGGGC 2639
 BT CGCTTCTTTGATACTAATCCTTCAGGTCGCGTGCTTAACCGGTTCTCCAAAGACATGGGC 2640
 SBT CGCTTCTTTGATACTAATCCTTCAGGTCGCGTGCTTAACCGGTTCTCCAAAGACATGGGC 2640
 PA CGCTTCTTTGATACTAATCCTTCAGGTCGCGTGCTTAACCGGTTCTCCAAAGACATGGGC 2640
 PX CGCTTCTTTGATACTAATCCTTCAGGTCGCGTGCTTAACCGGTTCTCCAAAGACATGGGC 2640

NOQA GGTATGGACGAGCTGCTGCCAGGTCCATCCTGCAGGCCTTCCAGATGTACCTGTCCATG 2700
 BTDELETED GGTATGGACGAGCTGCTGCCAGGTCCATCCTGCAGGCCTTCCAGATGTACCTGTCCATG 2699
 BT GGTATGGACGAGCTGCTGCCAGGTCCATCCTGCAGGCCTTCCAGATGTACCTGTCCATG 2700
 SBT GGTATGGACGAGCTGCTGCCAGGTCCATCCTGCAGGCCTTCCAGATGTACCTGTCCATG 2700
 PA GGTATGGACGAGCTGCTGCCAGGTCCATCCTGCAGGCCTTCCAGATGTACCTGTCCATG 2700
 PX GGTATGGACGAGCTGCTGCCAGGTCCATCCTGCAGGCCTTCCAGATGTACCTGTCCATG 2700

NOQA GCCAGCGTGCTCAGCTGAACGCCGTCTCTCTGCCCTGGACCCTCATACCCACGGTGCTG 2760
 BTDELETED GCCAGCGTGCTCAGCTGAACGCCGTCTCTCTGCCCTGGACCCTCATACCCACGGTGCTG 2759
 BT GCCAGCGTGCTCAGCTGAACGCCGTCTCTCTGCCCTGGACCCTCATACCCACGGTGCTG 2760
 SBT GCCAGCGTGCTCAGCTGAACGCCGTCTCTCTGCCCTGGACCCTCATACCCACGGTGCTG 2760
 PA GCCAGCGTGCTCAGCTGAACGCCGTCTCTCTGCCCTGGACCCTCATACCCACGGTGCTG 2760
 PX GCCAGCGTGCTCAGCTGAACGCCGTCTCTCTGCCCTGGACCCTCATACCCACGGTGCTG 2760

NOQA	CTGCTGGGGCTCTTCATCAGGTACCTCAAGTGGTACCTGAACGCTGCGCAGTCTGTGAAG	2820
BTDELETED	CTGCTGGGGCTCTTCATCAGGTACCTCAAGTGGTACCTGAACGCTGCGCAGTCTGTGAAG	2819
BT	CTGCTGGGGCTCTTCATCAGGTACCTCAAGTGGTACCTGAACGCTGCGCAGTCTGTGAAG	2820
SBT	CTGCTGGGGCTCTTCATCAGGTACCTCAAGTGGTACCTGAACGCTGCGCAGTCTGTGAAG	2820
PA	CTGCTGGGGCTCTTCATCAGGTACCTCAAGTGGTACCTGAACGCTGCGCAGTCTGTGAAG	2820
PX	CTGCTGGGGCTCTTCATCAGGTACCTCAAGTGGTACCTGAACGCTGCGCAGTCTGTGAAG	2820

NOQA	AGACTGGAGGGTACAACCAAGAGTCCGGTGTTTGGAATGATCGGCTCTACTCTATCGGGA	2880
BTDELETED	AGACTGGAGGGTACAACCAAGAGTCCGGTGTTTGGAATGATCGGCTCTACTCTATCGGGA	2879
BT	AGACTGGAGGGTACAACCAAGAGTCCGGTGTTTGGAATGATCGGCTCTACTCTATCGGGA	2880
SBT	AGACTGGAGGGTACAACCAAGAGTCCGGTGTTTGGAATGATCGGCTCTACTCTATCGGGA	2880
PA	AGACTGGAGGGTACAACCAAGAGTCCGGTGTTTGGAATGATCGGCTCTACTCTATCGGGA	2880
PX	AGACTGGAGGGTACAACCAAGAGTCCGGTGTTTGGAATGATCGGCTCTACTCTATCGGGA	2880

NOQA	ATGTCGACAATCAGAAGTTCAGACTCACAGGACAGACTAATCAAACCTTCGACGACTGC	2940
BTDELETED	ATGTCGACAATCAGAAGTTCAGACTCACAGGACAGACTAATCAAACCTTCGACGACTGC	2939
BT	ATGTCGACAATCAGAAGTTCAGACTCACAGGACAGACTAATCAAACCTTCGACGACTGC	2940
SBT	ATGTCGACAATCAGAAGTTCAGACTCACAGGACAGACTAATCAAACCTTCGACGACTGC	2940
PA	ATGTCGACAATCAGAAGTTCAGACTCACAGGACAGACTAATCAAACCTTCGACGACTGC	2940
PX	ATGTCGACAATCAGAAGTTCAGACTCACAGGACAGACTAATCAAACCTTCGACGACTGC	2940

NOQA	CAGAACTCCATACTTCTGCCTTCCACACTTACATCGGGGAGCCACGGCCTTCGGATTC	3000
BTDELETED	CAGAACTCCATACTTCTGCCTTCCACACTTACATCGGGGAGCCACGGCCTTCGGATTC	2999
BT	CAGAACTCCATACTTCTGCCTTCCACACTTACATCGGGGAGCCACGGCCTTCGGATTC	3000
SBT	CAGAACTCCATACTTCTGCCTTCCACACTTACATCGGGGAGCCACGGCCTTCGGATTC	3000
PA	CAGAACTCCATACTTCTGCCTTCCACACTTACATCGGGGAGCCACGGCCTTCGGATTC	3000
PX	CAGAACTCCATACTTCTGCCTTCCACACTTACATCGGGGAGCCACGGCCTTCGGATTC	3000

NOQA	TATTTGGATATGATATGCCTCGTCTACCTCGCCTCTATATTATCAATTTTCATCCTTATC	3060
BTDELETED	TATTTGGATATGATATGCCTCGTCTACCTCGCCTCTATATTATCAATTTTCATCCTTATC	3059
BT	TATTTGGATATGATATGCCTCGTCTACCTCGCCTCTATATTATCAATTTTCATCCTTATC	3060
SBT	TATTTGGATATGATATGCCTCGTCTACCTCGCCTCTATATTATCAATTTTCATCCTTATC	3060
PA	TATTTGGATATGATATGCCTCGTCTACCTCGCCTCTATATTATCAATTTTCATCCTTATC	3060
PX	TATTTGGATATGATATGCCTCGTCTACCTCGCCTCTATATTATCAATTTTCATCCTTATC	3060

NOQA	GACTTCGCGGACGTGATCCCAGTGGGCAGCGTGGGGCTGGCGGTGAGCCAGTCCATGGTG	3120
BTDELETED	GACTTCGCGGACGTGATCCCAGTGGGCAGCGTGGGGCTGGCGGTGAGCCAGTCCATGGTG	3119
BT	GACTTCGCGGACGTGATCCCAGTGGGCAGCGTGGGGCTGGCGGTGAGCCAGTCCATGGTG	3120
SBT	GACTTCGCGGACGTGATCCCAGTGGGCAGCGTGGGGCTGGCGGTGAGCCAGTCCATGGTG	3120
PA	GACTTCGCGGACGTGATCCCAGTGGGCAGCGTGGGGCTGGCGGTGAGCCAGTCCATGGTG	3120
PX	GACTTCGCGGACGTGATCCCAGTGGGCAGCGTGGGGCTGGCGGTGAGCCAGTCCATGGTG	3120

NOQA	CTGACGGTGCTGCTGCAGCTGGCCGCGCGGTTACCAGCGACTTCCTGGCGCAGATGACC	3180
BTDELETED	CTGACGGTGCTGCTGCAGCTGGCCGCGCGGTTACCAGCGACTTCCTGGCGCAGATGACC	3179
BT	CTGACGGTGCTGCTGCAGCTGGCCGCGCGGTTACCAGCGACTTCCTGGCGCAGATGACC	3180
SBT	CTGACGGTGCTGCTGCAGCTGGCCGCGCGGTTACCAGCGACTTCCTGGCGCAGATGACC	3180
PA	CTGACGGTGCTGCTGCAGCTGGCCGCGCGGTTACCAGCGACTTCCTGGCGCAGATGACC	3180
PX	CTGACGGTGCTGCTGCAGCTGGCCGCGCGGTTACCAGCGACTTCCTGGCGCAGATGACC	3180

NOQA GCCGTGGAGCGCGTGCTCGAGTACACTAAACTGCCGCACGAGGAGAATATTAATGATGGA 3240
 BTDELETED GCCGTGGAGCGCGTGCTCGAGTACACTAAACTGCCGCACGAGGAGAATATTAATGATGGA 3239
 BT GCCGTGGAGCGCGTGCTCGAGTACACTAAACTGCCGCACGAGGAGAATATTAATGATGGA 3240
 SBT GCCGTGGAGCGCGTGCTCGAGTACACTAAACTGCCGCACGAGGAGAATATTAATGATGGA 3240
 PA GCCGTGGAGCGCGTGCTCGAGTACACTAAACTGCCGCACGAGGAGAATATTAATGATGGA 3240
 PX GCCGTGGAGCGCGTGCTCGAGTACACTAAACTGCCGCACGAGGAGAATATTAATGATGGA 3240

NOQA CCTACGCAGCCGCCAAGACATGGCCTGCTGAAGGGAACATCAAATTTGAAAACGTGTTC 3300
 BTDELETED CCTACGCAGCCGCCAAGACATGGCCTGCTGAAGGGAACATCAAATTTGAAAACGTGTTC 3299
 BT CCTACGCAGCCGCCAAGACATGGCCTGCTGAAGGGAACATCAAATTTGAAAACGTGTTC 3300
 SBT CCTACGCAGCCGCCAAGACATGGCCTGCTGAAGGGAACATCAAATTTGAAAACGTGTTC 3300
 PA CCTACGCAGCCGCCAAGACATGGCCTGCTGAAGGGAACATCAAATTTGAAAACGTGTTC 3300
 PX CCTACGCAGCCGCCAAGACATGGCCTGCTGAAGGGAACATCAAATTTGAAAACGTGTTC 3300

NOQA CTGACTTACTCGTTGGAGGACCCACCCGTGCTCAAAAATATCAACTTCGAGATCCAAAGC 3360
 BTDELETED CTGACTTACTCGTTGGAGGACCCACCCGTGCTCAAAAATATCAACTTCGAGATCCAAAGC 3359
 BT CTGACTTACTCGTTGGAGGACCCACCCGTGCTCAAAAATATCAACTTCGAGATCCAAAGC 3360
 SBT CTGACTTACTCGTTGGAGGACCCACCCGTGCTCAAAAATATCAACTTCGAGATCCAAAGC 3360
 PA CTGACTTACTCGTTGGAGGACCCACCCGTGCTCAAAAATATCAACTTCGAGATCCAAAGC 3360
 PX CTGACTTACTCGTTGGAGGACCCACCCGTGCTCAAAAATATCAACTTCGAGATCCAAAGC 3360

NOQA GGTTGGAAGGTGGGTGTGGTCCGCAGGACGGGGGCTGGGAAGTCATCTCTCATATCTGCC 3420
 BTDELETED GGTTGGAAGGTGGGTGTGGTCCGCAGGACGGGGGCTGGGAAGTCATCTCTCATATCTGCC 3419
 BT GGTTGGAAGGTGGGTGTGGTCCGCAGGACGGGGGCTGGGAAGTCATCTCTCATATCTGCC 3420
 SBT GGTTGGAAGGTGGGTGTGGTCCGCAGGACGGGGGCTGGGAAGTCATCTCTCATATCTGCC 3420
 PA GGTTGGAAGGTGGGTGTGGTCCGCAGGACGGGGGCTGGGAAGTCATCTCTCATATCTGCC 3420
 PX GGTTGGAAGGTGGGTGTGGTCCGCAGGACGGGGGCTGGGAAGTCATCTCTCATATCTGCC 3420

NOQA CTTTTCCGATTGACCAATTTAGACGGAAGCATTAAAATTGATGGGATCGATAACAATAGGA 3480
 BTDELETED CTTTTCCGATTGACCAATTTAGACGGAAGCATTAAAATTGATGGGATCGATAACAATAGGA 3479
 BT CTTTTCCGATTGACCAATTTAGACGGAAGCATTAAAATTGATGGGATCGATAACAATAGGA 3480
 SBT CTTTTCCGATTGACCAATTTAGACGGAAGCATTAAAATTGATGGGATCGATAACAATAGGA 3480
 PA CTTTTCCGATTGACCAATTTAGACGGAAGCATTAAAATTGATGGGATCGATAACAATAGGA 3480
 PX CTTTTCCGATTGACCAATTTAGACGGAAGCATTAAAATTGATGGGATCGATAACAATAGGA 3480

NOQA ATAGCTAAGCAGGAGCTCAGGGCGAAGATTTCAATTATTCCGCAAGAGCCTGTTCTGTTC 3540
 BTDELETED ATAGCTAAGCAGGAGCTCAGGGCGAAGATTTCAATTATTCCGCAAGAGCCTGTTCTGTTC 3539
 BT ATAGCTAAGCAGGAGCTCAGGGCGAAGATTTCAATTATTCCGCAAGAGCCTGTTCTGTTC 3540
 SBT ATAGCTAAGCAGGAGCTCAGGGCGAAGATTTCAATTATTCCGCAAGAGCCTGTTCTGTTC 3540
 PA ATAGCTAAGCAGGAGCTCAGGGCGAAGATTTCAATTATTCCGCAAGAGCCTGTTCTGTTC 3540
 PX ATAGCTAAGCAGGAGCTCAGGGCGAAGATTTCAATTATTCCGCAAGAGCCTGTTCTGTTC 3540

NOQA TCGGCCACGCTGCGCTACAACCTGGACCCCTTCGACTTGTACAGTGATGACGACATTTGG 3600
 BTDELETED TCGGCCACGCTGCGCTACAACCTGGACCCCTTCGACTTGTACAGTGATGACGACATTTGG 3599
 BT TCGGCCACGCTGCGCTACAACCTGGACCCCTTCGACTTGTACAGTGATGACGACATTTGG 3600
 SBT TCGGCCACGCTGCGCTACAACCTGGACCCCTTCGACTTGTACAGTGATGACGACATTTGG 3600
 PA TCGGCCACGCTGCGCTACAACCTGGACCCCTTCGACTTGTACAGTGATGACGACATTTGG 3600
 PX TCGGCCACGCTGCGCTACAACCTGGACCCCTTCGACTTGTACAGTGATGACGACATTTGG 3600

NOQA AGAGCTTTGGAACAGGTGGAGTTGAAAGACGTGGTTCCGGCGCTCGACTACAAAGTGTCTG 3660
 BTDELETED AGAGCTTTGGAGCAGGTGGAGTTGAAAGACGTGGTTCCGGCGCTCGACTACAAAGTGTCTG 3659
 BT AGAGCTTTGGAGCAGGTGGAGTTGAAAGACGTGGTTCCGGCGCTCGACTACAAAGTGTCTG 3660
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 PA AGAGCTTTGGAGCAGGTGGAGTTGAAAGACGTGGTTCCGGCGCTCGACTACAAAGTGTCTG 3660
 PX AGAGCTTTGGAGCAGGTGGAGTTGAAAGACGTGGTTCCGGCGCTCGACTACAAAGTGTCTG 3660

NOQA GAAGGAGGTAGCAATTTCTCCGTGGGACAGCGGCAGCTGCTGTGCCTGGCGCGCGCCGTG 3720
 BTDELETED GAAGGAGGTAGCAATTTCTCCGTGGGACAGCGGCAGCTGCTGTGCCTGGCGCGCGCCGTG 3719
 BT GAAGGAGGTAGCAATTTCTCCGTGGGACAGCGGCAGCTGCTGTGCCTGGCGCGCGCCGTG 3720
 SBT GAAGGAGGTAGCAATTTCTCCGTGGGACAGCGGCAGCTGCTGTGCCTGGCGCGCGCCGTG 3720
 PA GAAGGAGGTAGCAATTTCTCCGTGGGACAGCGGCAGCTGCTGTGCCTGGCGCGCGCCGTG 3720
 PX GAAGGAGGTAGCAATTTCTCCGTGGGACAGCGGCAGCTGCTGTGCCTGGCGCGCGCCGTG 3720

NOQA CTGCGCTCCAACAAGATACTAGTCATGGACGAGGCCACCGCCAATGTCGACCCGCAGACG 3780
 BTDELETED CTGCGCTCCAACAAGATACTAGTCATGGACGAGGCCACCGCCAATGTCGACCCGCAGACG 3779
 BT CTGCGCTCCAACAAGATACTAGTCATGGACGAGGCCACCGCCAATGTCGACCCGCAGACG 3780
 SBT CTGCGCTCCAACAAGATACTAGTCATGGACGAGGCCACCGCCAATGTCGACCCGCAGACG 3780
 PA CTGCGCTCCAACAAGATACTAGTCATGGACGAGGCCACCGCCAATGTCGACCCGCAGACG 3780
 PX CTGCGCTCCAACAAGATACTAGTCATGGACGAGGCCACCGCCAATGTCGACCCGCAGACG 3780

NOQA GACGCGCTGATCCAGTCGACGATCCGGCGGCAGTTCGCGGCCCTGCACCGTGTCTACCATC 3840
 BTDELETED GACGCGCTGATCCAGTCGACGATCCGGCGGCAGTTCGCGGCCCTGCACCGTGTCTACCATC 3839
 BT GACGCGCTGATCCAGTCGACGATCCGGCGGCAGTTCGCGGCCCTGCACCGTGTCTACCATC 3840
 SBT GACGCGCTGATCCAGTCGACGATCCGGCGGCAGTTCGCGGCCCTGCACCGTGTCTACCATC 3840
 PA GACGCGCTGATCCAGTCGACGATCCGGCGGCAGTTCGCGGCCCTGCACCGTGTCTACCATC 3840
 PX GACGCGCTGATCCAGTCGACGATCCGGCGGCAGTTCGCGGCCCTGCACCGTGTCTACCATC 3840

NOQA GCACATCGTCTTAACACCGTCATGGACTCCGACCGAGTGTCTCGTCATGGACAAGGGTGAA 3900
 BTDELETED GCACATCGTCTTAACACCGTCATGGACTCCGACCGAGTGTCTCGTCATGGACAAGGGTGAA 3899
 BT GCACATCGTCTTAACACCGTCATGGACTCCGACCGAGTGTCTCGTCATGGACAAGGGTGAA 3900
 SBT GCACATCGTCTTAACACCGTCATGGACTCCGACCGAGTGTCTCGTCATGGACAAGGGTGAA 3900
 PA GCACATCGTCTTAACACCGTCATGGACTCCGACCGAGTGTCTCGTCATGGACAAGGGTGAA 3900
 PX GCACATCGTCTTAACACCGTCATGGACTCCGACCGAGTGTCTCGTCATGGACAAGGGTGAA 3900

NOQA GTGGTGGAGTTCGACCACCCCTACACGCTGCTGTGCGGCGGCCGGCAGCCACATCAACTTC 3960
 BTDELETED GTGGTGGAGTTCGACCACCCCTACACGCTGCTGTGCGGCGGCCGGCAGCCACCTCAACTTC 3959
 BT GTGGTGGAGTTCGACCACCCCTACACGCTGCTGTGCGGCGGCCGGCAGCCACCTCAACTTC 3960
 SBT GTGGTGGAGTTCGACCACCCCTACACGCTGCTGTGCGGCGGCCGGCAGCCACCTCAACTTC 3960
 PA GTGGTGGAGTTCGACCACCCCTACACGCTGCTGTGCGGCGGCCGGCAGCCACCTCAACTTC 3960
 PX GTGGTGGAGTTCGACCACCCCTACACGCTGCTGTGCGGCGGCCGGCAGCCACCTCAACTTC 3960

NOQA ATGGTGGAGGAGACCGGAGACAACATGAGCAAGGCCCTTTAT----- 4002
 BTDELETED ATGGTGGAGGAGACCGGAGACAACATGAGCAAGGCCCTCTATGACATGGCCAAGAAGAAA 4019
 BT ATGGTGGAGGAGACCGGAGACAACATGAGCAAGGCCCTCTATGACATGGCCAAGAAGAAA 4020
 SBT ATGGTGGAGGAGACCGGAGACAACATGAGCAAGGCCCTCTATGACATGGCCAAGAAGAAA 4020
 PA ATGGTGGAGGAGACCGGAGACAACATGAGCAAGGCCCTCTATGACATGGCCAAGA----- 4015
 PX ATGGTGGAGGAGACCGGAGACAACATGAGCAAGGCCCTCTATGACATGCCA----- 4011

NOQA	-----	4002
BTDELETED	TACTTCGACGATCATCCTCAATGA	4043
BT	TACTTCGACGATCATCCTCAATGA	4044
SBT	TACTTCGACGATCATCCTCAATGA	4044
PA	-----	4015
PX	-----	4011

After we exclude the overlapping parts and aligned the gene sequences, we translated the DNA sequences in to protein sequences to see the changes on the reading frame. This 1 base pair deletion of nucleotides showed that the protein sequence stops sooner and changes the reading frame. This type of mutation is called indel and inevitably changes the frameshift of the protein. We also compared our populations sequences to others *P. xylostella* ABCC2 gene present in the GenBank database. The alignment is shown below.

Multiple protein sequence alignment:

Btdeletion	MENGSARKESSEKKEVKKGKPNVLYRLFMCWVCPVLVGGNRRDVEERDLIPPPSAKYKS	60
NOQA_WAITE	-----RKESEKKEVKKGKPNVLSRLFMCWVCPVLVGGNRRDVEERDLIPPPSAKYKS	53
Bt	MENGSARKESSEKKEVKKGKPNVLYRLFMCWVCPVLVGGNRRDVEERDLIPPPSAKYKS	60
Pa	MENGSARKESSEKKEVKKGKPNVLYRLFMCWVCPVLVGGNRRDVEERDLIPPPSAKYKS	60
SBt	MENGSARKESSEKKEVKKGKPNVLYRLFMCWVCPVLVGGNRRDVEERDLIPPPSAKYKS	60
Px	MENGSARKESSEKKEVKKGKPNVLYRLFMCWVCPVLVGGNRRDVEERDLIPPPSAKYKS	60
NOQA	MENGSARKESSEKKEVKKGKPNVLSRLFMCWVCPVLVGGNRRDVEERDLIPPPSAKYKS	60
NP_001296082	MENGSARKESSEKKEVKKGKPNVLSRLFMCWVCPVLVGGNRRDVEERDLIPPPSAKYKS	60
DBM1Ac-S	MENGSARKESSEKKEVKKGKPNVLSRLFMCWVCPVLVGGNRRDVEERDLIPPPSAKYKS	60
G88	MENGSARKESSEKKEVKKGKPNVLSRLFMCWVCPVLVGGNRRDVEERDLIPPPSAKYKS	60

Btdeletion	ESLGDKFERYWLEELGLATQRGVAPSLWRALRRAFWLSYMPGALLLLGNAIPTIQPLLF	120
NOQA_WAITE	ESLGDKFERYWLEELGLATQRGVAPSLWRALRRAFWLSYMPGALLLLGNAIPTIQPLLF	113
Bt	ESLGDKFERYWLEELGLATQRGVAPSLWRALRRAFWLSYMPGALLLLGNAIPTIQPLLF	120
Pa	ESLGDKFERYWLEELGLATQRGVAPSLWRALRRAFWLSYMPGALLLLGNAIPTIQPLLF	120
SBt	ESLGDKFERYWLEELGLATQRGVAPSLWRALRRAFWLSYMPGALLLLGNAIPTIQPLLF	120
Px	ESLGDKFERYWLEELGLATQRGVAPSLWRALRRAFWLSYMPGALLLLGNAIPTIQPLLF	120
NOQA	ESLGDKFERYWLEELGLATQRGVAPSLWRALRRAFWLSYMPGALLLLGNAIPTIQPLLF	120
NP_001296082	ESLGDKFERYWLEELGLATQRGVAPSLWRALRRAFWLSYMPGALLLLGNAIPTIQPLLF	120
DBM1Ac-S	ESLGDKFERYWLEELGLATQRGVAPSLWRALRRAFWLSYMPGALLLLGNAIPTIQPLLF	120
G88	ESLGDKFERYWLEELGLATQRGVAPSLWRALRRAFWLSYMPGALLLLGNAIPTIQPLLF	120

Btdeletion TRLLSYWSADSTMTRLEAGYWAMGMLLCNFLAMVCHHHNTLFVGRFGMKVRIACCSLLYR 180
 NOQA_WAITE TRLLSYWSADSTMTRLEAGYWAMGMLLCNFLAMVCHHHNTLFVGRFGMKVRIACCSLLYR 173
 Bt TRLLSYWSADSTMTRLEAGYWAMGMLLCNFLAMVCHHHNTLFVGRFGMKVRIACCSLLYR 180
 Pa TRLLSYWSADSTMTRLEAGYWAMGMLLCNFLAMVCHHHNTLFVGRFGMKVRIACCSLLYR 180
 Sbt TRLLSYWSADSTMTRLEAGYWAMGMLLCNFLAMVCHHHNTLFVGRFGMKVRIACCSLLYR 180
 Px TRLLSYWSADSTMTRLEAGYWAMGMLLCNFLAMVCHHHNTLFVGRFGMKVRIACCSLLYR 180
 NOQA TRLLSYWSADSTMTRLEAGYWAMGMLLCNFLAMVCHHHNTLFVGRFGMKVRIACCSLLYR 180
 NP_001296082 TRLLSYWSADSTMTRLEAGYWAMGMLLCNFLAMVCHHHNTLFVGRFGMKVRIACCSLLYR 180
 DBM1Ac-S TRLLSYWSADSTMTRLEAGYWAMGMLLCNFLAMVCHHHNTLFVGRFGMKVRIACCSLLYR 180
 G88 TRLLSYWSADSTMTRLEAGYWAMGMLLCNFLAMVCHHHNTLFVGRFGMKVRIACCSLLYR 180

Btdeletion KLLRLNQRSLSQSTAAGKLVNLSNDVARFDYAFMFLHYFWMIPLQSAAVLYFMFRAAGWA 240
 NOQA_WAITE KLLRLNQRSLSQSTAAGKLVNLSNDVARFDYAFMFLHYFWMIPLQSAAVLYFMFRAAGWA 233
 Bt KLLRLNQRSLSQSTAAGKLVNLSNDVARFDYAFMFLHYFWMIPLQSAAVLYFMFRAAGWA 240
 Pa KLLRLNQRSLSQSTAAGKLVNLSNDVARFDYAFMFLHYFWMIPLQSAAVLYFMFRAAGWA 240
 Sbt KLLRLNQRSLSQSTAAGKLVNLSNDVARFDYAFMFLHYFWMIPLQSAAVLYFMFRAAGWA 240
 Px KLLRLNQRSLSQSTAAGKLVNLSNDVARFDYAFMFLHYFWMIPLQSAAVLYFMFRAAGWA 240
 NOQA KLLRLNQRSLSQSTAAGKLVNLSNDVARFDYAFMFLHYFWMIPLQSAAVLYFMFRAAGWA 240
 NP_001296082 KLLRLNQRSLSQSTAAGKLVNLSNDVARFDYAFMFLHYFWMIPLQSAAVLYFMFRAAGWA 240
 DBM1Ac-S KLLRLNQRSLSQSTAAGKLVNLSNDVARFDYAFMFLHYFWMIPLQSAAVLYFMFRAAGWA 240
 G88 KLLRLNQRSLSQSTAAGKLVNLSNDVARFDYAFMFLHYFWMIPLQSAAVLYFMFRAAGWA 240

Btdeletion PIVGLFSVMLLILPIQAGLTKLTAVYRRETAQRTDKRIKLMSEIINGIQVIKMYAWEVFP 300
 NOQA_WAITE PIVGLFSVMLLILPIQAGLTKLTAVYRRETAQRTDKRIKLMSEIINGIQVIKMYAWEVFP 293
 Bt PIVGLFSVMLLILPIQAGLTKLTAVYRRETAQRTDKRIKLMSEIINGIQVIKMYAWEVFP 300
 Pa PIVGLFSVMLLILPIQAGLTKLTAVYRRETAQRTDKRIKLMSEIINGIQVIKMYAWEVFP 300
 Sbt PIVGLFSVMLLILPIQAGLTKLTAVYRRETAQRTDKRIKLMSEIINGIQVIKMYAWEVFP 300
 Px PIVGLFSVMLLILPIQAGLTKLTAVYRRETAQRTDKRIKLMSEIINGIQVIKMYAWEVFP 300
 NOQA PIVGLFSVMLLILPIQAGLTKLTAVYRRETAQRTDKRIKLMSEIINGIQVIKMYAWEVFP 300
 NP_001296082 PIVGLFSVMLLILPIQAGLTKLTAVYRRETAQRTDKRIKLMSEIINGIQVIKMYAWEVFP 300
 DBM1Ac-S PIVGLFSVMLLILPIQAGLTKLTAVYRRETAQRTDKRIKLMSEIINGIQVIKMYAWEVFP 300
 G88 PIVGLFSVMLLILPIQAGLTKLTAVYRRETAQRTDKRIKLMSEIINGIQVIKMYAWEVFP 300

Btdeletion QKVVGSSRAHEVEALKRASVQGTFGGFMLFTERTSLFLTVMTLVLTGSMATATTVPYPIQ 360
 NOQA_WAITE QKVVGSSRAHEVEALKRASVQGTFGGFMLFTERTSLFLTVMTLVLTGSMATATTVPYPIQ 353
 Bt QKVVGSSRAHEVEALKRASVQGTFGGFMLFTERTSLFLTVMTLVLTGSMATATTVPYPIQ 360
 Pa QKVVGSSRAHEVEALKRASVQGTFGGFMLFTERTSLFLTVMTLVLTGSMATATTVPYPIQ 360
 Sbt QKVVGSSRAHEVEALKRASVQGTFGGFMLFTERTSLFLTVMTLVLTGSMATATTVPYPIQ 360
 Px QKVVGSSRAHEVEALKRASVQGTFGGFMLFTERTSLFLTVMTLVLTGSMATATTVPYPIQ 360
 NOQA QKVVGSSRAHEVEALKRASVQGTFGGFMLFTERTSLFLTVMTLVLTGSMATATTVPYPIQ 360
 NP_001296082 QKVVGSSRAHEVEALKRASVQGTFGGFMLFTERTSLFLTVMTLVLTGSMATATTVPYPIQ 360
 DBM1Ac-S QKVVGSSRAHEVEALKRASVQGTFGGFMLFTERTSLFLTVMTLVLTGSMATATTVPYPIQ 360
 G88 QKVVGSSRAHEVEALKRASVQGTFGGFMLFTERTSLFLTVMTLVLTGSMATATTVPYPIQ 360

Btdeletion QYFSIIQSNLALILPIAIAQLTEMLVSLERLQEFMLDEREDLSVMPGGQADSAPVAFKY 420
 NOQA_WAITE QYFSIIQSNLALILPIAIAQLTEMLVSLERLQEFMLDEREDLSVMPGGQADSAPVAFKY 413
 Bt QYFSIIQSNLALILPIAIAQLTEMLVSLERLQEFMLDEREDLSVMPGGQADSAPVAFKY 420
 Pa QYFSIIQSNLALILPIAIAQLTEMLVSLERLQEFMLDEREDLSVMPGGQADSAPVAFKY 420
 Sbt QYFSIIQSNLALILPIAIAQLTEMLVSLERLQEFMLDEREDLSVMPGGQADSAPVAFKY 420
 Px QYFSIIQSNLALILPIAIAQLTEMLVSLERLQEFMLDEREDLSVMPGGQADSAPVAFKY 420
 NOQA QYFSIIQSNLALILPIAIAQLTEMLVSLERLQEFMLDEREDLSVMPGGQADSAPVAFKY 420
 NP_001296082 QYFSIIQSNLALILPIAIAQLTEMLVSLERLQEFMLDEREDLSVMPGGQADSAPVAFKY 420
 DBM1Ac-S QYFSIIQSNLALILPIAIAQLTEMLVSLERLQEFMLDEREDLSVMPGGQADSAPVAFKY 420
 G88 QYFSIIQSNLALILPIAIAQLTEMLVSLERLQEFMLDEREDLSVMPGGQADSAPVAFKY 420

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Btdeletion      TKETTAPAYIVSKRYSKKEDDTGLAAELVERKSTSEFAVELNDVSASWGGEGDKDQHTLR 480
NOQA_WAITE      TKETTAPAYIVSKRYSKKEDDTGLAAELVERKATSEFAVELNDVSASWGGEGDKDQHTLR 473
Bt              TKETTAPAYIVSKRYSKKEDDTGLAAELVERKSTSEFAVELNDVSASWGGEGDKDQHTLR 480
Pa              TKETTAPAYIVSKRYSKKEDDTGLAAELVERKSTSEFAVELNDVSASWGGEGDKDQHTLR 480
SBt             TKETTAPAYIVSKRYSKKEDDTGLAAELVERKSTSEFAVELNDVSASWGGEGDKDQHTLR 480
Px              TKETTAPAYIVSKRYSKKEDDTGLAAELVERKSTSEFAVELNDVSASWGGEGDKDQHTLR 480
NOQA            TKETTAPAYIVSKRYSKKEDDTGLAAELVERKSTSEFAVELNDVSASWGGEGDKDQHTLR 480
NP_001296082   TKETTAPAYIVSKRYSKKEDDTGLAAELVERKSTSEFAVELNDVSASWGGEGDKDQHTLR 480
DBM1Ac-S       TKETTAPAYIVSKRYSKKEDDTGLAAELVERKSTSEFAVELNDVSASWGGEGDKDQHTLR 480
G88            TKETTAPAYIVSKRYSKKEDDTGLAAELVERKSTSEFAVELNDVSASWGGEGDKDQHTLR 480
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Btdeletion      GVSMRVRRGKLAAIMDPWDPGSRRCSCCC----- 509
NOQA_WAITE      GVSMRVRRGKLAAIIGPVSGSKSLLQVLLKELPVSSGTGVGHGQISYACQESWLFSATV 533
Bt              GVSMRVRRGKLAAIIGPVSGSKSLLQVLLKELPVSSGTGVGHGQISYACQESWLFSATV 540
Pa              GVSMRVRRGKLAAIIGPVSGSKSLLQVLLKELPVSSGTGVGHGQISYACQESWLFSATV 540
SBt             GVSMRVRRGKLAAIIGPVSGSKSLLQVLLKELPVSSGTGVGHGQISYACQESWLFSATV 540
Px              GVSMRVRRGKLAAIIGPVSGSKSLLQVLLKELPVSSGTGVGHGQISYACQESWLFSATV 540
NOQA            GVSMRVRRGKLAAIIGPVSGSKSLLQVLLKELPVSSGTGVGHGQISYACQESWLFSATV 540
NP_001296082   GVTLRVRRGKLAAIIGPVSGSKSLLQVLLKEFPVSSGTGVGHGQISYACQESWLFSATV 540
DBM1Ac-S       GVSLRVRRGKLAAIIGPVSGSKSLLQVLLKELPVSSGTGVGHGQISYACQESWLFSATV 540
G88            GVSLRVRRGKLAAIIGPVSGSKSLLQVLLKELPVSSGTGVGHGQISYACQESWLFSATV 540
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Btdeletion      ----- 509
NOQA_WAITE      RDNILFGLPYDSKYYKKVCDACCLQPDFKQFPYGDLSLVGERGVSLSGGQRARINLARAV 593
Bt              RDNILFGLPYDSKYYKKVCDACCLQPDFKQFPYGDLSLVGERGVSLSGGQRARINLARAV 600
Pa              RDNILFGLPYDSKYYKKVCDACCLQPDFKQFPYGDLSLVGERGVSLSGGQRARINLARAV 600
SBt             RDNILFGLPYDSKYYKKVCDACCLQPDFKQFPYGDLSLVGERGVSLSGGQRARINLARAV 600
Px              RDNILFGLPYDSKYYKKVCDACCLQPDFKQFPYGDLSLVGERGVSLSGGQRARINLARAV 600
NOQA            RDNILFGLPYDSKYYKKVCDACCLQPDFKQFPYGDLSLVGERGVSLSGGQRARINLARAV 600
NP_001296082   RDNILFGLPYDSKYYKKVCDACCLQPDFKQFPYGDLSLVGERGVSLSGGQRARINLARAV 600
DBM1Ac-S       RDNILFGLPYDSKYYKKVCDACCLQPDFKQFPYGDLSLVGERGVSLSGGQRARINLARAV 600
G88            RDNILFGLPYDSKYYKKVCDACCLQPDFKQFPYGDLSLVGERGVSLSGGQRARINLARAV 600

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Btdeletion      ----- 509
NOQA_WAITE      YRDADIYIFDDPLSAVDANVGRQLFEGCINGYLRGRTRVLVTHQIHFLKAADYIVILNEG 653
Bt              YRDADIYIFDDPLSAVDANVGRQLFEGCINGYLRGRTRVLVTHQIHFLKAADYIVILNEG 660
Pa              YRDADIYIFDDPLSAVDANVGRQLFEGCINGYLRGRTRVLVTHQIHFLKAADYIVILNEG 660
SBt             YRDADIYIFDDPLSAVDANVGRQLFEGCINGYLRGRTRVLVTHQIHFLKAADYIVILNEG 660
Px              YRDADIYIFDDPLSAVDANVGRQLFEGCINGYLRGRTRVLVTHQIHFLKAADYIVILNEG 660
NOQA            YRDADIYIFDDPLSAVDANVGRQLFEGCINGYLRGRTRVLVTHQIHFLKAADYIVILNEG 660
NP_001296082   YRDADIYIFDDPLSAVDANVGRQLFEGCINGYLRGRTRVLVTHQIHFLKAADYIVILNEG 660
DBM1Ac-S       YRDADIYIFDDPLSAVDANVGRQLFEGCINGYLRGRTRVLVTHQIHFLKAADYIVILNEG 660
G88            YRDADIYIFDDPLSAVDANVGRQLFEGCINGYLRGRTRVLVTHQIHFLKAADYIVILNEG 660

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Btdeletion      ----- 509
NOQA_WAITE      AIENMGTYDDLTKLENSLLLPKQQEGSGDSDKDELAI PNAAKKPIMERGISVISVKSEDN 713
Bt              AIENMGTYDDLTKLENSLLLPKQQEGSGDSDKDELAI PNAAKKPIMERGISVISVKSEDN 720
Pa              AIENMGTYDDLTKLENSLLLPKQQEGSGDSDKDELAI PNAAKKPIMERGISVISVKSEDN 720
SBt             AIENMGTYDDLTKLENSLLLPKQQEGSGDSDKDELAI PNAAKKPIMERGISVISVKSEDN 720
Px              AIENMGTYDDLTKLENSLLLPKQQEGSGDSDKDELAI PNAAKKPIMERGISVISVKSEDN 720
NOQA            AIENMGTYDDLTKLENSLLLPKQQEGSGDSDKDELAI PNAAKKPIMERGISVISVKSEDN 720
NP_001296082   AIENMGTYDDLTKLENSLLLPKQQEGSGDSDKDELAI PNAAKKPIMERGVSVISVKSEDN 720
DBM1Ac-S       AIENMGTYDDLTKLENSLLLPKQQEGSGDSDKDELAI PNAANKPIMERGVSVISVKSEDN 720
G88            AIENMGTYDDLTKLENSLLLPKQQEGSGDSDKDELAVPNAANKPIMERGVSVVSVKSEDN 720

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Btdeletion	-----	509
NOQA_WAITE	GEARKEQVQAAEERASGNLKWEVFARYLVSVDSWAIVALTLTAMLITQGAASSTDYWLSF	773
Bt	GEARKEQVQAAEERASGNLKWEVFARYLVSVDSWAIVALTLTAMLITQGAASSTDYWLSF	780
Pa	GEARKEQVQAAEERASGNLKWEVFARYLVSVDSWAIVALTLTAMLITQGAASSTDYWLSF	780
SBt	GEARKEQVQAAEERASGNLKWEVFARYLVSVDSWAIVALTLTAMLITQGAASSTDYWLSF	780
Px	GEARKEQVQAAEERASGNLKWEVFARYLVSVDSWAIVALTLTAMLITQGAASSTDYWLSF	780
NOQA	GEARKEQVQAAEERASGNLKWEVFARYLVSVDSWAIVALTLTAMLITQGAASSTDYWLSF	780
NP_001296082	GEARKEQVQAAEERASGNLKWEVFARYLVSVDSWAIVALTLTAMLITQGAASSTDYWLSF	780
DBM1Ac-S	GEARKEQVQAAEERASGNLKWEVFARYLVSVDSWAIVALTLTAMLITQGAASSTDYWLSF	780
G88	GEARKEQVQAAEERASGNLKWEVFARYLVSVDSWAIVALTLTAMLITQGAASSTDYWLSF	780
Btdeletion	-----	509
NOQA_WAITE	WTNQVDGYIQDLPDGEEDPDSLGTQTGILQGTQYVYIYGALVLTIIIVMSFMRLFQGFVTMT	833
Bt	WTNQVDGYIQDLPDGEEDPDSLDTQTGILQGTQYVYIYGALVLTIIIVMSFMRLFQGFVTMT	840
Pa	WTNQVDGYIQDLPDGEEDPDSLDTQTGILQGTQYVYIYGALVLTIIIVMSFMRLFQGFVTMT	840
SBt	WTNQVDGYIQDLPDGEEDPDSLDTQTGILQGTQYVYIYGALVLTIIIVMSFMRLFQGFVTMT	840
Px	WTNQVDGYIQDLPDGEEDPDSLDTQTGILQGTQYVYIYGALVLTIIIVMSFMRLFQGFVTMT	840
NOQA	WTNQVDGYIQDLPDGEEDPDSLDTQTGILQGTQYVYIYGALVLTIIIVMSFMRLFQGFVTMT	840
NP_001296082	WTNQVDGYIQDLPDGEEDPDSLDTQTGILQGTQYVYIYGALVLTIIIVMSFMRLFQGFVTMT	840
DBM1Ac-S	WTNQVDGYIQDLPDGEEDPDSLGTQTGILLTGQYVYIYGALVLTIIIVMSFMRLFQGFVTMT	840
G88	WTNQVDGYIQDLPDGEEDPDSLGTQTGILLTGQYVYIYGALVLTIIIVMSFMRLFQGFVTMT	840
Btdeletion	-----	509
NOQA_WAITE	MRAAANIHDLMFRNLIRATMRFFDTNPSGRVLRNRFKDMGGMDELLPRSILQAFQMYLSM	893
Bt	MRAAANIHDLMFRNLIRATMRFFDTNPSGRVLRNRFKDMGGMDELLPRSILQAFQMYLSM	900
Pa	MRAAANIHDLMFRNLIRATMRFFDTNPSGRVLRNRFKDMGGMDELLPRSILQAFQMYLSM	900
SBt	MRAAANIHDLMFRNLIRATMRFFDTNPSGRVLRNRFKDMGGMDELLPRSILQAFQMYLSM	900
Px	MRAAANIHDLMFRNLIRATMRFFDTNPSGRVLRNRFKDMGGMDELLPRSILQAFQMYLSM	900
NOQA	MRAAANIHDLMFRNLIRATMRFFDTNPSGRVLRNRFKDMGGMDELLPRSILQAFQMYLSM	900
NP_001296082	MRAAANIHDLMFRNLIRATMRFFDTNPSGRVLRNRFKDMGGMDELLPRSILQAFQMYLSM	900
DBM1Ac-S	MRAAANIHDLMFRNLIRATMRFFDTNPSGRVLRNRFKDMGGMDELLPRSILQAFQMYLSM	900
G88	MRAAANIHDLMFRNLIRATMRFFDTNPSGRVLRNRFKDMGGMDELLPRSILQAFQMYLSM	900
Btdeletion	-----	509
NOQA_WAITE	ASVLTTLNAVSLPWTLIPTVLLLGLFIRYLKWLNAQAQSVKRLEGTTKSPVFGMIGSTLSG	953
Bt	ASVLTTLNAVSLPWTLIPTVLLLGLFIRYLKWLNAQAQSVKRLEGTTKSPVFGMIGSTLSG	960
Pa	ASVLTTLNAVSLPWTLIPTVLLLGLFIRYLKWLNAQAQSVKRLEGTTKSPVFGMIGSTLSG	960
SBt	ASVLTTLNAVSLPWTLIPTVLLLGLFIRYLKWLNAQAQSVKRLEGTTKSPVFGMIGSTLSG	960
Px	ASVLTTLNAVSLPWTLIPTVLLLGLFIRYLKWLNAQAQSVKRLEGTTKSPVFGMIGSTLSG	960
NOQA	ASVLTTLNAVSLPWTLIPTVLLLGLFIRYLKWLNAQAQSVKRLEGTTKSPVFGMIGSTLSG	960
NP_001296082	ASVLTTLNAVSLPWTLIPTVLLLGLFIRYLKWLNAQAQSVKRLEGTTKSPVFGMIGSTLSG	960
DBM1Ac-S	ASVLTTLNAVSLPWTLIPTVLLLGLFIRYLKWLNAQAQSVKRLEGTTKSPVFGMIGSTLSG	960
G88	ASVLTTLNAVSLPWTLIPTVLLLGLFIRYLKWLNAQAQSVKRLEGTTKSPVFGMIGSTLSG	960
Btdeletion	-----	509
NOQA_WAITE	MSTIRSSDSQDRLIKNFDDCQNLHTSAFHTYIGGATAFGFYLDMICLVYLASILSIFILI	1013
Bt	MSTIRSSDSQDRLIKTFDDCQNLHTSAFHTYIGGATAFGFYLDMICLVYLASILSIFILI	1020
Pa	MSTIRSSDSQDRLIKTFDDCQNLHTSAFHTYIGGATAFGFYLDMICLVYLASILSIFILI	1020
SBt	MSTIRSSDSQDRLIKTFDDCQNLHTSAFHTYIGGATAFGFYLDMICLVYLASILSIFILI	1020
Px	MSTIRSSDSQDRLIKTFDDCQNLHTSAFHTYIGGATAFGFYLDMICLVYLASILSIFILI	1020
NOQA	MSTIRSSDSQDRLIKTFDDCQNLHTSAFHTYIGGATAFGFYLDMICLVYLASILSIFILI	1020
NP_001296082	MSTIRSSDSQDRLIKNFDDCQNLHTSAFHTYIGGATAFGFYLDMICLVYLASILSIFILI	1020
DBM1Ac-S	MSTIRSSDSQDRLIKNFDDCQNLHTSAFHTYIGGATAFGFYLDMICLVYLASILSIFILI	1020
G88	MSTIRSSDSQDRLIKNFDDCQNLHTSAFHTYIGGATAFGFYLDMICLVYLASILSIFILI	1020

Btdeletion	-----	509
NOQA_WAITE	DFADVIPVGSV-----TVLLQLAARFTSDFLAQMTAVERVLEYTKLPHEENINDG	1063
Bt	DFADVIPVGSVGLAVSQSMVLTVLLQLAARFTSDFLAQMTAVERVLEYTKLPHEENINDG	1080
Pa	DFADVIPVGSVGLAVSQSMVLTVLLQLAARFTSDFLAQMTAVERVLEYTKLPHEENINDG	1080
SBt	DFADVIPVGSVGLAVSQSMVLTVLLQLAARFTSDFLAQMTAVERVLEYTKLPHEENINDG	1080
Px	DFADVIPVGSVGLAVSQSMVLTVLLQLAARFTSDFLAQMTAVERVLEYTKLPHEENINDG	1080
NOQA	DFADVIPVGSVGLAVSQSMVLTVLLQLAARFTSDFLAQMTAVERVLEYTKLPHEENINDG	1080
NP_001296082	DFADVIPVGSVGLAVSQSMVLTVLLQLAARFTSDFLAQMTAVERVLEYTKLPHEENINDG	1080
DBM1Ac-S	DFADVIPVGSVGLAVSQSMVLTVLLQLAARFTSDFLAQMTAVERVLEYTKLPHEENINDG	1080
G88	DFADVIPVGSVGLAVSQSMVLTVLLQLAARFTSDFLAQMTAVERVLEYTKLPHEENINDG	1080
Btdeletion	-----	509
NOQA_WAITE	PTQPPKTWPAEGNIKFENVFLTYSLDPPVLKNINFEIQSGWKVGVVGRGTGAGKSSLISA	1123
Bt	PTQPPKTWPAEGNIKFENVFLTYSLDPPVLKNINFEIQSGWKVGVVGRGTGAGKSSLISA	1140
Pa	PTQPPKTWPAEGNIKFENVFLTYSLDPPVLKNINFEIQSGWKVGVVGRGTGAGKSSLISA	1140
SBt	PTQPPKTWPAEGNIKFENVFLTYSLDPPVLKNINFEIQSGWKVGVVGRGTGAGKSSLISA	1140
Px	PTQPPKTWPAEGNIKFENVFLTYSLDPPVLKNINFEIQSGWKVGVVGRGTGAGKSSLISA	1140
NOQA	PTQPPKTWPAEGNIKFENVFLTYSLDPPVLKNINFEIQSGWKVGVVGRGTGAGKSSLISA	1140
NP_001296082	PTQPPKTWPAEGNIKFENVFLTYSLDPPVLKNINFEIQSGWKVGVVGRGTGAGKSSLISA	1140
DBM1Ac-S	PTQPPKTWPAEGNIKFENVFLTYSLDPPVLKNINFEIQSGWKVGVVGRGTGAGKSSLISA	1140
G88	PTQPPKTWPSQGNIKFENVFLTYSLDPPVLKNINFEIQSGWKVGVVGRGTGAGKSSLISA	1140
Btdeletion	-----	509
NOQA_WAITE	LFRLTNLDGSIKIDGIDTIGIAKQELRAKISIIIPQEPVLF SATLRYNLDPFDLYSDDDIW	1183
Bt	LFRLTNLDGSIKIDGIDTIGIAKQELRAKISIIIPQEPVLF SATLRYNLDPFDLYSDDDIW	1200
Pa	LFRLTNLDGSIKIDGIDTIGIAKQELRAKISIIIPQEPVLF SATLRYNLDPFDLYSDDDIW	1200
SBt	LFRLTNLDGSIKIDGIDTIGIAKQELRAKISIIIPQEPVLF SATLRYNLDPFDLYSDDDIW	1200
Px	LFRLTNLDGSIKIDGIDTIGIAKQELRAKISIIIPQEPVLF SATLRYNLDPFDLYSDDDIW	1200
NOQA	LFRLTNLDGSIKIDGIDTIGIAKQELRAKISIIIPQEPVLF SATLRYNLDPFDLYSDDDIW	1200
NP_001296082	LFRLTNLDGSIKIDGIDTIGIAKQELRAKISIIIPQEPVLF SATLRYNLDPFDLYSDDDIW	1200
DBM1Ac-S	LFRLTNLDGSIKIDGIDTIGIAKQELRAKISIIIPQEPVLF SATLRYNLDPFDLYSDDDIW	1200
G88	LFRLTNLDGSIKIDGIDTIGIAKQELRAKISIIIPQEPVLF SATLRYNLDPFDLYSDDDIW	1200
Btdeletion	-----	509
NOQA_WAITE	RALEQVELKDVPALDYKVSEGGSNF SVGQRQLLCLARAVLRSNKILVMDEATANVDPQT	1243
Bt	RALEQVELKDVPALDYKVSEGGSNF SVGQRQLLCLARAVLRSNKILVMDEATANVDPQT	1260
Pa	RALEQVELKDVPALDYKVSEGGSNF SVGQRQLLCLARAVLRSNKILVMDEATANVDPQT	1260
SBt	RALEQVELKDVPALDYKVSEGGSNF SVGQRQLLCLARAVLRSNKILVMDEATANVDPQT	1260
Px	RALEQVELKDVPALDYKVSEGGSNF SVGQRQLLCLARAVLRSNKILVMDEATANVDPQT	1260
NOQA	RALEQVELKDVPALDYKVSEGGSNF SVGQRQLLCLARAVLRSNKILVMDEATANVDPQT	1260
NP_001296082	RALEQVELKDVPALDYKVSEGGSNF SVGQRQLLCLARAVLRSNKILVMDEATAHVDPQT	1260
DBM1Ac-S	RALEQVELKDVPALDYKVSEGGSNF SVGQRQLLCLARAVLRSNKILVMDEATANVDPQT	1260
G88	RALEQVELKDVPALDYKVSEGGSNF SVGQRQLLCLARAVLRSNKILVMDEATANVDPQT	1260
Btdeletion	-----	509
NOQA_WAITE	DALIQSTIRRQFAACTVLTIAHRLNTVMDS DRVLVMDKGEVVEFDHPYTLLSAPGSHLNF	1303
Bt	DALIQSTIRRQFAACTVLTIAHRLNTVMDS DRVLVMDKGEVVEFDHPYTLLSAGSHLNF	1320
Pa	DALIQSTIRRQFAACTVLTIAHRLNTVMDS DRVLVMDKGEVVEFDHPYTLLSAGSHLNF	1320
SBt	DALIQSTIRRQFAACTVLTIAHRLNTVMDS DRVLVMDKGEVVEFDHPYTLLSAGSHLNF	1320
Px	DALIQSTIRRQFAACTVLTIAHRLNTVMDS DRVLVMDKGEVVEFDHPYTLLSAGSHLNF	1320
NOQA	DALIQSTIRRQFAACTVLTIAHRLNTVMDS DRVLVMDKGEVVEFDHPYTLLSAGSHINF	1320
NP_001296082	DALIQSTIRRQFAACTVLTIAHRLNTVMDS DRVLVMDKGEVVEFDHPYTLLSAGSHLNF	1320
DBM1Ac-S	DALIQSTIRRQFAACTVLTIAHRLNTVMDS DRVLVMDKGEVVEFDHPYTLLSAPGSHLNF	1320
G88	DALIQSTIRRQFAACTVLTIAHRLNTVMDS DRVLVMDKGEVVEFDHPYTLLSAPGSHLNF	1320

Btdeletion	-----	509
NOQA_WAITE	MVEETGDNM-----	1312
Bt	MVEETGDNMSKALYDMAKKKYFDDHPQ	1347
Pa	MVEETGDNMSKALYDMAK-----	1338
Sbt	MVEETGDNMSKALYDMAKKKYFDDHPQ	1347
Px	MVEETGDNMSKALYDMP-----	1337
NOQA	MVEETGDNMSKALY-----	1334
NP_001296082	MVEETGDNMSKALYDMAKKKYFDDHPQ	1347
DBM1Ac-S	MVEETGDNMSKALYDMAKKKYFDDHPQ	1347
G88	MVEETGDNMSKALYDMAKKKYFDDHPQ	1347

There are some differences between the populations tested on this research and others from the database and besides the deletion of 1 base pair on the Bt population, the other interesting thing that we found is that the NO-QA population that is supposed to have a deletion (BAXTER, 2011), does not have any mutations.

The ABCC2 protein has two distinct sections, which mirror each other and is comprised of a transmembrane domain (TMD) containing multiple transmembrane regions and a nucleotide-binding domain (NBD). The TMDs and NBDs were arranged in the N- to C-terminus order of TMD-NBD-TMD-NBD, which is the classical domain architecture of a full transporter. By coupling and hydrolyzing ATP, NBDs provide energy and work together with TMDs to remove excessive substrates. Generally, two molecules of ATP are consumed during a single transportation cycle (WILKENS, 2015). To better show the extent of the deletion has on the protein we did a schematic of the ABCC2 demonstrating the deleted region (Figure 21).

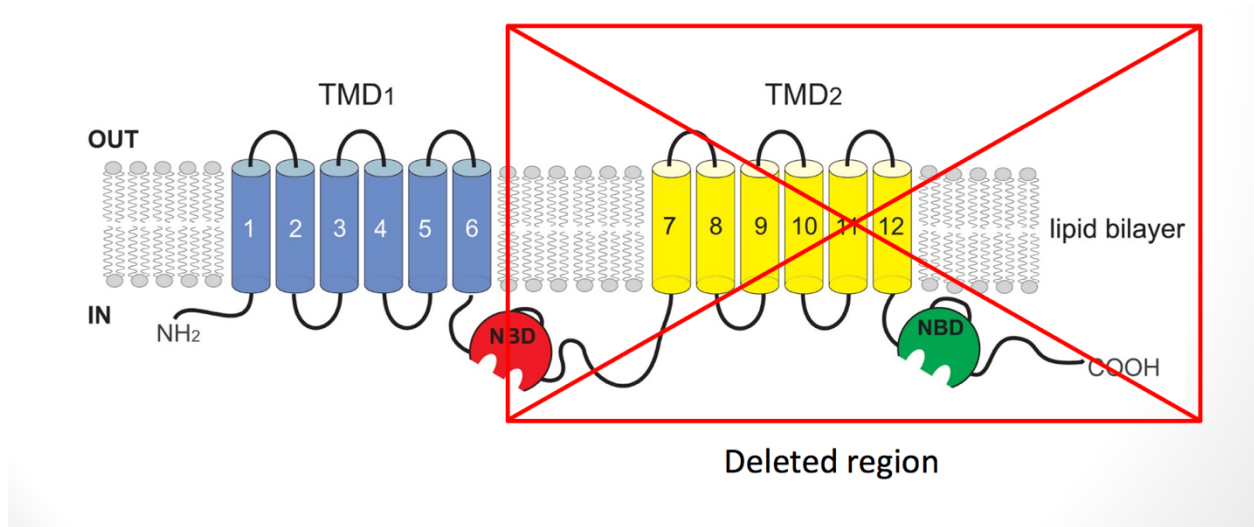


Figure 21: Schematic of ABCC2 displaying 12 transmembrane domains predicted using Phobius (<http://phobius.sbc.su.se/>) and two nucleotide-binding domains (NBD), showing the deleted region, in the Bt-resistant individuals, of the protein.

From the 1 base pair deletion, the reading will be changed and, the frameshift mutation will result in the synthesis of a nonfunctional protein.

4.10. Backcrossing the resistant population with the lab susceptible population

We have sequenced the ABCC2 DNA from five larvae from the 4th generation back cross. Two possible outcomes are as follows, (DNA positions in the ABCC2 gene are shown):

a) Px sequence without T deletion:

1459 ATC ATC GGA CCC GT 1472

b) Px sequence with T deletion:

1459 ATC ACG GAC CCG TG 1473

The results below showed that there was no deletion of T1463. The highlighted region shows the sequence used to search for the region of interest. In bold and underlined is the T that was found deleted in the Bt population and the bold region is normally found deleted in the ABCC2 gene of the NO-QA population. The 4GA1 sequencing results show that this T is still present.

>4GA1

AGCTGACGACGTGAGTGCGTCGTGGGGGGGTGAGGGGGACAAGGACCAGCACAC
GCTGCGCGGGGTGTCGATGCGCGTGCGCCGCGGCAAGCTGGCCGCC**ATCATCGG**
ACCCGTGGGATCCGGGAAGACCTTTAT

As the deletion was not found, the reamplification method was used on 4 additional fourth generation alive larvae: 4GA3, 4GA4, 4GA5, 4GA6 to obtain PCR product to be sequenced. Following reamplification, all 4 samples 4GA3-4GA6 now contained a band at 168bp as expected. All four of these would now be sequenced just like 4GA1. The sequencing results of 4GA4, 4GA5 and 4GA6 all show that there was also no deletion of T1463 in the ABCC2 gene. 4GA3 had problems with the sequencing so the sequence was not obtained. The sequencing results of 4GA4, 4GA5 and 4GA6 are shown below, underlined and in bold shows that T1463 is still present:

>4GA4

GGTCGAGCTGAACGACGTGAGTGCGTCGTGGGGGGGGTGTAAAGGGGGACAAGGA
CCAGCACACGCTGCGCGGGGTGTCGATGCGCGTGCGCCGCGGCAAGCTGGCCG
CCATCATCGGACCCGTGGGATCCGGGAAGAAGAACTTT

>4GA5

GCGTCGTGGGGGGGGTGAAGGGGGACAAGGACCAGCACACGCTGCGCGGGGTG
TCGATGCGCGTGCGCCGCGGCAAGCTGGCCGCCATCATCGGACCCGTGGGATCC
GGGAAGATGAGAAT

>4GA6

CGTCGTGGGGGGGGTGAAGGGGGACAAGGACCAGCACACGCTGCGCGGGGTGT
CGATGCGCGTGCGCCGCGGCAAGCTGGCCGCCATCATCGGACCCGTGGGATCCG
GGAAGACAGTCTTT

4.11. Complementation tests between Bt and NO-QAGE

The LC₅₀ in the first generations, both for Cry1Ac and HD1, showed that the Bt and NO-QA populations are still resistant after the crossing (Tables 8 to 11). Therefore, this complementation test indicated that the resistance Brazilian population shares a resistance allele with NO-QA, where resistance has been linked to a deletion in ABCC2.

Table 8. Probit analysis concentration-mortality response with Cry1Ac protein of *Bacillus thuringiensis* against second-instar *Plutella xylostella* larvae of crossing between NO-QA resistant male population X Bt Brazilian resistant female population.

Generations	n ^a	LC ₅₀ (95% C.I.) (µg/mL)	Slope ± SE	χ ²	DF	P-value
First	60	2.08 (1.75-2.44)	2.02 ± 0.23	4.57	4	0.3345
Second	60	0.37 (0.13-0.63)	1.07 ± 0.20	6.78	6	0.3417
Sixth			Not available			
Seventh	60	2.12 (1.68-2.63)	1.47 ± 0.20	7.63	4	0.1301
Eighth	60	11.5 (7.15-45.92)	0.98 ± 0.27	5.19	3	0.1582

^an = number of insects per concentration.

Table 9. Probit analysis concentration-mortality response with Cry1Ac protein of *Bacillus thuringiensis* against second-instar *Plutella xylostella* larvae of crossing between NO-QA resistant female population X Bt Brazilian resistant male population.

Generations	n ^a	LC ₅₀ (95% C.I.) (µg/mL)	Slope ± SE	χ ²	DF	P-value
First	60	1.73 (1.18-2.29)	2.24 ± 0.21	2.43	3	0.4883
Second	60	0.25 (0.12-0.39)	1.50 ± 0.25	5.53	4	0.2370
Sixth	60	2.05 (1.60-2.81)	1.37 ± 0.23	2.74	3	0.4333
Seventh	60	6.66 (4.49-12.29)	0.95 ± 0.60	1.08	4	0.3662
Eighth	60	7.78 (2.67-20.51)	0.52 ± 0.16	4.68	4	0.3224

^a n = number of insects per concentration.

Table 10. Probit analysis concentration-mortality response with HD-1 strain of *Bacillus thuringiensis* against second-instar *Plutella xylostella* larvae of crossing between NO-QA resistant male population X Bt Brazilian resistant female population.

Generations	n ^a	LC ₅₀ (95% C.I.) (spores/mL)	Slope ± SE	χ ²	DF	P-value
First	60	2.6 x 10 ⁶ (1.4x10 ⁶ -5.7x10 ⁶)	0.55 ± 0.09	5.79	4	0.2156
Second	60	7.1 x 10 ⁴ (2.07x10 ⁵ -4.5x10 ⁵)	0.79 ± 0.23	6.75	3	0.0803
Sixth	60	1.1 x 10 ⁶ (7.9 x10 ⁵ -1.6x10 ⁶)	0.75 ± 0.08	5.10	6	0.5308
Seventh	60	1.9 x 10 ⁶ (1.2 x10 ⁶ -3.1x10 ⁶)	1.19 ± 0.16	11.92	6	0.0636

^a n = number of insects per concentration.

Table 11. Probit analysis concentration-mortality response with HD-1 strain of *Bacillus thuringiensis* against second-instar *Plutella xylostella* larvae of crossing between NO-QA resistant female population X Bt Brazilian resistant male population.

Generations	n ^a	LC ₅₀ (95% C.I.) (spores/mL)	Slope ± SE	χ ²	DF	P-value
First	60	2.3x10 ⁶ (1.3x10 ⁶ -4.4x10 ⁶)	1.00 ± 0.16	9.67	5	0.0850
Second	60	Not available				
Sixth	60	1.6x10 ⁶ (1.1x10 ⁶ -2.3x10 ⁶)	1.07 ± 0.13	4.78	3	0.1882
Seventh	60	1.2x10 ⁷ (1.2x10 ⁷ -8.2x10 ⁹)	0.46 ± 0.15	1.88	3	0.1307

^a n = number of insects per concentration.

There are no genetic reason why the LC₅₀ drop in the 2nd generation. However our abcc2 sequencing did suggest that the Bt population was not fully resistant – i.e. we saw a mixture of mutated and non-mutated sequences. If there is a fitness cost associated with resistance in the Bt population then there might be an enrichment for non-resistant insects. Yet, after the sixth generation the LC₅₀ increases, indicating that resistance in Bt population is also in ABCC2.

5. DISCUSSION

Resistance of insects to Bt toxins has been mainly observed in the laboratory, including species such as *P. interpunctella*, *C. virescens*, *Spodoptera littoralis* (Boisduval, 1833) (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae), *Ostrinia nubilalis* (Hübner, 1796) (Lepidoptera: Crambidae), and *Culex quinquefasciatus* Say, 1823 (Diptera: Culicidae). Until recently only *P. xylostella* has shown field resistance and resistant insects have been selected from fields in Hawaii, Florida, Pennsylvania, Indonesia, Malaysia, Central America, several states of USA, and Philippines (SCHNEPF et al., 1998).

Due to many studies performed with Bt, there are a number of models to explain the mode of action of the toxins produced by this microorganism. As a result, the resistance development seems to involve various mechanisms, depending on the type of insect, the toxin, and the Bt strain. Reduced solubilization of the protoxin, alteration in the proteolytic processing, elimination of active toxin by precipitation and/or degradation, reduction of binding of the toxin to the membrane receptors in the midgut of insects, ABCC2 mutations in this gene, have been reported as mechanisms of resistance. Combination of these mechanisms might be involved in acquisition of resistance; however, it is possible that other mechanisms may be involved as well.

High levels of resistance to Cry1 toxins, due to reduced toxin binding, have been genetically linked to mutations or expression alterations of receptor genes. Many of these genes are potentially involved in protecting the insect against Bt toxins, since they respond to the pathogen once the larvae ingest the toxin. The diversity of genes that are differently expressed in the midgut of resistant insects, implying in a variety of cell processes that are related to the resistance preservation (AYRA-PARDO et al., 2015). Some of these genes were tested in this study.

According to the literature (GUO et al., 2015)., resistant populations tested, would show down-regulation ALP, APN, ABCC2 genes and up-regulation of CDKAL1 and MAPK genes; the genes tested in this research demonstrate that there are no patterns in their expression in the resistant and/or the susceptible populations tested. Even

though previous reports supported that differential expressions of these genes are linked to loss toxin binding to the receptor and consequently resistance. Therefore we cannot conclude that the down-regulation of ALP, APN and ABCC2 genes and/or the up-regulation of CDKAL1 and MAPK are linked to resistant strain tested in this work.

Since it was proposed that the role of ABCC2 is a receptor protein involved in facilitating insertion of Cry1A oligomers into the membrane (HECKEL, 2012). The toxin has been proposed to bind to the open state of the ABCC2 transporter; closure of the channel then forces the toxin into the cell membrane where it forms a pore. Mutations in these genes were linked to create resistant colonies from different insect species such as *P. xylostella*, *T. ni* (BAXTER et al., 2011) and *B. mori* (ATSUMI et al., 2012).

Alternatively ABCC2 might not be acting as a receptor but mutations in its gene could indirectly affect susceptibility to Bt. One possibility is that an altered function of ABCC2 could mimic a pathogen attack and result in physiological changes that protect the cell from toxin. Such a change might be the down-regulation of a receptor gene.

Our results didn't demonstrate any link between Bt resistance and an increase of basal expression of CDKAL1 and MAPK genes or/and a decrease of ALP, APN, ABCC2 genes.

Since no pattern was found on expression of genes linked to Bt resistance we decided to sequence the whole ABCC2 gene; as the ABCC2 gene is correlated with resistance to Cry1Ac in *C. virescens* (BAXTER et al., 2010), and mutations on this gene have been shown to cause Bt resistance in several other insect species, and in particular a deletion was identified in a resistant population of *P. xylostella* (BAXTER, 2011), it was decided to check whether or not there were such deletions or other mutations in this region in the populations under test. When we sequenced the Bt population it showed two different sequences, one of which has a 1 base pair deletion. Clearly this deletion is responsible for the resistant phenotype. We considered three explanations as to why there was a mixture of sequences:

- 1) That there had been differential splicing – if this region lay across a splice site then perhaps some exons were not joining properly. We checked this though and the region was in the middle of exon 9.

2) That the resistance allele is not recessive but dominant or partially dominant. In this case individuals that are heterozygous for the deletion would also be resistant. Possible, but unlikely given what we know about *P. xylostella* resistance.

3) That the population isn't fully resistant and that we extracted mRNA from a mixture of homozygotes and heterozygotes. This seems the most likely explanation. The best way to test that would be to extract mRNA only from individuals that had survived a reasonable dose of toxin.

The backcrossing assays was supposed to confirm that the resistance was due to the 1bp deletion, unfortunately that wasn't the case. The results showed that there was no deletion of T1463. There are two immediate explanations:

1) The deletion is not causing the resistance phenotype. This would be consistent with our "NO-QA" population that is resistant but doesn't have the 30bp deletion. It rather brings us back to stage one in terms of what is causing the resistance. If it's not a mutation, and not loss of expression, then what is it?

2) The second possibility is that the dose of toxin is not high enough to kill all of the homozygous/heterozygous susceptible larvae. By classic genetics 25% of the larvae in the F2 self-cross should be resistant and therefore the dose of toxin used should be killing 75% of the larvae.

On the other hand, the complementation assays indicated that the resistant Brazilian population shares a resistance allele with NO-QA, where resistance has been linked to a deletion in ABCC2. This indication was due to the LC_{50} that was still high after the crossing, both for Cry1Ac and HD1.

Our resistant population became resistant with HD1 selection that consists of 4 toxins, such as Cry1Ac, Cry1Ab, Cry1Aa, Cry2Aa (LIU et al., 1996). Does this population has cross resistance to others toxins that are not present in the HD1 strain? This question could be answered by testing other toxins and/or products that vanquish this resistance. Pathogenicity and virulence assays should be carried out to discover novel toxins that are active against this insect strain (STEPHEN; ELKINGTON, 2004). If there are other alternative toxins and/or products that kills the resistance phenotype, this

could be applied in Genetically Modified Plants (YI et al., 2011). The toxins that are active against this mutated *P. xylostella* could be incorporated in cruciferous plants.

Also, genetic manipulation of Bt toxins for improvement on toxicity can be carried out to overcome this resistance. Domain switch is a possibility to produce toxins that are more toxic and by this killing *P. xylostella* that are resistant (DEIST et al., 2014). So, research on other alternative methods should be carried out to overcome this resistance, improving tactics for *P. xylostella* Integrated Pest Management.

5. CONCLUSIONS

- NO-QA and Bt populations are proven to be resistant;
- No link between Bt resistance and an increase of basal expression of CDKAL1 and MAPK genes or/and a decrease of ALP, APN, ABCC2 genes were found;
- A 1 base pair deletion was found in the ABCC2 gene of the resistant Brazilian *Plutella xylostella* population;
- Clearly this deletion is responsible for the resistant phenotype;
- Backcrossing assays didn't confirm that the resistance was due to the 1bp deletion;
- Complementation assays indicated that the resistant Brazilian population shares a resistance allele with NO-QA;
- The mechanism of Bt resistance in *P. xylostella* is via mutations in the same locus that results in mutation of ABCC2.

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