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Disentangling drought-responsive traits with focus on *Arabidopsis*

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Citation

Thonglim, A. (2023, November 9). *Disentangling drought-responsive traits with focus on Arabidopsis*. Retrieved from <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/3656528>

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Note: To cite this publication please use the final published version (if applicable).

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In December 2018, my Ph.D. journey began as I left the bright hot days of Thailand for the chilly winters in the Netherlands. This transition was both challenging and eye-opening, as it introduced me to a whole new world. I can honestly say that it was tough, but it turned out to be an amazing experience. I am grateful for all the obstacles that came my way because, with each difficulty, I discovered wonderful people and learned valuable lessons. Every hurdle shaped me into the person I am today. Therefore, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to the amazing people and institutions who have been a constant source of support and guidance throughout my incredible PhD journey, especially during the difficult times brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. Their presence and contributions have deeply touched my heart.

First and foremost, I am forever thankful to my daily supervisor, Dr. Frederic Lens. Your guidance, knowledge, and patience have been priceless to me. Despite the personal challenges we faced, you always encouraged me, shared your insights, and stood by my side throughout every step of this journey. I am also grateful to my fellow researchers and colleagues who directly collaborated on this PhD project. Your time and valuable contributions were not only helpful but also your positive and uplifting vibes cheered me up during the hard times. Special thanks also go to the technicians from Naturalis Biodiversity Center, Leiden University, and the University of Bordeaux for their mentorship and assistance in processing numerous samples with perfect results.

To the incredible Functional Traits group, thank you for your support and empathy, both academically and emotionally. Despite the physical distance imposed by the pandemic, our intellectual connections remained strong. Engaging in meaningful discussions, sharing constructive feedback, and creating a supportive environment enriched my understanding and shaped my research in incredible ways. Together, we have proven that even in the darkest times, collaboration and friendship can bring light. A big thanks to all the fellow PhDs at Naturalis –without citing names (to not forget anyone).

You were always kind and cheerful, even though I could not attend all the activities. You all made my journey full of joy turning this cold part of the world warmer 😊. Special thanks also go to the 'spicy girls' - Dewi, Deyi, Eka, Le Qin, and Richa - for making me feel at home. Our time was amazing, and you filled the Netherlands with smiles and laughter. It was truly priceless.

To my cherished family, your unconditional love and unwavering support have been my pillar of strength and my driving force throughout this journey. A very special thanks to Pablo for always being there for me. Your love, belief in me, and patience during tough moments have carried me through the most challenging times. And to Pablo's family, thank you for being a second home that I can always come to. I deeply appreciate it. Muchas Gracias!

CURRICULUM VITAE

Ajaree Thonglim was born on January 14th, 1993, in Nakhon Pathom, Thailand. She completed her 4-year bachelor's degree in biology with First-class honors in 2015 at Kasetsart University, Thailand. During her undergraduate course, she



studied the morphological and anatomical features of the leaves of various species of the genus *Cycas* L. and used these traits to build a species identification key. Driven by her fascination with plant anatomy and functional traits, she pursued a master's degree in Botany at Kasetsart University, investigating the anatomical adaptation of mangrove species in the genus *Rhizophora* (Rhizophoraceae), and she successfully completed her MSc degree in 2018. Throughout her bachelor's and master's studies, she actively shared her research findings at scientific meetings, particularly those organized by the Botanical Society of Thailand. During her university education, a scholarship from the Development and Promotion of Science and Technology Talents Project (DPST) was awarded to her, jointly administered by the Ministry of Science and Technology, the Ministry of Education, and The Institute for the Promotion of Teaching Science and Technology (IPST). Later in 2018, she received another scholarship from the same funding agency. This scholarship granted her the opportunity to pursue her PhD at Leiden University and Naturalis Biodiversity Center in the Netherlands under the supervision of Dr. Frederic Lens and Prof. Dr. Erik Smets. Her PhD project was focused on drought-responsive strategies in different genotypes of *Arabidopsis thaliana*, with a small focus on *Solanum lycopersicum*.

During her PhD, she had the opportunity to regularly visit the laboratory of Dr. Sylvain Delzon at the University of Bordeaux, France, where she conducted water transport measurements on stems under special laboratory conditions that simulate drought stress. She also collaborated

with Dr. Giovanni Bortolami at Naturalis Biodiversity Center on a project involving root pressure and used advanced X-ray scanning technology at the University of Ghent, Belgium, to examine the impact of root pressure on drought recovery in tomato plants. She actively participated in international scientific meetings and adapted to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic by presenting her research online. Her PhD research resulted in two peer-reviewed SCI papers published as first author, with another manuscript in preparation for publication. The findings of her research are compiled in this thesis, showcasing her dedication and contributions to the scientific community.

List of publications

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Thonglim A., Bortolami G., Delzon S., Larter M., Offringa R., Karami O., Rahimi A., Keurentjes J. J., Smets E., Balazadeh S., Lens F. 2022. Disentangling drought tolerance in six *Arabidopsis* genotypes with contrasting stem lignification. The 2022 International Youth Forum for Wood Anatomy and the 9th IAWA-China Group Annual Meeting, Guangzhou, China, 9-12 December 2022. (Oral presentation)