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RÉSUMÉ

The wheat dwarf virus (WDV), is transmitted by the leafhopper *Psammotettix alienus*. Symptoms in infected plants are: dwarfism, significant reduction in tillering and leaf chlorosis. When infection occurs at the seedling stage during early autumn, yield losses can reach up to 80%, highlighting the substantial economic impact of this disease. In the centre and north-east of France, symptoms have become increasingly prevalent in recent years. The effectiveness of conventional insecticides is limited due to the high mobility of the leafhoppers. Plant breeding offers a promising approach for disease control and partial resistance has already been identified for wheat.

MATÉRIEL - MÉTHODES

The CICABO project aims to identify genetic resistance to WDV in diverse wheat germplasm and make it available for breeding by identifying QTL. Workflow.

The workflow consists of five main stages: 1. Leafhopper rearing (showing plants in a growth chamber), 2. Artificial WDV infection (showing a setup with a fleece window, plexiglass cover, planting tray, and watering tray), 3. Phenotyping (showing wheat plants in a field), 4. GWAS (showing a Manhattan plot), and 5. Leafhopper feeding (showing a leafhopper on a plant and a close-up of the feeding site).

Phenotyping of 83-247 genotypes was conducted in the field and under artificial inoculation. Genotyping based on the Illumina 25K chip (Trait Genetics), followed by GWAS analysis. Detection of leafhopper resistance included feeding behavior observation by electrical penetration graph technique.

FIELDS TRIALS RESULTS

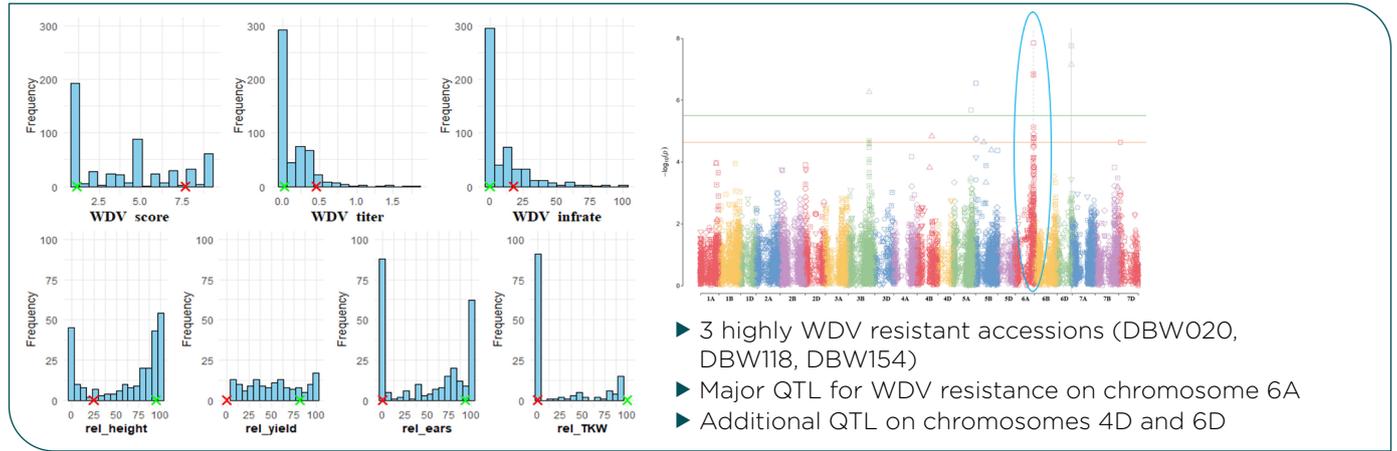
Phenotyping & GWAS

Two GWAS Manhattan plots are shown. The left plot, labeled 'RAGT_MEAN_N1', shows $-\log_{10}(p)$ values on the y-axis (0 to 6) and chromosomes (1A, 1B, 1D, 2A, 2B, 2D, 3A, 3B, 3D, 4A, 4B, 4D, 5A, 5B, 5D, 6A, 6B, 6D, 7A, 7B, 7D) on the x-axis. Two green ovals highlight significant peaks on chromosomes 1B and 3A. The right plot, labeled 'RAGT_MEAN_2N', shows $-\log_{10}(p)$ values on the y-axis (0.0 to 7.5) and the same chromosomes on the x-axis. A single green oval highlights a significant peak on chromosome 6A.

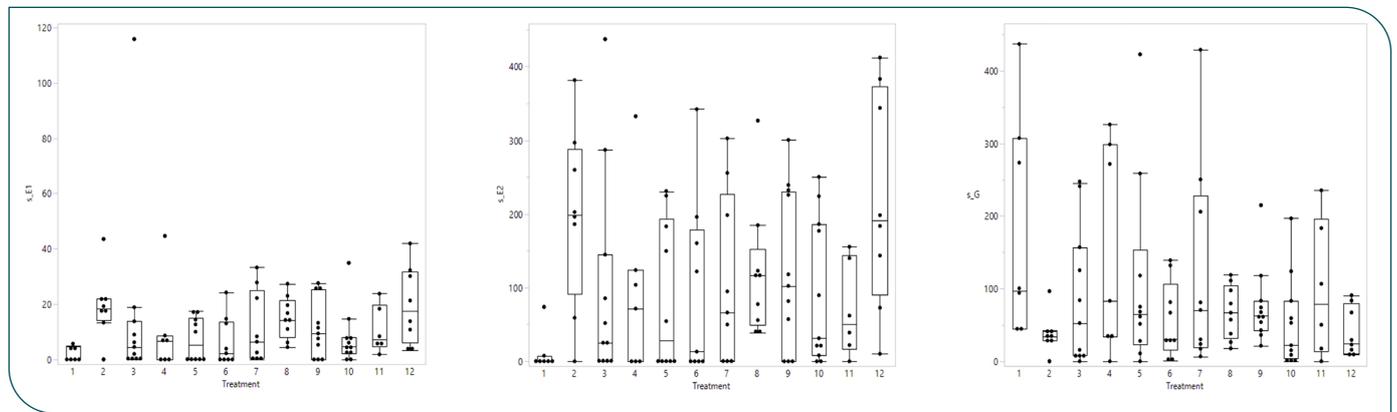
- ▶ Only one location used for the analysis out of 16
- ▶ Major QTL for WDV resistance on chromosome 6A
- ▶ Additional QTL on 1B and 3A

CONTROLLED CONDITIONS RESULTS

Phenotyping & GWAS



Leafhopper feeding behaviour



- ▶ Accession (DBW020) with high resistance to *P. alienus*
- ▶ Resistance located inside sieve elements

CONCLUSIONS

QTL WDV / wheat	Field conditions	Controlled conditions
Common, overlapping major QTL	6A (599–602 Mbp)	6A (601–603 Mbp)
Additional QTL identified in regions with described minor QTL	1B, 3A	1B, 3B, 4B, 4D, 5A, 5B, 6A, 6D
Putative novel QTL		4D, 6D

Genetics

Genetic architecture of WDV resistance proved to be complex, involving multiple QTLs with moderate effects and suggesting the existence of complementary mechanisms of direct virus resistance and vector resistance.

Breeding

The WDV resistance associated haplotype is carried by DBW020 and DBW110, reinforcing their relevance together with the discovered vector resistance in DBW020 for breeding programmes targeting joint vector/virus resistance.

Limitations

- ▶ Heterogeneous infection pressure
- ▶ WDV/BYDV co-infection
- ▶ Phytoplasma co-infection
- ▶ Variable transmission efficiency of WDV

