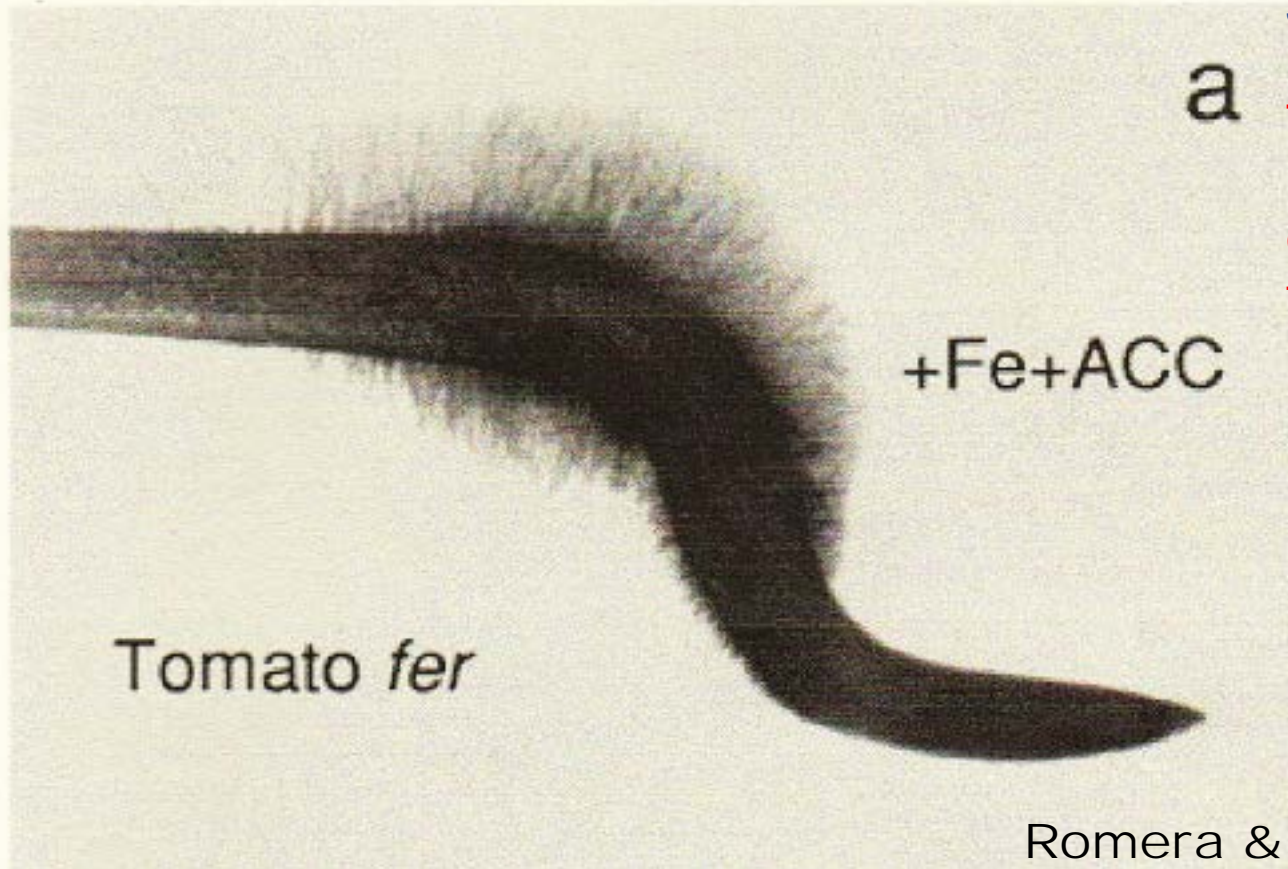


subapical root hairs by Fe-deficient plants. Additionally, these results show that different ethylene receptors could be involved in different processes.

The use of ethylene mutants to demonstrate a role for this hormone in the regulation of other Fe-deficiency stress

Justification to Fig. 5

The addition of ACC induces the formation of root hairs in the tomato *fer* mutant



Justification to
Fig. 6

The addition of
an ethylene
inhibitor (Co)
diminishes Fe
concentration in
shoots and,
consequently,
toxicity
symptoms (see
next page)

E107 = *brz*

Table 1. Effects of Co^{2+} on *E107* pea root Fe(III)-chelate reductase activity, shoot iron concentration, and shoot and root fresh weights (FW) of 19 day old, iron-sufficient seedlings

Treatment	Reductase activity ($\mu\text{mol Fe}^{2+} \text{ g RFW}^{-1} \text{ h}^{-1}$)	Shoot [Fe] ($\mu\text{g g DW}^{-1}$)	Shoot FW (g)	Root FW (g)
+Fe	1.45 (± 0.19)	849 (± 82)	2.6 (± 1.1)	2.3 (± 1.3)
+Fe, +Co	0.44 (± 0.20)	193 (± 23)	4.5 (± 1.1)	5.1 (± 0.5)

E107 seedlings were grown in nutrient solution supplied with $20 \mu\text{M}$ Fe(III) EDDHA from day 11. On day 12, $3 \mu\text{M}$ CoCl_2 was supplied to the cobalt treatment; mean \pm SEM ($n=6$).

responsible for Fe(III)-chelate reductase expression directly. However, ethylene may influence the expression of other genes prior to the induction of Fe(III)-chelate reductase synthesis, such as the genes involved in root morphological changes (e.g. root hair development). We have observed that

ACC promotes the development of root tips (swollen tips'), which is a prerequisite for Fe(III)-chelate reductase activity in roots under iron-deficient conditions. This observation supports the latter possibility.

Effects of cobalt and AOA on Fe(III)-chelate reductase activity in iron-sufficient seedlings

These experiments were conducted only with *E107* and *chloronerva* mutants because their normal parental genotypes suppress Fe(III)-chelate reducing capacity when supplied adequate iron (Scholz *et al.* 1988, Grusak *et al.* 1990, Welch & La Rue 1990). The addition of Co^{2+} ions ($3\ \mu\text{M}$) to the nutrient solution of iron-sufficient *E107* pea seedlings inhibited the development of root Fe(III)-chelate reducing capacity (Table 1). On day 18, the oldest leaves of the untreated iron-sufficient *E107* pea plants showed severe iron toxicity symptoms (i.e. leaf bronzing and inter-venial necrosis) while toxicity symptoms were absent in older leaves of iron-sufficient plants treated with cobalt. Toxicity symptoms were correlated with the iron concentration in shoots, with iron concentrations substantially lower in shoots of cobalt-treated plants (Table 1). The cobalt-treated, iron-sufficient seedlings grew normally and had higher root and shoot fresh weight than those plants not treated with cobalt.

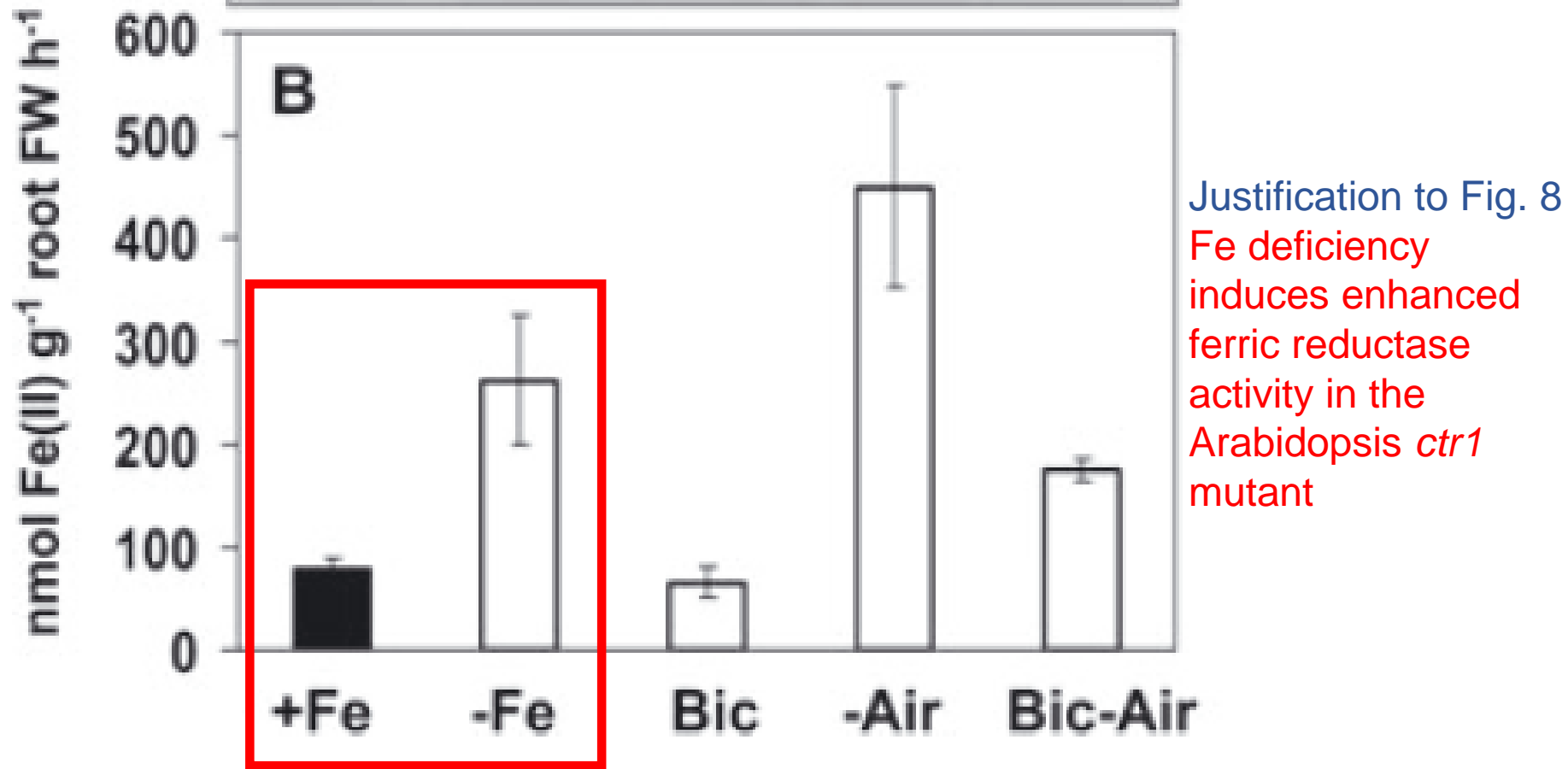


Fig. 4. Effects of bicarbonate and hypoxia on the expression of the Fe acquisition genes *AtFRO2*, *AtIRT1*, *AtFIT*, *AtbHLH038* and *AtbHLH039* (A) and on the ferric reductase activity (B) of Fe-deficient *Arabidopsis ctr1* plants. Treatments and determinations as in Fig. 2.