



# **GC-MS Based Metabolomics Revealed Defense and Detoxification Mechanism of Cucumber Plants Under Nano-Cu Stress**

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# Background



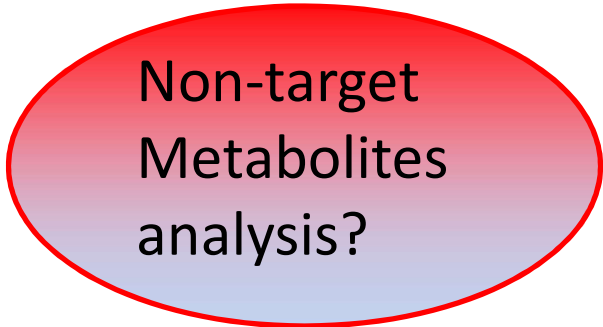
Sources:

[https://www.google.com/search?q=pesticide+spray&biw=1236&bih=636&source=lnms&tbn=isch&sa=X&ved=0CAYQ\\_AUoAWoVChMIhaSP0sT8yAIVRcljCh1joQ1F](https://www.google.com/search?q=pesticide+spray&biw=1236&bih=636&source=lnms&tbn=isch&sa=X&ved=0CAYQ_AUoAWoVChMIhaSP0sT8yAIVRcljCh1joQ1F)

# Interaction between NPs and crop plant?



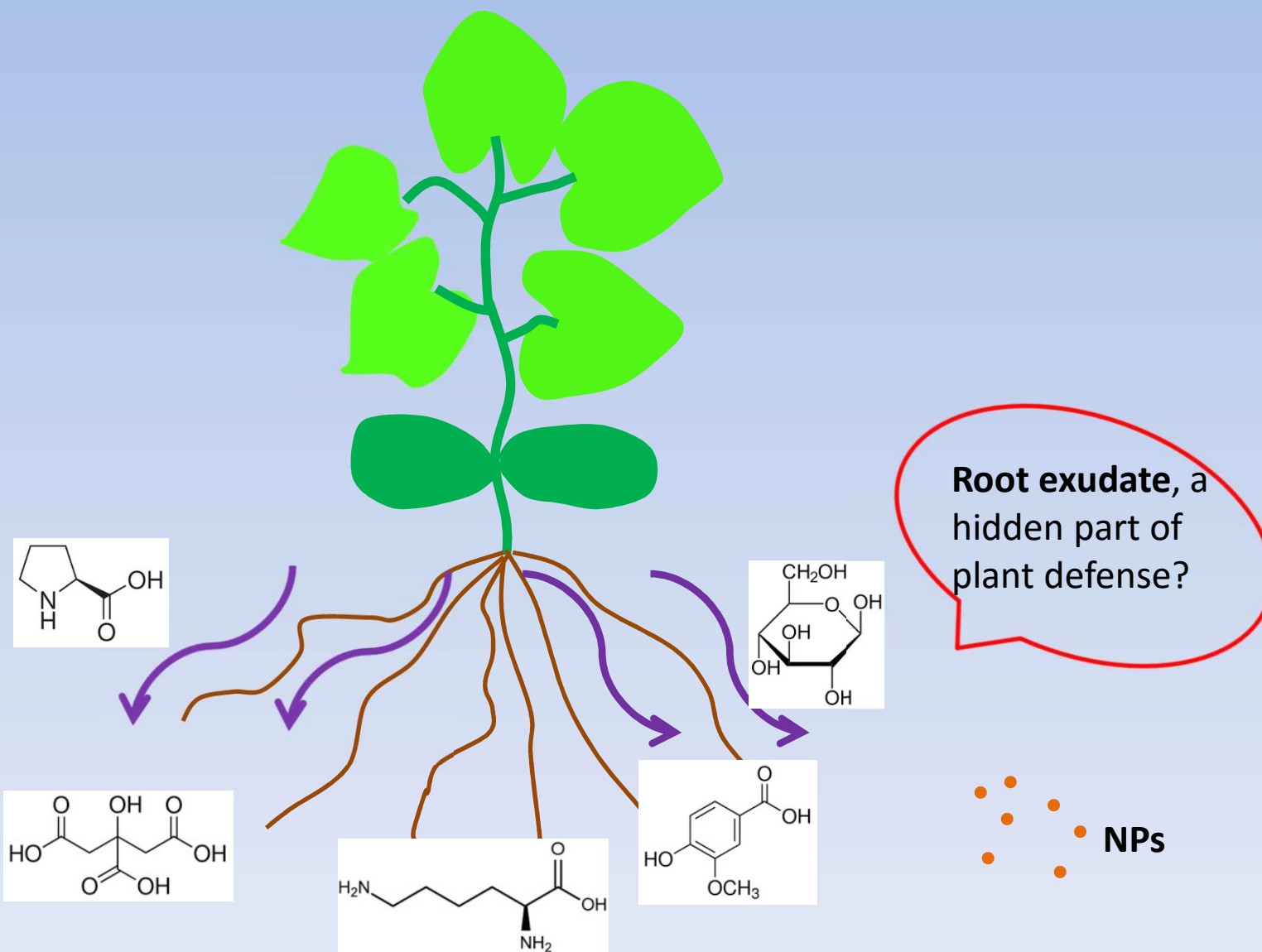
Target  
metabolites  
analysis?



Non-target  
Metabolites  
analysis?

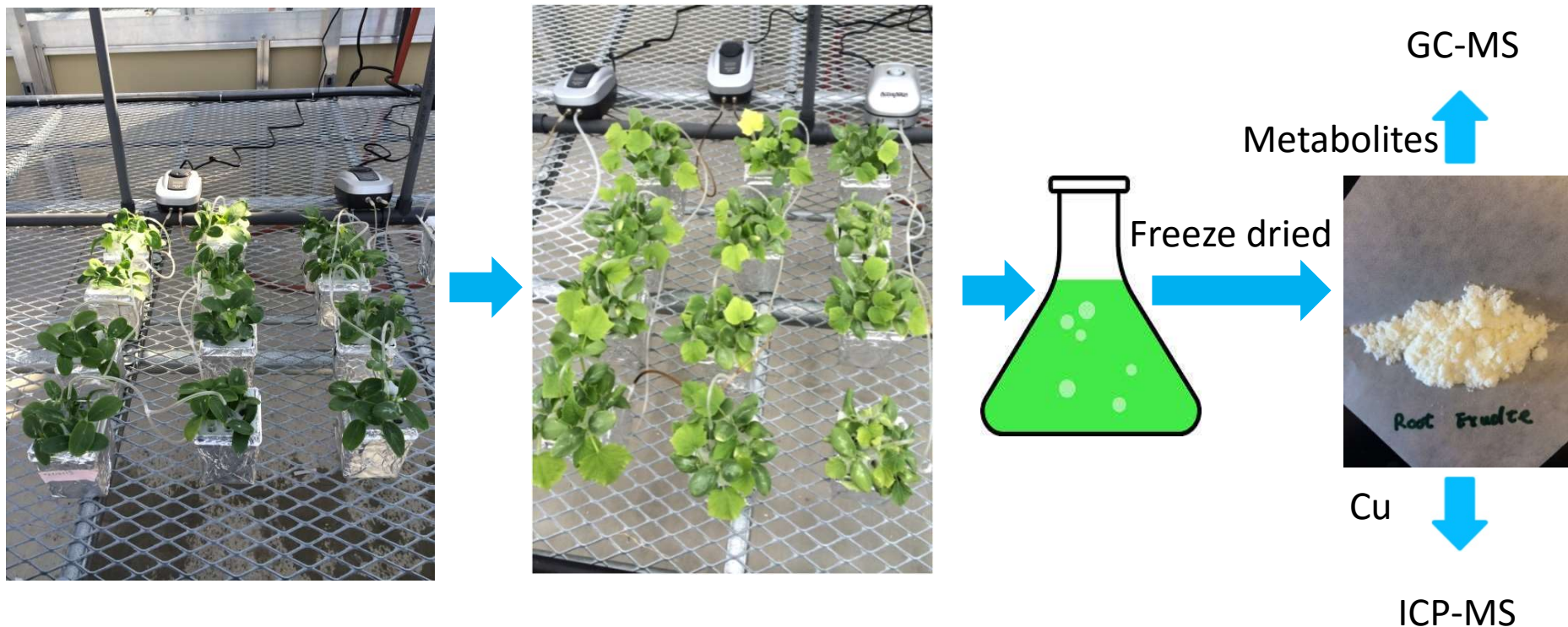
# Analytical platforms for environmental metabolomics

	<b>Sensitivity</b>	<b>Sample preparation</b>	<b>Structural information</b>
NMR	Low	Non-destructive; easy sample preparation	Yes
GC-MS	High	Requires sample derivatization	No
LC-MS	High	No requires sample derivatization	No

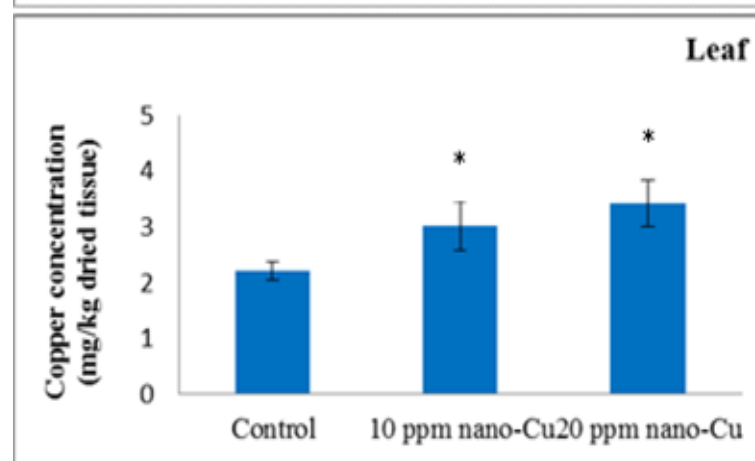
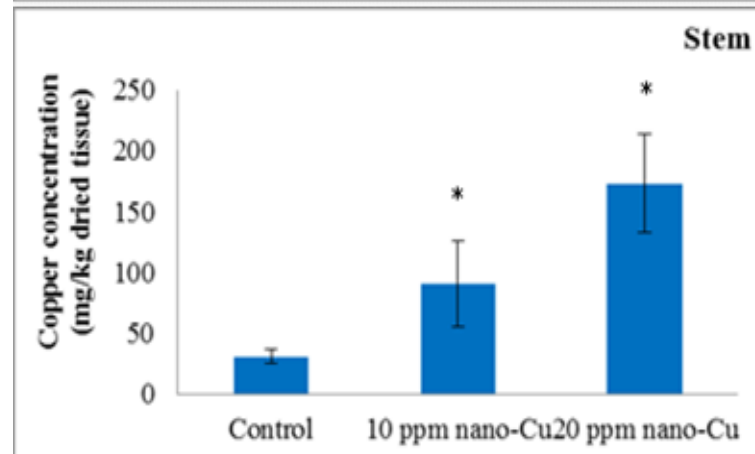
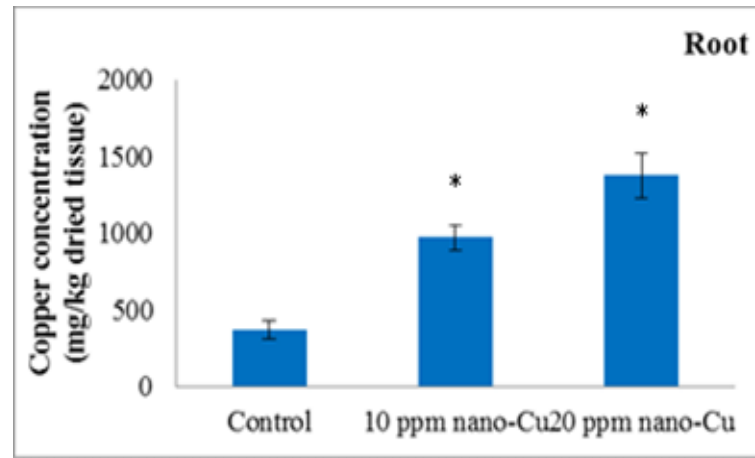




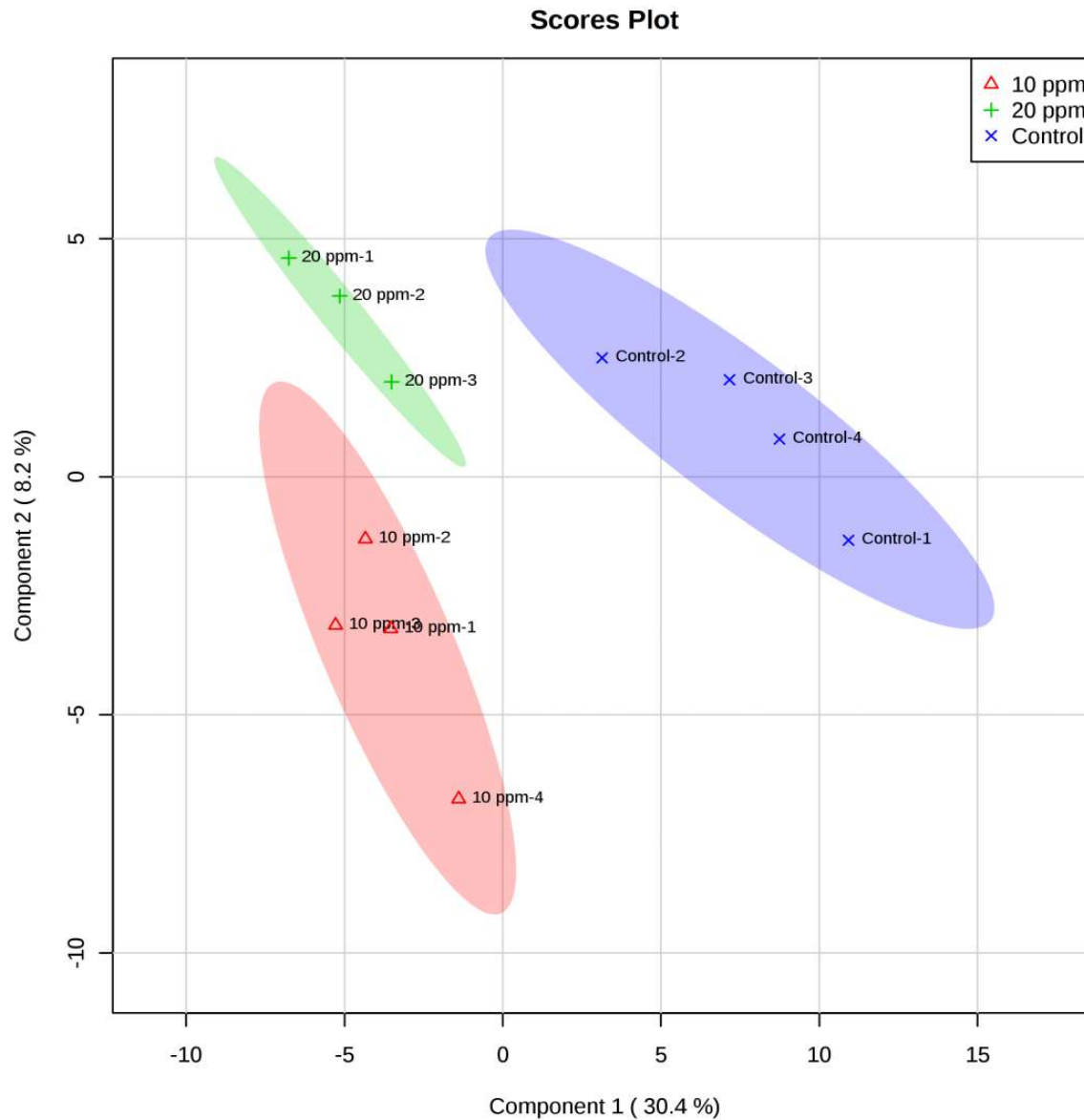
## Method



Two-week-old cucumber plants were exposed to nano-Cu (0, 10 ppm, 20 ppm) for one week.



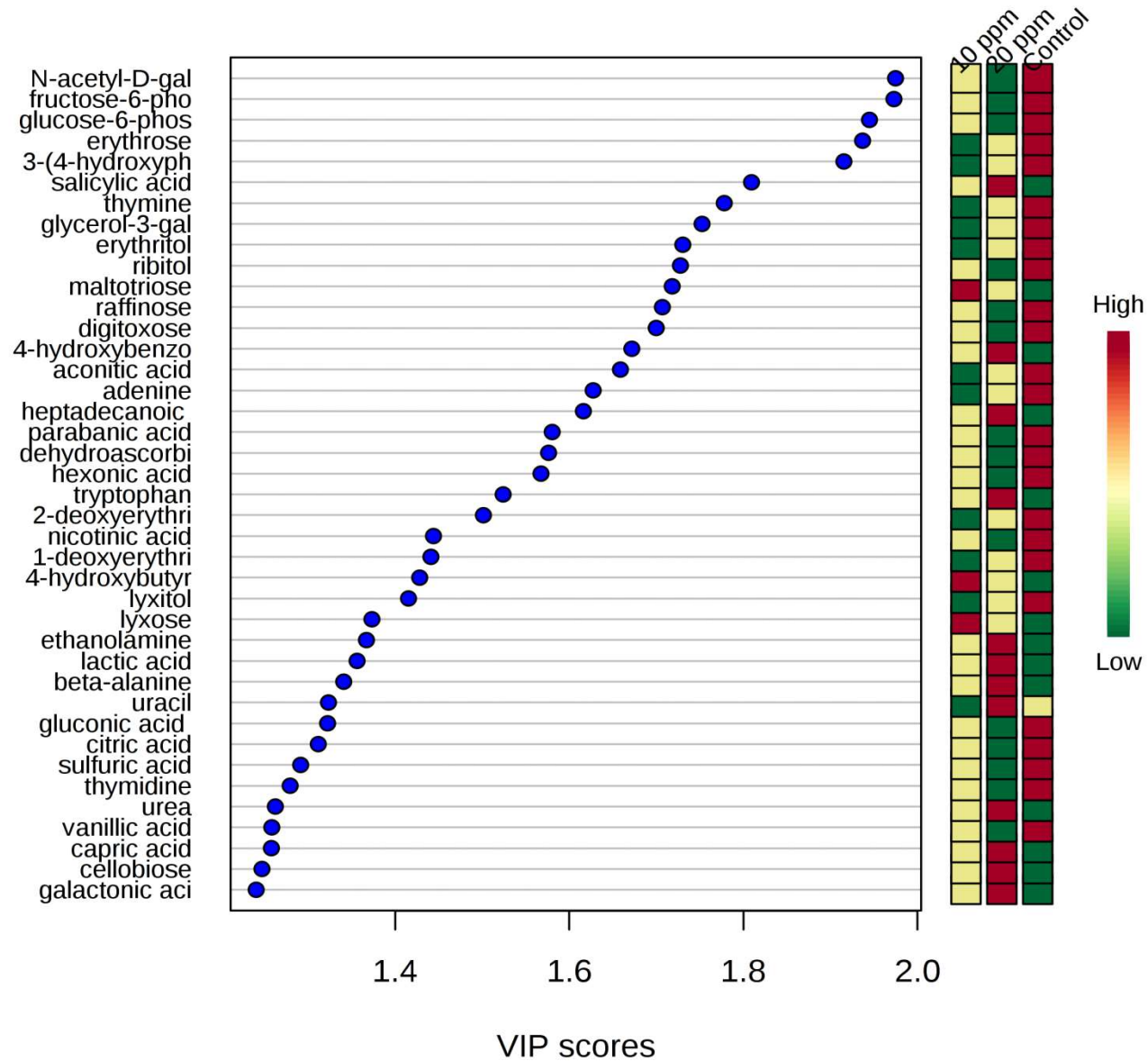
Cu concentrations in 3-week cucumber plants treated with 0, 10, and 20 mg/L nano-Cu.

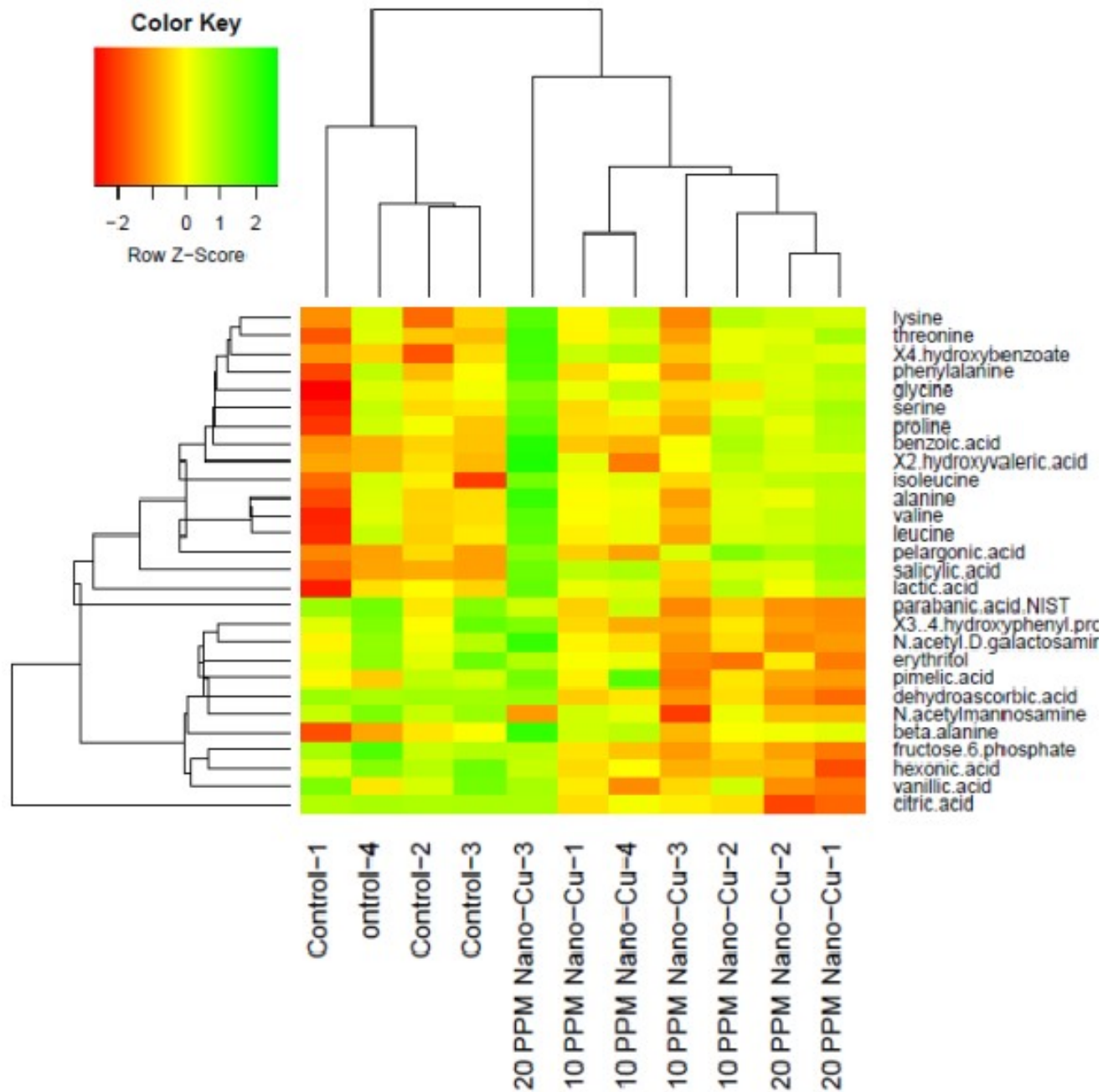


Partial least squares-discriminant analysis (PLS-DA) of cucumber fruits extract metabolites as affected by different concentrations of nano-Cu.



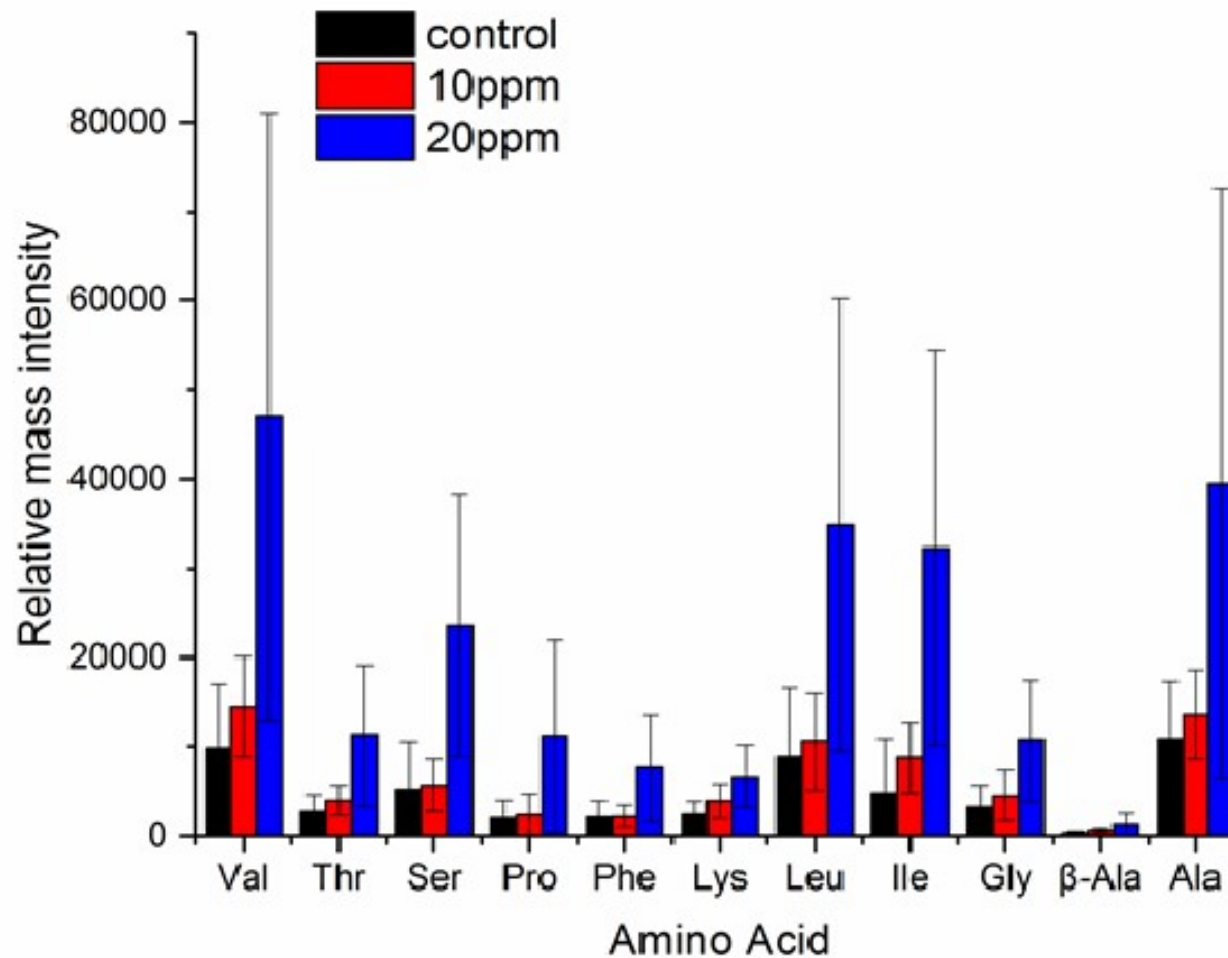
## VIP scores from PLS-DA analysis showing the discriminating metabolites



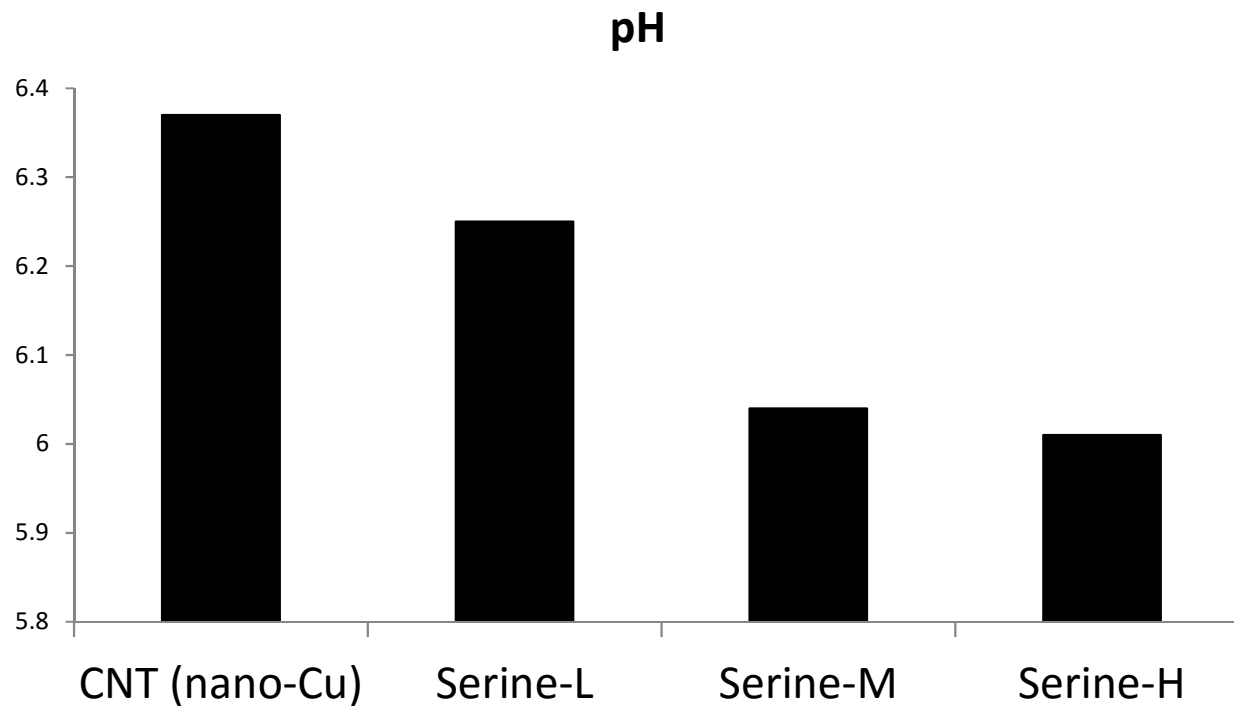


**Heatmap  
generated by  
hierarchical  
cluster  
analysis of  
GC-MS data**

## GC-MS quantification data of up-regulated amino acids in root exudates

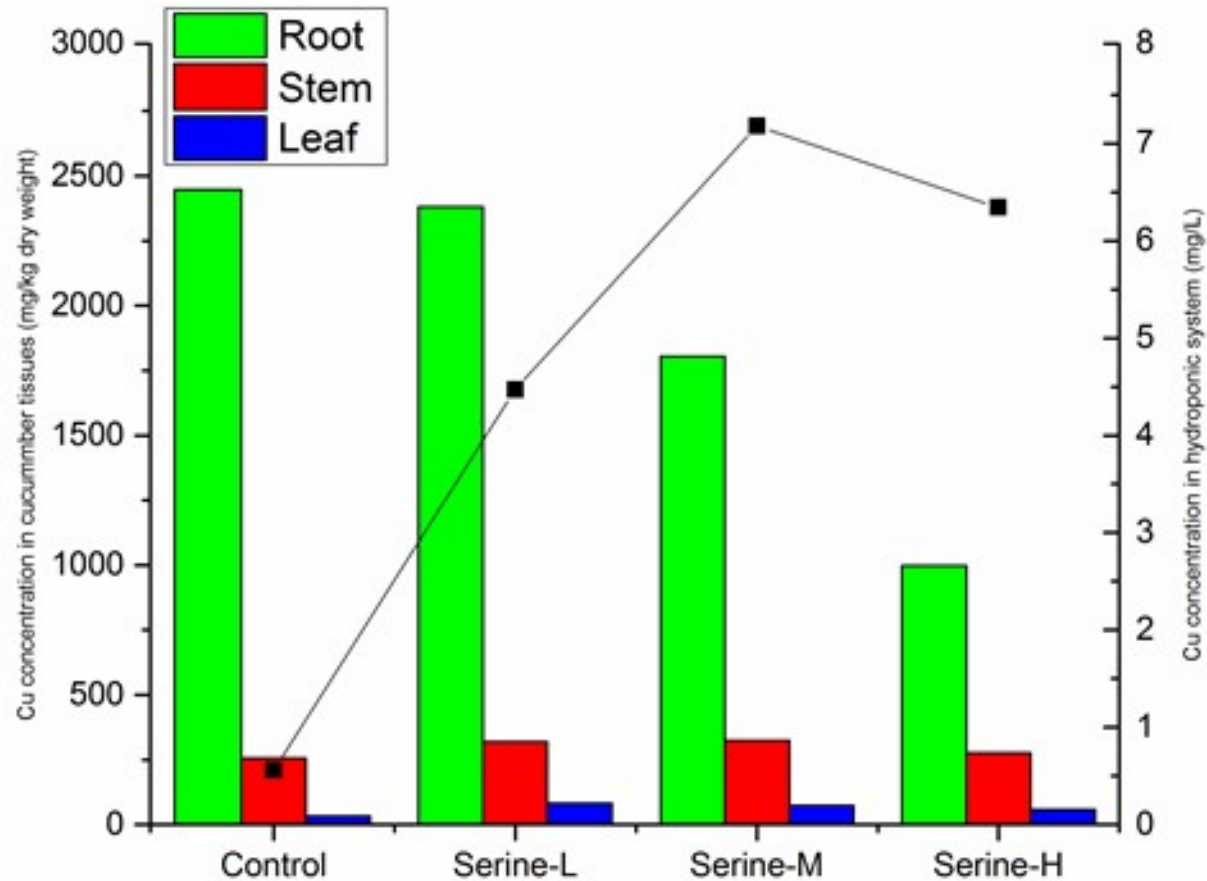


# pH value in hydroponic solutions

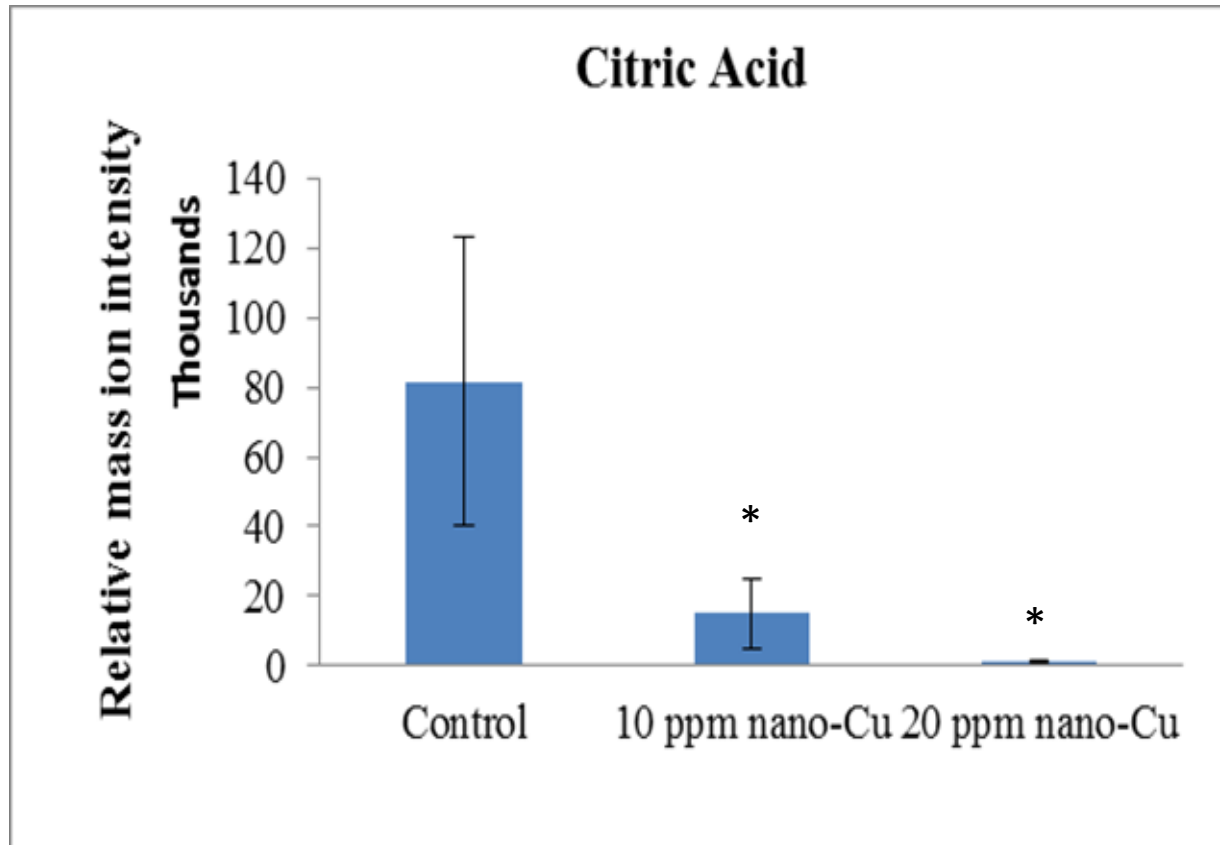


Two-week-old cucumber plants were exposed to 20 mg/L nano-Cu with different levels of serine (0, 6.25, 12.5, and 25 mM)

# Cu uptake in cucumber tissues and nutrient solution

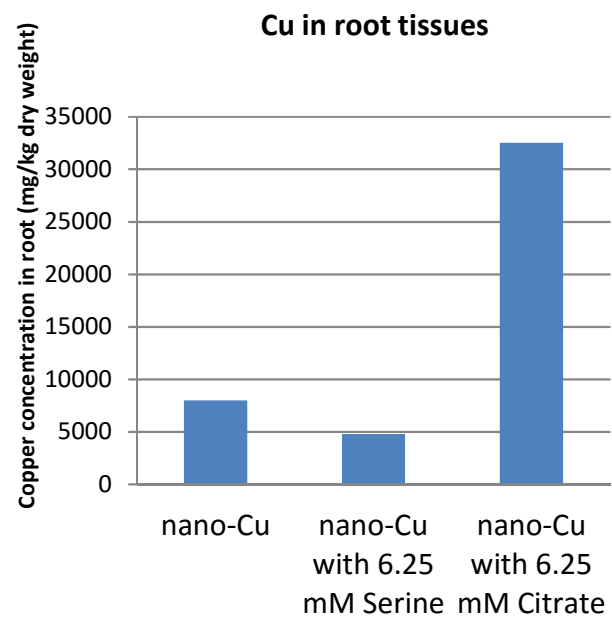
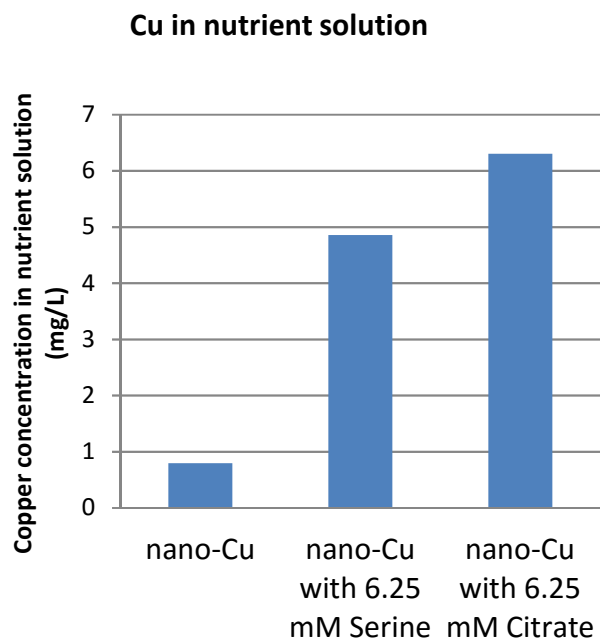
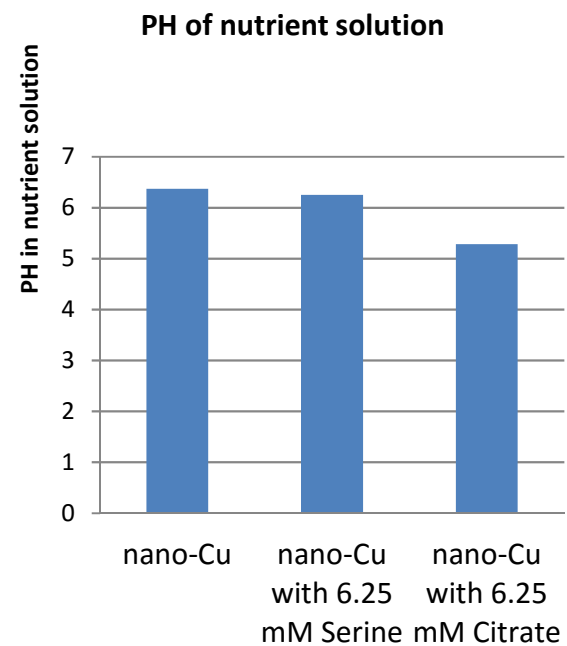


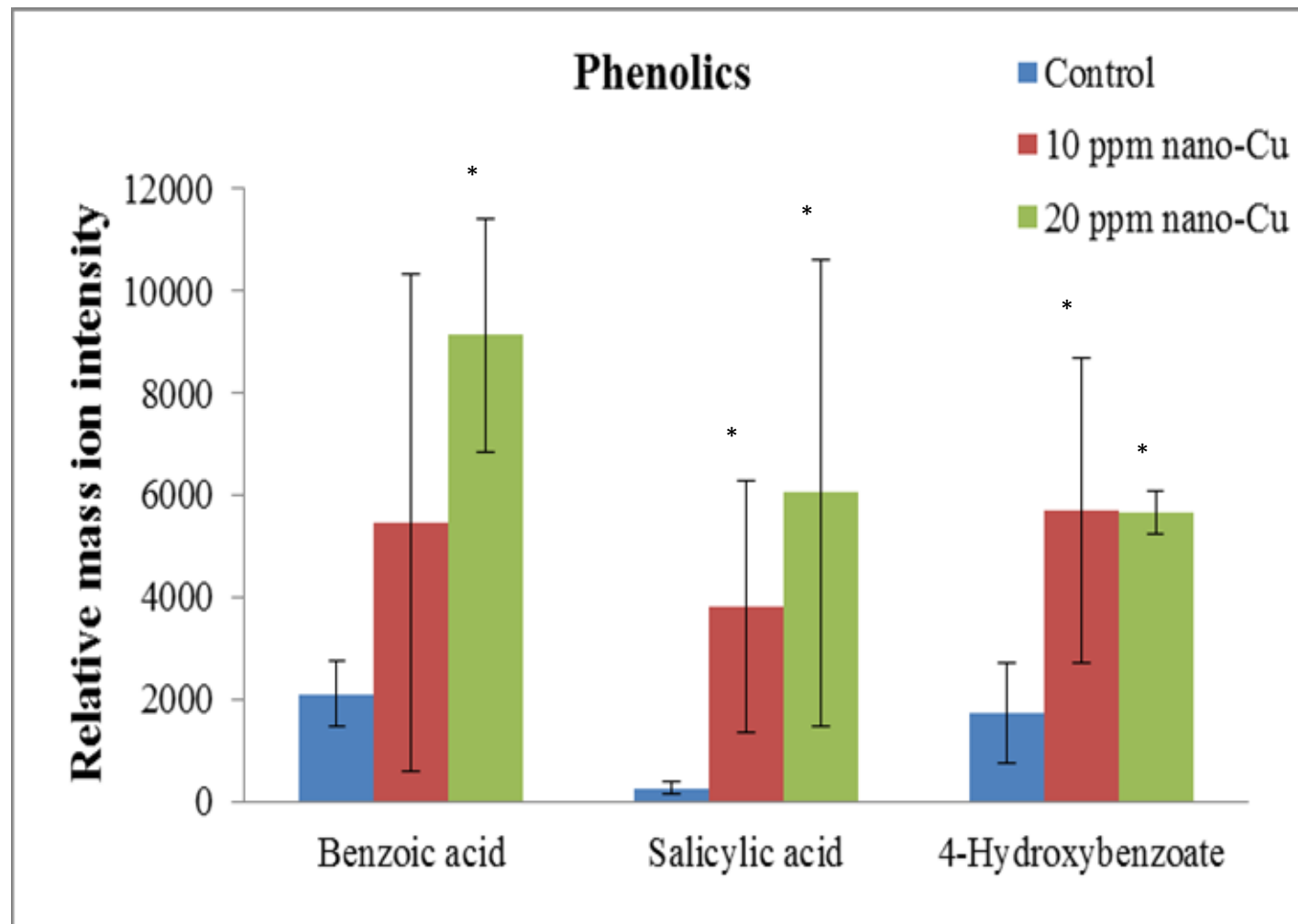
Two-week-old cucumber seedlings were cultivated in half strength of Hogland nutrient solution containing 20 mg/L nano-Cu with different levels of serine (0, 6.25, 12.5, and 25 mM) for 48 hours.

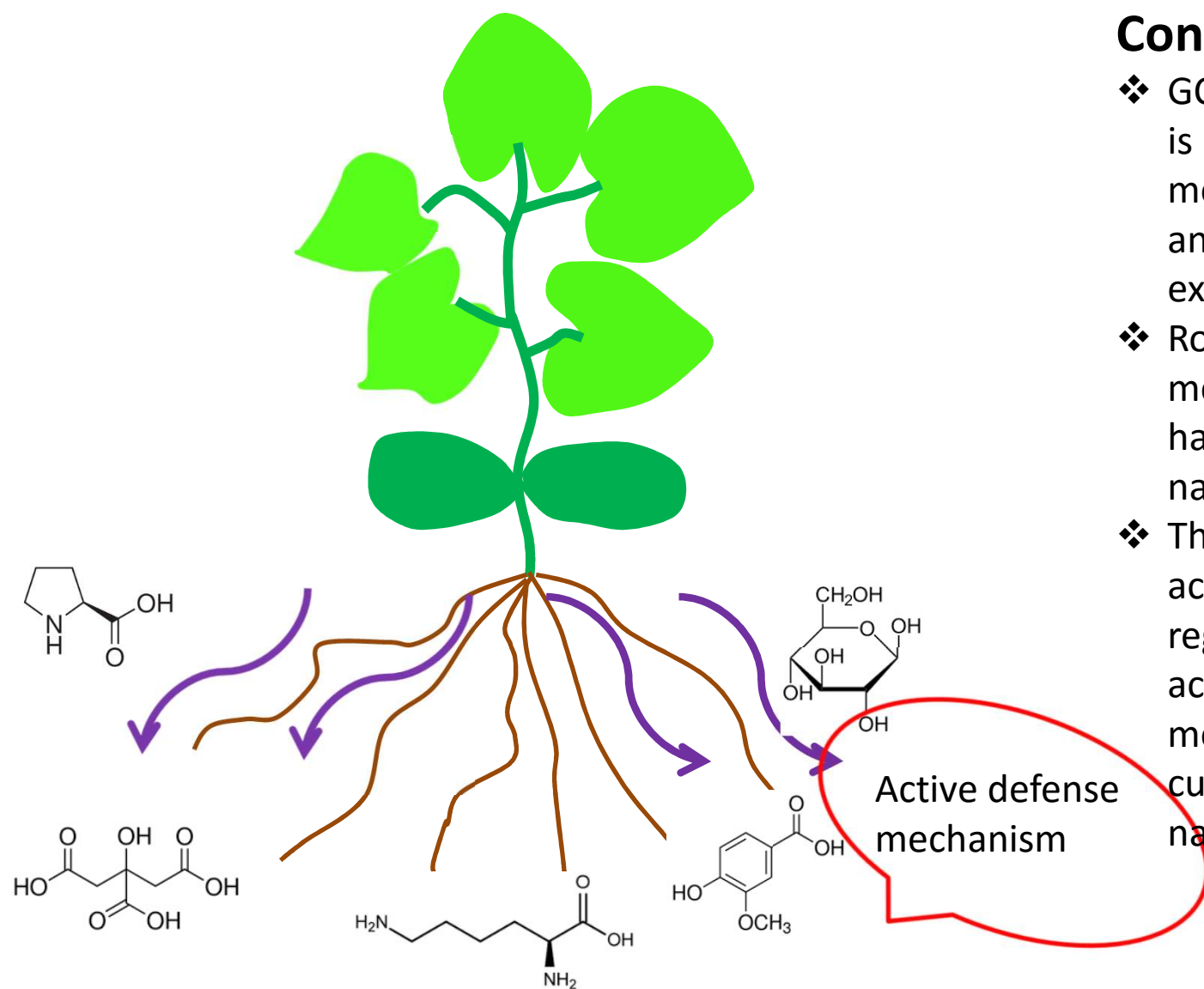


GC-MS quantification data citric acid in root exudates in response 10 mg/L and 20 mg/L nano-Cu.



**A****B****C**





## Conclusion:

- ❖ GC-MS based platform is powerful tool for metabolites profile analysis of root exudates
- ❖ Root exudates metabolites profiling has been altered by nano-Cu
- ❖ The up-regulated amino acids and down-regulated citric acids are active defense mechanism for cucumber plants to nano-Cu

# Future perspectives and environmental applications

- We are testing more plants species, e.g. corn, soybean, alfalfa, spinach, and more copper-based NPs to thoroughly understand the detoxification mechanism of those plants
- The plant itself give us strategies to decrease the toxicity of naon-Cu in real soil.

# Acknowledgments

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*Thank you for your  
attention!*