



## The value of genotype-specific reference for transcriptome analyses in barley

Wenbin Guo, Max Coulter, Robbie Waugh, and Runxuan Zhang

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*Corresponding author(s): Dr. Runxuan Zhang (The James Hutton Institute)*

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### Review timeline:

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Submission Date:	2021-10-05
Editorial Decision:	2021-12-01
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Revision Received:	2022-04-10
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*Scientific Editor: Novella Guidi*

### Transaction Report:

(Note: With the exception of the correction of typographical or spelling errors that could be a source of ambiguity, letters and reports are not edited. The original formatting of letters and referee reports may not be reflected in this compilation.)

No Peer Review Process File is available with this article, as the authors have chosen not to make the review process public in this case.

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Re: Life Science Alliance manuscript #LSA-2021-01255-T

Runxuan Zhang  
The James Hutton Institute

Dear Dr. Zhang,

Thank you for submitting your manuscript entitled "The value of genotype-specific reference for transcriptome analyses" to Life Science Alliance. The manuscript was assessed by expert reviewers, whose comments are appended to this letter. As you will note from the reviewers' comments below, all the reviewers are quite enthusiastic about the work but they do raise important concerns that would need to be addressed in the revised version before resubmission with the common one being the lack of proper analyses to fit with the proposed broad scope. We, thus, encourage you to submit a revised version of the manuscript back to LSA that responds to all of the reviewers' points including conducting comprehensive evaluation of how much the availability of cRTD or the lack of sRTD in an RNA-seq analysis would affect the outcome. The authors should use multiple assembly strategies in addition to the one shown in Figure 1 to see whether the results observed in this study are biased, as suggested by Reviewer 1. Please also address Reviewer 2 concerns by conducting the proposed additional analyses and Reviewer 3 concerns on whether specific categories of genes /transcripts are enriched among those showing the main differences between the two assemblies both in terms of gene novelty and transcript quantification.

To upload the revised version of your manuscript, please log in to your account:  
<https://lsa.msubmit.net/cgi-bin/main.plex>

You will be guided to complete the submission of your revised manuscript and to fill in all necessary information. Please get in touch in case you do not know or remember your login name.

While you are revising your manuscript, please also attend to the below editorial points to help expedite the publication of your manuscript. Please direct any editorial questions to the journal office.

The typical timeframe for revisions is three months. Please note that papers are generally considered through only one revision cycle, so strong support from the referees on the revised version is needed for acceptance.

When submitting the revision, please include a letter addressing the reviewers' comments point by point.

We hope that the comments below will prove constructive as your work progresses.

Thank you for this interesting contribution to Life Science Alliance. We are looking forward to receiving your revised manuscript.

Sincerely,

Novella Guidi, PhD  
Scientific Editor  
Life Science Alliance



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## A. THESE ITEMS ARE REQUIRED FOR REVISIONS

- A letter addressing the reviewers' comments point by point.
- An editable version of the final text (.DOC or .DOCX) is needed for copyediting (no PDFs).
- High-resolution figure, supplementary figure and video files uploaded as individual files: See our detailed guidelines for preparing your production-ready images, <https://www.life-science-alliance.org/authors>
- Summary blurb (enter in submission system): A short text summarizing in a single sentence the study (max. 200 characters including spaces). This text is used in conjunction with the titles of papers, hence should be informative and complementary to the title and running title. It should describe the context and significance of the findings for a general readership; it should be written in the present tense and refer to the work in the third person. Author names should not be mentioned.
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Full guidelines are available on our Instructions for Authors page, <https://www.life-science-alliance.org/authors>

We encourage our authors to provide original source data, particularly uncropped/-processed electrophoretic blots and spreadsheets for the main figures of the manuscript. If you would like to add source data, we would welcome one PDF/Excel-file per figure for this information. These files will be linked online as supplementary "Source Data" files.

\*\*\*IMPORTANT: It is Life Science Alliance policy that if requested, original data images must be made available. Failure to provide original images upon request will result in unavoidable delays in publication. Please ensure that you have access to all original microscopy and blot data images before submitting your revision.\*\*\*

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March 25, 2022

RE: Life Science Alliance Manuscript #LSA-2021-01255-TR

Dr. Runxuan Zhang  
The James Hutton Institute  
Information and Computational Science  
Errol Road, Invergowrie  
James Hutton Institute  
Dundee, Angus dd2 5da  
United Kingdom

Dear Dr. Zhang,

Thank you for submitting your revised manuscript entitled "The value of genotype-specific reference for transcriptome analyses". We would be happy to publish your paper in Life Science Alliance pending final revisions necessary to meet our formatting guidelines.

Along with points mentioned below, please tend to the following:

- we encourage you to revise the figure legends for figures 1 and S7 such that the figure panels are introduced in alphabetical order;
- reference in the supplementary file should be part of the main references
- Please upload all figure files as individual ones, including the supplementary figure files; all figure legends should only appear in the main manuscript file
- please add the Twitter handle of your host institute/organization as well as your own or/and one of the authors in our system
- please note that the titles in the system and manuscript file must match
- please add callouts for Figures 3A-B; S6A-C and S7A-B to your main manuscript text

If you are planning a press release on your work, please inform us immediately to allow informing our production team and scheduling a release date.

LSA now encourages authors to provide a 30-60 second video where the study is briefly explained. We will use these videos on social media to promote the published paper and the presenting author (for examples, see <https://twitter.com/LSAjournal/timelines/1437405065917124608>). Corresponding or first-authors are welcome to submit the video. Please submit only one video per manuscript. The video can be emailed to [contact@life-science-alliance.org](mailto:contact@life-science-alliance.org)

To upload the final version of your manuscript, please log in to your account:

<https://lsa.msubmit.net/cgi-bin/main.plex>

You will be guided to complete the submission of your revised manuscript and to fill in all necessary information. Please get in touch in case you do not know or remember your login name.

To avoid unnecessary delays in the acceptance and publication of your paper, please read the following information carefully.

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These items are required for acceptance.



-- An editable version of the final text (.DOC or .DOCX) is needed for copyediting (no PDFs).

-- High-resolution figure, supplementary figure and video files uploaded as individual files: See our detailed guidelines for preparing your production-ready images, <https://www.life-science-alliance.org/authors>

-- Summary blurb (enter in submission system): A short text summarizing in a single sentence the study (max. 200 characters including spaces). This text is used in conjunction with the titles of papers, hence should be informative and complementary to the title. It should describe the context and significance of the findings for a general readership; it should be written in the present tense and refer to the work in the third person. Author names should not be mentioned.

#### B. MANUSCRIPT ORGANIZATION AND FORMATTING:

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We encourage our authors to provide original source data, particularly uncropped/-processed electrophoretic blots and spreadsheets for the main figures of the manuscript. If you would like to add source data, we would welcome one PDF/Excel-file per figure for this information. These files will be linked online as supplementary "Source Data" files.

**\*\*Submission of a paper that does not conform to Life Science Alliance guidelines will delay the acceptance of your manuscript.\*\***

**\*\*It is Life Science Alliance policy that if requested, original data images must be made available to the editors. Failure to provide original images upon request will result in unavoidable delays in publication. Please ensure that you have access to all original data images prior to final submission.\*\***

**\*\*The license to publish form must be signed before your manuscript can be sent to production. A link to the electronic license to publish form will be sent to the corresponding author only. Please take a moment to check your funder requirements.\*\***

**\*\*Reviews, decision letters, and point-by-point responses associated with peer-review at Life Science Alliance will be published online, alongside the manuscript. If you do want to opt out of having the reviewer reports and your point-by-point responses displayed, please let us know immediately.\*\***

Thank you for your attention to these final processing requirements. Please revise and format the manuscript and upload materials within 7 days.

Thank you for this interesting contribution, we look forward to publishing your paper in Life Science Alliance.

Sincerely,

Novella Guidi, PhD  
Scientific Editor  
Life Science Alliance



RE: Life Science Alliance Manuscript #LSA-2021-01255-TRR

Dr. Runxuan Zhang  
The James Hutton Institute  
Information and Computational Science  
Errol Road, Invergowrie  
James Hutton Institute  
Dundee, Angus dd2 5da  
United Kingdom

Dear Dr. Zhang,

Thank you for submitting your Research Article entitled "The value of genotype-specific reference for transcriptome analyses in barley". It is a pleasure to let you know that your manuscript is now accepted for publication in Life Science Alliance. Congratulations on this interesting work.

The final published version of your manuscript will be deposited by us to PubMed Central upon online publication.

Your manuscript will now progress through copyediting and proofing. It is journal policy that authors provide original data upon request.

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Scheduling details will be available from our production department. You will receive proofs shortly before the publication date. Only essential corrections can be made at the proof stage so if there are any minor final changes you wish to make to the manuscript, please let the journal office know now.

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Again, congratulations on a very nice paper. I hope you found the review process to be constructive and are pleased with how the manuscript was handled editorially. We look forward to future exciting submissions from your lab.

Sincerely,

Novella Guidi, PhD  
Scientific Editor  
Life Science Alliance