

1 Short title: Hydraulic failure and repair in grapevine

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11 Evidence for hydraulic vulnerability segmentation and lack of xylem refilling
12 under tension

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32 **Authors' contributions:** S.D. and C.E.L.D. conceived the original screening and research
33 plans (tomography); E.B., A.K., N.L., R.B., J.M.T.R., H.C., N.M-P, S.J., B.C. and S.D.
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35 and J.C.D. performed gas exchange experiments. C.E.L.D. provided plant materials; G.C.,
36 G.A.G. and S.D. analyzed the data and wrote the article with contributions of all the authors.

37 **One-sentence summary**

38 Direct, non-invasive observations of embolism formation and repair reveal a lack of refilling
39 under negative pressure and a xylem hydraulic vulnerability segmentation in grapevine.

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58 **Abstract**

59 The vascular system of grapevine has been reported as being highly vulnerable, even though
60 grapevine regularly experiences seasonal drought. Stomata would consequently remain open
61 below water potentials that would generate a high loss of stem hydraulic conductivity via
62 xylem embolism. This situation would necessitate daily cycles of embolism repair to restore
63 hydraulic function.. However, a more parsimonious explanation is that some hydraulic
64 techniques are prone to artifacts in species with long vessels, leading to overestimation of
65 vulnerability. The aim of this study was to provide an unbiased assessment of (i) the
66 vulnerability to drought-induced embolism in perennial and annual organs, and (ii) the ability
67 to refill embolized vessels in two *Vitis* species.

68 X-ray micro-CT observations on intact plants indicated that both *V. vinifera* and *V. riparia*
69 were relatively vulnerable, with the pressure inducing 50% loss of stem hydraulic
70 conductivity ($\Psi_{50\text{Stem}}$) = -1.7 and -1.3MPa, respectively. In *V. vinifera*, both the stem and
71 petiole had similar sigmoidal vulnerability curves, but differed in Ψ_{50} (-1.7 and -1.0 MPa for
72 stem and petiole, respectively). Refilling was not observed as long as bulk xylem pressure

73 remained negative (*e.g.* at the apical part of the plants): $P = -0.11 \pm 0.02\text{MPa}$; $\Delta\text{PLC} = 0.02 \pm$
74 0.01% . However, positive xylem pressure was observed at the basal part of the plant ($P = 0.04$
75 $\pm 0.01\text{MPa}$), leading to recovered conductance ($\Delta\text{PLC} = -0.24 \pm 0.12\%$).

76 Our findings provide evidence that grapevine is unable to repair embolized xylem vessels
77 under negative pressure, but its hydraulic vulnerability segmentation provides a significant
78 protection of the perennial stem.

79

80 **Keywords:** drought stress, stem, petiole, leaf, embolism resistance, hydraulic conductance,
81 3D imaging, *Vitis vinifera*.

82 Introduction

83 The plant hydraulic system is located at the interface between soil water and the
84 atmosphere. Evaporative demand from the atmosphere generates a tension within a
85 continuous xylem water column, pulling water from the soil, through roots, stems, petioles,
86 and leaves (Dixon, 1896). Under drought conditions, the overall resistance to water flow
87 through the soil-plant continuum increases. Increased resistance to water flow results from
88 changes in the resistance at multiple specific locations along the flow pathway: in the soil, at
89 the soil-root interface, in the roots, the main plant axis (*i.e.*, stems, branches), the petioles, and
90 the leaves. Two primary mechanisms controlling the resistance are stomatal closure (leaf-to-
91 air water flow) and the loss of xylem hydraulic conductivity (soil-to-leaf water flow; Cochard
92 *et al.*, 2002). Stomatal closure is closely related to decreasing plant water status (Brodrribb &
93 Holbrook, 2003) and is often considered to be a protective mechanism against the loss of
94 xylem hydraulic conductivity (Tyree & Sperry, 1988; Jones & Sutherland, 1991). Loss of
95 xylem hydraulic conductivity occurs when the water potential of xylem sap reaches levels
96 negative enough to disrupt the metastability of the water column, potentially resulting in
97 embolism.

98 Generally, high resistance to embolism is observed in species distributed in dry
99 environments, whereas highly vulnerable species are distributed in wet environments
100 (Maherali *et al.*, 2004; Choat *et al.*, 2012). Although grapevine (*Vitis vinifera*) is widely
101 cultivated, including in regions where it is frequently exposed to water deficit during the
102 growing season (Lovisolo *et al.*, 2010), recent studies have produced contrasting estimates of
103 its resistance to embolism. Grapevine has been described as either vulnerable (Zufferey *et al.*,
104 2011; Jacobsen & Pratt, 2012), or relatively resistant (Choat *et al.*, 2010; Brodersen *et al.*,
105 2013). In *Vitis* species, and *V. vinifera* especially, stomatal closure is typically observed for
106 midday leaf water potentials ($\Psi_{\text{leaf}} < -1.5\text{MPa}$) (Schultz, 2003). Thus, according to some
107 studies, significant losses in xylem hydraulic conductivity should be observed before stomatal
108 closure ($\Psi_{50} > -1.0\text{MPa}$; Jacobsen & Pratt, 2012; Jacobsen *et al.*, 2015), implying that
109 embolism would be commonplace.

110 Risk of hydraulic dysfunction is mitigated along the hydraulic pathway by hydraulic
111 segmentation, *i.e.* more distal organs such as leaves and petioles will be at greater risk to
112 embolism than more basal organs such as the trunk (Tyree and Zimmermann 2002; Choat *et*
113 *al.*, 2005). This could promote hydraulic safety in larger, perennial organs, which represent a

114 greater investment of resources for the plant. Hydraulic segmentation may occur in two ways.
115 During transpiration, the xylem pressure will always be greater in more distal parts of the
116 pathway (leaves and petioles). All else being equal, this translates to a greater probability of
117 embolism in distal organs. However, organs may also differ in their vulnerability to
118 embolism, compensating or exacerbating the effects of differences in xylem pressure along
119 the pathway. If leaves or petioles were more vulnerable to embolism than branches and the
120 trunk, then they would be far more likely to suffer embolism during periods of water-stress.
121 This would allow petioles, leaves (Nolf *et al.*, 2015), or even young branches (Rood *et al.*,
122 2000), to become embolized without significant impact on the trunk and larger branches. In
123 grapevine, petioles have been described as extremely sensitive to cavitation (Ψ_{50} ca. -1.0
124 MPa; Zufferey *et al.*, 2011). However, the hydraulic methods employed in these previous
125 studies have been shown to be prone to artifacts (Wheeler *et al.*, 2013; Torres-Ruiz *et al.*,
126 2015), necessitating the use of a non-invasive assessment of drought-induced embolism.

127 High-Resolution Computed Tomography (HRCT) produces three dimensional images
128 of xylem tissue *in situ*, allowing for a non-invasive assessment of embolism resistance. This
129 technique has provided robust results in various plant species with contrasting xylem anatomy
130 (Charra-Vaskou *et al.*, 2012; 2016; Torres-Ruiz *et al.*, 2014; Dalla-Salda *et al.*, 2014; Bouche
131 *et al.*, 2016; Cochard *et al.*, 2015; Knipfer *et al.*, 2015). Synchrotron-based tomography
132 facilities allow the visualization of intact plants, offering a non-invasive, *in vivo* estimation of
133 the loss of hydraulic conductivity within the xylem (Choat *et al.*, 2016). Moreover, the quality
134 of the X-ray beam in the synchrotron facilities provides high resolution and signal to noise
135 ratio, making image analysis simple and accurate.

136 If grapevine were as vulnerable to xylem embolism as suggested in some studies,
137 refilling of embolized vessels would be expected to occur on a frequent (daily) basis in order
138 to maintain hydraulic continuity (Sperry *et al.*, 1994; Cochard *et al.*, 2001; Charrier *et al.*,
139 2013). Various refilling mechanisms have been proposed to date, including positive root/stem
140 pressure, and refilling while the xylem is under negative pressure via water droplet growth
141 (Salleo *et al.*, 1996; Brodersen *et al.*, 2010; Knipfer *et al.*, 2016). Positive pressure in xylem
142 sap can be related to mineral nutrition and soil temperature in autumn or spring (Ewers *et al.*,
143 2001), and to soluble carbohydrate transport into the vessel lumen during winter (Améglio *et al.*,
144 2001; Charrier *et al.*, 2013). Refilling under negative pressure is based on the hypothesis
145 that embolized vessels are isolated from surrounding functional vessels, permitting positive
146 pressures to develop and the embolism to dissolve (Salleo *et al.*, 1996; Tyree *et al.*, 1999).

147 This process has been related to the chemistry of conduit walls (Holbrook & Zwieniecki,
148 1999), the geometry of interconduit bordered pits (Zwieniecki & Holbrook, 2000), and
149 phloem unloading (Nardini *et al.*, 2011). While refilling via positive pressure has been
150 described frequently (Sperry *et al.* 1987; 1994; Hacke & Sauter 1996; Cochard *et al.*, 2001;
151 Améglio *et al.*, 2004; Cobb *et al.*, 2007), refilling under negative pressure remains
152 controversial (Cochard *et al.*, 2013; 2015). In grapevine particularly, imaging techniques have
153 provided evidence of refilling in embolized vessels (Brodersen *et al.*, 2010), but uncertainties
154 remain regarding the xylem water potential measurement at the position of the scan.

155 The goal of the current study was to provide a non-invasive assessment of (i) the
156 vulnerability to drought-induced embolism in two widespread grapevine species in perennial
157 (*Vitis vinifera* and *V. riparia*) and annual (*V. vinifera*) organs, and (ii) the ability to refill
158 embolized vessels under positive or negative pressure (*V. vinifera*). This approach would
159 indicate whether embolism formation and repair are likely to occur on a daily basis, and/or if
160 hydraulic segmentation could protect perennial organs from drought stress. Stems and petioles
161 from intact *V. vinifera* cv. Cabernet Sauvignon, and *V. riparia* plants were scanned using
162 Synchrotron-based HRCT, characterizing their vulnerability to embolism and quantifying
163 their ability to refill at different positions along the plant axis (base and apex) in relation with
164 bulk xylem pressure. These data were integrated with other non-invasive techniques assessing
165 leaf hydraulics and transpiration.

166 Results

167 *HRCT imaging, and embolism vulnerability in V. vinifera and V. riparia*

168 Embolism in stems (*V. vinifera* and *V. riparia*) and petioles (*V. vinifera*) was
169 characterized by direct observation provided by HRCT images. Two dimensional, transverse
170 slices of xylem were extracted from a 3D volume for image analysis. Typical cross sections
171 were presented in Figure 1 for *V. vinifera*. Embolized (*i.e.* air-filled) vessels appear as black
172 spots (highlighted red in insets). Well-hydrated plants ($\Psi_{\text{Stem}} > -0.5\text{MPa}$) exhibited none or
173 very few air-filled vessels in stems and petioles (Figure 1A and D). For both organs, the
174 percent loss of conductivity (PLC) measured was lower than 5%. At further dehydration (*ca.* -
175 1.1MPa), only a few vessels became air-filled in stems generating 9% loss of hydraulic
176 conductance (Figure 1B), whereas half of the vessels were already embolized in petioles (PLC
177 = 46.2%; Figure 1E). A more negative water potential ($\Psi_{\text{Stem}} = -1.7\text{MPa}$) induced a

178 considerable increase in the number of air-filled vessels in both stems, and petioles, PLC
179 reaching 50.5%, and 96.5%, respectively (Figure 1C and F).

180 HRCT imaging was used to establish stem vulnerability curves (*i.e.* variation in PLC
181 as a function of xylem pressure). In *V. vinifera*, vulnerability curves of both organs exhibited
182 a similar sigmoid shape with the air-entry point (Ψ_e) observed at -1.22, and -0.26MPa in
183 stems and petioles, respectively (Figure 2; Table I). Water potential inducing 50% loss of
184 hydraulic conductance differed between stems ($\Psi_{50\text{Stem}} = -1.73\text{MPa}$) and petioles ($\Psi_{50\text{Petiole}} = -$
185 0.98MPa). Thus, when the water potential reached stem Ψ_e , petioles had already lost 66% of
186 their conductivity. Significant differences were observed between *Vitis* species ($P = 0.002$;
187 Figure 3): *V. riparia* being more vulnerable than *V. vinifera* (Ψ_e : -0.70 vs -1.22MPa, and
188 $\Psi_{50\text{Stem}}$: -1.29 vs -1.73MPa, for *V. riparia* and *V. vinifera*, respectively).

189 *Integration with leaf hydraulic conductance and gas exchange in V. vinifera*

190 Changes in leaf hydraulic conductance (noted K_{Leaf} , but including a part of the petiole)
191 and transpiration were assessed and the data were integrated with those obtained from the
192 HRCT analyses above. Loss of K_{Leaf} exhibited a similar pattern to loss of hydraulic
193 conductance in petioles: $\Psi_{50\text{Petiole}} = -0.98\text{MPa}$; $\Psi_{50\text{Leaf}} = -1.08\text{MPa}$ (Table I), however with
194 differences in the sensitivity ($69 < \text{slp} < 129 \text{ \%} \cdot \text{MPa}^{-1}$). Apparent K_{leaf} ($K_{\text{Leaf_Ap}}$) was shifted
195 compared to K_{Leaf} (similar sensitivity: $134 \text{ \%} \cdot \text{MPa}^{-1}$, higher $\Psi_{50\text{Leaf_Ap}}$: -0.46MPa). Parameters
196 of all vulnerability curves were significantly different from 0 ($P < 0.001$; Table I).

197 Considering the stem to leaf gradient in water potential measured during the gas
198 exchange experiment (*i.e.* when stomata remained open, and water potential gradient
199 maintained; $\Psi_{\text{Stem}} = 0.866 * \Psi_{\text{Leaf}} + 0.083$; $R^2 = 0.870$), loss of hydraulic function across
200 stems, petioles and leaves was calculated depending on Ψ_{Leaf} (Figure 4). The petiole and leaf
201 were closely coordinated, with 50% loss of function at *ca.* -1.0MPa, whereas the stem
202 remained almost non-embolized (PLC = 2.5%) at this water potential and transpiration was
203 reduced (5.4%). At lower water potentials, almost complete hydraulic dysfunction in petioles
204 (PLC_{Petiole} = 88% at $\Psi = -1.70\text{MPa}$) was observed and the stem exhibited significant
205 embolism (PLC_{Stem} = 32.2%). The margin between $\Psi_{50\text{Stem}}$ and either $\Psi_{50\text{Petiole}}$ or $\Psi_{50\text{Leaf}}$ was
206 relatively narrow (0.65 to 0.75MPa). However, taking the gradient in Ψ from stem to leaf into
207 account, the ‘effective’ safety margin was slightly greater (0.80 to 0.90MPa). Under well-
208 watered conditions, with high VPD (approx. 2500Pa), leaf and stem water potentials reached -

209 0.62 +/- 0.03MPa and -0.39 +/- 0.03MPa (mean +/- SE, n = 36), for leaves and stems,
210 respectively. Under the normal operating range of water potential, the amount of PLC in the
211 stem and petiole would therefore be low (0 and 17%, respectively), while transpiration would
212 be limited ($K_{ap} = 42\%$).

213 *Xylem refilling in V. vinifera*

214 Re-watered plants were scanned either in the basal (1 cm above the grafting), or in the
215 distal part (*ca.* 1m above soil). In the basal part, significant changes in the amount of air-filled
216 vessels were observed over a 24 hours period, after the plant was re-watered. Most vessels
217 were dark gray (*i.e.* air-filled) before re-watering (PLC = 86.8%; Figure 5D). After 7.5 hours,
218 evidence of xylem refilling and an increase in the number of functional vessels was observed
219 (Figure 5E), even though PLC was barely affected (PLC = 81.2%). After 15.5 hours, many
220 additional vessels had refilled, decreasing the PLC to 57.4% (Figure 5F). In contrast, in the
221 upper part of re-watered plants, even after more than 48 hours of re-watering, there was no
222 significant change in PLC (Figure 5A-C), even though most living cells remained alive (Fig.
223 S1). Refilling was not observed at the apex ($\Delta\text{PLC} = 0.02 \pm 0.01\%$), regardless of the initial
224 levels of embolism ($13.7\% < \text{PLC} < 92.4\%$).

225 Figure 6 thus depicts the changes in basal and apical portions of the same plant, where
226 xylem refilling was observed at the base ($\Delta\text{PLC} = -15.5\%$), and, at the same moment, no
227 significant change in PLC was observed in the upper part ($\Delta\text{PLC} = +5.7\%$). Pressure
228 transducers indicated that bulk xylem pressure was positive at the base ($\Psi_{\text{Stem}} = +0.023$ MPa)
229 and negative at the apex ($\Psi_{\text{Stem}} = -0.015$ MPa). Although stem water potential quickly
230 increased after re-watering, it does not completely equilibrate along the whole stem even after
231 more than 80 hours (Fig. S2). Negative pressure was indeed measured at the apex ($\Psi = -$
232 0.013MPa), whereas it was positive at the base of the same plant ($\Psi_{\text{Stem}} = +0.033$ MPa).
233 Although not all plants exhibited individual vessels being refilled with sap or positive
234 pressure, significant changes in theoretical hydraulic conductance were only observed when
235 xylem pressures were positive (Fig. 7A). Differences in water potential ($P = 0.011$) and PLC
236 ($P = 0.006$) were thus observed depending on the distance from the soil, among the 5
237 replicates (Fig. 7B).

238 **Discussion**

239 Despite the fact that *Vitis vinifera* can be adapted to environments experiencing
240 seasonal drought, studies differ in estimates of its hydraulic vulnerability and its classification
241 as drought sensitive (Wheeler *et al.*, 2005; Jacobsen & Pratt, 2012), or drought resistant
242 (Choat *et al.*, 2010; Brodersen *et al.*, 2013). Discrepancies among studies most probably lie in
243 methodological issues, especially considering that *Vitis vinifera* is a long-vesselled species
244 (Cochard *et al.*, 2013; Rockwell *et al.*, 2014; Zhang *et al.*, 2014). Here, for the first time, a
245 non-invasive estimation of complete vulnerability curves was obtained using direct
246 observations on intact *Vitis* plants by HRCT. Our results demonstrate that *V. vinifera* stems
247 are more resistant to xylem embolism than previously estimated by centrifugation technique,
248 and can sustain water potential lower $< -1\text{MPa}$ ($\Psi_{50\text{Stem}} = -1.7\text{MPa}$). Contrastingly, *V. riparia*
249 originates from riparian habitats and exhibited higher drought sensitivity ($\Psi_{50\text{Stem}} =$
250 1.3MPa). Our findings also show that petioles are more vulnerable to embolism than stems,
251 providing evidence for hydraulic vulnerability segmentation in grapevine. Xylem conduits
252 refilling was observed in the basal part of the plant, where positive bulk pressure was
253 recorded (Figure 5D-F; Fig. 6), but not in the apical part, where bulk pressure remained
254 negative under experimental conditions (Figure 5A-C; Fig. 6).

255 In view of the current debate on drought resistance of long-vesselled species (Sperry *et al.*
256 *et al.*, 2012; Sperry, 2013; Cochard & Delzon, 2013; Hacke *et al.*, 2015; Cochard *et al.*, 2015),
257 vulnerability curves imply that either embolism occurs under almost immediately negative
258 water potentials of the xylem sap ('exponential' vulnerability curves), or that embolism does
259 not take place until a threshold at a more negative water potential is reached ('sigmoidal
260 vulnerability curves). According to Figure 1, no embolism was observed at high xylem water
261 potentials ($\Psi > -1.0\text{MPa}$) in stems of intact *V. vinifera* plants, suggesting that all vessels can
262 support some level of negative pressure. In stems, the number of embolized vessels only
263 increased once the pressure reached values lower than -1.5MPa , which is consistent with
264 results observed using Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI, Choat *et al.*, 2010), and HRCT
265 (Knipfer *et al.*, 2015). Non-functional vessels (*i.e.* those that remained full of sap on our final
266 cut images), represented *ca.* 5% of the theoretical conductance and were not included in our
267 vulnerability curve analyses.

268 The high image resolution (*ca.* $3\mu\text{m}$ per voxel) provided by HRCT allowed the
269 computation of a theoretical conductivity according to the diameters of individual vessels via
270 the Hagen-Poiseuille equation (Figure 2; 3). Therefore, the theoretical loss of conductance

271 could be quantified at various xylem water potentials (as in Brodersen *et al.*, 2013), whereas
272 previous studies qualitatively assessed PLC from the number of air- vs sap-filled vessels.
273 Combined with a high number of specimens at a wide range of water potentials, these results
274 provide, for the first time, a complete vulnerability curve on intact stems ($\Psi_{50\text{Stem}} = -1.73\text{MPa}$)
275 and petioles ($\Psi_{50\text{Petiole}} = -0.98\text{MPa}$) of *V. vinifera*. The vulnerability curves obtained are in
276 agreement with the level of drought-induced embolism resistance observed for grapevine in
277 studies using non-invasive techniques: synchrotron-based HRCT (Brodersen *et al.*, 2013),
278 Acoustic Emission analysis (AE; Vergeynst *et al.*, 2015), and MRI (Choat *et al.*, 2010).
279 Although the source and signal interpretation qualitatively differ across non-invasive
280 techniques, numerous studies combining these techniques on various species measured similar
281 levels of embolism resistance (Choat *et al.*, 2010; 2015; Charra-Vaskou *et al.*, 2012; 2016;
282 Charrier *et al.*, 2014; Ponomarenko *et al.*, 2014; Torres-Ruiz *et al.*, 2014; Vergeynst *et al.*,
283 2015). However, the Ψ_{50} values observed in the current study are slightly less negative than
284 those reported previously, with non-invasive methods (-1.7 vs *ca.* -2.0 MPa). This may have
285 been due to differences in plant material. Ontogenic developmental stages of the plant might
286 explain this discrepancy, where the development of secondary xylem along the course of the
287 season would increase embolism resistance in grapevine (Choat *et al.*, 2010). Our results
288 demonstrate genotypic differences on stem vulnerability curves between *Vitis* species (*V.*
289 *vinifera* vs. *V. riparia*; Figure 3) and are consistent with the higher drought-sensitivity of *V.*
290 *riparia* compared to *V. arizonica* and *V. champinii* (Knipfer *et al.*, 2015).

291 Petioles were more vulnerable to embolism than stems in *V. vinifera* cv Cabernet
292 Sauvignon (Figure 1; 2). Only a few studies have reported petiole vulnerability curves for
293 grapevine. Similar behavior is reported in other *Vitis vinifera* cultivars using flowmeter
294 (Zufferey *et al.*, 2011), pressure sleeve (Tombesi *et al.*, 2014), or MRI (Hochberg *et al.*,
295 2016). Loss of conductance in petioles (HRCT-based) and leaves (rehydration kinetic
296 method) as measured with different techniques are remarkably similar (Figure 4) even though
297 computations of hydraulic conductance from HRCT image data are only theoretical.
298 Considering an inaccuracy of 2 voxels per vessel, average vessel diameters exhibited *ca.* 11
299 and 19% deviation in stem and petiole, respectively. However, PLC were only slightly
300 affected ($\pm 0.9\%$ in stem and petiole). HRCT-based images evidenced that xylem embolism
301 limits conductance in petioles. However, the minimum water potential experienced by the
302 petiole might have been lower than measured despite bagging the petiole for three hours

303 before scanning it. This would have led to slightly over-estimated vulnerability curves, and
304 would require additional observations using, for example, a small-sized psychrometer to
305 monitor the petiole water potential during dehydration. In leaves, xylem embolism and extra-
306 xylary (*e.g.* symplasmic) pathways both seem to contribute to the reduction of leaf hydraulic
307 conductance (Kim & Steudle, 2007; Scoffoni *et al.*, 2014; Bouche *et al.*, 2016). These results
308 question the validity of stem water potential measurement using bagged leaves for high level
309 of stress (*e.g.* as presented on Fig. 6) *i.e.* when the leaf is hydraulically disconnected from the
310 stem. Although embolism in petioles could represent a “hydraulic fuse” at the leaf level,
311 under well-watered conditions, reduced transpiration (*ca.* 40%) substantially limits petiole
312 embolism to less than 20%. In addition, the relatively young plant material used in this study
313 (1 to 2 months old) is relatively vulnerable (Choat *et al.*, 2010), but typically would not
314 experience substantial drought in springtime.

315 A gradient in water potential along the entire plant might prevent embolism from
316 propagating from distal to proximal parts without considerable difference in an organs’
317 embolism vulnerability *per se* (Fig. 6; Bouche *et al.*, 2016). However, major anatomical
318 differences in secondary growth, pit anatomy, and cell wall composition could also explain
319 the higher embolism resistance of lignified organs, presenting fewer nucleation points, and
320 lower primary xylem/secondary xylem ratio (Choat *et al.*, 2005). Resistance to embolism is
321 indeed tightly linked to xylem anatomy at the interspecific level (Lens *et al.*, 2011), air
322 bubbles nucleating onto cell walls, and propagating through pores of pit membrane (Jansen *et al.*,
323 2009; Schenk *et al.*, 2015). Through the gradient in water potential and hydraulic
324 vulnerability segmentation, leaves and petioles isolate perennial parts of the plant from more
325 negative water potentials and hydraulic failure under water deficit in grapevine (as
326 demonstrated in this study) and some tropical tree species (Nolf *et al.*, 2015).

327 This study provides new lines of evidence regarding the potential artefacts that lead to
328 vulnerability curves with an ‘exponential’ shape. The ratio between vessel and sample length
329 impairs hydraulic measurements in long-vesselled species (Ennajeh *et al.*, 2011; Martin-
330 StPaul *et al.*, 2014; Torres-Ruiz *et al.*, 2014; Choat *et al.*, 2016), although this is disputed by
331 other studies (Sperry *et al.*, 2012; Pratt *et al.*, 2015). Furthermore, the ‘exponential’ shaped
332 vulnerability curves imply that a grapevine stem would be 50% embolized before its leaf and
333 stomatal conductance decrease, which seems unlikely (Nardini & Salleo, 2000). Moreover,
334 investing carbon into structures (*i.e.* conduit walls) that would lose their function so readily

335 seems unlikely, especially considering the functional importance of carbon in plant
336 physiology (Mencuccini, 2003; McDowell, 2011; Sala *et al.*, 2012; Hartmann *et al.*, 2013;
337 Charrier *et al.*, 2015; Hartmann, 2015). Finally, the minimal water potential experienced by a
338 plant on a seasonal basis (Ψ_{\min}) is generally less negative than its Ψ_{50} value (Choat *et al.*,
339 2012).

340 The current study does not support high vulnerability of grapevine stems (Jacobsen *et*
341 *al.*, 2015). In the present study, drought-stressed *V. vinifera* plants (10% to 90% stem PLC)
342 were able to refill embolized vessels at the stem bases, but not the upper, distal stem portions
343 (Figure 5-6). When observed, embolism refilling was always associated with positive root
344 pressure (Fig. 7), consistent with the results of Knipfer *et al.* (2015). In the upper part the
345 xylem sap remained at negative pressure (Fig. S2) and showed no refilling, even though
346 vessel associated cells remained alive (Fig. S1). Root pressure has been credited as a strategy
347 to recover from winter embolism (Ewers *et al.*, 2001) and has been observed in various
348 angiosperm dicot species, such as *Alnus sp* (Sperry *et al.*, 1994), *Betula sp* (Sperry, 1988),
349 *Juglans sp* (Améglio *et al.*, 2002; Charrier *et al.*, 2013), *Vitis sp* (Hales, 1727; Sperry *et al.*,
350 1987), and some tropical and temperate vines and lianas (Ewers *et al.*, 1997; Cobb *et al.*,
351 2007). These studies suggest that particular species are able to actively refill their vessels by
352 generation of positive pressure in the early Spring. In both this paper and in previous studies,
353 HRCT-based observations of xylem refilling in grapevine reveal water droplets clinging on
354 vessel walls, which then increase in volume towards the center of the conduit lumen
355 (Brodersen *et al.*, 2013; Knipfer *et al.*, 2015; Fig. 5). This may suggest that apoplastic sap is
356 pressurized before invading conduits' lumen. Recently, Knipfer *et al.* (2016) reported xylem
357 refilling in the absence of a root system *i.e.* in 3-5 cm long excised stem segments connected
358 to a 2-cm tube, filled with a solution at 0.2 kPa (corresponding to 2 cm column height).
359 However, excised segments no longer exhibited tension nor pressure and slight hydrostatic
360 pressure, when connecting the sample at both ends, which, combined with capillary forces,
361 might have been sufficient to observe xylem refilling. In the present study, even xylem
362 positive pressure may not successfully lead to xylem refilling in all cases. Xylem pressures of
363 0.02 to 0.05MPa magnitude were observed, which should correspond to a 2 to 5m high water
364 column, while apical portion remained at a slightly negative potential (-0.02 to -0.1 MPa),
365 without refilling observed at the apex (Fig. 7). Xylem pressure may have been dissipated
366 along the plant stems, and/or gas did not dissolve into xylem sap, delaying the occurrence of

367 positive pressure at higher parts. Although xylem refilling was not observed at the apex
368 during our experiment, it may have been occurred after a longer period. However, the
369 occurrence of negative water potential after more than 3 days without active transpiration,
370 suggests that this phenomenon is not routine for *Vitis vinifera*. It is important to consider that
371 only bulk xylem pressures were assessed in the current study. There is a possibility that
372 pressure gradients are not homogeneous across a portion of the stem, or even between vessels
373 that lie in close proximity to each other. Currently, experimental approaches do not exist for
374 assessing *in situ* pressures at this scale, but this difficulty needs to be acknowledged. Given
375 that refilling is a phenomenon occurring at the level of an individual vessel, one would expect
376 that it would be the local pressure gradient environment that would dictate whether or not
377 refilling would occur, and not necessarily the bulk level property, nor living cells' activity.

378 Previous observations of refilling under negative pressure may have resulted from
379 artifacts such as those documented by Wheeler *et al.* (2013). Cutting stems under water when
380 sap is under negative pressure may induce the artificial formation of air bubbles, leading to an
381 overestimation of embolism vulnerability (Torres-Ruiz *et al.*, 2015; Ogasa *et al.*, 2016;
382 Umebayashi *et al.*, 2016). Therefore, normal diurnal fluctuation in xylem tension could
383 produce artefactual PLC fluctuations in stems (Torres-Ruiz *et al.*, 2015) or petioles (Zufferey
384 *et al.*, 2011). Equally, variation in tension along the plant axis could cause misleading
385 interpretations of refilling under negative pressure if the leaves sampled for measuring stem
386 water potential are not directly adjacent to the part of the stem being scanned and/or if leaves
387 experienced levels of stress great enough to result in their hydraulic disconnection from the
388 parent plant. We thus observed negative leaf water potential, although bulk xylem pressure
389 was positive at the base (*e.g.* on Fig. 6). This point should be of particular concern in light of
390 the high vulnerability of grapevine petioles characterized in this and other studies. Water
391 potential measurements would therefore have to be performed on downward leaves located as
392 close as possible to the position of the HRCT area scanned (but only for a moderate level of
393 stress). Alternative methods could include cutting stem segments after equilibration to
394 atmospheric pressure, or the use of stem psychrometers.

395 **Conclusion**

396 Stems of *V. vinifera* are more resistant to drought stress than those of *V. riparia*, and
397 are not able to refill under negative bulk xylem pressure. The hydraulic segmentation

398 generated from stem to leaf is reinforced by vulnerability segmentation between perennial and
399 annual parts, which prevents perennial parts from experiencing more severe losses in
400 hydraulic function. The insights obtained here about the drought response of *Vitis* highlighted
401 the limitations of current methods to assess *in situ* xylem sap water potential. These results
402 will help to assess drought resistance of different grapevine genotypes, and to manage
403 irrigation in the field, and should also be of significant interest for other economically
404 important long-vesseled plants (e.g. *Quercus sp*, *Olea sp*, *Eucalyptus sp*).

405 **Material and methods**

406 **Plant material**

407 Two widespread grapevine species were measured: *Vitis vinifera*, which is cultivated
408 for grape production, and *Vitis riparia*, which is commonly used as a rootstock. The
409 domesticated grapevine species *V. vinifera* L originates from the Caucasian area (Zecca *et al.*,
410 2012), and has been cultivated worldwide. This species was compared with *V. riparia* Michx.,
411 a native American grape distributed in North America, which is known to be much more
412 drought-sensitive than *V. vinifera* (Carbonneau, 1985). One-year old potted plants from *V.*
413 *vinifera* cv Cabernet Sauvignon and *V. riparia* ‘Gloire de Montpellier’, both grafted on *V.*
414 *riparia* ‘Gloire de Montpellier’ were grown in 7.5L pots filled with commercial potting soil
415 for 2 months until they reach *ca.* 1m height and 1cm basal stem diameter (5 to 10 leaves).
416 Different sets of plants (n = 5 to 10 plants per pool) were used for HRCT scans, leaf hydraulic
417 conductance (K_{Leaf}), and gas exchange measurements (see below).

418 In the HRCT pool, 10 *V. vinifera* and 10 *V. riparia* plants were exposed to different
419 levels of water stress for one to three weeks to cover a wide range of water potentials. In
420 2015, the plants were scanned at *ca.* 1m height, two to three times during the four days HRCT
421 observations (Mid-April 2015). Among this pool, 3 *V. vinifera* plants were re-watered after
422 scanning until the soil was water-saturated to measure their ability to recover from different
423 level of initial embolism ($50\% < PLC < 90\%$) in upper part. Re-watered plants were stored in
424 shaded conditions to prevent active transpiration and scanned every 6 hours for up to 48
425 hours, while stem water potential was regularly measured (see details below). An additional
426 rewatering experiment was performed in May 2016, on 5 additional plants of the same age
427 and morphology as in 2015, focusing on the difference between apex and base (right above

428 the rootstock). The K_{Leaf} measurements were carried out two months later (June 2015) on
429 eight well-hydrated plants of *V. vinifera*, which were up-rooted prior to measurements to
430 allow their progressive dehydration within a daily course. In the gas exchange pool, eight *V.*
431 *vinifera* plants were exposed to different levels of water stress, but of lower intensity than the
432 HRCT plants (pre-dawn water potentials > -1.2MPa).

433 **High Resolution X-ray Computed Tomography**

434 Synchrotron-based computed microtomography was used to visualize air- and sap-
435 filled vessels in the main stem and petiole of *V. vinifera* cv. Cabernet Sauvignon, and the main
436 stem of *V. riparia*. In April 2015, plants were brought to the HRCT beamline (PSICHE) at the
437 SOLEIL synchrotron facility. This beamline has a large, empty rotary stage, which allowed us
438 to scan plants at different heights (e.g. basal and upper portions). Three hours before each
439 scan, one leaf, located 10mm above the scanned area, was wrapped in a plastic bag and
440 covered with aluminium foil in order to provide accurate stem water potential values (Ψ_{Stem}).
441 The water potential was then measured right before the scan with a Scholander pressure
442 chamber (Precis 2000, Gradignan, France). At the height of the scan, one leaf was carefully
443 attached to the stem using a piece of tape. The main stem and petiole were scanned
444 simultaneously using a high flux (3.10^{11} photons.mm⁻²) 25 keV monochromatic x-ray beam.
445 The projections were recorded with an Hamamatsu Orca Flash sCMOS camera equipped with
446 a 250 μ m thick LuAG scintillator. The complete tomographic scan included 1,500
447 projections, 50 ms seconds each, for a 180° rotation. Thus, samples were exposed for 75 s to
448 the x-ray beam. Tomographic reconstructions were performed using PyHST2 software
449 (Mirone *et al.*, 2014) using the Paganin method (Paganin, 2006), resulting in 1536^3 32-bit
450 volumic images. The final spatial resolution was $3^3 \mu\text{m}^3$ per voxel. Complementary
451 measurements to visualize embolized conduits in grapevine petioles and refilling at the stem
452 base were undertaken at the Diamond Light Source (DLS) and Swiss Light Source (SLS)
453 synchrotron facilities, where similar plant material and the same experimental setup were
454 used. For details of the I12 beamline (DLS) and the TOMCAT X02DA beamline (SLS),
455 please refer to Bouche *et al.* (2016) and Choat *et al.* (2016), respectively.

456 **Measurement of xylem pressure/tension**

457 During rewatering experiments, xylem water potential was measured using three
458 different set-ups (Fig. S2). Two were dedicated to measure xylem negative pressure:

459 scholander pressure chamber (described above), and psychrometers (PSY-1, ICT
460 international, Armidale, Australia). In 2015 experiment, xylem water potential was only
461 measured using Scholander pressure chamber. In 2016, stem psychrometers were mounted on
462 the stem of two different plants, 10 cm above grafting, before re-watering. A 5-cm long
463 portion of the stem was wrapped in parafilm (Alcan, Montreal, Canada) to ensure
464 psychrometer sealing, at 5 to 10 cm below the scanning area. About 2 cm² of bark (and
465 parafilm) was removed and a psychrometer was attached with clamps. The third set-up was
466 dedicated to measure positive xylem pressure. When a clear decrease in the amount of
467 embolized conduits was observed at the base, the apex of the plant was cut and immediately
468 connected to a pressure transducer probe (26PCFFA6D, Honeywell, Morristown, USA), using
469 an adapter tube, filled with deionized and degassed water (Thitithanakul *et al.*, 2012). Data
470 was recorded on a CR1000 logger (Campbell, Logan, USA) at a time interval of 30 seconds.
471 Once the signal stabilized (*ca.* 15 min.), the base was cut and connected to the pressure
472 transducer following the same procedure.

473 **Image analysis and vulnerability curves**

474 On transverse cross section taken from the center of the scanned volume, the diameter and
475 area of each individual air- and sap-filled vessels (embolised and functional, respectively)
476 were measured in stems and/or petioles of each species using ImageJ software
477 (<http://rsb.info.nih.gov/ij>). Air-filled vessels were highly contrasted with surrounding tissues.
478 Thus a binary image was generated and vessels were extracted according to their dimensions,
479 discarding particles lower than 10µm² (*ca.* 4 pixels).

480 After synchrotron experiments, all stems and petiole samples were wrapped up in
481 moist paper and plastic bags and brought to the PIAF-INRA laboratory (Clermont Ferrand,
482 France). Samples were cut 2mm above the previously scanned area, and scanned again using
483 HRCT (Nanotom 180 XS; GE, Wunstorf, Germany) as described in Cochard *et al.* (2015).
484 Vessels where sap was under negative pressure (*i.e.* functional vessels) immediately filled
485 with air (as observed in Torres-Ruiz *et al.*, 2015), whereas living vessels were not affected by
486 cutting (*i.e.* cytoplasm was left intact in the individual vessel elements, see Jacobsen *et al.*,
487 2015). Filled vessels in these images, were typically located in the outermost part of the
488 xylem tissue, and discarded in the subsequent analyses.

489 For each species and organ, the theoretical specific hydraulic conductivity of a whole
490 cross section (K_H) was calculated from the Hagen-Poiseuille equation using the individual
491 diameter of sap- and air-filled vessels as:

$$492 \quad K_H = \sum \frac{\pi \cdot \phi^4}{128 \cdot \eta \cdot A_{Xyl}} \quad (1)$$

493 with K_H : specific theoretical hydraulic conductivity ($\text{kg} \cdot \text{m}^{-1} \cdot \text{MPa}^{-1} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$); ϕ : mean feret diameter
494 of vessels (m), η : viscosity of water ($1.002 \text{ mPa} \cdot \text{s}$ at 20°C), and A_{Xyl} : xylem area of the cross
495 section (m^2).

496 The theoretical loss of hydraulic conductivity (PLC) was calculated as:

$$497 \quad PLC = 100 \cdot \frac{K_{HA}}{K_{HMax}} \quad (2)$$

498 with K_{HA} and K_{HMax} representing the theoretical hydraulic conductivities of air-filled vessels,
499 in initial and cut cross sections, respectively.

500 Vulnerability curves (PLC as a function of water potential) were fitted using the nls
501 function with R software (R Development Core Team, 2013), according to the following
502 equation:

$$503 \quad PLC = \frac{1}{1 + e^{\frac{slp}{25}(\Psi - \Psi_{50})}} \quad (3)$$

504 with slp being the derivative at the inflexion point $\Psi_{50\text{Stem}}$.

505 The air entry point (Ψ_e) was estimated from eq. 3 as $50/slpl + \Psi_{50\text{Stem}}$ (Domec and Gartner
506 2001).

507 Leaf hydraulic conductance

508 Loss of K_{Leaf} was measured by using the rehydration kinetic method (Brodribb and
509 Holbrook, 2003; Charra-Vaskou *et al.*, 2011) on eight *V. vinifera* cv Cabernet Sauvignon
510 plants (N = 4-5 measurements per plant). Conductance measurements were performed using
511 plants at different levels of water stress. Two contiguous fully-expanded leaves were bagged
512 in plastic bags with wet paper towels for one hour before taking a measurement in order to
513 cease transpiration and equilibrate water potential within the leaf. Leaf water potential (Ψ_{Leaf})
514 was measured on one leaf using a Scholander pressure chamber (Precis 2000, Gradignan,

515 France), while K_{Leaf} was measured on the second one. The second leaf was excised and
 516 immediately connected, under water, to a flow-meter to measure K_{Leaf} . The flow-meter was
 517 composed of a pressure transducer (Omega Engineering Ltd, Manchester, UK) connected to a
 518 datalogger (USB-TC-AI, MCC, USA), which measures the water pressure drop between a
 519 calibrated capillary PEEK tube and the leaf. This pressure drop was then converted into a
 520 flow rate to calculate the leaf conductance as the ratio between the maximum flow rate
 521 recorded during rehydration and the leaf water potential. Specific leaf conductance (K_s) was
 522 subsequently calculated dividing the leaf conductance by leaf area, which was measured using
 523 a leaf area meter (WinFolia 2007b, Regent Inst., Quebec, Canada). Leaf vulnerability curve
 524 (percent loss in K_{Leaf} as a function of water potential) was fitted using the nls function with R
 525 software (R Development Core Team, 2013), according to the equation:

$$526 \quad PLK_{Leaf} = \frac{1}{1 + e^{\frac{slp}{25}(\Psi - \Psi_{50Leaf})}} \quad (4)$$

527 with slp being the derivative at the inflexion point Ψ_{50Leaf} .

528 **Gas exchange**

529 Pre-dawn water potential (Ψ_{pd}) was measured on one leaf per plant, close to the
 530 rootstock prior to any light exposure, on nine *V. vinifera* cv Cabernet Sauvignon plants
 531 exposed to different levels of water stress ($-0.05 < \Psi_{pd} < -2$ MPa). Plants were then exposed to
 532 outside ambient conditions from 8:00 *a.m.* until 14:00 *p.m.*, during a sunny day (PAR >
 533 $1500 \mu\text{mol.m}^{-2}.\text{s}^{-1}$; VPD > 2000Pa). Leaf gas exchange measurements were conducted on
 534 mature, well-exposed leaves using a portable open-system including an infrared gas analyzer
 535 (GFS 3000, Walz – Germany). Conditions in the cuvette (*i.e.* PAR, temperature, VPD, and
 536 CO_2) were set equal to environmental conditions. Leaf transpiration rate (E , $\text{mmol.m}^{-2}.\text{s}^{-1}$)
 537 was measured during the morning, from 8:00 until 14:00. Water potentials were measured on
 538 the leaf used for gas exchange (Ψ_{Leaf}), and on another one, wrapped for one hour in plastic
 539 bag covered with aluminium foil (Ψ_{Stem}), using a Scholander pressure chamber (Precis 2000,
 540 Gradignan, France). Apparent leaf hydraulic conductance (K_{Leaf_Ap}) was calculated as the ratio
 541 between E and $\Delta\Psi = \Psi_{Stem} - \Psi_{Leaf}$:

$$542 \quad K_{leaf_Ap} = \frac{E}{\Delta\Psi} \quad (5)$$

543 A leaf vulnerability curve (percent loss in K_{Leaf_Ap} as a function of water potential) was
544 fitted using the nls function with R software (R Development Core Team, 2013), according to
545 the equation:

$$546 \quad PLK_{Leaf_Ap} = \frac{1}{1 + e^{\frac{slp}{25}(\Psi - \Psi_{50Leaf_Ap})}} \quad (6)$$

547 with slp being the derivative at the inflexion point Ψ_{50Leaf_Ap} .

548 **FDA staining**

549 Detection of viability of x-ray exposed xylem cells was performed using a 9.6- μm FDA
550 (fluorescein-diacetate; Sigma-Aldrich, Milwaukee, WI) solution, in combination with
551 fluorescence light microscopy. One plant was analysed ten days after first exposure to x rays.
552 Stem slices were obtained from the exposed part and ten cm above this area. The stem was cut
553 transversely, into 5mm thick slices, and immediately submerged into FDA solution for 30
554 minutes in the dark. Samples were rinsed with deionized water and placed onto a microscope
555 glass slide. The sample surface was excited with green fluorescence light ($\lambda = 490 \text{ nm}$)
556 generated by a SOLA light engine SE 5-LCR-VB (Lumencor, Beaverton, USA), and observed
557 for light $\lambda > 500\text{nm}$ for detection of living and metabolically active tissue (green signal) using
558 a macroscope Axiozoom V16 (Zeiss, Marly le Roy, France), connected to a camera Axioacam
559 105 (Zeiss, Marly le Roy, France).

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570 at the Bordeaux Imaging Center, which is a member of the national infrastructure France
571 BioImaging, with the help of Brigitte Batailler.

572

573 **Supplemental material**

574 Supplementary figure S1 shows cell vitality at a distal part of grapevine stems, ten days after
575 x-Ray exposure by HRCT scans.

576 Supplementary figure S2 illustrates the recovery in water potential measured via different
577 methods *i.e.* stem psychrometer, pressure chamber and bagged leaf, and pressure transducer.

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587 **Table I.** Details of the fit of different experimental data with a sigmoid function in *V. vinifera*.
 588 Different techniques were used according to the studied organ: HRCT image analysis in stems
 589 and petioles, measurement of rehydration kinetics at the leaf level and measurement of
 590 transpiration loss depending on the water potential gradient from leaf to root. Degree of
 591 freedom, residual sum of square and pseudo-R² are given. Values and significance of the two
 592 parameters (Slope and Ψ_{50}) are indicated (***: P<0.0001), and Ψ_e calculated from these latter.

Organ	Technique	Df	SSres	Pseudo R ²	Slope (%.MPa ⁻¹)	Ψ_{50} (MPa)	Ψ_e (MPa)
Stem	HRCT	15	0.158	0.905	98.4***	-1.729***	-1.221
Petiole	HRCT	25	0.753	0.737	69.3***	-0.980***	-0.259
Leaf	Rehydration	32	0.207	0.948	129.0**	-1.084***	-0.696
Leaf	Transpiration	74	2.171	0.596	133.6***	-0.456***	-0.830

593

594 **Figure caption**

595 **Figure 1.** Transverse HRCT images of intact *Vitis vinifera* cv Cabernet Sauvignon plants at
596 different water potentials: stems (A-C) and petioles (D-F). Insets represent 0.25 mm² area.
597 Functional (grey) and air-filled (black) xylem vessels are represented in blue and red in the
598 insets, respectively. Theoretical loss of hydraulic conductivity for each image is indicated as
599 PLC (%). White bars = 1 mm.

600 **Figure 2.** Percentage loss of hydraulic conductivity (%) versus xylem water potential (MPa)
601 calculated from HRCT images in *Vitis vinifera* stems (black dots) and petioles (grey dots).
602 Dashed lines represent the sigmoid fit of the data. Symbols and bars represent the mean and
603 standard errors from 0.2MPa classes (n= 1 to 7 replicates per dot).

604 **Figure 3.** Percentage loss of hydraulic conductivity (%) versus xylem water potential (MPa)
605 calculated from HRCT images in stems of *Vitis vinifera* (black dots) and *Vitis riparia* (white
606 dots). The dashed lines represent the sigmoid fit of the data (solid and dashed lines, for *V.*
607 *vinifera* and *V. riparia*, respectively). Symbols and bars represent the mean and standard
608 errors from 0.2MPa classes in *Vitis vinifera* (n= 1 to 7 replicates per dot), and *V. riparia* (1
609 replicate per dot).

610 **Figure 4.** Percentage loss of hydraulic conductivity (%) in *Vitis vinifera* stems (solid line;
611 HRCT images), petioles (long-dashed line; HRCT images), leaves (short-dashed line;
612 rehydration kinetic method), and apparent leaf conductance (dotted-line; calculated from gas
613 exchange measurements) depending on leaf water potential (MPa).

614 **Figure 5.** Cross sections of *Vitis vinifera* stems at two different height levels *i.e.* the upper,
615 distal part (A-C) and bottom, proximal part above the graft (D-F) after re-watering drought-
616 stressed plants. Time relative to rewatering (t = 0 h, *i.e.* the rewatering time) and the
617 theoretical losses of hydraulic conductance (PLC, %) are indicated. White bar = 1mm scale.

618 **Figure 6.** Cross section at two different height levels *i.e.* the upper, distal part (A-B) and
619 bottom, proximal part above the graft (C-D) of the same *Vitis vinifera* plant, before and after
620 re-watering. Time relative to rewatering (t = 0 h, *i.e.* the rewatering time), theoretical losses of
621 hydraulic conductance (PLC), and water potential (MPa) measured using pressure chamber on
622 bagged leaf (Ψ_{leaf}), stem psychrometer (Ψ_{stem}) and pressure probes (Ψ_{pp}) are indicated. White
623 bar = 1mm scale. Discrepancy between Ψ_{leaf} and Ψ_{stem} probably originate from disconnection

624 from stem to leaf hydraulic pathway (according to Fig.4, when $PLC_{\text{apex}} = 63\%$, $\Psi_{\text{leaf}} = ca. -$
625 2MPa and $PLC_{\text{petiole}} = ca. 100\%$).

626 **Figure 7.** Mean change in theoretical hydraulic conductance ($-\Delta PLC$, %) and xylem water
627 potential (MPa) for basal and apical scan positions in re-watered stems of *Vitis vinifera*. PLC
628 and xylem water potential were significantly different across the apical and basal positions
629 based on a Kruskal-Wallis test ($n = 5$; $P = 0.006$ and 0.011 , for PLC and water potential,
630 respectively).

631

632 **Figure S1.** Cross section of the upper stem part of a grapevine plant that was scanned with
633 HRCT 10 days before treatment with fluorescein-diacetate. The fluorescent, green colored
634 cells represent living cells, which were slightly more pronounced in the control image (B)
635 compared to the area that was exposed to the x-ray beam (A). White bar = 1mm scale.

636 **Figure S2.** A. Water potential (MPa) versus time relative to rewatering ($t = 0$ h, *i.e.* the
637 rewatering time) in re-watered *Vitis vinifera* plant. B. After significant change in theoretical
638 hydraulic conductance was observed (as shown Fig. 5), water potential was successively
639 measured on bagged leaf using pressure chamber (Ψ_{leaf}), then one pressure transducer was
640 connected to the apex (black line), and ultimately to the base (dotted line).

641

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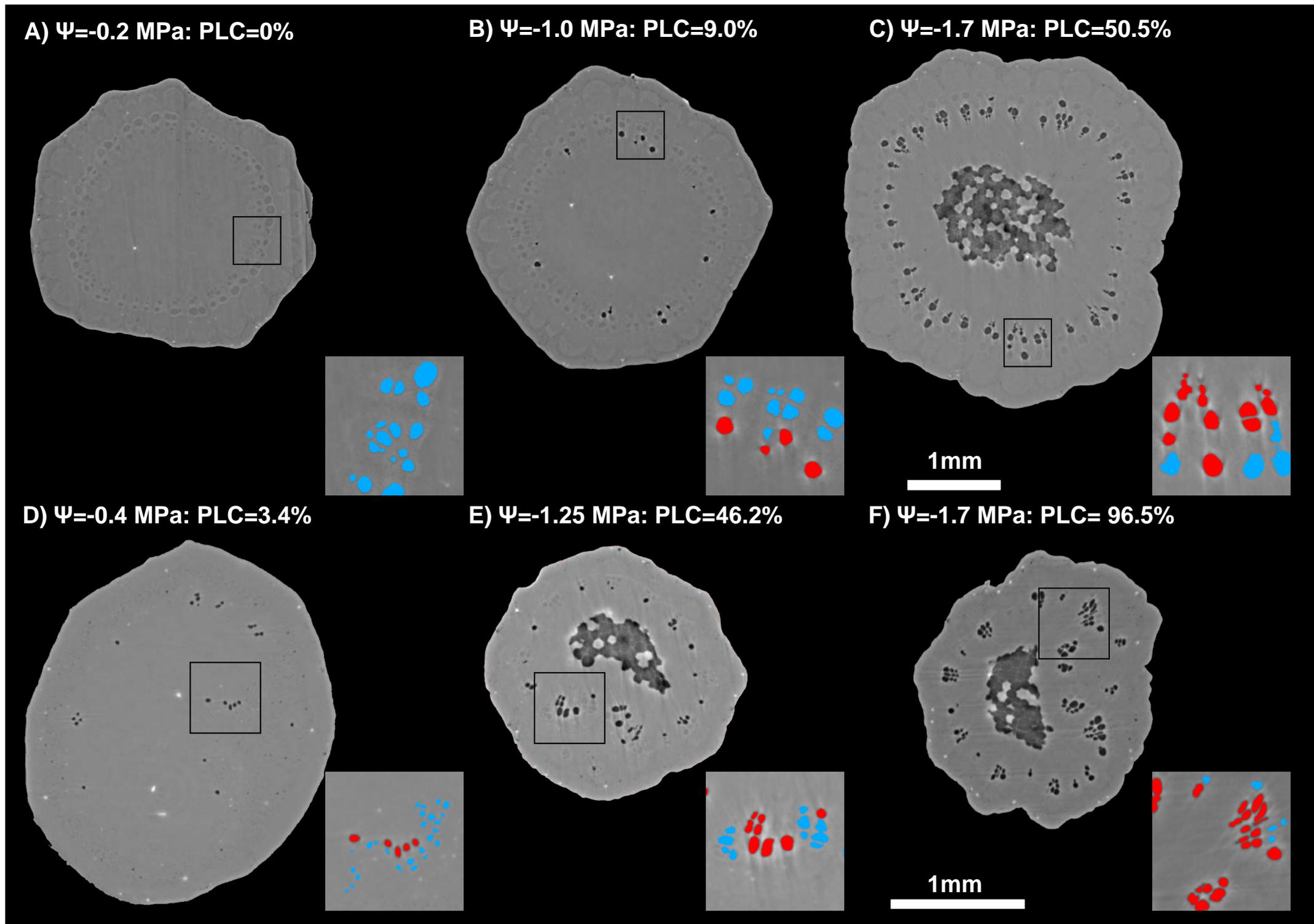


Figure 1. Transverse HRCT images of intact *Vitis vinifera* cv Cabernet-Sauvignon plants at different water potentials: stems (A-C) and petioles (D-F). Insets represent 0.25 mm² area. Functional (grey) and air-filled (black) xylem vessels are represented in blue and red spots in the insets, respectively. Theoretical loss of conductivity for each image is indicated as PLC (%). White bars = 1mm.

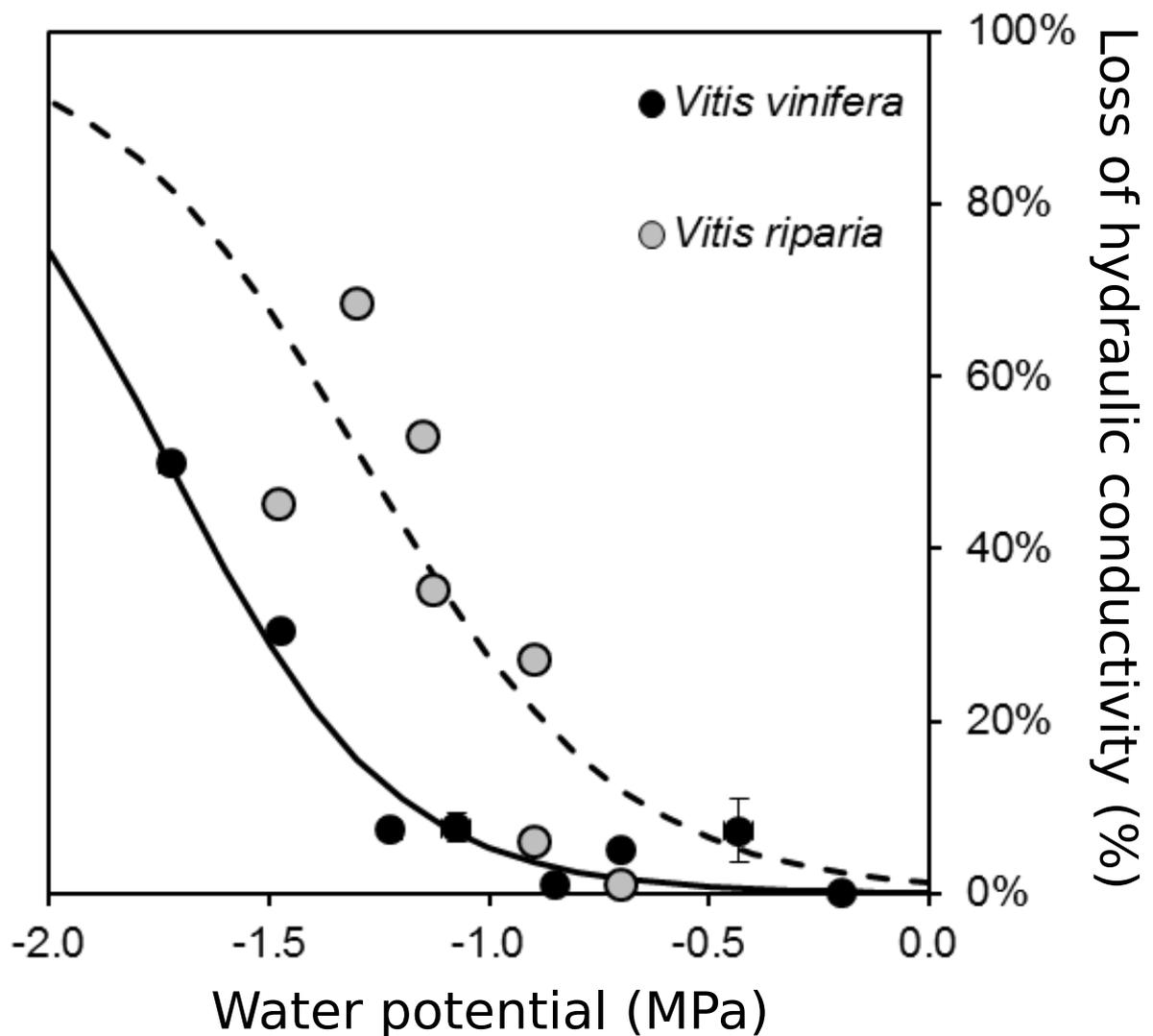


Figure 3. Percentage loss of conductivity (%) versus xylem water potential (MPa) calculated from HRCT images in stems of *Vitis vinifera* (black dots) and *Vitis riparia* (grey dots). The lines represent the sigmoid fit of the data (solid and dashed lines, for *V. vinifera* and *V. riparia*, respectively). Symbols and bars represent the mean and standard errors from 0.2MPa classes in *V. vinifera* (n= 1 to 7 replicates per dot), and *V. riparia* (1 replicate per dot).

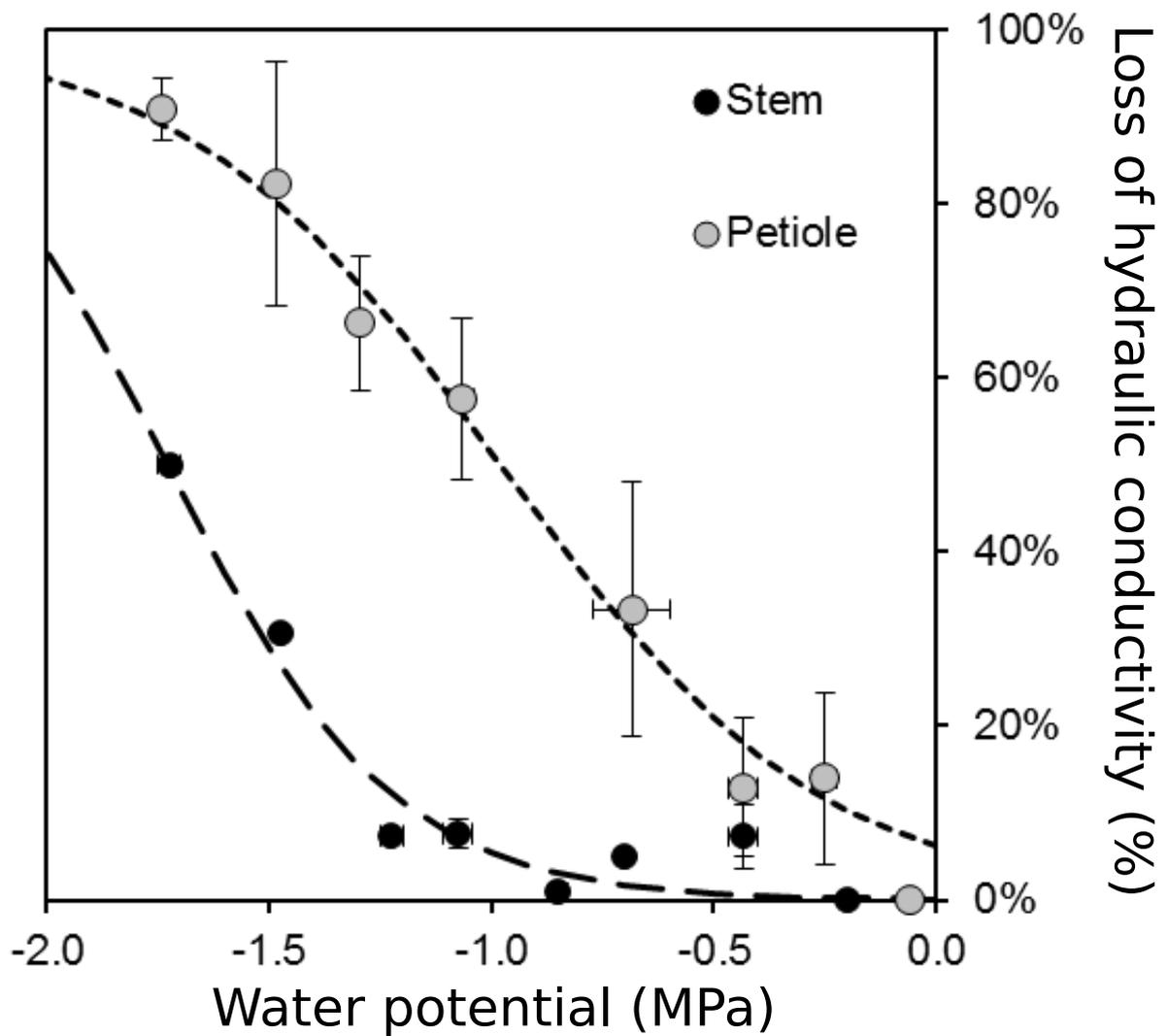


Figure 2. Percentage loss of conductivity (%) *versus* xylem water potential (MPa) calculated from HRCT images in *Vitis vinifera* stems (black dots) and petioles (grey dots). The dashed lines represent the sigmoid fit of the data. Symbols and bars represent the mean and standard errors from 0.2MPa classes (n= 1 to 7 replicates per dot).

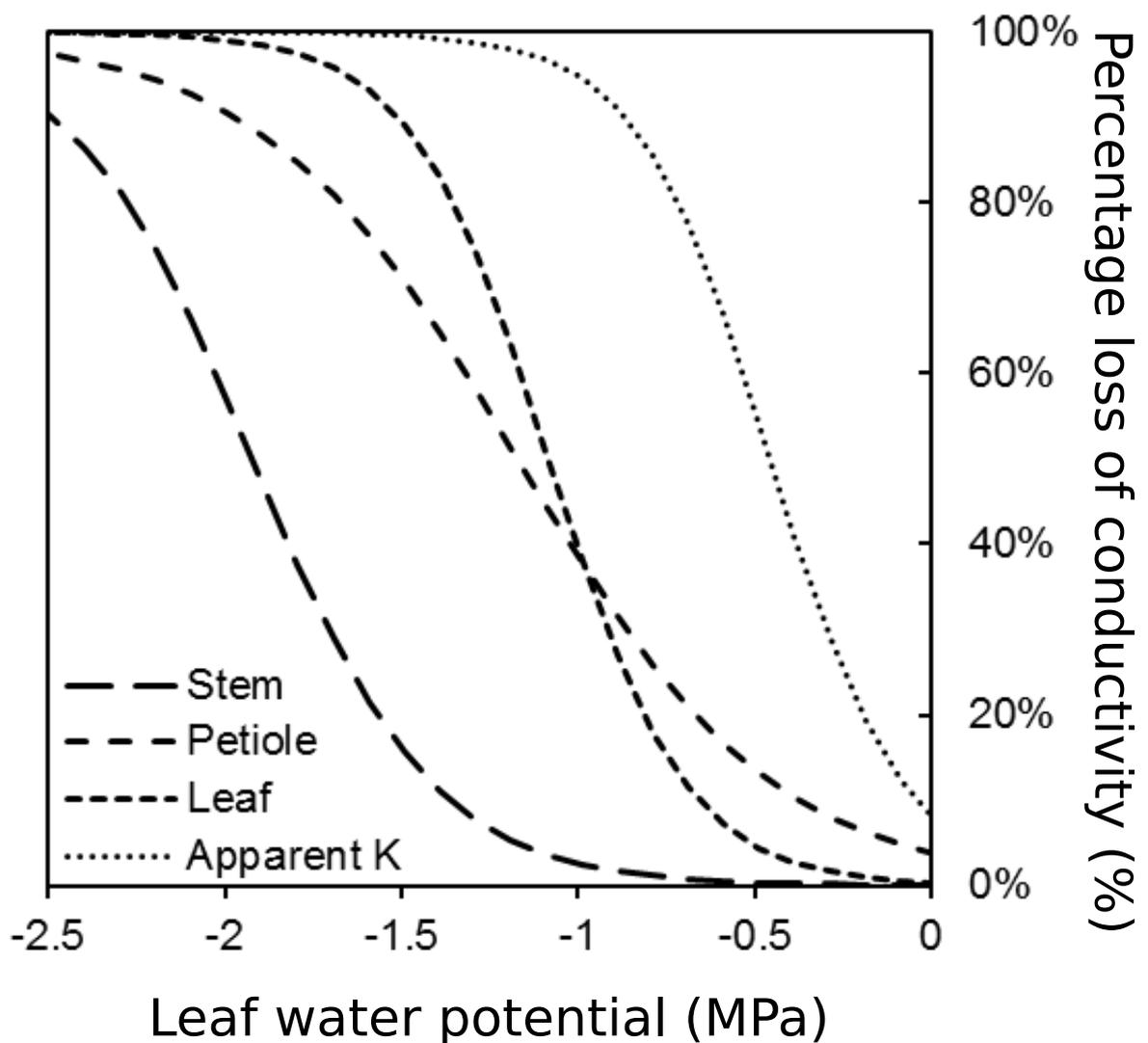


Figure 4. Percentage loss of conductivity (%) in *Vitis vinifera* stems (solid line; HRCT images), petioles (long-dashed line; HRCT images), leaves (short-dashed line; rehydration kinetic method), and apparent leaf conductance (dotted-line; calculated from gas exchange measurements) depending on leaf water potential (MPa).

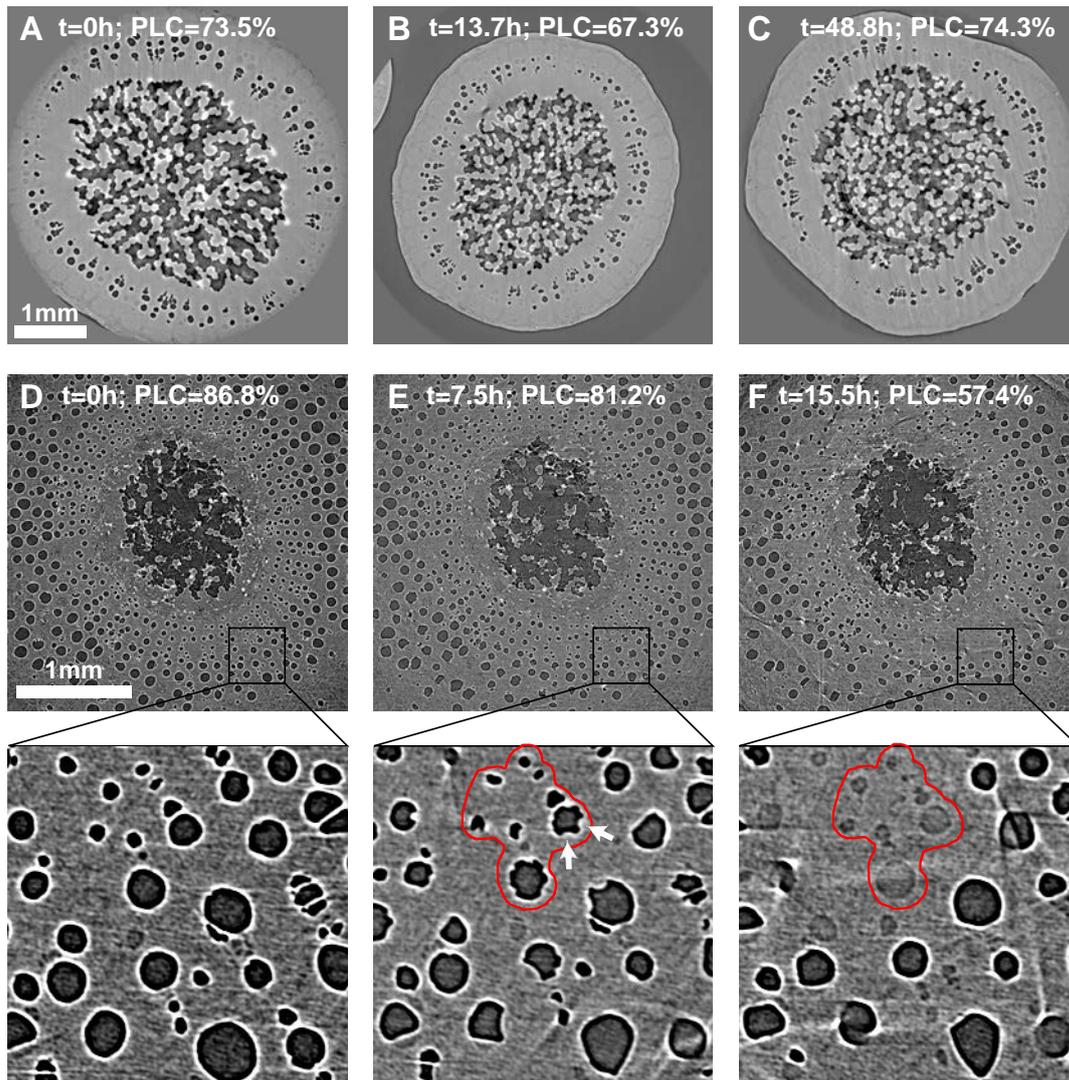


Figure 5. Cross section of *Vitis vinifera* stems at two different height levels *i.e.* the upper, distal part (A-C) and bottom, proximal part above the graft (D-F), after re-watering drought-stressed plants. Time relative to rewatering ($t = 0$ h, *i.e.* the rewatering time) and the theoretical losses of hydraulic conductance (PLC, %) are indicated. White bar = 1 mm scale.

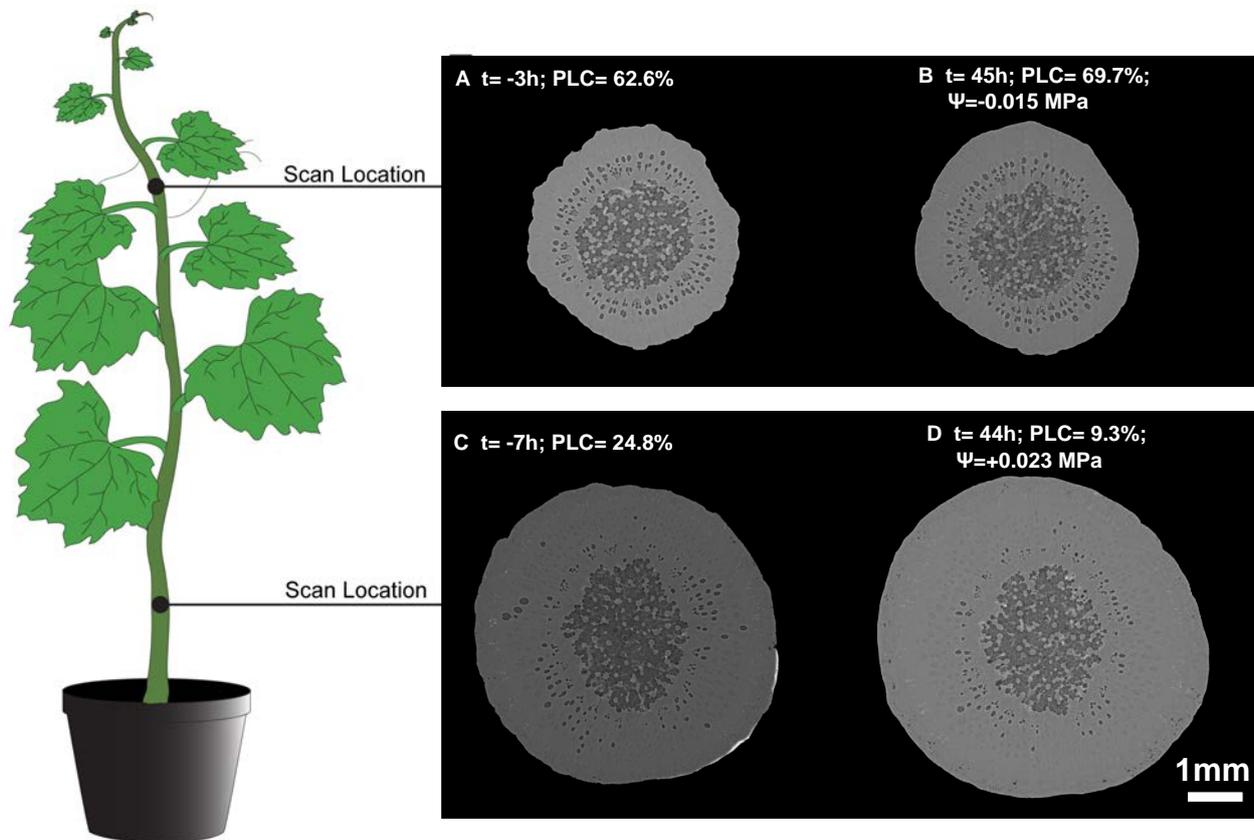


Figure 6. Cross section at two different height levels *i.e.* the upper, distal part (A-B) and bottom, proximal part above the graft (C-D) of the stem of the same *Vitis vinifera* plant, before and after rewatering. Time relative to rewatering ($t = 0\text{ h}$, *i.e.* the rewatering time), theoretical losses of hydraulic conductance (PLC, %), and water potential measured using pressure probes (Ψ , MPa) are indicated. White bar = 1 mm scale.

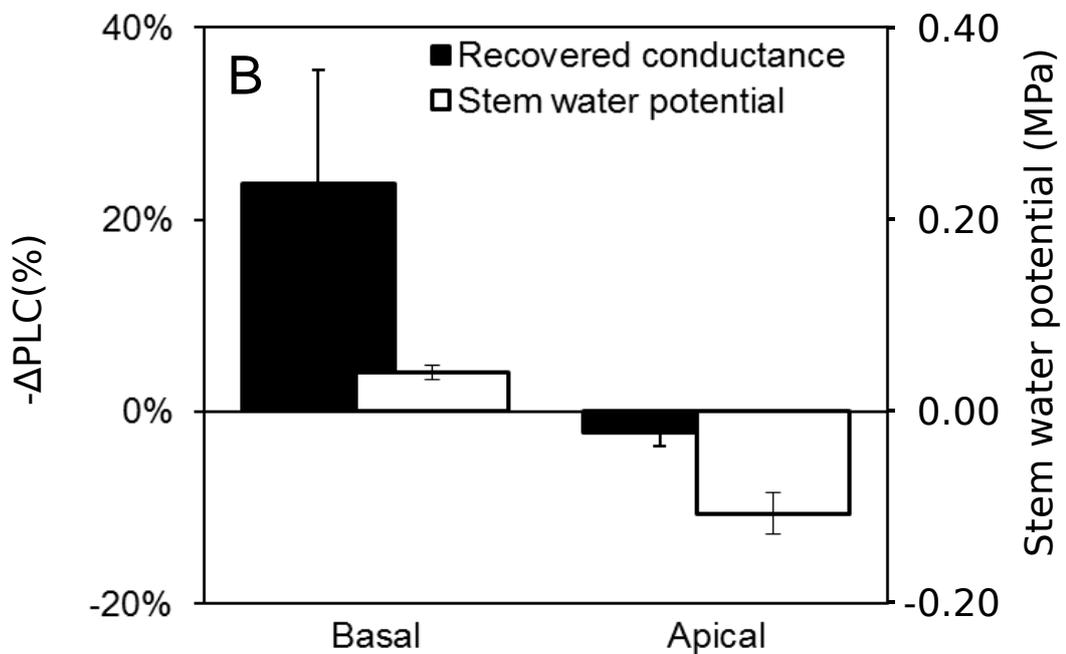


Figure 7. Mean change in theoretical hydraulic conductance ($-\Delta\text{PLC}$, %) and xylem water potential (MPa) for basal and apical scan positions in re-watered stems of *Vitis vinifera*. PLC and xylem water potential were significantly different across the apical and basal positions based on a Kruskal-Wallis test ($n = 5$; $P = 0.006$, and 0.011 , for PLC and water potential, respectively).

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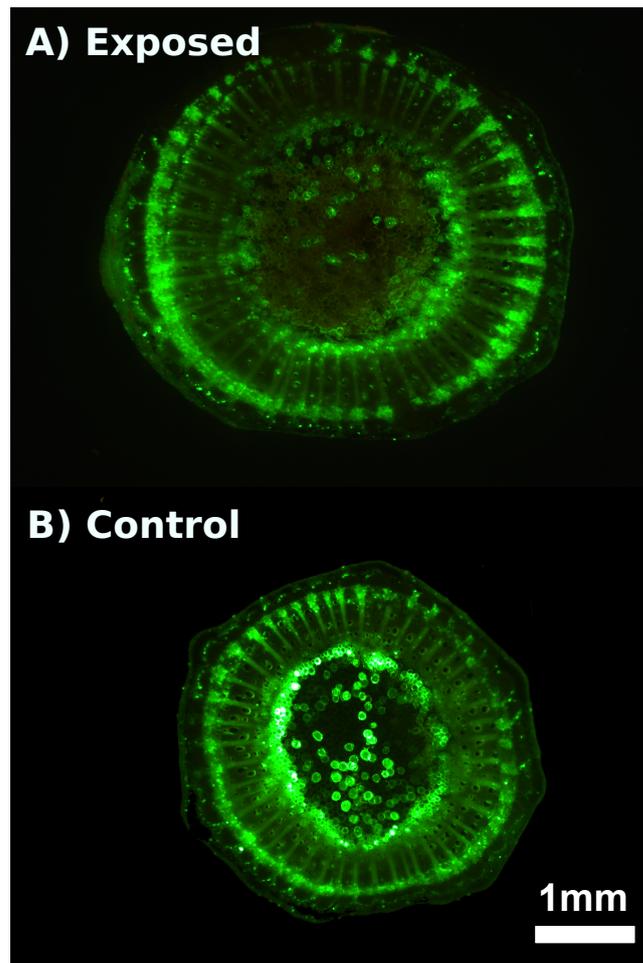


Figure S1. Cross section of the upper stem part of a grapevine plant that was scanned with HRCT 10 days before treatment with fluorescein-diacetate. The fluorescent, green colored cells represent living cells, which were slightly more pronounced in the control image (B) compared to the area that was exposed to x-ray beam (A). White bar = 1mm scale.

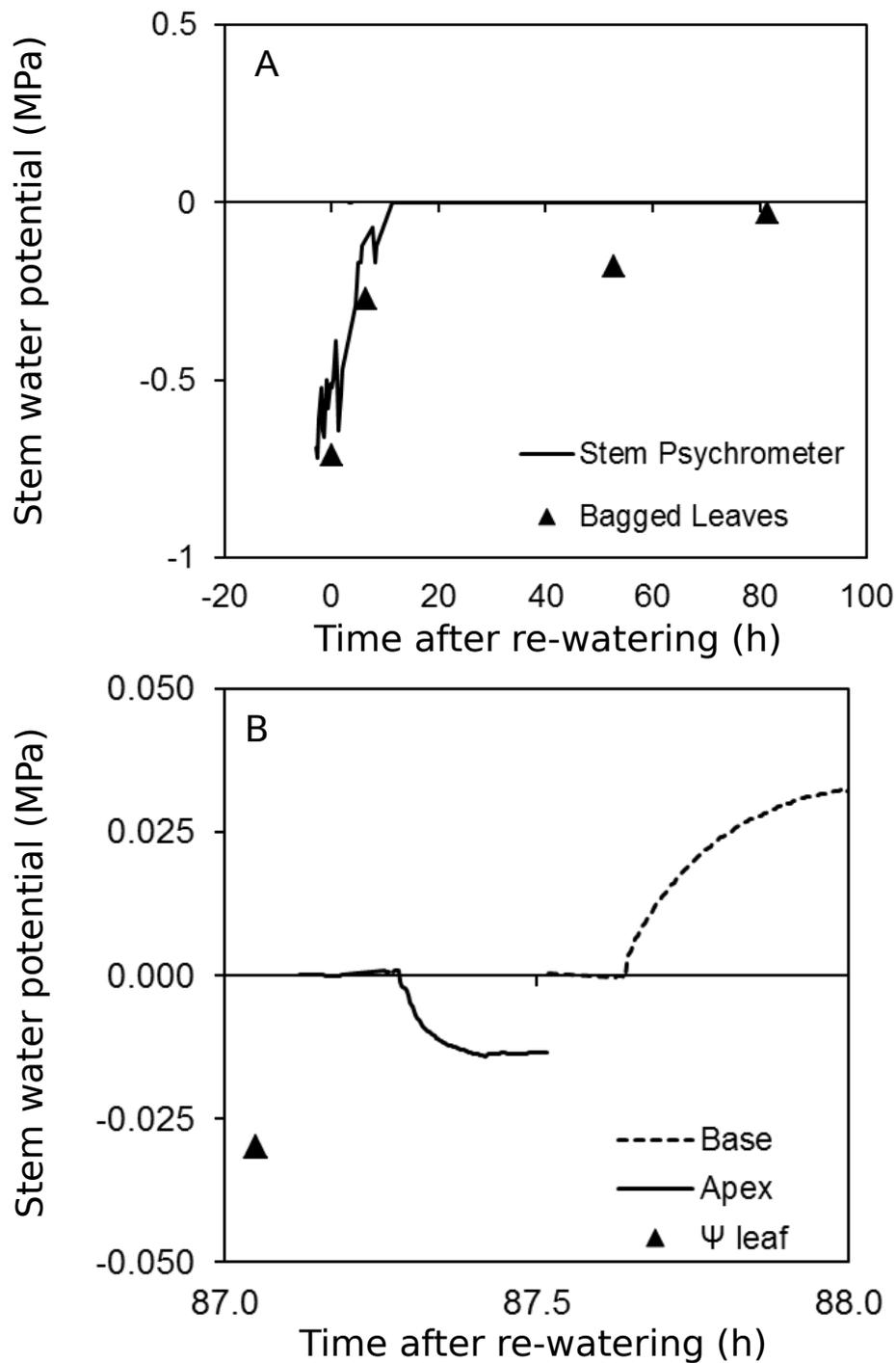


Figure S2. Water potential (MPa) *versus* time relative to re-watering ($t = 0$ h, *i.e.* the rewatering time) in re-watered *Vitis vinifera* plant, measured by stem psychrometer (A) and bagged leaf using pressure chamber (Ψ_{leaf} , A and B). **B.** After final scan, water potential was slightly negative on bagged leaf using pressure chamber (Ψ_{leaf}), and at the apex (*via* pressure transducer, black line), and positive at the base (dotted line).