

## Table of contents

|                                                                                 |    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Abstract.....                                                                   | I  |
| Table of contents.....                                                          | II |
| 1 Introduction .....                                                            | 1  |
| 1.1 <i>Taraxacum koksaghyz</i> is a natural rubber producing plant.....         | 1  |
| 1.2 The acetohydroxyacid synthase .....                                         | 6  |
| 1.2.1 The physiological role of the enzyme .....                                | 6  |
| 1.2.2 Occurrence in plants .....                                                | 11 |
| 1.2.3 The enzyme as a target for herbicides .....                               | 12 |
| 1.3 Introduction of mutations into the genome of plants.....                    | 18 |
| 1.3.1 Induced and insertional mutagenesis .....                                 | 18 |
| 1.3.2 Site-directed mutagenesis .....                                           | 19 |
| 1.4 Introduction of foreign DNA into plants .....                               | 22 |
| 1.5 Thesis objectives.....                                                      | 24 |
| 2 Materials and methods .....                                                   | 25 |
| 2.1 Materials .....                                                             | 25 |
| 2.1.1 Bacterial strains.....                                                    | 25 |
| 2.1.2 Chemicals and consumables.....                                            | 25 |
| 2.1.3 Equipment.....                                                            | 25 |
| 2.1.4 Media for bacteria and plants; solutions .....                            | 26 |
| 2.1.5 Plant material and growth conditions.....                                 | 27 |
| 2.1.6 Primer .....                                                              | 27 |
| 2.1.7 Vectors.....                                                              | 29 |
| 2.1.8 Polymerases .....                                                         | 30 |
| 2.1.9 RNA data .....                                                            | 30 |
| 2.2 Methods .....                                                               | 30 |
| 2.2.1 Standard Methods.....                                                     | 30 |
| 2.2.2 Cloning, transformation and analysis of vectors into <i>E. coli</i> ..... | 31 |
| 2.2.3 Crossing of <i>T. koksaghyz</i> plants.....                               | 31 |
| 2.2.4 Design, cloning and transformation of CRISPR/Cas9 constructs.....         | 31 |
| 2.2.5 DNA Sequencing.....                                                       | 31 |
| 2.2.6 EMS mutagenesis, selection and analysis for resistant plants.....         | 31 |
| 2.2.7 <i>In vitro</i> cleavage assay .....                                      | 32 |
| 2.2.8 Phylogenetic Analysis .....                                               | 32 |
| 2.2.9 Plant tissue grinding and genomic DNA isolation .....                     | 33 |
| 2.2.10 Pulsar®40 treatment and evaluation .....                                 | 33 |

|        |                                                                                           |     |
|--------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| 2.2.11 | Rapid Amplification of cDNA ends (RACE).....                                              | 33  |
| 2.2.12 | Regeneration of plants from explants.....                                                 | 33  |
| 2.2.13 | Screening of plants via restriction enzyme assays .....                                   | 34  |
| 2.2.14 | Searching for further AHAS sequences based on WWU transcriptome data ...                  | 35  |
| 2.2.15 | Surface sterilisation of seed material.....                                               | 36  |
| 2.2.16 | <i>T. koksaghyz</i> transformation experiments .....                                      | 36  |
| 2.2.17 | Transcriptome approaches.....                                                             | 36  |
| 3      | Results.....                                                                              | 40  |
| 3.1    | The acetohydroxyacid synthase of <i>T. koksaghyz</i> .....                                | 40  |
| 3.2    | Introducing an AHAS-dependent herbicide resistance into <i>T. koksaghyz</i> .....         | 46  |
| 3.2.1  | Undirected mutagenesis by using EMS.....                                                  | 46  |
| 3.2.2  | Site-directed genome editing by using the CRISPR/Cas9 system .....                        | 56  |
| 3.3    | Transcriptome analysis of EMS mutagenized material .....                                  | 61  |
| 4      | Discussion.....                                                                           | 68  |
| 4.1    | Acetohydroxyacid synthase gene(s) in <i>T. koksaghyz</i> .....                            | 68  |
| 4.2    | Mutagenesis approaches .....                                                              | 69  |
| 4.2.1  | Herbicide resistant EMS mutagenized plants .....                                          | 69  |
| 4.2.2  | CRISPR/Cas9 edited plants .....                                                           | 72  |
| 4.2.3  | Comparison of the EMS and CRISPR/Cas9 method .....                                        | 75  |
| 4.3    | Transcriptome studies on resistant and putative metabolic tolerant <i>T. koksaghyz</i> .. | 76  |
| 5      | Summary.....                                                                              | 80  |
| 6      | Appendix.....                                                                             | 81  |
| 7      | References.....                                                                           | 104 |
| 8      | Abbreviations .....                                                                       | 121 |
| 9      | Lebenslauf / Curriculum vitae .....                                                       | 122 |
| 10     | Thanks .....                                                                              | 123 |