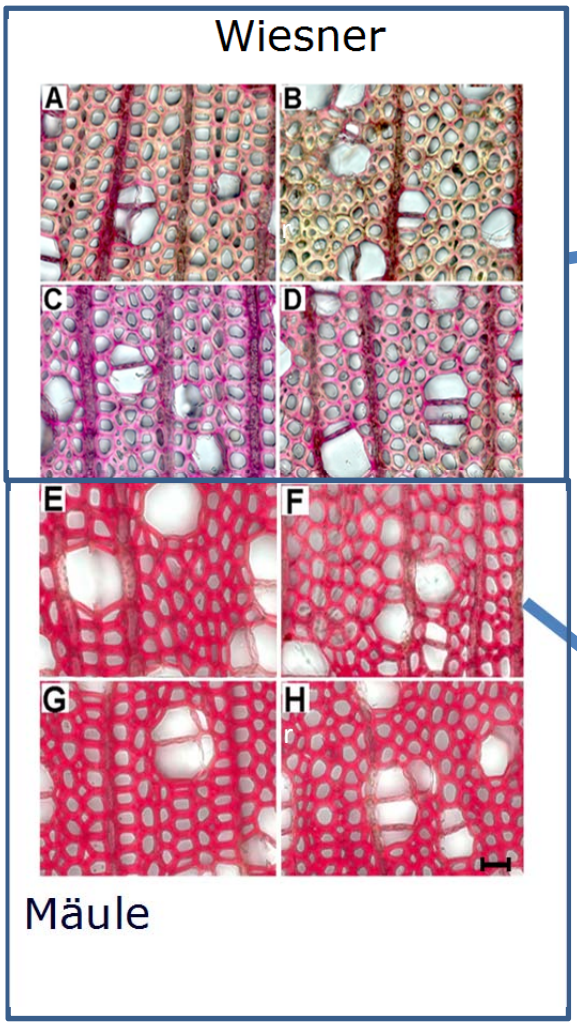
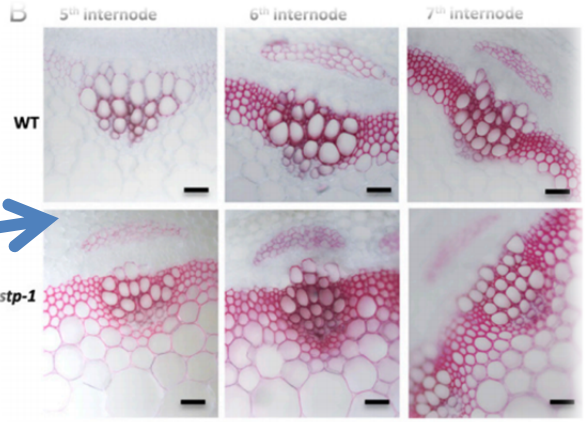
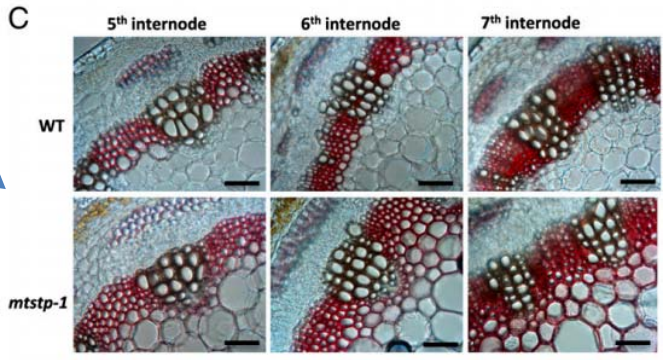
Answer: We agree that the Wiesner reagent does not stain G-lignin but cinnamylaldehydes. We have modified the text accordingly.

The fact remains that our figure 2 is correct and that the Wiesner stain resulted in a pinkish color and the Mäule stain in a strong red coloration. Perhaps, the solution to the problem is how the color is transmitted and displayed on the reviewer´s computer? We see a strong red color for Mäule and a rather pink-like color for Wiesner. Here we compare our graphs with some examples from the literature,

Our figure http://www.pnas.org/content/107/51/22338.full.pdf+html







http://www.springerlink.com/content/b7662152g2wh8w6v/fulltext.pdf

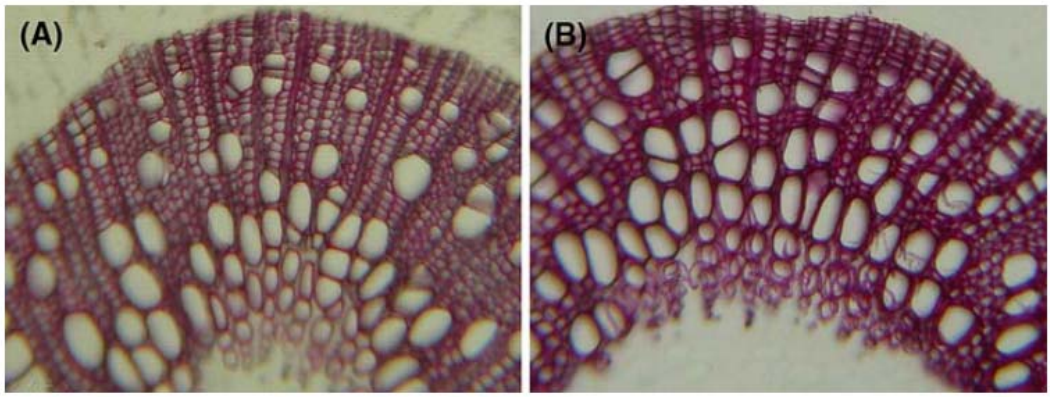


Fig. 5 Histochemical staining of lignin. Phloroglucinol–HCl staining of transverse stem sections of control (**a**) and transgenic line 2.16A (**b**)

http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1046/j.1432-1327.1999.00061.x/pdf

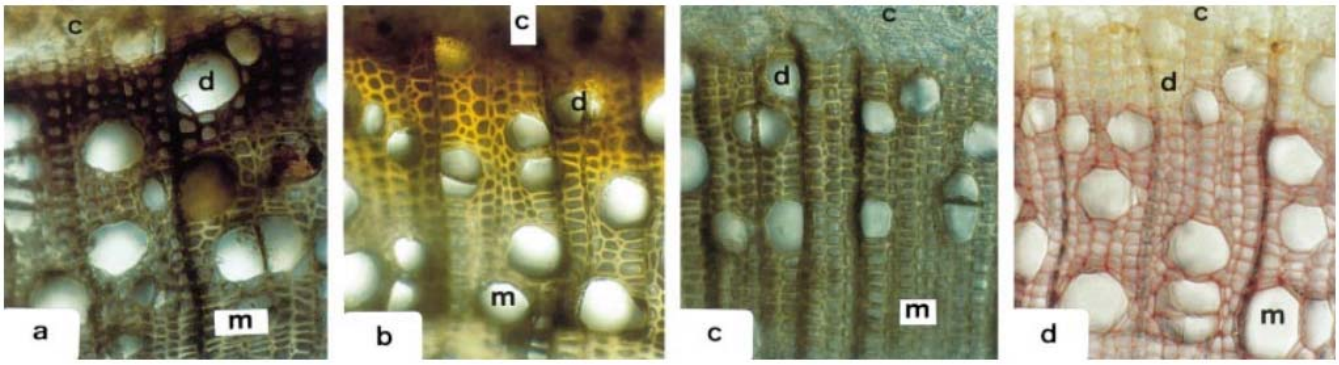


Fig. 1. Histochemical localization of H_2O_2-independent phenoloxidase activity in poplar branches. (a) Cross-sections of poplar (*Populus euramericana*) branches incubated overnight with ABTS results in a red–brown coloration in differentiating xylem. (b) Incubation with coniferaldehyde results in orange coloration in differentiating xylem. (c) Boiled control sections gives no coloration. (d) Phloroglucinol staining of lignins results in a red pink coloration of xylem cells. × 250, d = differentiating xylem, c = vascular cambium, m = mature xylem.

In summary: the lignin staining varies a lot, but a range of examples shows similar Wiesner staining as in our study.