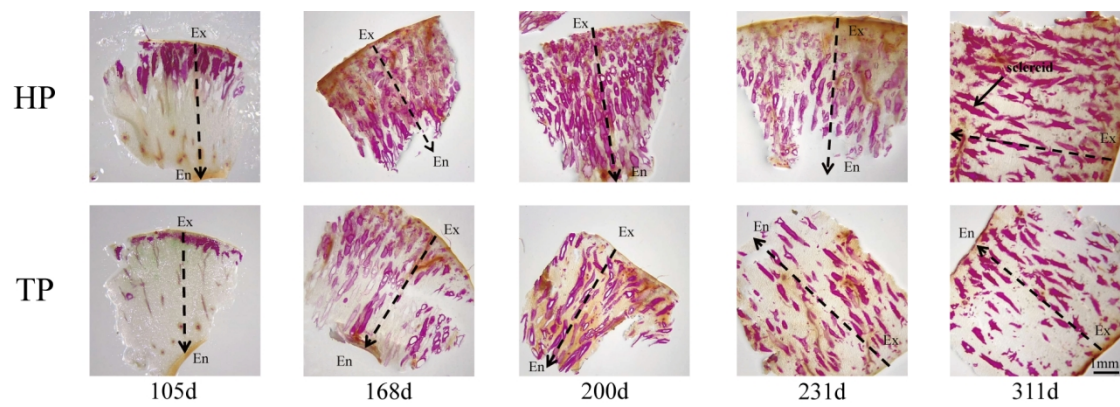




**Supplementary Fig. S1. Histological observation of pericarp lignification in HP and TP fruits at different developmental stages.** Phloroglucinol–HCl staining was performed on pericarp sections at 105, 168, 200, 231, and 311 d. Dashed arrows indicate the progression of lignification from the exocarp (Ex) towards the endocarp (En). The solid black arrow indicates fully formed sclereids. HP pericarps exhibited earlier and stronger lignification, characterised by larger and more densely arranged sclereid clusters, whilst TP exhibited weaker lignification with fewer and smaller sclereids. Scale bar = 1 mm.