

T H E
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ON THE COVER



The *Rosea1*, *Rosea2*, and *Venosa* genes encode MYB-related transcription factors active in the flowers of *Antirrhinum majus*. Schwinn et al. (pages 831–851) show that these genes control the intensity and pattern of anthocyanin pigmentation in flowers. Despite the structural similarity of these proteins, they influence the expression of target genes encoding the enzymes of anthocyanin biosynthesis with different specificities. Different *Antirrhinum* species show striking differences in their patterns and intensities of floral pigmentation due to variations in the activity of the *Rosea* and *Venosa* loci. The resulting patterns of pigmentation may provide visual guides for bees, attracting them to enter and pollinate the closed flowers. Cover photograph by Vernon Clarke shows the floral phenotype of the *Venosa*⁺ allele of *A. majus*.

IN THIS ISSUE

Genetic and Epigenetic Regulation of Embryogenesis 781
Nancy A. Eckardt

IN BRIEF

Energy Dissipation: New Role for a Carotenoid Protein in Cyanobacteria 785

Interorganellar Communication: Protein Synthesis in Organelles Influences Nuclear Photosynthetic Gene Expression
Nancy A. Eckardt

CURRENT PERSPECTIVE ESSAY

Studies of Abscisic Acid Perception Finally Flower 786
Ruth R. Finkelstein

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE ESSAY

Plant Circadian Rhythms 792
C. Robertson McClung

RESEARCH ARTICLES

DNA Methylation Is Critical for *Arabidopsis* Embryogenesis and Seed Viability 805
Wenyan Xiao, Kendra D. Custard, Roy C. Brown, Betty E. Lemmon, John J. Harada, Robert B. Goldberg, and Robert L. Fischer

***Arabidopsis* GLUTAMINE-RICH PROTEIN23 Is Essential for Early Embryogenesis and Encodes a Novel Nuclear PPR Motif Protein That Interacts with RNA Polymerase II Subunit III** 815
Yong-He Ding, Nai-You Liu, Zuo-Shun Tang, Jie Liu, and Wei-Cai Yang

A Small Family of MYB-Regulatory Genes Controls Floral Pigmentation Intensity and Patterning in the Genus *Antirrhinum* 831
Kathy Schwinn, Julien Venail, Yongjin Shang, Steve Mackay, Vibeke Alm, Eugenio Butelli, Ryan Oyama, Paul Bailey, Kevin Davies, and Cathie Martin

The *TORNADO1* and *TORNADO2* Genes Function in Several Patterning Processes during Early Leaf Development in *Arabidopsis thaliana* 852
Gerda Cnops, Pia Neyt, Jeroen Raes, Marica Petrarulo, Hilde Nelissen, Nenad Malenica, Christian Luschnig, Olaf Tietz, Franck Ditengou, Klaus Palme, Abdelkrim Azmi, Els Prinsen, and Mieke Van Lijsebettens

Calcium-Dependent Protein Kinase Isoforms in *Petunia* Have Distinct Functions in Pollen Tube Growth, Including Regulating Polarity 867
Gyeong Mee Yoon, Peter E. Dowd, Simon Gilroy, and Andrew G. McCubbin

***Arabidopsis* TEBICHI, with Helicase and DNA Polymerase Domains, Is Required for Regulated Cell Division and Differentiation in Meristems** 879
Soichi Inagaki, Takamasa Suzuki, Masa-aki Ohto, Hiroko Urawa, Takashi Horiuchi, Kenzo Nakamura, and Atsushi Morikami

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- The D-Type Cyclin CYCD3;1 Is Limiting for the G1-to-S-Phase Transition in *Arabidopsis*** [W](#) 893
Margit Menges, Anne K. Samland, Séverine Planchais, and James A.H. Murray
- The Structure of *Rauvolfia serpentina* Strictosidine Synthase Is a Novel Six-Bladed β -Propeller Fold in Plant Proteins** [W](#) 907
Xueyan Ma, Santosh Panjikar, Juergen Koepke, Elke Loris, and Joachim Stöckigt
- Arabidopsis* SHORT HYPOCOTYL UNDER BLUE1 Contains SPX and EXS Domains and Acts in Cryptochrome Signaling** [W](#) 921
Xiaojun Kang and Min Ni
- Selective Mobility and Sensitivity to SNAREs Is Exhibited by the *Arabidopsis* KAT1 K⁺ Channel at the Plasma Membrane** [W](#) 935
Jens-Uwe Sutter, Prisca Campanoni, Matthew Tyrrell, and Michael R. Blatt
- LOW PSII ACCUMULATION1 Is Involved in Efficient Assembly of Photosystem II in *Arabidopsis thaliana*** [W](#) 955
Lianwei Peng, Jinfang Ma, Wei Chi, Jinkui Guo, Shuyong Zhu, Qingtao Lu, Congming Lu, and Lixin Zhang
- Nuclear Photosynthetic Gene Expression Is Synergistically Modulated by Rates of Protein Synthesis in Chloroplasts and Mitochondria** [W](#) 970
Paolo Pesaresi, Simona Masiero, Holger Eubel, Hans-Peter Braun, Shashi Bhushan, Elzbieta Glaser, Francesco Salamini, and Dario Leister
- A Soluble Carotenoid Protein Involved in Phycobilisome-Related Energy Dissipation in Cyanobacteria** 992
Adjélé Wilson, Ghada Ajlani, Jean-Marc Verbavatz, Imre Vass, Cheryl A. Kerfeld, and Diana Kirilovsky
- Cytochrome P450 CYP710A Encodes the Sterol C-22 Desaturase in *Arabidopsis* and Tomato** [W](#) [OA](#) 1008
Tomomi Morikawa, Masaharu Mizutani, Nozomu Aoki, Bunta Watanabe, Hirohisa Saga, Shigeki Saito, Akira Oikawa, Hideyuki Suzuki, Nozomu Sakurai, Daisuke Shibata, Akira Wadano, Kanzo Sakata, and Daisaku Ohta
- FaQR, Required for the Biosynthesis of the Strawberry Flavor Compound 4-Hydroxy-2,5-Dimethyl-3(2H)-Furanone, Encodes an Enone Oxidoreductase** 1023
Thomas Raab, Juan Antonio López-Ráez, Dorothee Klein, Jose Luis Caballero, Enriqueta Moyano, Wilfried Schwab, and Juan Muñoz-Blanco
- Salicylic Acid-Independent ENHANCED DISEASE SUSCEPTIBILITY1 Signaling in *Arabidopsis* Immunity and Cell Death Is Regulated by the Monooxygenase FMO1 and the Nudix Hydrolase NUDT7** [W](#) 1038
Michael Bartsch, Enrico Gobatto, Pawel Bednarek, Svenja Debey, Joachim L. Schultze, Jaqueline Bautor, and Jane E. Parker
- Reactive Oxygen Species Play a Role in Regulating a Fungus-Perennial Ryegrass Mutualistic Interaction** [W](#) 1052
Aiko Tanaka, Michael J. Christensen, Daigo Takemoto, Pyoyun Park, and Barry Scott
- The U-Box Protein CMPG1 Is Required for Efficient Activation of Defense Mechanisms Triggered by Multiple Resistance Genes in Tobacco and Tomato** [W](#) 1067
Rocío González-Lamothe, Dimitrios I. Tsitsigiannis, Andrea A. Ludwig, Mireia Panicot, Ken Shirasu, and Jonathan D.G. Jones
- The E3 Ubiquitin Ligase Activity of *Arabidopsis* PLANT U-BOX17 and Its Functional Tobacco Homolog ACRE276 Are Required for Cell Death and Defense** 1084
Cheng-Wei Yang, Rocío González-Lamothe, Richard A. Ewan, Owen Rowland, Hirofumi Yoshioka, Matt Shenton, Heng Ye, Elizabeth O'Donnell, Jonathan D.G. Jones, and Ari Sadanandom

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