

***Arabidopsis* ABA INSENSITIVE4 Regulates Lipid Mobilization in the Embryo and Reveals Repression of Seed Germination by the Endosperm**^W

Steven Penfield, Yi Li, Alison D. Gilday, Stuart Graham, and Ian A. Graham¹

Department of Biology, Centre for Novel Agricultural Products, University of York, York YO10 5YW, United Kingdom

Regulation of seed germination requires coordinate action by the embryo and surrounding endosperm. We used *Arabidopsis thaliana* to establish the relative roles of embryo and endosperm in the control of seed germination and seedling establishment. We previously showed that endospermic oil reserves are used postgerminatively via gluconeogenesis to fuel seedling establishment and that lipid breakdown is repressed by abscisic acid (ABA) in embryo but not endosperm tissues. Here, we use RNA amplification to describe the transcriptome of the endosperm and compare the hormone responses of endosperm and embryo tissues. We show that the endosperm responds to both ABA and gibberellin but that ABA in particular regulates nuclear but not plastid-encoded photosynthetic gene expression in the embryo. We also show that *ABA INSENSITIVE4 (ABI4)* expression is confined to the embryo, accounts for the major differences in embryo response to ABA, and defines a role for *ABI4* as a repressor of lipid breakdown. Furthermore, *ABI5* expression in the endosperm defines a second region of altered ABA signaling in the micropylar endosperm cap. Finally, embryo and endosperm ABA signaling mutants demonstrate the spatial specificity of ABA action in seed germination. We conclude that the single cell endosperm layer plays an active role in the regulation of seed germination in *Arabidopsis*.

INTRODUCTION

Arabidopsis thaliana seeds exhibit a common form of dormancy known as coat induced or coat enhanced. These terms describe the important role of tissues surrounding the seed in the maintenance of dormancy. In *Arabidopsis*, the availability of mutants has focused attention on the role of the testa in coat-enhanced dormancy, but in general, the term covers all tissues surrounding the embryo, which include the endosperm and pericarp where present (Bewley and Black, 1994). The key role of these embryo-surrounding tissues in the control of germination is neatly demonstrated by the fact that damaging or removing them breaks dormancy and stimulates embryo growth in many species.

The endosperm in the mature *Arabidopsis* seed consists of a single cell layer resembling the cereal aleurone. Until recently it was believed to be of little importance once the seed has reached maturity (Berger, 1999). However, we have shown that carbon stored as triacylglycerol in the *Arabidopsis* endosperm is used via gluconeogenesis to fuel seedling establishment (Penfield et al., 2004). Although abscisic acid (ABA) can inhibit lipid breakdown in the embryo, endosperm storage reserve mobilization occurs independently of ABA levels, demonstrating

tissue-specific differences in ABA signaling in the seed. This differential sensitivity of lipid mobilization in the embryo and endosperm to ABA has subsequently been confirmed in tobacco (*Nicotiana tabacum*) seeds (Manz et al., 2005), suggesting wide conservation among seed plants and important functional significance of the process. However, the molecular basis of this effect remains unclear.

In tobacco and tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum*), both of which contain comparatively large endosperms in the mature seed, the endosperm is a major focus in efforts to understand the control of germination. In addition to its function as a storage tissue, in these species and others, the endosperm has been shown to exert control over germination by secreting cell wall loosening enzymes that weaken the mechanical resistance of the micropylar endosperm cap to radicle protrusion (reviewed in Bewley, 1997b). Hence, understanding the role of the endosperm is vital to our knowledge of the control of germination in *Arabidopsis* and other seed plants. To this end, many screens have been performed to identify endosperm-expressed genes during seed germination (Dubreucq et al., 2003; Liu et al., 2005).

Seed dormancy and germination are strongly under the control of phytohormones and their responses. Genetic analysis of seed germination in *Arabidopsis* has revealed that ABA and gibberellins (GAs) are crucial regulators (Bentsink and Koornneef, 2002). Both ABA-deficient and several *aba insensitive (abi)* mutants show reduced dormancy phenotypes. *abi3* mutants also show defects in seed maturation and desiccation tolerance (Nambara et al., 1992). Two further loci, *ABI4* and *ABI5*, are not required for dormancy but are necessary for the ABA inhibition of germination and have additive effects on seed maturation when combined

¹To whom correspondence should be addressed. E-mail iag1@york.ac.uk; fax 44-1904-328762.

The author responsible for distribution of materials integral to the findings presented in this article in accordance with the policy described in the Instructions for Authors (www.plantcell.org) is: Ian A. Graham (iag1@york.ac.uk).

^WOnline version contains Web-only data.

Article, publication date, and citation information can be found at www.plantcell.org/cgi/doi/10.1105/tpc.106.041277.

with *abi3*, *leafy cotyledon1*, or *fusca3*, suggesting a function in the maturing seed (Brocard-Gifford et al., 2003). *ABI3*, *ABI4*, and *ABI5* encode B3-, AP2-, and bZIP-type transcription factors, respectively, suggesting that regulation at the level of transcription is important for the ABA response in seeds (Giraudat et al., 1992; Finkelstein et al., 1998; Finkelstein and Lynch, 2000). Despite the central role of ABA in the imposition of seed dormancy, mature seeds treated even with high concentrations of exogenous ABA do not mimic dormant seeds but arrest with the seed coat split and the radicle held within the micropylar endosperm (Koornneef et al., 1982; Penfield et al., 2004). Importantly, the activity of endosperm-expressed cell wall loosening enzymes is also controlled by both ABA and GA (Groot et al., 1988; Toorop et al., 2000).

We have shown previously that embryo and endosperm tissues can be successfully isolated from mature *Arabidopsis* seeds after the seed coat has undergone programmed cell death (Penfield et al., 2004). To further probe the role of the endosperm in germination control in *Arabidopsis*, and ABA signaling during germination, we performed microarray expression profiling of isolated embryo and endosperm tissues using RNA amplification and the ATH1 chip. The results reveal the transcriptome of the endosperm and describe in detail the embryo and endosperm response to ABA. We demonstrate that the expression domain of the *ABI4* gene is the crucial determinant of the sensitivity of lipid mobilization to ABA during seed germination and that *ABI5* expression is a marker for the critical micropylar region of the endosperm. Finally, using mutants disrupted in either the embryo or endosperm ABA responses, we show the control of *Arabidopsis* seed germination by the endosperm.

RESULTS

Differential Gene Expression in the Embryo and Endosperm during Germination

To probe in detail the phytohormonal responses of the embryo and endosperm during germination, we undertook global expression profiling using the ATH1 gene chip 1 d after transfer to 22°C after 3 d of cold stratification. At this time point, shortly after radicle emergence, the percentage decrease in storage lipid is significantly more advanced in endosperm compared with embryo tissues, whereas transcriptional activity of various storage lipid-related genes as determined by promoter-reporter gene activity is detectable in both (Penfield et al., 2004, 2005). Additional transcriptome data sets were generated from seeds that were stratified for 3 d and transferred to 22°C for 1 d, having been maintained throughout on media containing either 20 μ M ABA or 20 μ M paclobutrazol (PAC). We harvested embryo and endosperm tissue in triplicate samples and compared gene expression.

First, we noticed that the number of probe sets (12,190) found to be expressed in the endosperm using the ATH1 chip was very similar to that in the embryo (13,121). These numbers closely resemble the number of genes found to be expressed in other *Arabidopsis* tissues, excluding pollen (Schmid et al., 2005). Significance analysis of microarray (SAM) analysis (Tusher et al., 2001) found that the expression of 9650 probe sets did not differ significantly between embryo and endosperm tissues

(Figure 1A), with \sim 4000 genes expressed differentially in either the embryo or endosperm. Plotting embryo and endosperm transcript levels supported this view, showing a broad correlation in gene expression levels between the two tissues ($R^2 = 0.75$; Figure 1B). Hence, we concluded that patterns of gene expression are broadly similar between the two organs at this time point, perhaps reflecting the similar postgerminative metabolism occurring in these tissues.

Using highly stringent criteria, we identified embryo- and endosperm-specific transcripts during germination. To qualify, genes must be scored as present in all three replicate samples in the expressed tissue and must be called absent in the nonexpressed tissue in at least two of the three replicate experiments. Genes whose function has been previously addressed in other published work and fulfill these criteria are shown in Supplemental Table 1 online. The *Arabidopsis* extensin-like gene *EPR1* is known to be expressed solely in the endosperm during germination and was used previously as a marker for endosperm identity (Dubreucq et al., 2003; Penfield et al., 2004). This control gene was found to be expressed highly in endosperm samples yet was absent in the embryo (3749.8 ± 122.6 versus 25.2 ± 4.5 ; see Supplemental Table 1 online), indicating the high fidelity of the microarray data. The highest expressed genes were consistent with known endosperm functions and included various putative proteases, transporters, and cell wall-modifying enzymes. One of these, *EXPANSIN2* (*EXP2*), has been described as an early GA-induced transcript during seed germination (Ogawa et al., 2003). An *EXP2:GUS* (for β -glucuronidase) fusion confirmed that its expression was indeed endosperm specific (data not shown). Comparison with online data sets suggested that the expression of this gene is not detected in any other tissues except for low expression in seeds after imbibition (www.genevestigator.ethz.ch). Given the high endosperm expression of *EXP2* in our data sets, we concluded that *EXP2* is a marker for endosperm tissue in nondormant imbibed or germinating seeds. One notable gene, *MYB101*, was found to be highly expressed in endosperm tissue yet absent from the embryo. MYB101 is a homolog of the cereal GAMYB transcription factor required for the strong induction of amylase expression in the endosperm during germination (Gubler et al., 1995). Endosperm expression of *MYB101* has been shown previously (Gocal et al., 2001); however, this study also detected expression in the embryo. Embryo-specific transcripts included known chloroplast-associated genes and those associated with shoot apical meristem function (see Supplemental Table 1 online).

To understand the functional specialization of embryo and endosperm tissues, we compared the two transcriptomes using Metabolic MapMan (Thimm et al., 2004; see Supplemental Figure 1 online). MapMan allows the visualization of changes in gene expression in a format such that genes are organized and displayed in discrete bins organized according to gene function or predicted gene function. In addition, the Wilcoxon rank sum test was used to identify major bins of genes with a common function whose expression was significantly higher in one tissue versus the other compared with the data set as a whole (Usadel et al., 2005). Several MapMan bins were found to be highly expressed in the endosperm relative to the embryo. Strikingly, these included those dedicated to storage reserve mobilization,

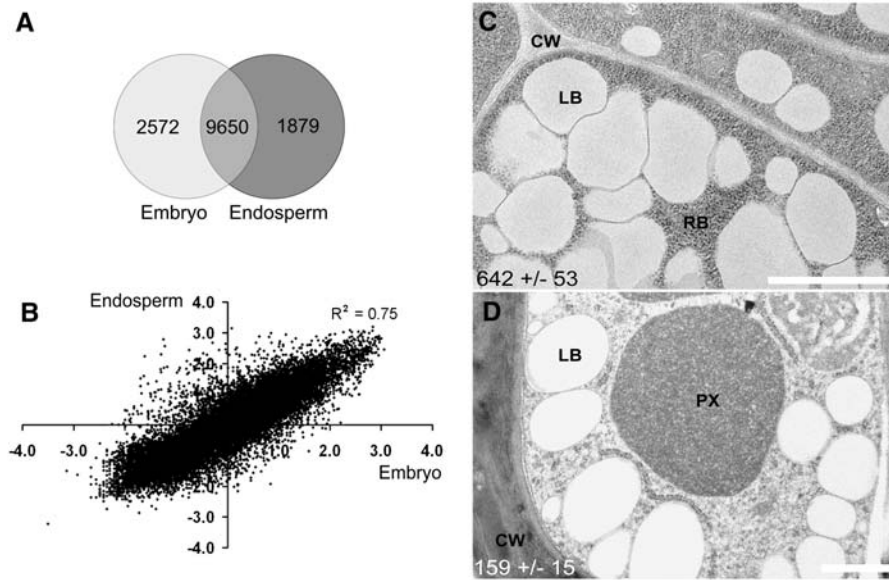


Figure 1. Comparison of the Embryo and Endosperm Transcriptome 24 h after Transfer to 22°C.

(A) Number of detected expressed genes in embryo, endosperm, or both tissues.

(B) Plot of Z-score transformed embryo versus endosperm expression data shows similar expression of most genes in both tissues.

(C) and (D) Transmission electron micrograph of representative embryo and endosperm cells 1 d after transfer to 22°C showing cells densely packed with ribosomes in the embryo (C) compared with the endosperm (D). Numbers at the bottom left of the panels indicate the mean \pm SE of ribosomes per μm^2 of cytoplasm observable in a 100- μm -thin section. CW, cell wall; RB, ribosomes; LB, lipid body; PX, peroxisome. Bars = 1 μM .

including the entire path of primary carbon metabolism through the glyoxylate cycle, the trichloroacetic acid (TCA) cycle, glycolysis/gluconeogenesis, and sugar transport (Table 1). All the major characterized fatty acid β -oxidation transcripts were also more highly expressed in the endosperm versus the embryo (see Supplemental Table 2 online). This is consistent with our previous observation that the endosperm is supremely dedicated to reserve mobilization at this early time point when compared with the embryo (Penfield et al., 2005) and supports previous conclusions that endospermic reserves are used by the embryo during seedling establishment (Penfield et al., 2004). The higher expression of transcripts relating to lipid reserve mobilization in the embryo may reflect the relative lack of transcripts required for reserve use in the endosperm, or it may be that the peak of lipid reserve mobilization gene expression occurs at a later time point in the embryo. The latter hypothesis is supported by observations that endosperm lipid reserve mobilization is completed earlier in the endosperm than in the embryo (Penfield et al., 2005). Importantly, another group of bins highly expressed in the endosperm relative to the embryo were those involved in protein degradation and amino acid transport. This suggests that storage protein breakdown is another important function of the endosperm.

Prominent among bins highly expressed in the embryo relative to the endosperm are those for transcription, amino acid activation, and protein synthesis (Table 1). As the amino acids used for early postgerminative protein synthesis are likely derived from seed storage proteins, this suggests an embryo tissue more specialized for reserve use than the endosperm. The number of observable ribosomes in embryo and endosperm cells correlates

strikingly with protein synthesis-related gene expression, with embryo cells containing approximately five times more ribosomes than the endosperm (Figures 1C and 1D).

Transcriptomic Response of Embryo and Endosperm Tissues to ABA

To further probe the ABA responses of the endosperm and embryo, we compared gene expression in control and ABA-treated tissues 24 h after imbibition. The total number of genes regulated by ABA in the embryo and endosperm was compared using SAM (Tusher et al., 2001) with a stringent 1% false discovery rate (Figures 2A and 2B). Using this analysis, 1971 genes were found to be ABA downregulated in the embryo, while 1197 genes were upregulated. This represents a total of \sim 22% of expressed genes regulated by ABA in the embryo. This result contrasts strikingly with the endosperm, where only 422 ABA downregulated and 49 ABA upregulated genes were found, despite a similar number of expressed genes in both tissues (Figures 2A and 2B). Hence, a large number of genes regulated by ABA in the embryo are either not regulated by ABA in the endosperm or show only a weak effect of ABA on their transcript abundance such that they fall short of the 1% significance level. Therefore, these results strongly support previous observations that the endosperm is markedly less sensitive to ABA than the embryo (Penfield et al., 2004) and show that this phenomenon is not limited to the regulation of lipid mobilization.

To understand which processes were under embryo-specific ABA regulation, we used MapMan to identify functional categories

Table 1. MapMan Bins of Genes of Common Function Identified as Significantly More Highly Expressed in the Embryo Relative to Endosperm or Endosperm Relative to Embryo

Embryo				Endosperm			
Bin Code	Bin Name	No. Genes	P Value	Bin Code	Bin Name	No. Genes	P Value
29.2	Protein synthesis	427	<1e-20	29.5	Protein degradation	654	<1e-20
29.2.2	Ribosomal proteins	233	<1e-20	29.5.11.20	Proteasome	53	6.17e-09
29.2.1	Plastid/mitochondrial ribosomal proteins	72	1.75e-19	8.1	TCA cycle	33	2.98e-06
1.1	Photosynthesis light reactions	114	3.02e-12	29.4	Posttranslational modification	611	3.30e-05
28.1	DNA synthesis/chromatin structure	218	5.32e-06	34.3	Amino acid transport	40	1.08e-03
34.19.1	Major intrinsic proteins PIP	9	3.10e-05	4.0	Glycolysis	48	1.73e-03
19.0	Tetrapyrrole biosynthesis	27	3.55e-05	9.0	Mitochondrial electron transport	86	2.96e-03
11.6	Lipid transfer proteins	9	1.16e-04	31.4	Vesicle transport	69	4.69e-03
10.6.3	Pectate lyases	37	4.55e-04	29.11.4.3.2	F-box proteins	163	8.69e-03
16.2.1	Lignin biosynthesis	22	9.04e-04	2.1.1	Sucrose synthesis	9	1.00e-02
1.3	Calvin cycle	29	1.32e-03	5.0	Fermentation	10	1.36e-02
29.1	Amino acid activation	67	1.32e-03	34.9	Metabolite transporters at the mitochondrial membrane	51	1.47e-02
10.8	Pectin esterases	34	1.49e-03	34.14	Unspecified cation transporters	27	1.77e-02
10.5.1	Arabinogalactan proteins	26	1.60e-03	34.2	Sugar transporters	52	1.85e-02
11.1	Fatty acid synthesis	69	1.72e-03	34.12	Metal transporters	49	1.85e-02
31.3	Cell cycle	81	2.32e-03	6.0	Glyoxylate cycle, gluconeogenesis	8	3.24e-02
16.3	Phenylpropanoid metabolism	59	2.96e-03				
27.2	Transcription	54	9.43e-03				
2.1.2	Starch synthesis	23	1.17e-02				

MapMan bins of genes were identified by comparing the regulation of each bin to the ATH1 array as a whole using the Wilcoxon rank sum test.

of genes that were ABA regulated in the embryo but not the endosperm (see Supplemental Figure 2 online) and using the Wilcoxon rank sum test identified bins of genes regulated by ABA in the embryo, endosperm, or both (Table 2). Several bins were found to be significantly changed in gene expression by ABA treatment in the embryo but not the endosperm. Strikingly, this group of bins was dominated by genes involved in major plastid functions: these included the photosynthetic light reactions, the Calvin cycle, tetrapyrrole synthesis, and fatty acid synthesis. In fact, genes encoding components of the photosynthetic reaction centers were downregulated by ABA in the embryo yet actually upregulated by ABA in the endosperm. A number of bins representing secondary metabolism were also ABA downregulated in the embryo only. The role of ABA in the inhibition of chloroplast development in young seedlings is well known; however, ABA had no significant effect on the expression of chloroplast-encoded gene expression in either embryo or endosperm (Figures 2C and 2D). Therefore, ABA influences chloroplast metabolism exclusively through the regulation of the nuclear genome.

Several MapMan bins were also found to be significantly affected by ABA in both tissues. Prominent among these were groups of cell wall-related enzymes, such as pectinesterases, pectate lyases, and cell wall-modifying enzymes (expansins and xyloglucan endotransglycosylases; Table 2). This suggests that the cell wall is a major target of ABA signaling in both the embryo and endosperm and that this role of ABA is mediated by signal transduction components expressed in both tissues. ABA-upregulated bins in both embryo and endosperm include

those representing oleosins and aspartate degradation. We found no major targets of ABA repression that were unique to the endosperm. Hence, the endosperm is both qualitatively and quantitatively different in its ABA response compared with the embryo. Previously, we used reporter gene studies to show that ABA affects the transcription from a number of promoters of key storage reserve mobilization-related genes (Pritchard et al., 2002; Penfield et al., 2004). In the latter study, the temporal induction of reporter gene activity at 1 d after imbibition correlated strongly with endogenous enzyme activities. However, other published data on steady state transcript levels reported that these transcripts were already elevated in imbibed seeds (Rylott et al., 2001). Our study also shows that reserve mobilization is not dramatically regulated at the level of steady state transcript levels in either the embryo or endosperm by ABA and that transcripts are already accumulated at high levels in nongerminating PAC-treated seeds (see Supplemental Table 2 online). This agrees with previous published array work that showed that the transcription of key enzymes in β -oxidation and the glyoxylate cycle is already induced in late seed development (Schmid et al., 2005).

Comparing this data set to the AtGenExpress ABA treatment experimental data (<http://www.weigelworld.org/research/projects/resources/microarray/AtGenExpress/>; 24 h imbibed seeds with and without 30 μ M ABA and 7-d-old seedlings with or without 3 μ M ABA for 3 h), we were able to identify 52 ABA-induced probe sets representing 51 genes whose expression was affected two-fold or greater by ABA treatment in all four experiments (embryo, endosperm, seed, and seedling; see Supplemental Table 3 online).

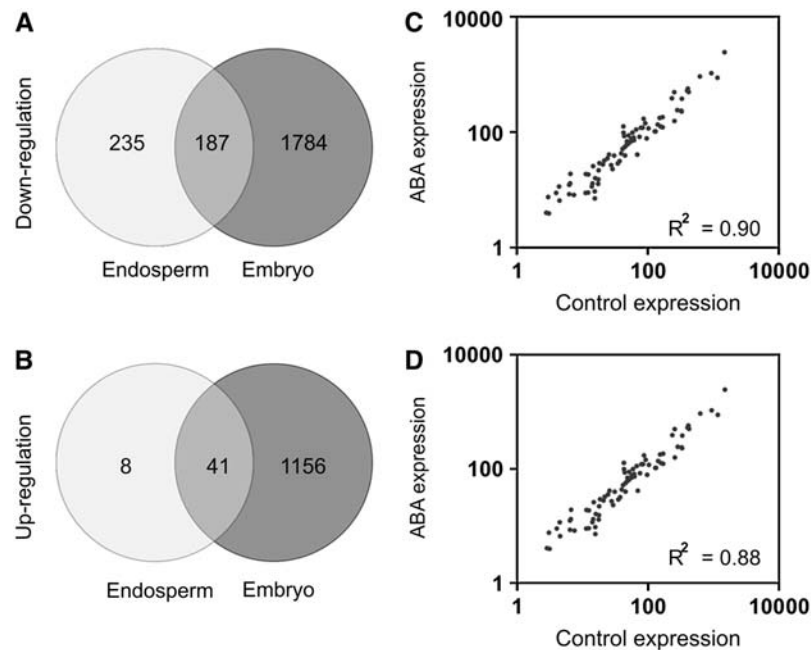


Figure 2. Transcriptomic Response of Embryo and Endosperm Tissues to ABA.

(A) and (B) Number of probe sets found to be downregulated or upregulated by ABA in the embryo or endosperm by SAM analysis. (C) and (D) Regulation of the plastid transcriptome by ABA in the embryo (C) and endosperm (D).

This same analysis revealed eight probe sets twofold or greater repressed by ABA in each experiment. This included many known stress- or desiccation-responsive genes and a number of transcription factors. These can be considered a core set of genes that respond to ABA independently of seed tissue type. Comparing this core set with the dry seed data sets of the wild type, *abi4-1*, and *abi5-1* of Nakabayashi et al. (2005) and imbibed seed data sets of the wild type and *abi3-4* (<http://affymetrix.arabidopsis.info/narrays/experimentbrowse.pl>), it is apparent that the regulation of many of these genes is dependent on *ABI3* and *ABI4*.

ABA and GA Synthesis and Response in the Embryo and Endosperm

We have shown that the ABA response differs between the embryo and endosperm. This response is potentially antagonized by GA in the seed, so GA signaling could also in principle modulate the ABA response in the endosperm. Furthermore, in situ hybridization has shown that *GIBBERELLIC ACID 3-OXIDASE1* (*GA3OX1*), the last step in GA biosynthesis, is expressed in endosperm tissues before germination (Yamauchi et al., 2004). This has led to speculation that the endosperm could be an important site of GA biosynthesis in the seed because this pathway is divided between at least two tissues in the embryo (Yamaguchi et al., 2001). To begin to understand the differences in ABA and GA signaling between the embryo and endosperm, we compared the expression of the ABA and GA metabolic and signaling components in the microarray data (Table 3). Although levels of transcript abundance do not necessarily correlate with protein levels, it is possible that this data provides a guide to the differences in hormone synthesis and signaling between the two

tissues. GA biosynthetic genes were found to be expressed at approximately equal levels in both tissues, suggesting that the endosperm could be capable of synthesizing active GAs 1 d after germination. GA biosynthetic genes are also expressed at a similar level in embryo and endosperm in the samples where germination is inhibited by ABA or PAC. Instructively, multiple isoforms of both GA20 oxidase and GA3 oxidase were subject to known feedback upregulation by PAC treatment in the endosperm, demonstrating that GA signal transduction functions normally in these cells. That GA signal transduction operates in both the embryo and endosperm is also suggested by the expression of all five DELLA protein regulators of the GA response in both tissues. Most of these are actually more highly expressed in the endosperm than the embryo.

At the transcript level, the endosperm also expresses many genes required for ABA synthesis and catabolism, suggesting that the endosperm might also be able to make and degrade ABA. This has been further demonstrated by a recent report that two carotenoid cleavage dioxygenase isoforms are expressed in the endosperm of maturing seeds and are required for dormancy (Lefebvre et al., 2006). One of these, *NCED9*, was still expressed in an endosperm-specific manner in germinating seeds (Table 3). Multiple genes have been shown to control and affect the ABA response of young seedlings. We analyzed the expression of major ABA response genes in our data set and noted differences between the embryo and endosperm. The expression level of *ABI1*, *ABI2*, *ABI3*, and *ABI5* was similar in the embryo and endosperm. However, although expressed at low levels in both tissues, *ABI4* transcripts were much less abundant in the endosperm and were classified as absent in eight out of nine array

Table 2. The MapMan Wilcoxon Rank Sum Test Identifies Groups of Genes Differentially Regulated by ABA in the Embryo and Endosperm 1 d after Imbibition

MapMan Bin Code	MapMan Bin Name	MapMan Bin Size	Embryo	P Value	Endosperm	P Value
Bins repressed by ABA in the embryo only						
1.1	Photosynthetic light reactions	115	Down	1.96e-15	Up	4.59e-02
10.2	Cellulose synthesis	27	Down	1.86e-07	No change	1.80e-01
11.1	Fatty acid synthesis	67	Down	2.63e-07	No change	1.90e-01
19	Tetrapyrrole synthesis	27	Down	6.18e-06	Up	4.17e-02
1.3	Calvin cycle	29	Down	3.31e-05	No change	1.20e-01
16.5	Glucosinolates	10	Down	6.46e-04	No change	4.30e-01
16.2	Phenylpropanoids	60	Down	8.63e-04	No change	2.60e-01
16.1	Isoprenoids	61	Down	1.16e-03	No change	9.30e-01
16.7	Waxes	12	Down	2.54e-03	No change	3.10e-01
23.3	Nucleotide salvage	21	Down	8.29e-03	No change	4.90e-01
ABA-regulated bins in embryo and endosperm						
10.8	Pectin esterases	32	Down	2.95e-08	Down	5.24e-03
10.5.1	Arabinogalactan proteins	25	Down	7.16e-08	Down	9.32e-03
10.6.3	Pectate lyases	34	Down	7.02e-07	Down	2.12e-03
11.4	Oleosins	9	Up	9.20e-07	Up	2.01e-06
10.7	Cell wall modification	40	Down	1.82e-06	Down	1.53e-03
21.1	Ascorbate and glutathione	45	Down	3.35e-05	Down	2.10e-03
10.1	Cell wall precursor synthesis	36	Down	1.04e-04	Down	9.56e-06
13.2.3.2	Amino acid degradation Asp family	15	Up	6.85e-03	Up	3.16e-03
ABA-regulated bins in endosperm only						
13.1.6.5	Aromatic amino acid synthesis	12	No change	9.20e-01	Up	7.04e-04
2.2.2	Starch synthesis	24	No change	8.70e-01	Up	1.71e-03

experiments by MAS5. We used real-time RT-PCR to clarify *ABI4* expression in the seed. This clearly showed that while *ABI3* and *ABI5* are indeed expressed in both the embryo and endosperm, *ABI4* was undetectable in the endosperm (Figure 3A). Furthermore while *ABI4* was highly induced at the transcriptional level by ABA in the embryo, this effect could not be observed in the endosperm. To further analyze the expression of the *ABI* genes in the seed, we examined the activity of the GUS reporter fused to the *ABI3*, *ABI4*, or *ABI5* promoters (Parcy et al., 1994; Soderman et al., 2000; Brocard et al., 2002; Figures 3B to 3I). *ABI3* was expressed ubiquitously throughout the seed, including the endosperm (Figures 3B to 3D). *ABI3* is required for the regulation of oleosin gene expression by ABA (Crowe et al., 2000), and it is interesting to note that transcripts for oleosins are upregulated by ABA in both the embryo and endosperm, in agreement with the expression pattern of *ABI3* observed in seeds (Table 2; see Supplemental Figure 2 online). In agreement with the real-time RT-PCR data, the *ABI4* promoter directs GUS expression in the embryo only (Figures 3B, 3E, and 3F). Therefore, this result is confirmed by three independent methods of expression analysis. One further surprise was the expression of *ABI5:GUS* in the endosperm. Unlike *ABI3*, *ABI5* expression was confined to the micropylar region of the endosperm (Figures 3B, 3G, and 3H). This region is important for the regulation of seed germination in many species and is characterized by differential gene regulation and cell wall composition compared with the lateral endosperm in many species (Bewley, 1997b). So *ABI5* expression defines two domains of altered ABA sensitivity in the endosperm.

***ABI4* Determines the Sensitivity of Seed Lipid Breakdown to ABA**

Given that both *ABI4* and *ABI5* are not expressed in the majority of endosperm tissues, we reasoned that the lack of either could in principle be responsible for the ABA insensitivity of lipid catabolism in the endosperm. To examine whether *ABI4*, *ABI5*, or both are required for the ABA inhibition of triacylglycerol (TAG) breakdown, eicosenoic acid levels were measured in embryos of the wild type and *abi4-1* and *abi5-1* mutants in the presence of ABA 5 d after imbibition (Figure 4). In wild-type embryos (Columbia-0 and Wassilewskija), TAG breakdown was estimated at 20 to 30% after 5 d of ABA treatment. Both the *abi4-1* and *abi5-1* mutants germinated at high frequency in the presence of ABA, yet the level of eicosenoic acid in 5-d-old *abi5-1* mutants was similar to that in nongerminating wild-type seeds, indicating that *ABI5* does not play a role in the ABA regulation of TAG breakdown. However, the *abi4-1* mutant could break down virtually all its embryo-stored TAG in the presence of ABA. Therefore, we concluded that *ABI4* expression determines the sensitivity of lipid reserve mobilization to ABA in the seed.

The Endosperm Is Required for the ABA and GA Regulation of Seed Germination in *Arabidopsis*

Germination in many endospermic seeds, including tobacco, tomato, and lettuce (*Lactuca sativa*), is characterized by controlled loosening of the micropylar endosperm cell walls to facilitate radicle

Table 3. GA and ABA Metabolic and Response Gene Expression in the Embryo and Endosperm during Germination

Affymetrix ID	Name	Embryo			Endosperm		
		PAC	ABA	CON	PAC	ABA	CON
GA metabolism							
255461_at	CPS (GA1)	58.5 ± 7.2	15.4 ± 2.5*	10.1 ± 1.8*	12.0 ± 3.3*	9.2 ± 3.9*	6.3 ± 2.8*
262891_at	KS (GA2)	21.5 ± 2.5	27.6 ± 3.8	25.0 ± 5.1	22.8 ± 1.8	23.1 ± 0.5	20.2 ± 2.2
246864_at	KO1 (GA3)	1053.8 ± 83.2	487.3 ± 33.1	400.8 ± 7.0	1231.8 ± 140.3	572.8 ± 55.3	291.3 ± 42.7
264586_at	KA01	30.2 ± 1.9	51.2 ± 1.2	25.8 ± 0.6	25.8 ± 5.1	29.5 ± 4.1	20.7 ± 1.5
254065_at	GA20OX1	335.1 ± 14.1	28.1 ± 1.4	37.4 ± 4.5	204.1 ± 16.6	23.7 ± 2.9	14.0 ± 6.0
248371_at	GA20OX2	306.1 ± 4.2	7.7 ± 1.0*	21.5 ± 3.4	203.9 ± 12.6	8.5 ± 0.7*	5.8 ± 3.5*
250611_at	GA20OX3	775.9 ± 22.3	24.1 ± 3.7	3.4 ± 1.5*	798.3 ± 29.0	19.2 ± 1.2*	10.7 ± 4.8*
261768_at	GA3OX1 (GA4)	1984.1 ± 103.4	282.8 ± 28.1	597.7 ± 89.6	642.6 ± 103.5	86.9 ± 32.8	102.8 ± 21.9
260300_at	GA3OX2	339.4 ± 38.3	105.2 ± 6.3	376.1 ± 15.0	107.8 ± 28.0	37.3 ± 9.4	75.5 ± 31.1
260023_at	GA2OX2	10.4 ± 4.2*	26.4 ± 6.8	24.2 ± 10.0	5.7 ± 3.1*	22.9 ± 4.1	18.8 ± 2.9*
GA signaling							
262850_at	GAI	137.0 ± 4.1	286.5 ± 19.7	73.1 ± 2.1	158.1 ± 15.3	311.0 ± 30.9	218.0 ± 18.2
266331_at	RGA	87.3 ± 2.7	90.3 ± 5.3	74.2 ± 6.9	88.3 ± 11.9	69.2 ± 11.6	47.3 ± 8.6
260141_at	RGL1	13.0 ± 2.6*	14.1 ± 2.4*	24.6 ± 1.8	43.5 ± 3.5	19.3 ± 2.3*	37.5 ± 5.3
259042_at	RGL2	403.9 ± 16.3	488.1 ± 43.0	167.2 ± 7.9	561 ± 58.9	715.0 ± 13.9	519.2 ± 49.0
246432_at	RGL3	84.2 ± 6.6	150.3 ± 9.5	42.9 ± 1.6	81.4 ± 5.2	100.0 ± 11.2	75.5 ± 5.4
254160_at	SLY1	137.2 ± 28.9	86.4 ± 10.7	80.8 ± 6.2	187.2 ± 2.8	73.5 ± 10.1	102.8 ± 25.3
251200_at	ATGID1 ^a	4.3 ± 1.5*	2.7 ± 1.6*	6.5 ± 0.6*	7.6 ± 2.6*	4.5 ± 2.8*	11.1 ± 6.3*
259302_at	ATGID2	124.1 ± 11.1	80.3 ± 6.1	37.4 ± 2.6	102.7 ± 8.7	85.4 ± 11.6	53.0 ± 10.8
246782_at	ATGID3	24.2 ± 3.3	27.3 ± 4.3	10.9 ± 1.4*	22.2 ± 4.3*	15.6 ± 5.7*	16.6 ± 2.2*
ABA metabolism							
247025_at	ABA1	397.8 ± 5.1	365.2 ± 14.8	138.2 ± 2.0	260.4 ± 10.6	320.0 ± 54.4	213.8 ± 14.3
257280_at	NCED3	4.4 ± 2.9*	2.1 ± 1.3*	2.0 ± 1.5*	2.3 ± 1.4*	1.5 ± 0.4*	1.2 ± 0.3*
257242_at	NCED6	0.9 ± 0.2*	1.3 ± 0.3*	0.9 ± 1.2*	2.1 ± 0.5*	1.6 ± 0.5*	1.9 ± 0.4*
260797_at	NCED9	7.7 ± 0.7*	2.8 ± 1.0*	3.3 ± 1.7*	21.8 ± 2.0	26.7 ± 2.5	24.7 ± 3.7
259669_at	ABA2	82.0 ± 5.4	76.3 ± 4.3	78.9 ± 1.7	116.6 ± 6.6	136.0 ± 5.0	121.3 ± 2.7
246325_at	ABA3	52.5 ± 4.9	51.5 ± 7.1	15.7 ± 3.0*	36.3 ± 1.2	36.5 ± 1.9	33.1 ± 5.6
263570_at	AAO3	74.4 ± 4.1	73.3 ± 6.8	42.2 ± 5.7	96.7 ± 28.6	94.2 ± 4.0	103.0 ± 3.8
266778_at	CYP707A2	53.0 ± 1.5	82.9 ± 12.3	25.6 ± 2.9	19.3 ± 3.5*	176.9 ± 17.5	21.2 ± 10.9
ABA signaling ^b							
253994_at	ABI1	373.9 ± 24.5	390.5 ± 53.5	436.9 ± 20.3	282.6 ± 21.6	429.5 ± 143.1	640.6 ± 112.3
247957_at	ABI2	11.2 ± 5.1*	42.6 ± 1.7	17.1 ± 3.6*	3.2 ± 1.7*	39.0 ± 4.2	7.1 ± 2.8*
256898_at	ABI3	264.8 ± 22.4	137.3 ± 11.4	30.6 ± 2.9	342.7 ± 29.9	190.2 ± 14.1	131.7 ± 31.6
263377_at	ABI4	69.5 ± 8.8	115.3 ± 22.2	61.6 ± 14.7	13.9 ± 2.6*	42.3 ± 12.9 ^c	24.5 ± 6.2*
263907_at	ABI5	182.4 ± 4.8	133.7 ± 18.3	23.7 ± 1.8*	108.2 ± 8.8	121.2 ± 66.1	52.2 ± 20.3
258666_at	ABI8	132.6 ± 4.6	161.9 ± 12.9	122.1 ± 11.6	104.9 ± 13.4	109.1 ± 16.2	112.7 ± 7.0
248719_at	rbohD	78.3 ± 9.2	79.8 ± 7.1	27.5 ± 1.4	649.3 ± 7.8	501.3 ± 78.9	869.9 ± 56.1
262344_at	rbohF	7.9 ± 3.0*	6.2 ± 1.1*	17.0 ± 4.3*	3.5 ± 1.1*	6.1 ± 2.3*	21.4 ± 3.6*
Light signaling							
264508_at	PHYA	1385.7 ± 52.3	842.1 ± 50.2	1036.0 ± 53.5	2516.9 ± 190.1	1475.2 ± 164.2	2545.5 ± 145.9
266065_at	PHYB	331.5 ± 25.5	261.2 ± 5.7	188.9 ± 1.6	299.0 ± 6.0	206.6 ± 6.1	198.1 ± 8.4
245487_at	PHYD	137.8 ± 1.9	159.9 ± 19.8	46.0 ± 1.9	58.8 ± 4.6	67.9 ± 1.8	25.7 ± 5.8
254680_at	PHYE	161.6 ± 8.2	180.2 ± 3.4	100.5 ± 2.9	143.1 ± 19.3	176.0 ± 4.2	82.1 ± 14.9
265584_at	PIL5/PIF1	373.7 ± 22.6	337.2 ± 6.0	207.2 ± 11.0	383.5 ± 41.5	320.4 ± 10.6	213.8 ± 29.6
246212_at	SPATULA	54.5 ± 4.3	54.7 ± 3.5	207.1 ± 4.4	187.2 ± 21.4	170.7 ± 48.1	483.6 ± 121.5

Asterisk indicates an absent call in at least two of three replicates. CON, control.

^a The *Arabidopsis* homologues of the recently identified rice GA receptor GIBBERELLIN INDEPENDENT DWARF1.

^b Major and relevant ABA response genes shown only.

^c One absent, one present, and one marginal call.

emergence (Bewley, 1997b). This is achieved by the activity of multiple categories of cell wall-modifying enzymes, including β -mannanase, β -1,4-glucanase, expansins, xyloglucan endotransglycosidases, and polygalacturonases. Our expression data reveal that this group of genes is highly expressed in the *Arabidopsis* endosperm during germination (see Supplemental Table 4 online).

As ABA and GA signal transduction appeared to operate normally in the *Arabidopsis* endosperm, and the expression of multiple cell wall-modifying enzymes in the *Arabidopsis* endosperm was confirmed, we reasoned that the endosperm might play an active role in the phytohormonal regulation of *Arabidopsis* seed germination. Among the genes involved in ABA signaling

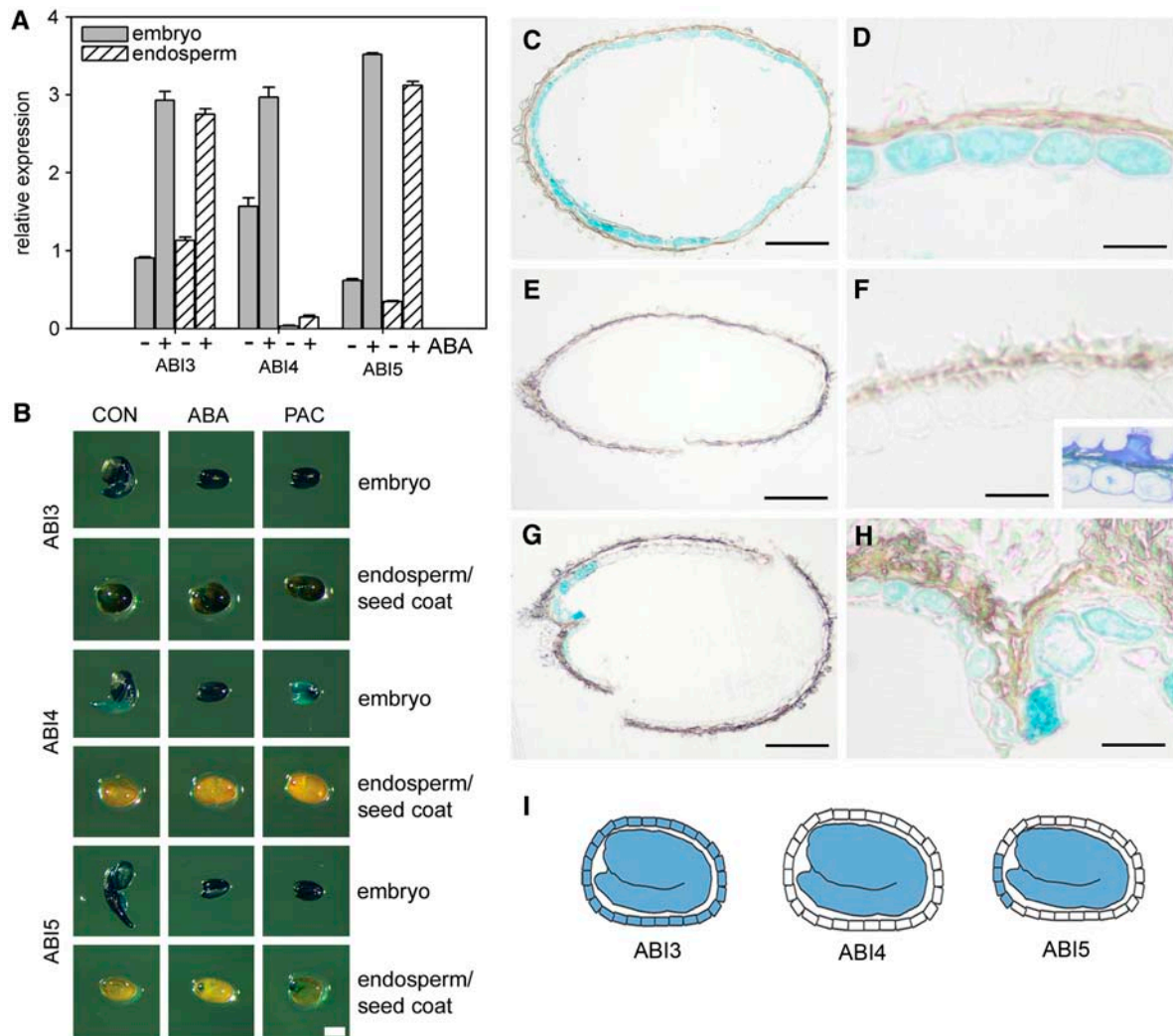


Figure 3. Expression of *ABI3*, *ABI4*, and *ABI5* in the Embryo and Endosperm 1 d after Transfer to 22°C.

(A) Detection by real-time RT-PCR. Data represent mean and SD of three replicate determinations.

(B) GUS expression from the *ABI3*, *ABI4*, and *ABI5* promoters in dissected embryos or endosperm/seed coats in control (CON) or ABA- or PAC-treated seeds.

(C) to **(H)** Sections to show endosperm expression of the ABI:GUS fusions in ABA-treated seeds.

(C) and **(D)** *ABI3*:GUS.

(E) and **(F)** *ABI4*:GUS. Inset shows toluidene blue–stained *ABI4*:GUS section confirming the presence of the endosperm cell layer barely visible in **(F)** due to lack of expression.

(G) and **(H)** *ABI5*:GUS.

(I) Illustration of the expression pattern of *ABI3*, *ABI4*, and *ABI5* in seeds.

during seed germination, we noted that the NADPH oxidase *rbohD* was highly expressed in the endosperm (Table 3). It has previously been shown that the *atrbohD atrbohF* double mutant exhibits reduced ABA inhibition of seed germination (Kwak et al., 2003). Our array data showed that *rbohD* was expressed in the endosperm during germination, while *rbohF* was not expressed in either tissue. This expression profile was confirmed by real-time RT-PCR (Figure 5A). This suggests that the described *rbohD rbohF* double mutant germination phenotype was a consequence of the loss of *rbohD* function alone. Accordingly, we found that the *rbohD* single mutant germination exhibited a reduced ABA

sensitivity phenotype similar to that of the double mutant (Figure 5B; Kwak et al., 2003). Hence, the NADPH oxidase *rbohD* is an endosperm-expressed gene required for the ABA inhibition of seed germination in *Arabidopsis*, clearly demonstrating a role for the endosperm in this process. Given the fact that other *abi* mutants show a much greater level of resistance to exogenous ABA during seed germination than the *rbohD* mutant, it appears that either the endosperm plays a relatively minor role in the ABA control of seed germination in *Arabidopsis* or that loss of *AtrbohD* does not completely block the endosperm response to ABA.

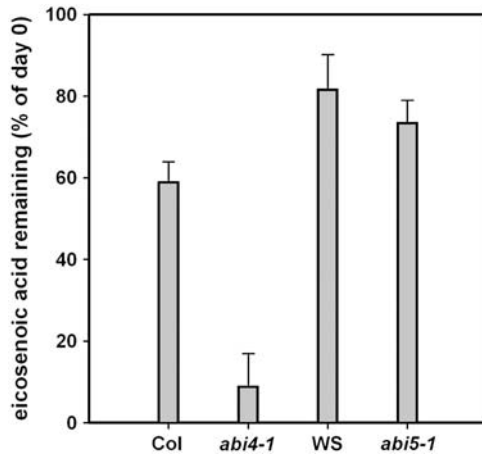


Figure 4. Eicosenoic Acid Levels in Wild Type, *abi4-1*, and *abi5-1* Embryos 5 d after Imbibition in the Presence of 20 μ M ABA.

Bars represent the mean and SD of four independent determinations.

We also analyzed the germination and establishment of *abi4-1* mutant seeds in the presence of ABA and PAC. As *ABI4* expression is confined to the embryo, we reasoned that the response of the *abi4-1* endosperm to both ABA and PAC should be similar to the wild type. The *abi4-1* mutant shows significant PAC- and ABA-resistant germination (data not shown). We observed that *abi4-1* mutants germinating on concentrations of PAC or ABA inhibitory to wild-type seeds became entangled in the endosperm despite the completion of radicle emergence. In many cases, a ring of endosperm tissue remained attached to *abi4-1* hypocotyls, and occasionally seedling development proceeded with the seedling encased in the endosperm (Figures 5C and 5D). Although we cannot completely rule out an *ABI4*-independent ABA- and PAC-responsive mechanism in the embryo that could account for these observations, in the context of our analysis, it seems likely that an ABA-repressible and GA requiring endosperm loosening is responsible. This is not surprising given that *ABI3* and *ABI5* are both expressed in the endosperm and presumably involved in mediating subsets of ABA responses. Therefore, these results show that in common with other seeds, the *Arabidopsis* endosperm plays an active role in the regulation of seed germination and seedling establishment.

DISCUSSION

We have used RNA amplification to facilitate tissue-specific transcript profiling and dissection of the ABA response in seeds. This type of approach adds extra value and resolution to transcriptome studies compared with the analysis of more complex groups of tissues (Lee et al., 2005). This investigation has enabled the description of the endosperm transcriptome and has been successful in understanding the molecular basis of differential ABA signaling in the seed. Furthermore, using the new findings, we have been able to demonstrate a previously unknown role for the *Arabidopsis* endosperm in the control of seed germination by ABA.

ABI4 Is an Embryo-Specific Regulator of TAG Breakdown

Three independent analyses have shown that *ABI4* is expressed in embryo but not endosperm tissues. *ABI4* is required for the ABA regulation of seed germination and plant responses to sugars

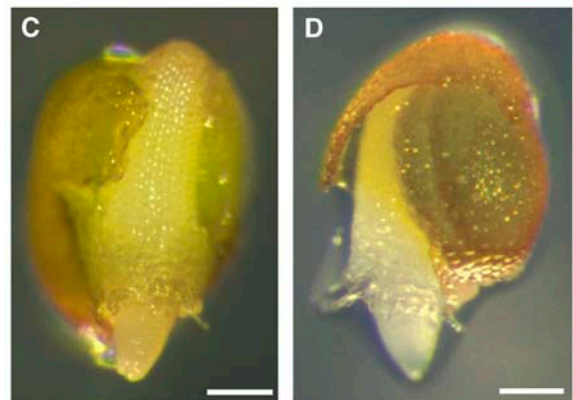
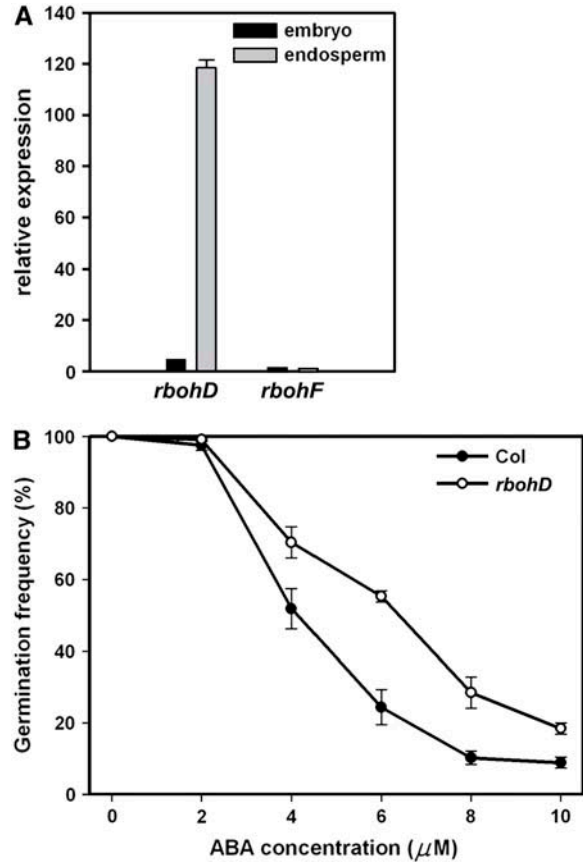


Figure 5. The Endosperm Is Required for the ABA Regulation of Seed Germination.

(A) Real-time RT-PCR to show the expression of *rbohD* and *rbohF* in germinating seeds.

(B) The *rbohD* single mutant germination shows decreased sensitivity to ABA. (C) and (D) *abi4-1* mutant seed 5 d after transfer to 22°C growing in the presence of 10 μ M ABA (C) and 10 μ M PAC (D). Bars = 100 μ M.

(Finkelstein, 1994; Arenas-Huertero et al., 2000; Huijser et al., 2000; Laby et al., 2000; Rook et al., 2001). As *ABI4* is not expressed in the endosperm, we hypothesized that *ABI4* expression determines the sensitivity of lipid breakdown to exogenous ABA. This conclusion is strongly supported by the observation that loss of *ABI4* results in ABA-independent TAG breakdown in the embryo (Figure 4). Hence, the embryo-specific expression of *ABI4* is the crucial determinant of the ABA sensitivity of lipid mobilization in the seed. Although seeds are unlikely to encounter high ABA in the environment, *ABI4* is also required for the inhibition of seed germination under osmotic stress (Quesada et al., 2000). Under these conditions, lipid breakdown also occurs in the endosperm only (see Supplemental Figure 3 online), suggesting that this differential response does have functional significance for the seeds germinating in suboptimal circumstances. In this case, the embryo-specific expression of *ABI4* adds an unexpected and important plasticity to the germination process, allowing energy stored in the endosperm to be mobilized without commitment to the final phase of seedling establishment. This phased process of reserve mobilization could serve to prolong the integrity of the embryo under suboptimal conditions.

The second major difference in ABA signaling between the embryo and endosperm was the ABA sensitivity of photosynthesis-associated nuclear-encoded gene (PhANG) expression. ABA had a strong inhibitory effect on the expression of these genes in the embryo. This effect of ABA on plastid function was found to be specific to the nuclear genome, as ABA had no effect on chloroplast-encoded gene expression (Figures 2C and 2D). PhANGs with embryo-specific ABA-sensitive expression included those encoding the photosynthetic apparatus, the Calvin cycle, and tetrapyrrole biosynthesis. Interestingly, MapMan analysis of PhANG expression in the endosperm suggests that ABA treatment actually results in a small upregulation of the transcript levels of these genes in the endosperm, rather than the inhibition seen in the embryo (see Supplemental Figure 2 online; $P = 0.046$). Interestingly, PhANG expression is also a known key target of *ABI4*. For instance, *ABI4* regulates the sugar and ABA responsiveness of the plastocyanin and chlorophyll *a/b* binding protein 2 (*CAB2*) promoters (Dijkwel et al., 1997; Huijser et al., 2000; Oswald et al., 2001). Furthermore, *ABI4* binds to a conserved element present in the promoters of multiple genes encoding subunits of ribulose-1,5-bis-phosphate carboxylase/oxygenase and various *CABs* found throughout the plant kingdom and regulates their expression according to sugar and ABA levels (Acevedo-Hernández et al., 2005). In a striking correlation, Oswald et al. (2001) found that in the *ABI4*-deficient *sucrose uncoupled6* (*sun6*) mutant, *CAB2:LUC* expression is actually induced by sugar treatment, rather than repressed as in the wild type. This situation is apparently mirrored in the ABA induction of PhANG expression in the *ABI4*-deficient endosperm. However, we cannot rule out the possibility that further unknown proteins also regulate the differential ABA response of PhANG gene expression in germinating seeds.

In the embryo, the glyoxylate cycle and gluconeogenesis are induced 1 d after imbibition, but here, we report that this is not accompanied by an increase in steady state transcript levels (see Supplemental Table 2 online), although we cannot rule out that these do not increase at later time points. The level of expression

of reserve mobilization genes in our analysis strongly resembles that observed during late seed development and in dry seeds (Nakabayashi et al., 2005; Schmid et al., 2005), suggesting that much of the mRNA present shortly after germination was stored during desiccation. However, further evidence suggests these pathways are actually regulated at the level of transcription in the seed. For instance, the induction of isocitrate lyase, malate synthase, and PCK1 enzyme activities correlates with the onset of expression of GUS or luciferase fused to their respective promoters (Penfield et al., 2004). Furthermore, the GA-dependent accumulation of several gluconeogenic proteins, including malate synthase and PCK1, could be blocked in germinating seeds by the transcriptional inhibitor α -amanitin (Rajjou et al., 2004). One possibility is that these apparently unused transcripts have been stored during quiescence, broken down after germination, and actively excluded from postgerminative translation. A study of the postgerminative induction of the TCA cycle enzyme isocitrate dehydrogenase also concluded that transcripts present before or shortly after germination were not translated (Falk et al., 1998), suggesting that this could be a general feature of the regulation of metabolism in germinating seeds. We hypothesize that the unused stored transcripts may themselves be a stored seed reserve that is broken down and the nucleotide components recycled for rapid de novo transcription during early postgerminative growth.

The Endosperm Is Required for ABA and GA Regulation of Seed Germination

Our analysis shows that the single cell endosperm layer plays an active role in the phytohormonal regulation of *Arabidopsis* seed germination. The endosperm is also vital for normal seed dormancy and may be the principal site for the synthesis of dormancy inducing ABA during seed development (Lefebvre et al., 2006). It is possible that the reduced ABA response observed in the endosperm has evolved as a consequence of higher endogenous levels of ABA in that tissue. We also show that the endosperm possesses a normal GA response and expresses GA biosynthetic genes at a similar level to that observed in the embryo. Together, these results demonstrate a fundamental role for the endosperm in the control of phase transition in the seed. The *Arabidopsis* endosperm also exhibits gene regulation specific to the micropylar endosperm, and we have discovered that this region is marked by the expression of the *ABI5* transcription factor. Therefore, this study clearly highlights the importance of tissue- and cell-specific hormone responses in germination control.

METHODS

Plant Material

Arrays were performed on isolated embryo and endosperm tissue from the Landsberg *erecta* ecotype. The *ABI3:GUS*, *ABI4:GUS*, and *ABI5:GUS* lines were gifts from Ruth Finkelstein. The *abi4-1* and *abi5-1* mutants were obtained from the Nottingham Arabidopsis Stock Centre. The *rbold* mutant was a gift from Jonathan Jones.

Affymetrix Gene Chip Experiments and Data Analysis

Tissue was harvested from wild-type (Landsberg *erecta*) seeds plated on Murashige and Skoog medium supplemented by 20 μ M ABA (mixed

isomers; Sigma-Aldrich) or 20 μM PAC (Greyhound Chromatography) where indicated, stratified for 3 d at 4°C, and placed under continuous white light at 70 $\mu\text{M m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ at 22°C for 24 h. *Arabidopsis thaliana* embryo and endosperm samples were collected by manual dissection as described (Penfield et al., 2004). These were stored in RNAlater solution prior to RNA extraction (Qiagen). Approximately 50 embryos/endosperms were pooled for each RNA isolation. RNA was isolated using an RNA Nanoprep kit (Stratagene) following manufacturer's instructions. Isolated RNA was subjected to one round of linear amplification with the MessageAmp Kit (Ambion). Biotin labeling of amplified RNA was performed according to the Gene Chip Eukaryotic Small Sample Target Labeling Assay Version II protocol, supplied by Affymetrix, using random primers (Invitrogen) and 1 μg of amplified RNA for the first-strand synthesis reaction. Three biological replicates per treatment were hybridized independently to the Affymetrix ATH1 array, washed, stained, and scanned following the procedures described in the Affymetrix technical manual. The expression levels of genes were measured by detection calls and signal intensities using the Micro Array Suite 5.0 software with a target signal of 100. Sixty-four Affymetrix controls and 5623 *Arabidopsis* genes that are detected as absent in all 18 chips were removed from the 22,810 probe sets. All pairwise differentially expressed genes were identified using SAM software (Tusher et al., 2001) using the data of all remaining 17,123 *Arabidopsis* probe sets. A false discovery rate parameter of 1% was used for the SAM analysis. Following SAM analyses, genes that were called absent more than twice among three replicates in both control and treatment arrays were then regarded as not expressed in both conditions and removed from the above list. Z-score transformation was performed as described (Cheadle et al., 2003). This transformation normalizes the data according to the distance of each \log_{10} value from the mean \log_{10} value, expressed in terms of number of standard deviations. For the MapMan analysis, input files were created by calculating the natural log ratio of the mean detection of the three control samples to the mean detection in the treatment samples. Genes called absent in two out of the three replicates were regarded as not expressed under that particular experimental condition. Final analyses were performed with MapMan version 1.6.1, including automatic application of the Wilcoxon rank sum test (Usadel et al., 2005).

Comparison with public domain Affymetrix ATH1 data sets was achieved by downloading entire data sets from NascArrays (<http://affymetrix.arabidopsis.info/narrays/experimentbrowse.pl>) and from Nakabayashi et al. (2005). Probe sets were identified that exhibited twofold or greater change in expression in response to ABA treatment.

Real-Time RT-PCR and GUS Expression Analysis

Real-time RT-PCR on endosperm and embryo RNA was conducted as described (Penfield et al., 2004) from amplified mRNA. Three replicate quantifications were routinely used for each determination, which was compared with a standard curve. Primers for 18S (Penfield et al., 2004) were used as a standard. Further primers used were as follows: ABI3F, 5'-ACAGTAACCTTCAGTCGGGTTGATC-3'; ABI3R, 5'-CCCTGCATGTC-TCCAGCAT-3'; ABI4F, 5'-TTCTGACATCGAGCTCACTGAT-3'; ABI4R, 5'-CCCTAACGCCACCTCATGAT-3'; ABI5F, 5'-CGATGCTTGACTGGG-TCCTT-3'; ABI5R, 5'-CTGCAACTAGGTGGCCTTCCT-3'; RBOHDF, 5'-CGAATGGCATCCTTTCTCAATC-3'; RBOHDR, 5'-GTCACCGAGAGT-GCGGATAG-3'; RBOHFF, 5'-GATGGTTTAGGCGTAACCTAGTCAA-3'; RBOHFR, 5'-AACAAATGATGCGAATACCAAAAAG-3'. GUS expression assays were performed on dissected seeds as described (Jefferson et al., 1987). Seeds were dissected into embryo and endosperm/seed coat before staining (this was found to be essential because intact seeds do not permit proper access of the GUS substrate to the internal tissues) in a buffer containing ferricyanide and ferrocyanide to ensure precipitation of the reaction product. Seeds were photographed using a Leica MP6 dissecting microscope fitted with a SPOT RT image capture system (Diagnostic Instruments). Images were manipulated into a composite

using Adobe Photoshop. For sectioning, seeds were dissected and stained overnight for GUS activity as described above, then fixed in 2.5% glutaraldehyde in sodium phosphate buffer before dehydration in an ethanol series and embedding in LR white resin (London Resin Company). Sectioning was performed using a Leica ultramicrotome and sections viewed and photographed as described (Penfield et al., 2004).

Transmission Electron Microscopy

This was performed on imbibed *Arabidopsis* seeds stratified for 3 d and then transferred to a growth chamber for 24 h under continuous white light at 70 $\mu\text{M m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ at 20°C. Seeds were fixed with 2.5% glutaraldehyde in sodium phosphate buffer, postfixed in osmium tetroxide, dehydrated, and embedded in Spurr's resin. Ultrathin sections were viewed under an FEI Tecnai G² transmission electron microscope. Using captured images, areas of cytoplasm from 10 representative embryo and endosperm cells were determined using the open source ImageJ software (rsb.info.nih.gov/ij) and the number of observable ribosomes present within each area counted.

Fatty Acid Determinations

TAG breakdown was followed by measuring the abundance of the *Arabidopsis* TAG-specific fatty acid eicosenoic acid (20:1) by gas chromatography as described previously (Penfield et al., 2004).

rbohD Germination Assay

Approximately 50 seeds from five independent seed batches of simultaneously grown wild type (Columbia-0) and *rbohD* mutant were sown on water agar plates supplemented with ABA (mixed isomers; Sigma-Aldrich) as indicated. Plates were stratified for 3 d and placed in continuous white light at 70 $\mu\text{M m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ at 20°C. Germination was scored after 5 d as radicle emergence from the seed coat and endosperm.

Accession Numbers

Sequence data from this article can be found in the GenBank/EMBL data libraries under the following accession numbers: ABI3, At3g24650; ABI4, At2g40220; ABI5, At2g36270; *rbohD*, At5g47910; and EPR1, At2g27380. Affymetrix data have been deposited in the Nottingham Arabidopsis Stock Centre public repository under the accession number 386.

Supplemental Data

The following materials are available in the online version of this article.

Supplemental Figure 1. MapMan Visualization Tool's Overview of the Differences in Metabolism-Related Gene Expression between Embryo and Endosperm 1 d after Imbibition.

Supplemental Figure 2. MapMan Metabolism Visualization Tool's Overview of the Differential Affect of Applied ABA on the Transcriptome of the Embryo and Endosperm.

Supplemental Figure 3. Embryo and Endosperm Eicosenoic Acid Content 5 d after Imbibition on Control Media, 20 μM ABA, or 400 mM Mannitol.

Supplemental Table 1. Genes Whose Function Has Been Previously Experimentally Addressed and Are Expressed Specifically in the Embryo or Endosperm 1 d after Imbibition.

Supplemental Table 2. Expression of Genes Involved in Lipid Storage Reserve Mobilization in *Arabidopsis*.

Supplemental Table 3. The Identification of a Core Set of ABA-Responsive Probe Sets in Embryo, Endosperm, 24-h-Imbibed Seeds, and 7-d-Old Seedlings.

Supplemental Table 4. Cell Wall–Modifying Genes Expressed in the Endosperm during Germination and Their Regulation by PAC and ABA.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We thank Ruth Finkelstein and Jonathan Jones for sharing plant material. This work was supported by the Garfield-Weston Foundation.

Received January 20, 2006; revised May 11, 2006; accepted June 7, 2006; published July 14, 2006.

REFERENCES

- Acevedo-Hernández, G.J., Leon, P., and Herrera-Estrella, L.R.** (2005). Sugar and ABA responsiveness of a minimal RBCS light-responsive unit is mediated by direct binding of ABI4. *Plant J.* **43**, 506–519.
- Arenas-Huertero, F., Arroyo, A., Zhou, L., Sheen, J., and Leon, P.** (2000). Analysis of Arabidopsis glucose insensitive mutants, *gin5* and *gin6*, reveals a central role of the plant hormone ABA in the regulation of plant vegetative development by sugar. *Genes Dev.* **14**, 2085–2096.
- Bentsink, L., and Koornneef, M.** (2002). Seed dormancy and germination. In *The Arabidopsis Book*, C.R. Somerville and E.M. Meyerowitz, eds (Rockville, MD: American Society of Plant Biologists), doi/10.1199/tab.0050, <http://www.aspb.org/publications/arabidopsis/>.
- Berger, F.** (1999). Endosperm development. *Curr. Opin. Plant Biol.* **2**, 28–32.
- Bewley, J.D.** (1997b). Breaking down the walls – A role for endo- β -mannanase in release from seed dormancy? *Trends Plant Sci.* **2**, 464–469.
- Bewley, J.D., and Black, M.** (1994). *Seeds: Physiology of Development and Germination*. (New York: Plenum Press).
- Brocard, I.M., Lynch, T.J., and Finkelstein, R.R.** (2002). Regulation and role of the Arabidopsis abscisic acid-insensitive 5 gene in abscisic acid, sugar, and stress response. *Plant Physiol.* **129**, 1533–1543.
- Brocard-Gifford, I.M., Lynch, T.J., and Finkelstein, R.R.** (2003). Regulatory networks in seeds integrating developmental, abscisic acid, sugar, and light signaling. *Plant Physiol.* **131**, 78–92.
- Cheadle, C., Vawter, M.P., Freed, W.J., and Becker, K.G.** (2003). Analysis of microarray data using Z score transformation. *J. Mol. Diagn.* **5**, 73–81.
- Crowe, A.J., Abenes, M., Plant, A., and Moloney, M.M.** (2000). The seed-specific transactivator, ABI3, induces oleosin gene expression. *Plant Sci.* **151**, 171–181.
- Dijkwel, P.P., Huijser, C., Weisbeek, P.J., Chua, N.-H., and Smeekens, S.C.M.** (1997). Sucrose control of phytochrome A signaling in Arabidopsis. *Plant Cell* **9**, 583–595.
- Dubreucq, B., Berger, N., Vincent, E., Boisson, M., Pelletier, G., Caboche, M., and Lepiniec, L.** (2003). The Arabidopsis AtEPR1 extensin-like gene is specifically expressed in endosperm during seed germination. *Plant J.* **23**, 643–652.
- Falk, K.L., Behal, R.H., Xiang, C., and Oliver, D.J.** (1998). Metabolic bypass of the tricarboxylic acid cycle during lipid mobilization in germinating oilseeds. Regulation of nad⁺-dependent isocitrate dehydrogenase versus fumarase. *Plant Physiol.* **117**, 473–481.
- Finkelstein, R.R.** (1994). Mutations at two new Arabidopsis ABA response loci are similar to the *abi3* mutations. *Plant J.* **5**, 765–771.
- Finkelstein, R.R., and Lynch, T.J.** (2000). The Arabidopsis abscisic acid response gene ABI5 encodes a basic leucine zipper transcription factor. *Plant Cell* **12**, 599–609.
- Finkelstein, R.R., Wang, M.L., Lynch, T.J., Rao, S., and Goodman, H.M.** (1998). The Arabidopsis abscisic acid response locus ABI4 encodes an APETALA 2 domain protein. *Plant Cell* **10**, 1043–1054.
- Giraudat, J., Hauge, B.M., Valon, C., Smalle, J., Parcy, F., and Goodman, H.M.** (1992). Isolation of the Arabidopsis ABI3 gene by positional cloning. *Plant Cell* **4**, 1251–1261.
- Gocal, G.F., Sheldon, C.C., Gubler, F., Moritz, T., Bagnall, D.J., MacMillan, C.P., Li, S.F., Parish, R.W., Dennis, E.S., Weigel, D., and King, R.W.** (2001). GAMYB-like genes, flowering, and gibberellin signaling in Arabidopsis. *Plant Physiol.* **127**, 1682–1693.
- Groot, S.P.C., Kieliszewka-Rokicka, B., Vermeer, E., and Karszen, C.M.** (1988). Gibberellin-induced hydrolysis of endosperm cell walls in gibberellin-deficient tomato seeds prior to radicle protrusion. *Planta* **174**, 500–504.
- Gubler, F., Kalla, R., Roberts, J.K., and Jacobsen, J.V.** (1995). Gibberellin-regulated expression of a myb gene in barley aleurone cells: Evidence for Myb transactivation of a high-pI alpha-amylase gene promoter. *Plant Cell* **7**, 1879–1891.
- Huijser, C., Kortstee, A., Pego, J., Weisbeek, P., Wisman, E., and Smeekens, S.** (2000). The Arabidopsis SUCROSE UNCOUPLED-6 gene is identical to ABSCISIC ACID INSENSITIVE-4: Involvement of abscisic acid in sugar responses. *Plant J.* **23**, 577–585.
- Jefferson, R.A., Kavanagh, T.A., and Bevan, M.W.** (1987). GUS fusions: Beta-glucuronidase as a sensitive and versatile gene fusion in higher plants. *EMBO J.* **6**, 3901–3907.
- Koornneef, M., Jorna, M.L., Brinkhorst-van der Swan, D.L.C., and Karszen, C.M.** (1982). The isolation of abscisic acid (ABA) deficient mutants by selection of induced revertants in non-germinating gibberellin sensitive lines of *Arabidopsis thaliana* L. Heynh. *Theor. Appl. Genet.* **61**, 385–393.
- Kwak, J.M., Mori, I.C., Pei, Z.M., Leonhardt, N., Torres, M.A., Dangel, J.L., Bloom, R.E., Bodde, S., Jones, J.D., and Schroeder, J.I.** (2003). NADPH oxidase AtrobohD and AtrobohF genes function in ROS-dependent ABA signaling in Arabidopsis. *EMBO J.* **22**, 2623–2633.
- Laby, R.J., Kincaid, M.S., Kim, D., and Gibson, S.I.** (2000). The Arabidopsis sugar-insensitive mutants *sis4* and *sis5* are defective in abscisic acid synthesis and response. *Plant J.* **23**, 587–596.
- Lee, J.Y., Levesque, M., and Benfey, P.N.** (2005). High-throughput RNA isolation technologies. New tools for high-resolution gene expression profiling in plant systems. *Plant Physiol.* **138**, 585–590.
- Lefebvre, V., North, H., Frey, A., Sotta, B., Seo, M., Okamoto, M., Nambara, E., and Marion-Poll, A.** (2006). Functional analysis of Arabidopsis NCED6 and NCED9 genes indicates that ABA synthesized in the endosperm is involved in the induction of seed dormancy. *Plant J.* **45**, 309–319.
- Liu, P.P., Koizuka, N., Homrichhausen, T.M., Hewitt, J.R., Martin, R.C., and Nonogaki, H.** (2005). Large-scale screening of Arabidopsis enhancer-trap lines for seed germination-associated genes. *Plant J.* **41**, 936–944.
- Manz, B., Muller, K., Kucera, B., Volke, F., and Leubner-Metzger, G.** (2005). Water uptake and distribution in germinating tobacco seeds investigated in vivo by nuclear magnetic resonance imaging. *Plant Physiol.* **138**, 1538–1551.
- Nakabayashi, K., Okamoto, M., Koshiba, T., Kamiya, Y., and Nambara, E.** (2005). Genome-wide profiling of stored mRNA in *Arabidopsis thaliana* seed germination: Epigenetic and genetic regulation of transcription in seed. *Plant J.* **41**, 697–709.
- Nambara, E., Naito, S., and McCourt, P.** (1992). A mutant of Arabidopsis which is defective in seed development and storage protein accumulation is a new *abi3* allele. *Plant J.* **2**, 435–441.
- Ogawa, M., Hanada, A., Yamauchi, Y., Kuwahara, A., Kamiya, Y., and Yamaguchi, S.** (2003). Gibberellin biosynthesis and response during Arabidopsis seed germination. *Plant Cell* **15**, 1591–1604.

- Oswald, O., Martin, T., Dominy, J.P., and Graham, I.A.** (2001). Plastid redox state and sugars: Interactive regulators of nuclear encoded photosynthetic gene expression. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* **98**, 2047–2052.
- Parcy, F., Valon, C., Raynal, M., Gaubier-Comella, P., Delseny, M., and Giraudat, J.** (1994). Regulation of gene expression programs during *Arabidopsis* seed development: Roles of the ABI3 locus and of endogenous abscisic acid. *Plant Cell* **6**, 1567–1582.
- Penfield, S., Graham, S., and Graham, I.A.** (2005). Storage reserve mobilization in germinating oilseeds: *Arabidopsis* as a model system. *Biochem. Soc. Trans.* **33**, 380–383.
- Penfield, S., Rylott, E.L., Gilday, A.D., Graham, S., Larson, T.R., and Graham, I.A.** (2004). Reserve mobilization in the *Arabidopsis* endosperm fuels hypocotyl elongation in the dark, is independent of abscisic acid, and requires PHOSPHOENOLPYRUVATE CARBOXY-KINASE1. *Plant Cell* **16**, 2705–2718.
- Pritchard, S.L., Charlton, W.L., Baker, A., and Graham, I.A.** (2002). Germination and storage reserve mobilization are regulated independently in *Arabidopsis*. *Plant J.* **31**, 639–647.
- Quesada, V., Ponce, M.R., and Micol, J.L.** (2000). Genetic analysis of salt-tolerant mutants in *Arabidopsis thaliana*. *Genetics* **154**, 421–436.
- Rajjou, L., Gallardo, K., Debeaujon, I., Vandekerckhove, J., Job, C., and Job, D.** (2004). The effect of alpha-amanitin on the *Arabidopsis* seed proteome highlights the distinct roles of stored and neosynthesized mRNAs during germination. *Plant Physiol.* **134**, 1598–1613.
- Rook, F., Corke, F., Card, R., Munz, G., Smith, C., and Bevan, M.W.** (2001). Impaired sucrose-induction mutants reveal the modulation of sugar-induced starch biosynthetic gene expression by abscisic acid signalling. *Plant J.* **26**, 421–433.
- Rylott, E.L., Hooks, M.A., and Graham, I.A.** (2001). Co-ordinate regulation of genes involved in storage lipid mobilization in *Arabidopsis thaliana*. *Biochem. Soc. Trans.* **29**, 283–287.
- Schmid, M., Davison, T.S., Henz, S.R., Pape, U.J., Demar, M., Vingron, M., Scholkopf, B., Weigel, D., and Lohmann, J.U.** (2005). A gene expression map of *Arabidopsis thaliana* development. *Nat. Genet.* **37**, 501–506.
- Soderman, E.M., Brocard, I.M., Lynch, T.J., and Finkelstein, R.R.** (2000). Regulation and function of the *Arabidopsis* ABA-insensitive4 gene in seed and abscisic acid response signaling networks. *Plant Physiol.* **124**, 752–765.
- Thimm, O., Blaesing, O., Gibon, Y., Nagel, A., Meyer, S., Kruger, P., Selbig, J., Muller, L.A., Rhee, S.Y., and Stitt, M.** (2004). MAPMAN: A user-driven tool to display genomics data sets onto diagrams of metabolic pathways and other biological processes. *Plant J.* **37**, 914–939.
- Toorop, P.E., van Aelst, A.C., and Hilhorst, H.W.** (2000). The second step of the biphasic endosperm cap weakening that mediates tomato (*Lycopersicon esculentum*) seed germination is under control of ABA. *J. Exp. Bot.* **51**, 1371–1379.
- Tusher, V.G., Tibshirani, R., and Chu, G.** (2001). Significance analysis of microarrays applied to the ionizing radiation response. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* **98**, 5116–5121.
- Usadel, B., et al.** (2005). Extension of the visualization tool MapMan to allow statistical analysis of arrays, display of corresponding genes, and comparison with known responses. *Plant Physiol.* **138**, 1195–1204.
- Yamaguchi, S., Kamiya, Y., and Sun, T.** (2001). Distinct cell-specific expression patterns of early and late gibberellin biosynthetic genes during *Arabidopsis* seed germination. *Plant J.* **28**, 443–453.
- Yamauchi, Y., Ogawa, M., Kuwahara, A., Hanada, A., Kamiya, Y., and Yamaguchi, S.** (2004). Activation of gibberellin biosynthesis and response pathways by low temperature during imbibition of *Arabidopsis thaliana* seeds. *Plant Cell* **16**, 367–378.

***Arabidopsis* ABA INSENSITIVE4 Regulates Lipid Mobilization in the Embryo and Reveals
Repression of Seed Germination by the Endosperm**

Steven Penfield, Yi Li, Alison D. Gilday, Stuart Graham and Ian A. Graham
Plant Cell 2006;18;1887-1899; originally published online July 14, 2006;
DOI 10.1105/tpc.106.041277

This information is current as of May 25, 2019

Supplemental Data	/content/suppl/2006/07/07/tpc.106.041277.DC1.html
References	This article cites 47 articles, 22 of which can be accessed free at: /content/18/8/1887.full.html#ref-list-1
Permissions	https://www.copyright.com/ccc/openurl.do?sid=pd_hw1532298X&issn=1532298X&WT.mc_id=pd_hw1532298X
eTOCs	Sign up for eTOCs at: http://www.plantcell.org/cgi/alerts/ctmain
CiteTrack Alerts	Sign up for CiteTrack Alerts at: http://www.plantcell.org/cgi/alerts/ctmain
Subscription Information	Subscription Information for <i>The Plant Cell</i> and <i>Plant Physiology</i> is available at: http://www.aspb.org/publications/subscriptions.cfm