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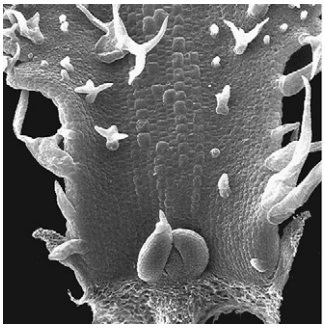
ON THE COVER



A shoot axillary bud will either grow out to produce a branch or remain dormant in the leaf axil, depending on the integration of endogenous and environmental stimuli mediated by hormonal signals. Aguilar-Martinez et al. (pages 458–472) report on *Arabidopsis BRANCHED1* (*BRC1*), which encodes a TCP transcription factor closely related to maize *teosinte branched1* (*tb1*). The authors show that, like *tb1*, *BRC1* constitutes a key point at which signals controlling branching are integrated within axillary buds. *BRC1* is expressed in developing axillary buds and functions to arrest bud development in response to developmental and environmental stimuli. It has previously been found that long-range signaling promoting axillary bud arrest is controlled both by auxin produced in the shoot apex and by a novel carotenoid derivative called the MAX-dependent signal synthesized in the root. Mutant and expression analyses show that *BRC1* functions downstream of the MAX pathway and also is required for auxin-induced apical dominance. The cover image shows a scanning electron micrograph of a young axillary bud in the axil of a wild-type *Arabidopsis* rosette leaf.

CORRECTIONS

[W] Online version contains Web-only data.

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