ON THE COVER

Correct specification of cell fate is critical during development of multicellular organisms, and it requires precise regulatory mechanisms to ensure robust cell type patterns. Kang et al. (pages 1080–1094) investigated the role of MYB23 in the Arabidopsis root, which encodes a MYB-type transcription factor. They found that MYB23 is necessary for precise establishment of the root epidermal pattern, particularly under the conditions that compromise the cell specification process. The results show that MYB23 participates in a positive feedback loop that reinforces cell fate decisions and ensures robust establishment of the cell type pattern. The cover shows the disrupted expression pattern of a PGL2:GUS reporter gene in an epidermal clone in the myb23 mutant (right) compared with the position-dependent expression pattern in a wild-type epidermal clone (left).

EDITORIAL

Guidelines for Quantitative RT-PCR
Cathie Martin 1023

IN THIS ISSUE

Deep Sequencing Maps the Maize Epigenomic Landscape
Nancy A. Eckardt 1024

IN BRIEF

Rice Axillary Meristem Formation Requires Directional Movement of LAX PANICLE1 Protein
Jennifer Mach 1027

Cortical Microtubules Regulate the Insertion of Cellulose Synthase Complexes in the Plasma Membrane
Kathleen L. Farquharson 1028

A Volvox Inversionless Mutant Highlights the Importance of the Extracellular Matrix in Morphogenesis
Nancy A. Eckardt 1029

Pexophagy in Fungal Pathogenesis
Gregory Bertoni 1030

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Real-Time Quantitative RT-PCR: Design, Calculations, and Statistics
Ivo Rieu and Stephen J. Powers 1031

REVIEW

Web-Queryable Large-Scale Data Sets for Hypothesis Generation in Plant Biology
Siobhan M. Brady and Nicholas J. Provart 1034

RESEARCH ARTICLES

Genome-Wide and Organ-Specific Landscapes of Epigenetic Modifications and Their Relationships to mRNA and Small RNA Transcriptomes in Maize
Xiangfeng Wang, Axel A. Elling, Xueyong Li, Ning Li, Zhiyu Peng, Guangming He, Hui Sun, Yijun Qi, X. Shirley Liu, and Xing Wang Deng 1053
Members of the GCN5 Histone Acetyltransferase Complex Regulate PLETHORA-Mediated Root Stem Cell Niche Maintenance and Transit Amplifying Cell Proliferation in Arabidopsis

Noortje Kornet and Ben Scheres

The MYB23 Gene Provides a Positive Feedback Loop for Cell Fate Specification in the Arabidopsis Root Epidermis

Yeon Hee Kang, Victor Kirik, Martin Hulskamp, Kyoung Hee Nam, Katherine Hagely, Myeong Min Lee, and John Schiefelbein

Two-Step Regulation of LAX PANICLE1 Protein Accumulation in Axillary Meristem Formation in Rice

Tetsuo Okawara and Junko Kyozuka

GLK Transcription Factors Coordinate Expression of the Photosynthetic Apparatus in Arabidopsis

Mark T. Waters, Peng Wang, Muris Korkaric, Richard G. Capper, Nigel J. Saunders, and Janie A. Langdale

The WD40 Repeat Protein NEDD1 Functions in Microtubule Organization during Cell Division in Arabidopsis thaliana

C.J. Tracy Zeng, Y.-R. Julie Lee, and Bo Liu

Pausing of Golgi Bodies on Microtubules Regulates Secretion of Cellulose Synthase Complexes in Arabidopsis

Elizabeth Faris Crowell, Volker Bischoff, Thierry Desprez, Aurélia Rolland, York-Dieter Stierhof, Karin Schumacher, Martine Gonneau, Herman Höfte, and Samantha Vernettes

Identifying New Components Participating in the Secondary Cell Wall Formation of Vessel Elements in Zinnia and Arabidopsis

Satoshi Endo, Edouard Pesquet, Masatoshi Yamaguchi, Gen Tashiro, Mayuko Sato, Kinomori Toyooka, Nobuyuki Nishikubo, Makiko Udagawa-Motose, Minoru Kubo, Hiroo Fukuda, and Taku Demura

Controlled Enlargement of the Glycoprotein Vesicle Surrounding a Volvox Embryo Requires the InvB Nucleotide-Sugar Transporter and Is Required for Normal Morphogenesis

Noriko Ueki and Ichiro Nishii

Suppression of Repeat-Mediated Gross Mitochondrial Genome Rearrangements by RecA in the Moss Physcomitrella patens

Masaki Odahara, Haruko Kuroiwa, Tsuneyoshi Kuroiwa, and Yasuhiro Sekine

The RNA Binding Protein ELF9 Directly Reduces SUPPRESSOR OF OVEREXPRESSION OF CO1 Transcript Levels in Arabidopsis, Possibly via Nonsense-Mediated mRNA Decay

Hae-Ryong Song, Ju-Dong Song, Jung-Nam Cho, Richard M. Amasino, Bosi Noh, and Yoo-Sun Noh

A Mobile Secretory Vesicle Cluster Involved in Mass Transport from the Golgi to the Plant Cell Exterior

Kiminori Toyooka, Yumi Goto, Satoru Asatsuma, Masato Koizumi, Toshiaki Mitsui, and Ken Matsuoka

Arabidopsis LTPG Is a Glycosylphosphatidylinositol-Anchored Lipid Transfer Protein Required for Export of Lipids to the Plant Surface

Allan DeBono, Trevor H. Yeats, Jocelyn K.C. Rose, David Bird, Reinhard Jetter, Ljerka Kunst, and Lacey Samuels

Leucine Aminopeptidase Regulates Defense and Wound Signaling in Tomato Downstream of Jasmonic Acid


Misexpression of FATTY ACID ELONGATION1 in the Arabidopsis Epidermis Induces Cell Death and Suggests a Critical Role for Phospholipase A2 in This Process

José J. Reina-Pinto, Derry Voisin, Sergey Kurdyukov, Andrea Faust, Richard P. Haslam, Louise V. Michaelson, Nadia Efremova, Benni Franke, Lukas Schreiber, Johnathan A. Napier, and Alexander Yephremov

Interaction Transcriptome Analysis Identifies Magnaporthe oryzae BAS1-4 as Biotrophy-Associated Secreted Proteins in Rice Blast Disease

Gloria Mosquera, Martha C. Giraldo, Chang Hyun Kang, Sean Coughlan, and Barbara Valent
Atg26-Mediated Pexophagy Is Required for Host Invasion by the Plant Pathogenic Fungus Colletotrichum orbiculare

Makoto Asakura, Sachiko Ninomiya, Miki Sugimoto, Masahide Oku, Shun-ichi Yamashita, Tetsuro Okuno, Yasuyoshi Sakai, and Yoshitaka Takano

Xanthomonas T3S Effector XopN Suppresses PAMP-Triggered Immunity and Interacts with a Tomato Atypical Receptor-Like Kinase and TFT1

Jung-Gun Kim, Xinyan Li, Julie Anne Roden, Kyle W. Taylor, Chris D. Aakre, Bessie Su, Sylvie Lalonde, Angela Kirik, Yanhui Chen, Gayathri Baranage, Heather McLane, Gregory B. Martin, and Mary Beth Mudgett

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