ON THE COVER

Floral organ identities are specified by a few well-characterized transcription factors that act as master regulators, but less is understood about factors controlling tissue differentiation within floral organs. Alvarez et al. (pages 1373–1393) and Trigueros et al. (pages 1394–1409) describe four members of a clade of B3-domain transcription factors, NGATHA1 (NGA1) to NGA4, which are expressed late and distally in all lateral organs and have a redundant and essential role in style and stigma development. Loss of all four genes results in gynoecia where these tissues are abolished and replaced by valve tissue. The cover shows a scanning electron microscopy image of an inflorescence where NGA1 is expressed under control of the floral AP3 promoter, which expresses in the sepal margins and petal and stamen primordia. Style and stigma tissues arise precociously and ectopically on and interior to the sepals replacing all other floral tissues (image provided by John Alvarez).

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