ON THE COVER

In the Brassicaceae, compatible pollen-pistil interactions result in pollen adhesion to the stigma, whereas pollen grains from unrelated plant species are rejected. The incompatible response involves the E3 ubiquitin ligase ARC1. Samuel et al. (pages 2655–2671) identified Brassica napus Exo70A1 as an interacting partner with ARC1 and show that loss of the protein in Brassica and Arabidopsis stigmas leads to rejection of compatible pollen. Exo70A1 is a putative component of the exocyst complex, which is known to regulate polarized secretion. A red fluorescent protein (RFP):Exo70A1 fusion protein rescued the stigma defect in Arabidopsis and was mobilized to the plasma membrane in stigma tissue concomitant with flower opening. The authors show that Exo70A1 is required in the stigma for the acceptance of compatible pollen in Brassica and Arabidopsis and negatively regulated during the self-incompatible response in Brassica. The cover image shows RFP:Exo70A1 localized to the plasma membrane of an unpollinated mature stigma.

EDITORIAL
Introducing a New Feature in The Plant Cell: Teaching Tools in Plant Biology 2541
Cathie Martin

IN BRIEF
Integration of Signaling Pathways in Stomatal Development 2542
Gregory Bertoni

The Arabidopsis RPW8 Resistance Protein Is Recruited to the Extrahaustorial Membrane of Biotrophic Powdery Mildew Fungi 2543
Nancy A. Eckardt

The Plasma Membrane as First Responder to Heat Stress 2544
Nancy R. Hofmann

Negative Regulation of Stress-Activated MAPK Signaling in Arabidopsis 2545
Nancy A. Eckardt

PERSPECTIVE
Lights, Rhythms, Infection: The Role of Light and the Circadian Clock in Determining the Outcome of Plant–Pathogen Interactions 2546
Laura C. Roden and Robert A. Ingle

REVIEW
Manipulation of Auxin Transport in Plant Roots during Rhizobium Symbiosis and Nematode Parasitism 2553
Wim Grunewald, Giel van Noorden, Gert Van Isterdael, Tom Beeckman, Godelieve Gheysen, and Ulrike Mathesius

RESEARCH ARTICLES
Global Identification of Targets of the Arabidopsis MADS Domain Protein AGAMOUS-Like15 2563
Yumei Zheng, Na Ren, Huai Wang, Arnold J. Stromberg, and Sharyn E. Perry

bearded-ear Encodes a MADS Box Transcription Factor Critical for Maize Floral Development 2578
Beth E. Thompson, Linnea Bartling, Clint Whipple, Darren H. Hall, Hajime Sakai, Robert Schmidt, and Sarah Hake
Evolution of AGL6-like MADS Box Genes in Grasses (Poaceae): Ovule Expression Is Ancient and Palea Expression Is New
Renata Reinheimer and Elizabeth A. Kellogg

Evolutionarily Conserved Regulatory Motifs in the Promoter of the Arabidopsis Clock Gene LATE ELONGATED HYPOCOTYL
Mark Spensley, Jae-Yean Kim, Emma Picot, John Reid, Sascha Ott, Chris Helliwell, and Isabelle A. Carré

Cryptochromes, Phytochromes, and COP1 Regulate Light-Controlled Stomatal Development in Arabidopsis
Chun-Ying Kang, Hong-Li Lian, Fang-Fang Wang, Ji-Rong Huang, and Hong-Quan Yang

A Dual Role for the S-Locus Receptor Kinase in Self-Incompatibility and Pistil Development Revealed by an Arabidopsis rdr6 Mutation
Titima Tantikanjana, Noreen Rizvi, Mikhail E. Nasrallah, and June B. Nasrallah

Cellular Pathways Regulating Responses to Compatible and Self-Incompatible Pollen in Brassica and Arabidopsis Stigmas Intersect at Exo70A1, a Putative Component of the Exocyst Complex
Marcus A. Samuel, Yolanda T. Chong, Katrina E. Haasen, May Grace Aldea-Brydges, Sophia L. Stone, and Daphne R. Goring

The MYB305 Transcription Factor Regulates Expression of Nectarin Genes in the Ornamental Tobacco Floral Nectary
Guangyu Liu, Gang Ren, Adel Guirgis, and Robert W. Thornburg

The STRUCTURAL MAINTENANCE OF CHROMOSOMES 5/6 Complex Promotes Sister Chromatid Alignment and Homologous Recombination after DNA Damage in Arabidopsis thaliana
Koichi Watanabe, Michael Pacher, Stefanie Dukowic, Veit Schubert, Holger Puchta, and Ingo Schubert

Replication Stress Leads to Genome Instabilities in Arabidopsis DNA Polymerase 8 Mutants
David Schuermann, Olivier Fritsch, Jan M. Lucht, and Barbara Hohn

Dynamic Plastid Redox Signals Integrate Gene Expression and Metabolism to Induce Distinct Metabolic States in Photosynthetic Acclimation in Arabidopsis

The ABC Transporter PXA1 and Peroxisomal β-Oxidation Are Vital for Metabolism in Mature Leaves of Arabidopsis during Extended Darkness
Hans-Henning Kunz, Michael Scharnewski, Kirstin Feussner, Ivo Feussner, Ulf-Ingo Flügge, Martin Fulda, and Markus Gierth

The Arabidopsis Nitrate Transporter NRT1.7, Expressed in Phloem, Is Responsible for Source-to-Sink Remobilization of Nitrate
Shu-Chun Fan, Choun-Sea Lin, Po-Kai Hsu, Shan-Hua Lin, and Yi-Fang Tsay

Phage-Type RNA Polymerase RPOTmp Performs Gene-Specific Transcription in Mitochondria of Arabidopsis thaliana
Kristina Kühn, Uwe Richter, Etienne H. Meyer, Etienne Delannoy, André Falcon de Longevialle, Nicholas O'Toole, Thomas Börner, A. Harvey Millar, Ian D. Small, and James Whelan

Genome-Wide Medicago truncatula Small RNA Analysis Revealed Novel MicroRNAs and Isosforms Differentially Regulated in Roots and Nodules
Christine Lelandais-Brière, Loreto Naya, Erika Sallet, Fanny Calenge, Florian Frugier, Caroline Hartmann, Jérôme Gouzy, and Martin Crespi
A Small GTPase of the Rab Family Is Required for Root Hair Formation and Preinfection Stages of the Common Bean–Rhizobium Symbiotic Association
Flavio Antonio Blanco, Etel Peltzer Meschini, María Eugenia Zanetti, and O. Mario Aguilar

Medicago N2-Fixing Symbiosomes Acquire the Endocytic Identity Marker Rab7 but Delay the Acquisition of Vacuolar Identity
Erik Limpens, Sergey Ivanov, Wilma van Esse, Guido Voets, Elena Fedorova, and Ton Bisseling

The Heat Shock Response in Moss Plants Is Regulated by Specific Calcium-Permeable Channels in the Plasma Membrane
Younousse Saidi, Andrija Finka, Maude Muriset, Zohar Bromberg, Yoram G. Weiss, Frans J.M. Maathuis, and Pierre Goloubinoff

The Rice α-Amylase Glycoprotein Is Targeted from the Golgi Apparatus through the Secretory Pathway to the Plastids
Aya Kitajima, Satoru Asatsuma, Hisao Okada, Yuki Hamada, Kentaro Kaneko, Yohei Nanjo, Yasushi Kawagoe, Kiminori Toyooka, Ken Matsuoka, Masaki Takeuchi, Akihiko Nakano, and Toshiaki Mitsui

A Tripartite SNARE-K⁺ Channel Complex Mediates in Channel-Dependent K⁺ Nutrition in Arabidopsis
Annegret Honsbein, Sergei Sokolovski, Christopher Grefen, Prisca Campanoni, Réjane Pratelli, Manuel Paneque, Zhonghua Chen, Ingela Johansson, and Michael R. Blatt

A Transporter at the Node Responsible for Intervascular Transfer of Silicon in Rice
Naoki Yamaji and Jian Feng Ma

MAP KINASE PHOSPHATASE1 and PROTEIN TYROSINE PHOSPHATASE1 Are Repressors of Salicylic Acid Synthesis and SNC1-Mediated Responses in Arabidopsis
Sebastian Bartels, Jeffrey C. Anderson, Marina A. González Besteiro, Alessandro Carreri, Heribert Hirt, Antony Buchala, Jean-Pierre Métraux, Scott C. Peck, and Roman Ulm

Specific Targeting of the Arabidopsis Resistance Protein RPW8.2 to the Interfacial Membrane Encasing the Fungal Haustorium Renders Broad-Spectrum Resistance to Powdery Mildew
Wenming Wang, Yingqiang Wen, Robert Berkey, and Shunyuan Xiao

Autophagy Negatively Regulates Cell Death by Controlling NPR1-Dependent Salicylic Acid Signaling during Senescence and the Innate Immune Response in Arabidopsis
Kohki Yoshimoto, Yusuke Jikumaru, Yuji Kamiya, Miyako Kusano, Chiara Consonni, Ralph Panstruga, Yoshinori Ôhsumi, and Ken Shirasu

In Planta Expression Screens of Phytophthora infestans RXLR Effectors Reveal Diverse Phenotypes, Including Activation of the Solanum bulbocastanum Disease Resistance Protein Rpi-bb2

Agrobacterium tumefaciens Promotes Tumor Induction by Modulating Pathogen Defense in Arabidopsis thaliana
Chil-Woo Lee, Marina Efetova, Julia C Engelmann, Robert Kramell, Claus Wasternack, Jutta Ludwig-Müller, Rainer Hedrich, and Rosalia Deeken
Actin-Depolymerizing Factor2-Mediated Actin Dynamics Are Essential for Root-Knot Nematode Infection of Arabidopsis

Mathilde Clément, Tijs Ketelaar, Natalia Rodiuc, Mohamed Youssef Banora, Andrei Smertenko, Gilbert Engler, Pierre Abad, Patrick J. Hussey, and Janice de Almeida Engler

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