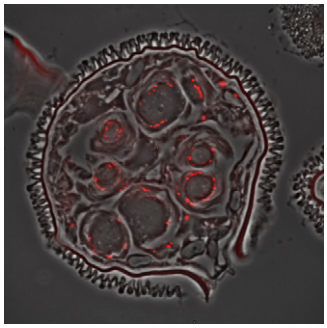
THE PLANT CELL

Volume 22 Number 11 November 2010

The electronic form of this issue, available at www.plantcell.org, is the journal of record.

ON THE COVER



Spermidine is a polyamine involved in a broad range of cellular processes in plants, fungi, and animals. Deeb et al. (pages 3678–3691) show that spermidine is involved in cell fate specification in the male gametophyte of the water fern *Marsilea vestita*. The work reveals how changes in spermidine abundance and distribution in the gametophyte affect gametophyte development and spermatid maturation through the release of stored *Spermidine synthase* (*SPDS*) transcripts and through interactions with cytoskeletal and nuclear components in the developing spermatids. The cover shows a section of the male gametophyte of *M. vestita* labeled with anticentrin antibody, which localizes to basal bodies (red dots) in the developing spermatids. *SPDS* silencing was shown to affect the formation and distribution of basal bodies, along with other key features of spermatid development.

IN BRIEF

RESEARCH ARTICLES

C Some figures in this article are displayed in color online but in black and white in the print edition.

W Online version contains Web-only data.

OA Open Access articles can be viewed online without a subscription.

The Plant Cell (ISSN 1040-4651, online ISSN 1531-298X) is published monthly (one volume per year) by the American Society of Plant Biologists, 15501 Monona Drive, Rockville, MD 20855-2768, and is produced by Dartmouth Journal Services, Waterbury, VT. The institutional price for the print and online versions is based on type of institution; contact institution@aspb.org. A subscription includes both *The Plant Cell* and *Plant Physiology;* single copies may be purchased for $95 each, plus $10 shipping (U.S.) or $12 (outside U.S.). Members of the American Society of Plant Biologists may subscribe to *The Plant Cell* for $185. Nonmember individuals may subscribe for $375. For matters regarding subscriptions, contact Suzanne Cholwek, ASPB, 15501 Monona Drive, Rockville, MD 20855-2768; telephone 301/296-0926; fax 301/251-6740; e-mail scholwek@aspb.org. Notify ASPB in writing within 3 months (domestic) or 6 months (foreign) of issue date, and defective copies or copies lost in the mail will be replaced. Send all inquiries regarding display advertising to FASEB AdNet, 9650 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20814-3998; telephone 301/634-7791; fax 301/634-7153; e-mail adnet@faseb.org. Periodicals postage paid at Rockville, MD 20850, and at additional mailing offices.

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