ON THE COVER

The maize transposable element Ds has been used extensively in gene tagging programs, but a large-scale collection of insertions has not been available to the maize community. In this issue (pages 1667–1685), Vollbrecht and colleagues position over 1500 Ds insertions throughout the maize genome. The vast majority of the insertions targeted gene-rich regions of the genome and preferentially inserted into exon and intron sequence when compared with the distribution of Mutator insertions. This collection will serve as a foundation for future gene tagging programs in maize. The cover shows the instability of a Ds insertion at the a1 locus. Excisions of the element restore gene function, resulting in multiple colored sectors in anthers and glumes of the tassel.

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