ON THE COVER

Several monocot species develop unifacial leaves, in which leaf blades have only abaxial identity. Bifacial leaves require adaxial-abaxial polarity for leaf blade flattening, whereas many unifacial leaves become flattened despite their leaf blades being abaxialized. Yamaguchi et al. (pages 2141–2155) identify a DROOPING LEAF (DL) gene ortholog as a candidate responsible for leaf blade flattening in unifacial leaves of Juncus prismatocarpus. They suggest that DL promotes leaf cell proliferation along the median plane in monocots and that such DL function leads to leaf blade flattening in unifacial leaves, whereas it leads to leaf mid-rib formation in bifacial leaves. The cover image shows in situ localization of the DL transcripts (the pink color) in a longitudinal section of J. prismatocarpus shoot apex.

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