ON THE COVER

Reyes et al. (pages 769–784) use a combination of molecular approaches, in vivo imaging of fluorescent proteins, and structural analysis by electron tomography to study storage proteins, such as zeins, in maize seed tissue. They investigate patterns of gene transcription and protein transport in aleurone cells and describe an atypical autophagic mechanism for the delivery of these proteins to the vacuole that may be common to cereals. The cover shows an electron tomographic reconstruction of a developing maize aleurone cell containing vacuoles with large aggregates of storage proteins (red) and intravacuolar membranes (green); mitochondria (gold), plastids (green), lipid bodies (blue), and ribosomes (gray) are abundant in the cytoplasm.

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**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. **Postmaster:** Send address changes to The Plant Cell, American Society of Plant Biologists, 15501 Monona Drive, Rockville, MD 20855-2768. The online version of *The Plant Cell* is available at www.plantcell.org. **Permission to Reprint:** Permission to make digital or hard copies of part or all of a work published in *The Plant Cell* is granted without fee for personal or classroom use provided that copies are not made or distributed for profit or commercial advantage and that copies bear the full citation and the following notice on the first page: “Copyright American Society of Plant Biologists.” For all other kinds of copying, request permission in writing from Nancy A. Winchester, Publications Director, ASPB headquarters.