ON THE COVER

As they allow efficient pollination by insects (illustrated here by a pollen-coated grasshopper emerging from the depths of an hibiscus), flowers represent a major innovation in land plant evolution. Molecular genetic analyses have established that the LEAFY transcription factor plays a key role in flower development of many species, including Arabidopsis, snapdragon, petunia, and many crop plants. Moyroud et al. (pages 1293–1306) have developed a predictive model for LEAFY DNA binding that facilitates exploring the evolutionary relationship between LEAFY and its target genes based on a direct analysis of any plant genome sequence. Such an approach opens novel avenues for understanding the origin and evolution of flowers. Photo taken by Eugenio Gómez Minguet.

IN BRIEF

A Biophysical Model for Predicting Regulatory Interactions
Nancy R. Hofmann 1187

Global Analysis of Copper Responsiveness in Chlamydomonas
Gregory Bertoni 1188

Fine-Tuning Photosynthesis: Structural Basis of Photoprotective Energy Dissipation
Nancy A. Eckardt 1189

Induction of Phytoalexin Biosynthesis: WRKY33 Is a Target of MAPK Signaling
Nancy A. Eckardt 1190

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

In Plant and Animal Cells, Detergent-Resistant Membranes Do Not Define Functional Membrane Rafts
Widmar Malinsky and Jan Opekarová 1191

PERSPECTIVES

Charles Darwin and the Origins of Plant Evolutionary Developmental Biology
William E. Friedman and Pamela K. Diggle 1194

RAC/ROP GTPases and Auxin Signaling
Hen-ming Wu, Ora Hazak, Alice Y. Cheung, and Shaul Yalovsky 1208

REVIEW

Brassinosteroid Signal Transduction: From Receptor Kinase Activation to Transcriptional Networks Regulating Plant Development
Steven D. Clouse 1219

LARGE-SCALE BIOLOGY ARTICLES

A Sister Group Contrast Using Untargeted Global Metabolomic Analysis Delineates the Biochemical Regulation Underlying Desiccation Tolerance in Sporobolus stapfianus
Melvin J. Oliver, Lining Guo, Danny C. Alexander, John A. Ryals, Bernard W.M. Wone, and John C. Cushman 1231
Unlocking the Barley Genome by Chromosomal and Comparative Genomics
Klaus F.X. Mayer, Mihaela Martis, Pete E. Hedley, Hana Šimková, Hui Liu, Jenny A. Morris, Burkhard Steuernagel, Stefan Taudien, Stephan Roessner, Heidrun Gundlach, Marie Kubaláková, Pavla Suchánková, Florent Murat, Marius Felder, Thomas Nussbaumer, Andreas Graner, Jerome Salse, Takashi Endo, Hiroaki Sakai, Tsuyoshi Tanaka, Takeshi Itoh, Kazuhiro Sato, Matthias Platzer, Takashi Matsumoto, Uwe Scholz, Jaroslav Doležel, Robbie Waugh, and Nils Stein

Coordinated Gene Networks Regulating Arabidopsis Plant Metabolism in Response to Various Stresses and Nutritional Cues
Hadar Less, Ruthie Angelovici, Vered Tzin, and Gad Galili

RESEARCH ARTICLES

Systems Biology Approach in Chlamydomonas Reveals Connections between Copper Nutrition and Multiple Metabolic Steps
Madeli Castruita, David Casero, Steven J. Karpowicz, Janette Kropat, Astrid Vieler, Scott I. Hsieh, Weihong Yan, Shawn Cokus, Joseph A. Loo, Christoph Benning, Matteo Pellegrini, and Sabeeha S. Merchant

Prediction of Regulatory Interactions from Genome Sequences Using a Biophysical Model for the Arabidopsis LEAFY Transcription Factor
Edwige Moyroud, Eugenio Gómez Minguet, Felix Ott, Levi Yant, David Posé, Marie Monniaux, Sandrine Blanchet, Olivier Bastien, Emmanuel Thévenon, Detlef Weigel, Markus Schmid, and François Parcy

Aa TFL1 Confers an Age-Dependent Response to Vernalization in Perennial Arabis alpina
Renhou Wang, Maria C. Albani, Coral Vincent, Sara Bergonzi, Ming Luan, Yan Bai, Christiane Kiefer, Rosa Castillo, and George Coupland

Mobile Gibberellin Directly Stimulates Arabidopsis Hypocotyl Xylem Expansion
Laura Ragni, Kaisa Nieminen, David Pacheco-Villalobos, Richard Sibout, Claus Schwechheimer, and Claus Hardtke

A DELLA in Disguise: SPATULA Restrains the Growth of the Developing Arabidopsis Seedling

D-myo-Inositol-3-Phosphate Affects Phosphatidylinositol-Mediated Endomembrane Function in Arabidopsis and Is Essential for Auxin-Regulated Embryogenesis
Yu Luo, Genji Qin, Jun Zhang, Yuan Liang, Yingqi Song, Meiping Zhao, Tomohiko Tsuge, Takashi Aoyama, Jingjing Liu, Hongya Gu, and Li-Jia Qu

The Interconversion of UDP-Arabinopyranose and UDP-Arabinofuranose Is Indispensable for Plant Development in Arabidopsis
Carsten Rautengarten, Berit Ebert, Thomas Herter, Christopher J. Petzold, Tadashi Ishii, Andirla Mukhopadhyay, Bjoern USadel, and Henrik Vibe Scheller

β-Amylase–Like Proteins as Transcription Factors in Arabidopsis, Controlling Shoot Growth and Development
Heike Reinhold, Sebastian Soyk, Klára Šimková, Carmen Hostettler, John Marafino, Samantha Mainiero, Cara K. Vaughan, Jonathan D. Monroe, and Samuel C. Zeeman

ABI3 and PLS Collaboratively Activate the Expression of SOMNUS by Directly Binding to Its Promoter in Imbiled Arabidopsis Seeds
Jeongmoo Park, Nayoung Lee, Woohyun Kim, Soohwan Lim, and Giltsu Choi
Rice APOPTOSIS INHIBITOR5 Coupled with Two DEAD-Box Adenosine 5'-Triphosphate-Dependent RNA Helicases Regulates Tapetum Degeneration

Xingwang Li, Xinqiang Gao, Yi Wei, Li Deng, Yidan Ouyang, Guoxing Chen, Xianghua Li, Qifa Zhang, and Changying Wu

The Arabidopsis thaliana Checkpoint Kinase WEE1 Protects against Premature Vascular Differentiation during Replication Stress


GUN4-Porphyrin Complexes Bind the ChlH/GUN5 Subunit of Mg-Chelatase and Promote Chlorophyll Biosynthesis in Arabidopsis

Neil D. Adhikari, John E. Froehlich, Deserah D. Strand, Stephanie M. Buck, David M. Kramer, and Robert M. Larkin

Photoprotective Energy Dissipation Involves the Reorganization of Photosystem II Light-Harvesting Complexes in the Grana Membranes of Spinach Chloroplasts

Matthew P. Johnson, Tomasz K. Goral, Christopher D.P. Duffy, Anthony P.R. Brain, Conrad W. Mullineaux, and Alexander V. Ruban

An Src Homology 3 Domain-Like Fold Protein Forms a Ferredoxin Binding Site for the Chloroplast NADH Dehydrogenase-Like Complex in Arabidopsis

Hiroshi Yamamoto, Lianwei Peng, Yoichiro Fukao, and Toshiharu Shikanai

Multilevel Control of Arabidopsis 3-Hydroxy-3-Methylglutaryl Coenzyme A Reductase by Protein Phosphatase 2A

Pablo Leivar, Meritxell Antolin-Llovera, Sergi Ferrero, Marta Closa, Montserrat Arró, Albert Ferrer, Albert Boronat, and Narciso Campos

Negative Regulation of Anthocyanin Biosynthesis in Arabidopsis by a miR156-Targeted SPL Transcription Factor

Jin-Ying Gou, Felipe F. Felippes, Chang-Juri Liu, Detlef Weigel, and Jia-Wei Wang

Arabidopsis thaliana High-Affinity Phosphate Transporters Exhibit Multiple Levels of Posttranslational Regulation

Vincent Bayle, Jean-Francois Arrighi, Audrey Creff, Claude Nespolous, Jérôme Vialaret, Michel Rossignol, Esperanza Gonzalez, Javier Paz-Ares, and Laurent Nussaume

MATE2 Mediates Vacuolar Sequestration of Flavonoid Glycosides and Glycoside Malonates in Medicago truncatula

Jian Zhao, David Huhman, Gail Shadle, Xian-Zhi He, Lloyd W. Sumner, Yuhong Tang, and Richard A. Dixon

Identification of Novel Plant Peroxisomal Targeting Signals by a Combination of Machine Learning Methods and in Vivo Subcellular Targeting Analyses

Thomas Lingner, Arr M. Kataya, Gerardo E. Antonicelli, Aline Benichou, Kjersti Nilssen, Xiong-Yan Chen, Tanja Siemsen, Burkhard Morgenstern, Peter Meinicke, and Sigrun Reumann

Arabidopsis ABERRANT PEROXISOME MORPHOLOGY9 Is a Peroxin That Recruits the PEX1-PEX6 Complex to Peroxisomes

Shino Goto, Shoji Mano, Chihiro Nakamori, and Mikio Nishimura

Both the Hydrophobicity and a Positively Charged Region Flanking the C-Terminal Region of the Transmembrane Domain of Signal-Anchored Proteins Play Critical Roles in Determining Their Targeting Specificity to the Endoplasmic Reticulum or Endosymbiotic Organelles in Arabidopsis Cells

Junho Lee, Hyunkyung Lee, Jinho Kim, Sumin Lee, Dae Heon Kim, Sanguk Kim, and Inhwan Hwang
A Conserved, Mg^{2+}-Dependent Exonuclease Degrades Organelle DNA during Arabidopsis Pollen Development

Ryo Matsushima, Lay Yin Tang, Lingang Zhang, Hiroshi Yamada, David Twell, and Wataru Sakamoto

The 21-Nucleotide, but Not 22-Nucleotide, Viral Secondary Small Interfering RNAs Direct Potent Antiviral Defense by Two Cooperative Argonautes in Arabidopsis thaliana

Xian-Bing Wang, Juan Jovel, Petchthai Udomporn, Ying Wang, Qingfa Wu, Wan-Xiang Li, Virginie Gascioli, Herve Vaucheret, and Shou-Wei Ding

Phosphorylation of a WRKY Transcription Factor by Two Pathogen-Responsive MAPKs Drives Phytoalexin Biosynthesis in Arabidopsis

Guohong Mao, Xiangzong Meng, Yidong Liu, Zuyu Zheng, Zhixiang Chen, and Shuqun Zhang

The DNA Damage Response Signaling Cascade Regulates Proliferation of the Phytopathogenic Fungus Ustilago maydis in Planta

Carmen deSena-Tomás, Alfonso Fernández-Alvarez, William K. Holloman, and José Pérez-Martín

ETOILE Regulates Developmental Patterning in the Filamentous Brown Alga Ectocarpus siliculosus

Aude LeBail, Bernard Billoud, Sophie Le Panse, Sabine Chenivesse, and Bénédicte Charrier

CORRECTION


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