ON THE COVER

Anther development depends on coordinated cell expansion in order to elongate filaments and dehisce anthers. Bassil et al. (pages 3482–3497) provide evidence that two members of the Arabidopsis Na+/H+-type family of vacuolar antiporters (NHX), NHX1 and NHX2, are specifically required for cell expansion, particularly in rapidly elongating tissues such as filaments and hypocotyls. The authors demonstrate that NHX1 and NHX2 control intravacuolar potassium and pH to regulate cell expansion. The lack of NHX1 and NHX2 leads to short filaments, nondehiscent anthers, unsuccessful pollination, and a lack of silique formation. The cover displays a scanning electron micrograph of a dehiscent anther about to release its pollen.

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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 301/834-7791; fax 301/834-7153; e-mail adnet@faseb.org. Periodicals postage paid at Rockville, MD 20850, and at additional mailing offices.

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