ON THE COVER

A number of essential processes in plant cell growth, storage, and detoxification take place in vacuoles, yet knowledge about mechanisms underlying their biogenesis and associated protein trafficking pathways remains limited. Viotti et al. (pages 3434–3449) provide evidence for a Golgi-independent route of vacuolar biogenesis in plant cells. The cover shows the maximum projection of a Z-stack acquired from an Arabidopsis pat2-2 mutant seedling expressing the tonoplast marker protein VHA-a3-GFP. This mutant of the β-subunit of the AP3 complex harbors abnormal multi-layered tonoplast invaginations that are significantly higher in fluorescence intensity than those of the wild type. The contrast to single-layered vacuolar membranes is emphasized by application of the “Rainbow RGB” look-up-table (LUT) in Image J. Low intensities are depicted in blue and light green, and high intensities in red.

JOINT THE PLANT CELL/PLANT PHYSIOLOGY EDITORIAL

Manipulation and Misconduct in the Handling of Image Data 3147
Cathie Martin and Mike Blatt

IN BRIEF

Putting the cenH3 in the Centromere: Arabidopsis KINETOCHORE NULL2 Acts Upstream of cenH3 Deposition 3149
Jennifer Mach

Salt of the Earth: Ethylene Promotes Salt Tolerance by Enhancing Na/K Homeostasis 3150
Jennifer Lockhart

Endoplasmic Reticulum–Localized Transcription Factors and Mitochondrial Retrograde Regulation 3151
Nancy R. Hofmann

COMMENTARY

Intrinsic Disorder in Pathogen Effectors: Protein Flexibility as an Evolutionary Hallmark in a Molecular Arms Race 3153
Macarena Marin, Vladimir N. Uversky, and Thomas Ott

REVIEW

Plant Callus: Mechanisms of Induction and Repression 3159
Momoko Ikeuchi, Keiko Sugimoto, and Akira Iwase

LARGE-SCALE BIOLOGY ARTICLES

Tissue-Specific Profiling Reveals Transcriptome Alterations in Arabidopsis Mutants Lacking Morphological Phenotypes 3175
Marissa Simon, Angela Bruex, Raghunandan M. Kainkaryam, Xiaohua Zheng, Ling Huang, Peter J. Woolf, and John Schiefelbein

COPPER RESPONSE REGULATOR1–Dependent and –Independent Responses of the Chlamydomonas reinhardtii Transcriptome to Dark Anoxia 3186
Anja Hemschemeier, David Casero, Bensheng Liu, Christoph Benning, Matteo Pellegrini, Thomas Happe, and Sabeeha S. Merchant

Dynamic Expression of Imprinted Genes Associates with Maternally Controlled Nutrient Allocation during Maize Endosperm Development 3212
Mingming Xin, Ruolin Yang, Guosheng Li, Hao Chen, John Laurie, Chuang Ma, Dongfang Wang, Yingying Yao, Brian A. Larkins, Qixin Sun, Ramin Yadegari, Xiangfeng Wang, and Zhongfu Ni
Establishing a Framework for the Ad/Abaxial Regulatory Network of Arabidopsis: Ascertaining Targets of Class III HOMEODomain LEUCINE ZIPPER and KANADI Regulation

Brenda J. Reinhart, Tie Liu, Nicole R. Newell, Enrico Magnani, Tengbo Huang, Randall Kerstetter, Scott Michaels, and M. Kathryn Barton

RESEARCH ARTICLES

TED, an Autonomous and Rare Maize Transposon of the Mutator Superfamily with a High Gametophytic Excision Frequency

Yubin Li, Linda Harris, and Hugo K. Dooner

Expression Quantitative Trait Locus Mapping across Water Availability Environments Reveals Contrasting Associations with Genomic Features in Arabidopsis

David B. Lowry, Tierney L. Logan, Luca Santuari, Christian S. Hardtke, James H. Richards, Leah J. DeRose-Wilson, John K. McKay, Saunak Sen, and Thomas E. Juenger

The More the Merrier: Recent Hybridization and Polyploidy in Cardamine

Terezie Manda´ kova´ , Alesˇ Kovarˇı´ k, Judita Zozomova´ -Lihova´ , Rie Shimizu-Inatsugi, Kentaro K. Shimizu, Klaus Mummenhoff, Karol Marhold, and Martin A. Lysak

The Fragaria vesca Homolog of SUPPRESSOR OF OVEREXPRESSION OF CONSTANS1 Represses Flowering and Promotes Vegetative Growth

Katriina Mouhu, Takeshi Kurokura, Elli A. Koskela, Victor A. Albert, Paula Elomaa, and Timo Hytönen

ETHYLENE-INSENSITIVE3 Is a Senescence-Associated Gene That Accelerates Age-Dependent Leaf Senescence by Directly Repressing miR164 Transcription in Arabidopsis

Zhonghai Li, Jinying Peng, Xing Wen, and Hongwei Guo

A Kinetic Analysis of the Auxin Transcriptome Reveals Cell Wall Remodeling Proteins That Modulate Lateral Root Development in Arabidopsis

Daniel R. Lewis, Amy L. Olex, Stacey R. Lundy, William H. Turkett, Jacquelyn S. Fetrow, and Gloria K. Muday

The Ubiquitin Receptor DA1 Interacts with the E3 Ubiquitin Ligase DA2 to Regulate Seed and Organ Size in Arabidopsis

Tian Xia, Na Li, Jack Dumenil, Jie Li, Andrei Kamenski, Michael W. Bevan, Fan Gao, and Yunhai Li

An-1 Encodes a Basic Helix-Loop-Helix Protein That Regulates Awn Development, Grain Size, and Grain Number in Rice

Jianghong Luo, Hui Liu, Taoying Zhou, Benguo Gu, Xuehui Huang, Yingying Shangguan, Jingjie Zhu, Yan Li, Yan Zhao, Yongchun Wang, Qiang Zhao, Ahong Wang, Ziqun Wang, Tao Sang, Zixuan Wang, and Bin Han

The BRASSINOSTEROID INSENSITIVE1–LIKE3 Signalosome Complex Regulates Arabidopsis Root Development

Norma Fábregas, Na Li, Sjie Boeren, Tara E. Nash, Michael B. Goshe, Steven D. Clouse, Sacco de Vries, and Ana I. Can˜o-Delgado

Arabidopsis KINETOCHORE NULL2 Is an Upstream Component for Centromeric Histone H3 Variant cenH3 Deposition at Centromeres

Inna Lermontova, Markus Kuhlmann, Swetlana Friedel, Twan Rutten, Stefan Heckmann, Michael Sandmann, Dmitri Demidov, Veit Schubert, and Ingo Schubert

Arabidopsis ACTIN-DEPOLYMERIZING FACTOR7 Severs Actin Filaments and Regulates Actin Cable Turnover to Promote Normal Pollen Tube Growth

Yiyan Zheng, Yurong Xie, Yuxiang Jiang, Xiaolu Qu, and Shanjin Huang

Cellular Auxin Homeostasis under High Temperature Is Regulated through a SORTING NEXIN–Dependent Endosomal Trafficking Pathway

Taiki Hanzawa, Kyohei Shibasaki, Takahiro Numata, Yukio Kawamura, Thierry Gaude, and Abidur Rahman
The Endoplasmic Reticulum Is the Main Membrane Source for Biogenesis of the Lytic Vacuole in Arabidopsis
Corrado Viotti, Falco Krüger, Melanie Krebs, Christoph Neubert, Fabian Fink, Upendo Lupanga, David Scheuring, Yohann Boutté, Márcria Frescatada-Rosa, Susanne Wolfenstetter, Norbert Sauer, Stefan Hilmer, Markus Grebe, and Karin Schumacher

A Membrane-Bound NAC Transcription Factor, ANAC017, Mediates Mitochondrial Retrograde Signaling in Arabidopsis
Sophia Ng, Aneta Ivanova, Owen Duncan, Simon R. Law, Olivier Van Aken, Inge De Clercq, Yan Wang, Chris Carrie, Lin Xu, Beata Kmiec, Hayden Walker, Frank Van Breusegem, James Whelan, and Estelle Giraud

The Membrane-Bound NAC Transcription Factor ANAC013 Functions in Mitochondrial Retrograde Regulation of the Oxidative Stress Response in Arabidopsis
Inge De Clercq, Vanessa Vermeirssen, Olivier Van Aken, Klaas Vandepoele, Monika W. Murcha, Simon R. Law, Annelies Inzé, Sophia Ng, Aneta Ivanova, Debbie Rombaut, Brigitte van de Cotte, Pinja Jaspers, Yves Van de Peer, Jaakko Kangasjärvi, James Whelan, and Frank Van Breusegem

Histone Deacetylase Complex1 Expression Level Titrates Plant Growth and Abscisic Acid Sensitivity in Arabidopsis
Giorgio Perrella, Manuel A. Lopez-Vernaza, Craig Carr, Emanuela Sani, Veronica Gosselé, Christoph Verduyn, Fabian Kellermann, Matthew A. Hannah, and Anna Amtmann

Dual Role for Phospholipid:Diacylglycerol Acyltransferase: Enhancing Fatty Acid Synthesis and Diverting Fatty Acids from Membrane Lipids to Triacylglycerol in Arabidopsis Leaves
Jilian Fan, Chengshi Yan, Xuebin Zhang, and Changcheng Xu

Zeaxanthin Binds to Light-Harvesting Complex Stress-Related Protein to Enhance Nonphotochemical Quenching in Physcomitrella patens
Alberta Pinnola, Luca Dall’Osto, Caterina Gerotto, Tommaso Morosinotto, Roberto Bassi, and Alessandro Alboresi

An Arabidopsis Soil-Salinity–Tolerance Mutation Confers Ethylene-Mediated Enhancement of Sodium/Potassium Homeostasis
Caifu Jiang, Eric J. Belfield, Yi Cao, J. Andrew C. Smith, and Nicholas P. Harberd

Temporal-Spatial Interaction between Reactive Oxygen Species and Abscisic Acid Regulates Rapid Systemic Acclimation in Plants
Nobuhiro Suzuki, Gad Miller, Carolina Salazar, Hossain A. Mondal, Elena Shulaev, Diego F. Cortes, Joel L. Shuman, Xiaozhong Luo, Jyoti Shah, Karen Schlauch, Vladimir Shulaev, and Ron Mittler

Repression of Growth Regulating Factors by the MicroRNA396 Inhibits Cell Proliferation by UV-B Radiation in Arabidopsis Leaves
Romina Casadevall, Ramiro E. Rodriguez, Juan M. Debernardi, Javier F. Palatnik, and Paula Casati

The C2H2 Transcription Factor REGULATOR OF SYMBIOSOME DIFFÉRÉNTIATION Represses Transcription of the Secretory Pathway Gene VAMP721a and Promotes Symbiosome Development in Medicago truncatula
Senjuti Sinharoy, Ivone Torres-Jerez, Kaustav Bandypadhyay, Attila Kereszt, Catalina I. Pislariu, Jüri Nakashima, Vagner A. Benedito, Eva Kondorosi, and Michael K. Udvardi

The Cytosolic Nucleoprotein of the Plant-Infecting Bunyavirus Tomato Spotted Wilt Recruits Endoplasmic Reticulum–Resident Proteins to Endoplasmic Reticulum Export Sites
Daniela Ribeiro, Maartje Jung, Sjef Moling, Jan Willem Borst, Rob Goldbach, and Richard Kormelink

The Tomato FnI3 Lysine-63–Specific Ubiquitin-Conjugating Enzyme and Suv Ubiquitin E2 Variant Positively Regulate Plant Immunity
Ravi V. Mural, Yao Liu, Tracy R. Rosebrock, Jennifer J. Brady, Sadia Hamera, Richard A. Connor, Gregory B. Martin, and Lirong Zeng
Modularity of plant metabolic gene clusters: A trio of linked genes that are collectively required for acylation of triterpenes in oat


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