ON THE COVER

The ability to precisely modify DNA in cells offers great opportunities for basic and applied research, yet it remains difficult to achieve for most plant species. Baltes et al. (pages 151–163) demonstrate the feasibility of using geminivirus replicons for genome engineering in Arabidopsis and tobacco. They engineer geminivirus vectors to repair a nonfunctional gus:nptII reporter gene and demonstrate the production of leaf cells, calli, and plantlets with precise DNA sequence changes. The cover is a composite image of tobacco leaf tissue showing individual cells that have undergone gene targeting with geminivirus vectors to restore GUS activity (blue specks; background image) and a shoot that was regenerated from transformed leaf cells (foreground).

IN BRIEF

The Plant Cell Reviews Aspects of Photobiology: It’s a Matter of Stop ‘n Go
Nancy A. Eckardt

Geminivirus Vectors Deliver Reagents for Plant Genome Engineering
Jennifer Mach

En Garde! Inhibition of an Actin Depolymerizing Factor Activates Immune Responses during Plant–Microbe Interactions
Kathleen L. Farquharson

Getting in Shape? Leaves Work It Out with KANADI1
Jennifer Mach

REVIEWS

Mathematical Models Light Up Plant Signaling
Yin Hoon Chew, Robert W. Smith, Harriet J. Jones, Daniel D. Seaton, Ramon Grima, and Karen J. Halliday

The UV-B Photoreceptor UVR8: From Structure to Physiology
Gareth I. Jenkins

Phototropism: Growing towards an Understanding of Plant Movement
Emmanuel Liscum, Scott K. Askinosie, Daniel L. Leuchtman, Johanna Morrow, Kyle T. Willenburg, and Diana Roberts Coats

PIFs: Systems Integrators in Plant Development
Pablo Leivar and Elena Monte

Multiple Layers of Posttranslational Regulation Refine Circadian Clock Activity in Arabidopsis
Pil Joon Seo and Paloma Mas

LARGE-SCALE BIOLOGY ARTICLES

Transcriptional Regulation of Fruit Ripening by Tomato FRUITFULL Homologs and Associated MADS Box Proteins
Masaki Fujisawa, Yoko Shima, Hiroyuki Nakagawa, Mamiko Kitagawa, Junji Kimbara, Toshitsugu Nakano, Takaufumi Kasumi, and Yasuhiro Ito

In Vivo Mapping of Arabidopsis Scaffold/Matrix Attachment Regions Reveals Link to Nucleosome-Disfavoring Poly(dA:dT) Tracts
Pete E. Pascuzzi, Miguel A. Flores-Vergara, Tae-Jin Lee, Bryon Sosinski, Matthew W. Vaughn, Linda Hanley-Bowdoin, William F. Thompson, and George C. Allen
Insights into the Maize Pan-Genome and Pan-Transcriptome
Candice N. Hirsch, Jillian M. Foerster, James M. Johnson, Rajandep S. Sekhon, German Muttoni, Brienanne Vaillancourt, Francisco Peñagaricano, Erika Lindquist, Mary Ann Pedraza, Kerrie Barry, Natalia de Leon, Shawn M. Kaeppler, and C. Robin Buell

121

Extensive Translational Regulation of Gene Expression in an Allopolyploid (Glycine dolichocarpa)
Jeremy E. Coate, Haim Bar, and Jeff J. Doyle

136

RESEARCH ARTICLES

DNA Replicons for Plant Genome Engineering
Nicholas J. Baltes, Javier Gil-Humanes, Tomas Cermak, Paul A. Atkins, and Daniel F. Voytas

151

A Wheat SIMILAR TO RCD-ONE Gene Enhances Seedling Growth and Abiotic Stress Resistance by Modulating Redox Homeostasis and Maintaining Genomic Integrity
Shuantao Liu, Shuwei Liu, Mei Wang, Tiandi Wei, Chen Meng, Meng Wang, and Guangmin Xia

164

The BOY NAMED SUE Quantitative Trait Locus Confers Increased Meiotic Stability to an Adapted Natural Allopolyploid of Arabidopsis
Isabelle M. Henry, Brian P. Dilkes, Anand Tyagi, Jian Gao, Brian Christensen, and Luca Comai

181

The Histone Deacetylase Inhibitor Trichostatin A Promotes Totipotency in the Male Gametophyte
Hui Li, Mercedes Soriano, Jan Cordewener, Jose M. Muiño, Tijitske Riksen, Hiroyuki Fukuoka, Gerco C. Angenent, and Kim Boutilier

195

ANGUSTIFOLIA3 Binds to SWI/SNF Chromatin Remodeling Complexes to Regulate Transcription during Arabidopsis Leaf Development

210

Arabidopsis WRKY57 Functions as a Node of Convergence for Jasmonic Acid– and Auxin-Mediated Signaling in Jasmonic Acid–Induced Leaf Senescence
Yanjuan Jiang, Gang Liang, Shizhuo Yang, and Diqiu Yu

230

Arabidopsis KANADI1 Acts as a Transcriptional Repressor by Interacting with a Specific cis-Element and Regulates Auxin Biosynthesis, Transport, and Signaling in Opposition to HD-ZIPIII Factors
Tengbo Huang, Yaël Harrar, Changfa Lin, Brenda Reinhart, Nicole R. Newell, Franklin Talavera-Rauh, Samuel A. Hokin, M. Kathryn Barton, and Randall A. Kerstetter

246

Interaction between MYC2 and ETHYLENE INSENSITIVE3 Modulates Antagonism between Jasmonate and Ethylene Signaling in Arabidopsis
Susheng Song, Huang Huang, Hua Gao, Jiaojiao Wang, Dewei Wu, Xili Liu, Shuhua Yang, Qingzhe Zhai, Chuanyou Li, Tiancong Qi, and Daoxin Xie

263

AUXIN BINDING PROTEIN1 Links Cell Wall Remodeling, Auxin Signaling, and Cell Expansion in Arabidopsis
Sébastien Paque, Grégory Mouille, Laurie Grandont, David Alabadí, Cyril Gaertner, Arnaud Goyallon, Philippe Muller, Catherine Primard-Brisset, Rodnay Sormani, Miguel A. Blázquez, and Catherine Perrot-Rechenmann

280
An E4 Ligase Facilitates Polyubiquitination of Plant Immune Receptor Resistance Proteins in Arabidopsis

Yan Huang, Sean Minaker, Charlotte Roth, Shuai Huang, Philip Hieter, Volker Lipka, Marcel Wiermer, and Xin Li

The Rice TAL Effector–Dependent Resistance Protein XA10 Triggers Cell Death and Calcium Depletion in the Endoplasmic Reticulum

Dongsheng Tian, Junxia Wang, Xuan Zeng, Keyu Gu, Chengxiang Qiu, Xiaobei Yang, Zhiyun Zhou, Melling Goh, Yanchang Luo, Maki Murata-Hori, Frank F. White, and Zhongchao Yin

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