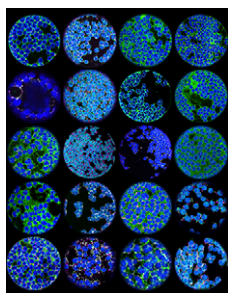


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ON THE COVER



Methylglyoxal and glyoxal are toxic reactive carbonyl species generated as by-products of glycolysis. The preemption pathway for detoxification of these products is the glyoxalase (GLX) system, involving reactions catalyzed by GLXI and GLXII. In Arabidopsis, the GLX system is encoded by three homologs each of GLXI and GLXII, from which several isoforms are derived through alternative splicing. Schmitz et al. (pages 3234–3254) identified the physiologically relevant splice forms using sequencing data and demonstrated that the resulting isoforms have different subcellular localizations. They show that the Arabidopsis GLX system involves the cytosol, chloroplasts, and mitochondria, which harbor individual components that might be utilized at specific developmental stages and respond differentially to cellular sugar status. They propose a cellular model in which methylglyoxal and glyoxal can be detoxified directly at the cellular production site through specific glyoxalase isoforms. The cover image shows patterns of subcellular localization of different Arabidopsis GLXI and GLXII isoforms fused to yellow fluorescent protein and expressed in tobacco leaf protoplasts.

EDITORIAL

Thank You, Editors and Reviewers of *The Plant Cell* [OPEN](#) 2941
Nancy A. Eckardt and Sabeeha S. Merchant

IN BRIEF

Open-Source Device Tracks Mechanical Properties of Living Plant Cells in 3D [OPEN](#) 2948
Kathleen L. Farquharson

Epitranscriptomics and Flowering: mRNA Methylation/Demethylation Regulates Flowering Time [OPEN](#) 2949
Nancy R. Hofmann

Life's a Gas under Pressure: Ethylene and Etioplast Maintenance in Germinating Seedlings [OPEN](#) 2951
Patrice A. Salomé

Manganese Is a Plant's Best Friend: Intracellular Mn Transport by the Transporter NRAMP2 [OPEN](#) 2953
Patrice A. Salomé

Guarding the Gates: How PROCERA Helps Keep Tomato Plants from Wilting [OPEN](#) 2955
Jennifer Lockhart

Granting an Extension: Phosphorylation of the Pol II CTD Regulates mRNAs Produced by Read-Through from Small Nuclear RNAs [OPEN](#) 2957
Jennifer Mach

BREAKTHROUGH REPORT

An Automated Confocal Micro-Extensometer Enables in Vivo Quantification of Mechanical Properties with Cellular Resolution [OPEN](#) 2959
Sarah Robinson, Michal Huflejt, Pierre Barbier de Reuille, Siobhan A. Braybrook, Martine Schorderet, Didier Reinhardt, and Cris Kuhlemeier

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RESEARCH ARTICLES

- Patterns and Consequences of Subgenome Differentiation Provide Insights into the Nature of Paleopolyploidy in Plants** 2974
Meixia Zhao, Biao Zhang, Damon Lisch, and Jianxin Ma
- ALKBH10B Is an RNA *N*⁶-Methyladenosine Demethylase Affecting Arabidopsis Floral Transition** ^{OPEN} 2995
Hong-Chao Duan, Lian-Huan Wei, Chi Zhang, Ye Wang, Lin Chen, Zhike Lu, Peng R. Chen, Chuan He, and Guifang Jia
- Arabidopsis Pollen Fertility Requires the Transcription Factors C1TF1 and SPL7 That Regulate Copper Delivery to Anthers and Jasmonic Acid Synthesis** ^{OPEN} 3012
Jiawei Yan, Ju-Chen Chia, Huajin Sheng, Ha-il Jung, Tetiana-Olena Zavodna, Lu Zhang, Rong Huang, Chen Jiao, Eric J. Craft, Zhangjun Fei, Leon V. Kochian, and Olena K. Vatamaniuk
- MAPKs Influence Pollen Tube Growth by Controlling the Formation of Phosphatidylinositol 4,5-Bisphosphate in an Apical Plasma Membrane Domain** 3030
Franziska Hempel, Irene Stenzel, Mareike Heilmann, Praveen Krishnamoorthy, Wilhelm Menzel, Ralph Golbik, Stefan Helm, Dirk Dobritzsch, Sacha Baginsky, Justin Lee, Wolfgang Hoehenwarter, and Ingo Heilmann
- EIN3 and PIF3 Form an Interdependent Module That Represses Chloroplast Development in Buried Seedlings** 3051
Xiaoqin Liu, Renlu Liu, Yue Li, Xing Shen, Shangwei Zhong, and Hui Shi
- Intracellular Distribution of Manganese by the *Trans*-Golgi Network Transporter NRAMP2 Is Critical for Photosynthesis and Cellular Redox Homeostasis** 3068
Santiago Alejandro, Rémy Cailliatte, Carine Alcon, Léon Dirick, Frédéric Domergue, David Correia, Loren Castaings, Jean-François Briat, Stéphane Mari, and Catherine Curie
- Shine-Dalgarno Sequences Play an Essential Role in the Translation of Plastid mRNAs in Tobacco** 3085
Lars B. Scharff, Miriam Ehrnthaler, Marcin Janowski, Liam H. Childs, Claudia Hasse, Jürgen Gremmels, Stephanie Ruf, Reimo Zoschke, and Ralph Bock
- DISTAG/TBCCd1 Is Required for Basal Cell Fate Determination in *Ectocarpus*** ^{OPEN} 3102
Olivier Godfroy, Toshiki Uji, Chikako Nagasato, Agnieszka P. Lipinska, Delphine Scornet, Akira F. Peters, Komlan Avia, Sebastien Colin, Laure Mignerot, Taizo Motomura, J. Mark Cock, and Susana M. Coelho
- CORTICAL MICROTUBULE DISORDERING1 Is Required for Secondary Cell Wall Patterning in Xylem Vessels** 3123
Takema Sasaki, Hiroo Fukuda, and Yoshihisa Oda
- Differential Regulation of Two-Tiered Plant Immunity and Sexual Reproduction by ANXUR Receptor-Like Kinases** 3140
Hyunggon Mang, Baomin Feng, Zhangjian Hu, Aurélien Boisson-Dernier, Christina M. Franck, Xiangzong Meng, Yanyan Huang, Jinggeng Zhou, Guangyuan Xu, Taotao Wang, Libo Shan, and Ping He
- The Coiled-Coil and Nucleotide Binding Domains of BROWN PLANTHOPPER RESISTANCE14 Function in Signaling and Resistance against Planthopper in Rice** ^{OPEN} 3157
Liang Hu, Yan Wu, Di Wu, Weiwei Rao, Jianping Guo, Yinhu Ma, Zhizheng Wang, Xinxin Shangguan, Huiying Wang, Chunxue Xu, Jin Huang, Shaojie Shi, Rongzhi Chen, Bo Du, Lili Zhu, and Guangcun He

The Tomato DELLA Protein PROCERA Acts in Guard Cells to Promote Stomatal Closure	3186
Ido Nir, Hagai Shohat, Irina Panizel, Neil Olszewski, Asaph Aharoni, and David Weiss	
Genetic Components of Root Architecture Remodeling in Response to Salt Stress <small>OPEN</small>	3198
Magdalena M. Julkowska, Iko T. Koevoets, Selena Mol, Huub Hoefsloot, Richard Feron, Mark A. Tester, Joost J.B. Keurentjes, Arthur Korte, Michel A. Haring, Gert-Jan de Boer, and Christa Testerink	
Salt Stress and CTD PHOSPHATASE-LIKE4 Mediate the Switch between Production of Small Nuclear RNAs and mRNAs	3214
Akihito Fukudome, Di Sun, Xiuren Zhang, and Hisashi Koiwa	
Defense against Reactive Carbonyl Species Involves at Least Three Subcellular Compartments Where Individual Components of the System Respond to Cellular Sugar Status	3234
Jessica Schmitz, Isabell C. Dittmar, Jörn D. Brockmann, Marc Schmidt, Meike Hüdig, Alessandro W. Rossoni, and Veronica G. Maurino	
Increased Phosphorylation of Ser-Gln Sites on SUPPRESSOR OF GAMMA RESPONSE1 Strengthens the DNA Damage Response in <i>Arabidopsis thaliana</i>	3255
Kaoru Okamoto Yoshiyama, Kaori Kaminoyama, Tomoaki Sakamoto, and Seisuke Kimura	
Mediator Complex Subunits MED2, MED5, MED16, and MED23 Genetically Interact in the Regulation of Phenylpropanoid Biosynthesis	3269
Whitney L. Dolan, Brian P. Dilkes, Jake M. Stout, Nicholas D. Bonawitz, and Clint Chapple	

OPEN Articles can be viewed without a subscription.



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