The cover photo, taken by Dr. Brendan Choat, shows the detailed structure of the *Metasequoia glyptostroboides* pit membrane magnified 46,000 times using scanning electron microscopy. In conifers, water transport occurs through single-celled tracheids that are interconnected by wall perforations, known as intertracheid pits. The pit membrane contained within these structures is composed of a centrally thickened region known as the torus surrounded by a porous margo. Because pit membranes serve to transport water as well as prevent the spread of air by cavitation, natural selection has acted on the torus-margo pit membrane to optimize either drought resistance or pit hydraulic efficiency, depending on the water availability of species’ habitats. In this issue, Pittermann et al. (pp. 1919–1931) explore the relationship between the structure and function of torus-margo pit membranes and the evolutionary trajectory of drought resistance in the Cupressaceae family of conifers.
Three Arabidopsis Fatty Acyl-Coenzyme A Reductases, FAR1, FAR4, and FAR5, Generate Primary Fatty Alcohols Associated with Suberin Deposition.
Frédéric Domergue, Sollapura J. Vishwanath, Jérome Joube`s, Jasmine Ono, Jennifer A. Lee, Matthieu Bourdon, Reem Alhattab, Christine Love, Stéphanie Pascal, René Lessire, and Owen Rowland

CELL BIOLOGY AND SIGNAL TRANSDUCTION
Phosphatidic Acid Inhibits Blue Light-Induced Stomatal Opening via Inhibition of Protein Phosphatase.
Atsushi Takeiymya and Ken-ichio Shimazaki

Biochemical and Immunocytological Characterizations of Arabidopsis Pollen Tube Cell Wall.
Flavien Dardelle, Arnaud Lehner, Yasmina Ramdani, Muriel Bardor, Patrice Leroque, Azeddine Driouich, and Jean-Claude Mollet

Conversion of Endogenous Indole-3-Butyric Acid to Indole-3-Acetic Acid Drives Cell Expansion in Arabidopsis Seedlings.
Lucia C. Strader, Angela Hendrickson Culler, Jerry D. Cohen, and Bonnie Bartel

DEVELOPMENT AND HORMONE ACTION
Arabidopsis RING E3 Ligase XBAT32 Regulates Lateral Root Production through Its Role in Ethylene Biosynthesis.
Madhulika E. Prasad, Andrew Schofield, Wendy Lyzenga, Hongxia Liu, and Sophia L. Stone

The Compact Root Architecture1 Gene Regulates Lignification, Flavonoid Production, and Polar Auxin Transport in Medicago truncatula.
Carole Laffont, Sandrine Blanche, Catherine Lapierre, Lysiane Brocard, Pascal Ratet, Martin Crespi, Ullrike Mathiesius, and Florian Frugier

Involvement of Auxin and brassinosteroid in the Regulation of Petiole Elongation under the Shade.
Toshiaki Kazuka, Junko Koba-yashi, Gorou Horiguchi, Taku Demura, Hitoshi Sakakibara, Hirokazu Tsukaya, and Akira Nagataki

A SQUAMOSA MADS Box Gene Involved in the Regulation of Anthocyanin Accumulation in Bilberry Fruits.
Laure Jaakola, Mervin Poole, Matthew O. Jones, Terttu Kinäärinen-Karpinnen, Janne J. Koskimäki, Anja Hohtola, Hely Häggman, Paul D. Fraser, Kenneth Manning, Graham J. King, Helen Thomson, and Graham B. Seymour

Regulation of Freezing Tolerance and Flowering in Temperate Cereals: The VRN-1 Connection.
Taniya Dhillon, Stephen P. Pearce, Eric J. Stockinger, Assaf Distelfeld, Chengxia Li, Andrea K. Knox, Ildiko Váshegyi, Attila Vágújfali, Gabor Galiba, and Jorge Dubcovsky

ENVIRONMENTAL STRESS AND ADAPTATION TO STRESS
Molecular Mechanisms of Selenium Tolerance and Hyperaccumulation in Stanlyea pinnata.

Identification and Regulation of Plasma Membrane Sulfate Transporters in Chlamydomonas.
Wirulda Pootakham, David Gonzalez-Ballester, and Arthur R. Grossman

Knockout of a Bacterial-Type ATP-Binding Cassette Transporter Gene, AtSTAR1, Results in Increased Aluminum Sensitivity in Arabidopsis.
Chao-Feng Huang, Naoki Yamaji, and Jian Feng Ma

Adam N. Famoso, Randy T. Clark, Jon E. Shaff, Eric Craft, Susan R. McCouch, and Leon V. Kochian

Peroxisomal Hydrogen Peroxide Is Coupled to Biotic Defense Responses by ISOCHORISMATE SYNTHASE1 in a Daylength-Related Manner.
Sejir Chaouch, Guillaume Queval, Sandy Vanderauwera, Amma Mhamdi, Michael Vandorpe, Mathilde Langlois-Meurinne, Frank Van Breusegem, Patrick Saïndrenan, and Graham Noctor

Boron Toxicity Tolerance in Barley through Reduced Expression of the Multifunctional Aquaporin HvNIP2;1.
Thorsten Schmurchbusch, Julie Hayes, Maria Hrnova, Ute Baumann, Sunita A. Ramesh, Stephen D. Tyerman, Peter Langridge, and Tim Sutton

Tobacco Mosaic Virus Infection Results in an Increase in Recombination Frequency and Resistance to Viral, Bacterial, and Fungal Pathogens in the Progeny of Infected Tobacco Plants.
Palak Kathiria, Corinne Sidler, Andrey Golubov, Melanie Kalischuck, Lawrence M. Kawchuck, and Igor Kovalchuk
Involvement of Silicon Influx Transporter OsNIP2;1 in Selenite Uptake in Rice. Xue Qiang Zhao, Namiki Mitani, Naoki Yamaji, Ren Fang Shen, and Jian Feng Ma

Plant L10 Ribosomal Proteins Have Different Roles during Development and Translation under Ultraviolet-B Stress. María Lorena Falcone Ferreyra, Alejandro Pezza, Jordane Biarc, Alma L. Burlingame, and Paula Casati

Nitric Oxide Functions as a Signal and Acts Upstream of AtCaM3 in Thermotolerance in Arabidopsis Seedlings. Yi Xuan, Shuo Zhou, Lei Wang, Yudong Cheng, and Liqun Zhao

GENETICS, GENOMICS, AND MOLECULAR EVOLUTION

A Customized Gene Expression Microarray Reveals That the Brittle Stem Phenotype fs2 of Barley Is Attributable to a Retroelement in the HvCesA4 Cellulose Synthase Gene. Rachel A. Burton, Gang Ma, Ute Baumann, Andrea J. Harvey, Neil J. Shirley, Jillian Taylor, Filomena Pettolino, Anthony Bacc, Mary Beatty, Carl R. Simmons, Kantewari S. Dhugga, J. Antoni Rafalski, Scott V. Tingley, and Geoffrey B. Fincher

Evolution and Function of the Plant Cell Wall Synthesis-Related Glycosyltransferase Family 8. Yanbin Yin, Huiling Chen, Michael G. Hahn, Debra Mohnen, and Ying Xu

DT8 Suppresses Flowering in Rice, Influencing Plant Height and Yield Potential Simultaneously. Xiangjin Wei, Junfeng Xu, Hongtian Guo, Ling Jiang, sailua Chen, Chunruan Yu, Zhenling Zhou, Peisong Hu, Huq Zhai, and Jianmin Wan

PLANTS INTERACTING WITH OTHER ORGANISMS

Misexpression of miR482, miR1512, and miR1515 Increases Soybean Nodulation. Hui Li, Ying Deng, Tianlong Wu, Senthil Subramanian, and Oliver Yu

Activation of Plant Immune Responses by a Gain-of-Function Mutation in an Atypical Receptor-Like Kinase. Dongli Bi, Yu Ti Cheng, Xin Li, and Yuelin Zhang

Disruption of Signaling in a Fungal-Grass Symbiosis Leads to Pathogenesis. Carla J. Eaton, Murray P. Cox, Barbara Ambrose, Matthias Becker, Uljana Hesse, Christopher L. Schardl, and Barry Scott

Herbivore-Induced SABATH Methyltransferases of Maize That Methylate Anthranilic Acid Using S-Adenosyl-L-Methionine. Tobias G. Köllner, Claudia Lenk, Nan Zhao, Irmgard Seidl-Adams, Jonathan Gershenzon, Feng Chen, and Jörg Degendorf

Soybean Metabolites Regulated in Root Hairs in Response to the Symbiotic Bacterium Bradyrhizobium japonicum. Laurent Brechenmacher, Zhentian Lei, Marc Libault, Seth Findley, Masayuki Sugawara, Michael J. Sadowsky, Lloyd W. Sumner, and Gary Stacey

Variation in Antiherbivore Defense Responses in Synthetic Nicotiana Allopolyploids Correlates with Changes in Uniparental Patterns of Gene Expression. Samir Anssour and Ian T. Baldwin

WHOLE PLANT AND ECOPHYSIOLOGY

Circadian Clock Components Regulate Entry and Affect Exit of Seasonal Dormancy as Well as Winter Hardiness in Populus Trees. Cristian Ibáñez, Ivanka Kozareva, Mikael Johansson, Erling Ögren, Antje Rohde, and Maria E. Eriksson

The Relationships between Xylem Safety and Hydraulic Efficiency in the Cupressaceae: The Evolution of Pit Membrane Form and Function. Jarmila Pittermann, Brendan Chaol, Steven Jansen, Stephanie A. Stuart, Lucy Lynn, and Todd E. Dawson

Calcium Is a Major Determinant of Xylem Vulnerability to Cavitation. Stephane Herbette and Herve Cochard

SYSTEMS BIOLOGY, MOLECULAR BIOLOGY, AND GENE REGULATION

Functional Analysis of Amino-Terminal Domains of the Photoreceptor Phytochrome B. Andrea Palágyi, Kata Terecskei, Éva Adám, Éva Kevei, Stefan Kircher, Zsuzsanna Mérái, Eberhard Schäfer, Ferenc Nagy, and László Kozma-Bognár
CORRECTIONS

Genetic Control of Carbon Partitioning in Grasses: Roles of Sucrose Transporters and Tie-dyed Loci in Phloem Loading.  D.M. Braun and T.L. Slewinski

The Sterol Methyltransferases SMT1, SMT2, and SMT3 Influence Arabidopsis Development through Nonbrassinosteroid Products.  F. Carland, S. Fujioka, and T. Nelson

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