Plant Physiology®

August 2014 • Vol. 165 • No. 4

The electronic form of this issue, available as of August 6, 2014, at www.plantphysiol.org, is considered the journal of record.

On the Cover: Green tissues strongly absorb red light more efficiently than far-red light. Therefore, neighboring vegetation lowers the red to far-red ratio (R:FR). This signal is perceived by phytochrome B, which mediates adaptive changes in plant body form and function. In this issue, Trupkin et al. (pp. 1698–1708) show that under high R:FR typical of open places, phytochrome B forms large nuclear bodies. The shift to low R:FR generates small phytochrome B nuclear bodies while causing some reduction in the diameter of large nuclear bodies. Trupkin et al. also show that reductions of red light irradiance without changes in R:FR cause similar changes in the size distribution of phytochrome B nuclear bodies and in plant growth. Therefore, phytochrome B not only perceives the changes in light quality (R:FR) but also the changes in light quantity (irradiance) caused by the shade of neighbors. The cover image shows the changes in phytochrome B nuclear bodies observed in response to increasing shade caused by higher plant densities. Cover image credits: Santiago Trupkin.

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