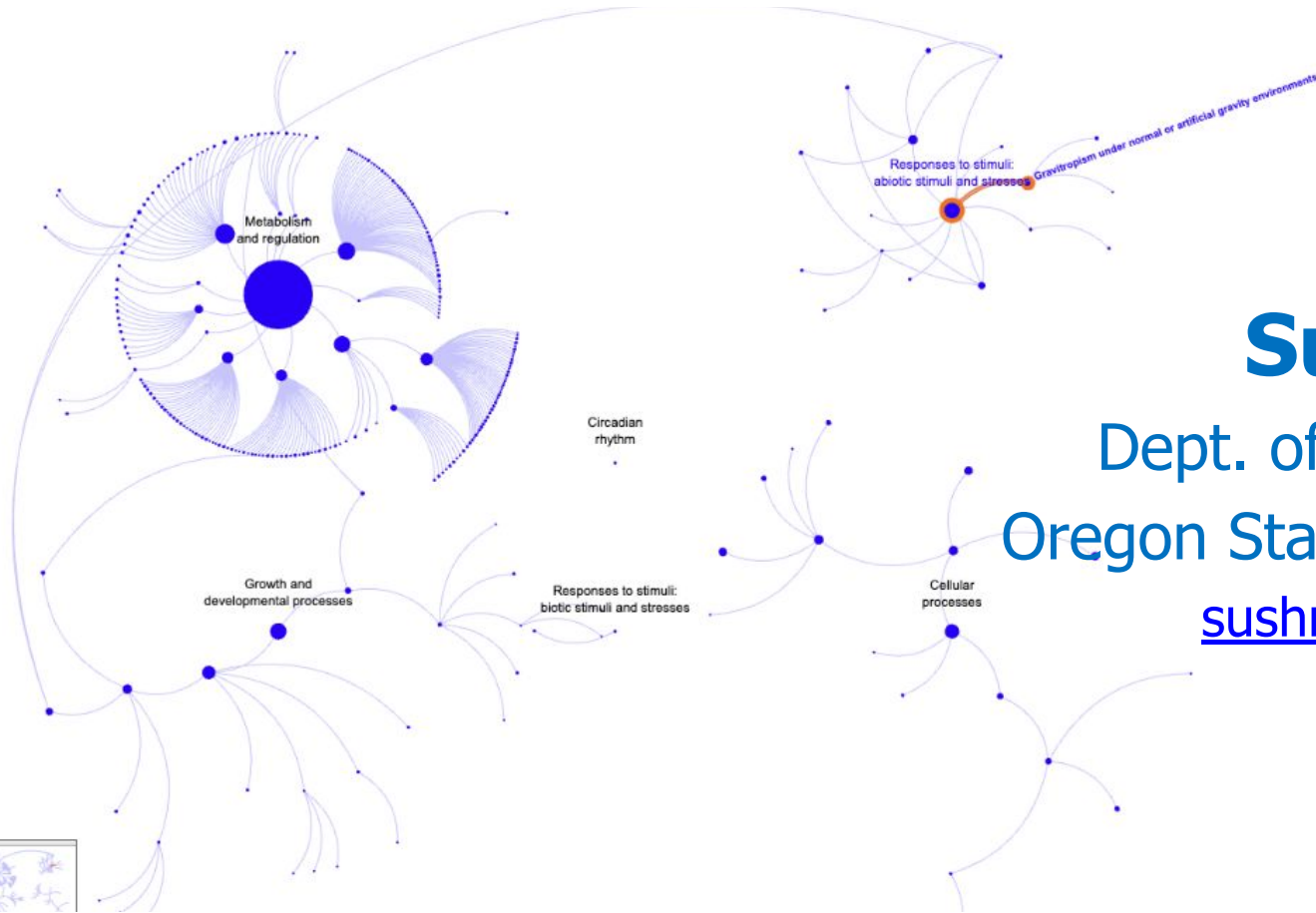


# Plant Reactome: Leveraging Neo4j Knowledge Graphs for Pathway Integration, Visualization, Analysis, and Discovery

<https://plantreactome.gramene.org>



**Sushma Naithani**

Dept. of Botany and Plant Pathology

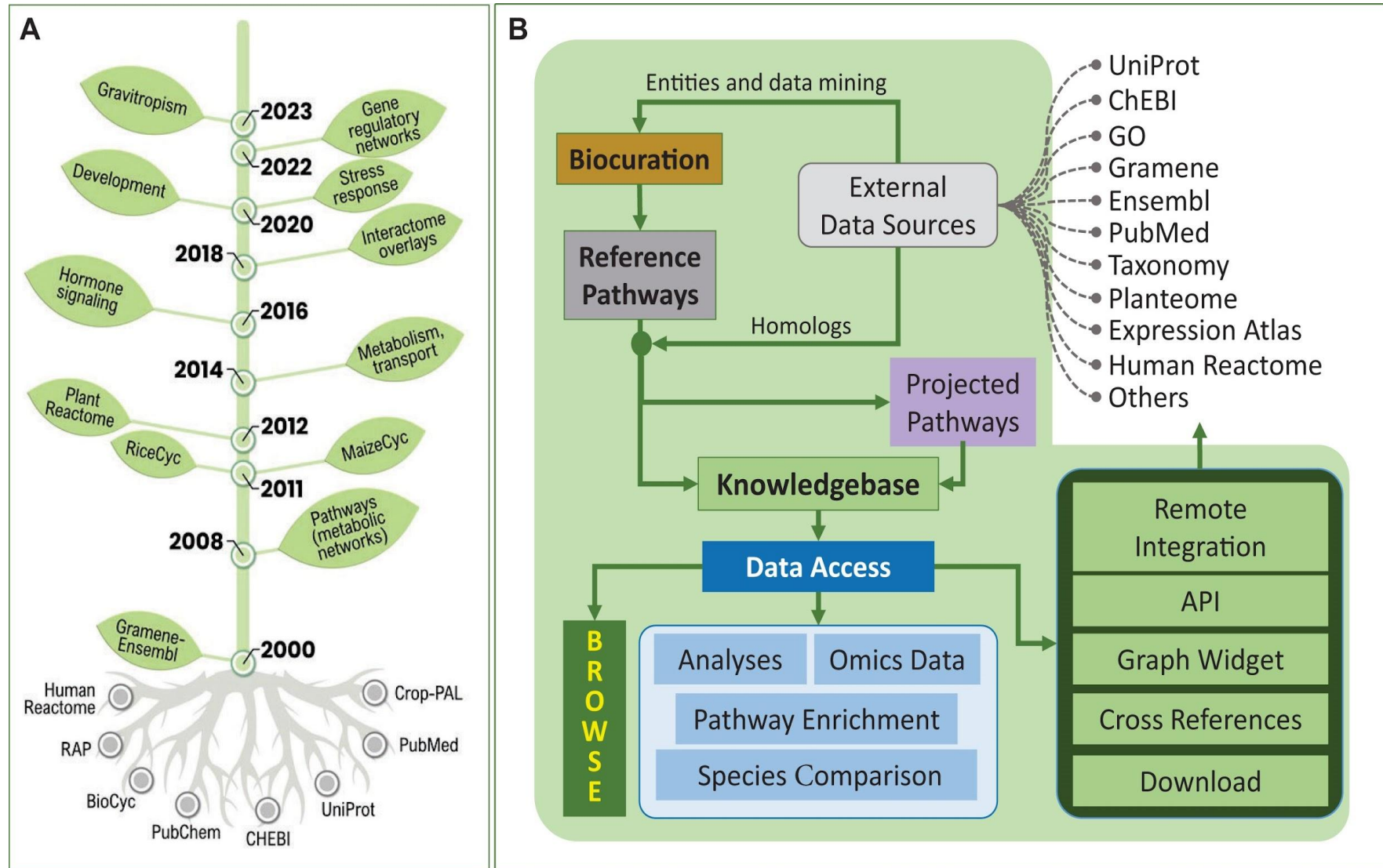
Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR, USA

[sushma.naithani@oregonstate.edu](mailto:sushma.naithani@oregonstate.edu)



# An overview of the Plant Reactome knowledgebase

<https://plantreactome.gramene.org>



- Open access and free-of-cost, FAIR data



*Nucleic Acids Res*, Volume 52, Issue D1, 5 January 2024, Pages D1538–D1547, <https://doi.org/10.1093/nar/gkad1052>

<https://plantreactome.gramene.org>

Find Reactions, Proteins and Pathways

Type your search term to see suggestions, e.g. "cytok"...

Go!

Search examples: [jasmonic](#), [YUC4](#)

 Version 23 (Gramene 67)



>34,000

Curated and Projected  
Plant Pathways



>102,000

Reactions



>223,000

Proteins



1,299

Small Molecules



130

Projected Plant Species



912

Literature References



Pathway Browser



Analyze Data



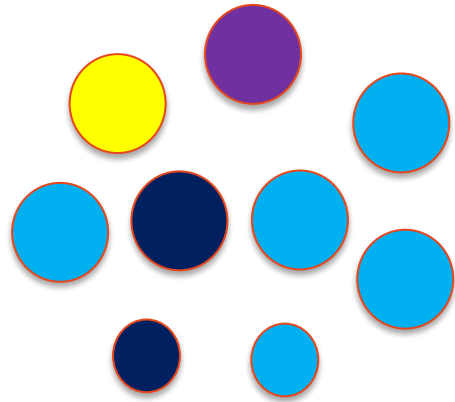
Documentation



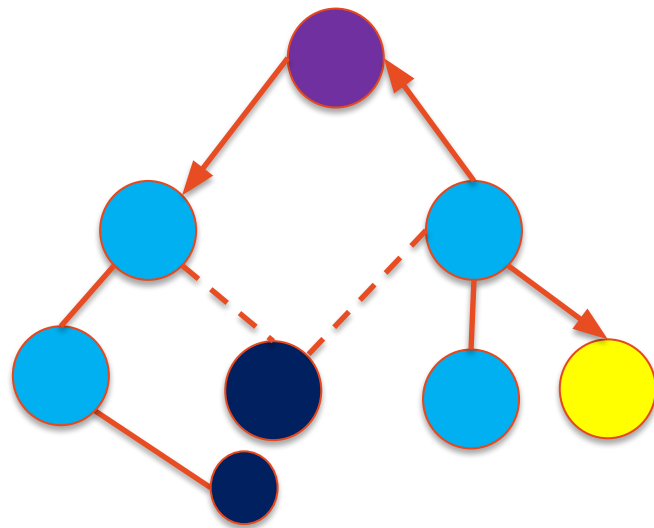
**We manually curate reference pathways in rice**

- Gene-orthology-based pathway projections for 129 species
- Open access, free-of-cost, FAIR data
- Videos Tutorials, and Training material

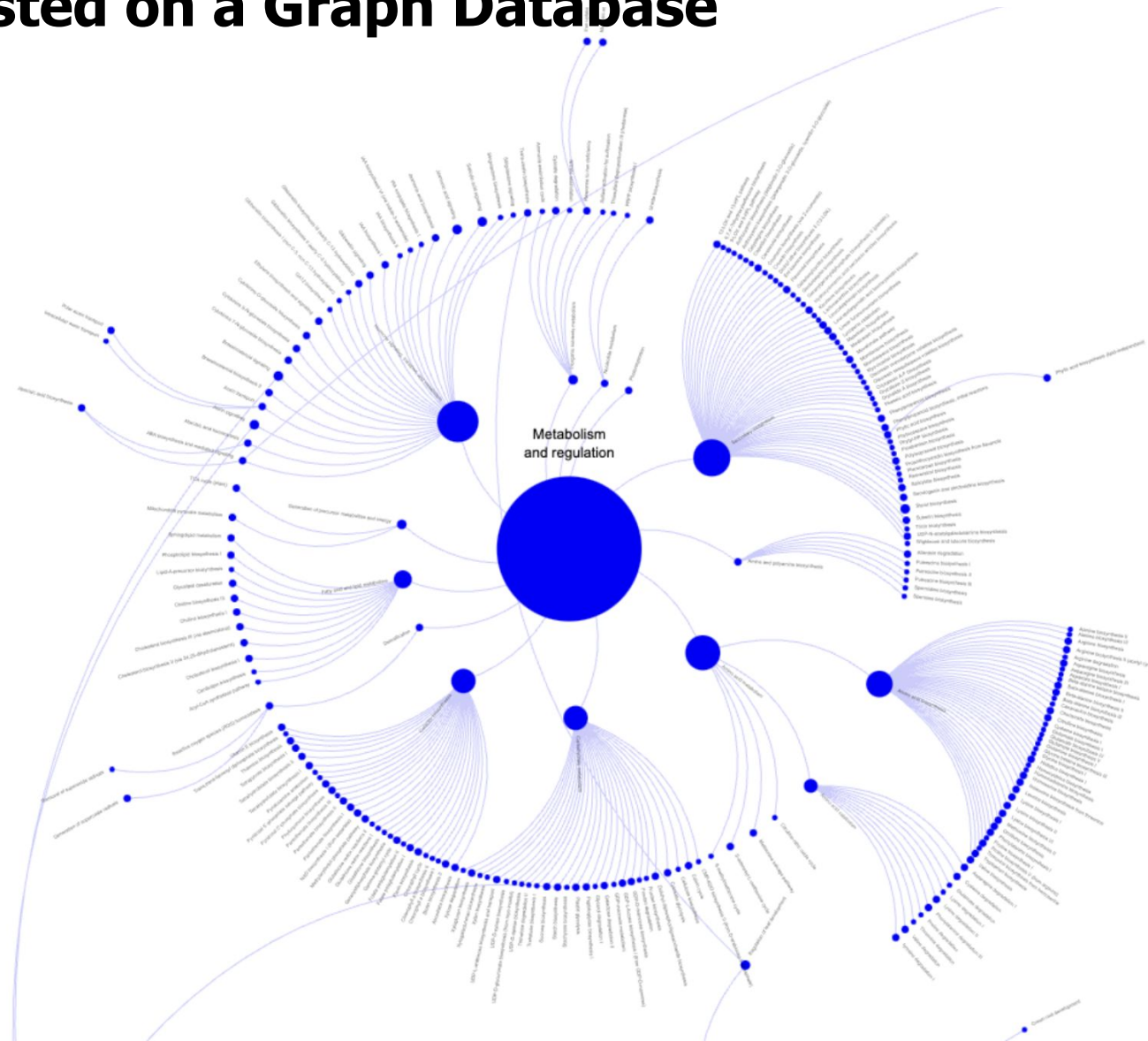
# Plant Reactome is a Reaction Network hosted on a Graph Database



Entities



Relationships

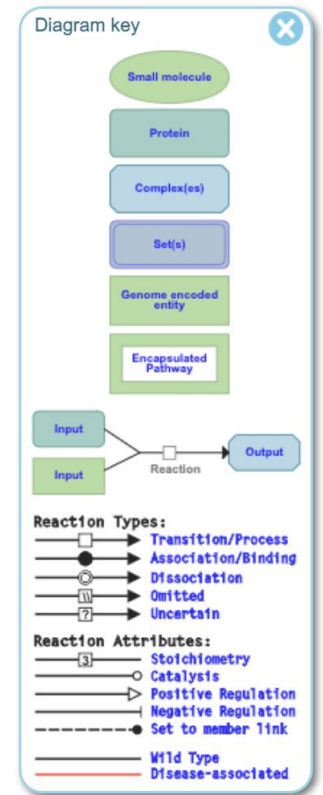
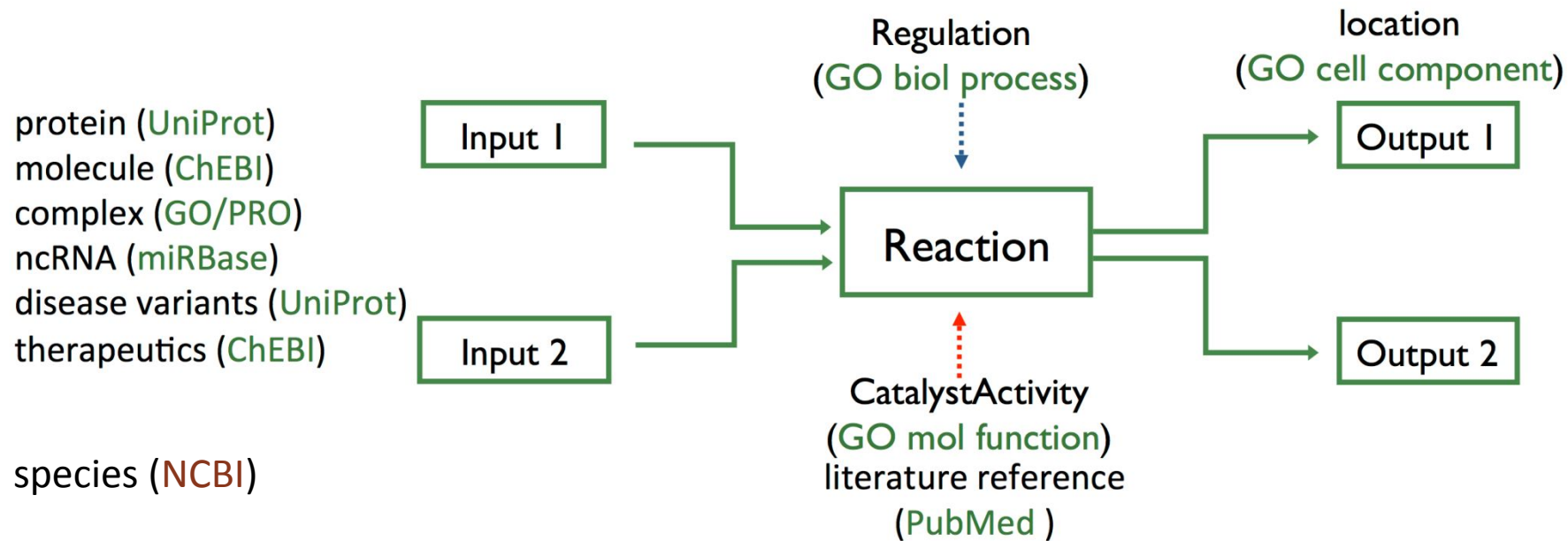




# Plant Reactome is a Reaction Network Database

- Explicitly describes biological processes as reactions that transport, transform, and reorganize physical entities.
- Thus, provides molecular representations of many biological events;

## The Reaction:



# Interoperability at the level of data annotation

## Controlled vocabularies for entities and events

Referrers Dialog	
[GO_MolecularFunction:261470] (+)-abscisic acid 8'-hydroxylase activity's Referrers:	
Referrer Property Name	Referrer
activity	<b>Go: Molecular Function</b>
	(+)–abscisic acid 8'-hydroxylase activity of (+)-abscisic acid 8'-hydroxylase [cytosol]
	(+)–abscisic acid 8'-hydroxylase activity of AT1G19630 [cytoplasm]
	(+)–abscisic acid 8'-hydroxylase activity of AT4G19230-MONOMER [cytoplasm]

**Entities: proteins, Gene, transcripts**  
**GO: Cellular Component**

Property Name	Value
cellType	
compartment	nucleoplasm
endCoordinate	416
hasModifiedResidue	
referenceEntity	UniProt:Q2R435 LAZY1
startCoordinate	1
DB_ID	-104
_displayName	LAZY1 [nucleoplasm]
authored	Naithani, Sushma, 2022-09-21
created	
crossReference	
definition	
disease	
edited	
figure	
goCellularComponent	nucleus
inferredFrom	
inferredTo	
literatureReference	LAZY1 controls rice shoot gravitropis... Identification of the gravitropism-rel...

**Reactions:**  
**GO: Biological process**

Property Name	Value
deletedInstanceDB_ID	
entityFunctionalStatus	
input	
output	1 x LAZY1 [nucleoplasm]
DB_ID	-394
_displayName	Expression of LAZY 1
_doRelease	
authored	Naithani, Sushma, 2022-09-21
catalystActivity	
catalystActivityReference	
compartment	nucleoplasm
created	
crossReference	
definition	
deletedStableIdentifier	
disease	
edited	
entityOnOtherCell	
evidenceType	Inferred from Experiment
figure	
goBiologicalProcess	mRNA transcription
hasInteraction	
inferredFrom	
isChimeric	false
literatureReference	RNA-Seq Analysis of Diverse Ric...

We have provision in our data schema to accommodate Details

- Cell type
- Protein modifications
- Disease models and pathogens



Find Reactions, Proteins and Pathways

Type your search term to see suggestions, e.g. "cytok"...

Go!

Search examples: [jasmonic](#), [YUC4](#)

 Version 23 (Gramene 67)



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Literature References



Pathway Browser

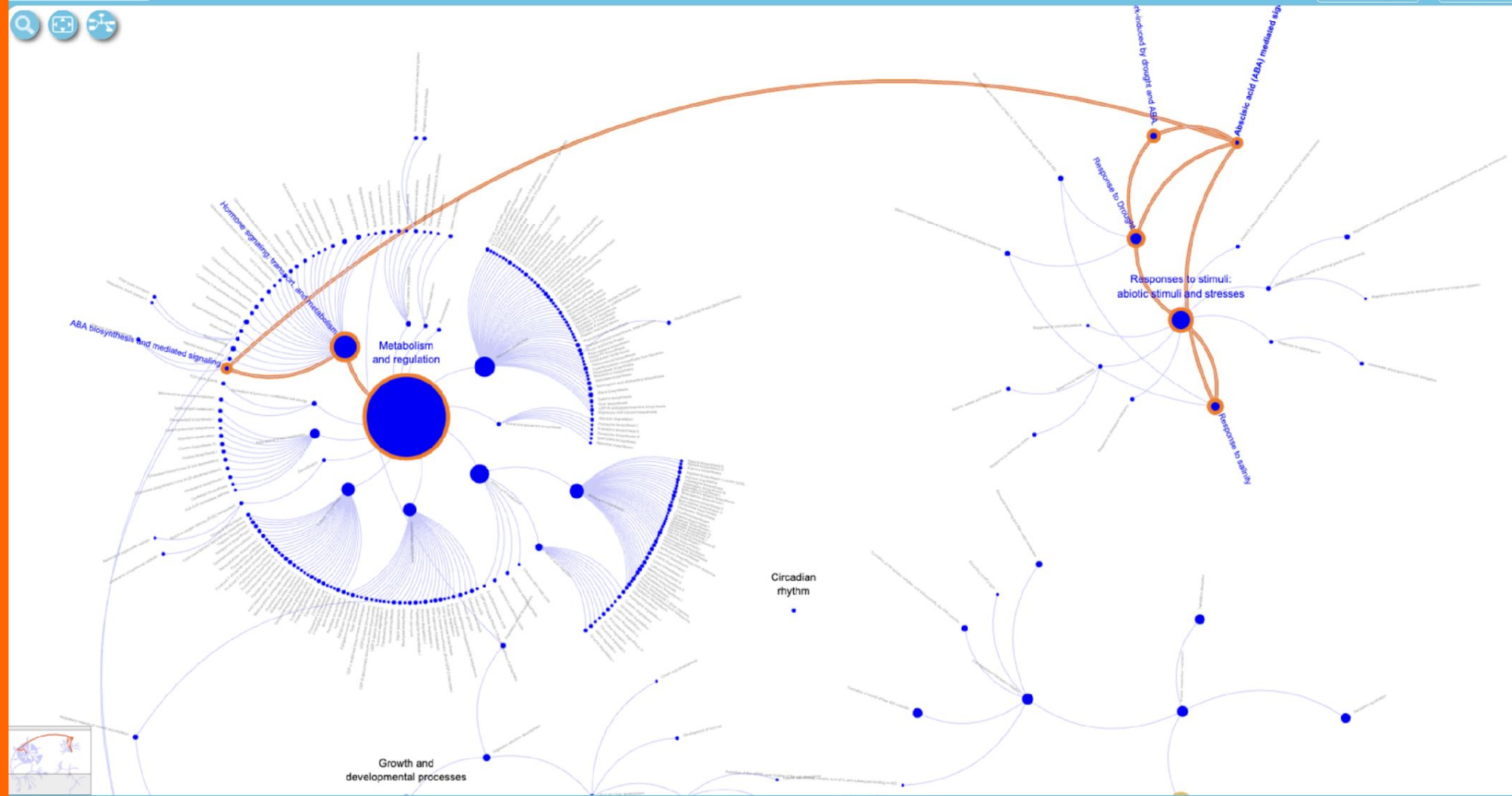


Analyze Data



Documentation

- Event Hierarchy:
- Cellular processes
  - Circadian rhythm
  - Growth and developmental processes
    - Reproductive structure development
    - Vegetative structure development
      - Regulation of leaf development
      - Root structure development
  - Metabolism and regulation
    - Generation of precursor metabolites and products
    - Amino acid metabolism
      - Citrulline-nitric oxide cycle
      - Methionine salvage pathway
      - S-adenosyl-L-methionine cycle
      - S-methylmethionine cycle
    - Amino acid biosynthesis
    - Amino acid catabolism
    - Amine and polyamine biosynthesis
    - Carbohydrate metabolism
    - Cofactor biosyntheses
    - Detoxification
    - Hormone signaling, transport, and metabolism
    - Secondary metabolism
    - Fatty acid and lipid metabolism
    - Inorganic nutrients metabolism
    - Nucleotide metabolism
    - Photorespiration
  - Responses to stimuli: abiotic stimuli and stresses
    - Response to cold temperature
    - Response to phosphate deficiency
    - Response to submergence
    - Response to Drought
      - HSFA7/HSFA6B-regulatory network
      - SNAC1 transcription network involved in ABA mediated signaling
      - ABA mediated signaling
      - Root-specific gene network of NAC10
    - Response to heavy metals
    - Response to salinity
    - OsNAC5\_transcription\_network\_involved\_in\_salinity
    - Gravitropism under normal or artificial gravity
  - Responses to stimuli: biotic stimuli and stresses



Description
Molecules
Structures
Expression
Analysis
Downloads

Abscisic acid (ABA) mediated signaling | Id: R-OSA-3899351 | Species: Oryza sativa

References

- Structural insights into PYR/PYL/RCAR ABA receptors and PP2Cs
- ABA receptors: the START of a new paradigm in phytohormone signalling
- Early abscisic acid signal transduction mechanisms: newly discovered components and newly emerging questions
- Structure and function of abscisic acid receptors



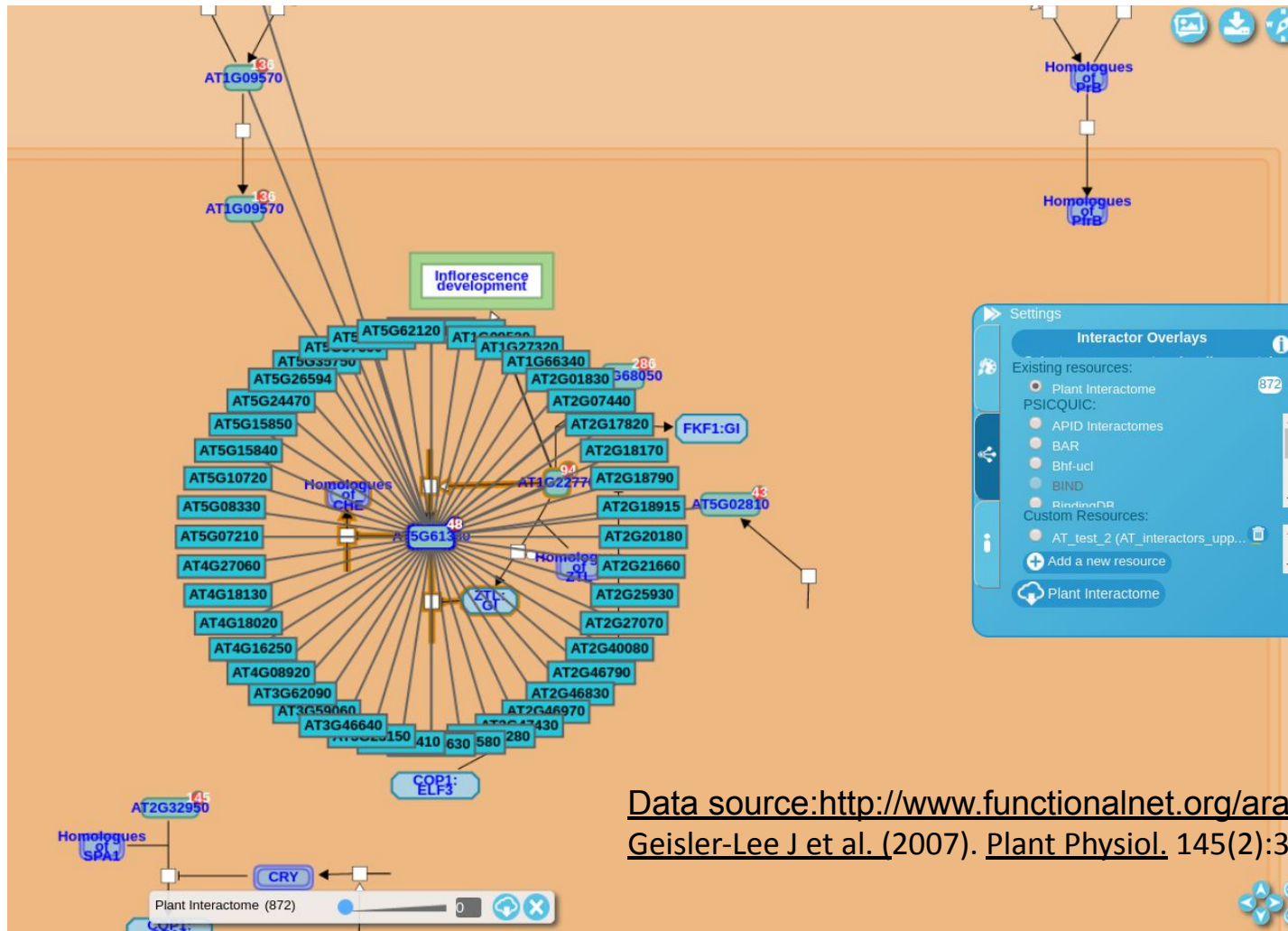
# Exploring Pathways in Pathway Browser

The screenshot displays the Plant Reactome Pathway Browser interface. On the left, a sidebar lists various pathways under 'Hormone signaling, tr...' and 'Salicylic acid signa...'. The main area shows a detailed metabolic pathway diagram for Salicylic acid (SA) signaling in *Oryza sativa*. The pathway starts with salicylate, which is converted to salicylic acid (SA) by the enzyme MP60 (Oxlg022365). SA then binds to NPR1, leading to the formation of the SA-NPR1 complex. This complex interacts with various proteins, including EDS1-PAD4, TGA, and WRKY transcription factors. The pathway also shows the involvement of the EDS1-PAD4 complex, TGA, and WRKY transcription factors in the regulation of SA signaling. The diagram includes various enzymes and complexes, such as the EDS1-PAD4 complex, TGA, and WRKY transcription factors, and their interactions with SA and other signaling molecules like jasmonic acid (JA) and ethylene (ET). The interface includes a top navigation bar with 'Analysis', 'Tour', and 'Layout' options, and a bottom navigation bar with 'Molecules', 'Structures', 'Expression', 'Analysis', and 'Downloads' options. The current pathway is identified as 'R-OSA-6788019' for the species *Oryza sativa*.



# Displaying Gene Interaction Data on Plant Reactome Pathways

Synthesizing gene-gene interactions information



Users can also upload their own data

Users can send us the data from their favorite species

Data source: <http://www.functionalnet.org/aranet/>  
Geisler-Lee J et al. (2007). *Plant Physiol.* 145(2):317-29





Pathways for: *Oryza sativa*

Analysis tools

Analyse your data

Species Comparison

Reference A B C

Pathways for: *Oryza sativa*

Analyse your data

Species Comparison

Reference A B C

Compare *Oryza sativa* with

Select a species...

- Actinidia chinensis
- Aegilops tauschii
- Amborella trichopoda
- Ananas comosus
- Arabidopsis halleri
- Arabidopsis lyrata
- Arabidopsis thaliana**
- Arachis duranensis
- Arachis ipaensis
- Asparagus officinalis
- Beta vulgaris
- Brachypodium distachyon
- Brassica juncea
- Brassica napus
- Brassica oleracea
- Brassica rapa
- Cajanus cajan
- Camelina sativa
- Cannabis sativa
- Cannabis sativa subsp. indica
- Capsella rubella
- Capsicum annuum
- Chara braunii
- Chenopodium quinoa
- Chlamydomonas reinhardtii
- Chondrus crispus
- Cicer arietinum
- Citrullus lanatus
- Citrus clementina
- Citrus sinensis
- Coffea canephora
- Corchorus capsularis
- Corchorus olitorius
- Corymbia citriodora
- Cucumis melo
- Cucumis sativus
- Cyanidioschyzon merolae
- Cynara cardunculus var. scolymus
- Daucus carota
- Digitaria exilis
- Dioscorea rotundata

Species Comparison

species inferred from Plant Reactome by orthology.

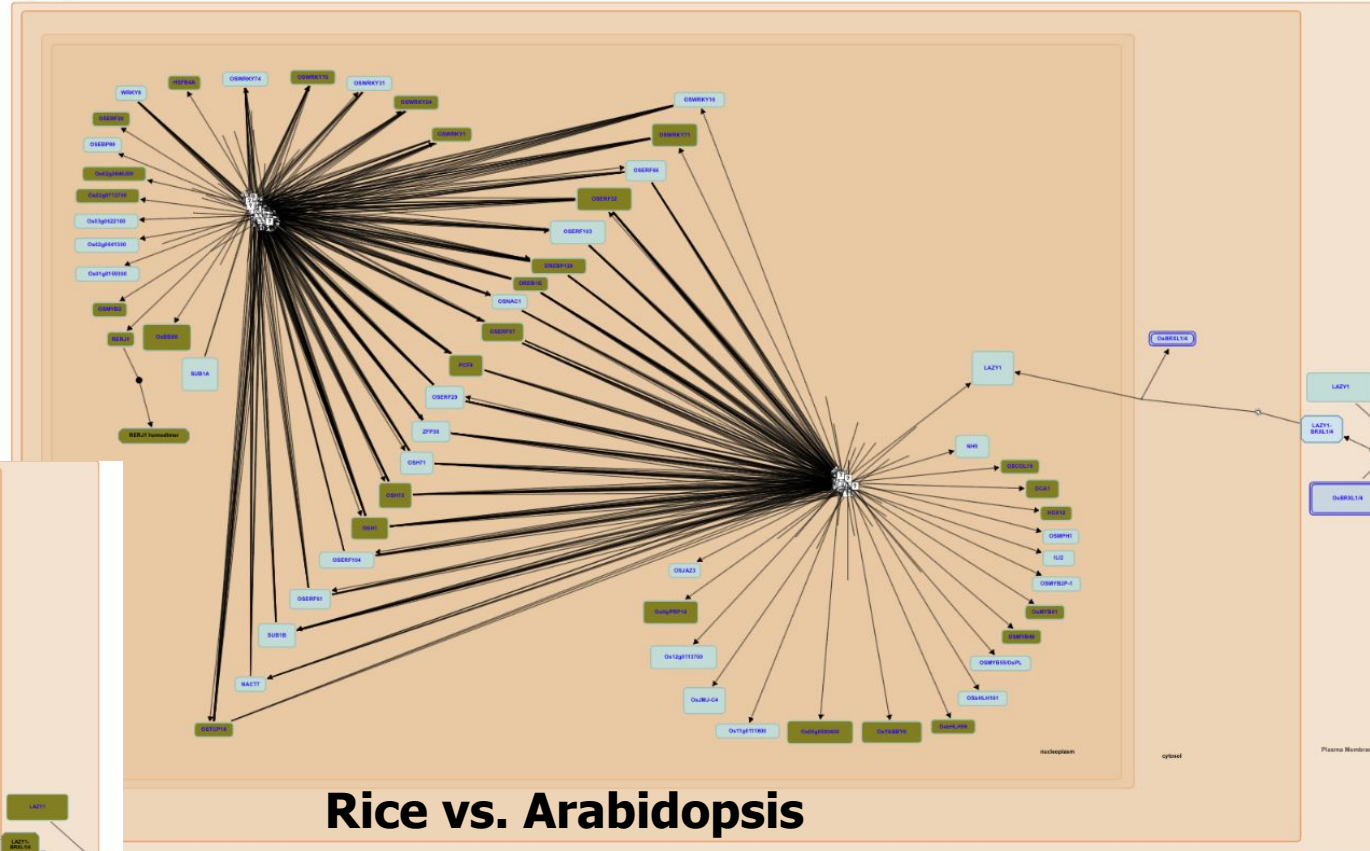
button to perform the comparison.

Go!



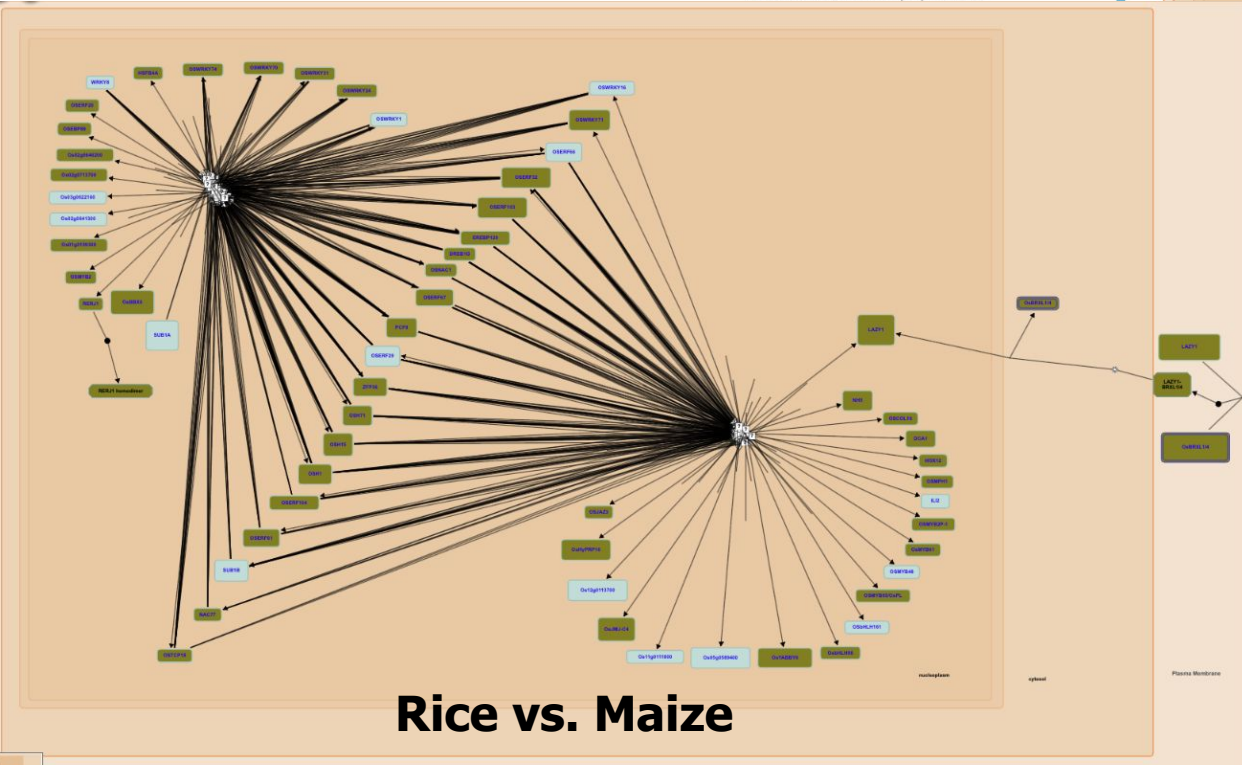
# Analysis Tools: Species Comparisons

- Cellular processes (47/284) FDR: 1E-0
- DNA replication: activation of the pre-replicative complex
- Intracellular transport: COPII (Coat Protein 2) mediated vesicle transport
- Protein metabolism: translation
- Cell cycle (47/73) FDR: 1.58E-1
- Circadian rhythm (10/23) FDR: 5.1E-1
- Growth and developmental processes (103/290) FDR: 9.79E-1
- Reproductive structure development (81/230) FDR: 9.69E-1
- Vegetative structure development (26/68) FDR: 7.29E-1
- Regulation of leaf development (1/27) FDR: 10E-1
- Root structure development (25/43) FDR: 3.55E-1
- Metabolism and regulation (649/1,419) FDR: 8.28E-3
- Generation of precursor metabolites and energy (17/33) FDR: 3.55E-1
- Amino acid metabolism (169/277) FDR: 1.69E-4
- Amine and polyamine biosynthesis (10/17) FDR: 3.55E-1
- Carbohydrate metabolism (113/215) FDR: 2.98E-1
- Cofactor biosyntheses (76/140) FDR: 3.55E-1
- Detoxification (9/18) FDR: 3.55E-1
- Hormone signaling, transport, and metabolism (139/457) FDR: 10E-1
- Secondary metabolism (74/213) FDR: 9.72E-1
- Fatty acid and lipid metabolism (49/89) FDR: 3.55E-1
- Inorganic nutrients metabolism (20/42) FDR: 3.55E-1
- Nucleotide metabolism (9/13) FDR: 3.55E-1



Rice vs. Arabidopsis

SPECIES COMPARISON



Rice vs. Maize



## Analysis tools



Analyse your data



Species Comparison

Your data

Options

Analysis

Step 1: Select a file from your computer or paste your own data and click on the corresponding "Continue" button.

Select data file for analysis:  No file chosen

Paste your data to analyse or try example data sets:

#probeset	sample-1	sample-2	sample-3	sample-4	sample-5	sample-6
Q5MBR3	478.243415	830.440878	1100.243415	981.512646	704.992349	482.262101
D0TZF0	261.395468	231.031834	301.605527	426.84154	447.243415	392.519656
Q6ZG77	3006.713147	1732.31783	1430.780379	1596.420213	2588.963853	2923.243415
Q2QNM9	5079.345586	6107.397261	5041.904379	2923.12803	2504.527743	2861.13692
Q5NBQ1	204.781876	212.876599	180.239779	200.787211	314.696447	608.878932
Q6K969	681.637362	462.628729	341.229246	357.538181	674.629706	795.897787
Q339V1	1624.393248	3519.012646	5473.02835	5511.55477	3104.885117	1883.089569
A9CM06	4286.490125	5950.303214	8285.897261	9128.935723	7392.934086	5208.982221
Q7XUH5	215.220999	407.791151	775.54568	1084.174941	1021.962522	537.248323
Q6YTI6	382.607882	484.906132	755.935723	971.835695	805.179618	488.48417
Q5JNB0	959.880655	1361.750331	1814.108902	2059.034093	1444.558982	1221.012646
Q65XM9	94.187098	165.995252	719.701596	1513.781876	1191.140937	608.228744
Q6ZGW6	114.259885	179.512033	308.243415	357.701733	247.690067	167.796192
B7EM60	35.696747	75.373266	337.166492	1221.042897	186.272088	217.391089
Q7XTH0	221.551107	129.538613	104.790631	166.337742	264.94454	278.265148
Q88F10	203.89810	1607.866608	1430.206654	160.835323	20.870523	21.13650

Some examples:



# Analysis Tools

Users can upload their own omics data and download analysis results

The screenshot displays the Plant Reactome interface for *Oryza sativa*. The main view shows a metabolic pathway with several enzymes highlighted in green boxes. A data table at the bottom provides expression levels for various samples across different pathways.

Pathway	sample-1	sample-2	sample-3	sample-4	sample-5	sample-6	Species name
Indole-3-acetaldoxime dehydratase	1.72E4	1.69E4	1.28E4				
Indole-3-acetaldoxime	4.74E3	3.54E3	1.67E3				
Indole-3-acetaldehyde	1.31E2	1.25E2	1.87E2				
Indole-3-acetaldehyde oxidase	0.155	0.155	1.18E3				
Indole-3-acetaldehyde	0.142	1,243.45	1,288.961	1,215.849	1,054.949	927.867	Oryza sativa
Indole-3-acetaldehyde	0.107	822.458	830.169	837.556	789.027	681.045	Oryza sativa
Indole-3-acetaldehyde	0.012	1,456.309	1,410.835	1,217.947	1,040.095	942.91	Oryza sativa

# LIMITATIONS for Pathway Biocuration

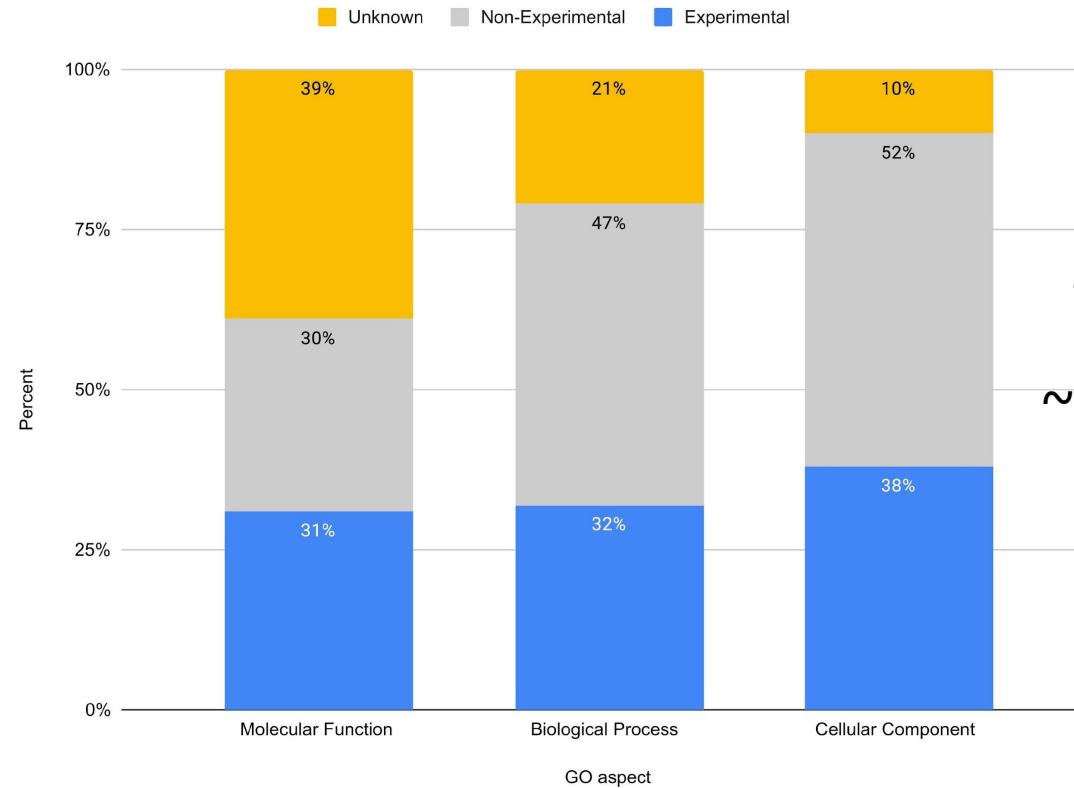


# The annotation status of the Arabidopsis proteome as of 2024



*Arabidopsis thaliana* genome  
was published in 2000  
~27,000 genes

Proteome Annotation Status- August 2023



**Molecular Function**  
~30% experimental evidence  
~39% genes: unknown function  
~30% have only GO



# The annotation status of the Rice proteome as of 2021



Rice genome  
Draft genome in 2002  
and high-quality 2005

~ **39,045 protein-coding genes**

Research | [Open access](#) | Published: 19 April 2022

## New Data and New Features of the FunRiceGenes (Functionally Characterized Rice Genes) Database: 2021 Update

[Fangfang Huang](#), [Yingru Jiang](#), [Tiantian Chen](#), [Haoran Li](#), [Mengjia Fu](#), [Yazhou Wang](#), [Yufang Xu](#), [Yang Li](#), [Zhengfu Zhou](#), [Lihua Jia](#), [Yidan Ouyang](#) & [Wen Yao](#) ✉

*Rice* **15**, Article number: 23 (2022) | [Cite this article](#)

4125 Accesses | 12 Citations | 2 Altmetric | [Metrics](#)

Up to Nov 2021

- ~ 4100 functionally characterized rice genes
- ~ 6000 members of different gene families
- 22.3% of the 39,045 annotated protein-coding genes in the rice genome.

# Can we use existing knowledge from other species to curate pathways in the Plant Reactome?



# Use of gene-orthology relationships to improve functional annotation of a rice gene

## Barley EGT2 is a Transcriptional regulator of root growth angle

### ENHANCED GRAVITROPISM 2 encodes a STERILE ALPHA MOTIF-containing protein that controls root growth angle in barley and wheat

Gwendolyn K. Kirschner<sup>1</sup>, Serena Rocigiani<sup>2</sup>, Li Guo<sup>3</sup>, Isala Vardaneq<sup>4</sup>, Jafarollah Imani<sup>5</sup>, Janine Altmüller<sup>6</sup>, Sara G. Milner<sup>7</sup>, Raffaella Balzano<sup>8</sup>, Kerstin A. Nagel<sup>9</sup>, Daniel Plügfelder<sup>10</sup>, Cristian Forrester<sup>11</sup>, Riccardo Bovina<sup>12</sup>, Robert Köller<sup>13</sup>, Tyll G. Stöckler<sup>14</sup>, Martin Mascher<sup>15</sup>, James Simmonds<sup>16</sup>, Cristóbal Uauy<sup>17</sup>, Helko Schoof<sup>18</sup>, Roberto Tuberosa<sup>19</sup>, Silvio Salvi<sup>20</sup>, and Frank Hochholdinger<sup>21</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Institute of Crop Science and Resource Conservation, Crop Functional Genomics, University of Bonn, 53115 Bonn, Germany; <sup>2</sup>Department of Agricultural and Food Science, University of Bologna, 40139 Bologna, Italy; <sup>3</sup>Institute of Plant Physiology, Research Centre for Biotechnology, Land Use and Nutrition, Julius-Liebig-University Gießen, 35392 Giessen, Germany; <sup>4</sup>College Center for Genomics, University of Cologne, 50931 Cologne, Germany; <sup>5</sup>Teisritz Institute of Plant Genetics and Crop Plant Research Gatersleben, 06465 Gatersleben, Germany; <sup>6</sup>Institute of Bio- and Crop Sciences, Research Centre for Biotechnology, Julius-Liebig-University Gießen, 35392 Giessen, Germany; <sup>7</sup>Institute of Crop Science and Resource Conservation, Crop Informatics, University of Bonn, 53115 Bonn, Germany; <sup>8</sup>Teisritz Institute of Plant Genetics and Crop Plant Research Gatersleben, 06465 Gatersleben, Germany; <sup>9</sup>Teisritz Institute of Plant Genetics and Crop Plant Research Gatersleben, 06465 Gatersleben, Germany; <sup>10</sup>Teisritz Institute of Plant Genetics and Crop Plant Research Gatersleben, 06465 Gatersleben, Germany; <sup>11</sup>Teisritz Institute of Plant Genetics and Crop Plant Research Gatersleben, 06465 Gatersleben, Germany; <sup>12</sup>Teisritz Institute of Plant Genetics and Crop Plant Research Gatersleben, 06465 Gatersleben, Germany; <sup>13</sup>Teisritz Institute of Plant Genetics and Crop Plant Research Gatersleben, 06465 Gatersleben, Germany; <sup>14</sup>Teisritz Institute of Plant Genetics and Crop Plant Research Gatersleben, 06465 Gatersleben, Germany; <sup>15</sup>Teisritz Institute of Plant Genetics and Crop Plant Research Gatersleben, 06465 Gatersleben, Germany; <sup>16</sup>Teisritz Institute of Plant Genetics and Crop Plant Research Gatersleben, 06465 Gatersleben, Germany; <sup>17</sup>Teisritz Institute of Plant Genetics and Crop Plant Research Gatersleben, 06465 Gatersleben, Germany; <sup>18</sup>Teisritz Institute of Plant Genetics and Crop Plant Research Gatersleben, 06465 Gatersleben, Germany; <sup>19</sup>Teisritz Institute of Plant Genetics and Crop Plant Research Gatersleben, 06465 Gatersleben, Germany; <sup>20</sup>Teisritz Institute of Plant Genetics and Crop Plant Research Gatersleben, 06465 Gatersleben, Germany; <sup>21</sup>Teisritz Institute of Plant Genetics and Crop Plant Research Gatersleben, 06465 Gatersleben, Germany

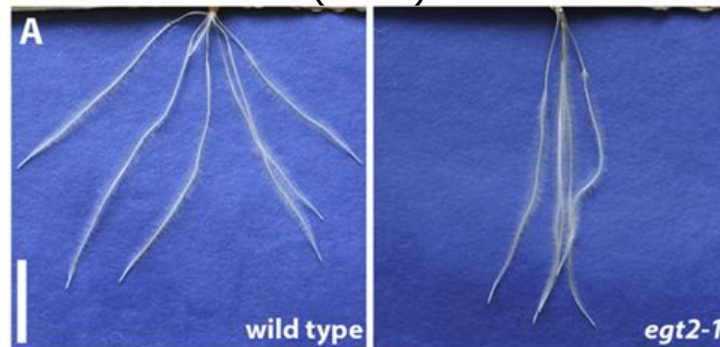
Edited by Philip N. Bentley, Duke University, Durham, NC, and approved July 13, 2021 (received for review January 25, 2021)

The root growth angle defines how roots grow toward the gravity vector and is among the most important determinants of root system architecture. It controls water uptake capacity, nutrient use efficiency, stress resilience, and, as a consequence, yield of crop plants. We demonstrated that the *egt2* (enhanced gravitropism 2) mutant of barley exhibits steeper root growth of apical and lateral roots and an auxin-independent higher responsiveness to gravity compared to wild-type plants. We cloned the *EGT2* gene by a combination of bulked-segregant analysis and whole genome sequencing. Subsequent validation experiments by an independent CRISPR-Cas9 mutant allele demonstrated that *egt2* encodes a STERILE ALPHA MOTIF domain-containing protein. In situ hybridization experiments illustrated that *EGT2* is expressed from the root tip to the elongation zone. We demonstrated the localization site outside the root cap, located in the elongation zone (10, 11). There are different hypotheses on how the cells sense gravity, with the prevailing idea that the starch-containing plastids in the root cap act as statoliths and settle in response to gravity. In doing so, they trigger a signaling cascade, either by mechanosensitive channels or by direct protein interaction, on the organelle surface (12–14). This signaling pathway ultimately leads to a rearrangement of auxin carriers and thereby to a reorganization of the auxin maximum in the root tip (15). At the same time, changes of pH in the root cap and an asymmetrical change of pH in the upper and lower side of the root meristem and elongation zone occur (16, 17). This finally leads to an increased elongation of the cells on the side oriented to the gravity vector in the elongation zone of the roots so that the



Barley

HORVU.MOREX.r3.5HG0447830  
(EGT2)

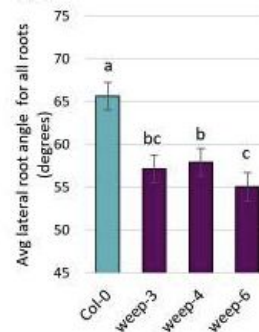


(Kirschner et al., 2021; PMID: 34446550)



Arabidopsis

AT3G07760  
(AtSAM5)



Johnson et al., 2022  
(PMID: 35685275)



Rice

Os12g0514600  
Unknown Function

**Gene Name for Os12g0514600**  **OsEGT2**

**Functional Annotation**  **transcriptional Fact**

**Pathway**  **root growth angle formation**

**Response to Gravitropism**  anti-gravitropic offset, negative gravitropic response



# Gene-orthology relationships to predict potential functions of a rice gene

egt1 mutant has a steep root growth angle phenotype  
hypergravitropic root phenotype

PNAS RESEARCH ARTICLE PLANT BIOLOGY OPEN ACCESS

## Root angle is controlled by EGT1 in cereal crops employing an antigravitropic mechanism

Ricardo Fusi<sup>1</sup>, Serena Rosignol<sup>1</sup>, Haiyu Lou<sup>1,2</sup>, Giuseppe Sangiorgi<sup>1</sup>, Riccardo Bovini<sup>1</sup>, Jacob K. Patten<sup>1,3</sup>, Aditi N. Borke<sup>1,4</sup>, Marco Lombard<sup>1,5</sup>, Cristian Forastri<sup>1</sup>, Sara G. Milner<sup>1</sup>, Jayne L. Davis<sup>1</sup>, Anesh Lahr<sup>1,6</sup>, Gwendolyn K. Kirschner<sup>1</sup>, Ranjan Swarup<sup>1</sup>, Alberto Tassinari<sup>1</sup>, Bijan K. Pandey<sup>1</sup>, Larry A. You<sup>1</sup>, Brian S. Atkinson<sup>1</sup>, Craig J. Sturrock<sup>1</sup>, Sacha J. Mooney<sup>1</sup>, Frank Hochholdinger<sup>1</sup>, Matthew R. Tucker<sup>1</sup>, Axel Himmelbach<sup>1</sup>, Jais Speen<sup>1</sup>, Marco Machner<sup>1</sup>, Kerstin A. Nages<sup>1</sup>, Laura De Gennaro<sup>1</sup>, James Simmonds<sup>1</sup>, Cristobal Uauy<sup>1</sup>, Roberto Tuberosa<sup>1</sup>, Jonathan P. Lynch<sup>1</sup>, Gleb E. Yakusov<sup>1</sup>, Malcolm J. Bennett<sup>1,7</sup>, Rahul Bhosale<sup>1,8</sup>, and Sikha Saha<sup>1,9</sup>

Edited by Philip Benfey, Duke University, Durham, NC, received February 3, 2022; accepted June 1, 2022

Root angle in crops represents a key trait for efficient capture of soil resources. Root angle is determined by competing gravitropic versus antigravitropic offset (AGO) mechanisms. Here we report a root angle regulatory gene termed *ENHANCED GRAVITROPISM1* (*EGT1*) that encodes a putative AGO component, whose loss-of-function enhances root gravitropism. Mutations in barley and wheat *EGT1* genes confer a striking root phenotype, where every root class adopts a steeper growth angle. *EGT1* encodes an F-box and Tubby domain-containing protein that is highly conserved across plant species. Haplotype analysis found that natural allelic variation at the barley *EGT1* locus impacts root angle. Gravitropic assays indicated that *Hogef1* roots bend more rapidly than wild-type. Transcript profiling revealed *Hogef1* roots deregulate reactive oxygen species (ROS) homeostasis and cell wall-loosening enzymes and cofactors. ROS imaging shows that *Hogef1* root basal meristems and elongation zone tissues have reduced levels. Atomic force microscopy measurements detected elongating *Hogef1* root cortical cell walls are significantly less stiff than wild-type. In situ analysis identified *Hogef1* is expressed in elongating cortical and side tissues, which are distinct from known root gravitropic perception and response tissues in the columella and epidermis, respectively. We propose that *EGT1* controls root angle by regulating cell wall stiffness in elongating root cortical tissue, counteracting the gravitropic machinery's known ability to bend the root via its outermost tissues. We conclude that root angle is controlled by *EGT1* in cereal crops employing an antigravitropic mechanism.

root angle | antigravitropic | cell wall | barley | wheat

Root architectural traits, such as angle, play a critical role in adapting to different environmental conditions and capturing soil resources, such as water and nutrients. For example, steeper root growth angle is advantageous for accessing subsoil water and enhancing drought tolerance and improving nitrogen (N) capture, while shallow root growth angle improves capture of phosphorus (P) from topsoil (1–3). Moreover, recent studies report that modified root angle increases yield under saline conditions (4). Thus, improved understanding of the genes and mechanisms controlling root growth angle would facilitate breeding of crop varieties better suited for different abiotic

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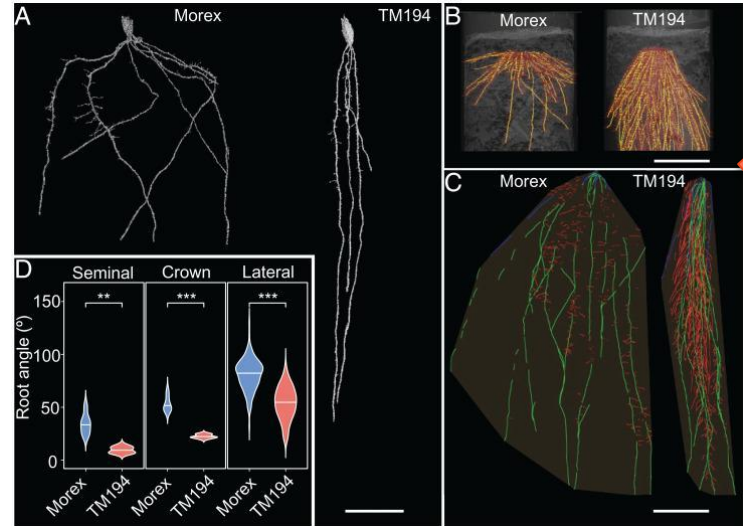


Barley

EGT1 appears to function as a component of an antigravitropic offset mechanism that regulates tissue stiffness, which impacts final root growth angle.

Functional Annotation  transcriptional Factor  
Pathway  root growth angle formation  
Response to Gravitropism  anti-gravitropic offset, negative gravitropic response

Wild type egt1 TILLING mutant TM194



HORVU6Hr1G068970 (*EGT1*)  
( Fusi et al., 2022; PMID: 35881796)

HORVU.MOREX.r3.6HG0607550

*Arabidopsis thaliana*  
(AT2G18280)  
TLP6, TULP2 (a TF)

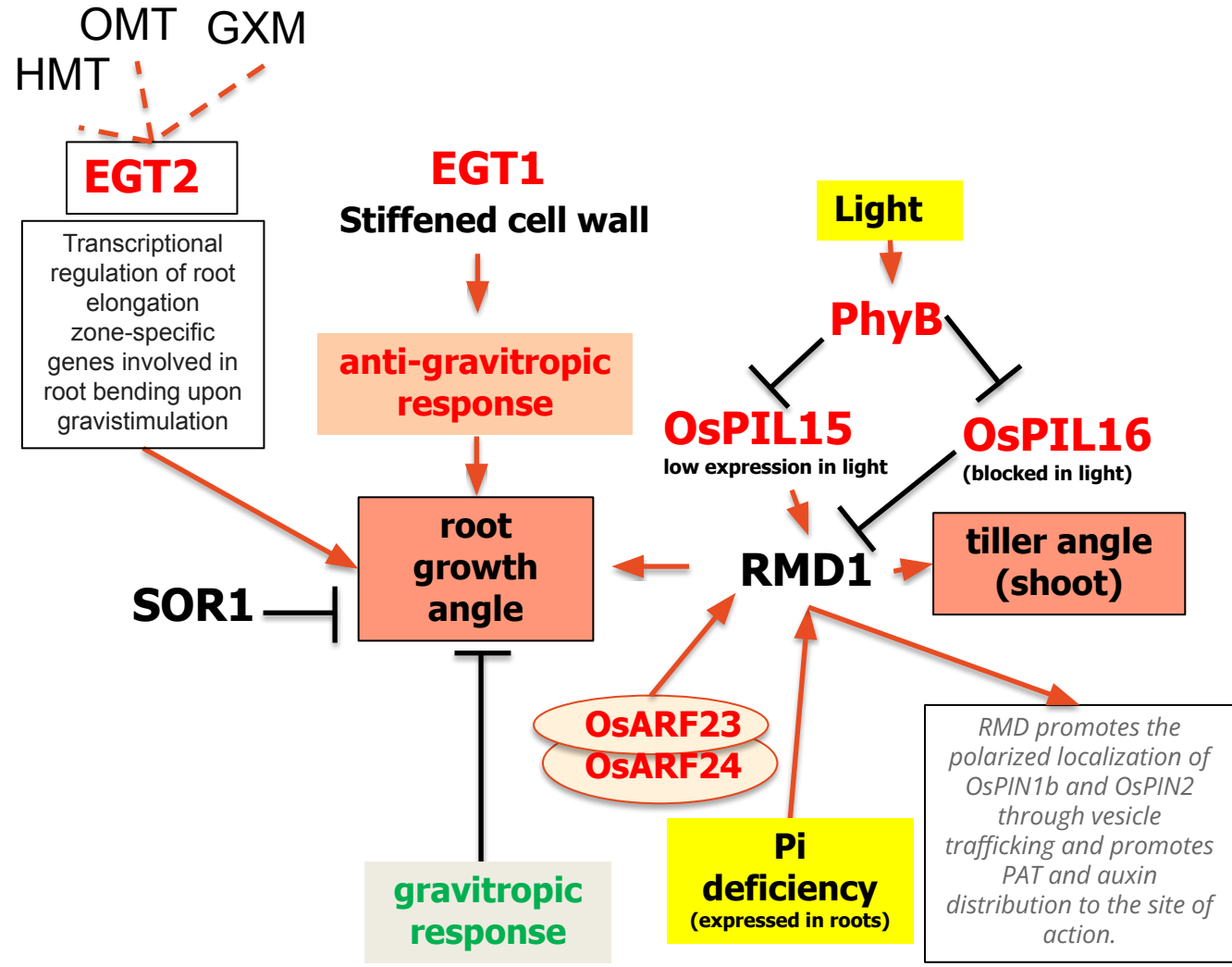
*Oryza sativa* Os02g0705300  
OsTLP8 (TF)

gene-orthology projection

Manual Curation



# Gene-gene interaction network based on evidence from rice and other species



> Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A. 2014 Jul 15;111(28):10377-82. doi: 10.1073/pnas.1401680111. Epub 2014 Jun 30.

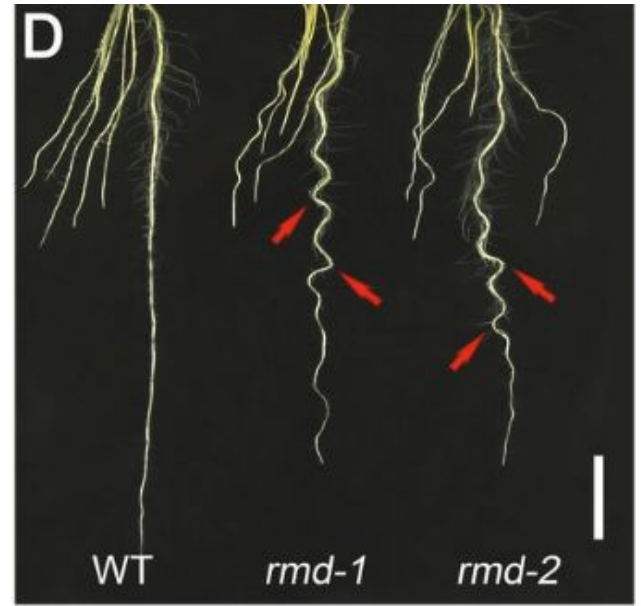
## Rice actin-binding protein RMD is a key link in the auxin-actin regulatory loop that controls cell growth

Gang Li <sup>1</sup>, Wanqi Liang <sup>1</sup>, Xiaoqing Zhang <sup>1</sup>, Haiyun Ren <sup>2</sup>, Jianping Hu <sup>3</sup>, Malcolm J Bennett <sup>4</sup>, Dabing Zhang <sup>5</sup>

Affiliations + expand  
PMID: 24982173 PMCID: PMC4104909 DOI: 10.1073/pnas.1401680111

### Abstract

The plant hormone auxin plays a central role in plant growth and development. Auxin transport and signaling depend on actin organization. Despite its functional importance, the mechanistic link between actin filaments (F-actin) and auxin intracellular signaling remains unclear. Here, we report that the actin-organizing protein Rice Morphology Determinant (RMD), a type II formin from rice (*Oryza sativa*), provides a key link. Mutants lacking RMD display abnormal cell growth and altered configuration of F-actin array direction. The *rmd* mutants also exhibit an inhibition of auxin-mediated cell elongation, decreased polar auxin transport, altered auxin distribution gradients in root tips, and suppression of plasma membrane localization of auxin transporters *O. sativa* PIN-FORMED 1b (*OsPIN1b*) and *OsPIN2* in root cells. We demonstrate that RMD is required for endocytosis, exocytosis, and auxin-mediated *OsPIN2* recycling to the plasma membrane. Moreover, RMD expression is directly regulated by heterodimerized *O. sativa* auxin response factor 23 (*OsARF23*) and *OsARF24*, providing evidence that auxin modulates the orientation of F-actin arrays through RMD. In support of this regulatory loop, *osarf23* and lines with reduced expression



( Li et al., 2014; PMID: 24982173)



# Re-use and Re-analysis of Transcriptome Data

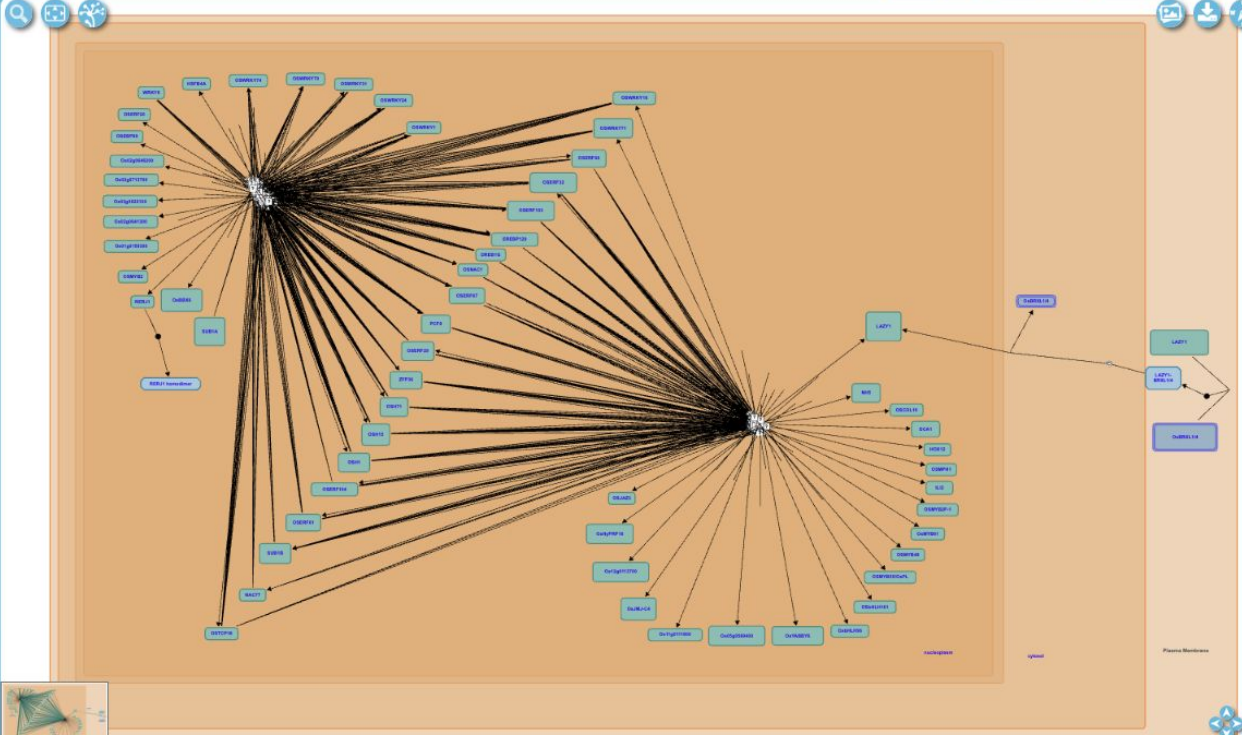








- Cellular processes
- Circadian rhythm
- Growth and developmental processes
  - Reproductive structure development
  - Vegetative structure development
- Metabolism and regulation
  - Generation of precursor metabolites and energy
  - Mitochondrial pyruvate metabolism
  - TCA cycle (plant)
  - Amino acid metabolism
    - Citrulline-nitric oxide cycle
    - Methionine salvage pathway
    - S-adenosyl-L-methionine cycle
    - S-methylmethionine cycle
    - Amino acid biosynthesis
    - Amino acid catabolism
  - Amine and polyamine biosynthesis
  - Carbohydrate metabolism
  - Cofactor biosyntheses
  - Detoxification
  - Hormone signaling, transport, and metabolism
  - Secondary metabolism
  - Fatty acid and lipid metabolism
  - Inorganic nutrients metabolism
  - Nucleotide metabolism
  - Photorespiration
- Responses to stimuli: abiotic stimuli and stresses**
  - Response to cold temperature
  - Response to phosphate deficiency
  - Response to submergence
    - Underwater shoot and internode elongation
  - Response to Drought
  - Response to heavy metals
    - Arsenic uptake and detoxification
    - Response to Aluminum stress
  - Response to salinity
    - Root-specific gene network of NAC10\_TF induced by drought, salinity, and ABA
    - SNAC1 transcription network involved in drought and salinity tolerance
    - Abscisic acid (ABA) mediated signaling
    - OsNACS\_transcription\_network\_involved\_in\_drought\_and\_high\_salinity\_tolerance
    - Gravitropism under normal or artificial gravity environments
      - Regulation of seed germination and coleoptile growth under submergence and normal gravity environment
      - Regulation of lemma joints development and leaf angle by cytokinin
- Responses to stimuli: biotic stimuli and stresses
  - Recognition of fungal and bacterial pathogens and immunity response



[Description](#)
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Regulation of seed germination and coleoptile growth under submergence and normal gravity environment | id: R-OSA-9826782 | Species: *Oryza sativa*

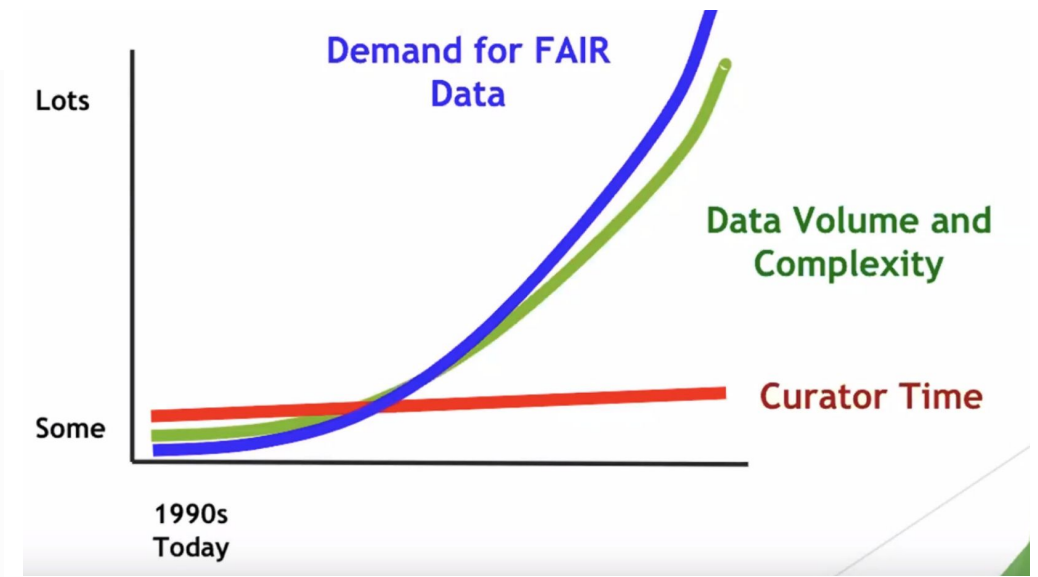
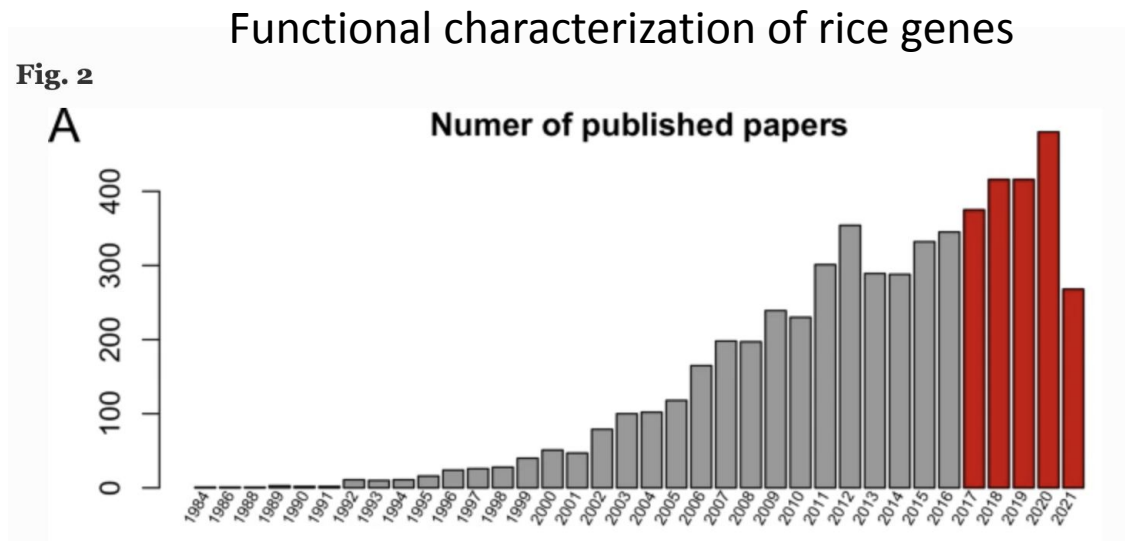
Li et al., 2019, *Chromosome Res*, 2019, 16(4), 202-17. It is necessary that transcription of LAZY1, an important gene involved in shoot gravitropism (Li et al., 2007; Li et al., 2007), is regulated by OSH1, OSH1C1, OSH1C2, OSH1C3, OSTCP18, OSPCF8, OSERF25, OSERF29 and OSERF32 during seed germination and coleoptile development. LAZY1 does not have any binding site in the promoter region of any TFs in this network. Furthermore, rice LAZY1 has two subcellular locations, the plasma membrane and nucleus. LAZY1 interacts with BRXL4 (or BRXL1) in the plasma membrane and forms a complex that is required for subsequent nuclear localization of the LAZY1 (Li et al., 2019). LAZY1 acts as a TF in the nucleus and regulates the expression of genes involved in shoot gravitropism and tiller angle determination through negative regulation of basipetal polar auxin transport and positive regulator of lateral auxin transport (Li et al., 2007). Unlike rice LAZY1, nuclear localization of its Arabidopsis ortholog AtLAZY1 is not essential for its function (Li et al., 2019). In addition, we find TFs linked to important agronomic traits in this network, for example, OsMPH1 involved in regulating plant height and yield improvement (Zhang et al., 2017).

▼ Background literature references...

- A genome-wide survey of HD-Zip genes in rice and analysis of drought-responsive family members
- A R2R3-type MYB gene, OsMYB2, is involved in salt, cold, and dehydration tolerance in rice  
J. Exp. Bot. 2012 63; 2541-56. [Pubmed](#)  
Author(s):  
▶ Yang, A  
▶ Dai, X  
▶ Zhang, WH
- A rice homeobox gene, OSH1, is expressed before organ differentiation in a specific region during early embryogenesis
- Development of submergence-tolerant rice cultivars: the Sub1 locus and beyond
- Expression of rice SUB1A and SUB1C transcription factors in Arabidopsis uncovers flowering inhibition as a submergence tolerance mechanism
- Flood resilience loci <i>SUBMERGENCE 1</i> and <i>ANAEROBIC GERMINATION 1</i> interact in seedlings established underwater
- Genome-wide analysis of basic/helix-loop-helix transcription factor family in rice and Arabidopsis
- Identification of jumonjiC domain containing gene family among the *Oryza* species and their expression analysis in FL478, a salt tolerant rice genotype
- Identification of the gravitropism-related rice gene LAZY1 and elucidation of LAZY1-dependent and -independent gravity signaling pathways



# Needed: Increased Support for Biocuration





# Our Undergraduate Biocurators : Plant Gene and Pathway Curation



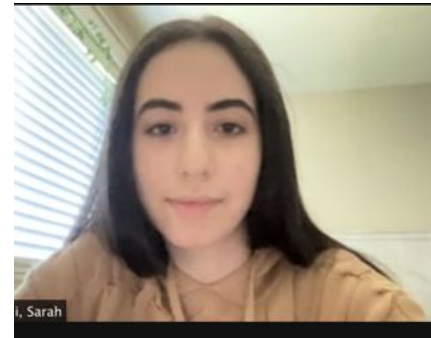
**Eli Waddell** 2013-2014



**Christina Partipilo**  
2014-2016



**Ami (Amitavo) Ganguli**  
URSA-Fellow, 2021 winter-spring



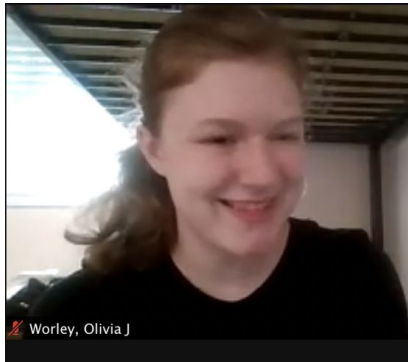
**Sarah El-Husseini**  
URSA-Fellow, 2021 winter-spring  
Honors Thesis (2021-2022)



**Shayla Rao** (spring 2020)



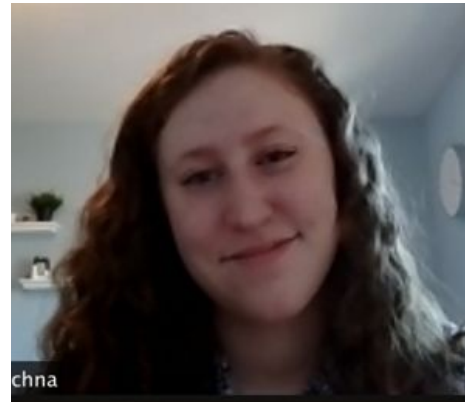
**Callan Stowell**  
(winter-spring 2020)  
URSA-fellow



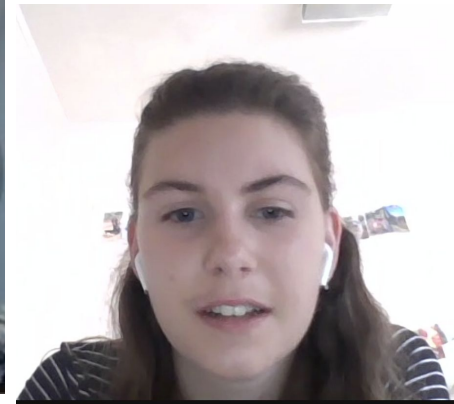
**Olivia Worley**  
URSA-Fellow, 2021 winter-spring



**Maddie Goebel**  
URSA-Fellow, 2021 winter-spring



**Gwendolyn Michna**  
URSA-Fellow, 2021 winter-spring



**Kennedy Sparks**  
URSA-Fellow, 2022 winter-spring



**Quentin Beers**  
URSA-Fellow, 2021 winter-spring



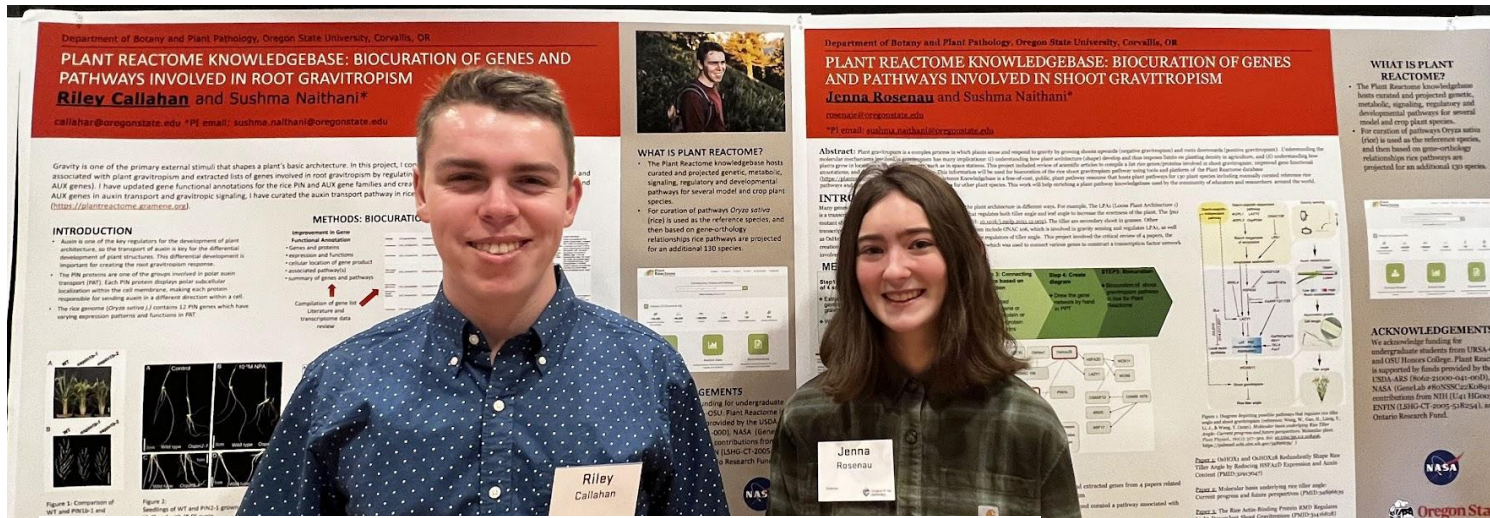
**Elizabeth Hooks**  
URSA-Fellow, winter-spring  
2022, continued until Fall  
2023

**Tutorials and Videos on Gramene YouTube Channel**  
[tinyurl.com/grchannel](https://tinyurl.com/grchannel)





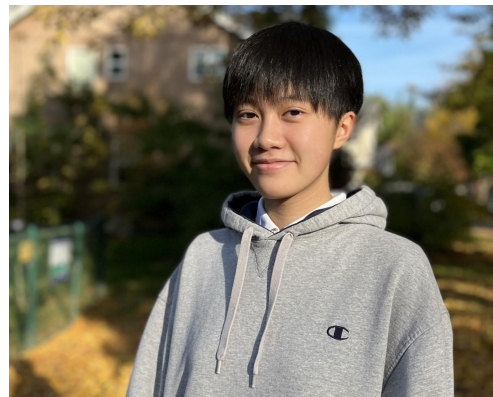
# We train undergraduate students in critical review of scientific literature and gene biocuration



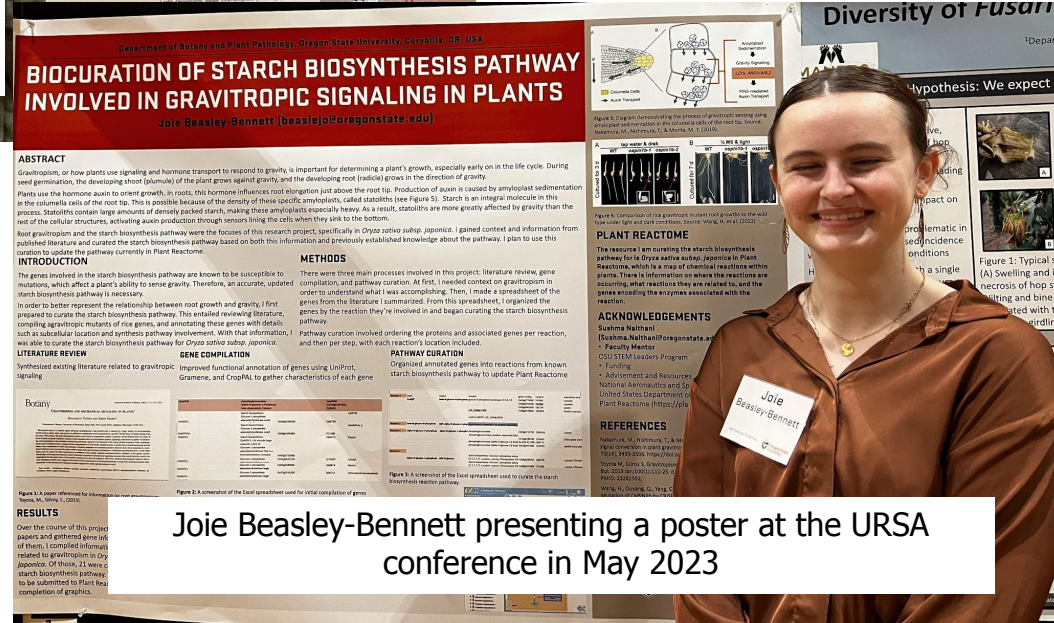
Riley Callahan and Jenna Rosenau presenting their work at the URSA conference in May 2023



Madeleine Zeller (Fall 2023)



Tongsak, Annette  
URSA-Fellow, 2023 winter-spring



Joie Beasley-Bennett presenting a poster at the URSA conference in May 2023





# URSA undergraduate Research Fellows of 2024 working on Biocuration of genes and pathways



**Siena Buchanan**  
second-year biology major



**Isabella Ramirez**  
second-year microbiology major



**Carolyn Crofford**  
Bioresource Research and  
Sustainability major

# Biocuration of a gene family using transcriptome data to infer tissue specific expression and association with stress response



**Daemon A. Dikeman** (2019-2020)  
(Honors Thesis, undergraduate)  
Joined Ph.D. at Univ. of Maine

> PeerJ. 2021 Mar 15;9:e11052. doi: 10.7717/peerj.11052. eCollection 2021.

## Beyond gene ontology (GO): using biocuration approach to improve the gene nomenclature and functional annotation of rice S-domain kinase subfamily

Sushma Naithani <sup>1</sup>, Daemon Dikeman <sup>1</sup>, Priyanka Garg <sup>1</sup>, Noor Al-Bader <sup>1</sup>, Pankaj Jaiswal <sup>1</sup>

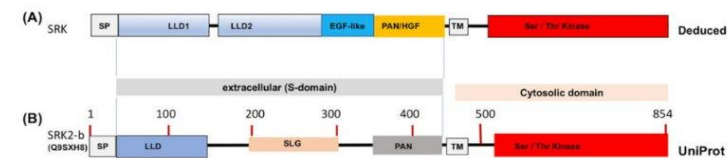
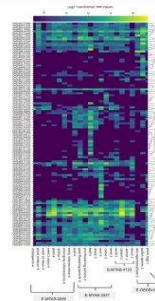
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PMID: 33777532 PMCID: PMC7971086 DOI: 10.7717/peerj.11052

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### Abstract

The S-domain subfamily of receptor-like kinases (SDRLKs) in plants is poorly characterized. Most members of this subfamily are currently assigned gene function based on the S-locus Receptor Kinase from Brassica that acts as the female determinant of self-incompatibility (SI). However, Brassica like SI mechanisms does not exist in most plants. Thus, automated Gene Ontology (GO) pipelines are not sufficient for functional annotation of SDRLK subfamily members and lead to erroneous association with the GO biological process of SI. Here, we show that manual bio-curation can help to correct and improve the gene annotations and association with relevant biological processes. Using publicly available genomic and transcriptome datasets, we conducted a detailed



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Life & Environment





# Acknowledgements

Sushma Naithani group, OSU  
**Undergraduate Biocurators**

Bijayalaxmi Mohanty  
 Community Biocurator



Undergraduate Research, Scholarship  
 and the Arts engage program, OSU



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- Pankaj Jaiswal (Co-PI)
- Justin Elser (Software Dev)
- Parul Gupta (biocuration)



## NYU Langone Medical Center

- Peter D'Eustachio (Biocuration)



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- Joel Weiser
- Guanming Wu



## European Bioinformatics Institute

- Irene Papatheodorou (ATLAS)
- IntAct



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- Andrew Olson

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