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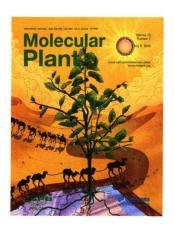
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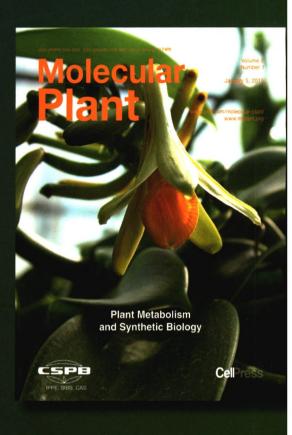
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On The Cover

Domesticated mulberry (*Morus alba*) is the sole crop consumed by silkworms (*Bombyx mori*) for producing the beautiful silks. Thus, it is the first essential material of the sericulture, which has exerted a strong influence on the world history in terms of economic, political and cultural interactions through the establishment of the ancient Silk Road. Hu mulberry cultivars grown in the Taihu Basin had beneficial botanical characteristics and became the backbone of the major sericultural industry in the last \sim 1000 years. In this issue, Jiao et al. report the chromosome-level genome assembly of *M. alba* and clarify that *M. alba* is a diploid with 28 chromosomes. By resequencing 134 Chinese and Japan mulberry accessions, they found that Hu mulberry shows a very low level of nucleotide diversity, suggesting that it experienced long-term artificial selection, consistent with the Hu mulberry selection and breeding history. The cover image shows a Hu mulberry plant rooted in the Taihu Basin on a silk-made map, its simplified genome structure on the top and the Silk Road at the middle. Image by: Feng Jiao, Yu Jiang and Yonghua Qian.

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