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# Molecular Plant

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## Correspondences

- 203**    **Genetics-inspired data-driven approaches explain and predict crop performance fluctuations attributed to changing climatic conditions**  
*Xianran Li, Tingting Guo, Guihua Bai, Zhiwu Zhang, Deven See, Juliet Marshall, Kimberly A. Garland-Campbell, and Jianming Yu*
- 207**    **H2A.Z contributes to trithorax activity at the AGAMOUS locus**  
*Un-Sa Lee, Tomasz Bieluszewski, Jun Xiao, Ayako Yamaguchi, and Doris Wagner*

## Editor's Highlights

- 211**    **Hypermobility of SHORT-ROOT in the development of multiple cortex layers**  
*M. Arif Ashraf and Erin Sparks*
- 212**    **O2-ZmGRAS11 coordinates cell expansion and endosperm filling**  
*Chun-Lin Shi and Liuji Wu*

## Opinion

- 213**    **Linking environmental signals to plant metabolism: The combination of field trials and environment simulators**  
*Jing Zhang, Xiao Yang, Xin Zhang, Li Zhang, Zixing Zhang, Yang Zhang, and Qichang Yang*

## Spotlights

- 216**    **Moonlighting PPKL1 reveals a role of cytokinin in regulating rice grain size**  
*Tomáš Werner and Thomas Schmülling*
- 219**    **A war on the cell wall**  
*Jian Chen, Huan Chen, Fengquan Liu, and Zheng Qing Fu*
- 222**    **Harnessing genetic variation at regulatory regions to fine-tune traits for climate-resilient crops**  
*Diep R. Ganguly, Lee T. Hickey, and Peter A. Crisp*
- 225**    **Old dog, new trick: The PHR-SPX system regulates arbuscular mycorrhizal symbiosis**  
*Debatosh Das and Caroline Gutjahr*

## Review Article

- 228**    **Nitric oxide regulation of plant metabolism**  
*Kapuganti Jagadis Gupta, Vemula Chandra Kaladhar, Teresa B. Fitzpatrick, Alisdair R. Fernie, Ian Max Møller, and Gary J. Loake*

## Resource Articles

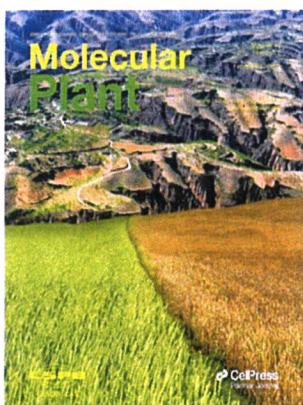
- 243**    **A FLASH pipeline for arrayed CRISPR library construction and the gene function discovery of rice receptor-like kinases**  
*Kaiyuan Chen, Runnan Ke, Manman Du, Yuqing Yi, Yache Chen, Xiaochun Wang, Lu Yao, Hao Liu, Xin Hou, Lizhong Xiong, Yinong Yang, and Kabin Xie*
- 258**    **Rice metabolic regulatory network spanning the entire life cycle**  
*Chenkun Yang, Shuangqian Shen, Shen Zhou, Yufei Li, Yuyuan Mao, Junjie Zhou, Yuheng Shi, Longxu An, Qianqian Zhou, Wenju Peng, Yuanyuan Lyu, Xuemei Liu, Wei Chen, Shouchuang Wang, Lianghuan Qu, Xianqing Liu, Alisdair R. Fernie, and Jie Luo*

## Research Articles

- 276 Variation in *cis*-regulation of a NAC transcription factor contributes to drought tolerance in wheat**  
Hude Mao, Shumin Li, Bin Chen, Chao Jian, Fangming Mei, Yifang Zhang, Fangfang Li, Nan Chen, Tian Li, Linying Du, Li Ding, Zhongxue Wang, Xinxiu Cheng, Xiaojing Wang, and Zhensheng Kang
- 293 A cryptic inhibitor of cytokinin phosphorelay controls rice grain size**  
Dapu Liu, He Zhao, Yunhua Xiao, Guoxia Zhang, Shouyun Cao, Wenchao Yin, Yangwen Qian, Yanhai Yin, Jinsong Zhang, Shouyi Chen, Chengcai Chu, and Hongning Tong
- 308 Parallel selection of distinct *Tof5* alleles drove the adaptation of cultivated and wild soybean to high latitudes**  
Lidong Dong, Qun Cheng, Chao Fang, Lingping Kong, Hui Yang, Zhihong Hou, Yongli Li, Haiyang Nan, Yuhang Zhang, Qingshan Chen, Chunbao Zhang, Kun Kou, Tong Su, Lingshuang Wang, Shichen Li, Haiyang Li, Xiaoya Lin, Yang Tang, Xiaohui Zhao, Sijia Lu, Baohui Liu, and Fanjiang Kong
- 322 The HB40-JUB1 transcriptional regulatory network controls gibberellin homeostasis in *Arabidopsis***  
Shuchao Dong, Danuse Tarkowska, Mastoureh Sedaghatmehr, Maryna Welsch, Saurabh Gupta, Bernd Mueller-Roeber, and Salma Balazadeh
- 340 The nucleolus as a genomic safe harbor for strong gene expression in *Nannochloropsis oceanica***  
Christian Südfeld, Ana Pozo-Rodríguez, Sara A. Manjavacas Díez, René H. Wijffels, Maria J. Barbosa, and Sarah D'Adamo

## Research Reports

- 354 Lack of ethylene does not affect reproductive success and synergid cell death in *Arabidopsis***  
Wenhao Li, Qiyun Li, Mohan Lyu, Zhijuan Wang, Zihan Song, Shangwei Zhong, Hongya Gu, Juan Dong, Thomas Dresselhaus, Sheng Zhong, and Li-Jia Qu
- 363 Dual and opposing roles of EIN3 reveal a generation conflict during seed growth**  
Juliane Heydlauff, Isil Erbasol Serbes, Dieu Vo, Yanbo Mao, Sonja Giesecking, Thomas Nakel, Theresa Harten, Ronny Völz, Anja Hoffmann, and Rita Groß-Hardt

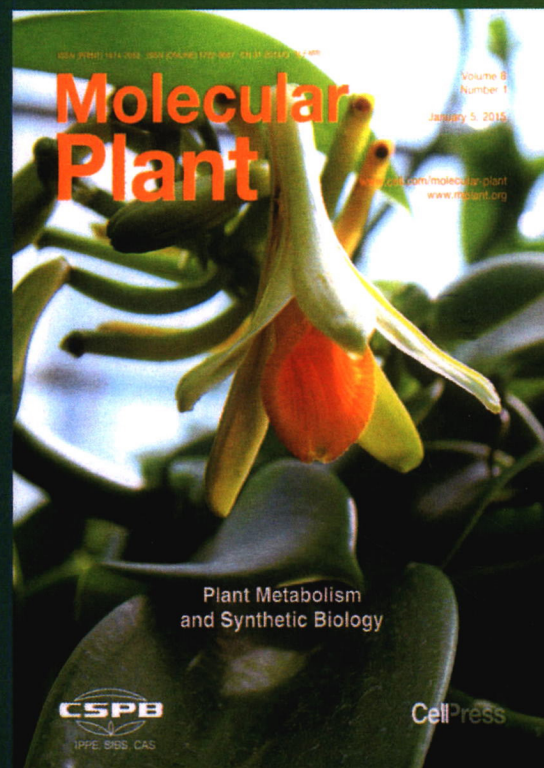


## On The Cover

Wheat is a staple crop mainly cultivated in arid and semi-arid areas worldwide. However, wheat production is frequently threatened by water scarcity that is further exacerbated by global warming and population growth. Developing drought-tolerant cultivars is a central challenge for wheat breeders, which relies on the better understanding of the genotype-phenotype relationship. In this issue, Mao et al. discover that the variation in *cis*-regulation of a NAC transcription factor (TaNAC071-A) contributes to drought tolerance in wheat. The study reveals a novel genetic mechanism underlying wheat drought tolerance and will facilitate the breeding of drought-tolerant wheat cultivars. Image by: Hude Mao and Zhensheng Kang.



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