

Analysis of light-induced stomatal opening and enhancement of photosynthesis and plant yield



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**Institute of Transformative Bio-Molecules
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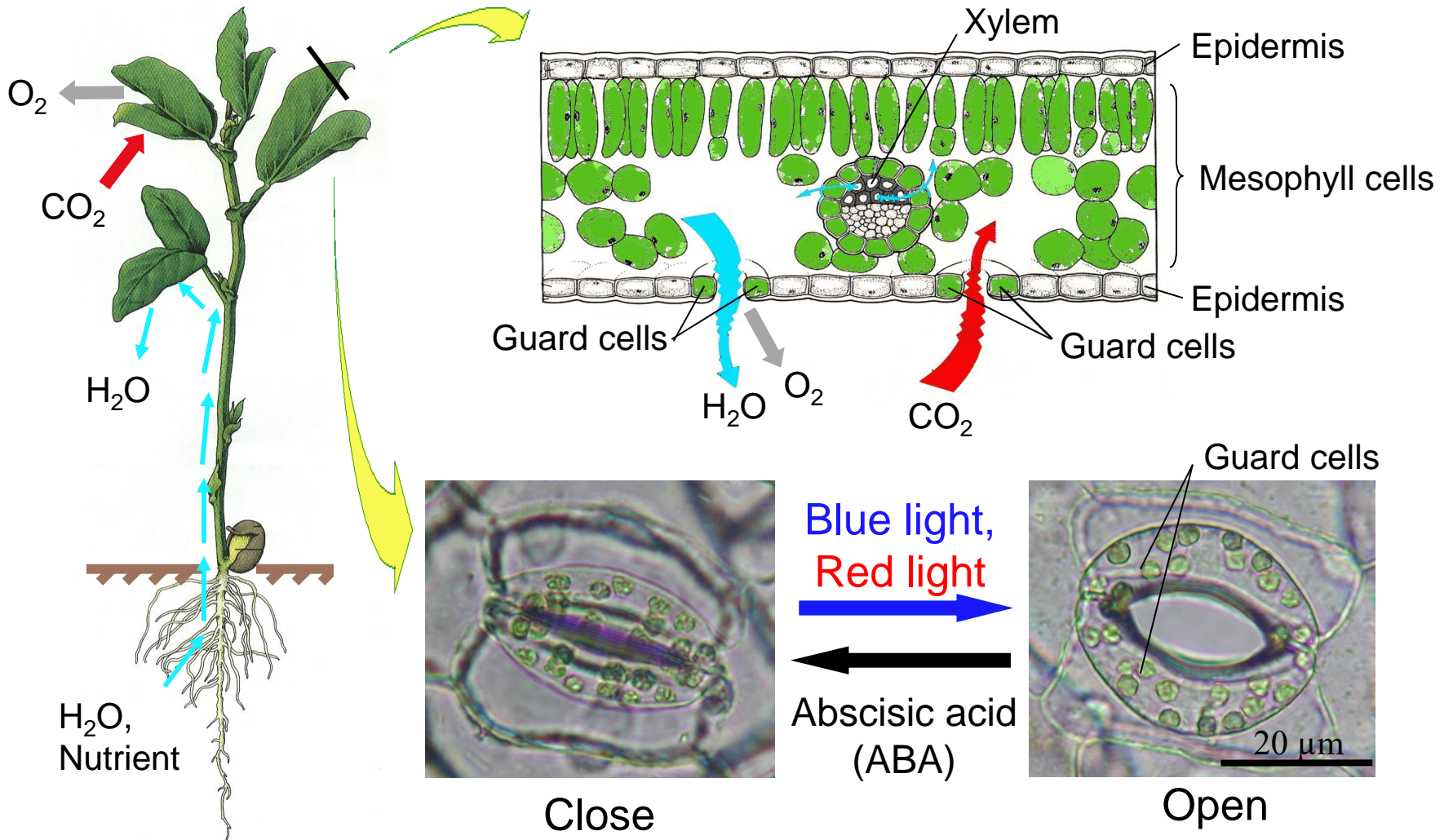




Topics

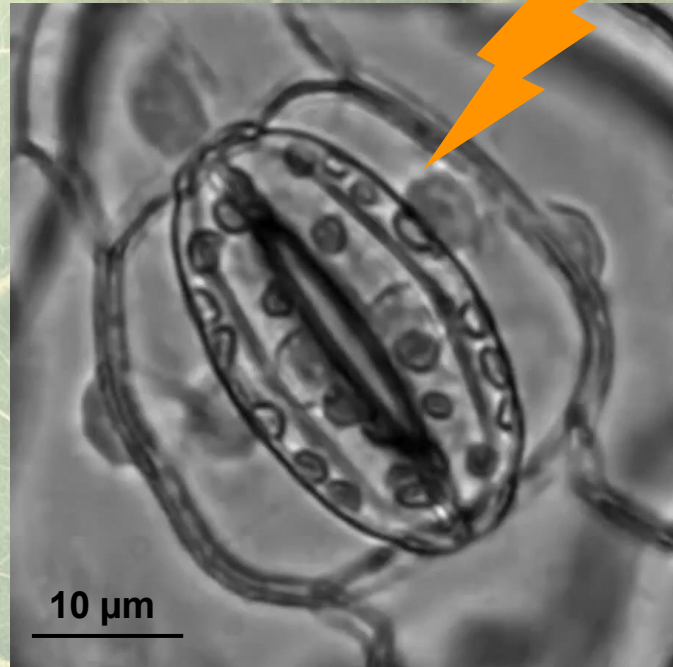
- 1. Molecular mechanism of light-induced stomatal opening**
- 2. Importance of stomatal opening and PM H⁺-ATPase in plant growth**
- 3. Chemicals confer drought tolerance to plants**

Stomata regulate gas exchange





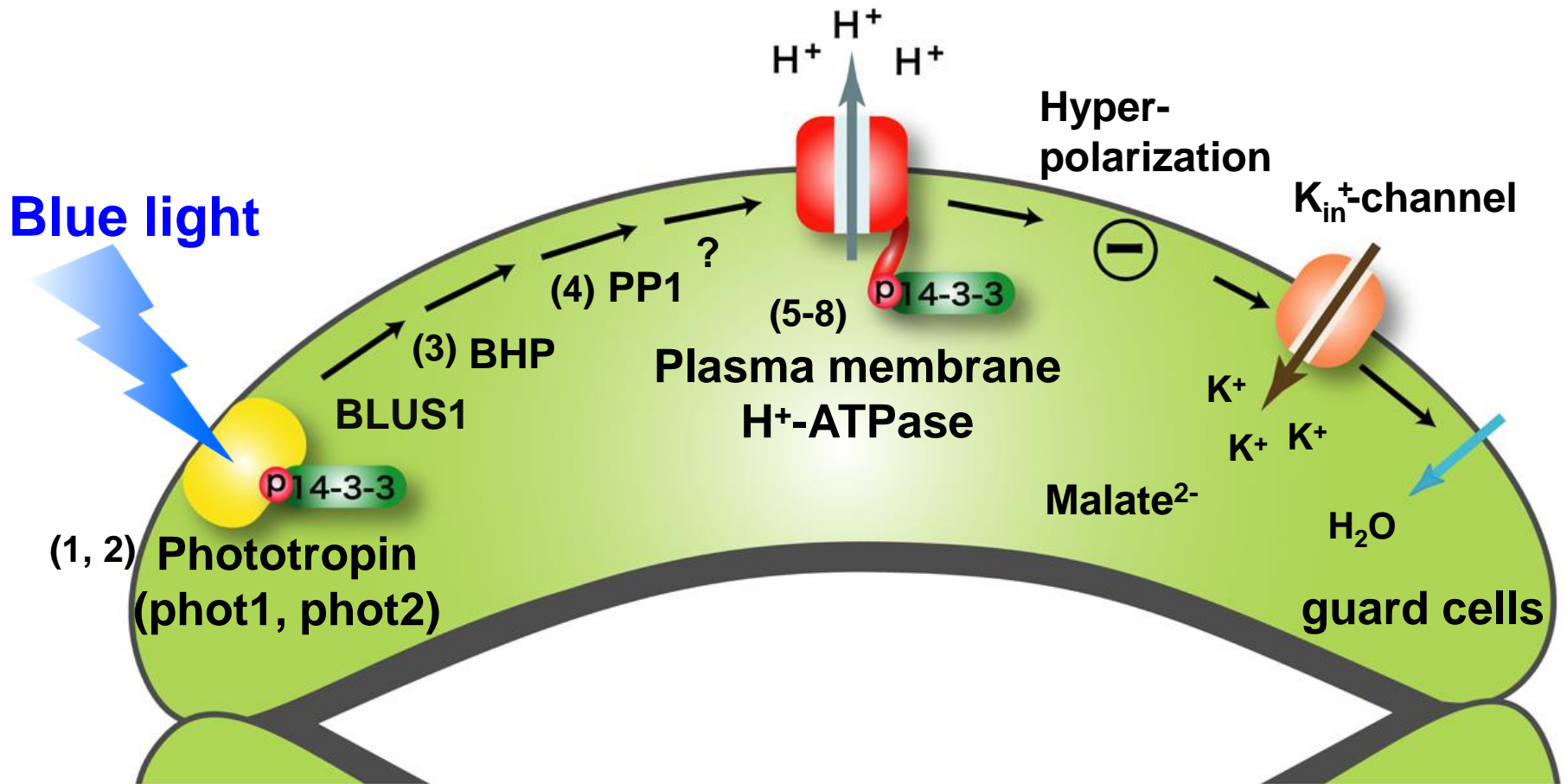
Stomatal opening in *Commelina* (x 1,200) (Tsuyukusa)



Light

Complete stomatal opening takes more than one hour.

Blue light-induced stomatal opening

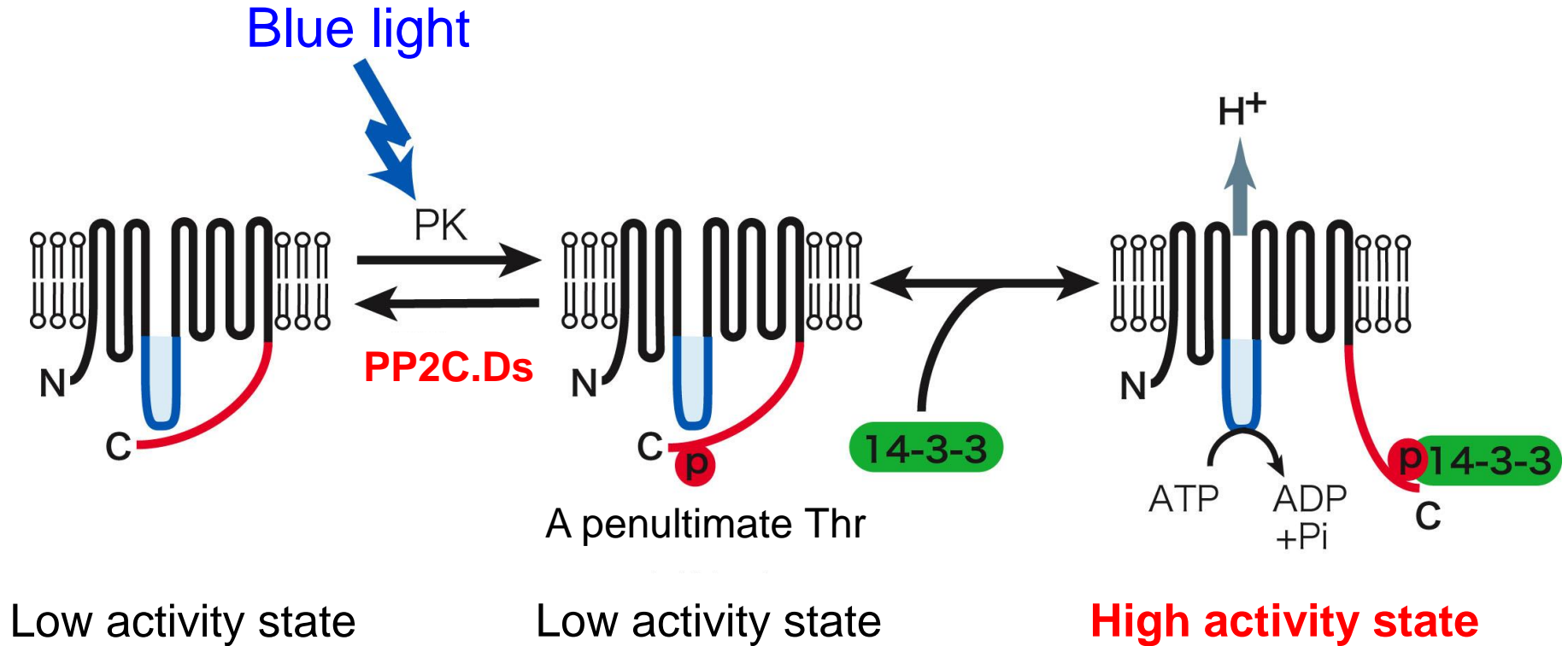


- (1) Kinoshita et al. (2001) Nature
- (2) Kinoshita et al. (2003) Plant Physiol
- (3) Hayashi et al. (2017) Sci Rep
- (4) Takemiya et al. (2006) PNAS

- (5) Kinoshita & Shimazaki (1999) EMBO J
- (6) Wang et al. (2014) PNAS
- (7) Aihara et al. (2023) Nature Commun
- (8) Hayashi et al. (2024) Nature Commun



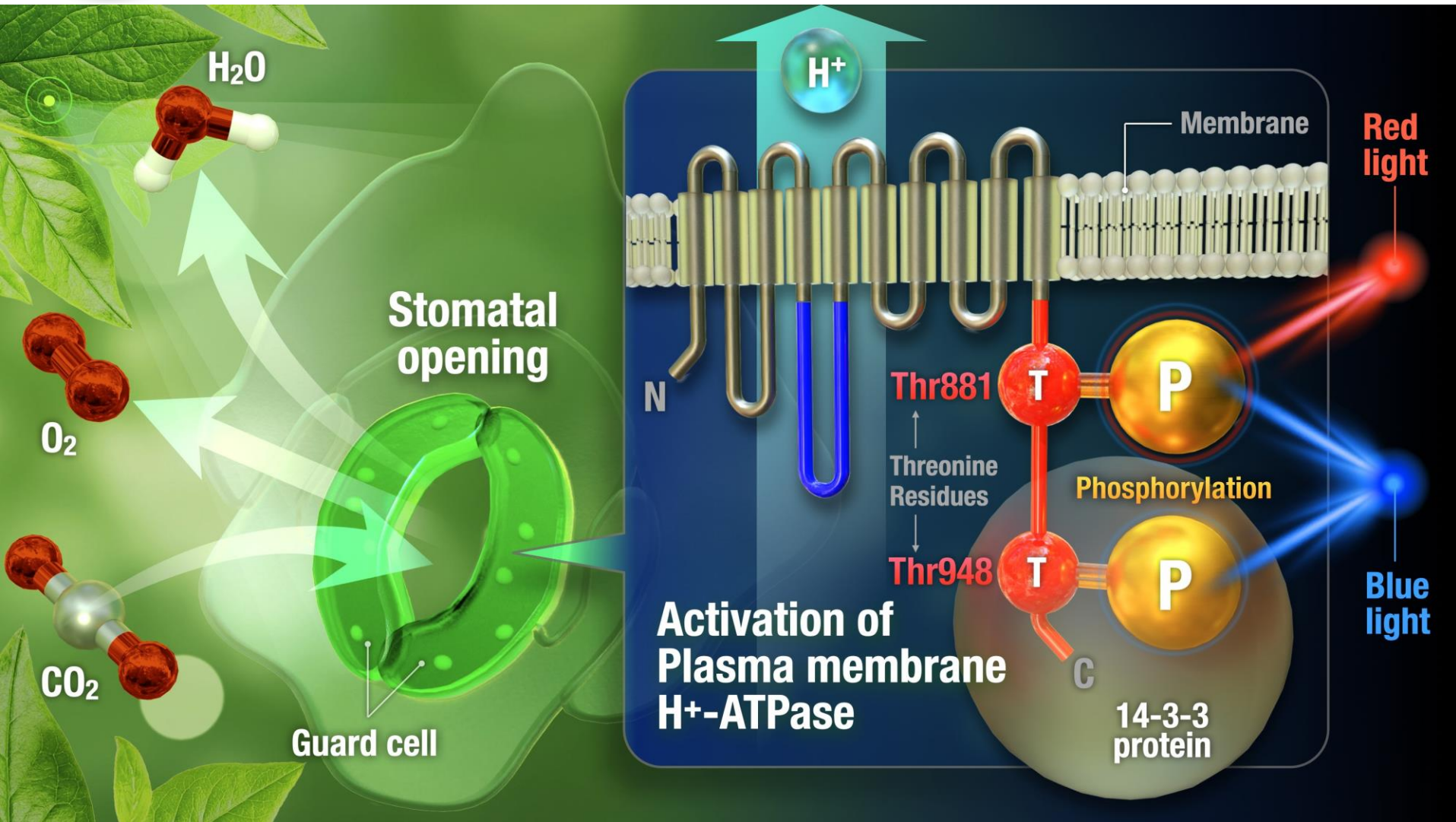
Blue light-induced activation of H⁺-ATPase in guard cells



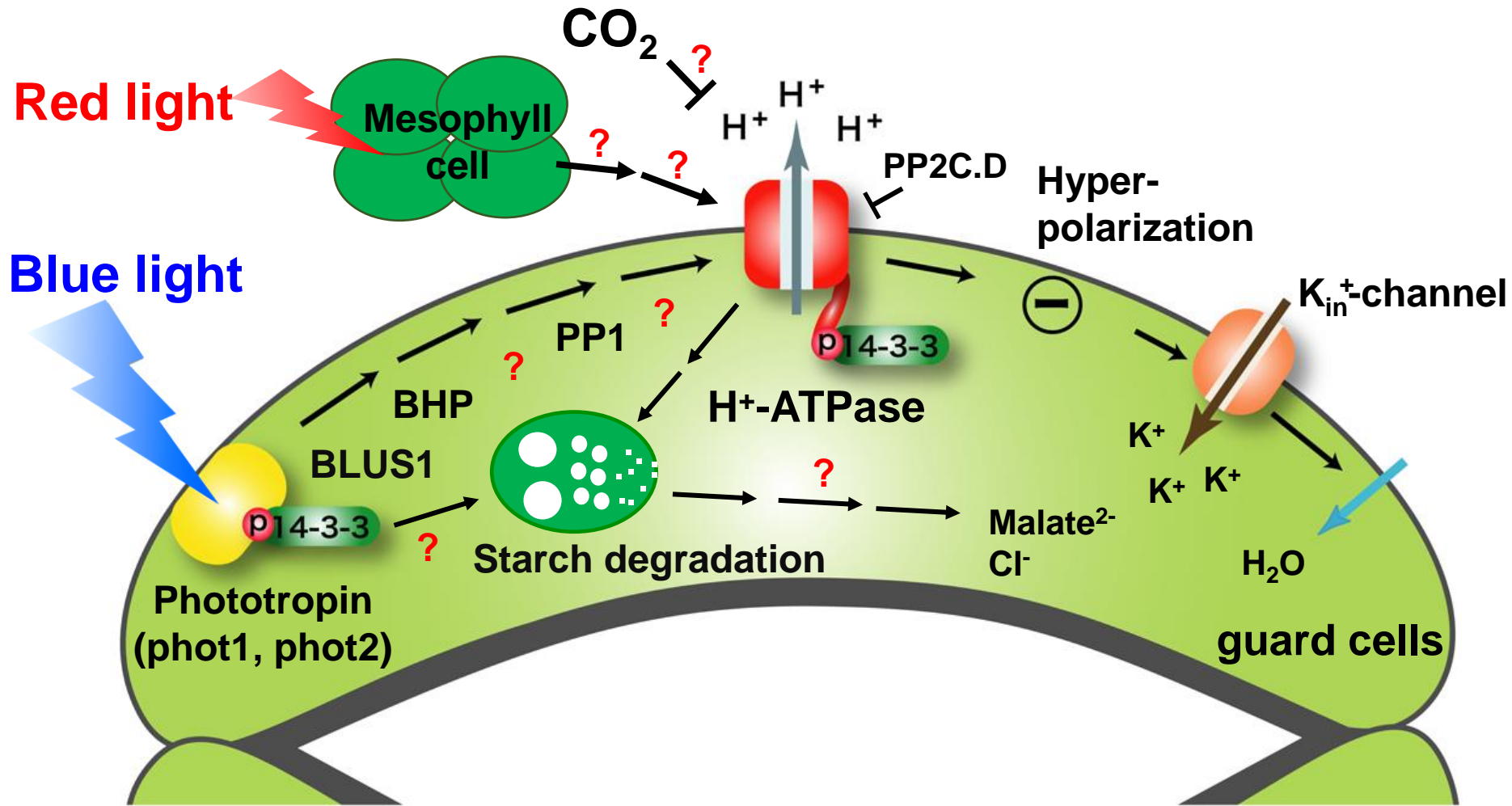
Kinoshita & Shimazaki (1999) EMBO J.
Inoue & Kinoshita (2017) Plant Physiol.
Akiyama et al. (2022) Plant Physiol.



Phosphorylation of Thr881, in addition to Thr948, needs full activation of PM H⁺-ATPase and blue light-induced stomatal opening



Light-induced stomatal opening



Hayashi et al. (2017) Sci Rep
 Ando & Kinoshita (2018) Plant Physiol
 Aihara et al. (2023) Nature Commun
 Commun

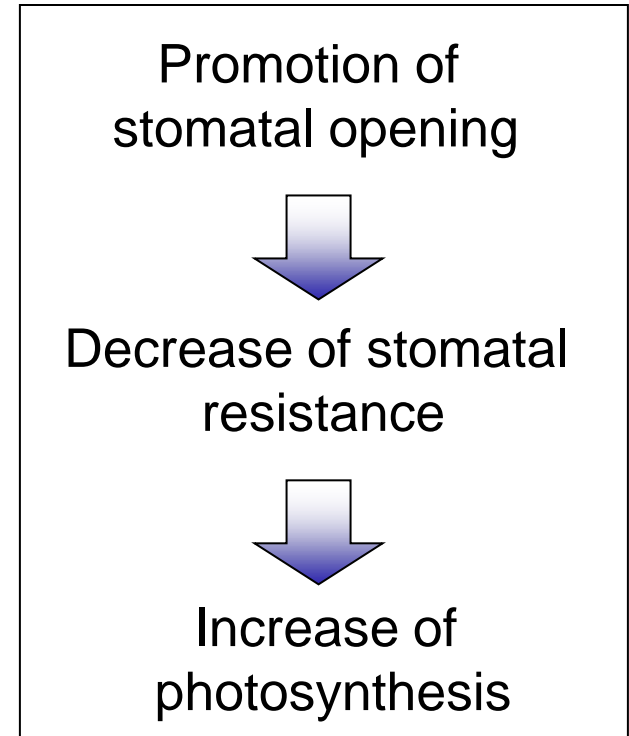
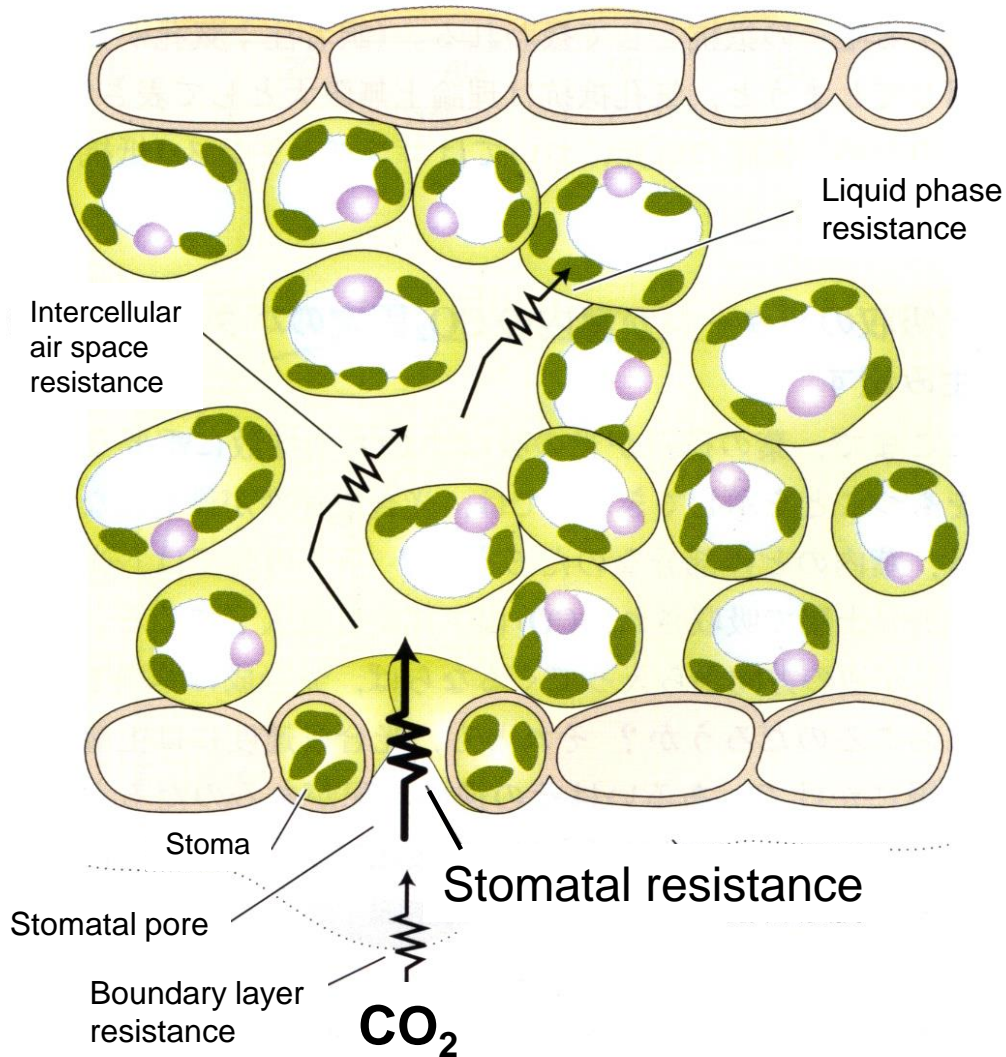
Akiyama et al. (2022) Plant Physiol
 Ando et al. (2022) New Phytol
 Hayashi et al. (2024) Nature



Topics

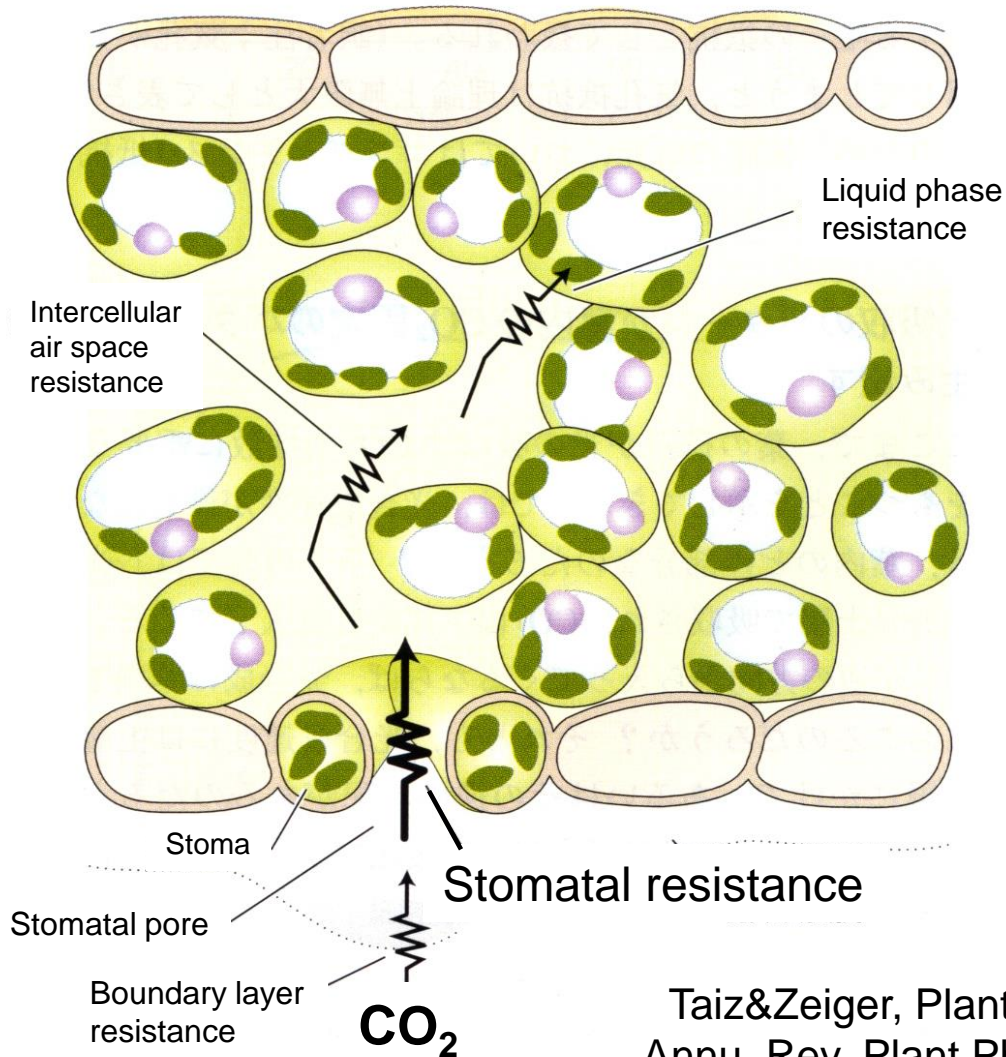
1. Molecular mechanism of light-induced stomatal opening
- 2. Importance of stomatal opening and PM H⁺-ATPase in plant growth**
3. Chemicals confer drought tolerance to plants

Stomatal resistance is a major limiting factor for CO₂ uptake and photosynthesis



Taiz&Zeiger, Plant Physiology
Annu. Rev. Plant Physiol. (1982)

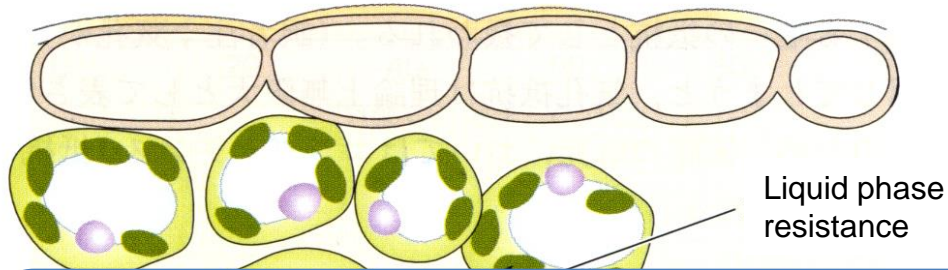
Stomatal resistance is a major limiting factor for CO₂ uptake and photosynthesis



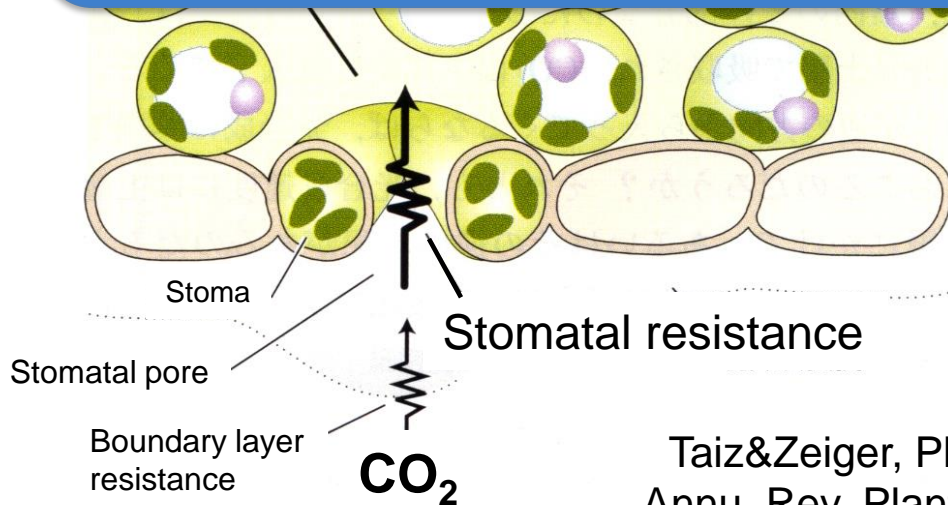
There was no experimental evidence for this.

Taiz&Zeiger, Plant Physiology
Annu. Rev. Plant Physiol. (1982)

Stomatal resistance is a major limiting factor for CO₂ uptake and photosynthesis



Relationship between stomatal aperture and 'photosynthesis and plant growth'



Taiz&Zeiger, Plant Physiology
Annu. Rev. Plant Physiol. (1982)



Enhancement of stomatal opening by overexpression of H⁺-ATPase in guard cells using guard cell strong promoter GC1, increases photosynthesis and plant growth

25-day-old plants



WT

GC1::AHA2 #1



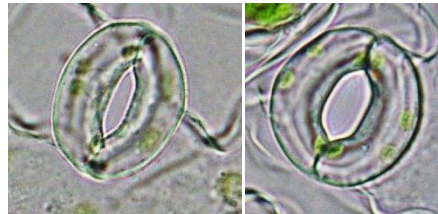
WT

GC1::AHA2 #1

AHA2 : PM H⁺-ATPase isoform in Arabidopsis

WT

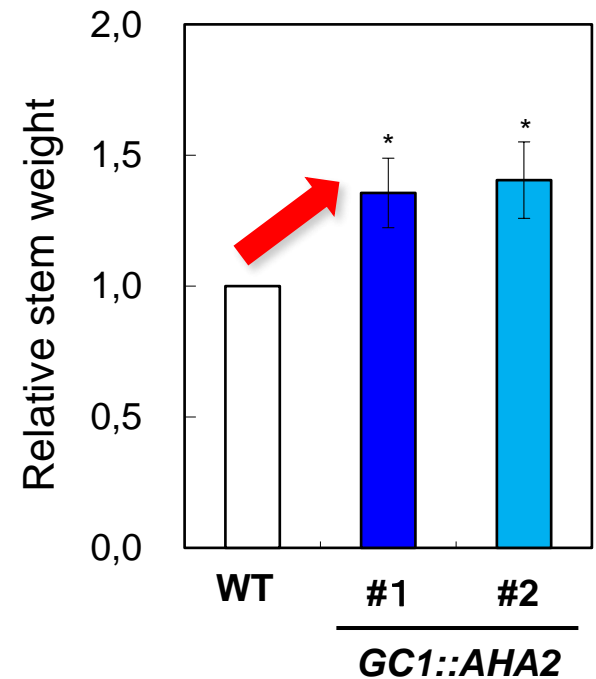
GC1::AHA2 #1



WT

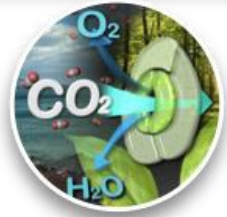
GC1::AHA2 #1

45-day-old plants

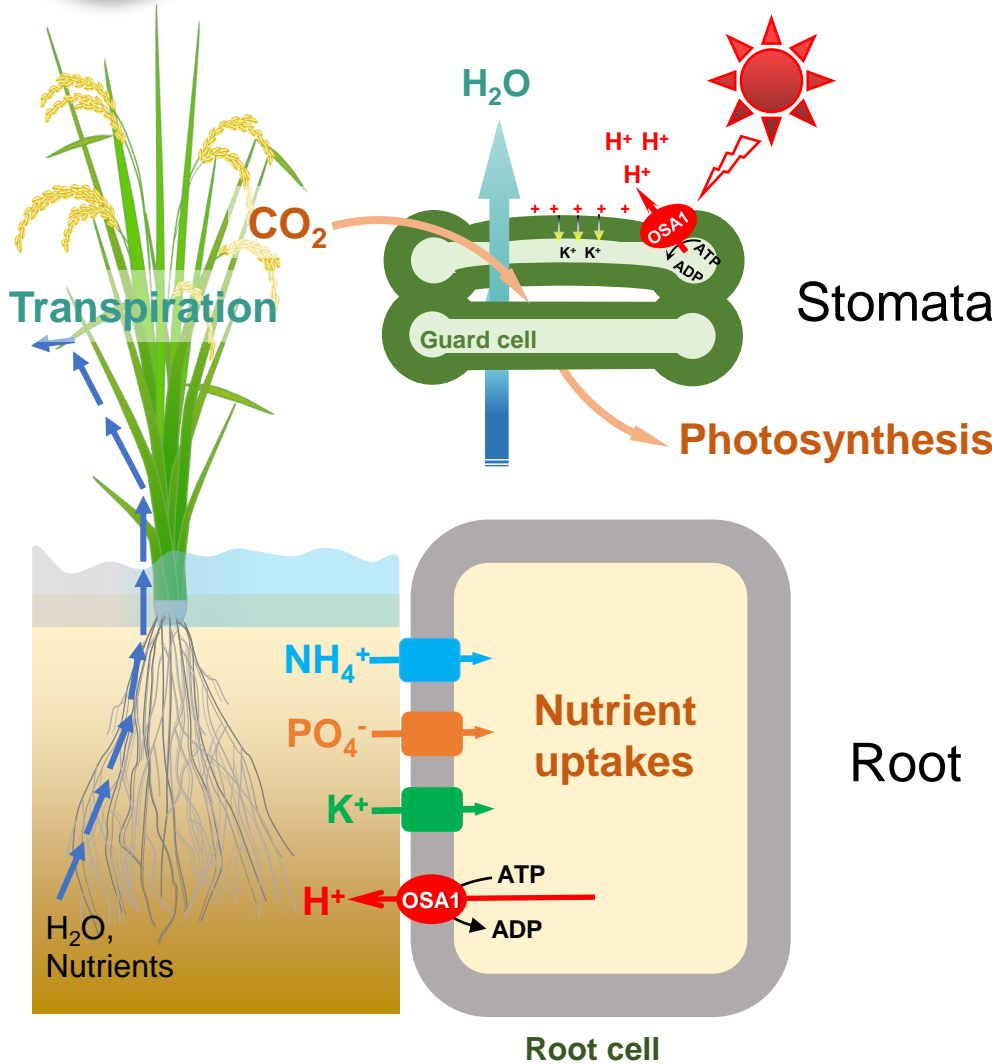


Wang et al. (2014) PNAS

Stomatal aperture is the limiting factor for photosynthesis and plant growth in Arabidopsis plants.



PM H⁺-ATPase mediates both stomatal opening and NH₄⁺ uptake in rice roots



H⁺-ATPase has an important role for stomatal opening in rice

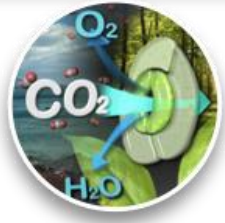
Toda et al. (2016)
Plant Cell Physiol.

H⁺-ATPase mediates nutrient uptakes in roots coupled with the secondary transporters, including ammonium in rice roots



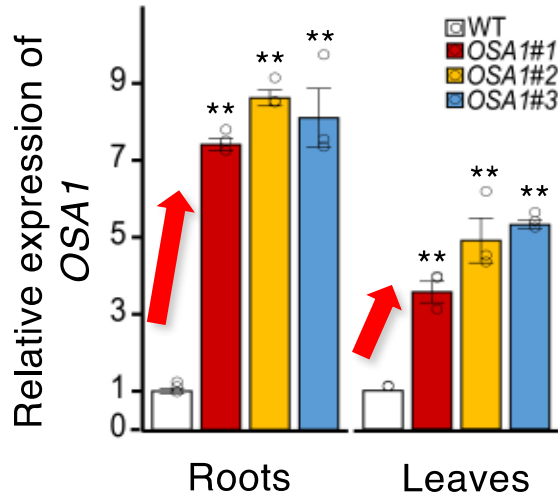
Overexpression of H⁺-ATPase in guard cells and roots would efficiently improve both CO₂ and NH₄⁺ uptakes in rice

(OSA1: *Oryza sativa* plasma membrane H⁺-ATPase 1)

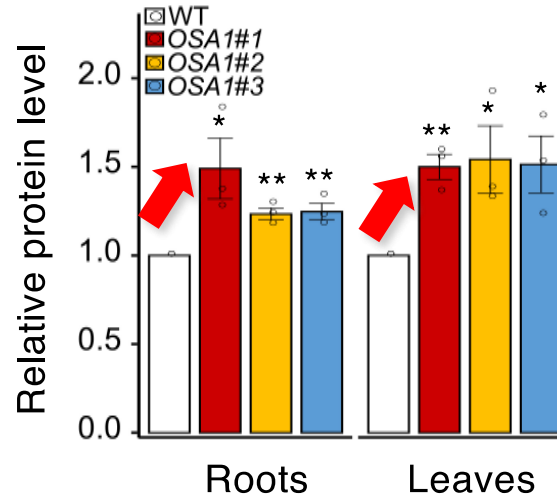


PM H⁺-ATPase-oxs showed higher expression, protein level, and activity

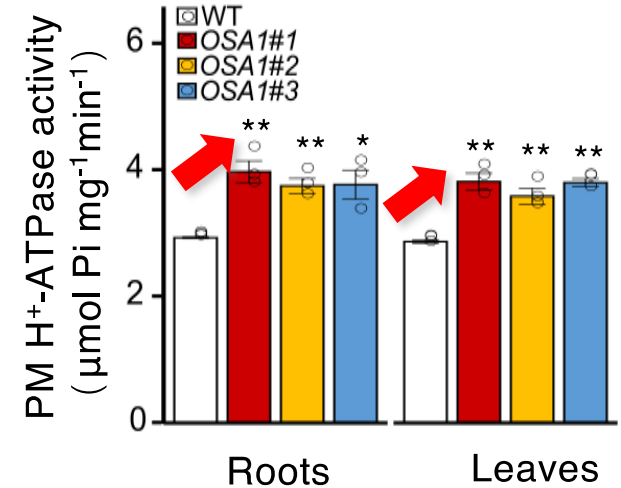
Expression level



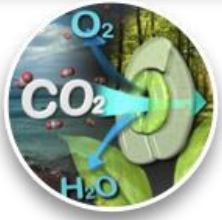
Protein level



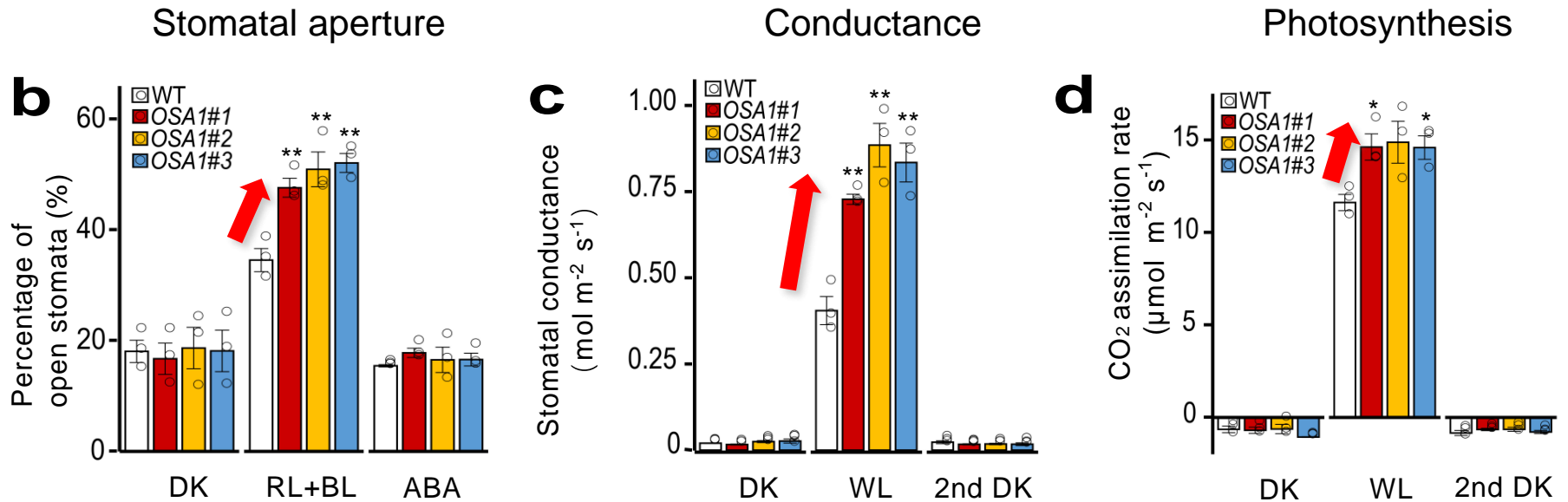
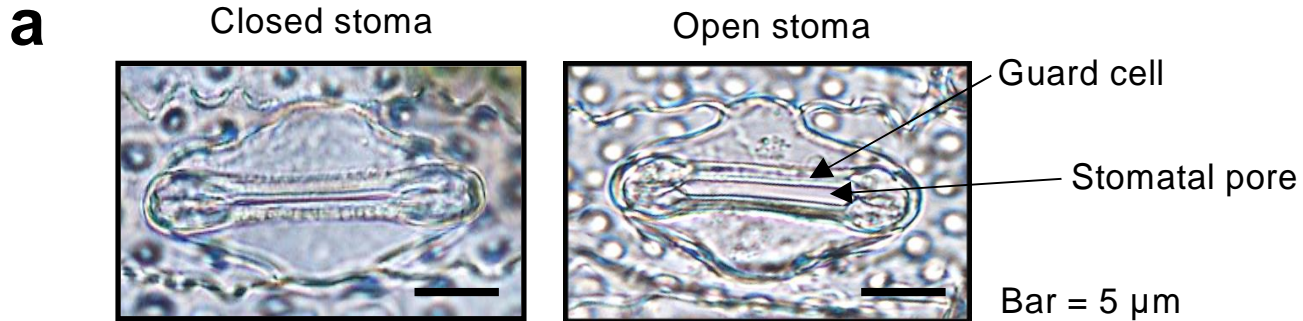
PM H⁺-ATPase activity



PM H⁺-ATPase overexpression by 35S-CaMV promoter
OSA1: a typical PM H⁺-ATPase isoform in rice



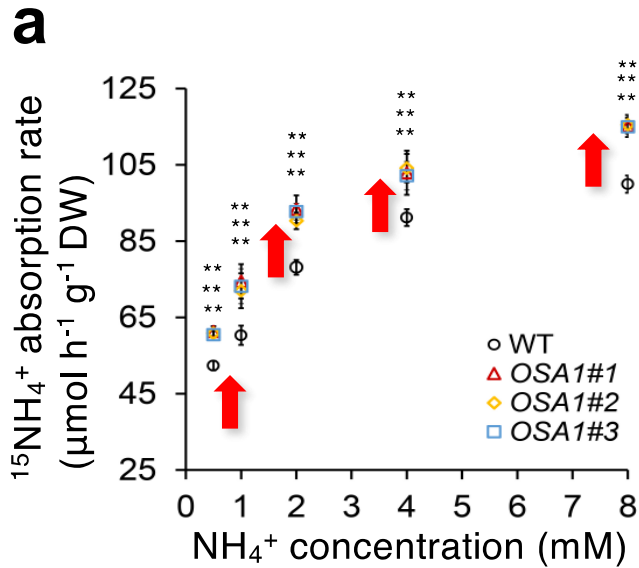
PM H⁺-ATPase-oxs showed higher stomatal opening, conductance, and photosynthesis



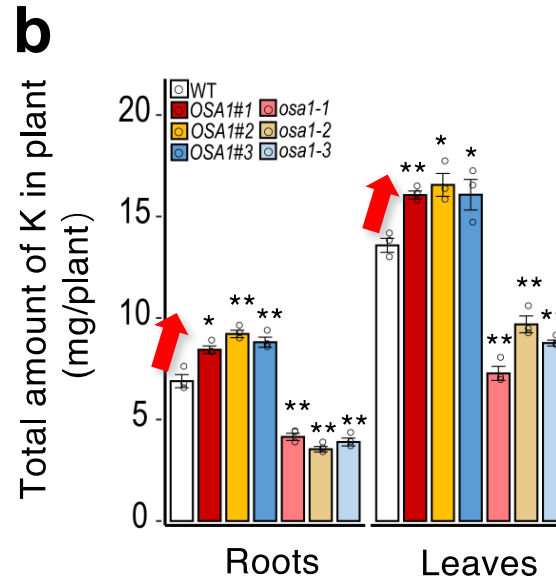


PM H⁺-ATPase-oxs showed higher NH₄⁺ uptake rate, and K⁺ and P amount

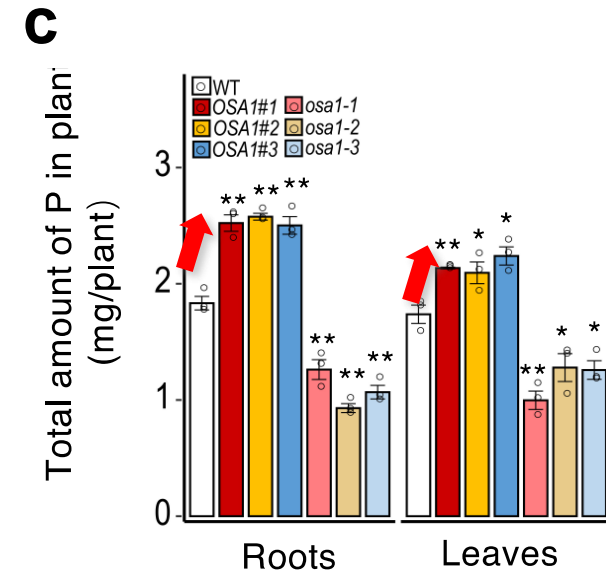
NH₄⁺ uptake rate



K⁺ amount



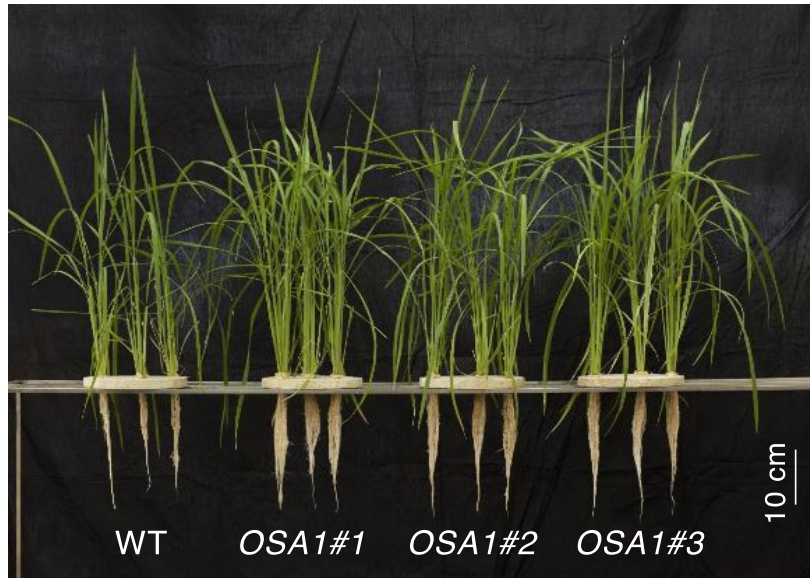
P amount





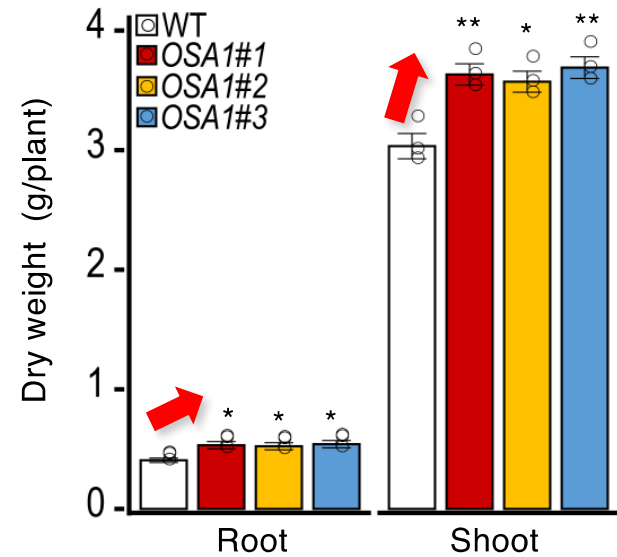
PM H⁺-ATPase-oxs showed over 20% greater dry weight compared to wild type

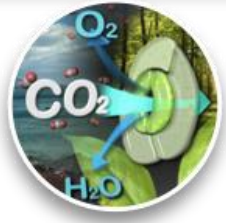
a



(Four-week-old plants)

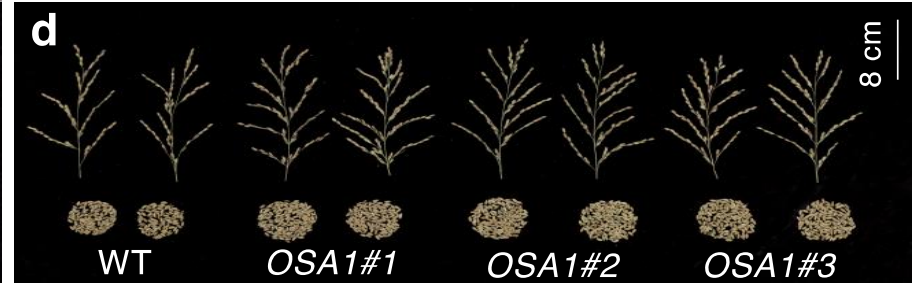
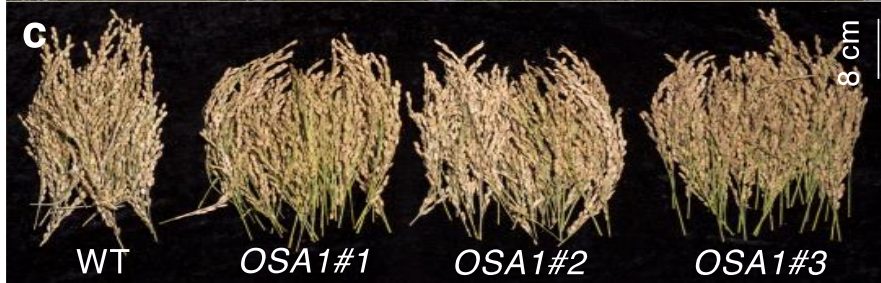
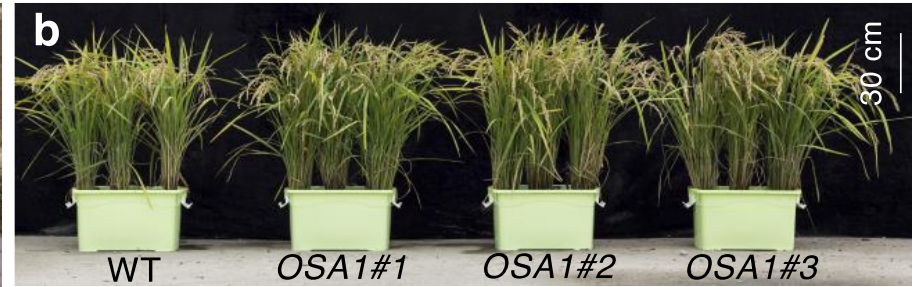
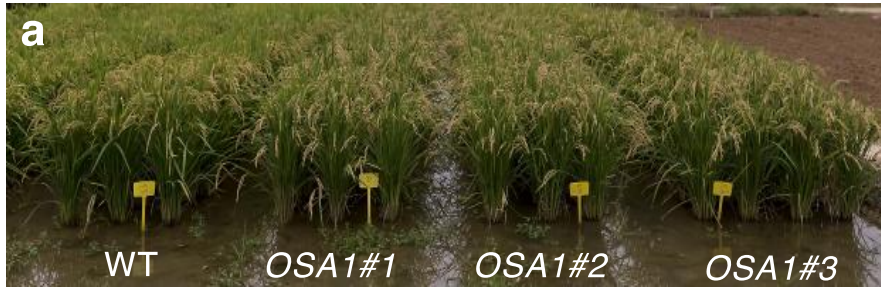
b





Field tests over two growing seasons at three different locations in the middle of China (Nanjing-S in 2016, and Nanjing-N and Fengyang in 2017).

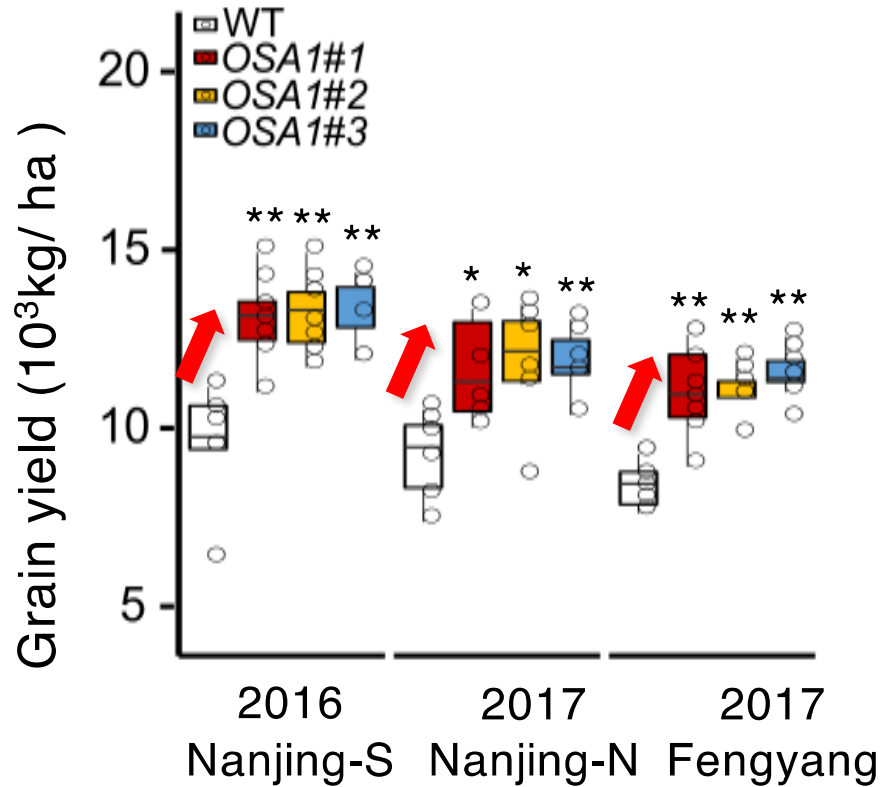
Nanjing-N in 2017



Collaboration with Professor Yiyong Zhu in Nanjing Agricultural University

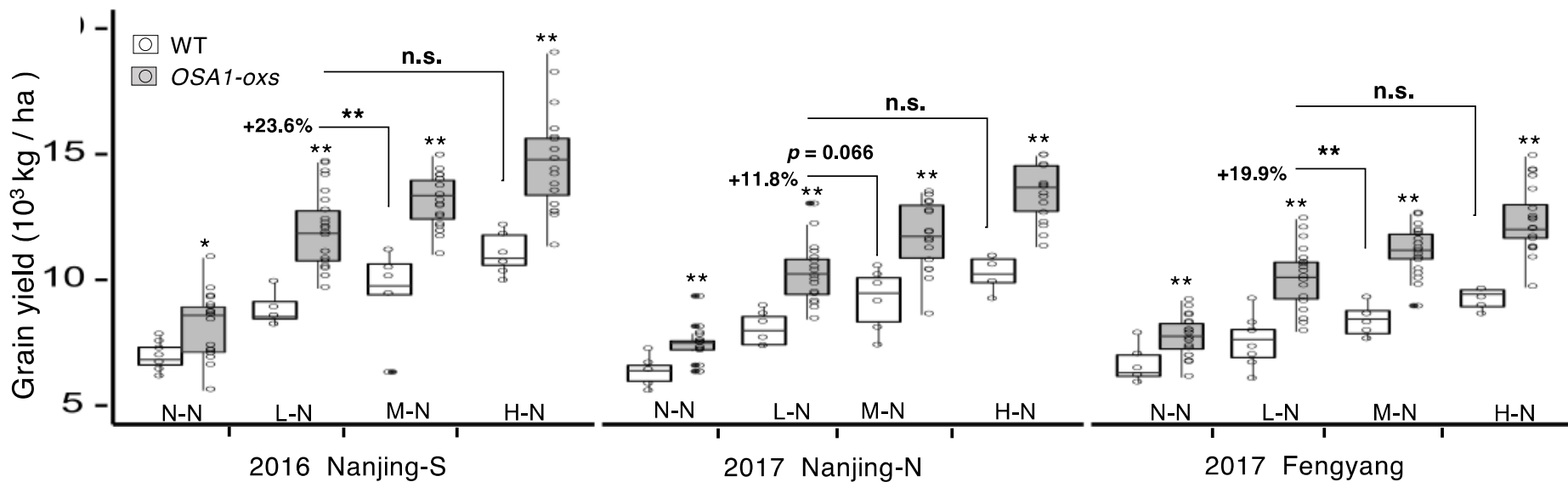


PM H⁺-ATPase-oxs showed over 30% higher grain yields in all locations





Grain yields were increased NH_4^+ -dependent manner and PM H^+ -ATPase-oxs showed higher grain yields in all NH_4^+ conditions

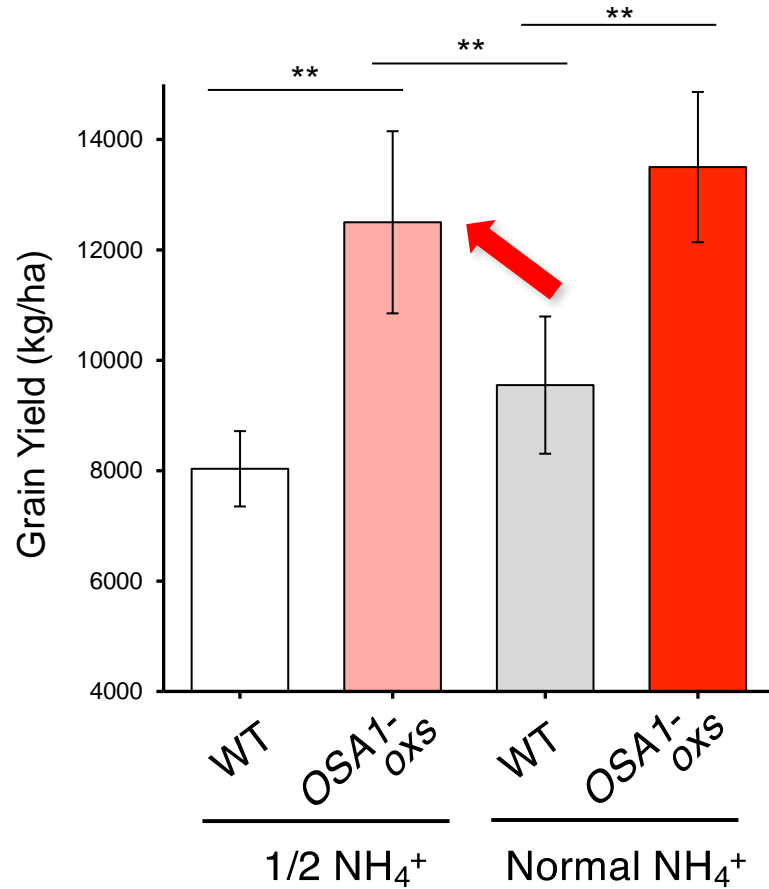


Effect of NH_4^+ concentration for grain yield.

- N-N: 0 NH_4^+
- L-N: $\frac{1}{2}$ NH_4^+
- M-N: normal NH_4^+
- H-N: 150% NH_4^+



PM H⁺-ATPase-oxs under 1/2 NH₄⁺ showed higher grain yield compared to WT under normal NH₄⁺



➔ We can save the nitrogen fertilizer by using H⁺-ATPase-oxs



Summary

PM H⁺-ATPase-oxs showed higher nutrient uptakes, stomatal opening, and photosynthesis.

PM H⁺-ATPase-oxs showed over 30% higher grain yields in the field conditions.

It is possible that we can reduce fertilizers by using PM H⁺-ATPase-oxs.

PM H⁺-ATPase overexpression plants as **PUMP plants** from **P**romotion and **U**pregulation of plasma **M**embrane **P**roton-ATPase.



Dr. Zhang
(Nagoya Univ.)



Prof. Zhu
(Nanjing Agricultural Univ.)

For the future:

If H⁺-ATPase-ox can be realized using non-transgenic methods such as genome editing and chemical biology, these crops could have great potential for practical use.

Zhang et al. (2021) Nature Commun.

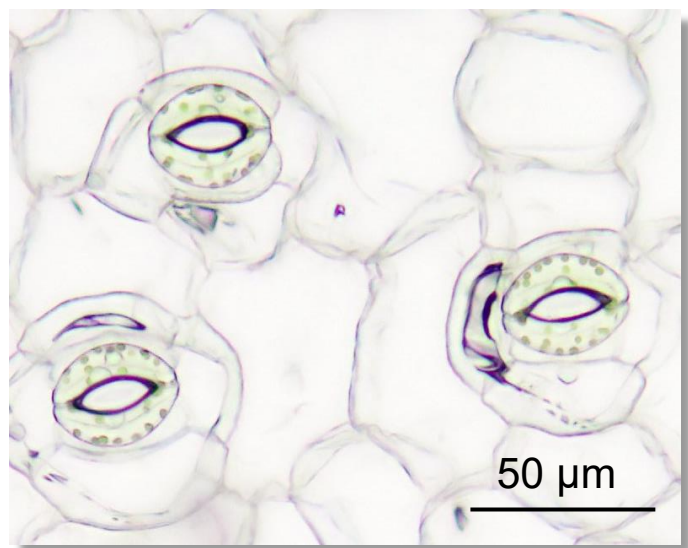


Topics

1. Molecular mechanism of light-induced stomatal opening
2. Importance of stomatal opening and PM H⁺-ATPase in plant growth
3. **Chemicals confer drought tolerance to plants**

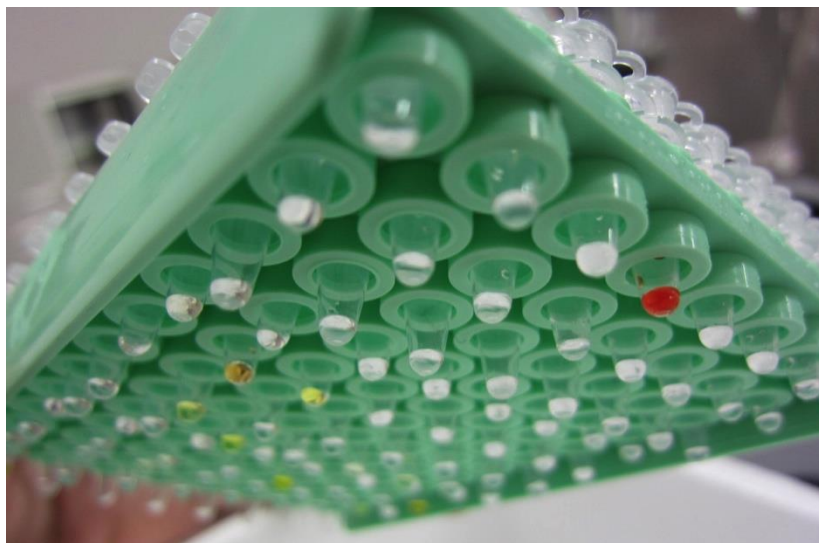
Screening of chemicals, which affect stomatal aperture

<Plant material>



Commelina benghalensis

<Chemical Library>



From ITbM

This library is an original library and the compounds are collected from low molecular weight various compounds.

Progress of 2nd screening using ITbM library

Opening activity

Closing activity

opening: 8 / 30,000 compounds (Hit rate 0.03%)

closing: 43 / 30,000 compounds (Hit rate 0.14%)

Patent application: PCT/JP2017/34287

“Stomatal aperture regulating compound”

356322-101-A10

356322-115-H02

356322-101-C10

3563220109-F05

356322-105-F08

356322-089-B3

356322-039-E8

356322-110-D05

356322-100-H09

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356322-114-H02

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356322-104-F08

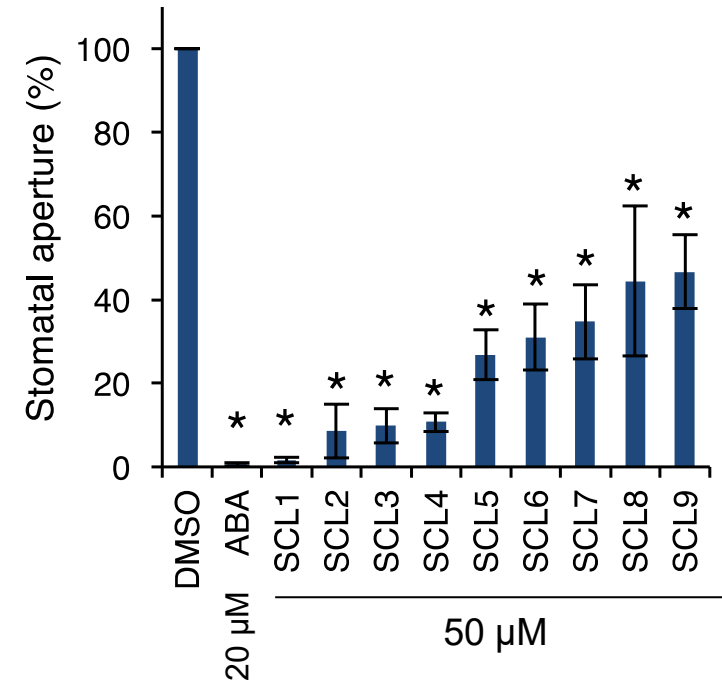
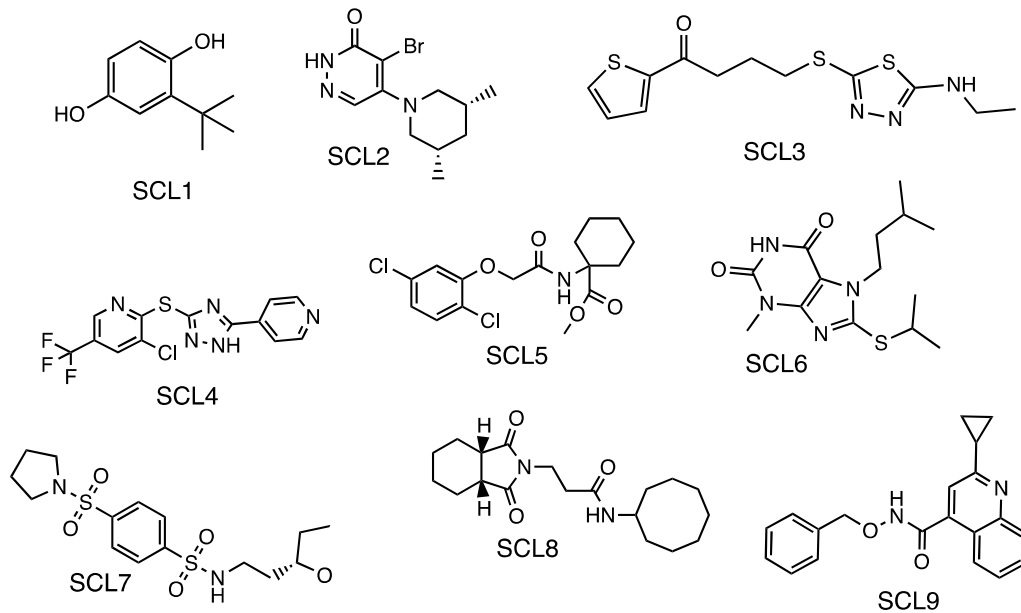
356322-107-E04

356322-002-H11

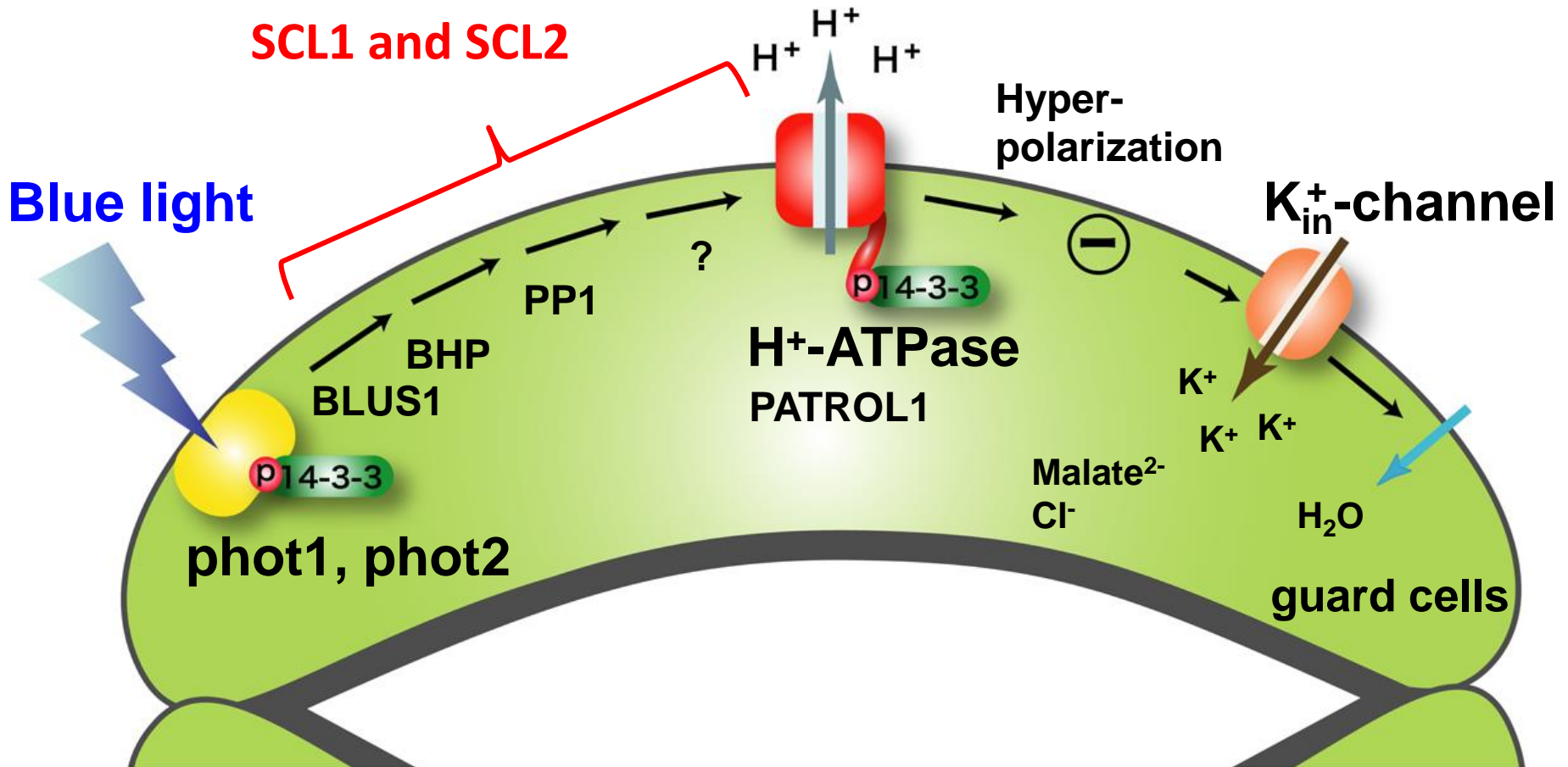
356322-108-E11

SCLs suppress light-induced stomatal opening

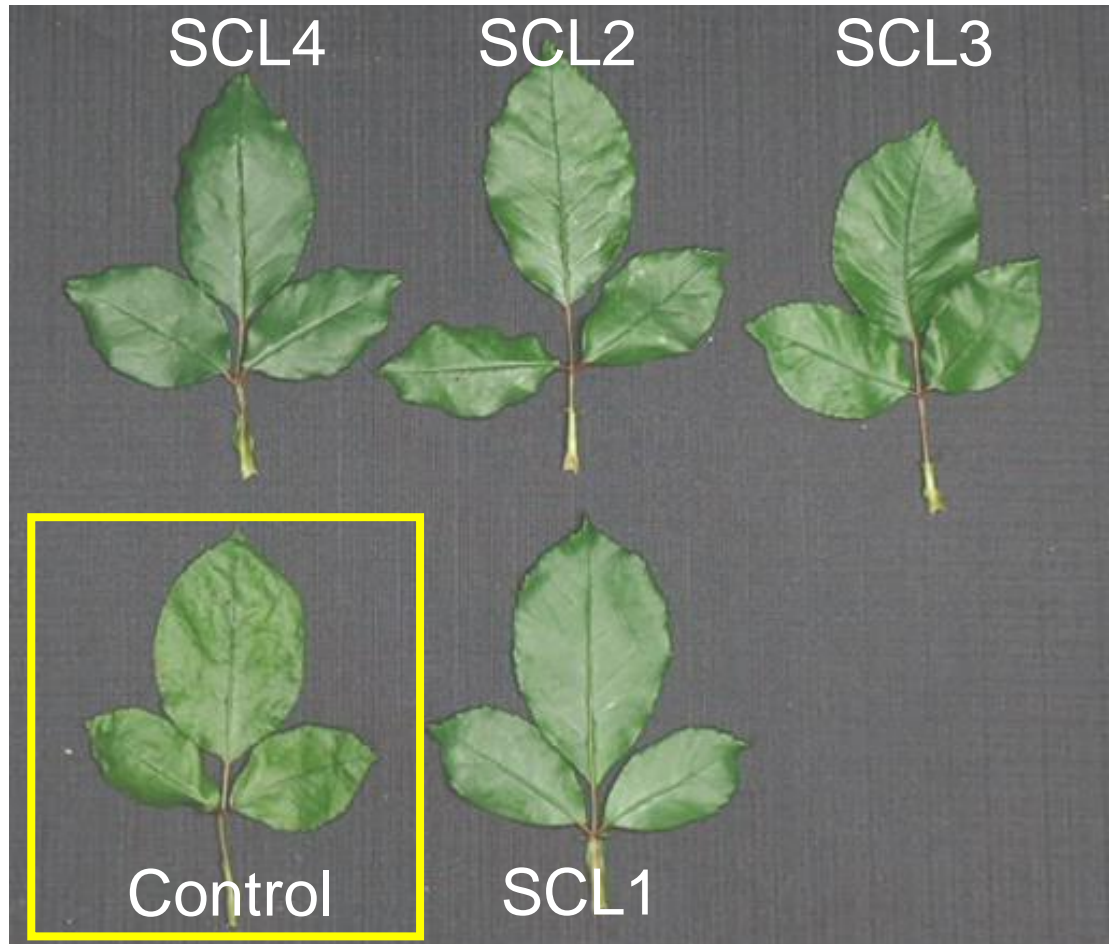
Stomatal Closing Compounds (SCLs)



SCL1 and 2 likely affect the signaling components between downstream of phototropin and H⁺-ATPase activation



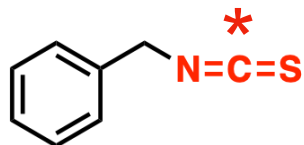
Spray of SCLs suppressed wilting of detached leaves



SCL1 strongly suppressed wilting of detached leaves 0~8 hr

Organic chemical BITC

Benzyl isothiocyanate (BITC)

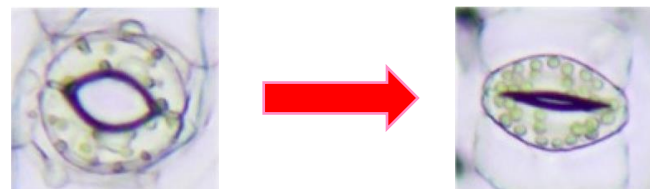
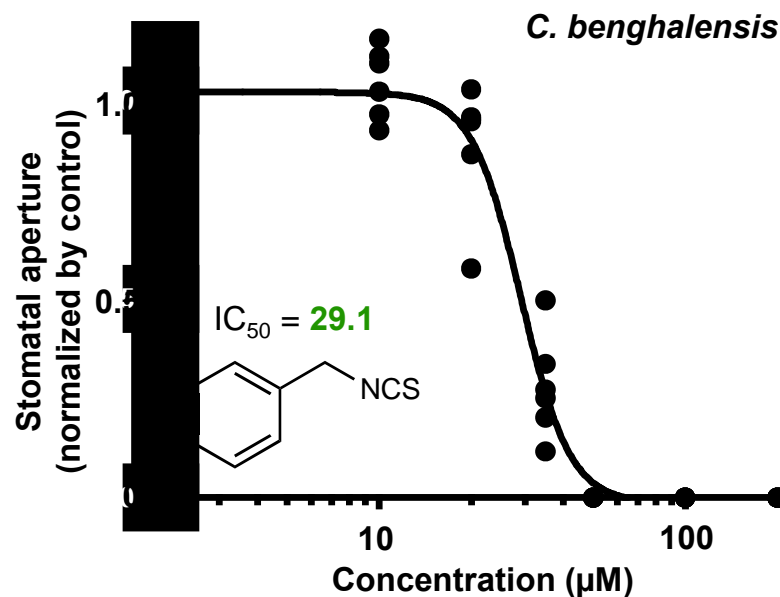


- It is special metabolites in Brassicaceae family plants
 - It is contained in mustard, so we eat BITC sometimes
- Target of BITC in plants is unknown

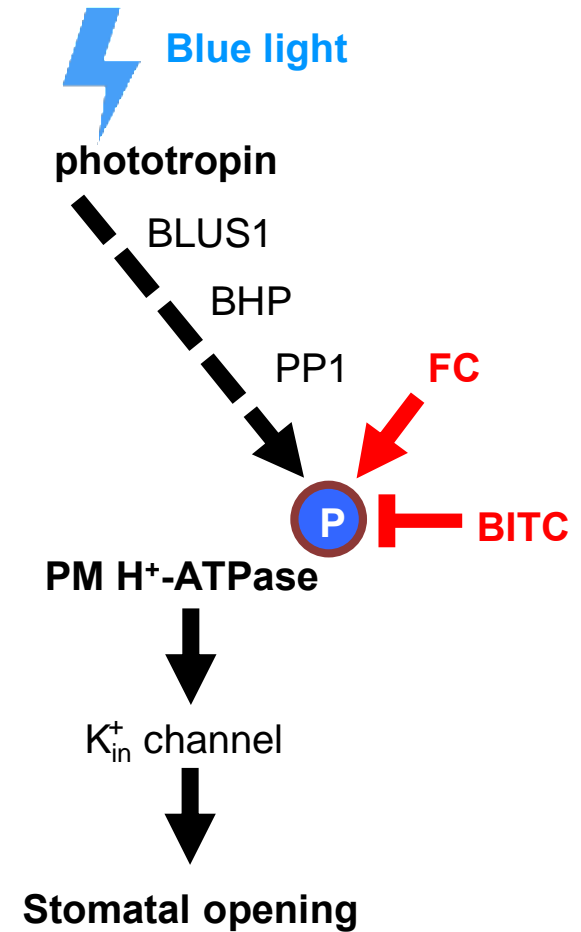
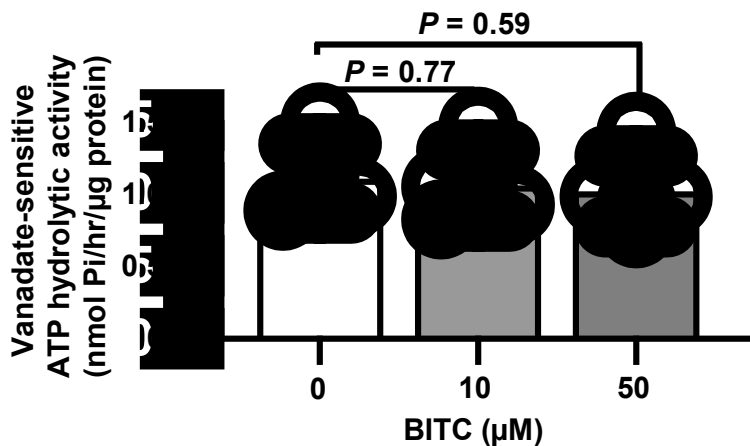
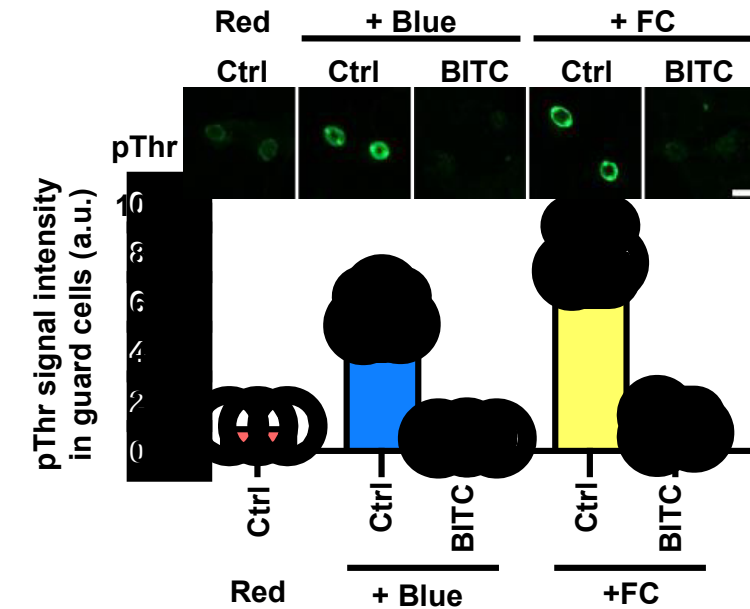


Yusuke Aihara

Effect of BITC on light-induced stomatal opening

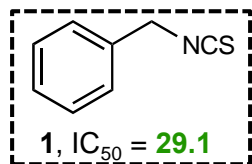


BITC suppresses PM H⁺-ATPase phosphorylation/activation

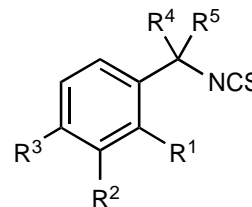
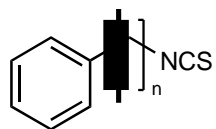
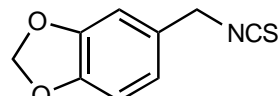
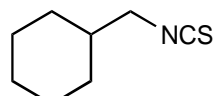
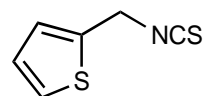
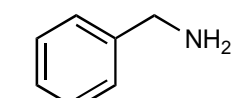
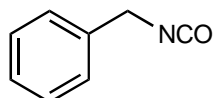
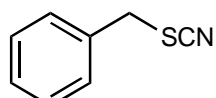


FC:カビ毒素フシコクシン
 プロトンポンプ活性化剤
 ポンプのリン酸化を誘導

BITC derivatives

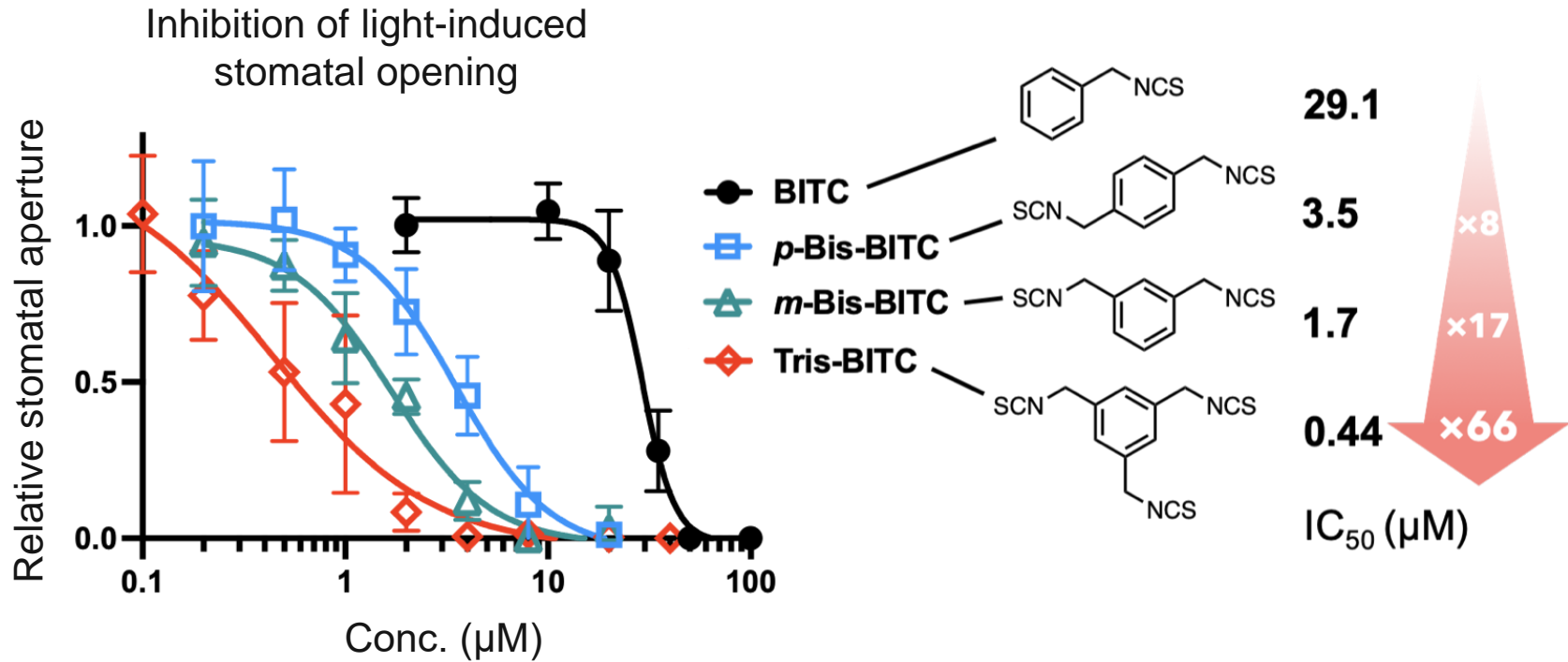


(μM)



Collaboration with Professor Kei Murakami in Kwansai Gakuin University

Modification of BITC



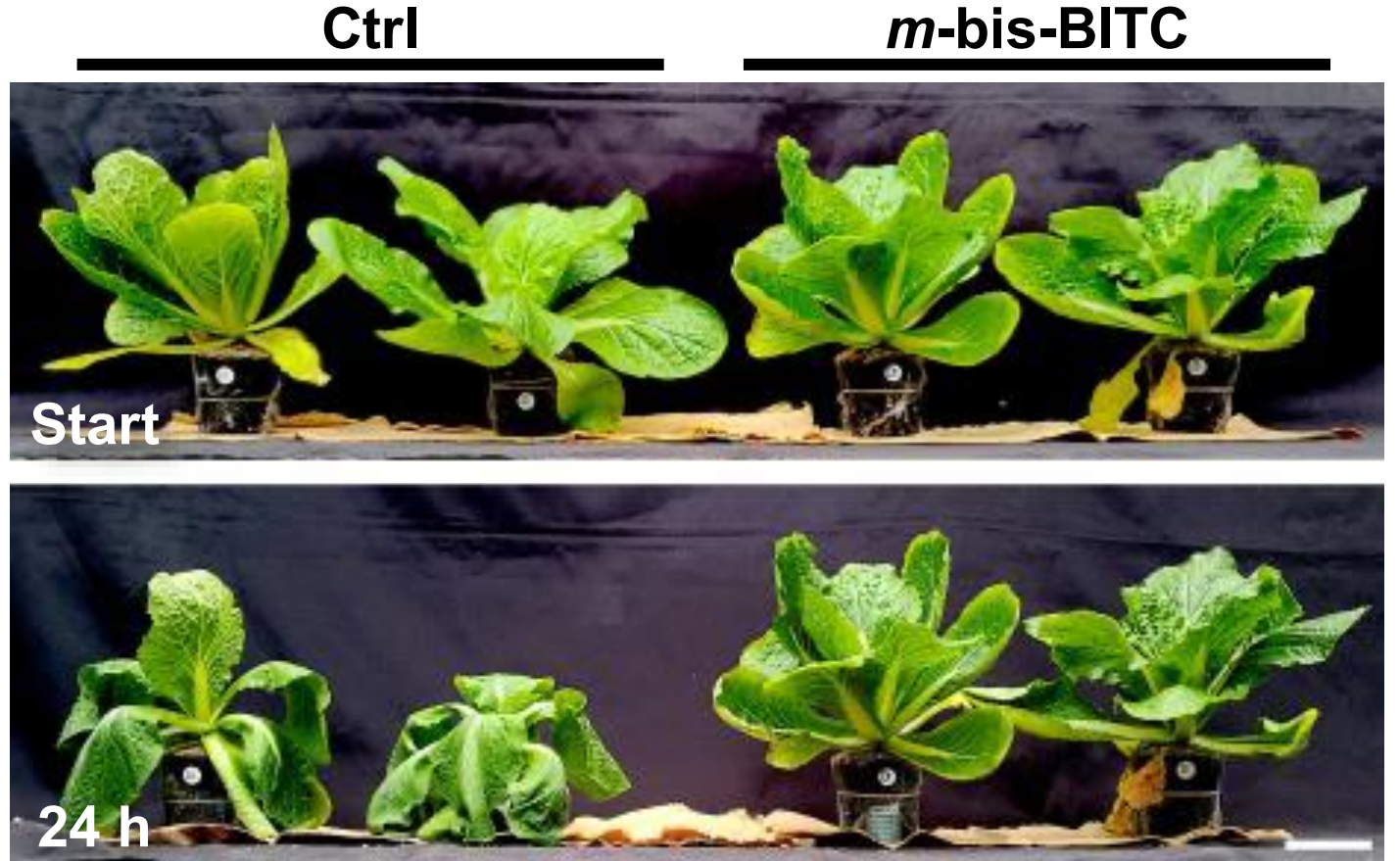
BITC derivatives have higher stomatal closing activity than plant hormone ABA ($\text{IC}_{50} = 2.9 \mu\text{M}$)

Spray of BITC suppresses wilting of plants



We sprayed BITC to the cut flowers and checked leaf wilting without watering for 1.5 hr.

Spray of BITC suppresses wilting of plants



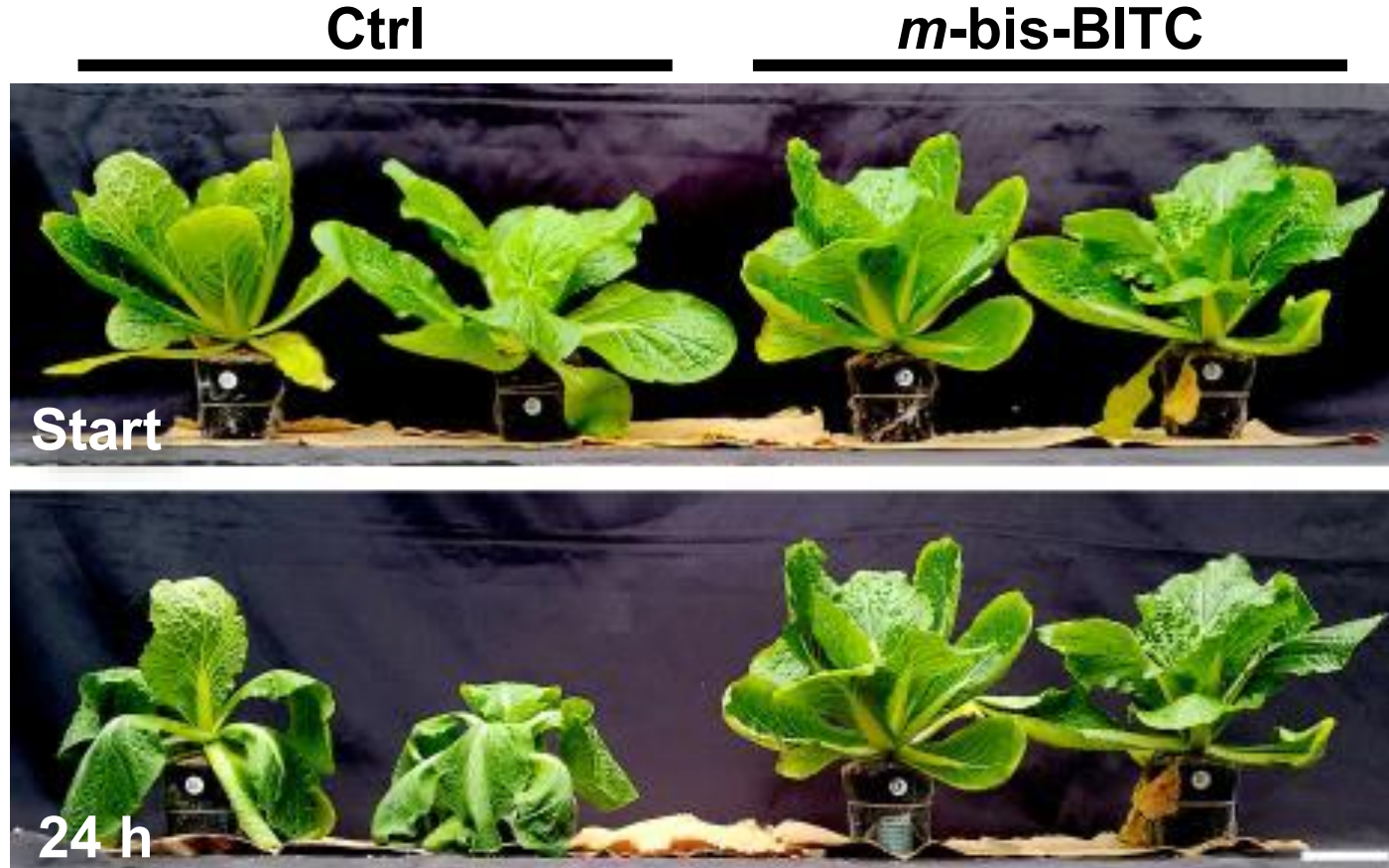
No water for 24 hr

(Soil growing Chinese cabbage)



If we stop watering, it will wilt in 24 hours.

BITC suppresses wilting of plants



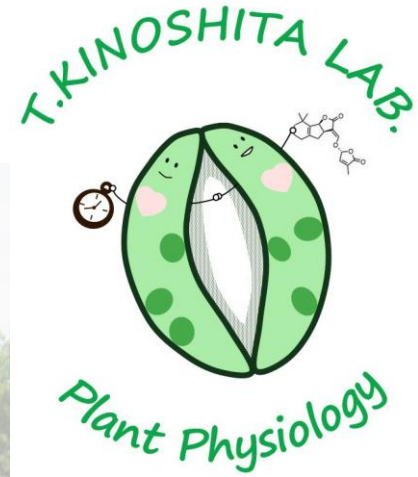
No water for 24 hr

(Chinese cabbage)

BITC confers drought tolerance and could be useful as an agrochemical for enhancing drought resistance



Acknowledgements



Nagoya University

Yuki Hayashi

Maki Hayashi

Taku Sakakibara

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Hodaka Sugimoto

Yohei Takahashi

Zhang Maoxing

Yoshikatsu Matsubayashi

University of Minnesota

William M. Gray

Nanjing Agricultural University

Yiyong Zhu

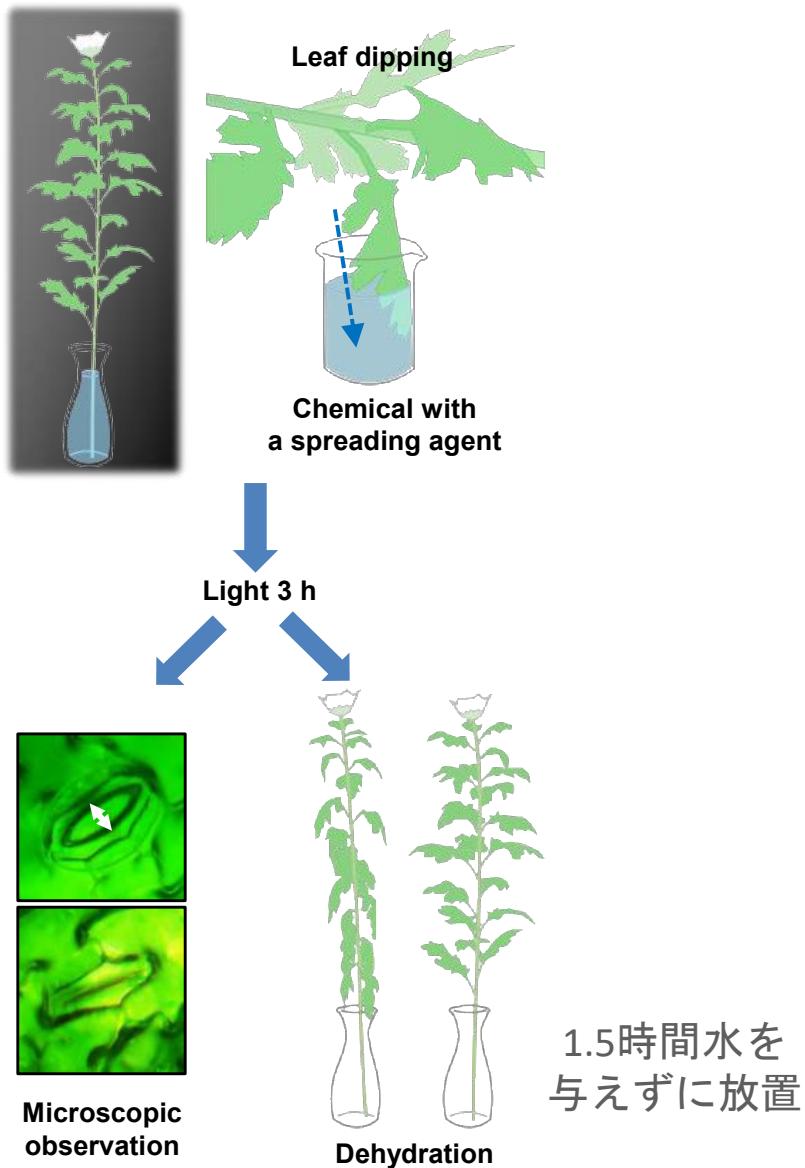
Peking University

Yin Wang

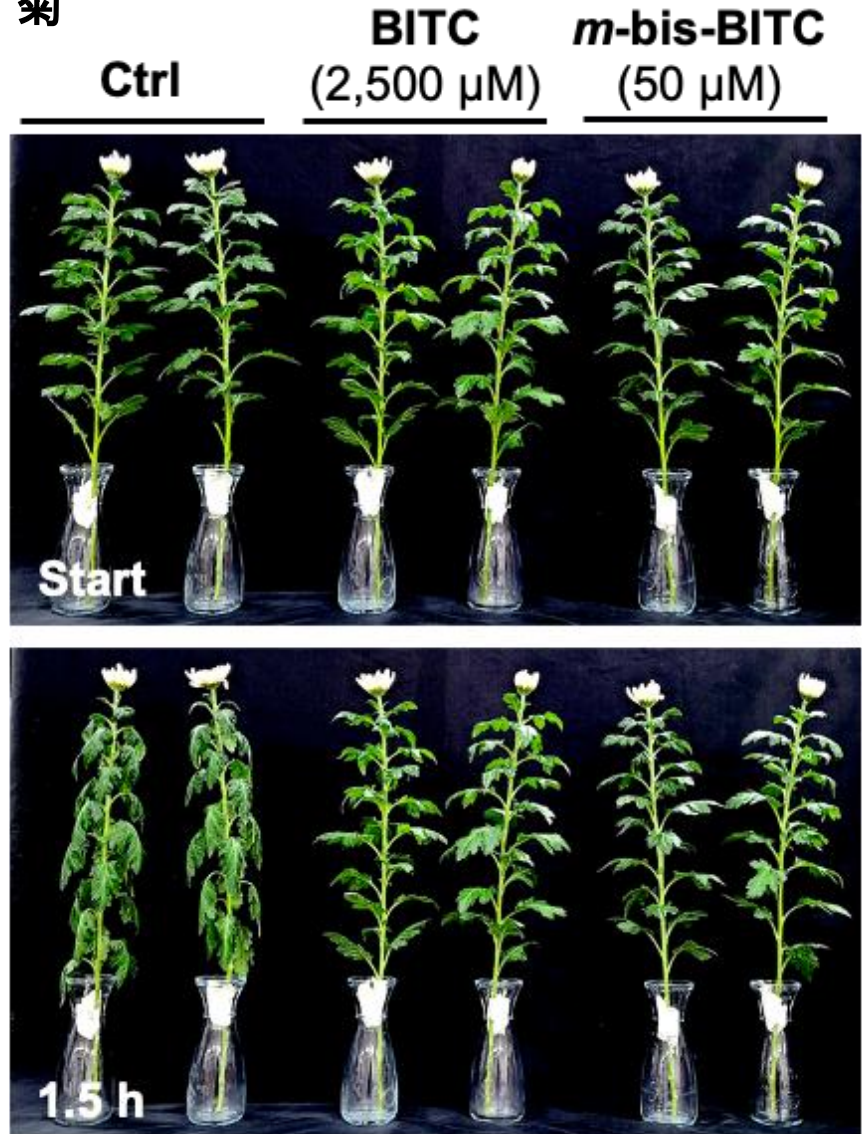
Wenxiu Ye

Please contact to:
kinoshita@bio.nagoya-u.ac.jp

BITC suppresses wilting of plants



菊



*スプレー処理では*bis*-の方が*tris*-より若干性能良い