

1 Cell Cycle Control by Nuclear Sequestration of *CDC20* and *CDH1* mRNA in Plant Stem 2 Cells

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8

9 Abstract

10 In eukaryotic cells, most RNA molecules are exported into the cytoplasm after being
11 transcribed in the nucleus. Long noncoding RNAs (lncRNAs) have been found to reside and
12 function primarily inside the nucleus, but nuclear localization of protein-coding messenger
13 RNAs (mRNAs) has been considered rare in both animals and plants. Here we show that two
14 mRNAs, transcribed from the *CDC20* and *CCS52B* (plant orthologue of *CDH1*) genes, are
15 specifically sequestered inside the nucleus during the cell cycle. *CDC20* and *CDH1* both
16 function as coactivators of the anaphase-promoting complex or cyclosome (APC/C) E3 ligase
17 to trigger cyclin B (*CYCB*) destruction. In the *Arabidopsis thaliana* shoot apical meristem
18 (SAM), we find *CDC20* and *CCS52B* are co-expressed with *CYCBs* in mitotic cells. *CYCB*
19 transcripts can be exported and translated, whereas *CDC20* and *CCS52B* mRNAs are strictly
20 confined to the nucleus at prophase and the cognate proteins are not translated until the
21 redistribution of the mRNAs to the cytoplasm after nuclear envelope breakdown (NEBD) at
22 prometaphase. The 5' untranslated region (UTR) is necessary and sufficient for *CDC20* mRNA
23 nuclear localization as well as protein translation. Mitotic enrichment of *CDC20* and *CCS52B*
24 transcripts enables the timely and rapid activation of APC/C, while their nuclear sequestration
25 at prophase appears to protect cyclins from precocious degradation.

26

27 Introduction

28 Understanding the patterns and regulatory mechanisms of organ formation in multicellular
29 organisms is a central aspect of developmental biology (Lander, 2011). Animal organogenesis
30 is completed during embryonic development or, in some instances, during metamorphosis;

31 while in plants, active division and differentiation of stem cells and their progenitors in the
32 shoot apical meristem (SAM) and the root apical meristem (RAM) lead to continuous
33 formation of new tissues and organs, ensuring developmental plasticity in a changing
34 environment (Gaillochet and Lohmann, 2015; Heidstra and Sabatini, 2014; Meyerowitz, 1997;
35 Vernoux et al., 2000). Plant cell division, as in mammalian cells, yeast and *Drosophila*, is
36 triggered and maintained by the kinase complex composed of cyclin-dependent kinases (CDKs)
37 and various cyclin subunits. Fluctuating gene expression and orderly proteolysis of cyclins,
38 spatial positive feedback of Cdk1-cyclin B1 redistribution, combined with the antagonistic
39 actions of Wee1 kinase and Cdc25 phosphatase, generate a robust and highly ordered mitotic
40 process (Coudreuse and Nurse, 2010; Dewitte and Murray, 2003; De Veylder et al., 2007;
41 Morgan, 1995; Santos et al., 2012).

42 Destruction of cyclins at the appropriate time in the cell cycle is mediated by APC/C, an E3
43 ubiquitin ligase whose catalytic activity and substrate specificity are conferred by two
44 coactivators, CDC20 and Cdc20 homolog 1 (CDH1) (Peters, 2006; Pines, 2011; Yu, 2007).
45 During early mitosis, phosphorylation of the APC/C subunits, such as the auto-inhibitory
46 segment loop in APC1, exposes the binding sites of CDC20 thus facilitating CDC20
47 association with APC/C (Fujimitsu et al., 2016; Kraft et al., 2003; Qiao et al., 2016; Zhang et
48 al., 2016). At prometaphase, APC/C activity is restrained by the spindle assembly checkpoint
49 (SAC), a regulatory pathway during which unattached kinetochores generate a diffusible ‘wait
50 anaphase’ signal that triggers the incorporation of CDC20 into a complex composed of MAD2,
51 BUBR1 and BUB3, leading to the formation of the mitotic checkpoint complex (MCC)
52 (Fraschini et al., 2001; Hardwick et al., 2000; Sudakin et al., 2001). Recently it has been
53 proposed that MCC itself could function as a diffusible signal to inhibit APC/C by recognizing
54 a second CDC20 that has already bound to and activated APC/C (Izawa and Pines, 2015).
55 Furthermore, APC/C activity is counteracted by the F box protein early mitotic inhibitor 1
56 (Emi1) (Reimann et al., 2001). The multi-faceted regulation of APC/C in various organisms
57 suggests high plasticity of APC/C activity, and also implies the existence of additional
58 mechanisms.

59 Subcellular RNA localization has been implicated in multiple cellular processes by
60 regulation of spatial gene expression (Lipshitz and Smibert, 2000). For instance, the posterior-
61 anterior polar localization of *bicoid*, *oskar*, *gurken*, and *nanos* mRNAs in *Drosophila* oocytes
62 guides proper pattern formation and embryo development (Martin and Ephrussi, 2009). Long
63 noncoding RNAs (lncRNAs) predominantly localize to the nucleus to modulate transcription

64 factor binding, histone modification, chromosome structures and specific nuclear body
65 formation (Batista and Chang, 2013; Engreitz et al, 2016; Geisler and Collier, 2013; Tsai et al.,
66 2010). While mature mRNAs are considered to reside predominantly in the cytoplasm, deep
67 sequencing of nuclear and cytoplasmic RNA fractions from various mouse tissues identified a
68 number of mRNAs with higher amounts in the nucleus than in the cytoplasm (Bahar Halpern
69 et al., 2015), suggesting a potential for mRNA nuclear retention in gene expression regulation.
70 However, nuclear localization of mRNAs or mRNA precursors and its biological relevance
71 have rarely been documented. In *Drosophila* embryos, the non-polyadenylated *histone* mRNAs
72 are retained in the nuclei of DNA-damaged cells, contributing to the maintenance of genome
73 integrity (Iampietro et al., 2014). *CTN-RNA*, an adenosine-to-inosine (A-to-I) edited mouse-
74 specific pre-mRNA, localizes in the nuclear paraspeckle and can be rapidly cleaved under
75 physiologic stress to produce *mCAT2* mRNA encoding a cell-surface L-arginine receptor
76 (Prasanth et al, 2005). Apart from these examples, nuclear sequestration of non-edited mature
77 mRNAs remains to be discovered.

78 Here, through a comprehensive fluorescent in situ hybridisation (FISH) analysis of mRNA
79 distribution of core cell cycle genes in *Arabidopsis* stem cells, we have found that *CDC20* and
80 *CDH1* orthologue *CCS52B* mRNAs are sequestered in the nucleus during prophase. We show
81 that *CDC20* and *CCS52B* transcripts accumulate to peak levels but are confined to the nucleus
82 at prophase, and redistribute into the cytoplasm following NEBD at prometaphase. With
83 fluorescence live cell imaging, we demonstrate that this mRNA nuclear sequestration blocks
84 *CDC20* and *CCS52B* protein translation, thus preventing premature APC/C activation in early
85 mitosis. By systematic mRNA deletion and chimeric RNA localization analysis, we found that
86 *CDC20* mRNA 5'UTR confers nuclear sequestration and is also involved in protein translation.
87 Nuclear sequestration of *CDC20* and *CCS52B* mRNAs reveals a previously unrecognized
88 mechanism for the tuning of APC/C activity.

89

90 **Results**

91 **Systematic Analysis of mRNA Localization of Core Cell Cycle Genes in Meristematic** 92 **Cells**

93 In *Arabidopsis*, the SAM is organized into three zones distinguished by cell division activity:
94 the central zone (CZ) composed of slowly dividing stem cells, which is surrounded by the
95 peripheral zone (PZ) that contains rapidly dividing cells that give rise to primordia of leaves

96 and flowers, and the rib meristem (RM) underlying the CZ and the PZ responsible for stem
97 growth (Steeves and Sussex, 1989) (Figure 1A). The distinct cell division activities in different
98 SAM regions can be visualized by using a fusion of green fluorescent protein (GFP) to
99 CyclinB1;1 (CYCB1;1-GFP), exhibiting a low number of GFP-positive cells in the slowly
100 dividing cells of the CZ and RM, and relatively higher number in the PZ and flower primordia
101 (Figure 1B). Using a GFP-microtubule-binding domain marker (GFP-MBD) and the nuclear
102 reporter histone H2B fused to red fluorescent protein (H2B-RFP), we found that the
103 microtubule and nuclear structures corresponding to different cell cycle stages could all be
104 identified in the SAM (Figure 1C). Therefore, the SAM serves as a suitable system with which
105 to study the control of the cell cycle in plants.

106 CDKs, CYCs and other regulatory proteins constitute a group of core cell-cycle regulators.
107 Multiple members in each CDK and cyclin subfamily exist in plants, suggesting a level of
108 functional conservation but also specialized regulation of cell cycle progression in plants as
109 compared to animals (Vandepoele et al., 2002) (Figure 1D). To explore the role of cell cycle
110 regulatory genes in *Arabidopsis* SAM development, we first analysed their mRNA abundance
111 from RNA-seq data of meristematic cells derived from dissection of enlarged *clavata3* (*clv3*)
112 mutant SAM (Yang et al., 2016). We focused on 130 annotated core cell-cycle regulators
113 (Menges et al., 2005; Van Leene et al., 2010), and identified 72 genes showing detectable
114 expression in the SAM (TPM > 10; Table S1). To investigate their expression pattern *in planta*,
115 we carried out systematic RNA *in situ* hybridization. Using RNA probes specific to individual
116 SAM-expressed cell cycle genes, we were able to detect the distribution of transcripts from 66
117 genes at single-cell resolution. In situ hybridization results are presented in Data S1. Most of
118 the genes exhibited strong expression in the SAM compared to other tissues (e.g. stem),
119 supporting the RNA-seq data. Based upon their expression patterns, these cell-cycle genes were
120 classified into six groups: (i) homogeneous signal (Type I); (ii) homogeneous background
121 signal with weak additional signal in a spotted pattern (Type II); (iii) homogeneous background
122 signal with strong additional spots of signal (Type III); (iv) weak spots of signal in a subset of
123 cells (Type IV); (v) only strong spots of signal in a subset of cells (Type V); and (vi)
124 homogeneous background expression with additional strong signal in developing primordia
125 (Type VI) (Figure 1E; Table S1). Homogeneous signals across the whole meristem indicate
126 that the corresponding genes are expressed throughout the cell cycle; whereas patchy patterns
127 suggest that expression correlates to specific cell cycle stages.

128 Most of the G1/S regulators, including *CDKA;1*, *E2Fs* (*E2Fa*, *E2Fb* and *E2Fc*) and *DPs*
129 (*DPa* and *DPb*), displayed homogeneous expression in the shoot apex, which would maintain
130 these meristematic cells with the capacity for active proliferation. One exception was
131 *RETINOBLASTOMA RELATED (RBR)*, an inhibitor of E2F and DP transcription factors,
132 which showed a strong patchy pattern (Type III) (Figure 1E), similar to previous observations
133 in embryonic and root meristematic cells (Wildwater et al., 2005), and implying a cell-cycle
134 controlled regulation. Compared to G1/S genes, G2/M regulators, including plant-specific B
135 type CDKs (*CDKBs*), and A and B type cyclins (*CYCA*s and *CYCB*s) were all grouped into
136 Type V, showing a strongly patchy pattern with weak background expression (Figure 1E).
137 RNA fluorescence *in situ* hybridization (RNA FISH) together with 4', 6-diamidino-2-
138 phenylindole (DAPI) staining indicated that these genes were exclusively expressed in mitotic
139 cells from early prophase until late anaphase (Figure S1).

140 Our gene expression map data were consistent with Affymetrix microarray data of dividing
141 *Arabidopsis* cell cultures (Menges et al., 2005). The mRNA distribution patterns in the shoot
142 apex, combined with previous cell-cycle transcript *in situ* analysis in *Arabidopsis* seedlings and
143 in the shoot/floral meristems of *Antirrhinum majus* (de Almeida Engler et al., 2009; Fobert et
144 al., 1994), provide a good overview of cell cycle gene expression patterns in various plant
145 tissues.

146

147 **Mitosis-specific Expression of *CDC20* and *CCS52B* mRNA**

148 The accumulation of *CYCB* transcripts at M-phase (Figures S2A and S2B) would be expected
149 to lead to a corresponding peak of *CYCB* proteins at this stage. Indeed, *CYCB1;1*-GFP
150 fluorescence signals increased from prophase onwards, peaked at metaphase and then
151 decreasing rapidly at anaphase, finally being undetectable in telophase cells (Figures S2C-S2E).
152 The decline of *CYCB1;1*-GFP fluorescence signals could be caused by insufficient protein
153 synthesis and/or short half-life. The rapid elimination of large amount of *CYCB1* proteins may
154 attribute to APC/C-mediated degradation (Figure 2A), a mechanism conserved among various
155 organisms. The genes encoding *Arabidopsis* APC/C subunits, as well as the *CDH1* orthologues
156 *CCS52A1* and *CCS52A2*, were all expressed homogeneously in the SAM at relatively low level
157 (Table S1 and Data S1). By contrast, both *CDC20* and *CCS52B* showed strong patchy patterns
158 similar to *CYCB* genes (Data S1). The distinct expression patterns of A- and B-class *CCS52*
159 genes supported the predicted roles of *CCS52As* in regulating endoreduplication (Cebolla et

160 al., 1999; Lammens et al., 2008; Vanstraelen et al., 2009), and *CCS52B* in controlling mitosis
161 (Tarayre et al., 2004).

162 Cell-cycle controlled *CDC20* and *CCS52B* expression was further investigated by RNA
163 FISH. Both mRNAs accumulated exclusively in mitotic cells from prophase until cytokinesis
164 (Figures 2B-2E). The amount of *CDC20* mRNA decreased when mitosis was completed
165 (Figure 2D), whereas a high level of *CCS52B* mRNA persisted until cytokinesis (Figure 2E).
166 The extended expression of *CCS52B* relative to *CDC20* was validated by double RNA FISH.
167 *CDC20* and *CCS52B* mRNAs co-expressed in early mitotic cells, but at late mitosis a
168 population of cells were found only to express *CCS52B* (Figure S3). Taken together, the
169 enrichment of *CDC20* and *CCS52B* transcripts, along with the constitutive expression of all
170 APC/C components, would presumably allow for rapid APC/C activation.

171

172 ***CDC20* and *CCS52B* mRNAs Are Sequestered in the Nucleus at Prophase**

173 Mature mRNAs are usually rapidly exported out of the nucleus (Köhler and Hurt, 2007). For
174 example, *CYCB* transcripts, despite their high levels, were all found to reside in the cytoplasmic
175 space (Figures S1 and S2). However, when analysing the sub-cellular distribution of *CDC20*
176 and *CCS52B* mRNAs in prophase cells, we found that each of them is localized inside the
177 DAPI-labelled nuclei (Figure 2F). No hybridization signals could be detected in the cytoplasm
178 even when we increased the detection settings to saturation (data not shown). To further
179 validate the nuclear sequestration of *CDC20* and *CCS52B* transcripts, we examined *CDC20*
180 and *CCS52B* mRNA localization in mitotic cells together with a marker for the nuclear
181 envelope. *CDC20* and *CCS52B* mRNAs were detected by RNA FISH. The nuclear envelope
182 was revealed by immunohistochemistry using an anti-GFP antibody in SAM sections of
183 *Arabidopsis* nuclear envelope marker line SUN2-GFP (Oda and Fukuda, 2011; Varas et al,
184 2015). As shown in Figures 2G and 2H, both *CDC20* and *CCS52B* mRNAs were localized
185 inside the nucleus and were surrounded by the intact nuclear envelope in prophase cells; when
186 cells enter metaphase and the nuclear envelope has disassembled, the transcripts were found
187 distributed in the cytoplasm. At late telophase and cytokinesis when the nuclear envelope
188 reforms, *CDC20* and *CCS52B* mRNAs were excluded from the nuclei of daughter cells,
189 suggesting that once in the cytoplasm, *CDC20* and *CCS52B* mRNAs are not imported back or
190 recruited into the nucleus. These cytosol-localized *CDC20* and *CCS52B* mRNAs seem to be
191 unstable as they could only be detected in a small group of newly divided cells. Nuclear

192 localization of *CDC20* mRNA was also detected in root apical meristem (Figures S4A and S4B)
193 and shoot vascular cambium (Figure S4C), demonstrating that this phenomenon exists in the
194 dividing cells of different tissues.

195

196 **Nucleo-cytoplasmic Compartmentalization of *CDC20* and *CYCB* mRNAs**

197 Since both *CYCBs* and *CDC20* transcripts could be detected at prophase, we hypothesized that
198 they might be expressed simultaneously in the same cells, although the possibility of sequential
199 expression could not be excluded. To clarify this, we investigated *CYCBs* and *CDC20*
200 expression in the same meristems by double RNA FISH. *Arabidopsis* wild-type meristems
201 were hybridised with both *CYCBs* and *CDC20* gene-specific RNA probes and the number of
202 cells expressing different genes was quantified. *CDC20* was found to largely co-express with
203 different *CYCB* genes in all mitotic cells from prophase until anaphase (Figures 3A and 3C),
204 whereas no co-expression was detected for *CDC20* with the S phase marker *Histone H4 (HIS4)*
205 gene (Figure 3B). In prophase cells, the localization of *CDC20* and *CYCB* transcripts was
206 clearly separated: *CDC20* mRNA was restricted to the nuclei and surrounded by
207 cytoplasmically localized *CYCB* mRNAs (Figures 3A and S5). Therefore, *CYCB* mRNAs can
208 be translated, resulting in high expression of CYCB1;1-GFP in prophase cells (Figure S2);
209 whereas nuclear confinement of *CDC20* and *CCS52B* transcripts might prevent protein
210 synthesis.

211

212 **Nuclear Sequestration of *CDC20* and *CCS52B* mRNAs Blocks Protein Translation**

213 To evaluate the effect of *CDC20* and *CCS52B* mRNA nuclear sequestration upon protein
214 translation, we analysed the expression patterns of GFP-tagged *CDC20* and *CCS52B* fusion
215 proteins in living cells, an approach that has been widely used to track the dynamics of key cell
216 cycle proteins, including *CDC20* in animal cells (Nilsson et al., 2008). Genomic fragments
217 containing the entire coding sequences of *CDC20* and *CCS52B* were fused with *GFP* at the N-
218 terminus and expressed in wild-type plants under the control of their endogenous promoters.
219 Double RNA FISH using *GFP* probe and *CDC20* and *CCS52B* gene-specific probes showed
220 overlapping signals at different mitotic stages, suggesting that fusion of *GFP* coding sequence
221 did not interfere with nuclear localization of *CDC20* or *CCS52B* mRNAs (Figure S6).

222 The meristems of *pCDC20::GFP-gCDC20* and *pCCS52B::GFP-gCCS52B* transgenic
223 plants were examined using confocal microscopy. GFP-CDC20 was only expressed in a small
224 fraction of meristematic cells (Figure 4A). GFP-CCS52B protein expression could be identified
225 in a greater proportion of SAM cells, which predominantly localized in the nucleus but also in
226 the cytoplasm (Figure 4C). For both proteins, the expression levels varied between different
227 cells (Figures 4B and 4D). To analyse their expression in relation to different phases of the cell
228 cycle, we further introduced GFP-CDC20 and GFP-CCS52B into H2B-RFP plants. GFP-
229 CDC20 fluorescence signals were detected at very low level in prometaphase cells, increased
230 slowly at metaphase and anaphase, and reached maximal level in late telophase cells. When
231 cytokinesis was completed, GFP-CDC20 eventually decreased and disappeared (Figures 4E
232 and 4F). Compared to GFP-CDC20, the expression of GFP-CCS52B was much delayed, as it
233 was not detected until cells enter late telophase. GFP-CCS52B protein expression exhibited its
234 peak level at cytokinesis, and persisted until the next G1 stage (Figures 4G and 4H).

235 The protein expression pattern of CDC20 beginning at prometaphase was consistent with its
236 transcript accumulation prior to NEBD, followed by mRNA redistribution into the cytoplasm
237 after NEBD. However, given the late appearance of CCS52B protein despite much earlier
238 release of its RNA from the nucleus, it appears that there are additional mechanisms beyond
239 nuclear sequestration that controls CCS52B translation, one of which could be regulation by
240 *CCS52B* mRNA binding proteins as RNA-binding proteins also play crucial roles in controlling
241 translation efficiency besides guiding RNA localization (Lipshitz and Smibert, 2000).
242 Nevertheless, the peak accumulation of CCS52B protein at cytokinesis and subsequent stages
243 was in line with the predicted roles of Cdh1 to degrade CDC20 and maintain a low cyclin
244 abundance through late mitosis and G1 phases (Fang et al., 1998). After analysing a number of
245 meristems from different transgenic lines, we were unable to detect any GFP-CDC20 or GFP-
246 CCS52B protein expression in prophase cells, demonstrating that mRNA nuclear sequestration
247 correlated with an absence of protein translation.

248

249 **Dynamic Turnover of CDC20 and CCS52B proteins**

250 The GFP-CDC20 and GFP-CCS52B proteins dynamics was further examined by real-time
251 fluorescence imaging of individual cells, revealing that both proteins accumulated rapidly at
252 late mitosis and disappeared when mitosis was completed (Figures S7A and S7B). Fluctuation
253 in CDC20 protein levels during the cell cycle has been observed in animal cells (Fang et al.,

1998; Kramer et al., 1998; Prinz et al. 1998). For CDH1, the protein level appears to remain constant throughout the cell cycle in HeLa cells (Fang et al., 1998; Kramer et al., 1998). In order to distinguish changes in gene expression from proteolytic activity, we treated SAMs with the proteasome inhibitor MG132. This treatment did not increase the protein level of GFP-CCS52B, suggesting that CCS52B levels are a function of gene expression and translation (Figure S7C). By contrast, MG132 treatment resulted in a marked increase in GFP-CDC20 fluorescence intensity in both SAM and root cells (Figures S7D and S7E), implying that CDC20 may undergo continuous synthesis and degradation. Therefore, a conserved surveillance system exists to tightly control CDC20 protein abundance in plants as in human cells (Ge et al., 2009; Izawa and Pines, 2015; Nilsson et al., 2008).

264

265 **Mapping the Cis-acting Element Involved in *CDC20* mRNA Nuclear Localization**

266 To investigate how *CDC20* mRNA is sequestered in the nucleus, we first tested the mechanisms proposed for known nuclear RNAs. It has been shown that mRNAs containing adenosine (A)-to-inosine (I) edited *Alu* inverted repeats are predominantly localized in the nucleus (Chen et al., 2008). A-to-I editing was responsible for the nuclear retention of *CTN-RNA* (Prasanth et al., 2005). We compared the sequences of *CDC20* full-length cDNA and genomic DNA but did not find any difference, ruling out A-to-I editing in *CDC20* mRNA. In addition, mRNA transcribed from *CDC20* cDNA, like the genomic DNA-derived mRNA, was also confined to the nucleus (Figure S8A), suggesting that *CDC20* nuclear sequestration can act upon the mature mRNA. These results indicate that the regulation of *CDC20* mRNA nuclear localization was distinct from other nuclear RNAs.

276 As the targeting signals of localized RNAs are usually encoded by their own sequences (Buxbaum et al., 2015), we next sought to identify the cis-acting element involved in *CDC20* mRNA nuclear localization. A series of deletions spanning the entire *CDC20* coding sequence, each 200 bp in length (except for Δ 1207-1374) with 100 bp overlapping, were fused with *GFP* and expressed in wild-type plants under the control of the *CDC20* promoter (Figure 5A). The localization of these truncated *GFP-CDC20* chimeric RNAs was examined by RNA FISH. As cytoplasmic localization of *CDC20* mRNA can be observed at late mitosis when daughter cell nuclei reform (Figure 2D), we used *CYCB1;2* mRNA expression as an indicator of prophase cells. *CYCB1;2* showed similar expression in these transgenic plants compared to wild-type plants (Figure 5B), suggesting that expression of these exogenous RNAs did not interfere with

286 normal cell cycle progression. Examination of the subcellular distribution revealed that all
287 these *GFP-CDC20* truncated RNAs were all localized inside the nucleus, surrounded by the
288 cytoplasmic *CYCB1;2* mRNA (Figures 5B and S8B), indicating that deletion of a single
289 fragment of *CDC20* coding region was not sufficient to disrupt RNA nuclear localization.

290 We next investigated the role of UTRs in *CDC20* mRNA nuclear sequestration. Chimeric
291 mRNAs transcribed from *GFP* in-frame fused with *CDC20* genomic fragment without the
292 5'UTR or 3'UTR (*pCDC20::GFP-CDC20 Δ 5'UTR* and *pCDC20::GFP-CDC20 Δ 3'UTR*) were
293 analysed by RNA FISH. *CDC20* 3'UTR-truncated mRNAs showed the same nuclear
294 localization pattern as full length *GFP-CDC20* transcript. By contrast, when the 5'UTR was
295 deleted, nuclear localization was largely reduced. In most of the prophase cells, 5'UTR-
296 truncated *GFP-CDC20* mRNAs were present either in both the nucleus and the cytoplasm, or
297 mostly in the cytoplasm (Figures 5C, 5D and S8B), indicating that deletion of the 5'UTR
298 abolished *CDC20* mRNA nuclear sequestration.

299

300 ***CDC20* 5'UTR Is Sufficient to Confer Nuclear Sequestration**

301 To further evaluate the function of the *CDC20* 5'UTR, we fused it to a *GFP* coding sequence
302 (Figure 6A). This chimeric mRNA, *5'UTR^{CDC20}-GFP*, as well as *GFP* alone, were expressed
303 in wild-type plants under the control of the *CDC20* promoter. The number of prophase cells
304 expressing these *GFP* mRNAs seem to be reduced compared to *GFP* fused with full length
305 *CDC20* mRNA (Figure 6C), implying that the *CDC20* coding region contains cis-element
306 contributing to transcriptional activity. Nevertheless, when expressed, *5'UTR^{CDC20}-GFP*
307 mRNA was found to be exclusively confined to the nucleus. The control, *GFP* mRNA alone,
308 was distributed in the cytoplasm similar to *CYCB1;2* mRNA (Figures 6B and S8C). The results,
309 taken together, demonstrate that the 5'UTR was both necessary and sufficient to sequester
310 *CDC20* mRNA inside the nucleus.

311

312 ***CDC20* 5'UTR Is Required for Protein Translation**

313 The cytoplasmic localization of *GFP-CDC20 Δ 5'UTR* mRNA in prophase cells, if translated,
314 would be expected to interfere with proper cell cycle progression. However, we did not observe
315 any cellular defect in chromosome alignment or segregation, and the transgenic plants grew
316 normally. Confocal microscopy analysis revealed that in *GFP-CDC20 Δ 3'UTR* meristems, the

317 fusion protein could be normally translated, showing clear GFP fluorescence in root and shoot
318 apical meristem similar to the full length transcript (Figures 6D and 6E). However, no
319 fluorescence could be observed in multiple independent *GFP-CDC20^{Δ5'UTR}* transgenic lines,
320 indicating that 5'UTR truncated *GFP-CDC20* mRNA cannot be properly translated. Taken
321 together, these results demonstrate that the 5'UTR of *CDC20* plays dual roles in mRNA nuclear
322 localization and translation.

323

324 Discussion

325 To ensure the fidelity of chromosome segregation, APC/C activity needs to be precisely
326 modulated, especially at early mitosis when APC/C targets (e.g. CYCB proteins) are playing
327 crucial roles. Emi1 has been implicated in animals as the inhibitor of APC/C by binding to
328 CDC20, preventing its interaction with APC/C substrates at prophase (Reimann et al., 2001).
329 However, the role of Emi1 remains contentious as it was also shown to have little effect on
330 APC/C^{CDC20} activity, and expression of a non-degradable version of Emi1 does not affect the
331 destruction of cyclin A, cyclin B1 and securin (Di Fiore and Pines, 2007). Phosphorylation of
332 APC/C subunits can facilitate CDC20 binding thus promoting APC/C activation (Sivakumar
333 and Gorbsky, 2015). In mammalian cells APC/C phosphorylation is already initiated and
334 CDC20 protein is also highly expressed at prophase (Kraft et al., 2003; Nilsson et al., 2008),
335 which would presumably lead to APC/C activation. Therefore, it still remains obscure how
336 APC/C activity is restrained during prophase. In plants, no Emi1 orthologue has been identified.
337 GIG1/OSD1 and UVI4 have been suggested as the negative regulators of plant APC/C
338 (Heyman et al., 2011; Iwata et al., 2011), but their direct effect on APC/C activity has not been
339 determined. We found that in *Arabidopsis* dividing cells the mRNAs of *CDC20* and *CCS52B*
340 are sequestered inside the nucleus. Nuclear retention of mRNAs is expected to block their
341 accessibility to cytoplasmic ribosomes. Consistent with this scenario, neither CDC20 nor
342 CCS52B proteins could be detected in prophase cells. As CDC20 and CCS52B are key
343 activators of APC/C, it seems that absence of CDC20 and CCS52B proteins at prophase due to
344 RNA nuclear sequestration would result in very low APC/C activity, thereby allowing cyclin
345 B function (Figure S9).

346 Cellular mRNA localization has been proposed as a common mechanism to control local
347 protein abundance. A systematic study revealed that 71% of expressed mRNAs in *Drosophila*
348 embryos exhibit distinct cytoplasmic distribution patterns (Lécuyer et al., 2007). Compared to

349 the predominant distribution in the cytoplasm, nuclear localization of protein coding mRNAs
350 has rarely been encountered. Our data demonstrate that properly processed, unedited mature
351 mRNAs can be specifically sequestered inside the nucleus, correlating with control (absence)
352 of protein synthesis. Nuclear sequestration of *CDC20* and *CCS52B* mRNA, despite their high
353 levels, prevents protein translation, but on the other hand could also generate a store of RNA
354 molecules that can be rapidly released to the cytoplasm upon NEBD for protein synthesis, thus
355 to efficiently activate APC/C.

356 RNA localization is guided by specific cis-acting elements that are mostly identified in the
357 3'UTR (Martin and Ephrussi, 2009). The localization signals contributing to the spatial
358 distribution of *bicoid*, *nanos*, *xcat2*, β -actin mRNAs, and *histone* mRNAs have all been mapped
359 to the 3'UTR (Iampietro et al., 2014; Martin and Ephrussi, 2009). However, deletion analysis
360 revealed that the 3'UTR has no effect on *CDC20* mRNA nuclear localization. By contrast,
361 when the 5'UTR is removed, the resulting *GFP-CDC20 Δ 5'UTR* chimeric mRNA is found to
362 distribute into the cytoplasm. Furthermore, adding the *CDC20* 5'UTR was sufficient to
363 sequester *GFP* mRNA in the nucleus, indicating that the 5'UTR is necessary and sufficient for
364 *CDC20* mRNA nuclear sequestration. Despite being exported into the cytoplasm, the 5'UTR
365 truncated *GFP-CDC20* RNA was not detectably translated, which is consistent with the
366 important functions of 5'UTR in ribosome recruitment and translational initiation (Hinnebusch
367 et al., 2016). Therefore, the dual roles of the 5'UTR in *CDC20* mRNA nuclear localization and
368 translation provides a 'belt-and-braces' approach to avoid CDC20 protein synthesis and APC/C
369 activation. RNA localization elements are recognized by trans-acting proteins. The RNA
370 interactome capture method has been recently developed to identify *Xist* lncRNA binding
371 proteins in human cells (Chu et al., 2015; McHugh et al., 2015; Minajigi et al., 2015). Applying
372 this technology in plants to characterize *CDC20* and *CCS52B* mRNA interacting protein(s)
373 would provide more insights into the understanding of mRNA localization, translational
374 control, and cell cycle regulation.

375

376 **Materials and Methods**

377 **Plant material and growth conditions**

378 *Arabidopsis* Columbia ecotype (Col-0) was used as wild-type for the *in situ* hybridization
379 analysis. The reporter lines GFP-MBD, H2B-RFP, CYCB1;1-GFP, and SUN2-GFP were
380 described previously (Federici et al., 2012; Hamant et al., 2008; Oda and Fukuda, 2011; Reddy

381 et al., 2005). Seeds were germinated on Murashige and Skoog agar plates and 7 day-old
382 seedlings were transferred to soil. Plants were grown under long day conditions (16 h/8 h
383 light/dark period) at 20 °C.

384

385 **mRNA *In Situ* Hybridization**

386 **RNA Probe Synthesis**

387 The cDNA fragments corresponding to each cell cycle gene were amplified with gene-specific
388 primers (Table S4), ligated into the pGEM®-T Easy vector (Promega) and verified by
389 sequencing. The plasmids containing the cDNA fragments were then used as templates for
390 PCR with primers T7 and SP6. The PCR products were used as templates for in vitro
391 transcription using the DIG RNA Labeling Kit (Roche). For fluorescence in situ probes,
392 Fluorescein-12-UTP (Roche) was used instead of Digoxigenin-11-UTP (Roche).

393 **Sample Preparation**

394 Shoot apices of *Arabidopsis* were harvested and fixed in FAA (3.7% formaldehyde, 5% acetic
395 acid, 50% ethanol). The samples were embedded in wax and cut into 8- μ m sections. The
396 sections were processed by dewaxing, rehydration and dehydration, as described in
397 (<http://www.its.caltech.edu/~plantlab/protocols/insitu.pdf>).

398 **Hybridization**

399 The sections were hybridized with gene-specific probes at 55 °C. After washing with SSC, the
400 slices were incubated with anti-digoxigenin-AP antibody (Roche) for 2 hours at room
401 temperature. The signals were detected by overnight colour reaction at 28 °C using NBT/BCIP
402 (Roche). Sense-strand hybridizations, yielding no hybridization with target mRNA, are shown
403 as controls. Images were taken using a Zeiss AxioImager M2 microscope fitted with a Zeiss
404 AxioCam MRc colour camera and a PlanApochromat 20x/ 0.8 NA objective.

405 **RNA Fluorescence *in situ* Hybridization (RNA FISH)**

406 Samples were processed as above for *in situ* hybridization, except that anti-fluorescein-POD
407 (Roche) or anti-digoxigenin-POD (Roche) antibodies were used. After antibody incubation,
408 the hybridization signals were detected using TSA Plus Fluorescein Fluorescence System
409 (Perkin Elmer) for green signals or TSA Plus Cy5 Fluorescence System (Perkin Elmer) for red
410 signals. DAPI staining was performed by mounting the slices with 1 μ g/ml DAPI shortly before
411 observing the *in situ* hybridization signals. Images were taken with a Zeiss LSM700 confocal
412 microscope equipped with a 20 \times 0.8NA dry objective. Laser excitation was 405 nm (DAPI),
413 488 nm (Fluorescein) and 633 nm (Cy5).

414 **Double RNA FISH**

415 Double RNA FISH was used to check the mRNA expression of two genes in the same cells.
416 Processed sections were hybridized with a mixture of two gene-specific probes, one labelled
417 with digoxigenin and the other with fluorescein. The slices were incubated with anti-
418 fluorescein-POD (Roche) and subsequently detected with TSA Plus Fluorescein Fluorescence
419 System, giving green signals. After the first TSA reaction, 3% H₂O₂ (Sigma) was applied to
420 quench peroxidase activity (1 hour incubation in 3% H₂O₂ was found to sufficiently quench all
421 peroxidase activity of the first antibody). The slices were further incubated with anti-
422 digoxigenin-POD antibody and detected by TSA Plus Cy5 Fluorescence System (Perkin
423 Elmer), resulting in red signals.

424 **RNA FISH and Immunohistochemistry**

425 RNA FISH was carried out as described above. After TSA-Cy5 reaction to reveal the mRNA
426 hybridization signals, the sections were washed in PBST (PBS containing 0.3% v/v Triton X-
427 100), and then blocked in PBS-Blocking buffer (PBS containing 1.0% bovine serum albumin,
428 0.2% powdered skim milk, and 0.3% Triton X-100) for 30 min at room temperature. The
429 sections were then incubated with Alexa Fluor® 488 conjugated GFP antibody (1:100 dilution)
430 (A-21311, Molecular Probes) overnight at 4 °C. The slides were washed in PBST for 3 times,
431 5 min each and observed using a Zeiss LSM700 confocal microscope.

432

433 **Plasmid Construction and Plant Transformation**

434 **GFP Fusion with Full Length *CDC20* and *CCS52B* mRNA**

435 The MultiSite Gateway® Three-Fragment Vector Construction system (Invitrogen) was used
436 to generate plasmid constructs. For *pCDC20.1::GFP-CDC20.1*, a 2,417 bp promoter upstream
437 of *CDC20.1* ATG was amplified using genomic DNA as template with primers
438 *CDC20_promoter_F* and *CDC20_promoter_R*. The PCR product was inserted into pDONR™
439 P4-P1R by BP reaction, resulting in 1R4-pCDC20. The enhanced GFP (EGFP) coding
440 sequence was amplified using primers *GFP_gateway_F* and *GFP_gateway_R*, and the product
441 was inserted into pDONR™ 221 by BP reaction, resulting in 221-GFP. A 3,161bp genomic
442 fragment containing the whole coding sequence of *CDC20.1* as well as 1,115bp 3' region was
443 amplified with primers *CDC20_DNA_F* and *CDC20_DNA_R*, and the PCR product was
444 inserted into pDONR™ P2R-P3, resulting in 2R3-gCDC20. The three entry constructs was
445 incorporated into the binary vector pB7m34-GW by LR reaction. Similar strategy was applied
446 to *CCS52B*. The primers used for *CCS52B* promoter were *CCS52B_promoter_F* and
447 *CCS52B_promoter_R*; for coding region as well as 3' region were *CCS52B_DNA_F* and

448 CCS52B_DNA_R, and the constructs were named as 1R4-pCCS52B and 2R3-gCCS52B,
449 respectively. *pCDC20.1::GFP-CDC20.1* and *pCCS52B::GFP-CCS52B* were transformed into
450 *Arabidopsis* wild-type Col-0 as well as nuclear reporter line H2B-RFP (Col-0 background) via
451 *Agrobacterium* mediated transformation.

452 To construct *CDC20* cDNA fused with *GFP*, the full length cDNA including 5' and 3' UTR
453 was first amplified from meristem cDNA library using primers CDC20_cDNA_F and
454 CDC20_cDNA_R. *GFP* was amplified with primers GFP_F and GFP_R. *CDC20* cDNA and
455 *GFP* fragments were ligated into pBluescript SK(-), resulting in SK-GFP-cCDC20, which was
456 then incorporated into pB7m34-GW with *CDC20* promoter and Nos terminator by LR reaction.

457 ***CDC20* 5'UTR and 3'UTR Deletions**

458 For 5'UTR deletion analysis, *CDC20* promoter was amplified with primers
459 CDC20_promoter_F and CDC20_promoter_NoUTR_R. The PCR products were inserted into
460 pDONR™ P4-P1R by BP reaction, resulting in 1R4-pCDC20_No5'UTR. 1R4-pCDC20_
461 No5'UTR was further introduced into the binary vector pB7m34-GW with 221-GFP and 2R3-
462 gCDC20 by LR reaction. For 3'UTR deletion analysis, *CDC20* genomic sequence without
463 3'UTR was amplified with primers CDC20_KpnI and CDC20_SalI. *CDC20* terminator was
464 amplified with primers CDC20_SalI_1 and CDC20_BamHI. The two fragments were ligated
465 into pBluescript SK(-), and the resulting plasmid was used as template for PCR with primers
466 CDC20_DNA_F and CDC20_DNA_R. The PCR product was inserted into pDONR™ P2R-
467 P3, resulting in 2R3-gCDC20_NoUTR. 1R4-pCDC20, 221-GFP and 2R3-gCDC20_NoUTR
468 were ligated into pB7m34-GW by LR reaction.

469 ***CDC20* Coding Sequence Deletions**

470 Fusion PCR was used to generate *CDC20* ORF deletion constructs. Two PCR fragments with
471 25 bp overlapping were amplified with specific primers (Table S2). The PCR products were
472 mixed and used as templates for a second round of PCR using primers GFP_GW1_F and GFP-
473 CDC20_GW1_R. The product was inserted into pDONR™ 221 by BP reaction, and further
474 incorporated into pB7m34-GW with *CDC20* promoter and Nos terminator by LR reaction.

475

476 **Observation of Fluorescent Reporter Expression by Confocal Microscopy**

477 Shortly after bolting (stem length ~ 1 cm), the shoot apex was dissected and the fully developed
478 flowers were carefully removed in order to expose the SAM. The meristem was then transferred
479 to a square box containing fresh MS medium (Duchefa Biochemie - MS basal salt mixture)
480 supplemented with vitamins (myoinositol 100 µg/ml, nicotinic acid 1 µg/ml, pyridoxine
481 hydrochloride 1 µg/ml, thiamine hydrochloride 1 µg/ml, glycine 2 µg/ml) and 1% sucrose in

482 order to keep the meristem alive during observation. Viewed-stacks of SAMs were acquired
483 with either a Zeiss LSM700 with 20 × NA 1.0 water dipping objective or a Leica SP8 with 25
484 × NA 1.0 water dipping objective. 3D rendering was carried out using either Zen (Zeiss) or
485 LAS X (Leica) confocal microscope software. The cell boundaries of the SAM were revealed
486 by 0.1% propidium iodide (PI) staining for 5 min. Laser excitations were 488 nm (PI, GFP)
487 and 555nm or 561nm (RFP). GFP fluorescence intensity was measured in Fiji ImageJ. To
488 display the fluorescence intensity as shown in Figures 5 and S7, the fluorescence pictures were
489 edited with the LUT editor plugin in Fiji ImageJ.

490 For MG132 treatment, dissected meristems were emerged in liquid MS medium containing
491 DMSO (Mock) or 50 μM MG132 (C2211 Sigma) for 2 hours. For time lapse experiment,
492 dissected meristems were kept in MS medium (Duchefa) supplemented with vitamins and
493 sucrose. The meristems were kept in growth chamber under long day conditions (16 h/8 h
494 light/dark period) at 20 °C, and were taken out for confocal imaging at each time point.

495

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513

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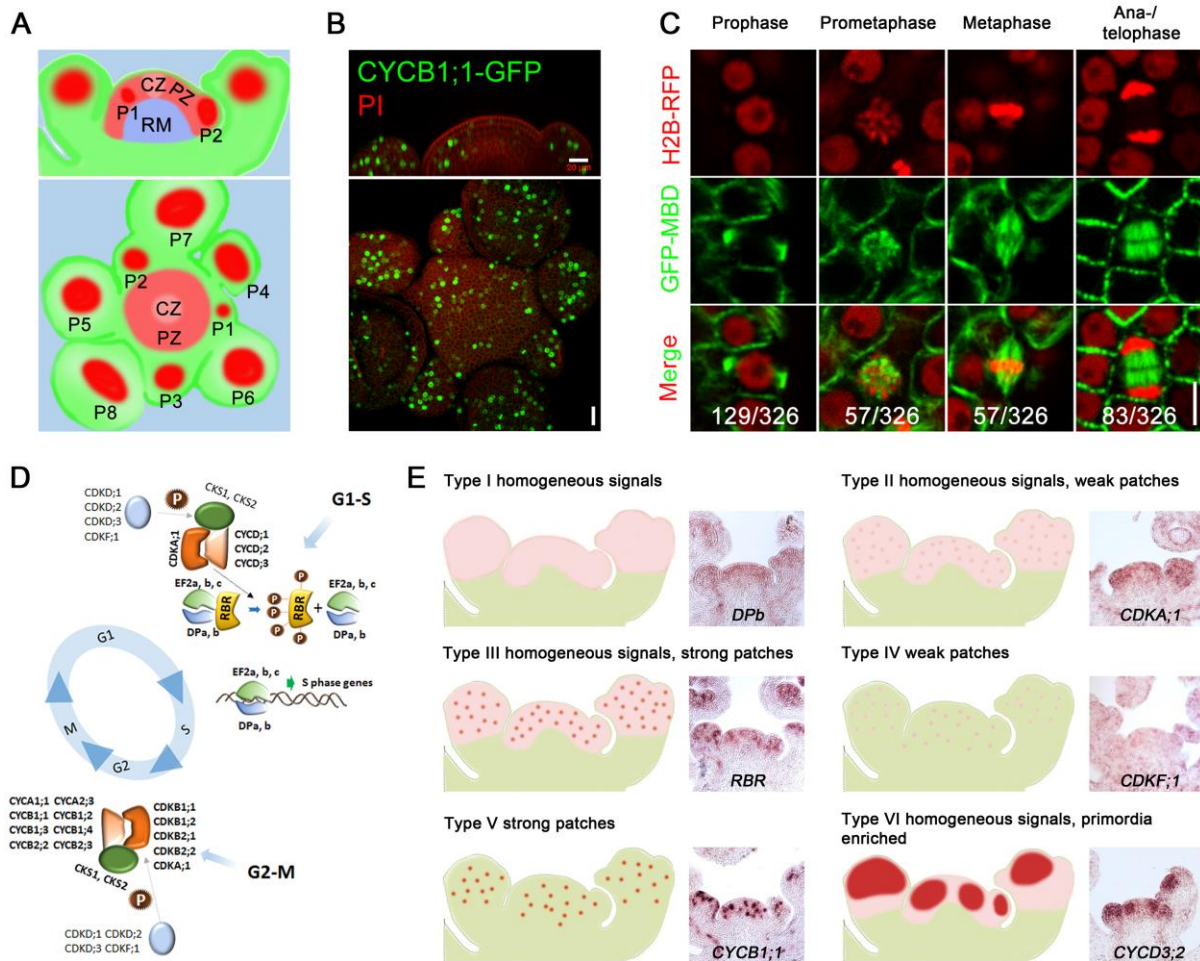
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686 **Figures and Legends**



687

688 **Figure 1. Expression Patterns of Core Cell Cycle Genes in *Arabidopsis* Meristematic Cells.**

689 (A) A schematic representation showing the organization of the *Arabidopsis* inflorescence
 690 shoot apical meristem (SAM). Upper panel, side view; lower panel, top view. CZ, central zone;
 691 PZ, peripheral zone; RM, rib meristem; P, flower primordia, which form sequentially in the
 692 PZ.

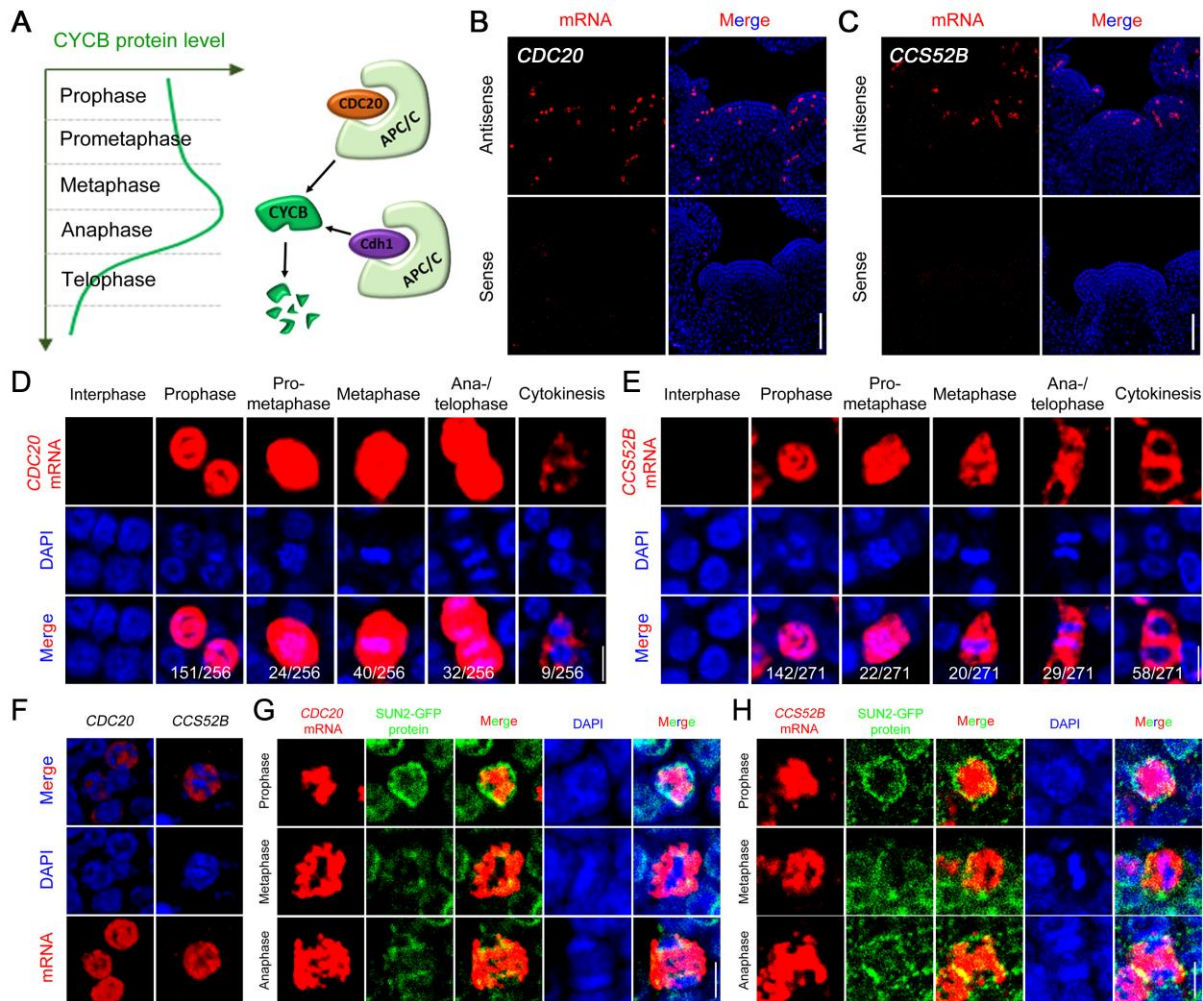
693 (B) CYCB1;1-GFP reporter expression in wild type (WT) SAM. Scale bar, 20 μ m.

694 (C) Expression of nuclear reporter H2B-RFP and microtubule reporter GFP-MBD in
 695 meristematic cells corresponding to different cell cycle stages. From 6 WT SAMs, 326 cells
 696 were observed to be undergoing division and the number of cells at each stage is shown. Scale
 697 bar, 5 μ m.

698 (D) Functional modules of core cell cycle regulators in the *Arabidopsis* SAM.

699 (E) Classification of the mRNA distribution patterns of core cell cycle genes expressed in the
 700 SAM. *In situ* hybridisation images for representative genes in each class are shown.

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703 **Figure 2. Nuclear Sequestration of *CDC20* and *CCS52B* mRNAs in Prophase Cells.**

704 (A) A schematic model illustrating CYCB protein dynamics during mitosis and its degradation
705 by APC/C^{CDC20} and APC/C^{CDH1} E3 ligases.

706 (B and C) RNA FISH to reveal the expression patterns of *CDC20* and *CCS52B* in the SAM.
707 No signals were detected from the sense probes. Scale bars, 50 μ m.

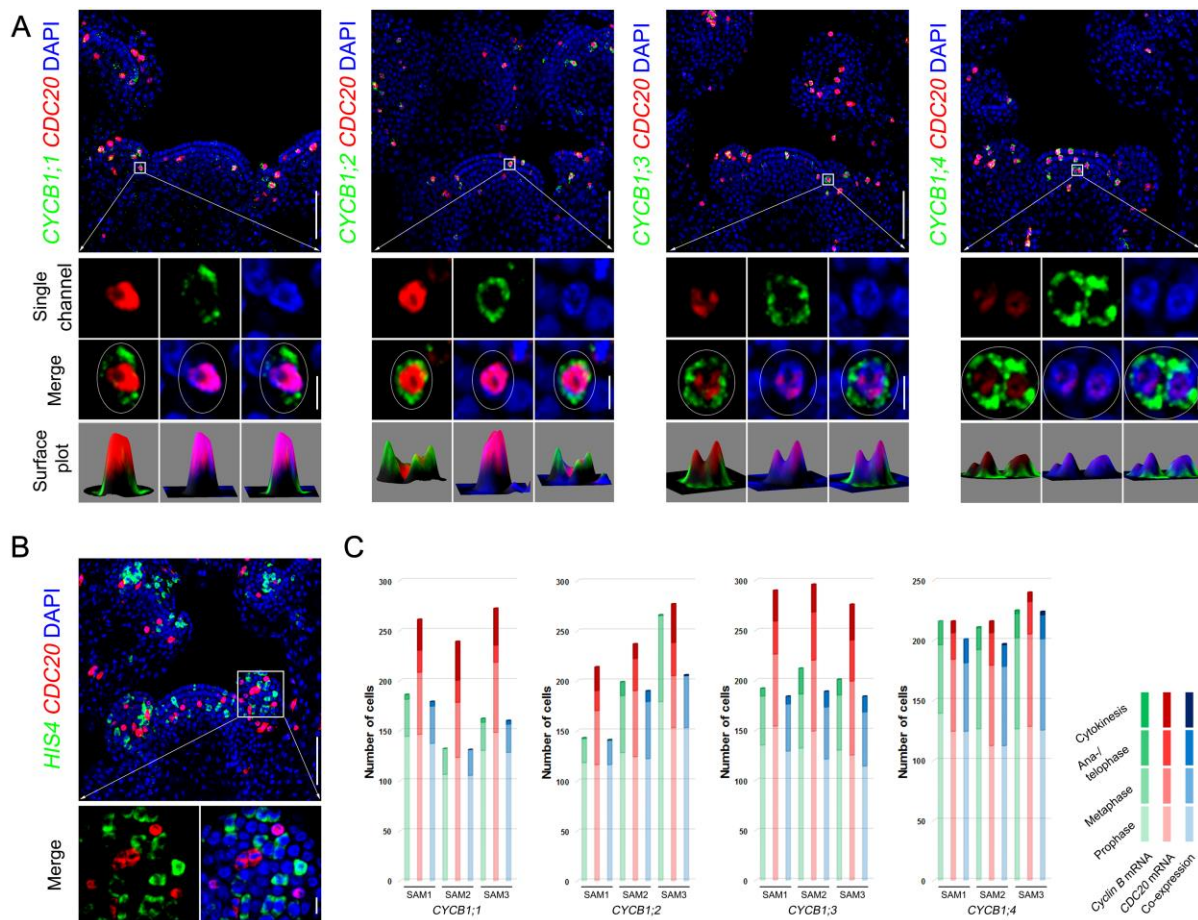
708 (D and E) Expression of *CDC20* and *CCS52B* at different mitotic stages. Note the nuclear
709 localization of *CDC20* and *CCS52B* mRNAs at prophase. Scale bars, 5 μ m.

710 (F) 3-D projection of *CDC20* and *CCS52B* mRNAs in prophase cells. Scale bar, 5 μ m.

711 (G and H) *CDC20* and *CCS52B* mRNA localization with nuclear envelope reporter at different
712 stages of mitosis. The mRNAs were detected by FISH. The nuclear envelope was revealed
713 using GFP antibody against a nuclear envelope reporter protein, SUN2-GFP. Scale bars, 5 μ m.
714 All images, with the exception of (F), show single optical confocal sections.

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718 **Figure 3. Spatial Separation of *CDC20* and *CYCB* mRNAs in Prophase Cells.**

719 (A) Co-expression of *CDC20* with cell cycle genes as revealed by double RNA FISH coupled
720 with DAPI staining.

721 (B) *CDC20* does not co-express with an S-phase expressed gene *HIS4*. *CDC20* and cell cycle
722 genes were detected by gene specific probes with different labelling. Scale bars in (A) and (B),
723 SAM overview (top panels) = 50 μ m; single cells (bottom panels) = 5 μ m.

724 (C) Quantification of the number of cells that express *CDC20* and *CYCB* genes at different
725 mitotic stages. *CYCB1* genes were mostly expressed at prophase and metaphase, and largely
726 co-express with *CDC20*.

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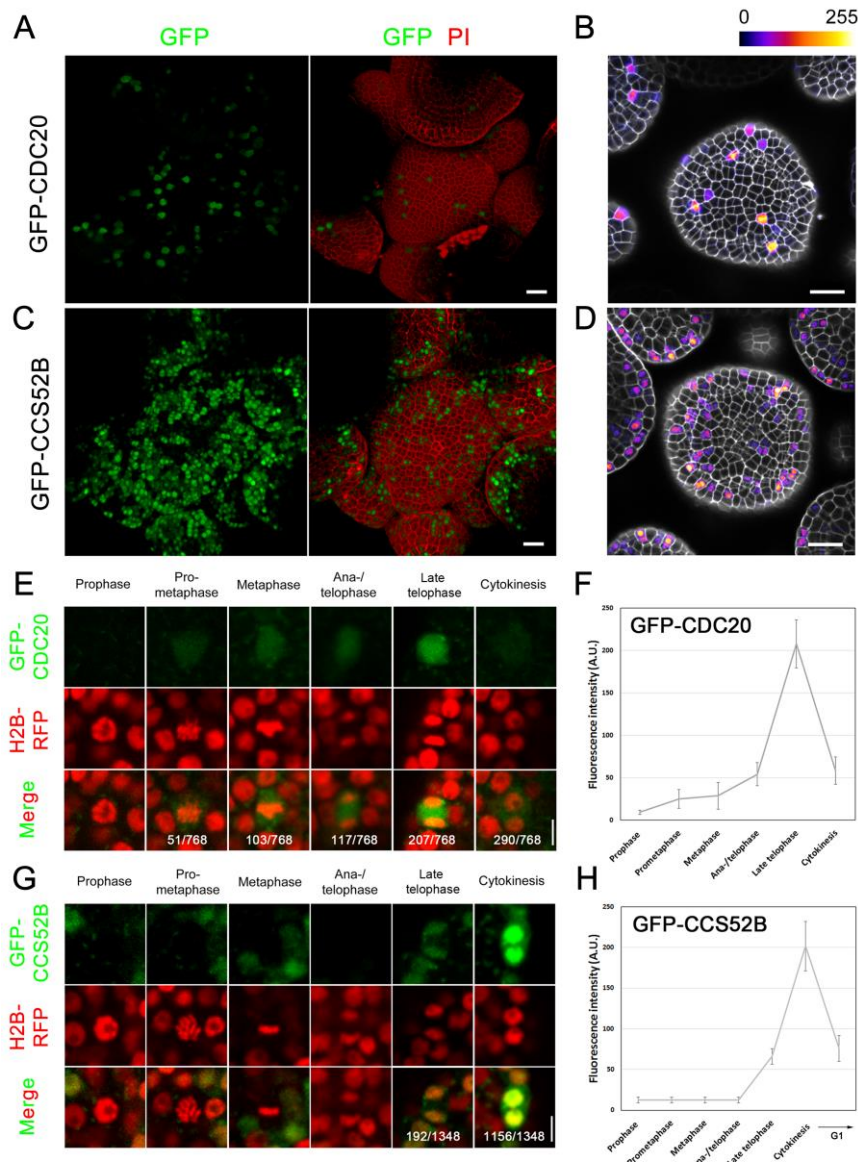
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734 **Figure 4. Expression Patterns of CDC20 and CCS52B Proteins during the Cell Cycle.**

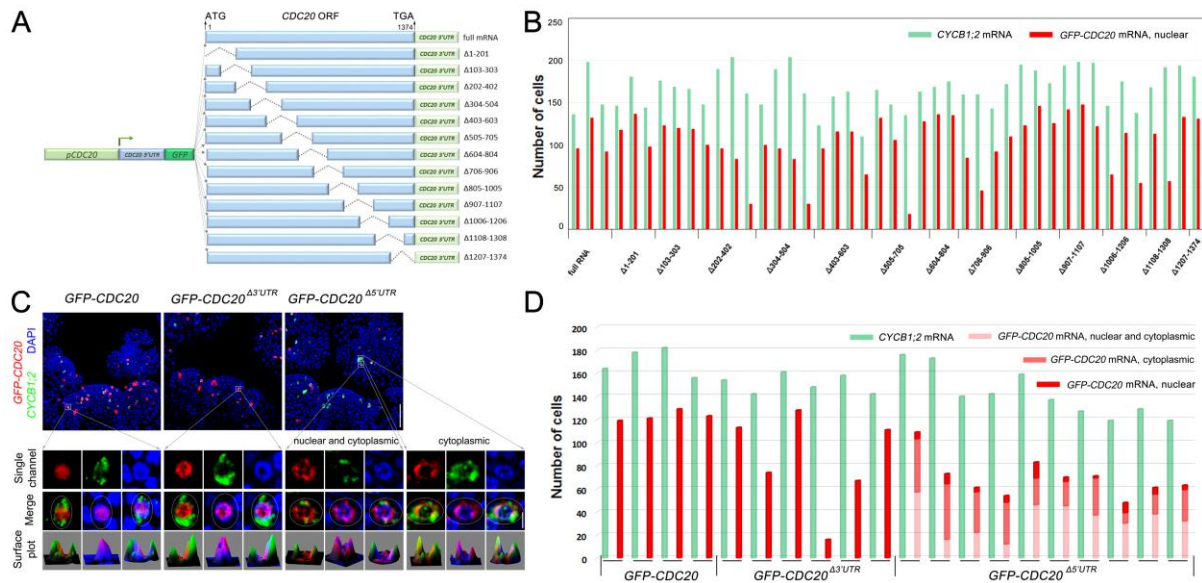
735 (A-D) GFP-CDC20 (A, B) and GFP-CCS52B (C, D) expression in the *Arabidopsis* SAM. The
 736 cell wall was stained with propidium iodide (PI). Expression of GFP-CDC20 and GFP-
 737 CCS52B in (B) and (D) were displayed using the Fire lookup table in ImageJ to show difference
 738 in fluorescence intensity. Scale bars, 20 μ m.

739 (E-H) Protein dynamics of GFP-CDC20 (E) and GFP-CCS52B (G) at different stages of
 740 mitosis. The fluorescence intensity was shown in (F) and (H). Scale bars, 5 μ m.

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745 **Figure 5. *CDC20* 5'UTR Is Involved in mRNA Nuclear Localization.**

746 (A) Schematic diagram of *CDC20* mRNA deletion constructs.

747 (B) Quantification of the number of prophase cells expressing *GFP* fused *CDC20* mRNAs that
 748 contain serial deletions. *CYCB1;2* expression was used as a prophase marker. All *GFP-CDC20*
 749 mRNAs with deletions in the *CDC20* ORF were found to localize in the nucleus. Each pair of
 750 columns represents data from one meristem.

751 (C) Localization of *GFP-CDC20* truncated mRNAs lacking *CDC20* 5'UTR or 3'UTR.
 752 Deletion of 5'UTR abolished *GFP-CDC20* mRNA nuclear sequestration, leading to
 753 nucleocytoplasmic or mostly cytoplasmic localization. Scale bars, 50 μ m for SAM overview
 754 (top panels) and 5 μ m for single cells (bottom panels).

755 (D) Quantification of the number of prophase cells expressing full length, 3'UTR deleted, and
 756 5'UTR deleted *GFP-CDC20* mRNAs. Each pair of columns represents data from one meristem.

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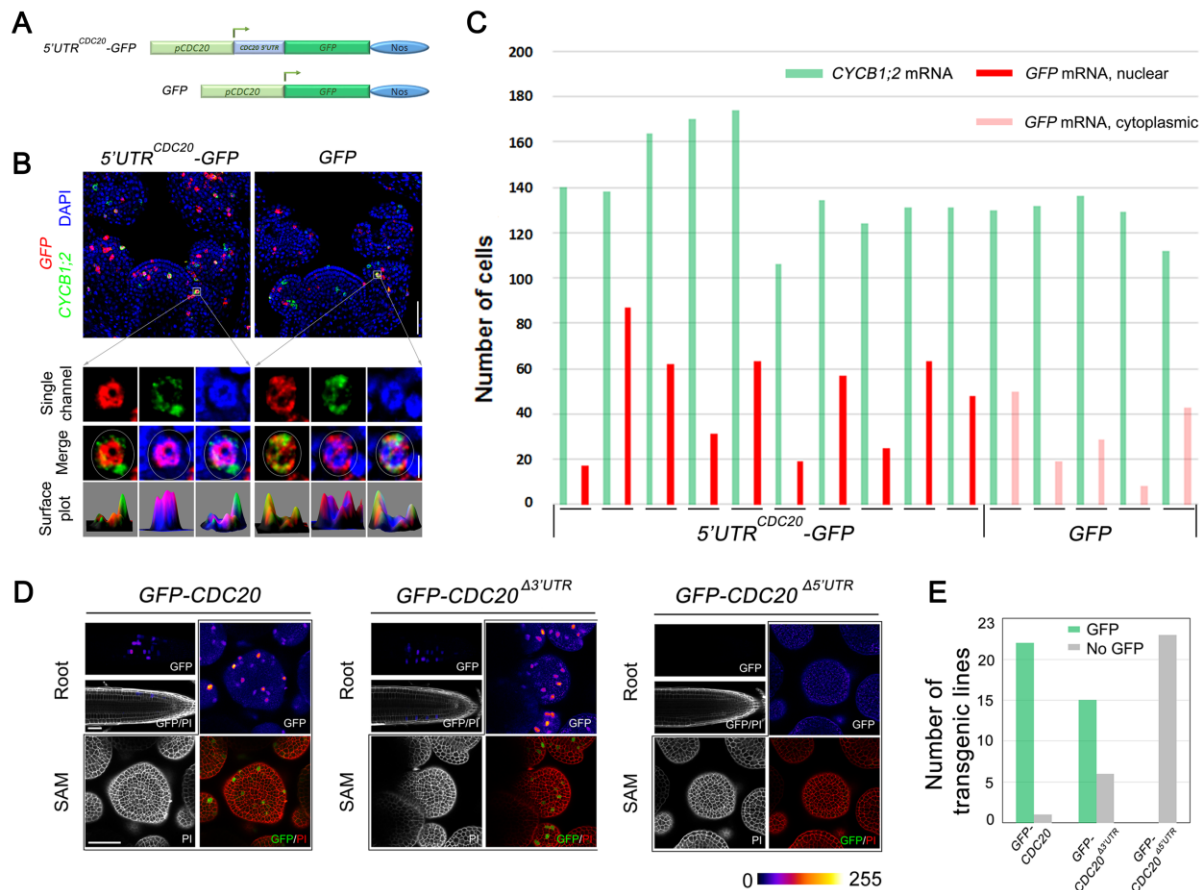
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767 **Figure 6. Dual Roles of 5'UTR in *CDC20* mRNA Nuclear Localization and Translation.**

768 (A) Schematic diagram of chimeric mRNA construction in which *GFP* was fused with *CDC20*
 769 5'UTR. *GFP* alone was used a control.

770 (B) Localization of $5'UTR^{CDC20}-GFP$ and *GFP* mRNAs in prophase cells. Scale bars, 50 μ m
 771 for SAM overview (top panels) and 5 μ m for single cells (bottom panels).

772 (C) Quantification of the number of prophase cells expressing $5'UTR^{CDC20}-GFP$ and *GFP*
 773 mRNAs. Each pair of columns represents cell numbers from one meristem.

774 (D) The expression of GFP-*CDC20* fusion protein in root and SAM as revealed. No GFP
 775 fluorescence could be observed in 5'UTR truncated *GFP-CDC20* transgenic plants. Scale bar,
 776 50 μ m.

777 (E) The number of transgenic lines analysed. GFP-*CDC20* expression was detected in 22/23
 778 lines of full length *GFP-CDC20* plants, 15/21 lines of 3'UTR truncated *GFP-CDC20*
 779 transgenic plants, and 0/23 of 5'UTR truncated *GFP-CDC20* transgenic plants.

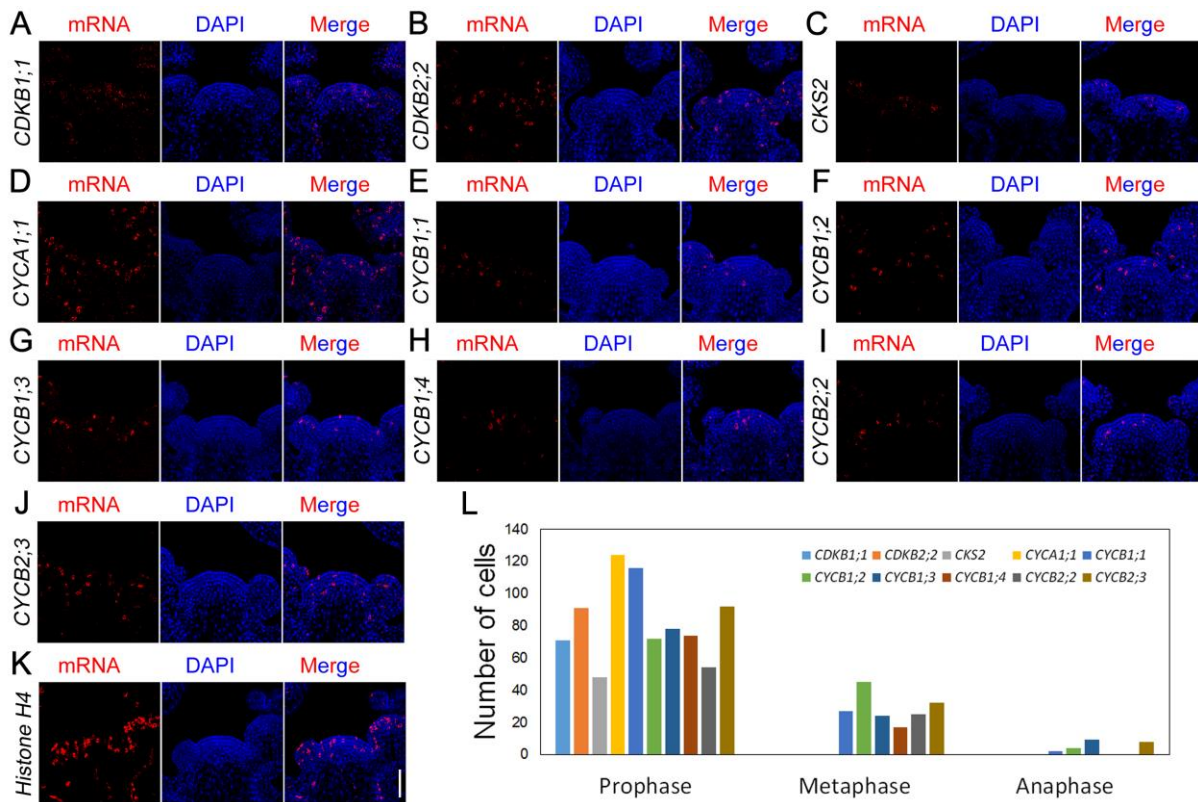
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784 **Supplemental Figures**



785

786 **Figure S1. Mitosis Specific Expression of Cell Cycle Genes in the SAM.**

787 The mRNAs were detected by DIG labelled probes, which were further recognized by POD-
 788 labelled anti-DIG antibody coupled with the TSA-CY5 detection system. The nucleus was
 789 stained with DAPI.

790 (A-K) Expression patterns of G2/M cell cycle genes. Scale bar, 50 μ m.

791 (L) Quantification of the number of cells expressing cell cycle genes at different mitotic stages.

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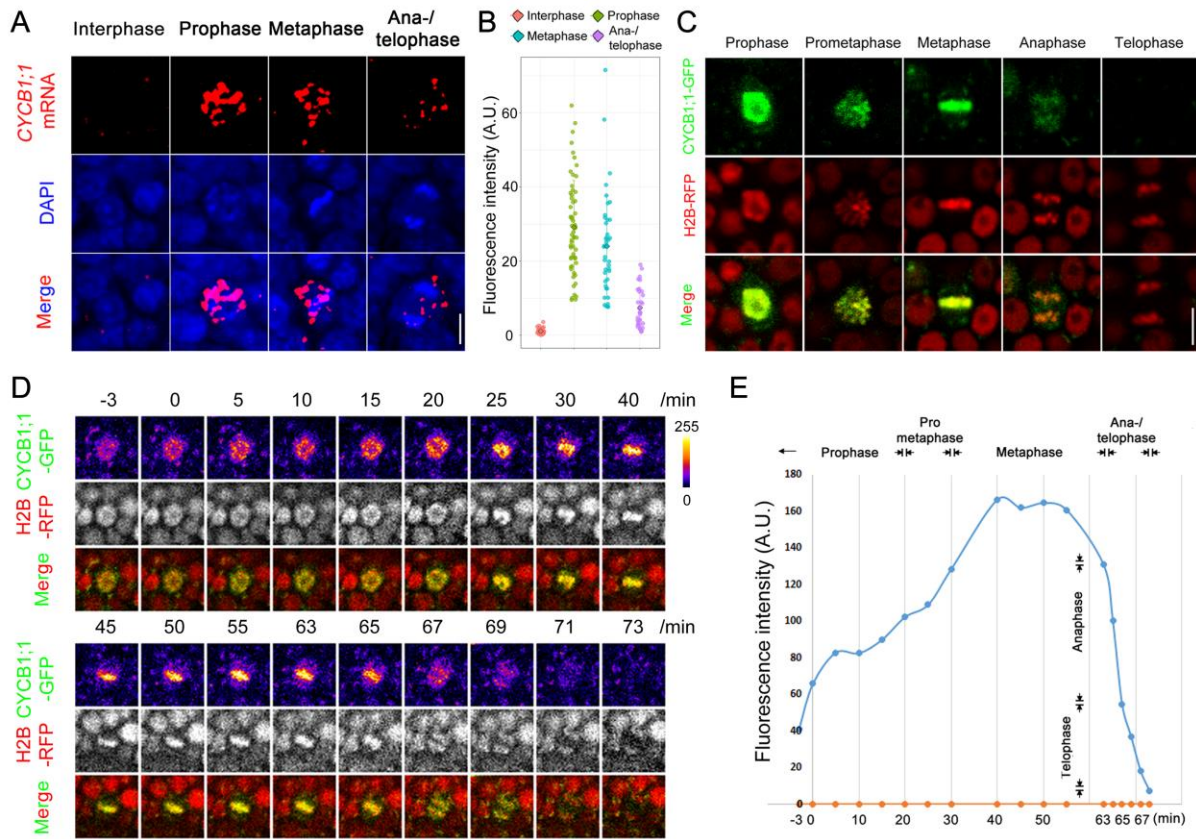
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801 **Figure S2. Rapid CYCB1;1 Protein Degradation at Metaphase-to-Anaphase Transition.**

802 (A) RNA FISH to show the accumulation of *CYCB1;1* transcripts at different stages of mitosis.
 803 Scale bar, 5 μ m.

804 (B) *CYCB1;1* mRNA levels at different stages of mitosis, as calculated from the fluorescence
 805 intensity of RNA FISH images.

806 (C) CYCB1;1-GFP protein expression at different stages of the cell cycle. H2B-RFP is used to
 807 monitor chromosome alignment and segregation. Scale bar, 5 μ m.

808 (D and E) Protein dynamics of CYCB1;1-GFP during mitosis. GFP fluorescence intensity is
 809 shown in (E).

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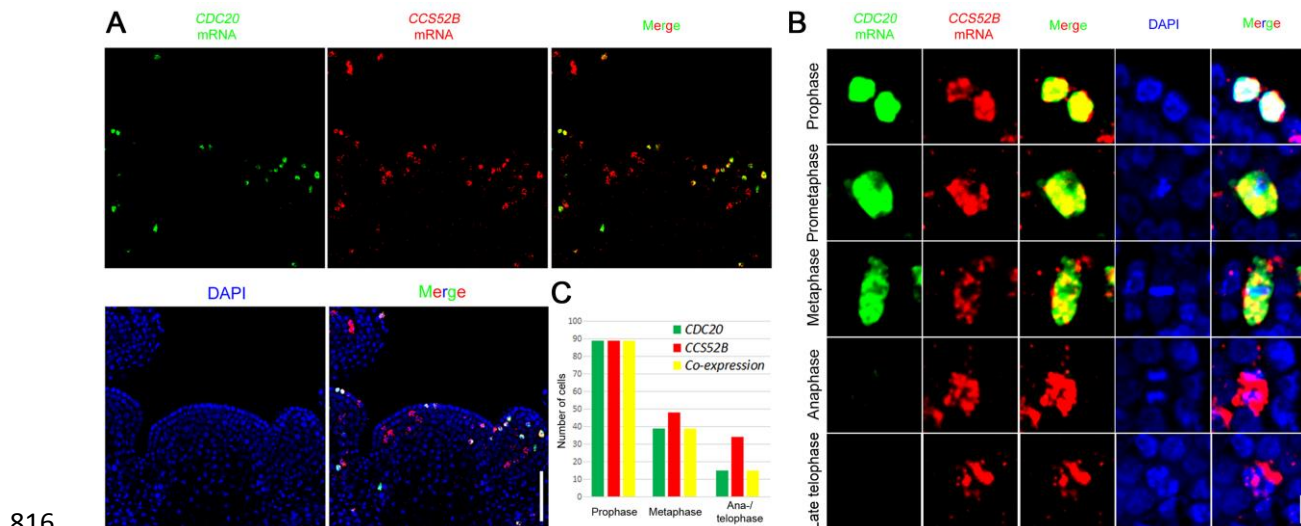
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817 **Figure S3. Co-expression Analysis of *CDC20* and *CCS52B*.**

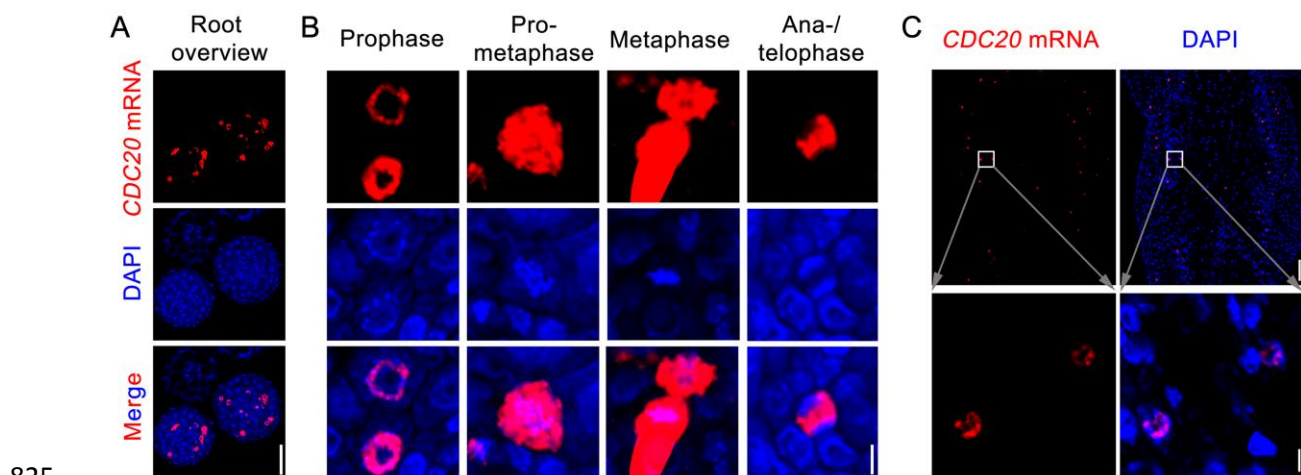
818 (A) Double RNA FISH to show the expression patterns of *CDC20* and *CCS52B* in the same
819 meristem. Scale bar, 50 μ m.

820 (B) Co-expression of *CDC20* and *CCS52B* at different mitotic stages. The anaphase and late
821 telophase cells shown are those only expressing *CCS52B*. Scale bar, 5 μ m.

822 (C) Quantification of the number of cells that express *CDC20* and *CCS52B*.

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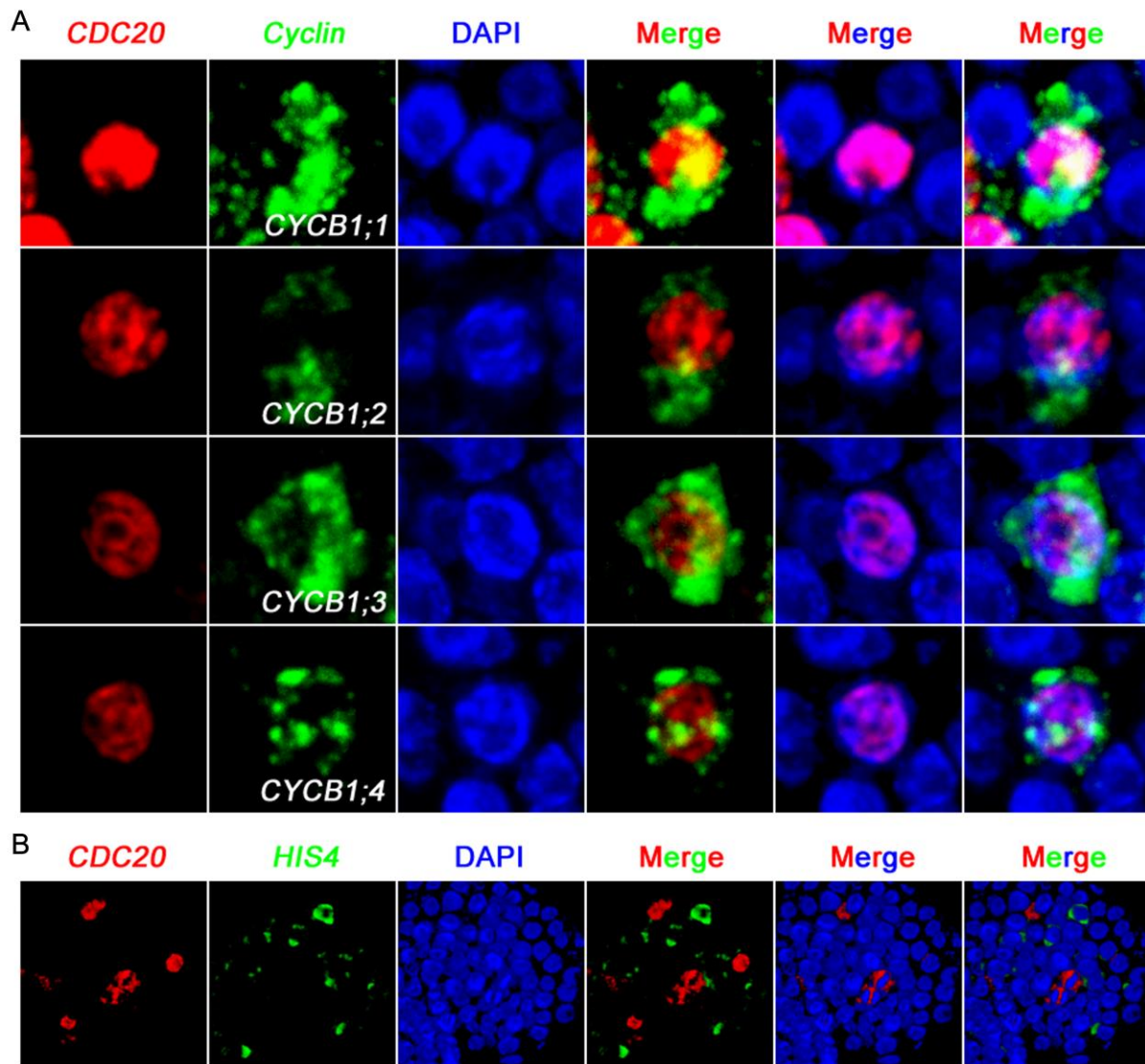
826 **Figure S4. Expression Pattern of *CDC20* in Root and Shoot Dividing Cells.**

827 (A) Root overview. Scale bar, 50 μ m.

828 (B) Root cells at different stages of mitosis. Note that *CDC20* mRNA is sequestered inside the
829 nucleus at prophase. Scale bar, 5 μ m.

830 (C) Nuclear localization of *CDC20* mRNA in shoot prophase cells. Scale bars, 50 μ m for shoot
831 overview (top panels) and 5 μ m for cells (bottom panels).

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834 **Figure S5. 3-D Projection of Confocal Images to Show *CDC20* Expression Patterns with**
835 ***CYCBs* and *HIS4* in the Same Meristems.**

836 (A) Nucleocytoplasmic separation of *CDC20* and *CYCB1* transcripts in prophase cells.

837 (B) *CDC20* does not co-express with S-phase marker *HIS4* gene.

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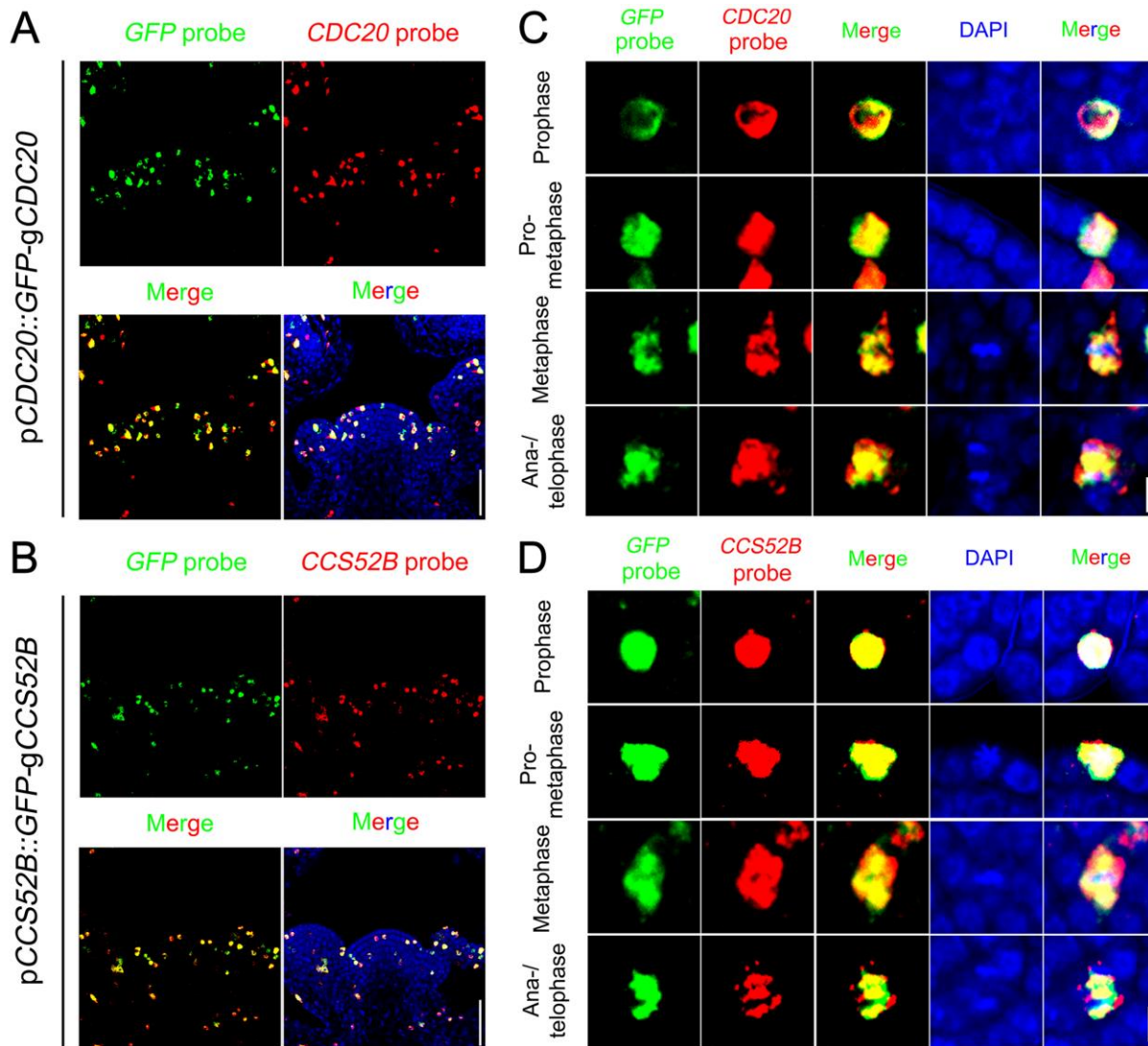
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846 **Figure S6. Fusion of *GFP* does not Affect *CDC20* or *CCS52B* mRNA Nuclear Localization.**

847 (A and B) Overview of *GFP* mRNA distribution with *CDC20* and *CCS52B* in *pCDC20::GFP-*
848 *CDC20* (A) and *pCCS52B::GFP-CCS52B* (B) transgenic plants. Scale bars, 50 μ m.

849 (C and D) Co-localization of *GFP* mRNA with *CDC20* (C) or *CCS52B* (D) mRNA in mitotic
850 cells. Scale bars, 5 μ m.

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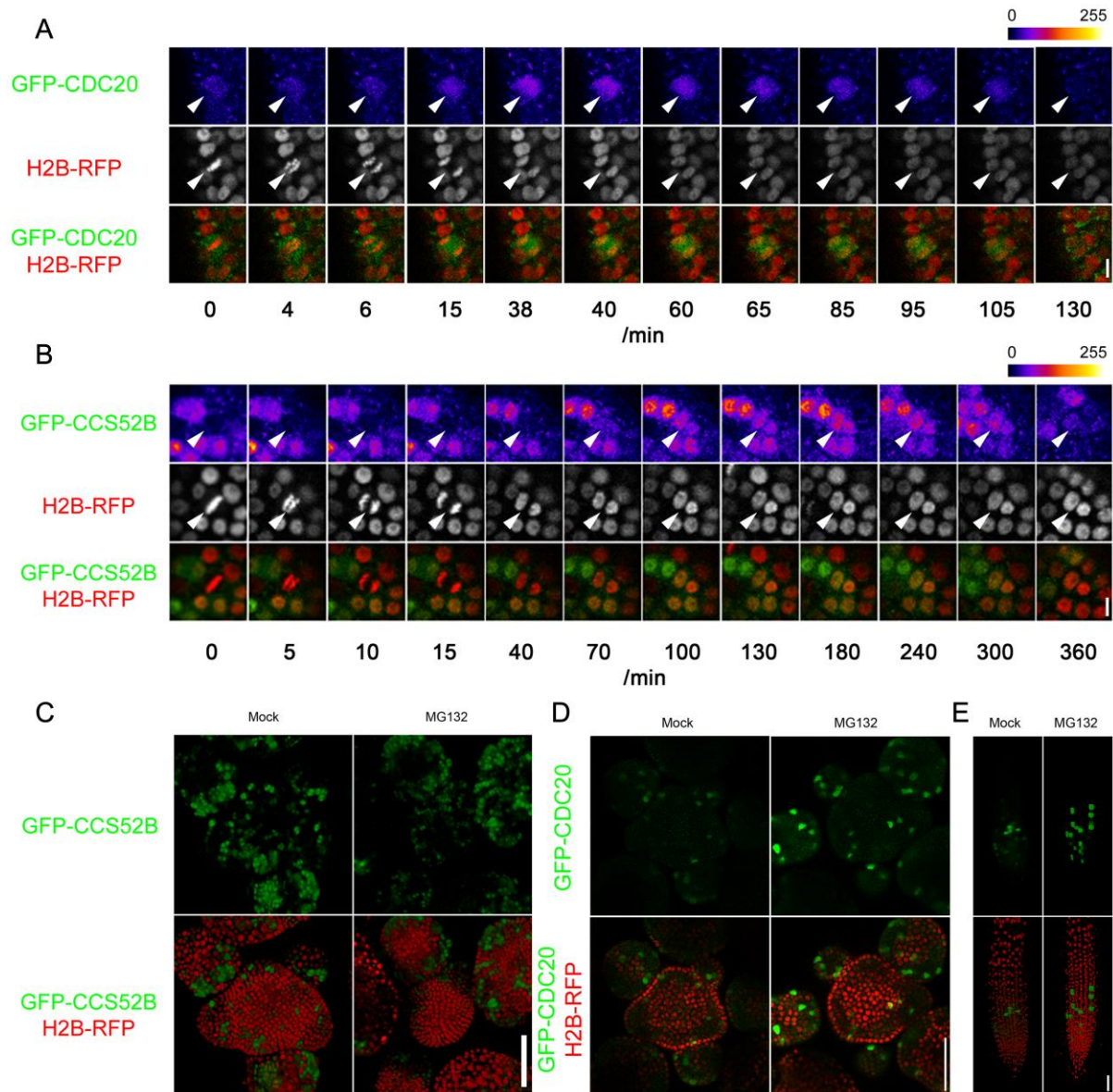
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858 **Figure S7. Fluctuation in the Protein Levels of CDC20 and CCS52B during the Cell Cycle.**

859 (A and B) Time-lapse imaging of GFP-CDC20 and GFP-CCS52B protein expression in the
860 same cell as it undergoes division. Arrowheads indicate the cells analysed. Scale bars, 5 μ m.

861 (C) MG132 treatment does not affect GFP-CCS52B protein abundance. Scale bar, 50 μ m.

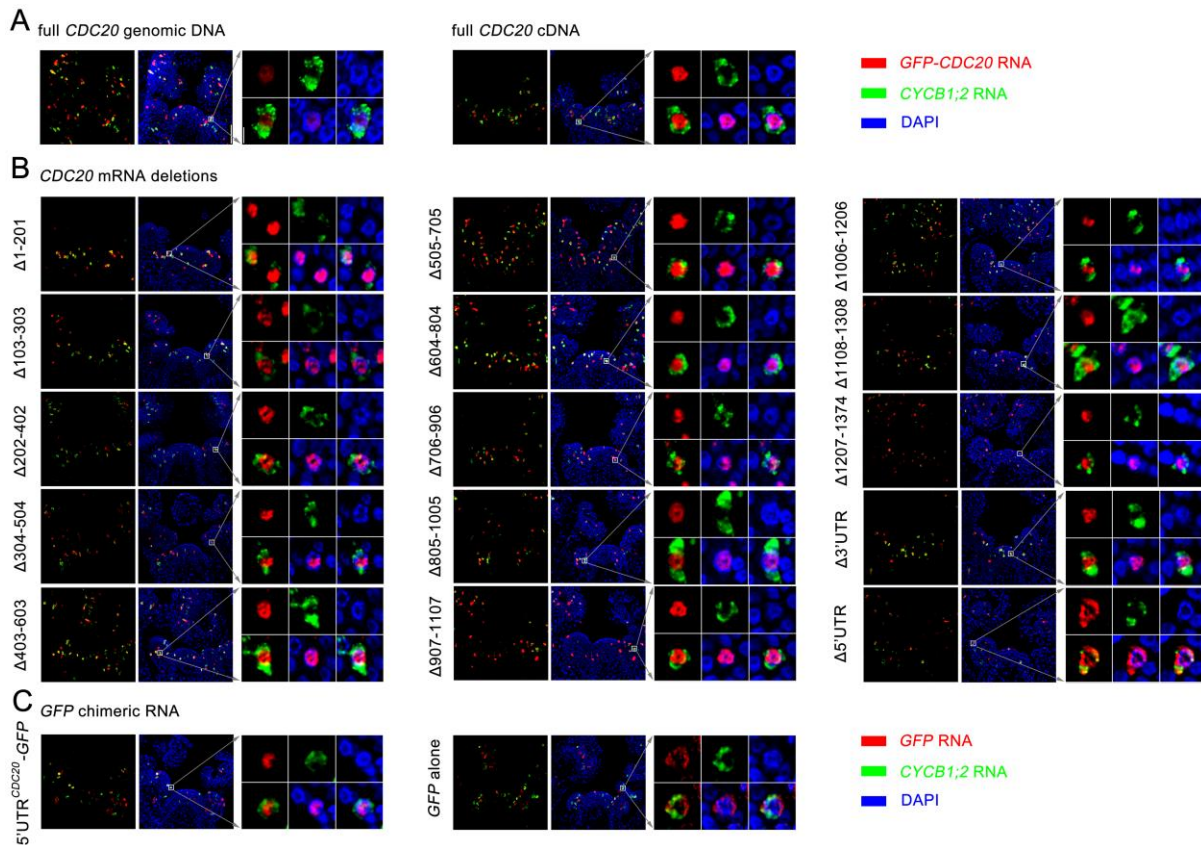
862 (D and E) The amount of GFP-CDC20 proteins in both SAM (C) and root (D) can be increased
863 by MG132 treatment. Scale bar, 50 μ m.

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869 **Figure S8. 5'UTR Affects *CDC20* mRNA Nuclear Localization.**

870 (A) The expression patterns of full length *GFP-CDC20* mRNAs transcribed from genomic
 871 DNA or cDNA in the shoot apex. Shown are representative meristems from one of the
 872 independent transgenic lines. Scale bar, 50 μ m for SAM overview and 5 μ m for single cells.

873 (B) The expression patterns of *GFP-CDC20* truncated mRNAs.

874 (C) The expression patterns of *GFP* chimeric mRNAs.

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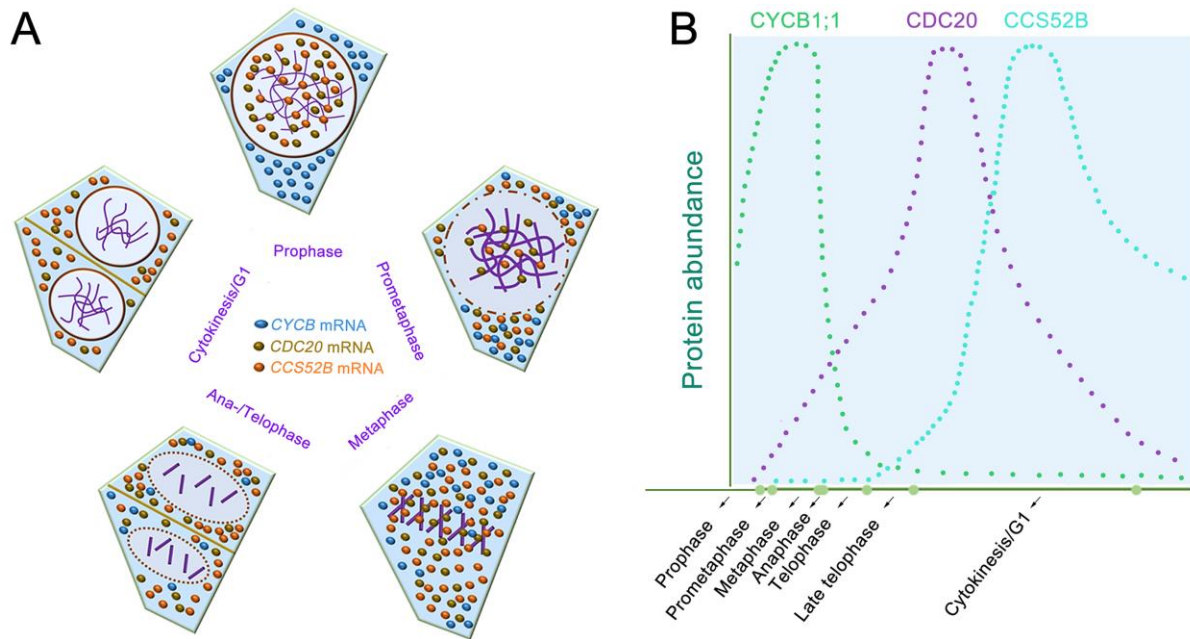
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884 **Figure S9. Model for Cell Cycle Control by mRNA Nuclear Sequestration.**

885 (A) Subcellular distribution of *CYCB*, *CDC20* and *CCS52B* mRNAs during cell cycle
886 progression in plant stem cells.

887 (B) *CYCB*, *CDC20* and *CCS52B* protein dynamics. Nuclear sequestration of *CDC20* and
888 *CCS52B* mRNAs in prophase prevents their translation to protein. Nuclear envelope
889 breakdown at prometaphase enables redistribution of the mRNAs into the cytoplasm and
890 subsequent protein synthesis, following which the proteins activate APC/C to destroy cyclin B
891 proteins and other substrates.