

1 **SHORT TITLE:** Synthesis of GDP-L-fucose is required for stomatal closure.

2 **TITLE:** Genetic screen to saturate guard cell signaling network reveals a role of GDP-L-fucose
3 metabolism in stomatal closure.

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28 **ABSTRACT**

29 Guard cells regulate plant gas exchange by controlling the aperture of stomatal pores. The process
30 of stomatal closure involves a multi-input signaling network that governs the activity of ion channels,
31 which in turn regulate guard cell turgor pressure and volume. Here we describe a forward genetic
32 screen to identify novel components involved in stomatal movements. Through an ozone-sensitivity
33 approach combined with whole-rosette gas exchange analysis, 130 mutants of established stomatal
34 regulators and 76 novel mutants impaired in stomatal closure were identified. One of the novel mutants
35 was mapped to MURUS1 (MUR1), the first enzyme in *de novo* GDP-L-fucose biosynthesis. Defects in
36 synthesis or import of GDP-L-Fuc into the Golgi apparatus resulted in impaired stomatal closure to
37 multiple stimuli. Stomatal phenotypes observed in *mur1* were independent from the canonical guard
38 cell signaling and instead could be related to altered mechanical properties of guard cell walls.
39 Impaired fucosylation of xyloglucan, N-linked glycans and arabinogalactan proteins did not explain the
40 aberrant function of *mur1* stomata, however our data suggest that the stomatal phenotypes observed in
41 *mur1* can at least partially be attributed to defective dimerization of rhamnogalactouronan-II. In
42 addition to providing the genetic framework for future studies on guard cell signaling, our work
43 emphasizes the impact of fucose metabolism on stomatal movement.

44 INTRODUCTION

45 Stomata are epidermal pores surrounded by pairs of guard cells that balance the loss of water and
46 uptake of CO₂ for photosynthesis. Guard cells respond to multiple environmental factors e.g. light, CO₂
47 concentration, drought, low humidity, pathogens and air pollutants such as ozone (O₃), to optimize
48 transpiration or prevent the entry of the pathogens into the leaf tissue. Accumulation of reactive oxygen
49 species (ROS) in the apoplast of guard cells and subsequent activation of plasma membrane Ca²⁺_{in}
50 channels are among the first events associated with execution of stomatal closure (McAinsh et al.,
51 1996; Pei et al., 2000; Kwak et al., 2003).

52 Depending on the stimulus, the apoplastic ROS are generated by NADPH oxidases (Kwak et al., 2003;
53 Kadota et al., 2014), apoplastic peroxidases and amine oxidases (Sierla et al., 2016), however, external
54 application of ROS alone is sufficient to initiate the process of stomatal closure (Price, 1990; McAinsh
55 et al., 1996; Kollist et al., 2007). Hydrogen peroxide (H₂O₂) is the most stable form of ROS (Waszczak
56 et al., 2018). Apoplastic perception of H₂O₂ involves activation of HYDROGEN
57 PEROXIDE-INDUCED Ca²⁺ INCREASES1 (HPCA1) leucine-rich repeat receptor kinase which is
58 necessary for activation of Ca²⁺_{in} channels (Wu et al., 2020). The subsequent rise in cytoplasmic Ca²⁺
59 concentration activates multiple Ca²⁺-dependent protein kinases (Maierhofer et al., 2014; Brandt et al.,
60 2015) that together with OPEN STOMATA1 (OST1) kinase (Geiger et al., 2009; Lee et al., 2009)
61 phosphorylate and activate guard cell anion channels SLOW ANION CHANNEL-ASSOCIATED1
62 (SLAC1), QUICK-ACTIVATING ANION CHANNEL1 (QUAC1) and SLAC1 HOMOLOGUE3
63 (SLAH3; for full list of kinases see Sierla et al., (2016)). The activation of guard cell anion channels,
64 accompanied by deactivation of H⁺-ATPase1 (AHA1; Merlot et al., 2007) leads to membrane
65 depolarization and activation of K⁺_{out} channels (Hedrich, 2012). The efflux of ions into the apoplast
66 leads to a decrease of osmotic pressure inside the guard cells which provokes an efflux of H₂O from the
67 guard cell cytoplasm and vacuole. The consequent drop in guard cell turgor pressure results in closure
68 of stomatal pores (Franks et al., 1998).

69 As evidenced by measurements of guard cell volume and turgor pressure performed in broad bean
70 (*Vicia faba*), during stomatal opening guard cell turgor pressure rises from as low as 0.3 MPa to 5 MPa
71 which is accompanied by a 30-40 % increase in guard cell volume (Franks et al., 2001). Importantly,
72 the expansion and flexing of guard cells has to overcome the turgor pressure of the subsidiary cells (for
73 a detailed discussion of the role of subsidiary cells see Lawson and Matthews, (2020)). On the other
74 hand, stomatal closure involves a significant decrease in guard cell volume and surface area (Shope et

75 al., 2003). To allow these volume and pressure changes, the guard cell walls must have a high degree of
76 plasticity, which must be determined by wall structure. While differences between taxa exist (Popper,
77 2008), plant primary cell walls are typically composed of cellulose, hemicelluloses (xyloglucan, xylan,
78 mannan), structural proteins, and pectins such as homogalactouronan (HG), rhamnogalactouronan-I
79 (RG-I) and rhamnogalactouronan-II (RG-II) that determine the cell wall elasticity (Liepman et al.,
80 2010). However, the relative content of these components varies between cell types and depends on
81 the developmental stage. Moreover, the spatial distribution of different cell wall components is not
82 uniform and reflects the mechanical needs of the respective cell type. Guard cells are an excellent
83 example of such specialization. In comparison to epidermal cells, the guard cell walls are significantly
84 thicker, devoid of highly methyl-esterified HG and rich in un-esterified HG (Amsbury et al., 2016;
85 Merced and Renzaglia, 2018). The degree of methyl esterification is inversely correlated with the
86 ability for Ca^{2+} -mediated crosslinking, which leads to a more rigid cell wall, as well as susceptibility to
87 degradation by polygalacturonases that leads to cell wall loosening (Levesque-Tremblay et al., 2015).
88 Plants deficient in pectin demethylesterification exhibit defects in stomatal closure (Amsbury et al.,
89 2016) which suggests that pectin crosslinking/degradation has a profound effect on the execution of
90 this process. Further, targeted enzymatic digestion of arabinans that typically constitute the side chains
91 of RG-I inhibits stomatal movements, and this effect can be counteracted by subsequent digestion or
92 depolymerization of HG (Jones et al., 2003) . Based on this observation, Jones et al., (2003) proposed
93 a model in which the arabinan side chains of RG-I prevent crosslinking of HG strands which otherwise
94 increases the cell wall rigidity, making it less capable to react to changes in guard cell turgor. Further,
95 as observed already in the first half of the 20th century (see Shtein et al., (2017) for recent visualization)
96 the cellulose microfibrils within the guard cell walls fan out radially from the pore to provide a hoop
97 reinforcement that limits the increase in guard cell radius and promotes guard cell elongation during the
98 stomatal opening (Woolfenden et al., 2017). Moreover, as inferred from the atomic force microscopy
99 (AFM)-based studies of guard cells, the stiffness of guard cell walls is not uniform; the most rigid areas
100 are localized at the poles of guard cells and ventral walls directly surrounding the pore (Carter et al.,
101 2017). During stomatal opening the polar fixing prevents the increase in the length of stomatal complex
102 and forces the elongating guard cells to bend, leading to an increase in pore aperture (Carter et al.,
103 2017). Taken together, it is clear, that the mechanics of the guard cell wall has a profound role in the
104 execution of stomatal movements (Rui et al., 2018; Woolfenden et al., 2018).

105 The synthesis of cell wall glycan polymers relies on the availability of nucleotide sugars that constitute
106 the activated precursor forms serving as a donor of sugar moieties (Bar-Peled and O'Neill, 2011).
107 The importance of nucleotide sugar synthesis and transport is exemplified by the requirement of
108 GDP-L-fucose for proper growth and development (Reiter et al., 1993; Reiter et al., 1997; O'Neill et
109 al., 2001; Van Hengel and Roberts, 2002; Rautengarten et al., 2016), resistance to pathogens (Zhang et
110 al., 2019) and freezing tolerance (Panter et al., 2019). The synthesis of GDP-L-Fuc is initiated by
111 GDP-D-mannose 4,6-dehydratases (GMD1) and MURUS1 (MUR1/GMD2) that catalyze the
112 conversion of GDP-D-mannose to GDP-4-keto-6-deoxy-D-mannose (Figure 1; Bonin et al., 1997;
113 Bonin et al., 2003). In leaf tissues, MUR1 is the major GMD isoform and the level of L-Fuc observed
114 in cell walls of *mur1* mutants is reduced by approximately 98% as compared to wild type plants (Reiter
115 et al., 1993). In aerial organs GMD1 is expressed only in stipules and pollen grains (Bonin et al., 2003)
116 and plays a minimal role in the synthesis of GDP-L-Fuc in leaf tissue.

117 Plants lacking MUR1 exhibit dwarfism, reduced apical dominance, brittle stems (Reiter et al., 1993),
118 short root phenotype (Van Hengel and Roberts, 2002), altered lignin structure and inflorescence stem
119 development (Voxeur et al., 2017), and sensitivity to freezing (Panter et al., 2019) and pathogens
120 (Zhang et al., 2019). The product of the MUR1-catalyzed reaction, GDP-4-keto-6-deoxy-D-mannose,
121 serves as a substrate for the GDP-4-keto-6-deoxymannose-3,5-epimerase-4-reductases GER1 (Bonin
122 and Reiter, 2000; Nakayama et al., 2003) and GER2 (Rhomberg et al., 2006) that complete the
123 synthesis of GDP-L-Fuc (Figure 1). Another pathway that leads to synthesis of GDP-L-Fuc (the L-
124 fucose salvage pathway) involves a single bifunctional enzyme L-FUCOKINASE/GDP-L-FUCOSE
125 PYROPHOSPHORYLASE (FKGP) that converts L-Fuc to GDP-L-Fuc (Figure 1; Kotake et al., 2008).
126 In contrast to *mur1*, the *fkgp* mutants exhibit normal growth phenotype and cell wall composition,
127 suggesting that the L-fucose salvage pathway has a minor role in Arabidopsis (Kotake et al., 2008).

128 Following synthesis in the cytoplasm, GDP-L-Fuc is transported into the Golgi lumen by the
129 GDP-FUCOSE TRANSPORTER1 (GFT1; Figure 1; Rautengarten et al., 2016). Knock-out mutants of
130 GFT1 are not viable, and GFT1 knockdown plants exhibit semi-lethal phenotypes similar to those of
131 *mur1* mutants (Rautengarten et al., 2016). Within the Golgi lumen, GDP-L-Fuc serves as a substrate for
132 fucosyltransferases (FUT) that fucosylate components of the cell wall (Figure 1). There are 13
133 fucosyltransferases (FUT1 – FUT13) in Arabidopsis (Sarria et al., 2001; Wilson et al., 2001), and
134 according to the current state of knowledge, all are either confirmed or expected to localize to the Golgi
135 membrane with the catalytic domain facing the lumen (Sarria et al., 2001; Strasser, 2016). FUTs add

Figure 1

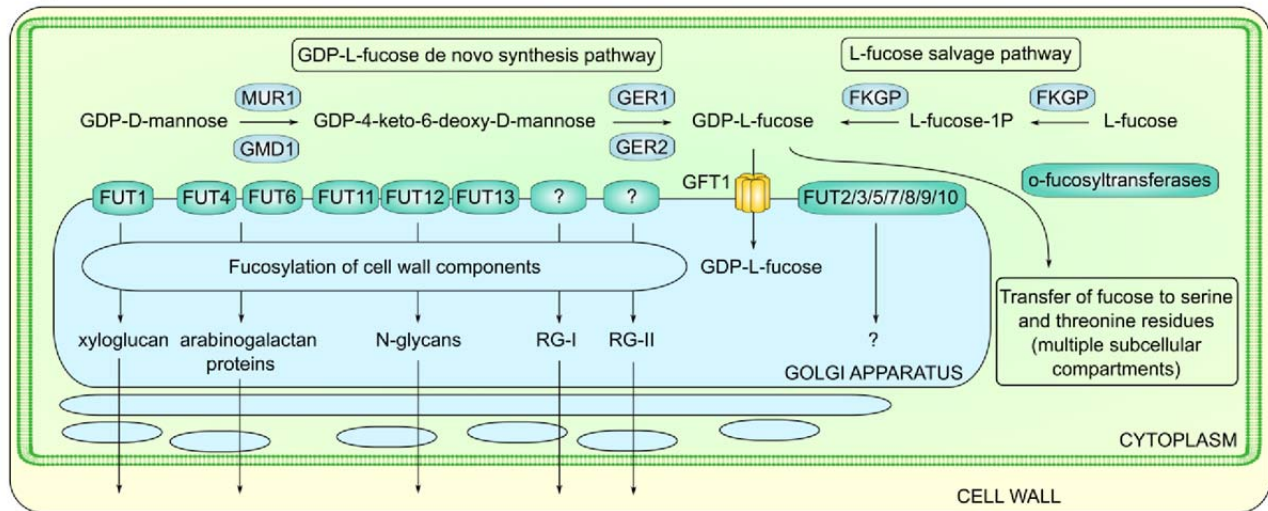


Figure 1. Synthesis and metabolism of GDP-L-fucose in *Arabidopsis thaliana*.

136 L-Fuc residues onto molecules such as xyloglucan (FUT1/MUR2)(Perrin et al., 1999; Vanzin et al.,
 137 2002), arabinogalactan proteins (FUT4, FUT6; Wu et al., 2010; Liang et al., 2013; Tryfona et al., 2014)
 138 and N-linked glycans (FUT11/FUCTA, FUT12/FUCTB, FUT13/FUCTC; Leonard et al., 2002;
 139 Strasser et al., 2004). Furthermore, L-Fuc is found in RG-I and RG-II, although the FUTs involved in
 140 the synthesis of these pectins are not known. In terms of quantity, the majority of L-Fuc is found in
 141 RG-I (Anderson et al., 2012). Importantly, the dwarf phenotype of *mur1* mutants has been previously
 142 attributed to deficiency in boron-dependent dimerization of RG-II (O'Neill et al., 2001). In *mur1*, RG-
 143 II L-Fuc residues are replaced by L-galactose (Zabackis et al., 1996) which leads to an approximately
 144 50% decrease in RG-II dimer formation (O'Neill et al., 2001) possibly caused by RG-II chain A
 145 truncation (Pabst et al., 2013).

146 To understand processes controlling stomatal movements, O₃ can be used as an apoplastic ROS donor
 147 to stimulate stomatal closure (Kollist et al., 2007; Vahisalu et al., 2010). Ozone enters plants through
 148 stomata and subsequently decomposes to various ROS that further provoke active production of ROS
 149 by plant cells (Vainonen and Kangasjärvi, 2014). Plants deficient in O₃-induced stomatal closure
 150 receive high doses of O₃ that trigger formation of visible hypersensitive response-like lesions. These
 151 lesions are easy to score and allow the identification of stomatal mutants in forward genetic approaches
 152 (Overmyer et al., 2000). Previously, such a genetic screen led to the identification of several proteins
 153 involved in stomatal closure, i.e., SLOW ANION CHANNEL1 (SLAC1; Vahisalu et al., 2008), the

154 receptor-like pseudokinase GUARD CELL HYDROGEN PEROXIDE-RESISTANT1 (GHR1) that
155 participates in activation of SLAC1 (Sierla et al., 2018), and HIGH TEMPERATURE1 (HT1) kinase
156 which acts in high CO₂-induced guard cell signaling as an inhibitor of SLAC1 activation (Hörak et al.,
157 2016). Here we present an O₃ exposure-based forward genetic screen specifically aimed at the
158 identification of novel components involved in stomatal closure. We report the isolation of 76 novel
159 mutants, and 130 new mutants of established stomatal regulators. In particular, we describe the
160 identification of the MUR1 mutant and show that synthesis and import of GDP-L-fucose into the Golgi
161 lumen play an important role in stomatal closure. Our results are consistent with the hypothesis that the
162 stomatal deficiencies observed in *mur1* mutants are due to altered mechanical properties of the guard
163 cell walls, and we propose that reduced dimerization of rhamnogalactouronan-II contributes to the
164 impaired stomatal function observed in *mur1* mutants.

166 **RESULTS**

167 **A forward genetic screen identifies novel regulators of guard cell signaling**

168 To fill the gaps in known guard cell signaling networks, we have performed forward genetic screen
169 based on an O₃-sensitivity (Figure 2). This screen is fully independent from our previous screen
170 (Overmyer et al., 2000). A total of 125,000 seeds of Arabidopsis line pGC1:YC3.6 (Yang et al., 2008),
171 expressing yellow cameleon 3.6 (YC3.6; Nagai et al., 2004), a biosensor probe that allows for imaging
172 of intracellular Ca²⁺, were treated with ethyl methanesulfonate (EMS). Later, 380,000 M2 plants were
173 exposed to O₃. Individual plants displaying visible O₃-damage were then subjected to thermal imaging
174 and water loss assay (see Materials and Methods). The progeny of the most prominent mutants
175 (approximately 3,200 lines) was subjected to a secondary screen utilizing the same screening methods.
176 Lines for which at least one of the phenotypes was clearly confirmed (551 lines) were then analyzed
177 with a whole-rosette gas exchange system (Kollist et al., 2007) to investigate stomatal responses to a
178 variety of stimuli inducing stomatal closure i.e. apoplastic ROS (delivered by means of O₃-fumigation),
179 5 μM ABA spray, high CO₂ and reduced air humidity which is often termed as vapor pressure deficit
180 (VPD; Merilo et al., 2018). Lines demonstrating lack, or impairment of stomatal responses to at least a
181 single stimulus (206 lines) were subjected to targeted sequencing of genomic regions encoding 22
182 well-established stomatal regulators, hereafter referred to as “*usual suspects*”, to avoid potential
183 re-discoveries (Figure 2). The list of *usual suspects* included ion channels, ABA biosynthesis enzymes,
184 protein kinases, phosphatases, and other proteins where the corresponding mutant lines are known to
185 exhibit impaired stomatal closure and/or higher stomatal conductance (see Supplementary Table 1 for
186 a full list). Approximately 60% of the tested lines (130) had mutations in coding regions of at least one
187 *usual suspect*. Most frequently mutations were identified within *AHA1*, *GHR1* (Sierla et al., 2018),
188 *MITOGEN-ACTIVATED PROTEIN KINASE12 (MPK12)* and *MORE AXILLARY BRANCHES2*
189 (*MAX2*) coding sequences (Figure 2). Among the 76 mutants with no mutations in *usual suspects*, the
190 most frequently observed stomatal phenotypes were impaired responses to elevated CO₂ (48 out of 76)
191 and high loss of water from detached leaves (46 out of 76). Notably, the majority of newly identified
192 mutants were affected in stomatal responses to more than one stimulus (Figure 2). With the exception
193 of new alleles of HT1 and AHA1 that will be published elsewhere, all new alleles of the *usual suspects*
194 are listed in (Supplementary Data Set 1). Due to the high number of mutant lines, we were not able to
195 perform allelism tests for all new alleles of the *usual suspects*. However, published results (Sierla et al.,

Figure 2

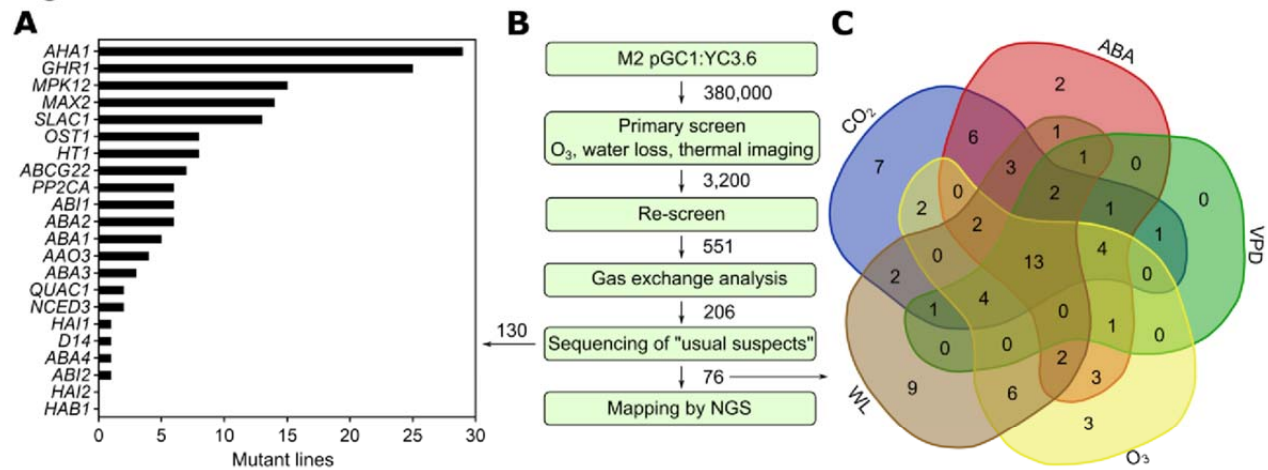


Figure 2. Ozone sensitivity-based forward genetic screen to identify novel regulators of stomatal closure.

(A) The amount of mutant lines of known stomatal regulators identified during candidate gene sequencing.

(B) Scheme of the screening procedure.

(C) Whole-rosette gas exchange analysis of novel mutants impaired in stomatal closure. Numbers indicate the amount of mutants impaired in stomatal closure to indicated stimuli.

196 2018), as well as currently ongoing experiments, indicate that in most of the lines the observed
 197 phenotypes are linked to the mutations in the tested genes. Therefore, only the lines with no mutations
 198 in the *usual suspects* were retained for further analysis.

199 Mapping of a novel mutant impaired in stomatal closure identifies MUR1

200 From the screen described above, mutant *T7-9* exhibited higher water loss from detached leaves (water
 201 loss) compared to wild type (Figure 3A), and partially impaired stomatal responses to O₃, high CO₂
 202 concentration, ABA, and darkness, while retaining the ability to close stomata in response to high VPD
 203 (Supplemental Figure 1). Throughout this paper, the water loss assay, also known as “mass loss of
 204 detached leaves, MLD” (Duursma et al., 2019) is used as a simple indicator of stomatal function (if the
 205 cuticle permeability is intact) and has proven reliable in our previous work on stomatal signaling
 206 (Vahisalu et al., 2008; Hörak et al., 2016; Sierla et al., 2018). To identify the causative mutation in
 207 *T7-9*, we applied the SHOREmap backcross pipeline (Hartwig et al., 2012). For this, *T7-9* was

Figure 3

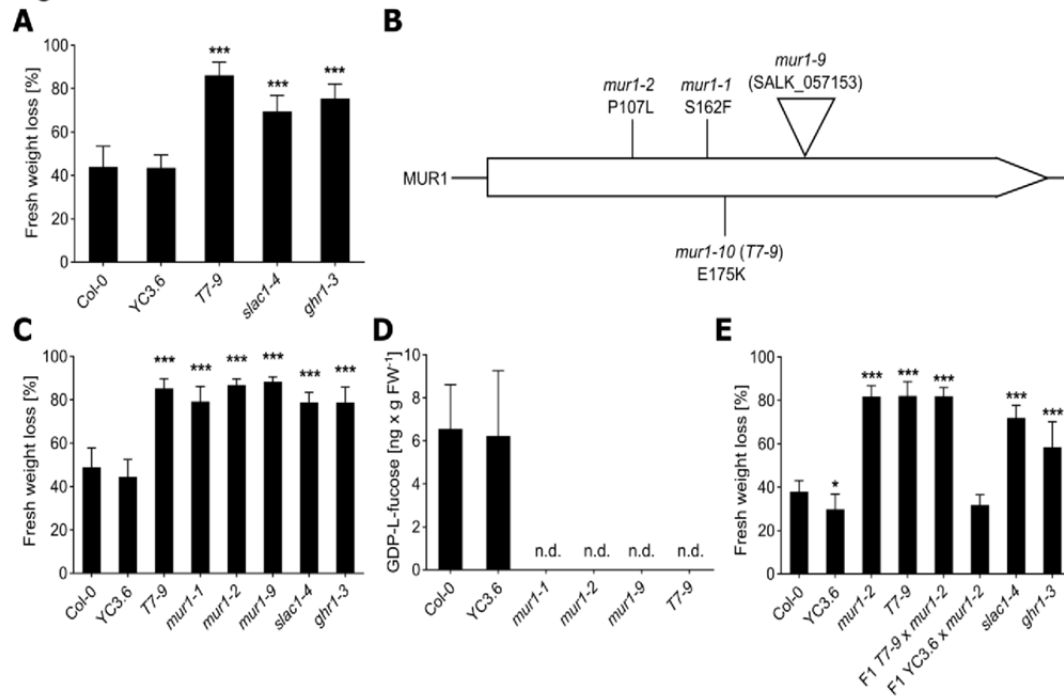


Figure 3. Mapping of T7-9 mutant.

(A) Leaf fresh weight loss of *T7-9* and control lines (YC3.6, Col-0, *slac1-4* and *ghr1-3*) recorded after 2h. Data bars represent means \pm SD (n = 12 plants).

(B) Positions of mutations in *mur1* mutants used in this study.

(C) Leaf fresh weight loss of *T7-9*, independent *mur1* mutants (*mur1-1*, *mur1-2*, *mur1-9*) and control lines (YC3.6, Col-0, *slac1-4* and *ghr1-3*) recorded after 2h. Data bars represent means \pm SD (n = 12 plants).

(A, C) Asterisks denote statistical differences (***) p < 0.001) to respective control lines (Col-0 or YC3.6) according to one-way ANOVA followed by Sidak's post-hoc test.

(D) GDP-L-fucose content in *T7-9*, *mur1* mutants and respective control lines measured by UPLC-MS. Data bars represent means \pm SD (n = 4-5 plants); n.d., not detected.

(E) Leaf fresh weight loss of *T7-9*, *mur1-2*, F1 *T7-9* x *mur1-2*, F1 YC3.6 x *mur1-2* and control lines recorded after 2h. Data bars represent means \pm SD (n = 9-12 plants). Asterisks denote statistical differences (* p < 0.05; ** p < 0.01; *** p < 0.001) to Col-0 according to one-way ANOVA followed by Dunnett's post-hoc test.

(A, C, E) Experiments were repeated three times with similar results. Results of the representative experiments are shown.

209 inheritance. Approximately 21% of the BC₁F₂ plants (123 out of 593) exhibited increased water loss,
210 indicating that the trait was determined by a single locus. Nuclear DNA from the 123 BC₁F₂ plants
211 displaying the mutant phenotype was bulked and subjected to next generation sequencing (NGS).
212 Analysis of the NGS data with marker frequency threshold set to 0.9 resulted in identification of five
213 non-synonymous EMS-specific mutations enriched in BC₁F₂ plants displaying high water loss
214 (Supplementary Table 2). All polymorphisms localized to the lower arm of chromosome 3 within a
215 17.0 - 19.1 Mb physical interval. Screening of the mutant lines for the five candidate genes revealed
216 that three independent mutant lines: *mur1-1*, *mur1-2* (Reiter et al., 1993; Bonin et al., 1997) and *mur1-*
217 *9* (SALK_057153, Supplementary Figure 2), carrying mutations within *AT3G51160* (Figure 3B),
218 exhibited highly elevated water loss (Figure 3C). The mutant lines for the remaining candidate genes
219 had WT-like water loss (Supplemental Figure 3). *AT3G51160* encodes GDP-mannose-4,6-dehydratase
220 MURUS1 (GMD2, MUR1) which catalyzes the first step in *de novo* biosynthesis of GDP-L-Fucose
221 (Figure 1; Bonin et al., 1997). Therefore, we investigated the level of GDP-L-Fuc in the *T7-9* mutant.
222 Similarly to other *mur1* mutants, we were not able to detect this metabolite in *T7-9* suggesting the
223 complete loss of MUR1 enzymatic activity (Figure 3D). Finally, an allelism test between *T7-9* and a
224 *mur1-2* mutant revealed lack of complementation, confirming that the *T7-9* MUR1 E175K mutation
225 (hereafter referred to as *mur1-10*) conferred its high water loss (Figure 3E).

226 **MUR1 is involved in stomatal development**

227 As multiple phenotypes observed in *mur1* mutants have been attributed to abnormal cell wall
228 composition (Reiter et al., 1993; O'Neill et al., 2001; Van Hengel and Roberts, 2002), we first focused
229 on characterizing *mur1* stomata and cuticle development. No phenotypes related to cuticle permeability
230 were detected in any of the four *mur1* mutants by means of dye-exclusion assay (Supplemental Figure
231 4). To assess stomatal development, we performed scanning electron microscopy-based examination of
232 abaxial epidermis of *mur1-1* and *mur1-2* cotyledons. In agreement with an earlier report (Zeng et al.,
233 2011), no consistent phenotype related to stomatal density was observed in *mur1* mutants. The stomatal
234 density in *mur1-2* mutant was higher than in *mur1-1*, which had a similar stomatal density to Col-0
235 (Supplementary Figure 5A). The average size of stomatal pores was moderately increased in the *mur1-*
236 *1* mutant, while in *mur1-2* there were no significant differences compared to Col-0 (Supplementary
237 Figure 5B). Notably, in both *mur1* mutants we observed a larger variability in size of stomatal pores
238 (Supplementary Figure 5C) and the biggest stomatal complexes (2-8% of stomata, Supplementary

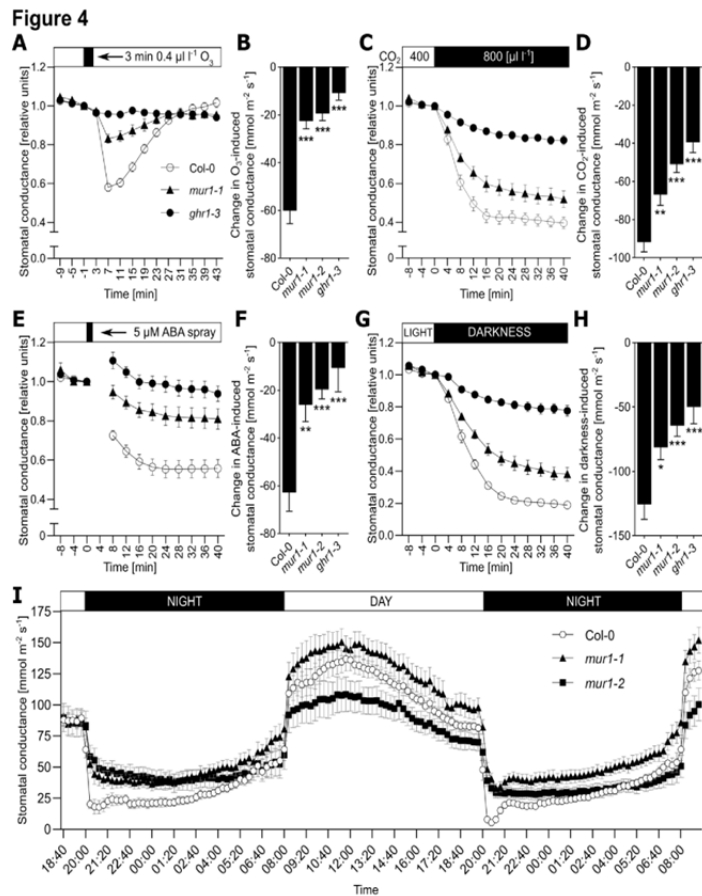


Figure 4. Characterization of *mur1* stomatal phenotypes.

(A-H) Stomatal responses of *mur1* mutants to stomata-closing stimuli. The changes in stomatal conductance are shown in relative and absolute values calculated from the data presented in Supplementary Figure 6.

(A, C, E, G) Time course of relative stomatal conductance (normalized to the last time point before the treatment) of 3- to 4-week-old *mur1-1*, Col-0, and *ghr1-3* plants in response to **(A)** O_3 pulse, **(C)** elevated CO_2 , **(E)** ABA spray and **(G)** darkness. The indicated treatments were applied at $t = 0$ and whole-rosette stomatal conductance was recorded. Data points represent means \pm SEM; $n = 7-10$ **(A)**, 10-12 **(C)**, 9-11 **(E)**, 6-11 **(G)** plants analyzed in two **(A, E, G)** or three **(C)** independent experiments.

(B, D, F, H) Changes in stomatal conductance of Col-0, *mur1-1*, *mur1-2* and *ghr1-3* in response to **(B)** O_3 pulse, **(D)** elevated CO_2 , **(F)** ABA spray and **(H)** darkness. Values were calculated by subtracting the initial stomatal conductance at $t = 0$ **(D, F, H)** or $t = -1$ **(B)** from the stomatal conductance at **(B)** $t = 7$ min, **(D, F, H)** $t = 40$ min. Data bars represent means \pm SEM; $n = 7-10$ **(B)**, 10-12 **(D)**, 9-11 **(F)**, 6-11 **(H)** plants. Asterisks denote statistical differences to Col-0 (* $p < 0.05$; ** $p < 0.01$; *** $p < 0.001$) according to one-way ANOVA followed by Dunnett's post-hoc test.

(I) Diurnal changes in whole-rosette stomatal conductance of *mur1-1*, *mur1-2* and Col-0 plants. Data points represent means \pm SEM; $n = 8$ plants analyzed in 3 experiments. Each experiment was started at the same time of the day and measurements were recorded for 45 h.

240 observed before (Zeng et al., 2011; Zhang et al., 2019), a fraction of *mur1* stomata exhibited aberrant
241 structure of the outer cuticular ledge. In the most severe cases (3-17% of stomata, Supplementary
242 Figure 5D) the outer stomatal ledges completely sealed the stomatal pores (Supplementary Figure 5F)
243 similarly as in mutants lacking FUSED OUTER CUTICULAR LEDGE1 (FOCL1), a proline-rich
244 protein necessary for formation of outer cuticular ledge (Hunt et al., 2017). Overall, despite the
245 differences in stomata size and morphology, the whole plant steady state stomatal conductance of the
246 *mur1* mutants did not differ significantly from that of the wild type plants (Supplementary Figure 1,
247 Supplementary Figure 6, Figure 4I).

248 **MUR1 is required for stomatal closure**

249 To further characterize the stomatal function in *mur1* mutants, we subjected them to a variety of
250 treatments provoking stomatal movements and followed the time-resolved whole-rosette stomatal
251 conductance (Kollist et al., 2007). Gas exchange measurements were performed for *mur1-1* and *mur1-2*
252 mutants (Reiter et al., 1993; Bonin et al., 1997). For the treatments inducing stomatal closure, either
253 *ghr1-3* (Sierla et al., 2018) or *ost1-3* (Yoshida et al., 2002) were used as non-responsive controls, while
254 in stomata opening assays *ht1-2* (Hashimoto et al., 2006) was used. Across all gas-exchange assays,
255 the stomatal responses of *mur1* mutants were consistent (Supplementary Figures 6 and 7), therefore,
256 representative results obtained for *mur1-1* allele are shown (Figure 4). As observed earlier in *T7-9*,
257 (Supplementary Figure 1) plants lacking MUR1 were impaired in the rapid transient decrease of
258 stomatal conductance in response to a three-minute O₃ pulse (Figure 4A-B, Supplementary Figure 6A),
259 that otherwise induces a rapid decrease in Col-0 plants (Kollist et al., 2007; Vahisalu et al., 2010; Sierla
260 et al., 2018). This suggests that the activity of MUR1 is required for rapid stomatal movements in
261 response to ROS. Further, we observed impaired stomatal closure upon treatment with elevated CO₂
262 concentration (800 μl l⁻¹), 5 μM ABA spray or application of darkness during the light period (Figure
263 4C-H, Supplementary Figure 6B-D). Similarly, during diurnal light/dark cycles, the transition to
264 darkness induced a rapid drop in stomatal conductance of Col-0 plants while the *mur1* mutants
265 exhibited a much less pronounced response, and maintained higher stomatal conductance during the
266 darkness period (Figure 4I). In contrast to these observations, as seen earlier in *T7-9* (Supplementary
267 Figure 1), the stomatal responses of *mur1* mutants to high VPD were not significantly different from
268 those of Col-0 plants (Supplementary Figure 6E-F). The stimuli provoking stomatal opening, such as
269 exposure to low CO₂ concentration (400 → 100 μl l⁻¹) or increase in light intensity (150 → 500 μmol

270 $\text{m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$), did not show any differences between *mur1* mutants and the wild type (Supplementary Figure
271 7) suggesting that MUR1 activity is not required for stomatal opening. Taken together, our data
272 indicate that MUR1 activity is required for normal stomatal closure in response to O₃, high CO₂
273 concentration, ABA and darkness, but not for stomatal opening.

274 **Import of GDP-L-fucose into the Golgi apparatus is necessary for stomatal function**

275 To further study the role of MUR1 in stomatal closure, we investigated stomatal function in mutants
276 impaired in the subsequent steps of the GDP-L-Fuc synthesis and transport (Figure 1). For this, two
277 T-DNA insertion mutants of GER1, (*ger1-2*, *ger1-3*) as well as GER2 (*ger2-1*, *ger2-2*) were isolated
278 (Supplementary Figure 2B, C) and subjected to a water loss assay. None of the tested *ger* mutants
279 exhibited elevated water loss, suggesting functional redundancy (Figure 5A). Similarly, the water loss
280 of *fkgp* mutants (*fkgp-1*, *fkgp-2*; Kotake et al., 2008) was similar to that of Col-0 (Figure 5A) indicating
281 that the L-fucose salvage pathway has little impact on stomatal closure. To further explore the possible
282 redundancy between GER1 and GER2, we attempted to generate a *ger1 ger2* double mutant. To this
283 end, *ger1-2* and *ger1-3* were crossed with *ger2-1* and *ger2-2*. However, no double homozygous plants
284 were found in any of the four F2 families. Similarly, the F3 progeny of F2 plants homozygous for *ger1*
285 but heterozygous for *ger2* alleles (*ger1-2^{-/-} ger2-1^{+/-}*; *ger1-2^{-/-} ger2-2^{+/-}*; *ger1-3^{-/-} ger2-1^{+/-}*; *ger1-3^{-/-}*
286 *ger2-2^{+/-}*) did not contain double mutants. In every case, the observed segregation of *ger2* alleles
287 (*ger2^{+/+}* : *ger2^{+/-}* : *ger2^{-/-}*) within the F3 families was 1 : 1 : 0 (Supplementary Table 3). We therefore
288 inspected both pollen viability and embryo development in F2 *ger1^{-/-} ger2^{+/-}* plants but did not find any
289 abnormalities. Hence, the inability to generate *ger1 ger2* mutants might be related to defects in
290 fertilization with *ger1⁻ ger2⁻* pollen. Thus, we focused on characterization of the GDP-L-Fuc
291 transporter GFT1.

292 Loss-of-function mutants of GFT1 are not viable, for that reason we utilized hairpin RNAi knockdown
293 plants (hp*GFT1*; (Rautengarten et al., 2016). A total of 66 independent hp*GFT1* T1 plants were
294 selected and transplanted to soil. As described before, the hp*GFT1* plants exhibited varying growth
295 phenotypes, i.e., reduced projected rosette area, short petioles, and wavy leaves (Supplementary Figure
296 8A) that correlated with the residual *GFT1* transcript level and cell wall L-Fuc content (Rautengarten et
297 al., 2016). For each of the T1 hp*GFT1* plant that survived in soil (64 plants) we measured the projected
298 rosette area and loss of water from detached leaves, as well as the *GFT1* transcript level (58 plants).
299 The hp*GFT1* T1 plants exhibited varying water loss (Figure 5B) and residual *GFT1* transcript level

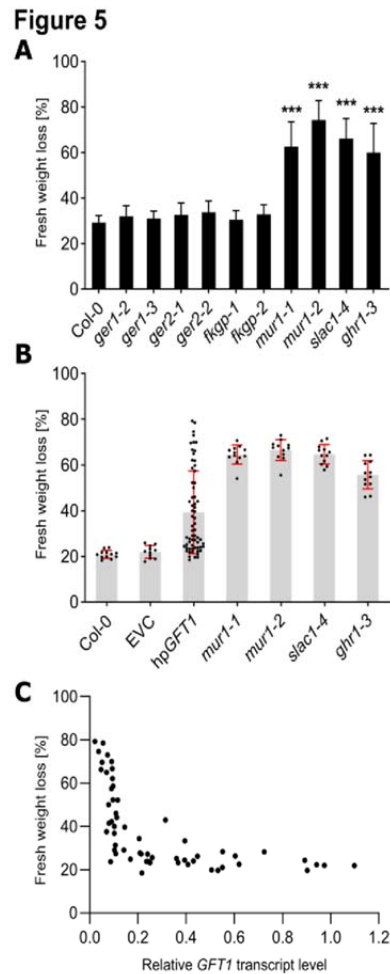


Figure 5. Stomatal function in mutants affected in GDP-L-fucose metabolism.

(A) Leaf fresh weight loss of mutants of genes encoding enzymes involved in synthesis of GDP-L-fucose, and control lines (Col-0, *mur1-1*, *mur1-2*, *slac1-4* and *ghr1-3*), recorded after 2h. Data bars represent means \pm SD (n = 13-16 plants). Asterisks denote statistical differences (***) p < 0.001) to Col-0 according to one-way ANOVA followed by Dunnett's post-hoc test. Experiment was repeated three times with similar results. Results of the representative experiment are shown.

(B) Leaf fresh weight loss of 64 independent *hpGFTI* T1 plants, and control lines (Col-0, EVC – empty-vector control, *mur1-1*, *mur1-2*, *slac1-4* and *ghr1-3*), recorded after 2h. Data points represented values obtained for separate plants. Data bars represent means \pm SD (for control lines n = 11-12 plants).

(C) Correlation between residual *GFTI* transcript level and fresh weight loss observed in 58 independent *hpGFTI* T1 plants. Each dot represents values obtained for an independent *hpGFTI* T1 plant.

301 5C). Similarly, the projected rosette area was also negatively correlated with the water loss
302 (Supplementary figure 8C). The majority of hp*GFTI* plants with *GFTI* transcript level lower than 10%
303 of that observed in the empty vector control (EVC) displayed water loss comparable to that of *mur1*
304 mutants (Figure 5C). Together, our data indicate that the import of GDP-L-Fuc into the Golgi lumen is
305 important for stomatal closure.

306 **Lack of MUR1 affects mechanical properties of guard cell walls.**

307 To investigate the genetic interactions between MUR1 and proteins regulating canonical stomata
308 closure pathways we crossed *mur1-1* and *mur1-2* mutants to *slac1-4* (Vahisalu et al., 2008), *aba2-11*
309 (González-Guzmán et al., 2002), *ost2-2D* (Merlot et al., 2007), *ost1-3* (Yoshida et al., 2002) and *ghr1-3*
310 (Sierla et al., 2018) and assayed the stomatal function of the double mutants via water loss assay. In
311 every double mutant an additive effect of combining two mutations (Figure 6A) indicated that the
312 phenotypes observed in *mur1* plants were independent from the canonical guard cell signaling
313 pathways. Because of the additive effects (Figure 6A), the previously documented role of MUR1 in cell
314 wall development (Reiter et al., 1993; Reiter et al., 1997; O'Neill et al., 2001), as well as the general
315 deficiency in responses to stomata-closing stimuli observed in *mur1* mutants (Figure 4, Supplementary
316 Figure 1, Supplementary Figure 6), we investigated the mechanical properties of *mur1* guard cell walls
317 with atomic force microscopy (Carter et al., 2017). The patterning of the apparent modulus (E_a) in the
318 stomatal complexes of *mur1* mutants was comparable to that of the control lines. However, comparison
319 of the absolute E_a values derived from the AFM scans indicated that *mur1* mutants had significantly
320 stiffer subsidiary cells and this difference was even more pronounced when values obtained for guard
321 cell walls were compared (Figure 6B). Thus, taken together, our data indicate that the stomatal
322 phenotypes observed in *mur1* mutants are most likely related to the altered mechanical properties of the
323 stomatal complexes.

324 ***mur1* stomatal phenotypes are not linked to xyloglucan structure.**

325 Xyloglucan has been previously linked to stomatal movements (Rui and Anderson, 2016). To
326 investigate whether the phenotypes observed in *mur1* mutants might be related to the lack of
327 xyloglucan fucosylation, we analyzed the stomatal function in mutants lacking FUT1/MUR2, the major
328 xyloglucan fucosyltransferase (Figure 1; Vanzin et al., 2002), and KATAMARI1/MURUS3 (KAM1,
329 MUR3) a xyloglucan galactosyltransferase (Madson et al., 2003). The cell wall fucose content in *mur2-1*,
330 *mur3-1* and *mur3-2* mutants is reduced by approximately 50 % (Reiter et al., 1997). Unlike MUR3

Figure 6

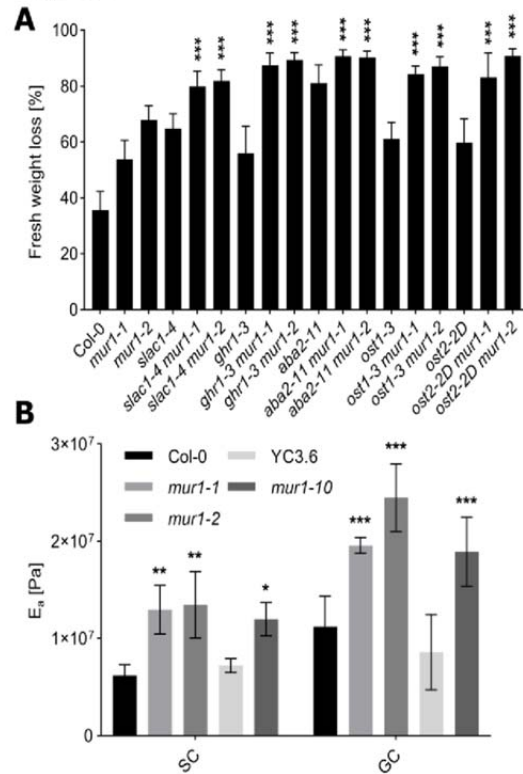


Figure 6. Stomatal phenotypes observed in *mur1* mutants are independent from canonical guard cell signaling.

(A) Leaf fresh weight loss of double mutants obtained after crossing *slac1-4*, *ghr1-3*, *aba2-11*, *ost1-3* and *ost2-2D* with *mur1-1* and *mur1-2* recorded after 1h. Data bars represent means \pm SD (n = 13-16 plants). Asterisks denote statistical differences (***) p < 0.001) to respective single mutant lines (*slac1-4*, *ghr1-3*, *aba2-11*, *ost1-3* and *ost2-2D*) according to one-way ANOVA followed by Sidak's post-hoc test. Experiment was repeated three times with similar results. Results of the representative experiment are shown.

(B) Average apparent Young's modulus (E_a) values derived from AFM scans of subsidiary cells (SC) and guard cells (GC) of control (Col-0, YC3.6) and *mur1* plants. Bars represent means \pm SD (n = 2-3 plants, 2 stomata per plant). Data analyzed with two-way repeated measures ANOVA with "genotype" and "cell type" as factors, followed by Tukey's post-hoc test. Asterisks denote statistical differences (* p < 0.05, ** p < 0.01, *** p < 0.001) to respective control lines (Col-0, YC3.6) observed within a cell type.

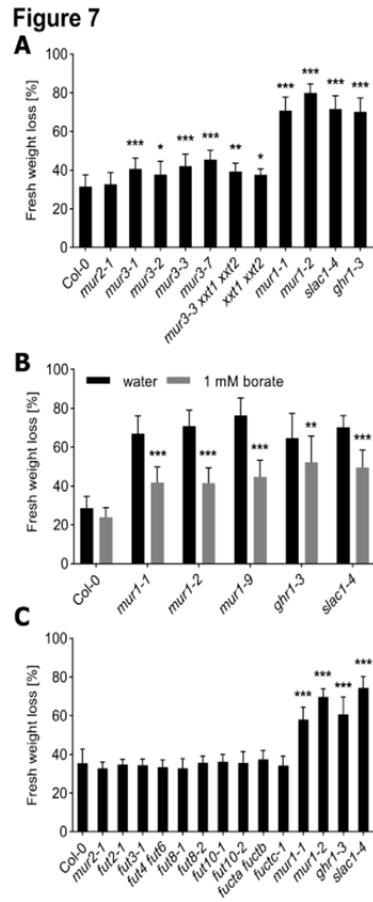


Figure 7. Screen for fucose-containing cell wall components affecting stomatal function.

(A) Leaf fresh-weight loss of mutants affected in fucosylation and synthesis of xyloglucan, recorded after 2h. Values obtained for Col-0, *mur1-1*, *mur1-2*, *slac1-4* and *ghr1-3* are provided for reference. Data bars represent means \pm SD (n = 15-16 plants).

(B) The effect of borate supplementation on the leaf fresh-weight loss of *mur1* mutants and control lines (Col-0, *ghr1-3* and *slac1-4*). Bars represent means \pm SD (n = 14-16 plants). Data analyzed with two-way ANOVA with “genotype” and “borate concentration” as factors, followed by Sidak’s post hoc test. Asterisks denote statistical significances (** p < 0.01, *** p < 0.001) of treatment effect within each genotype. Experiment was repeated five times with similar results. Results of the representative experiment are shown.

(C) Leaf fresh-weight loss of mutants deficient in fucosyltransferases. Values obtained for Col-0, *mur1-1*, *mur1-2*, *slac1-4* and *ghr1-3* are provided for reference.

(A, C) Experiments were repeated at least 3 times with similar results. Results of the representative experiments are shown. Asterisks denote statistical differences (* p < 0.05, ** p < 0.01, ***p < 0.001) to Col-0 according to one-way ANOVA followed by Dunnett’s post-hoc test.

333 activity of XYLOSYLTRANSFERASE1 (XXT1) and XXT2 leading to plants devoid of xyloglucan
334 (Kong et al., 2015). Therefore, we assessed the stomatal function of *mur2-1*, all four *mur3* mutants, as
335 well as a *mur3-3 xxt1 xxt2* triple mutant (Kong et al., 2015) and an *xxt1 xxt2* double mutant (Cavalier et
336 al., 2008). The water loss of *mur2-1* was not significantly different from that observed for Col-0
337 control, indicating that the lack of xyloglucan fucosylation does not affect the stomatal closure process
338 (Figure 7A). All *mur3* mutants exhibited a moderately elevated water loss, however, much lower than
339 that of *mur1* mutants. The water loss of xyloglucan-deficient *xxt1 xxt2* double mutant was similar to
340 that of Col-0 (Figure 7A). Therefore, we concluded that the stomatal phenotypes observed in *mur1*
341 mutants were not linked to defects in XyG fucosylation.

342 ***mur1* stomatal phenotypes are related to pectin structure**

343 To investigate whether the stomatal phenotypes of *mur1* were related to the dimerization of RG-II, we
344 grew *mur1* mutants in soil supplemented with 1 mM borate. Such treatments were previously shown to
345 compensate for the deficiency in RG-II crosslinking (O'Neill et al., 2001). We observed a significant
346 decrease of water loss of *mur1* mutants grown in the presence of 1 mM borate as compared to the
347 control conditions (Figure 7B). A similar trend was observed in Col-0, *slac1-4* and *ghr1-3* mutants,
348 albeit to a much lower extent. To validate this finding, we utilized plants lacking boron transporter
349 REQUIRES HIGH BORON1 (BOR1) required for boron xylem loading (Noguchi et al., 1997; Takano
350 et al., 2002) as previously the impaired uptake of boron was demonstrated to affect the dimerization of
351 RG-II (Miwa et al., 2013; Panter et al., 2019). Lack of BOR1 leads to impaired expansion of rosette
352 leaves which can be rescued by increase of B concentration in the growth medium (Noguchi et al.,
353 1997). We found that a soil-grown *bor1-3* mutant (Kasai et al., 2011) exhibited high water loss which
354 could be reverted by supplementing the soil with 50 μ M borate, while lower concentrations (10 μ M
355 and 20 μ M) had no effect (Supplementary Figure 9). Thus, the data supported the hypothesis that the
356 phenotypes observed in *mur1* plants were related to a deficiency in RG-II crosslinking.

357 To further investigate the role of RG-II in stomatal closure, we analyzed the stomatal function of
358 mutants lacking other enzymes involved in RG-II biosynthesis. The structure of RG-II is highly
359 complex and in Arabidopsis only few enzymes involved in its synthesis have been identified
360 (Funakawa and Miwa, 2015). Thus far, apart from enzymes involved in synthesis or transport of GDP-
361 L-Fuc, the following proteins have been shown to play a role in RG-II synthesis:
362 RHAMNOGALACTURONAN XYLOSYLTRANSFERASE1 (RGXT1), RGXT2 (Egelund et al.,

363 2006), RGXT3 (Egelund et al., 2008), RGXT4/MGP4 (Liu et al., 2011) catalyzing the transfer of D-
364 xylose onto L-fucose, KDO-8-P SYNTHASE1 (*AtKDSA1*) and *AtKDSA2*, required for synthesis of 3-
365 deoxy-d-manno-octulosonate (KDO; Matsuura et al., 2003; Delmas et al., 2008); and GOLGI GDP-L-
366 GALACTOSE TRANSPORTER1 (GGLT1) required for import of GDP-L-galactose into the Golgi
367 apparatus (Sechet et al., 2018). Deficiency in RGXT4 or KDSA activity leads to defective pollen tube
368 formation, preventing the generation of mutant lines (Delmas et al., 2008; Liu et al., 2011). Therefore,
369 we investigated the water loss of plants deficient in RGXT1 (*rgxt1-1*), RGXT2 (*rgxt2-1*; Egelund et al.,
370 2006), KDSA1 (*AtkdsA1-S*), KDSA2 (*AtkdsA2-S*; Delmas et al., 2008) and three GGLT1 RNAi
371 knockdown lines (Sechet et al., 2018); but no elevated water loss was observed in any of the tested
372 lines (Supplementary Figure 10). It should be noted that, under our growth conditions, none of the
373 tested mutants phenocopied the *mur1* rosette phenotype, which suggests functional redundancy
374 between the members of the respective gene families (Delmas et al., 2008) or different structural
375 consequences for the cell wall caused by the alterations of RG-II composition in the respective mutants.

376 In addition, we investigated whether *mur1* stomatal phenotypes might be related to lack of fucosylation
377 of other cell wall components. For this, we measured water loss of mutants deficient in FUT4 and
378 FUT6 (*fut4 fut6*; Tryfona et al., 2014), FUT11 and FUT12 (*fucta fuctb*; Strasser et al., 2004), FUT13
379 (*fuctc-1*; Rips et al., 2017) as well as other fucosyltransferases with yet unidentified targets for which
380 the mutant lines were available: *fut2-1*, *fut3-1*, *fut8-1*, *fut8-2*, *fut10-1* and *fut10-2* (Supplementary
381 Figure 11). We did not detect *FUT9* transcript in 2-week-old seedlings, and at the time of the analysis
382 no mutant lines for FUT5 and FUT7 were available, therefore FUT5, FUT7 and FUT9 were not
383 included in these experiments. The water loss of *fut4 fut6*, *fucta fuctb* and *fuctc-1* mutants was
384 comparable to that of Col-0 (Figure 7C), suggesting that *mur1* stomatal deficiencies are not related to
385 lack of fucosylation of arabinogalactan proteins or N-linked glycans. Similarly, mutants of the
386 remaining fucosyltransferases did not show elevated water loss, which likely reflects a high degree of
387 functional redundancy within the FUT family.

388

389 **DISCUSSION**

390 **Forward genetic screen identifies new components of guard cell signaling network**

391 Stomatal movements are coordinated by multiple signaling pathways that converge to regulate the
392 activity of guard cell tonoplast and plasma membrane ion channels. Over the last three decades, many
393 components of guard cell signaling networks have been identified (Hedrich, 2012; Sierla et al., 2016;
394 Ehonen et al., 2019; Lawson and Matthews, 2020), however multiple key components await
395 characterization. Here we describe a forward genetic screen that aims to saturate the gene network
396 controlling stomatal closure. Our results indicate that the current gene network is far from complete as
397 we identified 76 mutants affected in stomatal closure (Figure 2) that do not represent mutations in any
398 of the 22 well-established stomatal regulators. The majority of the novel mutants were impaired in
399 stomatal closure to several stimuli, however mutants deficient in responses to a single stimulus e.g.
400 apoplastic ROS generated by O₃ exposure, or CO₂ were also identified (Figure 2). We expect that
401 future characterization of the newly identified mutants will provide insight into global, and stimuli-
402 specific regulation of stomatal closure. As expected, apart from identifying novel mutants, our
403 screening strategy yielded 130 new mutants of genes encoding known stomatal regulators
404 (Supplementary Data Set 1). Mutations in *AHAI*, *GHR1*, *MPK12* and *MAX2* (Figure 2) were the most
405 prevalent, which might emphasize the significance of these genes in stomatal closure or the importance
406 of intact protein sequence for the whole-protein function. New alleles of the *usual suspects* described
407 here can act as a useful resource for detailed studies of their molecular function. Recently we used 10
408 novel alleles of *GHR1* to dissect the role of specific mutations on its function and stability (Sierla et al.,
409 2018). Currently, we are investigating the newly identified mutants of *AHAI* and *HTI* to get a deeper
410 insight into their mode of action. An unexpected finding was the identification of multiple novel alleles
411 of *MAX2* (Supplementary Data Set 1). *MAX2* is mostly recognized for its role in strigolactone
412 signaling (Waters et al., 2017) and has been previously implicated in guard cell functions (Ha et al.,
413 2014; Piisilä et al., 2015) that are likely independent from SLs signaling (Kalliola et al., 2020).
414 However, our data suggests that the role of *MAX2* in stomatal closure might be more central than
415 previously realized. In conclusion, our work provides genetic resources that enable further studies of
416 established stomatal regulators. Furthermore, mapping of newly identified mutants will contribute to
417 saturation of the genetic landscape of stomatal regulation.

418 **Synthesis and import of GDP-L-fucose into the Golgi is necessary for stomatal closure**

419 At the organellar/cellular level, the flux of water through the guard cell tonoplast and plasma
420 membranes results in changes in volume and surface area of guard cells (Franks et al., 2001; Shope et
421 al., 2003; Meckel et al., 2007) and their central vacuoles (Diekmann et al., 1993; Gao et al., 2005).
422 Stomatal opening involves an increase in guard cell turgor (Franks et al., 2001), volume, and surface
423 area that in turn lead to an increase in guard cell length (Meckel et al., 2007). Contrary to stomatal
424 opening, stomatal closure involves guard cell shrinking. However, it is not entirely understood how the
425 repetitive, and fast changes in guard cell wall surface area are executed during stomatal movements.
426 According to current understanding, this process relies on the flexibility of the cell wall matrix which is
427 determined during guard cell morphogenesis (Rui et al., 2018), and is presumably promoted by the
428 turgor pressure of the subsidiary cells. Data available thus far point towards the key role of the pectin
429 network in controlling the cell wall flexibility that enables stomatal movements, and results presented
430 in this study support this hypothesis. The first mutant characterized from the screen described here
431 corresponds to MUR1 - an enzyme catalyzing the first step in *de novo* GDP-L-Fuc synthesis pathway
432 (Bonin et al., 1997). Plants lacking GDP-L-Fuc exhibited high loss of water from detached leaves and
433 impaired responses to apoplastic ROS, ABA, darkness and high CO₂ concentration (Figure 4,
434 Supplementary Figures 1 and 6). Elevated water loss was also observed in plants impaired in import of
435 GDP-L-Fuc into Golgi apparatus (Figure 5B-C). Therefore, we conclude that not just the synthesis, but
436 also the import of GDP-L-Fuc into the Golgi lumen is necessary for stomatal closure. Recently, *mur1*
437 mutants were also shown to lack stomatal responses to treatment with *Pseudomonas syringae* (*Pst*
438 DC3118) and salicylic acid (Zhang et al., 2019). The stomatal defects observed in *mur1* appear
439 independent from canonical guard cell signaling pathways (Figure 6A) and instead stem from defects in
440 cellular metabolism.

441 The Golgi apparatus (GA) serves as a hub for synthesis of pectic polysaccharides which are later
442 exported to the apoplastic space (Caffall and Mohnen, 2009). Accordingly, the fucosylation of cell wall
443 polysaccharides, AGPs and N-linked glycans is thought to occur in the GA (Figure 1; Chou et al.,
444 2015; Strasser, 2016) and the majority of fucose is incorporated into the cell wall via the GA-derived
445 vesicles (Anderson et al., 2012). We found that mutants of fucosyltransferases responsible for synthesis
446 of AGPs, N-linked glycans and xyloglucan did not exhibit elevated water loss (Figure 7 A,C), therefore
447 we excluded the possibility that phenotypes observed in *mur1* might be linked to impaired fucosylation
448 of these cell wall components. The partial reversion of the *mur1* water loss phenotype by borate (Figure
449 7B), and high water loss observed in *bor1-3* mutant (Supplementary Figure 9), suggests that the

450 phenotype is linked either directly, or indirectly, to the structure and dimerization of RG-II. Earlier it
451 was found that *mur1* mutants, even when grown under high borate conditions, had 74-78 % of RG-II in
452 dimer form while nearly all RG-II (95%) was dimerized in Col-0 (O'Neill et al., 2001). Therefore,
453 partial restoration of *mur1* stomatal function might be related to incomplete RG-II dimerization even
454 after borate supplementation.

455 A complementary explanation for the observed phenotype might be related to shortening of the RG-II
456 chain A observed in *mur1* plants (Pabst et al., 2013). As RG-II and HG share the same backbone and
457 are covalently cross-linked (Caffall and Mohnen, 2009; Harholt et al., 2010) the shortening of the RG-
458 II chain A might have similar consequences as digestion of RG-I arabinan side chains (as observed
459 previously by Jones et al., (2003)). According to this scenario, the lack of GDP-L-Fuc would promote
460 crosslinking of HG and render the guard cell walls stiffer and, thus, less responsive to changes in turgor
461 pressure. This hypothesis is supported by our AFM data as we found that *mur1* mutants have
462 significantly stiffer epidermal cell walls than wild type plants (Figure 6B). It is noteworthy, that
463 mutants with highly decreased HG content, *quasimodol* (*qual*; Bouton et al., 2002) and *qua2* (Mouille
464 et al., 2007) exhibit morphological phenotypes related to loss of cell adhesion which are not a direct
465 consequence of decreased HG content (Verger et al., 2016). In addition to impaired development, both
466 mutants exhibit high loss of water from detached leaves (Bouton et al., 2002; Krupková et al., 2007)
467 however, it is yet unknown whether this phenotype is related to impaired stomatal closure.

468 One argument against the hypothesis of increased HG crosslinking comes from the observation of the
469 stomatal opening process in *mur1* mutants. In contrast to stimuli inducing stomatal closure, *mur1*
470 mutants responded properly to stomatal opening cues such as increase in light intensity and decrease in
471 CO₂ concentration (Supplementary Figure 7), while Jones et al., (2003) observed impaired stomatal
472 opening after the arabinanase treatment. However, a similar phenotype to that reported here, i.e.
473 impaired closure and normal opening, was observed in plants lacking POLYGALACTURONASE
474 INVOLVED IN EXPANSION3 (PGX3; Rui et al., 2017). Polygalacturonases constitute a large group
475 of pectin-hydrolyzing enzymes (Yang et al., 2018). PGX3 is expressed in expanding tissues and guard
476 cells where it controls the abundance and molecular mass of HG. PGX3 deficiency led to increased
477 crosslinking of HG and impaired stomatal responses to ABA and darkness while the light- or
478 fusicoccin-induced stomatal opening was not affected (Rui et al., 2017). On the basis of this phenotype

479 Rui et al., (2017) proposed a model in which the loosening of pectin structure is necessary for stomatal
480 closure, which is supported by the results of our study.

481 The normal stomatal opening observed in *mur1* and *pgx3* mutants might be explained by the relatively
482 low severity of phenotypes observed in these two mutants. Jones et al., (2003) reported that treatment
483 with arabinanase completely inhibited stomatal closure, while slower and “stepwise” stomatal closure
484 was observed in *mur1* and *pgx3* mutants, respectively. The digestion of arabinan via exogenous enzyme
485 treatment in epidermal strips likely affects the structure of the guard cell pectin network to a much
486 greater extent than that observed in the intact leaves of *mur1* and *pgx3* mutants, leading to a stomatal
487 opening phenotype.

488 Because of the observed changes in mechanical properties of guard cell walls, and the independence of
489 *mur1* stomatal phenotypes from canonical guard cell signaling pathways, we hypothesize that the
490 impaired function of *mur1* stomata is linked to a relatively stiffer epidermis. Since stomatal movements
491 occur in the context of a mechanical environment determined by the subsidiary cells it is possible that
492 the increased stiffness of the subsidiary cells also contributes to the *mur1* phenotypes.

493 **Alternative hypotheses and future challenges**

494 Since *mur1* mutants exhibit a radical reduction in availability of GDP-L-Fuc, additional factors may
495 contribute to impaired function of *mur1* stomata. For example, a fraction of stomatal pores of *mur1*
496 plants were sealed with outer cuticular ledges (Supplementary Figure 5). A similar but more severe
497 phenotype, which was also associated with impaired stomatal closure in response to ABA, has been
498 observed in the *focl1* mutant (Hunt et al., 2017). The precise molecular function of FOCL1 is not
499 known, however, it has been proposed to control the mechanical properties of guard cell walls and the
500 formation of the cuticle-cell wall bond (Hunt et al., 2017). Thus, it is tempting to speculate that, while
501 being independent from guard cell signaling, impaired *mur1* stomatal responses might be linked to
502 those observed in *focl1*.

503 As the majority of cell wall L-fucose is localized in RG-I (Anderson et al., 2012), the lack of
504 fucosylation of this cell wall component might also contribute to phenotypes observed in *mur1*. To our
505 knowledge, the identity of fucosyltransferases responsible for incorporation of L-Fuc into RG-I and
506 RG-II remains unknown. Despite screening of multiple fucosyltransferase mutants we were not able to
507 reproduce the *mur1* phenotype (Figure 7C), which probably reflects functional redundancy within the

508 FUT family. In support of this hypothesis, the coding sequences of multiple FUTs are highly similar
509 and physically localized in groups (Sarria et al., 2001) which suggests that closely related FUTs arose
510 during gene duplication and, thus, might function redundantly. Therefore, due to the current lack of
511 genetic tools, we were unable to precisely pinpoint the cell wall components responsible for *mur1*
512 stomatal phenotypes. Analysis of high-order mutant lines, or the application of a CRISPR-
513 Cas/amiRNA strategy, might be suitable for identification of fucosyltransferases that fucosylate RG-I
514 and RG-II.

515 Depletion of GDP-L-Fuc likely results also in defects in protein o-fucosylation. According to
516 phylogenetic analysis of plant and metazoan o-fucosyltransferases, Arabidopsis POFUTs constitute a
517 multigene family with nearly 40 members (Smith et al., 2018). Among them SPINDLY was shown to
518 fucosylate and activate DELLA proteins (Zentella et al., 2017) and according to (Zhang et al., 2019),
519 part of the pathogen susceptibility observed in *mur1* mutants can be explained by lack of
520 SPINDLY-mediated protein o-fucosylation. However, we were not able to detect stomata-related
521 phenotypes in *spy* mutant lines. Another two putative o-fucosyltransferases FRIABLE1 (FRB1) and
522 ESMERALDA (ESMD) were shown to influence cell adhesion (Neumetzler et al., 2012; Verger et al.,
523 2016). Similarly to *qual* and *qua2*, plants lacking FRB1 exhibit loss of cell adhesion (Neumetzler et
524 al., 2012). Strikingly, the introduction of the *esmd* mutation into *qual*, *qua2* and *frb1* backgrounds
525 restored their cell adhesion defects with no apparent changes in cell wall composition, implying the
526 existence of a signaling pathway controlling cell adhesion (Verger et al., 2016). More research efforts
527 are needed to investigate whether the above-discussed mutants are impaired in stomatal function.

528 In summary, our study reveals that the synthesis of GDP-L-fucose is necessary for stomatal closure and
529 highlights the key role of fucose metabolism for stomatal closure. The interpretation of our data in the
530 context of earlier observations/hypotheses (Jones et al., 2003; Amsbury et al., 2016; Rui et al., 2017)
531 leads us to conclude that the impaired stomatal closure observed in *mur1* is linked to increased stiffness
532 of guard cell walls which likely stems from enhanced crosslinking of HG caused by impaired structure
533 of RG-II. While the information obtained from mutant lines reported here provides valuable indications
534 as to which cell wall components are necessary for the execution of stomatal movements, precisely
535 how wall structure is modified/reorganized upon perception of stomatal opening/closing stimuli to
536 accommodate volume/pressure changes awaits future investigation.

537 MATERIALS & METHODS

538 Plant material and growth conditions

539 All *Arabidopsis thaliana* mutants used in this study were in the Col-0 genetic background. The
540 following lines were obtained from Nottingham Arabidopsis Stock Center: *mur1-1*, *mur1-2* (Reiter et
541 al., 1993; Bonin et al., 1997); *mur1-9* (SALK_057153); *ger1-2* (WiscDsLox_425G11), *ger1-3*
542 (GK_296H02), *ger2-1* (GK_113G05), *ger2-2* (SALK_091781); *mur2-1* (Reiter et al., 1997; Vanzin et
543 al., 2002); *ghr1-3* (GK_760C07; Sierla et al., 2018); *slac1-4* (SALK_137265; Vahisalu et al., 2008);
544 *ost1-3* (SALK_008068; Yoshida et al., 2002); *mur3-7* (SALK_127057; Tamura et al., 2005); *AtkdsA1-*
545 *S* (SALK_024867), *AtkdsA2-S* (SALK_066700; Delmas et al., 2008); *rgxt1-1* (SALK_073748), *rgxt2-1*
546 (SALK_023883; Egelund et al., 2006), *bor1-3* (SALK_037312; Kasai et al., 2011), *fut2-1*
547 (GK_320C07), *fut3-1* (SALK_045666), *fut8-1* (SALK_010965), *fut8-2* (WiscDsLox_449F06), *fut10-1*
548 (WiscDsLox_432A01), *fut10-2* (SALK_020408), *fuctc-1* (SALK_067444; Rips et al., 2017).
549 pGC1:YC3.6 line (Yang et al., 2008) was donated by Julian Schroeder. FKGP mutants *fkgp-1*
550 (SALK_012400), *fkgp-2* (SALK_053913; Kotake et al., 2008) were donated by Toshihisa Kotake;
551 *mur3-1*, *mur3-2* (Reiter et al., 1997), *mur3-3* (SALK_141953; Tamura et al., 2005), *xxt1*
552 (SAIL_785_E02) *xxt2* (SALK_101308) double mutant (Cavalier et al., 2008), and *xxt1 xxt2 mur3-3*
553 triple mutant (Kong et al., 2015) were donated by Malcolm A. O'Neill; *ost2-2D* mutant (Merlot et al.,
554 2007) was donated by Jeffrey Leung; *aba2-11* mutant (González-Guzmán et al., 2002) was donated by
555 Pedro L. Rodríguez; *fucTA* (SALK_087481) *fucTB* (SALK_063355) double mutant (Strasser et al.,
556 2004) seeds were obtained from Richard Strasser; *fut4* (SAIL_284_B05) *fut6* (SALK_078357) double
557 mutant seeds (Tryfona et al., 2014) were obtained from Paul Dupree; *snrk2.236* triple mutant seeds
558 (Fujii and Zhu, 2009; Cui et al., 2016) were donated by Hiroaki Fujii and Kirk Overmyer; *ht1-2* mutant
559 (Hashimoto et al., 2006) was donated by Koh Iba. All mutant lines were genotyped with gene specific
560 primers (Supplementary Data Set 2). GGLT1 RNAi lines (Sechet et al., 2018), together with the
561 corresponding empty-vector control, were donated by Julien Sechet and Jenny C. Mortimer; T1 seeds
562 of hpGFTI and empty-vector control as well as *E.coli* and *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* strains carrying
563 the hpGFTI construct in pART27 (Rautengarten et al., 2016) were obtained from Joshua L.
564 Heazlewood. To generate hpGFTI lines, Col-0 plants were transformed via the floral-dip method with
565 *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* strain AGL1 carrying the hpGFTI construct in pART27 vector
566 (Rautengarten et al., 2016). T1 transformants were selected on half-strength Murashige & Skoog

567 medium (Duchefa Biochemie) supplemented with 50 $\mu\text{g ml}^{-1}$ kanamycin, in a controlled growth
568 chambers (MLR-350, Sanyo) under 12 h light (130-160 $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$)/12 h dark cycle, 22°C/18°C
569 (day/night). After two weeks plants were transplanted to soil and grown for additional three weeks as
570 described below. The same selection procedure has been applied to select for empty-vector control
571 lines. Col-0, *mur1-1*, *mur1-2*, *slac1-4* and *ghr1-3* lines were grown in parallel, except the selection
572 antibiotic was not included in the growth medium. The double mutants of *mur1-1* and *mur1-2* with
573 *ost1-3*, *aba2-11*, *ghr1-3*, *slac1-4* and *ost2-2D* were generated by crossing *mur1-1* and *mur1-2* (pollen
574 acceptors) with the respective pollen donor. Double mutants were identified in F2 generation by
575 genotyping with gene-specific primers (Supplementary Data Set 2). An attempt to generate *ger1 ger2*
576 double mutants was performed by crossing *ger1-2* and *ger1-3* (pollen acceptors) with *ger2-1* and *ger2-*
577 *2* (pollen donors). Later, F2 populations were genotyped with gene-specific primers (Supplementary
578 Data Set 2). F2 plants homozygous for *ger1* but heterozygous in *ger2* locus were allowed to self-
579 pollinate and the F3 plants were genotyped as before to determine the segregation of *ger2* alleles.

580 Unless specified otherwise, seeds were suspended in 0.1% agarose solution, vernalized in the dark for
581 two days at 4°C and sown on a 1:1 mixture of peat and vermiculite. Plants were grown in controlled
582 growth rooms under 12 h light (200 $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$)/12 h dark cycle, 22°C/18°C (day/night), 60%/70%
583 relative humidity.

584 **Mutagenesis and screening procedure**

585 Mutagenesis of Arabidopsis pGC1:YC3.6 (Yang et al., 2008) seeds was performed as described before
586 (Kim et al., 2006). In the primary screen, M2 plants were grown for two weeks and exposed to 275-350
587 nl l^{-1} O_3 for 6 h. Presence of O_3 -induced lesions was assessed visually, and sensitive plants were
588 rescued. One to two weeks later, rosettes were imaged with an Optris PI450 thermal imager (Optris
589 GmbH) and subjected to water loss assay as described below. M3 seeds were collected from the M2
590 plants that exhibited the most pronounced phenotypes i.e. severe O_3 sensitivity, high loss of water
591 and/or low leaf temperature. Later, to confirm the inheritance of the observed phenotypes, the M3
592 plants were exposed to 350 nl l^{-1} O_3 for 6 h, and subjected to water loss assay. Approximately half of
593 both, the primary and the secondary screen, was performed at the ExpoSCREEN facility (HMGU,
594 Munich) and the remaining half at the plant growth facilities of the University of Helsinki. Lines for
595 which at least one phenotype was reproduced, were selected for whole-rosette gas exchange-based
596 phenotyping of stomatal function. Gas exchange measurements were performed on 2 - 4 plants per

597 mutant line and in total 551 lines were analyzed for stomatal responses to O₃ pulse (547 lines), elevated
598 CO₂ (550 lines), darkness (106 lines), VPD (498 lines) and ABA spray (482 lines). Stomatal
599 conductance of 505 lines was tested.

600 Lines with defective stomatal responses to at least one stimulus were subjected to sequencing of “usual
601 suspects” either by NGS-based sequencing of PCR amplicons obtained with the use of gene-specific
602 primers (Supplementary Data Set 2) and Phusion DNA polymerase (ThermoFisher Scientific; ROUND
603 1 to 6), or whole-genome sequencing (ROUND 7 and 8). In the PCR-based approach, for each line,
604 amplicons were pooled and subjected to NGS with the use of GS FLX+ system (Roche) or MiSeq
605 system (Illumina) at DNA Sequencing and Genomics Laboratory, Institute of Biotechnology,
606 University of Helsinki. Sequencing with the use of GS FLX+ system was performed exactly as
607 described before (Sierla et al., 2018). For MiSeq-based sequencing, pooled amplicons were sheared
608 (Bioruptor NGS, Diagenode) into approximately 500 bp fragments, end-repaired, A-tailed and ligated
609 to truncated TruSeq adapters (Illumina). After purification a PCR reaction was performed to introduce
610 full-length P5 adapter and indexed P7 adapter sequences. After PCR, all products were pooled, purified
611 with AMPure XP (Agencourt, Beckman Coulter), size selected to 600-800 bp (as described above), and
612 analyzed on a Fragment Analyzer (Advanced Analytical Technologies Inc., Ankeny, IA, USA). Paired-
613 end sequencing were performed on a MiSeq using a 600 cycle kit v3 (Illumina). The obtained
614 sequences were trimmed using Cutadapt (Martin, 2011) and assembled with SPAdes (Bankevich et al.,
615 2012). In the whole genome sequencing approach (ROUND 7 and 8, performed at Institute for
616 Molecular Medicine Finland, FIMM) leaf samples of approximately 10 plants per line were used for
617 nuclear DNA isolation. Nextera Flex library preparation was performed using 50-100 ng of dsDNA
618 according to Nextera DNA Flex Library Prep Reference Guide (Illumina, San Diego, CA, USA) with
619 the following modifications: all reactions were performed in half of the normal volume and library
620 normalization was done according to the concentration measured on LabChip GX Touch HT
621 (PerkinElmer, USA). Later, 500-850 bp fragments were size selected from the pool using BluePippin
622 (Sage Science, USA). In ROUND 7, sequencing was performed with Illumina NovaSeq 6000 system
623 using S4 flow cell with lane divider (Illumina, San Diego, CA, USA). Read length for the paired-end
624 run was 2x151 bp. In ROUND 8, sequencing was performed with the Illumina NovaSeq 6000 system
625 using S1 flow cell with lane divider (Illumina, San Diego, CA, USA). Read length for the paired-end
626 run was 2 x 101 bp. Following the data acquisition, reads were subjected to demultiplexing with
627 Illumina bcl2fastq2.20 software.

628 Quality control of the reads was carried out using FastQC software
629 (<https://www.bioinformatics.babraham.ac.uk/projects/fastqc/>), and the adapter removal and read
630 trimming were performed with Trimmomatic v0.36 (Bolger et al., 2014). After removal of adaptor
631 sequences, all bases were removed from the beginning and the end of the reads if their Phred quality
632 score was below 20. Additionally, reads with mean Phred score <15 in a sliding window of 3 bases
633 were clipped, and the reads with read length < 35 bp after trimming were removed. The trimmed reads
634 were aligned to the TAIR10 version of the Arabidopsis genome using Bowtie 2 v2.2.9 (Langmead and
635 Salzberg, 2012). Next, the sequence alignment data was converted to binary alignment file and sorted
636 using Picard v2.5.0 (<http://broadinstitute.github.io/picard/>). The same toolbox was used for removing
637 the read PCR duplicates and for adding read group information. Next, Genome Analysis Toolkit
638 (GATK, <https://gatk.broadinstitute.org>) by Broad Institute was used to obtain genomic VCF files using
639 HaplotypeCaller (Poplin et al., 2017), for combining the gVCF files, and finally for the joint calling of
640 variants using GenotypeGVCFs. The called SNPs were annotated using snpEff v4.3t (Cingolani et al.,
641 2012) and Arabidopsis gene annotation downloaded from TAIR on May 1st 2018. The SNP calls in the
642 list of usual suspects were then collected for manual inspection.

643 **Water loss measurement**

644 Two middle age leaves of 3.5-week-old soil-grown plants were cut and dried abaxial side up at room
645 temperature for 2 h, unless specified otherwise. Weight of leaves was determined before and after
646 drying, and water loss was calculated as percentage of initial fresh weight loss.

647 **Quantification of GDP-L-fucose**

648 Approximately 160 mg of frozen plant material was ground to powder and extracted first with 1 ml of
649 80% (v/v) methanol and then with 0.5 ml of 100% methanol. During each extraction, the homogenate
650 was vortexed at 4 °C for 2 h, then centrifuged at 21,500 g for 5 min at 4 °C. The supernatants were
651 combined and evaporated to dryness in vacuum (MiVac Duo concentrator, GeneVac Ltd, Ipswich, UK)
652 and reconstituted in 50 µl of 50% (v/v) methanol. The GDP-L-fucose was quantified with UPLC-
653 6500+ QTRAP/MS system (Sciex, CA) in negative (ESI-) multiple reaction monitoring (MRM) mode.
654 Two MRM transitions for GDP-L-fucose (C₁₆H₂₅O₁₅N₅P₂, molecular weight 589.34 g mol⁻¹) were
655 used: 588.0 → 442.0 for quantitative, and 588.0 → 424.0 for qualitative purposes. The
656 chromatographic separation was performed in Waters BEH Amide column (100 mm × 2.1 mm, ø1.7
657 µm) at a flow rate of 0.4 ml min⁻¹. Column compartment temperature of UPLC system (Sciex, CA) was

658 set to 35 °C while the samples were kept at 10 °C. Initial chromatographic conditions were 15% buffer
659 A (10 mM ammonium formate, pH 9.0) and 85% buffer B (acetonitrile). The initial conditions were
660 held for 1 min and followed by a linear gradient to 60 % (A) in 6 min, then returned to initial
661 conditions in 1 min and left to stabilize for 2 min. Analysis has been performed with the following
662 parameters: declustering potential of -85, entrance potential of -10, collision cell exit potential of -36
663 and 40, respectively. The ion spray voltage was set at -4,500V, source temperature (TEM) at 425 °C,
664 collision gas (CAD) was set to medium, curtain gas to 20, and source gas 1 (GS1) and 2 (GS2) were
665 both set to 10. All data were acquired with Analyst 1.5.1 software (Sciex, CA) and GDP-L-fucose was
666 quantified with MultiQuant 2.1 software (Sciex, CA) by utilizing standard calibration curve of GDP-L-
667 fucose standard (Sigma Aldrich).

668 **Gas exchange analysis**

669 The gas-exchange experiments were performed as described before (Sierla et al., 2018). Briefly, plants
670 were grown in 4:3 peat : vermiculite mix under 12 h day (23°C) / 12 h night (18°C) regime at 70%
671 relative humidity and 100-150 $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ light intensity. The stomatal function of 3 - 4 week-old
672 plants was analyzed with the use of a custom-built gas-exchange device (Kollist et al., 2007). First,
673 plants were inserted into the device and pre-incubated for about 1 h to stabilize the stomatal
674 conductance. The experimental conditions in the chambers were as follows: ambient CO_2 ($\sim 400 \mu\text{L L}^{-1}$)
675 CO_2 , 150 $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ light, $\sim 70\%$ relative air humidity, 24°C. Later, stimuli triggering stomatal
676 movements were applied and changes in stomatal conductance were monitored in time. To induce
677 stomatal closure O_3 pulse (450 nl l^{-1} during 3 min), elevated CO_2 (from $400 \mu\text{l l}^{-1}$ to $800 \mu\text{l l}^{-1}$),
678 darkness, increase in VPD (reduction in relative air humidity (from 70% to $\sim 30\text{-}35\%$)) or 5 μM ABA
679 spray were applied. Similarly, reduction of CO_2 concentration (from $400 \mu\text{l l}^{-1}$ to $100 \mu\text{l l}^{-1}$) or increase
680 of light intensity (from 150 $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ to 500 $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$) were used to trigger stomatal opening. In
681 order to study diurnal light/darkness responses, stomatal conductance was recorded for approx. 40 h
682 under conditions that mimicked the growth day/night regime.

683 **Mapping by next-generation sequencing**

684 Leaf tissue samples from the BC₁F₂ plants exhibiting the mutant phenotype were harvested in bulk and
685 used for preparation of nuclear DNA. The nuclear DNA-enriched sample was sheared to 400 – 600 bp
686 fragments (Bioruptor NGS), end-repaired, A-tailed and ligated to truncated TruSeq adapters (Illumina).
687 Full-length P5 and indexed P7 adapter sequences were introduced by PCR. The library was purified
688 and size selected to 500-700 bp fragments as described above. Paired-end sequencing (150 – 150 bp) of
689 the obtained library was done on a NextSeq 500 sequencer (Illumina) to an approximately 50-fold
690 genome coverage at DNA Sequencing and Genomics Laboratory, Institute of Biotechnology,
691 University of Helsinki. Further, data were analyzed with SHORE v0.9.0 pipeline (Ossowski et al.,
692 2008) implementing GenomeMapper v0.4.4s read alignment tool (Schneeberger et al., 2009) according
693 to the procedure described earlier (Sun and Schneeberger, 2015). In parallel, the same procedure was
694 performed for line YC3.6. Next, SHOREmap v3.2 (Sun and Schneeberger, 2015) was used to identify,
695 prioritize and annotate mutations enriched in plants displaying mutant phenotype. This final step
696 involved subtraction of all innate YC3.6 polymorphisms.

697 **Nuclear DNA enrichment**

698 For nuclear DNA enrichment, plant material was ground in liquid nitrogen and 1 g of tissue powder
699 was homogenized with 15 ml of HBM buffer (25 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.5, 440 mM sucrose, 10 mM
700 MgCl₂, 0.1% Triton X-100, 10mM β -mercaptoethanol, 2 mM spermine). The homogenate was filtered
701 through Miracloth and centrifuged for 10 min at 1,075g, 4°C. Pellet was resuspended in 1 ml of NIB
702 buffer [20 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.5, 250 mM sucrose, 5 mM MgCl₂, 5 mM KCl, 0.1% (v/v) Triton X-100,
703 10 mM β -mercaptoethanol] and applied to a 15/50% (v/v) Percoll gradient in NIB buffer. Samples were
704 centrifuged for 10 min at 3000g, 4°C and pelleted nuclei were resuspended in 0.5 ml NIB buffer and
705 centrifuged again. Pellets were mixed with 750 μ L of DNA extraction buffer [2 % (w/v)
706 cetyltrimethylammonium bromide, 100 mM Tris-HCl pH 8.0, 20 mM EDTA pH 8.0, 1.4 M NaCl, 1 %
707 (w/v) polyvinylpyrrolidone 40] and incubated for 30 min at 60°C. Next, samples were extracted with
708 chloroform : isoamyl alcohol (24:1, v/v) and centrifuged for 10 min at 7,000g, 4°C. The water-soluble
709 phase was collected, treated with RNase A (Merck), and DNA was precipitated with isopropanol
710 at -20°C. Samples were centrifuged for 6 min at 13,000g, 4 °C, the pellet was washed twice in 70%
711 (v/v) ethanol, air-dried, and resuspended in water. DNA concentration was measured with Qubit
712 fluorometer (Thermo Fisher Scientific) according to manufacturer's instructions.

713 **Expression Analysis by qPCR**

714 For gene expression analysis of T-DNA insertion mutants, plants were grown vertically on half-
715 strength Murashige & Skoog medium (Duchefa Biochemie) in controlled growth chambers (model
716 MLR-350, Sanyo) under 12 h light ($130\text{-}160\ \mu\text{mol m}^{-2}\ \text{s}^{-1}$)/12 h dark cycle, 22°C/18°C (day/night). For
717 every biological replicate (3 in total), approximately 10 whole two-week-old plants were pooled, frozen
718 and ground in liquid nitrogen. Total RNA was extracted using a Genejet plant RNA isolation kit
719 (Thermo Fisher Scientific). For analysis of *GFT1* transcript level, whole rosettes of T1 hp*GFT1* plants
720 (minus two middle-aged leaves that were used for water loss assay) were frozen in liquid nitrogen and
721 ground with a mortar and pestle. Total RNA was extracted as described above. Two micrograms of
722 RNA were treated with DNaseI and reverse-transcribed using oligo-dT(20) priming with Maxima
723 Reverse Transcriptase (RT) and Ribolock RNase inhibitor (Thermo Fisher Scientific) in a 31.5 μl
724 volume. The reactions were diluted to the final volume of 100 μl , 1 μl of which was used as template
725 for PCR with 5x HOT FIREPol EvaGreen qPCR Mix Plus (no ROX; Solis Biodyne) with gene-specific
726 primers (Supplemental Table 5). The PCR was performed on the CFX384 Real-Time System (Bio-
727 Rad) with the following cycle conditions: 95°C 10 min, 60 cycles with 95°C 30 s, 60°C 10 s, 72°C 30
728 s, and ending with melting curve analysis. Col-0 cDNA dilution series was used to determine primer
729 amplification efficiencies. Three reference genes were used for data normalization: *YELLOW-LEAF-*
730 *SPECIFIC GENE8* (*YLS8*, *AT5G08290*), *TAP42 INTERACTING PROTEIN OF 41 KDA* (*TIP41*,
731 *AT4G34270*), and *MONENSIN SENSITIVITY1* (*MON1*, *AT2G28390*; Czechowski et al., 2005). Data
732 were analyzed with qBase 3.0 (Biogazelle) and the transcript levels were related to those observed in
733 respective control lines.

734 **Expression analysis by RT-PCR**

735 For gene expression analysis of *fut* mutants plants were grown, and the cDNA was produced, as
736 described above. PCR was performed with the use of FirePol polymerase (Solis Biodyne) and 1 μl of
737 cDNA was used as a template. *PP2AA3* (*At1g13320*) transcript was used for reference. All primers are
738 listed in Supplementary Data Set 2. The cycling conditions were as follows 95°C 3 min, 40 cycles with
739 95°C 30 s, 56°C 10 s, 72°C 90 s ending with 5 min final elongation at 72°C. PCR products were
740 analyzed by agarose gel electrophoresis using ethidium bromide staining for imaging.

741 **Stomatal morphology and cuticle permeability**

742 For scanning electron microscopy, cotyledons of 3-week-old soil-grown plants (1 cotyledon per plant,
743 4-6 plants per line per biological replicate, 3 biological replicates) were harvested and fixed for 16 h in
744 a fixing buffer (2% paraformaldehyde, 2.5% glutaraldehyde, 0.1 M sodium cacodylate pH 7.4).
745 Subsequently, samples were incubated for 1 h at room temperature in 0.1 M sodium cacodylate buffer
746 pH 7.3 containing 1% (w/v) OsO₄ and washed twice in distilled water. Later samples were dehydrated
747 by 3 x 10 min washing in 50% , 70%, 96% and 100% (v/v) ethanol, subjected to critical point drying
748 (Leica EM CPD300, Leica Microsystems GmbH), mounted on the aluminum stubs and coated with 5
749 nm layer of platinum (Quorum Q150TS, Quorum Technologies Ltd). Serial images (1,800x
750 magnification, 10 % overlap) were taken with Quanta FEG 250 (Thermo Fisher Scientific) scanning
751 electron microscope at the Electron Microscopy Unit, Institute of Biotechnology, University of
752 Helsinki. Images were stitched in Fiji (Schindelin et al., 2012) implementing MIST plugin (Chalfoun et
753 al., 2017). For each cotyledon from 1 to 2.5 mm² area was analyzed, containing 100 - 350 stomatal
754 complexes. Morphology of every stomata within the region of interest was assessed visually and
755 assigned into one of the four categories: normal appearance, not determined, sealed (Supplementary
756 Figure 5F), and obstructed (Supplementary Figure 5E). The size of stomatal pores was determined by
757 measuring the length of the stomatal pore defined by the borders of the outer cuticular ledge. Cuticle
758 permeability assay was performed on middle-age leaves of 3-week-old soil-grown plants as described
759 earlier (Cui et al., 2016) except 0.01% Tween 20 has been added to the staining solution. Mutants
760 *aba2-11* (González-Guzmán et al., 2002) and *snrk2.236* (Fujii and Zhu, 2009) were used as controls
761 with high cuticle permeability (Cui et al., 2016).

762 **Projected rosette area**

763 Rosettes were photographed with Nikon D5100 camera equipped with AF-S Micro Nikkor 40 mm
764 1:2.8G objective (Nikon). The projected rosette area was determined by image analysis with ImageJ
765 software (Schneider et al., 2012) equipped with Measure Rosette Area Tool
766 (http://dev.mri.cnrs.fr/projects/imagej-macros/wiki/Measure_Rosette_Area_Tool).

767

768 **Atomic force microscopy**

769 For AFM experiments, seeds were stratified for 7 days at 4°C, then grown in a 3:1 compost:perlite mix.
770 Growth conditions were as follows: light intensity $170 \mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$, 12h day (21°C) / 12 h (17°C)
771 night, 60% humidity. Leaves from approx. 21-day-old plants were analyzed as described before (Carter
772 et al., 2017).

773

774 **SUPPLEMENTARY DATA**

775 Supplementary Figure 1. Characterization of *T7-9* stomatal phenotypes.

776 Supplementary Figure 2. Q-PCR analysis of *mur1-9*, *ger1* and *ger2* mutants.

777 Supplementary Figure 3. Water loss-based screen of T-DNA insertion mutants of *T7-9* candidate genes.

778 Supplementary Figure 4. Cuticle permeability of *mur1* mutants.

779 Supplementary Figure 5. Scanning electron microscopy-based phenotyping of stomatal morphology in
780 *mur1* mutants.

781 Supplementary Figure 6. Stomatal responses of *mur1* mutants to stomata-closing stimuli.

782 Supplementary Figure 7. Response of *mur1* mutants to stomata-opening stimuli.

783 Supplementary Figure 8. Analysis of hp*GFT1* T1 plants.

784 Supplementary Figure 9. The influence of soil borate concentration on water loss of *bor1-3* mutant.

785 Supplementary Figure 10. Water loss of mutants of enzymes/transporters involved in synthesis of
786 RG-II.

787 Supplementary Figure 11. Characterization of *fut* T-DNA insertion mutants.

788 Supplementary Table 1. Genes included in candidate gene sequencing.

789 Supplementary Table 2. High-frequency single nucleotide polymorphisms identified in *T7-9* BC₁F₂
790 mapping population

791 Supplementary Table 3. Genotypes of F₃ plants obtained from *ger1*^{-/-} *ger2*^{+/-} F₂ plants.

792 Supplementary Data Set 1. Mutations identified during candidate gene sequencing.

793 Supplementary Data Set 2. List of primers

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818 J.K., conceived the project; C.W., T.V., D.Y., M.S., M.L.G., R.C., N.S., A.J.F., H.K., J.K., designed
819 experiments, C.W., T.V., D.Y., M.S., O.Z., M.L.G., J.P., R.C., A.K.P., M.N., M.C., T.P., N.S., A.L.,
820 L.P., P.A., A.J.F., J.S., performed experiments and analyzed the data, J.D., D.E., J.B.W., provided
821 technological solutions for large-scale O₃ exposures; C.W., T.V., D.Y., M.S., A.J.F., H.K. and J.K.
822 wrote the manuscript with comments from all co-authors.

823 **FIGURE LEGENDS**

824 **Figure 1. Synthesis and metabolism of GDP-L-fucose in *Arabidopsis thaliana*.**

825 **Figure 2. Ozone sensitivity-based forward genetic screen to identify novel regulators of stomatal**
826 **closure.**

827 **(A)** The amount of mutant lines of known stomatal regulators identified during candidate gene
828 sequencing.

829 **(B)** Scheme of the screening procedure.

830 **(C)** Whole-rosette gas exchange analysis of novel mutants impaired in stomatal closure. Numbers
831 indicate the amount of mutants impaired in stomatal closure to indicated stimuli.

832 **Figure 3. Mapping of *T7-9* mutant.**

833 **(A)** Leaf fresh weight loss of *T7-9* and control lines (YC3.6, Col-0, *slac1-4* and *ghr1-3*) recorded after
834 2h. Data bars represent means \pm SD (n = 12 plants).

835 **(B)** Positions of mutations in *mur1* mutants used in this study.

836 **(C)** Leaf fresh weight loss of *T7-9*, independent *mur1* mutants (*mur1-1*, *mur1-2*, *mur1-9*) and control
837 lines (YC3.6, Col-0, *slac1-4* and *ghr1-3*) recorded after 2h. Data bars represent means \pm SD (n = 12
838 plants).

839 **(A, C)** Asterisks denote statistical differences (***) p < 0.001) to respective control lines (Col-0 or
840 YC3.6) according to one-way ANOVA followed by Sidak's post-hoc test.

841 **(D)** GDP-L-fucose content in *T7-9*, *mur1* mutants and respective control lines measured by UPLC-MS.
842 Data bars represent means \pm SD (n = 4-5 plants); n.d., not detected.

843 **(E)** Leaf fresh weight loss of *T7-9*, *mur1-2*, F1 *T7-9* x *mur1-2*, F1 YC3.6 x *mur1-2* and control lines
844 recorded after 2h. Data bars represent means \pm SD (n = 9-12 plants). Asterisks denote statistical
845 differences (* p < 0.05; ** p < 0.01; *** p < 0.001) to Col-0 according to one-way ANOVA followed
846 by Dunnett's post-hoc test.

847 **(A, C, E)** Experiments were repeated three times with similar results. Results of the representative
848 experiments are shown.

849 **Figure 4. Characterization of *mur1* stomatal phenotypes.**

850 **(A-H)** Stomatal responses of *mur1* mutants to stomata-closing stimuli. The changes in stomatal
851 conductance are shown in relative and absolute values calculated from the data presented in
852 Supplementary Figure 6.

853 **(A, C, E, G)** Time course of relative stomatal conductance (normalized to the last time point before the
854 treatment) of 3- to 4-week-old *mur1-1*, Col-0, and *ghr1-3* plants in response to **(A)** O₃ pulse, **(C)**
855 elevated CO₂, **(E)** ABA spray and **(G)** darkness. The indicated treatments were applied at t = 0 and
856 whole-rosette stomatal conductance was recorded. Data points represent means ± SEM; n = 7-10 **(A)**,
857 10-12 **(C)**, 9-11 **(E)**, 6-11 **(G)** plants analyzed in two (A, E, G) or three (C) independent experiments.

858 **(B, D, F, H)** Changes in stomatal conductance of Col-0, *mur1-1*, *mur1-2* and *ghr1-3* in response to **(B)**
859 O₃ pulse, **(D)** elevated CO₂, **(F)** ABA spray and **(H)** darkness. Values were calculated by subtracting
860 the initial stomatal conductance at t = 0 **(D, F, H)** or t = -1 **(B)** from the stomatal conductance at **(B)** t
861 = 7 min, **(D, F, H)** t = 40 min. Data bars represent means ± SEM; n = 7-10 **(B)**, 10-12 **(D)**, 9-11 **(F)**, 6-
862 11 **(H)** plants. Asterisks denote statistical differences to Col-0 (* p < 0.05; ** p < 0.01; *** p < 0.001)
863 according to one-way ANOVA followed by Dunnett's post-hoc test.

864 **(I)** Diurnal changes in whole-rosette stomatal conductance of *mur1-1*, *mur1-2* and Col-0 plants. Data
865 points represent means ± SEM; n = 8 plants analyzed in 3 experiments. Each experiment was started at
866 the same time of the day and measurements were recorded for 45 h.

867

868 **Figure 5. Stomatal function in mutants affected in GDP-L-fucose metabolism.**

869 **(A)** Leaf fresh weight loss of mutants of genes encoding enzymes involved in synthesis of GDP-L-
870 fucose, and control lines (Col-0, *mur1-1*, *mur1-2*, *slac1-4* and *ghr1-3*), recorded after 2h. Data bars
871 represent means \pm SD (n = 13-16 plants). Asterisks denote statistical differences (***) p < 0.001) to
872 Col-0 according to one-way ANOVA followed by Dunnett's post-hoc test. Experiment was repeated
873 three times with similar results. Results of the representative experiment are shown.

874 **(B)** Leaf fresh weight loss of 64 independent hp*GFTI* T1 plants, and control lines (Col-0, EVC –
875 empty-vector control, *mur1-1*, *mur1-2*, *slac1-4* and *ghr1-3*), recorded after 2h. Data points represented
876 values obtained for separate plants. Data bars represent means \pm SD (for control lines n = 11-12 plants).

877 **(C)** Correlation between residual *GFTI* transcript level and fresh weight loss observed in 58
878 independent hp*GFTI* T1 plants. Each dot represents values obtained for an independent hp*GFTI* T1
879 plant.

880 **Figure 6. Stomatal phenotypes observed in *mur1* mutants are independent from canonical guard**
881 **cell signaling.**

882 **(A)** Leaf fresh weight loss of double mutants obtained after crossing *slac1-4*, *ghr1-3*, *aba2-11*, *ost1-3*
883 and *ost2-2D* with *mur1-1* and *mur1-2* recorded after 1h. Data bars represent means \pm SD (n = 13-16
884 plants). Asterisks denote statistical differences (***) p < 0.001) to respective single mutant lines
885 (*slac1-4*, *ghr1-3*, *aba2-11*, *ost1-3* and *ost2-2D*) according to one-way ANOVA followed by Sidak's
886 post-hoc test. Experiment was repeated three times with similar results. Results of the representative
887 experiment are shown.

888 **(B)** Average apparent Young's modulus (E_a) values derived from AFM scans of subsidiary cells (SC)
889 and guard cells (GC) of control (Col-0, YC3.6) and *mur1* plants. Bars represent means \pm SD (n = 2-3
890 plants, 2 stomata per plant). Data analyzed with two-way repeated measures ANOVA with "genotype"
891 and "cell type" as factors, followed by Tukey's post-hoc test. Asterisks denote statistical differences
892 (* p < 0.05, ** p < 0.01, *** p < 0.001) to respective control lines (Col-0, YC3.6) observed within a
893 cell type.

894

895 **Figure 7. Screen for fucose-containing cell wall components affecting stomatal function.**

896 **(A)** Leaf fresh-weight loss of mutants affected in fucosylation and synthesis of xyloglucan, recorded
897 after 2h. Values obtained for Col-0, *mur1-1*, *mur1-2*, *slac1-4* and *ghr1-3* are provided for reference.
898 Data bars represent means \pm SD (n = 15-16 plants).

899 **(B)** The effect of borate supplementation on the leaf fresh-weight loss of *mur1* mutants and control
900 lines (Col-0, *ghr1-3* and *slac1-4*). Bars represent means \pm SD (n = 14-16 plants). Data analyzed with
901 two-way ANOVA with “genotype” and “borate concentration” as factors, followed by Sidak’s post-hoc
902 test. Asterisks denote statistical significances (** p < 0.01, *** p < 0.001) of treatment effect within
903 each genotype. Experiment was repeated five times with similar results. Results of the representative
904 experiment are shown.

905 **(C)** Leaf fresh-weight loss of mutants deficient in fucosyltransferases. Values obtained for Col-0,
906 *mur1-1*, *mur1-2*, *slac1-4* and *ghr1-3* are provided for reference.

907 **(A, C)** Experiments were repeated at least 3 times with similar results. Results of the representative
908 experiments are shown. Asterisks denote statistical differences (* p < 0.05, ** p < 0.01, *** p < 0.001)
909 to Col-0 according to one-way ANOVA followed by Dunnett’s post-hoc test.

910

911 **Supplementary Figure 1. Characterization of *T7-9* stomatal phenotypes.**

912 Time course of whole-plant stomatal conductance of *T7-9*, YC3.6 and *ghr1-3* (A-D) or *ost1-3* (E) in
913 response to (A) O₃ pulse, (B) elevated CO₂, (C) ABA spray, (D) darkness and (E) drop in relative air
914 humidity (VPD increase from 1.01 ± 0.01 kPa to 2.04 ± 0.03 kPa (mean ± SE)). The indicated
915 treatments were applied at t = 0 and whole-rosette stomatal conductance of 3- to 4-week-old plants was
916 recorded. Data points represent means ± SEM; n = 8-9 (A), 8-10 (B), 9-10 (C), 6-8 (D), 3-12 (E) plants
917 analyzed in 2 independent experiments.

918 **Supplementary Figure 2. Q-PCR analysis of *mur1-9*, *ger1* and *ger2* mutants.**

919 (A) Relative *MUR1* transcript level in Col-0 and *mur1-9* plants.

920 (B) Relative *GER1* transcript level in Col-0, *ger1-2* and *ger1-3* plants.

921 (C) Relative *GER2* transcript level in Col-0, *ger2-1* and *ger2-2* plants.

922 (A-C) Experiments performed on whole two-week-old plants grown in vitro on ½ x MS medium under
923 12 h light (120 – 160 μmol m⁻² s⁻¹)/12 h dark cycle at 22°C/18°C (day/night) temperature. Data bars
924 represent means of three biological replicates ± SD. Asterisks indicate significant differences (***) p <
925 0.001) to Col-0 according to (A) Student's *t*-test, (B, C) one-way ANOVA followed by Dunnett's post-
926 hoc test; n.d., not detected.

927 **Supplementary Figure 3. Water loss-based screen of T-DNA insertion mutants of *T7-9* candidate
928 genes.**

929 Fresh weight loss of *T7-9*, control lines (YC3.6, Col-0, *slac1-4*, *ghr1-3*) and T-DNA insertion mutants
930 of *T7-9* candidate genes recorded after 2h. Data bars represent means ± SD (n = 12 plants). Asterisks
931 denote statistical differences (***) p < 0.001) to respective control lines (Col-0 or YC3.6) according to
932 one-way ANOVA followed by Sidak's post-hoc test. This figure is an integral part of Figure 3C, values
933 recorded for *T7-9* and control lines are provided for reference. Experiment was performed three times
934 with similar results.

935

936 **Supplementary Figure 4. Cuticle permeability of *mur1* mutants.**

937 Representative photos of middle-aged leaves of 3.5 weeks-old *mur1* mutants, respective control lines
938 and cuticle-deficient mutants (*aba2-11*, *snrk2.236*) subjected to dye exclusion assay. Leaves were
939 stained with 5 μ L drops of toluidine blue solution (0.05 % toluidine blue, 0.01% Tween 20) for 2h and
940 rinsed with water. Dark blue staining indicates high cuticle permeability. Experiment was performed
941 three times with similar results. Scale bar, 10 mm.

942 **Supplementary Figure 5. Scanning electron microscopy-based phenotyping of stomatal**
943 **morphology in *mur1* mutants.**

944 (A) Stomatal density, (B) mean stomatal pore length and (C) distribution of stomatal pore length in
945 individual plants on abaxial side of 3-week-old cotyledons of Col-0, *mur1-1* and *mur1-2*. (A, B) Data
946 bars represent means \pm SD (n = 4-6 cotyledons, 1 cotyledon per plant). Asterisks denote statistical
947 differences (** p < 0.01, *** p < 0.001) to Col-0 according to one-way ANOVA followed Dunnett's
948 post-hoc test.

949 (D) Frequency of abnormal stomata in Col-0, *mur1-1* and *mur1-2*. Bar represent frequencies obtained
950 for separate plants.

951 (A-D) Experiments were performed three times with similar results.

952 (E, F) Representative images of (E) irregular/obstructed and (F) sealed stomata observed on abaxial
953 side of 3-week-old cotyledons of *mur1* mutants.

954 **Supplementary Figure 6. Stomatal responses of *mur1* mutants to stomata-closing stimuli.**

955 (A-E) Whole-rosette stomatal conductance of 3- to 4-week-old *mur1-1*, *mur1-2*, Col-0 and *ghr1-3*
956 (A-D) or *ost1-3* (E) plants in response to (A) O₃ pulse, (B) elevated CO₂, (C) ABA spray, (D) darkness,
957 (E) drop in relative humidity (VPD increase from 1.01 \pm 0.01 kPa to 2.04 \pm 0.03 kPa (mean \pm SE)).
958 The indicated treatments were applied at t = 0. Data points represent means \pm SEM; n = 7-10 (A), 10-
959 12 (B), 9-11 (C), 6-11 (D), 3-12 (E) plants analyzed in 2 (A, C, D, E) or 3 (B) independent
960 experiments.

961 (F) Changes in low humidity-induced stomatal conductance in Col-0, *mur1-1*, *mur1-2* and *ost1-3*.
962 Values were calculated by subtracting the stomatal conductance at t = 0 from the stomatal conductance
963 at t = 16 min based on data presented in (E). Data bars represent means \pm SEM; n = 3-12 plants.

964 Asterisks denote statistical differences to Col-0 (** $p < 0.01$) according to one-way ANOVA followed
965 by Dunnett's post-hoc test.

966 **Supplementary Figure 7. Response of *mur1* mutants to stomata-opening stimuli.**

967 **(A, C)** Time course of stomatal conductance of *mur1-1*, Col-0 and *ht1-2* plants in response to **(A)** low
968 CO₂ concentration, **(C)** increase in light intensity. The indicated treatments were applied at $t = 0$ and
969 whole-rosette stomatal conductance of 3- to 4-week-old plants was recorded. Data points represent
970 means \pm SEM; $n = 8-10$ plants analyzed in 2 independent experiments.

971 **(B)** Change in stomatal conductance 104 min after decrease in CO₂ concentration, calculated based on
972 the data presented in **(A)**.

973 **(D)** Change in stomatal conductance 56 min after increase of light intensity, calculated based on the
974 data presented in **(C)**.

975 **(B, D)** Values were calculated by subtracting the initial stomatal conductance recorded at $t = 0$ from the
976 stomatal conductance obtained at **(B)** $t = 104$ min, **(D)** $t = 56$ min. Data bars represent means \pm SEM;
977 $n = 8-10$ plants. Asterisks denote statistical differences to Col-0 (***) $p < 0.001$) according to one-way
978 ANOVA followed by Dunnett's post-hoc test.

979 **Supplementary Figure 8. Analysis of hpGFTI T1 plants.**

980 **(A)** Rosette morphology of selected hpGFTI T1 plants, empty vector control (EVC), Col-0 and *mur1*
981 mutants. Scale bar = 20 mm.

982 **(B)** Variability in *GFTI* transcript level observed in 58 independent hpGFTI T1 plants. Data points
983 represent values obtained for separate plants. Data bars represent means \pm SD; Col-0 $n = 3$ plants, EVC
984 $n = 10$ plants.

985 **(C)** The relationship between the fresh weight loss in 2h and projected rosette area observed in 64
986 independent hpGFTI T1 plants. Each data point represents values obtained for a single hpGFTI T1
987 plant.

988 **Supplementary Figure 9. The influence of soil borate concentration on leaf fresh-weight loss**
989 **of *bor1-3* mutant.**

990 Data bars represent means \pm SD (n = 10-16 plants per genotype per condition). Experiment was
991 performed three times with similar results.

992

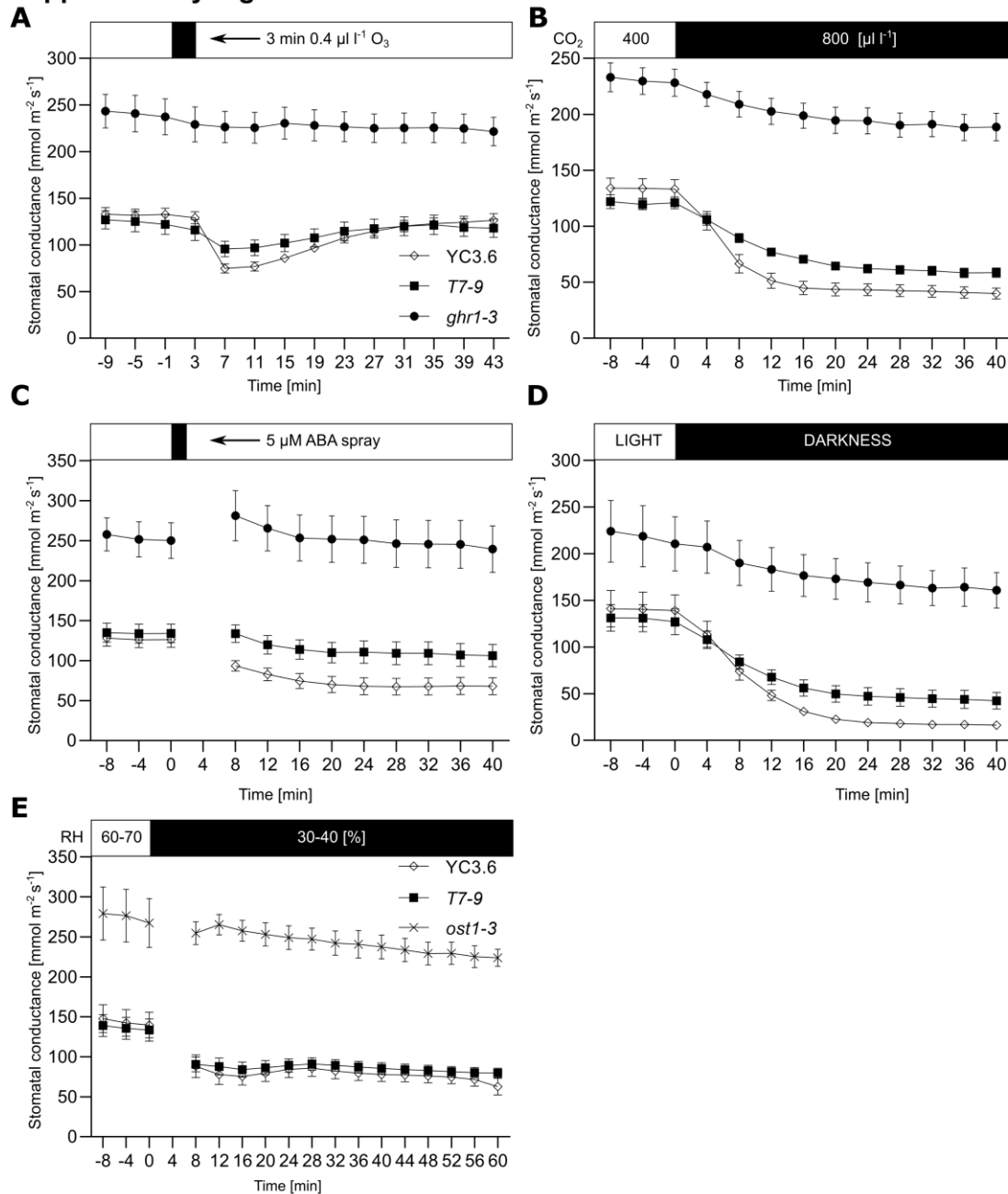
993 **Supplementary Figure 10. Water loss of mutants of enzymes/transporters involved in synthesis**
994 **of RG-II.**

995 Data bars represent means \pm SD (n = 13-16 plants). Asterisks denote statistical differences (***) p <
996 0.001) to respective control lines (Col-0 or EVC-empty vector control) according to one-way ANOVA
997 followed by Sidak's post-hoc test. Experiment was performed three times with similar results.

998 **Supplementary Figure 11. Characterization of *fut* T-DNA insertion mutants.**

999 **(A-D)** Results of RT-PCR obtained for indicated *fut* mutants with primers specific for **(A)** *FUT2*, **(B)**
1000 *FUT3*, **(C)** *FUT8* and **(D)** *FUT10*. *PP2AA3* was used as a reference gene and within each panel the
1001 same cDNA sample was used for amplification with all primer sets. The experiment was performed
1002 with three biological replicates and with similar results. Representative results are shown.

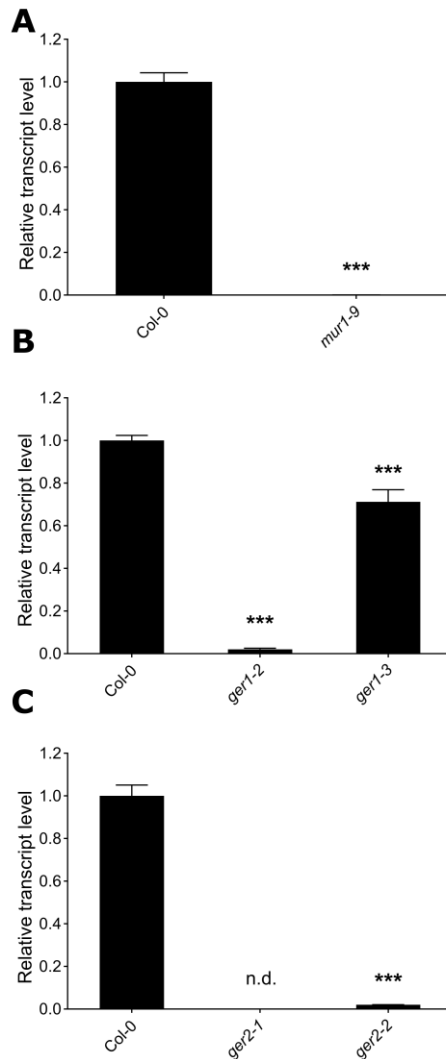
Supplementary Figure 1



Supplementary Figure 1. Characterization of *T7-9* stomatal phenotypes.

Time course of whole-plant stomatal conductance of *T7-9*, YC3.6 and *ghr1-3* (A-D) or *ost1-3* (E) in response to (A) O_3 pulse, (B) elevated CO_2 , (C) ABA spray, (D) darkness and (E) drop in relative air humidity (VPD increase from 1.01 ± 0.01 kPa to 2.04 ± 0.03 kPa (mean \pm SE)). The indicated treatments were applied at $t = 0$ and whole-rosette stomatal conductance of 3- to 4-week-old plants was recorded. Data points represent means \pm SEM; $n = 8-9$ (A), 8-10 (B), 9-10 (C), 6-8 (D), 3-12 (E) plants analyzed in 2 independent experiments.

Supplementary Figure 2



Supplementary Figure 2. Q-PCR analysis of *mur1-9*, *ger1* and *ger2* mutants.

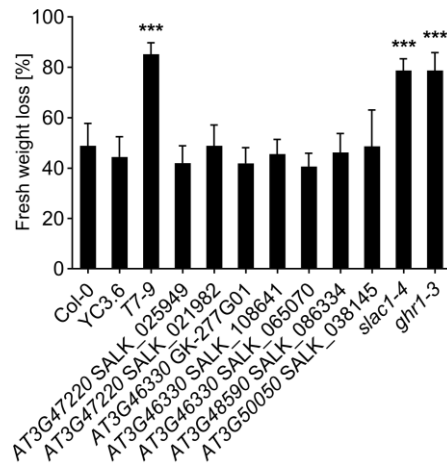
(A) Relative *MUR1* transcript level in Col-0 and *mur1-9* plants.

(B) Relative *GER1* transcript level in Col-0, *ger1-2* and *ger1-3* plants.

(C) Relative *GER2* transcript level in Col-0, *ger2-1* and *ger2-2* plants.

(A-C) Experiments performed on whole two-week-old plants grown in vitro on $\frac{1}{2}$ x MS medium under 12 h light ($120 - 160 \mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$)/12 h dark cycle at 22°C/18°C (day/night) temperature. Data bars represent means of three biological replicates \pm SD. Asterisks indicate significant differences (***) $p < 0.001$) to Col-0 according to (A) Student's *t*-test, (B, C) one-way ANOVA followed by Dunnett's post-hoc test; n.d., not detected.

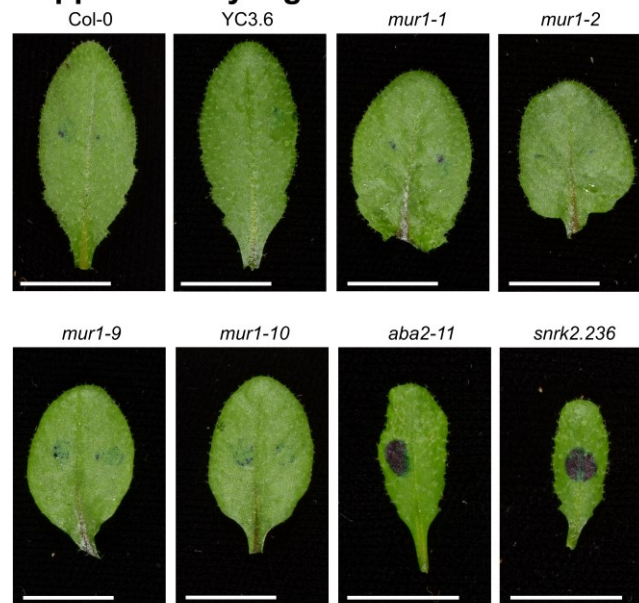
Supplementary Figure 3



Supplementary Figure 3. Water loss-based screen of T-DNA insertion mutants of *T7-9* candidate genes.

Fresh weight loss of *T7-9*, control lines (YC3.6, Col-0, *slac1-4*, *ghr1-3*) and T-DNA insertion mutants of *T7-9* candidate genes recorded after 2h. Data bars represent means \pm SD (n = 12 plants). Asterisks denote statistical differences (***) $p < 0.001$ to respective control lines (Col-0 or YC3.6) according to one-way ANOVA followed by Sidak's post-hoc test. This figure is an integral part of Figure 3C, values recorded for *T7-9* and control lines are provided for reference. Experiment was performed three times with similar results.

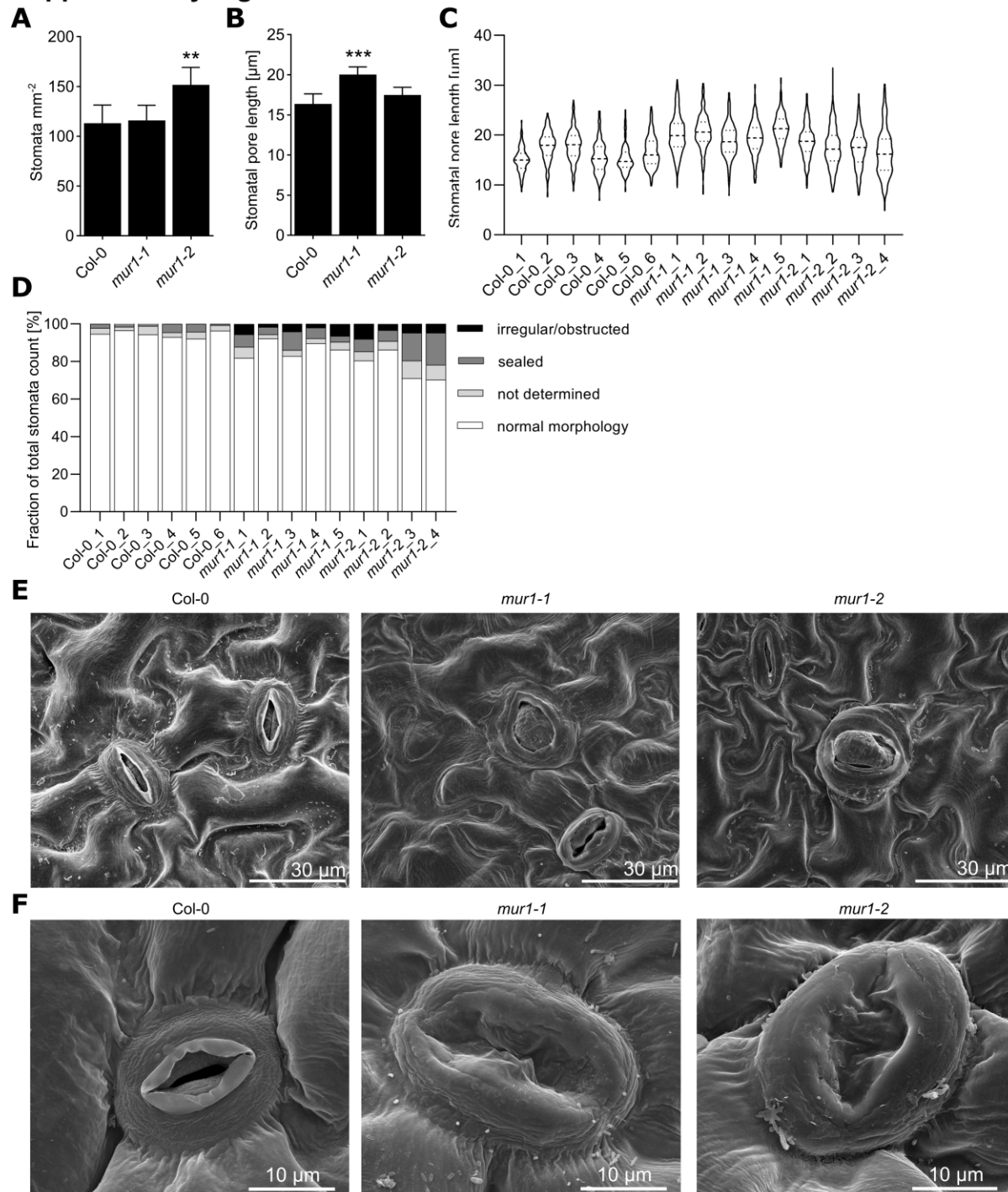
Supplementary Figure 4



Supplementary Figure 4. Cuticle permeability of *mur1* mutants.

Representative photos of middle-aged leaves of 3.5 weeks-old *mur1* mutants, respective control lines and cuticle-deficient mutants (*aba2-11*, *snrk2.236*) subjected to dye exclusion assay. Leaves were stained with 5 μ L drops of toluidine blue solution (0.05 % toluidine blue, 0.01% Tween 20) for 2h and rinsed with water. Dark blue staining indicates high cuticle permeability. Experiment was performed three times with similar results. Scale bar, 10 mm.

Supplementary Figure 5



Supplementary Figure 5. Scanning electron microscopy-based phenotyping of stomatal morphology in *mur1* mutants.

(A) Stomatal density, (B) mean stomatal pore length and (C) distribution of stomatal pore length in individual plants on abaxial side of 3-week-old cotyledons of Col-0, *mur1-1* and *mur1-2*. (A, B) Data

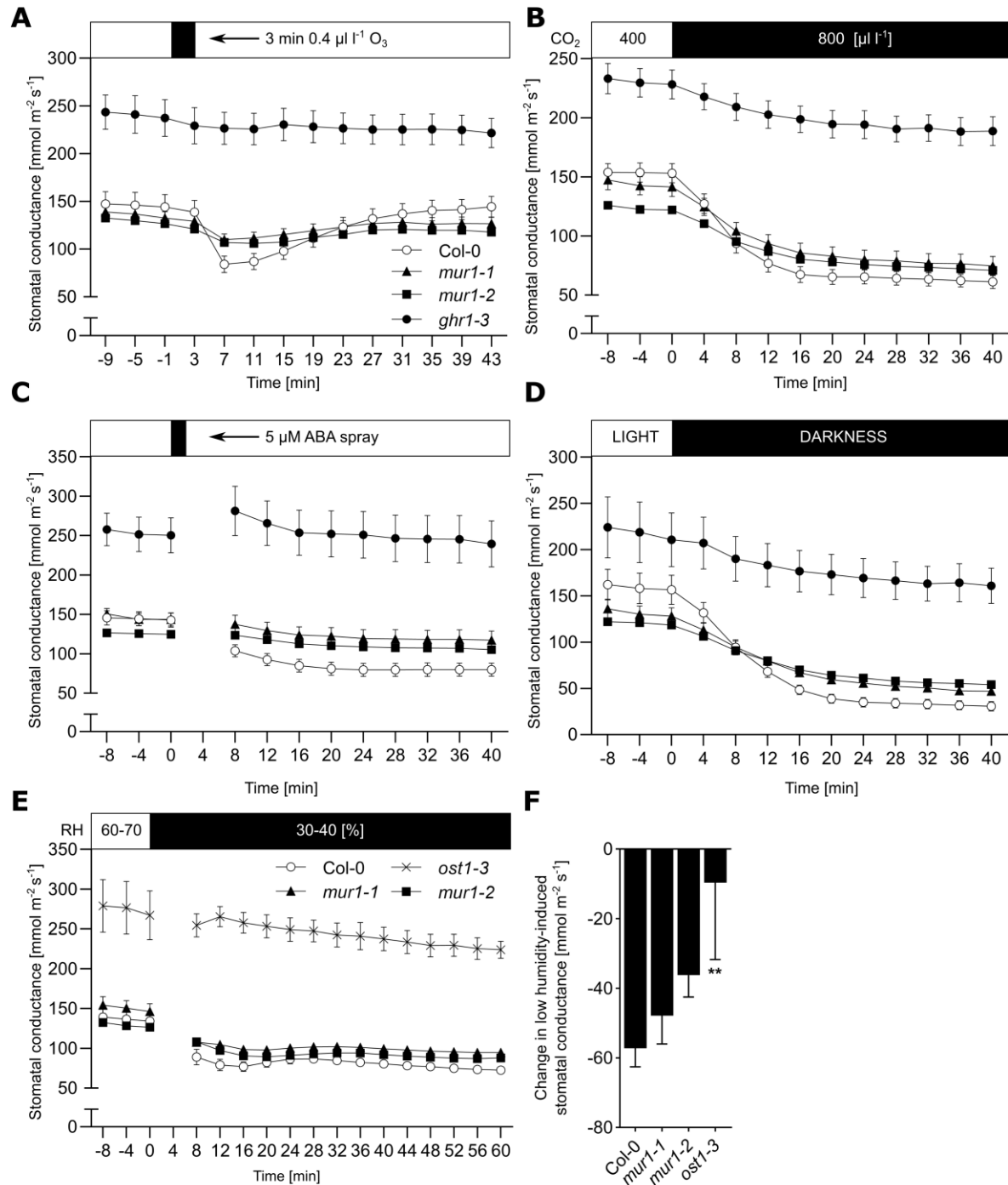
bars represent means \pm SD (n = 4-6 cotyledons, 1 cotyledon per plant). Asterisks denote statistical differences (** p < 0.01, *** p < 0.001) to Col-0 according to one-way ANOVA followed Dunnett's post-hoc test.

(D) Frequency of abnormal stomata in Col-0, *mur1-1* and *mur1-2*. Bar represent frequencies obtained for separate plants.

(A-D) Experiments were performed three times with similar results.

(E, F) Representative images of **(E)** irregular/obstructed and **(F)** sealed stomata observed on abaxial side of 3-week-old cotyledons of *mur1* mutants.

Supplementary Figure 6



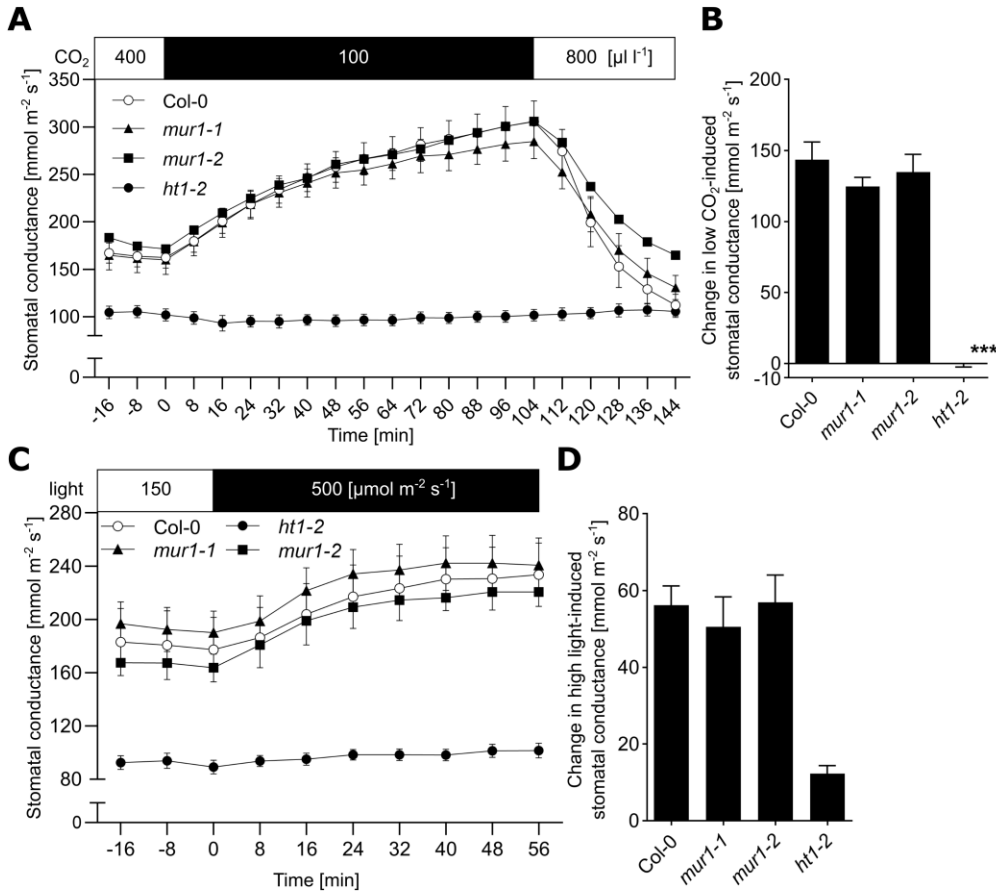
Supplementary Figure 6. Stomatal responses of *mur1* mutants to stomata-closing stimuli.

(A-E) Whole-rosette stomatal conductance of 3- to 4-week-old *mur1-1*, *mur1-2*, Col-0 and *ghr1-3* (A-D) or *ost1-3* (E) plants in response to (A) O_3 pulse, (B) elevated CO_2 , (C) ABA spray, (D) darkness, (E) drop in relative humidity (VPD increase from 1.01 ± 0.01 kPa to 2.04 ± 0.03 kPa (mean \pm SE)). The

indicated treatments were applied at $t = 0$. Data points represent means \pm SEM; $n = 7-10$ **(A)**, $10-12$ **(B)**, $9-11$ **(C)**, $6-11$ **(D)**, $3-12$ **(E)** plants analyzed in 2 **(A, C, D, E)** or 3 **(B)** independent experiments.

(F) Changes in low humidity-induced stomatal conductance in Col-0, *mur1-1*, *mur1-2* and *ost1-3*. Values were calculated by subtracting the stomatal conductance at $t = 0$ from the stomatal conductance at $t = 16$ min based on data presented in **(E)**. Data bars represent means \pm SEM; $n = 3-12$ plants. Asterisks denote statistical differences to Col-0 (** $p < 0.01$) according to one-way ANOVA followed by Dunnett's post-hoc test.

Supplementary Figure 7



Supplementary Figure 7. Response of *mur1* mutants to stomata-opening stimuli.

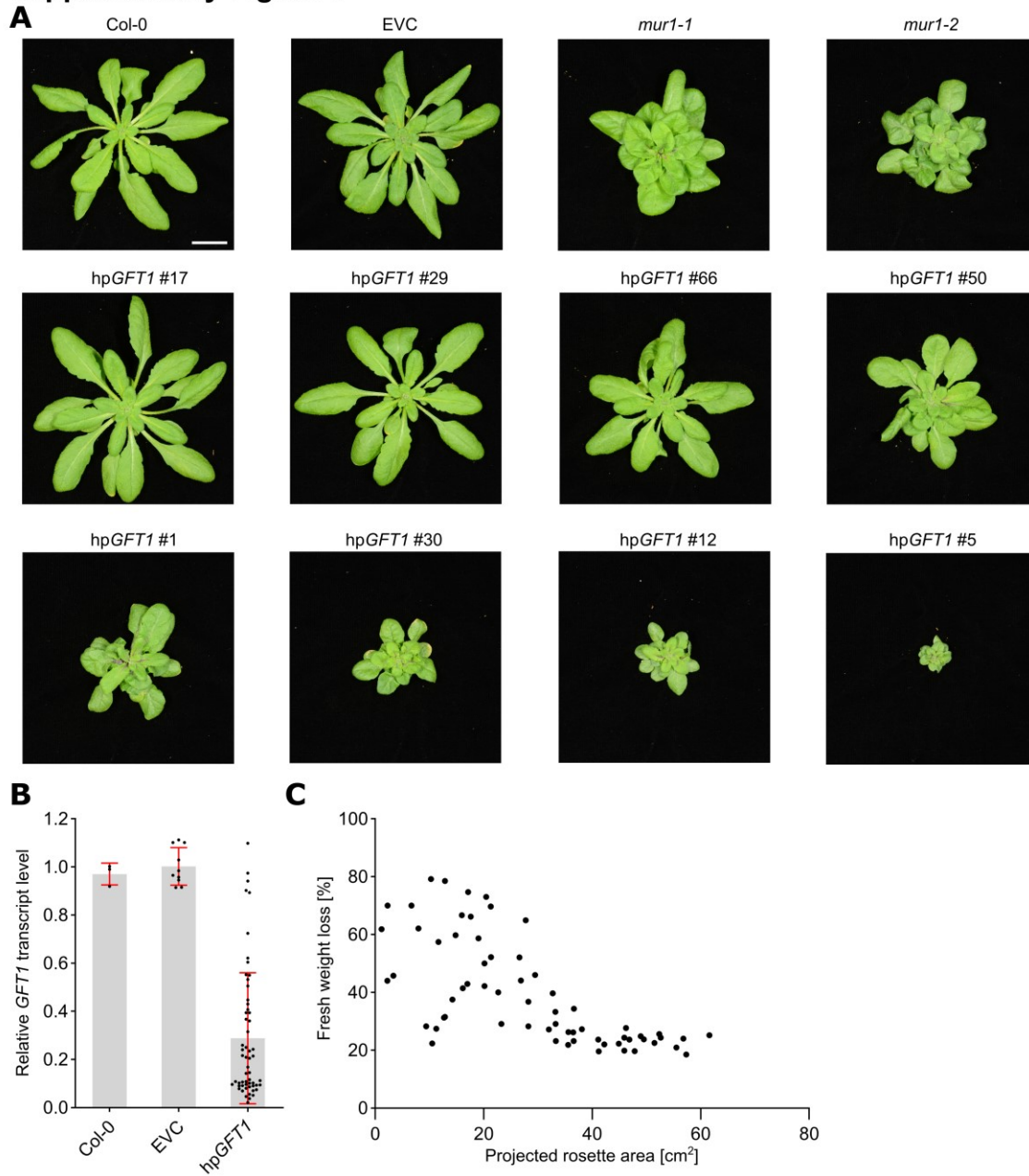
(A, C) Time course of stomatal conductance of *mur1-1*, Col-0 and *ht1-2* plants in response to (A) low CO₂ concentration, (C) increase in light intensity. The indicated treatments were applied at t = 0 and whole-rosette stomatal conductance of 3- to 4-week-old plants was recorded. Data points represent means \pm SEM; n = 8-10 plants analyzed in 2 independent experiments.

(B) Change in stomatal conductance 104 min after decrease in CO₂ concentration, calculated based on the data presented in (A).

(D) Change in stomatal conductance 56 min after increase of light intensity, calculated based on the data presented in (C).

(B, D) Values were calculated by subtracting the initial stomatal conductance recorded at t = 0 from the stomatal conductance obtained at (B) t = 104 min, (D) t = 56 min. Data bars represent means \pm SEM; n = 8-10 plants. Asterisks denote statistical differences to Col-0 (***) according to one-way ANOVA followed by Dunnett's post-hoc test.

Supplementary Figure 8



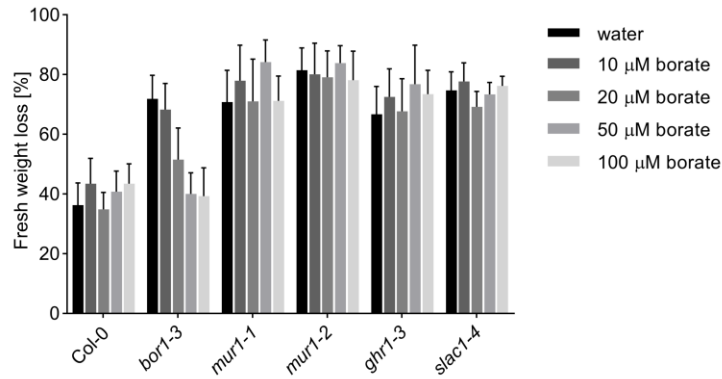
Supplementary Figure 8. Analysis of *hpGFT1* T1 plants.

(A) Rosette morphology of selected *hpGFT1* T1 plants, empty vector control (EVC), Col-0 and *mur1* mutants. Scale bar = 20 mm.

(B) Variability in *GFTI* transcript level observed in 58 independent *hpGFTI* T1 plants. Data points represent values obtained for separate plants. Data bars represent means \pm SD; Col-0 n = 3 plants, EVC n = 10 plants.

(C) The relationship between the fresh weight loss in 2h and projected rosette area observed in 64 independent *hpGFTI* T1 plants. Each data point represents values obtained for a single *hpGFTI* T1 plant.

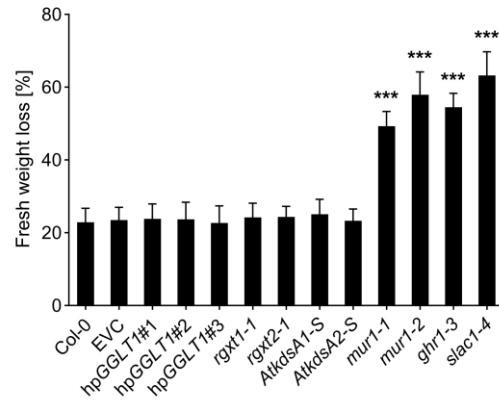
Supplementary Figure 9



Supplementary Figure 9. The influence of soil borate concentration on leaf fresh-weight loss of *bor1-3* mutant.

Data bars represent means \pm SD (n = 10-16 plants per genotype per condition). Experiment was performed three times with similar results.

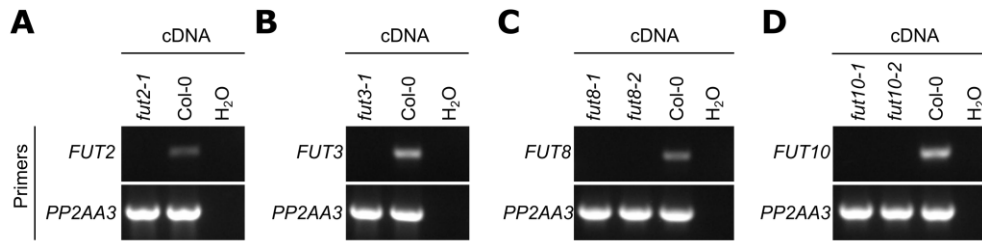
Supplementary Figure 10



Supplementary Figure 10. Water loss of mutants of enzymes/transporters involved in synthesis of RG-II.

Data bars represent means \pm SD (n = 13-16 plants). Asterisks denote statistical differences (***) $p < 0.001$) to respective control lines (Col-0 or EVC-empty vector control) according to one-way ANOVA followed by Sidak's post-hoc test. Experiment was performed three times with similar results.

Supplementary Figure 11



Supplementary Figure 11. Characterization of *fut* T-DNA insertion mutants.

(A-D) Results of RT-PCR obtained for indicated *fut* mutants with primers specific for (A) *FUT2*, (B) *FUT3*, (C) *FUT8* and (D) *FUT10*. *PP2AA3* was used as a reference gene and within each panel the same cDNA sample was used for amplification with all primer sets. The experiment was performed with three biological replicates and with similar results. Representative results are shown.

Supplementary Table 1. Genes included in candidate gene sequencing.

Functional group	Protein name	Abbreviation	AGI code	References
Ion channels	SLOW ANION CHANNEL-ASSOCIATED1	SLAC1	AT1G12480	(Vahisalu et al., 2008) (Negi et al., 2008)
	QUICK-ACTIVATING ANION CHANNEL1	QUAC1	AT4G17970	(Sasaki et al., 2010) (Meyer et al., 2010)
LRR receptor-like pseudokinase	GUARD CELL HYDROGEN PEROXIDE-RESISTANT1	GHR1	AT4G20940	(Hua et al., 2012) (Sierla et al., 2018)
ABA synthesis	ABA DEFICIENT1	ABA1	AT5G67030	(Koornneef et al., 1982) (Marin et al., 1996)
	ABA DEFICIENT2	ABA2	AT1G52340	(Léon-Kloosterziel et al., 1996) (González-Guzmán et al., 2002)
	ABA DEFICIENT3	ABA3	AT1G16540	(Léon-Kloosterziel et al., 1996) (Xiong et al., 2001) (Bittner et al., 2001)
	ABA DEFICIENT4	ABA4	AT1G67080	(North et al., 2007)
	ABSCISIC ALDEHYDE OXIDASE3	AAO3	AT2G27150	(Seo et al., 2000)

	NINE-CIS-EPOXYCAROTENOID DIOXYGENASE3	NCED3	AT3G14440	(Iuchi et al., 2001)
Proton pump	H ⁺ -ATPASE 1	AHA1	AT2G18960	(Merlot et al., 2007)
Kinases	OPEN STOMATA1	OST1	AT4G33950	(Mustilli et al., 2002) (Yoshida et al., 2002)
	HIGH LEAF TEMPERATURE1	HT1	AT1G62400	(Hashimoto et al., 2006) (Hashimoto-Sugimoto et al., 2016) (Hörak et al., 2016)
	MITOGEN-ACTIVATED PROTEIN KINASE12	MPK12	AT2G46070	(Des Marais et al., 2014) (Jakobson et al., 2016) (Hörak et al., 2016)
PP2Cs	ABA INSENSITIVE1	ABI1	AT4G26080	(Meyer et al., 1994) (Leung et al., 1994)
	ABA INSENSITIVE2	ABI2	AT5G57050	(Leung et al., 1997)
	HYPERSENSITIVE TO ABA1	HAB1	AT1G72770	(Saez et al., 2004)
	HIGHLY ABA-INDUCED PP2C GENE1	HAI1	AT5G59220	(Antoni et al., 2012)
	HIGHLY ABA-INDUCED PP2C GENE2	HAI2	AT1G07430	(Lim et al., 2012)

	PROTEIN PHOSPHATASE 2CA	PP2CA	AT3G11410	(Kuhn et al., 2006)
ABA transport	ATP-BINDING CASSETTE G22	ABCG22	AT5G06530	(Kuromori et al., 2011)
Strigolactone-related	MORE AXILLARY BRANCHES2	MAX2	AT2G42620	(Piisilä et al., 2015) (Bu et al., 2014) (Ha et al., 2014)
	DWARF14	D14	AT3G03990	(Li et al., 2017) (Zhang et al., 2018) (Kalliola et al., 2020)

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Supplementary Table 2. High-frequency single nucleotide polymorphisms identified in T7-9 BC1F2 mapping population.

Chromosome	Mutation	Frequency	AGI code	Reference aa	Mutant aa	Annotation	Mutant lines	Water loss
3	C 19007831 T	0.95	At3g51160	E	K	GDP-D-MANNOSE-4,6-DEHYDRATASE2, GMD2, MUR1, MURUS 1	<i>mur1-1</i>	high
							<i>mur1-2</i>	high
							SALK_057153	high
3	C 17388552 T	0.93	At3g47220	R	C	ATPLC9, PHOSPHATIDYLINOSITOL-SPECIFIC PHOSPHOLIPASE C9, PLC9	SALK_025949	WT-like
							SALK_021982	WT-like
3	C 17021471 T	0.91	At3g46330	G	D	MATERNAL EFFECT EMBRYO ARREST39, MEE39	GK_277G01	WT-like
							SALK_108641	WT-like
							SALK_065070	WT-like
3	C 18009773 T	0.91	At3g48590	E	K	ATHAP5A, HAP5A, NF-YC1, NUCLEAR FACTOR Y, SUBUNIT C1	SALK_086334	WT-like
3	C 18556988 T	0.91	At3g50050	R	H	Eukaryotic aspartyl protease family protein	SALK_038145	WT-like

Supplementary Table 3. Genotypes of F3 plants obtained from *ger1*^{-/-} *ger2*^{+/-} F2 plants.

F2 plant	F3 segregation			n.d.*	n.g.**	Total
	<i>ger1-2</i> ^{-/-} <i>ger2-1</i> ^{+/+}	<i>ger1-2</i> ^{-/-} <i>ger2-1</i> ^{+/-}	<i>ger1-2</i> ^{-/-} <i>ger2-1</i> ^{-/-}			
<i>ger1-2</i> ^{-/-} <i>ger2-1</i> ^{+/-} plant 7/3	22	23	-	-	3	48
<i>ger1-2</i> ^{-/-} <i>ger2-1</i> ^{+/-} plant 9/5	24	22	-	1	1	48
	<i>ger1-2</i> ^{-/-} <i>ger2-2</i> ^{+/+}	<i>ger1-2</i> ^{-/-} <i>ger2-2</i> ^{+/-}	<i>ger1-2</i> ^{-/-} <i>ger2-2</i> ^{-/-}			
<i>ger1-2</i> ^{-/-} <i>ger2-2</i> ^{+/-} plant 26/2	19	20	-	-	1	40
<i>ger1-2</i> ^{-/-} <i>ger2-2</i> ^{+/-} plant 33/3	22	18	-	-	-	40
	<i>ger1-3</i> ^{-/-} <i>ger2-1</i> ^{+/+}	<i>ger1-3</i> ^{-/-} <i>ger2-1</i> ^{+/-}	<i>ger1-3</i> ^{-/-} <i>ger2-1</i> ^{-/-}			
<i>ger1-3</i> ^{-/-} <i>ger2-1</i> ^{+/-} plant 28/2	17	23	-	-	-	40
<i>ger1-3</i> ^{-/-} <i>ger2-1</i> ^{+/-} plant 31/8	28	11	-	1	-	40
	<i>ger1-3</i> ^{-/-} <i>ger2-2</i> ^{+/+}	<i>ger1-3</i> ^{-/-} <i>ger2-2</i> ^{+/-}	<i>ger1-3</i> ^{-/-} <i>ger2-2</i> ^{-/-}			
<i>ger1-3</i> ^{-/-} <i>ger2-2</i> ^{+/-} plant 37/5	19	21	-	-	-	40
<i>ger1-3</i> ^{-/-} <i>ger2-2</i> ^{+/-} plant 38/6	19	16	-	1	4	40

* not determined; ** not germinated

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