The lncRNA *APOLO* interacts with the transcription factor WRKY42 to trigger root hair cell expansion in response to cold

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ABSTRACT

Plant long noncoding RNAs (lncRNAs) have emerged as important regulators of chromatin dynamics, impacting on transcriptional programs leading to different developmental outputs. The lncRNA *AUXIN REGULATED PROMOTER LOOP* (*APOLO*) directly recognizes multiple independent loci across the *Arabidopsis* genome and modulates their three-dimensional chromatin conformation, leading to transcriptional shifts. Here, we show that *APOLO* recognizes the locus encoding the root hair (RH) master regulator ROOT HAIR DEFECTIVE 6 (RHD6) and controls *RHD6* transcriptional activity leading to cold-enhanced RH elongation, in association with the Polycomb Repressive Complexes (PRC) 1 and 2. Additionally, we demonstrate that *APOLO* interacts with the transcription factor WRKY42 and modulates its binding to the *RHD6* promoter. WRKY42 is required for the activation of *RHD6* by low temperatures and *WRKY42* deregulation impairs cold-induced RH expansion. Collectively, our results indicate that a novel ribonucleoprotein complex involving *APOLO* and WRKY42 forms a regulatory hub which activates *RHD6* by shaping its epigenetic environment and integrates different signals governing RH growth and development.

Words: 160

Key words: root hairs; cell expansion; long noncoding RNAs; *APOLO*; transcription factors; RHD6; WRKY42; cold

46 **INTRODUCTION**

47

48 Root hairs (RHs) are single cell projections developed from specialized epidermal trichoblast cells
49 able to increase their size several hundred times in a polar manner to reach and promote the uptake of
50 water-soluble nutrients, interact with microorganisms and anchor the plant to the soil. The specification
51 of epidermal cells into RHs involves a cell fate determination process whose underlying mechanisms are
52 only partially understood. In *Arabidopsis thaliana*, RH cell fate is controlled by a developmental program
53 involving a complex of transcription factors (TFs) promoting the expression of the homeodomain protein
54 GLABRA 2 (GL2)(1–4). GL2 blocks RH development by inhibiting the transcription of the master regulator
55 *ROOT HAIR DEFECTIVE 6* (*RHD6*)(5). In the trichoblast cells that differentiate into RHs, a second TF com-
56 plex suppresses *GL2* expression (3), forcing the cells to enter the RH cell fate program via the concomi-
57 tant activation of RHD6 along with downstream TFs (6,7). Briefly, RHD6 together with its homolog RHD6-
58 LIKE 1 (RSL1) induce the expression of other TFs from the bHLH family, including RSL2 and RSL4, ultimate-
59 ly triggering the differentiation of the RHs and their subsequent polarized tip-growth (8–10). In addition,
60 it was proposed that RSL4 controls the expression of a small subset of nearly 125 genes (9, 11–13), in-
61 cluding several cell wall extensins (*EXTs*) (14, 15) sufficient to promote RH growth (16).

62 RH expansion is regulated both by cell-intrinsic factors (e.g. endogenous phytohormones such as
63 auxin) and external environmental signals (e.g. phosphate (Pi) availability in the soil) (17, 18). Pi starva-
64 tion is one of the key environmental factors promoting rapid RH growth (9, 12, 13). In *Arabidopsis*, it
65 triggers *RSL4* expression via an enhanced auxin production, activating downstream effector genes medi-
66 ating cell growth (9, 12, 17-19). Accordingly, several auxin-related TFs have been implicated in Pi-
67 starvation signaling in roots, including WRKY proteins that control the expression of the Pi transporter
68 families Pi-permease PHO1 and PHOSPHATE TRANSPORTER (PHT) (20–23). Under Pi-sufficient conditions,
69 WRKY6 and WRKY42 bind to W-boxes of the *PHO1* promoter and suppress its expression. During Pi star-
70 vation, WRKY42 is degraded by the 26S proteasome pathway, resulting in the activation of *PHO1* tran-
71 scription (21, 23). In addition, WRKY42 functions as a positive regulator of *PHT1;1*, by binding to its pro-
72 moter under Pi-sufficient condition (23). Overall, WRKY42 is part of the components activating root ear-
73 ly-responses to Pi starvation, although its role in controlling RH growth remains unexplored.

74 In recent years, plant long noncoding RNAs (lncRNAs) have emerged as important regulators of
75 gene expression, and several among them have been functionally linked to Pi homeostasis. For instance,
76 the lncRNA *INDUCED BY PHOSPHATE STARVATION 1* (*IPS1*) can sequester the Pi starvation-induced mi-
77 croRNA miR-399, attenuating miR-399-mediated repression of *PHO2*, a gene involved in Pi uptake (24). In

78 addition, the *cis*-natural antisense (*cis*-NAT) transcript *PHO1;2*, induced under Pi deficiency, was shown
79 to promote the translation of the *PHO1;2* mRNA involved in Pi loading into the xylem. The expression of
80 this *cis*-NAT is associated with the transport of the sense–antisense RNA pair toward the polysomes (25).
81 More recently, it was shown that the lncRNA *AUXIN REGULATED PROMOTER LOOP* (*APOLO*) recognizes
82 multiple spatially independent genes by sequence complementarity and DNA-RNA duplex formation,
83 known as R-loops. Upon recognition, *APOLO* shapes the three-dimensional (3D) conformation of its tar-
84 get regions by decoying the Polycomb Repressive Complex 1 (PRC1) component LIKE HETEROCHROMA-
85 TIN PROTEIN 1 (LHP1), thereby regulating their transcription (26, 27).
86 Here, we show that the lncRNA *APOLO* directly regulates a subset of genes involved in RH devel-
87 opment, including the master regulator of RH initiation *RHD6*. *APOLO* activates *RHD6* transcription by
88 modulating the formation of a local chromatin loop encompassing its promoter region, an epigenetic
89 regulatory mechanism likely involving PRC1 and PRC2 components. Furthermore, we found that *APOLO*
90 interacts with the TF WRKY42, forming a new hub that regulates *RHD6* to induce RH growth in response
91 to low temperatures.
92
93 **RESULTS**
94
95 ***APOLO* regulates root hair cell elongation in response to low temperatures**
96 The lncRNA *APOLO* was previously reported to recognize a subset of independent loci enriched in
97 categories related to cell wall composition and organization (27). A closer look at *APOLO bona fide* targets
98 allowed us to identify seventeen genes involved in RH growth and expansion (**Supplementary Table 1**), a
99 process dependent on cell wall remodeling molecules, including EXTs and EXT-related proteins (14, 15,
100 28–30). Interestingly, according to single-cell RNA-seq datasets (31) *APOLO* transcripts are enriched in RH
101 cells (**Supplementary Figure 1**). Notably, sixteen *APOLO* direct targets were upregulated and one
102 downregulated (*EXT18*) upon *APOLO* over-expression (**Supplementary Table 2**). Furthermore, 52 addi-
103 tional RH-related genes were upregulated in *35S:APOLO* seedlings, albeit not identified as *APOLO* direct
104 targets (**Supplementary Table 2**) (27). Among them, the RH central TF genes *RHD6* (as a direct target),
105 *RSL2* and *RSL4* (as indirectly regulated) were induced upon *APOLO* over-expression.
106 It was reported that the *APOLO* locus is targeted by the RNA-polymerase Pol V and silenced by
107 RNA-directed DNA Methylation (RdDM, (26)). A search in a small RNA-Seq performed in WT roots sub-
108 jected to different temperature treatments (32) revealed that RdDM-related 24nt siRNA accumulation
109 over the *APOLO* locus is less abundant at low temperatures (15°C; **Figure 1A**), suggesting that *APOLO*

110 transcription is regulated by cold. Accordingly, we found that *APOLO* transcriptional accumulation in-
111 creases in roots after 24h at 10°C (**Figure 1B**). An analysis of the promoter activity of the 5.2kb region
112 upstream *APOLO* (27) directing the expression of a *GFP* reporter gene, additionally revealed a higher
113 transcriptional activity at low temperatures in the RHs (**Figure 1C**). Strikingly, we observed that two RNAi-
114 *APOLO* and two *35S:APOLO* independent lines (26, 27) exhibit a basal increase of RH length at 22°C, and
115 uncovered a strong induction of RH elongation in WT and RNAi-*APOLO* at 10°C, in contrast to *35S:APOLO*
116 lines (**Figure 1D**). Accordingly, *RHD6* is induced in response to cold in WT roots and RNAi-*APOLO* roots
117 display higher *RHD6* basal levels than the WT (**Figure 1E**). Collectively, our findings suggest that *APOLO*
118 participates in the induction of cold-mediated RH elongation and that a deregulation of *APOLO* transcript
119 levels can impact RH growth.

120 Previous studies pointed out a key role of RHD6 (together with RSL1) in RH development, which
121 is mediated by RSL4 and RSL2 as downstream regulators of RH cell elongation (6, 7). Considering that
122 *RHD6*, *RSL2* and *RSL4* transcript levels were upregulated in *35S:APOLO* seedlings (**Supplementary Table**
123 **2**; (27)), we assessed if these TFs were also controlling the promotion of RH growth by low temperatures.
124 To this end, we tested how *rhd6/rsl1/rsl4* and *rsl2*, *rsl4* and double mutant plants *rsl2/rsl4* respond to
125 low temperatures in comparison with control conditions. The *rsl2* mutant was highly responsive to low
126 temperatures in a similar manner to WT while *rsl4* was impaired in the response to cold. The double
127 mutant *rsl2/rsl4* and the triple mutant *rhd6/rsl1/rsl4* did not develop RHs in either of the two conditions
128 (**Supplementary Figure 2A**). In addition, constitutive expression of *RSL4* (*35S:RSL4*) as well as its expres-
129 sion under the control of the RH specific *EXPANSIN7* promoter (*EXP7p:RSL4*) boosted basal RH growth
130 without further enhancement in response to cold (**Supplementary Figure 2B**). These results demonstrate
131 that RSL4 is largely required for RHD6-dependent activation of RH growth at low temperatures, and RSL2
132 might participate to a lower extent.

133

134 ***APOLO* directly modulates the three-dimensional chromatin conformation of the root hair specific lo-**
135 **cus *RHD6***

136 Among *APOLO* targets involved in RH development, we found the master regulator of RH initia-
137 tion *RHD6* (6, 7). The epigenetic profile of the *RHD6* locus corresponds to typical *APOLO* targets (**Figure**
138 **2A**, (27)), including H3K27me3 deposition (track 1), LHP1 recognition (track 2, chromatin
139 immunoprecipitation (ChIP)-Seq, (33)), and *APOLO* binding regions (tracks 3 to 5, chromatin isolation by
140 RNA purification (ChIRP)-Seq, (27)). A GAAGAA box, shown to be important for *APOLO* target recognition
141 (27) is located in the *RHD6* locus and coincides with *APOLO* binding site. In addition, a small peak indi-

142 cates the presence of an R-loop coinciding with *APOLO* recognition sites over *RHD6* (tracks 6 to 9, DNA-
143 RNA hybrid immunoprecipitation (DRIP)-Seq (34)). The possibility that *RHD6* recognition by *APOLO* occurs
144 specifically in RHs may explain the dilution of the signal coming from entire seedlings (34).

145 Remarkably, *APOLO* recognition and R-loop formation are also detectable over *RHD6* neighbor
146 gene, located 3.2 kb upstream *RHD6* transcription start site (**Figure 2A**). According to *Dpn*II Hi-C datasets
147 from Arabidopsis seedlings (35), a chromatin loop encompassing the intergenic region upstream *RHD6*
148 was detected (**Figure 2B**), exhibiting *APOLO* binding at both sides of the loop base (**Figure 2A**, ChIRP-Seq).
149 By performing a ChIRP-qPCR with two independent sets of biotinylated probes to purify *APOLO* (ODD and
150 EVEN; (27)) and one additional set used as a negative control (LacZ), we confirmed that *APOLO* RNA–
151 *RHD6* DNA interaction occurs in wild-type (WT) and is lost in *APOLO* knockdown (RNAi) seedlings ((26);
152 **Figure 2C**). In addition, the quantification of relative *RHD6* loop formation in RNAi-*APOLO* and *APOLO*
153 over-expressing (*35S:APOLO*; (27)) seedlings, revealed impaired loop formation in both lines (**Figure 2D**),
154 hinting at a stoichiometric requirement of *APOLO* for *RHD6* chromatin loop formation. Accordingly, an
155 RNA-Seq dataset of *35S:APOLO* seedlings *vs.* WT (27) indicates that *RHD6* transcript levels are increased
156 upon *APOLO* over-expression (**Figure 2E, Supplementary Table 1**), suggesting that the chromatin loop
157 including *RHD6* promoter region precludes transcription. Altogether, our results indicate that *APOLO*
158 lncRNA directly regulates *RHD6* transcriptional activity by fine-tuning local chromatin 3D conformation.

159 It was previously reported that PRC2 actively participates in the regulation of RH growth (36) and
160 that the *RHD6* locus exhibits H3K27me3 deposition and LHP1 recognition (**Figure 2A;** (33)). Thus, we de-
161 cided to explore the role of PRC1 and 2 in *APOLO*-mediated *RHD6* activation at low temperatures. At
162 22°C, *RHD6* suffers a reduction of H3K27me3 in the PRC2 mutant *curly leaf* (*clf*), in contrast to the PRC1
163 mutant *lhp1* (**Supplementary Figure 3A;** (33)). Interestingly, we observed that H3K27me3 deposition and
164 LHP1 binding diminish in WT roots treated for 24h at 10°C compared to 22°C (**Supplementary Figure 3B**),
165 in agreement with the induction of *RHD6* in response to cold (**Figure 2E**). Moreover, *lhp1* and *clf* mutants
166 exhibit a basal decrease of RH length together with a slight decrease of cold-induced RH elongation in
167 *lhp1*, and a strong decrease of cold-induced RH elongation in *clf* (**Supplementary Figure 3D**). Consistently,
168 *RHD6* transcriptional activation by cold is abolished in the *clf* mutant (**Supplementary Figure 3C**), hinting
169 at an important role of chromatin rearrangement for *RHD6* activation in response to cold.

170

171 ***APOLO* interacts with the transcription factor WRKY42 to coordinate the activation of *RHD6***

172 With the aim of identifying novel actors involved in cold-induced transcriptional regulation of RH
173 growth, we analyzed the sequence of the promoter regions of RH-related *APOLO* targets. Notably, 13 out

174 of the 17 *APOLO* targets contained between 1 and 4 canonical WRKY TF binding sites (W-box) in their
175 promoters, including *RHD6* (**Supplementary Table 1**). According to the Arabidopsis eFP Browser (37), the
176 TF-encoding gene *WRKY42* is induced in roots when seedlings are subjected to 4°C for 24h (**Figure 3A**).
177 Remarkably, WRKY42 is involved in the response to Pi starvation (23), an environmental condition that
178 promotes RH cell expansion (18) in a similar manner to low temperatures. At 10°C, we observed that
179 *WRKY42* transcriptional accumulation augments significantly in roots (**Figure 3B**). By using a
180 *35S:WRKY42:GFP* line, we demonstrated that WRKY42 can directly bind to the promoter region of *RHD6*
181 (**Figure 3C**). Accordingly, the over-expression of *WRKY42* (*35S:WRKY42:GFP* line) led to a basal increase
182 of *RHD6* levels (**Figure 3D**) and RH elongation (**Figure 3E**) at ambient temperature, mimicking the effect
183 of cold. On the contrary, cold-mediated induction of *RHD6* is abolished in the *wrky42* mutant (23; **Figure**
184 **3D**), which consistently exhibits shorter RHs at 22°C and partially impaired RH elongation at low temper-
185 atures (**Figure 3E**). Taken together, our results suggest that WRKY42 is an important regulator of *RHD6*-
186 mediated RH growth in response to cold.

187 We thus wondered to what extent WRKY42 regulates the epigenetic landscape of the *RHD6* lo-
188 cus. We first observed that H3K27me3 deposition over *RHD6* is significantly augmented in the *wrky42*
189 mutant background, in contrast to *AZG2*, an *APOLO* target non-related to WRKY42 (**Figure 4A**), con-
190 sistent with reduced *RHD6* basal levels reported in *wrky42* (**Figure 3D**). Considering that other TFs were
191 shown to directly interact with lncRNAs in animals (38-40), we wondered if WRKY42 can recognize
192 *APOLO in planta*. Thus, *APOLO*-WRKY42 interaction was assessed and validated by RNA immuno-
193 precipitation (RIP-qPCR) in tobacco leaves and in *Arabidopsis* plants transitory or stably transformed with
194 35S:*WRKY42:GFP*, respectively (**Figure 4B**). Therefore, we evaluated the mutual contribution of *APOLO*
195 and WRKY42 to their respective recognition of the *RHD6* locus. *APOLO* ChIRP-qPCR in the WT and *wrky42*
196 mutant (**Figure 4C**) revealed similar binding to *RHD6*, indicating that WRKY42 does not participates in
197 *APOLO*-target recognition. Reciprocally, we assessed the control of *APOLO* over WRKY42 recognition of
198 the *RHD6* locus. To this end, chromatin was extracted from *35S:WRKY42:GFP* seedlings and increasing
199 amounts of *in vitro* transcribed *APOLO* were added before cross-link and regular WRKY42 ChIP over
200 *RHD6*. Strikingly, increasing concentrations of *APOLO* gradually decoy WRKY42 away from the *RHD6* lo-
201 cus (**Figure 4D**), hinting at a stoichiometric regulation of *APOLO* over the activity of its partner TF.

202 Collectively, our results indicate that the regulation of *RHD6* expression in response to cold
203 depends on Polycomb-dependent H3K27me3 dynamic deposition. The WRKY42-*APOLO* complex
204 modulates the epigenetic environment of *RHD6*, activating its transcription and promoting RH growth at

205 low temperatures. *RHD6* activation further triggers the expression of *RSL2* and *RSL4* that control the
206 transcriptional RH program inducing cell expansion in response to cold (**Figure 4E**).
207
208 **DISCUSSION**

209 Cell fate determination in the epidermis has been extensively studied (1–4). Once trichoblast
210 cells differentiate in the root epidermis, RHs develop as fast polar growing protuberances in response to
211 endogenous and environmental signals (6, 7, 9, 19). RHs are one of the main entry points in the roots for
212 water-soluble macronutrients, such as Pi and nitrates. Pi is an essential element for plant growth and
213 development, and the availability of this macronutrient is a factor limiting plant productivity. Low Pi in
214 the soil triggers auxin synthesis and transport in Arabidopsis roots, enhancing RH elongation to promote
215 Pi uptake (18). Thus, auxin mediates low Pi-induced promotion of RH cell expansion. Under low soil Pi,
216 auxin synthesis is enhanced specifically in the root cap (41) and transported (mostly by AUX1, PIN2, and
217 PGP4) from the apex to the differentiation zone, specifically leading to an increase of auxin levels in
218 trichoblasts (18, 42, 43). In response to the high-auxin microenvironment, RHs protrude from the root
219 epidermis controlled by RHD6 and RSL1 (6, 7). High levels of auxin in trichoblasts trigger a signaling cas-
220 cade mediated by TIR1-ARF19 (and possibly also ARF7) that directly induce the expression of *RSL4* (and
221 likely of *RSL2*) and promote RH elongation (9, 17, 18, 44). ARF7 and ARF19 also activate other RH genes
222 independently of RSL4 (45). Interestingly, our results indicate that the lncRNA *APOLO* participates in the
223 response to low temperatures. *APOLO* is directly activated by ARF7 and regulates the transcriptional
224 activity of its neighboring gene *PINOID* (*PID*) by shaping local 3D chromatin conformation (26, 27). *PID*
225 encodes a kinase responsible for accurate auxin polar transport by localizing PIN2 in the root cell mem-
226 brane (46). More recently, it was shown that *APOLO* can recognize a subset of distant genes across the
227 *Arabidopsis* genome, most of them being related to auxin synthesis and signaling (27). In this work, we
228 demonstrate that a group of RH related genes are directly regulated by *APOLO* in response to cold, in-
229 cluding the RH master regulator *RHD6*. Collectively, our results uncover a lncRNA-mediated epigenetic
230 link between environmental signals and auxin homeostasis modulating RH growth.

231 As mentioned above, nutrient availability is known to activate RH expansion through a transcrip-
232 tional reprogramming governed by RHD6 and downstream TFs. The quantification of RH growth of WT
233 plants in response to increasing concentrations of nutrients (0.5X to 2.0X MS (Murashige and Skoog) me-
234 dium) indicates that high concentrations of nutrients completely abolish RH growth triggered by low
235 temperatures **(Supplementary Figure 4A**). In a similar way, by increasing agar concentration in the MS
236 medium (from 0.8% to 2.5%) restraining nutrient mobility, cold-induced RH is clearly blocked **(Supple-**

237 **mentary Figure 4B**). Altogether, these observations suggest that low temperatures may restrict nutrient
238 mobility and availability in the culture medium, leading to the promotion of polar RH growth. Further
239 research will be needed to determine what is the limiting nutrient mediating the effect of cold on RH
240 growth.

241 Although substantial progress has been achieved in the identification of the molecular actors
242 that control RH development, the impact of chromatin conformation in the transcriptional regulation of
243 central TFs remains poorly understood. In this study, we have revealed a new mechanism of gene regula-
244 tion in RHs by which the lncRNA *APOLO* integrates chromatin-associated ribonucleoprotein complexes
245 together with the TF WYRK42, participating in the transcriptional activation of *RHD6* and the down-
246 stream RH gene network (**Figure 4D**). *APOLO* directly regulates the chromatin 3D conformation of the
247 genomic region encompassing the *RHD6* locus and stoichiometrically recruits WYRK42, previously linked
248 to Pi-starvation (21, 23). Our results suggest that an *APOLO*-WRKY42 hub regulates RH cell elongation
249 through the master regulator RHD6, although the *APOLO*-WYRKY42 hub potentially targets several addi-
250 tional cell wall related genes (**Supplementary Table 1**) at the end of the pathway controlled by RHD6 and
251 the RHD6-downstream TFs RSL2/RSL4 (17, 47).

252 Participation of epigenetic factors in root cell identity determination strongly suggests that the
253 default pattern for epidermal cell fate can be overridden by environmental stimuli (48). Interestingly, it
254 was reported that the expression of *GLABRA2* (*GL2*), a gene encoding a TF repressing *RHD6* in
255 atrichoblasts, is tightly regulated at the epigenetic level. By using 3D fluorescence *in situ* hybridization, it
256 was shown that alternative states of chromatin organization around the *GL2* locus are required to con-
257 trol position-dependent cell-type specification in the root epidermis (49). Furthermore, *GL2* epigenetic
258 regulation was proposed to be responsive to salt stress (50). In addition, a comprehensive characteriza-
259 tion of alternative mutant lines uncovered the role of PRC2 in the regulation of RH development (36).
260 Loss-of-function mutants in different PRC2 subunits develop unicellular RHs but fail to retain the differ-
261 entiated state, generating a disorganized cell mass from each single RH. It was shown that the resulting
262 RHs are able to undergo a normal endoreduplication program, increasing their nuclear ploidy, although
263 they subsequently reinitiate mitotic division and successive DNA replication. It was proposed that aber-
264 rant RH development in PRC2-related mutants is due to the epigenetic deregulation of key genes such as
265 *WOUND INDUCED DEDIFFERENTIATION 3* (*WIND3*) and *LEAFY COTYLEDON 2* (*LEC2*) (36). Here, we
266 showed that the single mutants *clf* (PRC2) and *lhp1* (PRC1) are affected in RH growth. Moreover, we
267 showed that H3K27me3 deposition throughout the *RHD6* locus is partially impaired in the *clf* back-
268 ground, which is affected in RH elongation promoted by cold. Altogether, our results suggest that

269 Polycomb proteins participate in the control of RH-related genes transcriptional reprogramming at low
270 temperatures.

271 Notably, CLF and LHP1 were shown to interact with a subset of lncRNAs in *Arabidopsis*, modulat-
272 ing the activity of PRC target genes (51). Interestingly, several lncRNAs have been linked to the control of
273 transcription in response to cold. *FLOWERING LOCUS C* is regulated by at least three lncRNAs. First, the
274 alternative splicing of a set of antisense transcripts, collectively named as *COOLAIR*, depends on the pro-
275 longed exposure to cold, epigenetically repressing *FLC* (52). The use of the *COOLAIR* proximal poly(A) site
276 results in down-regulation of *FLC* expression in a process involving FLOWERING LOCUS D (FLD), an
277 H3K4me2 demethylase (53). A second lncRNA called *COLD ASSISTED INTRONIC NONCODING RNA*
278 (*COLDAIR*) is fully encoded in the first intron of *FLC.* Similar to *COOLAIR*, its accumulation oscillates in
279 response to low temperatures. It was proposed that *COLDAIR* recruits the PRC2 component CLF to target
280 *FLC* for H3K27me3 deposition (54). More recently, a third lncRNA modulating *FLC* transcription was iden-
281 tified (55). The cold-responsive lncRNA *COLDWRAP* is derived from the *FLC* proximal promoter and it also
282 interacts with PRC2. It was suggested that *COLDWRAP* functions in cooperation with the lncRNA
283 *COLDAIR* to retain Polycomb at the *FLC* promoter through the formation of a repressive intragenic chro-
284 matin loop (55). Another lncRNA named *SVALKA* was shown to mediate the response to low tempera-
285 tures (56). Interestingly, the activation of *SVALKA* by cold triggers the transcription of a cryptic down-
286 stream lncRNA, which overlaps the antisense locus of the *C-repeat/dehydration-responsive element Bind-*
287 *ing Factor 1* (*CBF1*), involved in the early response to cold in Arabidopsis. Antisense transcription causes
288 Pol II head-to-head collision modulating transcriptional termination of *CBF1* (56). Here, we showed that
289 the auxin-responsive lncRNA *APOLO* is also transcriptionally modulated by cold. The differential accumu-
290 lation of 24nt siRNAs across the *APOLO* locus at low temperatures indicates that this activation is related
291 to a decrease in RdDM. Moreover, we showed here that the intergenic region between *PID* and *APOLO*
292 acting as a divergent promoter is also activated at low temperatures in RHs, as revealed by the reporter
293 gene *GFP*. Thus, the lncRNA *APOLO* integrates external signals into auxin-dependent developmental out-
294 puts in Arabidopsis.

295 In the last decade, lncRNAs have emerged as regulators of gene expression at different levels,
296 ranging from epigenetics to protein modifications and stability (57). Notably, it has been shown in ani-
297 mals that noncoding transcripts can be recognized by TFs. In humans, it was proposed that the interac-
298 tion with the lncRNA *SMALL NUCLEOLAR RNA HOST GENE 15* (*SNHG15*) stabilizes the TF Slug in colon
299 cancer cells. It was shown that *SNHG15* is recognized by the zinc finger domain of Slug preventing its
300 ubiquitination and degradation in living cells (38). Also, the transcriptional activity of the human gene

301 *DIHYDROFOLATE REDUCTASE* (*DHFR*) is regulated by a lncRNA encoded in its proximal promoter. It was
302 proposed that the nascent noncoding transcript forms a hybrid with its parent DNA and decoys the regu-
303 latory TF IIB away from the *DHFR* promoter, dissociating the transcriptional pre-initiation complex in
304 quiescent cells (40). The lncRNA *P21 ASSOCIATED ncRNA DNA DAMAGE ACTIVATED* (*PANDA*) was identi-
305 fied in human cancer and it was activated in response to DNA damage (39). *PANDA* is transcribed from
306 the promoter region of the *CDKN1A* gene and interacts with the TF NF-YA to limit the expression of pro-
307 apoptotic genes. The activity of *PANDA* has been linked to the progression of different tumors (58, 59).
308 Interestingly, it was shown that in addition to NF-YA, *PANDA* interacts with the scaffold-attachment-
309 factor A (SAFA) as well as PRC1 and PRC2 to modulate cell senescence. In proliferating cells, SAFA and
310 *PANDA* recruit Polycomb components to repress the transcription of senescence-promoting genes. Con-
311 versely, the loss of SAFA–PANDA–PRC interactions allows expression of the senescence program (60). In
312 this work, we showed that the PRC1-interacting lncRNA *APOLO* can also be recognized by the TF
313 WRKY42, hinting at general lncRNA-mediated mechanisms linking Polycomb complexes with the tran-
314 scriptional machinery across kingdoms. Furthermore, our observations indicate that the deregulation of
315 *WRKY42* affects the epigenetic environment of *RHD6*. It was previously shown that the addition of *in*
316 *vitro* transcribed *APOLO* to RNAi-*APOLO* chromatin extracts was able to partially restore R-loop for-
317 mation over *APOLO* target genes, and that high levels of *APOLO* may titer LHP1 away from chromatin
318 (27). Here we showed that the relative accumulation of the lncRNA *APOLO* can modulate the binding
319 activity of its partner TF to common target genes. Collectively, our results strongly support that environ-
320 mentally controlled cell fate in *Arabidopsis* relies on a transcriptional reprogramming governed by a
321 network of epigenetic regulatory complexes, lncRNAs, TFs and effector proteins.
322
323 **MATERIALS AND METHODS**
324
325 **Plant Material and Growth Conditions.** All the *Arabidopsis thaliana* lines used were in the Columbia-0
326 (Col-0) background. *WRKY42* over expression transgenic plants were generated through *Agrobacterium*
327 *tumefaciens* (strain EHA105)-mediated transformation (61). *35S:WRKY42:GFP* transformant lines were
328 selected on MS/2 medium supplemented with kanamycin (40µg/mL) and *WRKY42* expression levels were
329 measured by RT-qPCR (primers used are listed in **Supplementary Table 3**). The *wrky42* mutant line be-
330 longs to the SALK collection (SALK_121674C), as the one previously characterized (23). Homozygous
331 plants were obtained in our laboratory and genotyped using the oligonucleotides indicated in **Supple-**
332 **mentary Table 3**. Seeds were surface sterilized and stratified at 4°C for 2d before being grown under

333 long day conditions (16h light, 140µE.m^{-2}.sec^{-1}/8h dark), on ½-strength Murashige and Skoog media (1/2
334 MS) (Duchefa, Netherlands) with 0.8% plant agar (Duchefa, Netherlands).
335
336 **Cloning procedure.** The coding region of *WRKY42* (AT4G04450) excluding the STOP codon was amplified
337 by PCR, cloned into the Gateway entry vector pENTR/D-TOPO (Invitrogen) and recombined by Gateway
338 technology (LR reaction) into the pK7FWG2,0 vector containing a *p35S-GFP* cassette
339 (http://www.psb.ugent.be/gateway/index.php).
340
341 **Root hair phenotype characterization.** For quantitative analyses of RH phenotypes, 100 fully elongated
342 RHs were measured (using the ImageJ software) from 10-20 roots grown on vertical agar plates for 5
343 days at 22° and 3 days at 10°C. Measurements were made after 8 days. Images were captured with an
344 Olympus SZX7 Zoom Stereo microscope (Olympus, Japan) equipped with a Q-Colors digital camera and
345 software.
346
347 **Confocal microscopy analysis of root hairs.** Confocal laser scanning microscopy was performed using
348 Zeiss LSM5 Pascal (Zeiss, Germany) and a 40x water-immersion objective, N/A=1.2. Fluorescence was
349 analyzed by using 488 nm laser for GFP excitation (Laser Intensity: 70%, Detector Gain:550, Amplifier
350 Offset:0.1, Amplifier Gain:1), and emitted fluorescence was recorded between 490 and 525nm for GFP
351 tag. Z stacks were done with an optical slice of 1µm, and fluorescence intensity was measured in 15µm
352 ROI (Region Of Interest) at the RH tip and summed for quantification of fluorescence using ImageJ. Five
353 replicates for each of ten roots and 15 hairs per root were observed. Col-0 wild type root hairs were used
354 as a negative control, to check autofluorescence signal occurrence and no signal were detected in the
355 wavelengths range stated above.
356
357 **RNA extraction and RT-qPCR.** Total RNA was extracted using TRIZol (Invitrogen) and 2 µg were subjected
358 to DNase treatment according to the manufacturer's protocol (Thermo Scientific). One µg of DNase-free
359 RNA was reverse transcribed using Maxima H Minus Reverse Transcriptase (Thermo Scientific). RT-qPCR
360 were performed using the LightCycler 480 SYBR Green I Master Kit on a LightCycler480 apparatus
361 (Roche) using standard protocols (40 cycles, 60°C annealing). *PP2A* (AT1G13320; primers are listed in
362 **Supplementary Table 3**) was used as reference.
363

364 **RNA Immunoprecipitation.** RNA immunoprecipitation (RIP) assays were performed on transiently trans-
365 formed *N. benthamiana* leaves as described in (62), or in 10-day-old *A. thaliana 35S:WRKY42:GFP* seed-
366 lings as described in (63), using anti GFP (Abcam ab290) and anti-IgG (Abcam ab6702). RIP was per-
367 formed using Invitrogen Protein A Dynabeads. Precipitated RNAs were prepared using TRI Reagent (Sig-
368 ma-Aldrich), treated with DNase (Fermentas) and subjected to RT-qPCR (High Capacity cDNA Reverse
369 Transcription Kit (Thermo); primers used are listed in **Supplementary Table 3**). Total RNAs were pro-
370 cessed in parallel and considered the input sample.
371
372 **Chromatin Immunoprecipitation.** Chromatin immunoprecipitation (ChIP) assays were performed on 10-
373 day-old WT seedlings treated or not during 24h at 10 °C, using anti H3K27me3 (Diagenode pAb-195-050),
374 anti LHP1 (Covalab pab0923-P) and anti-IgG (Abcam ab6702), as described in (27). Crosslinked chromatin
375 was sonicated using a water bath Bioruptor Pico (Diagenode; 30sec ON/30sec OFF pulses; 10 cycles; high
376 intensity). ChIP was performed using Invitrogen Protein A Dynabeads. Precipitated DNA was recovered
377 using Phenol:Chloroform:Isoamilic Acid (25:24:1; Sigma) and subjected to RT-qPCR (primers used are
378 listed in **Supplementary Table 3**). Untreated sonicated chromatin was processed in parallel and consid-
379 ered the input sample. For *in vitro* competition assays, *APOLO* was transcribed using the T7 transcription
380 kit (Promega; (27)). After regular chromatin isolation from 10-day-old *35S:WRKY42:GFP* seedlings, the
381 sample was split in 4 independent tubes and diluted to 1ml in Nuclei Lysis Buffer without SDS. 0 µg, 0.1
382 µg, 1 µg and 10 µg of *APOLO* were added to each sample respectively, and incubated in rotation at 4 °C
383 for 3h. Then, cross-linking was performed with 1% formaldehyde for 5 min at 4 °C, followed by 5 min
384 with a final concentration of 50 mM glycine. SDS was added to a final concentration of 0.1% prior to son-
385 ication and the subsequent steps of a regular ChIP protocol.
386
387 **Chromatin Isolation by RNA Purification followed by qPCR.** A method adapted from the ChIRP protocol
388 (64) was developed to allow the identification of plant DNA associated to specific lncRNAs, as described
389 in (26, 27). Briefly, plants were *in vivo* crosslinked and cell nuclei were purified and extracted through
390 sonication. The resulting supernatant was hybridized against biotinylated complementary oligonucleo-
391 tides that tile the lncRNA of interest and lncRNA-associated chromatin was isolated using magnetic
392 streptavidin beads. One hundred pmol of probes against *APOLO* (ODD and EVEN set of probes (26, 27))
393 and the corresponding negative set against LacZ were used for independent purification. Co-purified
394 ribonucleoprotein complexes were eluted and used to purify RNA or DNA, which were later subjected to
395 downstream assays for quantification as previously described (27).

396

397 **Chromatin Conformation Capture.** Chromosome conformation capture (3C) was performed basically as
398 previously described in (27) starting with 2g of seedlings. Digestions were performed overnight at 37°C
399 with 400U *Dpn*II (NEB). DNA was ligated by incubation at 16°C for 5h in 4 ml volume using 100U of T4
400 DNA ligase (NEB). After reverse crosslinking and Proteinase K treatment (Invitrogen), DNA was recovered
401 by Phenol:Chloroform:Isoamilic Acid (25:24:1; Sigma) extraction and ethanol precipitation. Relative in-
402 teraction frequency was calculated by qPCR (primers used are listed in **Supplementary Table 3**). A region
403 free of *Dpn*II was used to normalize the amount of DNA.

404

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412

413 **Author contributions**

414 MM, JMP, LL, CFF, JRM, AC, MB and FA performed the experiments. JB, MB, FI, MC, JE and FA analyzed
415 the data. JE and FA conceived the project. FA, JE and CFF wrote the manuscript with the contribution of
416 all authors.

417

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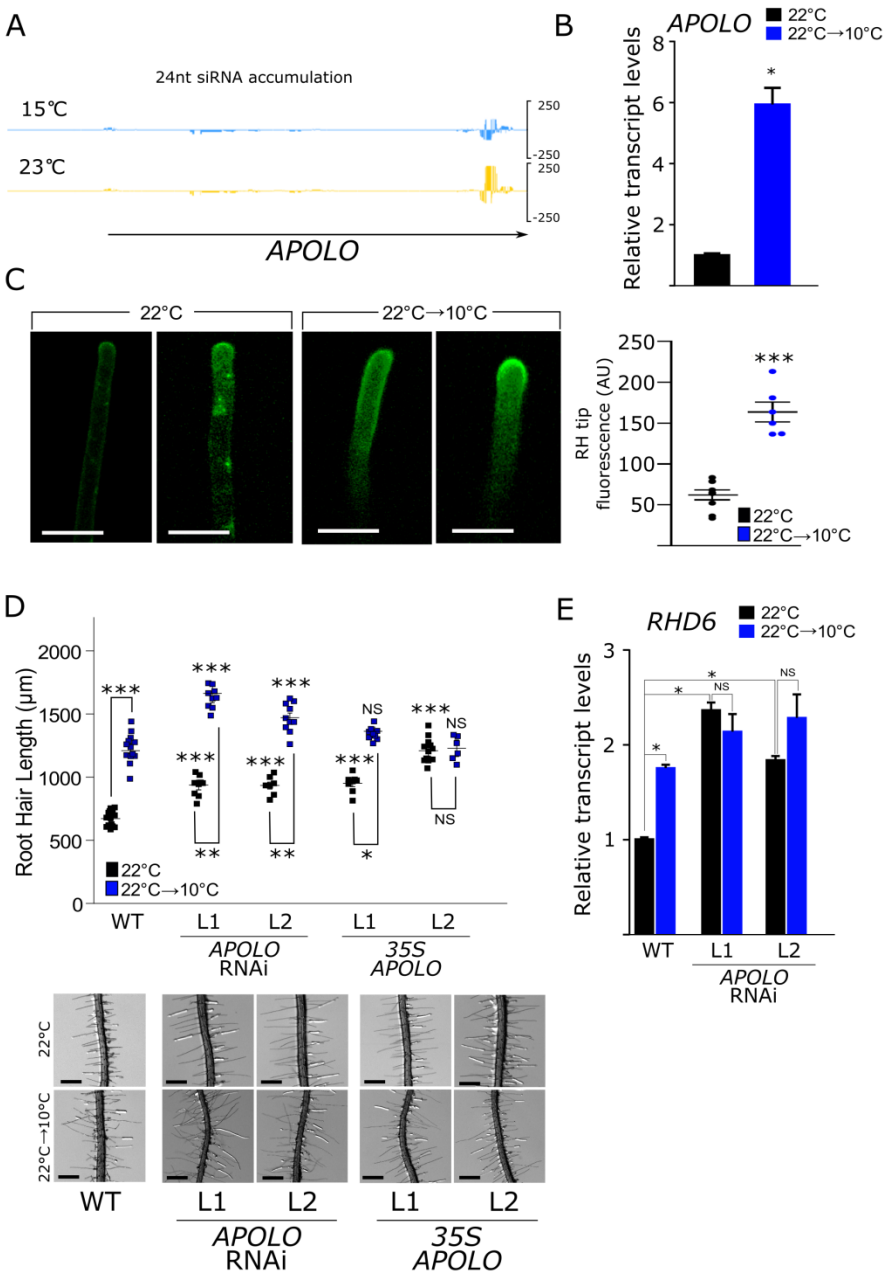


Figure 1. *APOLO* regulates root hair elongation in response to low temperatures

A. 24nt siRNA accumulation over the *APOLO* locus revealed by small RNA-Seq of roots from WT seedlings grown at 15 °C or 23 °C (32).

B. *APOLO* transcript levels measured by RT-qPCR in roots of 10-day-old plants grown at 22 °C treated or not for 24h at 10 °C.

C. The *APOLO* promoter region (full intergenic region between *PID* and *APOLO*) is active in root hairs at 22 °C and 10 °C, using the *GFP* reporter gene. Images are representative of the lowest and highest GFP signal detected in the observation of several roots. The quantification of the fluorescence is shown in the right panel.

D. Quantification of RH length of 8-day-old WT, RNAi-*APOLO* and *35S:APOLO* plants, respectively, at 22 °C and 10 °C. Each point is the mean of the length of the 10 longest RHs identified in a single root. Repre-

567 sentative images of each genotype are shown below the graph. Asterisks indicate significant differences
568 between WT and the corresponding genotype at the same temperature (one way ANOVA followed by a
569 Tukey-Kramer test; “*”<0.05, “**”<0.01, “***”<0.001, NS: no statistically significant).
570 **E.** *RHD6* transcript levels measured by RT-qPCR in roots of WT plants vs. two independent RNAi-*APOLO*
571 lines grown at 22 °C treated or not for 24h at 10 °C.
572 In B and E, the error bar represents the SD of 3 biological replicates. The asterisk indicates that the dif-
573 ference is significant (t test p<0.05).

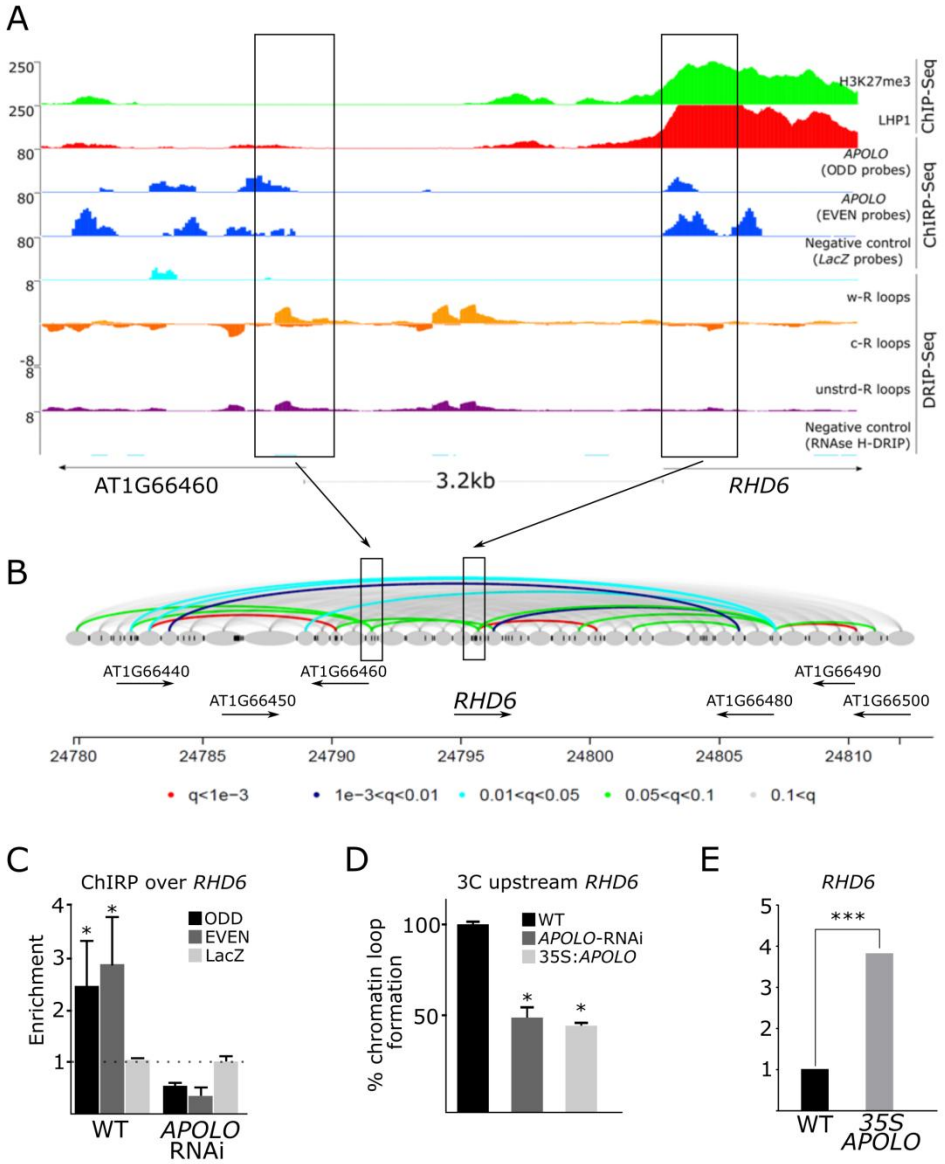


Figure 2. *APOLO* directly modulates chromatin three-dimensional conformation of the *RHD6* locus

A. Epigenomic landscape of the *RHD6* locus. Lane 1: H3K27me3 deposition by ChIP-Seq (33). Lane 2: LHP1 deposition by ChIP-Seq (33). Lane 3 to 5: *APOLO* recognition by ChIRP-Seq (Lane 3 and 4, using ODD and EVEN sets of probes against *APOLO*, respectively; Lane 5, negative control using LacZ probes)(27). Lane 6 to 9: R-loop formation by DRIP-Seq (34), on Watson strand (Lane 6), Crick strand (Lane 7) or unstranded sequencing (Lane 8). DRIP negative control after RNAseH treatment is shown in Lane 9. Gene annotation is shown at the bottom.

B. Chromatin loops identified in the *RHD6* region by *Dpn*II HiC (35). Colors of the loops are related to the corresponding q-values indicated below. Black boxes in A and B indicate the same genomic locations, where the bases of the chromatin loop correlate with R-loop formation and *APOLO* recognition (compared to gene annotations).

C. *APOLO* association to DNA of the *RHD6* locus by ChIRP-qPCR in WT and RNAi-*APOLO* plants. The background level was determined using a set of probes against LacZ RNA.

588 **D.** Relative chromatin loop formation by 3C-qPCR deduced from **B**, in WT plants vs. *35S:APOLO* and RNAi
589 lines for the region upstream *RHD6*.
590 **E.** *RHD6* transcript levels revealed by RNA-Seq of WT vs. *35S:APOLO* plants(27).
591 In C and D, the error bar represents the SD of 3 biological replicates. The asterisk indicates that the dif-
592 ference is significant (t test "*"<0.05). In E, p-value from RNA-Seq (27) "***"<0.001.
593

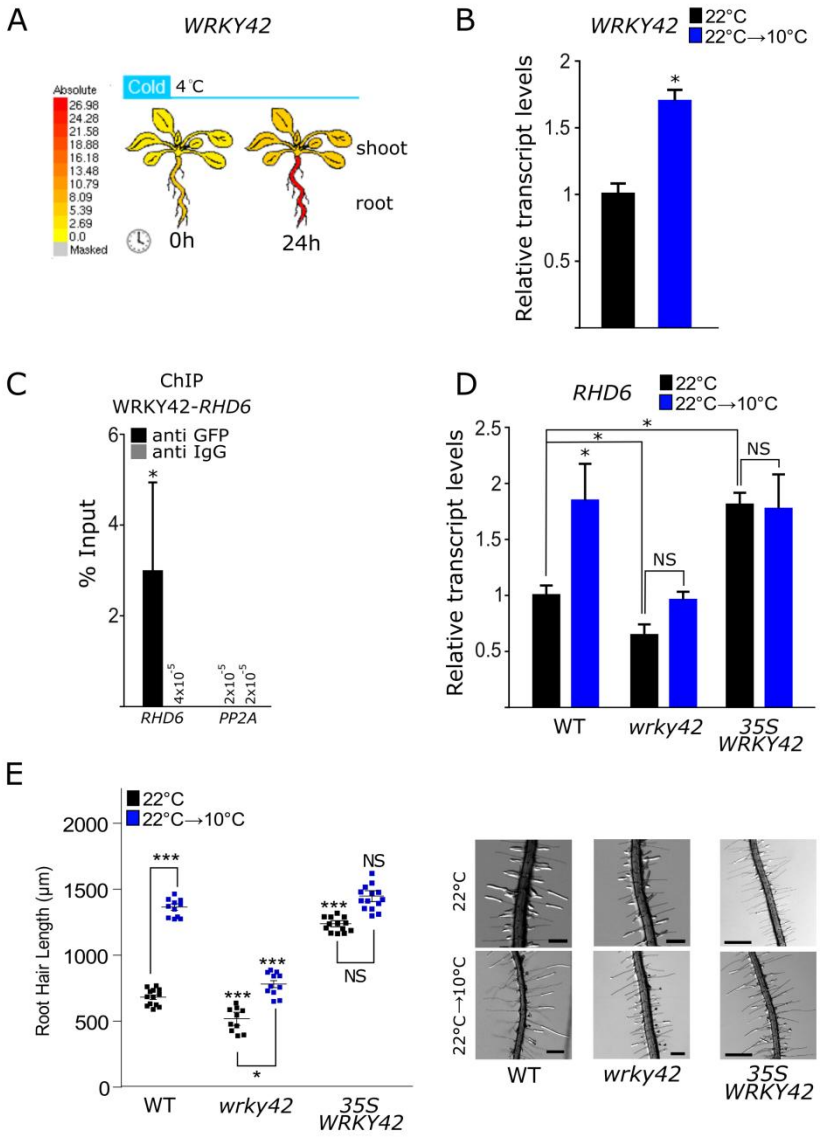


Figure 3. The transcription factor WRKY42 directly regulates *RHD6* and participates in the response to cold

A. Arabidopsis eFP Browser (37) plot representing the increase of *WRKY42* transcript levels in roots of seedlings treated for 24h at 4°C.

B. *WRKY42* transcript levels measured by RT-qPCR in roots of plants grown at 22°C treated or not for 24h at 10°C.

C. Chromatin Immunoprecipitation (ChIP)-qPCR assay revealing regulation by WRKY42 of *RHD6* by direct recognition of its promoter region. Probes amplifying *PP2A* were used as a negative control of the experiment. Anti-IgG antibodies were used as a negative control for each pair of probes.

D. *RHD6* transcript levels measured by RT-qPCR in roots of WT plants vs. *wrky42* mutants and *35S:WRKY42:GFP* lines grown at 22°C treated or not for 24h at 10°C.

E. Quantification of RH length of plants WT, *wrky42* and *35S:WRKY42:GFP* at 22°C and 10°C. Each point is the mean of the length of the 10 longest RHs identified in a single root. Representative images of each

genotype are shown on the right. Asterisks indicate significant differences between WT and the corresponding genotype at the same temperature (one way ANOVA followed by a Tukey-Kramer test; “*”<0.05, “***”<0.001, NS: no statistically significant).

In B, C and D, the error bar represents the SD of 3 biological replicates. The asterisk indicates that the difference is significant (t test p<0.05, NS: no statistically significant).

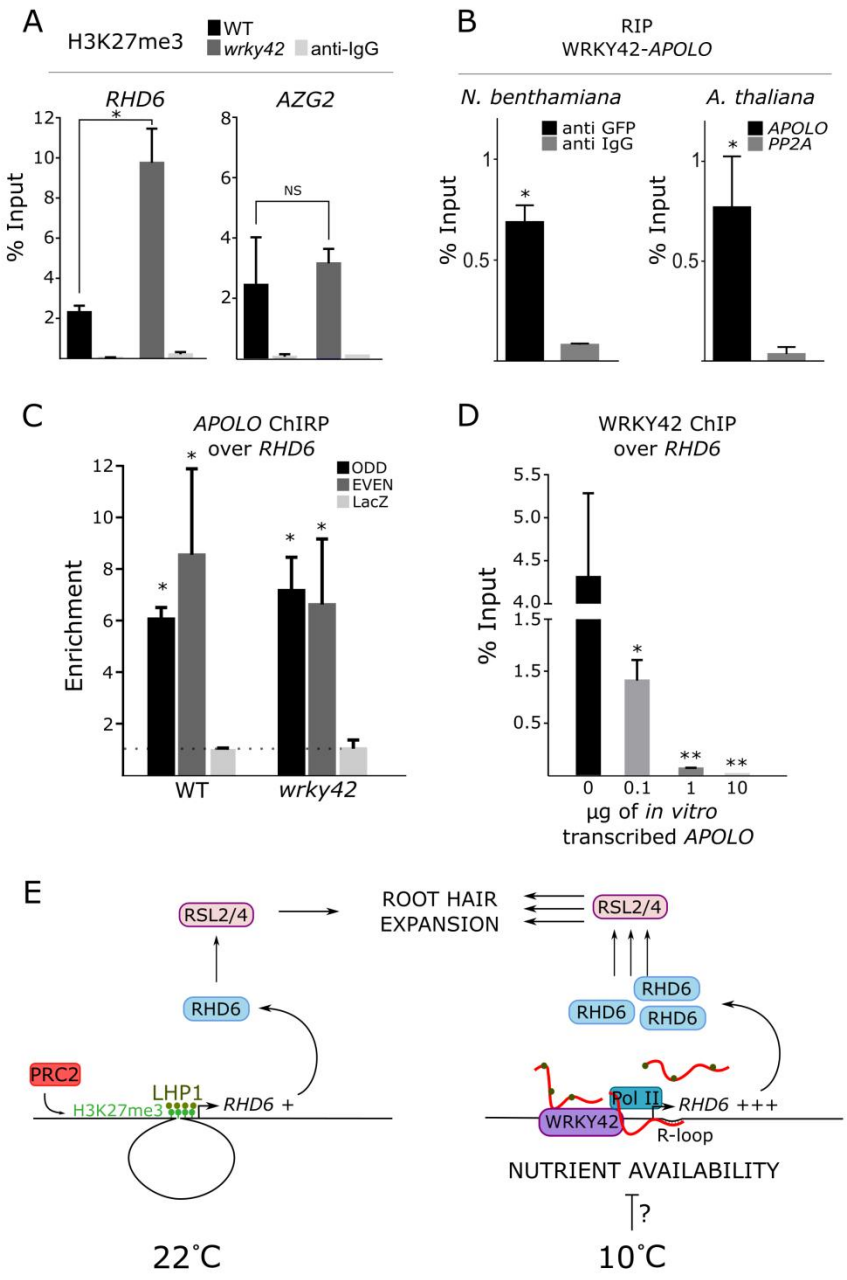
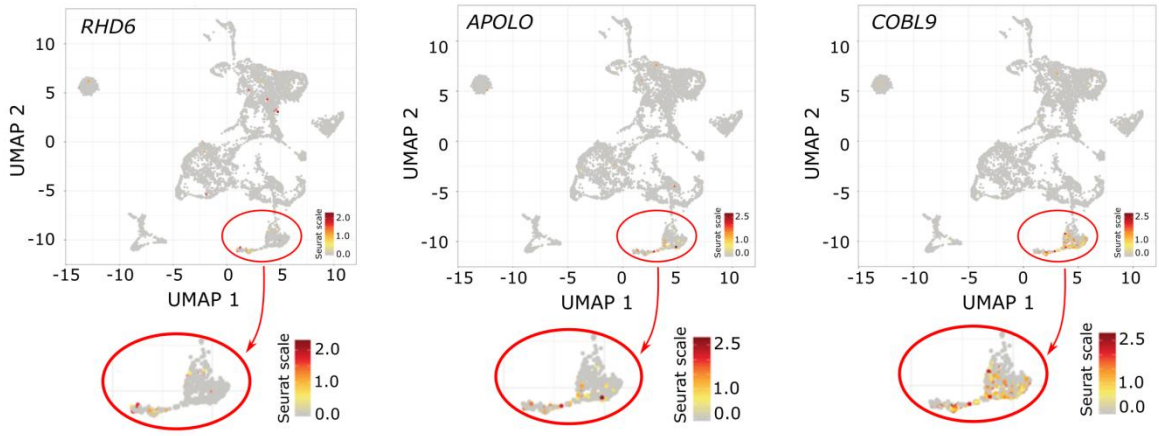


Figure 4. The WRKY42-*APOLO* hub activates *RHD6* transcription in response to low temperatures, promoting root hair expansion

A. H3K27me3 deposition in WT vs. *wrky42* mutant 10-day-old seedlings grown at 23°C over *RHD6* and a WRKY42-independent *APOLO* target (*AZG2*; (27)). An immunoprecipitation (ChIP-qPCR) was performed using an anti-IgG antibody as a negative control.

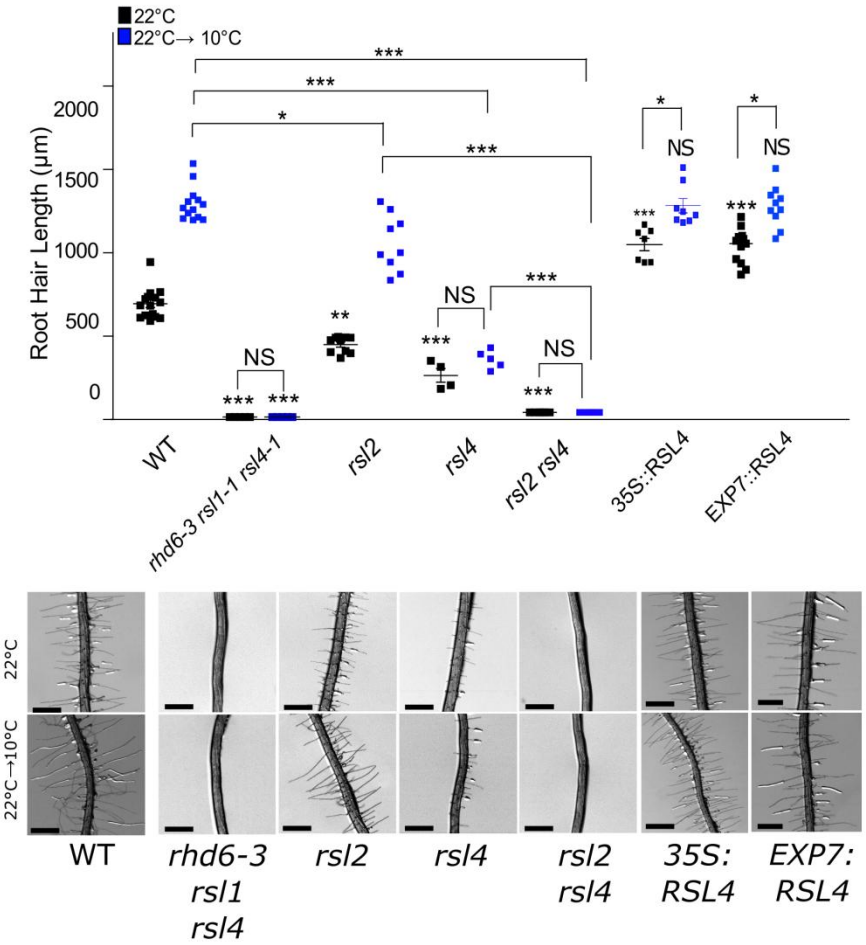
B. *APOLO*-WRKY42 interaction *in vivo* demonstrated by RNA Immunoprecipitation (RIP)-qPCR in transiently transformed tobacco leaves and stably transformed Arabidopsis plants. In tobacco, WRKY42:GFP and *APOLO* were co-transformed under the control of the 35S constitutive promoter. In Arabidopsis, *35S:WRKY42:GFP* transformed plants were used to detect the interaction with endogenous *APOLO*. Anti-

625 IgG antibodies were used as a negative control. The RNA *PP2A* was considered as a RIP negative control
626 in Arabidopsis plants.
627 **C.** *APOLO* association to DNA of the *RHD6* locus by ChIRP-qPCR in WT and *wrky42* mutant plants. The
628 background level was determined using a set of probes against LacZ RNA.
629 **D.** WRKY42 immunoprecipitation over *RHD6* with the addition of increasing concentrations of *in vitro*
630 transcribed *APOLO* prior to cross-linking.
631 **E.** Proposed model for the action of *APOLO* in RH growth under low temperatures. In response to cold,
632 *APOLO* levels increase, recognizing the *RHD6* locus by sequence complementarity. Then, LHP1 is decoyed
633 away from chromatin and H3K27me3 deposition decreases in a process involving WRKY42 and leading to
634 the opening of the *RHD6* promoter region. Additionally, *APOLO* and WRKY42 jointly activate *RHD6* tran-
635 scription. RHD6 activates the transcription of downstream TF genes *RSL2* and *4* promoting RH cell expan-
636 sion.
637 In A, B, C and D, the error bar represents the SD of 3 biological replicates. The asterisk indicates that the
638 difference is significant (t test "*"<0.05, "**"<0.01).



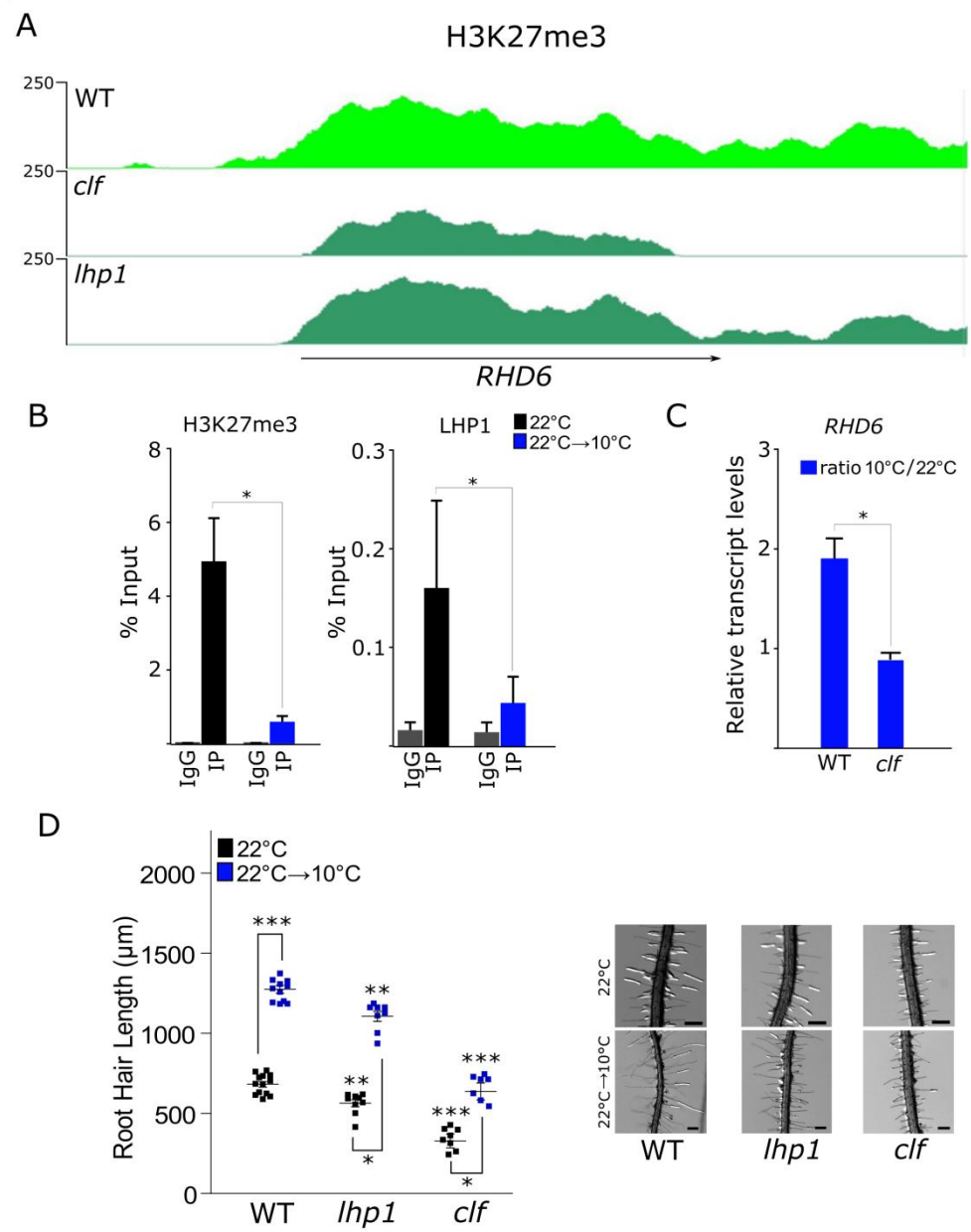
Supplementary Figure 1: *RHD6* and *APOLO* transcripts are enriched in root hair cells

Uniform Manifold Approximation and Projection (UMAP) clustering map of Arabidopsis root single cell RNA-seq ((31; http://wanglab.sippe.ac.cn/rootatlas/) data. *RHD6*, *APOLO* and the trichoblast cell marker *COBL9* are respectively indicated in red in each plot.



Supplementary Figure 2. Root hair expansion in response to cold is mediated by *RSL2* and *RSL4*

Quantification of RH length of plants WT, *rhd6-3, rsl1/4; rsl2; rsl4; rsl2/4*; *35S:RSL4* and *pEXP7:RSL4* at 22°C and 10°C. Each point is the mean of the length of the 10 longest RHs identified in a single root. Representative images of each genotype are shown below the graph. Asterisks indicate significant differences between WT and the corresponding genotype at the same temperature (one way ANOVA followed by a Tukey-Kramer test; "*"<0.05, "**"<0.01, "***"<0.001, NS: no statistically significant), unless indicated differently.



Supplementary Figure 3: Induction of root hair elongation by low temperatures requires epigenetic Polycomb-mediated reprogramming

A. H3K27me3 deposition across the *RHD6* locus in WT, *clf* and *lhp1* mutants, revealed by ChIP-seq from seedlings grown at 23°C (33).

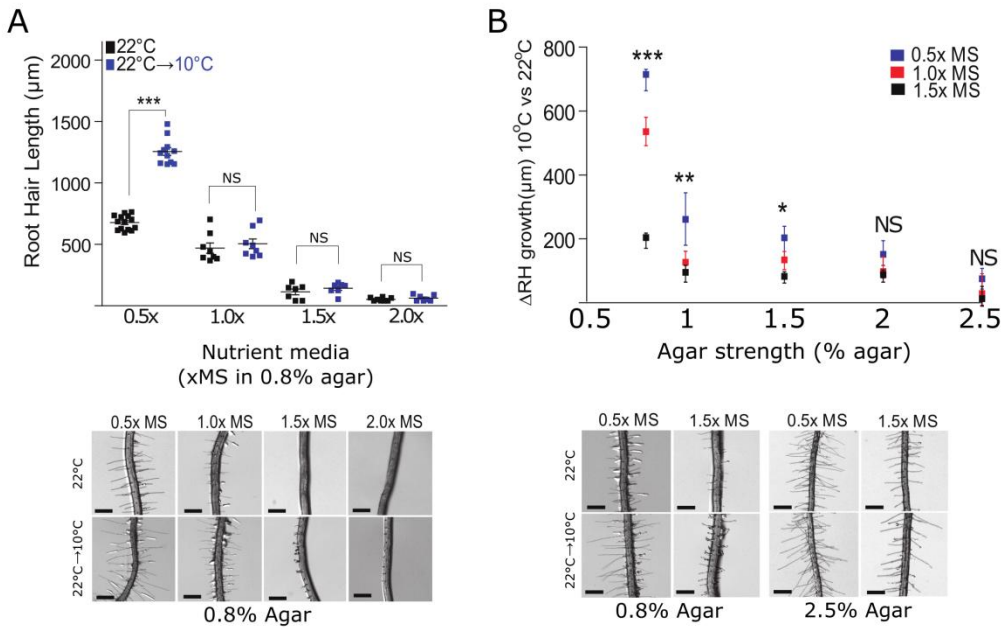
B. H3K27me3 deposition measured by ChIP-qPCR over the *RHD6* locus in WT plants grown at 22°C treated or not for 24h at 10°C. The negative control was performed using an anti-IgG antibody.

C. *RHD6* transcript levels measured by RT-qPCR in roots of WT plants vs. *clf* mutants, expressed as the ratio between plants treated or not for 24h at 10°C over the mock plants grown at 22°C.

D. Quantification of RH length of plants WT, *lhp1* and *clf* at 22°C and 10°C. Each point is the mean of the length of the 10 longest RHs identified in a single root. Representative images of each genotype are shown on the right. Asterisks indicate significant differences between WT and the corresponding geno-

type at the same temperature (one way ANOVA followed by a Tukey-Kramer test; “**”<0.01, “***”<0.001).

In B and C, the error bar represents the SD of 3 biological replicates. The asterisk indicates that the difference is significant (t test $p<0.05$).



Supplementary Figure 4. Root hair expansion in response to cold seems to be related to nutrient availability

A. Quantification of RH length of WT plants at 22°C and 10°C at growing concentrations of Murashige and Skoog (MS) culture media. Each point is the mean of the length of the 10 longest RHs identified in a single root. Representative images of each genotype are shown on the right. Asterisks indicate significant differences between WT cultivated in the same growth conditions at different temperatures (one way ANOVA followed by a Tukey-Kramer test). NS stands for no statistically significant difference.

B. Quantification of RH length of WT plants expressed as the ratio between 10°C and 22°C at growing concentrations of MS culture media, for given concentrations of agar. Each point is the mean of the length of the 10 longest RHs identified in a single root. Representative images of each genotype are shown below the graph.

Asterisks indicate significant differences between the ratio of WT cultivated at different temperatures in different growth conditions (one way ANOVA followed by a Tukey-Kramer test; "*"<0.05, "**"<0.01, "***"<0.001, NS: no statistically significant).

686 **LEGENDS TO SUPPLEMENTARY TABLES**
687
688 **Supplementary Table 1: *APOLO* targets related to root hair growth**
689 The list of *APOLO bona fide* targets was determined in (27). The search for root hairs-related genes was
690 performed based on (9, 11, 13, 16). LHP1 binding and H3K27me3 deposition was investigated in previ-
691 ously published datasets (33). W-boxes (TTGACY; (65)) present in the first 2500 bp upstream the ATG of
692 each gene was searched manually. The position of the W-box is given only for *RHD6*, directly recognized
693 by WRKY42 (**Figure 4B**).
694
695 **Supplementary Table 2: Root hair-related genes deregulated in *35S:APOLO* seedlings**
696 The list of deregulated genes was determined by RNA-Seq (27). The search for root hairs-related genes
697 was performed based on (9, 11, 13, 16). Genes are classified as directly (same as in **Supplementary Table**
698 **1**) or indirectly regulated by *APOLO*. *RHD6*, *RSL2* and *RSL4* are highlighted in red.
699
700 **Supplementary Table 3: List of oligonucleotides used in this work**

Supplementary Table 1

APOLO target	Gene name	LHP1 binding	H3K27me3 deposition	W-boxes in promoter	WRKY42 target (position)
AT1G66470	*RHD6*	YES	YES	1	-2521
AT1G21310	*EXT3*	YES	YES	4	
AT1G23720	*EXT15*	YES	YES	3	
AT1G26250	*EXT18*	YES	YES	0	
AT1G62440	*LRX2*	YES	YES	1	
AT2G04780	*FLA7*	NO	NO	2	
AT2G24980	*EXT6*	weak	weak	2	
AT2G26420	*PIP5K3*	NO	NO	2	
AT3G14310	*PME3*	NO	NO	0	
AT3G54580	*EXT17*	weak	NO	1	
AT4G08400	*EXT7*	weak	NO	2	
AT4G08410	*EXT8*	weak	NO	0	
AT4G13340	*LRX3*	weak	NO	3	
AT4G13390	*EXT12*	weak	weak	0	
AT4G40090	*AGP3*	YES	YES	2	
AT5G06630	*EXT9*	YES	YES	1	
AT5G06640	*EXT10*	YES	YES	0	

Supplementary Table 2

	gene	name	locus	sample 1	sample 2	status	value 1	value 2	log2(FC)	test stat	p value	q value	significant?
APOLO **direct** targets (Supplementary Table 1)	AT1G66470	***RHD6***	chr1:24795213-24796988	WT	*35S:APOLO*	OK	0,376783	1,05922	1,4912	2,64116	0,00015	0,00097	yes
	AT1G21310	***EXT3***	chr1:7453235-7455069	WT	*35S:APOLO*	OK	152,749	461,038	1,59372	6,83739	5,00E-05	0,00035	yes
	AT1G23720	***EXT15***	chr1:8388654-8391540	WT	*35S:APOLO*	OK	3,09641	19,245	2,63582	10,0477	0,00005	0,00035	yes
	AT1G26250	***EXT18***	chr1:9083837-9085464	WT	*35S:APOLO*	OK	3,22367	1,51056	-1,09362	-2,90259	0,00005	0,00035	yes
	AT1G62440	***LRX2***	chr1:23111817-23115508	WT	*35S:APOLO*	OK	0,292088	2,59795	3,1529	6,79781	5,00E-05	0,00035	yes
	AT2G04780	***FLA7***	chr2:1676741-1678455	WT	*35S:APOLO*	OK	7,18037	16,6557	1,21388	4,52231	0,00005	0,00035	yes
	AT2G24980	***EXT6***	chr2:10622452-10624132	WT	*35S:APOLO*	OK	0,837653	6,96907	3,05654	7,82993	5,00E-05	0,00035	yes
	AT2G26420	***PIP5K3***	chr2:11239433-11242239	WT	*35S:APOLO*	OK	0,077305	0,34491	2,15759	2,67767	0,0003	0,00181	yes
	AT3G14310	***PME3***	chr3:4771901-4775119	WT	*35S:APOLO*	OK	12,0768	25,3357	1,06894	4,63885	0,00005	0,00035	yes
	AT3G54580	***EXT17***	chr3:20200687-20203782	WT	*35S:APOLO*	OK	2,80301	22,185	2,98453	11,514	5,00E-05	0,00035	yes
	AT4G08400	***EXT7***	chr4:5323799-5325341	WT	*35S:APOLO*	OK	0,166086	2,09646	3,65795	5,75847	5,00E-05	0,00035	yes
	AT4G08410	***EXT8***	chr4:5339085-5341209	WT	*35S:APOLO*	OK	0,242031	2,59029	3,41985	6,63579	5,00E-05	0,00035	yes
	AT4G13340	***LRX3***	chr4:7758609-7761159	WT	*35S:APOLO*	OK	61,2495	139,492	1,18741	5,4	5,00E-05	0,00035	yes
	AT4G13390	***EXT12***	chr4:7783802-7785332	WT	*35S:APOLO*	OK	1,28902	9,4516	2,87429	7,90266	5,00E-05	0,00035	yes
	AT4G40090	***AGP3***	chr4:18580837-18581585	WT	*35S:APOLO*	OK	0,465013	6,11837	3,71781	6,1024	0,00005	0,00035	yes
	AT5G06630	***EXT9***	chr5:2036360-2037843	WT	*35S:APOLO*	OK	0,47843	4,28202	3,16191	6,69628	5,00E-05	0,00035	yes
	AT5G06640	***EXT10***	chr5:2039858-2041928	WT	*35S:APOLO*	OK	0,704936	6,53659	3,21297	8,39508	5,00E-05	0,00035	yes
RH-related genes **NOT** identified as direct *APOLO* targets	AT1G02900	***RALF1***	chr1:653764-654343	WT	*35S:APOLO*	OK	6,43265	11,7847	0,87343	2,3996	0,0001	0,00067	yes
	AT1G12040	***LRX1***	chr1:4070123-4072567	WT	*35S:APOLO*	OK	0,254515	2,57012	3,33601	6,95711	5,00E-05	0,00035	yes
	AT1G12560	***EXPA7***	chr1:4276518-4277899	WT	*35S:APOLO*	OK	0,373865	2,37379	2,6666	4,34024	5,00E-05	0,00035	yes
	AT1G12950	***RSH2***	chr1:4419769-4422638	WT	*35S:APOLO*	OK	0,312439	1,50467	2,2678	4,34933	5,00E-05	0,00035	yes
	AT1G16440	***RSH3***	chr1:5615814-5617672	WT	*35S:APOLO*	OK	0,16653	0,405508	1,28395	1,77649	0,00455	0,01897	yes
	AT1G27740	***RSL4***	chr1:9654687-9656089	WT	*35S:APOLO*	OK	0,105364	0,682308	2,69504	3,06432	0,0005	0,00284	yes
	AT1G32640	***MYC2***	chr1:11798809-11800988	WT	*35S:APOLO*	OK	22,203	52,6239	1,24496	5,66997	5,00E-05	0,00035	yes
	AT2G35150	***PHI-1-like***	chr2:14817046-14818211	WT	*35S:APOLO*	OK	0,264466	1,09189	2,04567	3,08494	5,00E-05	0,00035	yes
	AT1G54970	***PRP1***	chr1:20504999-20506488	WT	*35S:APOLO*	OK	1,07342	8,36667	2,96244	7,31633	5,00E-05	0,00035	yes
	AT1G55330	***AGP21***	chr1:20648464-20648891	WT	*35S:APOLO*	OK	36,0237	97,1117	1,4307	5,34932	5,00E-05	0,00035	yes
	AT1G63450	***RHS8***	chr1:23531408-23534569	WT	*35S:APOLO*	OK	0,03899	0,331918	3,08967	3,72534	5,00E-05	0,00035	yes
	AT1G70460	***PERK13***	chr1:26555845-26559284	WT	*35S:APOLO*	OK	0,258225	1,21635	2,23585	4,60468	5,00E-05	0,00035	yes
	AT2G25260	***HPAT2***	chr2:10755523-10757772	WT	*35S:APOLO*	OK	0,529251	1,33354	1,33324	2,44251	5,00E-05	0,00035	yes
	AT2G43150	***EXT21***	chr2:17945769-17947032	WT	*35S:APOLO*	OK	52,0807	114,204	1,1328	5,20396	5,00E-05	0,00035	yes
	AT2G47540	***SHV2***	chr2:19505859-19506598	WT	*35S:APOLO*	OK	1,0193	4,80441	2,23678	4,04873	5,00E-05	0,00035	yes
	AT3G07340	***bHLH62 TF***	chr3:2340898-2343470	WT	*35S:APOLO*	OK	3,61588	7,57866	1,06759	3,73419	5,00E-05	0,00035	yes
	AT3G10710	***RHS12***	chr3:3352288-3354237	WT	*35S:APOLO*	OK	0,11403	1,03108	3,17667	4,47911	5,00E-05	0,00035	yes
	AT3G21180	***ACA9***	chr3:7425518-7432200	WT	*35S:APOLO*	OK	0,058342	0,415952	2,83382	4,24417	5,00E-05	0,00035	yes
	AT3G28550	***EXT16***	chr3:10688322-10703976	WT	*35S:APOLO*	OK	3,33615	28,0079	3,06958	5,7735	5,00E-05	0,00035	yes
	AT3G43960	***RDL3***	chr3:15774054-15775657	WT	*35S:APOLO*	OK	1,63093	3,72675	1,19223	3,00585	5,00E-05	0,00035	yes
	AT3G48340	***CEP2***	chr3:17897738-17899208	WT	*35S:APOLO*	OK	1,69325	11,8683	2,80925	7,74503	5,00E-05	0,00035	yes
	AT3G54580	***EXT17***	chr3:20200687-20203782	WT	*35S:APOLO*	OK	2,80301	22,185	2,98453	11,514	5,00E-05	0,00035	yes
	AT3G60330	***HA7***	chr3:22297406-22303673	WT	*35S:APOLO*	OK	0,75475	1,83265	1,27986	3,54359	5,00E-05	0,00035	yes
	AT3G62680	***PRP3***	chr3:23182721-23183994	WT	*35S:APOLO*	OK	1,90231	17,1835	3,1752	9,02884	5,00E-05	0,00035	yes
	AT4G02270	***RHS13***	chr4:992174-993038	WT	*35S:APOLO*	OK	0,956108	7,16393	2,90551	5,80735	5,00E-05	0,00035	yes
	AT4G17215	***Pollen Ole e 1 allergen and extensin***	chr4:9655836-9656577	WT	*35S:APOLO*	OK	1,17841	4,76508	2,01566	3,84981	5,00E-05	0,00035	yes
	AT4G22080	***RHS14***	chr4:11700554-11702666	WT	*35S:APOLO*	OK	0,059309	0,757044	3,67406	3,68273	0,00025	0,00154	yes
	AT4G25400	***bHLH TF***	chr4:12981294-12982468	WT	*35S:APOLO*	OK	1,35187	4,32603	1,67809	3,18257	5,00E-05	0,00035	yes
	AT4G29180	***RHS16***	chr4:14385592-14389689	WT	*35S:APOLO*	OK	0,099263	0,521194	2,39249	3,82728	5,00E-05	0,00035	yes
	AT4G29930	***bHLH TF***	chr4:14644008-14647591	WT	*35S:APOLO*	OK	2,30654	7,32455	1,66701	4,31108	5,00E-05	0,00035	yes
	AT4G33880	***RSL2***	chr4:16239362-16241137	WT	*35S:APOLO*	OK	0,038579	0,306499	2,99001	2,43441	0,0083	0,03137	yes
	AT4G36930	***SPT***	chr4:17414126-17416294	WT	*35S:APOLO*	OK	1,36121	2,40537	0,82137	2,05934	0,00055	0,00309	yes
	AT5G05500	***MOP10***	chr5:1629666-1630396	WT	*35S:APOLO*	OK	0,56784	5,15021	3,18108	5,39453	5,00E-05	0,00035	yes
	AT5G19560	***ROPGEF10***	chr5:6603290-6606448	WT	*35S:APOLO*	OK	0,058391	0,406499	2,79944	2,91293	0,0004	0,00233	yes
	AT5G22410	***RHS18***	chr5:7426313-7427964	WT	*35S:APOLO*	OK	0,342718	3,78832	3,46647	6,35329	5,00E-05	0,00035	yes
	AT5G35190	***EXT13***	chr5:13434180-13435167	WT	*35S:APOLO*	OK	1,52769	15,7388	3,3649	8,58919	5,00E-05	0,00035	yes
	AT5G41315	***GL3***	chr5:16529454-16532879	WT	*35S:APOLO*	OK	0,235867	0,44781	0,92491	1,51906	0,0112	0,04019	yes
	AT5G51060	***RHD2***	chr5:20752999-20762431	WT	*35S:APOLO*	OK	0,213913	1,38566	2,69548	3,1665	0,0001	0,00067	yes
	AT5G51790	***bHLH120 TF***	chr5:21039510-21041446	WT	*35S:APOLO*	OK	2,80331	7,68882	1,45563	2,87659	5,00E-05	0,00035	yes
	AT5G54380	***THE1***	chr5:22077059-22080338	WT	*35S:APOLO*	OK	19,729	40,4626	1,03627	4,68266	5,00E-05	0,00035	yes
	AT5G58010	***LRL3***	chr5:23483544-23484889	WT	*35S:APOLO*	OK	0,163107	1,32569	3,02286	3,78898	5,00E-05	0,00035	yes
	AT5G67400	***RHS19***	chr5:26894855-26896488	WT	*35S:APOLO*	OK	0,319731	2,96103	3,21117	5,60471	5,00E-05	0,00035	yes

Supplementary Table 3

	3C-qPCR		Experiment
AT1G66470 *RHD6*	F	TCCCGATTCTTCCCTTAAAAA	3C
	R	AAAGCAAACCTTGGCTGCTA	
	F	AATGACCATCCCAACGAGAC	ChIRP, RT-qPCR
	R	CATAAGCTGCATCTGGCTGA	
	F	GGATTAGAAAGACCAGCTGCTTTAG	ChIP
	R	CCAGTTTGTGAACGACGACA	
AT2G34655 *APOLO*	F	CTTCGAGGCGCTAAACAATC	RIP, RT-qPCR
	R	ACAGCGGTGCCACCTATTAC	
AT5G50300 *AZG2*	F	GGGAGTTGCAAAATGGCTTA	ChIP
	R	CCGACCATGTGAAAAATTCC	
AT4G04450 *WRKY42*	F	CCGCTAAACGCTGGTGAGA	RT-qPCR
	R	CGGCAAAGTTGGGATTGG	
	SALK_049063_LP2	AAGCACGCTTCGATATCTGAG	genotyping
	SALK_049063_RP2	AGTTGCGACAATCAATGGATC	
	SALK_049063_LP4	TTTGTGCGTCTGTTACGTACG	
	SALK_049063_RP4	GTACTTGCTTGCGAACAGGAC	
	F	CACCATGTTTCGTTTTCCGGTAAGTC	cloning
	R	TTGCCTATTGTCAACGTTGCTC	
AT1G13320 Housekeeping 1	F	TAACGTGGCCAAAATGATGC	RIP, RT-qPCR
	R	GTTCTCCACAACCGCTTGGT	

ChIRP 3'BIO probes	
ODD probes	
number	sequence
APOLO 1	aaccagccaatgaacagatg
APOLO 3	gacaagtcacacctacactc
APOLO 5	agttccaaggaatccatacc
APOLO 7	gacagcggtgccacctatta
APOLO 9	ttacaacaagccactccgta
APOLO 11	accaaaacaaccaaaatttt
APOLO 13	ccttacaaacagagcaaagt
APOLO 15	ggaagcaaagcccaaaggaa
APOLO 17	caagtaaccccagaaaacta
APOLO 19	gattccggtgaaatacaagg

EVEN probes	
number	sequence
APOLO 2	gattgtttagcgcctcgaag
APOLO 4	cgagaagaactaggccaaag
APOLO 6	tgaagactaccttacataga
APOLO 8	acaaggaacttccaaccaaa
APOLO 10	caacatctcgtcaaccacat
APOLO 12	cgaaactaaaacaaagaagc
APOLO 14	ggaaataacaaggcaaaaca
APOLO 16	ccgacgattaaaaggataat
APOLO 18	gaaatacaaagccggcggtt
APOLO 20	tcgtctgaaagtttattata

EVEN LacZ probes	
number	sequence
LacZ 1	ccagtgaatccgtaatcatg
LacZ 5	aatgtgagcgagtaacaacc
LacZ 7	aataattcgcgtctggcctt
LacZ 9	aattcagacggcaaacgact
LacZ 11	atcttccagataactgccgt
LacZ 13	gctgatttgtgtagtcggtt
LacZ 15	aactgttacccgtaggtagt
LacZ 17	tttcgacgttcagacgtagt
LacZ 19	accattttcaatccgcacct
LacZ 21	ttcatcagcaggatatcctg