

1 **Ribosome stalling caused by the Argonaute-microRNA-SGS3 complex**  
2 **regulates the production of secondary siRNAs in plants**

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25 \_\_\_\_\_

26 **Abstract**

27 The path of ribosomes on mRNAs can be impeded by various obstacles. One such  
28 example is halting of ribosome movement by microRNAs, though the exact mechanism  
29 and physiological role remain unclear. Here, we find that ribosome stalling caused by the  
30 Argonaute-microRNA-SGS3 complex regulates the production of secondary small  
31 interfering RNAs (siRNAs) in plants. We show that the double-stranded RNA-binding  
32 protein SGS3 directly interacts with the 3' end of the microRNA in an Argonaute protein,  
33 resulting in ribosome stalling. Importantly, microRNA-mediated ribosome stalling  
34 positively correlates with efficient production of secondary siRNAs from target mRNAs.  
35 Our results illustrate a role for paused ribosomes in regulation of small RNA function that  
36 may have broad biological implications across the plant kingdom.

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38 **Main**

39 Ribosome movement can be interrupted by various factors including rare codons, special  
40 RNA structures and specific amino acid sequences called ribosome arrest peptides (Ito  
41 and Chiba, 2013; Schuller and Green, 2018). Although the physiological roles of such  
42 impediments are unclear, growing evidence indicates that ribosome stalling has diverse  
43 functions, including ER stress response, monitoring protein secretion, feedback  
44 regulation of methionine biosynthesis, quality control of mRNAs, and folding of nascent  
45 peptide chains (Ito and Chiba, 2013; Inada, 2017; Stein et al., 2019).

46           microRNAs (miRNAs) can cause ribosome stalling as well as inhibition of  
47 translation initiation, target RNA degradation or cleavage (Fabian et al., 2010; Iwakawa  
48 and Tomari, 2013; Iwakawa and Tomari, 2015; Hou et al., 2016; Li et al., 2016; Bazin et  
49 al., 2017; Zhang et al., 2018). To pause ribosomes, miRNAs need to form RNA-induced  
50 silencing complexes (RISCs) with Argonaute (AGO) protein, and extensively base-pair  
51 within the coding sequence (CDS) of the target mRNA (Iwakawa and Tomari, 2013; Hou  
52 et al., 2016; Zhang et al., 2018). However, these requirements are not sufficient for  
53 ribosome stalling in plants; although many plant miRNAs have their cleavable targets  
54 with perfect or near perfect complementary binding sites in CDS, only a few miRNA  
55 binding sites can induce ribosome stalling *in vivo* (Hou et al., 2016). Thus, unknown  
56 elements other than RISC binding should be required for miRNA-mediated ribosome  
57 pausing.

58           The biological function of the miRNA-mediated ribosome stalling also remains  
59 unclear. One plausible role of the miRNA-mediated ribosome stalling is inhibition of

60 functional protein synthesis (Iwakawa and Tomari, 2013; Iwakawa and Tomari, 2015;  
61 Zhang et al., 2018). However, given the diverse functions of stalled ribosomes as  
62 mentioned above, miRNA-mediated ribosome pausing may have a role other than  
63 translation repression.

64 Here, we show that a dsRNA binding protein, SGS3, is a key determinant of  
65 miRNA-mediated ribosome stalling. SGS3 forms a complex on dsRNA protruding from  
66 the miR390-AGO7-target complex. These mechanisms also operate in the context of a  
67 distinct 22-nucleotide miRNA-AGO1-RISC complex. Importantly, we find that SGS3  
68 and miRNA-mediated ribosome stalling positively correlates with efficient amplification  
69 of RNA silencing, suggesting a new role of ribosome pausing beyond inhibition of protein  
70 synthesis.

71

## 72 **Results**

### 73 **The dsRNA-binding protein SGS3 is a specific enhancer for microRNA-mediated** 74 **ribosome stalling**

75 We first sought to find the miRNA-mediated ribosome stalling positions. To do this, we  
76 performed ribosome profiling, an approach that is based on sequencing of ribosome-  
77 protected footprints after RNase treatment (Ingolia et al., 2009), in *Arabidopsis* seedlings.  
78 Our data represented a 3-nucleotide periodicity along the ORF, a hallmark of translation  
79 elongation (Figure S1A). We combined this high-resolution ribosome profiling and the  
80 miRNA target prediction (Dai et al., 2018) to identify the ribosome-stalling position  
81 upstream of the predicted miRNA binding sites (Table S1). Along with earlier studies

82 (Hou et al., 2016; Li et al., 2016; Bazin et al., 2017), our ribosome profiling has shown  
83 that specific miRNAs, including miR390 and miR173, can induce ribosome stalling 12–  
84 13 nucleotide upstream of their binding sites in *Arabidopsis thaliana* Figure 1A–C and  
85 S1B–D). These particular miRNAs are known to trigger the production of phased  
86 secondary small interfering RNAs (siRNAs), called trans-acting siRNAs (tasiRNAs),  
87 from precursors called TAS RNAs (Liu et al., 2020). tasiRNA production requires various  
88 factors including AGO7 and AGO1, which form specific RISCs with miR390 and  
89 miR173, respectively (Montgomery et al., 2008; Endo et al., 2013; Liu et al., 2020). One  
90 important factor for tasiRNA biogenesis is SUPPRESSOR OF GENE SILENCING 3  
91 (SGS3) (Mourrain et al., 2000; Peragine et al., 2004; Vazquez et al., 2004; Allen et al.,  
92 2005). Given that SGS3 forms cytoplasmic foci named “siRNA bodies” with AGO7  
93 (Jouannet et al., 2012) and interacts with AGO1 associating with miR173 and other 22-  
94 nt small RNAs (Chen et al., 2010; Cuperus et al., 2010; Yoshikawa et al., 2013), we  
95 reasoned that SGS3 influences miRNA-mediated ribosome stalling. To test this idea, we  
96 examined the impact of an SGS3 mutation on miRNA-mediated ribosome stalling by  
97 comparing ribosome profiling in wild-type and *sgs3-11 Arabidopsis* seedlings (Peragine  
98 et al., 2004). We observed dramatic decreases in ribosome stalling in *sgs3-11* mutants  
99 (Figure 1B and C and S1B–D and S2). This reduction cannot be explained by a change  
100 in mRNA or miRNA abundance in the mutant (Figure 1B and C and S1–3). Thus, we  
101 concluded that SGS3 is required for ribosome stalling by miR390 and miR173. Given  
102 that *sgs3-11* mutation did not cause an overall decrease in ribosome occupancy (Figure

103 S2), SGS3 is not a general ribosome stalling factor, but rather a specific stalling enhancer  
104 for miRNA-mediated ribosome stalling.

105

### 106 **SGS3 and RISC cooperatively stall ribosomes *in vitro***

107 Although our ribosome profiling data demonstrate the involvement of SGS3 and miRNAs  
108 in ribosome stalling, how these factors coordinately pause ribosomes was unclear. To  
109 reveal the mechanisms of miRNA- and SGS3-dependent ribosome stalling, we adopted a  
110 tobacco BY-2 cell-free system, which can recapitulate miRNA-mediated RNA silencing  
111 *in vitro* (Figure 2A) (Iki et al., 2010; Iwakawa and Tomari, 2013). We used TAS3a as a  
112 representative target RNA. TAS3a contains a short (51 codon) ORF and two miR390-  
113 binding sites: one is adjacent to the stop codon and immediately downstream of the  
114 ribosome stalling site, and the other is located well downstream of those elements (Figure  
115 2B) (Axtell et al., 2006). Ribosome stalling within the short ORF was monitored by  
116 detecting peptidyl-tRNAs, a hallmark of ribosome stalling (Nakatogawa and Ito, 2001;  
117 Muto et al., 2006), by western blotting to a FLAG-tag inserted in the F-TAS3 ORF (Figure  
118 2A and C). Western blotting followed a neutral pH gel electrophoresis that prevents  
119 hydrolysis of the ester linkage between the tRNA and amino acid (Nakatogawa and Ito,  
120 2001), thus enabling us to detect peptidyl-tRNAs within stalled ribosomes through an ~18  
121 kDa upshift —the size of the tRNA moiety (Figure 2C). Translation of the reporter (F-  
122 TAS3) in the presence of AGO7-RISC led to a clear band-shift (Figure 2D and E).  
123 Disappearance of this signal after RNase treatment confirmed that the upshifted band  
124 corresponds to peptidyl-tRNA (Figure 2D).

125           The two miR390-binding sites in TAS3a are functionally distinct; the 5'  
126   possesses central mismatches that preclude RISC-mediated target cleavage but allow  
127   stable binding, whereas the 3' miR390 binding site is centrally matched with the miR390  
128   and thus cleaves the TAS3a RNA (Figure 2B) (Axtell et al., 2006). The adjacent 5' binding  
129   site is essential for ribosome stalling. Mutations in the critical region for miRNA  
130   recognition of the 3' miR390 binding site (Figure 2B, F-TAS3\_3M) did not impair  
131   ribosome stalling, whereas also mutating the 5' binding site (Figure 2B, F-  
132   TAS3\_5M\_3M) reduced stalling (Figure 2D and E). Thus, ribosome stalling requires  
133   base-pairing between miR390 in AGO7-RISC and the 5' miR390-binding site in TAS3a.  
134   As the 3' site mutation increased peptidyl-tRNA accumulation, presumably by stabilizing  
135   the mRNA since it is no longer cleaved (Figure 2D), we decided to use F-TAS3\_3M for  
136   further experiments.

137           We next sought to investigate the impact of SGS3 on ribosome stalling.  
138   Because endogenous SGS3 (NtSGS3) is abundant in BY-2 cells (Yoshikawa et al., 2013),  
139   we immuno-depleted NtSGS3 from the lysate (Figure 2F) and found decreased ribosome  
140   stalling (Figure 2G and H). Supplementing with recombinant AtSGS3 markedly rescued  
141   ribosome stalling efficiency (Figure 2F–H), indicating that SGS3 is a critical and limiting  
142   factor for miRNA-mediated ribosome stalling. Taken altogether, our *in vitro* system  
143   faithfully recapitulated ribosome stalling triggered by AGO7-RISC and SGS3.

144

145   **SGS3 binding to the 3' end of initiator microRNAs is required for ribosome pausing**



146 The functional roles of AGO7-RISC and SGS3 prompted us to hypothesize that these two  
147 factors form a complex that promotes ribosome stalling. SGS3 is an RNA-binding protein  
148 that preferentially binds RNA duplexes with a 5' overhang (Fukunaga and Doudna, 2009).  
149 In theory, such a substrate is formed between the 3' end of miR390 within AGO7 and the  
150 5' end of the miR390-binding site. We therefore hypothesized that SGS3 directly interacts  
151 with the end of the dsRNA protruding from AGO7. To test this scenario, we first examined  
152 the interaction between SGS3 and AGO7-RISC. The FLAG-tagged AGO7 mRNA was  
153 translated in the BY-2 cell lysate, then the miR390 duplex was added to program RISC.  
154 After further incubation with TAS3 mRNAs, the reaction mixture was used for co-  
155 immunoprecipitation with anti-FLAG antibody (Figure 3A). This assay revealed that  
156 endogenous NtSGS3 binds AGO7-RISC only in the presence of both miR390 and TAS3  
157 variants with a wild-type 5' site (Figure S4A). Remarkably, introducing mismatches at  
158 the 5' end of the miR390-binding site (Figure 3B, TAS3\_5endM\_3M) or using a miR390  
159 variant that is one-nucleotide shorter (20 nt) (Figure 3B), which is not predicted to  
160 protrude from AGO7, disrupted the interaction between NtSGS3 and AGO7-RISC  
161 (Figure 3B–D, Figure S4B). These results strongly support a model where SGS3 forms a  
162 complex with AGO7-RISC via dsRNA with a 5' overhang formed at the 3' end of miR390.

163 To test whether SGS3 directly interacts with the 3' end of miR390 on the *TAS3*  
164 RNA, we performed a site-specific UV crosslinking assay, in which molecules  
165 neighboring the 3' end of miR390 can be captured. We first substituted the 3' end cytidine  
166 of miR390 with a photo-reactive 4-thiouridine (Figure S4C, miR390\_4SU), and restored  
167 base-pairing using a TAS3a variant with a G-to-A substitution at the 5' miR390 binding

168 site (Figure S4C, G21A substitution). This variant successfully rescued the interaction  
169 between miR390\_21\_4SU-loaded AGO7 and NtSGS3 (Figure S4C and D). In this  
170 context of the reporter, proteins crosslinked to 5' radiolabeled miR390\_21\_4SU were  
171 separated on an SDS-PAGE gel (Figure 3E). In the absence of the target RNA, a specific  
172 band appeared at around 120 kDa (Figure 3F, red arrowhead). Immunoprecipitation using  
173 the anti-FLAG antibody revealed that the band corresponds to F-AGO7 (Figure 3G, red  
174 arrowheads). Strikingly, addition of the target RNA changed the crosslinked protein from  
175 AGO7 to a ~90 kDa protein (Figure 3F). This protein was immunoprecipitated with anti-  
176 NtSGS3 antibody (Figure 3H, Beads), and specifically depleted from the supernatant of  
177 the lysate after immunoprecipitation (Figure 3H, Sup), corroborating the identity of this  
178 ~90 kDa crosslinked protein as NtSGS3. These results indicate that target binding alters  
179 protein interactions at the 3' end of miR390, switching them from AGO7 to SGS3, likely  
180 via conformational changes in AGO7-RISC.

181           To test if the physical interaction between SGS3 and AGO7-RISC is critical for  
182 ribosome pausing, we performed *in vitro* ribosome stalling experiments under conditions  
183 where SGS3 fails to bind AGO7-RISC using reporter variant F-TAS3\_5endM\_3M or the  
184 short 20-nt version of miR390. In both cases, stalling efficiencies were significantly  
185 decreased (Figure 3I–L). Taken together, we find a direct interaction between SGS3 and  
186 the 3' end of 21-nt miR390 bound to AGO7-RISC is necessary for ribosome stalling on  
187 TAS3 mRNA.

188           It is worth noting that the required length of miRNA for SGS3 binding and  
189 ribosome pausing may differ between partner AGO proteins. In contrast to AGO7,

190 AGO1—bound by most miRNAs—requires a 22-nt long miR173 for both SGS3  
191 interaction and ribosome stalling (Figure 4A–D) (Yoshikawa et al., 2013). As miRNAs  
192 are typically 21-nt long, plants may have evolved a AGO1 structure that fully  
193 encapsulates the 21-nt miRNAs, thus limiting promiscuous SGS3 binding and ribosome  
194 stalling (Figure 4C and D). Importantly, we find that ribosome pausing occurs even if  
195 TAS1 is cleaved by AGO1-RISC loaded with 22-nt miR173 (Figure 4D and E). This is  
196 not limited to the TAS1 and miR173-AGO1 pair. AGO7-miR390-SGS3 complex also  
197 stalls ribosomes on the cleavable binding site which has perfect complementarity to  
198 miR390 (Figure S5A–C). Because AGO-miRNA-SGS3 complex holds and stabilizes  
199 both 5' and 3' RNA fragments after target cleavage (Figure 4E) (Yoshikawa et al., 2013),  
200 we reasoned that SGS3 and RISC can stay on the cleaved targets long enough to stall  
201 ribosomes.

202

203 **Ribosome stalling is not an essential event but a positive modulator for the**  
204 **production of secondary siRNAs**

205 The striking correspondence between ribosome stalling and TAS precursors (Figure 1 and  
206 S1B–D) led us to hypothesize that ribosome pausing by the SGS3-miRNA complex  
207 promotes tasiRNA production. So far, several studies have focused on the relationship  
208 between translation and tasiRNA biogenesis (Zhang et al., 2012; Hou et al., 2016; Li et  
209 al., 2016; Yoshikawa et al., 2016; Bazin et al., 2017). However, it is still controversial if  
210 positioning of the miRNA-binding site in the CDS or near the stop codon is important for  
211 tasiRNA production (Zhang et al., 2012; Yoshikawa et al., 2016; Bazin et al., 2017). For

212 example, previous quantitative RT-PCR (qRT-PCR) experiments showed no significant  
213 changes in tasiRNA production between the wild-type TAS3 and a mutant TAS3 that  
214 possesses an early stop codon located far upstream of the 5' miR390 binding site (Bazin  
215 et al., 2017), suggesting that ribosome stalling has no impact on the tasiRNA biogenesis.  
216 To carefully assess the impact of ribosome stalling on tasiRNA biogenesis, we first  
217 attempted to construct TAS3 variants with no ribosome stalling that retain binding to  
218 AGO7 and SGS3. Such variants were obtained by inserting 4 or more nucleotides  
219 between the stop codon and 5' miR390 binding site in TAS3 (Figure 5A and B, S6). As  
220 ribosomes stall one-codon upstream of the stop codon in TAS3, we reasoned that these  
221 insertions promote normal translation termination without interfering in the binding  
222 between AGO7-RISC and SGS3.

223 To test the hypothesis that ribosome pausing promotes the production of  
224 tasiRNAs, we compared tasiRNA accumulation in different TAS3 variants in *Nicotiana*  
225 *benthamiana* leaves. We opted to use Northern blotting for accurate detection of the  
226 secondary siRNAs, because this method can distinguish the canonical secondary siRNAs  
227 from the non-specific RNA fragments derived from the TAS3 reporters by size. Co-  
228 expression of miR390 and AGO7 efficiently produced 21-nt tasiRNAs, compared with  
229 the 5' miR390 binding site mutant (TAS3\_5M) (Figure 5C–E). Thus, our transient assay  
230 successfully recapitulated canonical TAS3 tasiRNA biogenesis. Importantly, placing the  
231 5' miR390 binding site 6-nucleotide away (Figure 5C, TAS3+6) significantly reduced  
232 tasiRNA production to ~60% (Figure 5D and E), suggesting that clearance of stalled  
233 ribosomes impairs efficient tasiRNA production. In contrast, tasiRNA production from a

234 TAS3 variant with a 3-nucleotide insertion (Figure 5C, TAS+3), which still stalls  
235 ribosomes, was comparable to that from wild-type TAS3 (Figure 5D and E). To confirm  
236 if ribosome stalling enhances the tasiRNA biogenesis, we introduced artificial tandem  
237 stop codons at the ~120 nt upstream of the miR390 target site (early\_stop), which forces  
238 ribosomes to terminate without stalling (Figure 5C). In contrast to the previous report  
239 (Bazin et al., 2017), our quantitative Northern blotting revealed that the tandem early stop  
240 codons significantly reduced tasiRNA production to ~60%, similarly to TAS3+6 (Figure  
241 5D and E). These data were not explained by changes in precursor *TAS3* abundance  
242 (Figure 5F and G). Altogether, we conclude that ribosome stalling regulates secondary  
243 siRNA production in a manner different from stabilization of mRNAs.

244

## 245 **Discussion**

246 Here, we find that the dsRNA-binding protein SGS3 forms ribosome stalling complexes  
247 on the protruding end of the dsRNA formed between the TAS RNAs and miR390-AGO7  
248 or 22-nt miR173-AGO1-RISC (Figure 6). In general, the ribosome displaces RNA  
249 binding proteins bound to mRNAs during elongation (Halstead et al., 2016), suggesting  
250 that SGS3 imposes an extreme barrier for trailing ribosomes. A recent study suggested  
251 that unconventional base-pairing between human miRNAs and target sites cause transient  
252 ribosome stalling (Zhang et al., 2018). Although the precise stalling mechanism remains  
253 unclear in animals, there may be an RNA-binding protein(s) that protects the 3' end of  
254 miRNA from the helicase activity of ribosomes.

255           The accumulating evidence suggests that translation alters the biogenesis of  
256 TAS3 tasiRNAs (Li et al., 2016; Bazin et al., 2017). A previous study showed that the  
257 position of the start site is critical for the stability of TAS3 mRNAs and tasiRNA  
258 biogenesis (Bazin et al., 2017). We here demonstrate that ribosome stalling enhances  
259 TAS3 tasiRNA biogenesis (Figure 5D, E and 6). This is supported from an evolutionary  
260 standpoint; many plant species have the 5' miR390 binding site just downstream the stop  
261 codon or in the CDS of TAS3 (Table S2). This positive effect of ribosome pausing for  
262 secondary siRNA production may not be limited to TAS3 genes. It was previously shown  
263 that a miR173 binding site located within ORF also enhances secondary siRNA  
264 biogenesis (Zhang et al., 2012; Yoshikawa et al., 2016), suggesting that ribosome stalling  
265 promotes tasiRNA biogenesis on TAS1/2 genes and other 22-nt miRNA target genes. On  
266 the other hand, ribosome stalling is not a prerequisite for triggering secondary siRNA  
267 biogenesis. Indeed, TAS3+6 and early\_stop still produced tasiRNAs in our transient  
268 assays with *Nicotiana benthamiana* plants (Figure 5D and E). Thus, although stalled  
269 ribosomes positively regulate tasiRNA production, SGS3-miRNA-AGO complex can  
270 trigger tasiRNAs independently of translational arrest (Figure 6). The molecular details  
271 of how ribosome stalling enhances tasiRNA production warrant future studies. Given that  
272 arrest peptide-mediated ribosome-pausing induces changes in mRNA localization in  
273 animal cells (Yanagitani et al., 2011), we suggest that miRNA-mediated ribosome pausing  
274 may facilitate the delivery of the tasiRNA precursors to a secondary siRNA “factory”,  
275 such as the siRNA body (Jouannet et al., 2012).

276                   We observed SGS3- and RISC-dependent ribosome stalling in five TAS loci in  
277 *Arabidopsis* (Figure 1). However, they may be just a tip of the iceberg of miRNA-  
278 mediated ribosome pausing. There are many DNA regions named PHAS loci that produce  
279 phased secondary siRNAs (phasiRNAs) by the same mechanism as TAS loci (Liu et al.,  
280 2020). Although our ribosome profiling failed to detect obvious ribosome stalling 11–14  
281 nt upstream of miRNA binding sites in known PHAS loci (Figure 1 and Table S1), more  
282 sensitive methods like single-molecule imaging (Ruijtenberg et al., 2020) may reveal  
283 ribosome stalling on the miRNA-bound targets. In addition to miRNAs, siRNAs may also  
284 induce ribosome stalling. A recent study demonstrates that 22-nt siRNAs, which have the  
285 potential to recruit SGS3, accumulate upon environmental stress, trigger the RNA  
286 silencing amplification, and mediate translational repression (Wu et al., 2020). Such 22-  
287 nt siRNAs are also induced by viral infection (Mourrain et al., 2000; Akbergenov et al.,  
288 2006; Deleris et al., 2006; Diaz-Pendon et al., 2007; Garcia-Ruiz et al., 2010). Therefore,  
289 SGS3- and miRNA/siRNA-mediated ribosome stalling is likely to have an impact on a  
290 wider range of cellular processes such as stress adaptation and antiviral immunity in  
291 plants.

292 \_\_\_\_\_

293 **Methods**

294

295 **General methods.**

296 Preparation of tobacco BY-2 lysate, substrate mixture (containing ATP, ATP-regeneration  
297 system, and amino acid mixture), 1×lysis buffer [30 mM HEPES-KOH (pH 7.4), 100 mM  
298 potassium acetate, 2 mM magnesium acetate], and microRNA duplexes (Table S3) have  
299 been previously described in detail (Tomari and Iwakawa, 2017). mRNAs were  
300 transcribed *in vitro* from NotI- (for plasmids with the prefix “pBYL-”) or XhoI- (for  
301 plasmids with the prefix “pUC57-”) digested plasmids or PCR products using the  
302 AmpliScribe T7 High Yield Transcription Kit (Lucigen), followed by capping with  
303 ScriptCap m<sup>7</sup>G Capping System (Cell Script). Poly(A)-tails were added to transcripts  
304 from pUC57-plasmids or PCR products using the T7 promoter by A-Plus Poly(A)  
305 Polymerase Tailing Kit (Cell Script). Anti-AtSGS3 (diluted at 1:3000) and anti-AtAGO7  
306 antibodies (diluted at 1:3000) were raised in rabbits using synthetic peptides (NH<sub>2</sub>-  
307 MSSRAGPMSKEKNVQGGC-COOH) and (NH<sub>2</sub>-IPSSKSRTPLLHKPYHHC-COOH)  
308 as antigens respectively, and affinity-purified (Medical & Biological Laboratories).

309

310 **Plants and growth conditions.**

311 *Arabidopsis thaliana* wild-type (Col-0) and the *sgs3-11* mutant (Peragine et al., 2004)  
312 were used in this study. Seeds were incubated in 70% EtOH at room temperature for 2  
313 min, sterilized with liquid sodium hypochlorite, washed 5 times in sterile water, sown on  
314 filter paper (Whatman No.2), laid on Murashige and Skoog (MS)-agar plates (1×MS salt,



315 1% sucrose, 1% agar, pH 5.7) and incubated at 4°C for 3 days. After vernalization, the  
316 plates were incubated at 22°C for 3 days under continuous LED light (LC-LED450W,  
317 TAITEC).

318

### 319 **Ribosome profiling.**

320 Briefly, 0.2 g of frozen seedlings and 400 µl of *Arabidopsis* lysis buffer (100 mM Tris-  
321 HCl pH 7.5, 40 mM KCl, 20 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 1 mM DTT, 100 µg/ml cycloheximide and 1%  
322 Triton X-100) were crushed into a powder using the Multi-beads shocker (Yasui Kikai).  
323 The 3000 × g supernatant of the lysate was mixed with 25 µl of Turbo DNase (Thermo  
324 Fisher Scientific) and incubated on ice for 10 min. RNA concentration was measured with  
325 a Qubit RNA BR Assay Kit (Thermo Fisher Scientific). Ribosome footprints ranging  
326 between 17 and 34 nt were gel-purified and subsequent library preparation were executed  
327 as previously described (McGlinicy and Ingolia, 2017; Kurihara et al., 2018). Two  
328 libraries from two biological replicates (WT\_rep1, WT\_rep2, sgs3\_rep1 and sgs3\_rep2)  
329 were sequenced on a HiSeq4000 (Illumina). 24 to 29 nt footprints were mapped onto the  
330 TAIR10 *Arabidopsis thaliana* genome sequence, excluding rRNA/tRNAs. Empirically,  
331 A-site position was estimated as 11 for 24 nt, 12 for 25 nt, 13 for 26 nt, 14 for 27 nt, 15  
332 for 28 nt, 16 for 29 nt, based on the homogeneous 5' end of the reads. The relative  
333 ribosome occupancy  $r$  at position  $j$  in an ORF of gene  $g$  of length  $l$  is defined as follows:

334

$$335 \quad r_{gj} = \frac{f_{gj}}{d_{gj}}$$

336 where

$$337 \quad d_{gj} = \frac{(\sum_{i=1}^l f_i) - f_j}{l - 1}$$

338  $f_{gj}$  is the footprint at position  $j$  in a ORF of gene  $g$ .  $r_{gj}$  is a ratio of  $f_{gj}$  to the average  
339 footprint across nucleotide positions on the ORF of the same gene,  $d_{gj}$ .

340

### 341 **microRNA target prediction.**

342 The targets of mature *Arabidopsis* microRNA sequences [miRbase (miRbase20)  
343 (Kozomara and Griffiths-Jones, 2011; Kozomara and Griffiths-Jones, 2014)] were  
344 predicted using the psRNATarget server (Dai and Zhao, 2011; Dai et al., 2018) with the  
345 following settings: # of top targets = 15, Expectation = 3, Seed region = 2-8 nt.

346

### 347 **RNA-seq.**

348 Total RNA was extracted from seedlings with Trizol (Thermo Fisher Scientific). Library  
349 construction and deep sequencing were performed by AnnoRoad in Beijing. Reads were  
350 mapped to the transcripts of *Arabidopsis thaliana* (derived from TAIR10, ver. 10 released  
351 on 2010 in psRNATarget server (Dai and Zhao, 2011; Dai et al., 2018)) by  
352 Bowtie2(Langmead and Salzberg, 2012). Sam files were converted to bam files using  
353 SAMtools (Li et al., 2009) and then to bed files with BEDTools (Quinlan and Hall, 2010).  
354 BEDtools (Quinlan and Hall, 2010) was used to calculate the depth of coverage for every  
355 base across mRNAs shown in Figure 1B, C, S1B–D.

356

357 **Plasmid construction.**

358 The following constructs used in this study have been previously described: pBYL2  
359 (Mine et al., 2010), pBYL-AGO1 (Endo et al., 2013), pBYL-AGO7 (Endo et al., 2013),  
360 pBYL-3×FLAG-AGO7 (Endo et al., 2013), pBYL-3×FLAG-AGO1 (Endo et al., 2013),  
361 pBYL-3×FLAG-SUMO-AtAGO1 (Iwakawa and Tomari, 2013), pAT006 (Tsuzuki et al.,  
362 2014), pMDC32 (Curtis and Grossniklaus, 2003), pMDC-Tas3a (Montgomery et al.,  
363 2008), pMDC-HA-AGO7 (Montgomery et al., 2008), pMDC-miR390 (Montgomery et  
364 al., 2008). The DNA fragments used for plasmid construction are listed in Table S4.

365

366 *pBYL-3×HA*

367 A DNA fragment containing the T7 promoter, 5' UTR of *Arabidopsis thaliana* alcohol  
368 dehydrogenase 1 and 3×HA tag (T7\_ADH\_5UTR\_3×HA, Table S4) was cloned into  
369 XbaI/AscI-digested pBYL2 vector using the HiFi DNA Assembly Cloning kit (New  
370 England Biolabs).

371

372 *pBYL-3×HA-AGO7*

373 A DNA fragment containing AGO7 ORF was amplified by PCR with pBYL-AGO7(Endo  
374 et al., 2013) using primers oligoE1 and oligoE2, digested by AscI, and cloned into AscI-  
375 digested pBYL-3×HA vector by ligation.

376

377 *pBYL-3×HA-AGO1*

378 A PCR fragment with AGO1 ORF following 3×HA tag was amplified by overlap

379 extension PCR with pBYL-AGO1 (Endo et al., 2013) as template using primers  
380 oligo1118 and oligo1094. The fragment was cloned into AscI-digested pBYL2 vector via  
381 HiFi DNA Assembly Cloning kit (New England Biolabs).

382

### 383 *pUC57-TAS3*

384 The TAS3a sequence (AT3G17185.1) following T7 promoter (T7\_TAS3a, Table S4) was  
385 inserted into EcoRV-digested pUC57 vector via GenScript gene synthesis service.

386

### 387 *pUC57-F-TAS3*

388 Three DNA fragments were prepared by PCR: TAS3a\_5' UTR fragment amplified from  
389 pUC57-TAS3 using primers oligo1062 and oligo1063, 3×FLAG tag sequence amplified  
390 using two oligos, oligo1064 and oligo512 and the TAS3a ORF amplified from pUC57-  
391 TAS3 using primers, oligo1065 and oligo1066. The three DNA fragments were cloned  
392 into SacII/XhoI-digested pUC57-TAS3a via HiFi DNA Assembly Cloning kit (New  
393 England Biolabs).

394

### 395 *pUC57-F-TAS3\_3M*

396 Seven nucleotide mismatches were introduced into the 3' miR390 binding site (Figure  
397 2C) in pUC57-F-TAS3 by site directed mutagenesis using primers oligo1073 and  
398 oligo1074.

399

### 400 *pUC57-F-TAS3\_5M\_3M*

401 Seven nucleotide mismatches were introduced into the 5' miR390 binding site (Figure  
402 2C) in pUC57-F-TAS3\_3M by site directed mutagenesis using primers oligo 1099 and  
403 oligo1100.

404

405 *pUC57-F-TAS3\_3M(+1)*, *pUC57-F-TAS3\_3M(+2)*, *pUC57-F-TAS3\_3M(+3)*, *pUC57-F-*  
406 *TAS3\_3M(+4)*, *pUC57-F-TAS3\_3M(+5)*, *pUC57-F-TAS3\_3M(+6)* and *pUC57-F-*  
407 *TAS3\_3M(+7)*

408 One to six nucleotides, as shown in Figure 5A, were inserted between the stop codon of  
409 the short ORF and 5' miR390 binding site in pUC57-F-TAS3\_3M by site directed PCR  
410 using primer pairs of oligo1180-oligo1181, oligo1182-oligo1183, oligo1161-oligo1162,  
411 oligo1163-oligo1164, oligo1165-oligo1166, oligo1167-oligo1168 and oligo1169-  
412 oligo1170, respectively.

413

414 *pEU-6×His-SBP-SUMO-AtSGS3*

415 Two DNA fragments were prepared by PCR: 6×His-SBP-SUMOstar-tag fragment  
416 amplified from pASW-SUMO-AtRDR6 (Opt) (Baeg et al., 2017) using oligo1044 and  
417 oligo1039 and SGS ORF fragment amplified from cDNA of *Arabidopsis thaliana* using  
418 oligoK1 and oligoK2. The two DNA fragments were inserted into EcoRV/SmaI-digested  
419 pEU-E01-MCS vector via HiFi DNA Assembly Cloning kit (New England Biolabs).

420

421 *pBYL-3×FLAG-SUMOstar-tag-AGO7*

422 Two PCR products were prepared by PCR: 3×FLAG-SUMOstar-tag fragment amplified

423 from pBYL-3×FLAG-SUMO-AtAGO1 (Iwakawa and Tomari, 2013) using primers  
424 oligo955 and oligo1039 and AGO7 fragment amplified from pBYL-AGO7 (Endo et al.,  
425 2013) using primers oligo1159 and oligo1160. The two fragments were cloned into AscI-  
426 digested pBYL2 vector (Mine et al., 2010) via HiFi DNA Assembly Cloning kit (New  
427 England Biolabs).

428

429 *pUC57-F-TAS3\_5endM\_3M and pUC57-F-TAS3\_5P\_3M*

430 The 5' miR390-binding site in pUC57-F-TAS3\_3M was replaced by the sequences shown  
431 in Figure 3B and Figure S5 by site directed mutagenesis using primer pairs oligo1101-  
432 oligo1102 and oligo 1106-oligo1107, respectively.

433

434 *pUC57-TAS3\_3M, pUC57-TAS3\_5endM\_3M, pUC57-TAS3\_5P\_3M, pUC57-*  
435 *TAS3\_M(+1), pUC57-TAS3\_M(+2), pUC57-TAS3\_M(+3), pUC57-TAS3\_M(+4),*  
436 *pUC57-TAS3\_M(+5), pUC57-TAS3\_M(+6) and pUC57-TAS3\_M(+7)*

437 The 3×FLAG tag sequences were removed from the corresponding pUC57-F-TAS3  
438 constructs shown above by site directed mutagenesis using primers oligo1197 and  
439 oligo1198.

440

441 *pUC57-TAS3\_G21A\_3M*

442 The 5' terminal G nucleotide of 5' miR390-binding site in pUC57-TAS3\_3M was  
443 substituted to A by site directed mutagenesis using primers oligo1220 and oligo1221.

444

445 *pCR-Blunt II-TOPO\_TAS1a*

446 TAS1a PCR product was amplified from cDNA corresponding to *Arabidopsis* seedling  
447 total RNA using oligoA1 and oligoA2 for the TAS1a sequence and cloned into pCR Blunt  
448 II-TOPO vector (Invitrogen, #45-0245).

449

450 *pCR-Blunt II-TOPO\_3×FLAG-TAS1a*

451 Three PCR fragments were prepared from pCR-Blunt II-TOPO\_TAS1a: TOPO-TAS1a 5'  
452 UTR fragment amplified with oligoA3 and oligoA4, FLAG-TAS1a fragment amplified  
453 with oligoA5 and oligoA6 and ORF-3' UTR-TOPO fragment amplified with oligoA7 and  
454 oligoA8. To insert the 3×FLAG sequence directly in front of ORF1, the above three PCR  
455 fragments were cloned into XhoI/SpeI-digested pCR Blunt II-TOPO vector (Invitrogen)  
456 using the HiFi DNA Assembly Cloning kit (New England Biolabs).

457

458 T7-TAS1a and T7-F-Tas1a

459 T7-TAS1a and T7-F-Tas1a DNA templates were amplified from pCR-Blunt II-  
460 TOPO\_TAS1a and pCR Blunt II-TOPO-3×FLAG-TAS1a, respectively, using a forward  
461 primer containing T7 polymerase binding site (oligoA9) and a reverse primer with  
462 poly(A) tail (oligoA10).

463

464 *pAT006-TAS3a-PDS\_full-length*

465 A TAS3a fragments with a full-length 5' UTR, a natural intron and tandem synthetic-  
466 tasiRNAs in the 5' D7[+] and 5' D8[+] positions (TAS3aPDS2) was synthesized via

467 GeneArt Strings DNA Fragments service (invitrogen), gel-purified and cloned into  
468 Sall/SpeI-digested pAT006 (Tsuzuki et al., 2014) vector via HiFi DNA Assembly Cloning  
469 kit (New England Biolabs).

470

471 *pMDC32\_TAS3*

472 Two PCR products were amplified: fragment A from pAT006-TAS3a-PDS\_full-length  
473 using primers oligo1201 and oligo1202 and fragment B from pMDC-Tas3a (Montgomery  
474 et al., 2008) using primers oligo1203 and oligo1204. The two fragments were cloned into  
475 KpnI/SpeI-digested pMDC32 vector via HiFi DNA Assembly Cloning kit (New England  
476 Biolabs).

477

478 *pMDC32\_TAS3\_5M*

479 Two PCR products were amplified: fragment A from pAT006-TAS3a-PDS\_full-length  
480 using primers oligo1201 and oligo1209 and fragment B from pMDC-Tas3a (Montgomery  
481 et al., 2008) using primers oligo1210 and oligo1204. The two fragments were cloned into  
482 KpnI/SpeI-digested pMDC32 vector via HiFi DNA Assembly Cloning kit (New England  
483 Biolabs).

484

485 *pMDC32\_early\_stop*

486 Two PCR products were amplified: fragment A from pAT006-TAS3a-PDS\_full-length  
487 using primers oligo1201 and oligo1211 and fragment B from pMDC-Tas3a (Montgomery  
488 et al., 2008) using primers oligo1212 and oligo1204. The two fragments were cloned into



489 KpnI/SpeI-digested pMDC32 vector via HiFi DNA Assembly Cloning kit (New England  
490 Biolabs).

491

492 *pMDC32\_TAS3(+3)*

493 Two PCR products were amplified: fragment A from pAT006-TAS3a-PDS\_full-length  
494 using primers oligo1201 and oligo1207 and fragment B from pMDC-Tas3a (Montgomery

495 et al., 2008) using primers oligo1208 and oligo1204. The two fragments were cloned into

496 KpnI/SpeI-digested pMDC32 vector via HiFi DNA Assembly Cloning kit (New England  
497 Biolabs).

498

499 *pMDC32\_TAS3(+6)*

500 Two PCR products were amplified: fragment A from pAT006-TAS3a-PDS\_full-length  
501 using primers oligo1201 and oligo1205 and fragment B from pMDC-Tas3a (Montgomery

502 et al., 2008) using primers oligo1206 and oligo1204. The two fragments were cloned into

503 KpnI/SpeI-digested pMDC32 vector via HiFi DNA Assembly Cloning kit (New England  
504 Biolabs).

505

#### 506 **Production of recombinant AtSGS3 protein**

507 Recombinant AtSGS3 proteins were expressed using the Premium PLUS Expression kit  
508 (Cell-Free Sciences) with pEU-6×His-SBP-SUMO-AtSGS3 according to manufacturer

509 instructions. The protein was affinity purified with streptavidin sepharose high

510 performance beads (GE Healthcare), washed three times with 1 × lysis buffer containing

511 200 mM NaCl and 0.1% TritonX-100, rinsed once with 1 × lysis buffer containing 20%  
512 glycerol and 1mM DTT and eluted by 1 × lysis buffer containing 20% glycerol, 1 mM  
513 DTT and 0.05 U/μl of SUMOstar protease. Protein concentration was determined using  
514 SDS-PAGE with defined dilutions of BSA as concentration standards.

515

### 516 ***In vitro* RNA silencing assay, NuPAGE and Western blotting**

517 Typically, 7.5 μl of BY-2 lysate, 3.75 μl of substrate mixture, and 0.75 μl of 300 nM AGO  
518 mRNAs were mixed and incubated at 25°C for 30 min. To assemble RISC, 1.5 μl of 1.5  
519 μM miR390 or miR173 duplex was added to the reaction mixture and incubated at 25°C  
520 for 90 min. Then, 1.5 μl of 100 nM TAS3a or TAS1a variant was added and further  
521 incubated at 25°C for 10–60 min. For RNase treatment, 5 μl of the reaction was treated  
522 with 1 μl of RNase mixture (10% RNase A, Sigma + 20% RNase One, Promega),  
523 incubated at 37°C for 10 min and then mixed with 6 μl of 2 × SDS-PAGE buffer. For  
524 the control, 1 μl sterile water was used instead of RNase mixture. The samples were run  
525 on NuPAGE Bis-Tris Precast Gel (Thermo Fisher Scientific) at 200 V for ~30 min in 1 ×  
526 NuPAGE MES SDS Buffer (Thermo Fisher Scientific) and transferred onto PVDF  
527 membrane. Western blotting was performed as previously described (Tomari and  
528 Iwakawa, 2017) with modifications. The membrane was blocked in TBST containing  
529 1.0% nonfat dried milk (w/v) for 30 min. Anti-AtSGS3 (diluted at 1:3000), anti-AtAGO7  
530 antibodies (diluted at 1:3000), anti-NtSGS3 antibody (diluted at 1:3000) (Yoshikawa et  
531 al., 2013), anti-DDDDK-tag mAb (diluted at 1:5000) (Medical & Biological  
532 Laboratories) and anti-HA-tag mAb (diluted at 1:5000) (Medical & Biological

533 Laboratories) were used as primary antibodies. Peroxidase AffiniPure Goat Anti-Rabbit  
534 IgG (H+L) (diluted at 1:20000) (Jackson ImmunoResearch), Anti-IgG (H+L) (Mouse)  
535 pAb-HRP (diluted at 1:5000) (Medical & Biological Laboratories) and Mouse TrueBlot  
536 ULTRA: Anti-Mouse Ig HRP (Rockland Immunochemicals, Inc.) (1:1000) were used as  
537 secondary antibodies.

538

### 539 **Northern blotting**

540 For *in vitro* assays, two microliter of reaction mixture was mixed with 8  $\mu$ l of low salt PK  
541 solution [0.125% SDS, 12.5 mM EDTA, 12.5 mM HEPES-KOH (pH7.4) and 12.5%  
542 Proteinase K (TaKaRa)], and incubated at 50°C for 10 min. Ten microliter of 2  $\times$   
543 formamide dye [10 mM EDTA, pH 8.0, 98% (w/v) deionized formamide, 0.025% (w/v)  
544 xylene cyanol and 0.025% (w/v) bromophenol blue] was added into the mixture, and  
545 further incubated at 65°C for 10 minutes. For *in vivo* assays, total RNA was purified with  
546 Trizol reagent (Thermo Fisher Scientific), and 10  $\mu$ l of 300–500 ng/ $\mu$ l total RNAs were  
547 mixed with equal volume 2  $\times$  formamide dye. Ten  $\mu$ l of samples were run on a denaturing  
548 1% agarose gel, transferred to the Hybond N+ membrane with capillary blotting and fixed  
549 with UV crosslinker. For small RNAs, 10  $\mu$ l of samples were run on a denaturing 18%  
550 acrylamide gel. RNAs were transferred to Hybond N membrane with electro blotting and  
551 chemically crosslinked (Pall and Hamilton, 2008). TAS3 variants were detected with  
552 Digoxigenin (DIG)-labeled long TAS3 probe (Figure 2D) or 5' <sup>32</sup>P-radiolabeled oligo  
553 probe mixtures (oligo1230-1234) (Figure 5F). F-TAS1a and its 5' cleaved fragment were  
554 detected with a 5' <sup>32</sup>P-radiolabeled oligo probe (oligoA4) (Figure 4E). U6 RNA, miR173,

555 miR390, and tasiRNAs from TAS3 variants were detected with 5' <sup>32</sup>P-radiolabeled  
556 oligo1129, oligo1353, oligo1131, oligoD7, respectively.

557

#### 558 **Immunoprecipitation with anti-FLAG antibody**

559 F-AGO7-RISC or F-AGO1-RISC was assembled as shown above. Target RNAs were  
560 mixed with the RISCs at a final concentration of 50 nM, and incubated for 20 min. The  
561 reaction mixture was incubated with Dynabeads protein G (Invitrogen) coated with anti-  
562 FLAG antibody on a rotator at 4°C for 1 h. The beads were washed three times with 1 ×  
563 lysis buffer containing 200 mM NaCl and 1% Triton-X 100 or 1 × wash buffer (20 mM  
564 Hepes, pH 7.5, 120 mM KCl, 10 mM MgCl<sub>2</sub> and 0.2% Nonidet P-40). After removing  
565 buffer completely, 1×SDS-PAGE sample buffer was added to the beads. The samples  
566 (input, supernatant, and beads) were heated for 5 min and used for SDS-PAGE. Western  
567 blotting was performed as described above.

568

#### 569 **Immunodepletion of endogenous SGS3 protein**

570 Fifty microliter of BY-2 lysate was mixed with 1.66 μg of anti-NtSGS3 (Yoshikawa et al.,  
571 2013) or Normal Rabbit IgG (Medical & Biological Laboratories) at 4°C for 1h. To  
572 remove the antibodies and binding proteins thereof, the lysate was mixed with the pellet  
573 of 50 μl Dynabeads protein G, and incubated at 4°C for 1h. The supernatant was  
574 transferred into new tubes. After flash freezing by liquid nitrogen, the SGS3 or Mock-  
575 depleted lysate was stored at -80°C .

576

577 **Photoactivated UV crosslinking**

578 *In vitro* reaction mixtures were prepared as outlined above (*Immunoprecipitation with*  
579 *anti-FLAG antibody*) with F-AGO7, <sup>32</sup>P-labeled miR390\_21\_4SU, and TAS3-G21A-3M.  
580 The sample was transferred to Terasaki plate wells (7 µl/well) and exposed to > 300 nm  
581 UV radiation for 15 s using a UV crosslinker (SP-11 SPOT CURE, USHIO) with a  
582 uniform radiation lens (USHIO) and a long-path filter (300 nm, ASAHI SPECTRA) at 3  
583 cm from the light. For input sample, aliquots of reaction mixture were transferred into a  
584 new tube, and mixed with 4×SDS-PAGE sample buffer. For FLAG-IP, the reaction  
585 mixture was incubated with Dynabeads protein G coated with anti-FLAG antibody on a  
586 rotator at 4°C for 1 h. For SGS3-IP, the reaction mixture was first incubated with anti-  
587 NtSGS3 antibody at 4°C for 1 h, then with Dynabeads protein G at 4°C for another 1 h.  
588 The tube was then placed on a magnetic stand to transfer the supernatant into a new tube,  
589 which was then mixed with 4×SDS-PAGE sample buffer. The beads were washed three  
590 times with 1×lysis buffer containing 800 mM NaCl and 1% Triton-X 100. After removing  
591 the buffer completely, 1×SDS-PAGE sample buffer was added to the beads. The samples  
592 (input, supernatant, and beads) were heated for 5 min and used for SDS-PAGE. After  
593 drying, the gel was exposed to a phosphor imaging plate.

594

595 **Agrobacterium-based transient expression in *Nicotiana benthamiana***

596 The *Nicotiana benthamiana* infiltration assay was performed as previously described  
597 (Llave et al., 2000). Briefly, pAT006 and pMDC- plasmids were introduced into  
598 *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* GV3101 (pMP90). The *Agrobacterium* cells transformed

599 with TAS3 constructs, AGO7, and miR390 or empty vector (pAT006) were pooled at a  
600 ratio of 1:1:2 (total optical density at 600 nm (OD600)) = 1.0). The leaves were harvested  
601 at ~48 h post-infiltration. Total RNA was extracted using Trizol reagent (Thermo Fisher  
602 Scientific).

603

#### 604 **Data availability**

605 All sequencing data are publicly available in DDBJ, under the accession number  
606 DRA010034 (currently undisclosed). All other data are available from the authors upon  
607 reasonable request.

608

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779 **Author Contributions**

780 H.-o.I. conceived of the project and designed the experiments; H.-o.I. and T.F. performed  
781 ribosome profiling and bioinformatic analyses with the supervision of S.I; H.-o.I., A.L.,  
782 and K.K. performed biochemical analyses; A.M. and A.T. performed transient expression  
783 assays in *Nicotiana benthamiana*; H.-o.I., S.I. and Y.T. wrote the manuscript with editing  
784 from all the authors; all the authors discussed the results and approved the manuscript.

785 **Competing interests**

786 Authors declare no competing interests.

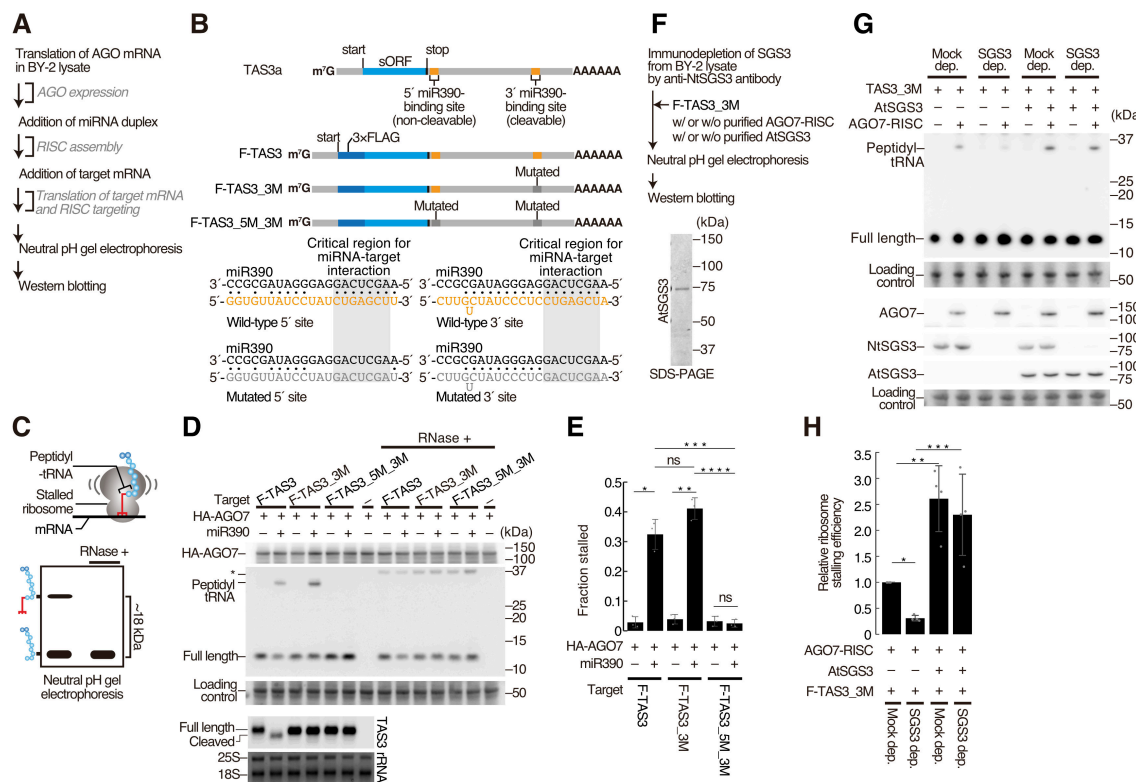
787 **Corresponding author**

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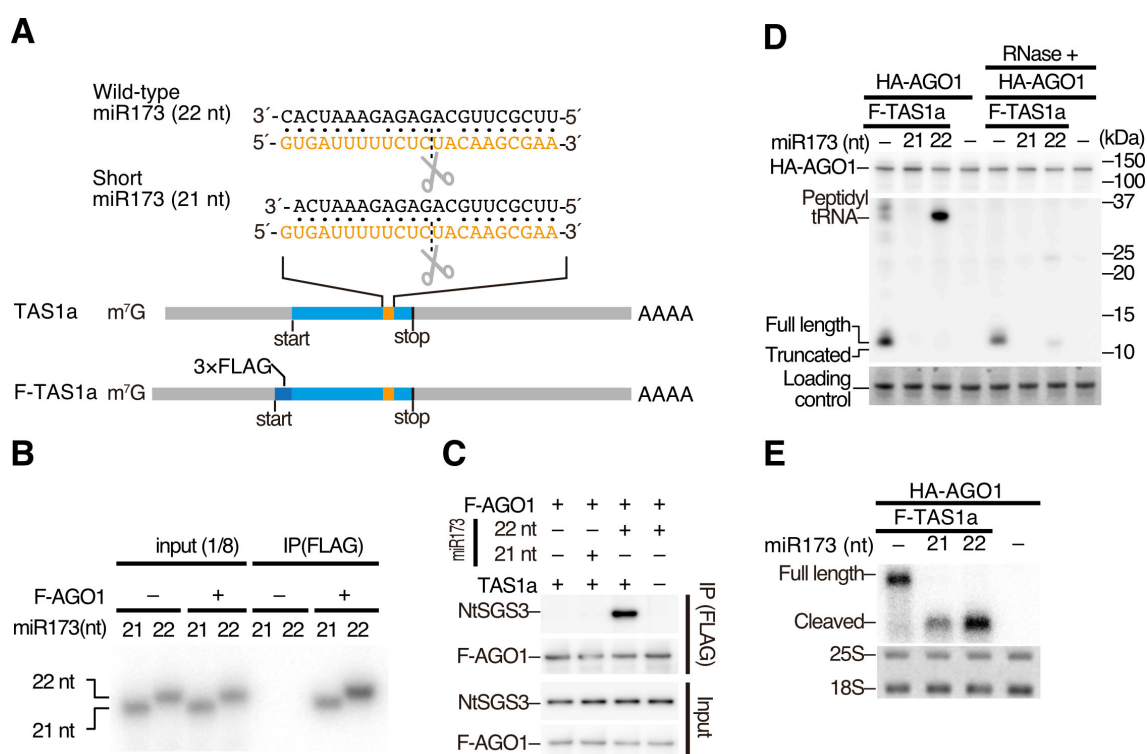
**Figure 2. In vitro recapitulation of microRNA-mediated ribosome stalling.**

(A) Flowchart of the miRNA-mediated ribosome stalling assay *in vitro*. (B) (top) Schematic representation of TAS3a RNA and its 3xFLAG-tag fused variants. The orange and gray boxes indicate wild-type and mutated miR390-binding sites, respectively. (bottom) The base-pairing configurations between miR390 and the wild-type or mutated miR390-binding sites. The critical regions for the miRNA-target interaction are shown in the shaded boxes. (C) Schematic representation of SDS-PAGE in a neutral pH environment, to thus detect peptidyl-tRNAs. (D) Both AGO7-RISC and the 5' binding site are required for ribosome stalling *in vitro*. After *in vitro* silencing assay, half of the reaction mixture was treated with RNase (RNase +), and used for PAGE followed by Western blotting. The full-length polypeptide and peptidyl-tRNA were detected by anti-FLAG antibody. 3xHA-AGO7 (HA-AGO7) was detected by anti-HA antibody. Total protein was stained using Ponceau S, and the ~50 kDa bands were used as a loading control. The asterisk indicates the positions of the unexpected protein bands that appears with RNase treatment. (bottom) Northern blotting of TAS3 variants. Methylene blue-stained rRNA was used as a loading control. (E) Quantification of ribosome stalling efficiencies in (D). Fraction stalled was calculated using the following formula: Fraction stalled = peptidyl-tRNA/(full-length + peptidyl-tRNA). The mean values ± SD from three independent experiments are shown. Bonferroni-corrected P values from two-sided paired t-tests are as follows: \*P = 0.03361; \*\*P = 0.03817; \*\*\*P = 0.03809, \*\*\*\*P = 0.03174. (F) (top) Flowchart of the *in vitro* miRNA-mediated ribosome stalling assay with SGS3-immunodepleted lysate. (bottom) Coomassie brilliant blue staining of purified AtSGS3. (G) SGS3 promotes miRNA-mediated ribosome stalling *in vitro*. Endogenous NtSGS3, recombinant AtSGS3, and recombinant AGO7 were detected using anti-NtSGS3, anti-AtSGS3, and anti-AtAGO7 antibodies, respectively. See also Figure 2D legend. (H) Quantification of relative ribosome stalling efficiencies in (G). The signal intensity of peptidyl-tRNA/(full-length + peptidyl-tRNA) was normalized to the value of Mock dep. (AtSGS3 -). The mean values ± SD from four independent experiments are shown. Bonferroni-corrected P values from two-sided paired t-tests are as follows: \*P = 0.00039; \*\*P = 0.04433; \*\*\*P = 0.03889.





854 efficiently crosslinked to 4-thio-U at the 3' end of miR390 in the presence of the target RNA. (I) and  
855 (K) *in vitro* ribosome stalling experiments. Mismatches at the 5' end of miR390-binding site or the use  
856 of 20-nt miR390 decreased stalled ribosomes. See also the legend of Figure 2D. (J) and (L)  
857 Quantification of relative ribosome stalling efficiencies in (I) and (K), respectively. The signal  
858 intensity of peptidyl-tRNA/(full-length + peptidyl-tRNA) was normalized to the value of F-TAS3\_3M  
859 (I) or miR390 (21 nt) (K). The mean values  $\pm$  SD from three (J) and four (L) independent experiments  
860 are shown, respectively. P value from two-sided paired t-tests are as follows: \*P = 0.00190 (J).  
861 Bonferroni-corrected P values from two-sided paired t-tests are as follows: \*\*P = 0.00270; \*\*\*P =  
862 0.02034; \*\*\*\*P = 0.04343 (L).  
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866 **Figure 4. AGO1 loaded with 22-nt miR173 efficiently stalls ribosome.** (A) (top) Base-pairing

867 configurations between 22/21-nt miR173 and the miR173-binding site in TAS1a. (bottom)

868 Schematic representation of TAS1a RNA and its 3×FLAG-tag fused variant. (B) *In vitro* RISC

869 assembly with AGO1 and radiolabeled 21 and 22-nt miR173 duplexes. After translation of 3×FLAG-

870 AGO1 (F-AGO1) mRNA *in vitro*, the radiolabeled miR173 duplex was added and further incubated

871 for RISC assembly. Then, F-AGO1 was immunoprecipitated with anti-FLAG antibody. The co-

872 immunoprecipitated miR173 was analyzed by denaturing PAGE. Both 21- and 22-nt miR173

873 duplexes were incorporated into AGO1. (C) Co-immunoprecipitation experiments with 3×FLAG-

874 AGO1 in the presence of 21 or 22-nt miR173 duplex and TAS1a RNA. AGO1-RISC loaded with 22-

875 nt miR173 interacts with NtSGS3 in the presence of TAS1a RNA. In contrast, 21-nt miR173 failed

876 to promote the interaction between AGO1 and NtSGS3. (D) *In vitro* ribosome stalling experiments.

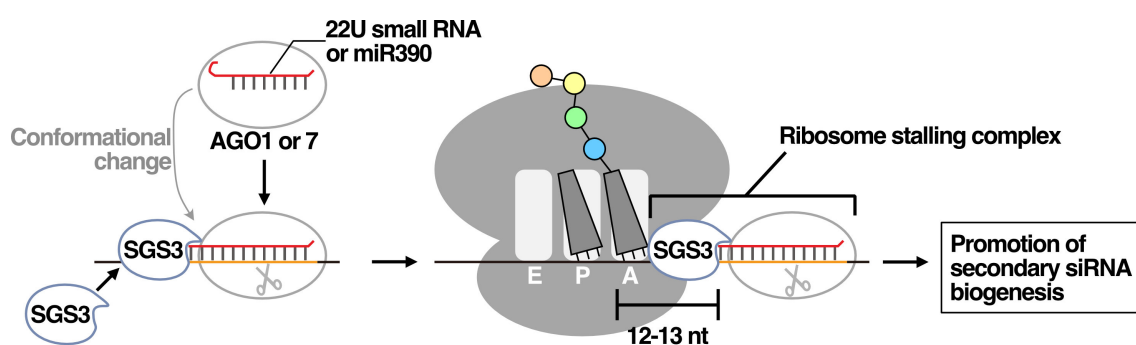
877 Peptidyl-tRNA was accumulated in the presence of AGO1-RISC loaded with 22-nt miR173, while

878 no peptidyl-tRNA was observed in the presence of that with 21-nt miR173. (E) Northern blotting of

879 TAS1 reporter RNAs. TAS1 was efficiently cleaved by AGO1-RISC loaded with 21- and 22-nt

880 miR173. Methylene blue-stained rRNA was used as a loading control.





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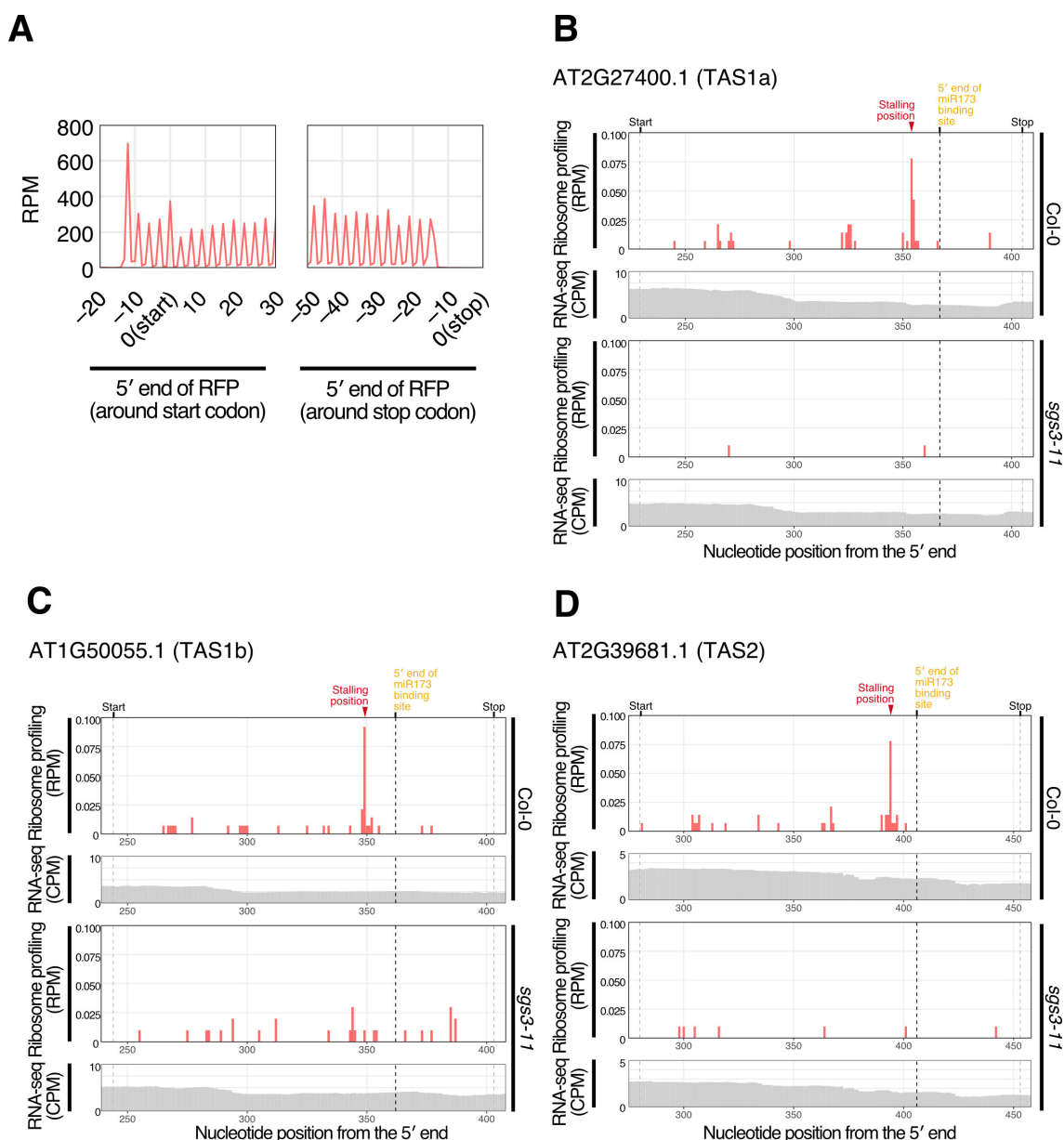
**Figure 6. A model for ribosome stalling caused by SGS3-miRNA-Argonaute complex and its role in secondary siRNA biogenesis.**

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Target binding causes dynamic conformational changes in 22U-AGO1-RISC or miR390-AGO7-RISC, resulting in protrusion of the 3' end of the small RNA from the RISC complex. SGS3 directly binds the dsRNA formed between the 3' side of the small RNA and the 5' side of the target site. The SGS3-small RNA complex stalls ribosomes at 12–13 nt upstream of the binding sites. This ribosome stalling stimulates secondary siRNA production in a manner different from mRNA stabilization.

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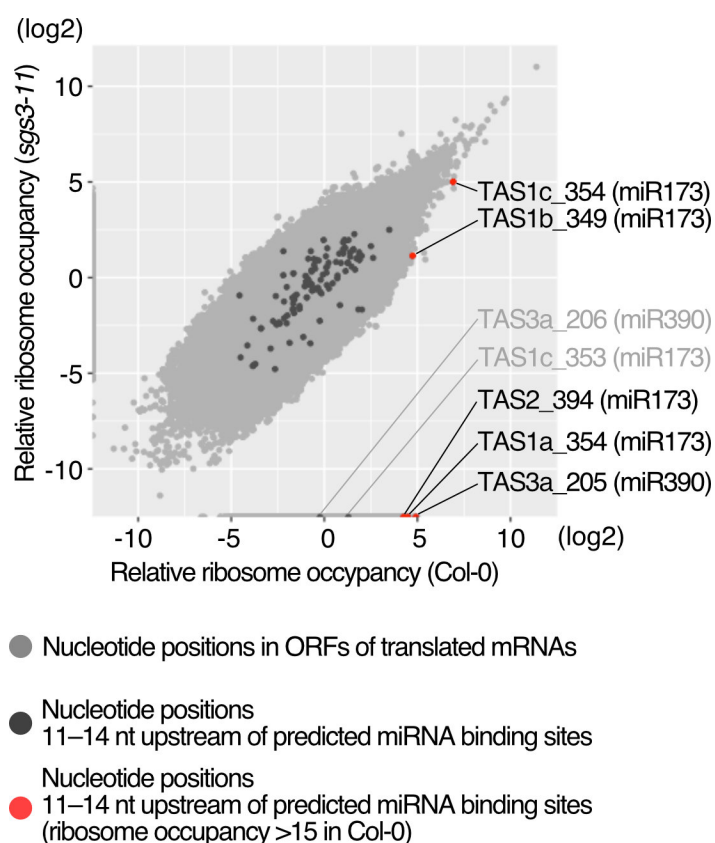
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**Figure S1. Representative ribosome stalling positions with a downstream miRNA-binding site.**

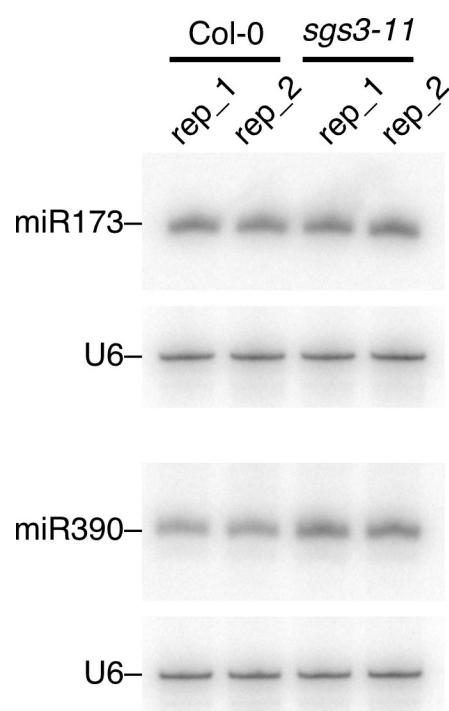
(A) Ribosome occupancies around start (left) and stop (right) codons using 28 nt foot prints for 3 day old seedlings of wild-type *Arabidopsis thaliana* (Col-0). The traces indicate 5' end of ribosome footprints. Ribosome footprints (A-site positions) in RPM and RNA-seq in CPM in 3 day old wild-type or *sgs3-11* mutant seedlings are shown for the following transcripts: (B) AT2G27400.1 (TAS1a), encoding one of the isoforms of TAS1; (C) AT1G50055.1 (TAS1b) encoding one of the isoforms of TAS1; (D) AT2G39681.1 (TAS2) encoding a precursor of tasiRNAs with a miR173 binding site. Related to Figure 1B and C.



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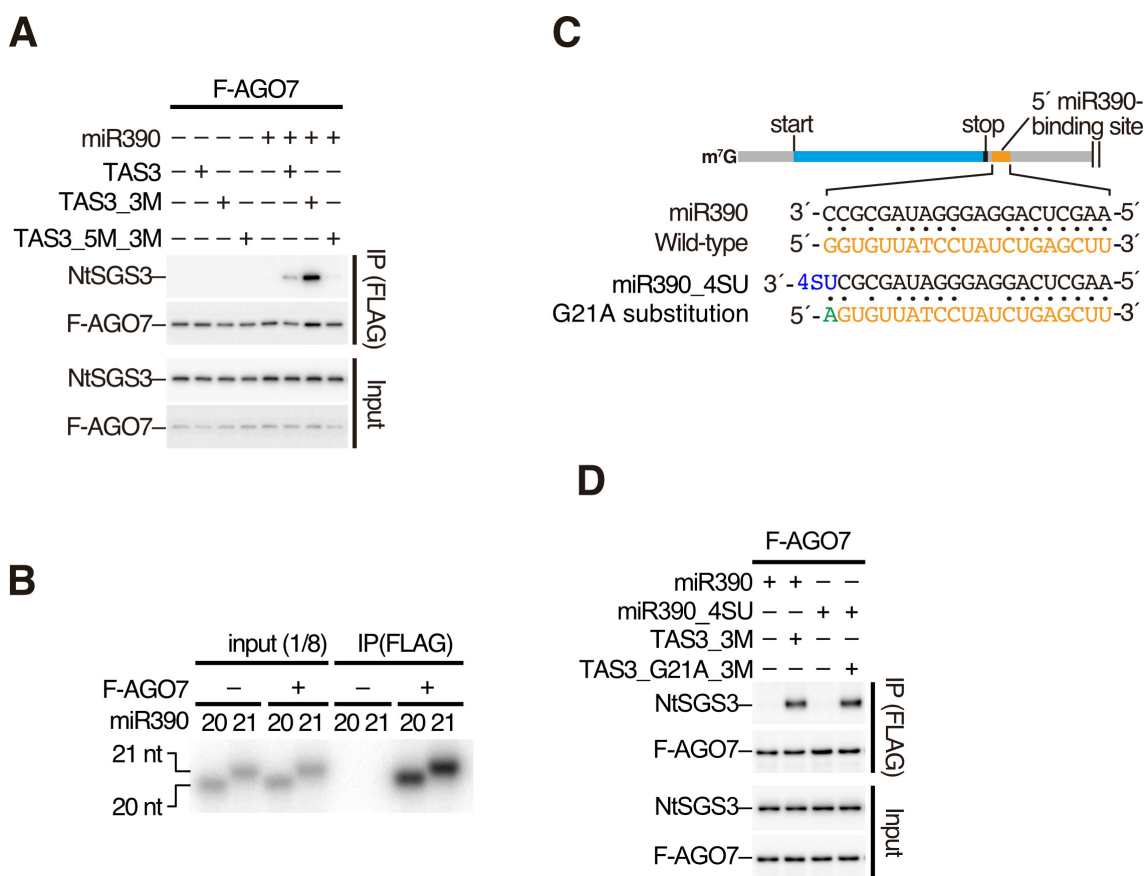
**Figure S2. SGS3 is not a general ribosome stalling factor, but rather a specific stalling enhancer for miRNA-mediated ribosome stalling.**

A scatter plot shows the relative ribosome occupancy (Materials and Methods) between Col-0 and *sgs3-11* seedlings. The nucleotide positions with ribosome footprints (RPM over 0.05 in Col-0 or *sgs3-11*) in translating ORFs are shown in light gray. See also the legend of Figure 1A.



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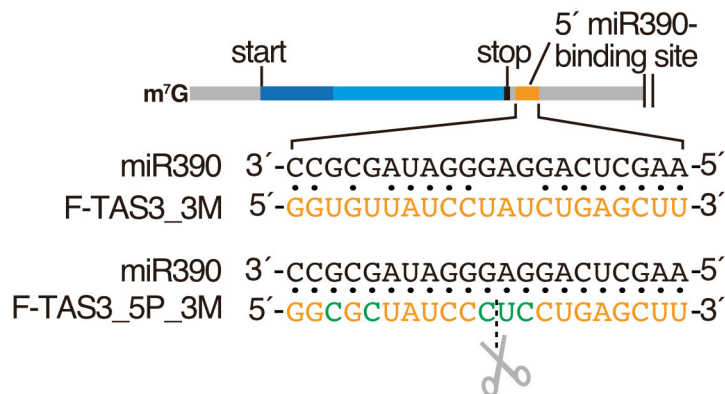
**Figure S3. miR173 and miR390 abundance in Col-0 and *sgs3-11* seedlings.**  
miR173 and miR390 in wild-type (Col-0) and *sgs3-11* seedlings were detected by Northern blotting.  
U6 RNA was used as a loading control.



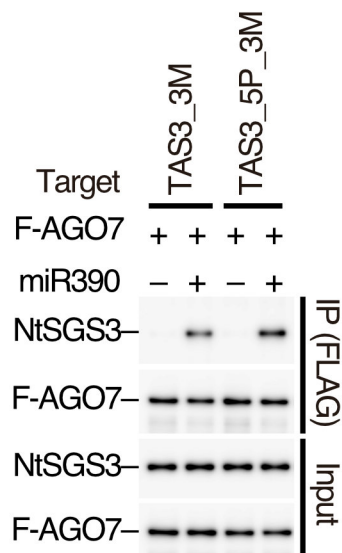
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 939 **Figure S4. Co-immunoprecipitation of NtSGS3 with AGO7 in the presence of TAS3 variants,**  
 940 **and AGO7-RISC assembly with 21-nt and 20-nt miR390.** (A) NtSGS3 was specifically co-  
 941 immunoprecipitated with F-AGO7 in the presence of miR390 duplex and TAS3 or the TAS3-3M.  
 942 The reason why more SGS3 was co-immunoprecipitated in TAS3\_3M than wild-type TAS3 is  
 943 because the wild-type TAS3 mRNA is cleaved at the 3' binding site by AGO7-RISC, thereby  
 944 destabilized in the lysate as shown in Figure 2D. (B) *In vitro* RISC assembly with F-AGO7 and  
 945 radiolabeled 20 and 21-nt miR390 duplexes. After RISC assembly, F-AGO7 was  
 946 immunoprecipitated with anti-FLAG antibody. The co-immunoprecipitated miR390 was analyzed by  
 947 denaturing PAGE. Both 20- and 21-nt miR390 duplexes were efficiently incorporated into AGO7.  
 948 (C) Schematic of base-pairing configurations between miR390-4SU and a 5' miR390-binding site  
 949 with a G21A substitution. The mutated nucleotides in TAS3 variant are shown in green. 4-  
 950 thiouridine is shown in blue. (D) AGO7-RISC loaded with 21-nt miR390 variant possessing 4-  
 951 thiouridine at the 3' end (miR390\_4SU) efficiently interacts with NtSGS3 in the presence of TAS3  
 952 variant with a compensatory G-to-A mutation at the 5' end of miR390 binding site  
 953 (TAS3\_G21A\_3M).  
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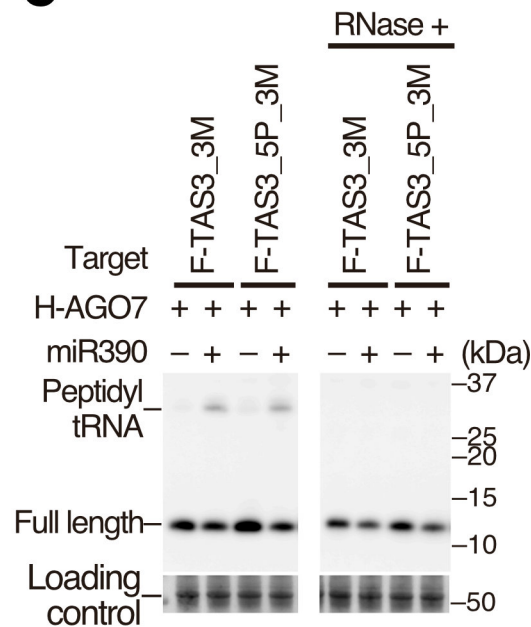
**A**



**B**



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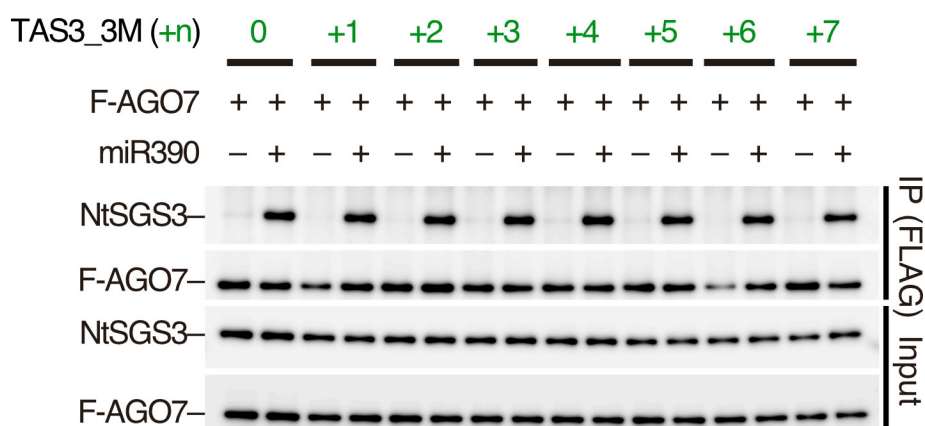
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**Figure S5. A cleavable target site facilitates ribosome stalling mediated by the miR390-AGO7 RISC.** (A) Schematic of base-pairing configurations between miR390 and a 5' target site with perfect complementarity to miR390. The mutated nucleotides in the TAS3 variant (F-TAS3\_5P\_3M) are shown in green. (B) Co-immunoprecipitation experiments. AGO7-RISC efficiently interacts with SGS3 in the presence of a F-TAS3\_3M variant with a 5' target site with perfect complementarity to miR390 (F-TAS3\_5P\_3M). (C) *In vitro* ribosome stalling experiments. Peptidyl-tRNA was accumulated in the presence of AGO7-RISC and F-TAS3\_5P\_3M, suggesting that cleavable site facilitates ribosome stalling mediated by miR390-AGO7-RISC.



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**Figure S6. Nucleotide insertion between the stop codon and the 5' miR390 binding site has no effect on the interaction between AGO7 and NtSGS3.** NtSGS3 was specifically and efficiently co-immunoprecipitated with F-AGO7 in the presence of miR390 duplex and TAS3 variants with nucleotide insertions between the stop codon and the 5' miR390-binding site.

- 974 **Table S1. Nucleotide positions 11–14 nt upstream of predicted miRNA binding sites.**  
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976 **Table S2. List of TAS3 homologs.**  
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978 **Table S3. List of synthetic RNA oligos used in this study.**  
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980 **Table S4. List of synthetic DNA oligos and long DNA fragments used in this study.**  
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**Supplementary Table 2. List of TAS3 homologs.**

Species	TAS3 homolog	Accession	Clade	Cleavable (Yes/No)	nts between stop codon and the 5' end of miR390 binding site	ORF length	aa length
<i>Arabidopsis thaliana</i>	TAS3a	AT3G17185	eudicots	No	6	153	50
<i>Arabidopsis thaliana</i>	TAS3b	AT5G49615	eudicots	No	10	129	42
<i>Arabidopsis thaliana</i>	TAS3c	AT5G57735	eudicots	No	9	150	49
<i>Antirrhinum majus</i>	TAS3	AJ797948.1	eudicots	No?	3	195	64
Burma mangrove	TAS3	BP947370.1	eudicots	No?	9	213	70
<i>Glycine max</i>	TAS3	BE330988.1	eudicots	No?	3	168	55
<i>Gossypium raimondii</i>	TAS3	CO077318.1	eudicots	Yes?	10	132	43
<i>Manihot esculenta</i>	TAS3	CK652751	eudicots	No?	3	102	33
<i>Mesembryanthemum crystallinum</i>	TAS3	BF479835.1	eudicots	No?	9	135	44
<i>Populus trichocarpa</i>	TAS3	DT498974.1	eudicots	No?	6	171	56
<i>Solanum lycopersicum</i>	TAS3-1	NR_138079.1	eudicots	No?	62	99	32
<i>Solanum lycopersicum</i>	TAS3-12	JX047547.1	eudicots	Yes?/No?	10	99	32
Swingle citrumelo	TAS3	CX663477.1	eudicots	No?	3	156	51
<i>Theobroma cacao</i>	TAS3	CA795323.1	eudicots	No?	3	114	37
<i>Vitis vinifera</i>	TAS3	DT025007.1	eudicots	No?	3	180	59
<i>Pinus taeda</i>	TAS3	DR112999.1	Gymnosperm	Yes	ORF	129	42
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i>	TAS3	BF264964.3	Monocots	Yes?	10	213	70
<i>Oryza sativa Japonica</i>	TAS3	AU100890.1	Monocots	No?	9	114	37
<i>Saccharum</i>	TAS3	CA145655.1	Monocots	Yes?	ORF	120	39
<i>Sorghum bicolor</i>	TAS3	CD464142.1	Monocots	No?	9	141	46
<i>Triticum aestivum</i>	TAS3	CN010916.1	Monocots	No?	9	177	58
<i>Zea mays</i>	TAS3	BE519095.1	Monocots	Yes?	14	126	41
<i>Physcomitrella patens</i>	TAS3a	BK005825	moss	Yes?	10	162	53
<i>Physcomitrella patens</i>	TAS3b	BK005826	moss	Yes?	nd		
<i>Physcomitrella patens</i>	TAS3c	BK005827	moss	Yes?	nd		
<i>Physcomitrella patens</i>	TAS3d	BK005828	moss	Yes?	nd		

? (predicted from sequence)

**Supplementary Table 3. List of synthetic RNA oligos used in this study.**

Name	Sequence (5'-3')
miR390(21 nt)-guide	AAGCUCAGGAGGGGAUAGCGCC(M)
miR390(21 nt)-passenger	CGCUAUCCAUCCUGAGUUUCA(M)
miR390(20 nt)-guide	AAGCUCAGGAGGGGAUAGCGC(M)
miR390(20 nt)-passenger	GCUAUCCAUCCUGAGUUUCA(M)
miR390_21_4SU	AAGCUCAGGAGGGGAUAGCGC4(M)
miR173(22 nt)-guide	UUCGCUUGCAGAGAGAAAUCAC(M)
miR173(22 nt)-passenger	GAUUCUCUGUGUAAGCGAACA(M)
miR173(21 nt)-guide	UUCGCUUGCAGAGAGAAAUCA(M)
miR173(21 nt)-passenger	AUUUCUCUCAGCAACGCAUAG(M)

"(M)" indicates 2'-OMe modification.

Supplementary Table 4. List of synthetic DNA oligos and long fragments used in this study.

Name	Sequence (5'-3')
T7_ADH_SUTR_3+H4	ATGCTTCAGTCCGACTCTAGATAATACGACTCACTATAGGGT ACATCCACATACACAAAACATAACAAGAATCAAAAGCAAGT TCTTCACGTGTGATAGGTTTACCCATACGATGTTCTGACTATG CGGGCTATCCCTATGACGTCGCGGACTATGCAAGATCTTATCC ATATGACGTCCAGATTACGCTCGTGGCGCCGACGCTGAGA
T7_T43a	CCGCGGTAATACGACTCACTATAGGATCCACCGTTTCTAAG ACTCTCTCTCTCTGTTTCTATTCTCTCTCTCAATGAAAG AGAGAGAAGAGCCCTCATGGATGAAATACGAGACCGAAGT TCTCTCAAGGCTTAAGGAAGAAGATACTCTCTGATGATGAG AGATTATGGATCCGCTGCGATGAGCATGAGTTTCTCTCGG CATTCAGTTTCAATGATAAAGCGGTGTTATCTTATCTGAGCT TTAGCGGATTTTCTTCTCAATTTGTTTATCTGAGATGAT GCATTTCAATTTCTTTTCTGACCTGTGAAGCGTTTCTTCTG ACCTGTGAAGCCCACTCTTCTAAACGTTTATTTTCTCT GTTTACAGATTCTATCTACTCTCTCAATAAGAAATAGATAT CTACTCTGCTCTATCTCTGAGATCTTCTCTGACTCTGATG TATCCCTCGAGCAATCTCCACATATCTTTTGTGTTAT GATGTATGTTGACATAAATCAATAAAGAAGTGTGAGTTTT CTCTCGAG
T43a/PDS2	TTCAATTTGAGAGGCTCGAGTTCGACATCCACCCTTCTAAG ACTCTCTCTCTCTGTTTCTATTCTCTCTCTCAAAAGAAAG AGAGAAGAAGGCTCCATGATGAAATACGAGACCGAAGT TCTCCAAGGATATGCTATCTGATATGATGATGAGAAGAGT TAGGGTTTTGCTATTCGAAATCAATTTTGTGTTGTTCAATA ATGATACTGATGATGATGAGAACACGTAAGATATGTTTAC GAACTATATAAACAATGTTGTTTCTGATCTATCTCTAT ATATATGATAGTGTGATGATGATGATGATGATGATGATGAT TGTGATACGATGATGATGATGATGATGATGATGATGATGAT TTTGATTTAGATGATGATGATGATGATGATGATGATGATGAT TTTCCACATGATTTACACATACATATATTTGGAATCACATA TATACTGATATATAGTTGAAAGAGTAAACAAGTCTTTTCT AGGCATTAAGGAAACAATACTCCGCTGATGATGATGATGAT TTGATATCCCTGTGCTGAGATGATGATGATGATGATGATGAT AGTTTCAATGATAAAGCGGTGTTATCTCTGAGCTTTGATC GGATTTTCTTCTCAATATGTTTATCTAGATGATGATGAT CATTTATCTCTTTAAGTACACTTCCCACTTGTGAGAGGTTG GGAACTCAAAAATCTCTTCAAGTTTATATTTCTGTTT TACAGATCTATCTATCTCTCAATAAGAAATAGATATCTAT CTTCTACTGATGATGATGATGATGATGATGATGATGATGAT CTCTCTGATGATGATGATGATGATGATGATGATGATGATGAT TATGGTTGACATAAATCAATAAAGAAGTGTGATGATGAT AGTTTCTGAGCTGAAATCACCA
oligoK1	GAACAGATTGGAGGTATGAGTCTAGGGCTGGTCAA1GTCTA A
oligoK2	CCA1GGGACGTCGACCTAGGTAATATAACCCATCACTCT TCAATGTGAAGCCATGCT
oligoE1	CTGGGCGCCATGGAAGAAAACATCACTATCACTAC
oligoE2	GCTGGCGGCTCAGGAGTAAACATGAGATTCTTGAC
oligoS12	CTGTGATGATGATGATGATGATGATGATGATGATGATGAT ACCGCTATGGTCTTTGATGCT
oligo955	TATAGGGAGACCCAAAGCTGGCGGCTATGGACTACAAGACC
oligo1039	ACCTCAATCTGTTCGGGT
oligo1044	AACCACCTATCTACATACCAAGATATGGGACATCACTCAT CATCACATGGCAGGAGACCCCGG
oligo1062	CTCGGAAATGCACTAGATCCCGGTAAATGACACTCATATAG GA
oligo1063	TTGAGAGAGAGAAATAGA
oligo1064	GTTTCTATTTCTCTCTCTCAATGGACTACAAGACCATGA CGG
oligo1065	CGATTAACAAGGATGACATGACAGATGAAAGAGAGAGAG AGCTCC
oligo1066	GTGACGGGCGGGATCCGATCTCGAGAGAAAACGTCAAC TCTTTATGAAAT
oligo1073	TTGAGATTCAAGTCCGAGGATGACAAAGTGGGA
oligo1074	GACTCGAAATCTCCACATAATCTTTTGTGTTA
oligo1094	CCAAGATCTCAAGTGGCGGCTCAGCAGTGAACAATGAC AC
oligo1096	AAAAGTCTCAAGTGGCGGCTCAGCAGAAACAATAACAT TC
oligo1099	TTGAGGATCATTAGGATACACCGCTTATCATTTGAACTGGAAT G
oligo1100	ATCTTATGACTGAAATAGTGGGATTTTCTTTCAAT
oligo1101	AAGCTCAGATAGGATACACGGCTTATCATTTGAACTGGAAAT G
oligo1102	ATCTTATGAGCTTTAGTGGGATTTTCTTTCAAT
oligo1104	AAGCTCAGATAGGATAGCGCGCTTATCATTTGAACTGGAAAT G
oligo1106	ATCTTCTGAGCTTTAGTGGGATTTTCTTTCAAT
oligo1107	AAGCTCAGGAGGATAGCGCGCTTATCATTTGAACTGGAAAT G
oligo1118	TATAGGGAGACCCAAAGCTGGCGGCTCAGGATGATGATGAT ATACGATGATGATGATGATGATGATGATGATGATGATGAT ACGCTTACCAATGATGATGATGATGATGATGATGATGATGAT GAGAAGAACCG
oligo1119	TATAGGGAGACCCAAAGCTGGCGGCTCAGGATGATGATGAT ATACGATGATGATGATGATGATGATGATGATGATGATGAT ACGCTTACCAATGATGATGATGATGATGATGATGATGATGAT TGGTATTCG
oligo1159	ACACCCAAAGTCTCAAGTGGCGGCTCAGGATGATGATGAT TGAAT
oligo1160	GGCTACCGGAAACAGATTGGAGGATGGAAGAAAACATCA TCACTATC
oligo1161	TTCAATGATAAATGAGCGGTTATCTCTATCTGA
oligo1162	TAAATATCAATGAACTGGAATGCGGAAAGAAAAC
oligo1163	TTCAATGATAAATGAGCGGTTATCTCTATCTGA
oligo1164	TAACTTATCATGAACTGGAATGCGGAAAGAAAAC
oligo1165	TCAATGATAAAGTAAAGCGGTTATCTCTATCTGA
oligo1166	TAACTTATCATGAACTGGAATGCGGAAAGAAAAC
oligo1167	CAATGATAAAGTAAAGCGGTTATCTCTATCTGA
oligo1168	TAACTTATCATGAACTGGAATGCGGAAAGAAAAC
oligo1180	AGTTCAATGATAAAGCGGTTATCTCTATCTGA
oligo1181	TTTATCATGAACTGGAATGCGGAAAGAAAAC
oligo1182	GTTTCAATGATAAAGCGGTTATCTCTATCTGA
oligo1183	TATTATCATGAACTGGAATGCGGAAAGAAAAC
oligo1197	TCTCTCTCTCAATAAAGAGAGAGAGAGAGCTCC
oligo1198	TTGAGAGAGAGAAATGGAACAGC
oligo1201	GACTTAGAGGATCCCGGCTACCTGAGGTCGACATCCAC C
oligo1202	GAGAATAATGAAATGATCATCTAG
oligo1203	CTAGATGATGATTTTATTTCT
oligo1204	GCTGGGCGGCTCAGGAACTGTTAATTAAGAAATTCGAA CCACTT
oligo1205	GATAGGATAACACCGCTTAACTGTTATCATTTGAACTGGAAT GCC
oligo1206	AACAGTTAAGCGGTTATCTCTATCTGAGCTTTA
oligo1207	CAGATAGGATAACACCGCTTAACTGTTAATTAAGAAATTCGAA CCACTT
oligo1208	TAAATGAGCGGTTATCTCTATCTG
oligo1209	TTGAGGATCATTAGGATAACACCGCTTATCATTTGAACTGGAAT GCGGTTATCTCTATGCTGAAATGAGTGGATTTTCTTTCTCA
oligo1210	TTATCAACATGAGGAGCTCTCTCT
oligo1212	AGAAGAGCTCCATGATGATAATGAGGAGACCGAAGTTCT
oligo1220	GCTTATCATGAACTGGAATG
oligo1221	TTTCAATGATAAAGCGGTTATCTCTATCTGAGCT
oligoA1	AACTCAACCCCTAACCGC
oligoA2	TTCAATTTCAATAAATGATATAAATTTTACA
oligoA3	AATTTGGCTCTAGATGA
oligoA4	CACCTCAATGCTTTTGTGCTCACTCAAACTCGATCTCAA TCTAGC
oligoA5	ATGGACTCAAGACCATGAC
oligoA6	TAGACAGGGATATCGAACCTAACATCTGTCTCTGCTCTG T
oligoA7	ATGTTAGGTCGATACCCCTCTATTTGTC
oligoA8	GCTTGGTACCGAGCTGGAT
oligoA9	TAACTGACTCAATAGGGAACCTAAACCCCTAACGGCTAA GC
oligoA10	TT TTTTTTTTTTAAATAATATGATTAATGAAATTTGAA TCAATGAACTGGAATGCGGAAAGAAAACATGCTCTCA
oligo1231	AAGAAAACCTCAATGCTCAGCACGGGATCCCAATATC
oligo1232	GCACAGGGATCCAAATCTATGCTACCGAGGTTA
oligo1233	TCTATGCTACCGAGGTTATGTTTCTTAACTGCTTGG
oligo1234	TGTTTCTTAACTGCTTGGGAAACTCTGCTCTGCTAA
D7(+)-detection_probe	GGGGTCTTACAAGTCAAGAA