Conservation of an immune homeostasis module in land plants

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Highlights

- MpCPK28 is a Ca^{2+}-dependent protein kinase that regulates immune homeostasis and development in Marchantia and is functionally orthologous to AtCPK28.
- MpCPK28 phosphorylates the E3 ubiquitin ligase MpPUB20e and the receptor-like cytoplasmic kinase MpPBLa.
- MpPBLa is subject to proteasomal degradation and is ubiquitinated by MpPUB20e.

In Brief

Deploying robust immune responses to deter pathogens while minimizing host damage is critical to plant survival. Here, Dou *et al.* show that optimizing the protein accumulation of receptor-like cytoplasmic kinase MpPBLa is an ancient property of the plant immune system, controlled by the MpCPK28-MpPUB20e regulatory module.

Summary

Calcium-dependent protein kinases (CDPKs or CPKs) are a unique family of Ca^{2+}-regulated kinases with diverse functions in plants [1]. CPK28 regulates immune homeostasis, stress responses, and growth in multiple angiosperms including tomato [2,3], rice [4–7], cotton [8–10], and *Arabidopsis thaliana* (hereafter, Arabidopsis)[11–17]. In Arabidopsis, CPK28 phosphorylates and activates the E3 ubiquitin ligases PLANT U-BOX 25 (PUB25) and PUB26 that target the major immune signaling protein BOTRYTIS-INDUCED KINASE 1 (BIK1), resulting in its turnover [12,18]. The CPK28-PUB25/26-BIK1 regulatory module maintains precise levels of BIK1 in the cell and is thought to optimize immune responses [19]. Separated from angiosperms by 450M years of evolution, the liverwort *Marchantia polymorpha* (hereafter, Marchantia) has emerged as a model system to study the evolution of signaling modules across land plants [20]. Here, we demonstrate that the

function of CPK28 is conserved in Marchantia. MpCPK28 displays Ca^{2+}-dependent
protein kinase activity and is inhibited by calmodulin *in vitro*. Over-expression of
MpCPK28 results in pronounced developmental phenotypes and decreased chitin-
induced oxidative burst, and *MpCPK28* can functionally complement the mutant
phenotypes of the Arabidopsis *cpk28-1* mutant. MpCPK28 associates with and
phosphorylates multiple residues on Marchantia AVRPPHB SUSCEPTIBLE 1 (PBS1)-
like (PBL)-a (MpPBLa), a functional ortholog of AtBIK1, as well as MpPUB20e (a putative
ortholog of AtPUB25/26). MpPBLa undergoes proteasomal degradation in Marchantia
and can be polyubiquitinated by MpPUB20e. The occurrence of the CPK28-PUB25/26-
BIK1 module across land plants reveals that the regulation of immune amplitude has been
conserved throughout plant evolution.

Results and Discussion

MpCPK28 regulates immune homeostasis and development in Marchantia

Calcium-dependent protein kinases (CDPKs) are a unique family of Ca^{2+}-regulated
kinases found in apicomplexan protists [21], red and green algae [22,23], and throughout the
plant kingdom [1,23]. Following divergence from a common ancestor, CDPKs in the plant
kingdom separated into five phylogenetic subgroups (I, II, III, IV, and CDPK-related
proteins, CRKs) [1,23,24]. This diversification occurred between 270-340 MYA [23], which is
after terrestrial habitation (~400-700 MYA) and coincides with the transition from
nonvascular to vascular plants (~350-400 MYA). It is noteworthy that CDPKs in
Charophyte algae (including *Klebsormidium nitens, Chara braunni,* and *Spirogloea*
muscicola) and nonvascular plants (including Marchantia*, Selaginella moellendorffii,* and
Physcomitrium patens) cluster into the subgroups but are basal to angiosperm CDPKs
(**Figures 1A; S1**). This evolutionary history suggests that expansion of the CDPK family
may have played a role in adapting to life on land [23]; something that is also supported by

the diverse roles played by CDPKs in developmental programs and stress responses in
angiosperm models such as Arabidopsis and *Oryza sativa* (hereafter, rice) [1].

The first divergence from the last common CDPK ancestor appears to be
subgroups IV and CRK [23] (**Figures 1A; S1**). To investigate the deep evolutionary history
of subgroup-IV CDPKs, we analyzed sequences from 193 genomes across all major plant
lineages (**Figure S2**). Although some variations in protein domain organization can be
observed (**Figure S2**), subgroup-IV CDPKs are highly conserved across land plants. In
several instances, lineage- and/or species-level duplications resulted in co-orthologs; for
example the three co-orthologs in Arabidopsis (AtCPK16, AtCPK18, and AtCPK28)
emerged from a Brassicaceae-specific triplication. The subgroup-IV CDPK CPK28 is a
major regulator of immune homeostasis and growth in multiple angiosperms including
tomato [2,3], rice [4–7], cotton [8–10], and Arabidopsis [11–13,15,16,25–28]. In addition, AtCPK16 may
also play a role in defense against bacterial and viral infections [29]. Despite this abundance
of evidence supporting key roles for subgroup-IV CDPKs in immune optimization in
angiosperms, it is not clear if this is an ancient property of this gene family. We took
advantage of recent advances in functional genomics in the nonvascular plants
Marchantia polymorpha and *M. palaceae* to address this question.

We identified a single subgroup-IV CDPK in Marchantia:
Mp4g01600/Mapoly0098s0040/Mar_contig_10180 (hereafter, MpCPK28) (**Figures 1A;**
S1; S2; S3A) that is broadly expressed in both the thallus and sexual reproductive tissues
(**Figure S3B**). Loss-of-function *cpk28* mutants in Arabidopsis [12,15], rice [4], cotton [8,10], and
tomato [3], display enhanced immune signaling and anti-microbial resistance.
Overexpression of AtCPK28 confers strongly reduced immune responses in Arabidopsis
[12]. To test the function of MpCPK28 in Marchantia, we generated multiple MpCPK28
overexpression lines. However, only one, MpCPK28-OE2, was capable of producing
viable gemmae. We confirmed that *MpCPK28* is expressed ~30X higher in thallus tissue
of MpCPK28-OE2 compared to wild-type accession Tak-1 (**Figure S3C**), allowing us to
carry out functional studies.

Chitin, a key component of fungal and insect cell walls, displays immunogenic
properties across land plants and is recognized in Marchantia by the LysM-receptor
kinases MpLYK1 and MpLYR [30]. In angiosperms, subgroup-VII receptor-like cytoplasmic
kinases (RLCKs) are activated immediately following immune detection, enabling them
to phosphorylate a myriad of targets to propagate signaling [31]. In Marchantia, the
subgroup-VII RLCK MpPBLa is phosphorylated at its N-terminus following chitin
treatment [30] and is genetically required for chitin signaling [32]. We add that when expressed
heterologously in *Nicotiana benthamiana*, MpPBLa-GFP localizes to the plasma
membrane (**Figure S4**). A conserved hallmark of immune induction in plants is a rapid
burst of apoplastic reactive oxygen species (ROS) [30–32]. Functionally orthologous to
AtBIK1 [33], MpPBLa directly phosphorylates conserved N-terminal residues on the
NADPH oxidase MpRBOH1 required for its function [32]. We observed significantly lower
chitin-induced ROS in MpCPK28-OE2 compared to Tak-1 (**Figure 1B-C**), indicating that
MpCPK28 plays a role in optimizing ROS production and suggesting that MpCPK28
functions as part of the Marchantia immune system. The MpCPK28-OE2 line additionally
displayed defects in both gemmae and thallus morphology. Whereas Tak-1 gemmae
have two distinct apical notches (meristems), the majority (67%) of MpCPK28-OE2
gemmae appear to have several (**Figure 1D; S3D**). Notably, the number of apical notches
in MpCPK28-OE2 is highly variable, fluctuating between 3-10 with irregular distribution
(**Figure 1D**). This atypical gemmae morphology is reflected in thallus development, which
appears highly disordered compared to Tak-1 (**Figure 1E**). These results indicate that
overexpression of MpCPK28 disrupts developmental programs and suggest a role for
MpCPK28 in cell division and apical notch differentiation. We conclude that MpCPK28
functions in multiple pathways in Marchantia, including immune and developmental
signaling.

MpCPK28 is a Ca^{2+}-dependent protein kinase inhibited by calmodulin

As protein kinases, CDPKs phosphorylate targets to affect their function, localization, or

binding partners. Thought to have evolved from the ancestral fusion between calmodulin

(CaM) and CaM kinase (CaMK) [34], CDPKs contain both an N-terminal kinase domain and

a C-terminal CaM-like domain. In between those domains is an auto-inhibitory junction

(AIJ) that plays an important structural role in activation. Acting like the hinge of a gate,

the AIJ inhibits the active site of the kinase domain when in its 'off' state, but swings open

when Ca^{2+} is bound to the CaM-like domain in its 'on' state. AtCPK28 has a low threshold

for activation by Ca^{2+} and displays high activity *in vitro* even without the addition of Ca^{2+}

[11,26,35]. However, activity is reduced when Ca^{2+} ions are chelated with EGTA [11,26,35],

indicating that AtCPK28 is indeed Ca^{2+}-dependent. We similarly found that His_6-

MpCPK28 displays Ca^{2+}-dependent kinase activity with a low threshold for activation *in*

vitro (**Figure 1F**). Within the AIJ is the CaM-binding domain (CBD), which is the site for

intramolecular interaction with the C-terminal CaM-like domain [36]. AtCPK28 also forms

Ca^{2+}-dependent interactions with exogenous CaM, something that is unique amongst the

AtCDPK family [35]. This intermolecular interaction occurs via the CBD and is regulated by

autophosphorylation on Ser360 [35]. Because the CBD in subgroup-IV CDPKs is highly

conserved across land plants (**Figure 1G**), we tested if MpCPK28 activity can also be

inhibited by CaM *in vitro* and found this was indeed the case (**Figure 1H**). We conclude

that MpCPK28 is a Ca^{2+}-dependent protein kinase that can be inhibited by CaM, which

may reflect a general property of subgroup-IV CDPKs.

MpCPK28 complements Arabidopsis *cpk28-1* mutants

To assess whether the molecular function of CPK28 is conserved between *M.*

polymorpha and angiosperms, we transformed Arabidopsis *cpk28-1* mutants with

MpCPK28 C-terminally tagged with green fluorescent protein (GFP) driven by the

cauliflower mosaic virus (CaMV) *35S* promoter. We additionally transformed *cpk28-1*

plants with the mutant variant MpCPK28^{K128E} that is predicted to be catalytically inactive

due to the loss of a critical lysine in the ATP-binding site. We isolated homozygous

transgenic lines and confirmed expression of the recombinant proteins by immunoblot

(**Figure S5**). Notably, the wild-type protein displayed a higher molecular weight compared

to the catalytically inactive variant, suggesting that MpCPK28 autophosphorylates *in*

planta, similar to AtCPK28 [11]. Also similar to AtCPK28-YFP [12], both MpCPK28-GFP and

MpCPK28^{K128E}-GFP localize to the plasma membrane (**Figure 2A**). Mutant *cpk28-1*

plants display both enhanced immune signaling [12] as well as defects in stem elongation

[11]. While MpCPK28-GFP complemented the stem elongation defect in *cpk28-1*, the

catalytically inactive variant did not (**Figure 2B**). This suggests that MpCPK28 is able to

replace AtCPK28 during the vegetative-to-reproductive stage transition in a kinase

activity-dependent manner. Likewise, MpCPK28, but not MpCPK28^{K128E}, is also able to

complement enhanced immune-triggered ROS burst (**Figure 2C**) and seedling growth

inhibition (**Figure 2D**) in *cpk28-1*. We conclude that the molecular function of CPK28 has

been conserved across land plants.

MpCPK28 phosphorylates MpPUB20e and MpPBLa

In Arabidopsis, AtCPK28 phosphorylates two related E3 ubiquitin ligases, AtPUB25 and

AtPUB26, contributing to their activation and subsequent poly-ubiquitination of

unactivated AtBIK1, resulting in its proteasomal degradation [18]. It is thought that this limits

AtBIK1 availability to optimize immune signaling [12,18]. AtPUB25/26 are part of the large

subgroup IV of plant U-box (PUB) proteins that contain an N-terminal U-box domain and

a C-terminal Armadillo (ARM) repeat domain [18,37]. A recent phylogeny of the PUB family

across land plants indicates the presence of 38 PUB genes in Marchantia (MpPUBs)*,* of

which 11 belong to subgroup IV [37]. Whilst none of the MpPUBs form a monophyletic group

with AtPUB25/26 or related AtPUB22/23/24, seven are basal to the sister group

AtPUB20/21 which we name MpPUB20a-g (sharing 30-70% amino acid sequence

identity) (**Figure S6A**). Notably, *pub20 pub21* double mutants, *pub22 pub23 pub24* triple

mutants, and *pub25 pub26* double mutants all display enhanced immune signaling in

Arabidopsis, and there is functional redundancy in this gene family [18,38,39]. Based on their

phylogenetic relationship and gene expression profiles (**Figure S6B**), we chose five

MpPUBs to test as putative MpCPK28 substrates: MpPUB20a/Mp3g01700,

MpPUB20c/Mp3g22740, MpPUB20d/Mp3g11730, MpPUB20e/Mp7g11020, and

MpPUB20g/Mp7g11000. Of these, MpCPK28 readily phosphorylated MpPUB20e *in vitro*

(**Figure 3A**). Using mass spectrometry, we identified four residues that are

phosphorylated by MpCPK28 *in vitro*: Ser16, Ser19, and Ser21 at the far N-terminus, and

Ser159 at the start of the U-box domain (**Figure 3B**). Although no chitin-induced

phosphopeptides matching MpPUB20e were identified in a previous study [30], AtPUB26

is phosphorylated on eight residues following treatment with the bacterial immune elicitor

flg22 [18], including Ser120 which is orthologous to MpPUB20e-Ser159, as well as Thr94

located in the region between the U-box and ARM repeats (**Figure 3C**). Whilst the

function of AtPUB26-Ser159 is unknown, both AtPUB26-Thr94 and the conserved site

Thr95 on AtPUB25 were shown to be phosphorylated by AtCPK28 *in vitro,* as detected

by anti-pThr95/94 immunoblot*,* and phosphorylation of AtPUB25/26-Thr95/94 contributes

to its catalytic activity [18]. Furthermore, immune-triggered phosphorylation of the

conserved site Thr88 on AtPUB22 also regulates its function [40]. Overall, our results

indicate that both MpCPK28 and AtCPK28 phosphorylate MpPUB20e or AtPUB25/26 in

at least one conserved position, suggesting that this regulatory unit is ancient.

AtCPK28 also directly phosphorylates AtBIK1, which is hypothesized to impact its

degradation [12]. Similarly, rice OsCPK4 phosphorylates OsRLCK176 [4,41] and cotton

(*Gossypium hirsutum*) GhCDPK28 interacts with GhPBL9 [8], suggesting that this

interaction is functionally conserved in angiosperms. Moreover, MpPBLa, AtBIK1,

OsRLCK176 are all critical regulators of immune signaling in Marchantia, Arabidospis,

and rice, respectively [32,42–46]. *In vitro* kinase assays indicate that His_6-MpCPK28 is

capable of phosphorylating the catalytically inactive variant MBP-MpPBLa^{D228N} (**Figure**

3D). Using mass spectrometry, we identified six sites that are phosphorylated by

MpCPK28 *in vitro*, four of which (Ser43, Ser45, Ser46, and Ser70) are located in the

intrinsically disordered N-terminal region of MpPBLa (**Figure 3E**). Notably, a

phosphopeptide including Ser70 was found to be induced by chitin in a previous study,
and phosphopeptides including Ser43, Ser45, and Ser46 were identified in untreated
samples [30], suggesting a role for phosphorylation-mediated regulation at the N-terminus
of MpPBLa. OsCPK4 can phosphorylate seven residues on OsRLCK176, with a
preference for Ser74 in the N-terminal disordered region and Ser209, Ser267, and Ser336
in the kinase domain [4]. Together these results suggest that CPK28 orthologs
phosphorylate the N-termini of BIK1 orthologs in Arabidopsis, rice, and Marchantia.
Phosphorylation of intrinsically disordered regions is known to regulate protein function
[47], and it will be of interest to explore how the N-terminal variable regions of RLCKs
contribute to their function. Overall, we conclude that both MpPUB20e and MpPBLa are
substrates of MpCPK28, suggesting that the CPK28-PUB25/26-BIK1 module is
conserved and ancient in land plants.

MpPBLa is subject to proteasomal turnover and is ubiquitinated by
MpPUB20e *in vitro*

To assess if MpPBLa is subject to proteasomal degradation, we performed cell-free
degradation assays with or without proteasome inhibitor MG132. We found that both
MBP-MpPBLa and GST-AtBIK1 undergo proteasomal degradation when incubated in
either Tak-1 (**Figure 4A,B**) or Col-0 (**Figure S7A,B**) protein extract, indicating that
Marchantia and Arabidopsis possess conserved machinery capable of degrading
MpPBLa and AtBIK1. We next aimed to test if MpPUB20e is able to ubiquitinate MpPBLa.
We first assessed if MpPUB20e is an active E3 ubiquitin ligase. Previous work indicated
that AtPUB22 can interact with several subgroup-VI E2 ubiquitin conjugating enzymes
(UBCs) [48], and that AtPUB25/26 can pair with AtUBC8 [18]. We thus used subgroup VI E2s
AtUBC8 and AtUBC30 (which share 96% and 85% amino acid sequence identity to
Marchantia UBC protein Mp5g21800, respectively) in our assays. We found that
MpPUB20e is able to auto-polyubiquitinate when paired with either AtUBC8 or AtUBC30
(**Figure S8**), indicating that it possesses catalytic activity *in vitro*. Whilst we were unable

to detect polyubiquitination by MpPUB20e-AtUBC8 on MpPBLa (**Figure 4C**), we were

able to detect polyubiquitination on the catalytically inactive mutant MpPBLa^{D228N} (**Figure**

4D). This is notable since AtPUB25/26 preferentially polyubiquitinate inactive AtBIK1 in

Arabidopsis [18], and suggests that MpPUB20e also preferentially targets inactive MpPBLa.

Together, these results suggest that MpPBLa is under proteasomal control and that

optimization of protein accumulation is a conserved feature of MpPBLa/AtBIK1 across

land plants (**Figure 4E**).

Conclusion

253 Our results suggest that safeguarding immune signaling is an ancient property of the plant

254 immune system. We show that MpPBLa protein accumulation is controlled by MpCPK28

255 and MpPUB20e in Marchantia, indicating that this regulatory module has been conserved

256 for at least 450 MY in plants with vastly different life history and developmental traits that

257 engage with unique microbial populations.

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288   Author Contributions

289   **JM** and **PMD** conceived and designed the project. **RD**, **KEM**, **CAST**, **JC**, **MB**, **MCRG**, **DL**,
290   **JM** generated materials, performed experiments, and/or analyzed data. **JK** and **VNM**
291   performed phylogenetics. **JM**, **PMD**, **RGU**, **TAD**, **CZ** supervised the project. **JM** wrote the
292   manuscript with input from all authors.

293   Declarations of interest

The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

Figures

Figure 1. MpCPK28 regulates chitin-induced ROS production and
development in Marchantia.

(A) Phylogenetic tree of CDPKs from various plant lineages, with subgroups I, II, III, IV, and CRK indicated.
The tree was constructed using the Maximum Likelihood method with IQ-TREE v2.3.4 (1,000 SH-aLRT and
ultraFast bootstrap replicates) and Jackknife resampling. A total of 157 CDPK protein sequences from
Selaginella moellendorffii, Physcomitrium patens, Chara braunii, Klebsormidium nitens, Spirogloea

muscicola, Oryza sativa, Amborella tricopoda, Picea abies, Arabidopsis thaliana and *Marchantia*
polymorpha were aligned with MAFFT v7.490, trimmed using TrimAL v1.4.rev15, and visualized in iTOL.
Five apicomplexan CDPK sequences were used as an outgroup. See **Figure S1** for a fully labeled tree.
Phylogenetic analysis by VNM, visualized in iTOL. **(B-C)** ROS production measured in relative light units
(RLUs) after treatment with 0.1 mg/mL chitin. Values in **B** represent means +/- standard error (n=12 thallus
discs) over a 20-min time-course from one representative experiment; values in **C** represent total RLU
observed for each genotype, colour-coded by experimental replicate (n=4 replicates of 12 thallus discs
each). Asterisk indicates a statistically significant difference between the indicated genotypes (unpaired
Student's t-test; p=0.0118). Assays were repeated four times by JC. **(D)** Gemma from the indicated
genotypes observed under a light microscope. Typical apical nodes are indicated by black arrowheads on
Tak-1. Scale bar: 100 μm. **(E)** Representative thalli from 1-month-old plants of the indicated genotypes.
Similar morphology was observed in **D** and **E** over several years by KEM. **(F)** *In vitro* kinase assays of His$_6$-
MpCPK28 with and without EGTA, CaCl$_2$, or ATP, visualized using pIMAGO. Coomassie Brilliant Blue
(CBB) indicates loading. These experiments were repeated several times with similar results by MB and
RD; representative blots by MB are shown. **(G)** Schematic indicating the location of the CaM-binding
domain (coloured blue) within the autoinhibitory junction (AIJ; coloured yellow) of a canonical CDPK.
WebLogo indicates conservation within this region in subgroup IV CDPKs from 53 species (described in
[26]). The specific sequence of this region in MpCPK28 is shown below the logo. Asterisks indicate residues
shown to be important for CaM binding in AtCPK28 [35]. This figure was created in BioRender by JM. **(H)** *In*
vitro kinase assays of His$_6$-MpCPK28 with and without CaM, CaCl$_2$, or ATP, visualized using pIMAGO.
Coomassie Brilliant Blue (CBB) indicates loading. These experiments were repeated several times with
similar results by RD; representative blots are shown. Cloning credits are provided in **Table S1**.

Figure 2. MpCPK28 complements Arabidopsis *cpk28-1* mutants.

(A) Single-plane confocal micrographs of root cells from the indicated genotypes indicating the subcellular localization of MpCPK28-GFP and MpCPK28^{K128E}-GFP (GFP) and the plasma membrane (FM464). Scale bar indicates 10 μm. **(B)** Photos of Arabidopsis plants at 4 (upper) and 8 (lower) weeks post germination (wpg) grown under short-day conditions. **(C)** ROS production measured in relative light units (RLUs) after treatment with 200 nM elf18. Values represent total RLU observed for each genotype (n=6 leaf discs from different plants), displayed as boxplots indicating first and third quartiles, split by a median line. Whiskers represent maximum and minimum values. Statistically significant groups were evaluated by a one-way ANOVA followed by a Tukey's post-hoc test and are indicated by lower-case letters ($p<0.05$). **(D)** Seedling growth inhibition assay indicating % growth in media containing 500 nM AtPep1 peptide relative to growth in media without peptide. Values represent % fresh weight of single seedlings (n=8 for each treatment per genotype), displayed as boxplots in the same way as in **C**. Statistically significant groups were evaluated by a one-way ANOVA followed by a Tukey's post-hoc test and are indicated by lower-case letters ($p<0.0001$). Similar observations were made across generations over multiple years by RD, CAST, and MB; representative data collected by RD are shown. Details regarding plant genotypes are provided in **Table S1**.

Figure 3. MpCPK28 phosphorylates MpPUB20e and MpPBLa.

(A) *In vitro* kinase assays using His6-CPK28 as the kinase and GST-tagged MpPUB20a ('20a'), MpPUB20c ('20c'), MpPUB20d ('20d'), MpPUB20e ('20e'), or MpPUB20g ('20g') as substrates. Autoradiographs (autorad) indicate incorporation of γ32P and protein loading is indicated by post-staining with Coomassie Brilliant Blue (CBB). Assays were performed more than 3 times each by RD with similar results; representative data are shown. **(B)** Unique MpPUB20e phosphopeptides following kinase assays with His6-CPK28. Each peptide was present in at least 2/3 independent replicates and not found in control samples with ATP but without His6-CPK28. The bolded sites are the phosphosites and their positions are indicated on the right. Kinase assays performed by RD; trypsin digests and LC-MS/MS performed by MCRG. **(C)** *In vitro* kinase assays using His6-CPK28 as the kinase and catalytically inactive MBP-His6-MpPBLa^D228N as the substrate, visualized using Phostag gel staining. Coomassie Brilliant Blue (CBB) indicates loading. These experiments were repeated more than four times by RD and MB over several years and representative blots by RD are shown. **(D)** Unique MpPBLa phosphopeptides following kinase assays between His6-CPK28 and MBP-His6-MpPBLa^D228N. Each peptide was present in at least 2/3 independent replicates and not found in control samples with ATP but without His6-CPK28. The bolded sites are the phosphosites and their positions are indicated on the right. Kinase assays performed by RD; trypsin digests and LC-MS/MS performed by MCRG. Cloning credits are provided in **Table S1**.

Figure 4. MpPBLa is subject to proteasomal turnover and is ubiquitinated by MpPUB20e *in vitro.*

(A-B) Degradation of recombinant MBP-His$_6$-MpPBLa **(A)** or GST-AtBIK1 **(B)** following incubation for 0, 2, 4, or 6 hours in total protein extract from Marchantia Tak-1 tissue with or without the proteasome inhibitor MG132. Western blots were probed with either anti-MBP or anti-GST antibodies, and protein loading is indicated by post-staining of Coomassie Brilliant Blue (CBB) of RuBisCO. **(C-D)** *In vitro* ubiquitination assays using His$_6$-AtUBC1 as the E1 activating enzyme, His$_6$-AtUBC8 as the E2 conjugating enzyme, GST-MpPUB20e as the E3 ligase enzyme, and either MBP-His$_6$-MpPBLa **(C)** or MBP-His$_6$-MpPBLa^{D228N} **(D)** as substrate. The upper western blots are probed with anti-His; the middle blot is probed with anti-Ub; and protein loading is indicated by post-staining with Coomassie Brilliant Blue (CBB). These assays were repeated more than three times with similar results by RD. Cloning credits are provided in **Table S1**. **(E)** Model indicating conservation of the CPK28-PUB25/26-BIK1 module in Arabidopsis and Marchantia. This figure was created in BioRender by MB and JM.

379   Star Methods

380   Key Resources Table

Reagent or Resource	Source	Identifier
Antibodies		
Mouse anti-His (27E8)	Cell Signaling	2366S
Rabbit anti-Streptavidin	Sigma	S6390
Mouse anti-GFP	Roche	11814460001
Mouse anti-GST	Sigma	SAB4200237
Mouse anti-MBP	New England Biolabs	E8032S
Mouse anti-Ub (P4D1)	Cell Signaling	3936S
Goat anti-mouse-HRP	Sigma	A0168
Goat anti-Rabbit-HRP	Sigma	A0545
Bacterial and Virus Strains		
Escherichia coli Top10	Widely available	N/A
Escherichia coli BL21	Widely available	N/A
Escherichia coli BL21 LamP	[35]	N/A

Agrobacterium tumefaciens GV3101	Widely available	N/A
Recombinant Proteins and Peptides		
His$_6$-MpCPK28	This study.	N/A
His$_6$-MpCPK28^{K128E}	This study.	N/A
MBP-MpPBLa	This study.	N/A
MBP-MpPBLa^{D228N}	This study.	N/A
GST-MpPUB20a	This study.	N/A
GST-MpPUB20c	This study.	N/A
GST-MpPUB20d	This study.	N/A
GST-MpPUB20e	This study.	N/A
GST-MpPUB20g	This study.	N/A
GST-AtBIK1	This study.	N/A
GST-AtBIK1$^{K105A/K106A}$	This study.	N/A
His-UBA1	This study.	N/A
His-UBC8	This study.	N/A
His-UBC30	This study.	N/A

rhHA-Ubiquitin	R&D Systems	U110
Calmodulin (Petunia isoform CaM81)	[49]	Gift from Wayne Snedden, Queen's University
Elf18 [SKEKFERTKPHVNGTIG]	EZBiolab	N/A (custom)
AtPep1 [ATKVKAKQRGKEKVSSGRPGQHN]	EZBiolab	N/A (custom)
Critical Commercial Assays and Reagents		
pIMAGO HRP Detection on Western Blot	Tymora Analytical	800-40
Phospho-tag Gel Stain	APB Bio	P005A
Presto Mini Plasmid Kit	GeneAid	PDF100
GenepHlow Gel/PCR Kit	GeneAid	DFH300
LR Clonase II	Invitrogen	11791020
Gibson Assembly Mastermix	New England Biolabs	E2611
All restriction enzymes and T4 ligase	New England Biolabs	Widely available
In-Fusion kit	Takara	638947
Q5 *Taq* Polymerase	New England Biolabs	M0491
Direct-zol RNA MiniPrep Zymo Kit	Ozyme	R2052

DNAse RQ	Promega	M6101
M-MLV Reverse Transcriptase Kit	Promega	M1701
Light Cycler 480 SYBR Green I Master Mix	Roche	04707516001
HisPur™ Ni-NTA resin	Thermo Fisher Scientific	25215
Glutathione agarose beads	Sigma Aldrich	G4510
Amicon centrifugal Ultra-15 filter units	Millipore Sigma	30 kDa MWCO (UFC903024); 50 kDa MWCO (UFC905024)
Amicon centrifugal Ultra-4 filter units	Millipore Sigma	30 kDa MWCO (UFC803024); 50 kDa MWCO (UFC805024)
Colloidal Chitin polysaccharide	Elicityl	GLU411
ECL Clarity Substrate	Bio-Rad	1705061
Polyvinylidene difluoride (PVDF) membranes	Bio-Rad	1620177
Coomassie Brilliant Blue (CBB R-250)	Schwarz/Mann Biotech	821616
SimplyBlue SafeStain (CBB G-250)	Invitrogen	46-5044

SynaptoRed™ Reagent (FM464)	Calbiochem	574799-5MG
Miracloth	Calbiochem	475855-1R
Trypsin	Promega	V5113
Triethylammonium Bicarbonate (TEAB)	Sigma	T7408
Experimental Models: Organisms/Strains		
Arabidopsis thaliana Col-0	N/A	N/A
A. thaliana (Col-0) *cpk28-1*	[11,12]	GABIKAT_532308
A. thaliana (Col-0) *cpk28-1* /35S:AtCPK28-YFP	[11,12]	N/A
A. thaliana (Col-0) *cpk28-1* /35S:MpCPK28-GFP line 5-8	This study; **Table S1.**	N/A
A. thaliana (Col-0) *cpk28-1 /35S:MpCPK28^{K128E}-GFP line 12-2*	This study; **Table S1.**	N/A
Marchantia polymorpha Takaragaike-1 (Tak-1)	[50]	N/A
M. polymorpha (Tak-1) *MpCPK28-OE2*	This study; **Table S1.**	N/A
Oligonucleotides		
See **Table S1.**	See **Table S1**.	N/A

Recombinant DNA		
p50507-MpoEF1pro:MpCPK28	This study; **Table S1.**	N/A
pENTR-MpCPK28 (no promoter, no stop codon)	This study; **Table S1.**	N/A
pENTR-MpCPK28^{K128E} (no promoter, no stop codon)	This study; **Table S1.**	N/A
pK7FWG2-p35S:MpCPK28-GFP	This study; **Table S1.**	N/A
pK7FWG2-p35S:MpCPK28^{K128E}-GFP	This study; **Table S1.**	N/A
pET28a+-pT7:His$_6$-MpCPK28	This study; **Table S1.**	N/A
pET28a+-pT7:His$_6$-MpCPK28^{K128E}	This study; **Table S1.**	N/A
pOPINM-pT7:MBP-His$_6$-MpPBLa	This study; **Table S1.**	N/A
pOPINM-pT7:MBP-His$_6$-MpPBLa^{D228N}	This study; **Table S1.**	N/A
pENTR-MpPBLa (no promoter, no stop codon)	This study; **Table S1.**	N/A
pK7FWG2-p35S:MpPBLa-GFP	This study; **Table S1.**	N/A
pGex6p.1-pT7:GST-MpPUB20a	This study; **Table S1.**	N/A
pGex6p.1-pT7:GST-MpPUB20c	This study; **Table S1.**	N/A
pGex6p.1-pT7:GST-MpPUB20d	This study; **Table S1.**	N/A

pGex6p.1-pT7:GST-MpPUB20e	This study; **Table S1.**	N/A
pGex6p.1-pT7:GST-MpPUB20g	This study; **Table S1.**	N/A
pGex6p.1-pT7:GST-AtBIK1	[26]	N/A
pGex6p.1-pT7:GST-AtBIK1$^{K105A/K106A}$	[26]	N/A
pDEST17-pT7:His$_6$-AtUBA1	[48]	N/A
pDEST17-pT7:His$_6$-AtUBC8	[48]	N/A
pDEST17-pT7:His$_6$-AtUBC30	[48]	N/A
Software and Algorithms		
Prism	GraphPad	v10
IQ-TREE	[51]	v2.0.3 and v2.3.4
FastTree	[65]	v2.1.10
MAFFT	[52]	v7.490 and v7.471
TrimAl	[53]	v1.4.rev15
HMMER	hmmer.org	v3.4
ModelFinder	[54]	N/A
Blast+	NCBI	v2.11.0+ and

		v2.12.0+ds-3build1
iTOL	[55]	v6 and v5
ImageLab	Bio-Rad	v6.1
MarpolBase	[56]	N/A
WebLogo	[57]	v3
Phosphoproteomics	MaxQuant	v2.0.3.0
Deposited data		
Phosphoproteomics data	This study	PRIDE PXD056365

Contact for Reagent and Resource Sharing

Further information and requests for resources and reagents should be directed to and will be fulfilled by the Lead Contact, Jacqueline Monaghan (jacqueline.monaghan@queensu.ca).

Experimental Model and Subject Details

Arabidopsis thaliana: *A. thaliana* plants (ecotype Col-0) were grown in controlled environment chambers (BioChambers and Conviron) in the Queen's University Phytotron. For soil assays, seeds were sown on Sunshine Mix 1 (Sungro) and seedlings transplanted to larger pots about a week after germination. Plants were grown under short-day conditions (8h light; 150 μM photons m^2 s^{-1}) at 22°C, watered when needed

and supplemented with 1g/L fertilizer (20N:20P:20K) every 2 weeks. Mite bags containing

Amblyseius swirskii (Koppert) were added to each tray of plants bi-weekly to prevent pest

infestations. Elf18-induced ROS burst assays were performed on 4- to 5-week-old plants

as described in [58]. At the time of vegetative-to-reproductive transition (~6 weeks), plants

were transferred to a chamber under long-day conditions (14h light) to assess stem

elongation. For plate assays, seeds were surface-sterilized with 40% bleach for 30

minutes, rinsed well with sterile water, stratified in the dark at 4°C for 2-5 days, and sown

on petri plates containing 0.5X Murashige & Skoog (MS) media and 0.8% agar. To assess

growth inhibition, 4-day-old seedlings were transferred to single wells of 48-well plates

containing liquid 0.5X MS media supplemented with 1% sucrose and the indicated

concentration of AtPep1. After 12 days, individual seedlings were blotted dry and weighed

on an analytical scale as described in [58]. Transgenic lines were generated by floral dip

with *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* GV3101 according to [59]. Bacterial pellets were

resuspended in 5% sucrose and 0.01% Silguard as a surfactant to an $OD_{600} = 0.5$ and

applied to unopened buds of ~5-week-old *A. thaliana* plants grown since germination in

long-day conditions. Primary stems were trimmed to encourage axillary bud formation.

Inoculated plants were kept in the dark overnight and seeds collected several weeks later.

T1 plants were selected on 0.5X MS media with 0.8% agar and 50 ug/mL kanamycin prior

to soil transfer. Homozygous lines containing single inserts were used for phenotyping,

as indicated from segregation analysis in the T2 and T3 generations.

Nicotiana benthamiana: *Nicotiana benthamiana* seeds were sown directly on potting

soil as above, transplanted as individual seedlings per pot, and grown in a dedicated

growth chamber (Conviron) under similar conditions, except with a 16-h-light/8-h-dark

cycle and fertilized weekly. Binary vectors were transfected into *Agrobacterium*

tumefaciens strain GV3101 and transiently expressed in *N. benthamiana* as described in

[60].

Marchantia polymorpha: *Marchantia polymorpha ssp ruderalis* ecotype Takaragaike-1

(Tak-1) was cultivated axenically from gemmae and grown under a long day photoperiod

(16 h light at 22°C/8h dark at 20°C), with 60-80 µE light intensity) on 0.5X strength

Gamborg B5 medium (Sigma, G5396), pH 5.7, 1.4% Agar-Agar (Sigma, A7921).

Gemmae and thalli growth and development was captured using an Axio Zoom.V16

(Zeiss), GT-200 scanner (Epson), and analyzed with ImageJ. Transformation was

conducted as previously described [61], with some modifications. Freshly collected

gemmae from axenic *M. polymorpha* Tak-1 were grown in 0.5X strength Gamborg B5

medium for five days. For each transformation, ~30 gemmalings were ground in a sterile,

250 mL stainless steel bowl (Waring, USA) in 10 mL of M51C (Takenaka et al., 2000) for

30 seconds. The grinded material was then transferred to a 250-mL erlenmeyer flask

containing 40 mL of M51C medium and kept shaking (180 rpm) for three days at 22°C

16h light/ 20°C 8h dark. To co-culture with *A. tumefaciens* GV3101 for transformation,

100 µL of a saturated culture (pellet resuspended in 1 mL of M51C) was supplemented

with 100 µM acetosyringone and 500 mg/mL glutamine. After three days, the content of

the flasks was transferred into 50 mL conical tubes. Plant tissues were washed by

decantation four times with sterile water, and plated on selective media: 0.5X Gamborg

B5 with 200 mg/L amoxycilin (Levmentin, Laboratoires Delbert, FR) and 10 mg/L

hygromycin (Duchefa Biochimie, FR). Chitin-induced ROS burst assays were performed

on 4 week-old thalli as described in [32].

Method Details

Phylogenetics

To explore the evolutionary history of CDPKs, we used HMMER v3.4 and HMMscan

(hmmer.org) employing the complete PFAM and TIGERFAM datasets to thoroughly

examine protein sequences containing a protein kinase (PF00069, TIGR03903) from the

genomes of *Selaginella moellendorffii* (GCF_000143415.4), *Physcomitrium patens*

(GCF_000002425.4), *Chara braunii* (GCA_003427395.1), *Klebsormidium nitens*

(GCA_000708835.1), *Spirogloea muscicola* (GCA_009602725.1), *Oryza sativa*

(Japonica Group; GCF_001433935.1), *Amborella tricopoda* (GCF_000471905.2), *Picea*

abies (V1.0b), and *Marchantia polymorpha* (V6.r1). So that we could include the CRK

subfamily, we did not further refine this search with PF00036 but rather compared

sequences with an e-value >1.1e-30 to CDPK/CRK orthologs from *Arabidopsis thaliana*

(TAIR10) using BLASTp 2.12.0+ to confirm homology (e-value 1e-5 allowing up to 10

targets). Five apicomplexan CPKs, including *Toxoplasma gondii* TgCPK1 (ToxoDB ID

162.m00001), *Toxoplasma gondii* TgCPK3 (ToxoDB ID 541.m00134), *Plasmodium*

falciparum PfCPK3 (PlasmoDB ID PFC0420w), *Cryptosporidium parvum* CpCPK1

(CryptoDB ID cgd3_920), and *Cryptosporidium parvum* CpCPK3 (CryptoDB ID

cgd5_820) were included in the alignments and used as outgroups. In total, 157

sequences were aligned using MAFFT v7.490 [52] with the L-INS-i strategy, and sequences

were trimmed using TrimAl v1.4.rev15 [53], which was employed for automated alignment

trimming and removing poorly aligned sequences. The phylogenetic tree was

reconstructed using IQ-TREE v2.3.4 [62], where the best-fitting evolutionary model

(Q.plant+R6) was determined using ModelFinder [54] as implemented in IQ-TREE. The

tree's robustness was assessed by applying Jackknife resampling with 1000 replicates,

in addition to SH-aLRT [63] and UltraFast Bootstraps [64] for branch support, also using 1000

replicates. The final maximum likelihood tree was visualized and annotated in iTOL v6 [55].

To explore the deep evolutionary history of subgroup IV CDPKs, sequences were

retrieved from a database containing 193 plant species covering the Viridiplantae diversity

using the tBLASTn v2.11.0+ [65] with an e-value threshold of 1-e10. Homolog nucleotide

sequences were then aligned using MAFFT v7.471 [52] and the FFT-NS-2 strategy.

Subsequent alignment was then trimmed using trimAl v1.4 [53] to remove positions with

more than 60% of gaps. Finally, the tree was reconstructed using FastTree v2.1.10 [66] with

default parameters and the -gtr option. From this tree, subtree corresponding to orthologs

of MpCPK28 was pruned, and sequences aligned and trimmed as described above.

Maximum likelihood tree was reconstructed using IQ-TREE v2.0.3 [62] where the best-fitting

evolutionary model (GTR+F+R7) was determined using ModelFinder as implemented in

IQ-TREE [54] according to the Bayesian Information Criteria (BIC). Branch supports were

estimated using 10,000 replicates of both SH-aLRT [63] and UltraFast Bootstraps [64]. Trees

were visualized and annotated in iTOL v5 [55].

Molecular cloning

Detailed information about molecular cloning of all vectors used in this study can be found

in **Table S1**. We used several molecular cloning methods including Golden Gate,

Gateway, In-Fusion, Gibson Assembly, and digestion-ligation cloning. For Golden Gate

cloning, coding sequences were domesticated, synthesized and cloned into pMS

(GeneArt, Thermo Fisher Scientific), and assembled as described in [61]. For Gateway

cloning, recombination of entry vectors into Gateway-compatible binary vectors was

achieved using Gateway LR Clonase II (Invitrogen) according to the manufacturer's

instructions. Custom synthetic DNA fragments (Twist BioSciences or GeneArt) or PCR

amplicons generated using Q5 *Taq* polymerase (NEB) and gene-specific primers, were

used for In-Fusion cloning with the In-Fusion Snap Assembly Master Mix (Takara), or for

Gibson Assembly using the Gibson Assembly Master Mix (NEB), or for digestion-ligation

cloning using construct-specific endonucleases (NEB) and T4 DNA ligase (NEB), all

according to the manufacturer's directions. Mutations were incorporated either though

PCR-mediated site-directed mutagenesis as described in [12], or at the gene synthesis

stage. Plasmids were transfected into *Escherichia coli* Top10 cells for replication and

isolated using standard miniprep kits. Successful assembly of all plasmids was verified

using   Sanger   sequencing   or   whole-plasmid   sequencing   (Plasmidsaurus).

RNA isolation, cDNA synthesis, and RT-qPCR

Total RNA was extracted from ~100 mg of ground frozen tissue from 2-3 weeks old *M.*
polymorpha thalli using the Direct-zol RNA MiniPrep Zymo Kit (Ozyme) following the
manufacturer's instructions. 1 μg of total RNA was treated with DNAse RQ1 (Promega)
and cDNA was synthesized using the M-MLV Reverse Transcriptase Kit (Promega), both
according to the manufacturer's instructions. Quantitative real-time PCR (RT-qPCR) was
performed using 4 μL of 5-fold diluted cDNA, 5 μL of LightCycler 480 SYBR Green I
Master Mix (Roche) and 1 μL of each primer at 10 μM, using the CFX Opus 384 Real-
Time PCR System (Bio-Rad). Primers used for qPCR have an efficiency between 1.96-
2.01 and are provided in **Table S1**.

Recombinant protein purification, *in vitro* kinase assays, and *in vitro* E3
ligase assays

All proteins were expressed and purified from *E. coli* strain BL21 or BL21-λP cells as
recently described [60]. His$_6$-tagged proteins were purified using nickel-nitrilotriacetic acid
(HisPur™ Ni-NTA, Thermo Fisher Scientific), and GST-tagged proteins were purified
using pre-hydrated glutathione agarose beads (Sigma Aldrich). His$_6$-tagged proteins were
eluted by sequential washes with imidazole-containing buffers at increasing
concentrations (10 mM, 25 mM, 50 mM, 250 mM, and 500 mM) and dialyzed overnight
at 4°C in 2000 volumes of buffer containing 25 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.5), 50 mM NaCl, and
1 mM DTT. GST-tagged proteins were eluted by incubation at 4°C overnight in a buffer
containing 50 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.5), 10 mM reduced glutathione, and 5 mM DTT. All
proteins were concentrated using Amicon Ultra-15 or Ultra-4 centrifugal filter units (30 or
50 kDa MWCO; MilliporeSigma), and concentrations were determined using the Bradford
assay (Thermo Fisher). Proteins were either immediately used in assays or aliquoted,
flash-frozen in liquid N$_2$ and stored at –80°C until further use.

In vitro kinase assays using pIMAGO (Tymora Analytical) or Phospho-tag gel stain (APB

Bio) were performed according to the manufacturer's instructions and as previously

described [26]. Ca^{2+}-dependent autophosphorylation assays were performed by incubating

5 µg of purified recombinant His_6-MpCPK28 in a 50-µL reaction containing 25 mM Tris-

HCl (pH 7.5), 10 mM $MgCl_2$, 1 mM DTT, 100 µM ATP, and either 100 µM $CaCl_2$ or 10 mM

EGTA. The reaction was carried out at 30°C for 10 minutes. Reactions were terminated

in 5× Laemmli sample buffer (LSB) at 80°C for 10 minutes prior to detection using

pIMAGO. To assess CaM-mediated inhibition, 5 µg of His_6-MpCPK28 was incubated in a

buffer containing 25 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.5), 10 mM $MgCl_2$, 1 mM DTT, and 1 mM PMSF,

with or without 100 µM $CaCl_2$ or 100 µM ATP, and with or without 2 µM CaM as described

previously [35]. The reactions were incubated at 30°C for 30 minutes prior to the addition of

100 µM ATP to allow the formation of the MpCPK28-CaM complex. After ATP addition,

the reactions proceeded for 30 seconds. Reactions were terminated in 5× LSB at 80°C

for 10 minutes prior to detection using pIMAGO. To assess the transphosphorylation

between $His6$-MpCPK28 and MBP-$His6$-MpPBLa^{D228N}, 2 µg of kinase and 4 µg of

substrate were incubated in a 50-µL reaction containing 25 mM Tris (pH 7.5), 10 mM

$MgCl_2$, 1 mM DTT, and 1 mM PMSF, with or without 100 µM ATP. The reaction was

incubated at 30°C for 60 minutes and terminated in 5× LSB at 80°C for 10 minutes prior

to detection using Phospho-tag gel stain. Transphosphorylation assays using γP32-ATP

were performed as recently described [60], using 2 µg of kinase and 4 µg of substrate in a

buffer containing 50 mM Tris-HCl (pH 8.0), 25 mM $MgCl_2$, 500uM $CaCl_2$, 5 mM DTT, 5

µM ATP, and 2-4 µCi γ-[P32]-ATP, and incubated at 30˚C for 10 minutes. Reactions were

terminated in 5× LSB at 80°C for 10 minutes, separated by SDS-PAGE. The resulting

gels were sandwiched between two sheets of transparency film, exposed to a storage

phosphor screen (Molecular Dynamics), and visualized using a Typhoon 8600 Imager

(Molecular Dynamics). Gels were post-stained with Coomassie Brilliant Blue (CBB) R-

250 (MP Biomedicals) or SimplyBlue SafeStain (Invitrogen; CBB G-250) and scanned.

In vitro E3 ubiquitin ligase assays were performed by incubating 2 μg of recombinant
GST-MpPUB20e and 75 μg/mL of HA-tagged ubiquitin (R&D Systems) in a buffer
containing 25 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.4), 5 mM $MgCl_2$, 25 mM KCl, 0.33 mM DTT, 1.5 mM
ATP, 4 ng/μL E1 (UBA1), and 9 ng/μL E2 (UBC8 or UBC30). For trans-ubiquitination
assays, 2 μg of substrate was additionally added. Reactions were incubated at 30°C for
10 - 180 min, terminated in 4× LSB at 80°C for 3 minutes, and finally separated by SDS-
PAGE followed by immunoblot.

Phosphoproteomics

566   Phosphoproteomics was conducted exactly as described in [67] with data searched against
567   the *Marchantia polymorpha* v3.1 proteome available on Phytozome. Proteomics data has
568   been   deposited   to   the   ProteomeXchange   Consortium   via   the   PRIDE   [68]
569   (https://www.ebi.ac.uk/pride/) partner repository with the data set identifier PXD056365.
570   Username: reviewer_pxd056365@ebi.ac.uk; Password: w9uEckCrRqPJ.

Cell-free degradation assays

Tissue from Arabidopsis (4- to 5-week-old healthy mid-layer leaves from plants grown on
soil) and Marchantia (3- to 4-week-old plants grown on ½ B5 medium) plants was
collected and ground to a fine powder in liquid N_2. Total protein was extracted in a buffer
containing 50 mM Tris-MES (pH 8.0), 0.5 M sucrose, 10 mM EDTA (pH 7.5 or 8.0), 5 mM
DTT, and 1 mM $MgCl_2$ at a ratio of approximately 1 mL buffer per ~1 mL ground tissue.
The mixture was incubated at 4°C with shaking for 1-1.5 hours, followed by centrifugation
at 14,000 × *g* for 30 minutes at 4°C. The supernatant was filtered through miracloth to
remove any remaining plant matter. Protein concentration was determined using a
Bradford assay (Thermo Fisher), and the extract was normalized to 1.0 mg/mL. For the
degradation assay, 1.0 mg/mL of freshly extracted protein was mixed with 1 μL of 1.5
mg/mL recombinant BIK1 proteins and 10 mM ATP in a 400 μL reaction incubated at

30°C. If MG132 proteasome inhibitor was used, a 50 μL sample was taken at 0 hour,

mixed with 0.5 μL of 10 mM MG132, and the reaction was stopped at 6 hours. A 50-µL

sample was taken every 2 hours, and the reaction was stopped by adding 5× LSB at 80°C

for 10 minutes. The samples were subjected to SDS-PAGE followed by immunoblotting.

Immunoblots

Proteins were separated by 6-10% SDS-PAGE, transferred onto polyvinylidene difluoride

membranes (Bio-Rad), and blocked with 5% nonfat milk or bovine serum albumin (BSA)

in Tris-buffered saline containing 0.05–0.1% Tween-20. All antibodies used are listed in

the **Key Resources Table**. Membranes were incubated with ECL Clarity Substrate (Bio-

Rad), visualized on a ChemiDoc Touch Imaging System (Bio-Rad) and subsequently

stained with Coomassie Brilliant Blue (CBB) R-250 (MP Biomedicals) as a loading control.

Confocal microscopy

Images were taken using a Zeiss LSM710 confocal microscope in the Biology Department

at Queen's University and processed using Zeiss Zen Software. Roots of Arabidopsis

seedlings were stained with 2 µM FM464 (Calbiochem) prior to mounting in water on a

glass slide. *N. benthamiana* leaf samples were collected with a 4-mm biopsy punch and

mounted abaxial-side-up on a glass slide in a drop of water. For localization of MpPBLa-

GFP, we co-expressed BRI1-mRFP (Saile et al., 2021). Fluorescent proteins were excited

with a 488 nm Argon laser and imaged using separate channels to detect emission of

GFP (510-540 nm) or RFP (635-680 nm).

Quantification and Statistical Analyses

Data were graphed using GraphPad Prism v10. Parameters for all statistical tests are

described in the figure legends.

Accession numbers

Mp4g01600/Mapoly0098s0040//MpCPK28;

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Mp3g01700/Mapoly0007s0162/MpPUB20a;

Mp3g22750/Mapoly0024s0052/MpPUB20b;

Mp3g22740/Mapoly0024s0051/MpPUB20c;

Mp3g11730/Mapoly0037s0024/MpPUB20d;

Mp7g11020/Mapoly0003s0116/MpPUB20e;

Mp2g06090/Mapoly0021s0064/MpPUB20f;

Mp7g11000/Mapoly0003s0114/MpPUB20g.

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Supplemental Information

Supplemental Table

Provided as a separate spreadsheet.

● **Table S1.** Germplasm, clones, and primers generated in this study.

Supplemental Figures

Provided as a separate PDF.

● **Figure S1.** Phylogenetic tree of CDPKs from various plant lineages.

● **Figure S2.** Phylogenetic tree of subgroup IV CDPKs across the plant lineage.

● **Figure S3.** Genomic and gene expression data for *MpCPK28* and characterization
850   of the *Tak-1/35S:MpCPK28-OE2* transgenic line.

852   ● **Figure S4.** MpPBLa-GFP localizes to the plasma membrane when heterologously
853   expressed in *N. benthamiana*.

855   ● **Figure S5.** Western blot indicating MpCPK28-GFP expression in Arabidopsis
856   transgenic lines.

858   ● **Figure S6.** Identification of MpPUB20 genes in *Marchantia polymorpha*.

860   ● **Figure S7.** Cell-free degradation assays of MpPBLa and AtBIK1 in Col-0 protein
861   extract.

863   ● **Figure S8.** MpPUB20e is capable of auto-ubiquitination in vitro when paired with
864   E2s AtUBC8 or AtUBC30.

866   **Supplemental References**