

1 **The Ca<sup>2+</sup> sensor protein CMI1 fine tunes root development, auxin distribution**  
2 **and responses**

3

4 **Short title:** A Ca<sup>2+</sup> sensor that integrates auxin and Ca<sup>2+</sup> developmental responses

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22

23 **Abstract**

24 Signaling cross-talks between auxin, a regulator of plant development and Ca<sup>2+</sup>, a universal  
25 second messenger have been proposed to modulate developmental plasticity in plants.  
26 However, the underlying molecular mechanisms are largely unknown. Here we report that in  
27 *Arabidopsis* roots, auxin elicits specific Ca<sup>2+</sup> signaling pattern that spatially coincide with the  
28 expression pattern of auxin-regulated genes. We identified the EF-hand protein CMI1 (Ca<sup>2+</sup>  
29 sensor Modulator of ICR1) as an interactor of the ROP effector ICR1 (Interactor of  
30 Constitutively active ROP). CMI1 is monomeric in solution, changes its secondary structure at  
31 Ca<sup>2+</sup> concentrations ranging from 10<sup>-9</sup> to 10<sup>-8</sup> M and its interaction with ICR1 is Ca<sup>2+</sup> dependent,  
32 involving a conserved hydrophobic pocket. *cmi1* mutants display an increased auxin response  
33 including shorter primary roots, longer root hairs, longer hypocotyls and altered lateral root  
34 formation while ectopic expression of CMI1 induces root growth arrest and reduced auxin  
35 responses at the root tip. When expressed alone, CMI1 is localized at the plasma membrane,  
36 the cytoplasm and in nuclei. Interaction of CMI1 and ICR1 results in exclusion of CMI1 from  
37 nuclei and suppression of the root growth arrest. CMI1 expression is directly upregulated by  
38 auxin while expression of auxin induced genes is enhanced in *cmi1* concomitantly with  
39 repression of auxin induced Ca<sup>2+</sup> increases in the lateral root cap and vasculature, indicating  
40 that CMI1 represses early auxin responses. Collectively, our findings identify a crucial function  
41 of Ca<sup>2+</sup> signaling and CMI1 in root growth and suggest an auxin-Ca<sup>2+</sup> regulatory feedback loop  
42 that fine tunes root development.

43

44

45 Key words: auxin, Ca<sup>2+</sup>, *Arabidopsis*, root, meristem, microtubules

46

## 47 Introduction

48 The plant hormone auxin functions as a morphogen by forming local maxima and gradients  
49 and regulates diverse developmental and physiological processes (1). Auxin operates as a  
50 "molecular glue" mediating the binding of the Aux/IAA transcriptional repressors to the Skp  
51 Cullin F-box Transport Inhibitor Response 1 (SCF<sup>TIR1/AFB</sup>) E3 ubiquitin ligase complex, resulting  
52 in polyubiquitination and proteasomal degradation of the Aux/IAs, leading to activation of  
53 the ARF (Auxin Response Factor) transcriptional regulators (1-4). In addition, auxin induces  
54 rapid transcription-independent responses such as membrane depolarization and Ca<sup>2+</sup> influx  
55 by mechanisms that depend on auxin perception by TIR1/AFB (5-9). Signaling cross-talks  
56 between auxin and Ca<sup>2+</sup> have been proposed to modulate developmental plasticity in plants  
57 (5, 10-12). Ca<sup>2+</sup> is a universal second messenger that transduces exogenous and endogenous  
58 signals to trigger cellular and developmental responses (13, 14). Considering its diverse  
59 effects, Ca<sup>2+</sup> has been named "the missing link in auxin action" (15). AUX1-dependent auxin  
60 influx in root and root hairs induces CNGC14- and TIR1/AFB-dependent Ca<sup>2+</sup> signaling within  
61 seconds that in turn affects downstream auxin signaling (5-7). Cyclic Nucleotide Gated  
62 Channel 14 (CNGC14) function is required in response to gravity stimulus (6), indicating that  
63 function involves Ca<sup>2+</sup> signaling.

64 Auxin transport depends on AUX1/LAX auxin influx transporters (16), PINFORMED (PIN)  
65 proteins, ABCB auxin efflux transporters (17, 18) and under low nitrogen conditions by NRT1.1  
66 NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> influx transporter (19, 20). The AGCVIII kinase PINOID (PID), which regulates PIN1, PIN2  
67 and PIN3 distribution (21, 22) and PIN mediated auxin transport (23), interacts with two EF-  
68 hand Ca<sup>2+</sup> binding proteins, TOUCH3 (TCH3) and PID Binding Protein 1 (PBP1) (24). Moreover,  
69 PID overexpression-induced root meristem collapse was reduced by treatments with LaCl<sub>3</sub>, a  
70 Ca<sup>2+</sup> channel inhibitor suggesting the requirement of Ca<sup>2+</sup> for PID function and consequently

71 PIN regulation (24). However, it is not known yet how the Ca<sup>2+</sup> binding proteins TCH3 and  
72 PBP1 affect PID function.

73 The role of Ca<sup>2+</sup> signaling and Ca<sup>2+</sup> binding protein(s) that transduce auxin-related Ca<sup>2+</sup>  
74 signals is only partially understood. Therefore, the mechanistic basis for the interplay of auxin  
75 and Ca<sup>2+</sup> signaling is not well known. In this work we describe the identification of an auxin  
76 regulated Ca<sup>2+</sup> binding protein that crucially regulates auxin responses and affects auxin-  
77 induced changes in cytoplasmic Ca<sup>2+</sup> levels.

78

79

## 80 **Results**

### 81 **Auxin induces specific Ca<sup>2+</sup> signal pattern in the root**

82 To study potential changes in cytoplasmic Ca<sup>2+</sup> concentration in the root following auxin  
83 treatment, we used *Arabidopsis* seedlings expressing the FRET-based Ca<sup>2+</sup> indicator Yellow  
84 Cameleon 3.6 (YC3.6) (25). Time-lapse imaging was performed in 5-7d old *Arabidopsis* roots  
85 by exchanging control buffer to buffer containing 10 μM naphthaleneacetic acid (NAA) using  
86 epifluorescent (Fig 1A) or confocal microscopes (Fig 1B and C). In control conditions, elevated  
87 Ca<sup>2+</sup> concentrations were primarily observed in the QC, the proximal layer of the columella,  
88 the lateral root cap (LRC) and vascular tissues (Fig 1A (mock) and 1B (before treatment,  
89 overview). A typical auxin-induced Ca<sup>2+</sup> signal was observed after one minute of auxin (10 μM  
90 NAA) application. The most pronounced Ca<sup>2+</sup> elevations were observed in the root cap, lateral  
91 root cap and vasculature (Fig 1A-C, NAA). The pattern of the generated Ca<sup>2+</sup> signal was  
92 corresponding to auxin response and distribution (26-28). The similarity between auxin  
93 induced Ca<sup>2+</sup> concentration increases (Fig 1A) and the oscillatory expression pattern of

94 TIR1/AFB auxin receptors regulated genes (26) is suggestive for mutual interdependency  
95 between auxin and Ca<sup>2+</sup> in the root.

96

97 **Fig 1. The auxin regulated Ca<sup>2+</sup>-binding protein CMI1 interacts with ICR1 in a Ca<sup>2+</sup>**  
98 **dependent fashion.**

99 (A) Epifluorescent images of root expressing the Yellow Cameleon (YC3.6) free  
100 Ca<sup>2+</sup> sensor prior to auxin treatment (mock) and 100 seconds after treatment with  
101 10 μM NAA (NAA). (B) Confocal images of root expressing the Yellow Cameleon  
102 (YC3.6) free Ca<sup>2+</sup> sensor prior to auxin treatment (before treatment) and 100  
103 seconds after treatment with 10 μM NAA (NAA) (C) The same root shown in B  
104 imaged after additional 60 second (NAA + 1 min). (D) CMI1 interacts with ICR1 but  
105 not with ICR2 or ICR4 in yeast two-hybrid assays. (E) Protein immuno blot  
106 decorated with anti polyHis-tag monoclonal antibodies showing that co-  
107 immunoprecipitation of His-CMI1 and His-ICR1 is Ca<sup>2+</sup> dependent. (F) ICR1  
108 interacts with CMI1 but not with the *cmi1D85N* Ca<sup>2+</sup> non-binding mutant in yeast  
109 two-hybrid assays. -LT: Leu, Trp deficient medium; -LTH: Leu, Trp, His deficient  
110 medium. Scale bars, 20 μm.

111

112 Previously, we identified a family of coiled coil domain ROP (Rho Of Plants) effectors that  
113 we named ICRs (Interactor of Constitutively active ROP) (29). ICR1 regulates cell polarity, is  
114 degraded in an auxin dependent fashion in the root meristem and affects root growth (29-31).  
115 In a screen for ICR1 interacting proteins we identified a single EF-hand Ca<sup>2+</sup> binding protein  
116 that we designated as CMI1 (Ca<sup>2+</sup> sensor Modulator of ICR1) (*At4g27280*). CMI1 is a small 14  
117 kDa protein containing a single EF-hand (S1A Fig). In *Arabidopsis* CMI1 is a member of a small

118 protein family consisting of 3 members and was formerly called KRP1 (KIC Related Protein 1)  
119 (32). Because the name KRP has originally been used for the cell cycle regulators KIP Related  
120 Proteins (33), which are unrelated to KRP1, we decided to adhere to the CMI1 nomenclature  
121 in this work.

122

### 123 **Ca<sup>2+</sup> promotes the interaction between CMI1 and ICR1**

124 CMI1 interacted specifically with ICR1 but not with ICR2 (*At2g37080*) or ICR4 (*At1g78430*), the  
125 closest homologues of ICR1 (Fig 1D). To further characterize the interaction between CMI1  
126 and ICR1 and to examine whether it is Ca<sup>2+</sup>-dependent, we performed *in vitro* pull-down  
127 experiments. His-ICR1 was immunoprecipitated together with His-CMI1 using anti CMI1  
128 antibodies in the presence of Ca<sup>2+</sup> (Fig 1E). In contrast, pull down of His-CMI1 by GST-ICR1 did  
129 not take place when the Ca<sup>2+</sup> was chelated with EGTA. The interaction of ICR1 and CMI1 in the  
130 pull-down assays was specific since His-CMI1 was not precipitated by non-fused GST or  
131 glutathione beads (S1B and C Fig). To further corroborate that the interaction between ICR1  
132 and CMI1 is Ca<sup>2+</sup> dependent, we created a CMI1 D85N mutant in which a conserved EF-hand  
133 Asp required for Ca<sup>2+</sup> binding (34) was mutated to Asn (S1A Fig). Yeast two-hybrid assays  
134 showed that CMI1 interacts with ICR1 but not with the CMI1D85N protein (Fig 1F). Taken  
135 together, these results establish that the interaction between ICR1 and CMI1 is Ca<sup>2+</sup>  
136 dependent both in yeast and *in vitro*.

137

138

### 139 **CMI1 functions as a monomeric Ca<sup>2+</sup> sensor**

140 Circular dichroism spectroscopy (CD-spec) was used to examine changes in CMI1 secondary  
141 structure at different free Ca<sup>2+</sup> concentrations. The analysis was carried out in solutions with

142 the following free Ca<sup>2+</sup> concentrations: 10<sup>-10</sup> M Ca<sup>2+</sup> (1 mM EDTA), 2 nM, 20 nM, 0.2 μM, 2 μM,  
143 200 μM and 2 mM Ca<sup>2+</sup>. Due technical limitations, the measurements at free Ca<sup>2+</sup>  
144 concentrations of 2 nM and 20 nM and 0.2 μM, 2 μM, 200 μM and 2 mM were carried out on  
145 different days. Control measurements in 1 mM EDTA solutions were carried out on both days  
146 (Fig 2A and B). The CMI1 CD spectra at free Ca<sup>2+</sup> concentrations ranging between 0.2 μM to 2  
147 mM were similar but were all significantly different from the 1 mM EDTA Ca<sup>2+</sup>-free solution  
148 (Fig 2A). The CD spectra of CMI1 in 20 nM free Ca<sup>2+</sup> concentrations were also significantly  
149 different from the Ca<sup>2+</sup> free 1 mM EDTA solution and also different spectra were observed at  
150 2 nM free Ca<sup>2+</sup> (Fig 2B). The percentage of α-helix that were calculated based on the CD  
151 spectra were around 40% for free Ca<sup>2+</sup> concentrations ranging between 0.2 μM to 2 mM and  
152 below 30% for CMI1 in the Ca<sup>2+</sup>-free 1 mM EDTA solution (Fig 2C). While the percentage of α-  
153 helix (Fig 2D) were lower compared to the measurements presented in panel (2C), the  
154 differences in α-helix content between the 20 nM free Ca<sup>2+</sup> and 1 mM EDTA were around 10%,  
155 similar to the differences between the 0.2 μM-2 mM Ca<sup>2+</sup> and the Ca<sup>2+</sup>-free 1 mM EDTA  
156 solutions (Compare Fig 2C and D). The CD spec analysis suggested that CMI1 can bind Ca<sup>2+</sup> at  
157 free Ca<sup>2+</sup> concentrations ranging between 10<sup>-9</sup>-10<sup>-8</sup> M, which in turn induce secondary  
158 structure changes that result in an increase in α-helicity. Using the R-GECO Ca<sup>2+</sup> sensor, it has  
159 recently been reported that the resting cytoplasmic Ca<sup>2+</sup> concentrations [Ca<sup>2+</sup>]<sub>cys</sub> along the  
160 root range between 50-90 nM (35). Moreover, as indicated in figure 1, different cells types in  
161 the root appear to display specific and distinct resting Ca<sup>2+</sup> concentrations. Thus, it appears  
162 well conceivable that CMI1 serves as a highly sensitive sensor already responding to minor  
163 fluctuations in Ca<sup>2+</sup> concentrations and that CMI1 exerts its function in Ca<sup>2+</sup> associated status.  
164

165 **Fig 2. CMI1 changes secondary structure in free Ca<sup>2+</sup> concentration ranging**  
166 **between 10<sup>-9</sup> - 10<sup>-8</sup> M and is a monomer in solution.**

167 (A and B) CD-spectra of 60 μM CMI1 at indicated free Ca<sup>2+</sup> concentrations. Each  
168 curve is labeled as per legends. Measurements presented in panel A and B were  
169 carried out on different days. (C and D) Percent of α-helix of CMI1 at different free  
170 Ca<sup>2+</sup> concentrations calculated from the CD spectra in A and B, respectively. (E) A  
171 SEC-MALS elution profile of 4 μg CMI1 in 2 mM Ca<sup>2+</sup> solution. CMI1 eluted as a  
172 single peak with a molecular mass (red line) corresponding to a monomeric form.

173

174 Many Ca<sup>2+</sup> binding proteins require at least two EF hands for their function or function as  
175 dimers if they contain an non-even number of EF hands. We therefore hypothesized that  
176 CMI1, bearing only a single Ca<sup>2+</sup>-binding EF-hand, might oligomerize in solution. Therefore,  
177 the quaternary structure of CMI1 was examined by Size Exclusion Chromatography Multi  
178 Angle Light Scattering (SEC-MALS). To eliminate potential effects of the poly-His-tag on  
179 solution structure, we performed the analysis on recombinant bacterially expressed and  
180 purified recombinant CMI1 from which the poly-His-tag was cleaved. At both concentrations  
181 of 2 and 4 mg/ml, CMI1 eluted as a monodisperse species at around 11.5 min with a measured  
182 molecular mass of 16 kDa, corresponding to the monomeric form of the protein (Fig 2E and  
183 S2 Fig). Hence, we conclude that CMI1 is strictly monomeric in vitro at least to concentrations  
184 of 25 μM in high Ca<sup>2+</sup> conditions. This finding however does not exclude that CMI1 upon  
185 interaction with additional proteins may form oligomeric assemblies.

186 Possible homo- and hetero-dimerization of CMI1 was also examined by yeast two-hybrid  
187 assays. The analysis was carried out with Clontech® LexA yeast two hybrid yeast strain *EGY48*,  
188 since CMI1 activates gene expression in Gal4-based yeast-2-hybrid strains when expressed



189 fused to Gal4 DNA binding domain (Gal4-DB). Following 24 hours incubation, very faint blue  
190 color appeared in X-Gal assays of CMI1-LexA-BD/CMI1-Lex-AD (activation domain) compared  
191 to strong blue color in the CMI1-ICR1 and no color in the vector-control assays. Following 48  
192 hours incubation, the X-Gal assays of the CMI1-BD/CMI-AD assays had light blue color  
193 compared strong blue of the CMI1-ICR1 and no color in the negative vector control assays (S3  
194 Fig). Together, the yeast two-hybrid assays suggest that CMI1 could form dimers in yeast in  
195 the absence of ICR1 but also that the high affinity to ICR1 would interfere with this homo-  
196 dimerization. Therefore, the differences in the strength of the interaction in yeast and the  
197 SEC-MALS results strongly suggest that CMI1 very likely interacts with ICR1 as a monomer.

198

199 **Interaction of CMI1 with ICR1 involves a conserved hydrophobic pocket in CMI1 and a**  
200 **Calmodulin (CaM) Binding-like Domain (CBLD) in ICR1**

201 Having established that CMI1 could function as a Ca<sup>2+</sup> sensor we sought to obtain more  
202 insights into the molecular details of its structure and function. The 3D structure of CMI1 was  
203 predicted using homology modeling based on the structure of KIC, which belongs to the same  
204 subfamily single EF-hand Ca<sup>2+</sup> binding proteins (32, 36). The predicted structure of CMI1  
205 suggests the formation of two helix-loop-helix domains, one which binds Ca<sup>2+</sup> and one which  
206 does not. This structural feature likely enables CMI1 to function as a monomer with regard to  
207 Ca<sup>2+</sup> binding (Fig 3A and B). The CMI1 structure with Ca<sup>2+</sup> bound is predicted to form a  
208 hydrophobic pocket (Fig 3A, residues highlighted in yellow). Modeling of CMI1 in complex with  
209 the Calmodulin (CaM) Binding Domain (CBD) of the KIC interactor Kinesin-like Calmodulin  
210 Binding Protein (KCBP) (32, 36) revealed that three Leu residue in the putative hydrophobic  
211 pocket of CMI1 namely L59, L92 and L100 can potentially serve as interacting side chains with

212 a Trp residue in a domain that would be structurally related to a CBD which we therefore  
213 designated as Calmodulin (CaM) Binding-like Domain (CBLD) (Fig 3B).

214

215 **Fig 3. Interaction between CMI1 and ICR1 requires a hydrophobic pocket in CMI1**  
216 **and a C-terminal W338 residue in ICR1.**

217 (A and B) A homology model of CMI1 with the Calmodulin Binding Domain (CBD)  
218 of KCBP shown in magenta. (A) A surface representation of CMI1 with residues of  
219 the hydrophobic pocket highlighted in yellow. (B) A closeup displaying CMI1 Leu  
220 residues L59, 92 and 100 (green) interacting with a Trp residue in KCBP CBD  
221 (magenta). (C-E) Yeast 2-hybrid assays. (C) ICR1 did not interact with CMI1  
222 hydrophobic pocket L59, L92 and L100 mutants. (D) ICR1 44 C-terminal residues  
223 are required and sufficient for interaction with CMI1 but interactions are detected  
224 also at 1:10<sup>4</sup> dilution with icr1-151-344 C-terminal or longer fragments. (E) ICR1  
225 Trp residue W338 but not W266 is required for the interaction between CMI1 and  
226 ICR1. -LT: Leu, Trp deficient medium; -LTH: Leu, Trp, His deficient medium. (C-E)  
227 Numbers above panels denote dilutions of the yeast cells.

228

229 To test the hypothesis that L59, L92 and L100 form a hydrophobic pocket, we exchanged L  
230 to A in each of the respective Leu residues and tested the interaction of this modified CMI1  
231 versions with ICR1 in yeast. As expected, neither *cmi1* mutants L59A, L92A nor L100A  
232 interacted with ICR1 in yeast two hybrid assays (Fig 3C), strongly suggesting that the three Leu  
233 residues are part of a hydrophobic pocket required for protein-protein interaction.

234 There are two Trp residues in the C-terminal end of ICR1 at positions 266 and 338 that  
235 could be part of a potential CBLD. To map a potential CMI1-interaction domain in ICR1, we

236 generated a series of N and C-terminal deletion mutants of ICR1 and examined their  
237 interaction with CMI1 in yeast two hybrid assays. These analyses revealed that the 44 C-  
238 terminal residues of ICR1 (icr1-301-344) are necessary and sufficient for interaction with CMI1  
239 (Fig 3D). Slightly stronger yeast growth that resembled the full-length ICR1 was observed  
240 between an ICR1 C-terminal fragment encompassing residues 151 to 344 (icr1-151-344) and  
241 CMI1 (Fig 3D). Hence, the C-terminal 44 residue domain of ICR1 can function as a CBD but  
242 possibly other residues also contribute to the interaction.

243 Next, we examined the interaction between CMI1 and ICR1 harboring the single amino acid  
244 substitutions W266A and W338A. In yeast two hybrid assays, ICR1W266A still interacted with  
245 CMI1 while ICR1W338A did not (Fig 3E). Similar results were obtained when W266 and 338  
246 were mutation to Gln (Q) (S4 Fig). Together, these results suggest that W338 is the primary  
247 Trp residue in ICR1 CBLD that is most crucial for interaction with residues in the hydrophobic  
248 pocket of CMI1.

249 Next, we examined the localization of CMI1, ICR1 and the potential influence of interaction  
250 with ICR1 on CMI1 localization in plants. When expressed in plants, ICR1-mCherry localized to  
251 microtubules (MTs) as indicated by its colocalization with the MTs marker TUA6-GFP (S5A-C  
252 Fig). When expressed by itself in *Arabidopsis* under control of its own promoter CMI1 was  
253 observed at the plasma membrane, throughout the cytoplasm and in nuclei (S6 Fig). Imaging  
254 of leaf epidermis pavement cells showed the mRFP-CMI1 is indeed localized to the plasma  
255 membrane as well as to nuclei and cytoplasm (S6A Fig). Furthermore, protein immunoblot  
256 with anti-CMI1 antibodies indicated that CMI1 is localized in soluble and insoluble fractions in  
257 different tissues (S6B and C Fig). However, when ICR1 and CMI1 were transiently coexpressed  
258 in *N. benthamiana* leaf epidermis cells, ICR1-mCherry and GFP-CMI1 were localized to MTs  
259 (Fig 4A-C). The colocalization of both mCherry-ICR1 and GFP-CMI1 was sensitive to the anti-

260 MT drug oryzalin, confirming that they were both localized to MTs (S5D-F Fig). In contrast to  
261 GFP-CMI1, neither GFP-CMI1D85N (mutated in the Ca<sup>2+</sup> binding EF hand) nor GFP-CMI1L59A  
262 (mutated in the hydrophobic pocket) were recruited to MTs (Fig 4D-F and G-I). Likewise, when  
263 GFP-CMI1 was coexpressed with ICR1W338A-mCherry it was not recruited to MTs while  
264 ICR1W338A-mCherry was observed on MTs (Fig 4J-L). Taken together, the coexpression assays  
265 in plants reinforced the combined conclusions derived from the results of the structural  
266 modeling and interaction assays, demonstrating that also in plant cells the interaction  
267 between ICR1 and CMI1 is Ca<sup>2+</sup>-dependent, involves a hydrophobic pocket in CMI1 and a C-  
268 terminal CBLD involving W338 in ICR1. These results also provide the opportunity that CMI1  
269 modulates the function of ICR1 and/or fulfills alternative functions in its ICR-bound and ICR-  
270 non-bound form.

271

272 **Fig 4. Recruitment of CMI1 by ICR1 to MTs depends on Ca<sup>2+</sup> binding and intact**  
273 **hydrophobic pocket of CMI1 and ICR1 W338.**

274 (A-I) CMI1 but not Ca<sup>2+</sup> non-binding cmi1D85N and hydrophobic pocket cmi1L59A  
275 mutants is recruited to MTs by ICR1. (J-L) icr1W338A is associated with MTs but  
276 does not recruit CMI1. Each panel is as per legends. O/L-overlay of mCherry and  
277 GFP signals. Bar, 20 μm for all panels.

278

279 **Expression of CMI1 is regulated by auxin through TIR1/AFB auxin receptors**

280 To gain first indications for the function of CMI1 in plants, we examined the expression  
281 pattern and regulation of CMI1 expression and their correlation with cytoplasmic Ca<sup>2+</sup> levels.  
282 High CMI1-GUS and mRFP-CMI1 levels were detected in the root meristem and lateral root  
283 primordia of *pCMI1::CMI1-GUS* and *pCMI1>>mRFP-CMI1* plants (Fig. 5A and B and S7A Fig),

284 resembling the expression pattern of *DR5* promoter driven auxin reporters (37). Regions of  
285 increased expression of CMI1-GUS in the root elongation and maturation differentiation zones  
286 of *pCMI1::CMI1-GUS* plants were observed following treatments with 10  $\mu$ M IAA (Fig. 5C and  
287 D), resembling the pattern of TIR/AFB auxin induced genes (26). A qPCR analysis confirmed  
288 induction of CMI1 mRNA following auxin treatments (S7B Fig). In agreement, microarray  
289 experiments revealed that induction of *CMI1* expression by auxin was reduced in the *axr1*  
290 (auxin resistant 1) auxin signaling mutant (38), indicating that auxin induces *CMI1* expression  
291 by a TIR1/AFB dependent mechanism (Fig 5E). Furthermore, our analysis of additional publicly  
292 available microarray data revealed that *CMI1* was induced by exogenous auxin treatments and  
293 suppressed in the *axr2-1/iaa7* auxin insensitive mutant (39). Taken together, these results  
294 indicate that the expression of *CMI1* is enhanced in cells and tissue with increased auxin  
295 concentration and also regulated by auxin via the TIR1/AFB auxin receptor system.

296

297 **Fig 5. Expression of CMI1 is induced by auxin via TIR1/AFB receptors.**

298 Expression of CMI1-GUS in lateral root initial (A) and primary root meristem and  
299 (B). (C and D) Expression level and pattern of *pCMI1* driven CMI1-GUS in *cmi1*  
300 mutant background without (C) and 2 hours following treatment with 10  $\mu$ M IAA  
301 (D). (E) Microarray expression data showing the induction of *CMI1* by auxin is  
302 reduced in *axr1* auxin response mutant background. Scale bars, 20  $\mu$ m.

303

304 ***CMI1* mediates auxin responses and fine tunes root growth**

305 Next, we further examined the function of CMI1 and its interconnection with auxin  
306 signaling in plants by analyzing the phenotype of a *CMI1* loss of function mutant. The *cmi1*  
307 mutant (Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory (CSHL) line GT\_24505) carries a transposon insertion

308 at nucleotide 37 in the *CM11* coding region (Fig 6A, B). Compared to a wild type control, the  
309 *cmi1* plants have shorter primary roots (Fig 6C, D) as a result of a smaller root meristem size,  
310 defined as the length of the region between the QC and the initiation of the elongation zone  
311 (Fig 6E, F). Importantly, the shorter primary root phenotype was complemented by  
312 *pCM11::CM11-GUS* (S8A Fig), confirming that the mutant phenotype resulted from the loss of  
313 *CM11* function and that the observed expression pattern of *pCM11::CM11-GUS* reflects the  
314 expression pattern of the endogenous *CM11* gene.

315

316 **Fig 6. *cmi1* mutant plants have higher ICR1 levels in the QC and auxin-related**  
317 **phenotypes.**

318 (A) The *CM11* RNA cannot be amplified in *cmi1* indicating that the mutant is a null.

319 (B) A diagram of the *CM11* gene highlighting the T-DNA insertion at position 37. (C)

320 7-days old *cmi1* seedlings have shorter primary roots. (D) Quantification of the

321 root length in *WT* (*Ler*) and *cmi1* plants. Error bars are SE,  $p \leq 0.001$  (T-test). (E) Root

322 cell division zones of *WT* (*Ler*) and *cmi1* 7-days old seedlings. The long bars

323 highlight the measured root zone length. The short bars show the cell length used

324 to determine the end of the cell division zone. (F) Quantification of the root cell

325 division zone length calculated with root samples as shown in panel E. Error bars

326 are SE,  $p = 6.42 \times 10^{-7}$  ( $p \leq 0.001$ ), T-test. (G and H) *DR5<sub>rev</sub>::GFP* auxin response

327 maximum is reduced in *cmi1* QC. (G) Cell walls were stained with PI. The middle

328 panels show heat diagram of the roots shown in the left panels. Right panels show

329 higher magnifications used for quantifications. The numbers correspond to cell

330 layers. Arrowheads highlight the signal reduction in *cmi1* compared to *WT*. (H)

331 Quantification of *DR5<sub>rev</sub>::GFP* fluorescence intensity in cell layers 1-6 as defined in

332 panel G. Layer 1 is the QC. Error bars are SE,  $p=0.006$  ( $p\leq 0.01$ ), T-test. (I) GFP-ICR1  
333 expression is up-regulated in the QC (arrowhead) in *cmi1* roots. (J) Percentage of  
334 WT and *cmi1* roots with GFP-ICR1 expression in 1 or 2 QC cells. (K) Root hair length  
335 in *Ler* (WT), *cmi1* and *cmi1* complemented with CMI1-GUS (*cmi1CMI1GUS*) in  
336 control (mock) or following treatments with 50 nM NAA. The root hairs in *cmi1*  
337 mutants are significantly longer than in the wild type and CMI1-GUS  
338 complemented roots. Bars are SE,  $p\leq 0.001$  (T-test). (L) Hypocotyl length is  
339 increased in *cmi1* mutants and in response to 5  $\mu$ M IAA treatments. hypocotyls of  
340 *cmi1* mutants are significantly longer than the wild type and CMI1-GUS  
341 complemented seedlings. Bars are SE, ( $p\leq 0.001$ , T-test). (M) A stage 3 LRI  
342 developing opposite to an emerging LRI in a *cmi1* root. Scale bars, 50  $\mu$ m in E and  
343 20  $\mu$ m in G, I.

344

345 Next, we determined whether the loss of *CMI1* function affects auxin distribution using the  
346 *DR5<sub>rev</sub>::GFP* auxin response marker (40, 41). In *cmi1* mutant roots, the auxin response  
347 maximum in the QC was reduced, compared to a wild type control (Fig 6G). Quantification of  
348 the GFP fluorescence levels revealed a significant reduction ( $p\leq 0.006$ , T-test) in fluorescence  
349 level in the QC cells (Fig 6H). Ectopic expression of GFP-ICR1 was detected in the QC cells of  
350 the *cmi1* mutant, but not in wild type, roots (Fig 6I, J), in line with the reduced auxin response  
351 in the QC (30, 31). Hence, CMI1 affects ICR1 levels, indirectly by regulating the auxin response.

352 The regulation of *CMI1* expression by auxin prompted us to examine the possible  
353 involvement of CMI1 in further well characterized auxin responses. The initiation and  
354 elongation of root hairs are regulated by TIR1/AFB-Aux/IAA-dependent auxin signaling (42-  
355 44). We found that root hairs were longer in the *cmi1* mutant, compared to wild type and

356 *cmi1/pCMI1::CMI1GUS* plants, and elongated in response to exogenous auxin treatments (Fig  
357 6K and S8C Fig). TIR1/AFB-AUX/IAA dependent auxin signaling also affects hypocotyl length  
358 (45, 46). Hypocotyls of the *cmi1* mutant were significantly longer ( $p \leq 0.001$ , T-test), compared  
359 to wild type and *cmi1/pCMI1::CMI1GUS* plants. As expected, external IAA treatments induced  
360 hypocotyl elongation in wild type, *cmi1* mutant and *cmi1/pCMI1::CMI1 GUS* plants (Fig 6L and  
361 S8B Fig). Lateral root formation is regulated by both auxin response and distribution (40, 47-  
362 50). *cmi1* plants exhibited abnormal lateral root patterning (Fig 6M and S9 Fig) with an average  
363 of 7 LRs/cm in *cmi1* compared to 4 LR/cm in control *Ler* seedlings. Together, the changes in  
364 DR5::GFP<sub>rev</sub> and GFP-ICR1 expression pattern and the macroscopic phenotype of *cmi1* mutant  
365 plants suggest that CMI1 regulates both the spatial distribution and the level of auxin  
366 responses.

367 Corresponding to the increased auxin response of *cmi1* mutants, the DR5::GUS staining  
368 was stronger in *cmi1* primary root and lateral root initials compared to wild type control (Fig  
369 7A-J). To further examine the function of CMI1, we ectopically expressed mRFP-CMI1 under  
370 regulation of the ICR1 promoter (*pICR1>>mRFPCMI1*), using a transcription transactivation  
371 system (51). The roots of *pICR1>>mRFPCMI1* plants were short, had reduced columella layers  
372 and reduced auxin response maxima (Fig 8A-F). Hence, ectopic expression of CMI1 was  
373 associated with repression of auxin responses and root growth.

374

375 **Fig 7. CMI1 loss of function results in enhanced auxin induced DR5::GUS**  
376 **expression.**

377 (A) Expression level of DR5::GUS auxin response marker in roots of *L. erecta* (WT)  
378 and *cmi1* (B). (C-J) Expression levels of DR5::GUS in LRI of *Ler* (WT) (C-F) and *cmi1*  
379 (G-J).



380

381 **Fig 8. Ectopic expression of CMI1 suppresses root development and auxin**  
382 **response.**

383 (A) Control *Col-0* (WT) seedling. (B) Root growth is arrested in *pICR1>>mRFP-CMI1*  
384 seedlings. (C and D) Reduced iodine (IKI) columella staining in a *pICR1>>mRFP-*  
385 *CMI1* root. (E and F) Reduced auxin response in a *pICR1>>mRFP-CMI1 DR5::GUS*  
386 root. (G) A control *pCMI2>>LhG4* plant. (H) Root development is inhibited in a  
387 *pCMI2>>GFP-ICR1* plant (left) and restored by coexpression of GFP-ICR1 and  
388 mRFP-CMI1 in *pCMI2>>GFP-ICR1/mRFP-CMI1* plants (right). (I) mRFP-CMI1 is  
389 expressed in the lateral root meristem QC and initial cells and 1133 accumulates  
390 in the cytoplasm and nuclei in *pCMI1>>mRFP-CMI1* plants. (J-L) GFP-ICR1 and  
391 mRFP-CMI1 are colocalized in the cytoplasm in a *pCMI2>>GFP-ICR1/mRFP-CMI1*  
392 lateral root initial. Note the absence of mRFP-CMI1 from nuclei. Scale bars 0.5 mm  
393 (A, B, G and H), 50  $\mu\text{m}$  (C-F) and 50  $\mu\text{m}$  (I-L).

394

395 Previously, we demonstrated that inducing elevated levels of ICR1 in the QC by its  
396 expression under regulation of the CMI2 promoter, utilizing the *pOp/LhG4*  
397 transcription/transactivation system (*pCMI2>>GFP-ICR1*), resulted in inhibition of root growth  
398 (31) and (Fig 8G and H). Remarkably, co-expression of GFP-ICR1 and mRFP-CMI1 in  
399 *pCMI2>>GFP-ICR1/mRFP-CMI1* resulted in suppression of root growth arrest (Fig 8H). In  
400 lateral root primordium mRFP-CMI1 was detected in nuclei, cytoplasm and plasma membrane  
401 (Fig 8I), similar to its distribution in the leaf epidermis pavement cells (S6A Fig) and in  
402 agreement with the protein immunoblot with anti CMI1 antibodies that indicated localization  
403 in both soluble and insoluble fractions (S6B Fig). Examination of the subcellular localization of

404 both GFP-ICR1 and mRFP-CMI1 revealed that when co-expressed together with GFP-ICR1 in  
405 the same cells, mRFP-CMI1 was excluded from nuclei (Fig 8J-L). Together, these data indicated  
406 that similar to transient expression in *N. benthamiana*, co-expression of CMI1 and ICR1 in the  
407 same cells affected the subcellular distribution of CMI1 and its function.

408 To examine a potential impact of CMI1 function on the regulation of auxin transport and  
409 PIN polarity we carried out whole mount Immuno-staining of roots with anti PIN1 and PIN2  
410 antibodies. Importantly, these immunostaining experiments revealed that PIN2 distribution  
411 in the cortex is altered in *cmi1* (S10A Fig). In 55% of the cells PIN2 displayed apical localization  
412 and in another 25% it was non-polar. In comparison, in *Ler* (WT) in 90% of the cell PIN2  
413 displayed basal localization in the cortex and in only 10% of the cells it was either apical or  
414 non-polar (S10B Fig). Previous studies have shown that the CMI1 closest homolog CMI2/PID  
415 Binding Protein 1(PBP1)) interacted with the AGCIII kinase PID, which regulates PIN polarity  
416 and function (24). Hence, we tested the interactions between CMI1 and PID as well as other  
417 known auxin signaling components in yeast two hybrid assays (S11 Fig). However, none of these  
418 auxin signaling associated proteins interacted with CMI1. Therefore, the clarification of the  
419 mechanism how CMI1 regulates auxin responses and PIN2 polarity awaits further  
420 experimental clarification in the future. Nevertheless, the phenotypic alterations upon  
421 perturbation of CMI1 function and their association with altered auxin responses and  
422 distribution unambiguously identify the Ca<sup>2+</sup> sensor CMI1 as a critical component modulation  
423 the action of auxin as regulator of root growth and differentiation.

424

#### 425 **CMI1 affects auxin induced Ca<sup>2+</sup> signaling in a cell type/tissue specific manner**

426 To further examine a potential role of CMI1 in interconnecting Ca<sup>2+</sup> signaling and auxin  
427 function possibility, we compared the auxin-induced cytoplasmic Ca<sup>2+</sup> signals in the Lateral

428 Root Cap (LRC), epidermis and vasculature of wild type and *cmi1* roots expressing YC3.6. The  
429 quantification of Ca<sup>2+</sup> dynamics was carried out by calculating the ratio change in the FRET  
430 signals ( $\Delta R/R_0$ ) (Fig 9A-F). Quantitative analyses revealed genotype specific differences in the  
431 tissue specificity and intensity of auxin-induced cytoplasmic Ca<sup>2+</sup> signals between *Ler* (WT) and  
432 *cmi1*. In the LRC, the auxin-induced cytoplasmic Ca<sup>2+</sup> response displayed a higher amplitude  
433 in the wild type *Ler* than in *cmi1* mutants. Specifically, none of the *cmi1* roots, as opposed to  
434 35% of the analyzed wild type roots, showed a ratio change  $\Delta R/R_0 \geq 0.15$ . In contrast, 40% of  
435 the *cmi1* roots displayed lower Ca<sup>2+</sup> elevations, characterized by  $\Delta R/R_0$  ranging between 0-0.1,  
436 while only 5% of the wild type roots displayed such low Ca<sup>2+</sup> signals in the LRC (Fig 9A and B).  
437 Additionally, the *cmi1* mutants exhibited a faster kinetics in restoring the basal level of Ca<sup>2+</sup>.  
438 In the epidermis, strong increases in Ca<sup>2+</sup> levels ( $\Delta R/R_0 \geq 0.15$ ) predominated in both the wild  
439 type and *cmi1* backgrounds, with only slightly less samples with high Ca<sup>2+</sup> levels detected in  
440 *cmi1* mutants (Fig. 9C and D). In the vasculature, the amplitude of the auxin-induced Ca<sup>2+</sup>  
441 signals were comparable in wild type and *cmi1* mutant. The low threshold Ca<sup>2+</sup> signals ( $\Delta R/R_0$   
442 ranging between 0-0.1) predominated in both wild type and *cmi1* backgrounds and only 10%  
443 more wild type roots displayed higher Ca<sup>2+</sup> levels, with  $\Delta R/R_0$  values ranging between 0.1-0.15  
444 (Fig 9E and F). However, there was a striking difference in the shape of the signal and in the  
445 kinetics of the signal to reach the maximum amplitude. The wild type roots evoked a maximum  
446 Ca<sup>2+</sup> response in 120 s, while in the *cmi1* mutants the Ca<sup>2+</sup> maxima were reached in 230s.  
447 Interestingly, in the vasculature the restoration of basal level of Ca<sup>2+</sup> followed a similar  
448 kinetics. Taken together, these results reveal that loss of *CMi1* function alters auxin-induced  
449 Ca<sup>2+</sup> signals, especially in the lateral root cap and vascular cells, and suggest that *CMi1* regulate  
450 auxin-associated changes in cytoplasmic Ca<sup>2+</sup> levels in a cell/tissue specific fashion. Moreover,  
451 our finding point to an elaborate cell specificity and diversity in complex tissues.

452

453 **Fig 9. Auxin-induced Ca<sup>2+</sup> response are reduced and display a different kinetic in**  
454 ***cmi1* in a tissue specific fashion.**

455 Auxin induced Ca<sup>2+</sup> responses in root lateral root cap (A and B), epidermis (C and  
456 D) and vascular tissues (E and F). Note the reduced Ca<sup>2+</sup> levels and different  
457 kinetics in Ca<sup>2+</sup> decrease and increase in the lateral root cap and the vascular  
458 tissues, respectively.

459

460

## 461 Discussion

462 The results presented in this work indicate that CMI1 serves as a Ca<sup>2+</sup> sensor that links auxin  
463 and Ca<sup>2+</sup> signaling. CMI1 expression is regulated by auxin, coincides with auxin induced cellular  
464 Ca<sup>2+</sup> increases and the phenotype of *cmi1* mutant plants is associated with impaired auxin  
465 responses.

466 In yeast 2-hybrid assays, we did not detect interaction of CMI1 with components of the  
467 auxin transport and signaling machinery (Fig. S11). While the negative results of yeast 2-hybrid  
468 assays do not exclude interactions with these components they suggest that these  
469 interactions are unlikely. It is yet unclear whether CMI1 effects on auxin distribution and  
470 response involve its interaction with ICR1. CMI1 levels are highest in the QC where ICR1 is  
471 post-translationally degraded (30, 31), suggesting that its function in QC is different than in  
472 surrounding tissues. Whether and how CMI1 function in the QC is related to auxin  
473 accumulation in these cells is yet to be determined.

474 Despite having a single Ca<sup>2+</sup>-binding EF-hand, CMI1 most likely interacts with ICR1 and  
475 possibly with other target proteins as a monomer. The 3-D structure of CMI1 homolog KIC

476 revealed existence of two EF-hands: a canonical Ca<sup>2+</sup>-  
477 that lacks essential residues for divalent ion binding. Upon Ca<sup>2+</sup> binding both the Ca<sup>2+</sup>-binding  
478 and Ca<sup>2+</sup> independent EF-hands form an open conformation, creating the hydrophobic pocket  
479 that can accommodate the KCBP CBD (36). Our structural modeling, structure-function assays  
480 and the SEC-MALS results indicate that like KIC, CMI1 has a canonical Ca<sup>2+</sup> binding EF-hand  
481 and a Ca<sup>2+</sup>-independent EF hand which enable it to function as a monomer. Possibly, the  
482 oligomerization of ICR1, which contains a long coiled-coil domain (29) may induce  
483 accumulation of CMI1 molecules at discrete cellular domains.

484 The ability of CMI1 to responds to Ca<sup>2+</sup> concentrations that are equal or lower than resting  
485 cellular Ca<sup>2+</sup> levels suggest that it might not be regulated by fluctuations in cellular Ca<sup>2+</sup> levels  
486 or that it is regulated by subtle change in cellular Ca<sup>2+</sup> levels. The strong upregulation of CMI1  
487 expression by auxin suggest that it transduces Ca<sup>2+</sup>-dependent responses auxin-dependently.  
488 The ICR1-modulated subcellular localization of CMI1 may suggest that CMI1 function is also  
489 regulated by its subcellular distribution and protein-protein interactions. The identification of  
490 the hydrophobic pocket in CMI1 and its interaction with ICR1 via a CBLD suggest that CMI1  
491 may interact with other proteins which contain a CBLD. Given that the interaction of CMI1  
492 with the C-terminal ICR1 CBLD is weaker than its interaction with longer fragments of ICR1, it  
493 is likely that the binding specificity between the proteins is determined by additional residues  
494 in ICR1. Thus, it is difficult to predict which CBLD containing proteins would interact with CMI1.

495 While KIC and CMI1 do not share common binding partners, it is interesting that they both  
496 interact with MTs binding proteins (this work and (32)). Unlike KCBP, which is a kinesin with  
497 enzymatic activity, ICR1 is a coiled-coil domain protein that does not contain additional known  
498 catalytic or structural domains and likely functions as a scaffold (29). KIC inhibits interaction  
499 of KCBP with MTs and its ATPase activity (32, 36). Data in this work indicates that ICR1 can

500 recruit CMI1 to MTs, yet, it is unknown whether  
501 Unfortunately, in vitro assays to test the effect of CMI1 on ICR1 MT binding were unsuccessful  
502 because of the requirement to include  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  in the reaction medium, which in vitro leads to  
503 MTs destabilization.

504 It has previously been shown that expression of a CMI1 homologue from wheat called  
505 TaCCD1 was induced by fungal elicitors (52). In rice, OsCCD1 was induced by ABA and osmotic  
506 stress and OsCCD1 overexpressing and mutant plants displayed increased and decreased salt  
507 tolerance, respectively (53). Publicly available transcriptomics data indicated that *CMI1*  
508 expression is repressed following 3 hours treatments with 140 mM NaCl and is then  
509 upregulated in the stele (<http://dinnenylab.dpb.carnegiescience.edu/browser/query> (54))  
510 and that it is strongly upregulated by treatment with Rapid Alkalinizing Factor 1 (RALF1) peptide  
511 (39). In agreement, the expression of pCMI1::GUS-CMI1 was down-regulated following 3 and  
512 6 h treatments with 140 NaCl. Both GUS assays and qPCR analysis showed that treatments  
513 with RALF1 induced rapid and transient 30-50 fold increase in *CMI1* RNA levels, which reached  
514 a peak after 15 minutes and return to basal levels after 4 hours (S12 Fig). RALF1 is a ligand of  
515 the receptor-like kinase FERONIA (FER), which has been implicated in cell wall sensing and  
516 immune responses (55). The expression data suggest that CMI1 could be part of stress induced  
517 gene expression and cell wall sensing mechanisms. Our results suggest that CMI1 may have  
518 multiple functions. Under steady state condition its expression is primarily regulated by auxin  
519 and it is involved in regulation of auxin responses or distribution. Biotic and possibly other  
520 stress conditions that affect the cell wall induce rapid and transient upregulation of CMI1 that  
521 in turn may transduce rapid  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  dependent response even at low cellular  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  levels. An  
522 exciting hypothesis is that CMI1 may function as an integrator of auxin and various stress  
523 responses. Under non-stress conditions CMI1 functions in fine tuning of auxin responses.

524 Under biotic or other stimuli that elicit increase in RALF levels CMI1 is rapidly upregulated and  
525 in turn it may suppress auxin levels/responses. Salt stress induces transient changes in root  
526 elongation zone cells' which have been associated with FER signaling dependent Ca<sup>2+</sup> spikes  
527 along the root (56). Hence, transient down-regulation of CMI1 under salt stress conditions  
528 may be part of the response that enables recovery from the stress.

529 A tight link between TIR/AFB-dependent auxin signaling and short and long distance  
530 increases in [Ca<sup>2+</sup>]<sub>cyt</sub> has recently been demonstrated (7). Our work, identified CMI1 which  
531 expression is developmentally tightly regulated by auxin and in turn it regulates, auxin  
532 responses and distribution and auxin induced changes in Ca<sup>2+</sup> levels. The rapid expression  
533 regulation of CMI1 by different environmental stimuli together with the phenotype of CMI1  
534 loss of function and overexpression implicate its functioning as an Ca<sup>2+</sup> sensor integrator of  
535 auxin and stress stimuli.

536

537

## 538 **Materials and methods**

### 539 **Molecular cloning**

540 The Plasmids used in this study are listed in supplemental information S1 Table. *pICR1>>GFP-*  
541 *ICR1* and *pCMI2>>GFP-ICR1* plants were previously described (30, 31). *pCMI1::CMI1-GUS*  
542 (*pSY1804*) was constructed by amplifying a 2,526 bp fragment containing the 2040 bp  
543 promoter, 78 bp 5'-UTR and the 408 bp CMI1 ORF, in which the TGA stop codon was changed  
544 to TAA (Leu). The resulting fragment was digested with *EcoRI* and *Sall* and cloned into  
545 *pENTRY1a*. The resulting plasmid *pSY1802* was recombined with *pMDC162* using LR clonase  
546 to obtain *pSY1804*. *pCambia2300-RFP-CMI1* (pSY1351) was generated by cloning mRFP  
547 upstream to the CMI1 ORF into *pCambia2300*. Transactivation CMI1 promoter plasmid

548 (*pSY1806*) was constructed as follows: a 2040 bp fragment of the *CMI1* promoter was  
549 amplified, digested with *Sal1* and subcloned into *pLhG4Bj36* upstream of the chimeric  
550 transcription factor LhG4 to create plasmid *pSY1805*. *pSY1805* was then digested with *NotI*  
551 and the resulting fragment containing *pCMI1::LhG4-terminator* was subcloned into *pART27*  
552 plant binary plasmid to obtain *pSY1806*. To obtain the *mRFP-CMI1 Op* reporter plasmid, the  
553 *mRFP-CMI1* fragment from *pSY1351* was digested with *HindIII* and *XhoI* and subcloned into  
554 *pOp* to obtain *pSY1807*. Subsequently, *pSY1807* was digested with *NotI* and the resulting  
555 fragment containing *10XOp::mRFP-CMI1* was subcloned into the plant binary vector *pMLBART*  
556 to obtain *pSY1808*. pGAD-CMI1 was created as follows: the coding sequence of CMI1 was  
557 amplified from cDNA and subcloned into pGET (Thermo Fisher Scientific). It was then digested  
558 with *BamHI* and *Sall* and the resulting fragment was ligated to pGAD vector to obtain *pSY1565*.

559 The generation of plasmids for yeast 2-hybrid and plant colocalization assays of site  
560 directed and deletion mutants of CMI1 and ICR1 and plasmids for expression of CMI1 in *E.coli*  
561 were carried out as follows. For site directed mutagenesis (SDM primers were designed using  
562 the QuikChange Primer Design tool found at Agilent web site  
563 (<https://www.genomics.agilent.com/primerDesignProgram.jsp>). SDM was performed with *Pfu-*  
564 *Ultra* DNA polymerase (S2 Table) followed by digestion with *DpnI* (S2 Table) to eliminate  
565 unwanted templates. In two cases, that the SDM did not provide the desired mutants  
566 (*cmi1*<sup>L92A</sup>), an alternative approach of a three-step overlap extension PCR reaction using  
567 Phusion DNA polymerase (S2 Table) was performed. From this point, the cloning steps were  
568 the same as described below.

569 Genes of interest were cloned with flanking ends of attB1/2 recombination sites using a  
570 two-step reaction of Phusion high-fidelity DNA polymerase (S2 Table). In cases that several  
571 DNA fragments were observed in the PCR reaction products, the relevant band was extracted



572 using QIAEX II gel extraction kit (QIAGEN) or Wizard SV Gel and PCR Clean-Up System  
573 (Promega) (S2 Table). The attB1/2 flanking genes were transferred into *pDONR221* using the  
574 BP clonase reaction (S2 Table). All clones were verified by sequencing.

575 For yeast 2-hybrid, constructs were transferred by recombination from *pEntry221* and then  
576 by recombination to *pDEST22* (prey) or *pDEST32* (bait) using the LR clonase (S2 Table). Bait  
577 and prey plasmids were transformed into *PJ69-4a* yeast strain. Presence of respective  
578 plasmids was verified by yeast colony PCR (S2 Table).

579 For colocalization assays in plants, *CMI1*, *cmi1<sup>L59A</sup>*, *cmi1<sup>D85N</sup>* were transferred by  
580 recombination from *pEntry221* to *pGWB6-35S::eGFP* using the LR clonase (S2 Table). In  
581 addition, 3-way GATEWAY recombination reactions (S2 Table) were carried out with *pEntryP4-*  
582 *P1R-35S* promoter, *pEntry221-ICR1* or *pEntry221-icr1<sup>W338A</sup>* (both without stop codon) and  
583 *pEntryP2R-P3-mCherry* into pB7m34GW. Plasmids were verified by colony PCR (S2 Table) and  
584 sequencing. For expression in plants, plasmids were transformed into *Agrobacterium*  
585 *tumefaciens* stain *GV3101 pMP90*.

586 Cloning for protein expression in *E. coli*. A PCR product of CMI1 with flanking BamH1 and  
587 Not1 sites was subcloned into pJET1.2 using the CloneJET PCR cloning kit (S2 Table). The  
588 resulting plasmid was digested with BamH1 and Not1 and the CMI1 fragment was subcloned  
589 into *pET21d.H8.Nia.yBRFc.T.GSTrc* digested also with BamH1 and Not1 to isolate the *pET21d-*  
590 *His<sub>8</sub>-TEV* fragment. The resulting plasmid *pSY2408 (pET21d\_His8-TEV-CMI1)* was designed to  
591 express His<sub>8</sub>-TEV-CMI1 fusion protein that enables purification of CMI1 on a metal chelate Ni-  
592 column and cleavage of the His<sub>8</sub>-tag by TEV protease.

593

594 **Plant material and growth conditions**

595 The *Arabidopsis* transgenic lines used in this study are listed in supplemental information  
596 S3 Table. Long-day grown (16 hours light/8 hours dark, 22° C) *Arabidopsis Columbia-0 (Col-0)*  
597 and *Landsberg erecta (Ler)* ecotypes were used for stable expression, mutant phenotypic  
598 analysis, protein localization and Ca<sup>2+</sup> measurement. *Arabidopsis*, *mRFP-CMI1* and  
599 *pCMI1>>mRFP-CMI1* and *pICR1>>mRFP-CMI1* plants were generated by crossing, *pCMI1-LhG4*  
600 to *pop-mRFP-CMI1* and *pICR1-LhG4* to *pop-mRFP-CMI1*. The *cmi1* mutant (Cold Spring Harbor  
601 laboratory CSHL\_GT24505) is in the *Ler* background. To analyze *DR5::GFP<sub>rev</sub>* and *pICR1>>GFP-*  
602 *ICR1* expression in the *cmi1* mutant background, *DR5::GFP<sub>rev</sub>* and *pICR1>>GFP-ICR1* were  
603 crossed into wild type *Ler* and *cmi1* backgrounds. M3 generation wild type or *cmi1*  
604 homozygote mutant plants that harbored the *erecta* phenotype and expressed either  
605 *DR5::GFP<sub>rev</sub>* or *pICR1>>GFP-ICR1* were selected for the further analysis. Quantification of  
606 fluorescent signals was performed using Image J. For *DR5::GFP<sub>rev</sub>* quantification we used 12-  
607 16 images of independent root tips when 2-4 QC cells are in the center. Cell layers 1-6 were  
608 defined from QC to the last columella layer and GFP signal intensity was measured in the same  
609 area (below the QC cells) in each layer using Image J. The average of the GFP intensity is  
610 presented in the graph and the bars are the SE (Fig 6). To quantify the ectopic expression of  
611 GFP-ICR1 in the QC cells of *cmi1* mutant, 18-20 root of each WT (*Ler*) or *cmi1* plants were  
612 imaged when QC cells (2-4 cells) are visible in the center. The number of QC cells, in which a  
613 GFP-ICR1 signal was detected, was used to calculate the percentage of the roots with or  
614 without ectopic expression. Complementation of *cmi1* was performed by crosses with  
615 *pCMI1::CMI1-GUS* plants. The analysis was performed using non-segregating lines from the  
616 fourth and fifth generations. For Ca<sup>2+</sup> imaging the *pUBQ10::YC3.6* Yellow Cameleon (25) was

617 transformed into *Ler* wild type and *cmi1* plants. Several independent transgenic lines were  
618 used for the Ca<sup>2+</sup> imaging.

619

## 620 **Protein expression and antibody generation**

621 Expression in *E. coli* Rosetta (DE3) and purification of recombinant His<sub>6</sub>-CMI1, His<sub>6</sub>-ICR1 and  
622 GST-ICR1 were carried out according to standard protocols using Ni-NTA (Qiagen) and  
623 Glutathione sepharose (GE) resins, as previously described (29, 57). His<sub>8</sub>-TEV-CMI1 was  
624 purified over Ni-NTA (Quiagen). Eluted fractions were passed through HiPrep 26/10 desalting  
625 column (GE Healthcare) with the extraction buffer (50mM sodium phosphate buffer pH 7.5,  
626 300mM NaCl and 1mM DTT) to insure flushing of imidazole presence from the elution buffer  
627 (50mM sodium phosphate buffer pH 7.5, 300mM NaCl, 1mM DTT and 250mM imidazole).  
628 Eluted fractions were incubated overnight with His<sub>6</sub>-tagged TEV protease at 4°C followed by  
629 purification over a second Ni-NTA. The untagged CMI1 was collected from the flow through  
630 and concentrated with Amicon Ultra-15 with molecular weight cut-off (MWCO) of 3kDa  
631 (Millpore) at 4,000 X *g* and 4°C to a final volume of ~500 μl. The concentrated protein samples  
632 were filtrated through Millex 0.22 μm syringe filter (MILLIPORE) and uploaded onto a gel  
633 filtration column of HiLoad 16/600 Superdex 200 pg (GE Healthcare) and eluted with a gel  
634 filtration column buffer (60 mM MOPS pH 7.2, 200 mM KCl and 2 mM DTT). Purified proteins  
635 were concentrated using Amicon Ultra-15 with MWCO of 3 KDa at 4,000 X *g* and 4°C, divided  
636 into aliquots, batch frozen in liquid nitrogen, and kept at -80°C until further use.

637 Anti-CMI1 antibodies were raised in rabbits. Ni-NTA purified His<sub>6</sub>-CMI was further  
638 purified by SDS-PAGE. The His<sub>6</sub>-CMI1 band was eluted from the gels and were used for rabbit  
639 immunization.

640

641 ***In vitro* ICR1-CMI1 and ICR1-ICR1 interaction assays**

642 Pull-down of His<sub>6</sub>-CMI1 or His<sub>6</sub>-ICR1 with GST-ICR1: 1.2 µg GST-ICR1 or 0.4 µg GST were  
643 mixed with 100 µL of Phosphate Buffer Saline (PBS), 1% Triton X-100 and 10 µL of Glutathione  
644 sepharose slurry and incubated with shaking for 30 min at room temperature (RT). The beads  
645 were then washed 3X with PBS, 1% Triton X-100, and were adjusted in Ca<sup>2+</sup>/EGTA reaction  
646 buffer: 20 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.5, 5 mM CaCl<sub>2</sub>/10 mM EGTA, 0.1 mg/mL BSA, 200 mM NaCl, 1%  
647 Triton X-100. 0.5 µg His<sub>6</sub>-CMI1 were added for pull-down of His<sub>6</sub>-CMI1 by GST-ICR1.  
648 Alternatively, 0.09/0.45/1 µg His<sub>6</sub>-CMI1 and 0.5 µg His<sub>6</sub>-ICR1 were added for pull-down of His<sub>6</sub>-  
649 ICR1 by GST-ICR1. The reaction volumes were then adjusted to 100 µL with the respective  
650 buffer. The mixtures were incubated with shaking for 1 h at RT. Subsequently, the beads were  
651 precipitated and washed 1X with wash buffer 1: 20 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.5, 5 mM CaCl<sub>2</sub>/10mM  
652 EGTA, 0.1 mg/mL BSA, 1M NaCl, 1% Triton X-100 and 4X in wash buffer 2: 20 mM Tris-HCl pH  
653 7.5, 5 mM CaCl<sub>2</sub>/10mM EGTA, 0.1 mg/mL BSA, 200 mM NaCl, 1% Triton X-100. The beads were  
654 then precipitated and resuspended in SDS-PAGE sample buffer and the proteins were resolved  
655 by SDS-PAGE (58).

656 Co-immuno precipitation of His<sub>6</sub>-ICR1 and His<sub>6</sub>-CMI1 with anti-CMI1 antibodies: His<sub>6</sub>-CMI1  
657 and His<sub>6</sub>-ICR1, 1 µg of each, were incubated with shaking in 300 µL of Ca<sup>2+</sup>/EGTA reaction  
658 buffer for 1 h at RT. Subsequently, 1 µL of anti-CMI1 antibodies were added and the mixture  
659 was further incubated with shaking for 2 h at RT. 10 µL of Protein A beads (Adar Biotech #1016-  
660 5) slurry in Ca<sup>2+</sup>/EGTA reaction buffer were added and the mixture was further incubated with  
661 shaking for 1 h at RT. Subsequently, the beads were washed 3X with 1 mL ice cold Ca<sup>2+</sup>/EGTA  
662 reaction buffer, resuspended in SDS-PAGE sample buffer and proteins were resolved by SDS-  
663 PAGE. Proteins were detected by immunoblots decorated with mouse anti poly-His

664 monoclonal antibodies (Sigma H-1029) and Goat anti mouse Horse Radish Peroxidase (HRP)  
665 conjugated secondary antibodies (BioRad).

666

### 667 **Circular dichroism (CD) spectroscopy**

668 Protein samples were dialyzed overnight in buffers contained 10 mM Tris-H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> pH 7.5, 25  
669 mM KCl and 200 μM DTT. Buffers also contained CaCl<sub>2</sub> and EDTA at different concentrations  
670 to obtain the desired Ca<sup>2+</sup> free concentrations (Table 1). All protein samples and buffers were  
671 filtrated before use through Millex 0.22 μm syringe filter (MILLIPORE) or Stericup 0.22 μm  
672 vacuum filtration system (MILLIPORE), respectively. Protein concentration was determined  
673 using a Bradford assay standard curve for BSA. Cuvette path length was 0.1 mm and samples  
674 concentrations were 60 μM. Measurements were performed using a Chirascan CD  
675 spectrometer (Applied Photophysics), ranging between 180 nm to 260 nm at 21°C. Using the  
676 Pro-Data Viewer software (<https://www.photophysics.com>), each spectrum was averaged  
677 from five repeated scans. Then, raw data were corrected by subtracting the contribution of  
678 the buffer to the signal, subtracted data were smoothed (5 nm window) and exported to Excel.  
679 In Excel, data converted from observed ellipticity to mean residue ellipticity (MRE) units using  
680 the following equation:

681

682

683

684

$$685 \quad MRE \text{ (deg} \cdot \text{cm}^2 \cdot \text{dmol}^{-1}\text{)} = \frac{\text{observed ellipticity (millidegree)}}{\text{pathlength (mm)} \times \text{concentration of protein (M)} \times \text{number of residues}}$$

686 All measurements were repeated at least thrice. The α-helical content of sampled proteins

687 was extracted from MRE values at 222 nm using the following equation (59):

$$\alpha - \text{helix (\%)} = \frac{[\theta]_{222} (\text{deg} \cdot \text{cm}^2 \cdot \text{dmol}^{-1})}{-40,000 \times \left(1 - \frac{4.6}{\text{number of residues}}\right)} \times 100$$

688 The  $\alpha$ -helical content was averaged from the three repetitions and standard error (SE) was  
689 calculated as well.  
690

691 **Table 1 - CaCl<sub>2</sub> and EDTA composition in the CD spectroscopy buffers**

Buffer name	2 mM CaCl <sub>2</sub>	* 200 $\mu$ M Ca <sup>2+</sup> free	* 20 $\mu$ M Ca <sup>2+</sup> free	* 2 $\mu$ M Ca <sup>2+</sup> free	* 200 nM Ca <sup>2+</sup> free	* 20 nM Ca <sup>2+</sup> free	* 2 nM Ca <sup>2+</sup> free	1 mM EDTA
CaCl <sub>2</sub>	2 mM	1199.9 $\mu$ M	1019.6 $\mu$ M	998.8 $\mu$ M	969.5 $\mu$ M	759.7 $\mu$ M	240.2 $\mu$ M	-
EDTA	-	1 mM	1 mM	1 mM	1 mM	1 mM	1 mM	1 mM

692  
693 \* Calculations were made using the WEBMAXC EXTENDED server

694 (<http://maxchelator.stanford.edu/webmaxc/webmaxcE.htm>)

695

### 696 Size Exclusion Chromatography coupled Multi-Angle Light scattering (SEC-MALS)

697 The SEC-MALS buffer containing 10 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.5, 25 mM KCl, 200  $\mu$ M DTT and 2 mM  
698 CaCl<sub>2</sub> was double filtrated through Stericup 0.22  $\mu$ m vacuum filtration system (Millpore) and  
699 then through Whatman Anodisc 0.02  $\mu$ m Filter Membranes (GE Healthcare). Protein samples  
700 were filtrated through Whatman Anotop 10 Plus 0.02  $\mu$ m syringe filter (GE Healthcare) and  
701 their concentration was determined using a Bradford assay standard curve for BSA. Protein  
702 samples were injected into a Shodex KW404-4F column (Shodex) equilibrated overnight with  
703 the buffer above. The Agilent 1200 Series HPLC System (Agilent Technologies) was coupled  
704 with a DAWN HELEOS II light scattering detector (Wyatt Technology) and an Optilab rEX  
705 refractive index detector (Wyatt Technology). Molecular mass analyses were performed using  
706 the ASTRA software (<https://www.wyatt.com/products/software/astra.html>). Data were  
707 exported from the ASTRA software in order to build the graphs in Excel.

708

## 709 **Homology modeling of CMI1**

710 Amino acids sequences of KIC and CMI1 were underwent a multiple sequence alignment  
711 (MSA) using the MUSCLE algorithm (<https://www.ebi.ac.uk/Tools/msa/muscle>). The MSA  
712 results were converted into PIR format with the necessary adjustments to the solved crystal  
713 structure of KIC-KCBP complex (PDB ID code 3H4S) (36). A pairwise alignment of KIC with CMI1  
714 was extracted from the MSA PIR format and run using the Modeller 9.19  
715 (<https://toolkit.tuebingen.mpg.de/#/tools/modeller>). The built model of CMI1 was examined  
716 using the WHAT\_CHECK (SAVES 5.0 server (<http://servicesn.mbi.ucla.edu/SAVES>)). The CMI1  
717 model was visualized and edited using PyMOL (<https://www.schrodinger.com/pymol>) and  
718 Adobe Photoshop CS6.

719

## 720 **Yeast two-hybrid assays**

721 *S. cerevisiae* strains Y190 and *PJ69-4a* were used as hosts. *pGAD-CMI1* or *pGAD-cmi1D85N*  
722 plasmids were co-transformed with *pGBT-ICR1/pGBT-ICR2/pGBT-ICR4* into yeast cells via a  
723 standard lithium acetate transformation protocol. Colonies expressing both plasmids were  
724 grown on a medium lacking leucine (Leu), tryptophan (Trp) and histidine (His) and containing  
725 50 mM 3-Amino-1,2,4-triazole (3-AT). In addition,  $\beta$ -galactozidase activity assays were  
726 performed. Each test was carried out with at least four independent transformants. Assays  
727 with of site directed mutants in CMI1 and ICR1 and deletion mutants of ICR1 were carried out  
728 with *PJ69-4a* yeast. The optical density in 600 nm ( $OD_{600}$ ) was measured and diluted into  $OD_{600}$   
729 of 0.5. From this yeast suspension (referred as 1), four decimal dilution were made (1:10,  
730 1:100, 1:10<sup>3</sup> and 1:10<sup>4</sup>). From each dilution, a drop of 5  $\mu$ l was placed on -LT (S2 Table) and -  
731 LTH (S3Table) with YNBx1, 2% glucose and 1mM 3-Amino-1,2,4-triazole (3AT) plate. The plates  
732 were incubated at 21°C.

733

734 **Plant protein co-localization assays**

735 Co-localization assays were performed using transient expression of tested proteins by  
736 transforming *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* GV3101 pMP90 cells harboring the respective  
737 plasmids into the abaxial side of *Nicotiana benthamiana* (*N. benthamiana*) leaf epidermis  
738 essentially as previously described (29, 60) with the following modifications. In cases where  
739 expression levels were too low for detection, *Agrobacterium* expressing the silencing  
740 suppressor protein p19 from tomato bushy stunt virus (61) were co-transformed added at a  
741 dilution OD<sub>600</sub> of 0.05. Following transformation plants were maintained in growth room for 48  
742 hours prior to imaging.

743

744 **Immunostaining.**

745 Immunostaining of PIN1 and PIN2 in *Col-0* wild type and *cmi1* mutant roots was carried out  
746 essentially as previously described (62). Primary antibodies used in this study: anti-PIN1  
747 (1:1000; sc-27163; Santa Cruz Biotechnology, Inc.) anti-PIN2 (1:400; N782248; NASC). Anti-  
748 rabbit Cy3 (1:600; CALTAG Laboratories, Invitrogen) and AlexaFluor 488 anti-rat (1:600;  
749 Invitrogen) were used as secondary antibodies. Fluorescence was observed using a Zeiss  
750 LSM780-NLO confocal microscope/multi photon microscope. Cy3 was observed by excitation  
751 at 543 nm and emission at 560 nm and AlexaFluor by excitation at 488 nm and emission at  
752 499-519 nm emission. Quantification of PIN2 relocation was performed by scoring the number  
753 of cells with different PIN polarities.

754



755 **NaCl and RALF1 treatments and GUS staining**

756 *cmi1 pCMI1::CMI-GUS* seedling were grown under long day conditions on 0.5X MS 1% sucrose  
757 lates. Then, seedlings were transferred to 0.5X MS 1% sucrose liquid medium and incubated  
758 for additional 3 hours. In turn, incubation media were removed and fresh 0.5X MS 1% sucrose  
759 media without (control) or supplemented with either 140 mM NaCl or 1  $\mu$ M RALF1 peptide  
760 (Genscript) were added. For salt treatment seedlings were incubated for 3 and 6 hours. For  
761 treatments with RALF1 seedling were incubated for 4 hours and at 21°C followed by GUS  
762 staining for 3 hours at 37°C

763

764 **RNA Extraction and Quantitative PCR.**

765 For auxin induction experiments, seedlings were grown vertically on 0.5X Murashige Skoog  
766 (MS) supplemented with 1% sucrose for 5 days. Before treatment, seedlings were transferred  
767 to liquid 0.5X MS with 1% sucrose for 2 hours in a growth chamber. The 0.5X MS medium was  
768 then replaced with fresh 0.5X MS medium (mock) or 0.5X MS medium containing 1  $\mu$ M of  
769 NAA. Following 2 hours incubation seedlings were frozen in liquid nitrogen and total RNA was  
770 extracted using the RNAeasy kit (Qiagen). RALF1 treatments, experiments were carried out  
771 essentially as described above but with treatments with 1  $\mu$ M RALF1 for 0 (control) 15, 30, 45,  
772 60, 90, 120 and 250 minutes. qPCR experiments were performed using the StepOnePlus™  
773 Real-Time PCR System (Applied Biosystems). PP2A was used as a reference gene. The qPCR  
774 data was normalized to the reference gene. Three biological replicates with four technical  
775 replicates were carried out for each treatment. The qPCR program was as follows: 10 minutes  
776 at 95°C, followed by 40 cycles of 15 seconds denaturation at 95°C, 1 minute annealing, and  
777 elongation at 60°C. The results were analyzed using the StepOne™ software.

778

## 779 **Confocal Imaging**

780 Confocal imaging was performed using Zeiss780-NLO confocal laser scanning microscope  
781 (Zeiss, Jena, Germany) with 40X air, 20X, 40X and 63X water immersion objectives with NAs  
782 of 0.75, 0.8, 1.0 and 1.2, respectively. Protein tagged with eGFP or GFP were visualized by  
783 excitation with an argon laser at 488nm. Emission was detected with a spectral GaAsP  
784 detector set between 499nm to 552nm. Proteins tagged to mCherry or mRFP were visualized  
785 by excitation with an argon laser at 561nm and spectral GaAsP detector set between 579 nm  
786 to 632 nm. Image analysis was carried out with Zeiss ZEN 2012  
787 (<https://www.zeiss.com/microscopy/int/software-cameras.html>) and Adobe Photoshop CS6  
788 (<https://www.adobe.com>), Fiji (Image J) (<https://fiji.sc/>) and Imaris 8.4.1 (Bitplane).

789

## 790 **Microarray experiments.**

791 *Arabidopsis* seedlings were grown hydroponically for 6 days and subjected to auxin  
792 treatments as previously described (63). Roots were collected after 30 min of exposure to  
793 either 20 nM IAA (“low auxin”), 20  $\mu$ M IAA (“high auxin”), or conditioned media (“mock”).  
794 Affymetrix ATH1 arrays were hybridized with probes generated from total RNA of four  
795 biologically independent samples per treatment. Data shown are mean signal values with  
796 standard deviation.

797

## 798 ***Arabidopsis* sample preparation and Ca<sup>2+</sup> imaging**

799 Experiments were carried out essentially as previously described (25). Surface-sterilized  
800 *Arabidopsis Ler* wild type or *cmi1* (3 independent lines for each) seeds expressing UBQ10-  
801 YC3.6 were plated on 0.5X strength MS medium (Duchefa) containing 1% (w/v) sucrose,  
802 solidified with 0.8% agar (Duchefa) (pH 5.8) and stratified for 2 d in the dark at 4°C. The plates

803 were transferred to a growth chamber (16 h 22°C: 8 h 18°C, light: dark; 120–150  $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$   
804 light intensity) and seeds were grown vertically for 5–7 days. Single 5-7-days old *Arabidopsis*  
805 seedlings were placed inside a custom-made flow-through chamber (or perfusion chamber)  
806 containing imaging-buffer (5 mM KCl, 10mM MES and 10mM  $\text{CaCl}_2$ , pH 5.8, adjusted with Tris).  
807 The seedling was fixed inside the chamber with cotton wool soaked in the imaging buffer as  
808 previously described (25, 64). The chamber was placed on the stage of an inverted ZEISS Axio  
809 observer (Carl Zeiss Microimaging GmbH, Goettingen, Germany) equipped with an emission  
810 filter wheel (LUDL Electronic Products, Hawthorne, NY, USA) and a Photometrics cool  
811 SNAPHQ2 CCD camera (Photometrics, Tucson, AZ, USA). A Zeiss Plan-APOCHROMAT 20/0.8  
812 dry objective of the microscope was used for imaging. A xenon short-arc reflector lamp  
813 (Hamamatsu) with a 440-nm filter provided the excitation. Emission filters used were 485 nm  
814 (CFP) and 535 nm (YFP). A peristaltic pump was used for buffer circulation inside the flow-  
815 through chamber with a flow rate of 1.5 ml  $\text{min}^{-1}$ . YFP and CFP images were taken at 6-s  
816 intervals using the METAFLUOR software (Meta Imaging series 7.7; Molecular Devices,  
817 Downingtown, PA, USA). After monitoring the root in the buffer (continuous flow-through) for  
818 2 min, the buffer was replaced by a buffer containing 10  $\mu\text{M}$  NAA (Sigma Aldrich) for 7min.

819

## 820 **Ca<sup>2+</sup> imaging data analysis**

821 Offline calculation of the FRET ratio was performed using ImageJ64 software  
822 (<http://rsb.info.nih.gov/ij/>) with the RATIOPLUS plug-in. The intensities of CFP and YFP were  
823 measured from single CFP and YFP images as pixel intensity in arbitrary units. The ratio  
824 between YFP emission and CFP emission was calculated after background subtraction. We  
825 calculated the change in ratio  $R_t - R_0$  or  $\Delta R$ , where  $R_0$  is the basal ratio before application of the  
826 stimulus and  $R_t$  is the ratio at a specific time point. We normalized the  $\Delta R$  to the basal ratio

827 value ( $\Delta R:R_0$ ) and plotted ratio graphs for each measurement. We aligned all the graphs to  
828 their first response point and plotted averaged ratio graphs.

829

### 830 **Analysis of Ca<sup>2+</sup> responses.**

831 The Ca<sup>2+</sup>-peaks were divided into low, middle and high threshold peaks, depending on the  
832 ratio change presented as height of the peak from the base. Peaks with a ratio change of 0 to  
833 0.1 were considered as low threshold peaks, a ratio change of 0.1 to 0.15 as intermediate and  
834 the peaks with ratio changes higher than 0.15 were considered as high threshold peaks.  
835 Percentage was then calculated. 15 to 17 seedlings were analyzed for each genotype. The  
836 average ratio graphs were calculated from six to seven measurements.

837

### 838 **High-resolution Ca<sup>2+</sup> imaging**

839 High-resolution imaging was performed as previously described (64), with a Leica DMI 6000B  
840 inverted microscope equipped with a Leica TCS SP5 laser scanning device and HDy, using the  
841 Leica confocal software (Leica Application Suite – Advanced Fluorescence 2.6.0.7266; Leica  
842 Microsystems, Wetzlar, Germany). For excitation, an argon laser with a 458 nm line was used.  
843 The CFP and fluorescence energy resonance transfer (FRET) emissions were collected at 473–  
844 505 and 526–536 nm, respectively. Images were acquired with a 25x objective (HCW RAPO L  
845 25.0 x 0.95 water). Image acquisition was conducted as follows: scanning speed (400 Hz),  
846 image dimension (512 x 512), pinhole (2–4 airy unit) and line average (4). YFP and CFP images  
847 were acquired as a time series in a 6 s interval. Offline calculation of the FRET ratio was  
848 performed using ImageJ RATIOPLUS plug-in.

849

850 **Data analysis and statistics.** The measurements of roots, hypocotyls and root hairs or  
851 fluorescence intensity were performed using Image J. The means and the standard errors (SE)  
852 were calculated using Excel; the significance ( $p_{\text{values}}$ ) was calculated using SPSS.

853

854

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863

864

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1023

1024

#### 1025 **Supplemental Figures and Tables Captions**

1026

1027 **S1 Fig. Amino acid sequence of CMI1, its induction by auxin and its Ca<sup>2+</sup> dependent pull**  
1028 **down by ICR1.**

1029 (A) The amino acid sequence of CMI1. The loop region of the single EF-hand is underlined

1030 and the D85 critical for Ca<sup>2+</sup> binding is highlighted in red. (B) Protein immuno blot decorated

1031 with anti polyHis antibodies showing that pull-down of His<sub>6</sub>-CMI1 by GST-ICR1 is specific and

1032 Ca<sup>2+</sup>-dependent. (C) Coomassie brilliant blue stained SDS-poly acrylamide gel showing

1033 specified *E. coli* expressed and purified recombinant proteins used for the pull-down and

1034 immuno precipitation assays (Figure 1). Numbers denote M<sub>r</sub> in kDa.

1035

1036 **S2 Fig. CMI1 exist as a monomer in solution.**

1037 A SEC-MALS elution profile of 2 µg CMI1 in 2 mM Ca<sup>2+</sup> solution. CMI1 eluted as a single peak  
1038 with a molecular mass (red line) corresponding to a monomeric form. The profile is identical  
1039 to that obtained with 4 µg protein (Fig. 2E)

1040

1041 **S3 Fig. CMI1 displays weak self-interaction in yeast two-hybrid assays.**

1042 Yeast two-hybrid assays were carried out in the LexA system. In CMI1 self-interaction assays,  
1043 weak XGal activity was evident after 48 hours. Strong XGal activity was observed in assays  
1044 with ICR1 and no activity with the vector control.

1045

1046 **S4 Fig. Interaction between CMI1 and icr1W266Q is similar to icrW266A.**

1047 -LTH: Leu , Trp and His dropout medium. -LT: Leu and Trp dropout medium. Numbers above  
1048 the panel denote dilution order.

1049

1050 **S5 Fig. ICR1 is localized on MTs.**

1051 (A-C) ICR1-mCherry (ICR1) is colocalized to MTs with Tubulin6-GFP (TUA6) MTs marker on  
1052 MTs. (D-F) Localization of ICR1 and GFP-CMI1 (CMI1) on MTs is sensitive to the anti MTs drug  
1053 oryzalin. O/L mCherry/GFP overlay. Bar: 20 µm.

1054

1055 **S6 Fig. CMI1 is localized in the plasma membrane, cytoplasm and nuclei and sensitivity of  
1056 its expression to salt stress.**

1057 (A) Subcellular localization of mRFP-CMI1 in *Arabidopsis* cotyledon pavement cells. C-  
1058 cytoplasm. N-nuclei, M-plasma membrane. Localization of mRFP-CMI1 in the plasma  
1059 membrane can be seen following plasmolysis (right panel). (B) Protein immuno blot

1060 decorated with anti-CMI1 antibodies showing the distribution of CMI1 between the soluble  
1061 and insoluble fraction in the specified tissue samples. (C) The sensitivity of the anti-CMI1  
1062 antibodies as determined by protein immuno blot of the specified amounts of His<sub>6</sub>-CMI1.

1063

1064 **S7 Fig. Expression of CMI1 in the root tip and its induction by auxin.**

1065 (A) The root tip of *pCMI1>>mRFP-CMI1*. (B) qPCR showing induction of CMI1 expression 6 h  
1066 after treatment with mock or 10 μM IAA.

1067

1068 **S8 Fig. CMI1-GUS can complement root growth inhibition in *cmi1* knockout plants.**

1069 (A) Primary root length of 7 days-old seedlings. Error bars are SE. Representative hypocotyls  
1070 (B) and root hairs (C) used for quantifications presented in Figure 5L and K, respectively.

1071

1072 **S9 Fig. Lateral root development in wild type and *cmi1*.**

1073 (A) Wild type Lateral root initials (LRIs) at different developmental stages. (B) *cmi1* LRIs. Note  
1074 the abnormal LRI patterning. The developmental stages of the LRIs are noted.

1075

1076 **S10 Fig. PIN2 auxin efflux transporter is altered in *cmi1*.**

1077 (A) Immunolocalization of PIN1 in the endodermis (en) and PIN2 in the cortex (co) and the  
1078 epidermis (ep) in *Col-0* (WT) and *cmi1*. Arrowheads highlight the basal localization of PIN2 in  
1079 wild type cortex and apical and apolar localization in *cmi1* cortex. (B) Quantitative analysis of  
1080 PIN2 distribution. Scale bar 20 μm. Error bars SE.

1081

1082 **S11 Fig. Interaction assays of CMI1 with auxin transport and signaling proteins in yeast 2-**  
1083 **hybrid assays.**

1084 (A) CMI2/PBP1 but not CMI1 interact with PID. (B and C) CMI1 was used as a bait in with  
1085 prey as labeled in the tables. (D) Assays as labeled in the table. Note that the positive  
1086 interaction between CMI1 and ARF5 (B) likely resulted from ARF5 self-activation (D).

1087

1088 **12 Fig. CMI1 expression is repressed by NaCl and rapidly and transiently induced by RALF1.**

1089 *cmi1 pCMI1::CMI1-GUS* seedling were treated with mock (control) or 140 NaCl solution for  
1090 indicated times (A) or for 4 hours with mock (control) or 1  $\mu$ M RALF1 (B) and (C). (D) qPCR of  
1091 CMI1 following treatments with 1  $\mu$ M RALF1 for indicated time points.

1092

1093 **S1 Table. Plasmids used in this study**

1094

1095 **S2 Table. Materials used in this work**

1096

1097 **S3 Table. *Arabidopsis thaliana* lines used in this study**

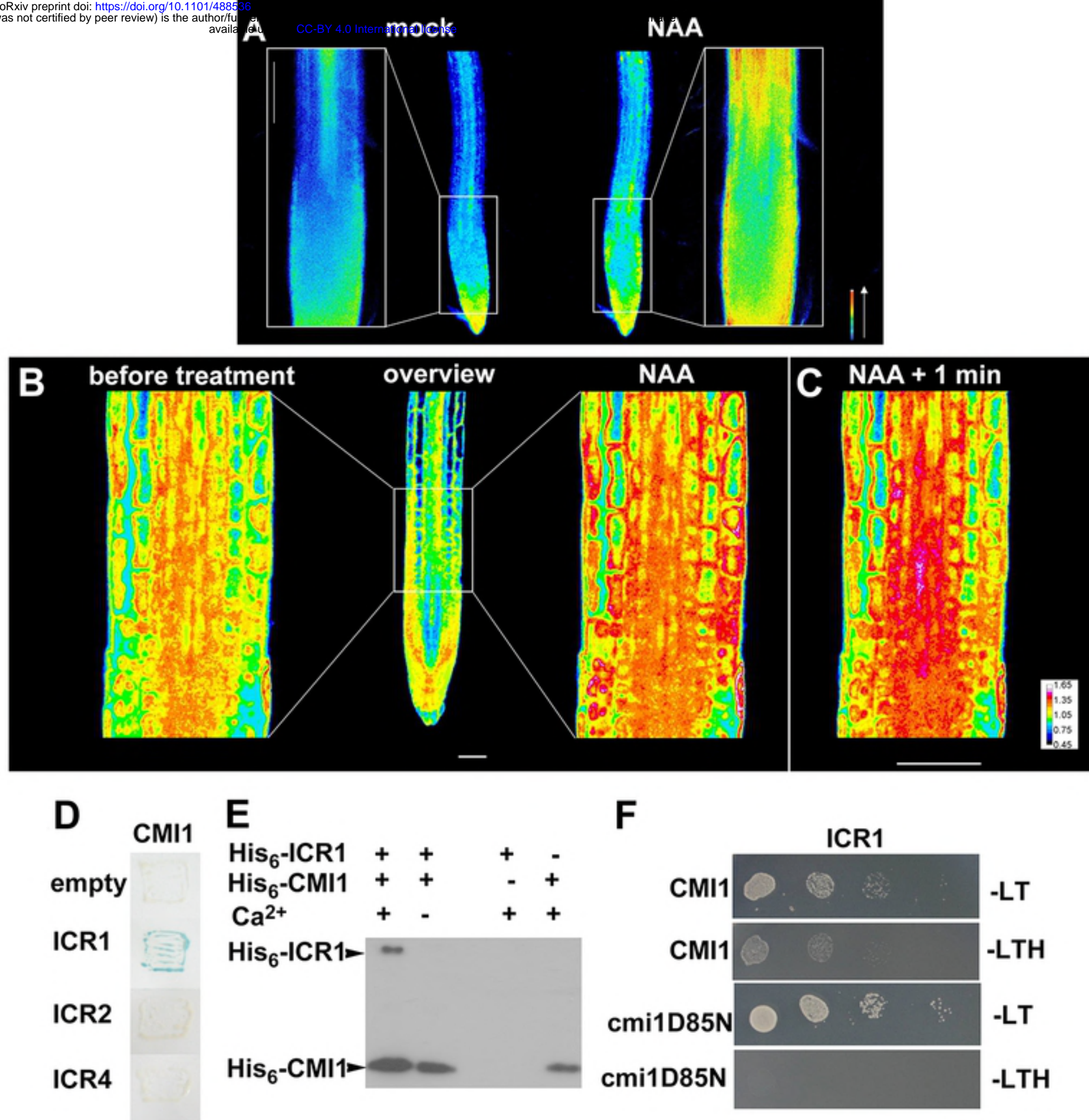


Fig 1



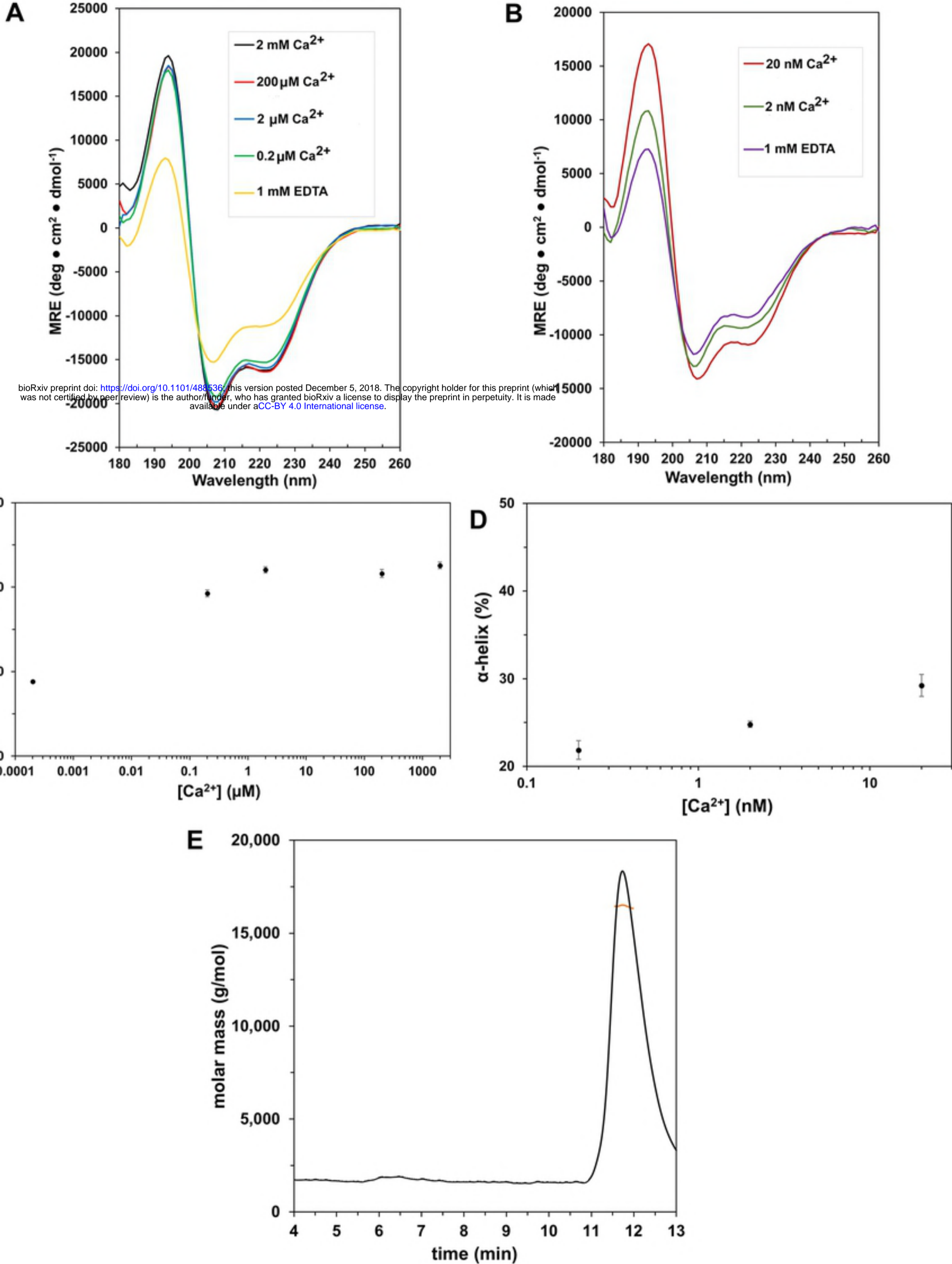


Fig 2

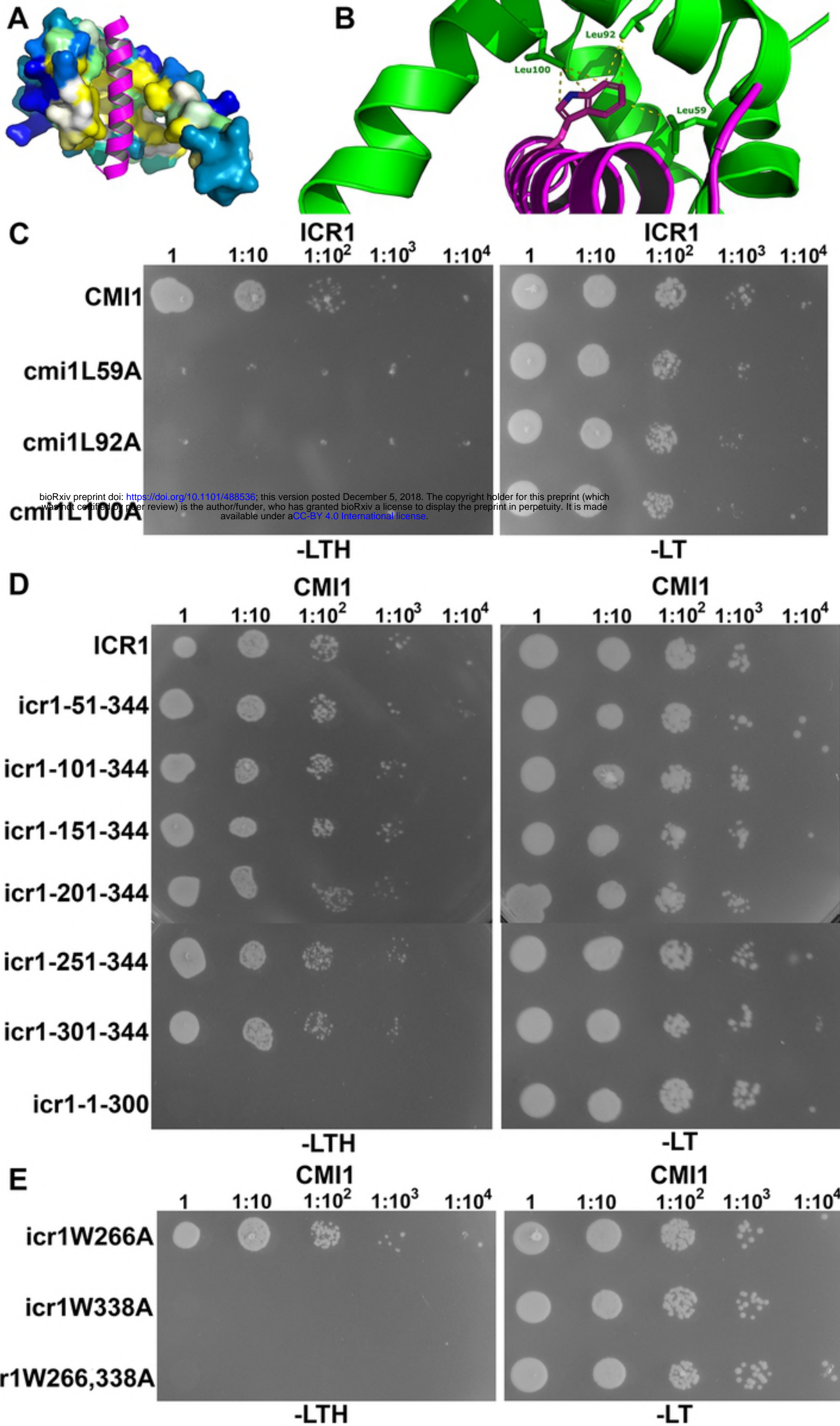


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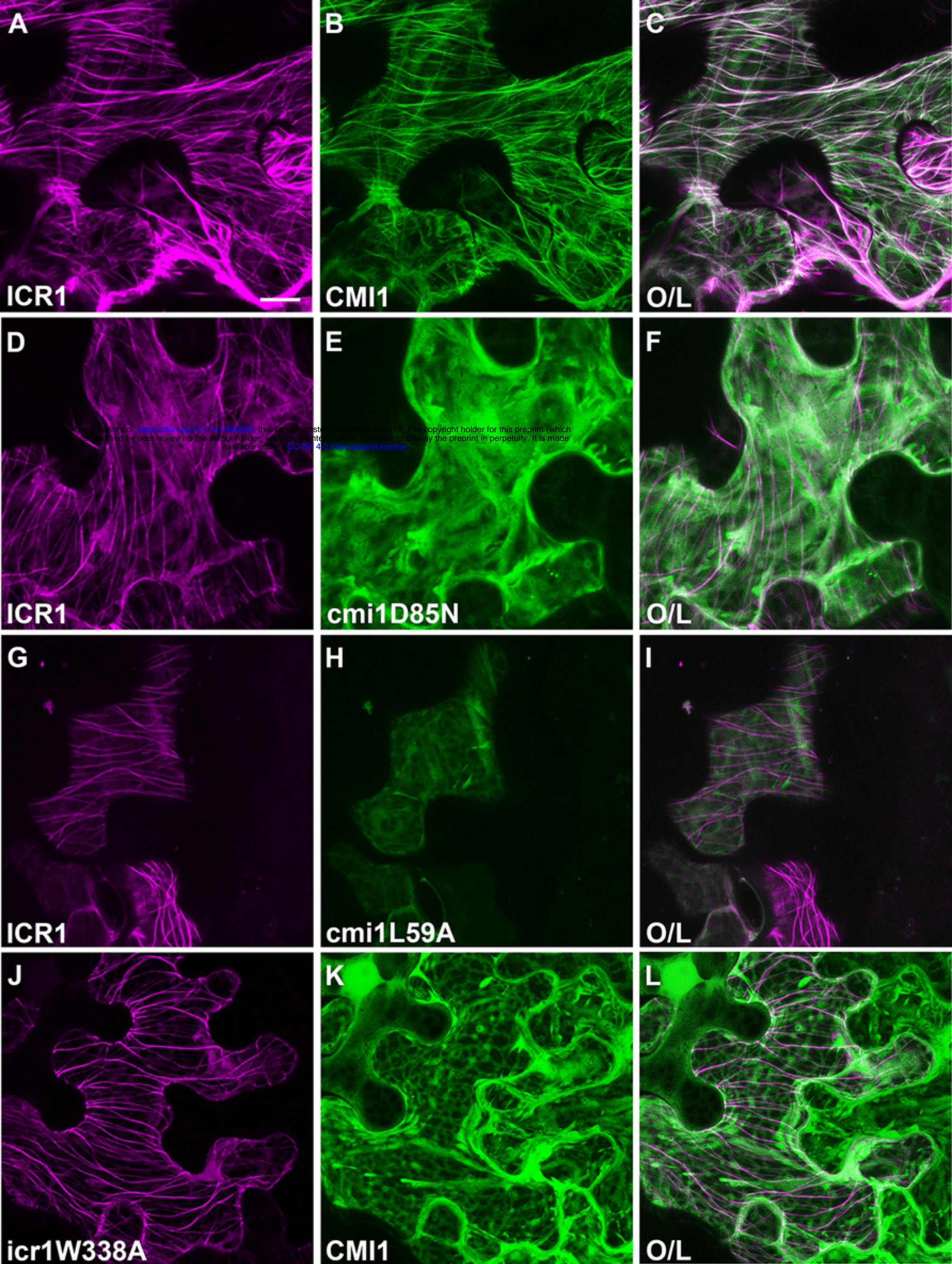


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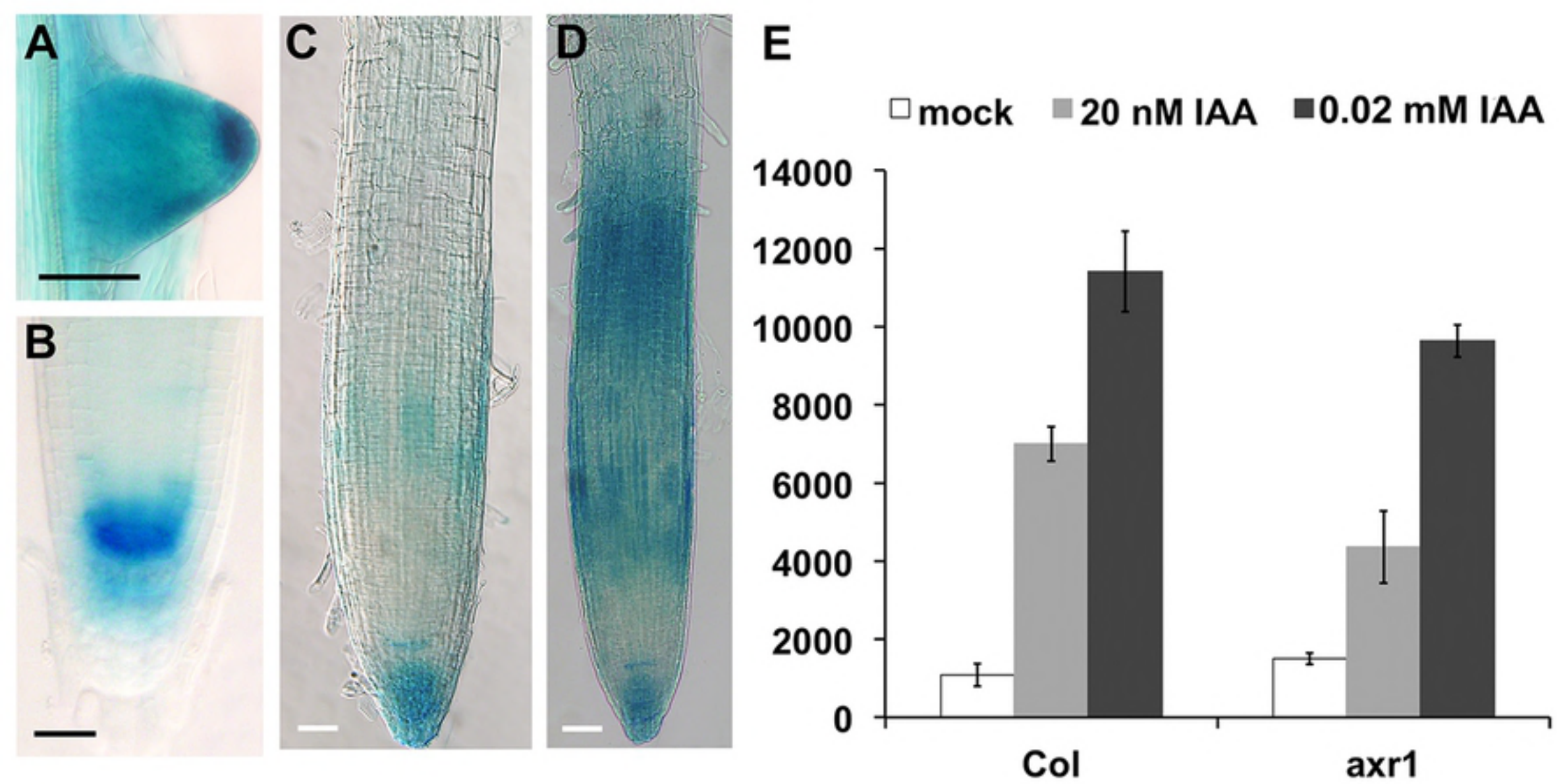


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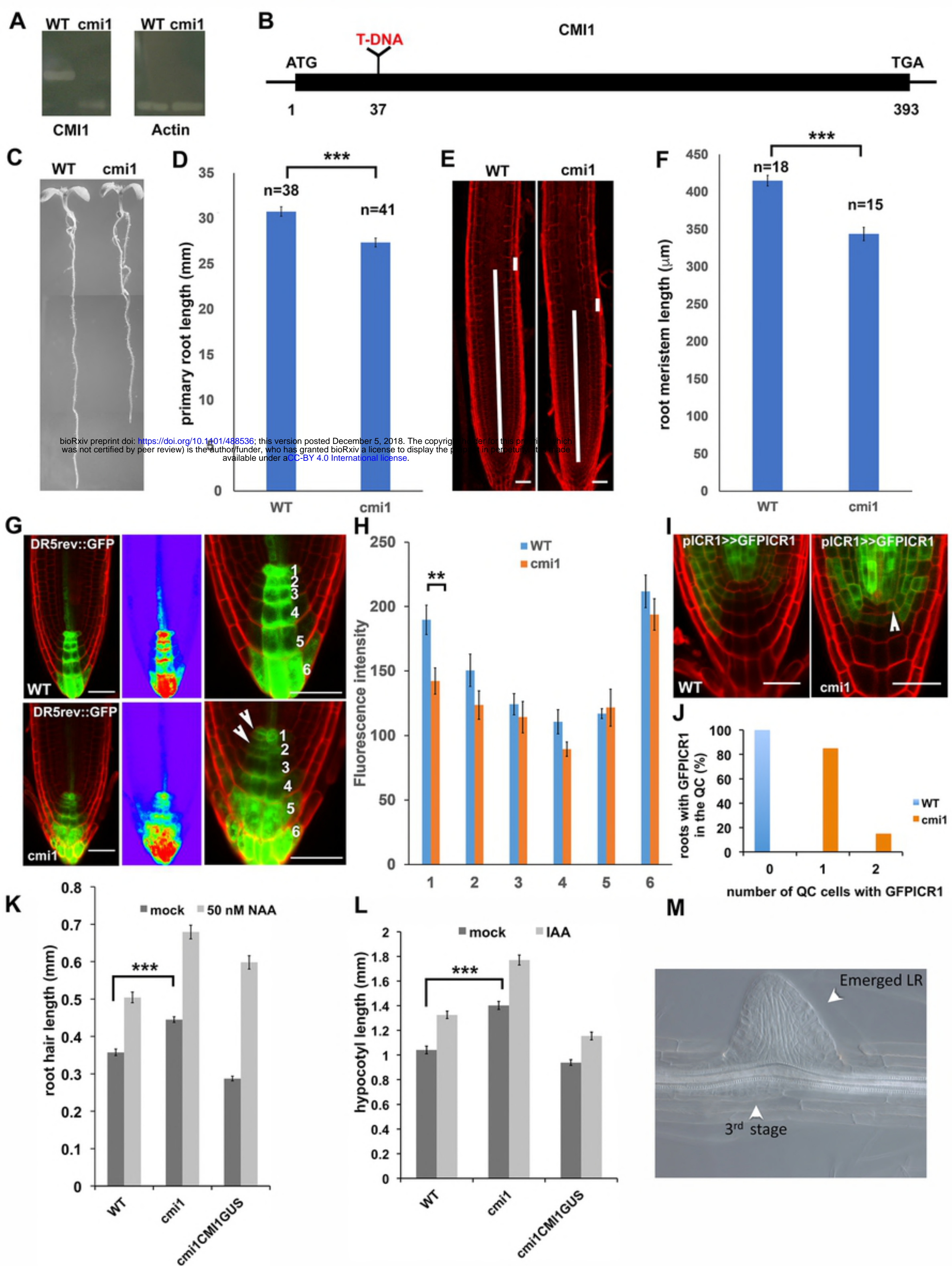


Fig 6

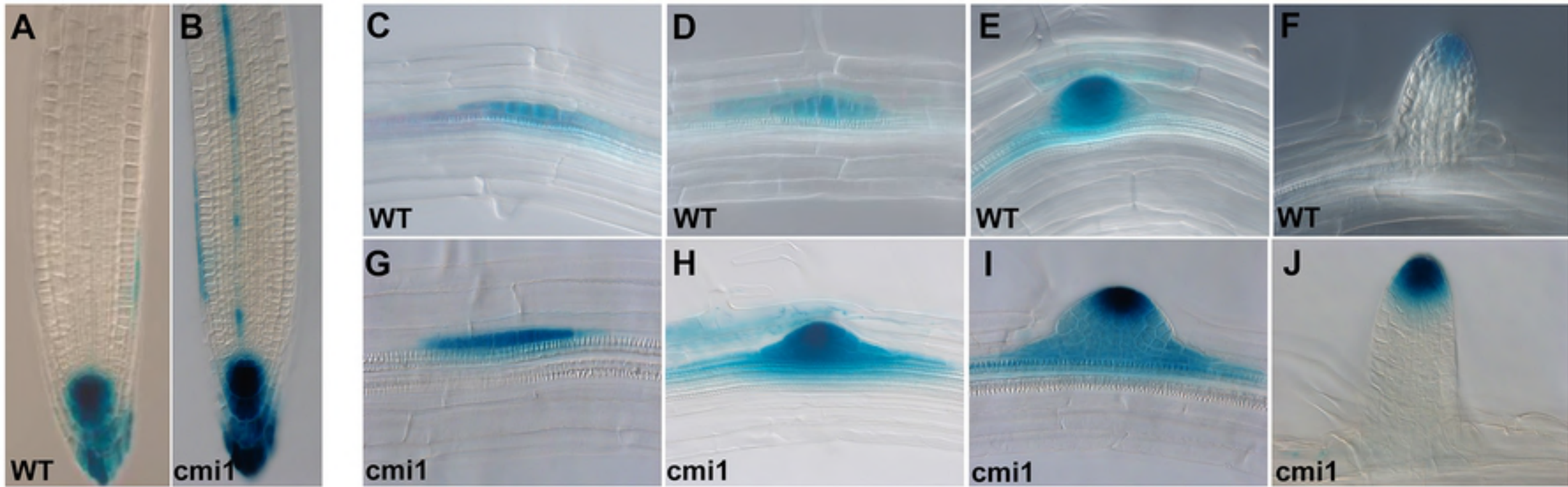


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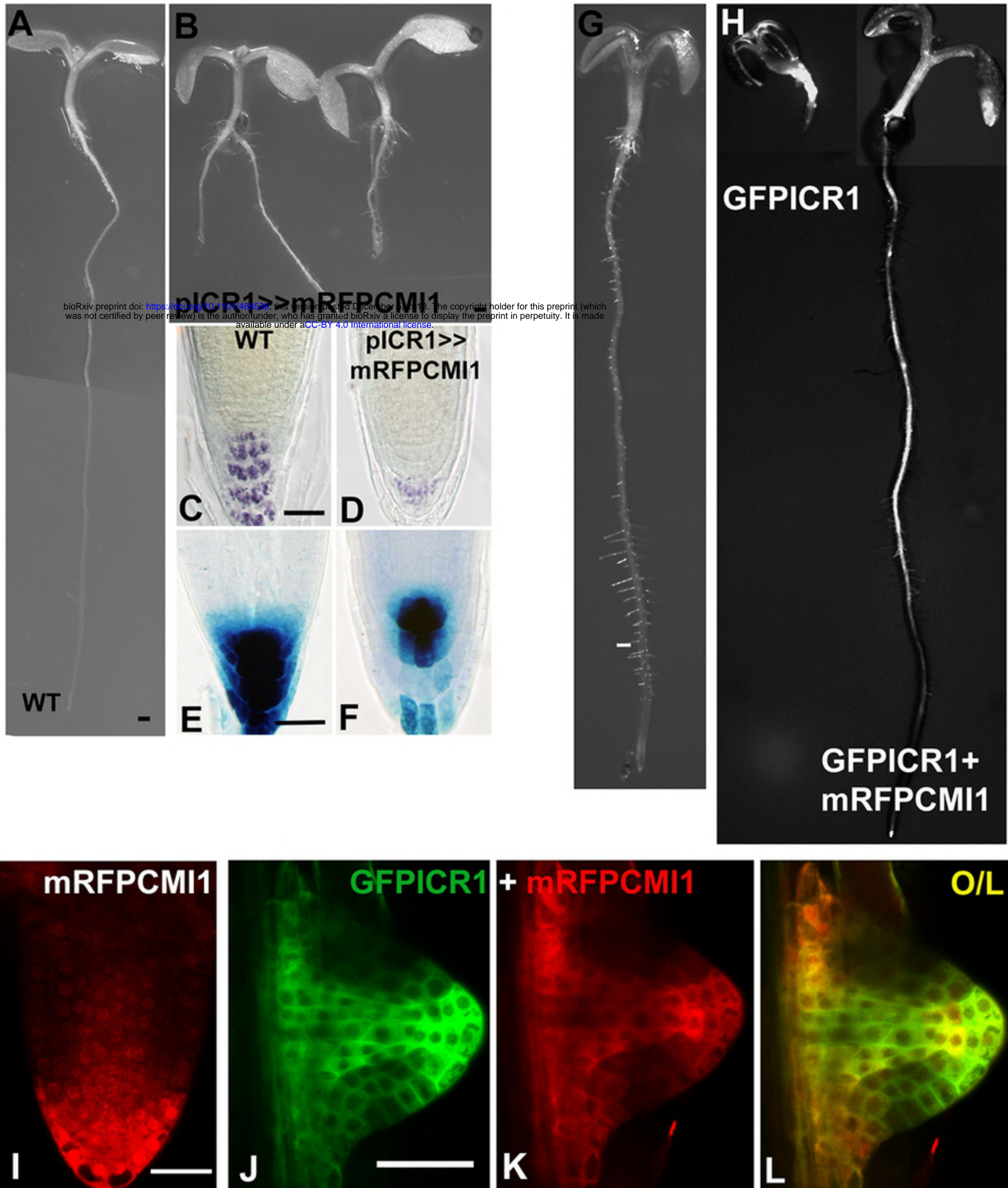


Fig 8

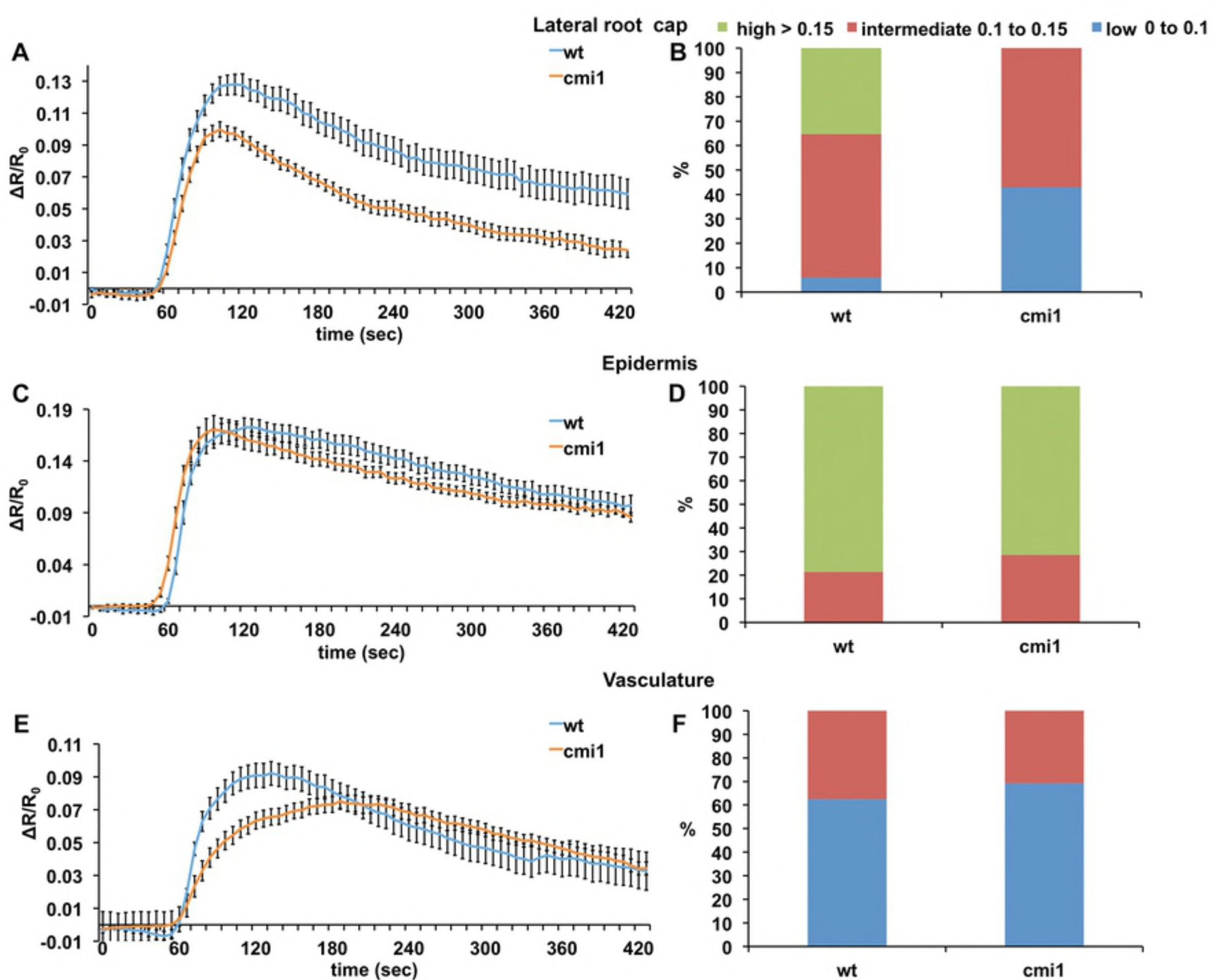


Fig 9