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Running Title: Biased System Signaling

Title: **Biased Signaling: Distinct Ligand-directed Plasma Membrane Signalosomes Using a Common RGS/ G protein Core**

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Abbreviations: *Arabidopsis thaliana* **Regulator of G Signaling (AtRGS1), Clathrin-Mediated Endocytosis (CME), Sterol-Dependent Endocytosis (SDE), Total Internal Reflection Fluorescence Microscopy (TIRF), Clathrin Light Chain (CLC), Flotilin 1 (FLOT1), Vacuolar Protein Sorting 26 (VPS26)**

Biased signaling occurs when different ligands that are directed at the same receptor launch different cellular outcomes. Because of their pharmacological importance, we know the most about biased ligands and little is known about other mechanisms to achieve signaling bias. In the canonical animal G protein system, endocytosis of a 7-transmembrane GPCR is mediated by arrestins to propagate or arrest cytoplasmic signaling depending on the bias. In Arabidopsis, GPCRs are not required for G protein coupled signaling because the heterotrimeric G protein complex spontaneously exchanges nucleotide. Instead, the prototype 7-transmembrane Regulator of G Signaling 1 protein AtRGS1 modulates G signaling and through ligand-dependent endocytosis, de-repression of signaling is initiated but canonical arrestins are not involved. Endocytosis initiates from two separate pools of plasma membrane: sterol-dependent domains, possibly lipid rafts, and a clathrin-accessible neighborhood, each with a select set of discriminators, activators, and newly-discovered arrestin-like adaptors. Different trafficking origins and trajectories lead to different cellular outcomes. Thus, compartmentation with its attendant signalosome architecture is a previously unknown mechanism to drive biased signaling.

Different ligands discriminated by the same receptor or utilizing the same core of signaling

elements can set in motion a cascade of events that lead to multiple outcomes. When subsets of

outcomes are ligand-specific, we label this biased signaling. This bias can be encoded in the ligand

structure (biased ligands), in the receptors (biased receptors), or in the interactions between the

signaling components (biased systems) [1,2]. Of the three defined mechanisms, biased ligands is the

most widely studied because of its immediate pharmacological significance, such as the

development of drugs that provide analgesia without the addictive side effect [3-5]. **a)** <u>Ligand bias</u>

occurs when a ligand stabilizes one or a subset of conformations of a receptor protein which then

preferentially recruits or activates signaling elements such as arrestin and the heterotrimeric G

protein complex that lead toward one cellular outcome over another [6,7]. For example, some ligands

are biased towards β-arrestins (aka arrestin-2 and -3) signaling [8-10] such as certain dopamine

agonists compared to dopamine which is biased towards D_2R-β-arrestin coupling [11]. Certain opioid

agonists compared to morphine are biased toward G-protein-coupled signaling [4,7,12]. **b)** <u>Receptor</u>

<u>bias</u> occurs through recognition of the same ligand by multiple receptor types [13] including so-called

decoy receptors [14,15], some of which may in fact be functional receptors that use non-classical

signaling pathways [14,16]. Dopamine D_1 and D_2 class receptors recognize dopamine, but signal

through different subunits of Gα as well as arrestin [17]. **c)** <u>System bias</u> involves a cell-mediated shift

to one pathway over another by some unknown mechanism but one possibility is through mass

action, for example, making arrestin more abundant at the receptor than Gα or a particular kinase

[18]. This last category of bias signaling is the least understood and the subject of the present work.

Phosphorylation patterns are the chemical bar codes for biased signaling at least for

arrestin-dependent outcomes [19-23]. G-protein coupled Receptor Kinases (GRKs) phosphorylate the

C-terminus or other cytoplasmic elements of GPCRs in response to agonist binding [24]. The

subsequent coupling of arrestin to phosphorylated GPCRs does not end G-protein-independent

signaling. Arrestin-bound GPCRs further activates some kinase pathways including MAPK and

tyrosine kinases [25-27] but not all (e.g. ref. [28]). While plants lack GRKs, an Arabidopsis family of

kinases called WITH NO LYSINE (**WNK**) kinase phosphorylate the C-terminal tail of the non-

canonical 7-transmembrane Regulator of G Signaling (**AtRGS1**) in response to extracellular

glucose [2,29]. AtRGS1 is also phosphorylated by other kinases including BAK1, a co-receptor for

flg22 which is a Pathogen-Associated Molecular Pattern (**PAMP**) [30-32] and loss of AtRGS1 and

other G protein components severely affect resistance in a wide range of pathogens [33]. System-

biased signaling may be particularly relevant in plants where AtRGS1 modulates intracellular

signaling transduction through G protein activation. AtRGS1 regulates G protein activation with

ligand discrimination likely facilitated by membrane bound Receptor Like Kinases (RLKs) of

which there are more than 400 members in Arabidopsis [34].

In animals, activation of G Protein signaling results from GDP exchange for GTP on the

Gα subunit, wherein this nucleotide exchange is the rate-limiting step [35]. Desensitization of the

cell toward the signal occurs through endocytosis of the GPCR mediated by arrestins [36,37]. In

Arabidopsis, however, the Gα subunit, AtGPA1, spontaneously exchanges nucleotides without a

GPCR thus it is self-activating with the intrinsic GTPase activity being the rate-limiting step [38,39].

AtRGS1 accelerates the intrinsic GTPase of AtGPA1 [40] and as a result, inactive Gα remains bound

to GDP until de-repression through AtRGS1 endocytosis, permitting Gα activation through

nucleotide exchange and subsequent downstream signal transduction [29]. This AtRGS1 endocytosis

is a well-established proxy for sustained G protein activation and the proportion of endocytosed

AtRGS1 is linearly related to the proportion of Gα in the GTP state [2]. In Arabidopsis, sugars [2,41]

and flg22 [32] activate AtRGS1 [29].

Physically de-coupling AtRGS1 from the heterotrimeric G protein complex by endocytosis

is the engine of the de-repression mechanism, at least for sustained activation. There are two modes

of endocytosis in plants: Clathrin-Mediated Endocytosis (**CME**) and Sterol-Dependent

Endocytosis (**SDE**) [42], however, the protein that directly couples to AtRGS1 and is responsible for

endocytosis is unknown. Extensive work elucidated the CME pathway in animal and yeast

systems with the function of many molecular components being well characterized. Of particular

interest is the ADAPTOR PROTEIN COMPLEX-2 (**AP-2**) that is required for recognition and

binding of cargo [43-45], recruiting clathrin to the PM, and the subsequent formation of clathrin-

coated vesicles. In the absence of AP-2 function, clathrin-coated vesicle formation is reduced and

endocytosis is inhibited [46]. The AP-2 complex is a heteromeric complex consisting of 2 large

subunits ($\alpha2$ and $\beta2$), 1 medium subunit ($\mu2$), and 1 small subunit ($\sigma2$) [47].

SDE is a clathrin-independent mechanism for internalization of membrane-associated

proteins. Sometimes referred to as lipid raft endocytosis, SDE of these microdomains requires

flotilin1 (**Flot1**), and possibly the microdomain-associated remorin protein [48] for internalization of

sterol-rich vesicles [49]. Membrane proteins PIP2;1 and Respiratory Burst Oxidase Homolog D

(**RbohD**) are selectively internalized via sterol-dependent endocytosis under salt stress conditions

[50,51].

Here, we present data illustrating a biased system where two distinct extracellular ligands

induce endocytosis of AtRGS1 from separate plasma membrane origins, of which one is mediated

by a an arrestin-fold-containing protein, Vacuolar Protein Sorting 26 (VPS26). flg22 initiates

AtRGS1 endocytosis via CME, while glucose activates both pathways of endocytosis.

Phosphorylation of AtRGS1 and involvement of individual subunits of the heterotrimeric G

protein complex are also ligand specific as are the immediate downstream consequences. From

the CME-mediated-AtRGS1 origin, flg22 induces a MAPK cascade known to drive transcriptional

reprogramming [52], whereas from the SDE-mediated-AtRGS1 origin, glucose induces

transcriptional change that is independent of the MAPK cascade.

Results

G signaling activation via AtRGS1 endocytosis by two distinct extracellular signals. To date,

there are 2 well-studied signals that directly and rapidly activate the Arabidopsis heterotrimeric G

protein signaling pathway through AtRGS1 endocytosis: **1)** flg22 which is a 22-amino acid PAMP

from the plant pathogen *Pseudomonas syringe* that is recognized by plant cells to initiate the innate

immunity pathway [53-55]. It is already established that flg22 is perceived extracellularly (e.g. ref. [56]

by co-receptors BAK1 and FLS2 as part of a larger G protein complex [57,58]). **2)**. Glucose or a

glucose metabolite which are products of photosynthesis [59] and metabolism of starch stores [60]. An

example of a time course for activation by flg22 and D-glucose is shown in Figure 1A.

Many sugars, although primarily sucrose, are transported extracellularly in the apoplastic

space where they are converted to glucose by cell wall localized invertases and potentially further

metabolized to a signal. These sugars are rapidly taken up through a large family of transporters

[61,62] where they are detected in the cytoplasm, but some sugars may also be detected extracellularly

[63]. D-glucose and some other glucose containing sugars induce rapid endocytosis of AtRGS1-

dependent sugar signaling [2,29] and because AtRGS1 shares the membrane topology of GPCRs

which perceive extracellular signals, it has been assumed that the extracellular glucose or

metabolite is perceived by the AtRGS1/G protein complex. However, neither an extracellular site

for perception nor direct evidence for agonist binding to AtRGS1 has been shown. To address the

former, impermeant sugars were tested for the ability to activate G signaling.

The glucose-fructose dissacharide 6-0-α-D-glucopyranosyl-D-fructose (aka isomaltulose,

pallatinose), is presumed not to be transported across the plant cell membrane although it acts as

an active glucose precursor if synthesized intracellularly [64,65]. While the expression of sucrose

isomerase in potato increased apoplastic isomaltulose, transport across any membrane has yet to

be demonstrated [66]. Importantly, isomaltulose is not hydrolyzed extracellularly [67,68]. To determine

if isomaltulose is impermeant to the plasma membrane, we chemically synthesized [^{14}C]

isomaltulose (Figure S1A) and tested for uptake into Arabidopsis seedlings. Isomaltulose was at

least 9-fold less permeant to cells than glucose (Figure S1B). Therefore, to determine if sugars are

perceived extracellularly by hypocotyl cells, we tested the effect of isomaltulose on AtRGS1-YFP

endocytosis (Figure S1C). Whereas several mono and disaccharides failed to activate G signaling,

extracellular isomaltulose caused AtRGS1 internalization more effectively (P< 0.01) than D-

glucose (Figure 1B) despite being transported ~10-fold less suggesting that isomaltulose activates

AtRGS1 extracellularly. The 5% D-glucose impurity in the isomaltulose preparation would induce

at most 5% AtRGS1 internalization and therefore does not account for the observed level of

activation. Turanose is another disaccharide that is thought to be perceived extracellularly [64] and

is impermeant [69] therefore endpoint analysis was performed using this sugar, and just as for both

glucose and isomaltulose, turanose activated G signaling (Figure 1C). Isomaltulose and turanose

are disaccharides that share a glucose ring (Figure 1D), suggesting that glucose or a glucose

metabolite is the discriminated signal or is important for a metabolic agonist (e.g. sugar

nucleotides).

Figure 1. An AtRGS1 complex perceives extracellular flg22 and glucose or glucose metabolite. **A**. flg22 and D-glucose induce rapid endocytosis of AtRGS1-YFP. Values represents the amount of AtRGS1 that is internal to the cell as a percent of the total YFP fluorescence. The type of raw data that is used to generate these values is shown in Supplemental Figure S1C. **B**. While flg22 is perceived extracellularly, an extracellular site of glucose perception for activation of G signaling in Arabidopsis has not yet been made with an impermeant glucose analog. Despite being 9-fold less permeant to the Arabidopsis plasma membrane, isomaltulose is as or slightly more potent than D-glucose in activation of G signaling as measured by proxy using AtRGS1-YFP endocytosis [2]. See supporting data for this panel in Supplemental Material Figure S1. **C**. Turanose is impermeant to plant cells [69] yet is as effective as D-glucose in inducing AtRGS1-YFP endocytosis. The purity of turanose was >98%. **D**. Structures. Both isomaltulose and turanose share a glucose ring moiety.

Biased signaling outputs. Two rapid events of the flg22 response is the induction of MITOGEN

ACTIVATED PROTEIN KINASE 6 (MPK6) activity and Ca^{2+} signaling [70]. To test the impact of

flg22 and D-glucose on MPK6 activity in etiolated hypocotyls, we developed a FRET-based sensor

that measures kinase activity specifically for MPK6, called *Sensor Of MAPK Activity* (SOMA) [71].

The SOMA lines were tagged with either the human immunodeficiency virus 1 (HIV-1) nuclear

export signal (SOMA-NES) or the SV40 nuclear localization signal (SOMA-NLS) [72,73] to measure

MPK6 activity in the cytosol or nucleus, respectively. Validation of these reporters for hypocotyl

epidermal cells using positive and negative controls is shown in Supplemental Figure S2A-F. As

shown in Figures 2A-F, rapid FRET gains were observed in both SOMA-NES and SOMA-NLS

within 2-4 minutes after treatment with flg22. When treated with 6% D-glucose, no change in

FRET efficiency was observed, suggesting that D-glucose does not induce activity of MPK6 (Fig

2G and H).

We tested the role of D-glucose and flg22 in triggering an increased Ca^{2+} transient response

using the intensity-based Ca^{2+} sensor R-GECO1, a red-shifted intensity-based Ca^{2+} reporter [74]. We

used stable transgenic Arabidopsis lines in wild type and *rgs1-2* backgrounds expressing cytosolic-

and nuclear-localized R-GECO1. For our assay, D-glucose and flg22-induced Ca^{2+} changes in wild

type and *rgs1-2* plants were measured over a time course in etiolated hypocotyls and normalized

against the untreated samples (Fig 2I and 2J). Ca^{2+} levels represented by fractional fluorescence

changes ($\Delta F/F$; the difference between the fluorescence intensity before and after flg22 application

divided by initial fluorescence intensity) increased in wild type ($p< 0.01$) while $\Delta F/F$ was greatly

diminished ($\Delta F/F = \sim0.01$) in the *rgs1-2* mutant in response to flg22. D-glucose treatments did not

significantly alter the $\Delta F/F$ in Col-0 wild type or *rgs1-2* mutant ($p=0.62$), suggesting that D-glucose

does not utilize AtRGS1 in a Ca^{2+} branch of the pathway. Activation of MAPK and the Ca^{2+}

increase both occurred at a threshold of 1 nM flg22 (Figure 2K). Despite both D-glucose and flg22

inducing AtRGS1-internalization, these results show that within this context, only flg22 is capable

of inducing MPK6 activity and Ca^{2+} changes.

Here, we showed that D-glucose signaling mediated by AtRGS1 does not involve MAPK

or Ca^{2+} branches, however, D-glucose elicits a change in expression of a small set of genes over

time and dose [29,41]. *TRICHOMELESS LIKE 26* (*TBL26*), which is induced by D-glucose in an

AtRGS1/G protein complex-dependent manner [41], is used as a reporter for activation [2,29,75].

However, what is not known is if flg22 operates on this transcriptional pathway. As shown in

Figure 2L, flg22 does not induce *TBL26* expression indicating separate outputs for D-glucose and

flg22.

Paradoxically, the loss of AtRGS1 inhibits *TBL26* expression indicating that genetically,

AtRGS1 acts like a positive modulator of signaling which is contradictory to our understanding

that RGS proteins negatively modulate G protein activation. One solution to this paradox is that

AtRGS1 has a positive regulatory role at the endosome; specifically that AtRGS1 endocytosis is

essential. To test this, we quantitated glucose-induced *TBL26* expression in the presence of an

endocytosis inhibitor Tyrphostin A23 (**TyrA23**) and found that *TBL26* expression is dramatically

reduced (Figure 2L). This is consistent with the notion that AtRGS1 signaling has an endosomal

origin, analogous to some GPCRs [76].

Figure 2. MAPK activation and Ca^{2+} signaling in response to flg22 vs. gene expression in response to D-glucose. (**A-D**) Processed confocal images of the epidermis of etiolated hypocotyls from the SOMA-NLS (**A, B**) and SOMA-NES (**C, D**) transgenic lines depicting the ratio of YPet to Turquoise GL emission produced by exciting Turquoise GL. Scale bar represents 100 µm. Time stamps indicate when the image was collected labeled minutes:seconds. Images at 00:00 were collected before treatment, while those at time point 20:00 were collected 5 minutes after treatment with 1 µM flg22. White rectangle represent regions of interest (ROIs) used to measure YPet and Turquoise GL emission. (**E-H**). The ratio of YPet to Turquoise GL emission produced by exciting Turquoise GL over time was determined using the ROIs shown in (**A-D**). During the first 10 minutes of each experiment the samples were incubated in water. The arrow indicates the time at which 1 µM flg22 (**E, G**) or 6% D-glucose (**F, H**) was added to the sample. (**E**) SOMA-NES lines

AtRGS1 endocytic pathway is signal biased. Having shown that extracellular flg22 is detected

by BAK1/FLS2 [32,55,77] and induces AtRGS1 endocytosis [32] and that extracellular D-glucose acts

upstream of AtRGS1 endocytosis, both requiring at least in part the phosphorylation of AtRGS1

at its C terminal tail [29,32], we turned to the question of whether these two signals activate the same

physical pool of AtRGS1. Endocytosis in plants utilizes two primary pathways: CME and SDE.

Both pathways have been individually associated with the activity of specific proteins and

responses [49,78-80]; for example, CME and SDE cooperatively regulate the activity of RbohD in the

flg22 pathway [50]. We used high-resolution microscopies to achieve the needed spatial and temporal

resolution to answer quantitative differences in signal-induced activation. To determine if one or

both pathways regulate AtRGS1 activity at the membrane, we induced internalization with D-

glucose and *flg22* while simultaneously inhibiting the CME pathway by arresting AP2µ function

with TyrA23 [79,81] or inhibiting the SDE pathway by suppressing microdomain formation via sterol

solubilization with methyl-β-cyclodextrin (**MβCD**) [82,83]. MβCD, even at great excess, did not

block *flg22*–induced AtRGS1 internalization compared to the control (p<0.01) (Figure 3A).

Conversely, AtRGS1 internalization induced by glucose was reduced nearly 50% with a minimum

concentration of 5mM MβCD (Figure 3B). This suggests that roughly half of the D-glucose-

regulated pool of AtRGS1 is located in a SDE domain. To determine if the CME pathway regulates

AtRGS1 activity, we applied TyrA23 with *flg22* or D-glucose. AtRGS1 internalization with both

activators was significantly reduced (p<0.01); completely for flg22-induced AtRGS1 endocytosis

(Figure 3C) and by 50% for D-glucose-induced AtRGS1 endocytosis (Figure 2D). The structurally

similar but inactive TyrA23 analog TyrphostinA51 showed no significant effect on AtRGS1

internalization (p<0.01) (Figure 3C and 3D, TyrA51), indicating that the inhibitory effect of

TyrA23 is chemically specific [81]. When both inhibitors were applied simultaneously with glucose,

AtRGS1 internalization was ablated (Figure 3E). The observation that TyrA23 decreased D-

glucose-induced AtRGS1 endocytosis by only half compared to complete inhibition for flg22-

induced endocytosis suggests that TyrA23 is not inhibiting through global cytotoxicity.

These results suggest that there is a single flg22-induced pool that internalizes through a

CME pathway and that there are two distinct glucose-induced pools, one internalizes through the

CME pathway and the other through the SDE pathway. Because the glucose-induced pool is

equally inhibited by the CME and SDE inhibitors, a rapid equilibrium between the pools is not

likely, otherwise neither inhibitor would have shown efficacy.

The use of TyrA23 as a specific endocytosis inhibitor is controversial [84-86], therefore we

added a genetic approach by measuring AtRGS1 internalization in the AP-2μ null mutant, *ap2m*

[87]. The AP-2 complex plays a critical role in transporting cargo in the CME pathway, whereby the

μ subunit of this tetrameric AP-2 complex directly interacts with cargo proteins during endocytosis

[45,88]. In the *ap2m* mutant seedlings, flg22-induced AtRGS1 internalization was ablated (p<0.01),

consistent with the TyrA23 results (Figure 3F). In contrast, D-glucose induced about half AtRGS1

internalization in the *ap2m* mutant compared to Col-0 wild type (p<0.01) also consistent with the

TyrA23 result. The addition of MβCD with D-glucose ablated AtRGS1 internalization in the *ap2m*

mutant to basal levels (Figure 3G). These observations suggests that there are two signal-

dependent pools of AtRGS1 on the plasma membrane; 1) a homogenous pool for flg22 signaling

and 2) a conglomerate pool for D-glucose signaling.

Because D-glucose utilizes both CME and sterol-dependent pathways to induce AtRGS1

internalization, we tested if the depletion of CME pools of AtRGS1 by D-glucose would alter

flg22-induced MPK6 activation. After pretreating SOMA-NES lines with D-glucose for 30

minutes prior to imaging, we found that D-glucose did not have an effect on flg22-increased FRET

efficiency (Fig 2G inset) suggesting that the glucose pool of AtRGS1 is sequestered from the flg22-

induced CME of AtRGS1.

To determine if CME-mediated endocytosis regulates flg22-induced MPK6 activity, we

pretreated SOMA-NES lines with TyrA23. TyrA23 successfully blocked the increases in FRET

efficiencies that were observed in the absence of the inhibitor (Fig 2E, replicates in Fig S2 G-N).

The negative control TyrA51 showed no significant effect on FRET efficiency after treatment with

flg22 (Fig S2 P-V), indicating that the inhibitory effect of TyrA23 is chemically-specific to its role

in blocking CME-mediated endocytosis and suggesting that AtRGS1 endocytosis, per se, is

required. However, this observation does not exclude the possibility that within the context of

flg22-induced MAPK signaling that some other endocytosed protein is solely rate-limiting for

MAPK cascade activation. This possibility is excluded in the following section.

Figure 3. Two origins of AtRGS1 endocytosis. Pharmacological inhibitors show two origins of AtRGS1-YFP endocytosis. (**A**) AtRGS1-YFP seedlings were treated with increasing concentrations of MβCD at 0 mM (n= 18 (flg22) and 15 (glucose)), 1 mM (n= 14 and 14), 2 mM (n= 15 and 16), 5 mM (n= 17 and 14), 10 mM (n= 12 and 17), and 20 mM (n= 15 and 6) for 45 min followed by incubation in the same solution but supplemented with 1 μM flg22 for 10 min or (**B**) 6% D-glucose for 30 min before imaging epidermal cells. Internalized AtRGS1-YFP was quantified to determine total endocytosis of AtRGS1. MβCD does not inhibit flg22-induced AtRGS1 endocytosis, but does partially inhibit glucose-induced AtRGS1 endocytosis at 5mM and above (p<0.01). (**C**) Tyrphostin A23, an inhibitor of CME, significantly impairs flg22-induced AtRGS1 endocytosis (n=14) and (**D**) partially inhibits glucose-mediated AtRGS1 endocytosis (n=27) (p<0.01). The structurally similar, but inactive analog of TyrA23, TyrA51, has no effect (n=19) indicating that the effect of TyrA23 is specific. (**E**) When both inhibitors are applied with

glucose, AtRGS1 internalization is reduced to basal levels (n=8) (p<0.01). A genetics approach to inhibit AtRGS1 internalization confirms pharmacological results. (**F**) A genetic null mutant of *ap2μ*, the cargo recognition complex for CME, results in complete inhibition of flg22-induced AtRGS1 (n=16) (p<0.01) down to basal levels, confirming TyrA23 results. (**G**) Glucose-induced internalization of AtRGS1 is partially inhibited in the *ap2μ* mutant (n=32) (p<0.01), but further reduced to basal levels with the addition of MβCD (n=18) (p<0.01). (**H**) Mutation of Y^{112} to Alanine in the AtRGS1 tyrosine motif recognized by ap2μ, $AtRGS1^{Y112A}$, inhibits flg22-induced AtRGS1 endocytosis to basal levels (n=16) (p<0.01). (**I**) Glucose-mediated AtRGS1 endocytosis is partially inhibited in $AtRGS1^{Y112A}$ (n=12) (p<0.05), but subsequently reduced to basal levels with the addition of MβCD (n=9) (p<0.01). Quantification of AtRGS1-YFP fluorescence is discussed in methods. (**J**) The speed and surface area of AtRGS1-GFP particles as tracked and measured by IMARIS from 30 second time lapse imaging using TIRF at 5 minutes after treatment with glucose and flg22. Identifiable AtRGS1-GFP particles are significantly smaller in the flg22 treated population (n=2026) compared to glucose (n=4619). No significant difference in speed is observed between particles in the two treatments. (**K-P**) Endocytosis markers CLC-mCherry and FLOT1-mCherry localize to the cell periphery and increase overlap with RGS1-GFP in a ligand dependent manner after treatment with flg22 and glucose. Zeiss confocal micrographs show AtRGS1-GFP (**green channel**) and either CLC-mCherry (**red channel K-M**) or FLOT1-mCherry (**red channel N-P**) after 5 minute treatments with water (**K and N**), flg22 (**L and O**), and glucose (**M and P**). After water treatment, CLC-mCherry (**K box inset**) and FLOT1-mCherry (**N box inset**) remain distributed throughout the cell cytoplasm and highly overlapped AtRGS1-GFP particles (**Q**). After treatment with flg22, CLC-mCherry migrates to the cell periphery with an observed increase in protein agglomeration (**L red arrows**) and decrease overlap score with RGS1GFP (**S**), while FLOT1-mCherry has no observable change compared to water (**G box inset and R**). Upon treatment with glucose, FLOT1-mCherry protein bodies congregate at the cell periphery (**P red arrows**) and decrease overlap with RGS1-GFP (**V**) , while CLC-mCherry remains unchanged compared to water (**M box inset and U**). (**W**) The average overlap scores for CLC-mCherry and FLOT1-mCherry after addition of water (n= 8 and 9), flg22 (n= 4 and 7), and glucose (n= 4 and 3). flg22 addition induces a significant change in CLC compared to glucose and water while glucose induces a significant change with FLOT1 compared to flg22 and water (p<0.01).

A point mutation in the intracellular loop disarms biased signaling. The μ subunit of the AP-2 complex is a cargo recognition and interaction component in the CME pathway. It binds to known tyrosine motifs, YXXΦ, where X is any amino acid and Φ is an amino acid with a hydrophobic side chain [89]. The second intracellular loop in AtRGS1 contains such a motif with the amino acid sequence Y^{112}FIF [90]. To determine if this motif is necessary for AtRGS1 endocytosis and a potential binding motif for AP-2μ, we generated AtRGS1 with a tyrosine to alanine mutation ($AtRGS1^{Y112A}$). flg22 failed to induce endocytosis of the $AtRGS1^{Y112A}$ mutant (Figure 3H). D-

glucose-induced internalization of the AtRGS1^{Y112A} was reduced to half (p<0.05) compared to

wild type internalization and was further reduced to the resting level with the addition of MβCD

(p<0.01) (Figure 3I) demonstrating that the Y^{112}FIF is necessary for internalization and likely a

recognition and binding site for AP-2μ. The flg22-induced AtRGS1 pool is entirely mediated by

the CME pathway whereas roughly half of the D-glucose-induced AtRGS1 pool internalizes

through the CME pathway. While we recognize that both TyrA23 and genetic ablation of AP-2μ

have off-target effects, the point mutation in the AtRGS1 cargo recognition motif provides strong

evidence for flg22- and glucose-inducing CME of distinct pools of AtRGS1.

Physically-distinct, dynamic populations of AtRGS1: Architectural basis for biased

signaling. We showed through pharmacological and genetic approaches that two signal-dependent

pools of AtRGS1 exist, raising the possibility that the two AtRGS1 pools are physically distinct

on the cell membrane. The different dependency on sterol and clathrin for partial D-glucose- vs.

flg22-induced endocytosis of AtRGS1 suggests that this is the case. To test this hypothesis, we

imaged AtRGS1 with a C-terminal GFP tag using Total Internal Reflection Microscopy (**TIRF**)

and IMARIS (v9.2.2, Bitplane Inc) surface tracking (Figure S3 A-E, examples of raw data). We

used TIRF because it provides excellent signal to noise ratio for visualizing only fluorescent

proteins near and on the membrane by illuminating with an evanescent wave of excitation light

that quickly decays beyond the cell membrane. While we cannot distinguish membrane bound

AtRGS1-GFP from AtRGS1-GFP located at the extreme membrane periphery, we can quantitate

the intrinsic properties of AtRGS1-GFP populations under different ligand conditions. We

calculated the average size and speed of GFP fluorescence during a 30-second interval taken from

time-lapse imaging at 5 and at 15 minutes post treatment with glucose and flg22. Two clearly

distinct, signal-dependent populations of AtRGS1 were observed (Figure 3J). After 5 minutes

under glucose conditions, the surface area of AtRGS1-GFP clusters were significantly larger ($\ddot{x}$ =

0.9403 μm^2 n=4619) than flg22-treated cells ($\ddot{x}$ = 0.5998 μm^2 n=2026) (Figure 3J inset) (p<0.01).

At 15 minutes, the area of these flg22-treated clusters increased slightly to 0.6733 μm^2 (n=1751),

and the area of the glucose-treated clusters increased to 1.0072 μm^2 (n=6209) (Figure S3 F-H).

For flg22-treated cells, the average velocity of the clusters were 1.53µm/s and 1.63µm/s at 5 and

15 minutes, respectively (n= 2026 and 1751) and for the flg22-treated cells averages, the velocities

were 0.98µm/s and 1.01µm/s at 5 and 15 minutes, respectively (n= 4619 and 6209). Two

populations of differently-sized AtRGS1 protein clusters moving at different speeds provides

physical evidence supporting two origins of endocytosis.

The signal dependency correlates with endocytosis marker redistribution.

The Clathrin Light Chain (**CLC**) and Flot1 proteins are associated with CME and SDE,

respectively [42,49]. We generated transgenic lines expressing AtRGS1-GFP with either CLC-

mCherry (CME) or Flot1-mCherry (SDE) endocytosis markers to investigate the localization of

AtRGS1 in relation to both markers. We imaged the response of both endocytosis markers 5

minutes after application of water, flg22, and glucose to look for changes in marker distribution in

the cell (Figure 3K-P). Using Manders Overlap Coefficient (hereafter, Manders), we quantified

the co-occurrence of both endocytosis markers with AtRGS1-GFP under all treatment conditions.

We used Manders instead of Pearson's Correlation because qualitative analysis showed a ligand-

dependent change in marker localization and shape. Manders provides a quantitative measure of

the change in overlap of the two signals, not the change in signal intensity (Pearson's Coefficient)

that may be a result of AtRGS1 internalization (e.g. change in compartment pH) and not correlated

to direct interaction with either endocytosis marker.

A subset of the Manders after background subtraction are shown in Figure 3Q-V and

correspond to the confocal micrographs in Figure 3K-P. M1 represents the proportion of total GFP

from AtRGS1 that overlaps with mCherry. Similarly, M2 represents the proportion of total

mCherry from CLC or FLOT1 that overlaps with GFP. Under conditions without either flg22 or

D-glucose (Figure 2K and 2N), AtRGS1-GFP and our endocytosis markers have a high overlap

baseline (Figure 3Q and 3R). After flg22 addition (Figure 3L and 3O), the proportion of CLC

associated with AtRGS1 decreased, with the proportion of AtRGS1 overlapping with CLC also

decreasing significantly ($p<0.01$). Simply stated, a smaller defined subset of the AtRGS1 and CLC

populations are overlapping with each other in a ligand-dependent manner with the endocytosis

marker also exhibiting a structural change. This response was not observed with FLOT1 when

flg22 was added (Figure 3T). With glucose addition (Figure 3M and 3P), CLC showed no

significant change compared to water (Figure 3U), while FLOT1 overlap with RGS1 decreased

compared to the water baseline ($p<0.01$) (Figure 3V). The same responses were observed at 15

minutes post ligand addition (Figure S3 I-T). The averages for the entire collection of M2 scores

from all samples are presented in Figure 3W. These results suggests that AtRGS1 association with

the CME and SDE-defined routes is biased toward the activating signal. In summary, the different

intrinsic trafficking properties further support at least two pools of ligand-activated AtRGS1.

Signaling bias involves phosphorylation from different kinases. Phosphorylation of AtRGS1

is a necessary requisite for both D-glucose- and flg22-induced endocytosis. The C-terminus of

AtRGS1 contains multiple di-serine residues that could function as potential phosphorylation sites

for signal transduction. A truncated version of AtRGS1 lacking the 43 C-terminal residues,

AtRGS1$^{\Delta Ct}$, served as a blunt instrument for a phosphorylation-deficient mutation to determine if

the C-terminal tail is necessary for AtRGS1 endocytosis (Figure S4A). Application of flg22 failed

to internalize the AtRGS1$^{\Delta Ct}$ mutant compared to water control ($p<0.01$) (Figure 4A). D-Glucose

application however, internalized the AtRGS1$^{\Delta Ct}$ mutant, but at 50% the level of the wild type

AtRGS1 ($p<0.01$). MβCD completely inhibited internalization of the AtRGS1$^{\Delta Ct}$ mutant levels

($p<0.01$) (Figure 4B). These results show that the C-terminus is necessary for flg22- and glucose-

induced endocytosis of AtRGS1 and support two subpopulations of AtRGS1 among the glucose-

induced pool.

Two phosphorylated serine residues on the C-terminus of AtRGS1 at positions 428 and

435 or 436 are necessary for at least partial endocytosis of AtRGS1 induced by both D-glucose

and flg22. Therefore, we mutated these serines to alanine (AtRGS1^{3SA}) to determine if these

specific residues were necessary to induce internalization by either agonist. Upon treatment with

flg22, AtRGS1^{3SA} internalization was at basal levels compared to wild type ($p<0.01$) (Figure 4C),

confirming previous results by Tunc-Ozdemir $et\ al$ [32] and suggesting that the CME pathway is

dependent on phosphorylation of serines 428, 435 and/or 436. In the case of glucose, endocytosis

was only partially impaired by the AtRGS1^{3SA} mutant ($p<0.01$) (Figure 4D). MβCD completely

blocked glucose-induced endocytosis of the AtRGS1^{3SA} mutant (Figure 4D), consistent with our

previous results that show glucose-induced internalization utilizes both CME and SDE pathways

and that the CME pathway requires phosphorylation at Ser$_{428/435/436}$.

As an added note, these various genetic results enable us to exclude an osmotic effect that

effectively sequesters a portion of the plasma membrane pool of AtRGS1 into a sterol-dependent

microdomain that is incapable of internalizing its components.

Figure 4. CME of AtRGS1 is phosphorylation dependent and G protein specific. Known phosphorylation sites at serine residues on the C-terminal end of AtRGS1 are required for both flg22 and glucose-induced CME of AtRGS1. (**A**) A truncated AtRGS1, AtRGS1$^{\Delta Ct}$, lacking the 43 most C-terminal residues, including 8 serines, resulted in basal levels of flg22-induced AtRGS1 internalization (n=11) (p<0.01). (**B**) Glucose-induced AtRGS1 internalization is partially reduced in AtRGS1$^{\Delta Ct}$ (n=12) (p<0.01), but further reduced to basal levels with the addition of MβCD (n=13) (p<0.01). (**C and D**) Mutation of three specific serine residues to alanine at 428, 435, and 436, in a full length AtRGS1, AtRGS1^{3SA}, yielded similar results to AtRGS1$^{\Delta Ct}$ for flg22 (n=10) and glucose-mediated internalization (n=22) (p<0.01), but indicate phosphorylation of one or several specific serine residues is necessary for CME of AtRGS1. flg22 and glucose require known kinases for AtRGS1 internalization. (**E**) Genetic ablation of the flg22 receptor FLS2 yields basal

levels of flg22-induced AtRGS1 internalization (n=12) (p<0.01), but does not affect glucose-
induced AtRGS1 internalization (n=9). (**F**) Similarly, null mutation of the BAK1 co-receptor,
bak1-4, results in ablated flg22-induced AtRGS1 internalization (n=16) (p<0.01), but not for
glucose (n=17) (p=0.36). (**G**) The high dose and low duration glucose specific WNK8 kinase is
necessary for glucose induced AtRGS1 internalization (n=13) (p<0.01), but not flg22 (n=10)
(p=0.9). Individual G proteins are necessary for AtRGS1 endocytosis in a ligand-specific manner.
(**H**) A genetic null mutant of Gα, *gpa1-4*, limits flg22-induced endocytosis of AtRGS1 to basal
levels (n=15), while glucose-induced endocytosis is unaffected compared to wild-type (n=22). (**I**)
A null mutation of XLG2, *xlg2-1*, an extra-large Gα protein, also reduced flg22-induced AtRGS1
endocytosis to basal levels (n=14), but had no significant effect on glucose-mediated endocytosis
compared to wild type (n=19) (p<0.01). (**J**) A null mutation of the AGB1/AGG1 heterodimer,
agb1-2/agg1, inhibited flg22-induced AtRGS1 endocytosis (n=15), but had no effect on high dose,
low duration glucose-induced AtRGS1 endocytosis (n=17) (p<0.01). (**K**) At low dose, long
duration AGB1/AGG1 are necessary for glucose induced internalization (n=25). Quantification of
AtRGS1-YFP fluorescence is discussed in methods.

System bias by skewed kinase and G-protein complex composition. Because the cluster of

phosphorylated serines on the C-terminus of AtRGS1 are required for AtRGS1 internalization, we

hypothesized that one mechanism for system bias is to functionally-sequester cognate kinases for

D-glucose and flg22 into their respective ligand-delineated pools. To test this hypothesis, we

quantified AtRGS1 internalization in the mutant backgrounds of the flg22-activated FLS2 kinase

(*fls2*) and BAK1 co-receptor (*bak1*) and the D-glucose-activated WNK kinase (*wnk8*-2, *wnk1*-1)

null mutants. Upon treatment with flg22, AtRGS1 endocytosis was ablated in *fls2* and *bak1-4*

mutants (P<0.01), while D-glucose-induced internalization in these mutants was unaffected

(P=0.70 and 0.37 respectively) (Figure 4E and 4F). In contrast, D-glucose-induced internalization

in the *wnk8-2* was ablated (p<0.01), while flg22-induced AtRGS1 endocytosis was unaffected

(P=0.89) (Figure 4G). Our results suggest that FLS2 and BAK1 are specific to the CME pathway

and WNK8 kinase is specific to the SDE pathway.

499   The canonical components of the heterotrimeric G protein complex are necessary for D-

glucose-induced internalization of AtRGS1 [2,29]. More specifically, Gβγ is required for the

recruitment of WNK kinases for phosphorylation of AtRGS1, leading to AtRGS1 endocytosis and

activation of downstream G signaling. We hypothesized that individual components of the G

protein heterotrimer may be required for biased signaling. To test this hypothesis, we quantified

AtRGS1 endocytosis in G protein mutant backgrounds after flg22 and glucose activation. In the

AtGPA1 (Gα) null background, *gpa1-4,* AtRGS1 endocytosis showed no significant difference

compared to wild type when glucose was applied (p=0.48) (Figure 4H). After addition of flg22,

however, AtRGS1 endocytosis was at basal levels (p < 0.01) in the absence of Gα indicating that

the G subunit is essential for this pathway (Figure 4H). We additionally tested AtRGS1 in the

absence of XLG2, one member of a three-gene family of atypical G proteins. XLG proteins have

a homologous C-terminal Gα domain and an N-terminal nuclear localization signal [91]. Loss of

XLG2 in the *xlg2-1* mutant did not affect AtRGS1 endocytosis by D-glucose application (p=0.43),

but completely inhibited AtRGS1 endocytosis to basal levels after addition of flg22 (p<0.01)

(Figure 4I). In the *agb1-2/agg1* double null mutant, AtRGS1 endocytosis was diminished after

addition of flg22 (p<0.01) (Figure 4J). Loss of the Gβγ dimer in the *agb1-2/agg1* mutant had no

effect on glucose-induced AtRGS1 endocytosis compared to wild type after 30 minutes of

treatment with 6% D-glucose (p=0.79) (Figure 4J). Interestingly, activation by a lower dose (2%)

of D-glucose over a longer duration (6 hour) required AGB1/AGG1 (p<0.01) (Figure 4K).

VPS26: a candidate plant β-arrestin-like adaptor necessary for AtRGS1 endocytosis in the

CME pathway. Higher plant genomes do not encode canonical (i.e. visual and nonvisual)

arrestins [92]. Therefore, we sought candidate adaptors for AtRGS1 that may function like β-arrestins

to recruit AP2/clathrin to AtRGS1 for endocytosis by querying 3-D structure databases. As shown

in Figure S5A and B, we identified three *Arabidopsis* VACUOLAR PROTEIN SORTING 26

(VPS26) proteins that contain arrestin folds [93] and are orthologous to human VPS26. *Arabidopsis*

VPS26A and VPS26B amino acid sequences are 91% identical whereas VPS26-like is 20%

identical to VPS26A and VPS26B. In mammals and plants, VPS26 operates with VPS29 and

VPS35 in the retromer complex on the endosome [94]. This raises the possibility that VPS26 proteins

have a moonlighting function in modulating AtRGS1 internalization.

To compare the arrestin and AtVPS26A protein structures, we first created a model of

AtVPS26A using MODELLER [95]. Toward this, a high quality homogeneous sequence alignment

was generated using the VPS26 family (Arabidopsis VPS26A, VPS26B, VPS26like and *Homo*

sapiens VPS26A) and arrestin family (Vertebrates: Human arrestin-1 and arrestin-2; bovine

arrestin-1, arrestin-2, arrestin-2, and a variant p44; Squid arrestin-1; and the invertebrate shrimp

arrestin (Figure S4A). Human, bovine, and squid sequences were included because PDB structures

are available. The squid and shrimp sequences were added for divergence information (among the

opistokonts). AtVPS26A and human VPS26A share 56.48% sequence identity while AtVPS26A

and arrestins share only 14-17% sequence identities (Figure S4B). These results rationalized our

use of the high-resolution (2.1Å) crystal structure of *Homo sapiens* Vps26a (PDB [2FAU]) rather

than an arrestin structure to generate models of AtVPS26A for subsequent comparison to arrestin.

Details of the top five selected models (atvps26a1 →5) are provided in the Methods.

We compared the atvps26a-2 model with the bovine arrestin-3 (PDB [3P2D [96]]). Although

the primary amino acid identity between arrestin and AtVPS26A is only ~15% (Figure 5A), the

structure of AtVPS26A model shows a remarkably similar arrestin scaffold comprised of a semi-

symmetric fold of two β strand sandwich structures in the N domain and C domains linked by

central loops with each sandwich formed by 3 or 4 β strands, respectively.

For arrestin, the conserved structures mainly include N-terminal and C-terminal arms, a

central crest which is comprised of a finger loop [97], a middle loop [98,99](see box ii of Fig. 5), and a

C loop [100] (see box I of Fig. 5), a gate loop, a polar core, and the hinge domain [101]. The N-terminal

and C-terminal arms stabilize the arrestin conformation. Model atvps26a-2 shares similar N-

terminal and C-terminal scaffolds with arrestin however it lacks a short α-helix inside the arrestin

N-terminal domain (Figure 5B) which has been implicated in receptor binding [102]. In addition,

arrestin has a longer C-terminal tail, which extends to the N terminal domain, important for linkage

needed to enable CME. The C terminus of atvps26a-2 has no extension; however, some arrestins

also have a short C-tail [103].

Figure 5. Arabidopsis VPS26 subunits of the retromer complex may moonlight as arrestin-
like adaptors for AtRGS1 internalization. (**A**) 3-D alignment of the model atvps26a-2 (colored
cyan) with the bovine arrestin-3 (PDB 3P2D, (colored wheat). The structure of model atvps26a-2
shows a similar arrestin scaffold with arrestin-3 which contains a semi-symmetric fold of two β
strand sandwich structures in the N domain and C domains linked by the central loops (ii); each
sandwich is formed by 3 or 4 β sheets, respectively. (**B**). Differences between atvps26a-2 model
and bovine arrestin-3. Model atvps26a-2 lacks a short α-helix (i) inside the arrestin N-terminal
domain which has been implicated in receptor binding. Arrestin-3 contains a longer C terminal tail
which extend all the way to bind the N terminal domain which is important for clathrin-mediated
endocytosis (CME) in animals. The C terminus of atvps26a-2 has no extension. (**C**). The central
crest. The central crest of atvps26a is similar with that of arrestin-3 which includes the finger loop,
middle loop and the C loop, although arrestin-3 has a longer finger loop which is important for
receptor binding. (**D, E**) The polar core of bovine arrestin-3.The residues in the polar core of
arrestin-3 are Asp_{27}, Arg_{170}, Asp_{291}, Asp_{298} and Arg_{393} which are shown as vacuum electrostatics
(**D**) and sticks (**E**). (**F,G**) The polar core of AtVPS26A. The residues of atvps26a-2 are the N
domain residues Glu_{118} and Tyr_{120}, and C domain residues Arg_{213}, Glu_{215}, Thr_{258}, Tyr_{272}, and Arg_{296}
which are also shown as vacuum electrostatics (**F**) and sticks (**G**). Although different amino acid
composition, both cores consist of similarly-positioned, positive-charged residues and allow the
formation of hydrogen bonds under physiological conditions. However, the orientation and shape
of the polar core of atvps26a-2 is distinct from arrestin-3. The arrestin-3 polar core is embedded
between β sheets in the N terminal domain whereas the atvps26a-2 core is open and elongated,
spanning the length of space between the N domain and C domain. (**H**) Quantification of AtRGS1-
YFP internalization in WT and *vps26* null mutants after treatment with water, 1 µM flg22 or D-
glucose. (**I**) AtRGS1-YFP seedlings were pretreated with MβCD or TyrA23 prior to treatment
with D-glucose. Error bars represent standard deviation. Data is averaged across three separate
experiments. (**J**) Split luciferase complementation by VPS26A and VPS26B heterodimers and
VPS26B homodimers. Error bars are standard error of the mean (SEM). Means with different
letters indicate significantly different (Tukey's HSD test, $p<0.05$). n=64 leaf discs from 4
individual tobacco plants. **K**) Split-luciferase complementation by VPS26A and AtRGS1. Positive
control is complementation by the heterotrimeric G protein complex
(AtGPA1/AGB1/AGG1). Negative control is AtGPA1 and AGB1 in the absence of AGG1. Error
bars are SEM. n=64. ($p<0.05$).

The overall central crest of atvps26a-2 is similar to that of arrestin. It includes the finger

loop, middle loop, and the C loop (Figure 5C). While arrestin has a longer finger loop important

for receptor binding, this is intrinsically disordered as the rearrangement of the finger loop is a

major change associated with arrestin activity [104].

The polar core is the key component of the phosphate sensor. In arrestin, the polar core is

comprised of five charged side chains including two Arg and three Asp that are essential to its

activation [105]. The residues in the polar core of bovine arrestin-3 are: Asp_{27}, Arg_{170}, Asp_{291}, Asp_{298}

and Arg_{393} (Figure 5D and E). The human vps26A polar core residues are conserved N domain

residues Glu_{119} and Tyr_{121}, and C domain residues Lys_{213}, Glu_{215}, Thr_{258}, Tyr_{272}, and Arg_{296} [106].

Based on this, we designated the polar core of atvps26a to be comprised of the N-domain residues

Glu_{118} and Tyr_{120}, and the C domain residues Arg_{213}, Glu_{215}, Thr_{258}, Tyr_{272}, and Arg_{296} (Figure 5 F

and G). Although different in amino acid composition, both cores consist of positive charged

residues and allow the formation of hydrogen bonds under physiological conditions. However, the

orientation and shape of the polar core of VPS26 is distinct from arrestin. The arrestin polar core

is embedded between β sheets in the N terminal domain whereas the VPS26 core is open and

elongated, spanning the length of space between the N domain and C domain.

The most divergent structure from bovine arrestin-3 (3P2D) is a 3Å-resolved truncated

arrestin from squid (PDB 1CF1) [107]. Unlike for bovine arrestin-3, the C-tail interaction with the

gate loop of the polar core is short and flexible. This functional divergence between squid and

human arrestin, both recruited to receptors, assuages the lack of a long C-tail in the atvps26a-2

model.

Taken together, these similarities between AtVPS26 and arrestin prompted the hypothesis

that AtVPS26 is a candidate adaptor for CME of AtRGS1 or, in any case, necessary for the

observed signaling bias. Therefore, we isolated null alleles of the three VPS26 genes in

Arabidopsis: VPS26A, VPS26B, and VPS26-LIKE (aka VPS26C) [94,108] and phenotyped the

hypocoty length at 5 days, the same age stage used for the previous assays (Figure 1-4). As shown

in Figure S4F, there were no qualitative differences between VPS26 null mutants and wild type

phenotype precluding any developmental basis for alterations in AtRGS1 activation in these

mutants. As shown in Figure 5H, loss of either VPS26A or VPS26B dramatically reduced the

flg22-induced internalization of AtRGS1 to levels that are not statistically different from the

baseline level (p=0.34) whereas loss of VPS26-like had no statistical effect on AtRGS1

internalization by flg22 (p=0.65). Loss of any of the three VPS26 proteins had no statistical effect

on D-glucose-induced internalization of AtRGS1 (p<0.001) suggesting that VPS26A/B are

involved in flg22, but not glucose-induced AtRGS1 endocytosis. To confirm that VPS26 is not

involved in D-glucose-induced AtRGS1 internalization, we quantitated the CME and SDE portions

of this trafficking pathway in the *vps26* mutants. As shown in Figure 5I, in each of the *vps26*

mutant backgrounds, both the TyrA23A and MβCD-inhibitable segments of the D-glucose-

induced internalization of AtRGS1 remained intact.   This suggests that the TyrA23-dilineated

(CME) pathway used by AtRGS1 when activated by flg22 differs from the TyrA23A-dilineated

pathway activated by D-glucose.

The genetic data that both the single null mutations of VPS26 A and B ablate flg22-induced

AtRGS1 endocytosis suggest that VPS26A and B form obligate dimers. To test if VPS26A and B

subunits heterodimerize *in vivo*, BiFC analysis was conducted and showed that heterodimers can

form from ectopically-expressed monomers and suggested that the orientation is head-to-tail

(Figure S5A). Self-association of arrestin family members also occurs and may be part of a

regulatory mechanism for arrestin activation [109]. For relative quantitation of *in vivo* interaction,

split luciferase was performed and found that the strongest interaction was between VPS26A and

VPS26B (Figure 5J). VPS26B dimers form under these conditions but not VPS26A dimers or any

oligomer with VPS26Like subunits. We have yet to find conditions which allow stable expression

of VPS26 subunits tagged with a full-length auto-fluorescent protein in Arabidopsis suggesting

that the additional mass of the tag prevents dimer formation and that monomers are unstable.

To test if the full-length AtRGS1 protein interacts with the VPS26 subunits *in vivo*, BiFC,

split luciferase, and Y2H analyses were performed. Fluorescent complementation of YFP by

AtRGS1-nYFP with cYFP-VPS26A and with VPS26B-cYFP was observed (Figure S5B). The

split luciferase assay confirmed that this interaction is as strong as the interaction between AtGPA1

and its AGB1/AGG1 partner (Figure 5K). Finally, Y2H showed that the interaction between

AtRGS1 and VPS26 is direct. The entire C-terminal half of AtRGS1 (thus lacking the 7 TM

domain) interacts with VPS26B (S5H). Surprisingly, removal of the post RGS-box C-terminal tail

which includes the $Ser_{428,435,436}$ phosphorylation cluster (Figure S5C) did not ablate this interaction

however, additional loss of two other phosphorylated Ser located between helices VII and VIII of

the RGS box completely abolished the interaction (Figure S5D).

Discussion

The key finding in this study is system bias wherein a single receptor-like RGS protein modulates

different quantifiable signaling outputs from two distinct signal inputs (Figure 6A). All of the

measured signal outputs correspond to a specific ligand input. For example, flg22 induces Ca^{2+}

release (Figure 2I-K) and MAPK signaling (Figure 2E-H, K) whereas D-glucose or its metabolite

has a measured effect on gene expression (Figure 2L). For flg22, all members of the G protein

heterotrimer, along with XLG2 and VPS26A/B are necessary for CME of AtRGS1. Additionally,

specific phosphorylation of di-serines at the AtRGS1 C-terminus is required. What is interesting

is that D-glucose signaling that transduces through the same CME of AtRGS1 also requires

phosphorylation of the same di-serine residues, but not VPS26 for high dose and low duration

sugar exposure (Figure 6B). This phenomenon of signaling through AtRGS1 mediated by the same

mechanism of phosphorylation-dependent endocytosis with different G proteins and adapters

raises the important question of how are extracellular ligands discriminated for downstream

signaling events? Although AtRGS1 endocytosis is necessary for G protein activation it would

seem that AtRGS1 is not the discriminator; rather an RLK protein that directly phosphorylates

AtRGS1 [30,32], AtGPA1 [110], and potentially VPS26 provides the requisite information for ligand-

specific downstream signal transduction in the cell.

The two mechanisms of AtRGS1 endocytosis induced by D-glucose or its metabolites

implies that this signal-dependent pool of AtRGS1 is bipartite, prompting the question of an

equilibrium or steady state between the populations. The evidence so far suggests that it is not. If

these AtRGS1 pools were dynamically exchanging within the membrane, we would expect to

induce internalization of nearly all membrane bound AtRGS1 by inhibiting one mechanism of

endocytosis thereby causing a shift entirely to the other. For example, inhibiting CME with

TyrA23 would force AtRGS1 endocytosis entirely to the SDE mode, however this was not

observed. Inhibiting one mechanism of endocytosis only partly reduced AtRGS1 internalization

by half, indicating the AtRGS1 populations may be physically isolated and static in the cell

membrane (Figure 6C). Some AtRGS1 proteins may be grouped into so-called microdomains or

clusters surrounded by receptor/co-receptor RLK proteins while other AtRGS1 proteins may be

distributed throughout the membrane without common-neighbor RLKs (Figure 6C).

A

B

	CM	SDE	AP2	Y112A	ΔCt	3SA	GPA1	XLG2	AGB1 AGG1	VPS26A	VPS26B
Glucose	YES	YES	YES^	YES^	YES^	YES^	NO	NO	YES*	NO	NO
flg22	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES

^ Funtions in the CME pathway
* Necessary for 2% glucose, but not 6%

C

D

Figure 6. Component overview of flg22- and D-glucose-biased signaling. (A) Simple model illustrating flg22 and glucose or metabolite input and the respective bias signaling output through AtRGS1, as well as a chart summary detailing the origins of endocytosis (CME and SDE), recognition motif and phosphorylation requirements, and individual proteins necessary for glucose- and flg22-induced endocytosis of AtRGS1. **(B)** Membrane overview illustrating proposed AtRGS1 microdomain clusters with common RLK neighbors. flg22 (orange circle) binds to FLS2 to initiate signaling through AtRGS1. The mechanism of glucose (blue circle) perception is unknown as indicated by the question marks. After ligand perception, SDE or CME of AtRGS1 occurs to permit downstream signaling. **(C)** A diagram of the individual components involved in the mechanism of endocytosis initiated by flg22 and glucose or metabolite. Numbers indicate the order of operations. For flg22: (1) perception of ligand, (2) phosphorylation of AtRGS1 by a RLK, (3 and 4) binding of clathrin complex and/or VPS26 in an unknown order, and (5) internalization of AtRGS1. For glucose or metabolite: (1) ligand perception by a RLK or direct interaction with AtRGS1, (2) receptor interaction with WNK kinase (in the case of SDE, #2 indicates immediate endocytosis because other key components of the pathway are unknown), (3) phosphorylation of AtRGS1 by WNK kinases, (4) binding of clathrin complex to AtRGS1, and (5) internalization of AtRGS1. TyrA23 is shown inhibiting CME in both pathways, while MβCD is shown inhibiting AtRGS1 microdomain formation at the membrane.

Similarly, the question exists whether an equilibrium between the flg22-mediated and D-glucose-mediated CME pools exists and the conclusion is again that an equilibrium is not likely, consistent with a genuine bias in signaling. To clarify what we define as the "CME pools" here, they are the portion of either the flg22- or D-glucose-activated AtRGS1 population that is inhibited by TyrA23, by loss of the tyrosine binding motif, and by loss of the AP2μ subunit of the clathrin complex (Figure 3). While the two pools share these properties, they do not share the requirement of the candidate adapter, VPS26 monomer or dimer (Figure 5). Moreover, when the AtRGS1 pool at the plasma membrane is depleted with D-glucose, there is no effect on the amplitude of flg22 activation (Figure 2).

The two mechanisms in the composite glucose-induced AtRGS1 endocytosis may be a result of two distinct mechanisms of sugar perception: one through direct interaction of AtRGS1 with a sugar or sugar metabolite and the other through sugar binding to a RLK in the membrane similar to flg22::FLS2 binding (Figure 6D).

To compare and contrast the two ligand-biased trajectories, the ordered steps of signal

transduction from ligand perception (**step 1**) to internalization of AtRGS1 (**step 5**) are enumerated

in Figure 7D to illustrate mechanistically what the present work revealed about each origin of

endocytosis including phosphorylation (flg22- **step 2**/glucose- **step 2**), binding of the candidate

adaptor VPS26 (flg22- **step 3**), formation of clathrin coated vesicles (flg22- **step 4**/ D-glucose-

step 3), and finally endocytosis of AtRGS1 either via clathrin coated vesicle (flg22- **step 5/** D-

glucose **step 4**) or sterol dependent rafts (glucose). If D-glucose or a metabolite is perceived by

two distinct sensing mechanisms, each mechanism may operate exclusively through one origin of

endocytosis with a unique core of G protein and internalization signaling components.

Interestingly, within the glucose model, a system bias may exist favoring one origin of endocytosis

that results from architectural differences in the membrane surrounding AtRGS1. A high density

of D-glucose-binding RLKs may favor D-glucose-induced CME of AtRGS1 over the SDE origin.

The division of G protein involvement in D-glucose-induced CME and SDE challenges

previously published reports on the necessity for subunits of the G protein heterotrimer in the full

range of D-glucose signaling through AtRGS1; specifically shown was the complete abrogation of

AtRGS1 endocytosis in the Gβ null mutant and partial reduction of D-glucose-induced endocytosis

with the loss of Gα [29]. Our results confirm that Gβ is required for AtRGS1 endocytosis, but only

in a low dose scenario, 2% (~110 nM). We show no requirement for Gβ or Gα at the higher 6%

(~330nm) glucose concentration. It may be that higher sugar concentrations, those typically found

at or around vascular unloading areas, illicit a quicker signaling response than low dose sugar

likely found in or near epidermal cells where we quantified AtRGS1 internalization. The

significance of sugar signaling with regard to cell growth, division, and maintenance may

necessitate multiple dose-dependent mechanisms of signal transduction encoded in different

origins of endocytosis and the individual G protein associated components.

Both flg22- and D-glucose outputs require AtRGS1 [30,41,58,90] and an intact heterotrimeric G

protein complex (Figure 4) but as discussed for D-glucose responsiveness, the outputs depends on

both the concentration and duration of D-glucose. We previously designated this non-threshold-

based activation phenomenon as Dose-Duration Reciprocity (**DDR**) where a low dose of D-glucose

for a long period reaches the same output amplitude as a high dose presented as a pulse [2]. The

proposed mechanism is recruitment of WNK8 and WNK1 to the membrane by the Gβγ dimer

AGB1/AGG as a function of DDR to phosphorylate AtRGS1 for endocytosis. However, our

higher resolution analyses here challenge some aspects of that original model and provide deeper

mechanistic insight. AGB1 is essential for low D-glucose DDR but is not required for high-glucose

DDR. WNK8 kinase is required as previously shown but WNK1 is shown to not be required at

longer, low-glucose treatments (6 hours) in contrast to previously published data [2]. This

discrepancy is most likely due to differences in expression level between the two studies (transient

for ref. 2 vs. stable here) because it is known that glucose responsiveness is sensitive to the pool

size of AtRGS1 [111].

Besides the 2 visual and 2 non-visual (aka β-) arrestins, the arrestin super family in humans

also has 6 α-arrestin members. These α–arrestins have diverse functions including trafficking of

non-GPCRs [112] and may be closest to the ancestral arrestin from which the visual/non-visual

arrestins evolved because they are found in stromenopiles basal to the opistokont lineage

containing metazoans and fungi [92]. Therefore, we asked whether Plantae contains α–arrestin

homologs and are thus the true adaptors for trafficking plant 7TM proteins. While we found clear

α–arrestin orthologs in the 4-cell alga *Tetrabaena* (PNH03120) and in the green alga *Chara*

(GBG71752), both basal to land plants, using *Mus* ARRDC3/TLIMP (BAC65781) as the search query,

no hits were found in Arabidopsis (eudicot), rice (monocot), *Amborella* (base of angiosperms),

and *Physcomitrella* (basal to higher land plants). This suggests that α–arrestins were lost in Plantae

and this loss possibly allowed expansion of the related VPS26 family to evolve another function

[92].

Given the fact that many GPCR-containing organisms divergent to humans lack arrestin

proteins, another important finding from this study is the suggestion that the retromer subunits

AtVPS26A and B moonlight as arrestin-like adaptors for phosphorylation-induced, clathrin-

dependent AtRGS1 endocytosis in Arabidopsis. Could this function be ubiquitous? Even in

humans, some GPCR endocytosis occurs independently of β-arrestins yet still requires C-terminal

phosphorylation, a tyrosine motif, AP2, and clathrin (e.g. [113,114]) raising the possibility that VPS26

orthologs in humans may serve the exact adaptor function for a subset of GPCRs.

This study focuses on biased signaling launched from different architectures of two

AtRGS1-centered, physically-distinct pathways. We show that phosphorylation by different sets

of kinases encodes this bias. However, we have not address how the architecture is established or

maintained but we speculate that this too is based on a phosphorylation bar code on the AtRGS1/G

protein complex. Therefore, establishing the dynamics of both the pre- and post-signaling

phosphorylation bar codes is important for our understanding of biased system signaling.

Why both cytoplasmic and extracellular glucose pools are monitored by the plant cell

remains unclear. We speculate that the extracellular pool of glucose is far more dynamic than the

cytoplasmic pool due to its rapid metabolic flux in the cytoplasm compared to the apoplast.

Therefore, an extracellular glucose detection system may be more appropriate for monitoring

sugars produced by photosynthesis for real time information. This is consistent with the recent

finding that AtRGS1 is important for detecting fluctuations in CO_2-fixed sugar in the minute time

range over the diel cycle [59,90].

It is conceivable that this biased system sits at the crux of the "defense vs. growth trade-

off" dilemma that plants face. Specifically, pathogen attack compels the plant to shift its utilization

of fixed sugars from building cell walls to synthesizing defense molecules [115]. The AtRGS1/G

protein complex may be the fulcrum for this balance because AtRGS1 is involved in detecting

fixed sugars [59,116], establishing cell wall composition [117-119] and serving as a sentinel in innate

immunity [33].

In conclusion, our data provide evidence for biased-system signaling through AtRGS1 and

introduces a previously unknown arrestin-like adaptor. We introduce the importance of system

architecture as it relates to bias in G protein complex signaling. We show that while

phosphorylation is a requisite for AtRGS1 internalization, the direct phosphorylation of di-serines

on AtRGS1 is not the signal discriminator. This likely comes from RLK interaction with other

components in the signaling pathway. Subsequent analysis of protein clustering in the membrane

and the phosphorylation barcode are necessary to understand the full extent of the system bias as

it relates to signal transduction through AtRGS1.

Methods

Chemicals. Methyl-β-cyclodextrin was purchased from Frontier Scientific, tyrphostin A51 and

turanose were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich, and tyrphostin A23 was purchased from Santa Cruz

Biotechnology. All chemicals were indicated by the vendors to be >98% pure.

Plant growth conditions. Wildtype and mutant Arabidopsis seeds (all Col-0 ecotype) were

surface sterilized with 80% EtOH for 10 seconds while vortexing followed by a 10-second vortex

with 30% bleach. Seeds were subsequently washed 3X with ddH_2O and suspended in 12 well cell

culture plates with ¼ MS with no sugar at pH 5.7 with 10-12 seeds per well. Plates were wrapped

in aluminum foil and cold-treated at 4˚C for 2 days followed by a 2-hour light treatment to induce

germination. After light treatment, plates were again wrapped in aluminum foil and placed on a

horizontal shaker at ambient temperature for 5 days before imaging.

AtRGS1 internalization assay, proxy for G protein activation. AtRGS1-YFP internalization

was induced with D-glucose and flg22 as described [2,29,32]. Briefly, Arabidopsis seeds expressing

35S:AtRGS1-YFP were sterilized and then sown on 1-mL liquid 1/4 X Murashige and Skoog (MS)

medium without sugar in 12-well plates and stratified at 5°C for 2 days, followed by 2 hours light,

then grown in darkness at RT for 3-5 days. For optimal results, the plates were kept in darkness

but moved to the microscope room on the third day to acclimate. 6% D-glucose or 1μm flg22 were

applied to seedlings for 30 and 10 minutes respectively before imaging. Image acquisition was

done on either a Zeiss LSM710 (Zeiss Microscopy, Oberkochen, Germany) with a C-Apochromat

40X 1.2NA water immersion objective (for figures 2A-2I and figure 3A-3D) or a Zeiss LSM880

with a C-Apochromat 40x/1.2NA water immersion objective (for figure 2K-2P, 3E-3K, and S3).

YFP excitation was at 514nm and emission collection 525-565nm. Emission collection on the

LSM880 was done with a GaAsP detector. For RGS internalization assays a z-stack series was

acquired at 0.5μm intervals between images. Image processing and RGS internalization

measurements were done with the Fiji distribution of ImageJ [120] as described by Urano *et al* [29] with

the following modification: Internalized YFP fluorescence was measured and subtracted from total

YFP fluorescence of individual cells as opposed to total fluorescence of the hypocotyl image as

stated in Urano *et al*. Images were acquired on the hypocotyl epidermis 2-4 mm below the

cotyledons of seedlings treated with water, glucose, and flg22 in addition to the pharmacological

inhibitors. Seedling exposure to light was minimized as much as is practical while imaging to

avoid light induced internalization of AtRGS1. Statistical analysis was performed using analysis

of variance with n=number of cells measured. Differences in basal and treatment induced levels

of RGS1-YFP internalization are a result of switching image acquisition from the LSM710

(Figures 1, 2, & 4) to the LSM880 (Figure 3) to improve image resolution and accuracy of

internalization measurements.

Pharmacological inhibition of RGS internalization. AtRGS1 internalization was inhibited with

TyrA23 and MβCD under the following conditions. TyrA23 was applied to 3-day old seedlings

for a pre-incubation period of 60 minutes at specified concentrations. Following the pre-incubation

period, a combination of TyrA23 and 6% D-Glucose were applied to the seedlings for 30 minutes

immediately followed by image acquisition. In the case of flg22, TyrA23 and 1μm flg22 were

applied to the seedling for 10 minutes following the pre-incubation period. For MβCD, the pre-

incubation period was 45 minutes at specified concentrations. When both inhibitors were

simultaneously applied, pre-incubation was 60 minutes

TIRF imaging and area/speed measurements of AtRGS1-GFP. Arabidopsis expressing 35S-

RGS1-GFP were grown as mentioned in the plant growth section. 5-day-old seedlings were

transferred to a solution of either 6% D-glucose or 1μm flg22 and imaged at 5, 10, and 15 minutes

while immersed in the ligand solution. Imaging was performed on a Nikon Ti Eclipse with SR

Apo TIRF 100x lens (NA 1.5, WD 120μm). GFP excitation occurred at 488nm and emission

collection at 515-555nm with an Andor iXon3 EMCCD camera. 60 second time-lapse imaging

was initiated at the beginning of each time point with 200ms acquisition speed. Time-lapse

sequences were normalized for fluorescence over time using IMARIS (v9.2.2, Bitplane AG,

Zurich, Switzerland). The IMARIS Surface feature was used to track and calculate the area and

speed of individually identifiable AtRGS1 proteins/clusters (labeled as tracks in IMARIS) over

time. The average speed and area of each unique track for a 30 second interval between 5:15-5:45

or 15:15-15:45 was calculated using a script in Matlab (Supplemental code).

Synthesis of [^{14}C] isomaltulose. Sucrose isomerase (SI) from *Pantoea dispersa* UQ68J (GenBank

AY223549) was cloned into expression vector pET24b (Novagen) first by PCR of genomic DNA

using the following PCR forward primer 5'-GGA TCC AAC AAT GGC AAC GAA TAT ACA

AAA GTC C-3' which included a *BamHI* restriction site and a start codon; reverse primer 5'-ATA

GGT ACC TCA GTT CAG CTT ATA GAT CCC-3' which included a *KpnI* restriction site and a

stop codon.

Expression was performed using *E. coli* BL21(DE3) (Novagen), 37°C, 225 rpm. When

the optical density at 600nm reached 1.00, isopropyl-D-thiogalactopyranoside was added to a final

concentration of 0.5 mM for induction. The incubation of the culture was continued for another 3

h at 28°C. Cells were harvested by centrifugation (3,000 ×g, 4°C, 10 min), resuspended in 50 mM

Tris-HCl (pH 8.0)-2 mM EDTA, and then re-centrifuged. The cell pellet was immediately frozen

in liquid nitrogen and stored at -75°C. Cells were suspended in extraction buffer (20 mM Tris-HCl

(pH 7.4), 200 mM NaCl, 1 mM EDTA, 1 mM azide, 10 mM β-mercaptoethanol) and then lysed

by sonication (nine 15-s pulses at 50 W with a Branson Sonifier 450 microprobe), centrifuged

(10,000 ×g, 4°C, 10 min), and filtered through a 0.45-µm-pore-size membrane (Gelman Acrodisc).

The pET24b vector introduced a carboxy-terminal six-His tag into expressed proteins, which were

purified by adsorption to nitrilotriacetic acid (NTA) agarose (QIAGEN) and elution with 25 mM

NaH2PO4-150 mM NaCl-125 mM imidazole buffer (pH 8.0) by following the manufacturer's

instructions. The purity of SI proteins was verified by SDS-PAGE as a single band on Coomassie

Blue R-250 staining.

[^{14}C] isomaltulose was prepared using 1.48MBq [U-^{14}C]Sucrose (Amersham, UK) in 200

µl water with 3% ethanol (equals to 0.3379 mM) was reacted with 30 µl purified UQ68J SI for at

30 °C 60 min. The converted [^{14}C] isomatulose concentration by UQ68J SI was estimated by three-

replicate parallel conversions of unlabelled sucrose (S7903, Sigma) in the same concentration of

0.3379 mM with 3% Ethanol by the same enzyme. BioLC DX600 (Dionex, USA) determinations

showed 84.0±0.106% (Mean±SE) was converted into isomaltulose, 3.5±0.197% into trehalulose;

into the by-products of glucose and fructose were 4.6±0.072% and 7.8±0.237% respectively and

there was no sucrose left after the reaction was stopped (Figure 1A).

Sugar uptake assay. One-week-old seedlings, grown on a filter disc overlaying 1/2X Murashige

and Skoog Basal Salts, 0.7% phytogel 23°C, pH 5.8, 8h/d of 100 mole/m2/s1, were lifted off the

plate and overlaid 6 mL of water containing approx. 25,000 cpm of [^{14}C] sugars as indicated. The

specific activity of the sugars was 12GBq/mmol. At the indicated times, triplicate sets of 10

seedling were gently rinsed and placed in a 1.7-mL microfuge tube with 1 mL of scintillation fluid

(Perkin Elmer Inc) and radioactivity was quantitated by liquid scintillation counting. CPM from

time zero (typically 80-150 cpm) was subtracted from the average of the 3 samples. The CPM

for [^{14}C] isomaltulose uptake into seedlings at each time was corrected for its 84% purity. The

experiment as shown was repeated once with the same result. [^{14}C] glucose uptake was repeated

4 times.

Live cell imaging of MAPK reporter (SOMA) lines. Detached etiolated hypocotyls were

prepared for imaging on the confocal microscope using the HybriWell™ method as previously

described [71,121]. A hypocotyl from a dark grown 5-day-old seedling was placed on top of the

droplet, and a HybriWell™ (Grace BioLabs, http://gracebio.com/, cat. no. 611102) was gently

placed on the cover slide with the hypocotyl in the center to form a 150-µm deep imaging chamber

with a volume of 30 µl. Ultrapure water (300 µl) was injected through one of the HybriWell™

ports using a pipettor to fill the 30-µl chamber with water and to expel any air bubbles. A 200-µl

droplet of ultrapure water was then placed on one of the ports to prevent the chamber from drying

out. The HybriWells containing the mounted hypocotyls were then placed in covered Petri dishes

and equilibrated by incubating at 20–23°C under constant light for 6–8 hours prior to imaging.

Confocal microscopy was performed using a Zeiss LSM 710 with a C-Apochromat

40x/1.20 water immersion objective lens. Samples were excited at 458nm with 3% power, and

emission was measured between 463 and 517nm for Turquoise GL and between 534 and 570nm

for YPet. Z-stacks were collected every 2 min with an optical slice thickness of 1.2 µm. Chemical

treatments were added to the samples during imaging by pipetting 200 µl of solution containing

the treatment onto one port of the HybriWell. For experiments involving tyrphostin A23 and

tyrphostin A51, hypocotyls were pretreated with 50 µM of these compounds for 30 min prior to

imaging.

Post-processing of the raw image data was performed using Fiji [120]. The 'Z-projection'

function was performed on an image stack using the 'Max Intensity' setting. The resulting

projection was then separated into two images, one for the Turquoise GL emission channel and

one for the YPet emission channel. The 'Subtract Background' function was performed on both

images, with the 'rolling-ball radius' set as the default 50 pixels. A mask was then created from

the YPet channel using the 'Convert to Mask' function. The background subtracted YPet and

Turquoise GL images were then converted into 32-bit images. These 32-bit images were then

multiplied by the Mask file. The resulting YPet image was divided by the resulting Turquoise GL

image using the 'Image Calculator' function to create a ratio image representing the ratio of YPet

to Turquoise emission. Finally, the 'Threshold' function was performed using the default values,

with the 'NaN background' option enabled. The 'Fire' lookup table was then applied to the final

ratio image. To measure the ratio of YPet to Turquoise GL emission, a region of interest (ROI)

was selected within the ratio image using Fiji and the average ratio value within that ROI was then

measured.

Live cell Ca^{++} imaging with R-GECO1. 5-day-old, etiolated hypocotyls expressing R-GECO1

calcium reporter were grown in aqueous media containing ¼ MS. Hypocotyls were excised and

mounted in HybriWells 6-8 hours prior to imaging with a Zeiss LSM710 confocal laser scanning

microscope equipped with a C-Apochromat 40×/1.20 water immersion objective. R-GECO1 was

excited using 561nm laser with 7.0 % laser power, and emission was measured between 620 and

650 nm. Z- stacks were collected 2 min after chemical treatment with an optical slice thickness of

1.5μm. Chemical treatments were added to the samples during imaging by pipetting 200 μl of

solution containing the treatment onto one port of the HybriWell. The digital images were analyzed

with Fiji [120].

Modeling AtVPS26. Five models designated atvps26a-1 through 5 were created by the MODELLER using the automodel script based on the human VPS26A template 2FAU. For evaluation and selection of the "best" model, we calculated the objective function (molpdf), Discrete Optimized Protein Energy (**DOPE**) score, GA341 assessment score and root mean square deviation (**RMSD**) between the model and the template. The best model has the lowest value of the molpdf and overall DOPE assessment scores. In addition, DOPE scores were calculated per-residue and the template and the five atvps26a models were compared using GNUPLOT (Figure S4C) and found to be dissimilar in only three positions (residue around 60, 240, and 260). The atvps26a2 model was selected based on the lowest, RMSD value (Figure S4D) and plotted DOPE per-residue score curve (Fig. S4E). With an RMSD of 0.17 Å, atvps26a-2 differs from the template by less than the length of a C-C bond.

Split firefly-luciferase assays. pCAMBIA/des/cLuc and pCAMBIA/des/nLuc [122] were used to generate the following plasmids: AtVPS26A-nLUC, AtVPS26B-nLUC, cLUC-AtVPS26A, cLUC-AtVPS26B, cLUC-AtVPS26like, cLUC-AtGPA1, AtAGB1-nLUC and AtRGS1-nLUC. pART27H-mCherry-AtAGG1 plasmid was obtained from Dr. Jose R Botella (University of Queensland, Brisbane, QLD, 4072, Australia). All plasmids were transformed into *A. tumefaciens* strain *GV3101*. nLUC and cLUC fusion partners were co-expressed in *N. benthamiana* leavesby agroinfiltration following protocols in [123]. 48 hours after infiltration, 6mm Leaf discs were collected to 96-well plate and 40µl 0.4mM D-luciferin was added to each well. Luminescence was measured by a spectraMax L microplate reader (Molecular Devices).

Yeast two-hybrid assays. Constructs used in yeast two-hybrid assays were pAS–RGS-J5 (amino

acids 284–459), RGS-ΔCt (amino acids 284–416), RGS-ΔCtS405,406A, pACTGW–AtVPS26B

and AtVPS26like. Y2H tested pairs were co-transformed into *AH109* yeast cells and plated on SD-

LW media [124]. Colonies were then inoculated into SD-LW liquid media and grew overnight at

30 °C. Then 1/10 diluted yeast cells were spotted on SD-LW, SD-LWH, and SD-LWH 10mM 3-

AT (3-amino-1,2,4-triazole) plates. The plates were incubated at 30°C for 4 days and were imaged

by gel documentation system (Axygen) under white light.

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Author contributions

985 T.J.R-E., J.W., X.S., B.D., H.J., J.Y., M.T-O, F.L. and A.M.J. performed experiments and

986 produced data used in the figures. T.J.R-E., J.W., X.S., and A.M.J. designed experiments, and

987 analyzed results. P.K provided the MAPK reporters prior to its publication and guided those

988 experiments. L.W. synthesized and purified [^{14}C]isomaltulose. Y.T. performed sugar uptake

989 experiments shown in Figure 1. T.J.R-E., J.W., and A.M.J wrote the paper.

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Supplemental Figure S1. **Isomaltulose is nearly impermeant in Arabidopsis**. **A**. To test the permeability of Arabidopsis seedlings to isomaltulose, [^{14}C] isomaltulose was synthesized and purified to 84% as described in the methods. Sugar analysis is as described and the results shown. **B**. Uptake of [^{14}C] D-glucose and [^{14}C] isomaltulose into Arabidopsis seedlings was tested. AU, Arbitrary Units as described. **C**. Isomaltulose and D-glucose induce rapid AtRGS1-YFP endocytosis in a dose-dependent manner. Images are representative from hypocotyl epidermal cells ectopically expressing AtRGS1 tagged with YFP.

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Supplemental Figure S2. Positive and negative controls and dose response. Transgenic lines
SOMA-NLS and SOMA-NES were analyzed before and after treatment with 150 mM NaCl as a
positive control (**A**, **B**) and water (**C**, **D**). (**E**, **F**) Mutants of the transgenic lines SOMA[T679A]-NLS
and SOMA[T679A]-NES were treated with 1 µM flg22 during the first 10 minutes of each experiment
the samples. SOMA-NES lines were pretreated with 50 µM TyrA23 (**G-N**) or 50 µM TyrA51 (**O-**
V) for 30 minutes prior to imaging. (**W-AB**) flg22 dose-response in SOMA-NES lines. (**AC-AH**)
flg22 dose-response in R-GECO1 lines. Each graph represents 1 individual hypocotyl.
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Supplemental Figure S3. Tracking AtRGS1 after ligand addition. (**A-E**) IMARIS surface tracking showing (**A**) the original wide-field image acquired by TIRF, (**B**) the tracked spots imposed on the original image and tracked at (**C**) 15s, (**D**) 30s, and (**F**) 60s after initiating time-lapse imaging. (**F-H**) Tracking results showing the (**F**) average speed and area for AtRGS1-GFP

particles after addition of (**x**) flg22 and (**o**) glucose at 15 minutes post ligand addition. (**G**) area and (**H**) speed of AtRGS1-GFP particles are broken out into proportion of total tracked particles at 15 minutes post ligand addition. (**I-T**) Original field of view confocal micrographs highlighting areas used to calculate Manders Overlap Coefficients from Figure **2K-P** (white and yellow boxes) with the addition of 15 minute post ligand addition images.

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              290        300        310        320        330                          340
DpArr1      KLRPVLEVTKRRAGLALNGKVKYEDTMLAASTEDAGNVDKENLGVV...................VSYKVRIKMTLGFG
p44         TLVPLLANNRERRGIALDGKIKHEDTNLASSTIIKEGIDKTVMGIL...................VSYQIKVKLTV..S
BtArr3      AVTPLLADNCHKQGLALDGKLKQGDTNLASSTILRPGVDKELLGIL...................VSYKVRVNLMVSCE
PmArr1      TLTPLLSNNRDKWGLALDGKLKDEDTNLASSTVITDSSQKENLGII..................VQYKVKVKLNL..G
BtArr1      TLTPFLANNREKRGLALDGKLKHEDTNLASSTLLREGANREILGII...................VSYKVKVKLVVSRG
HsArr1      TLTPFLANNREKRGLALDGKLKHEDTNLASSTLLREGANREILGII...................VSYKVKVKLVVSRG
BtArr2      TITPLLSNNREKRGLALDGKLKHEDTNLASSTIVKEGANKEVLGIL...................VSYRVKVKLVVSRG
HsArr2      TITPLLSDNREKRGLALDGKLKHEDTNLASSTIVKEGANKEVLGIL...................VSYRVKVKLVVSRG
AtVPS26like .............SIIVGERIVTETSLIQSTQIADGDVCRNMTLPIYVLLPRLLMCPSVF..AGPFSVEFKVCITISFK
AtVPS26A    .............STGAGANTHVETETLAKFELMDGAPVRGESIPVRVFLTPYDLTPTHKNINNKFSVKYYLNLVLVDE
AtVPS26B    .............STGACANTHVETETLAKFELMDGTPVRGESIPVRLFLAPYDLTPTHRNINNKFSVKYYLNLVLVDE
HsVPS26A    .............ITGIGPSTTTETETIAKYEIMDGAPVKGESIPIRLFLAGYDPTPTMRDVNKKFSVRYFLNLVLVDE
BtVPS26A    .............ITGIGPSTTTETETIAKYEIMDGAPVKGESIPIRLFLAGYDPTPTMRDVNKKFSVRYFLNLVLVDE
HsVPS26B    .............TTGTGPNVYHENDTIAKYEIMDGAPVRGESIPIRLFLAGYELTPTMRDINKKFSVRYYLNLVLIDE
BtVPS26B    .............TTGTGPNVYHENDTIAKYEIMDGAPVRGESIPIRLFLAGYELTPTMRDINKKFSVRYYLNLVLIDD
```

```
              350        360        370        380
DpArr1      .......SGDMLLEVPFKLCPARLKGRLAQPEARE.GDDAE.................................
p44         GLLGELTSSEVATEVPFRLMHPQPEDPDTAKESA.......................................
BtArr3      GILGDLTASEVGVELPLILMHPKPSNEAAS....................................SEDIVI
PmArr1      PLVG.....DLVAELPFTLMHPKPEEEPEVNN....KPAVPPASSPTQDPNSAPAVDTNLIELDTDGTTCYADQDDDIIF
BtArr1      GLLGDLASSDVAVELPFTLMHPKPKEEPP...............HREVPEHETPVDTNLIELDTN........DDDIVF
HsArr1      GLLGDLASSDVAVELPFTLMHPKPKEEPP...............HREVPENETPVDTNLIELDTN........DDDIVF
BtArr2      G........DVSVELPFVLMHPKPHDHIALPRPQS.APTHPPTLLPSAVPETDAPVDTNLIEFETNY.....ATDDDIVF
HsArr2      G........DVSVELPFVLMHPKPHDHIPLPRPQS.A...........APETDVPVDTNLIEFDTNY.....ATDDDIVF
AtVPS26like SKLA...............KAQPKSDPTAPRLWMALERLPLELV.............................RTKRDQFS
AtVPS26A    ED...................RRYFKQQEITLYRLKEETS.................................
AtVPS26B    ED...................RRYFKQQEITLYRLKEDASS................................
HsVPS26A    ED...................RRYFKQQEIILWRKAPEKLR.............................KQRTNFH
BtVPS26A    ED...................RRYFKQQEIILWRKAPEKLR.............................KQRTNFH
HsVPS26B    EE...................RRYFKQQEVVLWRKGDIVRKSM..........................SHQAAIAS
BtVPS26B    EE...................RRYFKQQEVVLWRKGDIVRKSM..........................SHQAAIAS
```

```
DpArr1      ...................................
p44         ...................................
BtArr3      EEFAQQEPSGESQ..EALAAEGNEGS......
PmArr1      EDFARLRLKGETE..A.................
BtArr1      EDFARQRLKGMKD..DKEEEEDGTGSPRLNDR
HsArr1      EDFARQRLKGMKD..DKEEEEDGTGSPQLNNR
BtArr2      EDFARLRLKGLKD..EDYDDQFC.........
HsArr2      EDFARLRLKGMKD..DDYDDQLC.........
AtVPS26like C..................................
AtVPS26A    ...................................
AtVPS26B    ...................................
HsVPS26A    QRFESPESQASAEQPEM................
BtVPS26A    QRFESPESQASAEQPEM................
HsVPS26B    QRFEGTTSLGEVRTPSQLSDNNCRQ.......
BtVPS26B    QRFEGTTPLGEARTPGPLSDSGNRQ.......
```

B.

```
 1: DpArr1     100.00  37.22  38.42  46.98  46.61  46.89  43.13  42.03  19.03  18.22  19.77  15.44  15.44  16.73  16.73
 2: p44                100.00  52.79  49.72  59.50  59.22  56.46  56.01  18.56  15.16  15.16  12.65  12.65  12.24  12.65
 3: BtArr3                     100.00  50.00  60.77  60.51  56.58  54.79  17.10  16.03  16.03  13.51  13.51  14.61  16.10
 4: PmArr1                            100.00  66.33  66.58  63.48  63.09  17.86  18.55  18.55  12.96  12.96  14.65  15.02
 5: BtArr1                                   100.00  99.04  77.81  78.33  17.54  19.83  19.83  14.67  14.67  15.36  16.10
 6: HsArr1                                          100.00  78.05  78.59  17.16  19.41  20.25  14.29  14.29  14.98  15.73
 7: BtArr2                                                 100.00  96.95  17.02  14.11  14.86  12.50  12.50  13.88  14.23
 8: HsArr2                                                        100.00  16.79  13.91  14.35  11.51  11.51  13.90  14.29
 9: AtVPS261like                                                         100.00  21.61  19.71  21.35  21.35  20.42  20.07
10: AtVPS26A                                                                     100.00  91.06  56.48  56.15  54.18  53.51
11: AtVPS26B                                                                            100.00  57.95  57.62  55.00  54.33
12: HsVPS26A                                                                                   100.00  99.69  70.46  68.92
13: BtVPS26A                                                                                          100.00  70.15  68.62
14: HsVPS26B                                                                                                 100.00  95.54
15: BtVPS26B                                                                                                        100.00
```

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1387 **D.**

Filename	molpdf	DOPE score	GA341 score	RMSD
atvps26a1.pdb	2292.41699	-30278.39648	1.00000	0.309
atvps26a2.pdb	2233.81055	-30840.71289	1.00000	0.17
atvps26a3.pdb	2258.48999	-30400.76953	1.00000	0.277
atvps26a4.pdb	2212.42798	-30568.29883	1.00000	0.244
atvps26a5.pdb	2188.86987	-30466.78711	1.00000	0.217

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1389 **E.**

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1393 **F.**

Col-0 vps26a vps26b-1 vps26like-2 vps26a-2/ vps26b-1 vps26a-2/ vps26like-2

5 mm

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Figure S4. Supplemental data used to create the VPS26 model and comparison with arrestin structure described in main figure 4. (**A**) Homogeneous sequence alignment of VPS26 family (Arabidopsis VPS26a, VPS26b, VPS26like and Human VPS26A, VPS26B) with arrestin family (Human arrestin-1, arrestin-2 and bovine arrestin-1, arrestin-2, arrestin-3, squid arrestin-1, shrimp arrestin-1)**. (B**) The identity matrix between arrestin family and VPS26 family. Clustal Omega https://www.ebi.ac.uk/Tools/msa/clustalo/ was used to generate the Multiple Sequence Alignment file and the identity matrix result. Then the ESPript 3.0 (Easy Sequencing in PostScript) which is a program which renders sequence similarities and secondary structure information from aligned sequences for analysis and publication purpose is used to generate the final alignment file http://espript.ibcp.fr/ESPript/ESPript/index.php. A percentage of equivalent residues is calculated per columns, considering physicochemical properties. A global score is calculated for all sequences by extracting all possible pairs of residues per columns, for the score greater than similarity GlobalScore (0.7), it was rendered as colored characters (red characters on a white background and white characters on a red background if residues are strictly conserved in the column) with blue frames. AtVPS26A has a high sequence identity of 91.06% with AtVPS26B and a 56.48% sequence identity with human VPS26A (shown in red box in figure B). AtVPS26A and the arrestin family share 14-20% sequence identity (shown in red box in the figure). Sequences: 1. DpArr1, squid arrestin-1; 2. p44, bovine arrestin-1 splice variant; 3. BtArr3, Bovine Arrestin-3; 4. PmArr1, shrimp arrestin-1; 5. BtArr1, Bovine Arrestin-1; 6. HsArr1, Human Arrestin-1; 7. BtArr2, Bovine Arrestin-2; 8. HsArr2, Human Arrestin-2; 9. AtVPS26like, Arabidopsis VPS26like; 10. AtVPS26A, Arabidopsis VPS26A; 11. AtVPS26B, Arabidopsis VPS26B; 12. HsVPS26A, human VPS26A; 13. BtVPS26A, bovine VPS26A; 14. HsVPS26B, human VPS26B; 15. BtVPS26B, bovine VPS26B.) (**C**)   Model evaluation results of the 5 models of AtVPS26A. The MODELLER objective function (molpdf), DOPE assessment scores (Discrete Optimized Protein Energy, which is a statistical potential used to assess homology models in protein structure prediction), GA341 assessment score (range from 0.0 (worst) to 1.0 (native-like)) and RMSD (root-mean-square deviation, Å) with the template were calculated to evaluate the models. The "best" model is selected with the lowest value of the molpdf, DOPE score and RMSD value. The second model (atvps26a-2) was selected given the best DOPE score and RMSD value. (**D**)   DOPE per residue score files of the 5 atvps26a models and the template. DOPE per residue score files of the five atvps26a models and the template human VPS26A[2FAU] were plotted using GNUPLOT which is a portable command-line driven graphing utility http://www.gnuplot.info/. Upper panel is the curves of the five atvps26a models and the template. The lower panel is the curve of the "best" model atvps26a-2 with the template. (**E**)   3D-structural alignment between model atvps26a-2 with human VPS26a template (PDB [2FAU]). atvps26a-2 model colored in pale-cyan and human VPS26A template colored in bright-orange using pymol. Upper panel: Side view. Lower panel: Top view. (**F**) Etiolated hypocotyls of Col-0 and VPS26 null mutants at 5 days old, the age used for experiments in Figure 5. Seedlings were germinated and grown in liquid MS for 5 days and transferred to solid agar plates for imaging. Scale bar 5mm. (**G**) Bifluorescence complementation (BiFC) of VPS26A and VPS26B showing a specific head-to-tail orientation requirement. Representative cells shown. n=5. Experiment repeated 2 times. (**H**) Yeast two-hybrid complementation between the cytoplasmic domain of AtRGS1 (RGS1-J5) and VPS26B. RGS1-J5 contains the linker between the 7TM domain and the RGS box, the RGS box and a C-terminal tail (CT). RGS1- ΔCT lacks the C-terminal tail which contains the phosphorylation cluster required for AtRGS1 endocytosis. RGS1- $\Delta CTS_{405,406A}$ lacks the CT and

1441 has two additional phosphosites mutated. –LW is the leucine/tryptophan dropout, -LWH is the
1442 leucine/tryptophan/histidine drop out media; 10 mM 3-AT indicates higher stringency by the
1443 addition of 10 mM 3-amino-1,2,4-triazole.

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Figure S5   Supplemental dat for VPS26 dimerization, interaction with AtRGS1, and
phosphoserine depence. A) Bifluorescence complementation (BiFC) of VPS26A and VPS26B
showing a specific head-to-tail orientation requirement. Representative cells shown. n=5.
Experiment repeated 2 times. **B**) Bifluorescence complementation (BiFC) of VPS26A and
VPS26B interaction with AtRGS1 **C**) Definition of J5 cytoplasmic domain and the C-terminal
(CT) tail. **D**) Yeast two-hybrid complementation between the cytoplasmic domain of AtRGS1

(RGS1-J5) and VPS26B. RGS1-J5 contains the linker between the 7TM domain and the RGS box, the RGS box and a C-terminal tail (CT). RGS1- ΔCT lacks the C-terminal tail which contains the phosphorylation cluster required for AtRGS1 endocytosis. RGS1- ΔCTS$_{405,406A}$ lacks the CT and has two additional phosphosites mutated. –LW is the leucine/tryptophan dropout, -LWH is the leucine/tryptophan/histidine drop out media; 10 mM 3-AT indicates higher stringency by the addition of 10 mM 3-amino-1,2,4-triazole.

Supplemental code.

```matlab
Data = xlsread('IMARIS statistics output')
% first step: sort the data based on the track ID, and
% subsort it on time points.
sortedData=sortrows(Data,[3,4]);
trackIDs=sortedData(:,3);
%trackIDs is only the ith column from the original sorted data, separate
%array
uniquetrackIDs=unique(trackIDs);
%uniquetrackIDs is a separate array with only unique track IDs

%StartEnd=zeros(length(uniquetrackIDs),2);
meanSpeedArea=zeros(length(uniquetrackIDs),2);

% Make a matrix with all its elements zeros. One dimension of the matrix
% is length of unique track IDs, i.e., the number of unique track IDs.
% Another dimension is 2 because we want to store the start and end
% locations of each of the unique track IDs.
for i = 1:length(uniquetrackIDs)
    ItrackID=uniquetrackIDs(i);
    locations=find(trackIDs==ItrackID);
    startLoc=locations(1);
    endLoc=locations(end);
    SpeedColumn=sortedData(:,1);
    meanSpeedArea(i,1)=mean(SpeedColumn(startLoc:endLoc));
    AreaColumn=sortedData(:,2);
    meanSpeedArea(i,2)=mean(AreaColumn(startLoc:endLoc));
    %StartEnd(i,1)=startLoc;
    %StartEnd(i,2)=endLoc;

end
```

Supplemental Code. MatLab code for averaging unique tracked AtRGS1 particle speed and area. Speed and area data from IMARIS is exported in xls format and imported to MatLab for sorting. Each AtRGS1 tracked protein or cluster has a unique trackID that is sorted while maintaining association with speed and area at defined time points. We identified the start and end location for each unique trackID and created a matrix to store the data and subsequently find the mean for speed and area within our defined time points.