

1 **Title: Constitutive activation of leucine-rich repeat receptor kinase signaling pathways by**  
2 **BAK1-interacting receptor-like kinase 3 chimera** (117 characters)

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4 **Short title: BIR3 – LRR-RK chimera** (22 characters)

5

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35 **Abstract** (194 words)

36 **Receptor kinases with extracellular leucine-rich repeat domains (LRR-RKs) form the largest**  
37 **group of membrane signaling proteins in plants. LRR-RKs can sense small molecule, peptide**  
38 **or protein ligands, and may be activated by ligand-induced interaction with a shape**  
39 **complementary SOMATIC EMBRYOGENESIS RECEPTOR-LIKE KINASE (SERK) co-**  
40 **receptor kinase. We have previously shown that SERKs can also form constitutive, ligand-**  
41 **independent complexes with the LRR ectodomains of BAK1-interacting receptor-like kinase 3**  
42 **(BIR3) receptor pseudokinases, negative regulators of LRR-RK signaling. Here we report that**  
43 **receptor chimaera in which the extracellular LRR domain of BIR3 is fused to the cytoplasmic**  
44 **kinase domains of the SERK-dependent LRR-RKs BRASSINOSTEROID INSENSITIVE1,**  
45 **HAESA and ERECTA form tight complexes with endogenous SERK co-receptors in the**  
46 **absence of ligand stimulus. Expression of these chimaera under the control of the endogenous**  
47 **promoter of the respective LRR-RK leads to strong gain-of-function brassinosteroid, floral**  
48 **abscission and stomatal patterning phenotypes, respectively. Importantly, a**  
49 **BIR3-GSO1/SGN3 chimera can partially complement *sgn3* Casparian strip formation**  
50 **phenotypes, suggesting that GSO1/SGN3 receptor activation is also mediated by SERK**  
51 **proteins. Collectively, our protein engineering approach may be used to elucidate the**  
52 **physiological functions of orphan LRR-RKs and to identify their receptor activation**  
53 **mechanism in single transgenic lines.**

## 54 **Introduction**

55 Plant-unique membrane receptor kinases characterized by an extracellular domain, a single  
56 membrane spanning helix and a cytoplasmic dual-specificity kinase domain control many aspects of  
57 plant growth and development, form the first layer of the plant immune system and mediate  
58 symbiotic interactions (Hohmann et al., 2017). LRR-RKs form the largest class of receptor kinases  
59 known in plants (Shiu and Bleeker, 2001). Members of the family have been shown to sense small  
60 molecule (Wang et al., 2001), peptide (Gómez-Gómez and Boller, 2000; Matsubayashi, 2014;  
61 Santiago et al., 2016) and protein ligands (Huang et al., 2016; Lin et al., 2017; Zhang et al., 2017).

62 Brassinosteroids, whose biosynthesis involves the steroid 5 $\alpha$  steroid reductase DE-  
63 ETIOLATED2 (DET2) (Chory et al., 1991; Noguchi et al., 1999), are sensed by the ectodomain of  
64 the LRR-RK BRASSINOSTEROID INSENSITIVE1 (BRI1) with nanomolar affinity (Wang et al.,  
65 2001; Hothorn et al., 2011; Hohmann et al., 2018b). Brassinosteroid binding to the BRI1  
66 ectodomain triggers the interaction with the LRR domain of a SOMATIC EMBRYOGENESIS  
67 RECEPTOR LIKE KINASE (SERK) co-receptor (Hothorn et al., 2011; She et al., 2011; Santiago et  
68 al., 2013; Sun et al., 2013; Hohmann et al., 2018b). Formation of this heterodimeric complex at the  
69 cell surface promotes interaction and trans-phosphorylation of the receptor and co-receptor kinase  
70 domains inside the cell (Wang et al., 2008; Bojar et al., 2014; Hohmann et al., 2018b; Perraki et al.,  
71 2018). BRI1 receptor activation triggers a cytoplasmic signaling cascade, which ultimately results  
72 in the dephosphorylation and activation of a family of basic helix-loop-helix transcription factors,  
73 including BRASSINAZOLE-RESISTANT1 (BZR1) and BRI1-EMS-SUPPRESSOR1 (BES1)  
74 (Wang et al., 2002; Yin et al., 2002; Vert and Chory, 2006; Nosaki et al., 2018). In *bes1-D* plants  
75 BES1 proline 233 is found replaced by leucine, which leads to constitutive brassinosteroid signaling  
76 responses by enhancing protein phosphatase 2A mediated dephosphorylation (Yin et al., 2002;  
77 Tang et al., 2011).

78 The plant-unique SERK co-receptor dependent activation mechanism is conserved among  
79 many LRR-RKs (Hohmann et al., 2017), including the LRR-RK HAESA, which, for example,  
80 controls floral organ abscission in Arabidopsis by interacting with the peptide hormone IDA (Jinn et  
81 al., 2000; Meng et al., 2016; Santiago et al., 2016; Hohmann et al., 2018b). A SERK-dependent  
82 MAP kinase signaling pathway (Meng et al., 2015) with diverse roles in plant development involves  
83 the LRR-RK ERECTA (ER) and its paralogs ERECTA-LIKE1 (ERL1) and ERL2 (Torii et al., 1996;  
84 Shpak, 2013). ER, ERL1 and ERL2 together control stomata development and their correct spacing  
85 on the leaf surface (Shpak et al., 2005). Cysteine-rich EPIDERMAL PATTERNING FACTOR  
86 peptides (EPFs) bind to the ectodomains of ER, ERL1 and ERL2 which form constitutive  
87 complexes with the ectodomain of the receptor-like protein (RLP) TOO MANY MOUTH (TMM)

88 (Yang and Sack, 1995; Nadeau and Sack, 2002; Lee et al., 2012, 2015; Lin et al., 2017). EPF  
89 peptide binding to these LRR-RK/LRR-RLP complexes triggers their interaction with SERK co-  
90 receptor kinases (Meng et al., 2015; Lin et al., 2017), which in turn leads to the initiation of a MAP  
91 kinase signaling pathway that includes the MAP3K YODA (Bergmann et al., 2004). Stimulation of  
92 the ERECTA pathway negatively regulates stomata formation (Lampard et al., 2009).

93         Complex structures and quantitative biochemical comparisons of different ligand-activated  
94 LRR-RK – SERK complexes have revealed a structurally and functionally conserved activation  
95 mechanism, relying on the interaction of the ligand bound receptor LRR ectodomain with the  
96 shape-complementary ectodomain of the SERK co-receptor (Santiago et al., 2013; Wang et al.,  
97 2015; Santiago et al., 2016; Hohmann et al., 2017; Lin et al., 2017; Hohmann et al., 2018b). The  
98 ligand binding specificity of plant LRR-RKs is encoded in their LRR ectodomains (Hohmann et al.,  
99 2017; Okuda et al., 2020). The kinase domain of the receptor, not of the SERK co-receptor, confers  
100 cytoplasmic signaling specificity (Hohmann et al., 2018b; Chen et al., 2019; Zheng et al., 2019).  
101 Recent genetic, biochemical and structural evidence suggest that not all plant LRR-RKs rely on  
102 SERKs as essential co-receptor kinases (Hu et al., 2018; Cui et al., 2018; Anne et al., 2018;  
103 Smakowska-Luzan et al., 2018; Zhang et al., 2017).

104         Protein engineering approaches have been previously employed to dissect the LRR-RK  
105 receptor activation *in planta*: A fusion protein combining the extracellular and trans-membrane  
106 domains of BRI1 (outerBRI1, oBRI1) with the cytoplasmic kinase domain of the rice immune  
107 receptor XA21 (innerXA21, iXA21) could trigger immune signaling in rice cells upon stimulation  
108 with brassinosteroids (He et al., 2000). It is now known that both BRI1 and XA21 rely on SERK co-  
109 receptor kinases for receptor activation (Li et al., 2002; Nam and Li, 2002; Santiago et al., 2013;  
110 Hohmann et al., 2018b; Chen et al., 2014). The heteromeric nature of LRR-RK – SERK complexes  
111 has been validated *in planta* using similar protein engineering approaches. Co-expression of a  
112 protein chimera of the immune receptor FLAGELLIN SENSITIVE 2 (FLS2) and its co-receptor  
113 SERK3 (oFLS2-iSERK3) with an oSERK3-iFLS2 construct led to immune signaling after  
114 stimulation with the FLS2 ligand flg22 in a transient expression system (Albert et al., 2013). Stable  
115 transgenic lines co-expressing oBRI1-iSERK3 and oSERK3-iBRI1 construct could partially rescue  
116 the BRI1 loss-of-function mutant *bri1-301* (Hohmann et al., 2018b).

117         The signaling specificity of the cytoplasmic kinase domain of LRR-RKs has been dissected  
118 using an oBRI-iHAESA chimera, which rescued the floral abscission phenotypes when expressed  
119 under the control of the HAESA promoter in the *haesa hsl2* double mutant (Hohmann et al., 2018b).  
120 A similar approach has been recently used to demonstrate that the LRR-RKs BRI1 and EMS1 share

121 a common cytoplasmic signaling cascade (Zheng et al., 2019). However, all these approaches rely  
122 on ligand stimulus.

123 Recently, a constitutive, ligand-independent interaction between the LRR ectodomains of  
124 SERKs and of BAK1-INTERACTING RECEPTOR-LIKE KINASEs (BIRs) has been reported (Ma  
125 et al., 2017; Hohmann et al., 2018a). While BIR1 appears to have a catalytically active cytoplasmic  
126 kinase domain, BIR2-4 are receptor pseudokinases (Gao et al., 2009; Wang et al., 2011; Blaum et  
127 al., 2014). Different BIRs have been characterized as negative regulators of plant immune, floral  
128 abscission and brassinosteroid signaling (Gao et al., 2009; Halter et al., 2014; Leslie et al., 2010;  
129 Imkampe et al., 2017). Structural and biochemical analyses now implicate BIR proteins as general  
130 negative regulators of SERK co-receptor mediated LRR-RK signaling pathways (Moussu and  
131 Santiago, 2019). The ectodomains of BIR1-4 bind to SERK ectodomains with dissociation  
132 constants in the low micromolar range and target a surface area in SERKs normally required for the  
133 interaction with ligand-bound LRR-RKs (Hohmann et al., 2018b; Ma et al., 2017; Hohmann et al.,  
134 2018a). Thus, BIRs can efficiently compete with LRR-RKs for SERK binding, negatively  
135 regulating LRR-RK signaling pathways. In line with this, the elongated (*elg*) allele in SERK3,  
136 which weakens the interaction with BIRs but not with BRI1 results in a brassinosteroid-specific  
137 gain-of-function signaling phenotype, as BRI1 can more efficiently compete with BIRs for co-  
138 receptor binding (Jaillais et al., 2011; Hohmann et al., 2018a). Structure-guided mutations in the  
139 BIR – SERK ectodomain complex interface (BIR3 residues Phe146-Ala/Arg170-Ala) efficiently  
140 disrupt BIR – SERK signaling complexes *in vitro* and *in planta* (Hohmann et al., 2018a). Here we  
141 present protein fusions of the BIR3 LRR ectodomain and transmembrane helix (oBIR3) with the  
142 cytoplasmic domains of different SERK-dependent LRR-RKs (iBRI1, iHAESA, iER, iFLS2).  
143 Expressing these chimera under the control of endogenous/context-specific promoters, we obtain  
144 strong gain-of-function phenotypes for different LRR-RK triggered developmental signaling  
145 pathways. In addition, an oBIR3-iGSO1/SGN3 chimera supports a SERK-dependent activation  
146 mechanism for the LRR-RK GASSHO1/SCHENGEN3 in Casparian strip formation (Pfister et al.,  
147 2014; Okuda et al., 2020). Our strategy allows for the identification of gain-of-function phenotypes  
148 of orphan LRR-RKs whose ligands are unknown, and enables the elucidation of their receptor  
149 activation mechanism.

150

## 151 **Results**

152 We compared the structure of a previously reported BRI1 – brassinolide (BL) – SERK1  
153 complex (Protein Data Bank ID 4SLX, <http://rcsb.org>) with the recently reported complex structure  
154 of a BIR3 – SERK1 complex (PDB-ID 6FG8) (Santiago et al., 2013; Hohmann et al., 2018a). The

155 BRI1 and BIR3 ectodomains bind SERK1 using non-identical but overlapping binding surfaces  
156 (Figure 1A). As in the BRI1 – SERK1 complex, the C-termini of BIR3 and SERK1 are in close  
157 proximity in the complex structure (Figure 1B,C). Based on the structural similarities, we generated  
158 an oBIR3 – iBRI1 chimera, in which the BIR3 ectodomain and trans-membrane helix are connected  
159 to the cytoplasmic domain of BRI1 (Figure 1D) (see Methods).

160 We expressed the oBIR3 – iBRI1 fused to a C-terminal mCitrine (mCit) fluorescent protein  
161 tag under the control of the *pBRI1* promoter in a previously characterized *bri1* null mutant (Jaillais  
162 et al., 2011). oBIR3<sup>F146A/R170A</sup> – iBRI1 and oBIR3 – iBRI1<sup>D1027N</sup>, which block BIR – SERK complex  
163 formation (Hohmann et al., 2018a) and BRI1 kinase activity (Bojar et al., 2014; Hohmann et al.,  
164 2018b), respectively, were used as controls. Independent oBIR3 – iBRI1 transgenic lines, but none  
165 of the control lines displayed the wavy hypocotyl phenotype characteristic of gain-of-function  
166 brassinosteroid mutants (Figure 2 A). Importantly, the wavy hypocotyl phenotype observed in  
167 oBIR3 – iBRI1 lines was also visible when plants were grown in the presence of the brassinosteroid  
168 biosynthesis inhibitor brassinazole (BZR) (Asami et al., 2000) (Figure 2A). This suggests that  
169 oBIR3 – iBRI1 triggered brassinosteroid signaling does not depend on endogenous brassinosteroids  
170 (Figure 2A). Consequently, we found all oBIR3-iBRI1 but none of the control lines to be  
171 constitutively active when expressed in the *det2* background (Chory et al., 1991), in which  
172 brassinosteroid levels are reduced (Fujioka et al., 1997) (Figure 2A). Quantification of three  
173 independent oBIR3-iBRI1 T3 lines revealed strong gain of function phenotypes, which are even  
174 more pronounced than the previously reported phenotype of the constitutively active *bes1-1D*  
175 mutant (Figure 2A) (Yin et al., 2002). Consistent with a constitutive activation of the  
176 brassinosteroid signaling, we found BES1 to be dephosphorylated in oBIR3 – iBRI1 but not in the  
177 control lines (Figure 2B), and BES1 dephosphorylation to also take place in the *det2* background  
178 (Figure 2C). We next performed co-immunoprecipitation (co-IP) experiments in our stable lines and  
179 found oBIR3 – iBRI1 and oBIR3 – iBRI1<sup>D1027N</sup> to efficiently interact with the endogenous SERK3  
180 co-receptor *in vivo*, while the oBIR3<sup>F146A/R170A</sup> – iBRI1 control, which disrupts the interaction of the  
181 isolated BIR3 and SERK1/3 ectodomain *in vitro* (Hohmann et al., 2018a), could no longer bind  
182 SERK3 *in vivo* (Figure 2D). Taken together, the BIR3 ectodomain can promote brassinosteroid  
183 independent interaction with SERK3, and possibly other SERKs *in vivo*, resulting in a constitutive  
184 activation of the brassinosteroid signaling pathway. The control lines further suggest that this  
185 signaling complex is formed and stabilized by the ectodomains of BIR3 and SERK3, and requires  
186 the catalytic activity of the BRI1 kinase domain for signaling (Figure 2A).

187 We next tested if BIR3-based protein chimera can be used to activate a functionally distinct  
188 LRR-RK signaling pathway. The LRR-RK HAESA (HAE) shares the overall structure and

189 activation mechanism with BRI1 (Santiago et al., 2013, 2016; Hohmann et al., 2018b), but the two  
190 receptors control very different developmental processes (Li and Chory, 1997; Jinn et al., 2000). We  
191 expressed an oBIR3-iHAE fusion protein (Figure 3A) fused to a C-terminal mCit tag under the  
192 control of the *pHAE* promoter in the *hae hsl2* mutant, in which floral organ abscission is delayed  
193 (Stenvik et al., 2008). We observed that expression of oBIR3-iHAE but none of the control lines  
194 rescued the floral abscission phenotype of the *hae hsl2* mutant (Figure 3B, C). Consistently, we  
195 found oBIR3 – iHAE and oBIR3 – iHAE<sup>D1027N</sup> but not oBIR3<sup>F146A/R170A</sup> – iHAE to interact with  
196 SERK3 in co-IP assays (Figure 3D).

197 SERK proteins have been previously shown to allow for receptor activation of ERECTA  
198 family receptor kinases in protoderm formation and stomatal patterning (Meng et al., 2015). ER  
199 forms constitutive complexes with the LRR-RLP TMM to sense EPF peptides in stomatal  
200 patterning (Yang and Sack, 1995; Nadeau and Sack, 2002; Lee et al., 2012, 2015; Lin et al., 2017),  
201 but it is not understood at the mechanistic level how SERK co-receptor kinases allow for receptor  
202 activation of this LRR-RK/LRR-RLP signaling complex (Lin et al., 2017). To test if the receptor  
203 activation mechanism is conserved among BRI1, HAESA and ER, we expressed a chimeric oBIR3-  
204 iER construct fused to a C-terminal yellow fluorescent protein YPET specifically in the stomata  
205 lineage under control of the meristemoid-specific *MUTE* promoter (Figure 4A) (Pillitteri et al.,  
206 2007). Previous experiments demonstrated that constitutive activation of the ERECTA pathway in  
207 differentiating meristemoids leads to developmental arrest of guard mother cells (Lampard et al.,  
208 2009). To test the signaling specificity of our oBIR3-iER chimera, we also expressed a chimeric  
209 fusion of the innate immunity receptor FLS2 (Gómez-Gómez and Boller, 2000) under the control of  
210 the *MUTE* promoter (oBIR3-iFLS2-YPET) (Figure 4A).

211 For each construct, we selected three representative lines according to YPET expression and  
212 measured density of mature stomata on cotyledons. The oBIR3-iER lines showed a drastic  
213 reduction of mature stomata and an increase in meristemoid-like cells on the leaf surface (Figure  
214 4B, C). In contrast, none of the oBIR3-iFLS2 lines showed any significant deviation from the wild-  
215 type phenotype, despite being expressed at a similar or higher level than the *BIR3-ER* chimeras  
216 (Figure 4D).

217 To analyze the observed phenotype on a molecular level, we tested expression of the guard  
218 mother cell (GMC)-specific transcription factor *FAMA* (Ohashi-Ito and Bergmann, 2006) and guard  
219 cell-specific Dof-type transcription factor *SCAP1* (Negi et al., 2013). The three independent BIR3-  
220 ER lines displayed a strong reduction of *FAMA* and *SCAP1* expression (Figure 4E,F), suggesting  
221 that the abnormal epidermal cells could be arrested at the meristemoid stage and do not express  
222 GMC-specific or guard cell-specific genes. All three oBIR3-iFLS2 expressing lines did not show a

223 reduction in FAMA or SCAP1 expression. While SCAP1 transcript levels did not differ  
224 significantly from wildtype, there was a significant upregulation of FAMA expression in these lines  
225 (Figure 4E, F).

226 Finally, we tested if fusion of the BIR3 ectdomain to the LRR-RK GSO1/SGN3  
227 (Tsuwamoto et al., 2008; Pfister et al., 2014) could restore the apoplastic barrier defects in the *sgn3-*  
228 3 mutant (Pfister et al., 2014). GSO1/SGN3 directly senses the peptide ligands CASPARIAN  
229 STRIP INTEGRITY FACTORS 1 and 2 (CIF1, CIF2) to ensure proper formation of the Casparian  
230 strip, an endodermal diffusion barrier enabling selective nutrient uptake in the root (Pfister et al.,  
231 2014; Nakayama et al., 2017; Doblas et al., 2017; Okuda et al., 2020). A biochemical interaction  
232 screen has recently identified SERK proteins as putative co-receptor kinases for GSO1/SGN3  
233 (Okuda et al., 2020), but it is presently unclear if SERKs mediate GSO1/SGN3 receptor activation  
234 *in vivo* (Figure 5A). We generated oBIR3-iSGN3, oBIR3-iSGN3<sup>F146A,R170A</sup> and oBIR3-iSGN3<sup>D1102N</sup>  
235 protein chimera expressed under the control of the *pSGN3* promoter in the *sgn3-3* mutant  
236 background. As previously described, the *sgn3-3* mutant has a non-functional apoplastic barrier that  
237 can be visualized and quantified by visualizing the uptake of the apoplastic tracer propidium iodide  
238 (PI) along the root and its access to the central vasculature (Figure 5B,C). We found that oBIR3-  
239 iSGN3 but none of the control lines restored *sgn3-3* apoplastic defects (Figure 5C, D), indicating a  
240 SERK-mediated GSO1/SGN3 receptor activation mechanism in the Casparian strip formation.

241

## 242 Discussion

243 The identification of a constitutive, ligand-independent interaction between the LRR ectodomains  
244 of two plant membrane signaling proteins prompted us to investigate if protein chimera between the  
245 BIR3 ectodomain and the cytoplasmic domain of various receptor kinases would lead to  
246 constitutively active signaling complexes. Despite the significant structural differences between  
247 LRR-RK – SERK and BIR – SERK complexes, our data demonstrates that a wide range of oBIR3 –  
248 iLRR-RK chimera are functional *in planta*.

249 Expression of the oBIR3 – iBRI1 chimera resulted in a strong, constitutive activation of the  
250 brassinosteroid signaling pathway. The gain-of-function effect is much stronger than previously  
251 described for the BRI1 *sud1* and SERK3 *elongated* alleles, respectively (Belkhadir et al., 2012;  
252 Jaillais et al., 2011; Hohmann et al., 2018a), and comparable to constitutive activation of BES1  
253 (Figure 2A) (Yin et al., 2002). The constitutive signaling activity of the oBIR3 – iBRI1 chimera  
254 depends on the ability of the BIR3 ectodomain to bind SERK ectodomains and on the kinase  
255 activity of the BRI1 cytosolic segment (Figure 2). This reinforces the notion that formation of the  
256 heterodimeric extracellular signaling complex drives LRR-RK receptor activation, and that



257 signaling specificity is encoded in the kinase domain of the receptor, not the co-receptor (Bojar et  
258 al., 2014; Hohmann et al., 2018b; Zheng et al., 2019). The phenotypes of oBIR3 – iBRI1 and *bes1-*  
259 *1D* plants in addition suggest that little signal amplification appears to occur throughout the  
260 brassinosteroid signaling pathway (Figure 2).

261 Analysis of the oBIR3 – iHAE chimera revealed a strongly conserved activation mechanism  
262 between different, SERK-dependent LRR-RK signaling pathways, as previously suggested  
263 (Hohmann et al., 2018b) (Figure 3). In addition, our experiments suggest that BIR ectodomains are  
264 able to interact with SERK proteins in the abscission zone, and thus BIR proteins may act as  
265 negative regulators of HAESA / HSL2 mediated signaling cascades in wild-type plants (Figure 3).  
266 In this respect, it is noteworthy that the BIR suppressor SoBIR1/EVERSHED has been previously  
267 characterized as a genetic component of the floral abscission signaling pathway (Leslie et al., 2010).

268 ERECTA family kinases have been previously shown to require SERK co-receptor kinases  
269 to control stomatal patterning and immune responses (Meng et al., 2015; Jordá et al., 2016). Our  
270 functional oBIR3 – iER chimera now suggests, that, despite the requirement for TMM, EPF bound  
271 ER signaling complexes are activated by SERK proteins in very similar ways as previously  
272 reported other LRR-RKs (Hohmann et al., 2017) (Figure 4). Expression of the oBIR3 – iER  
273 chimera in meristemoid cells lead to a similar phenotype as described for the expression of  
274 constitutively active versions of YODA, MKK4, and MKK5 (Lampard et al., 2009). This strongly  
275 indicates that the oBIR3 – iER chimera displays constitutive, ligand-independent signaling activity.  
276 The specificity of signal transduction seems to be largely maintained, as expression of oBIR3 -  
277 iFLS2 led to wild-type like stomatal development. At the molecular level, however, we observed a  
278 significant increase of *FAMA* expression in all tested oBIR3 – iFLS2 lines. This is consistent with  
279 an antagonistic regulation of these two pathways (Sun et al., 2018). The observed upregulation of  
280 *FAMA* expression, however, did not significantly alter stomata density. This is likely because the  
281 transcriptional activation of the oBIR3-iFLS2 construct in this experiment happens only in  
282 meristemoid cells and might be compensated by post-transcriptional regulation.

283 Finally, our finding that expression of a oBIR3 – iSGN3 chimera could partially rescue the  
284 apoplastic barrier defects of the *sgn3-3* mutant. Notably, BIR ectodomains specifically bind the  
285 ectodomains of SERKs (Ma et al., 2017; Hohmann et al., 2018a), while not forming complexes with  
286 the LRR ectodomain of the sequence-related NSP-INTERACTING KINASE1 (NIK1) (Figure 6).  
287 This suggests that SERK proteins may have redundant functions in SGN3/GSO1 signaling in the  
288 endodermis (Pfister et al., 2014; Okuda et al., 2020).

289 Taken together, the simple, lego-style assembly of BIR3 chimera (Figure 7) and the  
290 availability of suitable control lines now enables the genetic characterization of orphan LRR-RKs

291 with unknown/unclear loss-of-function phenotypes and dissection of their potential activation  
292 mechanism. BIR3 protein chimera may also be of use for biochemical or genetic interaction  
293 screens, in which a constitutively active form of the receptor is desirable.

294

## 295 **Material & Methods**

296

### 297 **Plant material, growth conditions and generation of transgenic lines**

298 To design chimeric receptor kinases, the transmembrane helix of all LRR-RKs was first  
299 predicted using TMHMM (version 2.0, [https://services.healthtech.dtu.dk/service.php?TMHMM-](https://services.healthtech.dtu.dk/service.php?TMHMM-2.0)  
300 [2.0](https://services.healthtech.dtu.dk/service.php?TMHMM-2.0)) (Krogh et al., 2001). The native signal peptide, extracellular domain and the transmembrane  
301 helix from AtBIR3 (residues 1-246) were fused to the juxtamembrane and kinase domains of the  
302 respective receptor (BRI1 residues 815-1196, HAE 649-999, SGN3 899-1249). No additional  
303 linker sequences were added (Figure 7). Fragments were amplified from *Arabidopsis thaliana*  
304 (ecotype Col-0) genomic or cDNA and cloned into pDONR221 (ThermoFisher Scientific) using  
305 Gibson-cloning technology; mutations were introduced through site directed mutagenesis  
306 (Supplemental Table 1). Binary vectors were assembled using the multi-site Gateway technology  
307 into the binary vector pB7m34GW, harboring a Basta resistance gene (ThermoFisher Scientific). All  
308 constructs were introduced into *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* strain pGV2260, and *Arabidopsis*  
309 plants were transformed using the floral dip method (Clough and Bent, 1998).

310 GABI\_134E10 was used as a *bri1*-null allele (Jaillais et al., 2011), ABRC CS65988 as *bes1-*  
311 *1D* (Yin et al., 2002), ABRC CS6159 as *det2-1* (Chory et al., 1991), and *hae hsl2* and *sgn3-3* as  
312 previously reported (Stenvik et al., 2008; Pfister et al., 2014). All plants were grown in 50 %  
313 humidity, 21 °C and a 16 h light – 8 h dark cycle.

314 To generate the chimeric *pMUTE::BIR3-FLS2-Ypet* and *pMUTE::BIR3-ERECTA-Ypet*  
315 genes, a 1946 bp DNA fragment comprising the coding sequence of the N-terminal extra-cellular  
316 domain of BIR3 (residues 1-245) followed by a short multiple cloning site, the coding sequence of  
317 YPET, and a 411 bp terminator sequence of the Arabidopsis *UBQ10* gene was synthesized  
318 (Baseclear, The Netherlands) and inserted in the T-DNA of a modified pCambia3300 binary vector.  
319 A 2432 bp promoter region of the Arabidopsis *MUTE* gene was PCR amplified from Col-0 genomic  
320 DNA and inserted directly upstream of the synthetic BIR3 fusion construct by in-fusion cloning  
321 (Clontech). The coding regions for the intracellular domains of FLS2 (residues 807-1173) and  
322 ERECTA (residues 581-976) were PCR amplified from Arabidopsis seedling-derived cDNA and  
323 inserted in-frame between the coding region of the BIR3 extracellular domain and the YPET coding  
324 region. All constructs were confirmed by Sanger sequencing.

## 325 **Hypocotyl growth assay**

326 Seeds were surface sterilized, stratified at 4 °C for 2 d, and plated on ½ MS, 0.8 % agar  
327 plates supplemented with 1 µM brassinazole (BRZ, from a 10 mM stock solution in 100 % DMSO,  
328 Tokyo Chemical Industry Co. LTD) or, for the controls, with 0.1 % (v/v) DMSO. Following a 1 h  
329 light exposure to induce germination, the plates were wrapped in aluminium foil and incubated in  
330 the dark at 22 °C for 5 d. The plates were then scanned at 600 dpi on a regular flatbed scanner  
331 (CanoScan 9000F, Canon), hypocotyl lengths measured using Fiji (Schindelin et al., 2012) and  
332 analyzed in R (R Core Team, 2014) (version 3.6.1) using the packages mratios (Kitsche and  
333 Hothorn, 2014) and multcomp (Hothorn et al., 2008). Rather than p-values, we report unadjusted  
334 95% confidence limits for fold-changes. A mixed effects model for the ratio of of a given line to the  
335 wild-type Col-0, allowing for heterogeneous variances, was used to analyze log-transformed  
336 endpoint hypocotyl lengths. To evaluate the treatment-by-mutant interaction, the 95 % two-sided  
337 confidence intervals for the relative inhibition (Col-0: untreated vs. BRZ-treated hypocotyl  
338 length)/(any genotype: untreated vs. BRZ-treated hypocotyl length) was calculated for the log-  
339 transformed length.

340

## 341 **Plant protein extraction and immunoprecipitation**

342 Seeds were plated on ½ MS, 0.8 % agar plates and grown for ~ 14 d after surface  
343 sterilization and stratification. Seedlings were harvested, padded dry carefully, snap-frozen in liquid  
344 N<sub>2</sub>, and ground to fine powder using pre-cooled mortar and pestel. 1 g of powder per sample was  
345 resuspended in 3 ml of ice cold extraction buffer (50 mM Bis Tris pH 7.0, 150mM NaCl, 10 % (v/v)  
346 glycerol, 1 % Triton X-100, 5 mM DTT, protease inhibitor cocktail (P9599, Sigma)) and agitated  
347 gently at 4 °C for 1 h. Subsequently, samples were centrifuged (30 min, 16,000 g, 4 °C), the  
348 supernatant then transferred to a fresh tube and the protein concentration estimated through a  
349 Bradford assay with a BSA standard curve.

350 For each co-immunoprecipitation (Co-IP), 20 mg of total protein in a volume of 5 ml were  
351 incubated with 50 µl of anti-GFP superparamagnetic MicroBeads (Miltenyi Biotec) for 1 h at 4 °C  
352 with gentle agitation. Using a magnetic rack and µMACS Columns (Miltenyi Biotec) which were  
353 washed once with extraction buffer the beads were collected and then washed 4 times with 1 ml of  
354 ice cold extraction buffer. Bound proteins were then eluted in 2 times 20 µl of extraction buffer pre-  
355 heated to 95 °C. Samples were then separated on 10 % SDS-PAGE gels and analyzed with a  
356 standard western blot using the following antibodies: anti-GFP antibody coupled to horse radish  
357 peroxidase (Anti-GFP-HRP, Miltenyi Biotec 130-091-833) at 1:2,000 dilution to detect mCitrine;

358 anti-SERK3 (Bojar et al., 2014) at 1:5,000 dilution in conjunction with a secondary anti-rabbit  
359 HRP antibody (1:10,000, Calbiochem #401353) to detect SERK3.

360

### 361 **Western blot for BES1**

362 For each sample, ~ 100 µg of seven day old seedlings, grown on ½ MS, 0.8 % agar plates,  
363 were harvested, frozen in liquid N<sub>2</sub> and ground to powder using bead mill (Retsch MM400). The  
364 sample was resuspended in ~ 200 µl of ice cold extraction buffer (25 mM Tris pH 7.5, 150 mM  
365 NaCl, 1 % SDS, 10 mM DTT, protease inhibitor cocktail (P9599, Sigma)), incubated with gentle  
366 agitation for 1 h at 4 °C, centrifuged for 30 min at 4 °C, 16,000 g. The supernatant was transferred  
367 to a fresh tube and the protein concentration assessed through a Bradford assay. 80 µg of total  
368 extracted protein were separated on a 12 % SDS-PAGE gel and analyzed in a westernblot (primary  
369 antibody: anti-bes1, 1:2,000 (Yin et al., 2002), secondary antibody: anti-rabbit HRP (1:10,000,  
370 Calbiochem #401353)).

371

### 372 **Stomata density measurements and microscopy**

373 Seven-day old T2 seedlings were used to determine stomata density. For confocal imaging,  
374 seedlings were incubated in 10mg/L propidium iodide (PI) solution for 30 min, and then washed  
375 with water. Abaxial epidermal regions of cotyledons were imaged using a Zeiss LSM 780 NLO  
376 microscope equipped with a Plan-Apochromat 25x/0.8 Imm Korr DIC objective. PI staining was  
377 visualized with an excitation wave length of 514 nm and emission was recorded between 566 nm  
378 and 643 nm. Mature stomata were counted in a 0.25 mm by 0.25 mm epidermal area for three  
379 seedlings of each line.

380

### 381 **Expression analysis**

382 Seven-day old T2 seedlings were used to analyze expression levels of the transgene as well  
383 as endogenous genes. For each independent line, RNA was extracted from 24 pooled T2 seedlings  
384 using the RNase® Plant Mini Kit (QiaGen). cDNA was synthesized using the RecertAid First  
385 Strand cDNA Synthesis Kit (Thermo Scientific). Relative abundance of the endogenous *FAMA* and  
386 *SCAP1* transcripts as well as chimeric *YPET*-containing *BIR3* transcripts were measured by  
387 quantitative RT-PCR (program: 1. 50°C for 10 min, 2. 95°C for 5 min, 3. 95°C for 10 s, 4. 60 °C for  
388 30 s; repeat step 3 – 4 40 times; 5. 95°C for 10 s, 6. ramp 65°C to 95 and increase 0.5°C every 5s,  
389 Plate Read). Expression levels of endogenous *ACTIN2* were used for normalization.

390

391

392 **Propidium iodide permeability assay and confocal microscopy of wild-type and complemented**  
393 ***sgn3-3* plants.**

394 Propidium Iodide (PI) permeability assay were performed on 5 d old seedlings. In brief, the  
395 seedlings were stained in dark for 10 mins in 10µg/ml PI, rinsed twice in water and quantified as  
396 previously described (Naseer et al., 2012). Endodermal cell numbers were quantified using a Leica  
397 Epifluorescence microscope. Representative confocal images were acquired with a Leica SP8, with  
398 excitation and detection windows set as follows for PI: excitation - 488 nm, emission – 500-550 nm.  
399 Confocal images were processed and analyzed using ImageJ. For samples treated with the CIF2  
400 peptide, the seedlings were grown on ½ MS for 3 days followed by transfer to ½ MS + 10µM CIF2  
401 peptide for 2 d and subsequently analyzed for PI permeability. Statistical analyses were done in the  
402 R environment (R Core Team, 2014). For multiple comparisons between genotypes, Kruskal-Wallis’  
403 test was performed and nonparametric Tukey’s test was subsequently used as a multiple comparison  
404 procedure. Different letters indicates significant difference (P<0.05). Data are presented as box plots  
405 overlaid with dot plots.

406

407 **Protein expression, purification and size exclusion chromatography**

408 The coding sequence of AtNIK1<sup>32-248</sup> was amplified from *Arabidopsis thaliana* cDNA,  
409 AtBIR2<sup>1-222</sup>, BIR3<sup>1-213</sup> from *A. thaliana* genomic DNA and fragments were cloned into a modified  
410 pFastBac vector (Geneva Biotech), providing a tobacco etch virus protease (TEV)-cleavable C-  
411 terminal StrepII-9xHis tag. NIK1 was fused to an N-terminal azurocidin secretion peptide. Proteins  
412 were expressed by infection of *Trichoplusia ni* (strain Tnao38) (Hashimoto et al., 2010) cells with  
413 15 ml of virus in 250 ml of cells at a density of ~ 2x 10<sup>6</sup> cells ml<sup>-1</sup>, incubated for 26 h at 28 °C and  
414 110 rev min<sup>-1</sup> and then for another 48 h at 22 °C and 110 rev min<sup>-1</sup>. Secreted proteins were purified  
415 from the supernatant by sequential Ni<sup>2+</sup> (HisTrap excel; GE Healthcare; equilibrated in 25 mM KP<sub>i</sub>  
416 pH 7.8, 500 mM NaCl) and StrepII (Strep-Tactin XT; IBA; equilibrated in 25 mM Tris pH 8.0, 250  
417 mM NaCl, 1 mM EDTA) affinity chromatography followed by size-exclusion chromatography on a  
418 HiLoad 16/600 Superdex 200pg column (GE Healthcare), equilibrated in 20 mM sodium citrate pH  
419 5.0, 250 mM NaCl. The theoretical molecular weight of the purified ectodomains is 23.6 kDa for  
420 AtNIK1<sup>32-248</sup>, 23.4 kDa for AtBIR2<sup>1-222</sup> and 24.0 kDa for BIR3<sup>1-213</sup>.

421 For analytical size exclusion chromatography experiments, a Superdex 200 increase 10/300 GL  
422 column (GE Healthcare) was pre-equilibrated in 20 mM sodium citrate pH 5.0, 250 mM NaCl. For  
423 each run, 40 µg of the individual NIK1, BIR2 or BIR3 ectodomains were injected in a volume of  
424 100 µl and elution at 0.75 ml min<sup>-1</sup> was monitored by ultraviolet absorbance at λ = 280 nm. To

425 probe interactions between NIK1, BIR2 and BIR3, 40 µg of the respective proteins were mixed in a  
426 total volume of 100 µl and incubated on ice for 30 min before analysis as outlined above.

427

## 428 **Figure legends**

### 429 **Figure 1. Structural overview BRI1 – SERK and BIR3 - SERK complexes**

430 **(A)** Surface view of a structural superposition of a BRI1 – SERK1 (ectodomains shown in gray and  
431 orange, respectively; Protein Data Bank [PDB] – ID: 4LSX, <http://www.rcsb.org/>) and SERK1 –  
432 BIR3 (orange and blue; PDB-ID: 6FG8). The two structures are aligned on SERK1 (r.m.s.d. [root-  
433 mean-square deviation] = ~ 0.3 Å comparing 143 corresponding C<sub>α</sub> atoms).

434 **(B, C)** Ribbon diagrams of the BRI1 – SERK1 (B) and the BIR3 – SERK1 (C) complexes, with  
435 SERK1 shown in the same orientation. The distances between the respective C-termini are indicated  
436 (colors as in A). Inset: Close-up view of the BIR3 – SERK1 complex interface, with the interface  
437 residues Phe146 and Arg170 highlighted in bonds representation. Mutation of both residues to  
438 alanine disrupts the BIR3 – SERK1 complex *in vitro* and *in vivo* (Hohmann et al., 2018a).

439 **(D)** Schematic overview of an entire BRI1 – BL – SERK signaling complex and the envisioned  
440 oBIR3-iBRI1 – SERK interaction.

441

### 442 **Figure 2. oBIR3 – iBRI1 chimera constitutively activate brassinosteroid signaling**

443 **(A)** Hypocotyl growth assay of dark grown seedlings in the presence and absence of the BR  
444 biosynthesis inhibitor brassinazole (BRZ). Representative seedlings are shown in the top panel, with  
445 the quantification of the data (relative inhibition of hypocotyl growth in the presence of BRZ  
446 plotted together with lower and upper confidence intervals) below. For each sample n = 50  
447 hypocotyls from 5 different ½ MS plates were measured. # numbers indicate independent lines. An  
448 anti-GFP western blot together with the Ponceau – stained membrane as loading control, is shown  
449 alongside. **(B, C)** Anti-BES1 western blot on oBIR3-iBRI chimera in *bri1*-null (B) and *det2* (C)  
450 backgrounds, with the Ponceau – stained membranes shown alongside. **(D)** Co-immunoprecipitation  
451 experiment of oBIR3-iBRI1 chimera and SERK3. Shown alongside are the input western blots as  
452 well as a Ponceau–stained membrane.

453

### 454 **Figure 3. oBIR3 – iHAE chimera restore floral organ shedding in *hae hsl2* mutant plants.**

455 **(A)** Cartoon representation of the oBIR3-iHAE chimera.

456 **(B)** Representative inflorescences of ~9 week old Arabidopsis Col-0, *hae hsl2* and oBIR3-iHAE  
457 chimera; # numbers indicate independent lines.

458 **(C)** Anti-GFP western blot together with the Ponceau–stained membrane as loading control.

459 **(D)** Co-immunoprecipitation experiment of oBIR3-iHAE chimera and SERK3. Shown alongside  
460 are the input western blots as well as a Ponceau – stained membrane (left).

461

462 **Figure 4. BIR3 – chimera reveal a conserved receptor activation mechanism in the LRR-RK**  
463 **ERECTA.**

464 **(A)** Schematic overview of ectopically expressed BIR chimera. The receptor kinase ERECTA  
465 interacts with SERK- co-receptor kinases upon ligand (EPF) binding and regulates stomata  
466 development (left). Expression of a oBIR3-iER chimera in the epidermis under the pMUTE  
467 promoter leads to pathway overactivation and the loss of stomata (middle), while the expression of  
468 an oBIR3-iFLS2 chimera has no effect on stomata development.

469 **(B)** Confocal microscopy images of propidium iodide stained epidermis of the indicated genotype.  
470 Representative images of Col-0 (left panel), BIR3-ER-YPET (center), and BIR3-FLS2-YPET  
471 (right) are shown. Scale bar = 100  $\mu$ m.

472 **(C)** Abaxial stomata density of cotyledons (# numbers indicate independent lines). The average  
473 value of stomata density for three individual plants of each transgenic line is shown. Error bars  
474 depict standard deviations. Individual data points are shown as dot. Significant differences to wild  
475 type are indicated by an asterisk (t-test;  $p < 0.05$ ).

476 **(D)** Expression level of the respective transgenes detected by qRT-PCR on YPET. The average  
477 values of three replicates are shown with error bars indicating standard deviations. Individual data  
478 points are shown as dots. Expression in the oBIR3-iER-YPET line #1 was arbitrarily set to 1.  
479 Significant differences in transgene expression to line #1 is indicated by an asterisk (t-test;  $p < 0.05$ ).

480 **(E)** Relative normalized expression of *FAMA*. Normalized expression values of *FAMA* determined  
481 by quantitative RT-PCR are shown as average of three replicates. Error bars depict standard  
482 deviations. Individual data points are shown as dots. Expression in wild type was arbitrarily set to 1.  
483 Significant differences to wild-type levels are indicated by an asterisk (t-test;  $p < 0.05$ ).

484 **(F)** Relative normalized expression of *SCAP1*. Normalized expression values determined by  
485 quantitative RT-PCR are shown as average of three replicates. Error bars display standard  
486 deviations. Individual data points are shown as dots. Expression in wildtype was arbitrarily set to 1.  
487 Significant differences to wild-type levels are indicated by an asterisk (t-test;  $p < 0.05$ ).

488

489 **Figure 5. oBIR3-iSGN3 chimera suggest a role for SERK proteins in Casparian strip**  
490 **formation.**

491 **(A)** Schematic overview of a biochemically defined SGN3 – CIF – SERK signaling complex. The  
492 oBIR3-iSGN3 chimera is shown alongside.

493 **(B)** Anti-GFP western blot on oBIR3-iSGN3 chimera in *sng3-3* background, with the Ponceau –  
494 stained membranes shown alongside.

495 **(C)** Complementation of *sng3-3* endodermal barrier defect by the chimera *SGN3::oBIR3-iSGN3*.  
496 Visualization of endodermal defects with the apoplastic tracer PI reaching the stele in barrier  
497 defective plants and blocked at the endodermis in plants with functional barriers. Pictures were  
498 taken around the 50th endodermal cell from the onset of elongation. Scale bar, 20  $\mu$ m.

499 **(D)** Quantification of PI block, measured as the number of endodermal cells after the onset of  
500 elongation where the PI block is observed. Data are presented as box plots with dot plot overlaid  
501 ( $n \geq 7$ ). Different letters indicate significant differences between genotypes ( $p < 0.05$ ).

502  
503 **Figure 6. The LRR-ectodomains of BIRs and NIK1 do not interact *in vitro*.**

504 Analytical size-exclusion chromatography binding experiments using the NIK1, BIR2 and BIR3  
505 ectodomains. BIR2 (gray absorption trace) and BIR3 (in dark blue) form no complex with NIK1,  
506 their respective elution volumes correspond to that of the isolated protein (BIR2 in red, BIR2 in  
507 black, NIK1 in light blue). The NIK1 LRR domain shares 49% amino-acid sequence identify with  
508 the SERK1 ectodomain. The total volume ( $v_t$ ) is shown together with elution volumes for molecular  
509 mass standards (Ov, Ovalbumin, 44,000 Da; CA, Carbonic anhydrase, 29,000 Da).

510  
511 **Figure 7. Design principles of BIR chimeras**

512 Schematic overview of selected BIR3 chimera used in this study. Chimeric proteins are expressed  
513 under the endogenous promoter of the respective receptor.

514  
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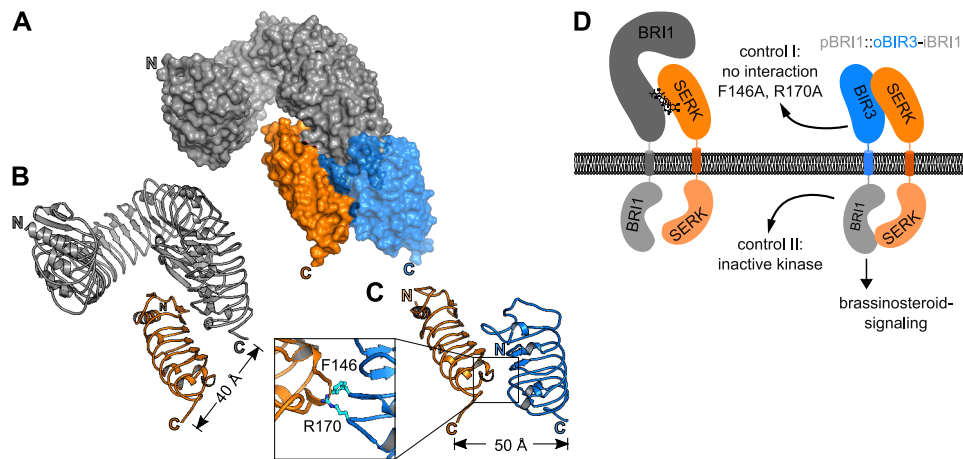
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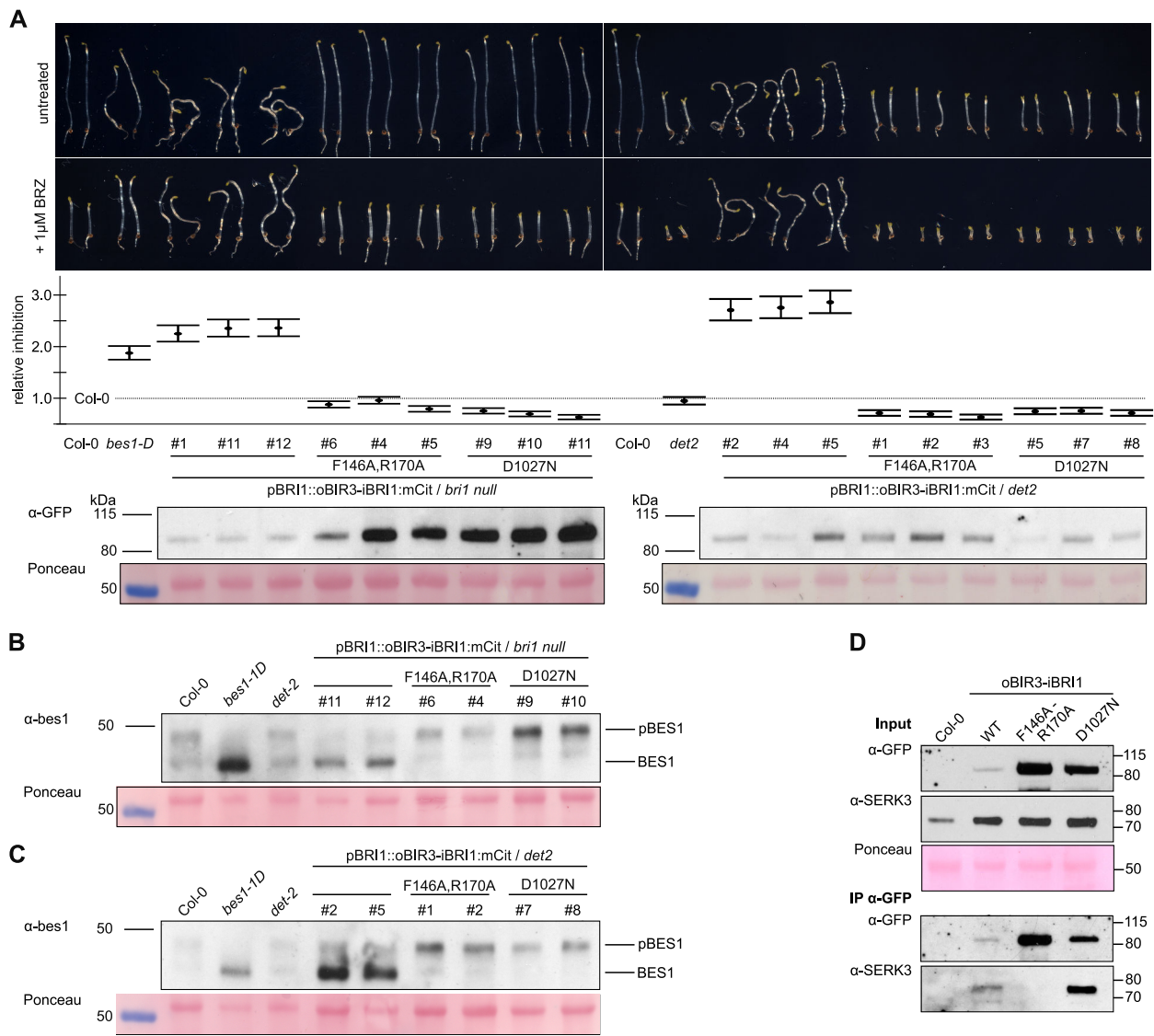
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**Figure 1. Structural overview BRI1 – SERK and BIR3 - SERK complexes**

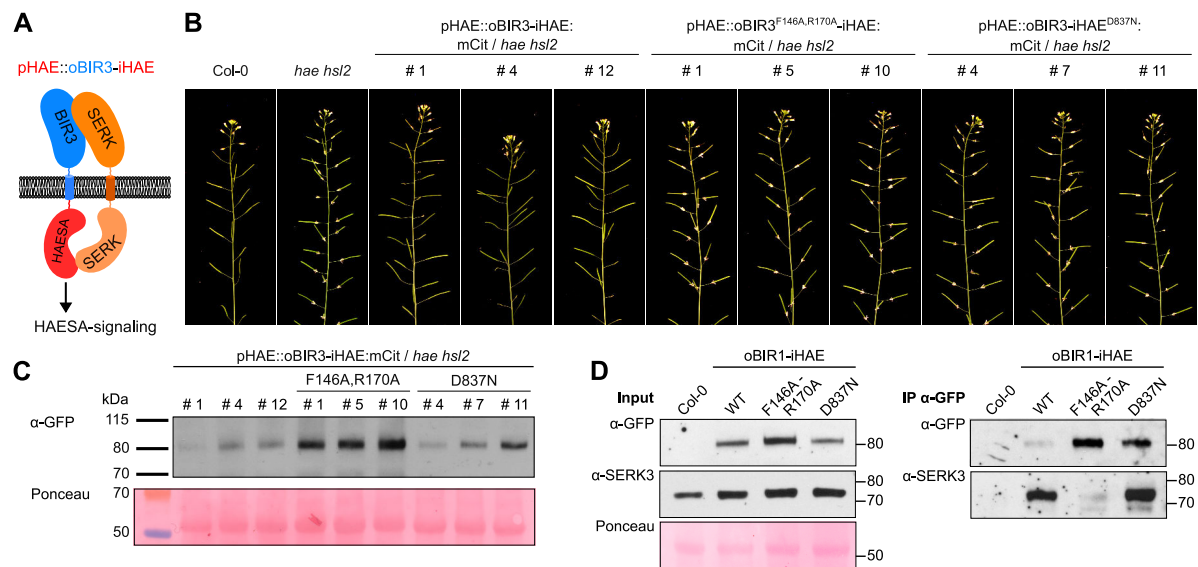
(A) Surface view of a structural superposition of a BRI1 – SERK1 (ectodomains shown in gray and orange, respectively; Protein Data Bank [PDB] – ID: 4LSX, <http://www.rcsb.org/>) and SERK1 – BIR3 (orange and blue; PDB-ID: 6FG8). The two structures are aligned on SERK1 (r.m.s.d. [root-mean-square deviation] =  $\sim 0.3$  Å comparing 143 corresponding  $C_{\alpha}$  atoms). (B, C) Ribbon diagrams of the BRI1 – SERK1 (B) and the BIR3 – SERK1 (C) complexes, with SERK1 shown in the same orientation. The distances between the respective C-termini are indicated (colors as in A). Inset: Close-up view of the BIR3 – SERK1 complex interface, with the interface residues Phe146 and Arg170 highlighted in bonds representation. Mutation of both residues to alanine disrupts the BIR3 – SERK1 complex *in vitro* and *in vivo* (Hohmann et al., 2018a). (D) Schematic overview of an entire BRI1 – BL – SERK signaling complex and the envisioned oBIR3-iBRI1 – SERK interaction.



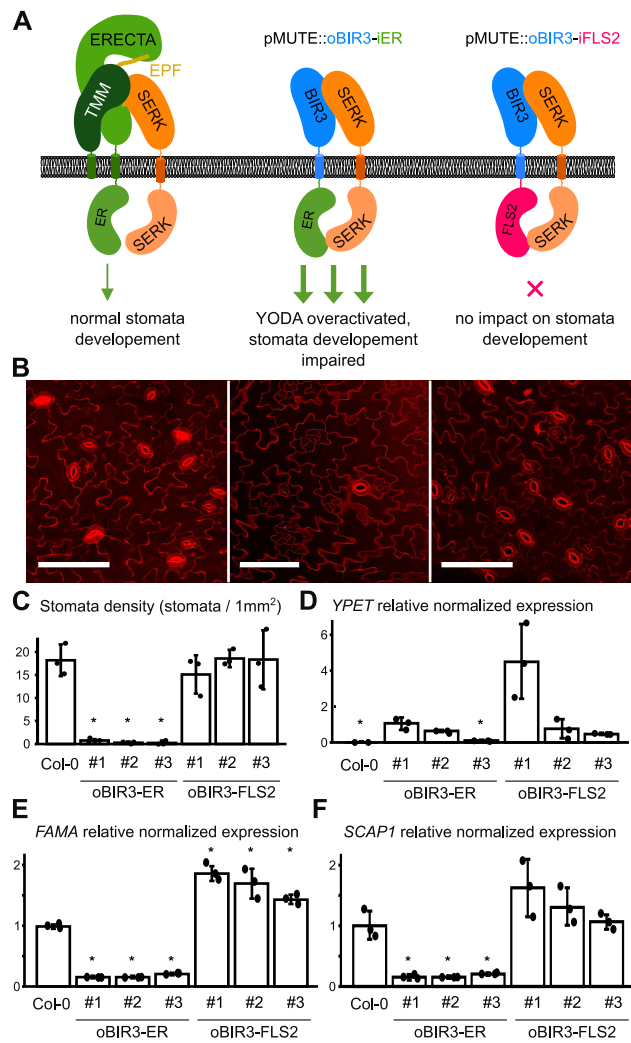
**Figure 2. oBIR3 – iBRI1 chimera constitutively activate brassinosteroid signaling**

(A) Hypocotyl growth assay of dark grown seedlings in the presence and absence of the BR biosynthesis inhibitor brassinazole (BRZ). Representative seedlings are shown in the top panel, with the quantification of the data (relative inhibition of hypocotyl growth in the presence of BRZ plotted together with lower and upper confidence intervals) below. For each sample n = 50 hypocotyls from 5 different 1/2 MS plates were measured. # numbers indicate independent lines. An anti-GFP western blot together with the Ponceau – stained membrane as loading control, is shown alongside. (B, C) Anti-BES1 western blot on oBIR3-iBRI1 chimera in *bri1*-null (B) and *det2* (C) backgrounds, with the Ponceau – stained membranes shown alongside. (D) Co-immunoprecipitation experiment of oBIR3-iBRI1 chimera and SERK3. Shown alongside are the input western blots as well as a Ponceau–stained membrane.



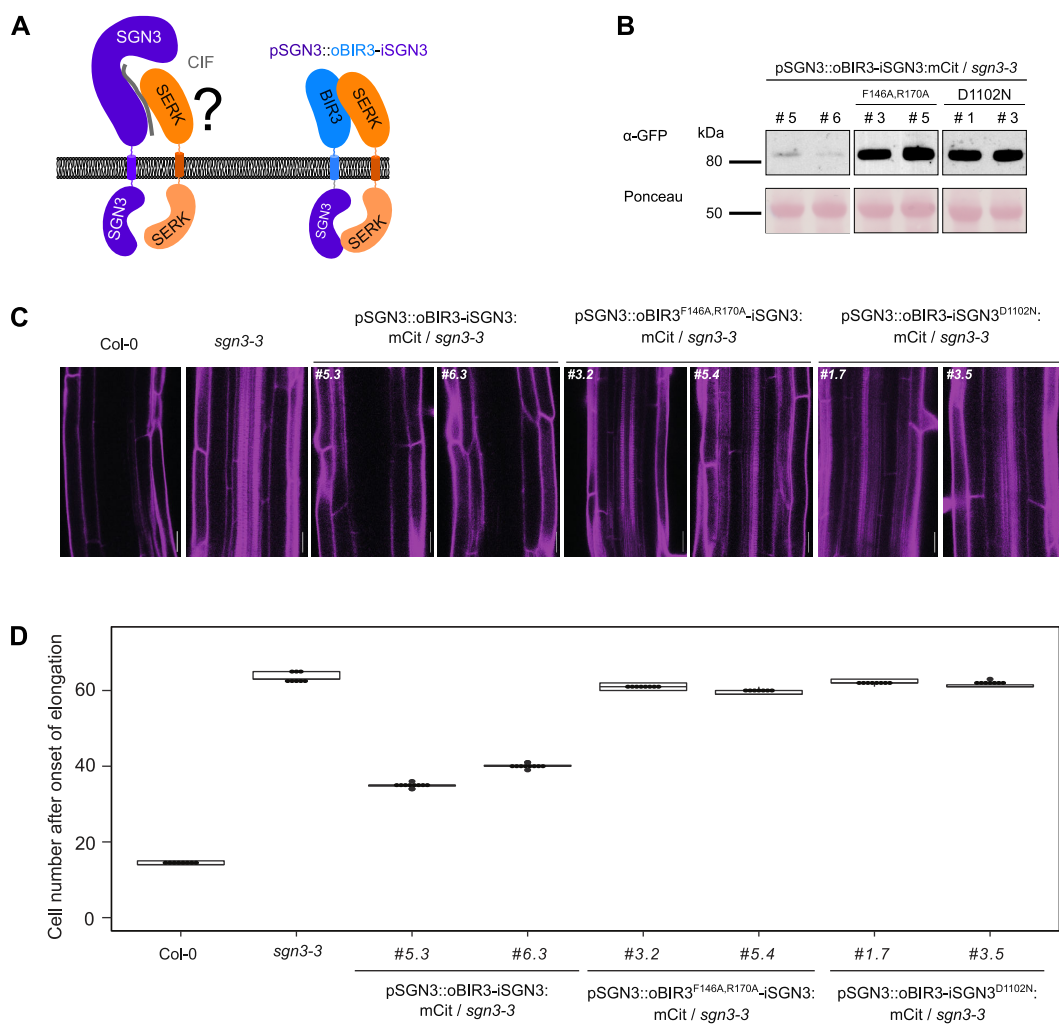


**Figure 3. oBIR3 – iHAE chimera restore floral organ shedding in *hae hsl2* mutant plants.** (A) Cartoon representation of the oBIR3-iHAE chimera. (B) Representative inflorescences of 9 week old Arabidopsis Col-0, *hae hsl2* and oBIR3-iHAE chimera; # numbers indicate independent lines. (C) Anti-GFP western blot together with the Ponceau–stained membrane as loading control. (D) Co-immunoprecipitation experiment of oBIR3-iHAE chimera and SERK3. Shown alongside are the input western blots as well as a Ponceau – stained membrane (left).



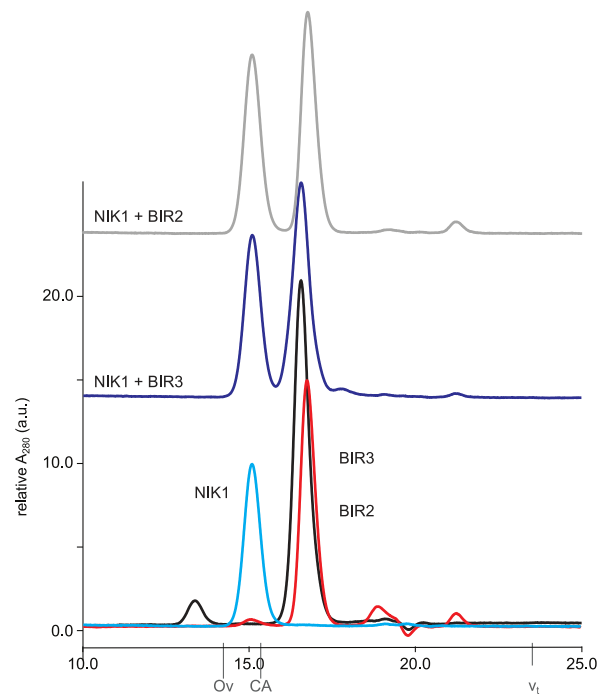
**Figure 4. BIR3 – chimera reveal a conserved receptor activation mechanism in the LRR-RK ERECTA.**

(A) Schematic overview of ectopically expressed BIR chimera. The receptor kinase ERECTA interacts with SERK- co-receptor kinases upon ligand (EPF) binding and regulates stomata development (left). Expression of a oBIR3-iER chimera in the epidermis under the pMUTE promoter leads to pathway overactivation and the loss of stomata (middle), while the expression of an oBIR3-iFLS2 chimera has no effect on stomata development. (B) Confocal microscopy images of propidium iodide stained epidermis of the indicated genotype. Representative images of Col-0 (left panel), BIR3-ER-YPET (center), and BIR3-FLS2-YPET (right) are shown. Scale bar = 100  $\mu$ m. (C) Abaxial stomata density of cotyledons (# numbers indicate independent lines). The average value of stomata density for three individual plants of each transgenic line is shown. Error bars depict standard deviations. Individual data points are shown as dot. Significant differences to wild type are indicated by an asterisk (t-test;  $p < 0.05$ ). (D) Expression level of the respective transgenes detected by qRT-PCR on YPET. The average values of three replicates are shown with error bars indicating standard deviations. Individual data points are shown as dots. Expression in the oBIR3-iER-YPET line #1 was arbitrarily set to 1. Significant differences in transgene expression to line #1 is indicated by an asterisk (t-test;  $p < 0.05$ ). (E) Relative normalized expression of *FAMA*. Normalized expression values of *FAMA* determined by quantitative RT-PCR are shown as average of three replicates. Error bars depict standard deviations. Individual data points are shown as dots. Expression in wild type was arbitrarily set to 1. Significant differences to wild-type levels are indicated by an asterisk (t-test;  $p < 0.05$ ). (F) Relative normalized expression of *SCAP1*. Normalized expression values determined by quantitative RT-PCR are shown as average of three replicates. Error bars display standard deviations. Individual data points are shown as dots. Expression in wildtype was arbitrarily set to 1. Significant differences to wild-type levels are indicated by an asterisk (t-test;  $p < 0.05$ ).



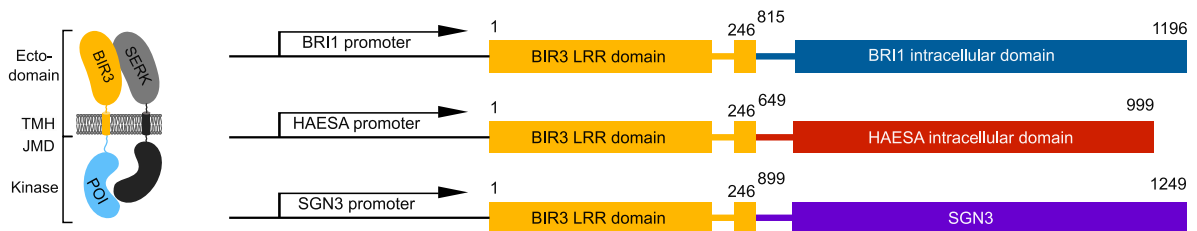
**Figure 5. oBIR3-iSGN3 chimera suggest a role for SERK proteins in Casparian strip formation.**

(A) Schematic overview of a biochemically defined SGN3 – CIF – SERK signaling complex. The oBIR3-iSGN3 chimera is shown alongside. (B) Anti-GFP western blot on oBIR3-iSGN3 chimera in *sgn3-3* background, with the Ponceau – stained membranes shown alongside. (C) Complementation of *sgn3-3* endodermal barrier defect by the chimera *SGN3::oBIR3-iSGN3*. Visualization of endodermal defects with the apoplastic tracer PI reaching the stele in barrier defective plants and blocked at the endodermis in plants with functional barriers. Pictures were taken around the 50th endodermal cell from the onset of elongation. Scale bar, 20  $\mu$ m. (D) Quantification of PI block, measured as the number of endodermal cells after the onset of elongation where the PI block is observed. Data are presented as box plots with dot plot overlaid ( $n \geq 7$ ). Different letters indicate significant differences between genotypes ( $p < 0.05$ ).



**Figure 6. The LRR-ectodomains of BIRs and NIK1 do not interact *in vitro*.**

Analytical size-exclusion chromatography binding experiments using the NIK1, BIR2 and BIR3 ectodomains. BIR2 (gray absorption trace) and BIR3 (in dark blue) form no complex with NIK1, their respective elution volumes correspond to that of the isolated protein (BIR2 in red, BIR3 in black, NIK1 in light blue). The NIK1 LRR domain shares 49% amino-acid sequence identity with the SERK1 ectodomain. The total volume ( $v_t$ ) is shown together with elution volumes for molecular mass standards (Ov, Ovalbumin, 44,000 Da; CA, Carbonic anhydrase, 29,000 Da).



**Figure 7. Design principles of BIR chimeras**

Schematic overview of selected BIR3 chimera used in this study. Chimeric proteins are expressed under the endogenous promoter of the respective receptor.

1 **SUPPLEMENTAL DATA**

2

3 **Title: Constitutive activation of leucine-rich repeat receptor kinase signaling pathways by**  
4 **BAK1-interacting receptor-like kinase 3 chimera** (117 characters)

5

6 **Short title: BIR3 – LRR-RK chimera** (22 characters)

7

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36 **Supplemental figures**

37

38 **Supplemental Figure 1. Hypocotyl growth assay raw data (supports Figure 2A).**

39 Depicted are box plots (center line, median; box limits, upper and lower quartiles; whiskers, 1.5x  
40 interquartile range; points, outliers) together with the raw data (depicted as individual dots, grouped  
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43 treated: blue. For each sample n=50 biologically independent hypocotyls, coming from 5 different  
44  $\frac{1}{2}$ MS plates, have been measured.

45

46 **Supplemental Figure 2. Full western blot films and Ponceau – stained membranes (supports**  
47 **Figure 2A-C).**

48 Scans of the full western blot films and the Ponceau - stained membranes used to prepare Figures 2  
49 A – C are shown.

50

51 **Supplemental Figure 3. Full western blot films and Ponceau – stained membranes (supports**  
52 **Figure 2D and 3C-D).**

53 Scans of the full western blot films and the Ponceau - stained membranes used to prepare Figures  
54 2D as well as Figure 3 C-D are shown.

55 **Supplemental Table 1: Primers used in this study**

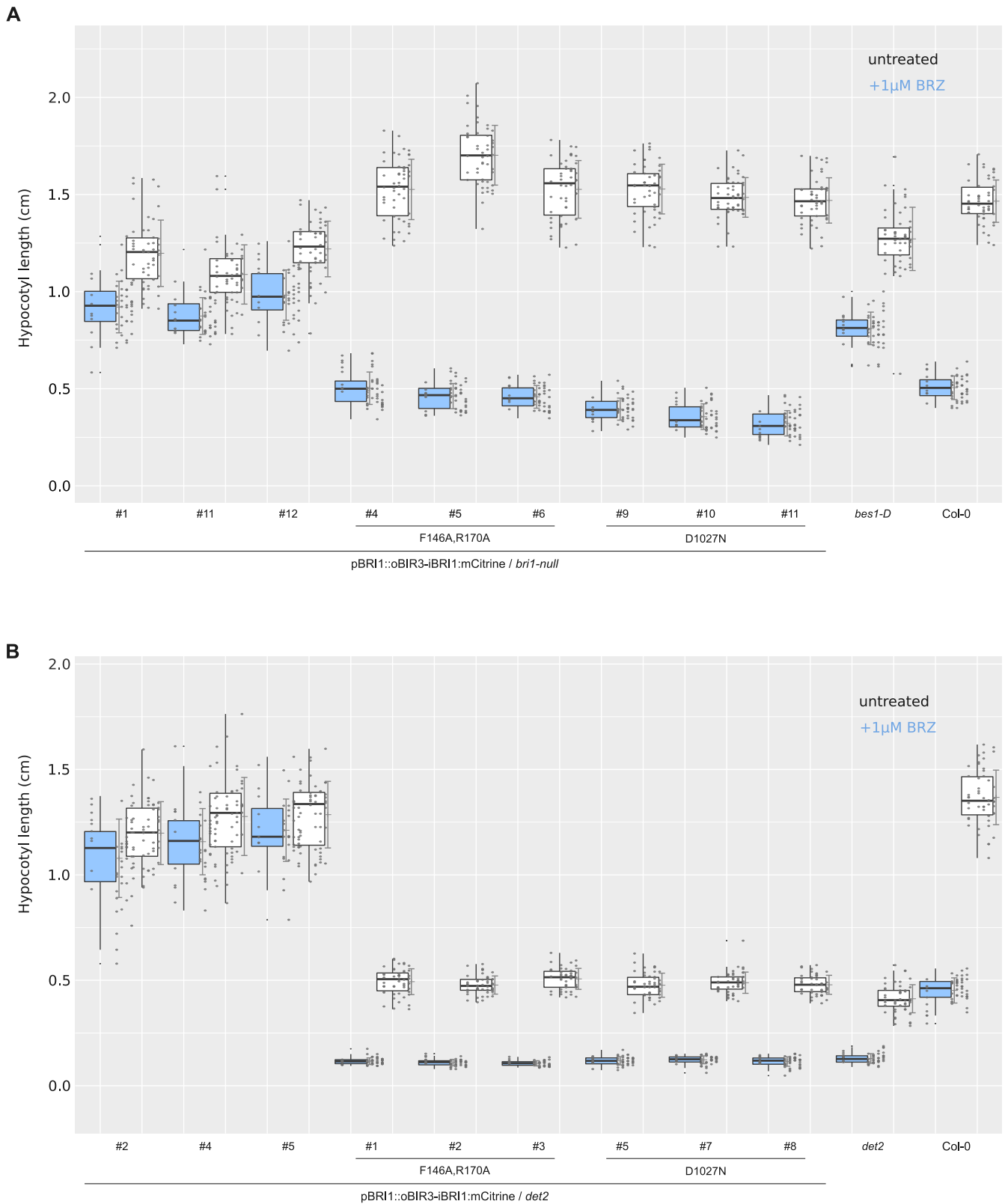
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Primer name	Sequence
FLS2-kinase-IF-F1	TTCTGGTGGTTCTTCACCTGTTGCAAGAAAAAAG
FLS2-kinase-IF-R1	TTTAGACACCATCCCAACTTCTCGATCCTCGTTACG
ERECTA-kinase-IF-F2	TTCTGGTGGTTCTTCTGCCGACCGCATAATCCTCCTCTTTTCTTG
ERECTA-kinase-IF-R2	TTTAGACACCATCCCTCACTGTTCTGAGAAATAACTGTCCAAAC
BIR3_tmh_G_rv	AATAAAGAACCACCAGAATATAAC
BRI1kin_G_fw	GGTTTAGTTATATTCTGGTGGTTCTTTATT AGAGAGATGAGGAAGAGACG
BRI1kin_G_rv	AATGCCAACTTTGTACAAGAAAGCTGGGTA TAATTTTCCTTCAGGAACTT
SGN3kin_G_fw	GGTTTAGTTATATTCTGGTGGTTCTTTATT AAACAAAGGCATGATTTCTT
SGN3kin_G_rv	AATGCCAACTTTGTACAAGAAAGCTGGGTA CAGCTTCTTATAACCGGCCG
HAEkin_G_fw	GGTTTAGTTATATTCTGGTGGTTCTTTATT AAGTGTAGAAAACCTCAGAGC
HAEkin_G_rv	AATGCCAACTTTGTACAAGAAAGCTGGGTA AACGCTGTTCAAGTCTTCCG
SDM-SGN3_1102N_fw	TTA GGA AAT TTCGGTCTTGCCAAGGTCTTA
SDM-SGN3_1102N_rv	ACC GAA ATT TCCTAAATGCGCTTCCATGTT
SDM-HAE_D837N_fw	GTT GCT AAC TTTGGGATCGCTAAAGTCGGT
SDM-HAE_D837N_rv	CCC AAA GTT AGCAACTTTAGCCCCATAATC
SDM-BIR3_F146A_fw	GTGTAAG GCC TTAACGCTTTGATTCTGAG
SDM-BIR3_F146A_rv	CGTTTAA GGC CTTACTCAACGATCTGAG
SDM-BIR3_R170A_fw	TTAGAT GCC CTTGACGCTTTTCTCTAGC
SDM-BIR3_R170A_rv	GTCGAAG GGC ATCTAATCGACTCAACTGAG
SDM-BRI1-D1027N_fw	GTTTCA AAT TTTGGCATGGCGAGGCTGATGAGTGC
SDM-BRI1-D1027N_rv	GCCAAA ATT TGAAACCCGAGCTTCCAAATTCTC
qRT-PCR_Actin2-F	AAGCTGGGGTTTTATGAATGG
qRT-PCR_Actin2-R	TTGTCACACACAAGTGCATCAT
qRT-PCR_qRT_Ypet-F	GGCCGACACTTGTACGACT
qRT-PCR_qRT_Ypet-R	TTTCCTGCACGTAACCCTCC
qRT-PCR_qRT_FAMA-F	GCAAATACCAACATATCTGGAAGC
qRT-PCR_qRT_FAMA-R	AGTTGTGCGCCGTGTGATGAT
qRT-PCR_qRT_SCAP1-F	TGGAGGCTTCAGCAACAGAG
qRT-PCR_qRT_SCAP1-R	ACGACGGCGATGATGAGTTT

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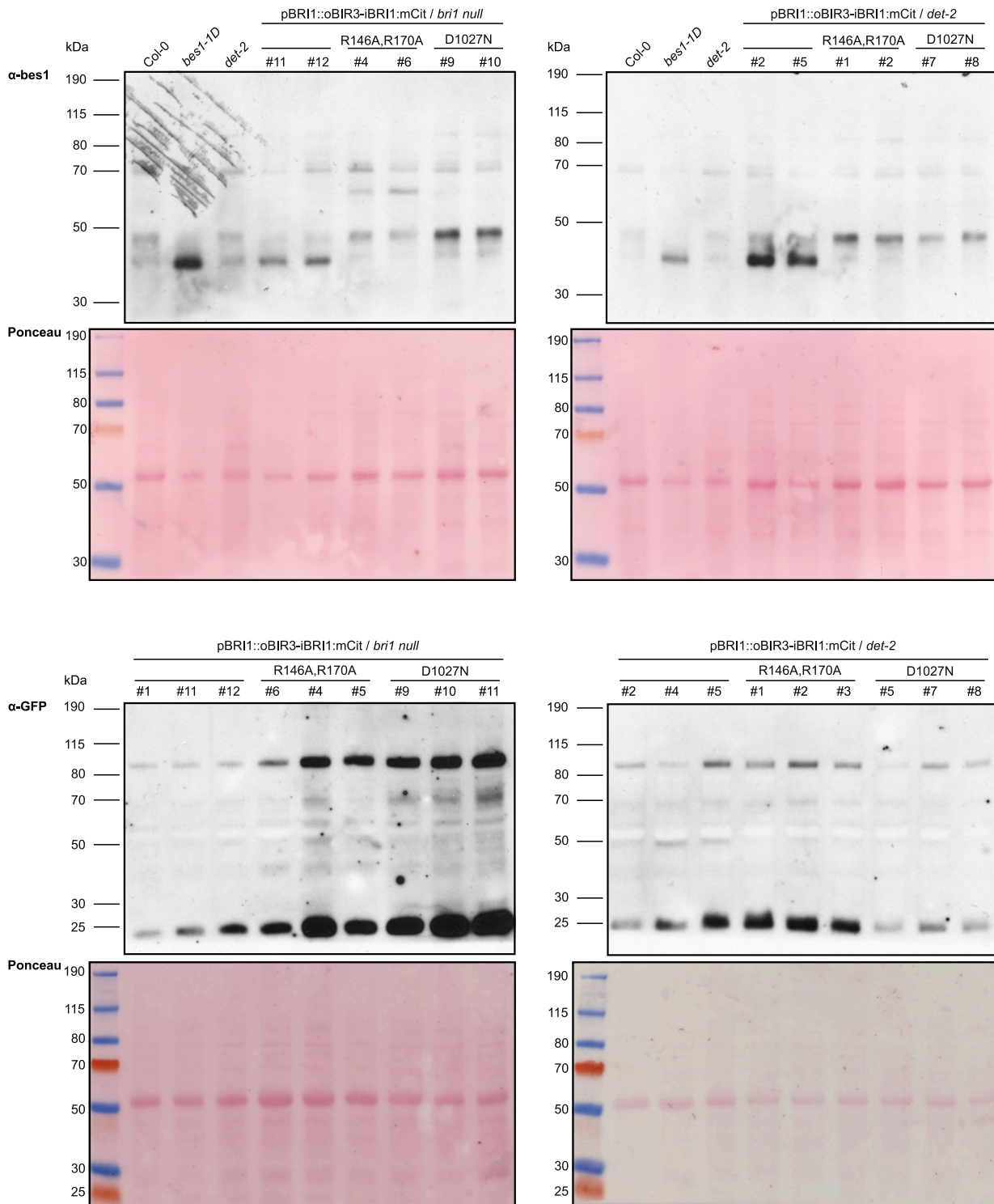
58 SDM, primer used for site directed mutagenesis; G, primer used for Gibson cloning; rv, revers; fw, forward;



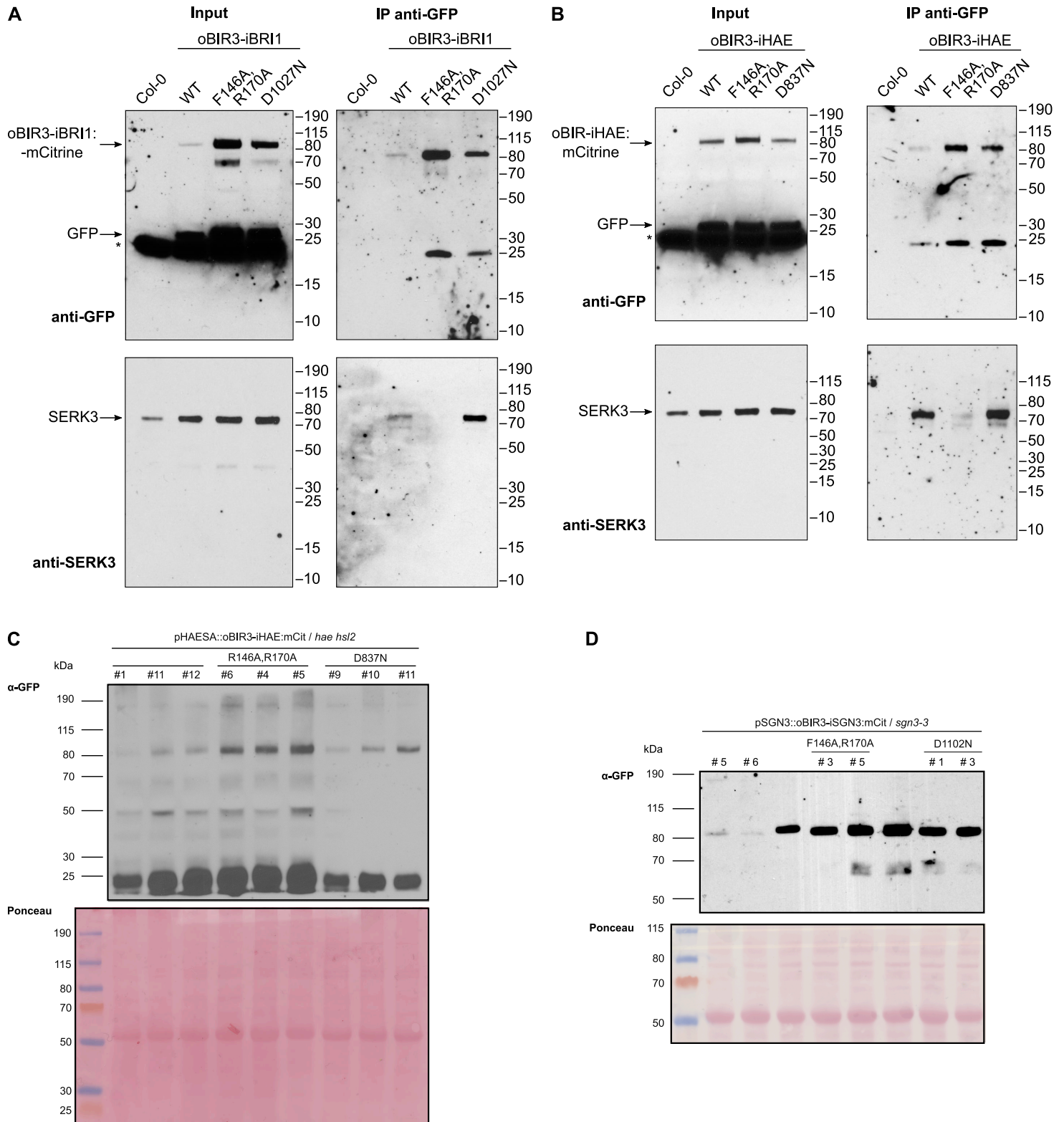


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**Supplemental Figure 2. Full western blot films and Ponceau – stained membranes (supports Figure 2A-C).**  
Scans of the full western blot films and the Ponceau - stained membranes used to prepare Figures 2 A – C are shown.



**Supplemental Figure 3. Full western blot films and Ponceau – stained membranes (supports Figure 2D and 3C-D).**

Scans of the full western blot films and the Ponceau - stained membranes used to prepare Figures 2D as well as Figure 3 C-D are shown.