

1 **Nuclear auxin signaling is essential for organogenesis but not for cell survival**
2 **in the liverwort *Marchantia polymorpha***
3

4 **Authors**

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23 **Short title**

24 TIR1 is essential for 3D body of land plants
25

26 **Material distribution footnote**

27 The author responsible for distribution of materials integral to the findings presented in this
28 article in accordance with the policy described in the Instructions for Authors
29 (www.plantcell.org) is Takayuki Kohchi (tkohchi@lif.kyoto-u.ac.jp).
30

31 **Abstract**

32 Auxin plays pleiotropic roles in plant development via gene regulation upon perception by the
33 receptors TRANSPORT INHIBITOR RESPONSE 1/AUXIN SIGNALING F-BOX
34 (TIR1/AFBs). This nuclear auxin signaling (NAS) originated in the common ancestor of land
35 plants. Although complete loss of TIR1/AFBs causes embryonic lethality in *Arabidopsis*
36 *thaliana*, it is unclear whether the requirement for TIR1-mediated auxin perception in cell
37 viability can be generalized. The model liverwort *Marchantia polymorpha* has a minimal NAS
38 system with only a single TIR1/AFB, MpTIR1. Here we show by genetic, biochemical, and
39 transcriptomic analyses that MpTIR1 functions as an evolutionarily conserved auxin receptor.
40 Null mutants and conditionally knocked-out mutants of MpTIR1 were viable but incapable of
41 forming any organs and grew as cell masses. Principal component analysis performed using
42 transcriptomes at various developmental stages indicated that MpTIR1 is involved in the
43 developmental transition from spores to organized thalli, during which apical notches containing
44 stem cells are established. In *Mptir1* cells, stem-cell- and differentiation-related genes were up-
45 and down-regulated, respectively. Our findings suggest that, in *M. polymorpha*, NAS is
46 dispensable for cell division but essential for three-dimensional body plans by establishing
47 pluripotent stem cells for organogenesis, a derived trait of land plants.

48

49 **Introduction**

50 The common ancestors of land plants diverged from algal sisters about 4.5 million years ago and
51 acquired three-dimensional (3D) bodies with parenchymal cells which contributed to their
52 survival in the terrestrial environment (Delwiche and Cooper, 2015). The common ancestor also
53 established several intercellular communication mechanisms mediated by plant hormones
54 (Bowman et al., 2019). Among them, auxin is proposed to act as a morphogen, whose
55 localization and gradient are critical for developmental aspects such as embryonic patterning
56 (Verma et al., 2021; Liao et al., 2015), organ orientation (Galvan-Ampudia et al., 2020; Guan
57 and Jiao, 2020), and gravitropism (Herud-Sikimic et al., 2021; Su et al., 2017) in plants.

58 Auxin signal is mainly transduced via the nuclear auxin signaling (NAS) pathway, major
59 players of which are: TRANSPORT INHIBITOR RESPONSE 1/AUXIN SIGNALING F-BOX
60 (TIR1/AFB) subunits of Skp1-Cullin-F-box (SCF)-type E3 ubiquitin ligase complex, which act
61 as auxin receptors, AUXIN/INDOLE-3-ACETIC ACID (AUX/IAA) proteins as transcriptional
62 repressors, and AUXIN RESPONSE FACTOR (ARF) proteins as transcription factors. In the
63 NAS pathway, auxin facilitates the interaction between the leucine-rich-repeat (LRR) domain of
64 TIR1/AFBs and domain II (DII) of AUX/IAAs by filling a hydrophobic cavity in the LRR
65 domain, which in turn promotes the ubiquitination of AUX/IAAs (Gray et al., 1999; 2001;
66 Dharmasiri et al., 2005; Kepinski and Leyser, 2005; Tan et al., 2007). In the absence of auxin,
67 AUX/IAAs interact with ARFs and repress transcription by recruiting TOPLESS (TPL) co-
68 repressors to the target loci of ARF (Kim et al., 1997; Ulmasov et al., 1997; 1999; Tiwari et al.,
69 2003). In other words, in the presence of auxin, TIR1/AFBs promote degradation of AUX/IAA
70 with its DII domain acting as a degron, which in turn enables ARFs to exert transcriptional
71 regulation.

72 Comprehensive phylogenetic analyses of TIR1/AFBs, AUX/IAAs, and ARFs among land
73 plants and green algae have shown that the NAS pathway was established in the common
74 ancestor of land plants through the acquisition of the TIR1/AFB-AUX/IAA co-receptor
75 mechanism in order to regulate transcriptional regulation by ARFs (Bowman et al., 2017; Flores-
76 Sandoval et al., 2018; Mutte et al., 2018). The loss of all six TIR1/AFB homologs in *Arabidopsis*
77 *thaliana* mutant lines showed disturbed division patterns and delayed cell divisions which led to
78 inhibition of embryogenesis (Prigge et al., 2020). Transmission of *tir1/afb* sextuple mutations

79 through gametes was unaffected, indicating that TIR1/AFBs do not play an essential role in the
80 development of gametophyte, where only a few cell divisions occur (Prigge et al., 2020).

81 The moss *Physcomitrium* (*Physcomitrella*) *patens* and the liverwort *Marchantia*
82 *polymorpha* have been studied as models for gametophyte-dominant species (Rensing et al.,
83 2020; Kohchi et al., 2021). Auxin-dependent interaction between TIR1/AFB and AUX/IAA
84 homologs was demonstrated in *P. patens* (Prigge et al., 2010). Disturbed auxin perception
85 suppresses the differentiation of caulonema in *P. patens* (Prigge et al. 2010), whereas in *M.*
86 *polymorpha* it leads to the formation of undifferentiated cell masses (Kato et al. 2015). In these
87 studies, auxin perception was inhibited either by knockdown of TIR1/AFBs (Prigge et al. 2010)
88 or by the expression of dominant-negative AUX/IAAs with mutations in DII (Kato et al., 2015),
89 where leaky signal transduction cannot be avoided. For this reason, it is difficult to assess the
90 role of auxin in terms of gametophytic cell survival through the studies described above. Instead,
91 knocking out the TIR1/AFBs is expected to shut down NAS altogether. We chose *M.*
92 *polymorpha* for our study, as it encodes a minimal set of the NAS components, including the
93 sole TIR1/AFB and AUX/IAA homologs, MpTIR1 and MpIAA respectively (Bowman et al.,
94 2017; Flores-Sandoval et al., 2015; Kato et al., 2015).

95 Germinated *M. polymorpha* spores divide vigorously to produce unorganized tissues,
96 sporelings, and once single-celled apical stem cells are established, they initiate 3D
97 morphogenesis into thalli which differentiate specialized organs such as the gemma cup (Kohchi
98 et al., 2021; Shimamura 2016). Within the dorsal organ gemma cup, multicellular asexual
99 reproductive propagules, gemmae, are produced from single initial cells, which involves apical
100 stem cell formation (Kato et al., 2020). Previous studies have shown that auxin acts as a mobile
101 signal in the thalli (Gaal et al., 1982; Solly et al., 2017) and that NAS regulates the establishment
102 of body axis in gemma development (Kato et al., 2017; Kato et al., 2018). Here, to understand
103 necessity and roles of NAS in plant development, we analyzed molecular functions of MpTIR1
104 as an auxin receptor and performed knockout-study of MpTIR1 in the liverwort *M. polymorpha*.

105

106 **Results**

107 **MpTIR1 positively regulates auxin response**

108 To determine whether MpTIR1 is involved in auxin response, wild-type (WT), MpTIR1-
109 overexpressing plants under the MpEF1A promoter (Figure 1A) as well as Mptir1 mutants were
110 treated exogenously with varying concentrations of natural (indole-3-acetic acid (IAA)) and
111 synthetic (1-naphthaleneacetic acid (NAA) and 2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2,4-D)) auxins.
112 WT plants showed ectopic rhizoid formation and arrested thallus development in the presence of
113 high levels of auxin (Figure 1B, C; Supplemental Figure 1A–D). Consistent with the assumption
114 that MpTIR1 is an auxin receptor, MpTIR1-overexpressing plants exhibited hypersensitivity to
115 auxins; the responses were observed at lower concentrations (Figure 1B, C; Supplemental Figure
116 1).

117 *Mptir1-1^{ko}* mutants grew as cell masses with no obvious organ development
118 (Supplemental Figure 2; see “MpTIR1 is critical for organ development but dispensable for cell
119 survival” section for details); exogenous auxins neither caused morphological changes nor
120 enhanced rhizoid development in *Mptir1-1^{ko}* cells, although NAA and 2,4-D, but not IAA,
121 slightly affected the growth increment (Figure 1D; Supplemental Figure 2D, E). *Mptir1-1^{ko}*
122 mutants harboring a transgene of an MpTIR1 genomic fragment showed rescued morphology
123 with normal auxin responsiveness, as shown by ectopic rhizoid formation and arrested growth in
124 the presence of high concentrations of auxin (Figure 1D). This was also the case with *Mptir1-1^{ko}*
125 mutants harboring an *A. thaliana* TIR1 (*AtTIR1*) transgene driven by the MpTIR1 promoter
126 (Figure 1D). These results suggest that MpTIR1 positively regulates auxin response and that its
127 function is comparable with that of *AtTIR1*.

128

129 **MpTIR1 acts as an auxin receptor**

130 Interaction between TIR1/AFBs and AUX/IAAs, and the subsequent AUX/IAA degradation are
131 essential for NAS (Gray et al., 1999; 2001; Dharmasiri et al., 2005; Kepinski and Leyser, 2005).
132 To investigate whether MpTIR1 requires auxin for it to interact with MpIAA, we performed an
133 *in vitro* pull-down assay. We used the *Escherichia coli*-expressed fusion protein of glutathione
134 S-transferase (GST) with MpIAA truncated from the 627th amino acid till the C-terminus
135 including DII (GST-MpIAA(627C)) as the bait for *M. polymorpha*-expressed MpTIR1-3xFLAG.
136 The MpTIR1-3xFLAG proteins showed interaction with MpIAA only when auxin was added to

137 the mixture (Figure 2A). IAA facilitated the MpTIR1-MpIAA interaction in a dose-dependent
138 manner (Figure 2A). NAA and 2,4-D also mediated MpTIR1-MpIAA interaction to the same or
139 a slightly weaker degree as IAA (Figure 2A). GST-MpIAA^{mutDII}(627C), having a mutated
140 sequence in its DII that had been shown to inhibit auxin signaling in *M. polymorpha* (Kato et al.,
141 2015), did not interact with MpTIR1 regardless of the presence of auxin (Figure 2B). These data
142 suggest that MpTIR1 interacts with the DII of MpIAA in an auxin-dependent manner.

143 We also investigated the involvement of MpTIR1 in the degradation of MpIAA *in vivo*
144 using conditional knockout (CKO) mutants generated by transforming *Mptir1-I^{ko}* cells with a
145 vector (Nishihama et al. 2016) that, under normal conditions, expressed a floxed *MpTIR1* coding
146 region under *MpEFIA* promoter for complementation. After induction by heat shock and
147 dexamethasone (DEX) treatment, Cre recombinase excised the floxed *MpTIR1* to express
148 nuclear localization signal (NLS)-fused Citrine for labeling *MpTIR1*-KO cells (Supplemental
149 Figure 3A–C). Hereafter, we refer to this as *Mptir1-I^{CKO>CitN}* plants. Then, accumulation of a DII
150 degron peptide probed by mTurquoise2-NLS was assessed in *Mptir1-I^{CKO>CitN}* plants. If
151 MpTIR1 led its target to degradation, accumulation of DII-mTurquoise2-NLS would be
152 facilitated in the absence of MpTIR1. Higher mTurquoise2-fluorescence signals were detected
153 under *MpTIR1* KO-induced conditions than uninduced conditions (Figure 2C, D). By contrast,
154 the mutated DII peptide (see above) failed to enhance signals of mTurquoise2 fluorescence under
155 *MpTIR1* KO-induced conditions (Figure 2C, D). These results suggest that MpTIR1 promotes
156 degradation of MpIAA in a DII-dependent manner *in vivo*, which is a direct indication that
157 MpTIR1 acts as an auxin receptor.

158

159 **MpTIR1 is essential for auxin-mediated transcriptional regulation**

160 In order to analyze MpTIR1-mediated auxin-dependent transcriptional regulation, WT (5-day-
161 old sporelings) and *Mptir1-I^{ko}* cells were treated with or without 10 μ M IAA as well as 10 μ M
162 NAA for 4 h and then subjected to RNA-seq analyses to compare transcriptome profiles.
163 Differentially expressed genes (DEGs) were examined in comparison to mock-treated (without
164 auxin) samples for each experiment (Supplemental Data Set 1).

165 In the WT samples, IAA treatment caused up- and down-regulation of 83 and 76 genes,
166 respectively (Figure 3A). NAA treatment yielded >15-fold larger numbers of DEGs than did
167 IAA treatment (Figure 3A). Nevertheless, the majority of DEGs resulting due to IAA treatment

168 were also differentially expressed in response to NAA with a high correlation (Supplemental
169 Figure 4A, B). These results suggest that although NAA acts more strongly than IAA, both the
170 auxins essentially induce the same transcriptional changes.

171 In *Mptir1-I^{ko}* cells, consistent with MpTIR1 being an auxin receptor, DEGs detected
172 upon IAA treatment were almost nil (up in 1 gene, and down in 0 genes; Figure 3A). DEGs upon
173 NAA treatment (up in 112 genes, and down in 253 genes) were also dramatically fewer than that
174 with WT (Figure 3A). Decreased- or non-responsiveness of *Mptir1-I^{ko}* cells to auxin was further
175 confirmed by real-time PCR on known auxin-responsive genes, *MpC2HDZ* and *MpWIP* (Figure
176 3B; Kato et al., 2017; Kato et al., 2020; Mutte et al., 2018). These results further confirm the role
177 of MpTIR1 in auxin-mediated transcriptional regulation.

178

179 **MpTIR1 is critical for organ development but dispensable for cell survival**

180 To understand the role of NAS in 3D morphogenesis, *MpTIR1* was knocked-out in WT
181 sporelings. The resultant five independent *Mptir1-I^{ko}* mutants failed to develop thalli and slowly
182 proliferated as cell masses (Figure 4A; Supplemental Figures 2A, B, and 5). We could not
183 observe any phenotypic differences between male and female mutants (Supplemental Figure 2C).
184 The mutants displayed unordered cell division in the cell masses and failed to differentiate into
185 multicellular organs and rhizoids (Figure 4B). To verify these phenotypes, we also genome-
186 edited *MpTIR1* in WT sporelings (Supplemental Figure 6). Four independent mutants (*Mptir1-2^{ld}*,
187 *Mptir1-3^{ld}*, *Mptir1-4^{ld}*, and *Mptir1-5^{ld}*), completely lacking the *MpTIR1* locus, displayed
188 similar phenotypes to those of the *Mptir1-I^{ko}* mutants (Supplemental Figure 7). The
189 developmental defects of *Mptir1-I^{ko}* mutants, besides the auxin response defects described above,
190 were rescued by *MpTIR1* or *AtTIR1* transgenes driven by the *MpTIR1* promoter (Figure 1D),
191 confirming that the impaired organogenesis of *Mptir1-I^{ko}* mutants was due to loss of
192 evolutionarily conserved functions of MpTIR1. For a more detailed understanding, we compared
193 the cell compositions of *Mptir1-I^{ko}* cell clumps with that of proliferating WT sporelings. Ten-
194 day-old sporelings had meristematic region(s) consisting of small undifferentiated cells and other
195 regions containing large vacuolated cells (Figure 4C, D). *Mptir1-I^{ko}* cell masses were not
196 composed of a uniform cell type but a mixture of small cells at outer regions and large
197 vacuolated cells at inner regions (Figure 4, E, F). Taken together, these results suggest that
198 *MpTIR1* is dispensable for cell survival but is essential for orderly organogenesis and

199 development.

200

201 **MpTIR1 is critical for proper patterning and organ differentiation**

202 In order to determine the physiological roles of MpTIR1 in other developmental stages, *Mptir1-*
203 *I*^{CKO>CitN} plants (see “MpTIR1 acts as an auxin receptor” section) and *Mptir1-I*^{CKO>tdTN} plants
204 were generated. In the latter plants, *Mptir1-I*^{ko} cells could be visualized using tdTomato-NLS
205 after excision of the floxed MpTIR1 genomic fragment (Figure 5A; Sugano et al. 2018; Suzuki et
206 al., 2020). *Mptir1*^{CKO>tdTN} gemmae essentially showed proper patterning with a trace of stalk at
207 the bottom and two apical notches at its lateral tips (Figure 5B). When we excised the floxed
208 MpTIR1 transgene during gemma development, the gemma patterning appeared disordered and
209 failed to establish ellipse-shaped bodies and notches (Figure 5C). We then examined the loss-of-
210 MpTIR1 phenotypes after germination of gemmae. *Mptir1-I*^{CKO>CitN} and *Mptir1-I*^{CKO>tdTN}
211 gemmae grew up into thalli under mock conditions, whereas the excision of the floxed MpTIR1
212 transgene in mature gemmae or 1-day-old gemmalings resulted in impaired thallus development
213 and caused cell mass formation (Figure 5D–H, Supplemental Figure 3B, C). These results
214 suggest that MpTIR1 is critical for proper patterning and organ differentiation in *M. polymorpha*.

215

216 **Auxin hypo-responsiveness, a common feature between *Mptir1-I*^{ko} cells and sporelings**

217 In order to clarify the differentiation status of *Mptir1-I*^{ko} cells, we assessed the gene expression
218 patterns using principal component analysis (PCA) of *Mptir1-I*^{ko} cells, sporelings, and available
219 organ-specific transcriptome data (Bowman et al., 2017; Frank and Scanlon, 2015; Higo et al.,
220 2016; Yasui et al., 2019). In the two-dimensional plot of the first and second principal
221 components (PC1 and PC2, respectively), biological replicates from the same sources were
222 clustered (Figure 6A). WT tissues were grouped into an approximate order of developmental
223 stage (Figure 6A). Spores and sporelings were grouped age-wise along PC2, and these
224 developmentally early tissues were grouped separately from the thalli, reproductive organs, and
225 sporophytes along PC1 (Figure 6A). Vegetative thalli and gemma cups were comparable to older
226 sporelings in PC2, while reproductive organs and sporophytes were grouped along PC2 (Figure
227 6A). *Mptir1-I*^{ko} cells were grouped separately from all of these organs; *Mptir1-I*^{ko} cells were
228 between older sporelings and thalli in PC1 but were similar values to them in PC2 (Figure 6A).

229 These data indicate that *Mptir1-1^{ko}* mutants failed to differentiate from sporelings into mature
230 thalli due to defects in auxin perception.

231 We performed another PCA to confirm this using a subset including *Mptir1-1^{ko}* cells, 5-
232 day-old sporelings, and thalli (Figure 6B). Evidently, PC1 scores were high in *Mptir1-1^{ko}* and
233 sporelings, but low in thalli, resulting in a large separation along PC1 (Figure 6B). In order to
234 find whether auxin contributed to this particular separation, we examined the relationships
235 between auxin responsiveness and factor loadings for PC1 and PC2. Genes that were
236 downregulated upon IAA treatment were dense in positive factor loading of PC1 while those
237 upregulated were dense in the negative factor loading of the PC1 (Figure 6C). These
238 relationships suggest the involvement of IAA in the regulation of gene expression which
239 contributed to high PC1 values in the case of sporelings and *Mptir1-1^{ko}* cells, and low PC1
240 values in the case of thalli (Figure 6B). In contrast, we did not find any correlation between IAA
241 responsiveness and factor loading of the PC2 (Figure 6D). Similar relationships were observed
242 with respect to NAA treatment (Supplemental Figure 8A, B). These observations suggest that
243 auxin hypo-responsiveness is a characteristic feature of *Mptir1-1^{ko}* cells and sporelings.

244

245 **MpTIR1 promotes gene expression for organ differentiation**

246 In order to further characterize the differentiation features of *Mptir1-1^{ko}* cells, we performed
247 transcriptomic pairwise comparisons of *Mptir1-1^{ko}* cells with sporelings and thalli (Supplemental
248 Data Set 2). With respect to regulatory genes (Supplemental Data Set 3), *Mptir1-1^{ko}* cells
249 showed significantly lower expression of known transcription factors involved in rhizoid and
250 organ differentiation, such as *LOTUS JAPONICUS ROOTHAIRLESS1-LIKE* homolog (MpLRL;
251 Breuninger et al. 2016), *ROOT HAIR DEFECTIVE SIX-LIKE1* homolog (MpRSL; Proust et al.
252 2016), and *WIP* homolog (MpWIP; Jones and Dolan, 2017), when compared with that of
253 sporelings and thalli (Figure 6E, F). Conversely, *Mptir1-1^{ko}* cells highly expressed *LOW-AUXIN*
254 *RESPONSIVE* (MpLAXR), which triggers cellular reprogramming to generate undifferentiated
255 cells (Figure 6E, F; Ishida et al., 2022). Auxin appears to regulate an MpTIR1-dependent
256 expression of these transcription factors (Supplemental Figure 8C–F). Our analyses indicate that
257 MpTIR1 plays a critical role in organogenesis by promoting gene expression for differentiation.

258

259 Discussion

260 MpTIR1 is an evolutionarily conserved auxin receptor

261 In this study, we observed a positive correlation between MpTIR1 expression levels and auxin
262 responsiveness (Figure 1; Supplemental Figures 1; 2D, E). We observed an auxin-dependent
263 direct interaction of MpTIR1 with DII of MpIAA (Figure 2A, B) which promoted the
264 degradation of DII-tagged proteins (Figure 2C, D). *Mptir1-1^{ko}* mutants were rescued by AtTIR1
265 (Figure 1D), which further established the role of MpTIR1 as auxin receptor. In *M. polymorpha*,
266 MpTIR1 transmits auxin signal by capturing and leading MpIAA towards degradation, which
267 allows transcriptional activation as well as competitive repression mediated by the sole class-A
268 and class-B ARFs, MpARF1 and MpARF2, respectively (Flores-Sandoval et al. 2015; Kato et al.,
269 2015; Kato et al. 2017; Kato et al. 2020).

270 *Mptir1-1^{ko}* cells did not show any physiological and transcriptional responses to IAA
271 (Figures 1D; 3; Supplemental Figure 2D, E). This could be due to hyper-accumulation of
272 MpIAA regardless of auxin, which indicates that the transcription of MpARF1/2-target genes are
273 strongly repressed in *Mptir1* KO cells. Such a constitutively repressive status seems to be
274 different from the absence of A-ARFs, because *Mparf1* KO mutants showed much milder
275 developmental defects, although the *Mparf1* mutants were also insensitive to auxin (Kato et al.,
276 2017). The latter situation could be explained by impaired recruitment of MpIAA to MpARF1/2-
277 target loci, as MpARF2 interacts with MpIAA less efficiently than does MpARF1, and thus
278 neither transcriptional activation nor strong repression occurs regardless of auxin (Kato et al.,
279 2017; Kato et al., 2018; Kato et al., 2020). Auxin insensitivity was also caused by loss of all
280 AUX/IAAs as demonstrated in *P. patens* (Lavy et al. 2016), where auxin responses are
281 constitutively saturated in contrast to *Mptir1* KO cells.

282 In *M. polymorpha*, the synthetic auxins NAA and 2,4-D inhibit the growth much more
283 severely than does IAA (Ishizaki et al., 2012). In this study, *M. polymorpha* exhibited a much
284 higher number of DEGs with NAA treatment than that with IAA treatment (Figure 3A).
285 However, the amplitude of gene activation or repression by IAA and NAA was comparable with
286 respect to the DEGs regulated by both IAA and NAA (Supplemental Figure 4B). Pull-down
287 assay demonstrated that both IAA and NAA facilitated the interaction between MpTIR1 and
288 MpIAA (Figure 2A). These results suggest that although IAA and NAA both promote MpIAA
289 degradation and enhance transcriptional regulation by MpARF1, we cannot conclude that either

290 of these hormones are functionally stronger. NAA possibly induces more gene expression
291 changes than IAA due to differences in cellular processes such as uptake by passive diffusion
292 (Delbarre et al. 1996) or due to non-specific side effects (Paponov et al. 2019).

293

294 **MpTIR1-mediated NAS is essential for 3D morphogenesis but not for cell survival**

295 The observations made in this study where KO mutants of MpTIR1 were viable (Figure 4A–C,
296 Supplemental Figures 5, 7), are in line with a previous report indicating *tir1/afb* sextuple
297 mutation did not affect gametophyte viability in *A. thaliana* (Prigge et al., 2020). These results
298 seem to indicate that gametophyte viability is not related to TIR1/AFB-mediated NAS.

299 In *M. polymorpha*, as is the case for vascular plants, IAA is biosynthesized from
300 tryptophan in a two-step reaction catalyzed first by TRYPTOPHAN AMINOTRANSFERASE
301 OF ARABIDOPSIS (TAA) and then YUCCA homologs (Eklund et al., 2015). Low auxin levels
302 due to KO of the sole TAA homolog MpTAA in *M. polymorpha* or overexpression of IAA
303 conjugation enzyme resulted in cell masses in sporelings (Eklund et al., 2015; Flores-Sandoval et
304 al., 2015). Besides auxin biosynthesis, block of its signaling by dominant suppression of
305 MpARF-mediated gene regulation due to expression of co-repressor-fused MpARFs (Flores-
306 Sandoval et al., 2015) or induction of stabilized MpIAA (Kato et al., 2015) was shown to cause
307 cell mass phenotype. These phenomena are most likely reflected by the cell mass phenotype
308 resulting from MpTIR1 KO (Figures 4, 5, Supplemental Figures 3, 7). NAS is proposed to
309 control body axis formation in gemma development as KO of MpARF1 disrupts patternings in
310 this process (Kato et al., 2017). In this study, CKO of MpTIR1 in immature gemmae caused
311 structures without notches (Figure 5B, C), probably due to impaired axis formation. These are
312 reminiscent of AtTIR1/AFBs and other downstream elements that control proper patterning in
313 embryogenesis by regulating division orientation in *A. thaliana* (Prigge et al., 2020; Yoshida et
314 al., 2015). These results support that MpTIR1-mediated NAS is essential for 3D body plan
315 establishment and organogenesis during early development.

316 As cell migration is restricted by cell walls, cell supply from stem cells towards appropriate
317 directions is essential for orderly plant development. The control of cell supply is attributed to
318 the regular division of apical cells in bryophytes (Harrison, 2017; Moody, 2020). In *M.*
319 *polymorpha*, wedge-shaped apical cells, which produce daughter cells toward the dorsal, ventral,
320 and lateral sides, are established during sporelings and gemma development (Shimamura, 2016).

321 In the cell mass of *Mptir1* mutants, establishment of properly shaped apical cells and/or control
322 of division planes may be impaired (Figure 4A, B; Supplemental Figure 7). CKO of *MpTIR1* in
323 gemmalings where the apical cells are already established also resulted in cell masses (Figure 5D,
324 E, Supplemental Figure 3B, C), suggesting the disruption of apical cell functions in the absence
325 of *MpTIR1*. PCA based on transcriptomes revealed clear separation of *Mptir1-I^{ko}* cells and
326 sporelings from thalli (Figure 6B) and positive correlation of auxin responsive genes to this
327 separation (Figure 6C, D; Supplemental Figure 8A, B). *Mptir1-I^{ko}* cells showed lower
328 expression of the differentiation-related transcription factors, *MpLRL*, *MpRSL*, and *MpWIP*
329 (Breuninger et al., 2016; Jones and Dolan, 2017; Proust et al., 2016), than sporelings and thalli
330 (Fig6E, F). Judging from this, even though swelled cells were observed (Figure 4F, G), *Mptir1-I^{ko}*
331 *I^{ko}* cells were not assumed to be properly differentiated. A relatively mild knockdown of *MpTAA*
332 results in thalli with impaired organogenesis (Eklund et al., 2015), supporting that auxin
333 response is required for organ differentiation. *Mptir1-I^{ko}* cells showed greater expression of a
334 dedifferentiation-related transcription factor, *MpLAXR* (Ishida et al., 2022), when compared with
335 that of sporelings and thalli (Figure 6E, F). Although molecular functions have not yet been
336 characterized in *M. polymorpha*, *MpR2R3-MYB20*, a paralogous gene to *GEMMA CUP-*
337 *ASSOCIATED MYB1* whose overexpression causes undifferentiated cell clumps (Yasui et al.,
338 2019), and *MpNAC1*, an orthologous gene to *CUP-SHAPED COTYLEDONS* that act as shoot
339 apical meristem-related boundary genes in angiosperms (Verma et al. 2021), were up-regulated
340 in *Mptir1-I^{ko}* cells. In the moss *P. patens*, auxin signaling is proposed to be low in
341 undifferentiated tissues while it is high in differentiating tissues (Thelander et al., 2019),
342 highlighting the conserved roles of auxin to regulate proper differentiation in gametophyte-
343 dominant species. It could be said that the lack of auxin responsiveness of mutants results in the
344 disruption of apical cell functions, which in turn affects organ differentiation, eventually leading
345 to the formation of undifferentiated cell masses in *M. polymorpha*.

346 In conclusion, *MpTIR1*-mediated NAS contributes to establishing 3D body axes through
347 the regulation of apical stem cell functions, including division plane determination and cell
348 differentiation. The findings of this study of *MpTIR1*, in combination with previous reports of
349 other NAS components in *M. polymorpha*, would help us understand organogenesis through
350 temporal and spatial regulation of NAS in land plants.

351

352 **Materials and Methods**

353

354 **Plant materials and growth conditions**

355 Male accession Takaragaike-1 (Tak-1), female accession Takaragaike-2 (Tak-2), and a female
356 accession of their third backcross generation, BC3-38, were used as wild-type (WT) *M.*
357 *polymorpha* subsp. *ruderalis*. Tak-1 and BC3-38 were used for phenotypic analysis. Tak-1, BC3-
358 38, and BC4 spores which were obtained by crossing Tak-1 and BC3-38 were used to generate
359 MpTIR1-overexpressing (*pro*MpEF1A:MpTIR1-3xFLAG) plants. F₁ spores, which were obtained
360 by crossing Tak-1 and Tak-2, were used to generate Mptir1-*I*^{ko} and Mptir1^{ld} mutants.

361 *M. polymorpha* was cultured on half-strength Gamborg's B5 medium (Gamborg et al.,
362 1968) containing 1% agar under 50–60 $\mu\text{mol photons m}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}$ continuous white light at 22°C
363 unless otherwise defined. For crossing, *M. polymorpha* was grown on soil under far-red
364 irradiated conditions to induce gametangiophore formation as described previously (Chiyoda et
365 al., 2008).

366

367 **Preparation of plasmid constructs**

368 Oligos used in this study are listed in Supplemental Table 1.

369 ***For pro*MpEF1A:MpTIR1-3xFLAG plants**

370 A coding sequence (CDS) of MpTIR1 without stop codon was amplified from
371 pENTR_MpTIR1 using the primer pair, MpTIR1_entry/MpTIR1_nonstop, and cloned into
372 pENTR/D-TOPO vector (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Massachusetts, U.S.A.) to generate
373 pENTR_MpTIR1_nonstop. The MpTIR1 CDS was then transferred into pMpGWB110 (Ishizaki
374 et al., 2015) by using LR Clonase II (Thermo Fisher Scientific) to generate
375 pMpGWB110_MpTIR1, which was then used for MpTIR1-overexpression experiments and pull-
376 down assays.

377

378 ***For pull-down assay***

379 MpIAA or MpIAA^{mutDII} CDS spanning from the 627th codon till the stop codon was
380 amplified from vectors containing the respective sequences (Kato et al., 2015) using the primer
381 pair, EcoRI-MpIAA_DII/MpIAA-NotI. The PCR products and pGEX6P-1 vector were digested
382 with EcoRI (Takara Bio, Shiga, Japan) and NotI (Takara Bio) and then ligated to generate
383 pGEX6P-1_MpIAA and pGEX6P-1_MpIAAmutDII. Each of these vectors was introduced into

384 *E. coli* Rosetta2(DE3) strain for induction of recombinant proteins.

385

386 ***For homologous recombination of the MpTIR1 locus***

387 5'- and 3'- homologous arms (3,462 and 3,367 bp, respectively) were amplified from a
388 PAC clone including the MpTIR1 locus (pMM23-241G5; Okada et al., 2000) using the primer
389 pairs, MpTIR1_KO_F1/MpTIR1_KO_R1 and MpTIR1_KO_F2/MpTIR1_KO_R2, respectively.
390 The resultant 5'- and 3'- homologous arms were cloned into pJHY-TMp1 (Ishizaki et al., 2013),
391 using the In-Fusion HD cloning kit (Clontech, Mountain View, CA) to generate pJHY-
392 TMp1_MpTIR1, which was then used for homologous recombination of the MpTIR1 locus.

393

394 ***For the complementation cassette for MpTIR1***

395 A genomic fragment spanning from 5,618-bp upstream of the start codon to 1,081-bp
396 downstream of the stop codon was amplified from pMM23-241G5 (Okada et al., 2000) using the
397 primer pair, MpTIR1_usEntry/MpTIR1_R15, and cloned into pENTR/D-TOPO vector (Thermo
398 Fisher Scientific) to generate pENTR_gMpTIR1. The genomic fragment was then transferred
399 into pMpGWB301 (Ishizaki et al., 2015) by using LR Clonase II (Thermo Fisher Scientific) to
400 generate pMpGWB301_gMpTIR1, which was then used for complementation experiments.

401

402 ***For the expression of AtTIR1 under the MpTIR1 promoter***

403 An MpTIR1 promoter sequence spanning from 5,618-bp upstream of the start codon to
404 the start codon was amplified from pMM23-241G5 (Okada et al. 2000) using the primer pair,
405 MpTIR1_usEntry/MpTIR1_R6, and cloned into pENTR/D-TOPO vector (Thermo Fisher
406 Scientific) to generate pENTR_proMpTIR1. An N-terminal 3xFLAG-tagged AtTIR1 CDS was
407 amplified from a vector containing the sequences, pAN19_TIR1 (a sincere gift from Keiko U.
408 Torii and Naoyuki Uchida), using the primer pair, AscI-Flag_F/AtTIR1_AscI_R.
409 pENTR_proMpTIR1 and the 3xFLAG-AtTIR1 PCR products were digested with AscI (New
410 England Biolabs, Massachusetts, U.S.A.) and then ligated into pENTR_proMpTIR1 to generate
411 pENTR_proMpTIR1:3xFLAG-AtTIR1. The resultant *proMpTIR1:3xFLAG-AtTIR1* fragment was
412 then transferred into pMpGWB301 (Ishizaki et al., 2015) by using LR Clonase II (Thermo Fisher
413 Scientific) to generate pMpGWB301_proMpTIR1:3xFLAG-AtTIR1, which was then used for
414 expression studies of AtTIR1 under the MpTIR1 promoter.

415

416 ***To generate Mptir1-1^{CKO>tdTN} plants***

417 A NOS terminator sequence was amplified from a vector containing the sequence,
418 pMpGWB302 (Ishizaki et al., 2015), using the primer pair, NotI-NosT_F/NotI-NosT_R. The
419 resultant NOS terminator fragment and pENTR_gMpTIR1 were digested with NotI (Takara Bio)
420 and then ligated to generate pENTR_NosT-gMpTIR1. The resultant NosT-gMpTIR1 fragment
421 was then transferred into pMpGWB337tdTN (Sugano et al., 2018) by using LR Clonase II
422 (Thermo Fisher Scientific) to generate pMpGWB337tdTN_NosT:gMpTIR1, which was then
423 used for MpTIR1 CKO experiments.

424

425 ***To generate Mptir1-1^{CKO>CitN} plants***

426 The CDS of MpTIR1 was amplified from RNA of WT plants by reverse transcription
427 (RT)-PCR using a primer pair, MpTIR1_entry/MpTIR1_stop, and cloned into pENTR/D-TOPO
428 vector (Thermo Fisher Scientific) to generate pENTR_MpTIR1. The MpTIR1 fragment was then
429 transferred into pMpGWB337 (Nishihama et al., 2016) by using LR Clonase II (Thermo Fisher
430 Scientific) to generate pMpGWB337_MpTIR1, which was then used for MpTIR1 conditional
431 knockout experiments.

432

433 ***To generate proMpEF1A:DII-mTurquoise2-NLS/Mptir1-1^{CKO>CitN} plants and***
434 ***proMpEF1A:mutDII-mTurquoise2-NLS/Mptir1-1^{cko>CitN} plants***

435 DII and mutDII sequences of MpIAA were amplified from vectors containing the
436 respective sequences (see Kato et al., 2015) using the primer pair, MpIAA_dN3/MpIAA DII_R1,
437 and then cloned into pENTR/D-TOPO vector (Thermo Fisher Scientific) to generate
438 pENTR_DII and pENTR_mDII. An mTurquoise2-NLS fragment was amplified from a vector
439 containing the sequence, pMpGWB337mT2N, using the phosphorylated primer pairs, Aor51HI-
440 mT2_F/NOS_t_head_SacI-NLS_mTurq_R, digested with SacI (Takara Bio), and then ligated
441 with Aor51HI- (Takara Bio) and SacI- (Takara Bio) digested pMpGWB203 (Ishizaki et al.,
442 2015) to generate pMpGWB203_Gateway:mT2N. The DII- and mutDII- fragments were
443 transferred into pMpGWB203_Gateway:mT2N by using LR Clonase II (Thermo Fisher
444 Scientific) to generate pMpGWB203-DII-mT2N and pMpGWB203-mutDII-mT2N, respectively.
445 These vectors were then used for degradation assays of DII-tagged protein.

446

447 ***For locus deletion of MpTIR1 using CRISPR/Cas9 genome editing***

448 Oligos encoding each guide RNA (gRNA) sequence were annealed with their
449 corresponding antisense oligos (see Supplemental Table 1). The annealed oligos were ligated
450 with BsaI (New England Biolabs) digested vectors with the following combinations: 5'gRNA1
451 and 5'gRNA3 were ligated with pMpGE_En_04, 5'gRNA2 and 5'gRNA4 were ligated with
452 pBC-GE12, 3'gRNA1 and 3'gRNA3 were ligated with pBC-GE23, and 3'gRNA2 and 4'gRNA4
453 were ligated with pBC-GE34. 5'gRNA1/2-, 5'gRNA3/4-, 3'gRNA1/2-, and 3'gRNA3/4-pairs are
454 active guide RNA-pairs for a nickase version of the CRISPR/Cas9 genome-editing system
455 (Hisanaga et al., 2019; Koide et al. 2020). Four vectors including one of the active 5'gRNA-pairs
456 and one of the active 3'gRNA-pairs were digested by BglII (New England Biolabs) and ligated at
457 once. The resultant gRNA expression cassettes were transferred into pMpGE017 by using LR
458 clonase II (Thermo Fisher Scientific) to generate pMpGE017_MpTIR1_5'gRNA1/2_3'gRNA3/4,
459 pMpGE017_MpTIR1_5'gRNA3/4_3'gRNA1/2, and
460 pMpGE017_MpTIR1_5'gRNA3/4_3'gRNA3/4. These vectors were then used for genome
461 editing of the *MpTIR1* locus. *Mptir1-2^{ld}* mutation was caused by
462 pMpGE017_MpTIR1_5'gRNA1/2_3'gRNA3/4. *Mptir1-3^{ld}* and *Mptir1-4^{ld}* mutations were
463 caused by pMpGE017_MpTIR1_5'gRNA3/4_3'gRNA1/2. *Mptir1-5^{ld}* mutation was caused by
464 pMpGE017_MpTIR1_5'gRNA3/4_3'gRNA3/4. pMpGE_En04, pBC-GE12, pBC-GE23, pBC-
465 GE34 and pMpGE017 were developed by Keisuke Inoue in Kyoto University.

466

467 **Plant transformation**

468 Binary vectors were transformed into WT plants as previously described (Ishizaki et al., 2008
469 and Kubota et al., 2013). To transform *Mptir1-1^{ko}* mutants, *Mptir1-1^{ko}* cell masses were
470 cocultured with *Agrobacterium* GV2260 harboring binary vectors in liquid 0M51C medium
471 under continuous white light. After 2 or 3 days of co-cultivation, the *Mptir1-1^{ko}* cells were
472 washed with sterilized water and then cultured on half-strength Gamborg's B5 medium
473 (Gamborg et al., 1968) containing 1% agar, 100 mg/L cefotaxime, and 0.5 μ M chlorsulfuron for
474 selection.

475

476 **Plant genotyping**

477 For genotyping, small plant fragments were crushed in 100 μ L of buffer (100 mM Tris-HCl (pH
478 9.5), 1 M KCl, and 10 mM EDTA), diluted with 400 μ L of sterilized water, and then used as
479 templates for PCR.

480 *Mptir1-I^{ko}* candidate plants were genotyped by PCR using crude DNA extracts and
481 primer pairs A (MpTIR1_L21/MpTIR1_R12), B (MpTIR1_L14/MpEF_GT_R1), and C
482 (EnSpm_L2/MpTIR1_R13; Supplemental Figure 2A), as described previously (Ishizaki et al.,
483 2013).

484 *Mptir1^{ld}* candidate plants were genotyped by amplifying the MpTIR1 genomic locus
485 from crude DNA extracts using the primer pair, MpTIR1_L30/MpTIR1_R21. The resultant
486 DNA fragments were treated with Exonuclease I and Shrimp Alkaline Phosphatase (New
487 England Biolabs), purified with Fast GeneTM Gel/PCR Extraction Kit (NIPPON Genetics Co.,
488 Tokyo, Japan), and then sequenced with the primers, MpTIR1_L45 or MpTIR1_R20.

489 Molecular determination of sex of the plants was performed by amplifying U- and V-
490 chromosome markers from crude DNA extract, as described previously (Fujisawa et al., 2001)
491 using modified primer pairs, rhf-73F_new/rhf-73R_new and rbm-27F_new/rbm-27R_new,
492 respectively.

493

494 **CKO analysis**

495 In order to induce KO of MpTIR1 in young plants, 1-day-old *Mptir1-I^{CKO>CitN}, proMpEF1A:DII-*
496 *mTurquoise2-NLS/Mptir1-I^{CKO>CitN}*, and *proMpEF1A:mutDII-mTurquoise2-NLS/Mptir1-*
497 *I^{CKO>CitN}* gemmalings were treated with approximately 3 μ L of 10 μ M dexamethasone (DEX)
498 solution to enable nuclear localization of glucocorticoid receptor (GR)-fused Cre proteins, dried
499 for several minutes, and then incubated at 37°C for 1 h. Each gemmaling was treated once more
500 with the same procedure at 4-h intervals.

501 In order to induce KO of MpTIR1 in gemmae, *Mptir1-I^{CKO>tdTN}* plant gemmae were
502 treated with approximately 3 μ L of 10 μ M DEX solution, dried for several minutes, and then
503 incubated at 37°C for 1 h. Each gemma was treated once more with the same procedure at 4-h
504 intervals.

505 In order to induce KO of MpTIR1 in immature gemmae, 14-day-old *Mptir1-I^{CKO>tdTN}*
506 plant thalli were vacuum-infiltrated with 5 μ M DEX solution, dried for approximately 20 min,

507 and then incubated at 37°C for 1 h. Each thallus was treated twice with the same procedure at 4-
508 to 5-h intervals. The treated thalli were further cultivated under normal condition for a few
509 weeks. Then, gemmae were taken from gemma cups and used for microscopic analysis.

510

511 **Sectioning of plant tissues**

512 In order to observe cell compositions, 10-day-old sporelings and *Mptir1-1^{ko}* cell masses grown
513 on the half-strength Gamborg's B5 agar media were pre-fixed in 2.5% (v/v) glutaraldehyde and
514 2% (w/v) paraformaldehyde in 50 mM phosphate buffer (pH 7.2) at 4°C overnight. The samples
515 were then washed with 50 mM phosphate buffer, and treated with 2% (w/v) OsO₄ solution at
516 room temperature for 2 h, and then washed with 8% (w/v) sucrose. The samples were then
517 dehydrated by 25, 50, and 80% (v/v) ethanol solutions before they were finally dehydrated in
518 100% (v/v) ethanol, and then embedded into the resin, Quetol 812 (Nissin EM Co., Kyoto,
519 Japan). The resin-embedded samples were sectioned at 1 μm with a diamond knife using
520 Ultracut-UCT (Leica, Wetzlar, Germany). The sections were stained with toluidine blue solution
521 and used for microscopic analyses.

522

523 **Microscopic analyses**

524 Thalli, sporelings, and *Mptir1* cell masses were observed using microscopes SZX16 (Olympus,
525 Tokyo, Japan), M205C (Leica, Wetzlar, Germany), Axiophot (Zeiss, Oberkochen, Germany), or
526 BZ-X710 (Keyence, Osaka, Japan). Plate cultures were photographed using EOS Kiss X3
527 (Canon, Tokyo, Japan). Z-series images of 2-day-old *proMpEF1A:mutDII-mTurquoise2-
528 NLS/Mptir1-1^{CKO>CitN}* plant notches were taken using a confocal microscope FLUOVIEW
529 FV1000 (Olympus). SEM images of *Mptir1* cell masses and *Mptir1-1^{CKO>idTN}* plants were taken
530 by TM3000 (Hitachi High Technologies, Tokyo, Japan), as described previously (Nishihama et
531 al. 2015).

532

533 **Image manipulations**

534 Bright field (BF) and fluorescence images taken with the M205C were merged using an image
535 analysis software, Fiji (<http://fiji.sc/>; Schindelin et al., 2012). Z-series confocal images were two-
536 dimensionally projected with max intensity and then merged by using Fiji. BF and fluorescence
537 images taken with BZ-X710 were merged by using BZ-X Analyzer (Keyence).

538

539 **Measurement of plant areas**

540 Plant area measurements were performed using Fiji. Bright field images were split into RGB
541 channels by the “Split Channels” function. B-channel images were converted into binary images
542 by the “Auto Threshold” function with the “Default” method. Plant areas were then measured by
543 the “Find Edges” and subsequent “Analyze Particles” functions.

544

545 **Quantification of nuclear fluorescence intensities**

546 Images of 2-day-old *proMpEF1A:DII-mTurquoise2-NLS/Mptir1-1^{CKO>CitN}* or *proMpEF1A:mutDII-*
547 *mTurquoise2-NLS/Mptir1-1^{CKO>CitN}* plant notches, which were cultured for 1 day after KO
548 induction, were quantified using Fiji by measuring mTurquoise2 fluorescence intensities in the
549 nuclei. Five to six biological replicates were prepared for each condition. A series of 45 confocal
550 images at 5- μ m intervals were two-dimensionally projected with sum intensity of the slices.
551 From each image, nucleus and background regions were manually selected as 8- μ m circles in
552 diameter at 25 locations each. An average intensity value of each nucleus region was subtracted
553 by mean values of background regions from the same image. The data generated were plotted
554 and was analyzed for statistical significance (see “Statistics and graphics” section).

555

556 **Pull-down assay**

557 *E. coli* Rosetta2(DE3) strain harboring the GST-MpIAA(627C) or GST-MpIAA^{mutDII}(627C)
558 vectors were precultured in 5 mL of LB liquid medium at 37°C overnight. The overnight grown
559 cultures were then inoculated into 300 mL of fresh LB medium and incubated at 37°C until the
560 OD₆₀₀ reached 0.5. Isopropyl β -D-thiogalactopyranoside (IPTG) was then added to the culture at
561 the final concentration of 0.1 mM for the induction of protein expression; the cultures were
562 incubated at 37°C for 5 h. After 5h, cells were harvested by centrifugation for 10 minutes at
563 4,000 xg at 4°C, resuspended in ice-cold sonication buffer (PBS and 1 mM dithiothreitol), and
564 subjected to lysis by sonication. The cell lysates were then centrifuged for 30 min at 12,000 xg at
565 4°C. The supernatants were purified with PierceTM Disposable Plastic Columns (Thermo Fisher
566 Scientific) of Glutathione Sepharose 4B (GE Healthcare Life Sciences, Massachusetts, U.S.A.).

567 Fourteen-day-old *proMpEF1A:MpTIR1-3xFLAG* plants were harvested and immediately
568 frozen in liquid nitrogen. The frozen samples were homogenized with three-fourth volume per g

569 of tissue of extraction buffer (150 mM NaCl, 100 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.5, 0.5% Nonidet P-40, 10
570 μ M dithiothreitol, 1 mM phenylmethanesulfonyl fluoride, 1 μ g/mL pepstatin A, and 10 μ M
571 MG132) and then melted on ice. Debris were removed by centrifugation at 16,000 xg at 4°C for
572 15 min after which the supernatant was further filtered through a 0.45- μ m pore syringe filter.
573 Protein concentration of the samples was measured using Bradford Protein Assay Kit (Bio-Rad
574 Laboratories Inc., California, U.S.A.).

575 2.5 mg each of the protein samples were incubated with 10 μ L of the GST-
576 MpIAA(627C)- or GST-MpIAA(627C)-conjugated Glutathione Sepharose beads and auxin at
577 4°C for 30 min. After three times of washing with ice-cold extraction buffer, the beads were
578 mixed with 2x Laemmli sample buffer (100 mM Tris-HCl, pH 6.8, 4% [w/v] SDS, 10% [v/v] 2-
579 mercaptoethanol, and 20% [v/v] glycerol), and boiled at 95°C for 5 min. Samples were separated
580 by SDS-PAGE on a 10% acrylamide gel, and transferred onto polyvinylidene fluoride
581 membranes (Bio-Rad Laboratories, Inc.). Membranes were incubated with anti-FLAG (1:5,000;
582 Sigma-Aldrich, Missouri, U.S.A.) or anti-GST (1:2,000; Nacalai tesque, Kyoto, Japan) for 1 h,
583 respectively, washed with PBST (PBS and 0.1% Tween-20), and then incubated with anti-mouse
584 IgG (1:10,000; GE Healthcare) for 1 h. Bands were visualized with ECL Prime reagent (GE
585 Healthcare) and ImageQuant LAS 4010 (GE Healthcare).

586

587 **Real-time PCR**

588 For real-time PCR of MpTIR1, 10-day-old Tak-1 and *pro*MpEF1A:MpTIR1-3xFLAG plants were
589 harvested and immediately frozen in liquid nitrogen. For real-time PCR of auxin-responsive
590 genes, the F₁ spores and *Mptir1-1^{ko}* cell masses were precultured in half-strength Gabmorg's B5
591 liquid medium for 5 days, treated with 10 μ M NAA or solvent control for 4 h, then harvested and
592 immediately frozen in liquid nitrogen. RNA was extracted from the frozen samples using TRIzol
593 (Thermo Fisher Scientific) as described previously (Kubota et al., 2014). Reverse transcription to
594 cDNA and subsequent quantitative PCR were performed as described previously (Kato et al.,
595 2017). Primer pairs, MpTIR1-qPCR_F2/MpTIR1-qPCR_R2, MpC2HDZ-qPCR_F1/MpC2HDZ-
596 qPCR_R1, MpWIP-qPCR_F1/MpWIP-qPCR_R1, and MpEF-qPCR_F/MpEF-qPCR_R were
597 used to quantify MpTIR1, MpC2HDZ, MpWIP, and MpEF1A transcripts, respectively
598 (Supplemental Table1). MpEF1A was used as an internal control. Relative expression levels
599 were calculated by Pfaffl's method (Pfaffl, 2001).

600

601 **RNA-sequencing**

602 The F₁ spores and *Mptir1-I^{ko}* cell masses were precultured in half-strength Gamborg's B5 liquid
603 medium for 5 days, and then treated with 10 μM IAA or solvent control for 4 h. Plants were then
604 harvested and immediately frozen in liquid nitrogen. RNA extraction from frozen samples was
605 performed using RNeasy Plant Mini Kit (QIAGEN, Venlo, the Netherland). RNA Libraries were
606 prepared using a NEBNext Ultra II Directional RNA Library Prep Kit for Illumina (New
607 England Biolabs) and sequenced as single end reads using the NextSeq500 platform (Illumina,
608 California, U.S.A.). Total RNA was extracted from the F₁ spores and *Mptir1-I^{ko}* cell masses
609 treated with 10 μM NAA or solvent control in the same way. Library preparation and subsequent
610 paired-end RNA-sequencing was performed by Macrogen Japan (Tokyo, Japan) using the
611 NovaSeq6000 platform (Illumina).

612

613 **RNA-seq data analysis**

614 For quality control, raw read data were pre-filtered using fastp (version 0.20.1; Chen et al., 2018)
615 with default settings for SE- and PE-sequence data, respectively. The filtered reads were then
616 mapped onto the *M. polymorpha* genome (v5.1r1 + U-chromosomal genes of v3.1) using STAR
617 (version 2.6.1c; Dobin et al., 2013) with default settings for SE- and PE-sequence data,
618 respectively. Following analyses were performed in R (version 4.0.0; R Core Team, 2020).
619 Reads mapped on exons were counted using the “featureCounts” function of the Rsubread
620 package (version 2.2.2; Liao et al., 2019). Pairwise comparisons were performed by Wald test
621 using the DESeq2 package (version 1.28.1; Love et al., 2014). In the pairwise comparisons
622 between *Mptir1-I^{ko}* cells and WT tissues, U chromosomal genes were excluded. All the four
623 combinations of comparisons between *Mptir1-I^{ko}* cells (mock samples for IAA or those for
624 NAA) and public thalli data (9-day-old thalli from Higo et al., 2016 or 7-day-old thalli from
625 Yasui et al., 2019) were performed. The shared DEGs among all comparisons were chosen, since
626 all data sets were derived from different experiments, batch effects were not taken into
627 consideration. PCA was performed by the “prcomp” function of the stats package (version 4.0.0;
628 R Core Team, 2020) with log₂ transformed read counts of all genes. Factor loadings were
629 calculated as $\sqrt{l} * h_i / u_i$, where l , h_i , and u_i represent the eigenvalues of the covariance, the
630 eigenvectors of each gene, and the square root of variance of each gene, respectively.

631

632 **Statistics and graphics**

633 Statistical tests were performed by R (version 4.0.0; R Core Team, 2020). The stats package
634 (version 4.0.0; R Core Team, 2020) was used for Welch's t-test (Figure 1A) and Pearson's
635 correlation test (Supplemental Figure 4B). The NSM3 package (version 1.15; Schneider et al.,
636 2020) was used for Steel-Dwass test (Figure 1C; Supplemental Figure 1B, D). The lawstat
637 package (version 3.4; Gastwirth et al., 2020) was used for Brunner-Munzel test (Figure 2D). The
638 multcomp package (version 1.4.13; Hothorn et al., 2008) was used for ANOVA and subsequent
639 Tukey-Kramer test (Figure 3B), and Dunnett test (Supplemental Figure 2E). The DESeq2
640 package (version 1.28.1; Love et al., 2014) was used for Wald test (Supplemental Data Set 1, 2).
641 Graphs were drawn by R using the ggplot2 package (version 3.3.1; Wickham, 2016), the
642 ggsignif package (version 0.6.0; Ahlmann-Eltze, 2019), and the UpSetR package (version 1.4.0;
643 Conway et al. 2017; Gehlenborg, 2019).

644

645 **Accession Numbers**

646 Sequence data from this article can be found in the GenBank libraries
647 (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov>) or the MarpolBase (<https://marchantia.info>) under the following
648 accession numbers: At*TIR1* (AT3G62980); Mp*TIR1* (Mp6g02750 / Mapoly0035s0062); MpIAA
649 (Mp6g05000 / Mapoly0034s0017); MpARF1 (Mp1g12750 / Mapoly0019s0045); MpARF2
650 (Mp4g11820 / Mapoly0011s0167); MpC2HDZ (Mp2g24200 / Mapoly0069s0069); MpLRL
651 (Mpzg01410 / Mapoly0502s0001); MpWIP (Mp1g09500 / Mapoly0096s0050); MpTAA
652 (Mp5g14320 / Mapoly0032s0124). Other *M. polymorpha* transcription factors used in RNA-seq
653 analysis are listed in Supplemental Data Set 3.

654 Transcriptome data obtained in this study are stored at DNA Data Bank of Japan
655 Sequence Read Archive (<https://www.ddbj.nig.ac.jp/dra>) under project number DRA013690.
656 Other public transcriptome data obtained from the Sequence Read Archive
657 (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sra>) are listed in Supplemental Table 2.

658

659 **Supplemental Data**

660 **Supplemental Figure 1.** Genetic evidence for Mp*TIR1* involved in auxin response.

661 **Supplemental Figure 2.** Genotyping and auxin responses of Mp*tir1-1^{ko}* mutants.

662 **Supplemental Figure 3.** Verification of induced MpTIR1 KO.

663 **Supplemental Figure 4.** Significant overlap between IAA- and NAA-responsive genes.

664 **Supplemental Figure 5.** Growth of *Mptir1-I^{ko}* mutants.

665 **Supplemental Figure 6.** Generation and genotyping of MpTIR1-locus deletion mutants.

666 **Supplemental Figure 7.** Reproducibility of *Mptir1* defects in *Mptir1^{ld}* mutants.

667 **Supplemental Figure 8.** Contribution of auxin-responsive genes to transcriptional properties of
668 *Mptir1-I^{ko}* cells.

669

670 **Supplemental Table 1.** Oligos used in this study.

671 **Supplemental Table 2.** Public RNA-seq data used in this study.

672

673 **Supplemental Data Set 1.** Pairwise comparisons between auxin- and mock-treated samples in
674 WT or *Mptir1-I^{ko}* cells.

675 **Supplemental Data Set 2.** Pairwise comparisons between *Mptir1-I^{ko}* cells and WT samples.

676 **Supplemental Data Set 3.** All *M. polymorpha* transcription factors tested in RNA-seq data
677 analysis.

678

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691 **Author contributions**

692 H.S., H.K., R.N. and T.K. designed the research and wrote the paper; H.S., H.K., and M.I.

693 performed research and analyzed the data.

694

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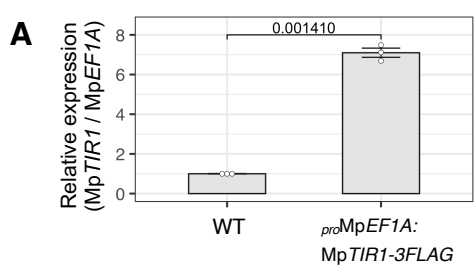
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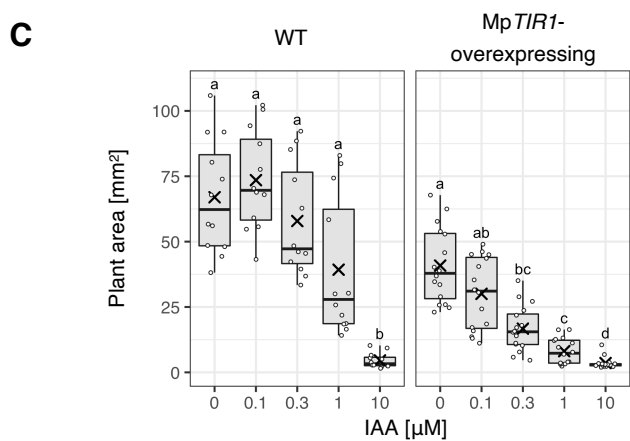
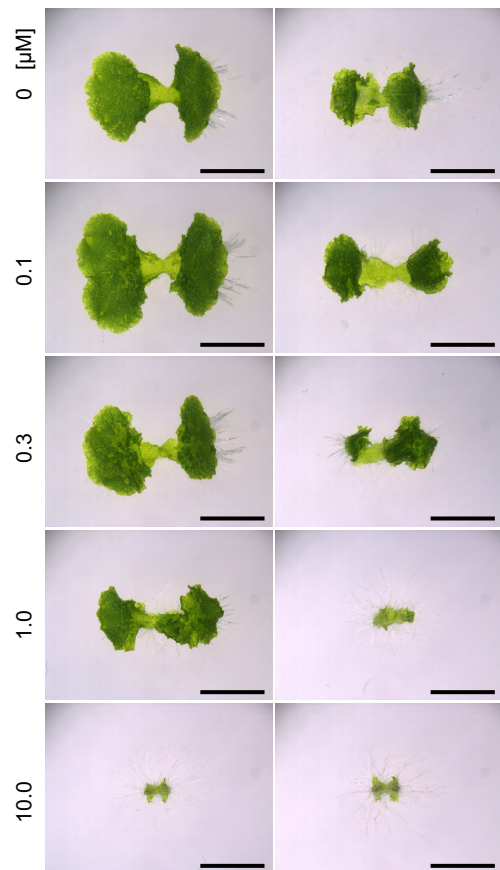
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- 912



B

WT $MpTIR1$ -overexpressing



D

WT $Mptir1-1^{ko}$ $proMpTIR1: MpTIR1 / Mptir1-1^{ko}$ $proMpTIR1: 3xFLAG-AtTIR1 / Mptir1-1^{ko}$

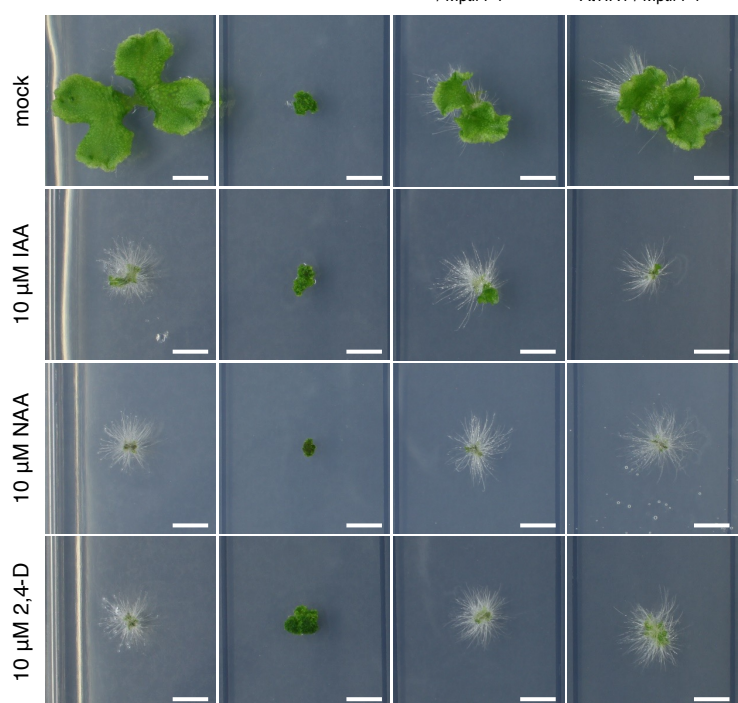


Figure 1. Genetic evidence for MpTIR1 as an auxin receptor-encoding gene.

(A) Relative expression levels of MpTIR1 in MpTIR1-overexpressing plants to wild type (WT). Real time-PCR was performed in 10-day-old thalli. Cq values of MpTIR1 were normalized by those of MpEF1A. Dots indicate each value of three biological replicates. Error bars indicate mean \pm standard error (SE). The value above the plots indicates *p*-value of two-sided Welch's t-test. **(B, C)** Responsiveness of WT and MpTIR1-overexpressing plants to exogenously supplied auxin. Gemmae were grown on agar media containing the indicated concentrations of IAA for 10 days. **(B)** A representative image is shown for each condition. Scale bars = 5 mm. **(C)** Boxplot of thallus areas. The bands and crosses inside the boxes represent median and mean, respectively. The lower and upper hinges correspond to the first and third quartiles, respectively. Whiskers extend from the hinges to the smallest and the largest values no further than $1.5 * \text{IQR}$ from the hinge (where IQR is the inter-quartile range). Dots represent each value of ≥ 12 biological replicates. Significances were tested by Steel-Dwass test with 99% confidence index. **(D)** Responsiveness of WT, *Mptir1-1^{ko}* mutants, *pro*MpTIR1:gMpTIR1/*Mptir1-1^{ko}* plants, and *pro*MpTIR1:3xFLAG-AtTIR1/*Mptir1-1^{ko}* plants to auxin. Small clumps of cell masses (of *Mptir1-1^{ko}*) or gemmae (of the others) were grown for 14 days in the absence or presence of 10 μM each of IAA, NAA, or 2,4-D. Scale bars = 5 mm.

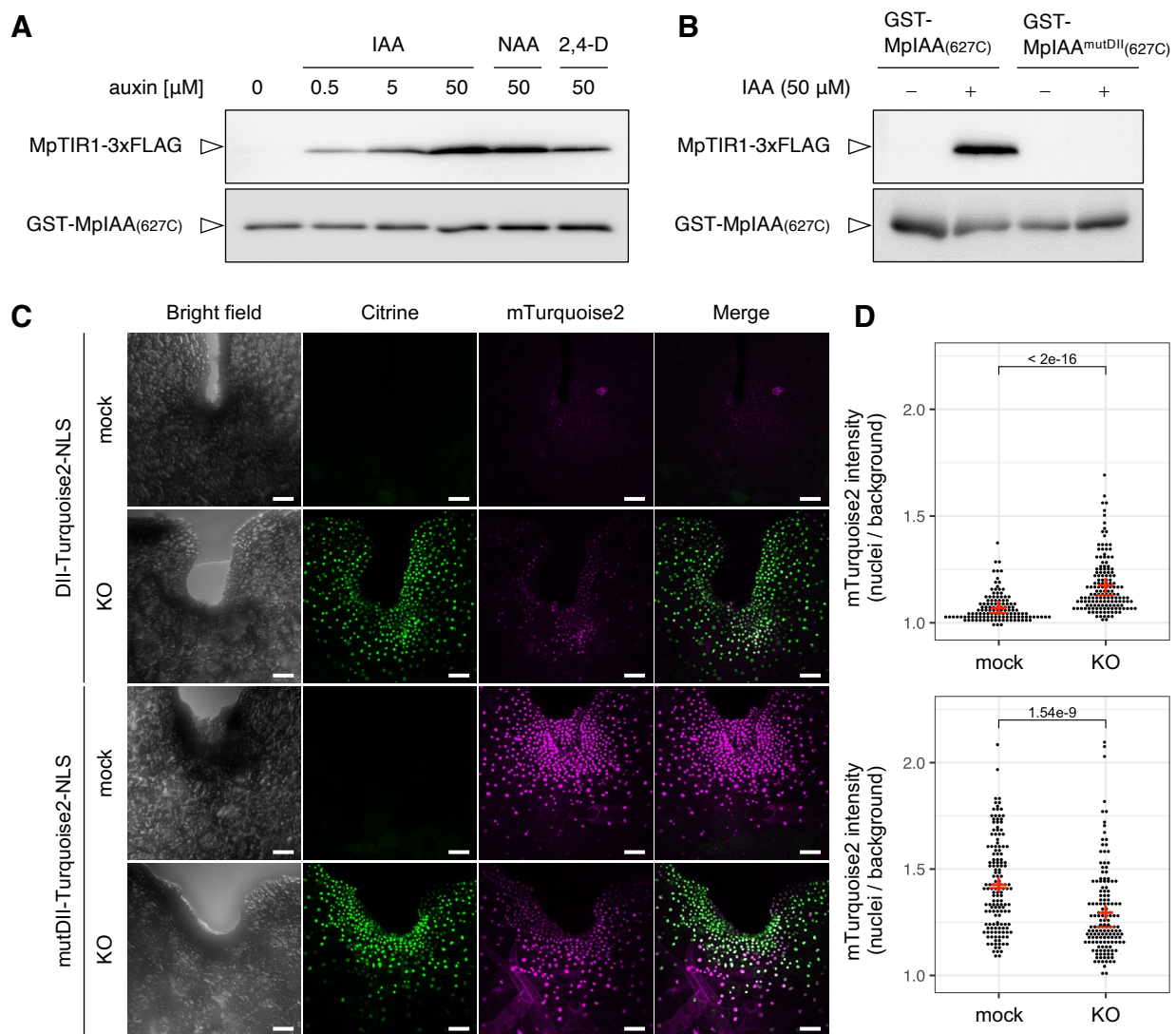


Figure 2. Molecular evidence for MpTIR1 as an auxin receptor.

(A, B) Pull-down assay between MpIAA and MpTIR1. Bead-bound GST-MpIAA(627-C) proteins, which had been expressed in and purified from *E. coli*, were incubated with a protein extract from MpTIR1-3xFLAG-expressing *M. polymorpha* plants in the presence or absence of the indicated concentrations of IAA, 50 μ M NAA, or 50 μ M 2,4-D. Bead-bound proteins were washed and subjected to immunoblot analysis with anti-FLAG (top) or anti-GST (bottom) antibody. **(B)** Pull-down assay using a DII-mutated MpIAA. GST-MpIAA(627C) or GST-MpIAA^{mutDII}(627C), having a mutation in the DII, were incubated with a protein extract from the MpTIR1-3xFLAG-expressing *M. polymorpha* plants in the presence or absence 50 μ M IAA. **(C)** Stabilization of the DII of MpIAA after conditional KO of MpTIR1. One-day-old gemmalings of *pro*MpEF1A:DII-*mTurquoise2-NLS/Mptir1-1*^{CKO>CitN} (top) or *pro*MpEF1A:*mutDII-mTurquoise2-NLS/Mptir1-1*^{CKO>CitN} (bottom) were either mock-treated or dexamethasone-treated (KO), then subjected to heat shock, and further grown for 1 d. Bright field, Citrine fluorescence, mTurquoise2 fluorescence, and their merged images of a notch region are shown. Scale bars = 50 μ m. **(D)** Quantification of mTurquoise2 fluorescence intensities in individual nuclei in the experiments shown in **C**. Dot plots of *pro*MpEF1A:DII-*mTurquoise2-NLS/Mptir1-1*^{CKO>CitN} (top) or *pro*MpEF1A:*mutDII-mTurquoise2-NLS/Mptir1-1*^{CKO>CitN} (bottom) are shown. The values above the plots indicate *p*-values of Brunner-Munzel test between the mock conditions and KO-induced conditions. The red crosses and bars indicate means and medians, respectively. *n* = 125 or 150 nuclei from 5 or 6 different plants.

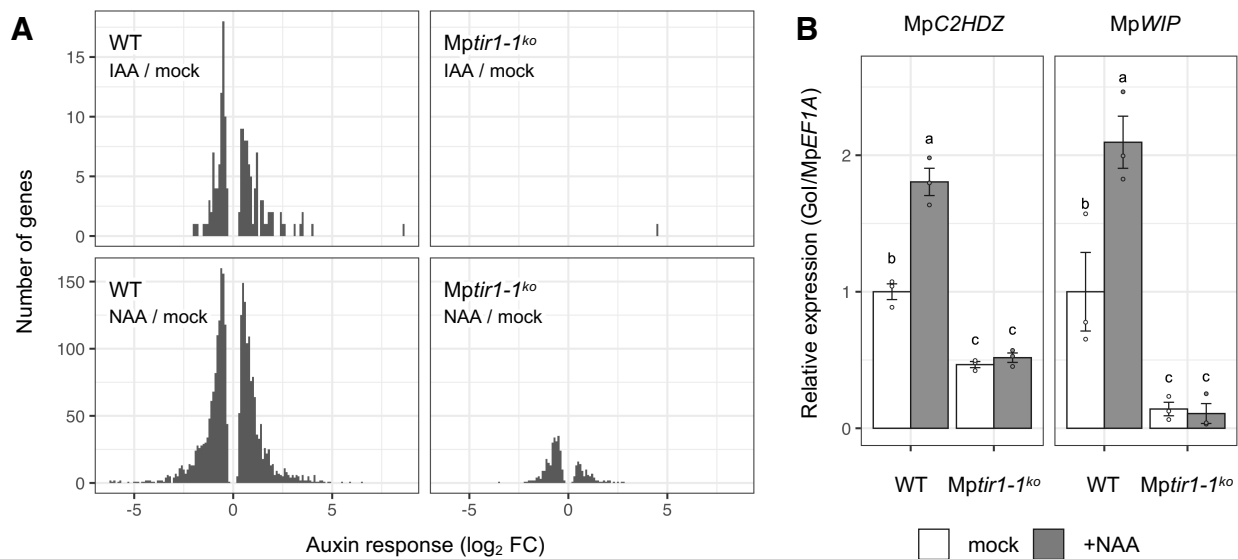


Figure 3. Nearly absolute requirement for MpTIR1 in transcriptional responses to auxin.

(A) RNA-seq analysis of *Mptir1-1^{ko}* cells. X- and y-axes represent \log_2 fold changes (\log_2 FC) and numbers of differentially expressed genes ($p_{adj} < 0.001$) in response to IAA (top) or NAA (bottom) treatment in WT sporelings (left) and *Mptir1-1^{ko}* cells (right). Note that the y-axis value of NAA-responsive genes is 10-fold larger than that of IAA. **(B)** Relative expression levels of known auxin-responsive genes, MpC2HDZ and MpWIP, determined by real-time PCR. Five-day-old sporelings and *Mptir1-1^{ko}* cells were treated with 10 μ M of NAA or solvent control (mock) for 4 h. MpEF1A was used for normalization. Expression levels relative to mock-treated WT sporelings are plotted. Dots indicate each value of three biological replicates. Error bars indicate mean \pm SE. Significances were tested by one-way ANOVA followed by Tukey-Kramer test with 99.9% confidence index.

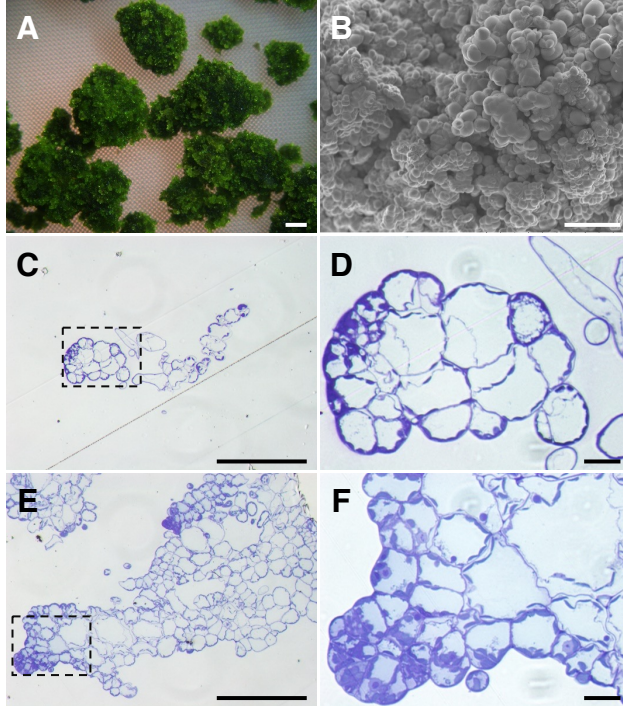


Figure 4. Requirement for *MpTIR1* in organogenesis.

(A) *Mptir1-1^{ko}* cell masses. *Mptir1-1^{ko}* cells were grown on an agar medium for 56 days. An overall image is shown in Supplemental Figure S5. **(B)** A SEM image of *Mptir1-1^{ko}* cell masses. A clump of 90-day-old *Mptir1-1^{ko}* cells was observed. **(C–F)** Section images of WT sporelings **(C, D)** and *Mptir1-1^{ko}* cell masses **(E, F)**. **(D, F)** Magnified images of the areas within dashed lines in **C** and **E**, respectively. Scale bars = 1 mm **(A)**, 200 μm **(B, C, E)**, 20 μm **(D, F)**.

Figure 5. Physiological functions of MpTIR1 in establishing the body axis.

(A) Scheme of the conditional KO (CKO) system in *Mptir1-1^{CKO>tdTN}* plants. An MpTIR1 genomic sequence for complementation (top) can be excised by recombination between the flanking *loxP* sequences after heat shock and DEX treatment (bottom), causing the MpTIR1 KO situation. *T*: NOS terminator. **(B, C)** Defects in gemma development after CKO of MpTIR1. *Mptir1-1^{CKO>tdTN}* gemmae were grown for 14 days and subjected to KO induction. After further growth for 8 days, gemmae on these plants were observed. Representative gemmae which did not **(B)** or did **(C)** show tdTomato-fluorescence are shown. **(D, E)** Post-germination defects of gemmae after CKO of MpTIR1. *Mptir1-1^{CKO>tdTN}* gemmae were directly subjected to mock-treatment **(D)** or KO-induction **(E)** and further grown for 14 days. **(F-H)** Superficial structures of plants after CKO of MpTIR1. *Mptir1-1^{CKO>tdTN}* gemmae were directly subjected to mock-treatment **(F)** or KO-induction **(G, H)**, further cultured for 22 days, and observed by SEM. **(H)** A magnified image of the area within the dotted line in **G**. Plants with overall tdTomato fluorescence were manually selected as KO-induced samples. Scale bars = 100 μ m **(B, C, H)**, 2 mm **(D, E)**, 1 mm **(F, G)**.

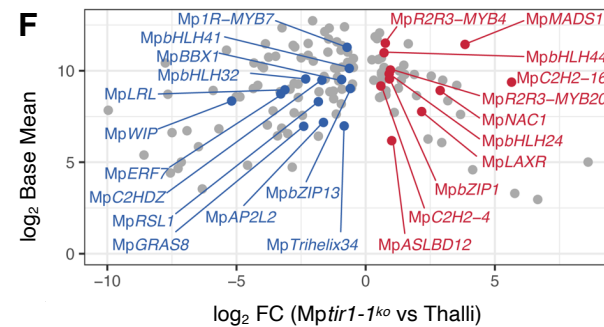
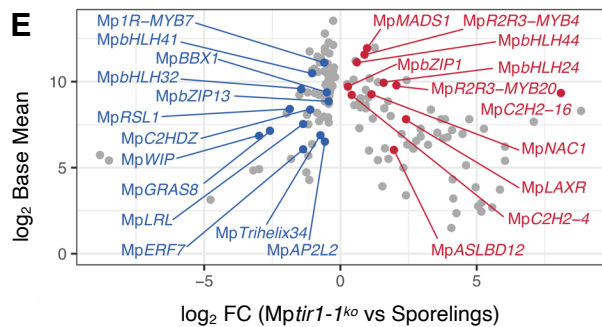
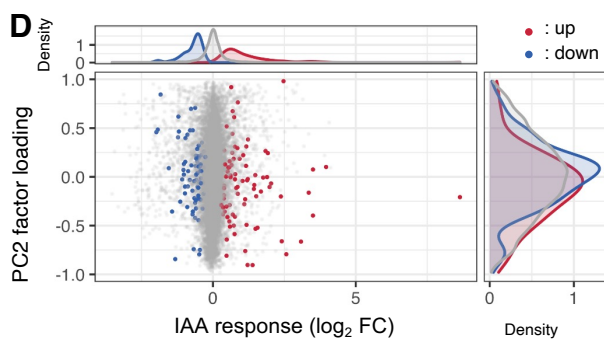
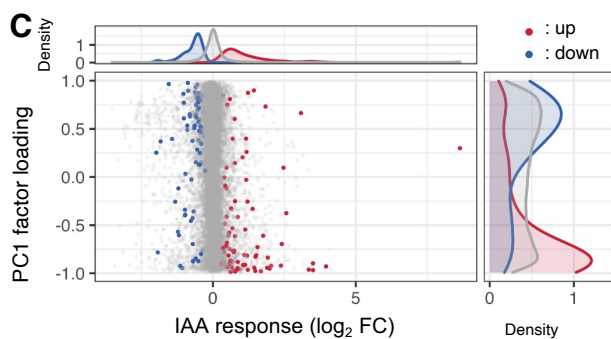
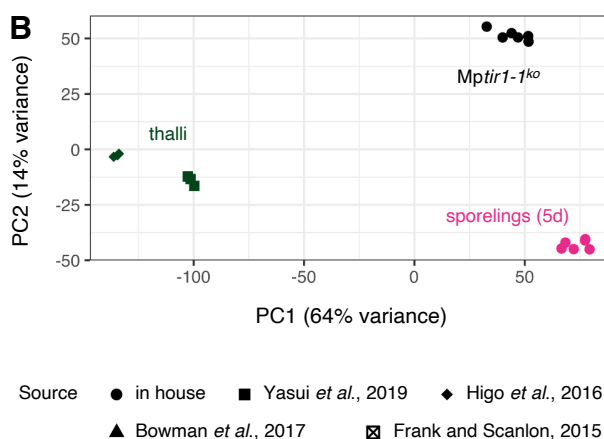
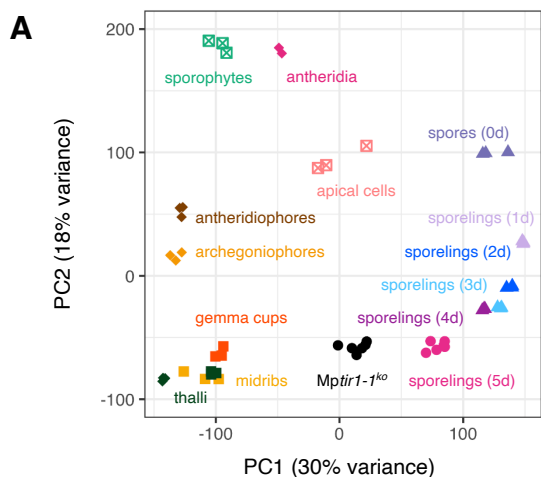
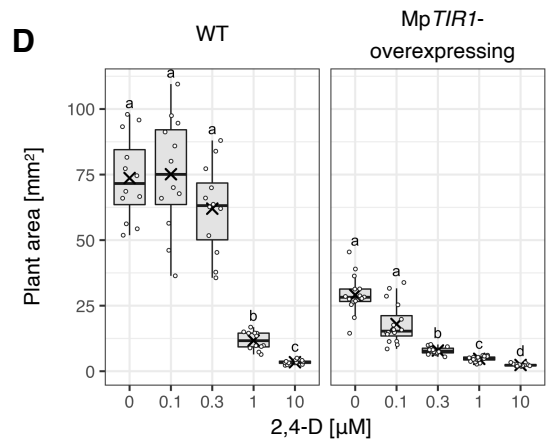
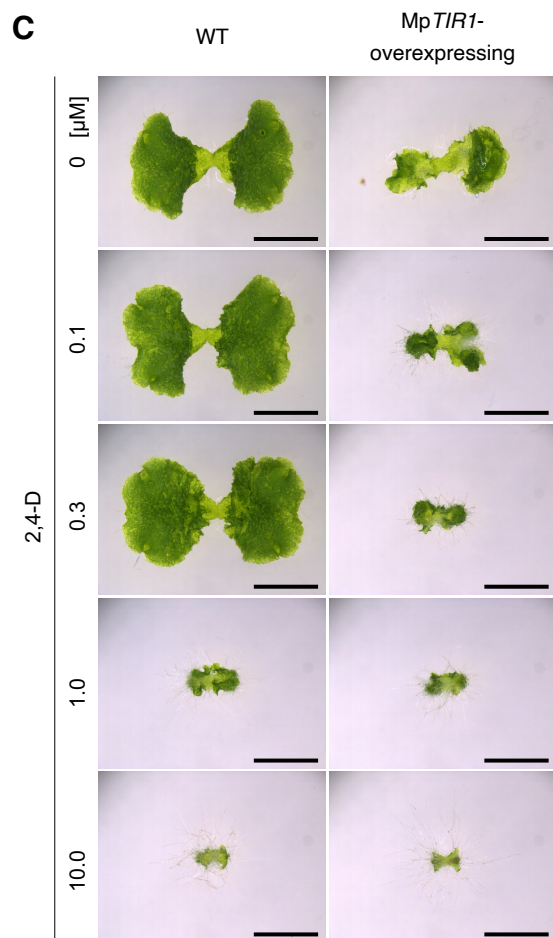
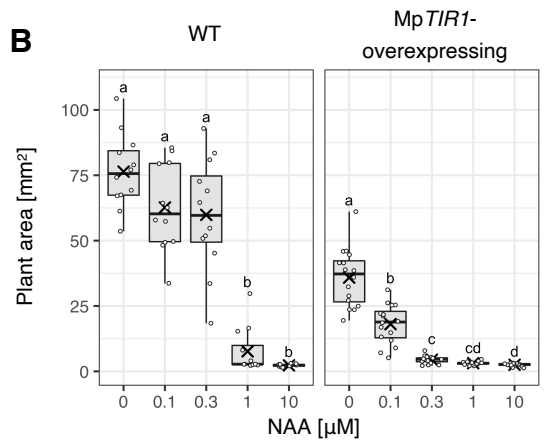
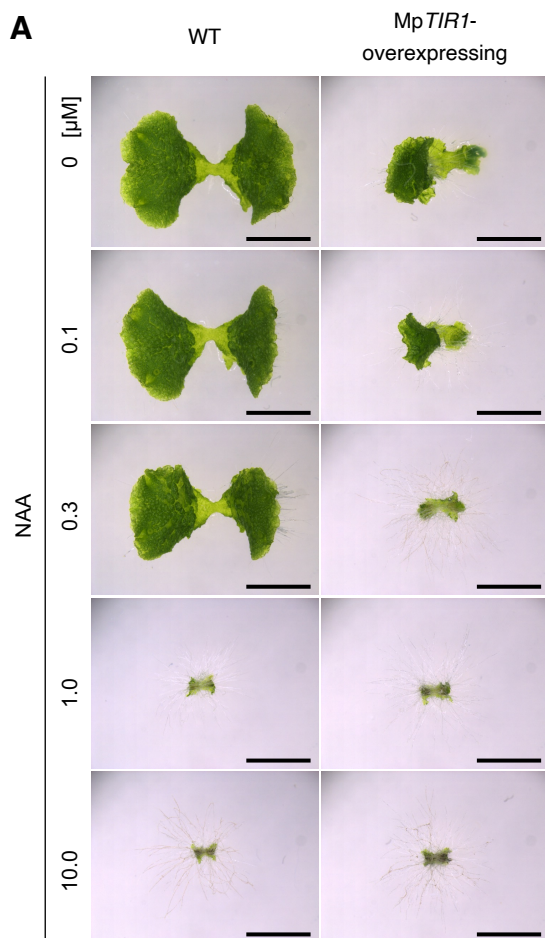


Figure 6. Characteristics of the *Mptir1*^{ko} transcriptome.

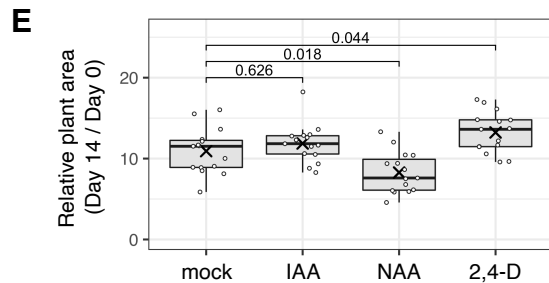
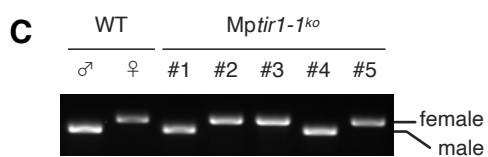
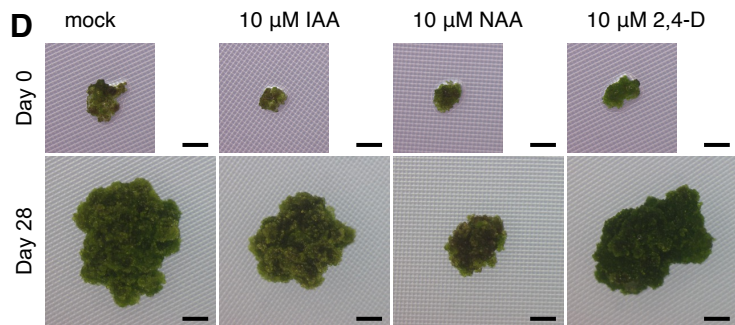
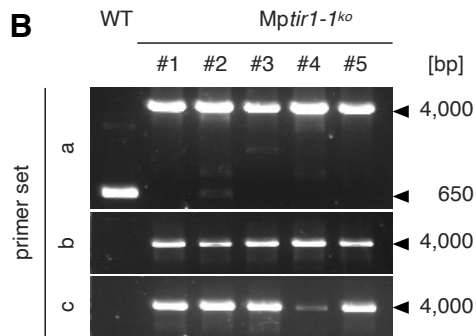
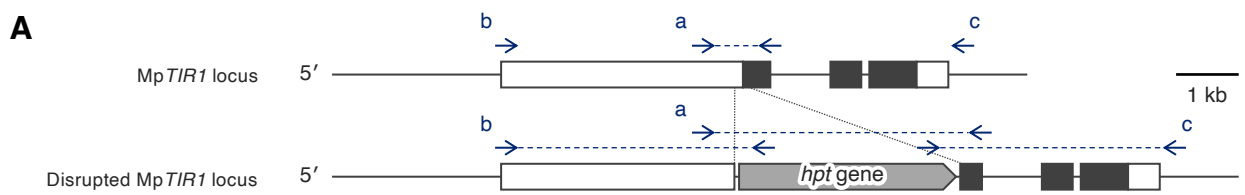
(A, B) PCA of transcriptomes obtained from *Mptir1-1*^{ko} cells and representative *M. polymorpha* tissues. Expression profiles of all genes were used for calculation. **(B)** Re-calculated PCA with a subset including thalli, 5-day-old sporelings, and *Mptir1-1*^{ko} cells. Dots indicate PC1 and PC2 scores of each dataset. Names of tissues or cells are shown near dots in the same color. Dot shapes indicate sources of RNA-seq data. **(C, D)** Contribution of IAA-responsive genes to factor loadings. X-axis of the central panels represents log₂ FC upon IAA treatment in sporelings. Y-axis of the central panels represents the factor loading of PC1 **(C)** or PC2 **(D)** of the PCA in **B**. Red and blue dots indicate significantly ($p_{adj} < 0.001$) up- and down-regulated genes upon IAA treatment, and gray dots represent IAA-non-responsive genes. Top and right panels represent distribution densities of the colored dots along x- and y-axes, respectively. **(E, F)** Expression profiles of transcription factor genes in *Mptir1-1*^{ko} cells. Each dot represents differentially expressed transcription factor genes in *Mptir1-1*^{ko} mutants compared with sporelings **(E)** or thalli **(F)**. Genes found in both comparisons are annotated. X- and y-axes represent log₂ FC and log₂ Base Mean (mean of normalized counts of all samples), respectively.

Supplemental Figures and Tables



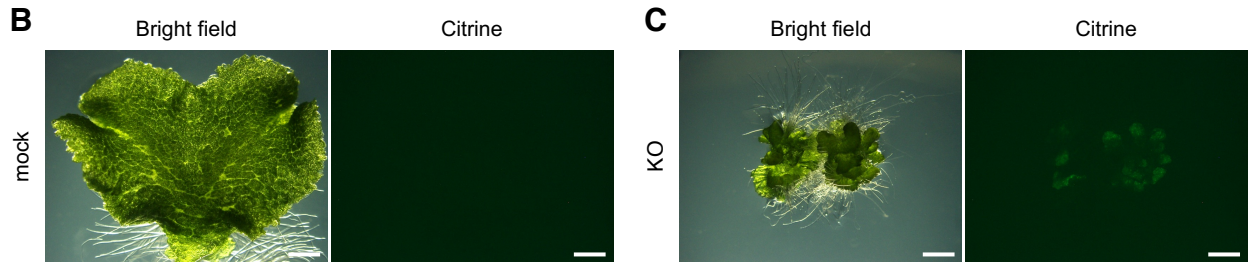
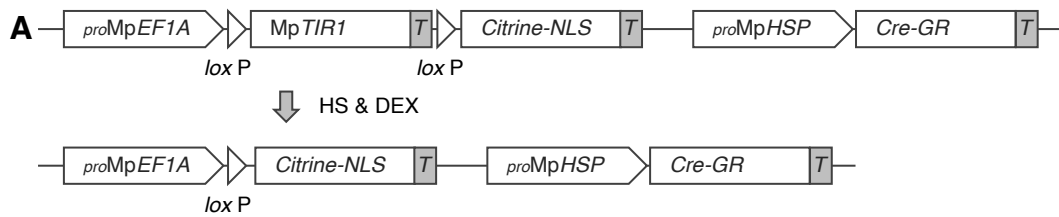
Supplemental Figure 1. Genetic evidence for MpTIR1 being involved in auxin response (Supports Figure 1).

(A–D) Responsiveness of WT and *pro*MpEF1A:MpTIR1-3xFLAG plants to exogenously supplied auxins. Gemmae were grown on agar media containing different concentrations of NAA **(A, B)** or 2,4-D **(C, D)** for 10 days. **(A, C)** Images of a representative plant for each condition. $n \geq 12$. Scale bars = 5 mm. **(B, D)** Boxplot of thallus areas. The bands and crosses inside the boxes represent median and mean, respectively. The lower and upper hinges correspond to the first and third quartiles, respectively. Whiskers extend from the hinges to the smallest and the largest values no further than $1.5 * IQR$ from the hinge. Dots represent each value of ≥ 12 biological replicates. Significances were tested by Steel-Dwass test with 99% confidence index.



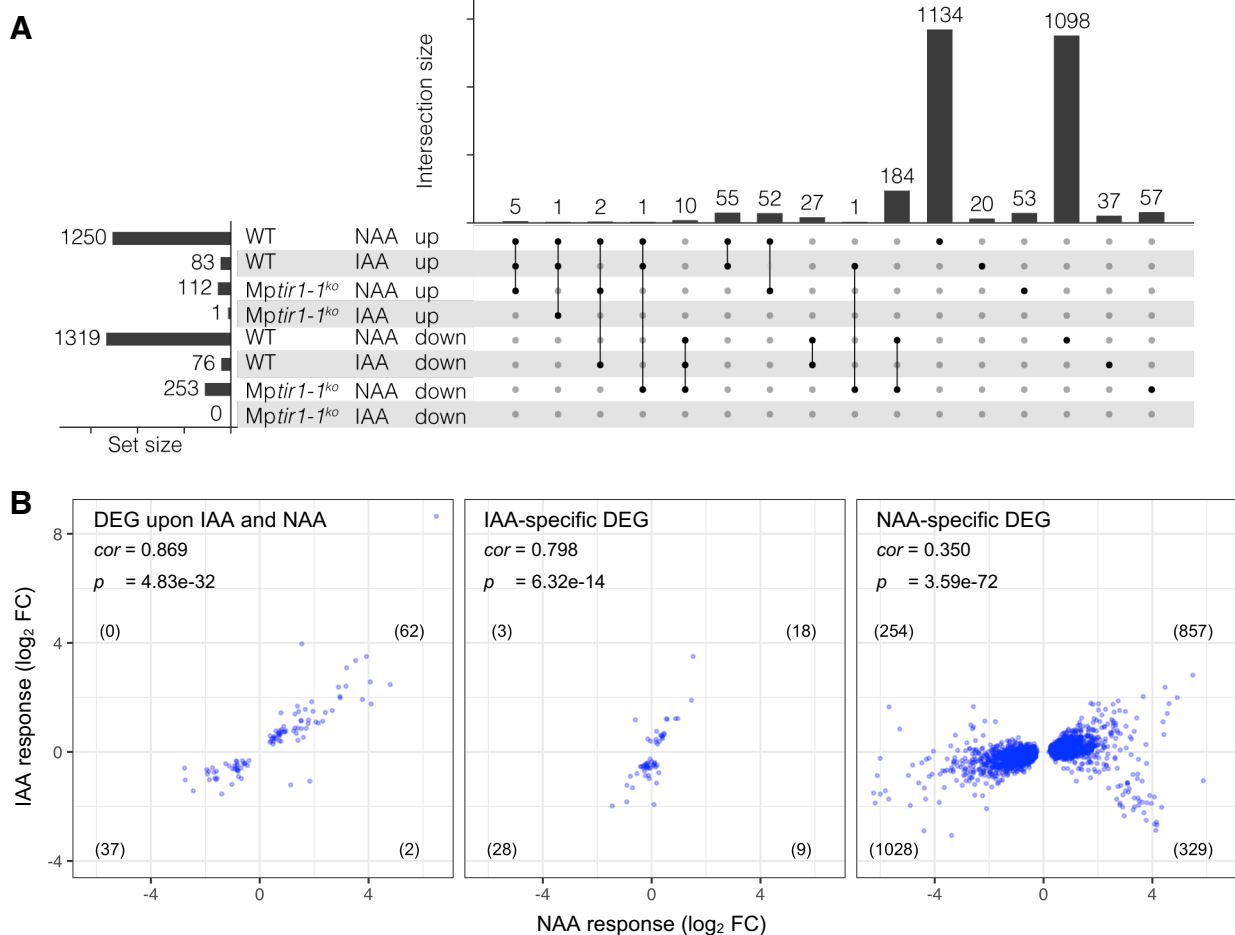
Supplemental Figure 2. Genotyping and auxin responses of *Mptir1-1^{ko}* mutants (Supports Figure 1).

(A) Scheme of the original *MpTIR1* locus (top) and the homologous recombination disrupted *Mptir1^{ko}* locus (bottom). Arrows with small letters indicate positions of primers or primer sets (connected by a dotted line) used for genotyping PCR. White and black boxes indicate untranslated regions and coding regions, respectively. *hpt* gene: hygromycin phosphotransferase gene cassette. **(B)** Genotyping PCR. The primer sets a–c was used. **(C)** Diagnosis of genetic sex using V (male) and U (female) chromosomal markers. Tak-1 and BC3-38 were used as male and female controls, respectively. **(D, E)** Growth rate of *Mptir1-1^{ko}* cell clumps in the presence or absence of auxin. *Mptir1-1^{ko}* cell clumps were transplanted on agar media containing 10 μ M of various auxins or solvent control (mock) and grown for 14 days. **(D)** Images of a representative clump for each condition. Top and bottom panels show identical plants at 0 and 28 days after transplantation. Scale bars = 1 mm. **(E)** Boxplot of growth rates. Relative expansion of clump areas between day 0 and 14 were calculated as growth rates. The bands and crosses inside the boxes represent median and mean, respectively. The lower and upper hinges correspond to the first and third quartiles, respectively. Whiskers extend from the hinges to the smallest and the largest values no further than 1.5 * IQR from the hinge. Dots represent each value of 15 biological replicates. The values above plots indicate *p*-value of two-sided Dunnett test between mock and auxin-treated samples.



Supplemental Figure 3. Verification of induced MpTIR1 KO (Supports Figure 2 and 6).

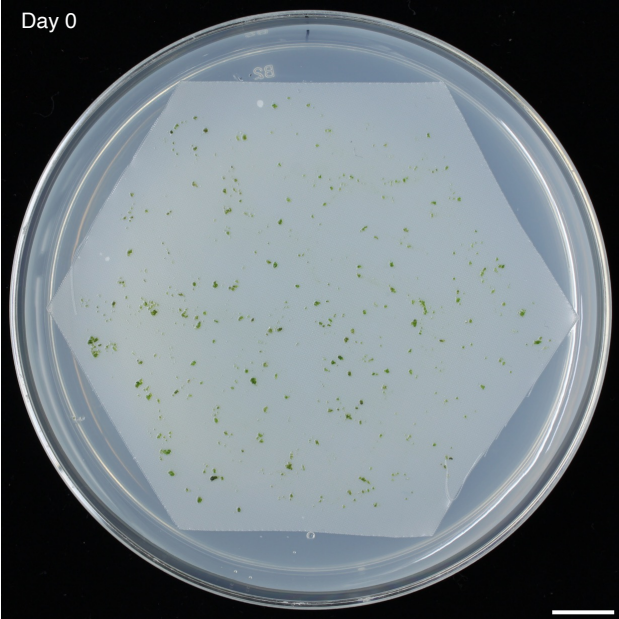
(A) Scheme of the conditional KO (CKO) system in *Mptir1-1^{CKO>CitN}* plants. An MpTIR1 genomic sequence for complementation (top) can be excised by recombination between the flanking loxP sequences after heat shock and DEX treatment (bottom), causing the MpTIR1 KO situation. T: NOS terminator. **(B, C)** Phenotype of *Mptir1-1^{CKO>CitN}* plants after KO induction. One-day-old *Mptir1-1^{CKO>CitN}* gemmalings were subjected to mock treatment **(B)** or KO induction **(C)** and grown for 13 days. Scale bars = 2 mm.



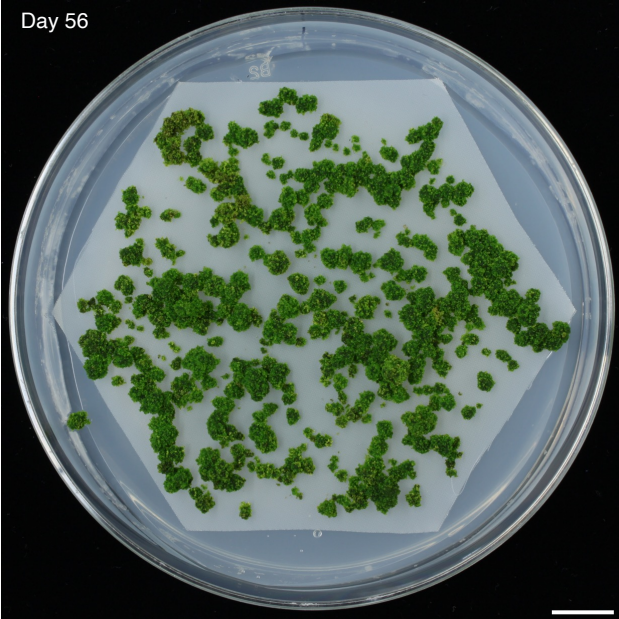
Supplemental Figure 4. Significant overlap between IAA- and NAA-responsive genes (Supports Figure 3).

(A) Intersection of auxin-responsive genes. Significantly up- or down-regulated genes ($p_{adj} < 0.001$) upon IAA or NAA treatment in WT sporelings or *Mptir1-1^{ko}* cells are shown in UpSet plot (Lex et al., 2014). **(B)** Properties of transcriptional responses to different auxins. \log_2 FC of differentially expressed genes in response to IAA and NAA commonly or specifically in WT sporelings are plotted. cor and p indicate Pearson's correlation coefficient and its p -value, respectively, between the \log_2 FCs in IAA and NAA responses. The number of genes in each quadrant is shown in parenthesis.

Day 0

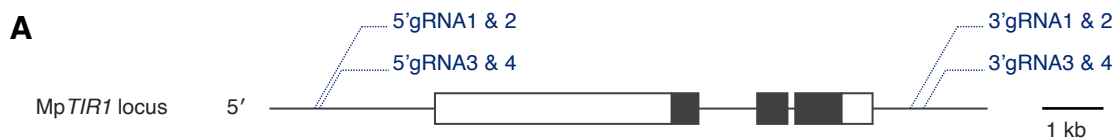


Day 56



Supplemental Figure 5. Growth of *Mptir1-1^{ko}* mutants (Supports Figure 4).

Mptir1-1^{ko} cells were grown on an agar medium covered with nylon mesh. Left and right panels show pictures of an identical plate at day 0 and 56, respectively. Scale bars = 10 mm.



B

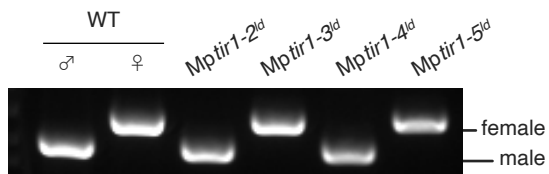
WT AGCAGCGAAGAGCGAGATAT TTGACTACGTCTGCCCGCAACAAGGCGGT
 Mptir1-2^d AGCAGCGAAG-----~-----TAATCCTCCACAAGGCGGT
 9,989-bp deletion

WT GCATGGCCGTCGCCATGTAG TACGTCTGCCCGCAACAAGG
 Mptir1-3^d GCATGGCCGT-----~-----CGCAACAAGG
 9,905-bp deletion

WT CGAAGCGCAGCCCCACCCC GGTCACCACATCGGAATCACAGGTGGACTAAGTTC
 Mptir1-4^d CGAAGCGCAG-----~-----GGGTACCTGAAACCGTATCCACCAAT
 CCAACCCACAATCGAGTAGAGAGGAAGAAACCGT
 GGAACGGAATTGAGGAAGATCCGTAAAGAAACCGT
 10,055-bp deletion

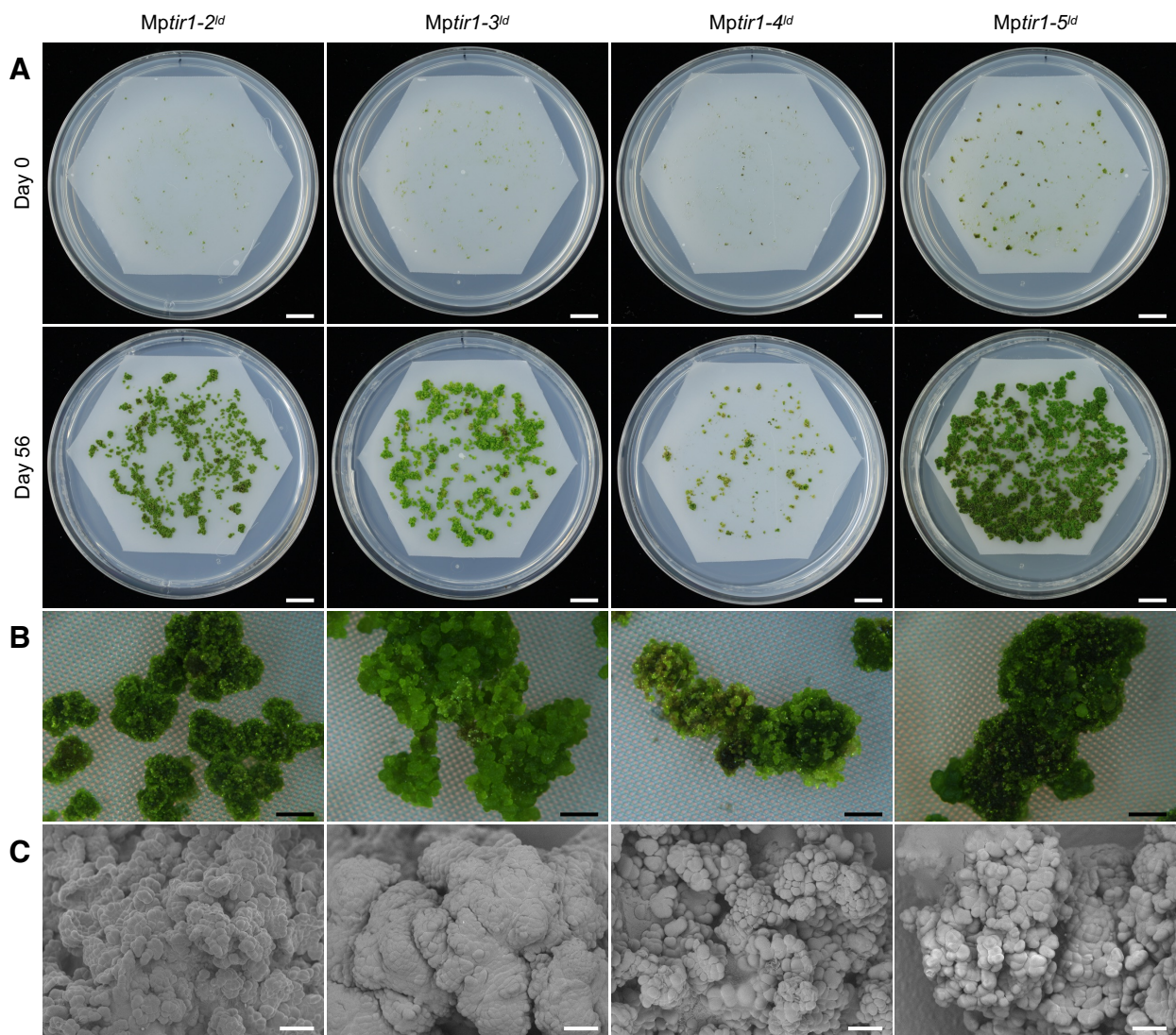
WT GTGCATGGCCGTCGCCATGT CAACAAGGCGGTTCGTTAATC
 Mptir1-5^d GTGCATGGCC-----~-----GTCGTTAATC
 9,919-bp deletion

C



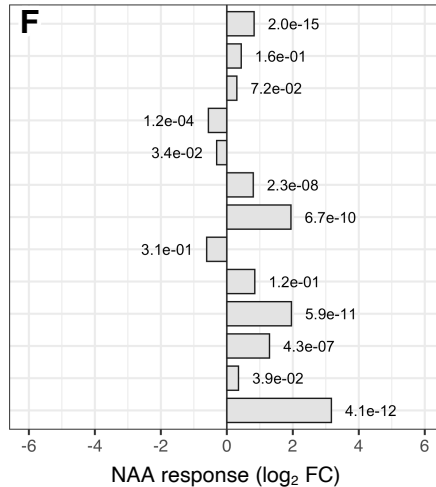
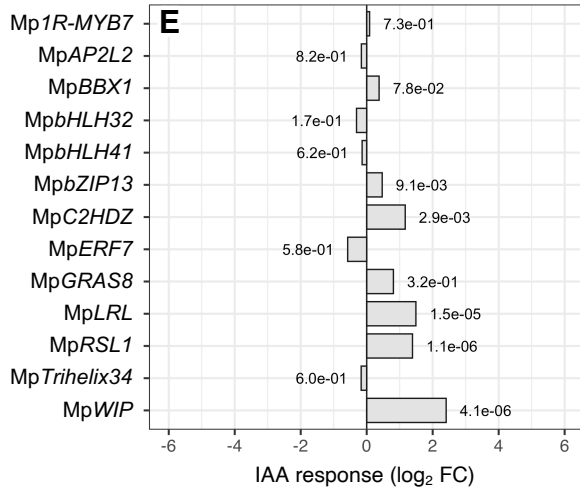
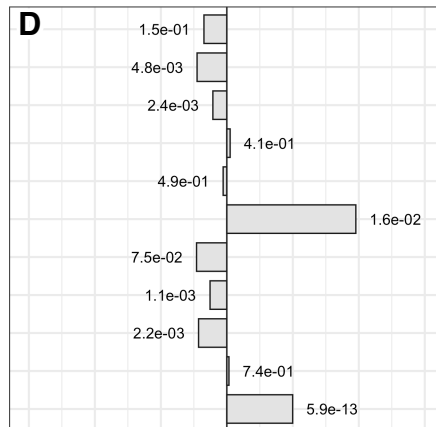
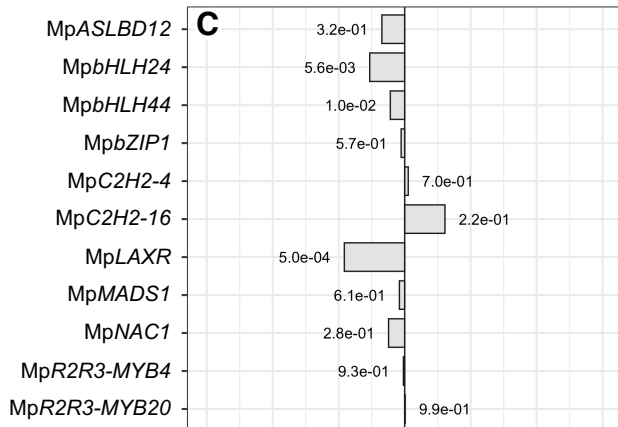
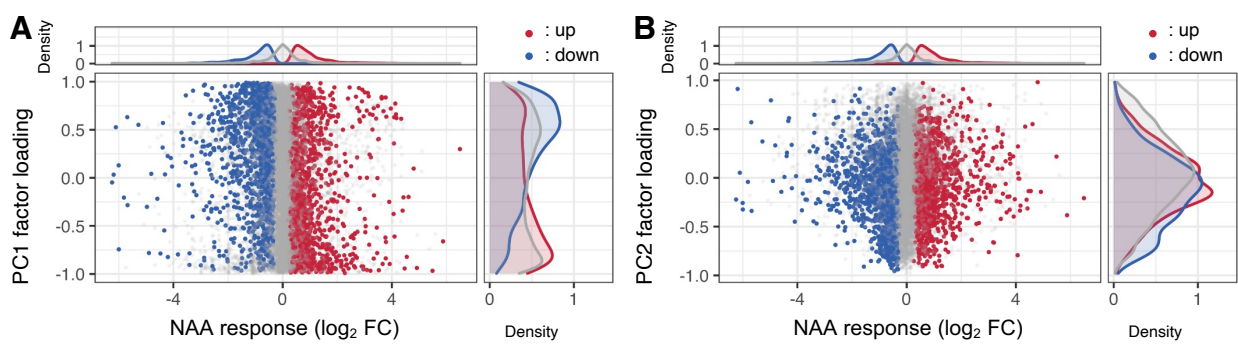
Supplemental Figure 6. Generation and genotyping of MpTIR1-locus deletion mutants (Supports Figure 4).

(A) Scheme of the MpTIR1 locus and gRNA pairs. 5'gRNA1 & 2 and 3'gRNA3 & 4 pairs were used to generate the *Mptir1-2^{ld}* mutant allele. 5'gRNA3 & 4 and 3'gRNA1 & 2 pairs were used to generate the *Mptir1-3^{ld}* and *Mptir1-4^{ld}* mutant alleles. 5'gRNA3 & 4 and 3'gRNA3 & 4 pairs were used to generate the *Mptir1-5^{ld}* mutant allele. White and black rectangles indicate untranslated regions and coding regions, respectively. **(B)** Mutations in the MpTIR1-locus deletion mutant alleles. Hyphen and red characters indicate deleted and mutated nucleotides, respectively. **(C)** Diagnosis of genetic sex using V (male) and U (female) chromosomal markers. Tak-1 and BC3-38 were used as male and female controls.



Supplemental Figure 7. Reproducibility of *Mptir1* defects in *Mptir1^{ld}* mutants (Supports Figure 4).

(A, B) Growth of *MpTIR1*-locus deletion mutants. *Mptir1^{ld}* cells were grown on agar media covered with nylon mesh. Top and bottom panels show identical plates at day 0 and 56, respectively. **(B)** Magnified images of the 56-day-old plants in **A**. **(C)** SEM images of the *Mptir1^{ld}* cell masses grown for 35 days. Scale bars = 10 mm **(A)**, 1 mm **(B)**, 0.1 mm **(C)**.



Supplemental Figure 8. Contribution of auxin-responsive genes to transcriptional properties of *Mptir1-1^{ko}* cells (Supports Figure 7).

(A, B) Contribution of NAA-responsive genes to factor loadings. X-axis of the central panels represents \log_2 FC upon NAA treatment in WT sporelings. Y-axis of the central panels represents the factor loading of PC1 **(A)** or PC2 **(B)** of the PCA shown in Figure 6B. Red and blue dots indicate significantly ($p_{adj} < 0.001$) up- and down-regulated genes upon NAA treatment, and gray dots represent NAA-non-responsive genes. Top and right panels represent distribution densities of the colored dots along x- and y-axes, respectively. **(C–F)** Auxin responsiveness of the differentially expressed transcription factor genes in *Mptir1-1^{ko}* cells (see Figure 6E, F). Transcription factor genes that showed higher **(C, D)** or lower **(E, F)** expression in *Mptir1-1^{ko}* cells in both comparisons with sporelings and thalli are listed. X-axis represents \log_2 FC upon IAA **(C, E)** or NAA **(D, F)** treatment in sporelings. The value beside each bar indicates p_{adj} .

Supplemental Table 1. Oligos used in this study.

Name	Sequence
Aor51Hl-mT2_F	gctATGGTGTCTAAGGGTGAGGAAC
Ascl-Flag_F	TTTGGCGCGCCATGGACTACAAAGACCATGACG
AtTIR1_Ascl_R	TTTGGCGCGCCTTATAATCCGTTAGTAGTAATGATTTG
EcoRI-MplAA_DII	tttgaattcGAAACCAAGCAGCAATCGTC
EnSpm_L2	TGGATTTGAACTCTTTTCGTATGGA
MpC2HDZ-qPCR_F1	GGCAGCCAGCCATGTAAGTAG
MpC2HDZ-qPCR_R1	CCGGCAGAATTGAGACATTG
MpEF_GT_R1	GAAGGCTTCTGATTGAAGTTTCCTTTTTCTG
MpEF-qPCR_F	AAGCCGTCGAAAAGAAGGAG
MpEF-qPCR_R	TTCAGGATCGTCCGTTATCC
MplAA_DII_R1	CTTCCGGAACGATCGAATG
MplAA_dN3	caccatgGAAACCAAGCAGCAATCGTC
MplAA-NotI	tttgcggcgcCTCACACGTTCCGGTTGAGTC
MpTIR1_3'gRNA_1F	ctcgCTCTCTACTCGATTGTGGT
MpTIR1_3'gRNA_1R	aaacACCCACAATCGAGTAGAGAG
MpTIR1_3'gRNA_2F	ctcgCGTATCCACCAATGTTAAG
MpTIR1_3'gRNA_2R	aaacCTTAAACATTGGTGGATACG
MpTIR1_3'gRNA_3F	ctcgGTACCTCTTCTCTTGAAG
MpTIR1_3'gRNA_3R	aaacCTTGCAAGAGGAAGAGGTAC
MpTIR1_3'gRNA_4F	ctcgGACTACGTCTGCCCGCAACA
MpTIR1_3'gRNA_4R	aaacTGTTGCGGGCAGACGTAGTC
MpTIR1_5'gRNA_1F	ctcgCTGGCGCTCTGCGAAAGTAG
MpTIR1_5'gRNA_1R	aaacCTACTTTTCGACAGCGCCAG
MpTIR1_5'gRNA_2F	ctcgGATATCGAGCGATCGTTATT
MpTIR1_5'gRNA_2R	aaacAATAACGATCGCTCGATATC
MpTIR1_5'gRNA_3F	ctcgTGTCAGATCCTACATGGCGA
MpTIR1_5'gRNA_3R	aaacTCGCCATGTAGGATCTGACA
MpTIR1_5'gRNA_4F	ctcgCCACGCAGGGGCTATTGCC
MpTIR1_5'gRNA_4R	aaacGGGCAATAGCCCCCTGCGTGG
MpTIR1_entry	CACCATGCCCTCTCCCTTTCTG
MpTIR1_KO_F1	ctaaggtagcgattacACGATACAAAGGAGCGAGAC
MpTIR1_KO_F2	taaaactagtggcgcgTGAGAAATGGAGCAGGCATC
MpTIR1_KO_R1	gcccgggcaagcctaCGTTCATGCCCCAGCTTTAG
MpTIR1_KO_R2	ttatccctaggcgcgGGGCACGAGAGCTGATAATG
MpTIR1_L14	AGATTTGATGGGGTCTTCACA
MpTIR1_L21	GAGGCGTGCATTGATGTG
MpTIR1_L30	CGAGAACAGGTGCGAGAGTA
MpTIR1_L45	GGTGCCAAATCTTCATCCTGAGC
MpTIR1_nonstop	TTGTGCTATTTGCACAAAGTCG
MpTIR1_R12	TGCCCTTGATGTGCAGAGAG
MpTIR1_R13	ACATGTGGAACCCATGGAAG
MpTIR1_R15	CGATGTTTCTGTAAGTTTCGTCC
MpTIR1_R20	CGACGTATGTATGCTCCAAGG
MpTIR1_R21	GCTTCGAGCCAATCATCAGC
MpTIR1_R6	CATCTCTCCCCCTCCTCCTT
MpTIR1_stop	GTCATTGTGCTATTTCCACAAAG
MpTIR1_usEntry	cACCTTACCCCAAGTCAAATCTG
MpTIR1-qPCR_F2	TGCAAGTCGATGACCAATGC
MpTIR1-qPCR_R2	CGGCGTCAATATACACAATCG
MpWIP-qPCR_F1	GGTCGAGTGACCTTTGATCG
MpWIP-qPCR_R1	GTGGCTGGCTGGATAGTTGG
NOSt_head_Sacl-NLS_mTurq_R	TTCGAGCTCTATCTCCAACCTTTCTCTTCTTCTTAGGCTGCAATTTGTAAGCTCATCCAT
NotI-NosT_F	TTTGGCGCCGCGAGCTCGAATTTCCCGCATC
NotI-NosT_R	TTTGGCGCCGCGAGTTAGCTCACTCATTAGGCAC
rhf73-F_new	GAACCCGAAACTCAGGTTTT
rhf73-R_new	ATAACAGCCAAACGGATCAA
rhm27-F_new	ACTTTTGCAACAGCGACTTC
rhm27-R_new	GCCTGCAATATAGCCTTCAA

Supplemental Table 2. Public RNA-seq data used in this study.

ID	Sample	Reference
DRR050343	11-day-old thalli	Higo et al., 2016
DRR050344	11-day-old thalli	Higo et al., 2016
DRR050345	Mature antheridiophores	Higo et al., 2016
DRR050346	Mature antheridiophores	Higo et al., 2016
DRR050347	Mature antheridiophores	Higo et al., 2016
DRR050348	Mature antheridiophores	Higo et al., 2016
DRR050349	Antheridia	Higo et al., 2016
DRR050350	Antheridia	Higo et al., 2016
DRR050351	Mature archegoniophores	Higo et al., 2016
DRR050352	Mature archegoniophores	Higo et al., 2016
DRR050353	Mature archegoniophores	Higo et al., 2016
DRR096278	Gemma cups of 21-day-old thalli	Yasui et al., 2019
DRR096279	Gemma cups of 21-day-old thalli	Yasui et al., 2019
DRR096280	Gemma cups of 21-day-old thalli	Yasui et al., 2019
DRR096281	Midribs of 21-day-old thalli	Yasui et al., 2019
DRR096282	Midribs of 21-day-old thalli	Yasui et al., 2019
DRR096283	Midribs of 21-day-old thalli	Yasui et al., 2019
DRR096284	7-day-old thalli	Yasui et al., 2019
DRR096285	7-day-old thalli	Yasui et al., 2019
DRR096286	7-day-old thalli	Yasui et al., 2019
SRR1553294	Gametophytic apical cells	Frank et al., 2015
SRR1553295	Gametophytic apical cells	Frank et al., 2015
SRR1553296	Gametophytic apical cells	Frank et al., 2015
SRR1553297	Immature sporophytes	Frank et al., 2015
SRR1553298	Immature sporophytes	Frank et al., 2015
SRR1553299	Immature sporophytes	Frank et al., 2015
SRR4450254	96-hour-old sporelings	Bowman et al., 2017
SRR4450255	96-hour-old sporelings	Bowman et al., 2017
SRR4450256	96-hour-old sporelings	Bowman et al., 2017
SRR4450257	72-hour-old sporelings	Bowman et al., 2017
SRR4450258	72-hour-old sporelings	Bowman et al., 2017
SRR4450259	24-hour-old sporelings	Bowman et al., 2017
SRR4450260	0-hour-old spores	Bowman et al., 2017
SRR4450261	0-hour-old spores	Bowman et al., 2017
SRR4450262	0-hour-old spores	Bowman et al., 2017
SRR4450263	48-hour-old sporelings	Bowman et al., 2017
SRR4450264	48-hour-old sporelings	Bowman et al., 2017
SRR4450265	24-hour-old sporelings	Bowman et al., 2017
SRR4450266	24-hour-old sporelings	Bowman et al., 2017
SRR4450267	72-hour-old sporelings	Bowman et al., 2017
SRR4450268	48-hour-old sporelings	Bowman et al., 2017
DRR354266	5-day-old sporelings (-IAA)	this study
DRR354267	5-day-old sporelings (-IAA)	this study
DRR354268	5-day-old sporelings (-IAA)	this study
DRR354269	5-day-old sporelings (+IAA)	this study
DRR354270	5-day-old sporelings (+IAA)	this study
DRR354271	5-day-old sporelings (+IAA)	this study
DRR354272	<i>Mptir1-1^{ko}</i> (-IAA)	this study
DRR354273	<i>Mptir1-1^{ko}</i> (-IAA)	this study
DRR354274	<i>Mptir1-1^{ko}</i> (-IAA)	this study
DRR354275	<i>Mptir1-1^{ko}</i> (-IAA)	this study
DRR354276	<i>Mptir1-1^{ko}</i> (-IAA)	this study
DRR354277	<i>Mptir1-1^{ko}</i> (-IAA)	this study
DRR354254	5-day-old sporelings (-NAA)	this study
DRR354255	5-day-old sporelings (-NAA)	this study
DRR354256	5-day-old sporelings (-NAA)	this study
DRR354257	5-day-old sporelings (+NAA)	this study
DRR354258	5-day-old sporelings (+NAA)	this study
DRR354259	5-day-old sporelings (+NAA)	this study
DRR354260	<i>Mptir1-1^{ko}</i> (-NAA)	this study
DRR354261	<i>Mptir1-1^{ko}</i> (-NAA)	this study
DRR354262	<i>Mptir1-1^{ko}</i> (-NAA)	this study
DRR354263	<i>Mptir1-1^{ko}</i> (+NAA)	this study
DRR354264	<i>Mptir1-1^{ko}</i> (+NAA)	this study
DRR354265	<i>Mptir1-1^{ko}</i> (+NAA)	this study

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