Fig. S1. Target mimic Flowchart publication search based on the string in Table 1. In particular, we removed publications using the following criteria: (i) publications that were not related to plants or miRNAs in plants; (ii) publications in languages other than English; (iii) publications not related to TM topic/context; and, (iv) publications not related to computational analysis. Some of the publications with non *in silico* topics were also included in our review when necessary.
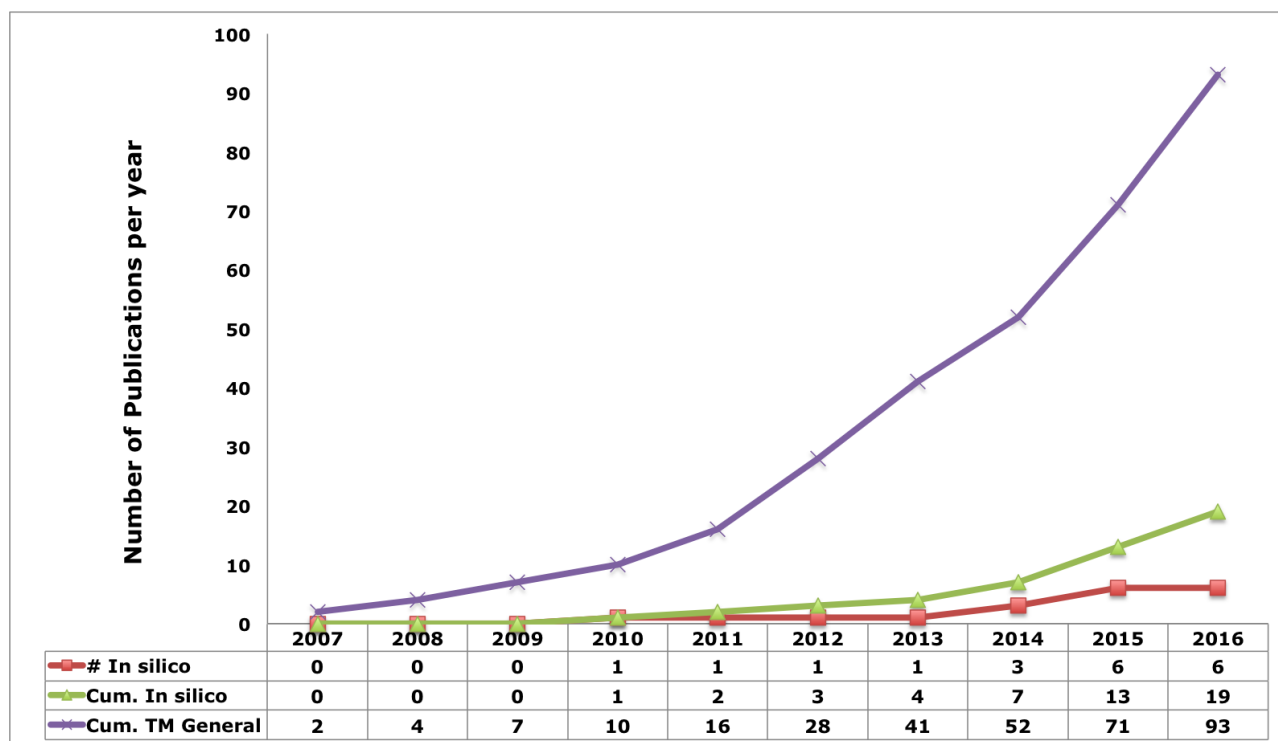
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
# In silico	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	3	6	6
Cum. In silico	0	0	0	1	2	3	4	7	13	19
Cum. TM General	2	4	7	10	16	28	41	52	71	93

Fig. S2. The cumulative number of publication based on the search string and in comparison with in silico articles.

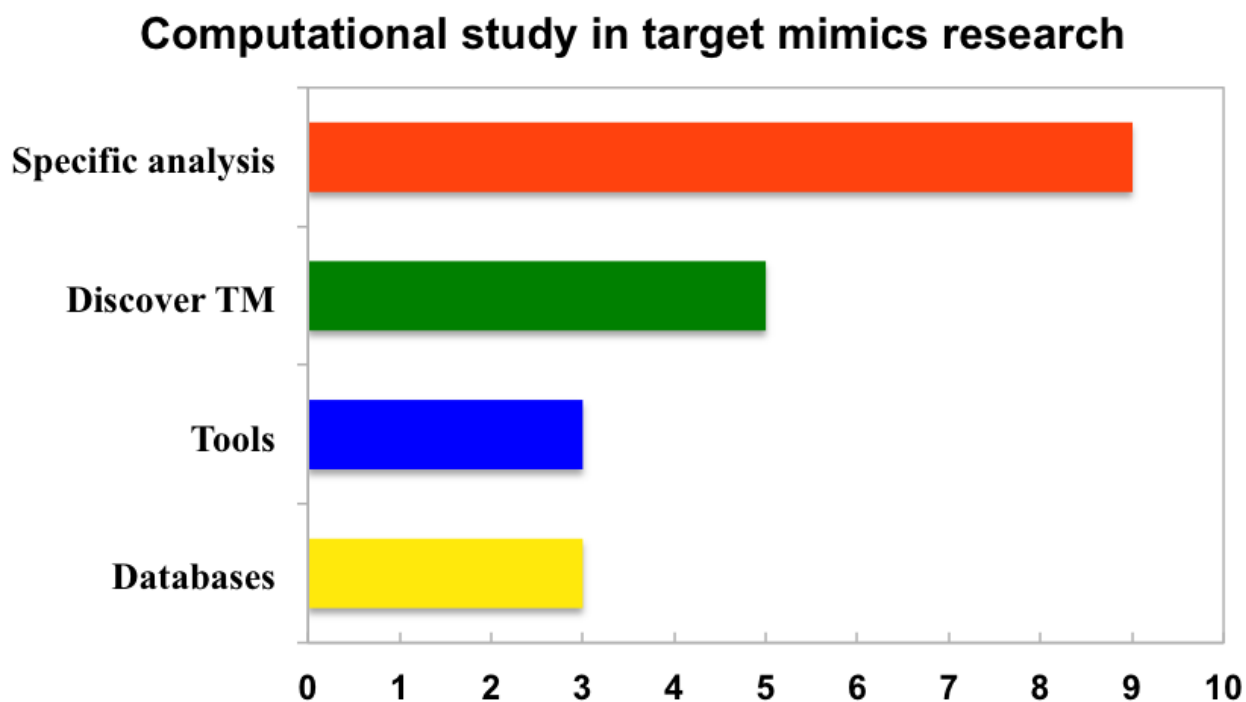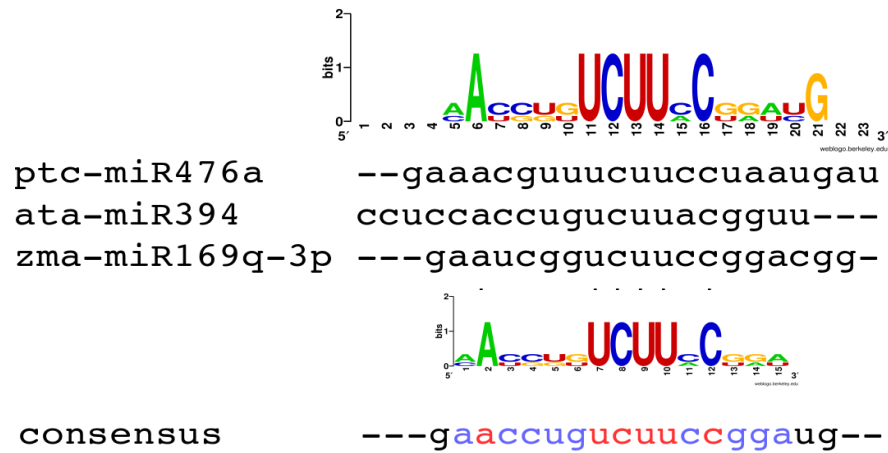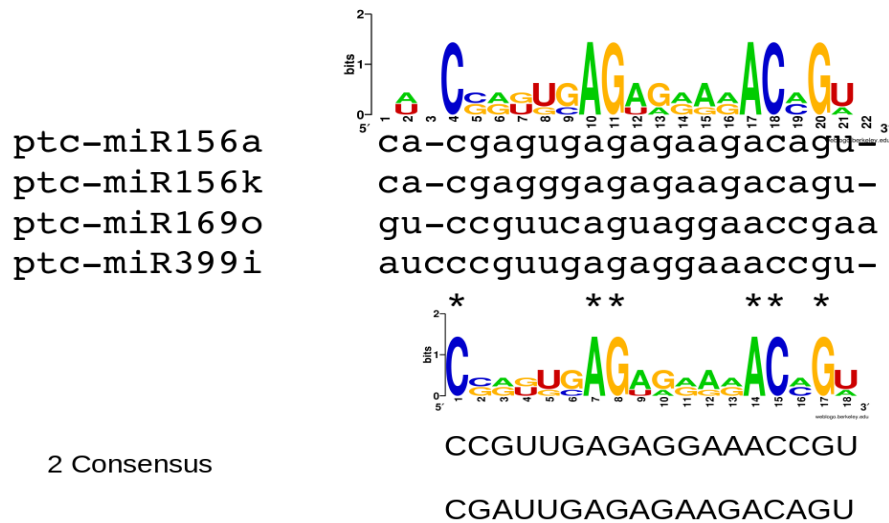**Fig. S3.** Numbers of computational study in target mimics research

Motif 4


```
ptc-miR476a        --gaaacguuucuuccuaaugau
ata-miR394         ccuccaccugucuuacgguu---
zma-miR169q-3p     ---gaaucggucuuccggacgg-
```



```
consensus          ---gaaccugucuuccggaug--
```

Motif 5 (a and b)


```
ptc-miR156a        ca-cgagugagagaagacagu-
ptc-miR156k        ca-cgagggagagaagacagu-
ptc-miR169o        gu-ccguucaguaggaaccgaa
ptc-miR399i        aucccguugagaggaaaccgu-
                    *         **      **  *
```



```
2 Consensus        CCGUUGAGAGGAAACCGU

                   CGAUUGAGAGAAGACAGU
```

Motif 6


```
ath-miR390a        --acuu---ugaguccuaccuaucgc
ata-miR395c        --acuucacuaaacuccucuug----
ptc-miR6459b       cuagcu---uaaacccgaacucu---
                    *    *    *.*.   *    . *
```
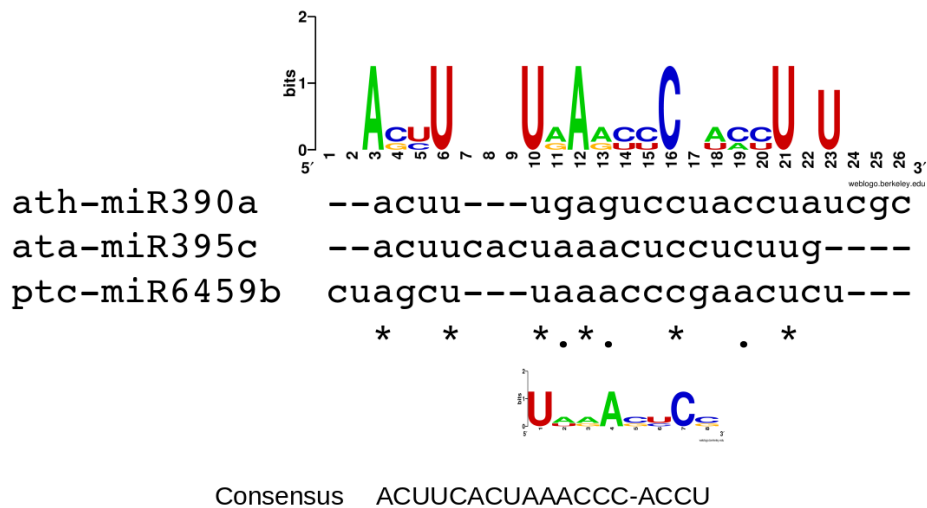


```
Consensus    ACUUCACUAAACCC-ACCU
```

Fig. S4. MRE results from TM Motifs 4 to 6 consensus analysis