

Dormancy and Chilling research notes

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[Epigenetic silencing of callose synthase by VIL1 promotes bud-growth transition in lily bulbs](#)

Authors

Methylation / Callose / Myosin / FT / FLC / VIL1 / PRC2 / H3K27me3 / H3K9ac / CALS3 / NFYA7 / HDA13 / HDA14 /

Study system: *Lilium* 'Siberia'

CHILLING (LTCT): 4 degC

WARMING: 12 degC

DAYLENGTH: not mentioned

CHILL LENGTH OPTIMUM/MINIMUM: 8 weeks

- The overall model

- NFYA7 → VIL1-PRC2 → (H3K27me3) → CALS3 → growth transition
- VIL1-PRC2 → FLC → FT
- VIL1-PRC2 → H3K27me3
- HDA13/14 → H3K9ac
- HDA13/14 → NFYA7 → H3K27me3/H3K9ac

- Bud development

- Long term cold treatment (LTCT) for at least 8 weeks led to central bud development and emergence; treatment of 12 degC afterward led to floral meristem differentiation
 - Plasmodesmata closed in dormant buds but open in buds of bulbs exposed to LTCT for 8 weeks
 - Callose accumulation significantly higher in dormant buds
- Transcriptome revealed upregulation of genes involved in histone lysine methylation and glucan metabolism
- Treatment with myosin inhibitor BDM and callose biosynthesis inhibitor DDG led to acceleration of bud growth
 - Symplastic transport in the SAM was enhanced
- Treatment with myosin ATPase blocker NEM led to delayed bud growth
 - Symplastic transport in the SAM was decreased
- FT1 expression increased with extending LTCT

- LoVIL1

- VERNALIZATION INSENSITIVE-LIKE 1 (VIL1): [in Arabidopsis, involved in photoperiod detection and vernalization through master regulation of the FT repressors FLC and FLM](#), flowering loci
- Dormant buds hardly express VIL1, but LTCT induces expression specifically within SAM and leaf-scale primordia
- VIL1 silencing leads to delayed central bud growth and shorter buds in general
 - Also increased callose deposition at plasmodesmata
 - Decreased FT1 mRNA in the SAM
 - Sprouting and flowering time significantly delayed
- WT VIL1 therefore induces floral meristem development and increases FT1 expression

- Overexpression of VIL1 led to evergreen phenotypes that did not enter dormancy with very low plasmodesmata closure
- **LoVIL1 and LoCAL3**
 - CAL3: Callose synthase 3
 - High expression in the dormant SAM, decreasing expression when SAM entered a stage of active growth
 - Expression pattern is opposite of VIL1
 - VIL1 putatively represses CAL3 activity
 - VIL1 silencing led to upregulation of CAL3 expression
 - CAL3 silenced plants displayed significantly enhanced central bud elongation even after just 6 weeks of LTCT
 - Also led to a decrease in callose biosynthesis by 50% compared to WT
 - Accompanied by an upregulation in FT1 accumulation
- **LoNFYA7**
 - NFYA7: Nuclear Factor Y family subunit A7
 - MULTICOPY SUPPRESSOR OF IRA1 (MSI1): [needed for transition into flowering in Arabidopsis: the LOF mutant leads to proliferation of unfertilized ovules and endosperm tissue](#)
 - POLYCOMB REPRESSIVE COMPLEX 2 (PRC2): [epigenetic repressor of gene expression: heavily involved in the accumulation of H3K27me3](#)
 - VIL1-PRC2 also suppresses FLC expression, indirectly upregulating FT expression
 - Overexpression of VIL1 led to upregulation of trimethylation at H3K27 (H3K27me3)
 - VIL1 is a subunit of PRC2
 - Yeast-2-hybrid assay revealed NFYA7 as a candidate interactor with the VIL1-PRC2 complex
 - NFYA7 recruits PRC2 via recognizing and binding VIL1
 - High expression in dormant central buds, particularly SAM, and decreased after LTCT, the same as CAL3
 - NFYA7 silencing led to faster central bud, along with 33% decrease in callose accumulation at the plasmodesmata and also an increase in FT1 expression
 - NFYA7 therefore negatively regulates growth transition by increasing callose deposition
 - NFYA7 overexpression led to upregulation in CAL3 mRNA accumulation, and vice versa
 - NFYA7 directly binds to the promoter of CAL3 via CCAAT *cis*-elements (Cces)
 - If both NFYA7 and VIL1 are present, activity of the CAL3 promoter is significantly decreased
- **H3K27me3**
 - H3K27me3 was significantly enriched at the CAL3 locus under the presence of an NFYA binding site
 - VIL1 promoted H3K27me3 enrichment on the CAL3 locus in VIL1 overexpressed plants
 - NFYA7 alone can enrich H3K27me3, but co-overexpression of NFYA7 and VIL1 leads to a much larger enrichment
 - NFYA7 silencing, even in VIL1 overexpressing plants, significantly reduced H3K27me3 enrichment at the CAL3 locus, indicating the importance of VIL-PRC2 recruitment via NFYA7

- H3K9ac

- NFYAs are often associated with acetylation of H3K9 (H3K9ac) and compete with HISTONE DEACETYLASE (HDA13) in soybean (GmHDA13)
- NFYA7 silencing led to significant decrease in H3K9ac enrichment, while overexpression led to an increase in enrichment
 - Lily orthologue HDA14 competes against NFYA7 to regulate CALS3 expression through histone modification (methylation H3K27me3 or acetylation H3K9ac)

Chilling of Dormant Buds Hyperinduces FLOWERING LOCUS T and Recruits GA-Inducible 1,3-β-Glucanases to Reopen Signal Conduits and Release Dormancy in Populus

Authors

FT / Glucanase / GA / GA3ox / GA20ox / CO / CENL1 / DELLA / GID / GIP / Lipid bodies / GH17

Study system: *Populus tremula* × *tremuloides*

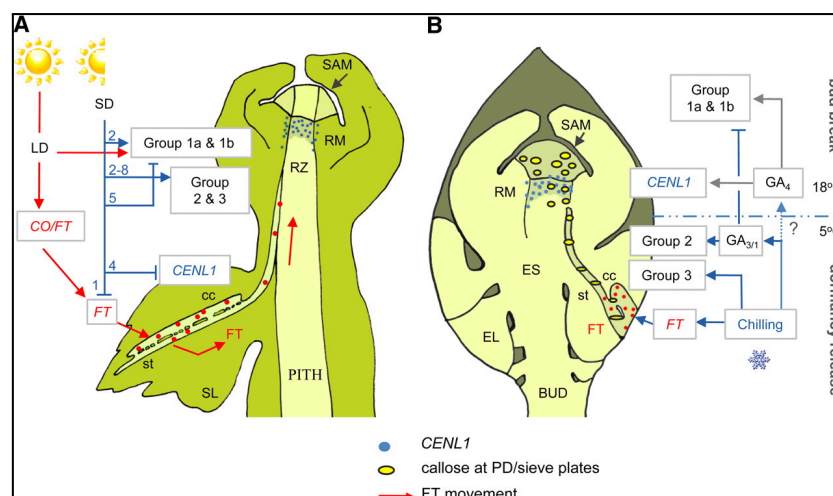
CHILLING: 5 degC

WARMING: 18 degC

DAYLENGTH: 10 hour SD / 18 hour LD

CHILL LENGTH OPTIMUM/MINIMUM: 6 weeks

- The overall model



- Chilling on primordia

- Six weeks of chilling optimal for bud burst, elongation, and leaf growth

- GA₃ and GA₄

- GA₄ induced canonical bud burst while GA₃ failed and instead led to callus-like growth at the leaf bases
- GA₄ induced shoots had smaller and paler leaves than those that were chilled, suggesting only partial substitution

- Transport in dormant buds

- Dormancy is enforced by blockages in the symplastic pathways in the phloem and shoot apex
- Chilled plants had symplasm blockages released
- GA₄ improved this transport capacity
- GA₃ led to no change in transport capacity compared to dormant plants

- **GH17 genes**

- GH17: 1,3- β -glucanases of the glucan hydrolase family 17
 - Glycosylphosphatidylinositol (GPI) anchor: a lipid anchor for cell-surface proteins that allows attachment of a protein to the lumen or extracellular surface
 - CBM43/X8 motif: a protein motif that enables callose binding
 - LB: lipid bodies
- Callose is characterized by glucan bonds of this 1,3- β class
- GH17 groups:
 - Group 1a: CBM43, sometimes GPI anchor, localized at the cell wall or plasmodesmata
 - Group 1b: GPI anchor, localized to plasmodesmata
 - Group 2: lipid-body associated proteins
 - Group 3: GPI anchor, localized at plasma membrane
- GA induction
 - GA₄ upregulated expression of 1a and 1b GH17s
 - GA₃ upregulated expression of Group 2 GH17s
 - Group 3 was not significantly affected by either GA application
- Chilling induction
 - Group 1a peaked at 0 weeks of chilling and decreased with chilling
 - Group 1b peaked at 2 weeks of chilling and decreased after
 - Group 2 peaked at 6 weeks of chilling, but declined right after, aligning with the finding that 6 weeks was optimal for inducing all 3 elements of dormancy release (budburst, elongation, leafing)
 - Group 3 peaked at 2 weeks of chilling
- Short days induction
 - Groups 1a and 1b peaked early on during short day treatment but declined with increasing short day condition length
 - Group 2 peaked later in SD (5 weeks) except for 1 (GH17_101)
 - Group 3 increased with longer short day conditions

- **GA biosynthesis and signalling**

- GA3ox1 and GA20ox8 are upregulated during chilling
- GA biosynthesis gene families have non-redundant functions in this dormancy mechanism
- GA2ox1, involved in GA deactivation, were upregulated near the end of chilling
- GID1 (GIBBERELLIN INSENSITIVE DWARF 1), a nuclear GA receptor, was upregulated during short day conditions
- GIP-like1 (GIBBERELLIN INDUCIBLE PROTEIN-like1) was downregulated during short days, but expression increased following warming if chilling was sufficient
- DELLA-like1 was downregulated during short days
 - DELLAs are GA signalling repressors
 - Longer than 6 weeks of chilling led to the upregulation of DELLA-like1

- **Flowering locus T (FT), CONSTANS, and CENL1**

- CONSTANS (CO): [a protein that induces floral meristem differentiation and photoperiod sensing](#), involved in short-day and long-day detection mechanisms
- CENTRORADIALIS-LIKE 1 (CENL1): [an orthologue of Arabidopsis TFL1, a regulator of floral development both temporally and physiologically; involved in transition into dormancy in *Populus*](#)

- FT protein is expressed in leaf vasculature and localizes to the shoot apex to facilitate elongation
 - Short days cause FT downregulation
 - Chilling induces rapid FT upregulation
 - Budburst leads to rapid FT downregulation
- Dormant buds have elevated CONSTANS (CO) expression after 2 weeks of chilling, after which it plateaus
 - CO expression further increased when plants are exposed to warm LD conditions after sufficient chilling (8 weeks here, not 6)
- CENL1: a *P. trichocarpa* orthologue of AtTFL1, encoding a signalling peptide that is FT-like
 - Localized at the rib meristem (RM) underneath the shoot apical meristem (SAM)
 - Chilling alone did not induce CENL1 expression; needed a period of warmth after sufficient chilling
 - Similar expression pattern to long day operating genes like GA biosynthetic GA20ox and GA3ox, GA inactivity GA2ox1, CO, DELLA-like1, and GIP-like1
 - CENL1 expression peaks just before bud burst, which occurs first in the lower lateral buds which also burst first
 - CENL1 therefore positively correlates with the event of budburst itself
 - GA₄ also induced CENL1 expression before budburst
- **GA₄ and lipid bodies**
 - After 5 days of GA₄ feeding, lipid bodies no longer aligned with the plasma membrane and plasmodesmata
 - Lipid bodies congregate at the SAM and RM during dormancy
 - All disappear after GA₄ exposure
 - Coincided with bud swelling
 - Typically, GH17-decorated lipid bodies localize to the cell wall/plasmodesmata; these GH17-LB aggregates are formed during short day conditions and chilling causes them to move to their targets
 - Consequently, reopening of the plasmodesmata via GA₄ application is likely not due to lipid bodies

[Temperature-dependent growth contributes to long-term cold sensing](#)

Authors

VIN3 / NTL8 / NTL14

Study system: *Arabidopsis thaliana*

CHILLING: 4 degC

WARMING: 20 degC

DAYLENGTH: 16/8 photoperiod for flowering

CHILL LENGTH OPTIMUM/MINIMUM: not mentioned, but VIN3 RNA increased linearly with cold duration (experiment stopped at 40 days ~6 weeks)

- **The overall model**
 - NTL8/14 → VIN3

- VIN3
- **NTL8/14**
 - VERNALIZATION INSENSITIVE 3 (VIN3): PHD protein involved in the PRC2 complex to silence FLC expression epigenetically
 - NAC TRANSMEMBRANE MOTIF1-LIKE 8 (NTL8): a NAC TF involved in various biological processes like salt signalling, trichome development, etc.
 - VIN3 overexpression mutants (VIN3 expression even during warmth) displayed premature termination of translation of NTL8 and dwarfism and leaf deformation
 - NTL8 lacking in the C-terminus putatively led to their constitutive activation
 - In the LOF *ntl8* mutant, VIN3 expression was not affected
 - The closest genetic relative NTL14 can induce VIN3 expression and the NTL8 overexpressing mutant also displays VIN3 constitutive expression
 - The *ntl8 ntl14* double mutant displayed significantly reduced VIN3 expression, even in the cold
 - *ntl8* LOF also displayed reduced silencing of FLC
 - NTL8 and NTL14 therefore represent two redundant members of the NAC TF family that are involved in cold induction of VIN3 and floral development
 - NTL8 overexpressing mutants did not display uniform upregulation of cold-stress response genes, indicating that specificity of NTL8-induced VIN3 upregulation for vernalization
- **Slow degradation of NTL8**
 - NTL8 isoforms have relatively short half-lives (2 days)
 - In warm conditions with rapid growth; dilution of NTL8
 - In cold conditions of slow growth or dormancy; accumulation of NTL8
- **Mathematical model**
 - NTL8 is stable over many weeks during the cold
 - Visualization of localization of NTL8 with GFP revealed accumulation in reduced growth and vice versa
 - Warm-induced new growth had low GFP signal; GFP was only strongly observed in the root tip and cells that were no longer actively growing

[EARLY BUD-BREAK 1 and EARLY BUD-BREAK 3 control resumption of poplar growth after winter dormancy](#)

Authors

EBB1 / EBB3 / SVL / FT / CYCD3.1 / AP2/ERF / H3K27me3 / ABA / GA / GA2ox1 / GA3ox2

Study system: *Populus tremula* × *P. alba*

CHILLING: 4 degC

WARMING: 20 degC light, 18 degC dark

DAYLENGTH: 8 hour SD / 16 hour LD

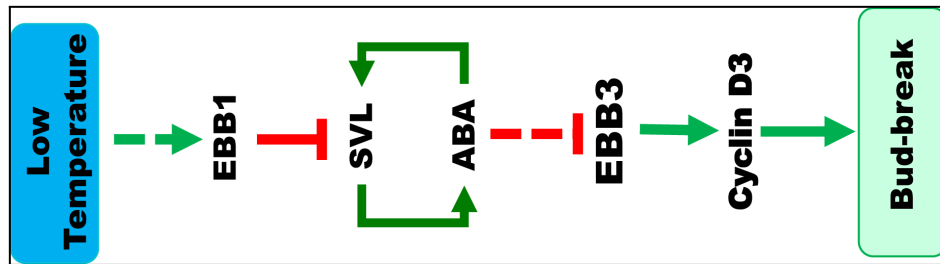
CHILL LENGTH OPTIMUM/MINIMUM:

- Dormancy induction: short days for 10 weeks
- Chilling: 5 weeks

- **The overall model**

- EBB1 \neg SVL \neg EBB3 \rightarrow CYCLIND3.1 \rightarrow bud cell proliferation

- EBB1 binds to GCC-box on SVL and represses
- SVL putatively downregulates EBB3 through ??? mechanism
- EBB3 binds to GCC-box on CYCD3.1



- **The *ebb3D* mutant displays early bud break phenotype**

- In this mutant, L34e-like and AP2/ERF-containing TF like PtERF113 are upregulated
 - L34e is a [ribosomal protein](#)
 - AP2 refers to APETALA2 and ERF is ethylene-response element (ERE) binding factor; the [AP2/ERF domain is a common component in proteins that bind to the GCC-box](#)
 - The GCC-box plays a role in [ethylene and jasmonate response](#)

- **EBB3 is PtERF113**

- Overexpression \rightarrow early budbreak; Suppression \rightarrow delay
 - WT function is therefore to initiate budbreak
- Strong expression in active apical meristem
 - Expression is downregulated during entry into dormancy
 - Highly upregulated during the winter and spring, suggesting positive signalling through low temperatures
 - Expression peaks just before budbreak in spring but downregulated shortly after
- Trimethylations are sensitive to low temps in peach and pear
 - Particularly at H3K27 (H3K27me3)
 - Low temperature induced demethylation at H3K27
 - Temporal correlation between release from trimethylation and EBB3 upregulation indicates that methylation is responsible for suppression of its expression in warmth

- **EBB1 and SVL**

- EBB1: AP2/ERF TF
- SVL: SHORT VEGETATIVE PHASE-LIKE protein; a repressor of FLOWERING LOCUS T (FT)
 - SVL is upregulated during short day conditions and [binds to FT2 promoter as a transcription repressor](#)
 - [FT2 induces shoot elongation during long days](#)
 - FT2 downregulation induces growth cessation and bud set
 - FT2 also upregulates 13-hydroxylation pathway in GA biosynthesis and also regulates the expression of some GA biosynthesis genes like GA2ox1 and GA3ox2
 - SVL Decreases bioactive GA concentration
- Consequently SVL accelerates growth cessation and bud set
- EBB1 upregulated during low temperatures but downregulated during short days

- After low temp, warmth and long days further upregulate EBB1 expression, i.e. budbreak conditions
- SVL expression is the exact opposite of EBB1
- EBB1 likely acts upstream of SVL as a negative regulator
- SVL contains a GCC-box that the AP2/ERF domain in EBB1 can bind to
 - EBB1 directly binds to the SVL promoter at the GCC-box
- **EBB3 is downregulated in the SVL overexpression mutant**
 - Suggesting its placement downstream of SVL
 - EBB1 is therefore upstream of SVL and EBB3
- **Role of ABA**
 - ABA upregulates SVL and SVL reciprocally upregulates ABA biosynthesis genes
 - ABA downregulates EBB3 expression
 - EBB3 is not responsive to increasing GA; that is, the upregulation of EBB3 in the ABA biosynthetic LOF mutant is not through increased GA but specifically reduced ABA
- **CYCLIND3.1**
 - the only statistically significantly downregulated gene in EBB3 knockdown plants
 - CYCD3.1 is the key driver of progression past the G1/S checkpoint in mitosis and its expression correlates strongly with bud reactivation during budbreak
 - CYCD3.1 is upregulated in EBB3 overexpression mutants; CYCD3.1 is downstream of EBB3
 - CYCD3.1 bears a GCC-box with which EBB3 can bind to as a direct target

[Cold-induced Arabidopsis FRIGIDA nuclear condensates for FLC repression](#)

Authors

FLC / FRIGIDA / COOLAIR / H3K27me3 / H3K36me3

Study system: *Arabidopsis thaliana*

CHILLING: 5 degC, 8/16 light/dark photoperiod

WARMING: 20 degC, 16/8 light/dark photoperiod

DAYLENGTH: 8 hour SD / 16 hour LD

CHILL LENGTH OPTIMUM/MINIMUM: 2 weeks (4 weeks was also used for supplementary figures, but 2 weeks just showed even further repression of FLC)

- **The overall model**
 - Cold → COOLAIR → FRIGIDA → FLC
 - Cold –| FRIGIDA activity → FLC
- **FRIGIDA**
 - [A protein needed for flowering in Arabidopsis, associated with vernalization](#)
 - Forms nuclear condensates under cold conditions
 - Nuclear condensates accumulate both in size and number, but are delocalized away from the FLC locus
 - Warmth leads to rapid dissociation of FRIGIDA nuclear condensates which then localize around FLC locus
 - FLC transcription is thus enabled under warm conditions, initiating the reproductive phase

- **COOLAIR**

- [Heterochromatin region at near the terminus of the FLC locus](#)
- [Produces long non-coding RNA in the antisense form of the FLC open reading frame](#)
- Inducible by small RNA
- Increasing trimethylation at H3K27 (H3K27me3) leads to further repression of FLC expression, opposite occurs when H3K36me3 is decreased (i.e. stronger trimethylation at H3K36 leads to higher FLC expression)
- H3K36me3 is deposited during cold-induced, FRIGIDA-mediated transcription of FLC