1 Mechanistic Insights of High Temperature-Interfered

2 Meiosis in Autotetraploid Arabidopsis thaliana

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18 Abstract

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20 Environmental temperature has a huge impact on multiple meiosis processes in flowering 21 plants. Polyploid plants derived from whole genome duplication are believed to have an 22 enhanced abiotic stress tolerance. In this study, the impact of high temperatures on male 23 meiosis in autotetraploid Arabidopsis thaliana was investigated. We found that autotetraploid 24 Columbia (Col-0) plants generate a subpopulation of aberrant meiotic products under normal 25 temperature, which is significantly increased under heat stress. Cytological studies revealed 26 that, as the case in diploid Arabidopsis thaliana, assembly of microtubular cytoskeleton 27 network, pairing and segregation of homologous chromosomes, and meiotic recombination in autotetraploid Arabidopsis are compromised under the high temperatures. Immunostaining of 28 29 xH2A.X and recombinase DMC1 suggested that heat stress inhibits formation of DNA 30 double-strand breaks; additionally, it specifically destabilizes ASY1 and ASY4, but not SYN1 31 on chromosomes. The loading defects of ASY1 and ASY4 overlap in the syn1 mutant, which 32 supports that the building of lateral element of synaptonemal complex occurs downstream of 33 a SYN1-ASY4-ASY3 stepwise assembly of axis. Remarkably, heat-induced abnormalities of 34 ASY1 and ASY4 co-localize on chromosomes of both diploid and autotetraploid Arabidopsis, 35 suggesting that high temperatures interfere with ASY1-associated SC via an impacted stability of chromosome axis. Furthermore, ZYP1-dependent transverse filament of SC is 36 disrupted by heat stress. Taken together, these findings suggest that polyploidization 37 38 negatively contributes to instability of chromosome axis and meiotic recombination in 39 Arabidopsis thaliana under heat stress.

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41 Keywords

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43 Heat stress; chromosome segregation; meiotic recombination; DSB; chromosome axis;
44 synapsis; autotetraploid

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46 Introduction

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Meiosis is a specialized type of cell division that, in plants, occurs in pollen mother cells 48 49 (PMCs) and/or megasporocytes giving rise to gametes with halved ploidy. At early stages of 50 meiosis, meiotic recombination (MR) takes place between homologous chromosomes to drive 51 exchange of genetic information via formation of crossovers (COs). MR results in novel 52 combination of genetic alleles among progenies, which enables natural selection can happen 53 in the population, and safeguards balanced segregation of homologous chromosomes that is 54 vital for production of viable gametes and fertility (Wang and Copenhaver, 2018). MR is 55 initiated by the generation of DNA double-strand breaks (DSBs), which are catalyzed by 56 SPO11, a type-II topoisomerase (topoisomerase VI, subunit A) conserved among eukaryotes 57 (Bergerat et al., 1997; Da Ines et al., 2020; Grelon et al., 2001; Stacey et al., 2006). In 58 Arabidopsis, SPO11-1 and SPO11-2 are required for MR, while SPO11-3 plays a role in endoreduplication (Grelon et al., 2001; Hartung et al., 2007; Stacey et al., 2006; 59 60 Sugimoto-Shirasu et al., 2002; Yin et al., 2002). Plants with defective DSB formation exhibit impaired homolog synapsis and recombination, and are male sterile due to mis-segregation of 61 62 chromosomes (Da Ines et al., 2020; De Muyt et al., 2007; Grelon et al., 2001; Stacey et al., 63 2006; Xue et al., 2018). DSBs are subsequently processed by recombinases RAD51, which 64 repairs DSBs using sister chromatids as a template that leads to non-crossovers (NCOs); or 65 DMC1, which drives MR-specific DSB repair (Da Ines et al., 2013; Klimyuk and Jones, 1997; 66 Kobayashi et al., 2019; Li et al., 2004; Pohl and Nickoloff, 2008; Sanchez-Moran et al., 2007; 67 Singh et al., 2017; Su et al., 2017; Yao et al., 2020). RAD51 and DMC1 do not act 68 independently, with RAD51 functioning as an accessory factor of DMC1 in catalyzing MR (Cloud et al., 2012; Da Ines et al., 2013; Kurzbauer et al., 2012; Lan et al., 2020). There are 69 70 two types of COs, most of which (~85%) belong to type-I class catalyzed by ZMM proteins, 71 and are spaced on chromatin by interference (Higgins et al., 2004); while the other COs 72 (type-II) mediated by MUS81 are interference-insensitive (Berchowitz et al., 2007; 73 Hollingsworth and Brill, 2004).

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75 DSB formation and MR rely on a programmed building of chromosome axis. Meiotic-specific 76 cohesion protein AtREC8/SYN1 binds sister chromatids together and aids the chromosomes 77 to form a loop structure (Shahid, 2020; Zickler and Kleckner, 1999). It is proposed that DSBs 78 are formed at the basal region of the loops that are anchored to the ASY1-associated lateral 79 element of synaptonemal complex (SC) (Kim and Choi, 2019; Zickler and Kleckner, 1999). 80 The coiled-coil axis proteins ASY3 and ASY4 play a key role in organizing axis formation, 81 and mediates the connections between the SYN1-mediated chromosome axis and SC via the 82 interplay with ASY1 (Chambon et al., 2018; Ferdous et al., 2012; Osman et al., 2018).

83 Dysfunction of the axis components causes disrupted axis structure and reduced DSB formation, and consequently results in failed homolog synapsis and MR (Bai et al., 1999; Cai 84 et al., 2003; Chambon et al., 2018; Ferdous et al., 2012; Lambing et al., 2020b). SC formation 85 86 is essentially required for normal homolog synapsis and CO formation. ASY1 contributes to 87 CO formation via the DMC1-mediated MR pathway (Armstrong et al., 2002; Sanchez-Moran 88 et al., 2007). Meanwhile, ASY1 prevents the preferential occurrence of COs at distal regions 89 by antagonizing telomere-led recombination, and by maintaining CO interference along the 90 chromosomes (Lambing et al., 2020a). ZYP1 is a conserved transverse filament protein of SC 91 which is required for homolog synapsis (Barakate et al., 2014; Higgins et al., 2005; Wang et 92 al., 2010). Recent findings revealed that ZYP1-dependent SC formation is indispensable for maintenance of interference, by which ZYP1 restricts the number of type-I COs along the 93 94 chromosomes; moreover, the bias of CO rate between sexes is wiped when ZYP1 is knocked 95 out (Capilla-Pérez et al., 2021; France et al., 2021). Homologous chromosomes are separated 96 by the bipolar pulling of spindles at the end of meiosis I (MI); and after meiosis II (MII), 97 sister chromatids disjoin with each other, which leads to production of four isolated chromosome sets (Bhatt et al., 2001; Zamariola et al., 2014). In Arabidopsis, like other dicot 98 99 plants, meiotic cytokinesis takes place thereafter the completion of two rounds of 100 chromosome separation (De Storme and Geelen, 2013).

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102 Male meiosis in plants is sensitive to variations of environmental temperature (Bomblies et al., 2015; De Storme and Geelen, 2014; Liu et al., 2019; Lohani et al., 2019). In both dicots and 103 104 monocots, low temperatures predominantly affect cytokinesis by disturbing the formation of 105 phragmoplast, which thereby induces meiotic restitution and formation of unreduced gametes 106 (De Storme et al., 2012; Liu et al., 2018; Tang et al., 2011). In contrast, under high 107 temperatures, both chromosome dynamics and cytokinesis are prone to be impacted; 108 especially, the response of MR to heat stress is more complex (De Storme and Geelen, 2020; 109 Draeger and Moore, 2017; Lei et al., 2020; Mai et al., 2019; Ning et al., 2021; Wang et al., 110 2017). In Arabidopsis, a mild increase of temperature (28°C) positively affects type-I CO rate 111 by enhancing the activity of ZMM proteins without impacting DSB formation (Lloyd et al., 2018; Modliszewski et al., 2018). Under a higher temperature (32°C), however, the rate and 112 113 distribution of COs are altered (De Storme and Geelen, 2020). Moreover, at extreme high 114 temperatures (36-38°C) over the fertile threshold of Arabidopsis, occurrence of COs is fully 115 suppressed due to inhibited DSBs generation and impaired homolog synapsis; additionally, the microtubular cytoskeleton-based chromosome segregation is disrupted (Lei et al., 2020; 116 117 Ning et al., 2021). Environmental temperatures therefore may manipulate genomic diversity, 118 and/or influence ploidy consistency of plants over generations by impacting male meiosis 119 during microsporogenesis (Bomblies et al., 2015; Lohani et al., 2019).

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Most higher plants, especially for angiosperms, have experienced at least one episode of whole genome duplication (WGD) event, which is considered an important force driving speciation, diversification, and domestication (Del Pozo and Ramirez-Parra, 2015; Dubcovsky and Dvorak, 2007; Leitch and Leitch, 2008; Ren et al., 2018; Soltis et al., 2015). Polyploids are classified into autopolyploids and allopolyploids, which originate from intraspecies WGD events, or arise from multiple evolutionary lineages through the 127 combination of differentiated genomes, respectively (Bretagnolle and Thompson, 1995; Jackson and Chen, 2010; Parisod et al., 2010; Ramsey and Schemske, 1998; Soltis and Soltis, 128 129 2009). In autotetraploid plants, four intraspecies-homologues usually undergo randomly 130 separation at anaphase I; this is different as allotetraploids, in which subgenomes tend to 131 segregate independently due to CO formation between the genetically-closer pairs of 132 homologues (Ramsey and Schemske, 2002; Stift et al., 2008). It is believed that the increased 133 sets of homologous chromosomes contribute to genome flexibility and confer the plants with 134 enhanced tolerance to both endogenous genetic mutations, or exogenous environmental 135 stresses (Comai, 2005; Del Pozo and Ramirez-Parra, 2015; Rao et al., 2020; te Beest et al., 136 2012; Van de Peer et al., 2020; Wu et al., 2020). However, the multiple chromosome sets also challenge genome stability by impacting homolog pairing and balanced chromosome 137 138 segregation with associated reduced fertility or viability of plants (Comai, 2005; Otto, 2007; 139 Santos et al., 2003; Svačina et al., 2020; Yant et al., 2013). It is proposed that polyploids have 140 evolutionarily developed a moderate strategy that assures genome stability to a large scale by 141 early-stage homoeologous chromosome sorting, chromosome axis-mediated MR modification, and/or by sacrificing an acceptable reduction of CO formation (Bomblies et al., 2016; 142 143 Grandont et al., 2014; Lloyd and Bomblies, 2016; Morgan et al., 2020; Seear et al., 2020). 144 However, it remains not vet clear how male meiosis in polyploid plants responds to increased 145 environmental temperatures.

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147 In this study, we found that autotetraploid Col-0 plants incubated at 20°C produce a low but 148 consistently-detectable rate of abnormal meiotic products, suggesting that meiotic defects 149 naturally take place in autotetraploid Arabidopsis. We also showed that both the chromosome 150 dynamics and axis formation in the autotetraploid Arabidopsis plants are more sensitive to 151 high temperatures than that in diploid Arabidopsis, suggesting that a duplicated genome does 152 not confer a higher tolerance but instead increases chromosome instability in Arabidopsis 153 thaliana under thermal conditions. Remarkably, we provided evidence supporting that 154 ASY1-associated lateral element of SC formation relies on a SYN1-ASY4-ASY3 stepwise 155 assembly of chromosome axis, in which the stability of ASY4- and ASY3-mediated axis 156 bridges the impact of high temperature on SC organization. Overall, these findings provide 157 insights into how high temperatures affect male meiosis in autotetraploid Arabidopsis 158 thaliana.

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160 **Results**

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162 Heat stress increases meiotic defects in autotetraploid Arabidopsis thaliana

To reveal the impact of heat stress on male meiosis of autotetraploid *Arabidopsis thaliana*, we analyzed tetrad-staged PMCs in heat-stressed autotetraploid Col-0 plants by performing orcein staining (Fig. 1). First, fluorescence in situ hybridization (FISH) using a centromere-specific probe was applied in the autotetraploid Col-0 plants, which showed that somatic cells harbored twenty chromosomes representing that the plants were tetraploid (Supplement Fig. S1). In plants under control temperature, most PMCs (~95.46%) produced 170 tetrads that subsequently developed into normal-sized microspores with a single nucleus (Fig. 171 1A; B and E). Interestingly, a low proportion of polyads and/or unbalanced-tetrads was 172 consistently observed, which resulted in formation of microspores with varied sizes (Fig. 1A; 173 C, polyad, 3.67%; D, unbalanced-tetrad, 0.86%; F, microspores). These phenotypes suggested 174 that a minor frequency of meiotic defects naturally take place in autotetraploid Arabidopsis 175 thaliana. In plants stressed by 37°C, a significantly increased frequency (~92.49%) of 176 abnormal meiotic products was observed, in which unbalanced-triads, polyads and 177 unbalanced-tetrads occupied the highest proportions (Fig. 1A; M-O, unbalanced-triads, 178 29.02%; R and S, polyads, 26.42%; P and Q, unbalanced-tetrads, 26.17%). These figures, 179 together with the observed unbalanced-dyads that contained differently-numbered and/or -sized nuclei (Fig. 1A, G, I and J, 7.25%), indicated that chromosome segregation in MI 180 181 and/or II was interfered. Meanwhile, the occurrence of balanced-dyad and balanced-triad 182 represented an induction of meiotic restitution (Fig. 1A; H, balanced-dyad, 2.85%; K, 183 balanced-triad, 0.78%). The defective tetrad stage PMCs leaded to generation of aneuploid microspores at unicellular stage (Fig. 1T and U). Similar cellular alterations were observed in 184 autotetraploid Col-0 plants stressed by 32°C (Fig. 1A; V-Z). Moreover, we found that under 185 186 high temperatures, the flower buds with the same size as that in control occurring meiosis 187 and/or cytokinesis contained unicellular stage microspores, which hinted that the high 188 temperatures accelerated meiosis progressing (Supplement Fig. S2A-C).

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We next stained meiotic cell walls using aniline blue to examine the impact of high 190 191 temperatures on meiotic cytokinesis in autotetraploid Col-0 plants. In line with the analysis by 192 orcein staining, most tetrads in control plants showed a regular 'cross'-like cell wall 193 formation (Fig. 2A). Observation of polyad supported that meiotic defects naturally occurred 194 in the autotetraploid Arabidopsis (Fig. 2B). After incubation under 37°C, the autotetraploid 195 Col-0 plants showed defective meiotic cell wall formation including unbalanced-triads (Fig. 196 2C; Supplement Fig. S3F-I), polyad (Fig. 2D; Supplement Fig. S3K and L), 197 unbalanced-tetrads (Fig. 2E; Supplement Fig. S3E and J), unbalanced-dyad (Fig. 2F; 198 Supplement Fig. S3B-D), balanced-dyad (Fig. 2G; Supplement Fig. S3A) and balanced-triad 199 (Fig. 2H; Supplement Fig. S3E). These data demonstrated that heat stress interferes with one 200 or more meiosis processes; e.g. chromosome segregation and cytokinesis in autotetraploid 201 Arabidopsis thaliana.

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203 Microtubular cytoskeleton in autotetraploid Arabidopsis is abnormally assembled under 204 heat stress

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To address the cellular mechanism underlining heat-induced aberrant tetrad formation and
defective cytokinesis in autotetraploid Arabidopsis, we examined microtubular cytoskeleton
by performing immunostaining of a-tubulin (Fig. 3). In autotetraploid Col-0 plants incubated

209 at 20°C, formation of spindle was initiated at early metaphase I (Fig. 3A), and thereafter at

210 middle metaphase I, homologous chromosomes aligned at the cell plate when microtubule 211 arrays got attachment with the centromeres labeled by an anti-CENH3 antibody (Fig. 3B).

212 The monopolar pulling force from the spindle separated the homologous chromosomes at the

213 end of MI, and two spindles were formed at metaphase II to separate the sister chromatids 214 (Fig. 3C). At telophase II, mini-phragmoplast structures composed of radial microtubule 215 arrays (RMAs) were constructed between the four isolated nuclei (Fig. 3D). Notably, triad-216 and poly-like configurations together with the occurrence of mini-nucleus (Fig. 3E and F) 217 supported existence of meiotic defects in control autotetraploid Arabidopsis plants. After heat 218 treatment, we found that the metaphase I microtubule arrays did not display a typical spindle 219 configuration, which bond with randomly-distributed univalent chromosomes (Fig. 3G and H). 220 The univalents and the impaired spindle leaded to unbalanced segregation of homologous 221 chromosomes at interkinesis, which, meanwhile, showed irregular and sparse phragmoplast 222 formation (Fig. 3I). Disrupted spindles were also observed at metaphase II (Fig. 3J). These 223 alterations resulted in generation of unbalanced-tetrad and polyad with omitted and/or 224 abnormally-shaped RMAs between the adjacent and/or differently-sized nuclei (Fig. 3K and 225 L).

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Heat stress interferes with chromosome behaviors in autotetraploid *Arabidopsis thaliana*

229 Chromosome behaviors in meiocytes of autotetraploid Col-0 plants were analyzed using 230 4',6-diamidino-2-phenylindole (DAPI) staining. In control plants, homologous chromosomes 231 synapsed at pachytene (Fig. 4A). However, unpaired chromosomes were occasionally 232 observed indicating a pairing defect (Fig. 4B). Bridge- and thick rope-like structures implied irregular chromosome interactions (Fig. 4C and D, yellow and green arrows). At diakinesis 233 234 and metaphase I, most meiocytes showed existence of five tetravalents (Fig. 5E-G and I; 235 60.71%, n = 34). About 33.93% meiocytes showed a combination of bivalents and 236 tetravalents including PMCs containing four (21.43%, n = 12), three (8.93%, n = 5) and two 237 tetravalents (3.57%, n = 2) (Fig. 4H, J and K, red arrow). Additionally, we observed 238 meiocytes that harbored ten bivalents (Fig. 3L; 5.36%, n = 3). These suggested that synapsis 239 took place between four homologues or a couple of them, or occurred only between two 240 homologous chromosomes. Meanwhile, irregular connections hinted associations between 241 nonhomologous chromosomes (Fig. 4F, G and J, yellow arrows). After MI, most meiocytes 242 underwent balanced segregation of the four chromosome sets (Supplement Fig. S4A and D; 243 75%, n = 48), which resulted in generation of tetrads with four isolated nuclei each harboring 244 a halved chromosome number (Supplement Fig. S4G; 88.24%, n = 105). Unbalanced 245 separation of homologues with lagged chromosomes (Supplement Fig. S4B and C, E and F; 246 25%, n = 16) consequently leaded to defective tetrads (Supplement Fig. S4H-J; 11.76%, n =247 14).

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249 In autotetraploid Col-0 plants treated by 37°C, we observed bridge-like chromosome 250 structures at zygotene (Fig. 4M and N, yellow arrows); meanwhile, incomplete and/or 251 impaired pairing and synapsis were found on the pachytene chromosomes (Fig. 4O and P, 252 green arrows). These figures suggested that the high temperature induced abnormal 253 chromosome interactions and interfered with homolog synapsis. At diakinesis and metaphase 254 I, ~93.68% meiocytes showed twenty individual chromatids (Fig. 4Q-T, red arrow; n = 89), 255 which represented an omitted and/or suppressed CO formation that consequently resulted in 256 unbalanced chromosome segregation at anaphase I (98.08%, n = 51) and tetrad stage (97.67%, 257 n = 126) (Supplement Fig. S4K-T). Similarly, in autotetraploid Col-0 plants stressed under 258 32°C, failed and/or irregular chromosome pairing and synapsis were induced (Fig. 4U and V, green arrows); in the meantime, a combination of univalents, bivalents and multivalents 259 260 suggested that CO formation was compromised (Fig. 4W and X, red arrows) which leaded to 261 unbalanced chromosome segregation at MII (Supplement Fig. S4U-Y). Taken together, these 262 findings revealed that heat stress interferes with chromosome pairing and/or synapsis, and 263 segregation in autotetraploid Arabidopsis.

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High temperatures reduce abundance of HEI10 on diakinesis chromosomes

267 Increased temperature influences MR rate by modulating type-I CO formation in Arabidopsis 268 (Modliszewski et al., 2018). Univalents in heat-stressed autotetraploid Col-0 plants suggested 269 a reduced CO rate under the high temperatures. To this end, we quantified the number of 270 HEI10 that acts in type-I CO formation pathway in diakinesis-staged meiocytes of 271 autotetraploid Col-0 plants. The plants grown under control temperature showed ~18.10 272 HEI10 foci per mejocyte (Fig. 5A and B); by contrast, the abundance of HEI10 reduced to ~11.80 and ~0.56 per meiocyte in the plants stressed by 32°C and 37°C, respectively (Fig. 5A, 273 274 C and D), which suggested that the high temperatures significantly inhibited occurrence of 275 type-I class CO in the autotetraploid Col-0 plants.

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DSB formation in autotetraploid Arabidopsis is suppressed under high temperatures 278

279 Generation of DSB is crucial for CO formation (De Muyt et al., 2007; Hartung et al., 2007; 280 Kurzbauer et al., 2012). To test whether heat-induced reduction of CO was owing to a 281 compromised DSB formation, like in diploid Arabidopsis (Ning et al., 2021), we quantified 282 the number of xH2A.X, which specifically marks DSB sites, on zygotene chromosomes. 283 Under control temperature, an average of ~146.5 xH2A.X foci per meiocyte was detected (Fig. 284 6A and D). In plants stressed by 32°C and 37°C, however, the abundance of xH2A.X was 285 reduced to ~79.5 and ~84.8 per meiocyte, respectively (Fig. 6B-D), which indicated a significantly lowered DSB formation. In support of this, the number of DMC1 that 286 287 specifically catalyzes DSB repair for MR was reduced to ~39.4 and ~49.7 per meiocyte under 288 32°C and 37°C, respectively, which were much lowered compared with control (~142) (Fig. 289 6E-H). These data provided evidence that high temperatures impose a negative impact on 290 DSB formation in autotetraploid Arabidopsis.

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292 Heat stress destabilizes ASY1 and ASY4 accumulation on chromosomes

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To reveal the impact of high temperature on chromosome axis formation in autotetraploid 294 295 Arabidopsis, we analyzed loading of the main axis-associated components; i.e. SYN1, ASY1 296 and ASY4 proteins in heat-stressed autotetraploid Col-0 plants. Under control temperature, 297 linear SYN1 and ASY1 signals overlapped and were fully associated with the entire zygotene 298 chromosomes (Fig. 7A). At late pachytene, when homologous chromosomes synapsed, ASY1 299 were unloaded at some chromosome regions (Fig. 7B). After heat treatment, although that 300 some zygotene chromosomes showed uninfluenced accumulation of ASY1 (Fig. 7C and D; bioRxiv preprint doi: https://doi.org/10.1101/2021.05.05.442845; this version posted May 6, 2021. The copyright holder for this preprint (which was not certified by peer review) is the author/funder. All rights reserved. No reuse allowed without permission.

Supplement Fig. S5A, 19.55%; Supplement Fig. S6A), most zygotene and pachytene
chromosomes displayed dotted configuration of ASY1 (Fig. 7E and F, yellow arrows;
Supplement Fig. S5A, 80.45%; Supplement Fig. S6B-F), suggesting an impacted stability of
ASY1-associated axis. By contrast, no obvious alteration in SYN1 loading was observed in
heat-stressed meiocytes (Fig. 7C-F, I-K).

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307 On the other hand, early zygotene chromosomes in autotetraploid Col-0 displayed thin linear 308 ASY4 loading (Supplement Fig. S7A), which was extended to the whole chromosomes from 309 middle zygotene to middle pachytene (Fig. 7G and H; Supplement Fig. S7B and C). As the 310 progressing of MR, ASY4 signals showed disassociation with some chromosome regions from late pachytene (Supplement Fig. S7D), and were further unloaded at diplotene with 311 312 remaining dotted ASY4 foci on diakinesis-staged chromosomes (Supplement Fig. S7E-G). In 313 heat-stressed plants, a minor proportion of zygotene and pachytene chromosomes displayed 314 normal ASY4 accumulation (Fig. 7I; Supplement Fig. S5B, 19.85%; Supplement Fig. S7H 315 and I); on the contrary, a majority of zygotene- and pachytene-staged meiocytes showed dotted ASY4 foci (Fig. 7J and K, yellow arrows; Supplement Fig. S5B, 80.15%; Supplement 316 317 Fig. S7J and K). Punctate ASY4 signals also occurred on the univalent chromosomes 318 (Supplement Fig. S7L). These findings suggested that heat stress specifically destabilizes the 319 ASY1- and ASY4- but not SYN1-mediated chromosome axis.

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321 Overlapped abnormalities of ASY1 and ASY4 in the *syn1* mutant

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323 It was proposed that assembly of ASY1-associated lateral element of SC relies on a step-wise 324 formation of SYN1-ASY3-mediated chromosome axis, which is bridged by ASY4 (Chambon 325 et al., 2018; Ferdous et al., 2012; Lambing et al., 2020b). To consolidate the role of ASY4 in 326 mediating ASY1 assembly, we performed co-immunostaining of ASY1 and ASY4 in the syn1 327 mutant. At middle zygotene, when homologous chromosomes partially paired and synapsed, 328 ASY1 and ASY4 were fully assembled along the whole chromosomes in the diploid Col-0 329 plants (Fig. 8A). By contrast, incomplete and/or fragmented ASY1 and ASY4 configuration 330 were observed in zygotene and pachytene meiocytes of the syn1 mutant (Fig. 8B and C), which, in addition, overlapped (Fig. 8B and C). This supported the notion that 331 332 ASY1-associated SC assembly relies on ASY4-mediated axis formation, which in turn 333 depends on functional SYN1.

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Moreover, DSB formation is considered a downstream event of axis formation and occurs independently of SC assembly (Lambing et al., 2020b; Sanchez-Moran et al., 2007). To consolidate this model, we checked localization of ASY1 and ASY4 in the meiocytes of *spo11-1-1*, *rad51* and *dmc1* mutants. We did not detect any alteration in loading of ASY1 and/or ASY4 on chromosomes of these mutants (Fig. 8D, *spo11-1-1*; E, *rad51* and F, *dmc1*).

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341 Co-localization of abnormal ASY1 and ASY4 signals on chromosomes of heat-stressed
342 diploid and autotetraploid Arabidopsis

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344 Considering the similarities of defective ASY1 and ASY4 accumulation under heat stress, and

345 the upstream action of axis formation on SC assembly (Fig. 7E and F, J and K; Fig. 8B and C) (Ferdous et al., 2012; Lambing et al., 2020b; Ning et al., 2021), we hypothesized that heat 346 347 stress destabilizes ASY1-associated SC via impacted ASY4-mediated chromosome axis. To 348 this end, we conducted a combined staining of ASY1 and ASY4 in both the heat-stressed 349 diploid and autotetraploid Col-0 plants. Under control temperature, ASY1 and ASY4 350 co-localized on the entire chromosomes of diploid and autotetraploid Col-0 at early and 351 middle zygotene (Fig. 9A and D; Supplement Fig. S8A and B). ASY1 subsequently started to 352 be disassociated with the chromosomes from early to late pachytene, when ASY4 displayed 353 relatively stable linear configuration (Supplement Fig. S8C-E). Dotted ASY1 foci occurred at 354 diplotene, which became sparser at diakinesis representing a completed functioning of ASY1 in mediating homolog synapsis (Supplement Fig. S8F and G). ASY4, however, displayed a 355 356 slower unloading off the chromosomes, which supported its role in aiding the assembly of 357 ASY1 (Supplement Fig. S8F and G). Interestingly, in heat-stressed diploid and autotetraploid 358 Col-0 plants, incomplete and/or dotted ASY1 and ASY4 signals co-localized on the 359 chromosomes (Fig. 9B and C, E and F, yellow arrows). These observations favored the 360 hypothesis that heat stress destabilizes ASY1-associated SC via a compromised stability of 361 ASY4-mediated axis.

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363 Impaired ZYP1-dependent transverse filament under heat stress

365 Formation of ZYP1-dependent transverse filament (TF) of SC is required for homolog 366 synapsis (Barakate et al., 2014; Capilla-Pérez et al., 2021; France et al., 2021; Higgins et al., 367 2005; Wang et al., 2010). We analyzed ZYP1 assembly to examine the impact of heat stress 368 on the central element of SC in autotetraploid Col-0 plants. In control, ZYP1 proteins were 369 linearly and partially loaded at the central regions of paired homologous chromosomes from 370 zygotene (Fig. 10A), which were fully assembled at middle pachytene representing a matured 371 SC formation (Fig. 10B). As the disintegration of SC from late pachytene, ZYP1 proteins 372 were gradually disassociated with chromosomes (Fig. 10C). After heat treatment, dotted 373 and/or fragmented installation of ZYP1 on chromosomes were observed from early zygotene 374 to late pachytene (Fig. 10D-H, yellow arrow), indicating that assembly of transverse filament 375 of SC was impaired. Meanwhile, aggregated and/or enlarged ZYP1 foci implied pairing of 376 multiple chromosomes (Fig. 10D, G and H, blue arrows) (Morgan et al., 2017). Overall, these 377 figures suggested that heat stress disrupts the building of ZYP1-dependent transverse filament 378 of SC in autotetraploid Arabidopsis.

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380 Discussion

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WGD is a conserved phenomenon that contributes to genomic diversity and speciation in higher plants (Comai, 2005; Dubcovsky and Dvorak, 2007; Ren et al., 2018; te Beest et al., 2012; Van de Peer et al., 2020). Additional copies of genome, however, increase the complexity for homologous chromosomes to pair and synapse (Lloyd and Bomblies, 2016; Svačina et al., 2020; Yant et al., 2013). In our study, the autotetraploid Col-0 plants generate a low but consistently-detectable rate (~4.53%) of aberrant meiotic products under normal 388 temperature conditions (Fig. 1, 2 and 3), suggesting that meiotic alterations naturally occur in these autotetraploid Arabidopsis plants. The regularly formed spindle and phragmoplast 389 390 microtubule arrays in the autotetraploid Col-0 plants under control temperature (Fig. 3) 391 indicate that the meiotic defects are not caused by alterations in microtubular cytoskeleton 392 and cytokinesis, but are probably induced by the alterations in earlier meiosis processes, e.g. 393 improper chromosome behaviors with a resultant impacted CO formation. Chromosome 394 spreading analysis confirmed this which showed incomplete and/or irregular pairing and 395 synapsis at pachytene stage (Fig. 4B-D). The observation of regions of co-aligned, but 396 un-synapsed axes suggest that the synapsis defects are (or at least in part) independent of 397 defects in chromosome pairing (Capilla-Pérez et al., 2021; France et al., 2021). At the same time, we found that the autotetraploid Arabidopsis plants primarily generate diakinesis PMCs 398 399 that contain five tetravalents (Fig. 4). This phenotype supports the opinion that autotetraploid 400 plants, in contrast to allotetraploids, preferentially undergo synapsis between four 401 homologous chromosomes (Braz et al., 2021; Lloyd and Bomblies, 2016; Svačina et al., 402 2020). The unbalanced chromosome segregation at anaphase I could result from the 403 difficulties in multivalent resolving in the meiocytes with a mixed existence of tetravalents 404 and bivalents, as well as the ten bivalents (Yant et al., 2013). The autotetraploid Col-0 plants 405 that we used here was colchicine treatment-induced, which is very typical of newly formed 406 (neo)-autotetraploids that is believed to be less stable than the evolution-derived 407 autotetraploids; e.g. A. lyrate and A. arenosa (Henry et al., 2014; Lloyd and Bomblies, 2016; 408 Yant et al., 2013). Therefore, the meiotic defects we observed are probably the effects of 409 polyploidization without natural selection.

410

411 Under heat stress, as other plant species, the autotetraploid Col-0 plants exhibit a severe 412 organization of phragmoplast and RMAs at the end of meiosis (Fig. 3I, K and L), indicating 413 that microtubular cytoskeleton is a prominent targeted by high temperatures (De Storme and 414 Geelen, 2020; Lei et al., 2020; Mai et al., 2019; Wang et al., 2017). Nevertheless, 415 heat-induced polyad formation, and the disrupted RMA configuration could be a secondary 416 effort from the impaired spindle and/or a univalent-induced mis-segregation of chromatids at 417 MII, which normally occur in mutants with a defective MR (Bai et al., 1999; Shi et al., 2021; 418 Xue et al., 2019). Besides, in heat-stressed autotetraploid Arabidopsis, a high frequency of 419 univalents is induced and the abundance of HEI10 is lowered, indicating a largely suppressed 420 CO formation. Subsequent cytological analysis on key MR events suggested that the high 421 temperatures interfere with MR in the autotetraploid Arabidopsis plants probably by 422 impacting DSB formation, and by destabilizing chromosome axis and SC. Genome 423 duplication has been suggested to provide increased tolerance to environmental stresses (Folk 424 et al., 2020; Lourkisti et al., 2020; Rao et al., 2020). However, in contrast to the diploid 425 Arabidopsis Col-0 plants, we here showed that the neo-autotetraploid Col-0 generates a 426 higher frequency of aberrant meiotic products under high temperatures (Fig. 1; ~92.5% at 427 37°C) (Lei et al., 2020). Meanwhile, we recorded a higher rate of destabilized loading of ASY1 and ASY4 in the heat-stressed autotetraploid Col-0 plants (80.45% defective ASY1 and 428 429 80.15% defective ASY4 in autotetraploid Col-0) (Ning et al., 2021), which represents 430 enhanced sensitivity of axis and SC formation to increased temperature. These facts suggest 431 that meiosis programs, especially for axis organization and chromosome dynamics are more bioRxiv preprint doi: https://doi.org/10.1101/2021.05.05.442845; this version posted May 6, 2021. The copyright holder for this preprint (which was not certified by peer review) is the author/funder. All rights reserved. No reuse allowed without permission.

432 unstable under high temperatures in neo-tetraploid *Arabidopsis thaliana*.

433

434 The significantly reduced abundance of yH2A.X and DMC1 in autotetraploid Col-0 plants under high temperatures indicated an interfered DSB generation (Fig. 6). This phenomenon is 435 436 similar with what has been reported in the diploid Arabidopsis (Ning et al., 2021), which 437 suggests that a duplicated genome does not change the threshold of DSB formation system in 438 Arabidopsis thaliana. In Saccharomyces cerevisiae, DSB repair defect is more pronounced 439 under lower temperature (Pohl and Nickoloff, 2008). The negative impact of high 440 temperatures on DSB formation thus is likely conserved among eukaryotes. The attempt to 441 reveal how heat stress influences DSB formation has been tried by examining the expression of key DSB generation-involved factors in the diploid Arabidopsis, which showed that the 442 443 transcripts of neither SPO11-1 nor PRD1, 2 and 3 are sensitive to the increased temperature. 444 Therefore, heat stress induces DSB reduction not likely by impacting the DSB formation machineries at the mRNA levels. In multiple species, the activity of phosphatidylinositol 3 445 446 kinase-like (PI3K) protein kinase Ataxia-Telangiectasia Mutated (ATM), which undertakes a 447 conserved function in sensing DNA damage and subsequently evoking DSB repair events 448 (reviewed by (Paull, 2015)), is negatively correlated with DSB abundance (Carballo et al., 449 2013; Garcia et al., 2015; Joyce et al., 2011; Lange et al., 2011; Li and Yanowitz, 2019; 450 Mohibullah and Keeney, 2017; Zhang et al., 2011). A recent report in Arabidopsis suggested 451 that ATM limits DSB formation by restricting the accumulation of SPO11-1 on chromatin, 452 with the atm mutant having increased amount of SPO11-1 (Kurzbauer et al., 2021). 453 Supportively, the *atm* mutation increases the foci of recombinases RAD51 and DMC1; 454 meanwhile, it enhances the chromosome fragmentation in the *atcom1* mutant, which is 455 defective for DSB processing (Kurzbauer et al., 2021; Uanschou et al., 2007). We have 456 previously identified an elevated expression of ATM in heat-stressed diploid Arabidopsis 457 plants (Ning et al., 2021). Taken together, it is possible that high temperatures interfere with 458 DSB formation with associated induction of univalents by activating ATM. To this end, a 459 decreased SPO11-1 abundance should occur in heat-stressed wild-type plants, and the *atm* 460 mutant may exhibit higher DSB threshold to increased temperatures. Further examination on 461 SPO11 dynamics under increased temperature thus is of necessity to verify the hypothesis.

462

463 In both diploid and autotetraploid Arabidopsis, we observed an interfered configuration of 464 ASY1 and ASY4 on chromosomes (Fig. 7 and 9) (Ning et al., 2021). At the same time, fragmented and/or disrupted ZYP1 loading, and multilayer-SC structures occurs in both the 465 466 diploid and autotetraploid Arabidopsis under high temperatures (Fig. 10) (Loidl, 1989; 467 Morgan et al., 2017; Ning et al., 2021). These facts reveal that chromosome axis and SC are 468 the prominent targets by high temperatures that interfere with MR. In the syn1 mutant, the accumulation of ASY3 and ASY4 is compromised, which, however, is not the case conversely 469 470 (Fig. 8) (Chambon et al., 2018; Ferdous et al., 2012; Lambing et al., 2020b). Considering that 471 a linear configuration of ASY3 depends on a functional ASY4 (Chambon et al., 2018), it is 472 possible that SYN1, ASY4 and ASY3 act in a stepwise manner in mediating axis formation. 473 However, since it has been evidenced by BiFC and Y2H assays that a direct interaction exists 474 between ASY4 and ASY3 (Chambon et al., 2018), we cannot exclude the possibility that the 475 normal loading of ASY4 also relies on the existence of ASY3 on the chromatin. Furthermore,

476 it has been shown that ASY1 cannot be regularly loaded onto chromosomes in plants depleted 477 with any of the axis-associated factors, which, however, in other way round are not impacted in the asy1 mutant (Chambon et al., 2018; Chelysheva et al., 2005; Ferdous et al., 2012; 478 479 Lambing et al., 2020a; Lambing et al., 2020b). This supports the notion that the assembly of 480 SC occurs downstream of axis formation. In line with this, we observed a delayed unloading 481 of ASY4 than ASY1 at later prophase I chromosomes (Supplement Fig. S8). Interestingly, 482 heat-destabilized ASY1 and ASY4 signals occur at a very close frequency, which additionally 483 co-localize on the chromosomes in both diploid and tetraploid Arabidopsis (Fig. 9) (Ning et 484 al., 2021). The instability of lateral element of SC under high temperatures therefore is probably owing to an impacted axis formation. Since SYN1 keeps stable under the high 485 temperatures, it is plausible that heat stress specifically targets the ASY4 and/or 486 487 ASY3-mediated bridge structure that organizes and anchors the lateral element of SC to 488 chromosome axis. Whether the aggregated and/or dotted ASY1 and ASY4 loading are 489 somehow preferentially distributed at specific chromosome regions remain further 490 investigation.

491

492 Supplemental materials

493

494 The following files are available in the online version of this article.

- 495 Supplement Figure S1. FISH analysis of somatic cells in autotetraploid Col-0 plants.
- 496 Supplement Figure S2. Orcein staining of meiosis-staged flower buds in autotetraploid Col-0497 plants stressed by 32°C.
- 498 Supplement Figure S3. Meiotic cell wall formation in heat-stressed autotetraploid Col-0499 plants.
- 500 Supplement Figure S4. Meiotic spread of autotetraploid Col-0 plants.
- Supplement Figure S5. Quantification of meiocytes with immunostaining of ASY1 and ASY4in autotetraploid Col-0 plants.
- 503 Supplement Figure S6. Immunolocalization of ASY1 in meiocytes of autotetraploid Col-0504 plants.
- 505 Supplement Figure S7. Immunolocalization of ASY4 in meiocytes of autotetraploid Col-0506 plants.
- 507 Supplement Figure S8. Co-immunolocalization of ASY1 and ASY4 in meiocytes of 508 autotetraploid Col-0 plants.
- 509

510 Materials and methods

511

512 Plant materials and growth conditions

- 513
- Autotetraploid and diploid *Arabidopsis thaliana* Columbia-0 (Col-0) plants, and the *syn1-1*(SALK_137095), *rad51* (SAIL_873_C08), *spo11-1-1* (Grelon et al., 2001) and *dmc1*(SALK_056177) (Sanchez-Moran et al., 2007) mutants were used in the study. The
- 517 autotetraploid Col-0 plants were generated as reported (De Storme and Geelen, 2011). Seeds

were germinated in soil for 6-8 days and seedlings were transferred to soil and cultivated with a 16 h day/8 h night, 20°C, and 50% humidity condition. For temperature treatments, young flowering plants were transferred to a humid chamber with a 16 h day/8 h night and incubated at 32 and/or 37°C, respectively, for 24 h. All the treatment started from 8:00-10:00 AM. Meiosis-staged flower buds were fixed by carnoy's fixative or paraformaldehyde upon the finish of treatments.

524

525 Generation of antibodies

526

527 The anti-AtSYN1 antibodies were raised in rabbits by referring to (Bai et al., 1999); the 528 anti-AtASY1 antibodies were generated in rabbits and mouses, respectively, against the 529 amino acid sequence SKAGNTPISNKAQPAASRES of AtASY1 conjugated to KLH; the 530 anti-AtZYP1 antibody (rat) was generated against the amino acid sequence 531 GSKRSEHIRVRSDNDNVQD of AtZYP1 conjugated to KLH.

532

533 Immunolocalization of MR proteins and a-tubulin

534

535 Immunostaining of a-tubulin and MR proteins was performed as reported (Chelysheva et al., 536 2010; Liu et al., 2017; Wang et al., 2014). Antibodies against ZYP1 (rabbit and/or rat) (Ning et al., 2020), DMC1 (rabbit) (Ning et al., 2020) and yH2A.X (rabbit) (Lambing et al., 2020b) 537 538 were diluted by 1:100; antibodies against a-tubulin (rat) (Lei et al., 2020), ASY1 (rabbit 539 and/or mouse), ASY4 (rabbit) (Ning et al., 2020) and SYN1 (mouse) were diluted by 1:200; 540 antibody against CENH3 (rabbit) (Abcam, 72001) was diluted by 1:400; antibody against 541 SYN1 (rabbit) was diluted by 1:500. The secondary antibodies; i.e. Goat anti-Rabbit IgG 542 (H+L) Cross-Adsorbed Secondary Antibody Alexa Fluor 555 (Invitrogen, A32732), Goat 543 anti-Rabbit IgG (H+L) Highly Cross-Adsorbed Secondary Antibody Alexa Fluor Plus 488 544 (Invitrogen, A32731), Goat anti-Rat IgG (H+L) Cross-Adsorbed Secondary Antibody, Alexa Fluor 555 (Invitrogen, A21434), Goat anti-Rat IgG (H+L) Cross-Adsorbed Secondary 545 546 Antibody, Alexa Fluor 488 (Invitrogen, A11006) and Goat anti-Mouse IgG (H+L) Highly Cross-Adsorbed Secondary Antibody, Alexa Fluor Plus 488 (Invitrogen, A32723) were 547 548 diluted to 10 μ g/mL.

549

550 Cytology and fluorescence in situ hybridization

551

552 Meiotic chromosome behaviors were analyzed by performing chromosome spreading using 553 meiosis-staged flower buds fixed at least 24 h by carnoy's fixative. Flower buds were washed 554 twice by distilled water and once in citrate buffer (10 mM, pH = 4.5), and were incubated in 555 digestion enzyme mixture (0.3% pectolyase, 0.3% cellulase and 0.3% cytohelicase) in citrate buffer (10 mM, pH = 4.5) at 37° C in a moisture chamber for 2.5-3.5 h. Subsequently, 6-8 556 digested buds were washed in distilled water, and were transferred to a glass slide squashed in 557 558 a small amount (4-5 μ L) of distilled water followed by adding two rounds of 10 μ L precooled 559 60% acetic acid. The samples were stirred gently on a hotplate at 45° C for 1-2 min, which 560 thereafter was flooded with precooled carnoy's fixative. The slides were subsequently air 561 dried for 10 min, and were stained by adding 8 µL DAPI (10 µg/mL) in Vectashield antifade mounting medium, mounted with a coverslip, and sealed by nail polish. Tetrad analysis by
orcein and/or aniline blue staining was performed by referring to (Lei et al., 2020; Ning et al.,
2021). FISH assay was performed by referring to (Lei et al., 2020).

565

566 Microscopy and quantification of fluorescent foci

567

Bright-field images and DAPI-stained meiotic chromosomes were pictured using a M-Shot
ML31 microscope equipped with a MS60 camera. Aniline blue staining of meiotic cell walls,
and immunolocalization of a-tubulin and MR-related proteins were analyzed on an Olympus
IX83 inverted fluorescence microscope equipped with a X-Cite lamp and a Prime BSI camera.
Image processing and quantification of fluorescent foci were conducted as previously
reported (Ning et al., 2021).

574

575 Author contribution

576

H.Q.F. performed most of the experiments; K.Y., X.H.Z. and J.Y.Z. performed meiotic spread
analysis; E.I.E. performed FISH experiment; H.L., J.X., C.L.C. and G.H.Y. contributed to
data analysis; C.W. analyzed xH2A.X and DMC1 foci; B.L. conceived the project, analyzed
data, and wrote the manuscript.

581

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592

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602 Interest of conflict

- 603
- All the authors declared that there is no conflict of interest in this work.
- 605

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Figure 1. Tetrad analysis in heat-stressed autotetraploid Col-0 plants. A, Graph showing the frequency of tetrad-staged meiotic products in autotetraploid Col-0 plants incubated under 20°C, 32°C and 37°C, respectively. The numbers indicate the frequency of different types of tetrad-staged meiocytes. B-F, Tetrad-staged PMCs (B-D) and unicellular-staged microspores (E and F) of autotetraploid Col-0 plants grown under 20°C. G-U, Tetrad-staged PMCs (G-S) and unicellular-staged microspores (T and U) of autotetraploid Col-0 plants stressed by 37°C. V-Z, Tetrad-staged PMCs from autotetraploid Col-0 plants stressed by 32°C. Scale bar = 10 μ m.



Figure 2. Meiotic cell wall formation in heat-stressed autotetraploid Col-0 plants. A-H, Aniline blue-stained callosic cell walls in autotetraploid Col-0 plants incubated under control (A and B) and high temperature (C-H). Scale bars = $10 \mu m$.



Figure 3. Microtubular cytoskeleton in meiocytes of autotetraploid Col-0 plants. A-F, Metaphase I- (A and B), metaphase II- (C) and telophase II-staged (D-F) PMCs in autotetraploid Col-0 plants under control temperature. G-L, Metaphase I- (G and H), interkinesis- (I), metaphase II- (J) and telophase II-staged (K and L) PMCs in autotetraploid Col-0 plants under high temperature. White, DAPI; green, a-tubulin; red, CENH3. Scale bar = $10 \mu m$.



Figure 4. Chromosome behaviors in meiocytes of autotetraploid Col-0 plants. A-L, Chromosome spreading of Pachytene- (A-D), diakinesis- (E-H) and metaphase I-staged (I-L) meiocytes in autotetraploid Col-0 plants grown under control temperature. M-T, Chromosome spreading of zygotene- (M and N), pachytene- (O and P), diakinesis- (Q) and metaphase I-staged (R-T) meiocytes in autotetraploid Col-0 plants stressed by 37°C. U-X, Chromosome spreading of pachytene- (U and V),

diakinesis- (W) and metaphase I-staged (X) meiocytes in autotetraploid Col-0 plants stressed by 32° C. Green arrows indicate incomplete and/or abnormal pairing of chromosomes; yellow arrows indicate abnormal chromosome interactions; and red arrows indicate bivalents, univalents and/or lagged chromosomes. Scale bars = 10 μ m.

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Figure 5. Localization of HEI10 on diakinesis chromosomes in autotetraploid Col-0 plants. A, Graph showing the number of HEI10 foci per diakinesis-staged meiocyte. One-way ANOVA test was performed, and the significance level was set as P < 0.05. *** indicates P < 0.0001. B-D, Immunolocalization of HEI10 on diakinesis chromosomes of autotetraploid Col-0 plants incubated under 20°C (B), 32°C (C) and 37°C (D), respectively. The yellow stars indicate non-specific foci to HEI10. Scale bar = 10 µm.



Figure 6. Heat stress reduces abundance of xH2A.X and DMC1 on zygotene chromosomes. A-C, Immunolocalization of xH2A.X on zygotene chromosomes of autotetraploid Col-0 plants under 20°C (A), 32°C (B) and 37°C (C), respectively. D, Graph showing the number of xH2A.X foci per meiocyte in autotetraploid Col-0 plants under 20°C, 32°C and 37°C. E-G, Immunolocalization of DMC1 on zygotene chromosomes of autotetraploid Col-0 plants under 20°C (E), 32°C (F) and 37°C (G), respectively. H, Graph showing the number of DMC1 foci per meiocyte in autotetraploid Col-0 plants under 20°C, 32°C and 37°C. One-way ANOVA test was performed, and the significance level was set as P < 0.05. *** indicates P < 0.001; ns indicates P > 0.05. Scale bars = 10 µm.



Figure 7. Immunostaining of chromosome axis components in meiocytes of autotetraploid Col-0 plants. A and B, Co-immunostaining of SYN1 and ASY1 on zygotene (A) and pachytene (B) chromosomes in control plants. C-F, Co-immunostaining of SYN1 and ASY1 on zygotene (C-E) and pachytene (F) chromosomes in heat-stressed plants. G and H, Co-immunostaining of SYN1 and ASY4 on zygotene (G) and pachytene (H) chromosomes in control plants. I-K, Co-immunostaining of SYN1 and ASY4 on zygotene (I and J) and pachytene (K) chromosomes in heat-stressed plants. Yellow arrows indicate dotted ASY1 and ASY4 foci. Scale bars = 10 µm.

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Figure 8. Immunostaining of ASY1 and ASY4 in meiocytes of diploid *Arabidopsis thaliana* plants. A-F, Immunolocalization of ASY1 and ASY4 on prophase I chromosomes of diploid Col-0 plants (A), and the *syn1* (B and C), *spo11-1-1* (D), *rad51* (E) and *dmc1* (F) mutants. Scale bar = $10 \mu m$.



Figure 9. Co-localization of ASY1 and ASY4 in heat-stressed diploid and autotetraploid Col-0 plants. A and D, Zygotene-staged meiocytes in diploid (A) and autotetraploid (D) Col-0 plants grown under control temperature. B and C, Zygotene- (B) and pachytene-staged (C) meiocytes in heat-stressed diploid Col-0 plants. E and F, Zygotene- (E) and pachytene-staged (F) meiocytes in heat-stressed autotetraploid Col-0 plants. Yellow arrows indicate co-localization of dotted ASY1 and ASY4 foci.

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Scale bars = $10 \ \mu m$.



Figure 10. Immunolocalization of SYN1 and ZYP1 in meiocytes of autotetraploid Col-0 plants. A-C, Zygotene- (A), middle pachytene- (B) and late pachytene-staged (C) meiocytes in control plants. D-H, Early zygotene- (D), middle zygotene- (E), late zygotene- (F), middle pachytene- (G) and late pachytene-staged (H) meiocytes in heat-stress plants. Yellow arrow indicates fragmented ZYP1 signals. Blue arrows indicate aggregated and/or enlarged ZYP1 foci. Scale bar = $10 \mu m$.

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