

1 **Genome-Wide Mining, Characterization and Development of** 2 **miRNA-SSRs in *Arabidopsis thaliana***

3 Anuj Kumar^{1,2}, Aditi Chauhan¹, Sai Kumar Kompelli², Vijay Gahlaut³, Johny Ijaq², Krishna
4 Pal Singh¹, MNV Prasad Gajula⁴, Prashanth Suravajhala^{2,5,6}, AK Mishra⁷, Harindra Singh
5 Balyan², and Pushpendra Kumar Gupta²

6 1. Advance Centre for Computational and Applied Biotechnology, Uttarakhand Council for
7 Biotechnology (UCB), Dehradun-248007, India
8 2. Bioclues.org, Kukatpally, Hyderabad 500072, Telangana, India
9 3. Molecular Biology Laboratory, Department of Genetics & Plant Breeding, Ch. Charan
10 Singh University, Meerut-250004, India
11 4. Institute of Biotechnology, PJTSAU, Rajendra Nagar, Hyderabad-500030, India
12 5. Bioinformatics Organization, 28 Pope st, Hudson, MA 01749, USA
13 6. Department of Biotechnology and Bioinformatics, Birla Institute of Scientific Research,
14 Statue Circle, 302001, RJ, India
15 7. Indian Agriculture Research Institute, Pusa, New Delhi

16 **Corresponding authors:**

17 Anuj Kumar, anujbioinfo91@gmail.com
18

19 **Abstract**

20 Simple Sequence Repeats (SSRs), also known as microsatellites are short tandem repeats of
21 DNA sequences that are 1-6 bp long. In plants, SSRs serve as a source of important class of
22 molecular markers because of their hypervariable and co-dominant nature, making them
23 useful both for the genetic studies and marker-assisted breeding. The SSRs are widespread
24 throughout the genome of an organism, so that a large number of SSR datasets are available,
25 most of them from either protein-coding regions or untranslated regions. It is only recently,
26 that their occurrence within microRNAs (miRNA) genes has received attention. As is widely
27 known, miRNA themselves are a class of non-coding RNAs (ncRNAs) with varying length of
28 19-22 nucleotides (nts), which play an important role in regulating gene expression in plants
29 under different biotic and abiotic stresses (Gupta et al., 2015, and references therein). In this
30 communication, we describe the results of a study, where miRNA-SSRs in full length pre-
31 miRNA sequences of *Arabidopsis thaliana* were mined. The sequences were retrieved by
32 annotations available at EnsemblPlants using BatchPrimer3 server with miRNA-SSR
33 flanking primers found to be well distributed. Our analysis shows that miRNA-SSRs are
34 relatively rare in protein-coding regions but abundant in non-coding region. All the observed
35 147 di-, tri-, tetra-, penta- and hexanucleotide SSRs were located in non-coding regions of all
36 the 5 chromosomes of *A. thaliana*. While we confirm that miRNA-SSRs were commonly

37 spread across the full length pre-miRNAs, we envisage that such studies would allow us to
38 identify newly discovered markers for breeding studies.

39

40 **Keywords:** MicroRNA, miRNA-SSRs, Genome-wide identification studies, noncoding
41 RNAs, gene expression

42

43 **1. Introduction**

44 MicroRNAs (miRNA) represent a class of non-coding RNA (ncRNA) with varying length of
45 19-22 nucleotides (nts) (Bartel, 2004). These miRNAs are endogenous in origin, and are found
46 to play a major role in regulating the gene expressions in plants, fungi and animals, with bulk
47 of the sequences linked to transcription factors (Bartel and Bartel, 2003). The miRNA are
48 involved regulation of genes implicated in different processes including the following: (i)
49 response to different biotic and abiotic stresses (Khraiwesh et al. 2012; Kompelli et al. 2015);
50 (ii) different development and protein degradation processes (Eldem et al., 2012), (iii) pathogen
51 invasion, signal transduction etc. (Jones-Rhoades et al. 2006; Jung et al. 2009).

52 Simple Sequence Repeats (SSRs), also known as microsatellites are short tandem
53 repeats of DNA sequences that are 1-6 bp long (Gupta et al. 1996; Chen et al. 2009). The SSRs
54 are found both in prokaryotic and eukaryotic genomes (Toth et al. 2000; Katti et al. 2001).
55 SSRs are co-dominant, and multi-allelic by nature and due to constant variation in the number
56 of tandem repeats; they are known to be, robust, highly polymorphic (Brandstrom et al. 2008,
57 Heesacker et al. 2008), locus-specific and co-dominant, thus becoming the markers of choice.
58 (Gupta et al. 1996; Ni et al. 2002; Lightfoot and Iqbal, 2013; Senan et al. 2014; Wang et
59 al. 2015). Previous reports show that SSRs are selectively neutral and are randomly distributed
60 in the eukaryotic genome (Schlotterer, 2000; Schlotterer, 2004). Although many of them are
61 found in protein coding (Madsen et al., 2000), non-coding (Riley and Krieger, 2009a, 2009b) or
62 untranslated regions (Mondal and Ganie, 2015) of plant genome, mainstream SSRs are
63 regularly found in non-coding regions and relatively rare in protein coding regions (Madsen et
64 al. 2008). Furthermore, with SSRs known to have numerous applications, application of SSRs
65 in construction of genetic maps has led to significant interest (Gupta et al. 1996; Li et al. 2002;
66 Usdin, 2008). While SSRs aid in chromatin organization (Cuadrado and Schwarzacher, 1998),
67 available evidence show that SSRs located in promoter regions may affect the level of gene
68 expression (Young et al. 2000). It has been reported that they are widely considered as a hot
69 spots for recombination (Jeffreys et al. 1998; Templeton et al. 2000).

70 . Recently, SSRs have been reported in pre-miRNA sequences in some plant species. For
71 instance, Chen et al. 2010 carried out a comprehensive analysis for the prediction of SSRs in
72 8,619 premiRNA sequences from 87 species, including Arthropoda, Nematoda,
73 Platyhelminthes, Urochordata, Vertebrata, Mycetozoa, Protistate, Viridiplantae, and Viruses. In
74 another studies, salt responsive (trait specific) miRNA-SSRs were reported in rice genome
75 (Ganie and Mondal, 2015; Mondal and Ganie) linking them to phenotype and expression of
76 genes. Furthermore, studies on role of transcriptional profiling of SSR specific long noncoding
77 RNAs (lncRNAs) are studied in Banana and sugarcane which supports the hypothesis there is a
78 major role of SSRs in non-coding genome in both small and larger noncoding elements
79 (Cardoso-Silva et al. 2014; Yang et al. 2015). However, no study has so far been conducted to
80 study SSRs in Pre-miRNA full length transcripts of *A. thaliana*, which is a model plant system
81 with a small genome that was the first higher plant genome to be fully sequenced (The
82 Arabidopsis Genome Initiative, 2000). Because of enormous utilities of miRNA as well as
83 SSRs, there is a need for development of markers associated with miRNA, so that markers may
84 be developed for traits influenced by miRNAs. Keeping this in view of the prospective
85 development markers from the noncoding regions, we discovered miRNA-SSRs in full length
86 genomic sequences of pre-miRNAs of *A. thaliana*.

87

88 2. Methodology

89

90 2.1. Computational identification and discovery of miRNA-SSRs in *A. thaliana* 91 genome

92

93 A total of 325 pre-miRNAs of *A. thaliana* were downloaded from miRBase 21.0
94 (<http://www.mirbase.org/>) (Kozomara et al. 2014) and full length genomic transcripts
95 representing pre-miRNA were extracted in FASTA format using BioMart-Ensembl genomes
96 (Kasprzyk, 2011) available in EnsemblPlants (Bolser et al.2015) (*see Supplementary Table*
97 *1*); among 325 pre-RNAs, only 169 pre-miRNA sequences were found (*see Supplementary*
98 *Table 2*) whose full length genomic sequences are available in EnsemblPlants. After
99 downloading all full length premiRNA genomic transcripts from EnsemblPlants, manual
100 annotation was done to confirm the transcripts (>1000bp + premiRNA) for the discovery of
101 SSRs belonging to miRNA genes (i.e., promoter, 5' UTR, primRNA, or 3' UTR but not pre-
102 or mature miRNA). The search for miRNA-SSRs and the designing of primers flanking
103 miRNA-SSRs was carried out in full length premiRNA transcripts from all 5 chromosomes
104 using BatchPrime3 v1.0 (You et al. 2008) with default parameters. A flow chart showing the
105 pipeline used in this study is presented in Figure 1.

106

107 **2.2. Computational Prediction of SSRs-containing miRNAs**

108 As earlier documented, plant miRNAs predominantly target different families of transcription
109 factors (TFs) (Llave et al. 2002; Chen, 2004; Brodersen et al. 2008; Gupta et al. 2015;
110 Gahlaut et al. 2016). However, subsequent studies suggested that miRNAs also target plant
111 functional protein encoding genes, which control various physiological processes, such as
112 root growth and development, stress responses, signal transduction, leaf morphogenesis, plant
113 defenses, and biogenesis of sRNA (Brousse et al. 2014). Unlike in animals, miRNAs in plants
114 identify their target mRNAs through perfect or near-perfect complementarity and initiate
115 cleavage.

116 The putative target sites of SSRs-containing miRNAs were predicted by aligning the
117 miRNA sequences either perfectly or near-perfectly binding to complementary sites on their
118 target mRNA sequences by using homology search-based psRNATarget server (Dai and
119 Zhao, 2011). Transcripts of SSRs-containing miRNAs were used as a query against updated
120 version of *A.thaliana* transcripts available on The Arabidopsis Information Resource (TAIR)
121 (<https://www.arabidopsis.org/>). Following parameters embedded in psRNATarget algorithm
122 were used: maximum expectation: 2.0, length for complementarity scoring (hspsize): 20,
123 target accessibility-allowed maximum energy to unpair the target site (UPE): 25.0, flanking
124 length around target site for target accessibility analysis: 17 bp in upstream and 13 bp in
125 downstream, Range of central mismatch leading to translation inhibition: 9–11nt.

126

127 **2.3. Prediction of genes adjacent to identified miRNA-SSRs and analysis of enriched** 128 **gene ontologies (GO)**

129

130 Genes adjacent to identified novel miRNA-SSRs were manually predicted using the TAIR 9
131 browser embedded in windows based integrated genome browser (IGB) (Nicol et al. 2009).
132 The criteria for manual curation was based on location of SSRs and nearby gene located on 5'
133 untranslated region (5' UTR) and 3' untranslated region (3' UTR) sites on a particular
134 chromosome of *A. thaliana* genome. Further predicted adjacent transcripts were retrieved
135 from the EnsemblPlants (Bolser et al., 2015) in FASTA format. Arabidopsis adjacent
136 transcripts were used as input for Gene ontology analysis using agriGO (Du et al. 2010) and
137 REVIGO (Supek et al. 2011) server.

138

139 **3. Result and Discussion**

140

141 **3.1. Dinucleotide repeats were found to outnumber other repeats**

142 In the present study, 147 miRNA-SSRs were discovered among 169 pre-miRNA genomic
143 transcripts of *A. thaliana* genome (**Table. 1**). We found that dinucleotide SSR repeats
144 (48/147) outnumbered the other repeats; primers designed for 45 of these dinucleotide repeats
145 while no primers were designed for the remaining three SSRs including (AC)₇ associated
146 with miR164b, (AT)₇ associated with miR165b and (TA)₁₀ associated with miR832A.
147 Ten (10) different classes of dinucleotide SSR repeats were found in all premiRNA
148 transcripts of *A.thaliana* and the largest count of dinucleotide repeat was TA. (**Fig.2**). While
149 trinucleotide miRNA-SSR repeats were found to be less than dinucleotide repeats, only one
150 of 38 repeats was found with no SSR flanking primer (TTC with miR837a and SSR length -
151 12). Nevertheless, there were 37 SSR flanking primers found to be associated with them.
152 Within 15 different classes of trinucleotide miRNA-SSRs repeats, TTC and CTT with same
153 number of counts formed the highest count of trinucleotide repeats (**Fig.2**)

154 The tetranucleotide miRNA-SSRs (46) were found to be more than trinucleotide
155 repeats but less than dinucleotide repeats. Primers flanking two SSRs viz. (TTTA)_n, and
156 (TTAT)_n for miR164c and miR394a, respectively could not be designed (TTTA)_n repeats was
157 most abundant among the tetranucleotide repeats in discovered miRNA-SSRs. (**Fig. 2**). The
158 pentanucleotide SSRs in pre-miRNA transcripts of *A. thaliana* were least frequent. Out of the
159 12 of the 147 miRNA-SSRs, were pentanucleotide repeats. Primers flanking to 11 miRNA-
160 SSRs were designed and no primers could be designed for, (TTGTT)₃ associated with
161 miR777a. Only eight classes of pentanucleotide SSR repeats were found in all pre-miRNA
162 transcripts of *A. thaliana* and TTTTA was found as topmost count of pentanucleotide SSRs
163 (**Fig. 2**).The hexanucleotide miRNA-SSRs were least common and these belonged to
164 (GTTTGA)_n, (GGGAGG)_n, (ACAAAT)_n, and (CGTTTC)_n classes to be associated with
165 flanking primers and remarkably distributed across all 5 chromosome in *A.thaliana* genome
166 (**Fig. 3**). The chromosomes 1 and 5 have maximum miRNA-SSRs, while chromosome 3 has
167 minimum number of miRNA-SSRs (**Fig. 3**).

168

169 **3.2. Conservation of SSR loci spanning flanking regions**

170 The miRNA-SSR polymorphism will provide trait-related molecular markers at the specific
171 chromosomal loci, which in turn would depend on the number of indels in the flanking
172 regions. Whether or not they are dinucleotide repeats or compound repeats is dependent not
173 only on variances at the each repeat unit of the sequences, but also on how they are arranged

174 or distributed across the genome. As we observed such repeats, it would be interesting to
175 examine their locus specific polymorphism to allow their physically mapping.. It would be
176 interesting to see if they can serve as unknown tagged sites which in turn would depend on
177 the presence of a particular sequence tagged region or sequence tagged sites (STS). These
178 STS' in principle can be used as potential markers.

179

180 **3.3. SSRs-containing miRNAs targeted diverse set of TFs**

181 On the basis of the biogenesis of miRNAs in plants, a homology search-based method was
182 used to predict the targets for SSRs-containing miRNA in *A. thaliana* using psRNATarget.
183 The SSR-containing miRNAs were used as queries to predict potential mRNA targets in the
184 Arabidopsis genome annotation (TAIR10). This search revealed that 90 SSR-containing
185 miRNAs identified 698 target genes, with each SSR-containing miRNA predicting more than
186 one gene (Table S1). Most of the SSR-containing miRNAs targeted a number of TFs families
187 including WRKY, MADS, MYB, NAC, bHLH, AP2/EREBP, ARF etc., which play an
188 important role in different metabolic and regulatory processes such as stress response,
189 transcriptional regulation, signal transduction, growth, development, nutrient uptake, nutrient
190 transport and nutrient assimilation (**Table 2**). The values of UPE for targeted gene ranged
191 from 3.238 to 24.941.

192 Targeted TFs could be utilized for developing next generation microsatellites, Transcription
193 Factor Gene-Derived Microsatellite (TFGM) Markers which have potential in marker-
194 assisted genetic improvement and genotyping applications through marker assisted selection
195 (MAS) breeding program to develop the drought/heat responsive and nutrient efficient
196 cultivars for cereal crops (Gupta and Prasad, 2009; Kujur et al. 2013, 2014; Liu et al. 2015).
197 However in plants, (TFGM) markers have only been reported in chickpea and *Medicago*
198 *truncatula* to date (Kujur et al. 2013; Liu et al. 2015).

199

200 **3.4. Prediction of genes adjacent to identified miRNA-SSRs and GO analysis**

201 In order to predict the genes adjacent to SSR containing miRNAs, representing 5' UTR and
202 3' UTR sites TAIR 9 was manually curated. Based on length and chromosomal location, a
203 diverse set of adjacent genes were predicted both in n5' UTR and 3' UTR regions (**Table. 2**).
204 Predicted adjacent transcripts revealed that SSR containing miRNAs are associated with
205 different genes in network form, which play a pivotal role in gene regulation. However effect
206 of miR-SSR on adjacent genes and vice- versa need to be studied in detail.

207 To evaluate the biological significance of the adjacent genes to SSR containing miRNAs in
208 Arabidopsis it is important to have the gene ontology (GO) descriptions i.e., detailed
209 annotations of gene function, biological process it is involved, and cellular location of the
210 gene product. The potential functions were predicted by searching against GO database using
211 agriGO and REVIGO server. Predicted adjacent transcripts were subjected to singular
212 enrichment analysis (SEA) embedded in agriGO to identify enriched GOs. SEA designed to
213 identify enriched GO terms in a list form of microarray probe sets or gene identifiers
214 available in database. Finding different enriched GO terms corresponds to finding enriched
215 biological facts, and term enrichment level was judged by comparing query list to a
216 background population from which the query list is derived. In this study the background
217 query list comprised of 27,416 protein coding genes from the updated TAIR
218 (<https://www.arabidopsis.org/index.jsp>). **Fig. 4** wholly reflects the categorization of
219 adjacent genes based on biological process, cellular component and molecular function.
220 Adjacent genes were divided into 14 GO categories. Among the adjacent gene transcripts,
221 GOs associated with response to stimulus, cellular biosynthetic process, nitrogen compound
222 metabolic process, nucleobase, nucleoside, cellular macromolecule metabolic process, protein
223 metabolic process, transport activity, RNA metabolic process, gene regulation and binding
224 (**Fig.5**).

225 In order to reduce the number of GO terms, enriched GO categories with false discovery
226 rates (FDR) < 0.05 from AgriGO analysis were submitted to the REVIGO (REduce and
227 Visualize GO) server. Using the Uniprot (<http://www.uniprot.org/>) as background and the
228 default semantic similarity measure (Simrel), this analysis clearly showed that biological
229 processes associated with metabolism, localization, nitrogen regulation, regulation of
230 transcription were significantly overrepresented among the adjacent genes to SSR containing
231 miRNAs in Arabidopsis (**Fig.6**).

232
233

3.5. Taking an analogy with long non-coding RNAs

234 If we may consider an analogy of this keeping in view of their larger non-coding peers, viz.
235 lncRNAs, we might expect SSRs to be mapped to the lncRNAs as well. What remains a
236 challenge is to see if the miRNAs/lncRNAs have a coding potential of transcripts in
237 noncoding RNA as these are associated with “unknown transcripts” which eventually are
238 unmapped. Can the SSR-miRNAs that code for non-coding elements prove to be real
239 candidates for understanding gene expression in plants underlying to various traits as
240 discussed above? If it were the case, with breakthrough in genome technology in the form of

241 clustered regulatory interspaced short palindromic repeats/CRISPR-associated protein
242 9(CRISPR-Cas9) technology (Sander and Joung, 2014; Jain, 2015), it would be interesting to
243 explore probable CRISPR loci that play a role into regulatory roles of these ncRNAs esp. the
244 smaller miRNAs (Yi et al. 2015).

245 **4. Conclusion**

246 In the present study, we discovered total 147 miRNA-SSRs from 169 pre-miRNAs representing
247 full length genomic transcripts of *A. thaliana*. Our result shows that all the di-, tri-, tetra-, penta
248 and hexanucleotide SSRs were located in non-coding repertoire of all the 5 chromosomes of
249 *A.thaliana* (**Fig. 3**). While dinucleotide miRNA-SSRs were found to be higher, hexanucleotide
250 miRNA-SSRs were found to be lowest repeats in the pre-miRNA transcripts. It was observed
251 that miRNA-SSRs flanking primers were larger in number for discovered miRNA-SSRs. We
252 firmly consider these candidates could be extended for experimentation for allelic variation. It
253 is important to know that these miRNA-SSRs serve as a source of highly informative molecular
254 markers and aids as a reference for marker assisted breeding in plants. We hope this first report
255 on genome-wide identification and characterization of miRNA-SSRs in *A. thaliana* could serve
256 as a reference for identifying more sequences from non-coding repertoire of the genomes.

257 **Acknowledgments**

258 AK would like to give his sincere thanks to Mr. Deepak Kumar, Secretary, IT, ST & BT
259 Government of Uttarakhand for encouragement, suggestions and timely help. PKG was
260 awarded a National Academy of Sciences India (NASI) Senior Scientist Platinum Jubilee
261 Fellowship, and INSA Senior Scientist positions during the tenure of which this study was
262 conducted; VG was awarded a Junior Research Fellowship under the same program, and was
263 later awarded the position of SRF/ RA under a DBT project.

264 **Authors Contributions**

265 AK, AC, SKK, and VG performed the data analysis; KPS and MNVPG manually
266 crosschecked the annotation. KPS assisted AK and AC for preparing the first draft. PS, HSB
267 and PKG conceived, supervised, edited, and finalized the manuscript.

268

269 **Conflict of Interest Statement**

270 The authors declare that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or
271 financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

272

273 **References**

- 274 Bartel B, Bartel DP (2003) MicroRNAs: At the root of plant development?. *Plant Physiol*
275 132:709-717
- 276 Bartel DP (2004) MicroRNAs: genomics, biogenesis, mechanism, and function. *Cell*
277 116:281-297
- 278 Bolser DM, Kerhornou A, Walts B, Kersey P (2015) Triticeae resources in Ensembl
279 Plants. *Plant Cell Physiol* 56:e3
- 280 Brandstrom M, Bagshaw AT, Gemmell NJ, Ellegren H (2008) The relationship between
281 microsatellite polymorphism and recombination hot spots in the human genome. *Mol*
282 *Biol Evol* 25: 2579-87
- 283 Brodersen P, Sakvarelidze-Achard L, Bruun-Rasmussen M, Dunoyer P, Yamamoto
284 YY, Sieburth L, Voinnet O (2008) Widespread translational inhibition by plant
285 miRNAs and siRNAs. *Science* 320:1185–1190
- 286 Brousse C, Liu Q, Beauclair L, Deremetz A, Axtell MJ, Bouché N (2014) A non-
287 canonical microRNA target site. *Nucleic Acids Res* 42: 5270-5279
- 288 Cardoso-Silva CB, Costa EA, Mancini MC, Balsalobre TW, Canesin LE, Pinto
289 LR, Carneiro MS, Garcia AA, de Souza AP, Vicentini R (2014) De novo assembly and
290 transcriptome analysis of contrasting sugarcane varieties. *PLoS One* 9:e88462
- 291 Chen M, Tan Z, Zeng G, Peng J (2010) Comprehensive analysis of simple sequence
292 repeats in Pre-miRNA. *MolBiolEvol* 27:2227-2232
- 293 Chen X (2004) A microRNA as a translational repressor of APETALA2 in Arabidopsis
294 flower development. *Science* 303:2022–2025
- 295 Chen M, Tan Z, Jiang J, Li M, Chen H, Shen G, Yu R (2009) Similar distribution of
296 simple sequence repeats in diverse completed Human Immunodeficiency Virus Type 1
297 genomes. *FEBS Lett* 583:2959-2963
- 298 Cuadrado A, Schwarzacher T (1998) The chromosomal organization of simple sequence
299 repeats in wheat and rye genomes. *Chromosoma* 107:587-594
- 300 Dai X, Zhao PX (2011) psRNATarget: a plant small RNA target analysis server. *Nucleic*
301 *Acids Res* 39: 155-159
- 302 Du Z, Zhou X, Ling Y, Zhang Z, Su Z (2010) agriGO: a GO analysis toolkit for
303 the agricultural community. *Nucleic Acids Res.* 38(W): 64–70
- 304 Eldem V, Okay S, Ünver T (2013). Plant microRNAs: new players in functional
305 genomics. *Turk J Agric For* 37:1-21
- 306 Gahlaut V, Jaiswal V, Kumar A, Gupta PK (2016) Transcription factors involved in
307 drought tolerance and their possible role in developing drought tolerant cultivars with
308 emphasis on wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L.). *Theor Appl Genet* 129: 2019-2042
- 309 Ganie SA Mondal TK (2015) Genome-wide development of novel miRNA-based
310 microsatellite markers of rice (*Oryza sativa*) for genotyping applications. *Mol*
311 *Breeding* 35:51
- 312 Gupta PK (2015) MicroRNAs and target mimics for crop improvement. *Curr Sci* 108:
313 1624-1633
- 314 Gupta PK, Balyan HS, Sharma PC, Ramesh B (1996) Microsatellites in plants: A new
315 class of molecular markers. *Curr Sci* 70:45-53
- 316 Gupta S, Prasad M (2009) Development and characterization of genic SSR markers in
317 *Medicago truncatula* and their transferability in leguminous and non-leguminous
318 species. *Genome.* 52: 761–771
- 319 Heesacker A, Kishore VK, Gao W, Tang S, Kolkman JM, Gingle A, Matvienko M, Kozik
320 A, Michelmore RM, Lai Z, Rieseberg LH, Knapp SJ (2008) SSRs and INDELs mined
321 from the sunflower EST database: abundance, polymorphisms, and cross-taxa utility.
322 *Theor Appl Genet* 117:1021-1029

- 323 Jain M (2015) Function genomics of abiotic stress tolerance in plants: a CRISPR
324 approach. *Front Plant Sci* 6:375
- 325 Jeffreys AJ, Murray J, Neumann R (1998) High-resolution mapping of crossovers in
326 human sperm defines a minisatellite associated recombination hotspot. *Mol Cell* 2:
327 267-273
- 328 Jones-Rhoades MW, Bartel DP, Bartel, B (2006) MicroRNAs and their regulatory roles in
329 plants. *Annu Rev Plant Biol* 57: 19–53
- 330 Jung JH, Seo PJ, Park CM (2009) MicroRNA biogenesis and function in higher plants.
331 *Plant Biotechnol Rep* 3: 111–126
- 332 Kasprzyk A (2011) BioMart: driving a paradigm change in biological data management.
333 *Database (Oxford)* 13:2011:bar049
- 334 Katti MV, Ranjekar PK, Gupta VS (2001). Differential distribution of simple sequence
335 repeats in eukaryotic genome sequences. *MolBiolEvol* 18: 1161-1167
- 336 Khraiweh B, Zhu JK, Zhu J (2012) Role of miRNAs and siRNAs in biotic and abiotic
337 stress responses in plants. *Biochem Biophys Acta* 1819:137-148
- 338 Kompelli SK, Kompelli VSP, Enjala C, Suravajhala P (2015) Genome-wide
339 identification of miRNAs in pigeonpea (*Cajanus cajan* L.) *Aust J Crop Sci* 9:215-222
- 340 Kozomara A, Griffiths-Jones S (2014) miRBase: annotating high confidence microRNAs
341 using deep sequencing data. *Nucleic Acids Res* 42(D):68-73
- 342 Kujur A, Bajaj D, Saxena M, Tripathi S, Upadhyaya HD, Gowda CL, Singh S, Tyagi A,
343 Jain M, Parida S (2014) An efficient and cost-effective approach for genic
344 microsatellite marker-based large-scale trait association mapping: Identification of
345 candidate genes for seed weight in chickpea. *Mol Breed* 34: 241–265
- 346 Kujur A, Bajaj D, Saxena MS, Tripathi S, Upadhaya HD, Gowada CL, Singh S, Jain M,
347 Tyagi AK, Parida SK (2013) Functionally relevant microsatellite markers from
348 chickpea transcription factor genes efficient genotyping applications and trait
349 association mapping. *DNA Res* 20: 355-374
- 350 Li YC, Korol AB, Fahima T, Beiles A, Nevo E (2002) Microsatellites: genomic
351 distribution, putative functions and mutational mechanisms: a review. *MolEcol*
352 11:2453-2465
- 353 Lightfoot DA, Iqbal MJ (2013) Molecular mapping and breeding with microsatellite
354 markers. *Methods MolBiol* 1006: 297-317
- 355 Liu W, Jia X, Liu Z, Zhang Z, Wang Y, Liu Z, Xie W (2015) Development and
356 Characterization of Transcription Factor Gene-Derived Microsatellite(TFGM)
357 Markers in *Medicago truncatula* and Their Transferability in Leguminous and Non
358 Leguminous Species. *Molecules* 20:8759-8771
- 359 Llave C, Xie Z, Kasschau KD, Carrington JC (2002) Cleavage of scarecrow-like mRNA
360 targets directed by a class of *Arabidopsis* miRNAs. *Science* 297: 2053–2056
- 361 Madsen BE, Villesen P, Wiuf C (2008) Short tandem repeats in human exons: a target for
362 disease mutations. *BMC Genomics* 9:410
- 363 Mondal TK, Ganie SA (2014) Identification and characterization of salt responsive
364 miRNA-SSR markers in rice (*Oryza sativa*). *Gene* 535:204–209
- 365 Ni J, Colowit PM, Mackill DJ (2002) Evaluation of genetic diversity in rice subspecies
366 using microsatellite markers. *Crop Sci* 42: 601–607
- 367 Nicol JW, Helt GA, Blanchard SG Jr, Raja A, Loraine AE (2009) The Integrated Genome
368 Browser (IGB): free software for distribution and exploration of genome-scale
369 datasets. *Bioinformatics* 25:2730-1
- 370 Riley DE, Krieger JN (2009a) Embryonic nervous system genes predominate in searches
371 for dinucleotide simple sequence repeats flanked by conserved sequences. *Gene*
372 429:74-79

- 373 Riley DE, Krieger JN (2009b) UTR dinucleotide simple sequence repeat evolution
374 exhibits recurring patterns including regulatory sequence motif replacements. *Gene*
375 429:80-86
- 376 Sander JD, Joung JK (2014) CRISPR-Cas
377 systems for editing, regulating and targeting genomes. *Nat Biotechnol* 32:347-55
- 378 Schlotterer C (2000) Evolutionary dynamics of microsatellite DNA. *Chromosoma* 109:
379 5844-5849
- 380 Schlotterer C (2004) The evolution of molecular markers-Just a matter of fashion? *Nat*
381 *Rev Genet* 5: 63-69
- 382 Senan S, Kizhakayil D, Sasikumar B, Sheeja TE (2014) Methods for Development of
383 Microsatellite Markers: An Overview. *Not Sci Biol* 6:1-13
- 384 Supek F, Bosnjak M, Skunca N, Smuc T (2011) REVIGO summarizes and visualizes long
385 lists of gene ontology terms. *PloS One* 6:e21800
- 386 Templeton AR, Clark AG, Weiss KM, Nickerson DA, Boerwinkle E, Sing CF (2000)
387 Recombinational and mutational hot spots within the human lipoprotein lipase gene.
388 *Am J Hum Genet* 66:69-83
- 389 The Arabidopsis Genome Initiative (2000) Analysis of the genome sequence of the
390 flowering plant *Arabidopsis thaliana*. *Nature* 408:796-815
- 391 Toth G, Gaspari Z, Jurka J (2000) Microsatellites in different eukaryotic genomes: survey
392 and analysis. *Genome Res* 10: 967-981
- 393 Usdin K (2008) The biological effects of simple tandem repeats: lessons from the repeat
394 expansion diseases. *Genome Res* 18:1011-1019
- 395 Wang Y, Yang C, Jin Q, Zhou D, Wang S, Yu Y, Yang L (2015) Genome-wide distribution
396 comparative and composition analysis of the SSRs in Poaceae. *BMC Genetics* 16:18
- 397 Yang QS, Gao J, He WD, Dou TX, Ding LJ, Wu JH, Li CY, Peng XX, Zhang S, Yi GJ
398 (2015) Comparative transcriptomics analysis
399 reveals difference of key gene expression between banana and plantain in response to
400 cold stress. *BMC Genomics* 16:446
- 401 Yi X, Zhang Z, Ling Y, Xu W, Su Z (2015) PNRD: a plant non-coding RNA database.
402 *Nucleic Acids Res* 43:D982-989
- 403 You FM, Huo N, Gu YQ, Luo MC, Ma Y, Hane D, Lazo GR, Dvorak J, Anderson OD
404 (2008) BatchPrimer3: a high throughput web application for PCR and sequencing
405 primer design. *BMC Bioinformatics* 9:253
- 406 Young ET, Sloan JS, van Riper K (2000) Trinucleotide repeats are clustered in regulatory
407 genes in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*. *Genetics* 154:1053-1068
- 408
- 409

410 Legend

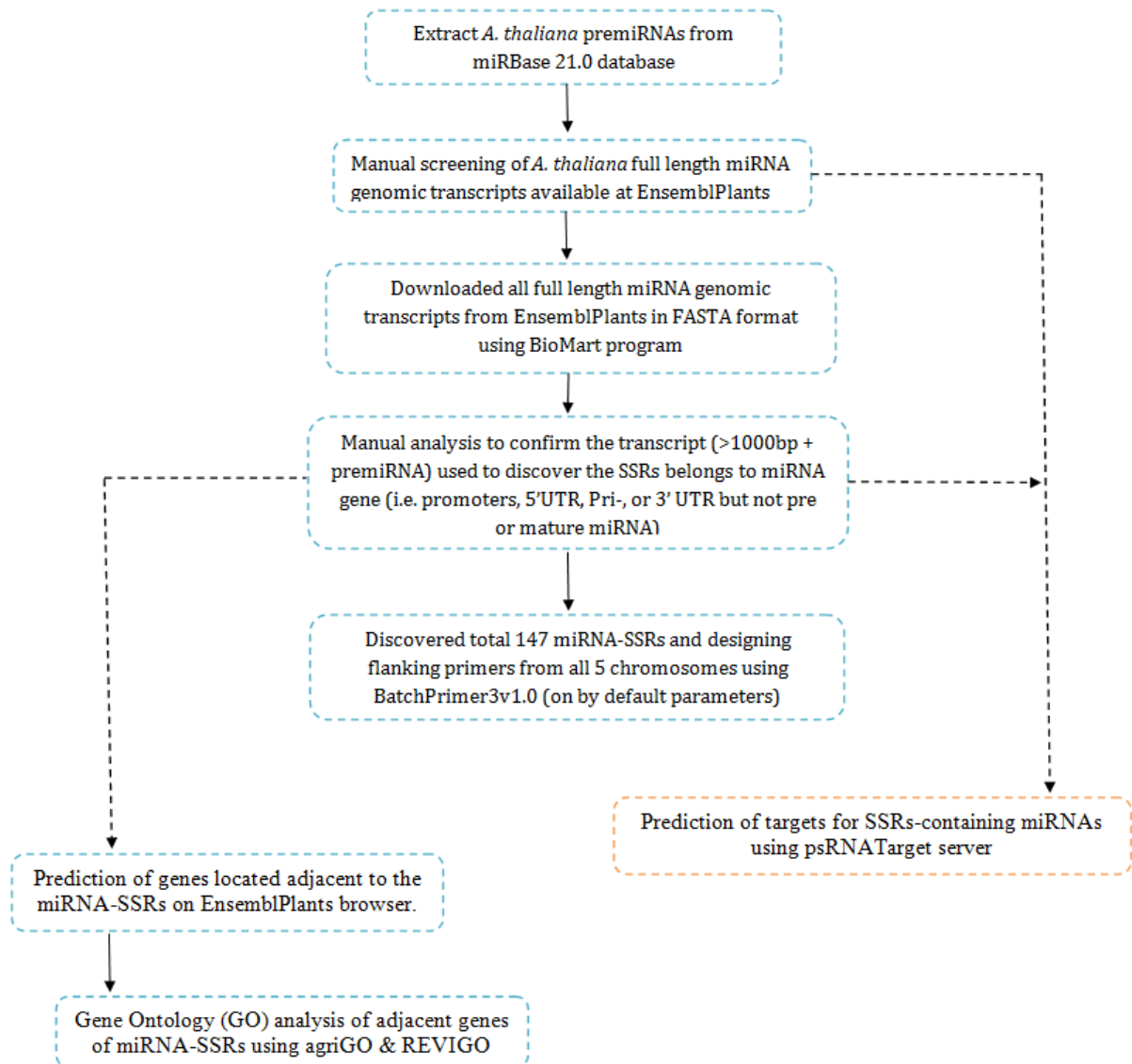
- 411 Figure 1. Pipeline used for discovery of miRNA-SSRs in *A. thaliana*.
- 412 Figure 2 .Incidence and number of di, tri, tetra, and pentanucleotide miRNA-SSRs.
- 413 Figure 3. Chromosomal locations of discovered miRNA-SSRs in *A.thaliana* genome.
- 414 Figure 4. GO classifications of adjacent genes to SSR containing miRNAs.
- 415 Figure 5. **GO analysis of adjacent genes to SSR containing miRNAs:** box reflects the GO
416 term number, the p-value in parenthesis, and GO term. The first pair of numerals shows the
417 number of adjacent genes in the input list associated with that GO term and the number of
418 genes in the input list. The second pair of numerals represents the number of genes associated

419 with the particular GO term in the TAIR database and the total number of Arabidopsis genes
420 with GO annotations in the TAIR database. The box colours indicates levels of statistical
421 significance with yellow = 0.05; orange = e-05 and red = e-09.
422

423 Figure 6. **GO analysis of adjacent genes to SSR containing miRNAs using REVIGO:** The
424 scatter plot represents the cluster representatives (terms remaining after reducing redundancy)
425 in a two-dimensional space derived by applying multi-dimensional scaling to a matrix of GO
426 terms semantic similarities. Bubble color indicates the p-value for the false discovery rates
427 derived from the AgriGO analysis. The circle size represents the frequency of the GO term in
428 the uniprot database (more general terms are represented by larger size bubbles).
429

430 Fig 1.

431



432

433

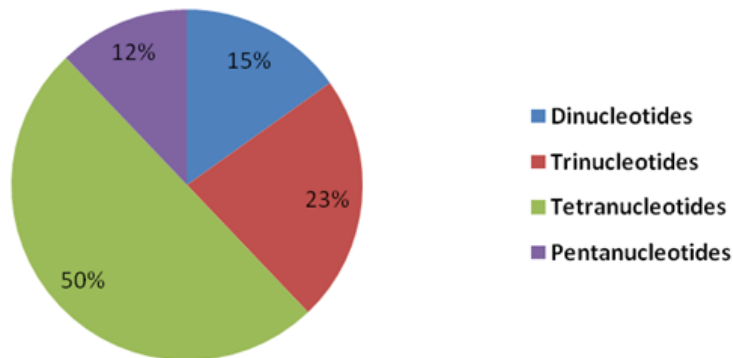
434 Fig 2.

435

436

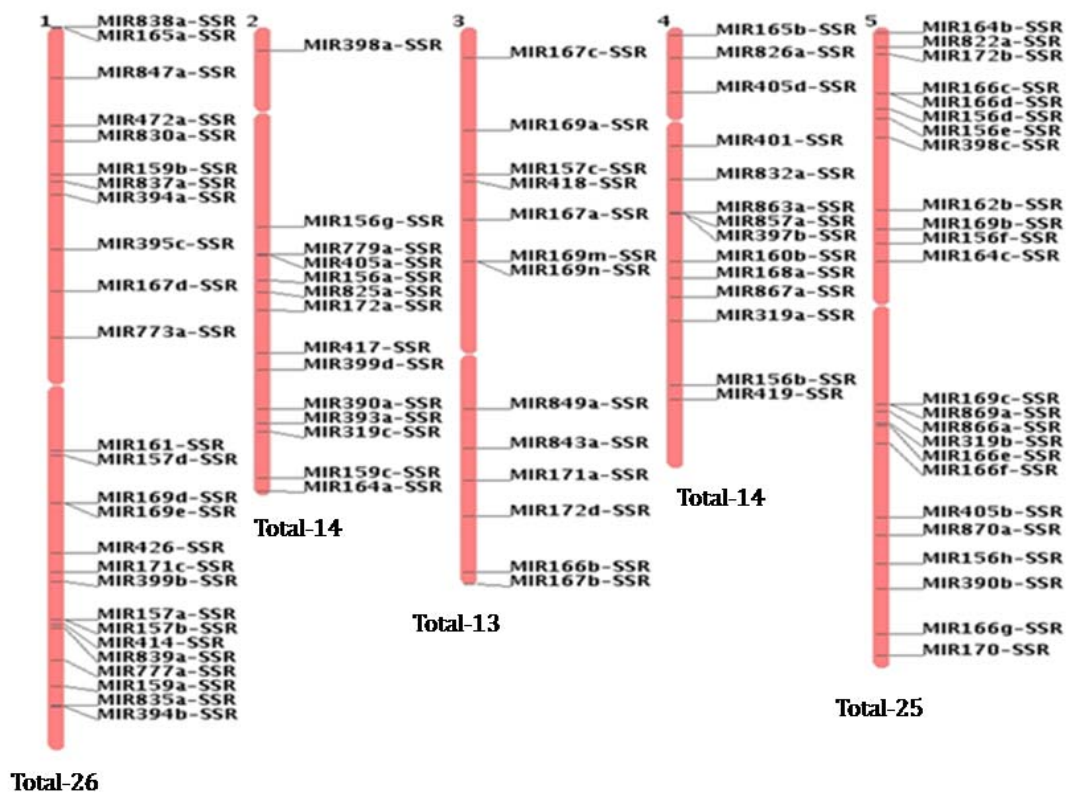
437
438
439

No. of SSRs Repeats



440
441
442
443

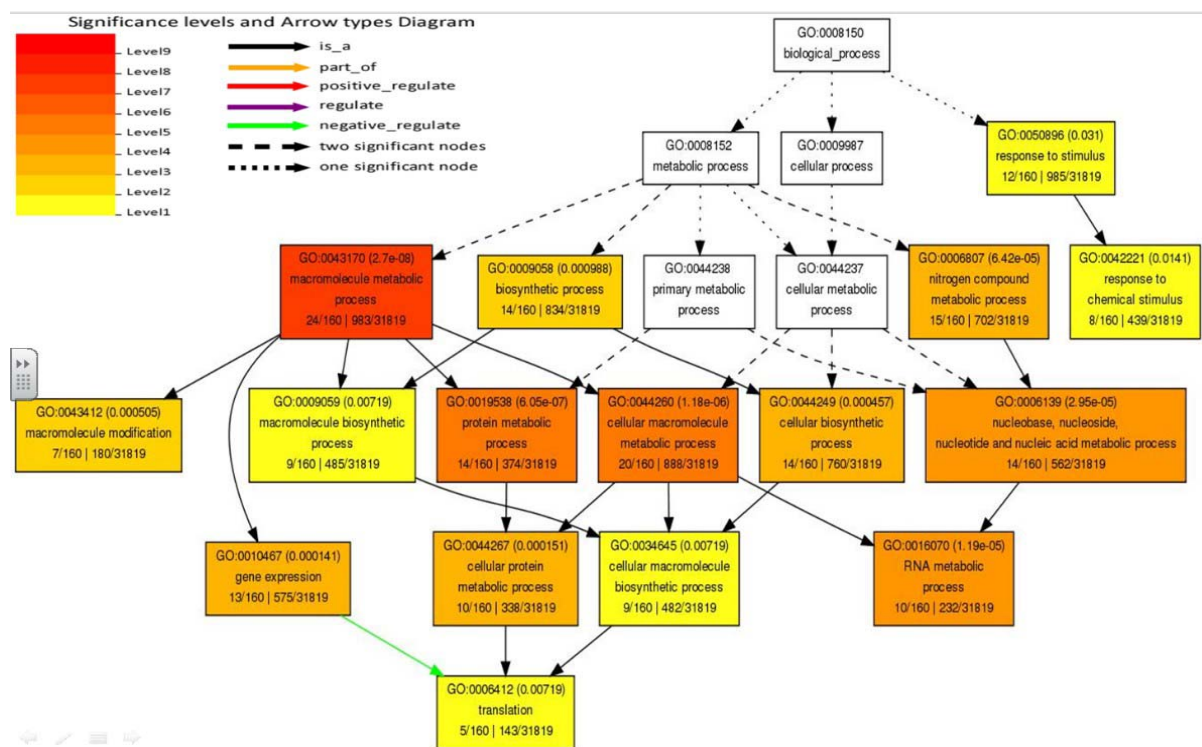
Fig 3.



444
445
446

447
448
449
450
451
452
453
454
455
456
457
458

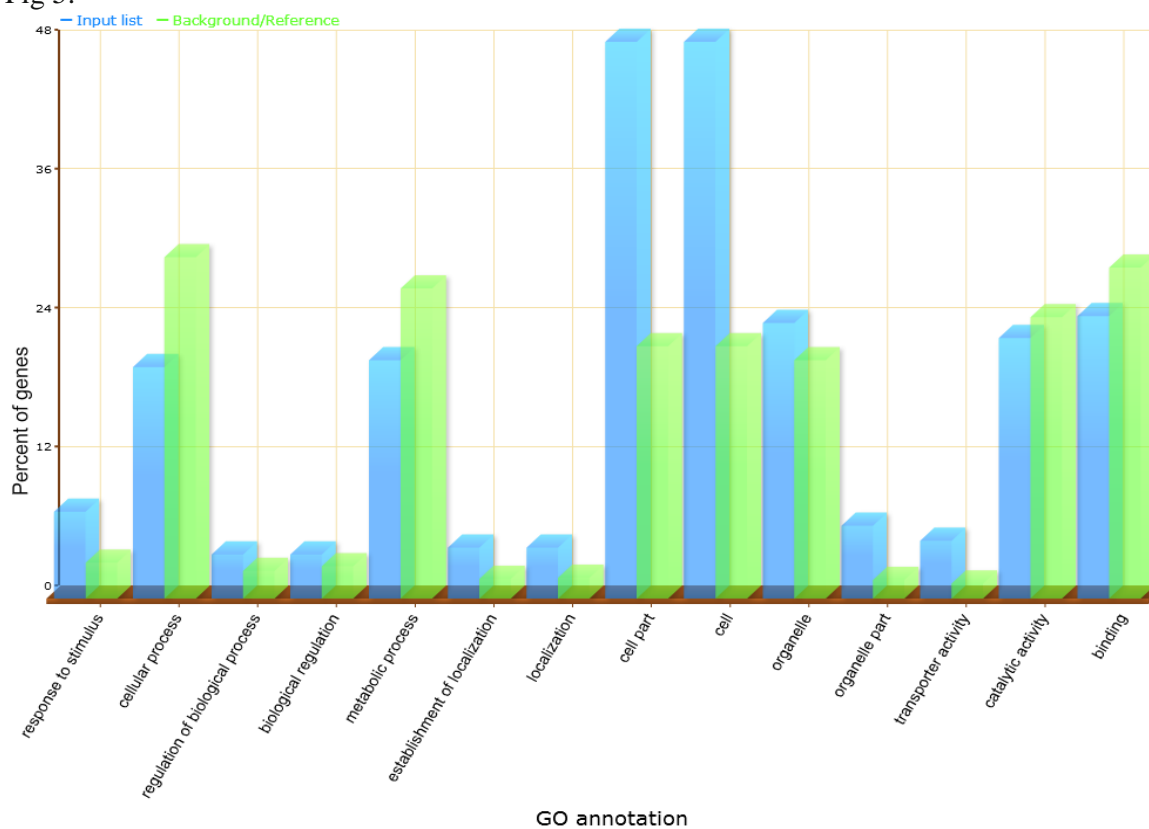
Fig 4.



459
460
461
462
463
464
465
466
467
468
469
470
471
472
473
474
475
476

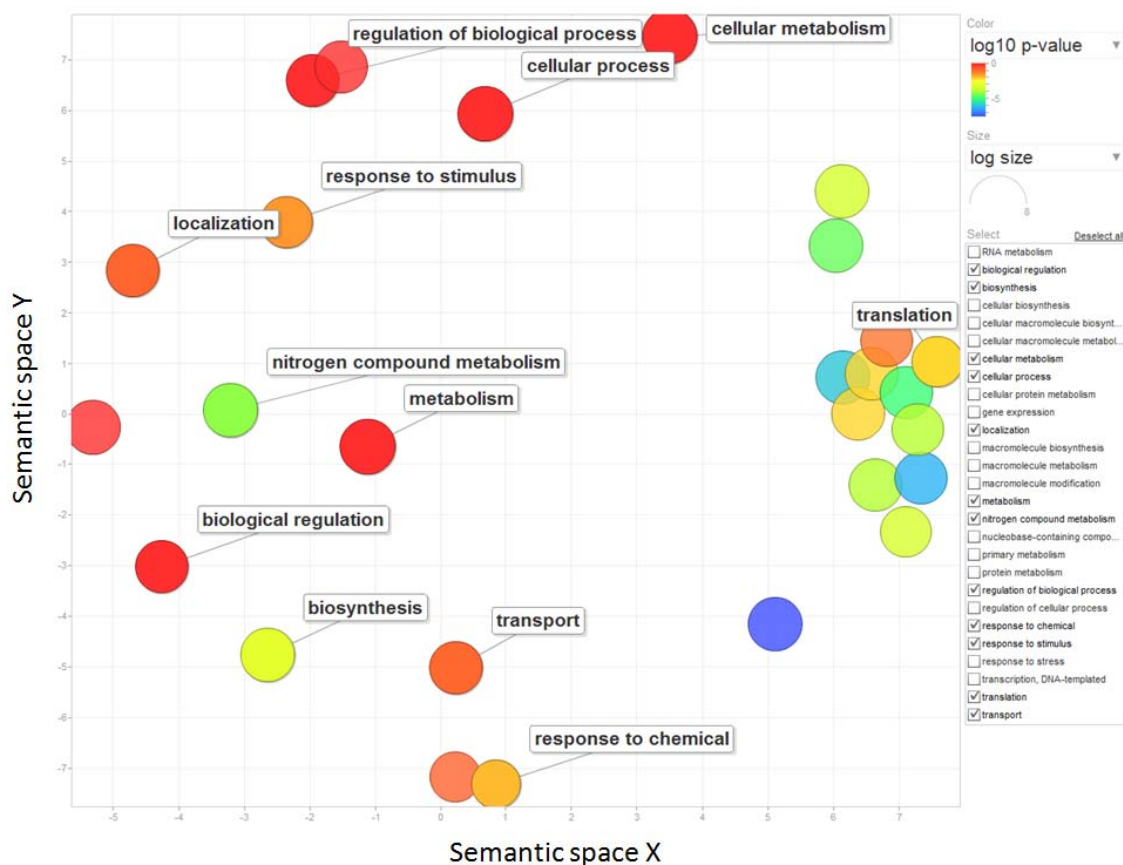
477
478
479
480
481
482
483
484
485
486
487
488
489
490
491
492
493
494
495
496
497
498
499
500
501

Fig 5.



502
503

504 Fig 6.
505



530

531 Table 1. Designed flanking primers for discovered miRNA-SSRs using BatchPrimer3 server.

MIRNA	Motif	Primer Sequence		T _m (°C)	Product Size
		Forward	Reverse		
MIR156a	(TCTT) ₃	ACAAGAGCCATAAAGAAAGGT	AGGGTTTTTGTCTAAATCGAG	55	154
MIR156b	(CT) ₁₁	CACCTCTCTTTCTGTCAGTTG	ACACATCACTAGCAAAAGTGC	55	140
MIR156d	(TTC) ₆	TCTCCATCATCTCTGTTTCAC	GGCTGCTTTACTTCTCTCTCT	55	154
	(GAGT) ₃	TGTTGGATTCACTTTCATTC	AAGGAGATAAACTCAGAATTGC	55	176
MIR156e	(TC) ₇	TTGAAGCTATGTGTGCTTACTC	ACTTTGATCCGTTTGATGATA	55	153
MIR156f	(CT) ₉	GAAGCTATGTGTGCTCACTCT	GTAAAACCAAAAGAATGGATG	54	139
	(AT) ₈	ACTCTCTTCTGTCTCCTGCT	AACCATACACAGAGACGTTTG	55	153
MIR156g	(GAT) ₄	AAACGTAGCTAGTGGTCAGTG	AAACGTAGCTAGTGGTCAGTG	55	152
	(TATC) ₃	ACTCTCTTCTGTCTCCTGCT	AACCATACACAGAGACGTTTG	55	153
	(CATG) ₃	ACTCTCTTCTGTCTCCTGCT	AACCATACACAGAGACGTTTG	55	153
MIR156h	(TTC) ₅	TCATCCTCTCGCTATAAATG	AGGTTGTGCTCTCTTTCTTCT	55	144
	(TCA) ₄	TTCGTTGCTCTCTATGTGTCT	TTCGTTGCTCTCTATGTGTCT	55	161
MIR157a	(AAGT) ₃	GTTCGTAGTCTTCTCAAATCG	AACCATCAAACCTTATGGAAT	55	170
MIR157b	(TCA) ₄	TAGCTGTCCTCTATGCGTCTA	TCAAGAAGTTGATTAACACCA	55	187
	(TA) ₈	TATTTTCCCTTTGTCACCTCA	GTCAACAACCAACATCACTCT	55	150
MIR157c	(AT) ₂₂	TTTGGTAACCTGATCTCCATA	CCAAACTATCAAACCAAACCTG	54	137
	(TA) ₁₃	TATGCTTCTGTCATCACCTTT	ACTTTTCTCACACCAAACAA	55	156
MIR157d	(AAAG) ₃	GATGCTATGCAAAACAGACAC	GGTGATGACAGAAGCATAGAG	55	151
	(TC) ₆	ATTTCTTCCAAAACATGACG	CAAAAACACCAAAAGAGGTAA	55	158
MIR159b	(TC) ₇	TAATGGCTTCACTCTTCTTTG	CTACTCAAGATCCATCATCCA	55	153
	(AAT) ₄	GACAATAAGATTTACTGCCAAA	AAAGAGCATCAACCCTAGTCT	54	141
MIR159c	(CAT) ₄	ATAATCGTCCCAAGGAGTAGA	AAACTATGGAAAGAGGGAGAA	55	141
	(AAAT) ₄	CACCCTAACCGTATCTCTCTC	TCTACTCCTTGGGACGATTAT	55	190
MIR160b	(TA) ₆	CCAATCATATTTAAGGGTTCC	TTGGTCATGCTTGACTACTCT	55	150
MIR161	(AGA) ₄	CTTTGTTTGAGATTGCATCAT	TGACTACCAGTCTACCACTATGT	55	158
	(TTTA) ₃	GTTTGTTTCATCAACCGATTT	TCGATTCTTGCTTTTGTAAC	55	153
MIR162b	(TTGT) ₃	GATTCGATAAAGTCTTCTCAGC	TGATCTGTTACCCAAAACAAT	55	173

MIR164a	(CA) ₉	TTGCCTTACGTAACACACT	TGAGAACTTTGGTTATGGAAA	38	137
	(AC) ₇	No SSR flanking primer found			
	(TA) ₇	GGAATCACGTTTTCAAATATC	AAGTGCGAGTGTTGTTTATGT	54	149
MIR164b	(TC) ₁₀	ATCATACCCCAAGGTAACATA	ATTCTCTCCGACCACATAACT	55	153
	(TG) ₆	AGTTATGTGGTCGGAGAGAAT	TCATCCATATCATCACACTCA	55	165
	(ACAT) ₃	ATCATACCCCAAGGTAACATA	ATTCTCTCCGACCACATAACT	55	153
	(TACG) ₃	GAGGAAGTAGATACCTCTGC	GATCAAGATGCGTGATCATA	54	135
MIR164c	(TTTA) ₄	No-SSR flanking primer found			
MIR165a	(AT) ₇	ACTATGAAACCTTCACGCATA	CCTCATCATAACACCATCATC	54	154
	(CT) ₇	CCTCATCATAACACCATCATC	TAATATCCTCGATCCAGACAA	55	157
	(AT) ₇	No-SSR flanking primer found			
MIR165b	(TC) ₇	ACGACTTATTCAGCCTTCTT	GCAGCTCAATCTTATGTGAGT	55	155
	(TC) ₁₄	TTTGGCTCTCTCCACTTAC	GGCTAAGATCAAGGAAGAGAA	56	146
	(AAG) ₅	TTCTCTCCTTGATCTTAGCC	AGAAAAATCCCTCTTTAAATCC	55	159
	(TC) ₆	CACGTCACAATTCACATCTTA	TTAAGTCTCGTCGTTGTCTTC	54	161
MIR166c	(TCT) ₄	GTGGTCATTTGTCCTCTAT	CCACGTTATCAAGAAGAGAAA	55	150
	(CTTT) ₃	CACTCGAATTAATTTGGAAGA	GGTCGCAAGATAGAACAAATA	55	150
MIR166d	(CTT) ₇	AATATTCGCCTCACACATAGA	TCAATCTACCGATCTTCTTCA	55	141
MIR166e	(TC) ₈	CCCTCTCTCTTTTCATCATT	CTCAAAAGGAAAAGCTTCACT	55	152
MIR166f	(GAT) ₅	GTCTTTCTGAGCCAAAAGTTC	CTTGAAGATTGAGAAGCAAAA	56	146
MIR166g	(CTT) ₅	TAGGGCTTAGATCTTTTGTC	AACCCTAAATCGCTTCACTAT	55	162
MIR167a	(AAAG) ₄	CCAAAAACCAAGAATAAGAAGA	CCAAAAACCAAGAATAAGAAGA	55	162
MIR167b	(GA) ₁₁	TGGAGTCAAACATAAGAATGGA	TATATCTCCACCACCTGTGAC	55	173
	(CT) ₇	TCACAGGTGGTGGAGATATAG	TTAAAGAAGCCTGAAACAGTG	55	150
MIR167c	(AG) ₇	AGCATGATCTTGTCTTCTCT	TCTCTTCATGCTACAATCAT	55	158
	(AGA) ₇	GAGAGAGACTAGGTCATGCTG	TTCATGAGATCCTCTTTCTGA	54	129
MIR167d	(TG) ₇	AACAAGGATCTGTGTAACGTG	GAAAAATGCTCAGCTTGATAA	55	152
	(GT) ₇	ATGTATGTGGTGTGTGTGTC	GAGGGATCGTAAAAGTTAAGG	55	157
MIR168a	(CTT) ₄	AGTGTGAAAGCGAAAATCTCT	TAATGGGGAAATGAGGTTTAT	56	157
	(AATA) ₃	CACGTGCTTCTCAAAAAGATA	GTCTCTTTTACCCGAGAGT	55	186

MIR169b	(TTCA) ₃	TGAACATATTTCTGGCAAGTT	CTCATACGGTCGATGTTAATC	55	134
MIR169c	(TTTA) ₃	TTGAGATGCTAAAGTAGAGCAA	CGAAGTTGAATTTTGACATTG	55	178
	(TTAT) ₄	GGCTCAACATGTAGGAAAAGTA	GATTGGAGCAAACATAACTCTT	55	167
MIR169d	(CGAT) ₃	TAATACCGAAAACCCAAAACCT	CCACCTGTCGTACTTTTCTTA	55	162
MIR169e	(ATG) ₅	TCATCATGAGTTAGGGTTTTG	TCATCATGAGTTAGGGTTTTG	55	140
	(ATC) ₄	AAAGATTCTCCCTTCTTTTT	GCTGCAAGTACAAGTGTTGA	55	160
MIR169m	(AT) ₁₄	AGATGGACATGACAAGAAAAA	ATCCATGTTCTTCCACAATC	55	165
MIR169n	(TA) ₆	AAACACGTCTAAAGTTGCATT	GTCGGTTCATTCATAAATTG	55	144
	(AT) ₁₄	AGATGGACATGACAAGAAAAA	AGATGGACATGACAAGAAAAA	55	165
MIR170	(CTT) ₄	GTGCATTGAGAGTAGCAGAGT	GGACTCTCTCGGAAACATAGT	55	157
MIR171a	(AG) ₆	TTGAGGTTTTGTAAAAAGCAG	ATAAATTTTGAGGGAATCTCG	55	139
	(AGAA) ₄	GCAGAGAAAGAGAGAGAGAGG	ATCGATGAAGATGCTTTGTAA	55	142
MIR171c	(TCAC) ₃	GCCCAATGTTATAAAGGGTAG	GACACCTTCAATTTCTGTGATA	56	172
	(TC) ₁₁	ACAGTCACATCTCTACTGTGC	TTGGAAGCCATATATTAACCA	55	118
MIR172a	(CT) ₇	TGATTCACTCTCCACAAAGTT	ACCTACCTGAAGAAGATCTGG	55	142
	(GTTTGA) ₅	TGAAGGTACGAGTTTCTAGTGTC	CGGAAATTAGTCTTCCATTTT	55	182
MIR172b	(TTC) ₄	TCTTATGACGTAAAAGGACCA	TTCGATCTCTATTTTCTTGGA	55	171
MIR172d	(CT) ₉	GTATCTTCGATTACGATGTGC	GGAAGAGATTTAGGGTGAAGA	55	155
	(TA) ₆	TCAGAAATCCAGATCCTCATA	ATCATTCATCATCGTTTTGTGTC	55	163
	(CT) ₆	ATCTACCATCCCTTTTCTACG	AGAGATGGGAAAAGAAGATGA	55	144
	(ATAC) ₃	ATCTACCATCCCTTTTCTACG	AGAGATGGGAAAAGAAGATGA	55	144
MIR319a	(ATAC) ₃	GTTCCAAACGCTCTATCTCTT	CGAAAAACCATGATTTAGAAG	55	154
	(AATG) ₃	CCAAAATTCAAACTAGACTCG	TAGTGGATCAAGCATGTTTTT	54	157
MIR319b	(AATG) ₃	TCCACTCATGGAGTAATATGTG	CTTCAGTCCAAGCATAGAGAA	55	146
MIR319c	(AAT) ₅	TCTTCGGTTATGACGACTATG	AATAAATCAGGGAGGAAAATG	55	148
	(ATA) ₄	TCTTCGGTTATGACGACTATG	AATAAATCAGGGAGGAAAATG	55	148
MIR390a	(ATTA) ₃	GTCGGGTAAGTTTCATCTGTA	GTCGGGTAAGTTTCATCTGTA	54	144
MIR390b	(TA) ₇	TGTAATATGGGGACACTTAGC	CATCCATAGGTATGCATCTTC	54	164
	(TA) ₁₄	GCTATTTCCGAAAACCTTTTGT	CAAACCTACCAAGTAAGCATGAA	55	155
	(AAG) ₄	CAACCTTGATCTCAAGCCTA	AAATCCAATGAAGAAGAAAGC	55	162

MIR393a	(AAAT) ₄	CGTCTGGTTTACTAGCTCCAT	GATCGTGTTCCTCTTGATTTT	56	149
	(TTAT) ₅	No SSR-flanking primers found!			
MIR394b	(TC) ₇	TGCCTCTTTCTCAATCTCATA	CGAATGTAACATCGAGAGGTA	55	149
MIR395c	(TTTGG) ₄	TTTGTTTACACCCAAACCTAA	AATGCGAGTGACAGTCATTAT	55	133
MIR397b	(TTTTA) ₃	ATGAAGAAAACACCCAAAAAAG	TCTCCACAATAGTCACGCTAC	56	148
MIR398a	(TCT) ₄	CCAAAACCAACTAAAACCTGAA	GCTTTGGAATAAACAGAGGAG	55	134
	(CTT) ₄	GTACGAGTATCCGTAGAGCAG	AAACTCGAACCAGAACAAACT	55	151
MIR398c	(TGTTG) ₃	ATCAGTTTCGCAGTACACAAT	CACAACAAATGATGAAAGGAT	55	159
MIR399b	(CATG) ₃	AAAAATGACATGGTGTACTCA	TTCAGAGAGGGTTGTTTGATA	53	146
MIR399d	(TTG) ₄	AACACAATCGTCTTTCATCAC	TGGTTCTTTCTTCTTTCCTC	55	138
	(TTCT) ₃	TCATACGGTTCTCGAAGAATA	GCAACTCAAAATTTGTGAAAC	55	146
MIR399d	(GAAA) ₃	GATTCTTTCTTCTTCTGTTGG	TAAGGAATGGTTGATGACACT	55	147
	(TA) ₁₁	CCAACATTCAAGATCCTTCTA	CAAGTTCCTCTTGTACTC	55	151
MIR405a	(AACCC) ₃	TTGTTACTAGGGGTGTCAAAA	CCCATCAAATGAAATGAGTTA	55	144
MIR405b	(GTTGG) ₃	CCCATCAAATGAAATGAGTTA	TTAAGTTCATTCCTGTGGGTA	55	157
	(ATTA) ₃	GATTTTCCCGTCTAAAAATGT	GATGGGTTGAGTTGTTAAATG	55	168
MIR405d	(GTTGG) ₃	GGGTCTAACCCATAACTCATT	GCAACATTCTCCTTTTCTTTT	55	168
	(CA) ₆	AGTCACACAACCTTTGACATC	AGAGGGCAGATAGAGTTGAAG	55	151
	(AT) ₆	AGTCACACAACCTTTGACATC	AGAGGGCAGATAGAGTTGAAG	55	151
MIR414	(TTC) ₄	TAATGTTTATCTCCGACTCCA	GCATCCTTAGACCAGTCTTTA	55	145
	(ATC) ₄	TATTAGATGGTGGTGAGGATG	GATGACGATGATGATGAAGAT	55	134
MIR417	(TCA) ₆	GCTTGAAGTCGAAGATAAAGA	TTGCTTCTCAACTCAAATCTC	54	157
	(AAAT) ₃	AGGTTGTACTTATGTGGTGGGA	AGATAATGTAGGTGGGAGATACA	55	147
MIR418	(CAAA) ₅	AGGTGTCAGGTTCTACACAAA	CCAATACATGTGTTAGGATTTTT	55	150
	(TTTTA) ₃	AAATACCCCAAAAAGAGACAC	AAATACCCCAAAAAGAGACAC	55	146
MIR419	(TTGC) ₃	GCTGAGGATGTTGTTATTACG	GGTTCATGACTTGTTTTCTTG	55	158
MIR426	(TAAA) ₄	GTGGACCAAAAAGACATACAAT	TGGTGTGTTTCTTTCCTCTA	54	200
	(GGGAGG) ₃	TGCAATGGATCAGTTAGAATAG	ATCGTCATGTGGACAAGTATT	55	151
MIR472a	(TGTA) ₃	AAGGGGAGTCATATTCTCATC	CAAACACCAAAAACCTTACAAA	55	200

	(AAT) ₄	TGTCTAAGAGAGTTTTTAGCAAG	GTTATTGGGCTTTTATTGGAT	53	292
MIR773a	(TTAT) ₃	CTGGTACATTCATAGTTGTTGC	CAAAACTCTACTCCGTGTTTG	55	151
	(TTGTT) ₃	No-SSR flanking primer found			
MIR779a	(TGTTT) ₃	GTTAGCTGAGCAACCATACTT	CTCATTAAAGCACAATGCTTTC	54	150
MIR822a	(TA) ₂₀	GTTTCAGAAAGGGAAAACATT	CGAAATCGAGTTTGTAAATTC	55	202
MIR825a	(CTAT) ₃	ACAGGTCAATGGTGTAGAAA	AACTGCACAAAGTCTACAAGC	55	139
	(TGCA) ₃	TTATTATTTGGAGCCATCAAC	GTCTGTTTCTGTGTGATTCGT	55	167
MIR826a	(ACAAAT) ₃	CCCTAAAGTATGGGTTCACTT	GCACATGCACATGTACAATAA	55	140
MIR830a	(TTTTG) ₃	TGACACTTGTTAAAAACTCAGC	TAGCGAGACTCTGGTGAAATA	55	150
	(TA) ₁₀	No SSR-flanking primers found!			
MIR832a	(TTTG) ₃	GCGTTGAGTTTAAATTTTCT	TATTTTCTCTTCCATTCTC	55	149
	(CGTTTC) ₃	AAAAATCGTTTCTCATTTC	CCTCATCCTTCTAACATTGTG	53	146
MIR835a	(TTG) ₄	TTATCTAAATCCGTCGTCGT	AAAATTTTCGATCCTGGTG	55	152
	(TA) ₉	TCTACAGAGGATGGAAAGTCA	ACGAACAAGAACTGATGAAA	55	157
MIR837a	(TTC) ₄	No SSR flanking primer found			
	(TAAA) ₃	TGGAAAAACATGAGGACTTTA	AACATGAAAGAAACAGATCCA	55	210
MIR838a	(TA) ₇	ATGTTACTCGCTGTTCAACTC	TCAAGGCTTCAAGAATCTACA	55	152
MIR839a	(CTCA) ₃	CAACTTCTCGTTGATGTTTA	ATGCTACTCTTCTGCTCACA	55	165
MIR843a	(AGA) ₄	ATTAAACCAGCAGTGAAACAA	TGAAGAAGCTAAAGGTTGGAT	55	153
MIR847a	(TCT) ₇	GACTCGAAGGTTGAAGAAAGT	TATGGTGACGGATTTACAAAG	55	151
MIR849a	(TTTA) ₃	AGCTTTTCTTCTGGGTTATGT	TGGTCTAGTAGTTGTCCAATCA	55	165
MIR857a	(TTTTA) ₃	ATGAAGAAAACACCCAAAAAG	TCTCCACAATAGTCACGCTAC	56	148
MIR863a	(TATT) ₃	GGGGAAAACCTTTTCTTATGT	CTCTCAATCGCATTGGTATAA	54	213
	(ATC) ₄	TTTTCTCTTTCGACTCCTCTT	TCAAGGGTGTGAATCATTTAG	55	155
MIR866a	(ATTA) ₃	AACATCAAACCAACTTTCTGA	TCAATTGTCTTTTCGAATCTC	55	166
	(AAG) ₄	CAAACTGATTTAAAGTTTGTGG	TGTCTATTGGGCTTACAAGAA	56	152
MIR867a	(GAA) ₄	AAAAGAAGAAGAAGACGATG	TGATATTGGGCATTTGTCTAT	55	127
	(AT) ₁₀	TAACAGTATTCGTGGGAAAAA	CTTATCCAACAACCTACCACCA	55	149
MIR869a	(AT) ₆	TGGTGGTAGTTGTTGGATAAG	AGGAGTTTTCTCAAGAAGGTG	55	153
	(TCT) ₄	AAACAATCGATCAACATCATC	CAAAAATTTCAAATCCCATC	55	154
MIR870a					

(AGA)₄

TTCGTAAAGAAACATTTGGTC

TGTTGCAAATGTTAGGAGTCT

55

152

532 **Table 2. Genes located adjacent to the miRNA-SSRs.**

533

miRNA	Accession Number	Chr no	5' UTR genes	Gene Description	3' UTR genes	Gene Description
MIR838a	AT1G01046	Chr 1	AT1G01040	Encodes a Dicer homolog.	AT1G01070	Nodulin MtN21-like transporter family protein
MIR165a	AT1G01183	Chr 1	AT1G01180	S-adenosyl-L-methionine-dependent methyltransferases superfamily protein	AT1G01210	DNA-directed RNA polymerase
MIR847a	AT1G07051	Chr 1	AT1G07050	CCT motif family protein	AT1G07060	Unknown protein
MIR472a	AT1G12294	Chr 1	AT1G12290	Disease resistance protein (CC-NBS-LRR class) family	AT1G12300	Tetratricopeptide repeat (TPR)-like superfamily protein
MIR830a	AT1G14071	Chr 1	AT1G14060	GCK domain-containing protein	AT1G14090	Pseudogene
MIR159b	AT1G18075	Chr 1	AT1G18070	Translation elongation factor EF1A/initiation factor IF2gamma family protein	AT1G18080	Encodes the Arabidopsis thaliana homolog of the tobacco WD-40 repeat ArcA gene
MIR837a	AT1G18879	Chr 1	AT1G18871	Unknown protein; LOCATED IN: endomembrane system	AT1G18880	NITRATE TRANSPORTER
MIR394a	AT1G20375	Chr 1	AT1G20370	Pseudouridine synthase family protein	AT1G20380	Prolyl oligopeptidase family protein
MIR395c	AT1G26985	Chr 1	AT1G26976	Unknown protein; FUNCTIONS IN: molecular_function unknown	AT1G26990	Transposable element gene
MIR167d	AT1G31173	Chr 1	AT1G31166	Transposable element gene	AT1G31175	Unknown protein
MIR773a	AT1G35501	Chr 1	AT1G35500	Unknown protein	AT1G35510	O-fucosyltransferase family protein
MIR161	AT1G48267	Chr 1	AT1G48260	Encodes a member of the SNF1-related kinase (SnRK) gene family	AT1G48270	Unknown protein

MIR157d	AT1G48742	Chr 1	AT1G48740	2-oxoglutarate (2OG) and Fe(II)-dependent oxygenase superfamily protein	AT1G48745	Unknown protein
MIR169d	AT1G53683	Chr 1	AT1G53660	Nucleotide/sugar transporter family protein	AT1G53687	MICRORNA169E
MIR169e	AT1G53687	Chr 1	AT1G53683	Encodes a microRNA that targets several HAP2 family members	AT1G53690	Protein of unknown function that is homologous to At5g41010
MIR426	AT1G60025	Chr 1	AT1G60020	Transposable element gene	AT1G60050	Nodulin MtN21-like transporter family protein
MIR171c	AT1G62035	Chr 1	AT1G62030	Cysteine/Histidine-rich C1 domain family protein	AT1G62045	BEST Arabidopsis thaliana protein match is: ankyrin repeat family protein (TAIR:AT1G11740.1)
MIR399b	AT1G63005	Chr 1	AT1G62981	Protein of unknown function (DUF1191)	AT1G63010	Major Facilitator Superfamily with SPX (SYG1/Pho81/XPR1) domain-containing protein
MIR157a	AT1G66783	Chr 1	AT1G66780	MATE efflux family protein	AT1G66790	Unknown protein
MIR157b	AT1G66795	Chr 1	AT1G66790	Unknown protein	AT1G66800	Unknown protein
MIR414	AT1G67195	Chr 1	AT1G67190	F-box/RNI-like superfamily protein	AT1G67200	Pseudogene
MIR839a	AT1G67481	Chr 1	AT1G67480	Galactose oxidase/kelch repeat superfamily protein	AT1G67510	Leucine-rich repeat protein kinase family protein
MIR777a	AT1G70645	Chr 1	AT1G70640	Octicosapeptide/Phox/Bem1p (PB1) domain-containing	AT1G70650	Ran BP2/NZF zinc finger-like superfamily protein
MIR159a	AT1G73687	Chr 1	AT1G73680	Encodes an alpha dioxygenase	AT1G73690	CYCLIN-DEPENDENT KINASE D1
MIR835a	AT1G76062	Chr 1	AT1G76050	Pseudouridine synthase family protein	AT1G76065	LYR family of Fe/S cluster biogenesis protein
MIR394b	AT1G76135	Chr 1	AT1G76120	Pseudouridine synthase family protein	AT1G76140	Prolyl oligopeptidase family protein
MIR398a	AT2G03445	Chr 2	AT2G03430	Ankyrin repeat family protein	AT2G03460	Galactose oxidase/kelch repeat superfamily protein
MIR156g	AT2G19425	Chr 2	AT2G19420	Unknown protein	AT2G19415	Hydroxyproline-rich glycoprotein family protein

MIR779a	AT2G22496	Chr 2	AT2G22482	Unknown protein	AT2G22510	Polynucleotidyl transferase
MIR405a	AT2G22668	Chr 2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
MIR156a	AT2G25095	Chr 2	AT2G25090	Encodes a member of the SNF1-related kinase (SnRK) gene family	AT2G25100	Polynucleotidyl transferase
MIR825a	AT2G26211	Chr 2	AT2G26210	Ankyrin repeat family protein	AT2G26215	Transposable_element_gene
MIR172a	AT2G28056	Chr 2	AT2G28053	Transposable element gene	AT2G28060	5'-AMP-activated protein kinase beta-2 subunit protein
MIR417	AT2G32273	Chr 2	AT2G32240	Unknown protein	AT2G32275	Expressed protein
MIR399d	AT2G34202	Chr 2	AT2G34200	RING/FYVE/PHD zinc finger superfamily protein	AT2G34210	Transcription elongation factor Spt5
MIR390a	AT2G38325	Chr 2	AT2G38304	Unknown protein	AT2G38330	MATE efflux family protein
MIR393a	AT2G39885	Chr 2	AT2G39870	Unknown protein	AT2G39900	Encodes a member of the Arabidopsis LIM proteins
MIR319c	AT2G40805	Chr 2	AT2G40802	Unknown protein	AT2G40815	Calcium-dependent lipid-binding (CaLB domain) family protein
MIR159c	AT2G46255	Chr 2	AT2G46250	Myosin heavy chain-related	AT2G46260	Encodes a member of the Arabidopsis LIM proteins
MIR164a	AT2G47585	Chr 2	AT2G47570	Ribosomal protein L18e/L15 superfamily protein	AT2G47610	Ribosomal protein L7Ae/L30e/S12e/Gadd45 family protein
MIR167c	AT3G04765	Chr 3	AT3G04760	Pentatricopeptide repeat (PPR-like) superfamily protein	AT3G04780	Thioredoxin-like protein
MIR169a	AT3G13405	Chr 3	AT3G13403	Encodes a defensin-like (DEFL) family protein.	AT3G13410	Unknown protein
MIR157c	AT3G18217	Chr 3	AT3G18215	Protein of unknown function, DUF599	AT3G18220	LIPID PHOSPHATE PHOSPHATASE 4
MIR418	AT3G18895	Chr 3	AT3G18890	NAD(P)-binding Rossmann-fold superfamily protein	AT3G18900	FUNCTIONS IN: molecular_function unknown

MIR167a	AT3G22886	Chr 3	AT3G22870	F-box and associated interaction domains-containing protein	AT3G22910	ATPase E1-E2 type family protein / haloacid dehalogenase-like hydrolase family protein
MIR169m	AT3G26818	Chr 3	AT3G26816	Encodes a microRNA that targets several HAP2 family members	AT3G26819	MICRORNA169N
MIR169n	AT3G26819	Chr 3	AT3G26818	Encodes a microRNA that targets several HAP2 family members	AT3G26820	Esterase/lipase/thioesterase family protein
MIR849a	AT3G44444	Chr 3	AT3G44440	unknown protein	AT3G44450	unknown protein
MIR843a	AT3G48057	Chr 3	AT3G48050	'SHUTTLE' IN CHINESE, SUO	AT3G48058	pseudogene of Rac-like GTP-binding protein
MIR171a	AT3G51375	Chr 3	AT3G51370	Protein phosphatase 2C family protein	AT3G51390	DHHC-type zinc finger family protein
MIR172d	AT3G55512	Chr 3	AT3G55490	GINS complex protein	AT3G55520	FKBP-like peptidyl-prolyl cis-trans isomerase family protein
MIR166b	AT3G61897	Chr 3	AT3G61870	unknown protein	AT3G61898	unknown protein
MIR167b	AT3G63375	Chr 3	AT3G63360	Encodes a defensin-like (DEFL) family protein.	AT3G63380	ATPase E1-E2 type family protein / haloacid dehalogenase-like hydrolase family protein
MIR165b	AT4G00885	Chr 4	AT4G00880	SAUR-like auxin-responsive protein family	AT4G00890	Encodes a putative glycosyl hydrolase family 10 protein (xylanase).
MIR826a	AT4G03039	Chr 4	AT4G03030	Galactose oxidase/kelch repeat superfamily protein	AT4G03038	Unknown gene
MIR405d	AT4G05508	Chr 4	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
MIR401	AT4G08116	Chr 4	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
MIR832a	AT4G10345	Chr 4	AT4G10330	Glycine-rich protein	AT4G10360	TRAM
MIR863a	AT4G13494	Chr 4	AT4G13495	Unknown gene	AT4G13500	Unknown protein
MIR857a	AT4G13554	Chr 4	AT4G13550	Triglyceride lipases	AT4G13555	MICRORNA397B

MIR397b	AT4G13555	Chr 4	AT4G13554	Encodes a microRNA that targets a Laccase family member	AT4G13575	unknown protein
MIR160b	AT4G17788	Chr 4	AT4G17780	F-box and associated interaction domains-containing protein	AT4G17790	SNARE associated Golgi protein family
MIR168a	AT4G19395	Chr 4	AT4G19390	Uncharacterised protein family (UPF0114)	AT4G19400	Profilin family protein
MIR867a	AT4G21362	Chr 4	AT4G21360	Transposable element gene	AT4G21363	transposable element gene
MIR319a	AT4G23713	Chr 4	AT4G23690	Encodes a homodimeric all-beta dirigent protein in the superfamily of calycins	AT4G23720	Protein of unknown function (DUF1191)
MIR156b	AT4G30972	Chr 4	AT4G30970	Unknown protein	AT4G30975	Unknown gene
MIR419	AT4G32445	Chr 4	AT4G32440	Plant Tudor-like RNA-binding protein	AT4G32450	Pentatricopeptide repeat (PPR) superfamily protein
MIR164b	AT5G01747	Chr 5	AT5G01740	Nuclear transport factor 2 (NTF2) family protein	AT5G01750	Protein of unknown function (DUF567)
MIR822a	AT5G03552	Chr 5	AT5G03550	TRAF-like family protein	AT5G03555	NUCLEOBASE CATION SYMPORTER 1
MIR172b	AT5G04275	Chr 5	AT5G04270	DHHC-type zinc finger family protein	AT5G04280	ATRZ-1C
MIR166c	AT5G08712	Chr 5	AT5G08710	Regulator of Chr condensation (RCC1) family protein	AT5G08720	CONTAINS InterPro DOMAIN/s: Streptomyces cyclase/dehydrase (InterPro:IPR005031)
MIR166d	AT5G08717	Chr 5	AT5G08710	Regulator of Chr condensation (RCC1) family protein	AT5G08720	CONTAINS InterPro DOMAIN/s: Streptomyces cyclase/dehydrase (InterPro:IPR005031)
MIR156d	AT5G10945	Chr 5	AT5G10946	Unknown protein	AT5G10950	Tudor/PWWP/MBT superfamily protein
MIR156e	AT5G11977	Chr 5	AT5G11970	Protein of unknown function (DUF3511)	AT5G11980	Conserved oligomeric Golgi complex component-related / COG complex component-related
MIR398c	AT5G14565	Chr 5	AT5G14560	Unknown protein	AT5G14580	polyribonucleotide nucleotidyltransferase

MIR162b	AT5G23065	Chr 5	AT5G23035	Encodes a defensin-like (DEFL) family protein.	AT5G23070	Thymidine kinase
MIR169b	AT5G24825	Chr 5	AT5G24820	Eukaryotic aspartyl protease family protein	AT5G24830	Tetratricopeptide repeat (TPR)-like superfamily protein
MIR156f	AT5G26147	Chr 5	AT5G26140	LONELY GUY 9 (LOG9)	AT5G26146	Potential natural antisense gene
MIR164c	AT5G27807	Chr 5	AT5G27800	Class II aminoacyl-tRNA and biotin synthetases superfamily protein	AT5G27810	MADS-box transcription factor family protein
MIR169c	AT5G39635	Chr 5	AT5G39630	Vesicle transport v-SNARE family protein	AT5G39640	Putative endonuclease or glycosyl hydrolase
MIR869a	AT5G39693	Chr 5	AT5G39670	Calcium-binding EF-hand family protein	AT5G39730	AIG2-like (avirulence induced gene) family protein
MIR866a	AT5G40384	Chr 5	AT5G40382	Cytochrome c oxidase subunit Vc family protein	AT5G40400	Pentatricopeptide repeat (PPR) superfamily protein
MIR319b	AT5G41663	Chr 5	AT5G41660	Unknown protein	AT5G41670	6-phosphogluconate dehydrogenase family protein
MIR166e	AT5G41905	Chr 5	AT5G41900	alpha/beta-Hydrolases superfamily protein	AT5G41908	Unknown protein
MIR166f	AT5G43603	Chr 5	AT5G43590	Acyl transferase/acyl hydrolase/lysophospholipase superfamily protein	AT5G43620	Pre-mRNA cleavage complex II
MIR405b	AT5G50717	Chr 5	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
MIR870a	AT5G52797	Chr 5	AT5G52790	FUNCTIONS IN: molecular_function unknown	AT5G52780	Protein of unknown function (DUF3464)
MIR156h	AT5G55835	Chr 5	AT5G55830	Concanavalin A-like lectin protein kinase family protein	AT5G55840	Pentatricopeptide repeat (PPR) superfamily protein
MIR390b	AT5G58465	Chr 5	AT5G58450	Tetratricopeptide repeat (TPR)-like superfamily protein	AT5G58480	O-Glycosyl hydrolases family 17 protein

MIR166g	AT5G63715	Chr 5	AT5G63710	Leucine-rich repeat protein kinase family protein	AT5G63720	KOKOPELLI, KPL
MIR170	AT5G66045	Chr 5	AT5G66010	RNA-binding (RRM/RBD/RNP motifs) family protein	AT5G66050	Wound-responsive family protein

