

1 **Ribosome stalling caused by the Argonaute-miRNA-SGS3 complex**
2 **regulates production of secondary siRNA biogenesis in plants**

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26 **Abstract**

27 The path of ribosomes on mRNAs can be impeded by various obstacles. One such
28 example is halting of ribosome movement by microRNAs, though the exact mechanism
29 and physiological role remain unclear. Here, we find that ribosome stalling caused by the
30 Argonaute-miRNA-SGS3 complex regulates production of secondary siRNA biogenesis
31 in plants. We show that the double-stranded RNA-binding protein, SGS3, directly
32 interacts with the 3' end of the microRNA-Argonaute complex, resulting in ribosome
33 stalling. Strikingly, microRNA-mediated ribosome stalling enhances production of
34 secondary small interfering RNAs (siRNAs) from target mRNAs. Our results uncover a
35 previously uncharacterized role for paused ribosomes in regulation of small RNA
36 function that may have broad biological implications across the plant kingdom.

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38 **Main**

39 Ribosome movement can be interrupted by various factors including rare codons, special
40 RNA structures and specific amino acid sequences called ribosome arrest peptides^{1,2}.
41 Although the physiological roles of such impediments are unclear, growing evidence
42 indicates that ribosome stalling has diverse functions, including ER stress response,
43 monitoring protein secretion, feedback regulation of methionine biosynthesis, quality
44 control of mRNAs, and folding of nascent peptide chains²⁻⁴.

45 Recent findings suggested that microRNAs (miRNAs) can cause ribosome
46 stalling as well as target RNA degradation or cleavage⁵⁻¹⁰. To pause ribosomes, miRNAs
47 need to form RNA-induced silencing complexes (RISCs) with Argonaute (AGO) protein,
48 and extensively base-pair within the coding sequence (CDS) of the target mRNA^{5,6,9}.
49 However, these requirements are not sufficient for ribosome stalling in plants; although
50 many plant miRNAs have their cleavable targets with perfect or near perfect
51 complementary binding sites in CDS, only a few miRNA binding sites can induce
52 ribosome stalling *in vivo*⁹. Thus, unknown elements other than RISC binding should be
53 required for miRNA-mediated ribosome pausing.

54 The biological function of the miRNA-mediated ribosome stalling also remains
55 unclear. One plausible role of the miRNA-mediated ribosome stalling is inhibition of
56 functional protein synthesis⁵⁻⁷. However, given that the target cleavage activity of plant
57 RISC is functionally sufficient to silence target gene expression, ribosome stalling may
58 have a role other than translation repression.

59 Here, we show that a dsRNA binding protein, SGS3, is a key determinant of
60 miRNA-mediated ribosome stalling. SGS3 forms a complex on dsRNA protruding from
61 the miR390-AGO7-target complex. These mechanisms also operate in the context of a
62 distinct 22-nucleotide miRNA-AGO1-RISC complex. Importantly, we find that SGS3
63 and miRNA-mediated ribosome stalling enhances amplification of RNA silencing,
64 revealing a new role of ribosome pausing beyond inhibition of protein synthesis.

65

66 **Results**

67 **The dsRNA-binding protein SGS3 is a specific enhancer for microRNA-mediated** 68 **ribosome stalling**

69 We sought to find the miRNA-mediated ribosome stalling positions in a genome-wide
70 scale. To do this, we first performed ribosome profiling, an approach that is based on
71 sequencing of ribosome-protected footprints after RNase treatment¹¹, in *Arabidopsis*
72 seedlings. Our data represented a 3-nucleotide periodicity along the ORF, a hallmark of
73 translation elongation (Extended Data Fig. 1a). We combined this high-resolution
74 ribosome profiling and the miRNA target prediction¹² to identify the ribosome-stalling
75 position upstream of the predicted miRNA binding sites (Supplementary Table 1). Along
76 with earlier studies⁸⁻¹⁰, our ribosome profiling has shown that specific miRNAs, including
77 miR390 and miR173, can induce ribosome stalling 12–13 nucleotide upstream of their
78 binding sites in *Arabidopsis thaliana* (Fig. 1a, b, c, Extended Data Fig. 1b, c and d). These
79 particular miRNAs are known to trigger the production of phased secondary small
80 interfering RNAs (siRNAs), called trans-acting siRNAs (tasiRNAs), from precursors

81 called TAS RNAs¹³. tasiRNA production requires various factors including AGO7 and
82 AGO1, which form specific RISCs with miR390 and miR173, respectively¹³⁻¹⁵. One
83 important factor for tasiRNA biogenesis is SUPPRESSOR OF GENE SILENCING 3
84 (SGS3)¹⁶⁻²⁰. Given that SGS3 forms cytoplasmic foci named “siRNA bodies” with AGO7
85 (ref. 20) and interacts with miR173-AGO1 RISC (ref. 21), we reasoned that SGS3
86 influences miRNA-mediated ribosome stalling. To test this idea, we examined the impact
87 of an SGS3 mutation on miRNA-mediated ribosome stalling by comparing ribosome
88 profiling in wild-type and *sgs3-11 Arabidopsis* seedlings¹⁹. We observed dramatic
89 decreases in ribosome stalling in *sgs3-11* mutants (Fig. 1b and c and Extended Data Fig.
90 1b, c, d and 2). This reduction cannot be explained by a change in mRNA or miRNA
91 abundance in the mutant (Fig. 1b and c and Extended Data Fig. 1, 2 and 3). Thus, we
92 concluded that SGS3 is required for ribosome stalling by miR390 and miR173. Given
93 that *sgs3-11* mutation did not cause an overall decrease in ribosome occupancy (Extended
94 Data Fig. 2), SGS3 is not a general ribosome stalling factor, but rather a specific stalling
95 enhancer for miRNA-mediated ribosome stalling.

96

97 **SGS3 and RISC cooperatively stall ribosomes *in vitro***

98 Although our ribosome profiling data demonstrate the involvement of SGS3 and miRNAs
99 in ribosome stalling, how these factors coordinately pause ribosomes was unclear. To
100 reveal the mechanisms of miRNA- and SGS3-dependent ribosome stalling, we adopted a
101 tobacco BY-2 cell-free system, which can recapitulate miRNA-mediated RNA silencing
102 *in vitro* (Fig. 2a)^{6,22}. We used TAS3a as a representative target RNA. TAS3a contains a

103 short (51 codon) ORF and two miR390-binding sites: one is adjacent to the stop codon
104 and immediately downstream of the ribosome stalling site, and the other is located well
105 downstream of those elements (Fig. 2b)²³. Ribosome stalling within the short ORF was
106 monitored by detecting peptidyl-tRNAs, a hallmark of ribosome stalling, by western
107 blotting to a FLAG-tag inserted in the F-TAS3 ORF (Fig. 2a and c). Western blotting
108 followed a neutral pH gel electrophoresis that prevents hydrolysis of the ester linkage
109 between the tRNA and amino acid²⁴, thus enabling us to detect peptidyl-tRNAs within
110 stalled ribosomes through an ~18 kDa upshift —the size of the tRNA moiety (Fig. 2c).
111 Translation of the reporter (F-TAS3) in the presence of AGO7-RISC led to a clear band-
112 shift (Fig. 2d and e). Disappearance of this signal after RNase treatment confirmed that
113 the upshifted band corresponds to peptidyl-tRNA (Fig. 2d).

114 The two miR390-binding sites in TAS3a are functionally distinct; the 5'
115 possesses central mismatches that preclude RISC-mediated target cleavage but allow
116 stable binding, whereas the 3' miR390 binding site is centrally matched with the miR390
117 and thus cleaves the TAS3a RNA (Fig. 2b)²³. The adjacent 5' binding site is essential for
118 ribosome stalling. Mutations in the “seed region”, which is critical for miRNA
119 recognition, of the 3' miR390 binding site (Fig. 2b, F-TAS3_3M) did not impair ribosome
120 stalling, whereas also mutating the 5' binding site (Fig. 2b, F-TAS3_5M_3M) reduced
121 stalling (Fig. 2d and e). Thus, ribosome stalling requires base-pairing between miR390 in
122 AGO7-RISC and the 5' miR390-binding site in TAS3a. As the 3' site mutation increased
123 peptidyl-tRNA accumulation, presumably by stabilizing the mRNA since it is no longer
124 cleaved (Fig. 2d), we decided to use F-TAS3_3M for further experiments.

125 We next sought to investigate the impact of SGS3 on ribosome stalling.
126 Because endogenous SGS3 (NtSGS3) is abundant in BY-2 cells²¹, we immuno-depleted
127 NtSGS3 from the lysate (Fig. 2f) and found decreased ribosome stalling (Fig. 2g and h).
128 Supplementing with recombinant AtSGS3 markedly rescued ribosome stalling efficiency
129 (Fig. 2f, g and h), indicating that SGS3 is a critical and limiting factor for miRNA-
130 mediated ribosome stalling. Taken altogether, our *in vitro* system faithfully recapitulated
131 ribosome stalling triggered by AGO7-RISC and SGS3.

132

133 **SGS3 binding to the 3' end of initiator microRNAs is required for ribosome pausing**

134 The functional roles of AGO7-RISC and SGS3 prompted us to hypothesize that these two
135 factors form a complex that promotes ribosome stalling. SGS3 is an RNA-binding protein
136 that preferentially binds RNA duplexes with a 5' overhang²⁵. In theory, such a substrate
137 is formed between the 3' end of miR390 within AGO7 and the 5' end of the miR390-
138 binding site. We therefore hypothesized that SGS3 directly interacts with the end of the
139 dsRNA protruding from AGO7. To test this scenario, we first examined the interaction
140 between SGS3 and AGO7-RISC. The FLAG-tagged AGO7 mRNA was translated in the
141 BY-2 cell lysate, then the miR390 duplex was added to program RISC. After further
142 incubation with TAS3 mRNAs, the reaction mixture was used for co-
143 immunoprecipitation with anti-FLAG antibody (Fig. 3a). This assay revealed that
144 endogenous NtSGS3 binds AGO7-RISC only in the presence of both miR390 and TAS3
145 variants with a wild-type 5' site (Extended Data Fig. 4a). Remarkably, introducing
146 mismatches at the 5' end of the miR390-binding site (Fig. 3b, TAS3_5endM_3M) or using

147 a miR390 variant that is one-nucleotide shorter (20 nt) (Fig. 3b), which is not predicted
148 to protrude from AGO7, disrupted the interaction between NtSGS3 and AGO7-RISC (Fig.
149 3b, c, d, Extended Data Fig. 4b). These results strongly support a model where SGS3
150 forms a complex with AGO7-RISC via dsRNA with a 5' overhang formed at the 3' end
151 of miR390.

152 To test whether SGS3 directly interacts with the 3' end of miR390 on the *TAS3*
153 RNA, we performed a site-specific UV crosslinking assay, in which molecules
154 neighboring the 3' end of miR390 can be captured. We first substituted the 3' end cytidine
155 of miR390 with a photo-reactive 4-thiouridine (Extended Data Fig. 4c, miR390_4SU),
156 and restored base-pairing using a TAS3a variant with a G-to-A substitution at the 5'
157 miR390 binding site (Extended Data Fig. 4c, TAS3_G21A_3M). This variant
158 successfully rescued the interaction between miR390_21_4SU-loaded AGO7 and
159 NtSGS3 (Extended Data Fig. 4c and d). In this context of the reporter, proteins
160 crosslinked to 5' radiolabeled miR390_21_4SU were separated on an SDS-PAGE gel (Fig.
161 3e). In the absence of the target RNA, a specific band appeared at around 120 kDa (Fig.
162 3f, red arrowhead). Immunoprecipitation using the anti-FLAG antibody revealed that the
163 band corresponds to F-AGO7 (Fig. 3g, red arrowheads). Strikingly, addition of the target
164 RNA changed the crosslinked protein from AGO7 to a ~90 kDa protein, which, verified
165 as NtSGS3 using immunoprecipitation (Fig. 3f and h). These results indicate that target
166 binding alters protein interactions at the 3' end of miR390, switching them from AGO7
167 to SGS3, likely via conformational changes in AGO7-RISC.

168 To test if the physical interaction between SGS3 and AGO7-RISC is critical for
169 ribosome pausing, we performed *in vitro* ribosome stalling experiments under conditions
170 where SGS3 fails to bind AGO7-RISC using reporter variant F-TAS3_5endM_3M or the
171 short 20-nt version of miR390. In both cases, stalling efficiencies were significantly
172 decreased (Fig. 3i, j, k and l). Taken together, we find a direct interaction between SGS3
173 and the 3' end of 21-nt miR390 bound to AGO7-RISC is necessary for ribosome stalling
174 on TAS3 mRNA.

175 It is worth noting that the required length of miRNA for SGS3 binding and
176 ribosome pausing may differ between partner AGO proteins. In contrast to AGO7,
177 AGO1—bound by most miRNAs—requires a 22-nt long miR173 for both SGS3
178 interaction and ribosome stalling (Fig. 4a, b, c and d)²¹. As miRNAs are typically 21-nt
179 long, plants may have evolved a AGO1 structure that fully encapsulates the 21-nt
180 miRNAs, thus limiting promiscuous SGS3 binding and ribosome stalling. Importantly,
181 we find that ribosome pausing occurs even if TAS1 is cleaved by AGO1-RISC loaded
182 with 22-nt miR173 (Fig. 4d and e). This is not limited to the TAS1 and miR173-AGO1
183 pair. AGO7-miR390-SGS3 complex also stalls ribosomes on the cleavable binding site
184 which has perfect complementarity to miR390 (Extended Data Fig. 5a, b and c). Because
185 AGO-miRNA-SGS3 complex holds and stabilizes both 5' and 3' RNA fragments after
186 target cleavage (Fig. 4e)²¹, we reasoned that SGS3 and RISC can stay on the cleaved
187 targets long enough to stall ribosomes.

188

189 **Ribosome stalling enhances the production of secondary siRNAs**

190 The striking requirement of a TAS precursor structure for ribosome stalling (Fig. 1a, b
191 and c, Extended Data Fig. 1b, c, d) led us to hypothesize that ribosome pausing by the
192 SGS3-miRNA complex promotes tasiRNA production. So far, several studies have
193 focused on the relationship between translation and tasiRNA biogenesis^{8-10,26,27}. However,
194 it is still controversial if positioning of the miRNA-binding site in the CDS or near the
195 stop codon is important for tasiRNA production^{8,26,27}. For example, previous quantitative
196 RT-PCR (qRT-PCR) experiments showed no significant changes in tasiRNA production
197 between the wild-type TAS3 and a mutant TAS3 that possesses an early stop codon
198 located far upstream of the 5' miR390 binding site⁸, suggesting that ribosome stalling has
199 no impact on the tasiRNA biogenesis. To carefully assess the impact of ribosome stalling
200 on tasiRNA biogenesis, we first attempted to construct TAS3 variants with no ribosome
201 stalling that retain binding to AGO7 and SGS3. Such variants were obtained by inserting
202 4 or more nucleotides between the stop codon and 5' miR390 binding site in TAS3 (Fig.
203 5a, b and Extended Data Fig. 6). As ribosomes stall one-codon upstream of the stop codon
204 in TAS3, we reasoned that these insertions promote normal translation termination
205 without interfering in the binding between AGO7-RISC and SGS3.

206 To test the hypothesis that ribosome pausing promotes the production of
207 tasiRNAs, we compared tasiRNA accumulation in different TAS3 variants in *Nicotiana*
208 *benthamiana* leaves. We opted to use Northern blotting for accurate detection of the
209 secondary siRNAs, because this method can distinguish the canonical secondary siRNAs
210 from the non-specific RNA fragments derived from the TAS3 reporters by size. Co-
211 expression of miR390 and AGO7 efficiently produced 21-nt tasiRNAs, compared with

212 the 5' miR390 binding site mutant (TAS3_5M) (Fig. 5c, d and e). Thus, our transient
213 assay successfully recapitulated canonical TAS3 tasiRNA biogenesis. Importantly,
214 placing the 5' miR390 binding site 6-nucleotide away (Fig. 5c, TAS3+6) significantly
215 reduced tasiRNA production to ~60% (Fig. 5d and e), suggesting that clearance of stalled
216 ribosomes impairs efficient tasiRNA production. In contrast, tasiRNA production from a
217 TAS3 variant with a 3-nucleotide insertion (Fig. 5c, TAS+3), which still stalls ribosomes,
218 was comparable to that from wild-type TAS3 (Fig. 5d and e). To confirm if ribosome
219 stalling enhances the tasiRNA biogenesis, we introduced artificial tandem stop codons at
220 the ~120 nt upstream of the miR390 target site (early_stop), which forces ribosomes to
221 terminate without stalling (Fig. 5c). In contrast to the previous report⁸, our quantitative
222 Northern blotting revealed that the tandem early stop codons significantly reduced
223 tasiRNA production to ~60%, similarly to TAS3+6 (Fig. 5d and e). These data were not
224 explained by changes in precursor *TAS3* abundance (Fig. 5f and g). Altogether, we
225 conclude that ribosome stalling regulates secondary siRNA production in a manner
226 different from stabilization of mRNAs.

227

228 **Discussion**

229 Here, we find that the dsRNA-binding protein SGS3 forms ribosome stalling complexes
230 on the protruding end of the dsRNA formed between the TAS RNAs and miR390-AGO7
231 or 22-nt miR173-AGO1-RISC (Fig. 6). In general, the ribosome displaces RNA binding
232 proteins bound to mRNAs during elongation²⁸, suggesting that SGS3 imposes an extreme
233 barrier for trailing ribosomes. A recent study suggested that unconventional base-pairing

234 between human miRNAs and target sites cause transient ribosome stalling⁵. Although the
235 precise stalling mechanism remains unclear in animals, there may be an RNA-binding
236 protein(s) that protects the 3' end of miRNA from the helicase activity of ribosomes.

237 Strikingly, we demonstrate that ribosome stalling is a regulator for tasiRNA
238 biogenesis (Fig.5d, e and 6). This is supported from an evolutionary standpoint; most
239 plant species have the 5' miR390 binding site just downstream the stop codon or in the
240 CDS of TAS3 (Supplementary Table 2). The molecular details of how ribosome stalling
241 enhances tasiRNA production warrant future studies. Given that arrest peptide-mediated
242 ribosome-pausing induces changes in mRNA localization in animal cells²⁹, we suggest
243 that miRNA-mediated ribosome pausing may promote to deliver the tasiRNA precursors
244 to a secondary siRNA “factory”, such as the siRNA body²⁰.

245 We observed SGS3- and RISC-dependent ribosome stalling in five TAS loci in
246 *Arabidopsis* (Fig. 1). However, they must be just a tip of the iceberg of miRNA-mediated
247 ribosome pausing. There are many DNA regions named PHAS loci that produce phased
248 secondary siRNAs (phasiRNAs) by the same mechanism as TAS loci¹³. Although our
249 ribosome profiling failed to detect obvious ribosome stalling 11–14 nt upstream of
250 miRNA binding sites in known PHAS loci (Fig. 1 and Supplementary Table 1), more
251 sensitive methods like single-molecule imaging³⁰ may reveal ribosome stalling on the
252 miRNA-bound targets. In addition to miRNAs, siRNAs may also induce ribosome
253 stalling. A recent study demonstrates that 22-nt siRNAs, which have the potential to
254 recruit SGS3, accumulate upon environmental stress, trigger the RNA silencing
255 amplification, and mediate translational repression³¹. Such 22-nt siRNAs are also induced

256 by viral infection^{16,32–35}. Therefore, SGS3- and miRNA/siRNA-mediated ribosome
257 stalling is likely to have an impact on a wider range of cellular processes such as stress
258 adaptation and antiviral immunity in plants.

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260

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262

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350

351

352 **Methods**

353

354 **General methods.**

355 Preparation of tobacco BY-2 lysate, substrate mixture (containing ATP, ATP-regeneration
356 system, and amino acid mixture), 1×lysis buffer [30 mM HEPES-KOH (pH 7.4), 100 mM
357 potassium acetate, 2 mM magnesium acetate], and microRNA duplexes (Supplementary
358 Table 3) have been previously described in detail¹. mRNAs were transcribed *in vitro* from
359 NotI- (for plasmids with the prefix “pBYL-”) or XhoI- (for plasmids with the prefix
360 “pUC57-”) digested plasmids or PCR products using the AmpliScribe T7 High Yield
361 Transcription Kit (Lucigen), followed by capping with ScriptCap m⁷G Capping System
362 (Cell Script). Poly(A)-tails were added to transcripts from pUC57-plasmids or PCR
363 products using the T7 promoter by A-Plus Poly(A) Polymerase Tailing Kit (Cell Script).
364 Anti-AtSGS3 (diluted at 1:3000) and anti-AtAGO7 antibodies (diluted at 1:3000) were
365 raised in rabbits using synthetic peptides (NH₂-MSSRAGPMSKEKNVQGGC-COOH)
366 and (NH₂-IPSSKSRTPLLHKPYHHC-COOH) as antigens respectively, and affinity-
367 purified (Medical & Biological Laboratories).

368

369 **Plants and growth conditions.**

370 *Arabidopsis thaliana* wild-type (Col-0) and the *sgs3-11* mutant² were used in this study.
371 Seeds were incubated in 70% EtOH at room temperature for 2 min, sterilized with liquid
372 sodium hypochlorite, washed 5 times in sterile water, sown on filter paper (Whatman
373 No.2), laid on Murashige and Skoog (MS)-agar plates (1×MS salt, 1% sucrose, 1% agar,

374 pH 5.7) and incubated at 4°C for 3 days. After vernalization, the plates were incubated at
375 22°C for 3 days under continuous LED light (LC-LED450W, TAITEC).

376

377 **Ribosome profiling.**

378 Briefly, 0.2 g of frozen seedlings and 400 µl of *Arabidopsis* lysis buffer (100 mM Tris-
379 HCl pH 7.5, 40 mM KCl, 20 mM MgCl₂, 1 mM DTT, 100 µg/ml cycloheximide and 1%
380 Triton X-100) were crushed into a powder using the Multi-beads shocker (Yasui Kikai).
381 The 3000 × g supernatant of the lysate was mixed with 25 µl of Turbo DNase (Thermo
382 Fisher Scientific) and incubated on ice for 10 min. RNA concentration was measured with
383 a Qubit RNA BR Assay Kit (Thermo Fisher Scientific). Ribosome footprints ranging
384 between 17 and 34 nt were gel-purified and subsequent library preparation were executed
385 as previously described^{3,4}. Two libraries from two biological replicates (WT_rep1,
386 WT_rep2, sgs3_rep1 and sgs3_rep2) were sequenced on a HiSeq4000 (Illumina). 24 to
387 29 nt footprints were mapped onto the TAIR10 *Arabidopsis thaliana* genome sequence,
388 excluding rRNA/tRNAs. Empirically, A-site position was estimated as 11 for 24 nt, 12
389 for 25 nt, 13 for 26 nt, 14 for 27 nt, 15 for 28 nt, 16 for 29 nt, based on the homogeneous
390 5' end of the reads. The relative ribosome occupancy r at position j in an ORF of gene g
391 of length l is defined as follows:

392

393

$$r_{gj} = \frac{f_{gj}}{d_{gj}}$$

394 where

395
$$d_{gj} = \frac{(\sum_{i=1}^l f_i) - f_j}{l - 1}$$

396 f_{gj} is the footprint at position j in a ORF of gene g . r_{gj} is a ratio of f_{gj} to the average
397 footprint across nucleotide positions on the ORF of the same gene, d_{gj} .

398

399 **microRNA target prediction.**

400 The targets of mature *Arabidopsis* microRNA sequences [miRbase (miRbase20)^{5,6}] were
401 predicted using the psRNATarget server^{7,8} with the following settings: # of top targets =
402 15, Expectation = 3, Seed region = 2-8 nt.

403

404 **RNA-seq.**

405 Total RNA was extracted from seedlings with Trizol (Thermo Fisher Scientific). Library
406 construction and deep sequencing were performed by AnnoRoad in Beijing. Reads were
407 mapped to the transcripts of *Arabidopsis thaliana* (derived from TAIR10, ver. 10 released
408 on 2010 in psRNATarget server^{7,8}) by Bowtie2⁹. Sam files were converted to bam files
409 using SAMtools¹⁰ and then to bed files with BEDTools¹¹. BEDtools¹¹ was used to
410 calculate the depth of coverage for every base across mRNAs shown in Fig 1b, c,
411 Extended Data Fig. 1b, c and d.

412

413 **Plasmid construction.**

414 The following constructs used in this study have been previously described: pBYL2¹²,
415 pBYL-AGO1¹³, pBYL-AGO7¹³, pBYL-3×FLAG-AGO7¹³, pBYL-3×FLAG-AGO1¹³,

416 pBYL-3×FLAG-SUMO-AtAGO1¹⁴, pAT006¹⁵, pMDC32¹⁶, pMDC-Tas3a¹⁷, pMDC-HA-
417 AGO7¹⁷, pMDC-miR390¹⁷. The DNA fragments used for plasmid construction are listed
418 in Supplementary Table 4.

419

420 *pBYL-3×HA*

421 A DNA fragment containing the T7 promoter, 5' UTR of *Arabidopsis thaliana* alcohol
422 dehydrogenase 1 and 3×HA tag (T7_ADH_5UTR_3×HA, Supplementary Table 4) was
423 cloned into XbaI/AscI-digested pBYL2 vector using the HiFi DNA Assembly Cloning kit
424 (New England Biolabs).

425

426 *pBYL-3×HA-AGO7*

427 A DNA fragment containing AGO7 ORF was amplified by PCR with pBYL-AGO7¹³
428 using primers oligoE1 and oligoE2, digested by AscI, and cloned into AscI-digested
429 pBYL-3×HA vector by ligation.

430

431 *pBYL-3×HA-AGO1*

432 A PCR fragment with AGO1 ORF following 3×HA tag was amplified by overlap
433 extension PCR with pBYL-AGO1¹³ as template using primers oligo1118 and oligo1094.
434 The fragment was cloned into AscI-digested pBYL2 vector via HiFi DNA Assembly
435 Cloning kit (New England Biolabs).

436

437 *pUC57-TAS3*

438 The TAS3a sequence (AT3G17185.1) following T7 promoter (T7_TAS3a,
439 Supplementary Table 4) was inserted into EcoRV-digested pUC57 vector via GenScript
440 gene synthesis service.

441

442 *pUC57-F-TAS3*

443 Three DNA fragments were prepared by PCR: TAS3a_5' UTR fragment amplified from
444 pUC57-TAS3 using primers oligo1062 and oligo1063, 3×FLAG tag sequence amplified
445 using two oligos, oligo1064 and oligo512 and the TAS3a ORF amplified from pUC57-
446 TAS3 using primers, oligo1065 and oligo1066. The three DNA fragments were cloned
447 into SacII/XhoI-digested pUC57-TAS3a via HiFi DNA Assembly Cloning kit (New
448 England Biolabs).

449

450 *pUC57-F-TAS3_3M*

451 Seven nucleotide mismatches were introduced into the seed sequence of the 3' miR390
452 binding site (Fig. 2c) in pUC57-F-TAS3 by site directed mutagenesis using primers
453 oligo1073 and oligo1074.

454

455 *pUC57-F-TAS3_5M_3M*

456 Seven nucleotide mismatches were introduced into the seed sequence of the 5' miR390
457 binding site (Fig. 2c) in pUC57-F-TAS3_3M by site directed mutagenesis using primers
458 oligo 1099 and oligo1100.

459

460 *pUC57-F-TAS3_3M(+1)*, *pUC57-F-TAS3_3M(+2)*, *pUC57-F-TAS3_3M(+3)*, *pUC57-F-*
461 *TAS3_3M(+4)*, *pUC57-F-TAS3_3M(+5)*, *pUC57-F-TAS3_3M(+6)* and *pUC57-F-*
462 *TAS3_3M(+7)*

463 One to six nucleotides, as shown in Fig. 5a, were inserted between the stop codon of the
464 short ORF and 5' miR390 binding site in *pUC57-F-TAS3_3M* by site directed PCR using
465 primer pairs of oligo1180-oligo1181, oligo1182-oligo1183, oligo1161-oligo1162,
466 oligo1163-oligo1164, oligo1165-oligo1166, oligo1167-oligo1168 and oligo1169-
467 oligo1170, respectively.

468

469 *pEU-6×His-SBP-SUMO-AtSGS3*

470 Two DNA fragments were prepared by PCR: 6×His-SBP-SUMOstar-tag fragment
471 amplified from *pASW-SUMO-AtRDR6 (Opt)*¹⁸ using oligo1044 and oligo1039 and SGS
472 ORF fragment amplified from cDNA of *Arabidopsis thaliana* using oligoK1 and oligoK2.
473 The two DNA fragments were inserted into EcoRV/SmaI-digested *pEU-E01-MCS* vector
474 via HiFi DNA Assembly Cloning kit (New England Biolabs).

475

476 *pBYL-3×FLAG-SUMOstar-tag-AGO7*

477 Two PCR products were prepared by PCR: 3×FLAG-SUMOstar-tag fragment amplified
478 from *pBYL-3×FLAG-SUMO-AtAGO1*¹⁴ using primers oligo955 and oligo1039 and
479 AGO7 fragment amplified from *pBYL-AGO7*¹³ using primers oligo1159 and oligo1160.
480 The two fragments were cloned into AscI-digested *pBYL2* vector¹² via HiFi DNA
481 Assembly Cloning kit (New England Biolabs).

482

483 *pUC57-F-TAS3_5endM_3M* and *pUC57-F-TAS3_5P_3M*

484 The 5' miR390-binding site in *pUC57-F-TAS3_3M* was replaced by the sequences shown
485 in Figure 3b and Extended Data Fig. 5 by site directed mutagenesis using primer pairs
486 oligo1101-oligo1102 and oligo 1106-oligo1107, respectively.

487

488 *pUC57-TAS3_3M*, *pUC57-TAS3_5endM_3M*, *pUC57-TAS3_5P_3M*, *pUC57-*
489 *TAS3_M(+1)*, *pUC57-TAS3_M(+2)*, *pUC57-TAS3_M(+3)*, *pUC57-TAS3_M(+4)*,
490 *pUC57-TAS3_M(+5)*, *pUC57-TAS3_M(+6)* and *pUC57-TAS3_M(+7)*

491 The 3×FLAG tag sequences were removed from the corresponding *pUC57-F-TAS3*
492 constructs shown above by site directed mutagenesis using primers oligo1197 and
493 oligo1198.

494

495 *pUC57-TAS3_G21A_3M*

496 The 5' terminal G nucleotide of 5' miR390-binding site in *pUC57-TAS3_3M* was
497 substituted to A by site directed mutagenesis using primers oligo1220 and oligo1221.

498

499 *pCR-Blunt II-TOPO_TAS1a*

500 TAS1a PCR product was amplified from cDNA corresponding to *Arabidopsis* seedling
501 total RNA using oligoA1 and oligoA2 for the TAS1a sequence and cloned into pCR Blunt
502 II-TOPO vector (Invitrogen, #45-0245).

503

504 *pCR-Blunt II-TOPO_3×FLAG-TAS1a*

505 Three PCR fragments were prepared from pCR-Blunt II-TOPO_TAS1a: TOPO-TAS1a 5'
506 UTR fragment amplified with oligoA3 and oligoA4 and then digested with XhoI, FLAG-
507 TAS1a fragment amplified with oligoA5 and oligoA6 and ORF-3' UTR-TOPO fragment
508 amplified with oligoA7 and oligoA8 and then digested with SpeI. To insert the 3×FLAG
509 sequence directly in front of ORF1, the above three PCR fragments were cloned into
510 XhoI/SpeI-digested pCR Blunt II-TOPO vector (Invitrogen) using the HiFi DNA
511 Assembly Cloning kit (New England Biolabs).

512

513 T7-TAS1a and T7-F-Tas1a

514 T7-TAS1a and T7-F-Tas1a DNA templates were amplified from pCR-Blunt II-
515 TOPO_TAS1a and pCR Blunt II-TOPO-3xFLAG-TAS1a, respectively, using a forward
516 primer containing T7 polymerase binding site (oligoA9) and a reverse primer with
517 poly(A) tail (oligoA10).

518

519 *pAT006-TAS3a-PDS_full-length*

520 A TAS3a fragments with a full-length 5' UTR, a natural intron and tandem synthetic-
521 tasiRNAs in the 5' D7[+] and 5' D8[+] positions (TAS3aPDS2) was synthesized via
522 GeneArt Strings DNA Fragments service (invitrogen), gel-purified and cloned into
523 Sall/SpeI-digested pAT006¹⁵ vector via HiFi DNA Assembly Cloning kit (New England
524 Biolabs).

525

526 *pMDC32_TAS3*

527 Two PCR products were amplified: fragment A from pAT006-TAS3a-PDS_full-length
528 using primers oligo1201 and oligo1202 and fragment B from pMDC-Tas3a¹⁷ using
529 primers oligo1203 and oligo1204. The two fragments were cloned into KpnI/SpeI-
530 digested pMDC32 vector via HiFi DNA Assembly Cloning kit (New England Biolabs).

531

532 *pMDC32_TAS3_5M*

533 Two PCR products were amplified: fragment A from pAT006-TAS3a-PDS_full-length
534 using primers oligo1201 and oligo1209 and fragment B from pMDC-Tas3a¹⁷ using
535 primers oligo1210 and oligo1204. The two fragments were cloned into KpnI/SpeI-
536 digested pMDC32 vector via HiFi DNA Assembly Cloning kit (New England Biolabs).

537

538 *pMDC32_early_stop*

539 Two PCR products were amplified: fragment A from pAT006-TAS3a-PDS_full-length
540 using primers oligo1201 and oligo1211 and fragment B from pMDC-Tas3a¹⁷ using
541 primers oligo1212 and oligo1204. The two fragments were cloned into KpnI/SpeI-
542 digested pMDC32 vector via HiFi DNA Assembly Cloning kit (New England Biolabs).

543

544 *pMDC32_TAS3(+3)*

545 Two PCR products were amplified: fragment A from pAT006-TAS3a-PDS_full-length
546 using primers oligo1201 and oligo1207 and fragment B from pMDC-Tas3a¹⁷ using
547 primers oligo1208 and oligo1204. The two fragments were cloned into KpnI/SpeI-

548 digested pMDC32 vector via HiFi DNA Assembly Cloning kit (New England Biolabs).

549

550 *pMDC32_TAS3(+6)*

551 Two PCR products were amplified: fragment A from pAT006-TAS3a-PDS_full-length

552 using primers oligo1201 and oligo1205 and fragment B from pMDC-Tas3a¹⁷ using

553 primers oligo1206 and oligo1204. The two fragments were cloned into KpnI/SpeI-

554 digested pMDC32 vector via HiFi DNA Assembly Cloning kit (New England Biolabs).

555

556 **Production of recombinant AtSGS3 protein**

557 Recombinant AtSGS3 proteins were expressed using the Premium PLUS Expression kit

558 (Cell-Free Sciences) with pEU-6×His-SBP-SUMO-AtSGS3 according to manufacturer

559 instructions. The protein was affinity purified with streptavidin sepharose high

560 performance beads (GE Healthcare), washed three times with 1 × lysis buffer containing

561 200 mM NaCl and 0.1% TritonX-100, rinsed once with 1 × lysis buffer containing 20%

562 glycerol and 1mM DTT and eluted by 1 × lysis buffer containing 20% glycerol, 1 mM

563 DTT and 0.05 U/μl of SUMOstar protease. Protein concentration was determined using

564 SDS-PAGE with defined dilutions of BSA as concentration standards.

565

566 ***In vitro* RNA silencing assay, NuPAGE and Western blotting**

567 Typically, 7.5 μl of BY-2 lysate, 3.75 μl of substrate mixture, and 0.75 μl of 300 nM AGO

568 mRNAs were mixed and incubated at 25°C for 30 min. To assemble RISC, 1.5 μl of 1.5

569 μM miR390 or miR173 duplex was added to the reaction mixture and incubated at 25°C

570 for 90 min. Then, 1.5 μ l of 100 nM TAS3a or TAS1a variant was added and further
571 incubated at 25°C for 10–60 min. For RNase treatment, 5 μ l of the reaction was treated
572 with 1 μ l of RNase mixture (10% RNase A, Sigma + 20% RNase One, Promega),
573 incubated at 37°C for 10 min and then mixed with 6 μ l of 2 \times SDS-PAGE buffer. For
574 the control, 1 μ l sterile water was used instead of RNase mixture. The samples were run
575 on NuPAGE Bis-Tris Precast Gel (Thermo Fisher Scientific) at 200 V for ~30 min in 1 \times
576 NuPAGE MES SDS Buffer (Thermo Fisher Scientific) and transferred onto PVDF
577 membrane. Western blotting was performed as previously described¹ with modifications.
578 The membrane was blocked in TBST containing 1.0% nonfat dried milk (w/v) for 30 min.
579 Anti-AtSGS3 (diluted at 1:3000), anti-AtAGO7 antibodies (diluted at 1:3000), anti-
580 NtSGS3 antibody (diluted at 1:3000)¹⁹, anti-DDDDK-tag mAb (diluted at 1:5000)
581 (Medical & Biological Laboratories) and anti-HA-tag mAb (diluted at 1:5000) (Medical
582 & Biological Laboratories) were used as primary antibodies. Peroxidase AffiniPure Goat
583 Anti-Rabbit IgG (H+L) (diluted at 1:20000) (Jackson ImmunoResearch), Anti-IgG (H+L)
584 (Mouse) pAb-HRP (diluted at 1:5000) (Medical & Biological Laboratories) and Mouse
585 TrueBlot ULTRA: Anti-Mouse Ig HRP (Rockland Immunochemicals, Inc.) (1:1000) were
586 used as secondary antibodies.

587

588 **Northern blotting**

589 For *in vitro* assays, two microliter of reaction mixture was mixed with 8 μ l of low salt PK
590 solution [0.125% SDS, 12.5 mM EDTA, 12.5 mM HEPES-KOH (pH7.4) and 12.5%
591 Proteinase K (TaKaRa)], and incubated at 50°C for 10 min. Ten microliter of 2 \times

592 formamide dye [10 mM EDTA, pH 8.0, 98% (w/v) deionized formamide, 0.025% (w/v)
593 xylene cyanol and 0.025% (w/v) bromophenol blue] was added into the mixture, and
594 further incubated at 65°C for 10 minutes. For *in vivo* assays, total RNA was purified with
595 Trizol reagent (Thermo Fisher Scientific), and 10 µl of 300–500 ng/ul total RNAs were
596 mixed with equal volume 2 × formamide dye. Ten µl of samples were run on a denaturing
597 1% agarose gel, transferred to the Hybond N+ membrane with capillary blotting and fixed
598 with UV crosslinker. For small RNAs, 10 µl of samples were run on a denaturing 18%
599 acrylamide gel. RNAs were transferred to Hybond N membrane with electro blotting and
600 chemically crosslinked²⁰. TAS3 variants were detected with Digoxigenin (DIG)-labeled
601 long TAS3 probe (Fig. 2d) or 5' ³²P-radiolabeled oligo probe mixtures (oligo1230-1234)
602 (Fig. 5f). F-TAS1a and its 5' cleaved fragment were detected with a 5' ³²P-radiolabeled
603 oligo probe (oligoA4) (Fig. 4e). U6 RNA, miR173, miR390, and tasiRNAs from TAS3
604 variants were detected with 5' ³²P-radiolabeled oligo1129, oligo1353, oligo1131, oligoD7,
605 respectively.

606

607 **Immunoprecipitation with anti-FLAG antibody**

608 F-AGO7-RISC or F-AGO1-RISC was assembled as shown above. Target RNAs were
609 mixed with the RISCs at a final concentration of 50 nM, and incubated for 20 min. The
610 reaction mixture was incubated with Dynabeads protein G (Invitrogen) coated with anti-
611 FLAG antibody on a rotator at 4°C for 1 h. The beads were washed three times with 1 ×
612 lysis buffer containing 200 mM NaCl and 1% Triton-X 100 or 1 × wash buffer (20 mM
613 Hepes, pH 7.5, 120 mM KCl, 10 mM MgCl₂ and 0.2% Nonidet P-40). After removing

614 buffer completely, 1×SDS-PAGE sample buffer was added to the beads. The samples
615 (input, supernatant, and beads) were heated for 5 min and used for SDS-PAGE. Western
616 blotting was performed as described above.

617

618 **Immunodepletion of endogenous SGS3 protein**

619 Fifty microliter of BY-2 lysate was mixed with 1.66 µg of anti-NtSGS3¹⁹ or Normal
620 Rabbit IgG (Medical & Biological Laboratories) at 4°C for 1h. To remove the antibodies
621 and binding proteins thereof, the lysate was mixed with the pellet of 50 µl Dynabeads
622 protein G, and incubated at 4°C for 1h. The supernatant was transferred into new tubes.
623 After flash freezing by liquid nitrogen, the SGS3 or Mock-depleted lysate was stored at -
624 80°C .

625

626 **Photoactivated UV crosslinking**

627 *In vitro* reaction mixtures were prepared as outlined above (*Immunoprecipitation with*
628 *anti-FLAG antibody*) with F-AGO7, ³²P-labeled miR390_21_4SU, and TAS3-G21A-3M.
629 The sample was transferred to Terasaki plate wells (7 µl/well) and exposed to > 300 nm
630 UV radiation for 15 s using a UV crosslinker (SP-11 SPOT CURE, USHIO) with a
631 uniform radiation lens (USHIO) and a long-path filter (300 nm, ASAHI SPECTRA) at 3
632 cm from the light. For input sample, aliquots of reaction mixture were transferred into a
633 new tube, and mixed with 4×SDS-PAGE sample buffer. For FLAG-IP, the reaction
634 mixture was incubated with Dynabeads protein G coated with anti-FLAG antibody on a
635 rotator at 4°C for 1 h. For SGS3-IP, the reaction mixture was first incubated with anti-

636 NtSGS3 antibody at 4°C for 1 h, then with Dynabeads protein G at 4°C for another 1 h.
637 The tube was then placed on a magnetic stand to transfer the supernatant into a new tube,
638 which was then mixed with 4×SDS-PAGE sample buffer. The beads were washed three
639 times with 1×lysis buffer containing 800 mM NaCl and 1% Triton-X 100. After removing
640 the buffer completely, 1×SDS-PAGE sample buffer was added to the beads. The samples
641 (input, supernatant, and beads) were heated for 5 min and used for SDS-PAGE. After
642 drying, the gel was exposed to a phosphor imaging plate.

643

644 **Agrobacterium-based transient expression in *Nicotiana benthamiana***

645 The *Nicotiana benthamiana* infiltration assay was performed as previously described²¹.
646 Briefly, pAT006 and pMDC- plasmids were introduced into *Agrobacterium tumefaciens*
647 GV3101 (pMP90). The *Agrobacterium* cells transformed with TAS3 constructs, AGO7,
648 and miR390 or empty vector (pAT006) were pooled at a ratio of 1:1:2 (total optical
649 density at 600 nm (OD600) = 1.0). The leaves were harvested at ~48 h post-infiltration.
650 Total RNA was extracted using Trizol reagent (Thermo Fisher Scientific).

651

652 **Data availability**

653 All sequencing data are publicly available in DDBJ, under the accession number
654 DRA010034 (currently undisclosed). All other data are available from the authors upon
655 reasonable request.

656

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711

712

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728

729 **Author Contributions**

730 H.-o.I. conceived of the project and designed the experiments; H.-o.I. and T.F. performed
731 ribosome profiling and bioinformatic analyses with the supervision of S.I; H.-o.I., A.L.,
732 and K.K. performed biochemical analyses; A.M. and A.T. performed transient expression
733 assays in *Nicotiana benthamiana*; H.-o.I., S.I. and Y.T. wrote the manuscript with editing
734 from all the authors; all the authors discussed the results and approved the manuscript.

735 **Competing interests**

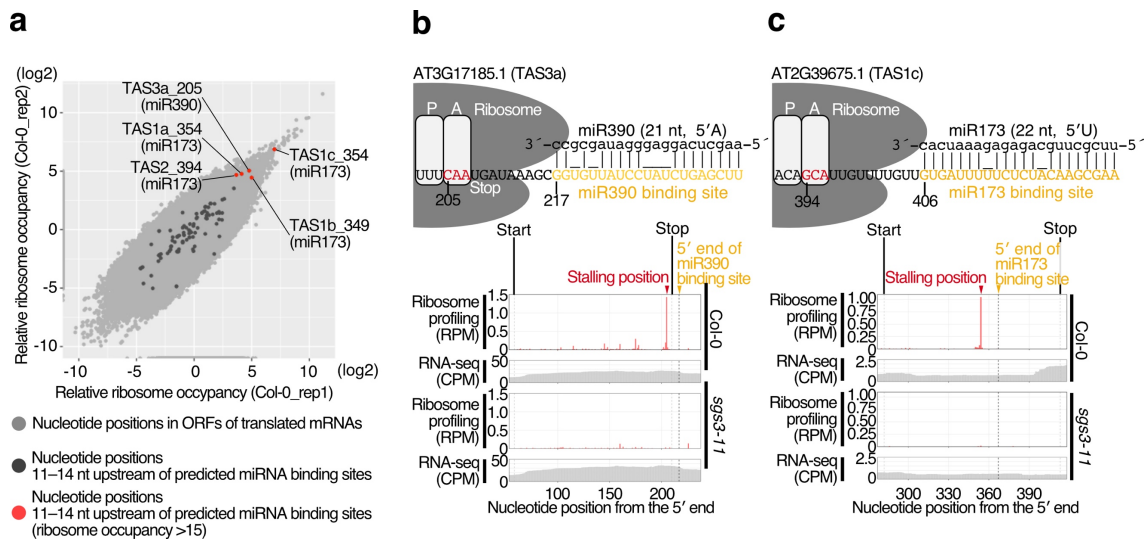
736 Authors declare no competing interests.

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738 Correspondence and requests for materials should be addressed to Hiro-oki Iwakawa

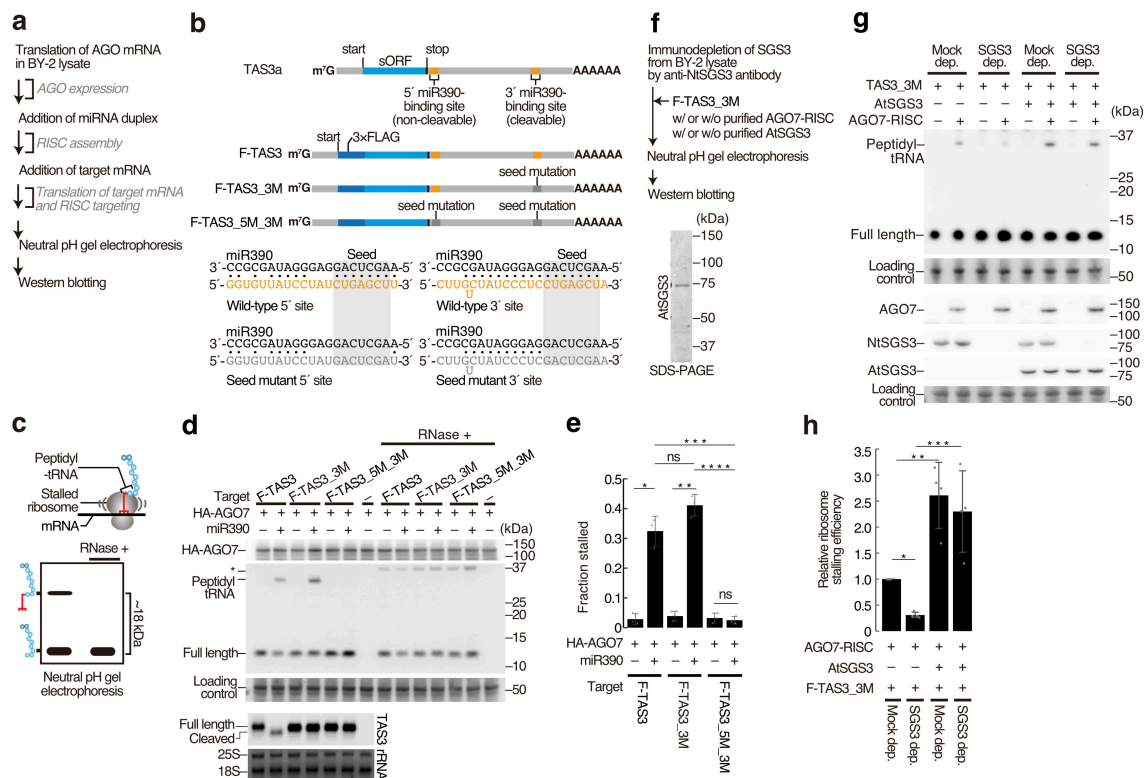
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Fig. 1. The dsRNA-binding protein SGS3 promotes microRNA-mediated ribosome stalling. (a) Scatter plot showing correlation of relative ribosome occupancy (Materials and Methods) between replicates (Col-0_rep1 and 2). The nucleotide positions with ribosome footprints (reads per million (RPM) over 0.05) in translating ORFs are shown in light gray. The nucleotide positions 11–14 nucleotide upstream of predicted miRNA binding sites are shown in dark gray (Supplementary Table 1). In such positions, those with relative ribosome occupancy over 15 are shown in red (Supplementary Table 1). (b, c) Ribosome footprints (A-site position) in RPM and RNA-seq in coverage per million (CPM) in wild-type or *sgs3-11* mutant seedlings are shown for the following transcripts: (b) AT3G17185.1 (TAS3a), a precursor of trans acting siRNAs (tasiRNAs) with miR390 binding sites; (c) AT2G39675.1 (TAS1c), a precursor of tasiRNAs with a miR173 binding site. See also Extended Data Fig.1 and Supplementary Table 1.



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Fig. 2. In vitro recapitulation of microRNA-mediated ribosome stalling.

(a) Flowchart of the miRNA-mediated ribosome stalling assay *in vitro*. (b) (top) Schematic representation of TAS3a RNA and its 3×FLAG-tag fused variants. The orange and gray boxes indicate wild-type and seed-mutant miR390-binding sites, respectively. (bottom) The base-pairing configurations between miR390 and the wild-type or seed mutated miR390-binding sites. Seed sequences are shown in the shaded boxes. (c) Schematic representation of SDS-PAGE in a neutral pH environment, to thus detect peptidyl-tRNAs. (d) Both AGO7-RISC and the 5' binding site are required for ribosome stalling *in vitro*. After *in vitro* silencing assay, half of the reaction mixture was treated with RNase (RNase +), and used for PAGE followed by Western blotting. The full-length polypeptide and peptidyl-tRNA were detected by anti-FLAG antibody. 3×HA-AGO7 (HA-AGO7) was detected by anti-HA antibody. Total protein was stained using Ponceau S, and the ~50 kDa bands were used as a loading control. The asterisk indicates the positions of the unexpected protein bands that appears with RNase treatment. (bottom) Northern blotting of TAS3 variants. Methylene blue-stained rRNA was used as a loading control. (e) Quantification of ribosome stalling efficiencies in (d). Fraction stalled was calculated using the following formula: Fraction stalled = peptidyl-tRNA/(full-length + peptidyl-tRNA). The mean values ± SD from three independent experiments are shown. Bonferroni-corrected P values from two-sided paired t-tests are as follows: *P = 0.03361; **P = 0.03817; ***P = 0.03809, ****P = 0.03174. (f) (top) Flowchart of the *in vitro* miRNA-mediated ribosome stalling assay with SGS3-immunodepleted lysate. (bottom) Coomassie brilliant blue staining of purified AtSGS3. (g) SGS3 promotes miRNA-mediated ribosome stalling *in vitro*. Endogenous NtSGS3, recombinant AtSGS3, and recombinant AGO7 were detected using anti-NtSGS3, anti-AtSGS3, and anti-AtAGO7 antibodies, respectively. See also Fig. 2d legend. (h) Quantification of relative ribosome stalling efficiencies in (g). The signal intensity of peptidyl-tRNA/(full-length + peptidyl-tRNA) was normalized to the value of Mock dep. (AtSGS3 –). The mean values ± SD from four independent experiments are shown. Bonferroni-corrected P values from two-sided paired t-tests are as follows: *P = 0.00039; **P = 0.04433; ***P = 0.03889.

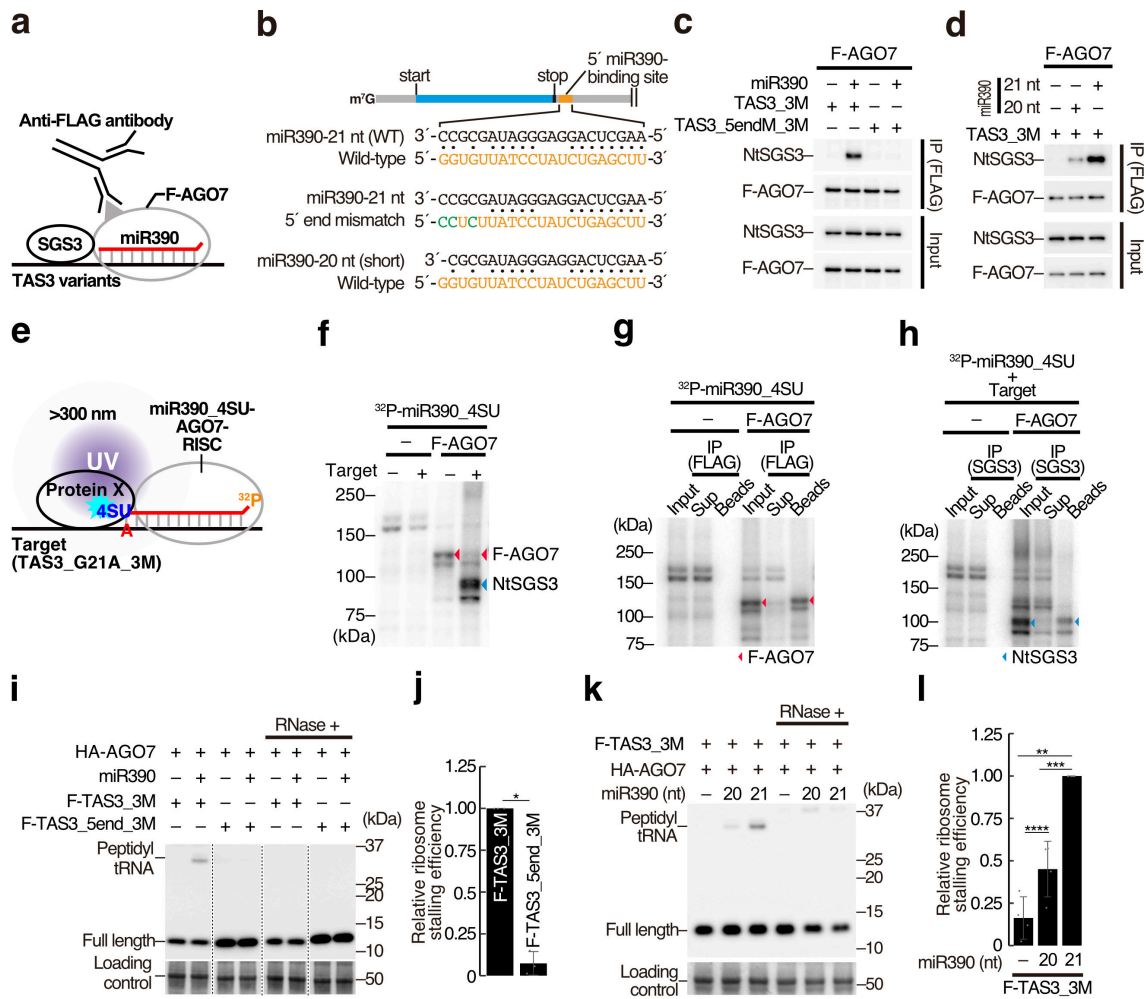
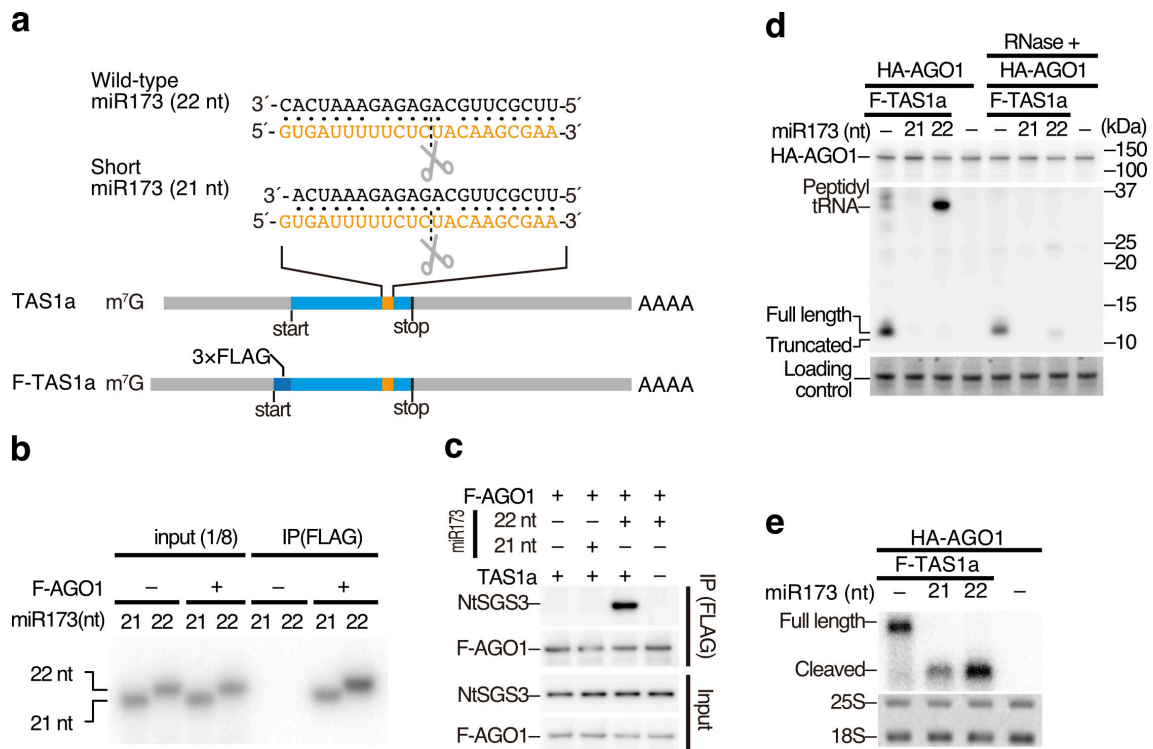


Fig. 3. SGS3 binding to the 3' end of miR390 is required for the ribosome pausing.

(a) Schematic representation of co-immunoprecipitation assay with anti-FLAG antibody in the presence of F-AGO7, miR390, and TAS3 variants. (b) Base-pairing configurations. (top) miR390 and wild-type 5' miR390-binding site. (middle) miR390 and 5' site with 5' end mismatches (5endM). (bottom) 20-nt miR390 and the wild-type 5' site. The mutated nucleotides are shown in green. (c) 5' end mismatches in the 5' site disrupt interaction between SGS3 and AGO7. (d) The use of a short miR390 variant (20 nt) disrupted interaction between SGS3 and AGO7. (e) An overview of the UV crosslink experiment. AGO7 was programmed with the 5'-radiolabeled miR390 variant bearing the 3' 4-thio-U (³²P-miR390_4SU) in BY-2 lysate, and further incubated with the TAS3 variant (TAS3_G21A_3M). The reaction mixture was analyzed using 10% SDS-PAGE and crosslinked proteins were detected using phosphorimaging. The ellipse indicates neighboring proteins. (f) miR390-loaded AGO7 directly interacts with NtSGS3 in the presence of TAS3_G21A_3M. 5' end-radiolabeled miR390 with a 3' 4-thio-U was incubated in BY-2 lysate in the presence or absence of F-AGO7 and target RNA (TAS3_G21A_3M), crosslinked by UV light (>300 nm), then analyzed by SDS-PAGE. The red and blue arrowheads indicate AGO7 and NtSGS3, respectively (See also g and h). (g) Detection of F-AGO7 by UV crosslinking. The 5' end-radiolabeled miR390 with a 3' 4-thio-U was incubated in BY-2 lysate in the presence of F-AGO7, crosslinked by UV light (>300 nm), immunoprecipitated using anti-FLAG antibody, and then analyzed by SDS-PAGE. F-AGO7 was efficiently crosslinked to 4-thio-U at the 3' end of miR390. (h) Detection of NtSGS3 by UV crosslinking. 5' end-radiolabeled miR390 with a 3' 4-thio-U was incubated in BY-2 lysate in the presence of F-AGO7 and target RNA (TAS3_G21A_3M), crosslinked by UV light (>300 nm),

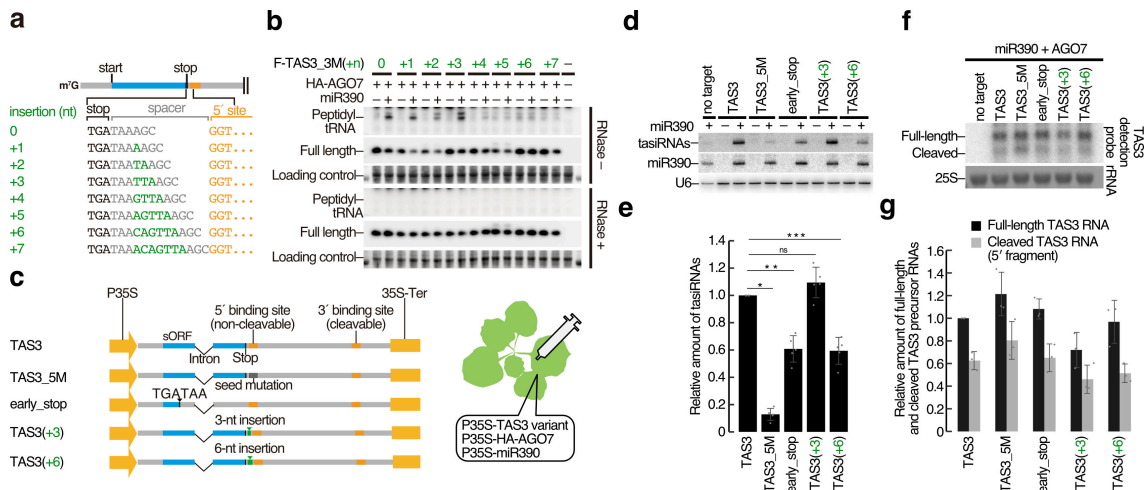
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805 immunoprecipitated by anti-NtSGS3 antibody, and then analyzed by SDS-PAGE. NtSGS3 was
806 efficiently crosslinked to 4-thio-U at the 3' end of miR390 in the presence of the target RNA. (i) and
807 (k) *in vitro* ribosome stalling experiments. Mismatches at the 5' end of miR390-binding site or the use
808 of 20-nt miR390 decreased stalled ribosomes. See also the legend of Fig.2d. (j) and (l) Quantification
809 of relative ribosome stalling efficiencies in (i) and (k), respectively. The signal intensity of peptidyl-
810 tRNA/(full-length + peptidyl-tRNA) was normalized to the value of F-TAS3_3M (i) or miR390 (21
811 nt) (k). The mean values \pm SD from three (j) and four (l) independent experiments are shown,
812 respectively. P value from two-sided paired t-tests are as follows: *P = 0.00190 (j). Bonferroni-
813 corrected P values from two-sided paired t-tests are as follows: **P = 0.00270; ***P = 0.02034; ****P
814 = 0.04343 (l).
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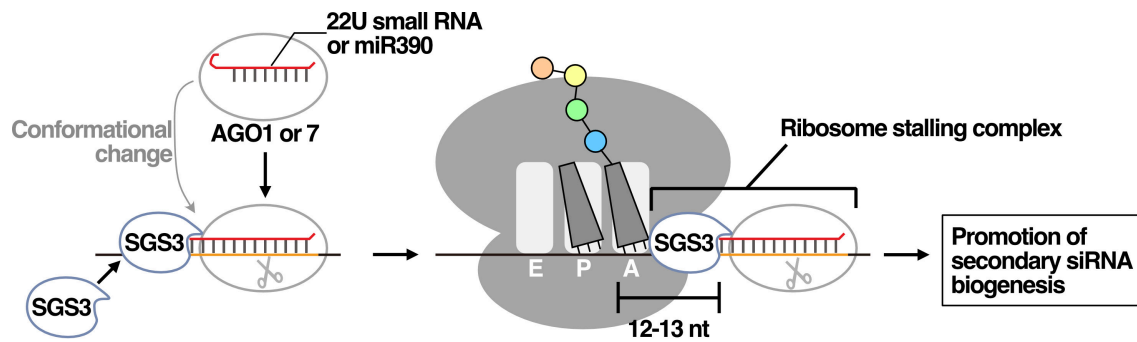
Fig. 4. AGO1 loaded with 22-nt miR173 efficiently stalls ribosome. (a) (top) Base-pairing configurations between 22/21-nt miR173 and the miR173-binding site in TAS1a. (bottom) Schematic representation of TAS1a RNA and its 3×FLAG-tag fused variant. (b) *In vitro* RISC assembly with AGO1 and radiolabeled 21 and 22-nt miR173 duplexes. After translation of 3×FLAG-AGO1 (F-AGO1) mRNA *in vitro*, the radiolabeled miR173 duplex was added and further incubated for RISC assembly. Then, F-AGO1 was immunoprecipitated with anti-FLAG antibody. The co-immunoprecipitated miR173 was analyzed by denaturing PAGE. Both 21- and 22-nt miR173 duplexes were incorporated into AGO1. (c) Co-immunoprecipitation experiments with 3×FLAG-AGO1 in the presence of 21 or 22-nt miR173 duplex and TAS1a RNA. AGO1-RISC loaded with 22-nt miR173 interacts with NtSGS3 in the presence of TAS1a RNA. In contrast, 21-nt miR173 failed to promote the interaction between AGO1 and NtSGS3. (d) *In vitro* ribosome stalling experiments. Peptidyl-tRNA was accumulated in the presence of AGO1-RISC loaded with 22-nt miR173, while no peptidyl-tRNA was observed in the presence of that with 21-nt miR173. (e) Northern blotting of TAS1 reporter RNAs. TAS1 was efficiently cleaved by AGO1-RISC loaded with 21- and 22-nt miR173. Methylene blue-stained rRNA was used as a loading control.



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Fig. 5. Ribosome stalling enhances production of secondary siRNAs.

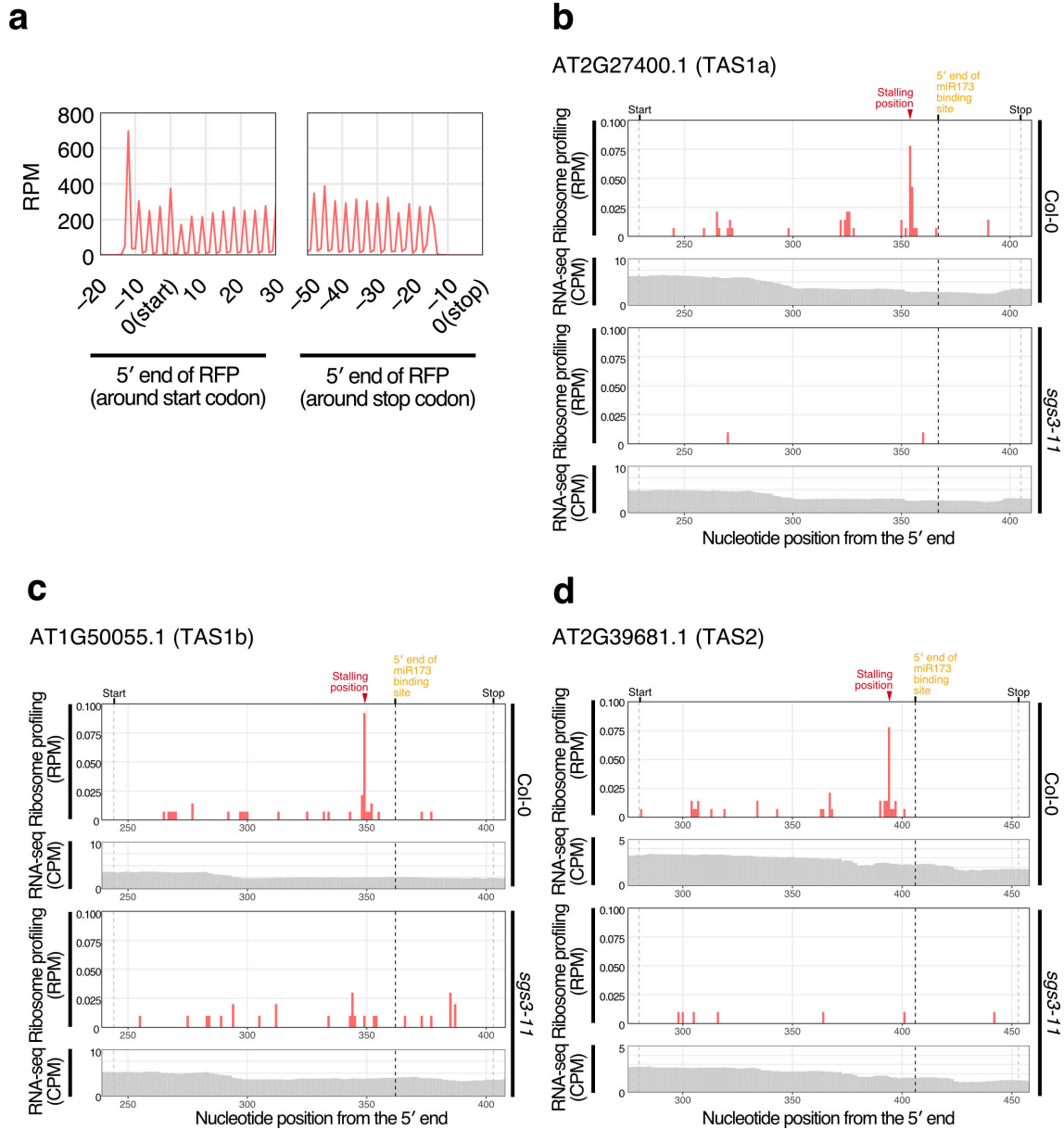
(a) Schematic representation of TAS3 variants with different nucleotide insertions (green) between the stop codon (black) and the 5' miR390-binding site (orange). (b) *In vitro* ribosome stalling experiments. Insertions of over 3 nucleotides decreased stalled ribosomes. After *in vitro* silencing assay, half of the reaction mixture was treated with RNase (RNase +), and used for PAGE followed by Western blotting. The full-length polypeptide and peptidyl-tRNA were detected by anti-FLAG antibody. Total protein was stained using Ponceau S, and the ~50 kDa bands were used as a loading control. (c) Schematic representation of plasmids carrying TAS3 variants used in the *Nicotiana benthamiana* (*N. benthamiana*) transient assay. P35S and 35S-Ter indicate Cauliflower mosaic virus (CaMV) 35S promoter and terminator, respectively. Leaves of *N. benthamiana* plants were infiltrated with a mixture of *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* cultures harboring P35S-HA-AGO7, P35S-TAS3 variants, and P35S-miR390 or empty vector. Leaves were harvested at 2-day post infiltration and used for Northern blotting to detect secondary siRNAs and the sense strand of TAS3 mRNAs. (d) Northern blotting of secondary siRNAs from TAS3 and its variants, miR390, and U6 RNAs. (e) Quantification of the secondary siRNAs in (d). The signal intensity of tasiRNAs was calibrated with miR390, and normalized to the value of TAS3 (miR390 +). The mean values \pm SD from five independent experiments are shown. Bonferroni-corrected P values from two-sided paired t-tests are as follows: *P = 5.96313E-06; **P = 0.00332; ***P = 0.00329. A positive correlation was observed between tasiRNA biogenesis and miR390-mediated ribosome stalling. (f) Northern blotting of the full-length TAS3 RNAs and the 5' cleaved fragments. Methylene blue-stained rRNA was used as a loading control. (g) The signal intensity of TAS3 RNA/rRNA was normalized to the value of full-length TAS3. The mean values \pm SD from three independent experiments are shown. No correlation was observed between ribosome stalling and accumulation of the sense strand of TAS3 RNAs.



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Fig. 6. A model for ribosome stalling caused by SGS3-miRNA-Argonaute complex and its role in secondary siRNA biogenesis.

Target binding causes dynamic conformational changes in 22U-AGO1-RISC or miR390-AGO7-RISC, resulting in protrusion of the 3' end of the small RNA from the RISC complex. SGS3 directly binds the dsRNA formed between the 3' side of the small RNA and the 5' side of the target site. The SGS3-small RNA complex stalls ribosomes at 12–13 nt upstream of the binding sites. This ribosome stalling stimulates secondary siRNA production in a manner different from mRNA stabilization.



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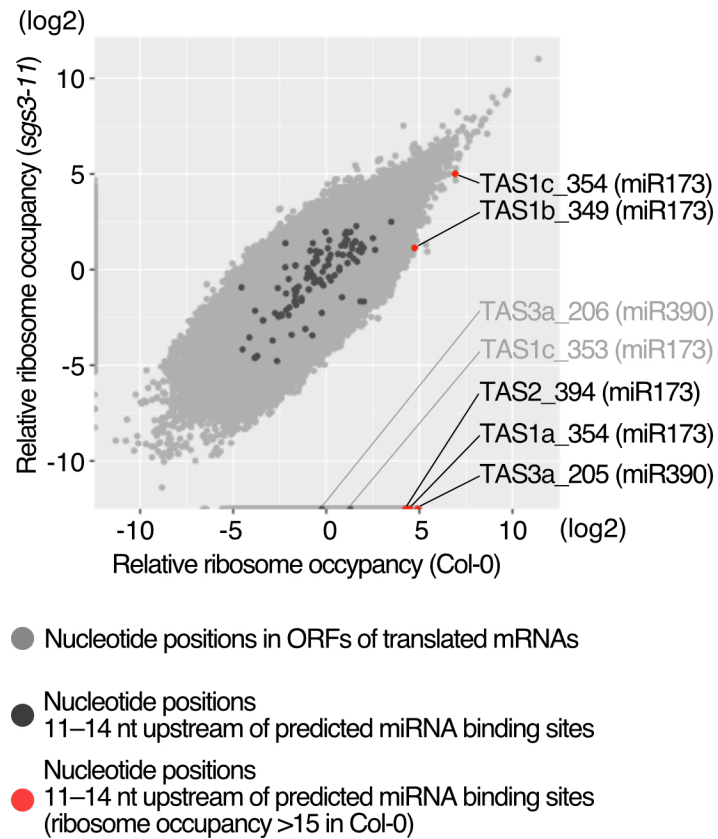
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Extended Data Fig. 1. Representative ribosome stalling positions with a downstream miRNA-binding site. (a) Ribosome occupancies around start (left) and stop (right) codons using 28 nt foot prints for 3 day old seedlings of wild-type *Arabidopsis thaliana* (Col-0). The traces indicate 5' end of ribosome footprints. Ribosome footprints (A-site positions) in RPM and RNA-seq in CPM in 3 day old wild-type or *sgs3-11* mutant seedlings are shown for the following transcripts: (b) AT2G27400.1 (TAS1a), encoding one of the isoforms of TAS1; (c) AT1G50055.1 (TAS1b) encoding one of the isoforms of TAS1; (d) AT2G39681.1 (TAS2) encoding a precursor of tasiRNAs with a miR173 binding site. Related to Figs. 1b and c.



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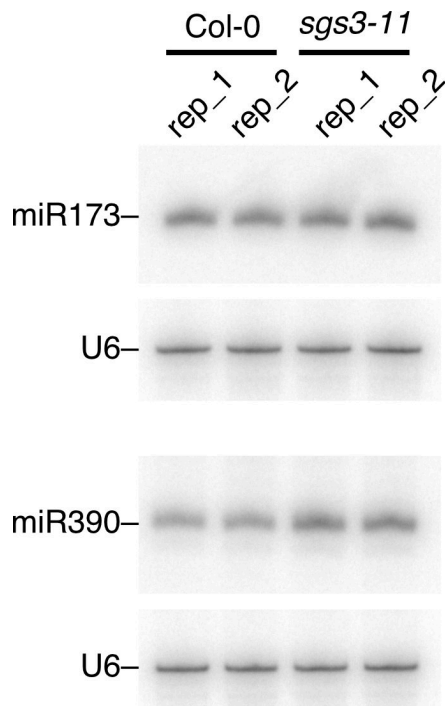
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Extended Data Fig. 2. SGS3 is not a general ribosome stalling factor, but rather a specific stalling enhancer for miRNA-mediated ribosome stalling.

A scatter plot shows the relative ribosome occupancy (Materials and Methods) between Col-0 and *sgs3-11* seedlings. The nucleotide positions with ribosome footprints (RPM over 0.05 in Col-0 or *sgs3-11*) in translating ORFs are shown in light gray. See also the legend of Fig. 1a.



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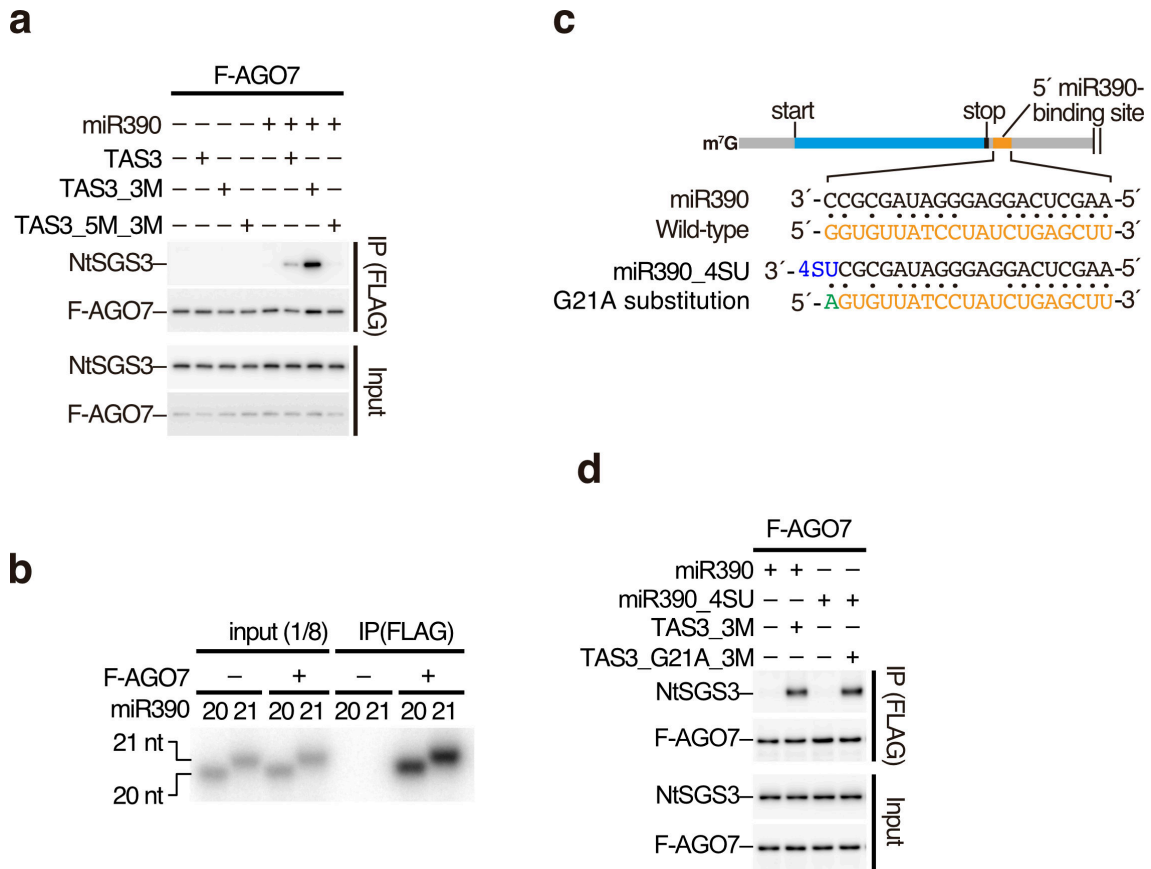
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886 **Extended Data Fig. 3. miR173 and miR390 abundance in Col-0 and *sgs3-11* seedlings.**

887 miR173 and miR390 in wild-type (Col-0) and *sgs3-11* seedlings were detected by Northern blotting.

888 U6 RNA was used as a loading control.

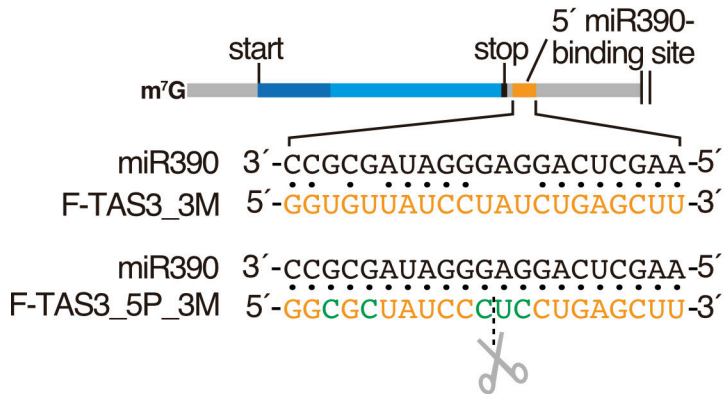
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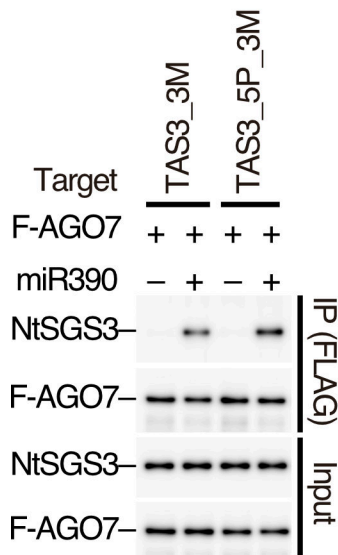
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Extended Data Fig. 4. Co-immunoprecipitation of NtSGS3 with AGO7 in the presence of TAS3 variants, and AGO7-RISC assembly with 21-nt and 20-nt miR390. (a) NtSGS3 was specifically co-immunoprecipitated with F-AGO7 in the presence of miR390 duplex and TAS3 or the TAS3-3M. The reason why more SGS3 was co-immunoprecipitated in TAS3_3M than wild-type TAS3 is because the wild-type TAS3 mRNA is cleaved at the 3' binding site by AGO7-RISC, thereby destabilized in the lysate as shown in Fig. 2d. (b) *In vitro* RISC assembly with F-AGO7 and radiolabeled 20 and 21-nt miR390 duplexes. After RISC assembly, F-AGO7 was immunoprecipitated with anti-FLAG antibody. The co-immunoprecipitated miR390 was analyzed by denaturing PAGE. Both 20- and 21-nt miR390 duplexes were efficiently incorporated into AGO7. (c) Schematic of base-pairing configurations between miR390-4SU and a 5' miR390-binding site with a G21A substitution. The mutated nucleotides in TAS3 variant are shown in green. 4-thiouridine is shown in blue. (d) AGO7-RISC loaded with 21-nt miR390 variant possessing 4-thiouridine at the 3' end (miR390_4SU) efficiently interacts with NtSGS3 in the presence of TAS3 variant with a compensatory G-to-A mutation at the 5' end of miR390 binding site (TAS3_G21A_3M).

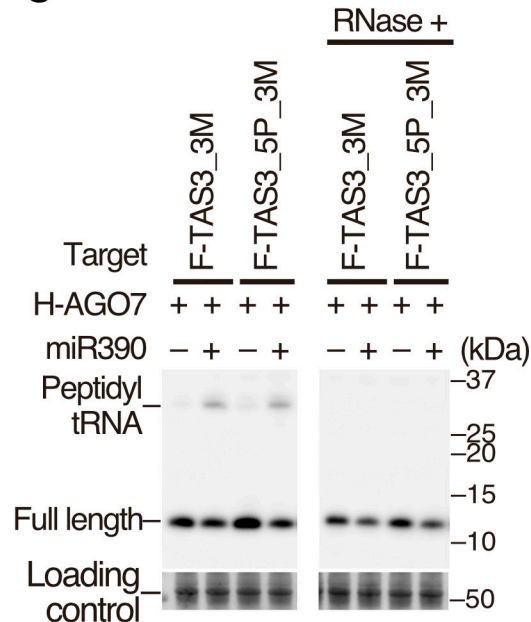
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908 **Extended Data Fig. 5. A cleavable target site facilitates ribosome stalling mediated by the**

909 **miR390-AGO7 RISC.** (a) Schematic of base-pairing configurations between miR390 and a 5' target

910 site with perfect complementarity to miR390. The mutated nucleotides in the TAS3 variant (F-

911 TAS3_3M variant) are shown in green. (b) Co-immunoprecipitation experiments. AGO7-RISC

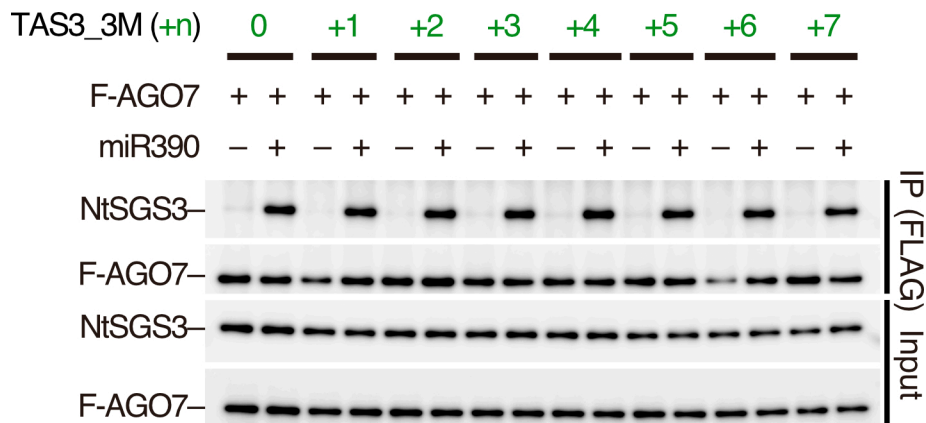
912 efficiently interacts with SGS3 in the presence of a F-TAS3_3M variant with a 5' target site with

913 perfect complementarity to miR390 (F-TAS3_5P_3M). (d) *In vitro* ribosome stalling experiments.

914 Peptidyl-tRNA was accumulated in the presence of AGO7-RISC and F-TAS3_5P_3M, suggesting

915 that cleavable site facilitates ribosome stalling mediated by miR390-AGO7-RISC.

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Extended Data Fig. 6. Nucleotide insertion between the stop codon and the 5' miR390 binding site has no effect on the interaction between AGO7 and NtSGS3. NtSGS3 was specifically and efficiently co-immunoprecipitated with F-AGO7 in the presence of miR390 duplex and TAS3 variants with nucleotide insertions between the stop codon and the 5' miR390-binding site.

- 936 **Supplementary Table 1. Nucleotide positions 11–14 nt upstream of predicted miRNA binding**
937 **sites.**
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939 **Supplementary Table 2. List of TAS3 homologs.**
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941 **Supplementary Table 3. List of synthetic RNA oligos used in this study.**
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943 **Supplementary Table 4. List of synthetic DNA oligos and long DNA fragments used in this study.**
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Supplementary Table 2. List of TAS3 homologs.

Species	TAS3 homolog	Accession	Clade	Cleavable (Yes/No)	nts between stop codon and the 5' end of miR390 binding site	ORF length	aa length
<i>Arabidopsis thaliana</i>	TAS3a	AT3G17185	eudicots	No	6	153	50
<i>Arabidopsis thaliana</i>	TAS3b	AT5G49615	eudicots	No	10	129	42
<i>Arabidopsis thaliana</i>	TAS3c	AT5G57735	eudicots	No	9	150	49
<i>Antirrhinum majus</i>	TAS3	AJ797948.1	eudicots	No?	3	195	64
Burma mangrove	TAS3	BP947370.1	eudicots	No?	9	213	70
<i>Glycine max</i>	TAS3	BE330988.1	eudicots	No?	3	168	55
<i>Gossypium raimondii</i>	TAS3	CO077318.1	eudicots	Yes?	10	132	43
<i>Manihot esculenta</i>	TAS3	CK652751	eudicots	No?	3	102	33
<i>Mesembryanthemum crystallinum</i>	TAS3	BF479835.1	eudicots	No?	9	135	44
<i>Populus trichocarpa</i>	TAS3	DT498974.1	eudicots	No?	6	171	56
<i>Solanum lycopersicum</i>	TAS3-1	NR_138079.1	eudicots	No?	62	99	32
<i>Solanum lycopersicum</i>	TAS3-12	JX047547.1	eudicots	Yes?/No?	10	99	32
Swingle citrumelo	TAS3	CX663477.1	eudicots	No?	3	156	51
<i>Theobroma cacao</i>	TAS3	CA795323.1	eudicots	No?	3	114	37
<i>Vitis vinifera</i>	TAS3	DT025007.1	eudicots	No?	3	180	59
<i>Pinus taeda</i>	TAS3	DR112999.1	Gymnosperm	Yes	ORF	129	42
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i>	TAS3	BF264964.3	Monocots	Yes?	10	213	70
<i>Oryza sativa Japonica</i>	TAS3	AU100890.1	Monocots	No?	9	114	37
<i>Saccharum</i>	TAS3	CA145655.1	Monocots	Yes?	ORF	120	39
<i>Sorghum bicolor</i>	TAS3	CD464142.1	Monocots	No?	9	141	46
<i>Triticum aestivum</i>	TAS3	CN010916.1	Monocots	No?	9	177	58
<i>Zea mays</i>	TAS3	BE519095.1	Monocots	Yes?	14	126	41
<i>Physcomitrella patens</i>	TAS3a	BK005825	moss	Yes?	10	162	53
<i>Physcomitrella patens</i>	TAS3b	BK005826	moss	Yes?	nd		
<i>Physcomitrella patens</i>	TAS3c	BK005827	moss	Yes?	nd		
<i>Physcomitrella patens</i>	TAS3d	BK005828	moss	Yes?	nd		

? (predicted from sequence)

Supplementary Table 3. List of synthetic RNA oligos used in this study.

Name	Sequence (5'-3')
miR390(21 nt)-guide	AAGCUCAGGAGGGGAUAGCGCC(M)
miR390(21 nt)-passenger	CGCUAUCCAUCCUGAGUUUCA(M)
miR390(20 nt)-guide	AAGCUCAGGAGGGGAUAGCGC(M)
miR390(20 nt)-passenger	GCUAUCCAUCCUGAGUUUCA(M)
miR390_21_4SU	AAGCUCAGGAGGGGAUAGCGC4(M)
miR173(22 nt)-guide	UUCGCUUGCAGAGAGAAAUCAC(M)
miR173(22 nt)-passenger	GAUUCUCUGUGUAAGCGAACA(M)
miR173(21 nt)-guide	UUCGCUUGCAGAGAGAAAUCA(M)
miR173(21 nt)-passenger	AUUUCUCUCAGCAACGCAUAG(M)

"(M)" indicates 2'-OMe modification.

Supplementary Table 4. List of synthetic DNA oligos and long fragments used in this study.

Name	Sequence (5'-3')
T7_ADH_SUTR_3+H4	ATGCTTCGACGCTGACCTAGATAATACGACCTACTATAGGGT ACATCCACATACACAAAACATAACAAGAAGCAAAAGCAAGT TCTTCACGTGTGATAGGTTTACCCATACGATGCTGACTATG CGGGCTATCCCTATGACGTCGCGGACTATGCAAGATCTATCC ATATGACGTTCCAGATTACGCTCGTGGCGCCGACCTGAGA
T7_T43a	CCCGGGTAATACGACTACTATAGGATCCACCGTTTCTAAG ACTCTCTCTCTCTGTTTCTATTCTCTCTCTCAATGAAAG AGAGAGAAGAGGCTCCATGATGAAATACGCGAGCCGAAGT TCTCTGAGGCTTAAAGGAAGACATACTCTGCTGATGATG AGATTATGGATCCGCTGCGAGACATGAGTTTCTCTCGG CATTCAGTTTCAAAGTAAAGCCGGTGTATCTTACTGAGCT TTAGCGGATTTTTTCTTCAATTTGTTTACTAGAGAT GCATTTCAATTTCTTTTCTGACCTGTGAAGCCCTTTCTTG ACCTGTGAAGCCCACTCTTCTAAACGTTTATTTTCTC GTTTACAGATTCTTCTACTCTCTCAATAAGAAATAGATAT CTACTCTCTCTTACTTCTGATGATCTTTCTGCGATCTG TATCCCTCCTGAGCAATCCACATATCTTTGTTGTTAT GATGTATGGTACATAAATCAATAAAGAAGTTCAGCTTTT CTCTCGAG
T43a/PDS2	TTCAATTTGAGAGGCTCGAGTTCGACATCCACCCTTCTAAG ACTCTCTCTCTCTGTTTCTATTCTCTCTCTCAAGAAAG AGAGAAGAAGGCTCCATGATGAAATACGCGAGCCGAAGT TCTCCAAGGATATGCTCTACTGATATGATGATGAGAAAGT TAGGGTTTTGCTATTCGAAATCAATTTTGTGTTGCTCAATA ATGATATCTGATGATGAGAACACCTGAAAGATATGTTTAC TGAACATATAAACAATGTTGTTTCTGATCTTCTTCTAT ATATATGATGATGAGTGAAGTCTGTTATATAGACATTATCA TGTGATCACTGATTAACCAATAAATTTGATCAATACTACT TTTGATTTACGATGAGGTTTGAAGTACTTCTACTGCTGTT TTTCCACATGATTTACAACATACATATATTTGGAATCAATA TATACTGATATTAAGTTGAAAGAGTAAACAAGTCTTTTTC AGGCATTAAGGAAACAATACTCCGCTGATGATGAGGATTA TTGATATCCCTGTGCTGAGACATGATGTTTCTTGGGATCTC AGTTTCAAGTAAAGCGGTTGATCTACTGAGCTTTGATC GGATTTTCTTCTCAATATGTTTACTAGATGATGATTT CATTTTCTCTTTAAGTACTACTCCCACTGAGAAAGT GGAAACCAAAAATCTCTTCAAGTTTATATTTCTGTTT TACAGATCTATCTACTCTCAATAAGAAATAGATATCTAT CTTACTCTAAATGTTGAGGATCTTCTTCTACTGTTCTATC CTCTCTGAGCTAACTCAACATATCTTTGTTGATGATG TATGGTTGACATAAATCAATAAAGAAGTTCAGCTTTTCTACT AGTTTACAGGCTGAAATCAACA
oligoK1	GAACAGATTGGAGGTATGAGTCTAGGCTGGTCCAAATGCTCA A
oligoK2	CCATGGGACGTCGACCTAGGTAATATAACCCCAATCACT TCAATGTAAGGCCATGCT
oligoE1	CTGGGCGCCATGGAAAGAAAACATCATCATCACTAC
oligoE2	GCTGGCGGCTCAGGAGTAAACATGAGATTCTTGAC
oligoS12	CTGTGATGCTGATCTGTTGAACTGATGATGATCTTTAATC ACGCTATGGTCTTTGATGCT
oligo955	TATAGGGAGACCCAAAGCTGGCGGCTAGGACTACAAGACC
oligo1039	ACCTCAATCTGTTCCGGT
oligo1044	AACCACCTATCTACATACCAAGATATGGGACATCATCAT CATCACATGGACGAGAAGCCACCGG
oligo1062	CTCGGAAATGCACTAGATCCGCGTAAACGACTCATATAG GA
oligo1063	TTGAGAGAGAGAAATAGA
oligo1064	GTTTCTATTTCTCTCTCAATGGACTACAAGACCATGA CGG
oligo1065	CGATTAACAAGGATGACGATGACAAGATGAAAGAGAGAGAG AGCTCC
oligo1066	GTGACGGGCGGGATCCGATCTGAGAGAAAACGCTAAC TCTTTATGAAAT
oligo1073	TTGAGATTCAAGTGGAGGATGACAAAGTGGGA
oligo1074	GACTCGAAATCTCCACATAATCTTTTGTGTTA
oligo1094	CCAAAAGTCTCAAGTGGCGGCTCAGCAGTGAACAATGAC AC
oligo1096	AAAAGTCTCAAGTGGCGGCTCAGCAGGAAACAATAAT TC
oligo1099	TTGAGGATAGGATTAACACCGCTTATCATGAACTGGAAT G
oligo1100	ATCTTATGACTGGAATAGTGGGATTTTCTTTCAAT
oligo1101	AAGCTCAGATAGGATAACCGGCTTATCATGAACTGGAAAT G
oligo1102	ATCTTATGAGCTTTAGTGGGATTTTCTTTCAAT
oligo1104	AAGCTCAGATAGGATAGCGCGCTTATCATGAACTGGAAAT G
oligo1106	AATCCCTGAGCTTTAGTGGGATTTTCTTTCAAT
oligo1107	AAGCTCAGGAGGATAGCGCGCTTATCATGAACTGGAAAT G
oligo1118	TATAGGGAGACCCAAAGTGGCGGCTCAGGATGATGATCC ATACGATGTTCCAGATACGCTTACCAATACGATGTTCCAGAT ACGCTTACCAATACGATGTTCCAGATACGCTATGGGAGAAA GAGAAGAACCG
oligo1119	TATAGGGAGACCCAAAGTGGCGGCTCAGGATGATGATCC ATACGATGTTCCAGATACGCTTACCAATACGATGTTCCAGAT ACGCTTACCAATACGATGTTCCAGATACGCTATGGGAGAGG TTGGTTATCG
oligo1159	ACACCCAAAGTCTCAAGTGGCGGCTCAGCAGTAAACA TGAAT
oligo1160	GGCTACCGGAAACAGATTGGAGGATGGAAGAAAACCTCA TCACTATC
oligo1161	TTCAATGATAAATTAAGCGGTTATCTTACTGTA
oligo1162	TAATTTATGATAAGTGAATGCTGGAAGAAAAC
oligo1163	TTCAATGATAAAGTAAAGCGGTTATCTTACTGTA
oligo1164	TAACCTATCATGAACTGGAATGCGGAGAAA
oligo1165	TCAATGATAAAGTAAAGCGGTTATCTTACTGTA
oligo1166	TAACCTTATCATGAACTGGAATGCGGAGAAA
oligo1167	CAATGATAAAGTAAAGCGGTTATCTTACTGTA
oligo1168	TAACTGTTATCATGAACTGGAATGCGGAGAAA
oligo1180	AGTTCAATGATAAAGCGGTTATCTTACTGTA
oligo1181	TTTATCATGAACTGGAATGCGGAGAAAACCTC
oligo1182	GTTTCAATGATAAAGCGGTTATCTTACTGTA
oligo1183	TATTTATCATGAACTGGAATGCGGAGAAAACCTC
oligo1197	TCTCTCTCTCAATAAAGAGAGAGAGAGGCTCC
oligo1198	TTGAGAGAGAGAAATGGAACAGC
oligo1201	GACTTAGAGGATCCCGGCTACCTGAGGTCGACATCCAC C
oligo1202	GAGAAATGAAATGATCATCTAG
oligo1203	CTAGATGATGATTTTACTTCT
oligo1204	GCTGGGCGGCTCAGGAACTGTTAATTAAGAAATTCGAA CCACTT
oligo1205	GATAGGATAACACCGCTTAACTGTTATCATGAACTGGAAT GCC
oligo1206	AACAGTTAAGCGGTTATCTTACTG
oligo1207	CAGATAGGATAACACCGCTTAACTGTTAATTAAGAAATTCGAA CCACTT
oligo1208	TAATTAAGCGGTTATCTTACTG
oligo1209	TTGAGGATAGGATAACACCGCTTATCATGAACTGGAAT GCGGTTTATCTTACTGCTGAAATGAGTGGATTTTCTTTCTCA
oligo1210	TTTATCACTGAACTGGAATGCGGAGAAAACCTC
oligo1211	TTTATCACTGAACTGGAATGCGGAGAAAACCTC
oligo1212	AGAAGAGCTCCATGATGATAATGAGGAGACCGAAGTTCT
oligo1220	GCTTATCATGAACTGGAATG
oligo1221	TTTCAATGATAAAGCGGTTATCTTACTGAGCT
oligoA1	AAACCTAAACCCTAACGGC
oligoA2	TTACAATTTCAATAAATGATATAATTTTACA
oligoA3	AATTTGGGCTCTAGATGA
oligoA4	CACCTCAATGCTTTTGTGCTCACTCAAACTCGATCTCAA TCTAGC
oligoA5	ATGGACTCAAGACCATGAC
oligoA6	TAGACAGGGATATCGAACCTAACATCTGTCTGCTATCTTG T
oligoA7	AATTTAGGTTGATATKCCCTGCTATTGTC
oligoA8	GCTTGGTACCGACTGGAT
oligoA9	TAATACGACTCAATAGGGAACCTAAACCCCTAACGGCTAA GC
oligoA10	TT TTTTTTTTTTTAAATAATATCATTTAATGAAATTTGAA TCAATGAACTGGATGCGGAGAAAACCTCAATGCTCA
oligo1231	AAGAAAACCTCAATGCTCAGCACGGGATCCCAATAATC
oligo1232	GCACAGGGATCCAAATCTATGCTACCGAGGTTA
oligo1233	TCTATGCTACCGAGGTTATGTTTCTTAAATGCTTTG
oligo1234	TGTTTCTTAAATGCTTGGGAAAACCTCGGCTCGCTAA
D7(+)-detection_probe	GGGGTCTACAAGTCAAGAA