
1 Short Title: B1L regulates lateral root development

2 **B1L regulates lateral root development by exocytic vesicular**

3 **trafficking-mediated polar auxin transport in Arabidopsis¹**

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12 **Abstract**

13 Auxin and auxin-mediated signaling pathways involved in the regulation of
14 lateral root development are well documented. Although exocytic vesicle
15 trafficking plays an important role in PIN-auxin-efflux carrier recycling, and
16 polar auxin transport during lateral root formation, however, the mechanistic
17 details of these processes are not well understood. Here, we demonstrate an
18 essential regulatory mechanism of B1L that interacts with the exocyst to
19 regulate PIN-mediated polar auxin transport and lateral root initiation. B1L is
20 highly expressed in Arabidopsis roots, and genetic and cellular analyses have
21 revealed that B1L is mainly involved in lateral root primordia initiation.
22 Furthermore, *DR5::GUS* expression analyses revealed that auxin levels were
23 higher in lateral root primordia of the *b1l* mutant than in the wild-type.
24 Exogenous auxin treatment confirmed that the lateral root phenotype
25 correlated closely with auxin levels. Additionally, auxin transport-inhibitory
26 treatment indicated that B1L regulates auxin efflux. Consistently, *b1l* mutants
27 exhibited higher levels of auxin efflux carriers PIN1-GFP and PIN3-GFP in
28 lateral root primordia. Moreover, B1L interacts with the exocyst and functions in
29 recycling PIN2-GFP. Finally, the *b1l-1/exo70b1-1* double-mutant exhibited a
30 significant increase in the number of lateral roots compared to the wildtype,
31 *b1l-1*, and *exo70b1-1*. Collectively, this study improves our understanding of
32 the highly sophisticated processes involved in exocytic vesicular
33 trafficking-mediated polar auxin transport and lateral root initiation in plants.

34

35 **KEYWORDS:** B1L, Lateral Root, Polar Auxin Transport, Exocytic Vesicular
36 Trafficking, PIN Recycling

37 **Introduction**

38 Roots are important vegetative organs that make plants sessile in soil and
39 function in water and nutrient absorption (Bellini et al., 2014; Motte et al., 2019).
40 Lateral root formation is a crucial event in root system morphogenesis (Lynch,
41 1995). This process is divided into five main steps: pre-branch site priming,
42 lateral root initiation, lateral root patterning, lateral root emergence, and lateral
43 root elongation (Péret et al., 2009; Banda et al., 2019). In turn, the phase
44 between lateral root initiation and its patterning includes steps of the onset and
45 formation of lateral root primordia. Generally, this phase is divided into eight
46 stages (I-VIII) according to the layer number of lateral root primordial
47 cells (Vilches-Barro and Maizel, 2015; Stoeckle et al., 2018). Auxin and
48 auxin-mediated signaling pathways play a central role in regulating all the
49 steps of lateral root formation (Lavenus et al., 2013). Specifically, a local auxin
50 threshold maintained by auxin influx carrier AUX1 (AUXIN RESISTANT1) and
51 auxin efflux carriers PIN (PIN-FORMED) is essential for lateral root priming
52 and initiation (Benková et al., 2003; Lavenus et al., 2013).

53 Furthermore, vesicle trafficking, which includes endocytosis and exocytosis,

54 is an important physiological process widely involved in cell polarity
55 establishment, cell expansion and division, cell wall formation, hormone
56 signaling, and defense against pathogens(Tanaka et al., 2006; Robatzek, 2007;
57 Wu et al., 2014; Zhang et al., 2019). Exocytic vesicle trafficking mainly includes
58 targeting, tethering, and fusion(Uemura and Ueda, 2014; Zhang et al., 2019).
59 An exocyst is a vital tethering factor that guarantees the specificity of contact
60 between exocytic vesicles and the plasma membrane (Žárský et al., 2013; Wu
61 and Guo, 2015; Mei and Guo, 2018). To date, eight subunits (SEC3, SEC5,
62 SEC6, SEC8, SEC10, SEC15, EXO70, and EXO84) have been found in
63 Arabidopsis.(Elias et al., 2003; Eckardt, 2008; Fendrych et al., 2010).
64 Recycling of PIN1 and PIN2 is delayed in *exo70a1*, *sec8*, and *sec6*
65 mutants(Drdová et al., 2013; Tan et al., 2016). These findings demonstrate that
66 the exocyst plays an important role in PINs recycling and polar auxin transport.
67 However, little is known about the precise mechanisms underlying these
68 processes.

69 BYPASS1-LIKE (B1L) belongs to the DUF793 family whose functions are
70 largely unknown. Our recent studies revealed that B1L interacts with 14-3-3 λ to
71 inhibit the degradation of CBF3 (C-REPEAT BINDING FACTOR3) and
72 positively regulates freezing tolerance in Arabidopsis.(Chen et al., 2019). In
73 addition, B1L interacts with TRANSTHYRETIN-LIKE (TTL) to regulate growth
74 and freezing tolerance (Chen et al., 2020). However, to the best of our
75 knowledge, no study has been yet reported on the other molecular functions of
76 B1L.

77 Here, we report a novel role of B1L revealed by using multiple approaches
78 including, genetics, cellular biology, proteomics, and biochemical assays,
79 namely, its involvement in lateral root development. In *b1l* mutants, the number
80 of lateral roots increased significantly, and the phenotypes were mainly
81 attributed to lateral root primordium initiation but not to the defects in lateral
82 root primordium development. Furthermore, auxin levels in the lateral root
83 primordium of the *b1l* mutant were higher than those observed in the wildtype
84 (WT), based on detection of DR5::GUS expression. Moreover, exogenous
85 auxin and auxin transport inhibitory treatments indicated that the phenotype of
86 lateral roots in *b1l* mutants can be attributed to higher auxin levels and that
87 B1L regulates auxin efflux. Consistently, auxin efflux carriers PIN1-GFP and
88 PIN3-GFP were expressed at higher levels in the lateral root primordium of the
89 *b1l* mutants. Interestingly, B1L interacted with the exocyst and was involved in
90 exocytic vesicle trafficking. In addition, treatment with BFA revealed defective
91 PIN2 exocytosis in the *b1l* mutant. Finally, the number of lateral roots
92 increased significantly in the *b1l-1/exo70b1-1* double mutant in comparison to
93 that in the WT, *b1l-1*, and *exo70b1-1*. In summary, B1L was revealed to be
94 involved in exocytic vesicle trafficking-mediated PIN recycling through
95 interaction with the exocyst and to regulate polar auxin transport to promote
96 lateral root initiation.

97

98 Results

99 B1L is highly expressed in Arabidopsis roots

100 To gain further insight into the molecular function of B1L, we first examined its
101 expression profile in roots, leaves, and whole seedlings. Western blot analysis
102 revealed that the expression levels of B1L-3xFlag were significantly higher in
103 roots than in leaves or whole seedlings (Fig. 1, A and B). Next, we constructed
104 a *B1L::GUS* transgenic plant to further investigate the expression pattern of
105 B1L. GUS staining revealed that *B1L* was expressed extensively in various
106 tissues; thus, particularly high levels of expression were observed in the
107 vascular cylinder, in the meristematic zone of the primary root tissue, and at
108 eight different developmental stages of lateral root primordia (Fig. 1, C-M).
109 These results indicate that B1L may be involved in root development.

110 B1L regulates lateral root initiation

111 To examine whether B1L is involved in root development, WT, *b1l-1*, *b1l-2*, and
112 *b1l-4* were grown on $\frac{1}{2} \times$ MS medium plates under normal conditions and their
113 phenotypes were monitored. We observed no significant difference in the
114 length of primary roots among WT, *b1l-1*, *b1l-2*, and *b1l-4* (Supplemental Fig.
115 S2). However, the number of lateral roots in *b1l-1*, *b1l-2*, and *b1l-4* was
116 significantly higher than that in the WT (Fig. 2, A and B). Moreover, two
117 independent transgenic lines expressing B1L-3xFlag driven by the native *B1L*
118 promoter in *b1l-1* (*B1L::B1L-3xFlag/b1l*) exhibited the same number of lateral
119 roots as the WT (Fig. 2, A and B), which indicated that the increase in the
120 number of lateral roots in mutants was caused by the absence of B1L. In
121 addition, two independent transgenic lines overexpressing *B1L* driven by the
122 35S promoter in the WT (*B1L-OX#1* and *B1L-OX#2*) exhibited significantly
123 fewer lateral roots than the WT (Fig. 2, A and B). These results demonstrated
124 that B1L regulates lateral root formation.

125 In order to reveal the mechanism underlying B1L-mediated regulation of
126 lateral root development, we examined the differences in the eight
127 developmental stages of lateral root primordia in the WT, *b1l-2*, and *b1l-4*. No
128 growth defects were observed at any stage of lateral root primordia
129 development in *b1l-2* and *b1l-4* (Supplemental Fig. S3). However, our data
130 suggested that the number of lateral root primordia at stage I and stage II in
131 *b1l-2* and *b1l-4* were significantly higher than the corresponding number in the
132 WT (Fig. 2, C-E), and the density of lateral root primordia in *b1l-2* and *b1l-4*
133 was clearly greater than that in the WT (Fig. 2F). These results indicated that
134 B1L was involved in the initiation of lateral root primordia.

135 B1L is involved in polar auxin transport and affects PIN-mediated auxin 136 efflux

137 Lateral root primordia initiation is well known to depend on local high auxin
138 levels; furthermore, auxin is known to play a crucial role in all stages of lateral
139 root development (Vilches-Barro and Maizel, 2015; Stoeckle et al., 2018);
140 therefore, we investigated whether B1L affects auxin levels during lateral root

141 development. The auxin response reporter *DR5::GUS* was expressed in a
142 similar pattern in WT and *b1l-1*. GUS staining revealed that the levels of
143 *DR5::GUS* expression were higher in the lateral root primordia of *b1l-1* than in
144 that of the WT at all eight stages, especially at stage I (Fig. 3). This indicated
145 that the auxin levels in *b1l-1* were higher than those in the WT during lateral
146 root formation. Moreover, IAA treatment at 0.05 and 0.1 μM significantly
147 increased the number of lateral roots in WT and *b1l-1* plants (Fig. 4, A and B).
148 Interestingly, the significant difference in the lateral root phenotypes was
149 eliminated between the WT and *b1l-1* treated with 0.05 and 0.1 μM IAA (Fig. 4,
150 A and B). This finding indicates that the lateral root phenotypes of the WT and
151 *b1l-1* can be attributed to auxin levels.

152 As the level of auxin in plants is mainly determined by its biosynthesis and
153 transport (Du and Scheres, 2018) , first, we investigated whether B1L is
154 involved in auxin biosynthesis. Treatment with auxin biosynthesis inhibitor
155 2,3,5-triiodobenzoic acid (TIBA) at concentrations of 0.5 and 1 μM significantly
156 inhibited the number of lateral roots in both the WT and *b1l-1* plants, however,
157 there were differences in lateral root phenotype (Supplemental Fig. S4, A and
158 B). Furthermore, auxin biosynthesis genes were not upregulated in the *b1l-1*
159 mutant at the transcriptional level (Supplemental Fig. S5A). Therefore, we
160 concluded that B1L is not involved in auxin biosynthesis.

161 Second, to assess whether B1L affects auxin transport, auxin influx
162 inhibitor 2-naphthoxyacetic acid (2-NOA) and auxin efflux inhibitor
163 N-naphthylphthalamic acid (NPA) were used. Both inhibitors reduced the
164 number of lateral roots in both WT and *b1l-1* plants, significantly
165 (Supplemental Fig. S4, C and D; Fig. 4, C and D). Moreover, the lateral root
166 number differed between 2-NOA-treated WT and *b1l-1* plants; however, this
167 difference was eliminated upon treatment with NPA. This result indicated that
168 B1L affects the auxin efflux. To further determine the impact of B1L on auxin
169 efflux, we introduced *AUX1::AUX1-YFP*, *PIN1::PIN1-GFP*, and
170 *PIN3::PIN3-GFP* into *b1l-1* to observe the expression patterns of the influx
171 carrier AUX1 and efflux carrier PIN family in the roots of WT and *b1l-1* plants.
172 As expected, we observed that the levels of PIN1-GFP increased in *b1l-1*
173 lateral root primordia at all eight stages (Fig. 5A), and the levels of PIN3-GFP
174 increased in the lateral root primordia of *b1l-1* from stage I to stage III (Fig. 5B).
175 In addition, no pronounced changes were observed in AUX1-YFP levels
176 between WT and *b1l-1* (Supplemental Fig. S6). Furthermore, at the
177 transcriptional level, PINs did not increase in the *b1l-1* mutant (Supplemental
178 Fig. S5B). Taken together, these findings suggest that B1L regulates polar
179 auxin transport by its involvement in PIN-mediated auxin efflux.

180 **B1L interacts with the exocyst complex**

181 To explore the mechanism whereby, B1L affects PIN levels, we identified
182 potential proteins that interact with B1L using co-immunoprecipitation (co-IP)
183 and liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS). Anti-Flag
184 antibodies conjugated to agarose beads were used to immunoprecipitate

185 B1L-3×Flag and its interacting proteins from root proteins of *B1L::B1L-3×Flag*
186 and WT, which grew 7 d on ½ × MS medium plates. Five bands, with the
187 exception of heavy and light chains, were observed by SDS-PAGE
188 (Supplemental Fig. S7A) and then analyzed by LC-MS/MS. Among these, 888
189 proteins that were larger than or equal to the two unique peptides, were
190 identified. Next, GO enrichment analysis revealed that these proteins were
191 highly enriched in cellular processes (43.89%), metabolic processes (33.95%),
192 biological regulation (8.27%), localization (7.21%), and response to stimulus
193 (5.45%) (Supplemental Fig. S7B). Interestingly, 37 vesicle-mediated transport
194 proteins and 11 exocyst subunits were observed in the cellular process
195 (Supplemental Fig. S7C and Fig. 6A). In addition, EXO70B1 was previously
196 identified in our yeast two-hybrid (Y2H) screening assay using B1L-pGBKT7
197 as bait. These results indicated that B1L interacts with the exocyst complex.

198 To confirm the potential interaction between B1L and the exocyst, we first
199 examined the physical interactions of B1L with the exocyst subunits using the
200 Y2H assay. We found that B1L interacted with SEC5A, SEC6, EXO70B1,
201 EXO70C1, EXO70E1, EXO70F1, and EXO84B in yeast (Fig. 6B).
202 Subsequently, we performed a bimolecular fluorescence complementation
203 (BiFC) assay. Transient co-expression of the fusion genes *YFP^N-B1L* and
204 *YFP^C-EXO70B1* in *N. benthamiana* leaves resulted in YFP fluorescence (Fig.
205 6C). Interestingly, YFP fluorescence was localized not only in the plasma
206 membrane, but in vesicle-like structures as well (Fig. 6C).
207 Co-immunoprecipitation (Co-IP) was used to confirm this interaction.
208 Constructs *35S::B1L-Flag* and *35S::EXO70B1-Myc* were transiently
209 co-expressed in *N. benthamiana* leaves. Total leaf protein extracts were
210 immunoprecipitated with anti-Flag agarose beads, and the precipitated
211 proteins were detected using anti-Myc antibodies. As expected, a band of the
212 size of EXO70B1-Myc was detected in the anti-Flag agarose precipitated
213 fractions (Fig. 6D). These results strongly indicated a direct interaction
214 between B1L and the exocyst *in vivo*.

215 **B1L is involved in the exocytic vesicle trafficking of PINs**

216 The plant exocyst complex facilitates tethering between transport vesicles and
217 the plasma membrane, and plays an important role in auxin efflux carrier PINs
218 recycling and polar auxin transport (Drdová et al., 2013; Žárský et al., 2013;
219 Tan et al., 2016). Thus, we hypothesized that B1L is involved in exocytic
220 vesicle trafficking. To test this hypothesis, we introduced the endoplasmic
221 reticulum (ER) marker *SEC12::SEC12-YFP* and Golgi marker *SYP32::*
222 *SYP32-YFP* into *b1l-1*. We found that the locations of SEC12-YFP and
223 SYP32-YFP were changed and SEC12-YFP and SYP32-YFP formed dot
224 structures in the primary root of the *b1l-1* mutant (Fig. 7, A-D). These results
225 indicated that B1L is involved in exocytic vesicle trafficking.

226 We then continued to investigate whether the accumulation of PINs in
227 *b1l-1* was due to a defect in recycling and trafficking. To this purpose, we
228 examined PIN2-GFP trafficking in the WT and *b1l-1* roots by treating them with

229 Brefeldin A (BFA) and cycloheximide (CHX). BFA is a reversible vesicle
230 trafficking inhibitor that causes the aggregation of PIN2 and formation of BFA
231 bodies (Mayers et al., 2017). CHX is an inhibitor of eukaryotic translation that
232 can eliminate the differences in PIN2 synthesis (Schneider-Poetsch et al.,
233 2010). BFA bodies accumulated both in the WT and *b1l-1* mutant of root
234 epidermal cells treated with BFA+CHX after 60 min, and the number of BFA
235 bodies increased significantly in the WT, compared to the *b1l-1* mutant (Fig. 7,
236 E and F). The number of BFA bodies in the WT markedly decreased compared
237 to that in *b1l-1* after BFA washout at 60 and 90 min. These findings confirmed
238 our hypothesis that *b1l-1* exhibits defects in PIN2 exocytosis. Thus, we
239 demonstrated that B1L functions in exocytic vesicle trafficking of PINs.

240 **B1L interacts with EXO70B1 at the gene level to regulate lateral root**
241 **formation**

242 We investigated the genetic interactions between *B1L* and *EXO70B1*. The
243 *b1l-1/exo70b1-1* double mutant was generated by crossing *b1l-1* and *exo70b1*.
244 The lateral root phenotype of *exo70b1* was similar to that of *b1l-1*, which
245 exhibited a greater number of lateral roots than the WT (Fig. 8). Interestingly,
246 the lateral root phenotype of *b1l-1* and *exo70b1* significantly increased in the
247 *b1l-1/exo70b1-1* double mutant (Fig. 8). These results suggested that B1L
248 regulates lateral root formation by interacting with EXO70B1 at the gene level.

249

250 Discussion

251 Our previous studies showed that B1L is involved in the regulation of freezing
252 tolerance in plants (Chen et al., 2019; Chen et al., 2020); however, other
253 biological functions of B1L remain unclear. In this study, we revealed a novel
254 biological function and the elegant underlying molecular mechanism of
255 B1L-mediated regulation of lateral root formation. The expression pattern of
256 B1L plays an important role in the development of primary and lateral roots
257 (Fig. 1). Genetic and cellular analyses showed that B1L regulates lateral root
258 development and lateral root primordia initiation (Fig. 2 and Supplemental Fig.
259 S3). In fact, the presence of more lateral roots is not always advantageous for
260 plants. Lateral roots develop only at specific tissue positions and time points to
261 accomplish root development for water and nutrient uptake, because every
262 increase in the number of organs requires additional energy (Péret et al., 2009;
263 Möller et al., 2017). Therefore, we consider that the larger number of lateral
264 roots due to the absence of B1L is not necessarily beneficial to healthy plant
265 development and growth.

266 Lateral root primordia initiation occurs in xylem pole pericycle cells located
267 in the basal meristem or root elongation zone (Péret et al., 2009; Motte et al.,
268 2019). The pericycle cells are stimulated by a local auxin threshold level and
269 become lateral root-founder cells that subsequently undergo anticlinal and
270 asymmetric divisions to generate a single-layer primordium referred to as
271 stage I (Péret et al., 2009; Lavenus et al., 2013; Vilches-Barro and Maizel, 2015;
272 Motte et al., 2019). Therefore, auxin is widely believed to play a crucial role in
273 regulating lateral root primordia initiation (Lavenus et al., 2013; Bellini et al.,
274 2014; Du and Scheres, 2018). In the present study, higher auxin levels were
275 found in the lateral root primordia of the *b1l* mutant (Fig. 3), and exogenous
276 auxin treatment confirmed that lateral root phenotype correlated closely with
277 auxin level (Fig. 4, A and B). The local auxin threshold is maintained by auxin
278 influx and efflux carrier-mediated (i.e., AUX1 and PINs) transport. Our data
279 showed that the differences in lateral root phenotype between WT and mutant
280 roots were eliminated upon treatment with the auxin efflux inhibitor NPA (Fig. 4,
281 C and D). Furthermore, the *b1l* mutant exhibited higher levels of PINs (Fig. 5).
282 This finding indicated that B1L regulates auxin efflux mainly by influencing the
283 level of PINs.

284 Co-IP/LC-MS/MS analysis is a powerful tool to unravel the potential roles
285 of B1L in regulating the level of PINs. We identified 12 exocyst complex
286 subunits that potentially interact with B1L (Fig. 6A and Supplemental Fig. S7).
287 These interactions were confirmed by performing Y2H, BiFC, and Co-IP
288 assays (Fig. 6, B-D). Our findings indicated that B1L interacts with the
289 tethering exocyst complex composed of eight subunits (SEC3, SEC5, SEC6,
290 SEC8, SEC10, SEC15, EXO70, and EXO84), which facilitates vesicle contact
291 with the target membrane (Žárský et al., 2013; Wu and Guo, 2015; Mei and
292 Guo, 2018). Exocyst mutants *exo70a1* and *sec8* showed defects in the

293 recycling of PIN1 and PIN2 proteins(Drdová et al., 2013). In addition, a recent
294 study revealed that the *sec6* mutant exhibited the same phenotype as *exo70a1*
295 and *sec8* mutants in PIN1 and PIN2 protein recycling (Tan et al., 2016). Thus,
296 the exocyst is widely considered to be involved in regulating PINs and
297 recycling other plasma membrane proteins (Gao et al., 2008; Naramoto, 2017;
298 Zhou and Luo, 2018). PIN2 is located in epidermal cells in roots and is
299 extensively used in BFA treatment assays to investigate vesicle trafficking
300 (Pavel Křeček et al., 2009; Mayers et al., 2017; Zhou and Luo, 2018). In this
301 study, the *b1l* mutant exhibited a defect in PIN2-GFP recycling (Fig. 7, E and F),
302 which indicated that B1L functions in exocytic vesicle trafficking of PINs
303 through interaction with the exocyst. Regrettably, we failed to observe the
304 recycling of PIN1-GFP and PIN3-GFP in the WT and *b1l* roots in this study.
305 Although we investigated PIN2-GFP recycling, instead of PIN1-GFP and
306 PIN3-GFP, this did not affect our conclusions.

307 **Conclusions**

308 In summary, we demonstrated that B1L is involved in regulating auxin
309 levels by interacting with the exocyst to function in the exocytic vesicle
310 trafficking-mediated PIN recycling in wildtype root cells. The absence of B1L in
311 *b1l* mutants seemingly results in abnormal PIN recycling that leads to a higher
312 local auxin level, which in turn facilitates the initiation of lateral root primordia.
313 This study improves our understanding of the highly sophisticated processes
314 involved in exocytic vesicular trafficking-mediated polar auxin transport and
315 lateral root initiation in plants.

316 **Materials and Methods**

317 **Plant materials and growth conditions**

318 Wild-type (WT), mutants and transgenic plants used in this study are all Col-0
319 background of *Arabidopsis thaliana*. The T-DNA insertion mutants *b1l-1*
320 (SALK_020993) and *b1l-2* (SALK_019913) were obtained from the
321 Arabidopsis Biological Resource Center. The T-DNA insert information are
322 showed in Fig. S1a. *b1l-4* mutant is the transgene-free gene editing mutant
323 obtained by using the CRISPR/Cas9 system. *b1l-4* absents 96bp from 13bp to
324 108bp after initiator codon ATG. The CRISPR/Cas9 system vectors were
325 kindly provided by the Qi-Jun Chen laboratory of China Agricultural University,
326 and the protocols performed as previously described(Wang et al., 2015). The
327 primer sequences that were used for CRISPR/Cas9 system are listed in
328 Supplemental Table S1. The primer sequences that were used for identification
329 of *b1l-1*, *b1l-2* and *b1l-4* are listed in Supplemental Table S2 and the results
330 are showed in Supplemental Fig.S1. Transgenic Arabidopsis plants expressing
331 GUS driven by the *B1L* promoter (*B1L::GUS*), B1L-3×Flag driven by the *B1L*
332 promoter (*B1L::B1L-3×Flag/b1l*) and YFP-B1L driven by the CaMV35S
333 promoter (*B1L-OX*) were previously described(Chen et al., 2019).

334 Transgenic Arabidopsis plants expressing GUS driven by the *DR5*

335 promoter (*DR5::GUS*), PIN1-GFP driven by the *PIN1* promoter
336 (*PIN1::PIN1-GFP*), PIN2-GFP driven by the *PIN2* promoter (*PIN2::PIN2-GFP*),
337 PIN3-GFP driven by the *PIN3* promoter (*PIN3::PIN3-GFP*), AUX1-YFP driven
338 by the *AUX1* promoter (*AUX1::AUX1-YFP*), SEC12-YFP driven by the *SEC12*
339 promoter (*SEC12::SEC12-YFP*) and SYP32-YFP driven by the *SYP32*
340 promoter (*SYP32::SYP32-YFP*) were kindly provided by the Guang-Qin Guo
341 laboratory and the Quan-Sheng Qiu laboratory of Lanzhou University,
342 respectively. The above plants were crossed by *b1l-1* mutant and generated
343 *DR5::GUS/ b1l-1*, *PIN1::PIN1-GFP/b1l-1*, *PIN2::PIN2-GFP/b1l-1*,
344 *PIN3::PIN3-GFP/b1l-1*, *AUX1::AUX1-YF/ b1l-1*, *SEC12::SEC12-YF/ b1l-1*,
345 *SYP32::SYP32-YFP/ b1l-1*, respectively.

346 All plants were grown on 1/2 Murashige and Skoog (MS) medium plates in
347 an artificial climate chamber (RXZ-500; Ningbo Jiangnan, China) with 16 h
348 light and 8 h dark at 22°C.

349 **Chemical treatment assays**

350 The seedlings grown 3 days after germination on MS medium plates were
351 transferred on the 1/2 MS medium plates contained different concentrations of
352 medicines. The phenotypes were analyzed and photographed after 7 days.
353 The medicines included the auxin Indole-3-acetic acid (IAA, 0.05 and 0.1 µM),
354 the auxin synthesis inhibitor 2,3,5-triodobenzoic acid (TIBA, 0.5 and 1 µM),
355 auxin influx inhibitor 2-naphthoxyacetic acid (2-NOA, 0.02 and 0.05 µM) and
356 auxin efflux inhibitor N-Naphthylphtalamic acid (NPA, 0.1 and 0.5 µM)

357 **Lateral root primordia analysis**

358 The observation of lateral root primordia was performed as previously
359 described(Xun et al., 2020). The roots of 10 days old seedlings were dipped
360 with 0.4 M HCl in 20% methanol for 15min at 57°C, then transferred into 7%
361 NaOH and 7% hydroxylamine-HCl in 60% ethanol for 15min at room
362 temperature. The roots were washed 5 min with 40%, 20% and 10% ethanol,
363 respectively, and then dipped in 5% ethanol and 25% glycerol solution for
364 15min. At last, the roots were stored in 50% glycerol solution. The roots and
365 lateral root primordia were analyzed and photographed by a research grade
366 automatic positive fluorescence microscope (Axio Imager.Z2; Zeiss,
367 Germany).

368 **GUS staining**

369 The GUS staining was performed as previously described(Xun et al., 2020). 10
370 days old seedlings of *B1L::GUS*, *DR5::GUS* and *DR5::GUS/ b1l-1* were
371 incubated in GUS staining solution at 37°C for 6 h, then the whole plants were
372 rinsed with different concentrations of alcohol, and the lateral root primordia
373 were cleared with hydroxylamine-HCl as described above. A Stereo
374 Fluorescence Microscope (Discover.v20; Zeiss, Germany) was used to
375 analyze and photograph for whole plants. The roots and lateral root primordia
376 were analyzed and photographed by a research grade automatic positive
377 fluorescence microscope (Axio Imager.Z2; Zeiss, Germany).

378 **Image analysis with LSCM**

379 For protein localization of PIN1-GFP, PIN3-GFP and AUX1-YFP experiments,
380 the roots of 10 days old seedlings were stained with 10g·ml⁻¹ propidium iodide
381 (PI) for 6 min. A laser-scanning confocal microscopy (LSCM) (LSM880; Zeiss,
382 Germany) was used to analyze and photograph. GFP or YFP was excited with
383 the 488nm laser, and PI was excited with the 561nm laser. The emission of
384 GFP or YFP and PI was detected between 500-530 nm and 570–670 nm by a
385 multichannel detector with filters, respectively.

386 For protein localization of SEC12-YFP and SYP32-YFP experiments, the roots
387 of 10 days old seedlings were directly analyzed and photographed by LSCM
388 (LSM880; Zeiss, Germany) at a single channel detector.

389 **Total RNA extract and qRT-PCR assay**

390 The roots of 7 days old seedlings were collected to extract total RNA using
391 RNA prep pure plant kit (TIANGEN). The first strand cDNA was synthesized
392 from 1 µg of total RNA using the Hifair® III 1st Strand cDNA Synthesis
393 SuperMix kit (YEASEN, 11141ES10) according to the manufacturer's
394 instructions.

395 For qRT-PCR, it was performed by ABI Real-Time PCR Detection System (ABI,
396 Q5) using the Hieff® qPCR SYBR Green Master Mix (Low Rox Plus) (YEASEN,
397 11202ES08). Three biological replicates and four technical replicates were
398 performed for each sample. *AtUBC21* (At5g25760) was used as the reference
399 control(Cai et al., 2017). The primer sequences used for qRT-PCR are listed in
400 Supplemental Table S3.

401 **Yeast two-hybrid assay**

402 Yeast two-hybrid assays were performed as previously described(Chen et al.,
403 2019). The CDS of B1L was cloned into the pGBKT7-GW and the CDSs of
404 exocyst subunits were cloned into the pGADT7-GW vector using gateway
405 cloning system, respectively. The primer sequences are listed in
406 Supplementary Table S4. The B1L-pGBKT7 vector and pGADT7 fused
407 exocyst subunit vector were co-transformed into AH109 strain. The
408 interactions between B1L and exocyst subunits were determined by observing
409 the growth status of positive clones on media lacking leucine (Leu), tryptophan
410 (Trp), histidine (His), and adenine (Ade).

411 **BiFC assay**

412 Bimolecular fluorescence complementation (BiFC) assay was performed as
413 previously described(Chen et al., 2019). The CDSs of B1L and EXO70B1 were
414 cloned into the PNYFP-X and PCCFP-X vectors using gateway cloning system,
415 respectively. The primer sequences are listed in Supplementary Table S4.
416 Transient co-expressed the fusion genes *YFP^N-B1L* and *YFP^C-EXO70B1* in *N.*
417 *benthamiana* leaves. The interaction was analyzed and photographed by
418 LSCM (Leica; SP8, Germany)

419 **IP/ Co-IP assay**

420 The IP assay was performed as previously described(Chen et al., 2019). In
421 brief, total protein was extracted from roots of 7 days old WT and

422 *B1L::B1L-3xFlag* seedlings using IP buffer (50mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.6, 150mM
423 NaCl, 10% Glycerol, 0.1% NP-40 and 1×Cocktail). Protein extracts were
424 added into 50µl agarose beads conjugated anti-Flag antibody (M20018L;
425 Abmart, China), and the mix was incubated with gentle shaking for 6 h at 4 °C.
426 The beads were washed with IP buffer five times, then added 50µl 1×loading
427 buffer to boil 10 minutes in water. The beads were centrifuged 1 min at
428 12000rpm and the supernatant was used for running SDS-PAGE.

429 For Co-IP assay, the CDSs of B1L and EXO70B1 were cloned into the
430 35S-GATWAY-3×Flag vector and the 35S-GATWAY-3×Myc vector using
431 gateway cloning system, respectively. The primer sequences are listed in
432 Supplemental Table S4. The *35S::B1L-Flag* and *35S::EXO70B1-Myc*
433 constructs were transiently co-expressed in *N. benthamiana* leaves.
434 *35S::Flag* and *35S::EXO70B1-Myc* constructs were transiently co-expressed
435 as control. Total protein was extracted from leaves using IP buffer, and the IP
436 was performed as described above. Anti-Flag antibody (M20008M; Abmart,
437 China) and anti-Myc antibody (ab32072; Abcam, UK) were used to detect
438 B1L-Flag and EXO70B1-Myc, respectively.

439 **Western blot**

440 Proteins were extracted as described above and separated on SDS-PAGE
441 (12%), and then transferred to a PVDF membrane (0.22µm; Millipore, America)
442 at 200 mA for 1.5h in transfer buffer. The PVDF membrane was blocked in 5%
443 Non-Fat Powdered Milk (A600669; Sangon Biotech, China) 1h at 22°C. After
444 incubation with primary antibodies and secondary antibodies respectively, the
445 PVDF membrane was treated with enhanced chemiluminescent reagent (NCM
446 Biotech, P10200, China) and then imaged using chemiluminescence imaging
447 analysis system (BG-gdsAUTO 710 MINI; Baygene biotech, China).

448 **LC-MS/MS**

449 LC-MS/MS analysis was performed as previously described which mainly
450 included alkylation, tryptic digestion, mass spectrometric and database
451 searching(Wang et al., 2013; Zhang et al., 2020). The gels of protein bands
452 were cut into cubic pieces and washed with 50% acetonitrile in 25 mM
453 NH₄HCO₃ until the Coomassie brilliant blue was disappeared. The gels were
454 dehydrated by acetonitrile and vacuum dried. Next, the gels were alkylated
455 with 10mM TCEP and 40mM CAA, and dehydrated by acetonitrile again. The
456 gels were digested with 0.01mg·ml⁻¹ trypsin in 100mM NH₄HCO₃ solution
457 8-24h at 37°C. The gels were putted into new tubes and extracted with 0.1%
458 TFA in 50% acetonitrile. The extracts were mixed with digest solution and
459 vacuum dried. 0.1% FA was added to dissolve polypeptides. The solutions
460 were centrifuged at 14000rpm for 30min. The supernatants were analyzed by
461 liquid chromatography electrospray tandem mass spectrometry (Orbitrap
462 Fusion Lumos Easy 1200 Nano LC, Thermofisher). The results were analyzed
463 using thermo proteome discoverer 2.1.1.21 software to search *Arabidopsis*
464 protein database.

465 Accession Numbers

466 Sequence data from this article can be found in The Arabidopsis Information
467 Resource (<http://www.arabidopsis.org/>). Accession number: *B1L*(AT1G18740).

468 Supplemental Data

469 The following supplemental materials are available.

470 **Supplemental Figure S1.** The information of *b1l* mutants.

471 **Supplemental Figure S2.** The length of primary roots are no obvious
472 difference among wild type, *b1l-1*, *b1l-2* and *b1l-4*.

473 **Supplemental Figure S3.** Morphology of lateral root initiation at different
474 stages in WT, *b1l-2* and *b1l-4* mutants seedling roots.

475 **Supplemental Figure S4.** B1L is not involved in the auxin biosynthesis and
476 the auxin influx.

477 **Supplemental Figure S5.** The auxin biosynthesis genes and *PINs* were not
478 increased at the transcriptional levels in *b1l-1* mutant.

479 **Supplemental Figure S6.** The expression of *AUX1::AUX1-YFP* in eight
480 development stages of lateral root primordia of WT and *b1l-1* mutant.

481 **Supplemental Figure S7.** The immunoprecipitation and LC-MS/MS analysis
482 of proteins that potentially interact with B1L.

483 **Supplemental Table S1.** The primers of vectors construction for
484 CRISPR/Cas9.

485 **Supplemental Table S2.** The primers for identification of *b1l-1*, *b1l-2* and *b1l-4*
486 mutants.

487 **Supplemental Table S3.** The primers used for qRT-PCR in this study.

488 **Supplemental Table S4.** The primers of vectors construction for Y2H, BiFC
489 and Co-IP assays.

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492 providing the *DR5::GUS*, *PIN1::PIN1-GFP*, *PIN3::PIN3-GFP* and
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494 Lanzhou, Gansu, China) for providing the *SEC12::SEC12-YFP*
495 *SYP32::SYP32-YFP* transgenic plants, Qi-Jun Chen (China Agricultural
496 University, Beijing, China) for providing the CRISPR/Cas9 system vectors, and
497 the Core Facility for Life Science Research (Lanzhou University) for technical
498 assistance.

499 Figure Legends

500 **Figure1.** The expression pattern of B1L in *Arabidopsis* seedlings. A, Western
501 blot analysis of B1L in seedling, leaf and root of 10 days old
502 *B1L::B1L-3xFlag/b1l* seedlings. B1L-3xFlag was recognized by the anti-Flag
503 and Actin was used as an internal control. B, Quantitative analysis of the
504 B1L-3xFlag expression shown in A, with Image J software. Intensity of leaf
505 was set as 1, the values are means \pm SD (n=3, one-way ANOVA, *, P < 0.05).

506 C-M, GUS staining analysis of *B1l* expression in whole plant, primary root and
507 eight different stages of lateral root primordium at 7 day after germination. I-VIII
508 are eight development stages of lateral root primordia. Images were obtained
509 by differential interference contrast microscope (DICM), bar in C is 5mm, and
510 bars in D-M are 50 μ m.

511 **Figure 2.** B1L regulates the lateral root initiation. A, Root phenotypes of
512 wild-type (WT), *b1l-1*, *b1l-2*, *b1l-4*, *B1L::B1L-3xFlag/b1l#1*,
513 *B1L::B1L-3xFlag/b1l#2*, *B1L-OX#1* and *B1L-OX#2*. WT is Col-0.10 days old
514 seedlings were used for photographs and measurements. Bars is 1.5cm. B,
515 The number of lateral roots in Figure 2A, seedlings. The values are means \pm
516 SD (n=44, one-way ANOVA, **, P < 0.01, ***, P < 0.001). C and D, The
517 distribution of lateral root primordia at I-VIII stages of WT, *b1l-2* and *b1l-4*
518 seedlings at 3 days and 6 days, respectively. The values are means \pm SD (n=3,
519 two-way ANOVA, ***, P < 0.001 compared with WT at each sates). E, The
520 number of stage I lateral root primordia in WT, *b1l-2* and *b1l-4* seedlings at 0-7
521 days. The values are means \pm SD (n=3, two-way ANOVA, **, P < 0.01, ***, P <
522 0.001 compared with WT at each times). F, The lateral root primordia density
523 of WT, *b1l-2* and *b1l-4* seedlings at 10 days. The values are means \pm SD (n=10,
524 one-way ANOVA, **, P < 0.01 compared with WT).

525 **Figure 3.** The auxin levels are increased in primary root and lateral root
526 primordia of *b1l-1* mutant. The expression of *DR5::GUS* in whole plant A and L,
527 vascular cylinder B and M, primary root G and R and eight different stages of
528 lateral root primordium C-K and N-V of WT and *b1l-1* mutant, respectively. 10
529 days old seedlings were used for GUS staining. I-VIII are eight development
530 stages of lateral root primordia. Images were obtained by DICM, bars in A, L
531 are 5mm, and bars in B-V are 50 μ m.

532 **Figure 4.** B1L regulates the auxin level by affecting the auxin efflux. A and B,
533 Phenotypic analysis of lateral root in WT and *b1l-1* seedlings treated with IAA.
534 The values are means \pm SD (n \geq 58, Student's *t*-test, ***, P < 0.001 compared
535 with WT). C and D, Phenotypic analysis of lateral root in WT and *b1l-1*
536 seedlings treated with NPA. Bar is 1.5 cm. The values are means \pm SD (n \geq 83,
537 Student's *t*-test, ***, P < 0.001 compared with WT).

538 **Figure 5.** The auxin efflux carrier PIN1-GFP and PIN3-GFP are increased in
539 lateral root primordia of *b1l-1* mutant. A, The expression of *PIN1::PIN1-GFP* in
540 eight development stages of lateral root primordia of WT and *b1l-1* mutant. B,
541 The expression of *PIN3::PIN3-GFP* in eight development stages of lateral root
542 primordia of WT and *b1l-1* mutant. I-VIII are eight development stages of
543 lateral root primordia. Images were obtained by confocal microscope, bar is
544 50 μ m.

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546 identified by LC-MS/MS in eluants immunoprecipitated by anti-Flag agarose
547 beads. UPs are unique peptides. B, The interactions among B1L and exocyst
548 subunits were verified by yeast two-hybrid (YH2) assays. The empty pGADT7
549 and pGBKT7 vectors were used as negative controls. C, BiFC analysis of the

550 interaction between B1L and EXO70B1 in *N. benthamiana*. Bars are 50 μ m. D,
551 Co-IP confirm the interaction between B1L and EXO70B1. 35s::*EXO70B1-Myc*
552 were co-transfected with 35s::*B1L-Flag* or *Flag* empty vector in *N.*
553 *benthamiana* leaves. Total proteins were immunoprecipitated with anti-Flag
554 agarose beads. B1L-Flag was detected with anti-Flag antibody and
555 immunoprecipitated EXO70B1-Myc was detected with anti- Myc antibody.

556 **Figure 7.** B1L is involved in the exocytic vesicle trafficking. A and C The
557 locations of SEC12-YFP and SYP32-YFP in primary roots of WT and *b1l-1*
558 mutant, respectively. Images were obtained by confocal microscope, bar is
559 20 μ m. B and D, Line scan measurement (White arrows) of the fluorescence
560 intensity in one cell with Image J software. E, *b1l-1* mutants showed defect in
561 PIN2-GFP exocytosis. *PIN2-GFP* and *PIN2-GFP/b1l-1* seedlings were treated
562 with 50mM CHX for 60min and then were treated with 50mM BFA for 2h. The
563 BFA washout with 0.5 \times M and imaged at 0, 30, 60, and 90min by confocal
564 microscope. White arrowheads are PIN2-GFP-labeled BFA bodies. Bar is
565 20 μ m. F, the number of PIN2-GFP-labeled BFA bodies per cell after BFA
566 washout at indicate times. The values are means \pm SEM (n \geq 29, *two-way*
567 *ANOVA*, ***, P < 0.001 compared with WT at each times).

568 **Figure 8.** B1L genetically interacts with EXO70B1 in regulating the lateral roots
569 development. A, Lateral root phenotypes of WT, *b1l-1*, *exo70b1-1* and
570 *b1l-1/exo70b1-1*. Bar is 1.5 cm. B, The number of lateral roots in Fig.8A. The
571 values are means \pm SD (n \geq 60, *one-way ANOVA*, ***, P < 0.001 compared with
572 WT or single mutants).

573

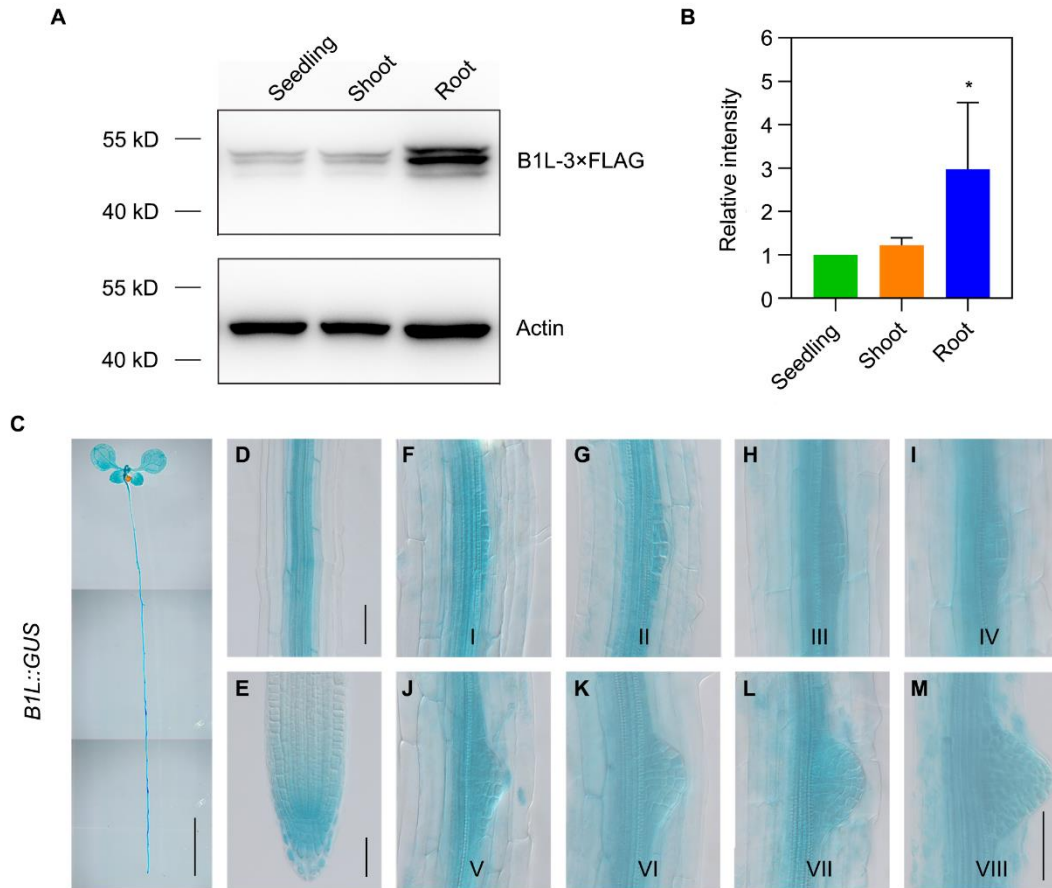


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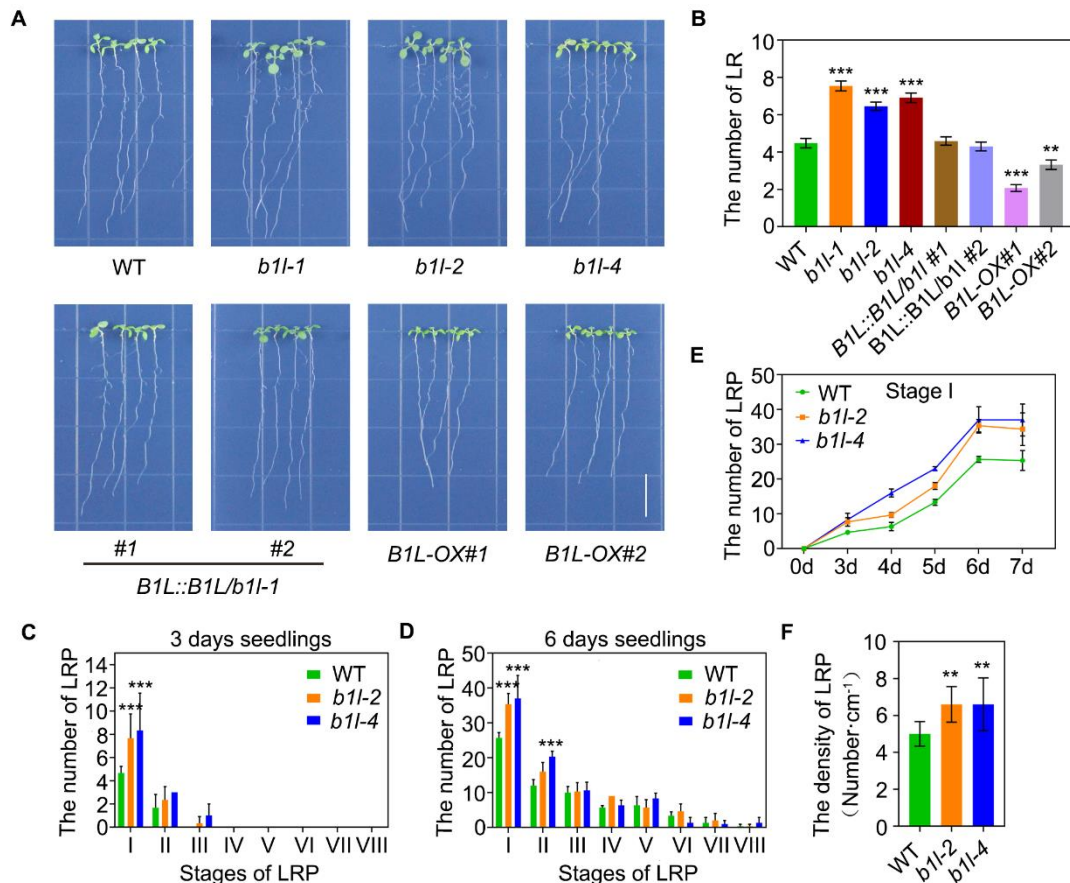


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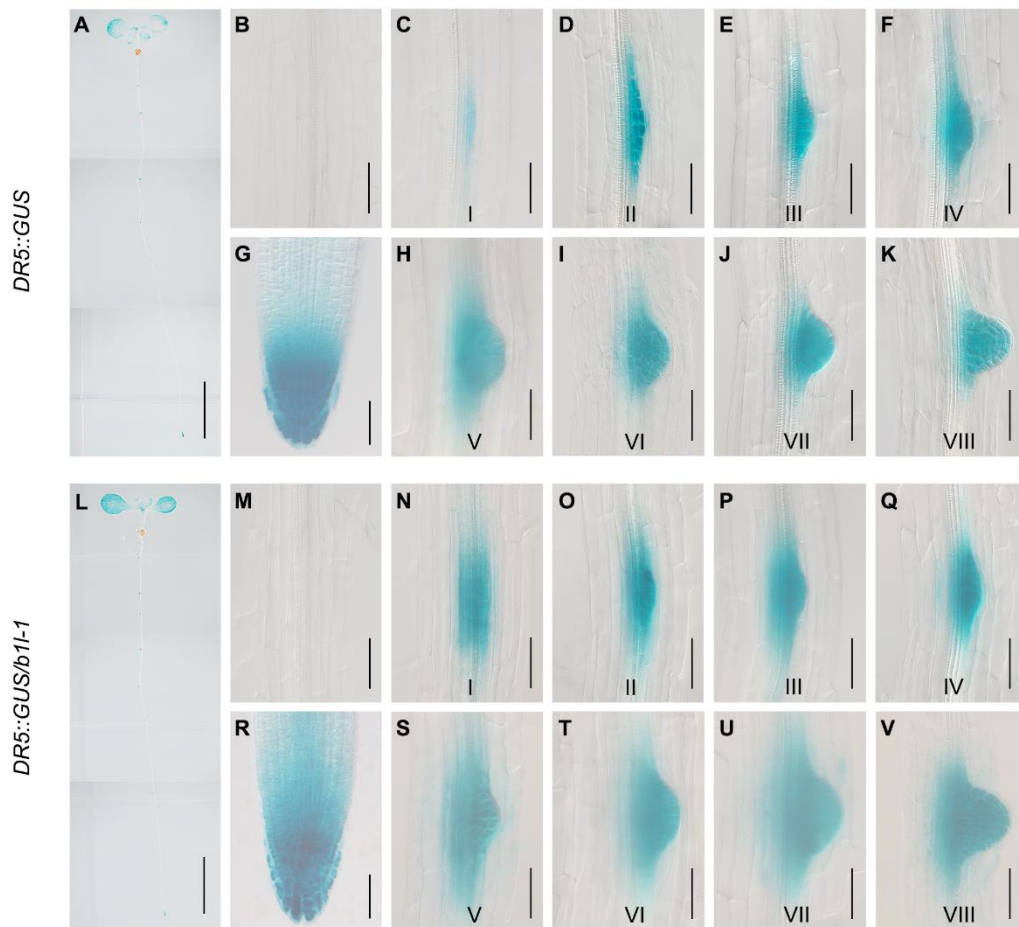


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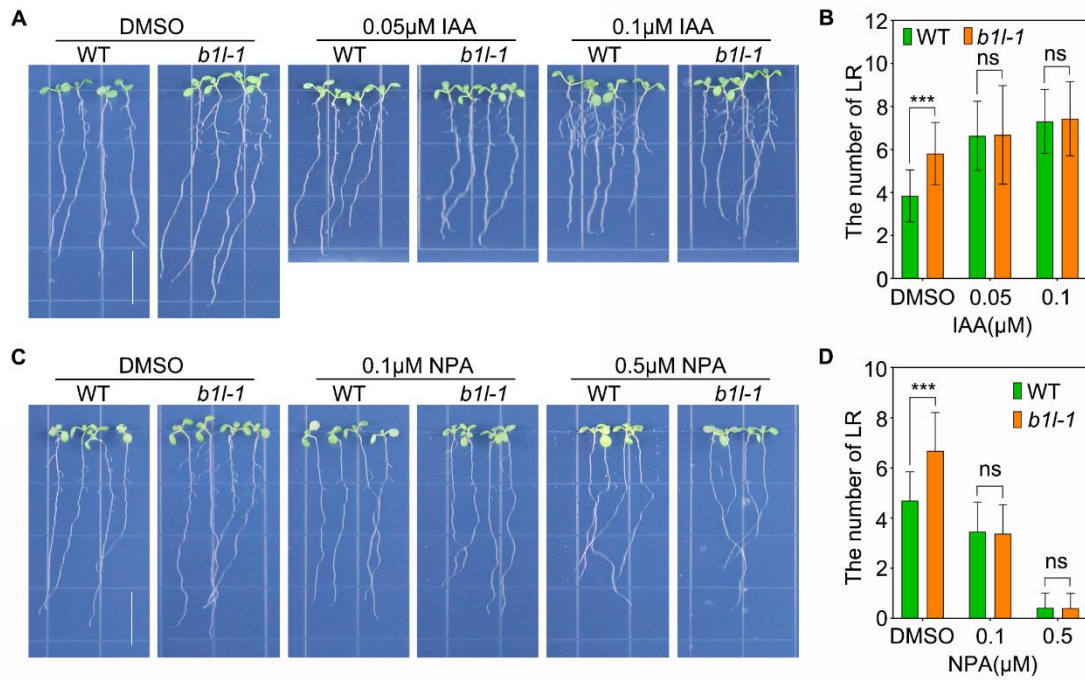


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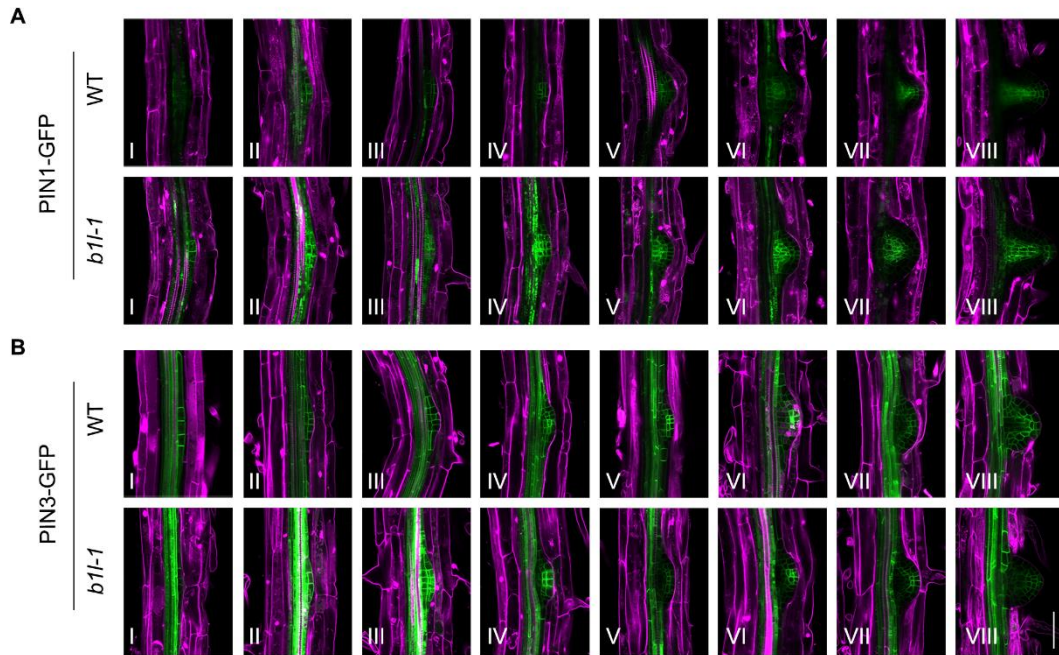


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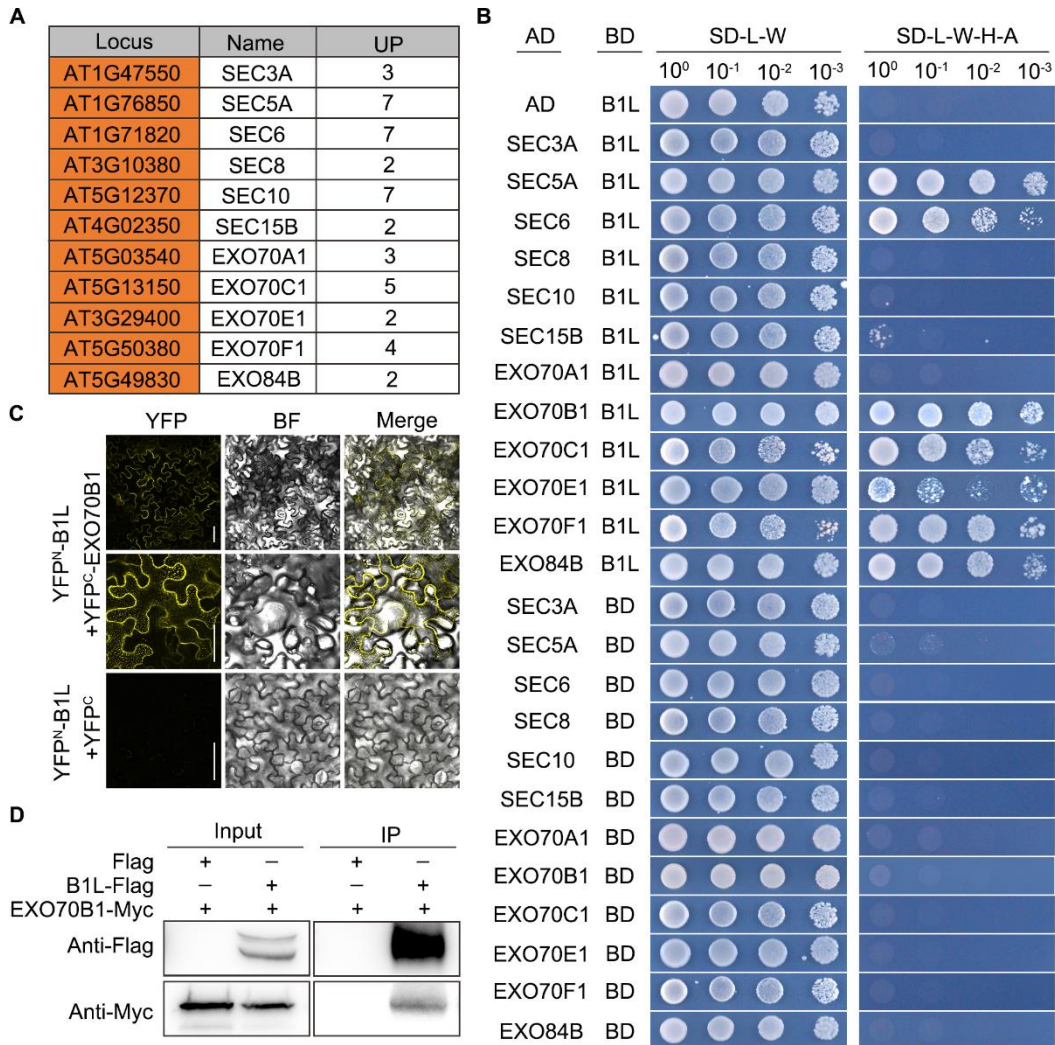


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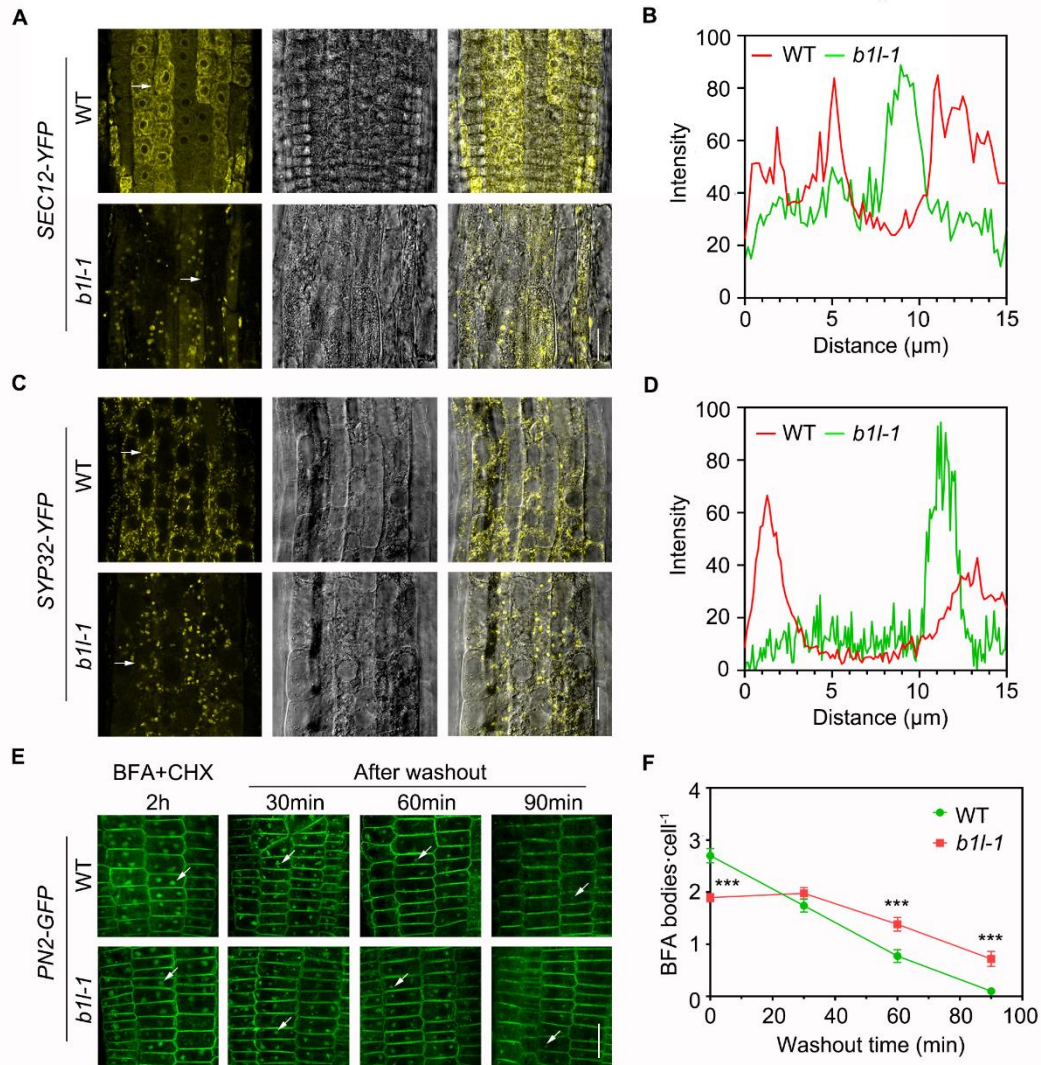


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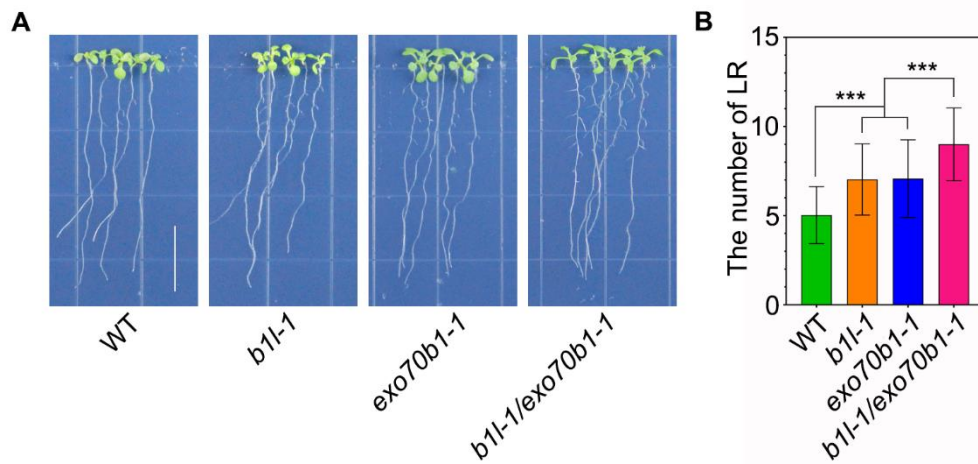


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