

1 **Asymmetrical diversification of the receptor-ligand interaction controlling self-**
2 **incompatibility in Arabidopsis.**

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11 **Abstract (150 words)**

12 How two-components genetic systems accumulate evolutionary novelty and become
13 diversified in the course of evolution is a fundamental problem in evolutionary systems
14 biology. In the Brassicaceae, self-incompatibility (SI) is a spectacular example of a diversified
15 allelic series in which numerous highly diverged receptor-ligand combinations are
16 segregating in natural populations. However, the evolutionary mechanisms by which new SI
17 specificities arise in the first place have remained elusive. Using *in planta* ancestral protein
18 resurrection, we demonstrate that two allelic variants currently segregating as distinct
19 receptor-ligand combinations diverged through an asymmetrical process whereby one
20 variant has retained the same recognition specificity as the (now extinct) ancestor, while the
21 other has functionally diverged and now represents a novel specificity no longer recognized
22 by the ancestor. Examination of the structural determinants of the shift in binding specificity
23 suggests that allosteric changes may be an important source of evolutionary novelty in this
24 highly diversified receptor-ligand system.

25

26 **Introduction**

27 A central goal of biology is to understand the evolutionary forces and molecular processes by
28 which new traits and functions emerge in living organisms. A major challenge toward this
29 goal is that many cellular processes rely on interactions between molecular partners
30 (protein-protein interactions or regulatory interactions between e.g. transcription factors
31 and their binding sites; Boyle et al., 2017; Courtier-Orgogozo et al., 2019) rather than on the
32 action of individual components in isolation. At present, the overall structure of protein-
33 protein or regulatory interaction networks is just starting to be deciphered at the genome
34 level in a handful of model organisms, and a general understanding of how the
35 diversification of these networks led to the emergence of new biological functions in distinct
36 lineages is crucially lacking (Andreani and Guerois 2014; Nooren and Thornton 2003). In two-
37 components genetic systems, specificity of the interaction can be very tight such as e.g. in
38 receptor-ligand interactions (Laub & Goulian, 2007) or bacterial toxin-antitoxin systems
39 (Aakre et al., 2015). In these systems, the emergence of novel traits involves evolutionary
40 modification of the interacting partners, leading to potential disruption of the interaction or
41 to detrimental cross-talk, at least transiently (Plach et al., 2017). A central aspect of the
42 diversification process therefore concerns the functional nature of the evolutionary
43 intermediate. Two main scenarios have been proposed (Aakre et al., 2015). The first scenario
44 posits that a functional change results from introduction of a mutation that first modifies
45 one of the two partners, initially disrupting the functional interaction and leading to a non-
46 functional intermediate. If fitness of this non-functional intermediate is not impaired too
47 drastically, it may remain in the population until a compensatory mutation hits the second
48 partner and rescues the interaction in a modified state, resulting in the novel function. An
49 alternative scenario though, is that the first mutation may broaden rather than inactivate
50 specificity of one of the two interacting partners, transiently releasing constraint on the
51 other before specificity of the first partner becomes restricted again, thus maintaining
52 functionality of the system all along the process. Distinguishing between these two scenarios
53 requires functional characterization of the ancestral evolutionary intermediates, which has
54 been achieved in a very limited number of biological cases such as bacterial toxin-antitoxin
55 systems (Aakre et al., 2015), acquisition of cortisol specificity of the mammalian
56 glucocorticoid receptor (Bridgham et al., 2009) or mammalian retinoic acid receptors

57 (Gutierrez-Mazariegos et al., 2016). The scenario of a promiscuous intermediate seems to
58 have received better support, but whether this is a truly general pattern remains to be
59 determined. A major limitation is that detailed population genetics models taking into
60 account how natural selection is acting on variants of the two genes given their specific
61 biological function are lacking for most genetic systems (Aakre et al., 2015; Aharoni et al.,
62 2005; Bloom and Arnold 2009; Bridgham et al., 2009; Matsumura and Ellington 2001;
63 Matton et al., 2000; Sayou et al., 2014).

64 Self-incompatibility (SI) in the flowering plants is a prime biological system to investigate
65 how functional diversification can proceed between two molecular partners over the course
66 of evolution. SI has evolved as a strategy to prevent selfing and enforce outcrossing, thereby
67 avoiding the deleterious effects of inbreeding depression (Kitashiba and Nasrallah 2014;
68 Nettancourt 1977). In *Brassicaceae*, SI is genetically controlled by a single multiallelic non-
69 recombining locus called the S-locus (Nettancourt 1977). This locus encodes two highly
70 polymorphic self-recognition determinant proteins: the female cell-surface ‘receptor’ S-
71 LOCUS RECEPTOR KINASE (SRK) is expressed in stigmatic papillae cells (Takasaki et al., 2000)
72 and the male ‘ligand’ S-LOCUS CYSTEIN RICH PROTEIN (SCR) is displayed at the pollen surface
73 (Schopfer et al., 1999; Takasaki et al., 2000; Takayama et al., 2000). The SI response consists
74 in pollen rejection by the pistil and is induced by allele-specific interaction between the SRK
75 and SCR proteins when encoded by the same haplotype (S-haplotype, Kachroo et al., 2001;
76 Nasrallah & Nasrallah, 1993; Takayama et al., 2001). These two interacting proteins exhibit a
77 high degree of sequence variability and a large number of these highly diverged allelic
78 variants segregate in natural populations of SI species (several dozens to nearly two
79 hundreds, Busch et al., 2014; Castric & Vekemans, 2004; Lawrence, 2000). This large allelic
80 diversity of receptor-ligand combinations must have arisen through repeated diversification
81 events, but the molecular process and evolutionary scenario involved in the diversification of
82 an ancestral haplotype into distinct descendant specificities are still unresolved.

83 Three evolutionary scenarios for emergence of new self-incompatibility specificities have
84 been proposed so far (Charlesworth et al., 2005). The “compensatory mutation” scenario
85 posits that diversification proceeds through self-compatible intermediates i.e. following
86 transient disruption of the receptor-ligand interaction (Fig S1A, Gervais et al., 2011;
87 Uyenoyama et al., 2001). Population genetic analysis confirmed that S-allele diversification is

88 indeed possible through this scenario, but only under some combinations of model
89 parameters (high inbreeding depression, high rate of self-pollination and low number of co-
90 segregating S-alleles, Gervais et al., 2011). Under these restrictive conditions, the ancestral
91 recognition specificity can be maintained in the long run along with the derived specificity,
92 effectively resulting in allelic diversification. A second scenario was presented by Chookajorn
93 et al., (2004), who proposed instead that diversification resulted from the progressive
94 reinforcement of SRK/SCR recognition capacity among slight functional variants of *SCR* and
95 *SRK* that might segregate within the population. This model assumes no SC intermediate, but
96 predicts rapid functional divergence along allelic lineages. A similar « replacement »
97 dynamics was indeed observed by Gervais et al., (2011), whereby the introduced self-
98 compatible intermediate excluded its functional ancestor from the population under a large
99 portion of the parameter space, such that secondary introduction of the compensatory
100 mutation effectively resulted in the turnover of recognition specificities along allelic lines
101 rather than in diversification *per se*. In this model, a turnover of recognition specificities may
102 therefore be expected along each allelic lineage, rather than their long-term maintenance
103 over evolutionary times (Fig S1B). A third scenario was proposed by Matton et al. (1999) and
104 involves a dual-specificity intermediate (Fig S1C). This scenario was criticized on population
105 genetics arguments because such a dual-specificity haplotype would recognize and reject
106 more potential mates for reproduction than its progenitor haplotype resulting in lower
107 reproductive success, and should therefore be disfavoured by natural selection and quickly
108 eliminated from the populations (Charlesworth 2000; Uyenoyama and Newbigin 2000).
109 Overall, while the large allelic diversity at the S-locus is one of the most striking features of
110 this system, the evolutionary scenario and molecular route by which new S-alleles arise
111 remain largely unknown. An essential limitation in the field is the crucial absence of direct
112 experimental approaches.

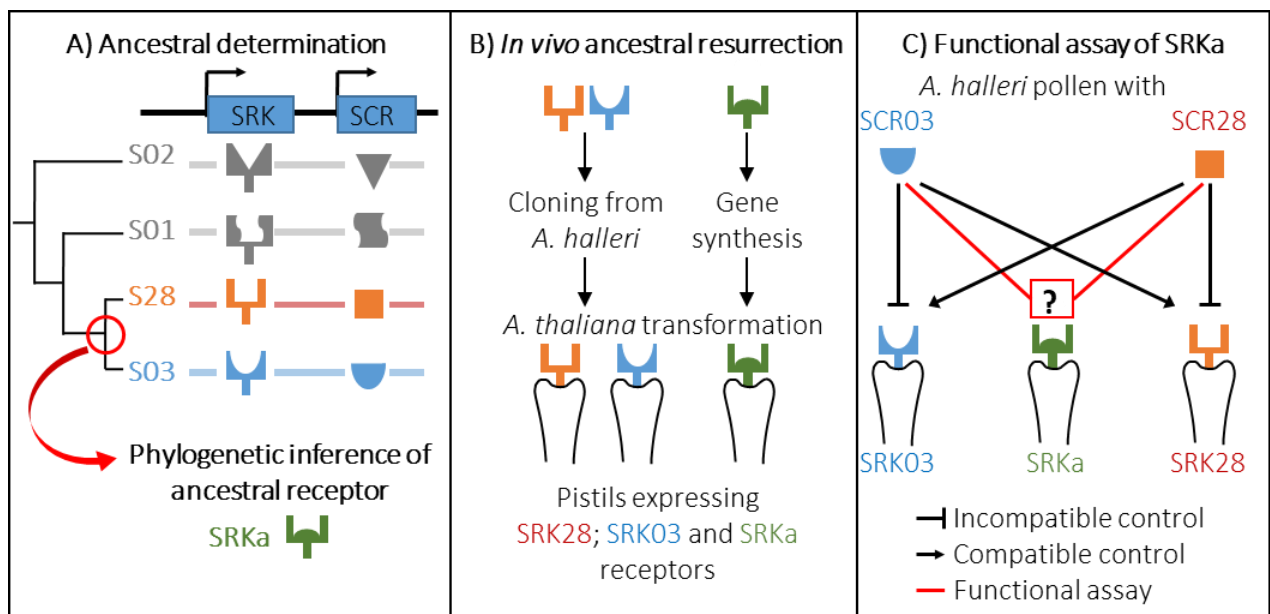
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115 **Results**

116 To conclusively contrast these models we used ancestral sequence reconstruction of S-
117 haplotypes that are currently segregating in the plant *Arabidopsis halleri*. Ancestral sequence
118 reconstruction is a new approach to resurrect ancestral biological systems, whereby the

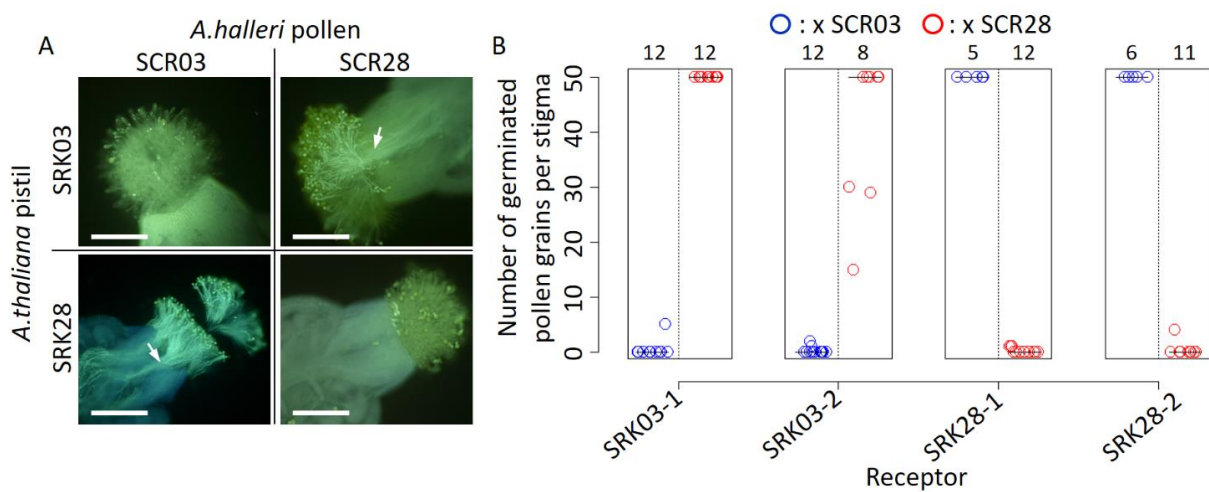
119 sequence of an ancestral gene or allele is determined through phylogenetic analyses, then
 120 synthesized *de novo* and its functional properties (in terms of *e.g.* biochemical activity,
 121 conformation or binding capacity) are compared to those of its contemporary descendants.
 122 Although most S-haplotypes in *A. halleri* are typically so highly diverged that even sequence
 123 alignment can be challenging, previous work identified a specific pair of S-haplotypes (S03
 124 and S28) with high phylogenetic proximity based on a fragment of the *SRK* gene (Castric et
 125 al., 2008). We took this opportunity to reconstruct, resurrect and phenotypically
 126 characterize their last common ancestral receptor SRKa (“a” for ancestor, Fig 1) into *A.*
 127 *thaliana*, which has previously been established as a model plant for mechanistic studies of
 128 SI (Nasrallah et al., 2002; Tsuchimatsu et al., 2010).



129
 130 **Figure 1: Experimental approach for the ancestral resurrection experiment.** (A) The sequence of the common
 131 ancestor of SRK03 and SRK28 was inferred by a phylogenetic approach using codon-based models implemented
 132 in PAML. Four different versions of SRKa were defined due to inference uncertainty at two aa positions. (B)
 133 SRK03 and SRK28 sequences were cloned from *A. halleri* DNA BAC clones, whereas SRKa sequences were
 134 obtained by gene synthesis. (C) Representation of the controlled cross program to decipher the specificity of
 135 SRKa.

136
 137 **Expression of S03 and S28 recognition specificities in *A. thaliana* by genetic transformation**
 138 Because of their relatively high sequence similarity, we first ensured that the S03 and S28
 139 recognition specificities are indeed phenotypically distinct when expressed in *A. thaliana*. It
 140 was previously shown that the self-compatible model plant *A. thaliana* can mount a
 141 functional self-incompatibility response upon introduction of the S-locus genes *SCR* and *SRK*

142 (Boggs et al., 2009; Durand et al., 2014; Nasrallah et al., 2002) but it is unclear whether
 143 transfer is possible for all *SCR* and *SRK* variants. We first assessed the activity of *AhSRK03* and
 144 *AhSRK28* promoters in transformed *A. thaliana* lines (Fig S2), which enabled us to identify
 145 the temporal window of *SRK* expression (Fig S3). Then, we used *A. halleri* pollen carrying
 146 either the S03 or S28 male determinant to validate that a proper SI response was indeed
 147 successfully transferred in transformed *A. thaliana* lines for each of our *SRK* receptors, and
 148 that this response was strictly specific toward either of their cognate ligand (two replicate
 149 transgenic lines for SRK03 and SRK28 each, Figure 2).



150
 151 **Figure 2: SRK03 and SRK28 are successfully expressed in *A. thaliana* and represent phenotypically distinct**
 152 **female recognition specificities.** (A) Fluorescence microscopic observation of pistils from SRK-transformed *A.*
 153 *thaliana* plants pollinated with S03 and S28 pollen from *A. halleri*. A robust self-incompatibility reaction is
 154 observed between cognate alleles, whereas a compatible reaction is observed between non-cognate alleles.
 155 White arrows indicate pollen tubes that germinated in the stigma, and are specific to compatible reactions. Bar
 156 = 0.3 mm. (B) Number of germinated pollen grains per stigma after pollination. Two SRK03 and SRK28 lines
 157 were pollinated with *A. halleri* pollen expressing either S03 (blue) or S28 (red) specificities. The number of
 158 pollinated pistils for each pollination assay is indicated on the top of the figure. The median value for each cross
 159 is represented by a horizontal bar.

160
 161 Abundant germination of pollen tubes occurred in crosses involving non-cognate SRK and
 162 SCR proteins, whereas crosses involving proteins from the same S-haplotype induced
 163 inhibition of pollen germination, which is characteristic of an incompatible response.
 164 Intensity of the incompatible response was then quantified by counting the number of
 165 germinated pollen grains at the pistil surface of two selected lines for each transgene (Fig
 166 2A, 2B). Incompatible responses are characterized by less than 10 germinated pollen tubes

167 whereas compatible crosses induced significant pollen germination with more than 50 pollen
168 tubes per stigma. Hence, we demonstrate both that cross-species pollinations of *A. thaliana*
169 with *A. halleri* pollen are able to induce a robust SI reaction, and also that S03 and S28 are
170 currently fully distinct recognition specificities despite their close phylogenetic proximity.

171

172 *Phylogeny-based ancestral SRK reconstruction*

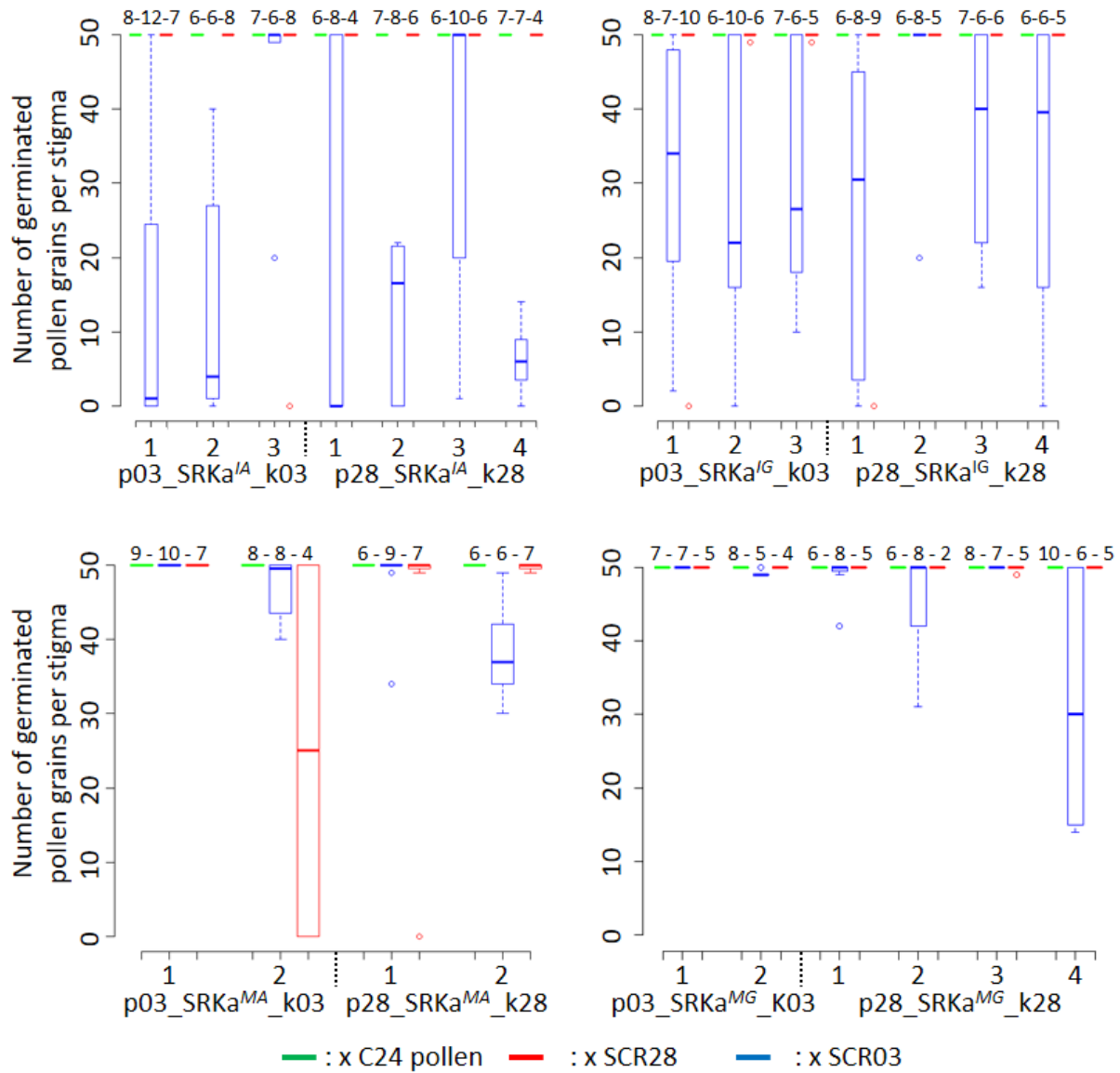
173 We then used a phylogenetic approach to reconstruct the sequence of the most recent
174 common ancestor of *SRK03* and *SRK28* (Fig S4). Based on a set of closely related *SRK*
175 sequences from *Arabidopsis* and *Capsella*, we used the best fitting codon-based models
176 implemented in PAML (Yang 2007) to reconstruct the most likely ancestral amino acid
177 sequence (*SRKa^{IA}*). For the vast majority of amino acid residues where *SRK03* and *SRK28*
178 differ, the ancestral reconstruction had high posterior probability (>0.95), but was more
179 uncertain at four positions (Fig S5). Two of these sites were close (208) or within (305) hyper
180 variable regions known to be functionally important (Fig S4, Kusaba et al., 1997). To take this
181 uncertainty into account and evaluate the impact of variation at these individual sites, three
182 additional ancestral sequences were generated and tested: *SRKa^{IG}*, *SRKa^{MA}* and *SRKa^{MG}*. To
183 avoid context-dependent effects, each of these four versions of *SRKa* was then surrounded
184 by a promoter and a kinase sequence corresponding either to the native *SRK03*
185 (*p03_SRKa_k03*) or the native *SRK28* (*p28_SRKa_k28*) variant. For each of these constructs,
186 we obtained several replicate transgenic lines, resulting in a total of 28 different fixed
187 homozygote single-copy transformed *Arabidopsis* lines (8 *SRKa^{IA}* lines; 7 *SRKa^{IG}* lines; 7
188 *SRKa^{MA}* lines and 6 *SRKa^{MG}* lines). Five lines showed very low levels of *SRKa* transcripts in
189 pistils (Fig S6; possibly due to positional effects as is common in transgenic constructs) and
190 were thus excluded from further analysis.

191

192 *Ligand specificity of the ancestral SRK*

193 We then evaluated the recognition phenotype conferred by these resurrected ancestral *SRK*
194 sequences by performing controlled pollination assays for all remaining 23 *SRKa* lines with
195 pollen from *A. halleri* S03, *A. halleri* S28 and *A. thaliana* C24 (used as a control to validate
196 receptivity of the acceptor pistil). The SI reaction was scored as the number of germinated
197 pollen grains per stigma. All 23 tested ancestral lines showed intense pollen germination

198 with C24 pollen, indicating that transgene integration in itself did not impair pistil fertility or
 199 ability to receive pollen (Fig 3 and Fig S7).



200 : x C24 pollen : x SCR28 : x SCR03
 201 **Figure 3: Incompatibility response of SRKa lines.** Each SRKa line was pollinated with *A. thaliana* C24 (green), *A.*
 202 *halleri* S03 (blue) and S28 (red) pollen. The number of replicate pollinated pistils is indicated above each boxplot.
 203 The horizontal bar represents the median, the box delimitates the 25 and 75% percentiles, the bottom and top
 204 whiskers both represent 25% extreme percentiles and outliers are represented by individual dots.

205
 206 With a single exception (line p03_SRKa^{MA}_k03_2), S28 pollen induced no consistent SI
 207 rejection in any of the lines expressing the different versions of the ancestral receptor, and
 208 was indistinguishable from the compatible control (C24, Fig 3). In stark contrast, SCR03
 209 pollen induced robust incompatibility reactions in the vast majority (12 of 14) of the

210 ancestral lines with amino-acid I at position 208 ($SRK\alpha^I$ and $SRK\alpha^G$, Fig 3). Hence, we
211 conclude that the S03 haplotype has retained the ancestral recognition specificity largely
212 unaltered, while the S28 haplotype underwent substantial modification and represents a
213 novel recognition specificity, leading to functional diversification.

214 Reactivity of ancestral lines was largely independent of the sequence context into which we
215 introduced the different versions of the ancestral S-domain (Fig S3). Similarly, the identity of
216 amino acid 305 of the reconstructed sequence had no impact on the response, as lines with
217 either A or G produced rejection reactions in equal proportions. In contrast, only four of the
218 lines with amino acid M at position 208 ($SRK\alpha^{MA}$ and $SRK\alpha^{MG}$) displayed incompatibility
219 reactions, and these reactions were weak (Fig 3). Hence, substitution of a single amino acid
220 at position 208 (I to M), seems to be sufficient to almost fully inactivate receptivity of the
221 ancestral receptor towards SCR03.

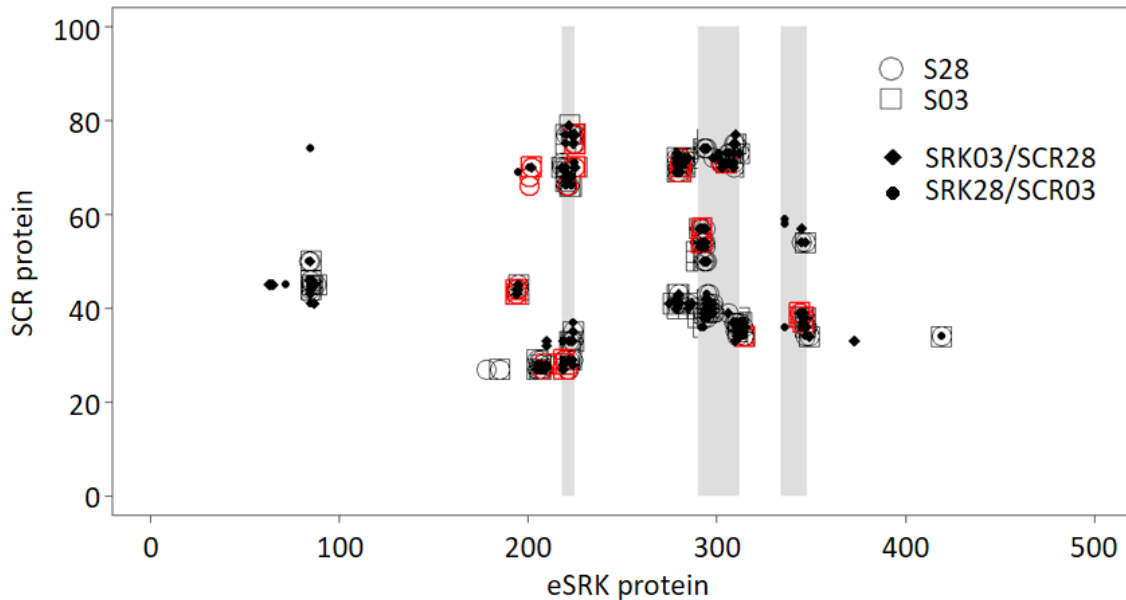
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223 *Structural determinants of SRK specificity*

224 We next sought to identify the structural determinants of the S03 and S28 specificities. We
225 used the structural model of the interaction complex formed by SCR and SRK (Ma et al.,
226 2016) to compare cognate and non cognate complexes in terms of number and nature of
227 atomic contacts and predict how the ancestral receptor is expected to interact with either
228 SCR03 or SCR28. As previously demonstrated by Ma et al. (2016), SCR binding induces
229 homodimerization of the extracellular domain of SRK (eSRK) forming eSRK:SCR
230 heterotetramers composed of two SCR molecules bound to two SRK molecules (Ma et al.,
231 2016). The switch in recognition specificity occurred along the branch leading to $SRK28$, and
232 therefore must involve some of the 29 amino acid differences along this branch. In contrast,
233 the 31 amino acid differences that accumulated along the branch leading to $SRK03$ have not
234 fully altered the recognition specificity. Overall, we find a slightly higher number of atomic
235 contacts between the SCR and SRK molecules in the $SRK03$ -SCR03 cognate complex (1,543
236 contacts over 91 and 62 distinct SRK and SCR amino acids respectively) than in the $SRK28$ -
237 SCR28 cognate complex (1,395 contacts over 89 and 57 distinct SRK and SCR amino acids
238 respectively, Table S1). As already noted by Ma et al. (2016) in Brassica and in line with the
239 distribution of positively selected sites along the sequence (Castric and Vekemans 2007), in

240 both cases the interaction interface was mostly concentrated around the three
241 “hypervariable” portions of the SRK protein (Fig 4).

242



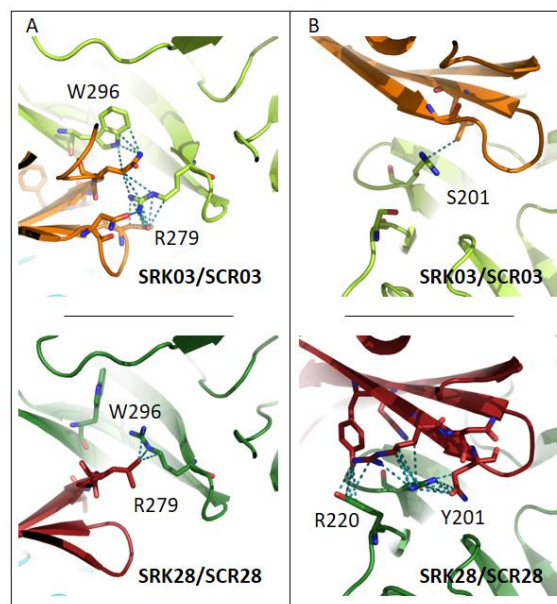
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244 **Figure 4: Map of atomic contacts from structural modelling of S03 and S28 complexes.** The X and Y axis
245 represent the eSRK and SCR protein respectively. Open circles and squares represent amino-acids contacts
246 between eSRK and SCR proteins in cognate S03 and S28 complexes respectively. Red symbols represent SRK
247 amino-acids that differ between SRK03 and SRK28. Full diamonds and dots correspond to amino-acids contacts
248 in non-cognate SRK03/SCR28 and SRK28/SCR03 complexes respectively. Hypervariable regions 1, 2 and 3 of
249 eSRK are represented by vertical grey bars at position 219-225, 290-312 and 334-348 respectively (Ma et al.,
250 2016).

251

252 Contrary to our expectation however, the non-cognate complexes did not differ substantially
253 from the cognate complexes on the basis of their total number of atomic contacts (Fig 4).
254 Specifically, the SRK03/SCR28 and SRK28/SCR03 non-cognate complexes were predicted to
255 establish a total of 1,546 and 1,328 contacts, respectively, between atoms of their SCR and
256 SRK molecules, very close to the 1,543 and 1,395 predicted contacts for the SRK03/SCR03
257 and SRK28/SCR28 cognate complexes (Table S1). They were also not characterized by any
258 obvious steric clashes that would prevent the proper docking of SCR and SRK. Hence, the
259 overall stability of the complex does not seem to be the primary determinant of recognition
260 specificity. Consequently, the specificity of the interaction must be a function of some
261 qualitative features rather than of the quantitative strength of the interaction.

262 While the majority of amino-acids retained unchanged atomic contacts in cognate vs. non-
263 cognate interactions, using a 5% threshold we identified six amino-acids positions of the
264 eSRK protein that displayed important differences in terms of contacts they establish with
265 SCR in the cognate vs. the non-cognate complexes (Fig S8B, S8C, S8E and S8F). Four of these
266 amino-acids positions also displayed very contrasted interactions in the S03 vs. the S28
267 complexes (residues S201, R220, R279, W296, Fig S8A and S8D). For instance, the R residue
268 at position 279 of SRK establishes three times more contacts with SCR in the SRK03/SCR03
269 than in the SRK28/SCR28 complex (Fig 5, Fig S8A). These four residues are therefore prime
270 candidates for the determination of binding specificity. Intriguingly, three of the six amino-
271 acids were identical between SRK03 and SRK28, and yet interacted in sharply different ways
272 with their respective SCR ligands. For instance, while identical between the SRK03 and SRK28
273 sequences, residues W296 and R279 established three to four times more contacts in the
274 S03 than in the S28 complex, and the R220 residue is involved in twice as many contacts in
275 the S28 than in the S03 complex (Fig 5, Fig S8A). This suggests that involvement of these
276 residues in the activity of the complex is mediated by substitutions at other positions along
277 the protein sequence, for instance by displacing them spatially (Fig 5).
278



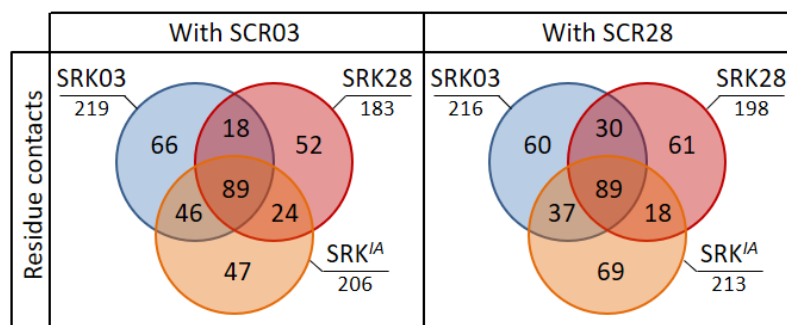
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280 **Figure 5: Four amino-acid residues establish contrasted patterns of atomic contacts between SCR and SRK in**
281 **the two cognate complexes.** In (A), residues R279 and W296 of eSRK establish a large number of atomic
282 contacts with SCR in the S03 complex (upper panel), but a very low number of contacts in the S28 complex
283 (lower panel). The situation is reversed in (B), where residues S201 and R220 of eSRK establish a large number
284 of atomic contacts with SCR in the S28 complex (lower panel), but a very low number of contacts in the S03

285 complex (upper panel). SRK chains are coloured in light and dark green for SRK03 and SRK28, respectively; SCR
 286 chains are coloured in orange and red for SCR03 and SCR28, respectively. Amino acid residues are shown in stick
 287 representation, with dotted lines indicating atom pair contacts below 4 Å, excluding hydrogen atoms. Note that
 288 for clarity a more stringent threshold was used to define atomic contacts here (4 Å) than in Fig S8 and S9 (where
 289 a 5 Å threshold was used for a more comprehensive analysis), but the results are qualitatively similar.

290

291 We then compared the predicted binding features of the functional form of the ancestral
 292 receptor (SRK^{IA}) with both SRK03 and SRK28. When complexed with SCR03, 46 SRK^{IA}
 293 interacting pairs of amino acids were identical with SRK03, whereas only 24 were identical
 294 with SRK28. Similarly, when complexed with SCR28, 37 SRK^{IA} interacting pairs of amino acid
 295 residues were identical with SRK03, but only 18 were identical with SRK28 (Fig 6). This trend
 296 is also visible at the level of individual atomic contacts and at the level of involved amino
 297 acids both in SRK and SCR molecules (Fig S9). Hence, even though there is no quantitative
 298 difference in how strongly SRK03 and SRK28 bind SCR03 and SCR28 (Table S1), the amino
 299 acids that come into contact in the two complexes are not identical, and the contacts
 300 established by SRK^{IA} with SCR qualitatively resemble more those established by SRK03 than
 301 those established by SRK28.

302



303

304 **Figure 6: Comparison of predicted binding properties of SRK03, SRK28 and SRK^{IA} receptors when forming a**
 305 **complex with either the SCR03 or the SCR28 ligand.** Residues in contact between SRK^{IA} and SCR are more
 306 often also in contact between SRK03 and SCR than between SRK28 and SCR. The Venn diagram indicates the
 307 number of contacts between amino acid residues that are shared or specific across variants of the SRK receptor
 308 and SCR.

309

310 Overall, asymmetrical diversification of the ancestor into the phenotypically distinct S03 and
 311 S28 specificities is therefore associated with structural changes of the SRK receptor and the
 312 way it interacts with its SCR ligand. Despite similar levels of overall sequence divergence

313 between SRKa and either SRK03 or SRK28, the binding properties of SRK03 have remained
314 similar to those of SRKa^A, while in contrast the way SRK28 is predicted to interact with the
315 SCR ligand has diverged from its ancestral state, consistent with the phenotypic switch that
316 has occurred along this lineage.

317

318 **Discussion**

319 Receptor-ligand interactions are widespread and biologically important, yet the processes by
320 which they become diversified in the course of evolution have remained poorly understood.
321 Here, using an ancestral resurrection approach, we showed that the receptor controlling the
322 female SI recognition specificity in *A. halleri* evolved asymmetrically by accumulation of
323 specificity-altering mutations along a single lineage, leaving the other descendent lineage
324 functionally unchanged. We identify structural modifications of the receptor-ligand complex
325 that are associated with this functional divergence.

326 **Ancestral resurrection in a higher organism.** Ancestral resurrection approaches have been
327 successfully used to decipher evolutionary processes in a number of biological systems
328 including enzymes (Starr, Picton, and Thornton 2017; Tufts et al., 2015), visual pigments
329 (Chang et al., 2002) or transcription factors (Pougach et al., 2014). However, an essential
330 limitation in these studies is that the ancestral protein function is typically determined *in*
331 *vitro*, strongly limiting biological realism of the reconstructed function. To our knowledge, a
332 single study conducted a comparable *in vivo* ancestral resurrection approach in a higher
333 organism, in the context of functional evolution of the alcohol dehydrogenase protein (ADH)
334 in *Drosophila* lineages (Siddiq et al., 2017). Such whole organism studies are biologically
335 more relevant, as they allow to focus on integrated phenotypes (here the self-
336 incompatibility reaction, which has a strong and direct link with organismal fitness) rather
337 than on highly reductionist phenotypes (such as *in vitro* assays of protein activity).

338 **Asymmetrical structural and functional divergence.** Functional diversification of receptor-
339 ligand interactions is a common process that takes place over long evolutionary times.
340 However, in most cases we remain far from a predictive understanding of how the specific
341 evolutionary forces imposed on a given interacting pair of proteins at the molecular level
342 translate into a given process of functional diversification. As a result, little is known about
343 how diversification happens in Nature, both in terms of whether some evolutionary

344 pathways are preferentially followed over others and in terms of the molecular
345 modifications involved. Here, by focusing on the SI system of *A. halleri*, we demonstrate
346 conservation of recognition specificity between an ancestral SRK receptor and one of its two
347 descendant lineages (S03), while pollen from the other descendant lineage (S28) triggered
348 no substantial SI response when deposited on pistils expressing the ancestral specificity.
349 Hence, S-allele diversification of the two S-alleles from their common ancestor proceeded
350 through asymmetrical functional divergence, with one allele having largely retained its
351 ancestral specificity and the other one having acquired a novel recognition specificity that
352 was previously absent. In analogy with macroevolution models, the diversification of S-locus
353 specificities thus seems to proceed through cladogenetic change rather than anagenetic
354 change (e.g. Goldberg & Igic, 2012).

355 Overall, our results thus unambiguously reject two previously proposed models of SI
356 specificity diversification. The model of gradual divergence of pairwise SRK-SCR affinities
357 along lineages (Chookajorn et al., 2004) is rejected because both descendent alleles would
358 have been functionally distinct from the ancestor. The model of promiscuous dual-specificity
359 intermediates (Matton et al., 1999) is rejected because Uyenoyama & Newbigin (2000) have
360 shown that a dual-specificity haplotype can be maintained in the population only in the
361 absence of the ancestral specificity, while we show here that the ancestral specificity (S03)
362 was indeed present. In contrast, the remaining scenario (in which diversification proceeds
363 through transient self-compatible intermediates; Gervais et al., 2011; Uyenoyama et al.,
364 2001) is compatible with our observation of long-term maintenance of functional
365 specificities.

366 **Long-term maintenance of SI specificity rather than rapid turnover.** Models of SI evolution
367 suggested that turnover of recognition specificities may be common over evolutionary times
368 (Gervais et al., 2011). The observation that the ancestral SRKa^{IA} recognition specificity was
369 stably maintained along the SRK03 lineage, demonstrates that no turnover event occurred
370 over a substantial period of time (i.e. since S03 and S28 started to diverge from one another,
371 *ca.* a few million years ago). The long-term maintenance of S-haplotype specificities was
372 previously hinted by the comparison of chosen *A. halleri* and *A. lyrata* S-lineages with their
373 *A. thaliana* orthologs. Specifically, some *A. thaliana* accessions with haplogroup A were able
374 to reject *A. halleri* pollen expressing the cognate AhSCR04 specificity (Tsuchimatsu et al.,

375 2010), despite about 6 million years of divergence (Hohmann et al., 2015). Similarly, an
376 overexpressed version of *A. thaliana* SCR haplogroup C was also able to elicit a SI reaction on
377 pistils expressing the cognate *A. lyrata* AISRK36 specificity (Dwyer et al., 2013). However,
378 beside the fact that these were trans-specific comparisons, *A. thaliana* has become a
379 predominant selfer due to alterations of SI components (Bechsgaard et al., 2006; Shimizu
380 and Tsuchimatsu 2015), so our results provide the first direct test of the hypothesis that
381 recognition specificities remain stable rather than undergo rapid and recurrent turnover.

382 Despite the obvious conservation of recognition specificity between SRKa^A and SRK03, we
383 note that the SI response towards the reconstructed SRKa was overall weaker and more
384 variable across replicate lines than towards the native SRK constructs. A first possibility is
385 that this partial response is due to uncertainty in the ancestral receptor reconstruction.
386 Ancestral reconstruction is based on probabilistic inference, and our results show that a
387 single amino acid modification (I vs M at position 208) can entirely compromise the SI
388 response. It is therefore possible that the resurrected ancestor had a partly diminished
389 capacity to elicit the SI reaction because of imperfect reconstruction. A second possibility
390 however, is that this partial response is due to parallel changes to the SCR ligand, suggesting
391 that amino acid substitutions occurring between SRKa and SRK03 have fine-tuned the
392 SRK03/SCR03 interaction. Resurrection of the ancestral SCRa ligand will now be needed to
393 solve this issue.

394 **Structural determinants of the shift in binding specificity of a receptor-ligand interaction.**

395 Structural modelling of the cognate vs non-cognate complexes suggested that specificity of
396 the receptor/ligand interaction depends on qualitative features rather than quantitative
397 strength of the interaction. In other words, a ligand is predicted to bind its non-cognate just
398 as well as its cognate receptor, but it only activates the proper one by interacting with a
399 different set of amino acid residues at the binding interface. The importance of such
400 allosteric activation has been discussed in the context of protein-protein interactions (Kang
401 et al., 2015) as well as of the binding of transcription factors to their DNA binding sites
402 (Gronemeyer and Bourguet 2009) and may be a general feature of molecular interfaces (Ma
403 et al., 2010). In our system, the model of allosteric activation points to a limited number of
404 amino-acid residues encoding recognition specificity and will now need to be tested by
405 direct measurements of binding affinity, in line with Ma et al. (2016). Specifically, it will be

406 interesting to determine experimentally whether the allosteric model proposed here also
407 applies to more divergent pairs of SCR-SRK variants, which are more typical of the SI system
408 given the long-term maintenance of this balanced polymorphism.

409

410 **Materials and Methods**

411 *Phylogeny-based ancestral SRK resurrection*

412 **Sequence collection:** In order to reconstruct the ancestral sequence of the *AhSRK28* and
413 *AhSRK03* SRK alleles, we first collected 17 full or partial sequences of the *SRK* first exon
414 belonging to the haplogroup B/2. Seven allele sequences belonged to *A. halleri* (*AhSRK03*,
415 *AhSRK08*, *AhSRK09*, *AhSRK19*, *AhSRK23*, *AhSRK27*, *AhSRK28*), six to *A. lyrata* (*AISRK06*,
416 *AISRK08*, *AISRK14*, *AISRK18*, *AISRK29*, *AISRK39*) and four to *Capsella grandiflora* (*CgrSRK1*,
417 *CgrSRK4*, *CgrSRK5*, *CgrSRK6*). For the *AhSRK19*, *AhSRK23* and *AhSRK27* alleles the *SRK* exon1
418 partial sequence was supplemented by Sanger sequencing. We added three sequences from
419 the *SRK* haplogroup A3/3 as outgroups (*AhSRK04*, *AhSRK10*, *AhSRK29*). Accession numbers
420 for the sequences are reported in Table S2. After preliminary analyses and in order to obtain
421 a well-supported phylogenetic tree we removed three fast evolving sequences: *CgrSRK6*,
422 *AhSRK08* and *AISRK29*.

423 **Phylogenetic analysis:** Sequences were aligned with MACSE v1.2 (Ranwez et al., 2011).
424 Based on the 1338 base pairs alignment, SRK phylogenetic trees were built with both
425 Maximum Likelihood (ML) (PHYML 3.0, Guindon et al., 2010) and Bayesian methods
426 (MrBayes 3.2.4, Ronquist & Huelsenbeck, 2003). For the ML analysis the model used was
427 chosen according to jModelTest 2.1.10 (Darriba et al., 2012) using the Bayesian Information
428 Criterion (BIC) (TPM3uf+ Γ). Node stability was estimated by 100 non-parametric bootstrap
429 replicates (Felsenstein 1985). For the Bayesian inference (BI), a codon model with a GTR+ Γ +I
430 model of substitution was used; two runs of four Markov chains were calculated
431 simultaneously for 400,000 generations with initially equal probabilities for all trees and a
432 random starting tree. Trees were sampled every 10 generations, and the consensus tree
433 with posterior probabilities was calculated after removal of a 25% burn-in period. The
434 average standard deviation of split frequencies between the two independent runs was
435 lower than 0.01. The resulting topology was used to infer *SRK α* (Fig S10).

436 **Ancestral SRK reconstruction:** The ancestral reconstruction was conducted with the codeml
437 program of the PAML 4.8 package (Yang 2007) under six different models: M0, M0-
438 FMutSel0, M0-FMutSel, M3, M3-FMutSel0, M3-FMutSel. M0 refers to a one-ratio model,
439 which assumes a single ω (d_n/d_s) across branches and sites (Goldman and Yang 1994),
440 whereas M3 allows ω to vary across sites according to a discrete distribution (with 2 or 3
441 categories depending on the models) (Yang et al., 2000). The mutation-selection models
442 incorporate parameters for mutation bias, with (FMutSel) or without (FMutSel0) selection on
443 synonymous rate (Yang and Nielsen 2008). Models were compared using Likelihood Ratio
444 Tests (LRT) and Akaike Information Criteria (AIC). The best fitting-model was found to be
445 M3FMutSel (Table S3), therefore the ancestral amino acid sequence reconstructed with this
446 model was used to generate transgenic lines (SRK^{IA}). The ancestral amino acids inferred with
447 the three “M3” models were identical except for three sites with relatively lower probability:
448 33 (A or V), 208 (I or M) and 305 (A or G) (Fig S5). Two of these sites were close (208) or
449 within (305) hyper variable regions and therefore potentially functionally important. To take
450 into account these uncertainties, three additional transgenic lines were generated with a
451 different SRKa and tested: SRK^{IG}, SRK^{MA} and SRK^{MG}, in order to evaluate all four
452 combinations of two amino acids at these two sites.

453

454 *Generation and selection of A. thaliana transgenic lines*

455 We generated 12 series of *A. thaliana* C24 transgenic plants (*AhSRK03*; *AhSRK28*;
456 *AhSRK03p:GFP*; *AhSRK28p:GFP*; *p03_SRKa^{IA}_k03*; *p28_SRKa^{IA}_k28*; *p03_SRKa^{IG}_k03*;
457 *p28_SRKa^{IG}_k28*; *p03_SRKa^{MA}_k03*; *p28_SRKa^{MA}_k28*; *p03_SRKa^{MG}_k03* and
458 *p28_SRKa^{MG}_28*). All DNA amplifications were performed with the primeSTAR[®] DNA
459 polymerase (Takara, Japan) and all constructs were validated by SANGER sequencing. We
460 used gateway vectors[®] (Life Technologies, USA) for expression of transgenes in *A. thaliana*.
461 *AhSRK03*, *AhSRK28*, *proAhSRK03* and *proAhSRK28* were amplified using attB1 and attB2
462 containing primers (Table S4) from BAC sequences of *A. halleri* S03 and S28 (KJ772378-
463 KJ772385 and KJ461475-KJ461478 respectively, Goubet et al., 2012). Amplification products
464 were inserted by BP recombination into the pDONR 221 plasmid. Promoters *proAhSRK03*
465 and *proAhSRK28* designed for *p03_SRKa_k03* and *p28_SRKa_k28* constructs respectively
466 were amplified with attB4 and attB1r containing primers (Table S4). Amplification products

467 were inserted by BP recombination into a pENTR-P4-P1R plasmid. Kinase domains of
468 AhSRK03 and AhSRK28 were amplified with attB2r and AttB3 containing primers (Table S4).
469 Amplification products were inserted by BP recombination into a pENTR-P2R-P3 plasmid.
470 Constructs expressing native SRK (*AhSRK03* and *AhSRK28*) and GFP expressing constructs
471 (*AhSRK03p:GFP* and *AhSRK28p:GFP*) were generated by LR reaction between entry clones
472 and the destination vectors pK7WG or pKGWFS7.0. SRKa constructs were generated by LR
473 triple recombination into the pK7m34GW destination vector with i) attL4 and attR1
474 promoters entry clones, ii) synthesized ancestral S-domain surrounded by attL1 and attL2
475 sequences and iii) attR2 and attL3 kinase domain entry clones. Details of the molecular
476 constructs are displayed in Fig S11. *A. thaliana* plants were grown under 16h/20°C day,
477 8h/18°C night and 70 % humidity greenhouse conditions. When plants displayed
478 approximately 20 flowers, transformation was performed by *Agrobacterium tumefaciens*-
479 mediated floral deep according to Logemann et al., 2006). After seeds harvesting, single
480 insertion homozygous lines were selected *via* multiple rounds of antibiotic selection on
481 selective medium as described in Zhang et al., 2006).

482

483 *Microscopy*

484 GFP expression in *AhSRK03p:GFP* and *AhSRK28p:GFP* and the results of cross pollination
485 experiment were monitored under UV light using an Axio imager 2 microscope (Zeiss,
486 Oberkochen, Germany) coupled with a HXP120 Light source (LEJ, Jena, Germany). Pictures
487 were taken with an Axiocam 506 color camera (Zeiss, Oberkochen, Germany) and read with
488 the Zeiss ZEN 2 core software package. For GFP expression, floral buds, pieces of leaves and
489 floral hamp cross sections from *AhSRK03p:GFP* and *AhSRK28p:GFP* were observed. For
490 pollination assays, the number of germinated pollen grains per stigma was counted after
491 aniline blue staining up to 50 pollen tubes.

492

493 *Aniline blue staining*

494 To evaluate the SI response of transgenic lines, floral buds of developmental stage 9-11 were
495 emasculated at day-1. At day-2, they were pollinated with frozen *A. halleri* pollen expressing
496 S03 or S28 specificity. Pistils were harvested 6h after pollination and fixed in FAA (4 %
497 formaldehyde, 4 % acetic acid, ethanol) overnight. On day-4, pollinated stigmas were

498 washed three times in water, incubated 30 min in NaOH 4M at room temperature, washed
499 three times in water and conserved for 30 min in the last bath. Finally, pistils were incubated
500 overnight in aniline blue (K_3PO_4 0.15 M, 0.1 % aniline blue) and mounted between
501 microscopic slides at day-5.

502

503 *Expression analysis*

504 RNA extraction was performed onto stages 11-14 floral buds with the nucleospin RNA Plus
505 Extraction kit (Macherey Nage, GmbH & Co. DE). For each line, floral buds were harvested
506 onto three different individuals. cDNA synthesis was performed using RevertAid Reverse
507 Transcriptase (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Massachusetts, USA). 1 μ g of extracted RNA was
508 mixed with 0.2 μ g of Random hexamer primer, psq H₂O 12.5 μ L. After incubation at 65°C, 4 μ L
509 of 5X reaction buffer; 0,5 μ L of Riboblock RNase inhibitor (Thermo Fisher Scientific,
510 Massachusetts, USA), 10 mM of each dNTP and 200 U of RevertAid Reverse Transcriptase
511 were added and incubated firstly at 25 °C and then 10 min at 42 °C. cDNA quantification was
512 performed in triplicate using LightCycler 480 Instrument II (Roche molecular systems, Inc,
513 Pleasanton, USA). cDNA amplification of *SRK* fragments was performed with forward primer
514 located on the S-domain (For: AGGAATGTGAGGAGAGGTGC) and the reverse primer located
515 on the second exon (Rev: TCCTACTGTTGTTGTTGCCC). According to Liu et al. (2007),
516 Ubiquitin was used as housekeeping gene (For: CTGAGCCGGACAGTCCTCTTAACTG; Rev:
517 CGGCGAGGCGTGTATACATTTGTG).

518

519 *Interacting protein modelling*

520 All structural models were created using MODELLER (Fiser, Do, and Šali 2000; Šali and
521 Blundell 1993), applying a template-based docking approach with the eSRK9:SCR9 X-Ray
522 structure (Ma et al., 2016) as reference. Input sequence alignments were created using
523 multiple sequence alignments of all relevant SRK sequences and of all relevant SCR
524 sequences. The resulting models were subsequently optimized using the
525 GalaxyRefineComplex web service (Heo, Lee, and Seok 2016).

526 The top models for each receptor-ligand pair were then considered and the number of
527 atomic contacts between chains was counted using a 5 Å atom-atom cut-off. Hydrogen
528 atoms were excluded from the calculation. Visualization was done, and for clarity images

529 were made with a 4 Å atom-atom cut-off using the PyMol molecular graphics system,
530 version 1.7.2.1, Schrodinger LLC.

531

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537

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745

746 Supplementary Materials for:

747

748 **Asymmetrical diversification of the receptor-ligand interaction controlling self-**
749 **incompatibility in Arabidopsis.**

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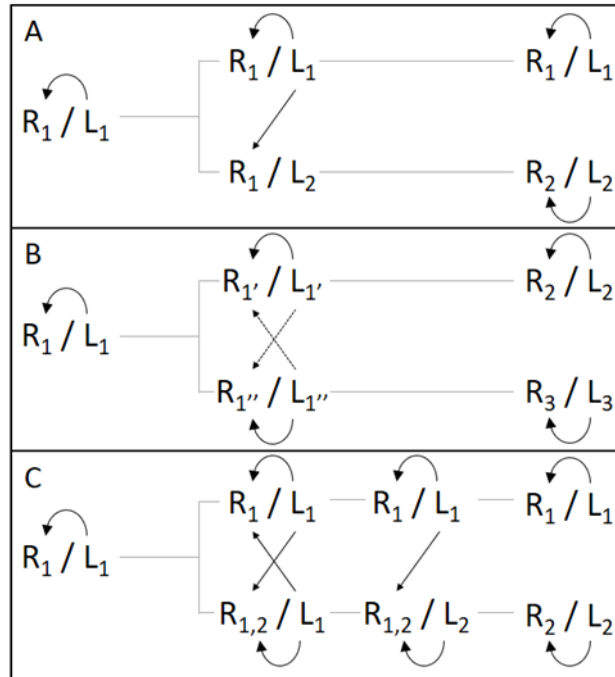
756 ³ Corresponding author: Vincent.Castric@univ-lille.fr

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758 This file includes

759 Figs S1 to S11

760 Tables S1 to S4



761

762 **Figure S1: Three models for the emergence of new self-incompatibility specificities. Docking interaction**

763 **between ligands and receptors are represented by oriented arrows. A. In the compensatory mutation model, a**

764 **non-functional self-compatible intermediate (R_1/L_2) segregates transiently and is rapidly compensated, creating**

765 **a novel specificity (R_2/L_2), while the ancestral one (R_1/L_1) remains unchanged over time. B. In the turnover**

766 **model, slight functional variants with different affinity between them (R_1/L_1' and R_1''/L_1'') segregate in the**

767 **population and give rise to new specificities (R_2/L_2 and R_3/L_3). Dotted lines correspond to weaker affinity**

768 **interactions. C. In the promiscuous model, the intermediate receptor ($R_{1,2}$) has widened up its specificity**

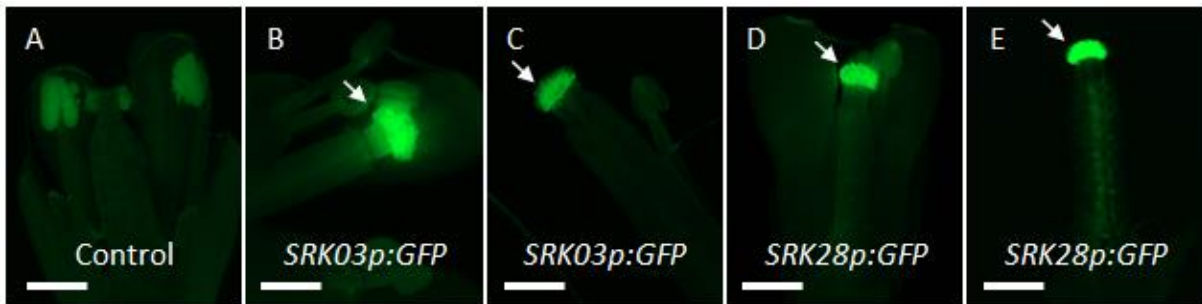
769 **spectrum enabling it to recognize another potential ligand (L_2) while maintaining its capacity to recognize its**

770 **original ligand (L_1). Emergence of the new ligand then favours narrowing of specificity the dual-receptor ($R_{1,2} \rightarrow$**

771 **R_2)**

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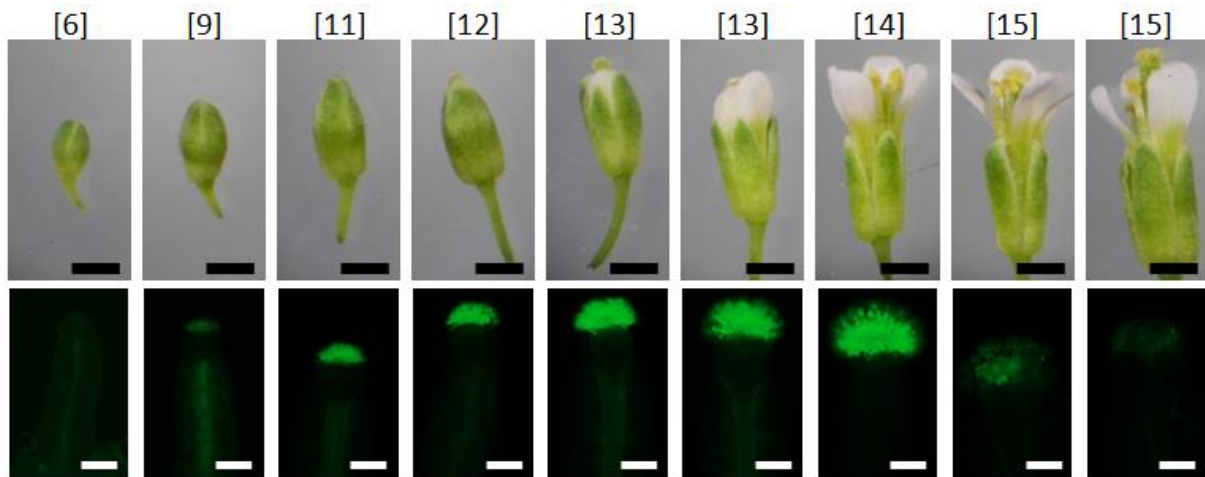


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775 **Figure S2: Localization of SRK expression by GFP fluorescence microscopy.** (A) Flower of an untransformed plant
776 (no SRK expression). (B,C) Flowers of two SRK03p:GFP transformed lines. (C,D) Flowers of two SRK28p:GFP
777 transformed lines. Promoters of both SRK03 and SRK28 drive GFP expression specifically in stigmatic papillae
778 cells (white arrows). Bar = 1mm.

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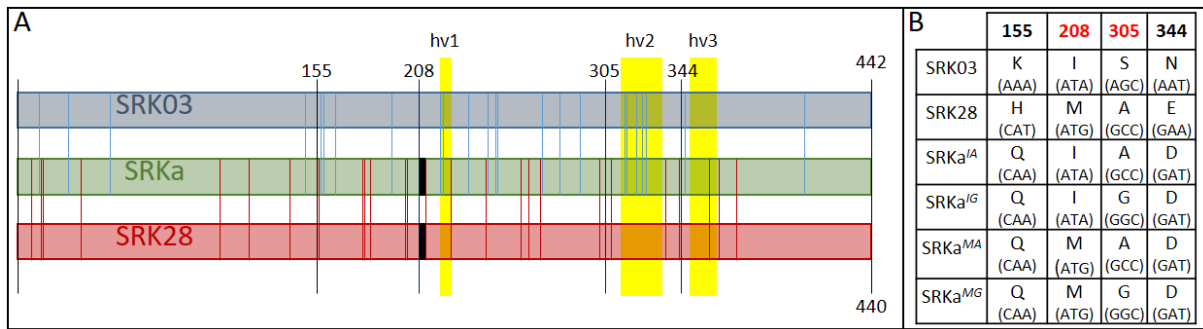


781

782 **Figure S3: Pattern of proSRK03 activity along development stages of floral buds.** Floral buds and pistils of
783 SRK03p:GFP-transformed plants are observed under optical (above) and UV light (below), respectively.
784 Developmental stages (Smyth et al., 1990) are indicated between brackets. SRK expression is located between
785 stages 11 and 14, with a strong decrease of GFP fluorescence in mature flowers (old stage 15). Similar results
786 were observed for the SRK28p:GFP lines (data not shown). No GFP signal was observed in any other part of the
787 plant (inflorescence stems, leaves and non-reproductive floral organs, data not shown). Black bar = 1 mm, white
788 bar = 0.5 mm.

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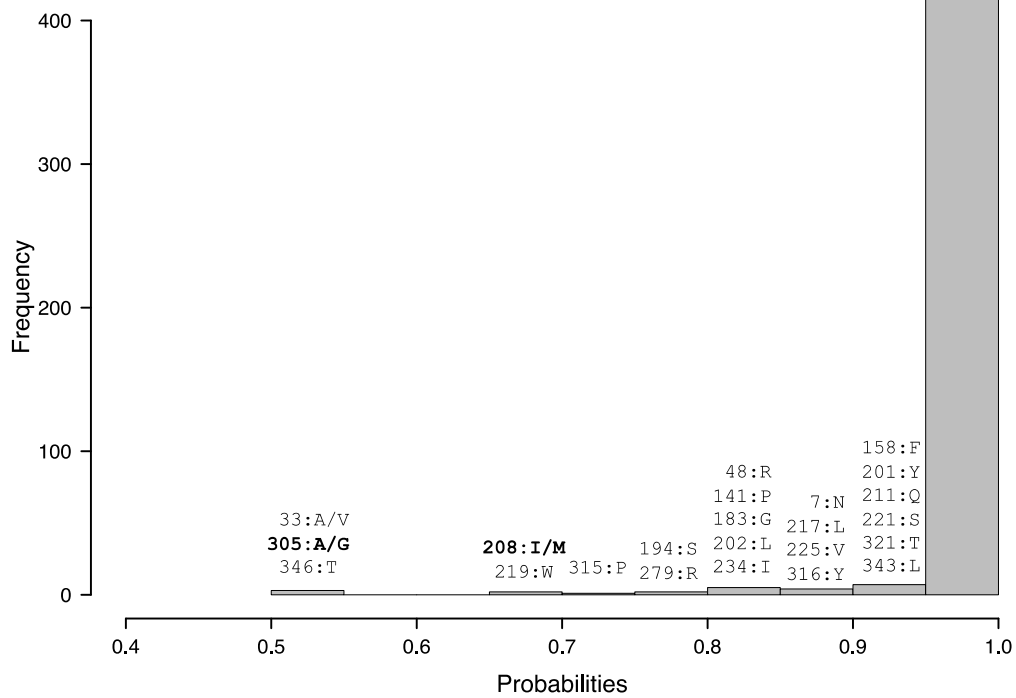
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792 **Figure S4: Comparison between the S-domain of AhSRK03 and AhSRK28 and their common ancestor.** (A)
 793 Protein schematic representation of the S-domain sequence of AhSRK03, AhSRK28 and their common ancestor
 794 SRKa. Positions of identical amino acids between the three S-domains are not represented, positions of SRKa
 795 amino acids specific to SRK03 and SRK28 are represented by a vertical blue and red line respectively. Positions of
 796 hypervariable regions are represented by yellow rectangles. The position of the 2 amino acid gap presents in
 797 both AhSRKa and AhSRK03 is represented by black rectangles. Positions 208 and 305 for which the
 798 reconstruction was uncertain and positions 155 and 344 for which the aa identity is different in the two other
 799 receptors are represented in black. (B) Amino acid identity and codon sequence (in parentheses) for these four
 800 positions in the different SRK variants.

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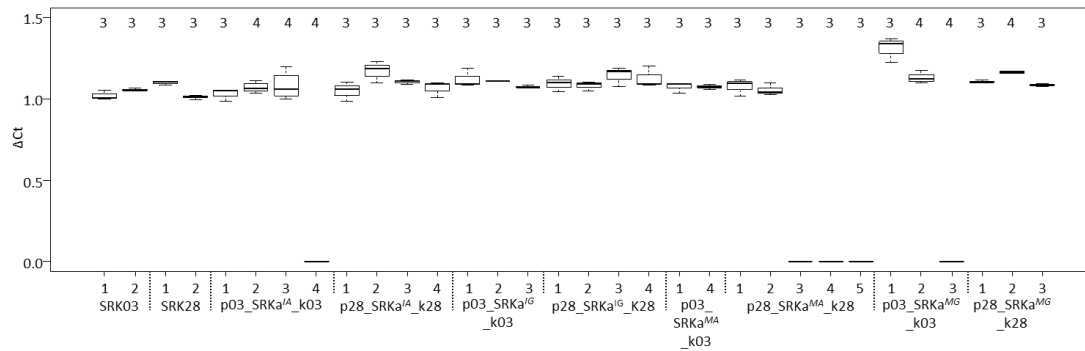
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804 **Figure S5: Histogram presenting the distribution of amino acid (aa) probability values obtained with the best fitting-**
 805 **model M3FMutSel. For each range of values smaller than 0.95, the nature and the position of the aa in the sequence are**
 806 **given. At three sites (33, 208, 305) the models used for the inferences led to different results. The variable sites between the**
 807 **4 ancestral sequences used for A. thaliana transformation are in bold.**

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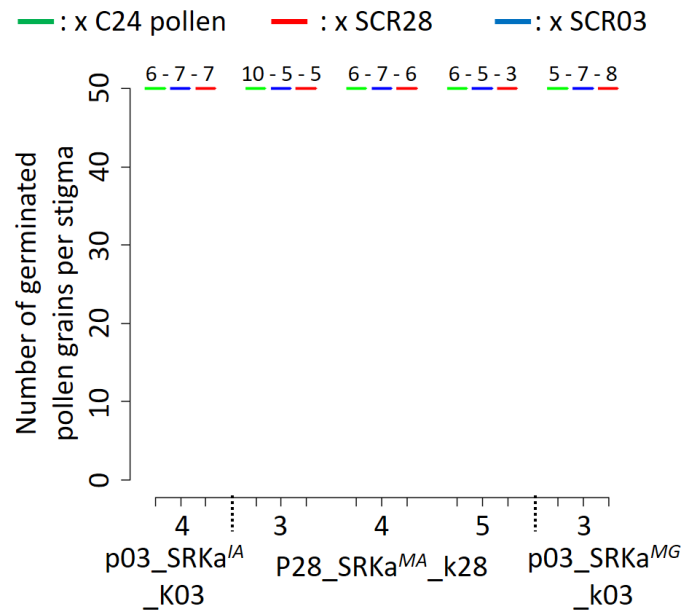
811 **Figure S6: Transgene expression analysis of the different SRK-transformed lines.** ΔCt (Cycle threshold) was

812 calculated as the ratio of Ct-SRK on Ct-Ubiquitin. The number of biological replicates is indicated above each

813 boxplot. For each biological replicate, measurements were realized in technical triplicates.

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817 **Figure S7: Quantification of incompatibility response of *A. thaliana* lines with *SRKa* transcript levels below**

818 **detection threshold.** Each *SRKa* line in S03 and S28 context were pollinated with *A. thaliana* C24 (green), *A.*

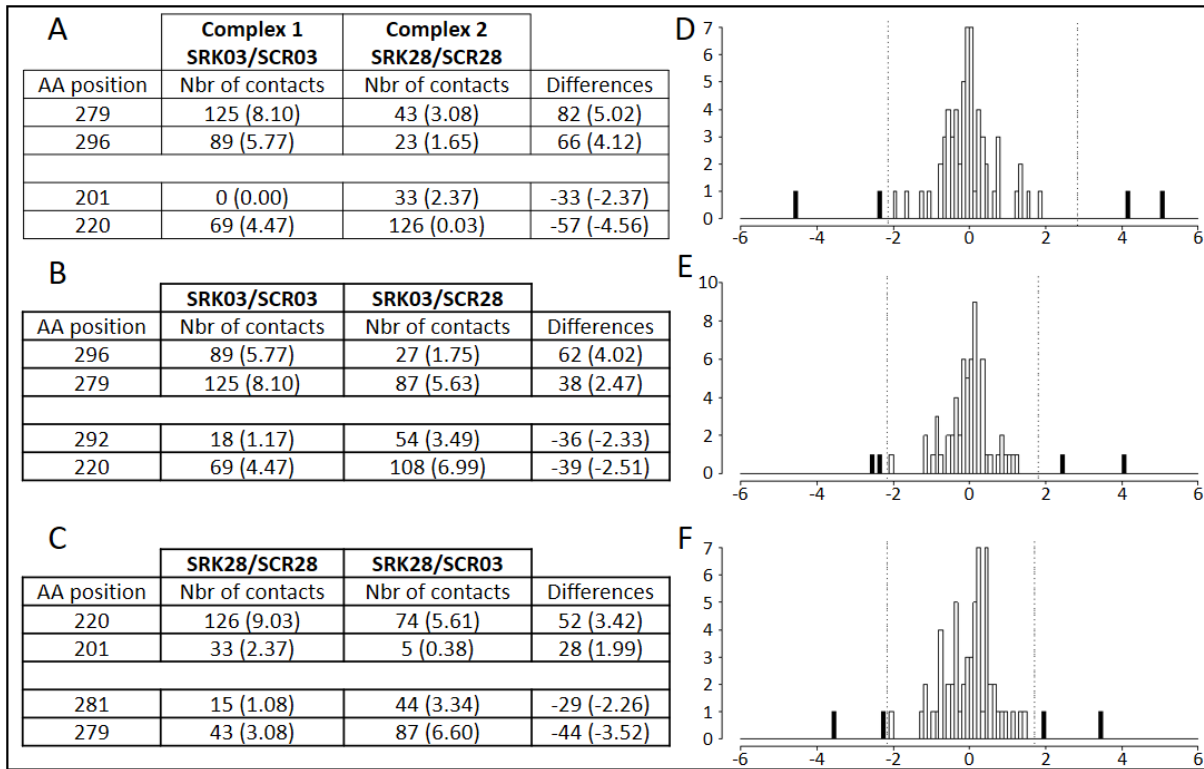
819 *halleri* S03 (blue) and S28 (red) pollen. The number of pollinated pistils is indicated above each boxplot. These

820 five lines with an undetectable level of transcripts appear compatible with the three pollen types, which is in

821 agreement with the fact that they don't express any SI receptor at their membrane surface.

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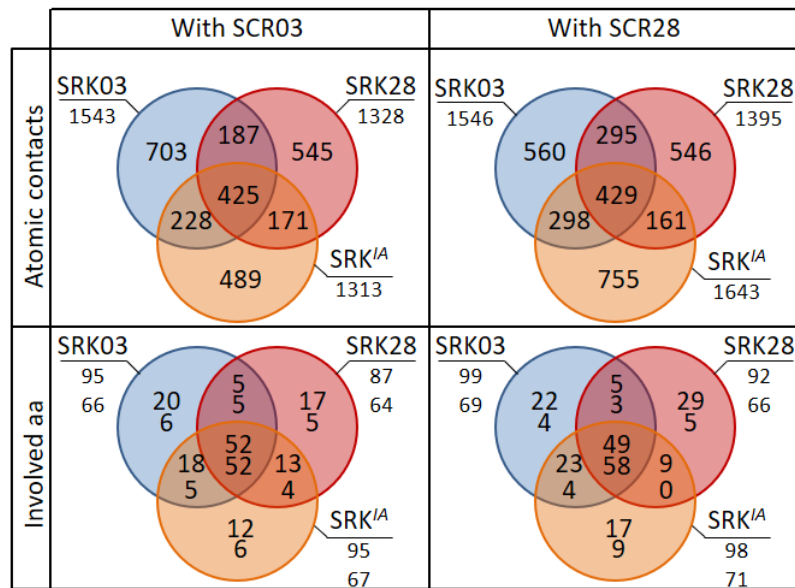


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825 **Figure S8: Comparison of amino-acid contacts between the different SCR/SRK complexes points to amino**
 826 **acids of SRK potentially involved in specificity of ligand recognition.** The number of atomic contacts between
 827 amino-acids of the receptor and the ligand was compared between (A) the two cognate complexes
 828 (SCR03/SRK03 vs SCR28/SRK28); (B) the cognate vs non-cognate complex established by SRK03 (SCR03/SRK03 vs
 829 SCR28/SRK03) and (C) the cognate vs non-cognate complex established by SRK28 (SCR28/SRK28 vs
 830 SCR03/SRK28). The three tables list amino-acid positions who establish the most extreme differences in atomic
 831 interactions in each comparison, values in parentheses correspond to the proportion of contacts realized by
 832 each aa independently ((number of contact in the complex / number of contact for one aa) x 100). The full
 833 distributions are shown in panels (D), (E) and (F) as the difference of proportion of contacts realized by each aa
 834 in both complexes. The vertical lines represent the 5% extreme values. Positive differences correspond to aa
 835 involved in numerous contacts in complex 1 compare to complex 2 whereas negative differences correspond to
 836 aa involved in numerous contact in complex 2 compare to complex 1.

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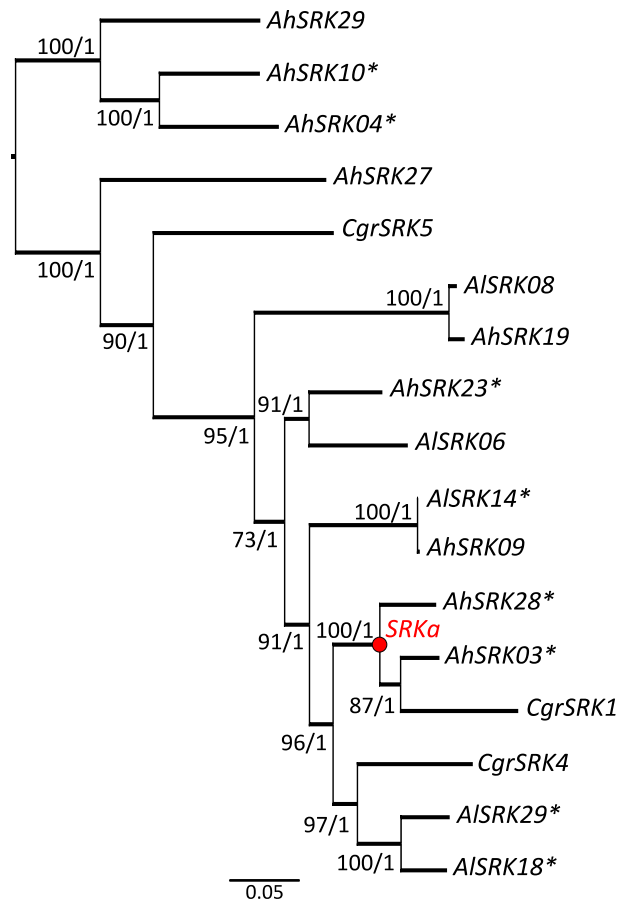


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840 **Figure S9 Venn diagram representations of binding features for SRK03, SRK28 and SRKaIA receptors coupled with either**
 841 **SCR03 or SCR28 ligand. Two features were compared: i) Atomic contacts are defined by the nature of the amino acid in both**
 842 **proteins, the chain they belong to, their position and the respective atoms involved in the contact (C, N, O, CA main chain**
 843 **atoms or the side chain atoms C α , C β , C ϵ , ...) and ii) The amino acid involved are defined by the nature of the amino acid, the**
 844 **chain they belong to and their position, independently for SRK (numbers on top) and SCR (bottom numbers). For instance,**
 845 **SRKaIA shared 228 atomic contacts with SRK03 and only 171 contacts with SRK28, when complexed with SCR03. This**
 846 **tendency is also apparent when SRKaIA was complexed with SCR28 (298 identical contact with SRK03 but only 161 with**
 847 **SCR28).**

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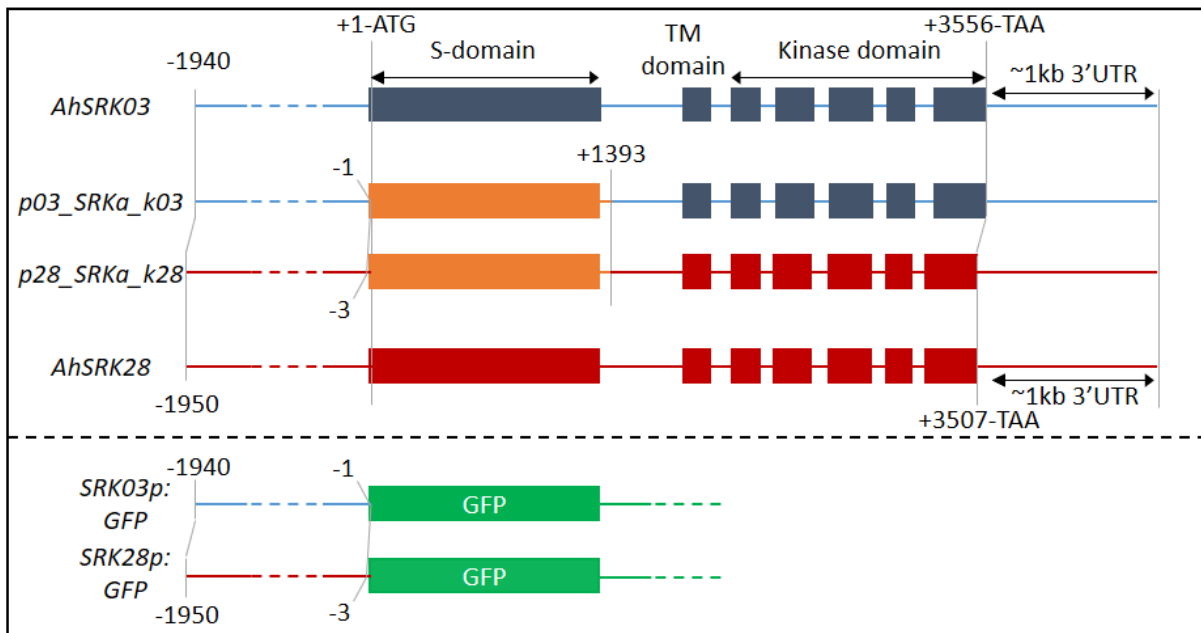


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851 **Figure S10: Maximum likelihood phylogenetic tree based on the 17 SRK alleles used for SRKa construction.** The Bayesian
852 reconstruction displays an identical topology. Values at the branches represent the bootstrap percentage / posterior
853 probabilities. The node representing the reconstructed ancestral SRK allele (SRKa) is shown in red. Asterisks highlight alleles
854 with a complete sequence available for ancestral reconstruction.

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858 **Figure S11: Schematic representation of the molecular constructs used for *A. thaliana* transformation.** *AhSRK03* and
859 *AhSRK28* constructs were cloned using a unique genomic fragment starting around -2 Kb and ending 1 Kb after the stop
860 codon. *SRKa* constructs were each cloned using 3 DNA fragments (amplified promoter and kinase domain of *AhSRK03* or
861 *AhSRK28* and the synthesized ancestral S-domain). The different parts of the construct were concatenated using the
862 Multisite Gateway Technology at the positions indicated on the figure. *SRK03p:GFP* and *SRK28p:GFP* constructs were
863 generated using the same promoter sequence as in the *SRKa* constructs, but were introduced into the *pKGWFS7.0*
864 destination vector.

865

866 **Table S1: Detail of the different SRK/SCR interaction protein modelling.** Following the eSRK:SCR template structure where
 867 two SCR molecules interact with two SRK proteins to form a heterotetramer (Ma et al., 2016), we indicate the two SRK
 868 molecules with their chain identifier A and B and the two SCR molecules with G and H. For each complex, the number of
 869 involved amino acids and the number of atomic contacts are defined for each protein chain interaction (AG, AH, BG and BH).
 870 Underlined numbers in the column "involved aa" correspond to the number of amino acids involved in both cognate and
 871 non-cognate interactions.

SRK receptor	chain	SCR ligand	chain	SRK involved aa	SCR involved aa	Atomic contacts
S03	A	S03	G	<u>16</u> +6=22	<u>9</u> +9=18	464
	A		H	<u>19</u> +13=32	<u>12</u> +7=19	399
	B		G	<u>23</u> +1=24	<u>7</u> +10=17	273
	B		H	<u>15</u> +2=17	<u>7</u> +9=16	407
						1543
S28	A	S28	G	<u>15</u> +1=16	<u>8</u> +7=15	277
	A		H	<u>17</u> +7=24	<u>10</u> +7=17	326
	B		G	<u>17</u> +18=35	<u>4</u> +14=18	471
	B		H	<u>15</u> +2=17	<u>9</u> +7=16	321
						1395
S03	A	S28	G	<u>16</u> +5=21	<u>9</u> +9=17	366
	A		H	<u>19</u> +8=27	<u>10</u> +7=17	389
	B		G	<u>23</u> +4=28	<u>4</u> +13=17	380
	B		H	<u>15</u> +8=23	<u>9</u> +9=18	411
						1546
S28	A	S03	G	<u>15</u> +5=20	<u>9</u> +6=15	378
	A		H	<u>17</u> +10=27	<u>12</u> +7=19	353
	B		G	<u>17</u> +3=20	<u>7</u> +10=17	244
	B		H	<u>15</u> +5=20	<u>7</u> +10=17	353
						1328

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874 **Table S2. Accession numbers for the sequences used in the phylogenetic reconstruction**

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Sequence	Accession number
AhSRK03	KJ772380.1
AhSRK04	KJ461484.1
AhSRK08	EU075130.1
AhSRK09	EU075131.1
AhSRK10	KM592810.1
AhSRK19	EU075140.1
AhSRK23	EU878008.1
AhSRK27	EU878012.1
AhSRK28	KJ461478.1
AhSRK29	KM592798.1
AISRK06	GQ351354.1
AISRK08	JX464638.1
AISRK14	KJ772405.1
AISRK18	KJ772412.1
AISRK29	AY186776.1
AISRK39	KJ772418.1
CgrSRK1	DQ530637.1
CgrSRK4	DQ530640.1
CgrSRK5	DQ530641.1
CgrSRK6	DQ530642.1

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884 **Table S3. PAML ancestral analyses of the SRK protein and model comparison.** *np* is the number of parameters in the
 885 model; *lnL* is the log likelihood score; *AIC* (Akaike Information criterion = $-2 \cdot \ln L + 2 \cdot np$) is a measure of the goodness of fit of
 886 an estimated statistical model; ω is the nonsynonymous/synonymous substitution ratio; *LR* is the likelihood ratio; *df* is the
 887 degree of freedom in LRT (Likelihood Ratio Test); *** Highly significant (*P*-value < 0.0001).

888

Model	np	lnL	AIC	ω
M0	43	-8976.64	18039	$\omega_0=0.51$
M0FMutSel0	56	-8949.78	18012	$\omega_0=0.55$
M0FMutSel	97	-8878.19	17950	$\omega_0=0.53$
M3	47	-8765.23	17624	$\omega_0=0.03, \omega_1=0.48, \omega_2=1.72$ $p_0=0.30, p_1=0.52, p_2=0.18$
M3FMutSel0	60	-8745.69	17607	$\omega_0=0.19, \omega_1=1.41$ $p_0=0.65, p_1=0.35$
M3FMutSel	101	-8684.54	17567	$\omega_0=0.19, \omega_1=1.34$ $p_0=0.64, p_1=0.36$
LRT M3FMutSel vs M3FMutSel0: LR = 122.3 (df=41)***				

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891 **Table S4: Gateway primers used for molecular constructs.**

Construct	Primers	Sequences
AhSRK03	attB1.-1940.-F attB2.4555.R	5'-GGGGACAAGTTTGTACAAAAAAGCAGGCTAACCCCTGGCTTACTGACTTG-3' 5'-GGGGACCACTTTGTACAAGAAAGCTGGGTAATCGCCCGTTATTGCCTG-3'
AhSRK28	attB1.-1950.F attB2.4555.R	5'-GGGGACAAGTTTGTACAAAAAAGCAGGCTAGGTTAGTCCATAGCCCTTG-3' 5'-GGGGACCACTTTGTACAAGAAAGCTGGGTAATCGCCCGTTATTGCCTG-3'
AhSRK03p:GFP	attB1.-1940.F attB2.-1.R	5'-GGGGACAAGTTTGTACAAAAAAGCAGGCTAACCCCTGGCTTACTGACTTG-3' 5'-GGGGACCACTTTGTACAAGAAAGCTGGGTCTCTCTCTACCCTGTGC-3'
AhSRK28p:GFP	attB1.-1950.F attB2.-3.R	5'-GGGGACAAGTTTGTACAAAAAAGCAGGCTAGGTTAGTCCATAGCCCTTG-3' 5'-GGGGACCACTTTGTACAAGAAAGCTGGGTCTCTCTCTACCCTGTGCTC-3'
SRKa_03	attB4.-1940.F attB1r.-1.R - attB2r.1393.F attB3.4555.R	5'-GGGGACAAGTTTGTATAGAAAAGTTGAACCCCTGGCTTACTGACTTG-3' 5'-GGGGACTGCTTTTTTGTACAACTTGCTCTCTCTACCCTGTGC-3' - 5'-GGGGACAGCTTTCTTGTACAAAGTGGCAACTTCCGGTTCCATATCC-3' 5'-GGGGACAAGTTTGTATAATAAAGTTGAATCGCCCGTTATTGCCTG-3'
SRKa_28	attB4.-1950.F attB1r.-3.R - attB2r.1393.F attB3.4555.R	5'-GGGGACAAGTTTGTATAGAAAAGTTGAGGTTAGTCCATAGCCCTTG-3' 5'-GGGGACTGCTTTTTTGTACAACTTGCTCTCTCTACCCTGTGCTC-3' - 5'-GGGGACAGCTTTCTTGTACAAAGTGGCAACTTCCGGTTCCATATCC-3' 5'-GGGGACAAGTTTGTATAATAAAGTTGAATCGCCCGTTATTGCCTG-3'

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