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1 **The role of Arabidopsis ABA receptors from the PYR/PYL/RCAR family in**
2 **stomatal acclimation and closure signal integration.**

3

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34 **Abstract**

35 Stomata are microscopic pores found on the surfaces of leaves which act to control
36 CO₂ uptake and water loss. By integrating information derived from endogenous
37 signals with cues from the surrounding environment the guard cells, that surround the
38 pore, 'set' stomatal aperture to suit the prevailing conditions. Much research has
39 concentrated on understanding the rapid intracellular changes that result in
40 immediate changes to stomatal aperture. In this study we look instead at how
41 stomata acclimate to longer timescale variations in their environment. We show that
42 the closure-inducing signals ABA, increased CO₂, decreased relative air humidity
43 (RH), and darkness each access a unique gene network made up of clusters (or
44 modules) of common cellular processes. However, within these some gene clusters
45 are shared among all four stimuli. All stimuli modulate the expression of members of
46 the PYR/PYL/RCAR family of ABA receptors, however these are modulated
47 differentially in a stimulus-specific manner. Of the six members of the
48 PYR/PYL/RCAR family expressed in guard cells, PYL2 is sufficient for guard cell
49 ABA-induced responses. Whereas, in the responses to CO₂ PYL4 and PYL5 are

50 essential. Overall our work shows the importance of ABA as a central regulator and
51 integrator of long-term changes in stomatal behaviour, including sensitivity, elicited
52 by external signals. Understanding this architecture may aid breeding of crops with
53 improved water and nutrient efficiency.

54 **Introduction**

55 Stomata are pores on the leaf surface bounded by two guard cells. Their role is to
56 optimize gas exchange in changing environmental conditions¹⁻³. In the light, stomata
57 open, allowing CO₂ to enter the leaf for photosynthesis. In contrast, darkness, high
58 concentrations of CO₂, reductions in RH which is equivalent to an increase in the
59 water vapor pressure deficit (VPD) and exposure to the hormone abscisic acid (ABA)
60 promote stomatal closure⁴⁻⁸. This is a rapid process typically lasting from 20 – 40
61 minutes. Reductions in stomatal aperture are the result of turgor and volume
62 reduction in the respective guard cell pair. The key player in ABA- and CO₂-
63 dependent guard cell deflation is the guard cell anion channel SLAC1 together with
64 the SLAC1-activating protein kinase OST1⁹. Under low, sub-threshold concentrations
65 of ABA, the protein phosphatase ABI1 keeps the guard cell anion channel kinases
66 dephosphorylated and SLAC1 inactive¹⁰. When the concentration of ABA increases it
67 binds to receptors of the PYL/PYR/RCAR family¹¹⁻¹³. ABA-receptor interaction
68 prevents the ABI1-mediated inactivation of the SLAC1 kinase. This results in anion
69 channel opening, which in turn brings about depolarization of the plasma membrane.
70 The change in membrane potential results in the release of osmotically active K⁺ and
71 anions. This is followed by osmotic water release causing guard cells deflation and
72 stomatal closure^{4,9,14,15}.

73

74 Over the last 40 years most investigations have concentrated on identifying and
75 understanding how individual guard cell proteins and intracellular second
76 messengers interact to bring about these rapid changes in stomatal aperture. In
77 contrast, we know much less about the processes that underlie stomatal acclimation
78 to longer term environmental changes¹⁶. These involve alterations in gene
79 expression, which result in changes in stomatal development and function. In the
80 former category it is recognized that plants acclimate to increases in the
81 concentration of atmospheric carbon dioxide and light intensity by decreasing the
82 number or size of stomata that develop on the surface of plant leaves¹⁷⁻²¹. Reducing
83 stomatal density is known to increase plant water use efficiency²². Stomata also
84 acclimate to changing environments by altering their sensitivity to ABA. In
85 *Arabidopsis* this happens during development with the youngest guard cells being
86 ABA insensitive²³. Guard cell sensitivity to ABA is modulated by water stress or
87 exposure to increased VPD^{23,24}. In these cases, “switching on” ABA responsiveness
88 provides the plant with the ability to control its water relations.

89 Understanding how stomata acclimate to changes in their environment has clear
90 relevance to the global challenge of producing crops that are more resilient to
91 environment change. Here we identify changes in guard cell gene expression that
92 are likely to contribute to the mechanisms that allow stomatal aperture responses to
93 adapt in the longer term to changes in closure-inducing environmental signals. We
94 reveal that these responses are characterised by the expression of both stimulus-
95 specific suites of genes and core genetic modules that are regulated by all closure-
96 inducing stimuli. We also suggest that part of stomatal acclimation to all these signals
97 is achieved by controlling the sensitivity of the guard cell to ABA. This is achieved by
98 differentially regulating the expressions of members of the PYR/PYL/RCAR family of

99 ABA receptors. Moreover, we show, in the cases of ABA and elevated CO₂, that
100 response specificity is achieved by these signals accessing different members of the
101 PYR/PYL/RCAR family of receptors.

102

103

104

105 *Stimulus-specific modulation of guard cell gene expression.*

106 To investigate the effects of ABA, low air humidity / increased VPD, darkness, and
107 elevated CO₂ on guard cell gene expression we used a microarray-based approach.

108 We reanalysed two microarray data sets (ABA and RH / VPD treatment) from a
109 previous study⁶ and combined them with two new microarray studies where we used

110 darkness and high CO₂ as stomatal closing signals (for detailed analysis of the
111 differentially expressed genes see Supplementary Table 1a). We first analysed the

112 resulting data set using classical pathway analyses and this revealed that each
113 closure-inducing signal addressed a defined, unique cluster of gene pathways (Fig.

114 1, Supplementary Fig. 1a and Supplementary Information 1). We also found that
115 gene clusters are shared among two, three or all four stimuli. For example, the

116 shared clusters for ABA and lowered RH (equivalent to increased VPD) are
117 dominated by the ABA response (Supplementary Fig. 1b) and the LEA pathways and

118 are up-regulated by both treatments. To gain further information about the
119 interrelationship of these pathways we analysed the co-expression patterns of the

120 genes from each pathway using the public ATTED II database²⁵. This analysis
121 revealed that both pathways are highly interconnected (Supplementary Fig. 1c to e).

122 Notably, *RAB18*, *DAA1* and *MYB74*, which we had previously identified as being core
123 to RH (VPD) and ABA induced guard cell responses²⁶ were co-expressed with

124 several other genes common to both responses, such as the dehydrins and
125 members of the *HVA22* family (Supplementary Fig. 1c to e).

126

127 The shared gene cluster of darkness and low RH (high VPD) is dominated by abiotic
128 stress and glucosinolate pathway genes. Both clusters contain flavin
129 monooxygenases/glucosinolate oxygenases (*FMOGS*), which are responsible for the
130 last step of side chain modification of aliphatic glucosinolates. *FMOGS* are involved
131 in biotic and abiotic stress responses in general and most of them are induced by
132 ABA²⁷. The shared cluster for darkness/CO₂, ABA/darkness, ABA/CO₂ and RH/CO₂
133 are dominated by more general metabolic pathways, receptor kinases, cell wall
134 degradation, major carbohydrate metabolism, glucosidases and transport
135 (Supplementary Fig. 1a). To directly model these complex interconnections, we
136 performed an integrative network analysis based on a rigorous mathematical
137 approach (see Material and Methods).

138 Specifically, we incorporated the set of protein-protein interactions from the STRING
139 database, which primarily represents physical interactions between proteins, into our
140 analysis. By integrating these data we add a new dimension into the expression data.
141 In contrast to the co-expression network, this allows the detection of functional
142 signalling links at the post-translational protein level. We analysed the network on the
143 basis of the measured expression levels into functionally coherent modules. These
144 can be regarded as the building blocks of cellular processes, such as basic signalling
145 cascades. The resulting optimal solutions represent maximally responsive network
146 modules with respect to the specific experimental stimuli.

147 This approach is hypothesis free and allows an unbiased exploration of stimulus-
148 triggered network responses, and in particular can integrate novel, hitherto unknown,

149 genes and connections into a pathway. Based on this algorithm we were able to
150 expose clusters and connections, which cannot easily be detected by classical
151 methods. This revealed stimulus-specific gene modules responsive to different
152 stomata closing signals (Fig. 2a-d) (for details see Supplementary Information 2,
153 Supplementary Table 1b and Supplementary Fig. 2a-d).

154

155 *Closure-inducing signals differentially modulate PYR/PYL/RCAR receptor*
156 *expression.*

157 Another feature to emerge from our investigations was that the different closure-
158 inducing signals led to differential expression of ABA receptor family members in
159 guard cells. At the level of the whole plant and at the tissue level it has been
160 documented that ABA application regulates the expression of certain
161 PYR/PYL/RCAR receptors^{13,28}. In our investigations we found that six guard-cell-
162 localized *PYR/PYL/RCARs* were affected (Fig. 2e). In the case of ABA, three
163 receptors (*PYL2*, 4, and 5) were down-regulated while darkness up-regulated *PYR1*.
164 Exposure to dry air (increased VPD) resulted in the downregulation of *PYR1*, *PYL2*,
165 4, and 8. In high CO₂, *PYL8* is up-regulated while *PYL2* is down-regulated. These
166 data suggest that ABA and receptors of the *PYR/PYL/RCAR* family are involved in
167 the response to all these closure-inducing stimuli. One possible interpretation of
168 these results is that, in the long term, acclimation to these signals is achieved
169 through modulating the transcript abundance of individual *PYR/PYL/RCAR* family
170 members. The net result of this would be to fine-tune guard cell sensitivity to ABA. In
171 this context it is interesting that we found that transcript abundance for these
172 receptors was differentially sensitive to ABA concentration. Specifically, we observed
173 that 250 nM ABA induced a reduction in *PYL4* abundance while changes in the

174 abundance of *PYL2*, 4, 5, 8, and *PYR1* were only observed on treatment with 10X
175 this concentration of ABA (2.5uM). In this context, it should be mentioned that the
176 products of ABA metabolism might interact with ABA receptors. This is indeed the
177 case for phaseic acid that is capable of binding to *PYL2*²⁹. It is therefore possible that
178 these metabolic products could also regulate transcriptional changes of the receptor
179 genes. We next investigated whether other guard cell ABA-regulated genes were,
180 like the *PYR/PYL* genes, differentially regulated in a concentration-dependent
181 manner. As is apparent from the data in Table 1 and Supplementary Fig. 3 (see for
182 details and statistics), *ABR*, *HAI1* and *MYB60* responded to ABA stimulation in a
183 concentration dependent manner. Together, these observations suggest a framework
184 in which ABA regulates specific receptor family member abundance in a
185 concentration dependent manner. This would potentially provide a high degree of
186 control over receptor and response sensitivity.

187

188 *Differential guard cell gene expression regulated by PYR/PYL family members.*

189 We next decided to investigate the possibility that different members of the
190 *PYR/PYL/RCAR* receptor family differentially regulate gene expression. For this we
191 used Arabidopsis *PYR/PYL/RCAR* receptor mutants. The Arabidopsis genome
192 contains 14 *PYR/PYL/RCARs* and previous studies have shown that generation of
193 quadruple, pentuple and sextuple mutants is required to obtain robust ABA-
194 insensitive phenotypes^{12,28,30}. However, both biochemical analyses of different
195 receptor-phosphatase complexes and receptor gene expression patterns suggest
196 that the function of ABA receptors is not completely redundant^{28,31,32}. Analysis of the
197 single *pyl8* mutant, for example, has revealed a non-redundant role of *PYL8* in root
198 sensitivity to ABA^{33,34}, while the *PYL9/RCAR1* receptor specifically regulates the

199 protein phosphatase AHG1³² and promotes leaf senescence³⁵. Additionally, a non-
200 redundant function of the dimeric receptor BdPYL1 has been reported in
201 *Brachypodium*³⁶. Functional diversification follows the evolutionary expansion of a
202 gene family, therefore we investigated the role of different ABA receptors in guard
203 cells.

204

205 Our transcriptomic data confirmed that guard cells express the six ABA receptors
206 *PYR1*, *PYL1*, *2*, *4*, *5*, and *8* that have previously shown to be relevant for stomatal
207 closure^{7,28}. We therefore asked whether, in guard cell ABA signalling, the six different
208 receptors are redundant or if each *PYR/PYL* has individual functions. To answer this
209 question, we used the *pyr/pyl* quintuple mutant known as 12458²⁸, where the
210 receptors *PYR1* and *PYL2*, *4*, *5*, *8* are knocked out and the 11458³³ loss of function
211 mutant in which *PYR1* and *PYL1*, *4*, *5*, *8* are knocked out. In addition, we took
212 advantage of the availability of quintuple mutant complementation lines. These lines
213 under the control of the guard cell specific GC1 (*At1g22690*) promoter³⁷ express
214 single receptors individually (see details in Supplementary Fig. 4).

215

216 To exclude the possibility that the following results were influenced by
217 overexpression of the individual receptors in the complementation lines, we
218 measured the expression levels of *PYR1*, *PYL1*, *PYL2*, *PYL4*, *PYL5* and *PYL8* in
219 guard cells of wildtype, both quintuple mutants and the complementation lines in the
220 12458 background (Supplementary Fig. 5a-f). These results showed that neither
221 *PYL1* (present in 12458) nor *PYL2* (present in 11458) were up-regulated in the
222 quintuple mutants to compensate for the lack of the ABA receptors that were
223 knocked out. Furthermore, the complementation lines showed wildtype-like

224 expression of the respective receptors (maximally varying about 2-3fold). To confirm
225 that ABA receptor RNA abundance is mirrored on protein level, we selected PYL2 as
226 test case for a mass-spectrometry-based proteomic approach, because PYL2 is the
227 most relevant for ABA induced stomatal closure (see below). As expected PYL2
228 receptor peptides were neither found present in the 12458 mutant nor the associated
229 PYR1, PYL4 und PYL5 complementation lines. In wildtype guard cells and those of
230 the PYL2 complemented 12458 mutant, however, PYL2 peptides were detected at
231 comparable levels (Supplementary Fig. 5g). These findings underline the suitability of
232 the GC1 promoter to drive nearly guard cell physiological ABA receptor expression.

233

234 To resolve whether different members of the PYL/PYR receptor family regulated
235 expression of guard cell genes in a differential fashion we concentrated on the ability
236 of ABA to regulate the following known guard cell ABA-responsive genes, *MYB60*,
237 *ABI1*, *ABI2*, *CIPK25* and *KCR2*⁶ (Table 2 and Supplementary Fig. 6 for details and
238 statistics). We observed *MYB60* downregulation in wildtype, and 11458 (*PYL2*
239 present) but not in 12458 (*PYL1* present) mutant. Complementation of the latter
240 mutant with *PYR1* or *PYL2* restored the wildtype-phenotype, indicating that ABA-
241 dependent down-regulation of *MYB60* is under control of these receptors. Up-
242 regulation of *ABI2* expression was abolished in 11458 but it was restored by *PYR1* or
243 *PYL1* complementation, indicating that *PYR1* and *PYL1* are sufficient for *ABI2*
244 expression. Likewise, up-regulation of *CIPK25* was abolished in 11458 but restored
245 by *PYL1* or *PYL8*, indicating they are sufficient for *CIPK25* expression. A complex
246 regulation of *KCR2* expression seems to occur since ABA-induced upregulation was
247 abolished in 11458 (*PYL2* present) and could not be restored in complementation
248 lines. Finally, although *RAB18* appeared to be always induced by ABA, the presence

249 of *PYL1* in the 12458-mutant (pval 0,00018) or combined with *PYR1* (pval 0,025) led
250 to 12 to 14fold induction (more than threefold of the wt), but when just one of the
251 receptors *PYL2*, 4, 5 was expressed, this over-induction was suppressed. Since we
252 found no strong differences in the basal levels of the examined genes in the different
253 genetic backgrounds (Supplementary Table 1c), these findings indicate that
254 transcriptional guard cell ABA responses are mediated by individual receptors or
255 distinct *PYR/PYL* combinations.

256

257

258 *Loss of PYL2 gene renders stomata ABA insensitive*

259 The above experiments reveal the role of individual *PYR/PYL* family ABA receptors
260 in the control of guard cell gene expression. We next turned our attention to
261 investigating whether individual receptor family members have distinct roles to play in
262 the control of stomatal aperture and gas exchange. To do this we first used infrared
263 gas analysis (IRGA)³⁸. In this approach we used excised leaves and applied ABA via
264 the petioles to exclude any root-effects on transpiration. Under these conditions wild-
265 type leaves opened their stomata upon illumination and adjusted their aperture to the
266 environmental settings prior to ABA application³⁹. We found that in the light, the
267 12458 quintuple mutant (*PYL1* present) in contrast to the 11458 mutant (*PYL2*
268 present) exhibited a severe open-stomata phenotype that manifested itself in rapid
269 wilting on exposure to light. To overcome this experimental difficulty, we pre-
270 incubated plants in the dark with 25 μ M ABA for 1h hour before applying the light
271 stimulus. Using this protocol, upon illumination wildtype plants remained in a non-
272 transpiring state (that is ABA inhibited light-induced stomatal opening). In contrast,
273 transpirational water loss of the ABA insensitive 12458 mutant increased over time

274 (Fig. 3a), whereas the 11458-quintuple mutant, which expressed wild type *PYL2*,
275 behaved almost like wildtype (Fig. 3a). Thus, we tested all available complementation
276 lines in the 12458-background. The 12458-mutant, when complemented by *PYR1*,
277 exhibited reduced transpiration, but the presence of *PYR1*, however, did not fully
278 complement the ABA insensitive phenotype of the quintuple mutant that had lost
279 *PYL2* (Fig. 3b). These data suggest a key role for *PYL2* in the guard cell ABA
280 signalling pathway that leads to stomatal closure. This was confirmed by
281 complementing *PYL2* in the 12458-mutant which resulted in a plant that showed the
282 same ABA suppression of stomatal transpiration as the wildtype (Fig. 3b). In contrast,
283 guard cell expression of *PYL4* and 5 did not complement the wilty 12458-mutant
284 phenotype (Fig. 3c).

285

286 In addition to IRGA measurements, which provide data on, in this case, the effects of
287 manipulating gene expression on stomatal transpirational control at the level of the
288 whole leaf, we followed the response of individual stomata in their natural
289 environment of the intact leaves. This was achieved by applying 50 μ M +/- ABA
290 (corresponding to 25 μ M biologically active ABA) to single stoma via micropipette-
291 assisted electro-infusion. By introducing ABA directly to the guard cells we aimed to
292 exclude any indirect hormone effects via, for example, the mesophyll cells and, or
293 vasculature on the control of transpiration by stomata. Using this protocol we
294 observed that stomata of wildtype *Arabidopsis* closed within 10 min of exposure to
295 ABA (Fig. 4a and b and Supplementary movies). In contrast stomata of the 12458
296 mutant (*PYL1* present) did not respond to the hormone and remained open. This
297 mutant was also the only one with significantly wider open stomata under control
298 conditions (Fig. 4c). In the quintuple mutant (12458) complemented by *PYL2* and the

299 11458 mutant (*PYL2* present), we observed stomatal closure that was identical to
300 WT. We also observed that *PYL5* was not able to complement the ABA insensitive
301 phenotype (Fig. 4a and b and Supplementary movies). This demonstrates that *PYL2*
302 is sufficient to fully rescue guard cell's ABA signalling and fast stomatal closure. To
303 confirm our findings that *PYL2* and partially *PYR1* are able to complement the ABA
304 insensitivity of the 12458 mutant, we repeated the ABA pre-incubation experiment
305 with the *pyl2-1* loss of function mutant (seed strain GT2864)¹² and the corresponding
306 Ler wildtype. Although *PYR1*, *PYL1*, *PYL4*, *PYL5* and *PYL8* are present in this
307 mutant, *pyl2-1* behaved almost like the *PYR1* complementation line in the 12458
308 background (Supplementary Fig. 7), supporting our hypothesis that *PYL2* and *PYR1*
309 are the key receptors for proper ABA induced stomatal closure.

310

311 *PYL4 and PYL5 are sufficient for CO₂-induced stomatal closure*

312 Since Raschke's research in the 1970s we have known that stomata require ABA to
313 sense elevated CO₂^{7,8,40,41}. However, the molecular basis of this interaction has not
314 been clear. We took advantage of the panel of ABA receptor mutants previously
315 described to investigate the basis of the interaction using IRGA. Stomata that had
316 been opened in the light in the presence of 400 ppm CO₂ (ambient) were exposed to
317 1000 ppm CO₂. This resulted, as expected in a decrease in transpiration consistent
318 with reduction in stomatal aperture (Fig. 5a). Next, we used the 11458 mutant in
319 which *PYL2* is naturally expressed. We had previously shown that this *PYL2*
320 expressing mutant showed wildtype-like ABA-induced closure response (Fig. 3b).
321 However, in contrast to ABA, CO₂-induced closure was impaired in this as well as in
322 the 12458 mutant (Fig. 5a). Stomata of complementation lines in the 12458-
323 background (with *PYL1* present) expressing *PYR1* or *PYL2* remained impaired in

324 their response to high CO₂ as well (Fig. 5b). However, lines that express *PYL4* or
325 *PYL5* in guard cells regained stomatal CO₂ sensitivity similar to wildtype plants (Fig.
326 5c). These data show that *PYL4* or *PYL5* are sufficient for the induction of closure by
327 increased CO₂. Interestingly, except the *PYL5* complementation line, all other
328 mutants showed remarkably higher ground levels of transpiration in the light and
329 under ambient CO₂ atmosphere compared to wildtype (Supplementary Fig. 8). Only
330 the *PYL4* complementation line started to reopen their stomata after about 2 h of high
331 CO₂-treatment. Future studies will investigate whether this behaviour represents a
332 phenomenon associated with adaption (Supplementary Fig. 8).

333 **Discussion**

334 The primary objective of the work described in this paper has been to explore how
335 stomata adapt to changed environmental conditions. Our focus has not been on
336 changes in stomatal development induced by changes in the environment. Rather,
337 we have concentrated on examining the mechanisms likely to underpin, changes in,
338 for example, the sensitivity of the stomatal aperture response to closure-inducing
339 stimuli. Specifically, when we looked at 4 different closure-inducing stimuli, we found
340 that they regulated a diverse set of intracellular pathways. While there was some
341 overlap there were marked differences and this must reflect specific effects of these
342 signals on guard cell properties. However, markedly, the integrated network analysis
343 (see Supplementary Information 3) revealed that all closure-inducing signals induced
344 changes in the expression of the *PYR/PYL/RCAR* ABA receptor family. This provides
345 a mechanism for all stimuli to modify stomatal function through modulating the
346 sensitivity of the ABA signalling pathway. We investigated the control of guard cell
347 gene expression by ABA in more detail and found that individual genes, including
348 members of the ABA receptor family, responded to ABA in a concentration

349 dependent manner. This conclusion was strengthened when we found that the
350 expression in guard cells of *PYL4* or *PYL5* was sufficient for CO₂-induced stomatal
351 closure but was not sufficient to restore the ability of ABA to inhibit light-induced
352 stomatal opening in the 12458 mutant, whereas *PYL2* was sufficient for this
353 response. Our data on the ABA response of the complemented lines agree with a
354 previous publication⁴² which showed that *pyr1/pyl1/pyl2/pyl4* quadruple mutant plants
355 did not close their stomata following ABA application and that ABA preincubation
356 could not prevent stomatal opening by light. In contrast, in another study⁴³ using the
357 same mutant, ABA application to open stomata did also not induce stomatal closure,
358 but ABA preincubation prevented stomatal opening. In the latter paper the authors
359 used guard cells in epidermal peels (obtained by macerating leaves in a waring
360 blender) floating on ABA solutions. Future studies will have to investigate whether
361 and how mechanical stress feeds back on guard cell ABA biology. It should be noted
362 that *pyl2-1* single mutant¹² behaved like the *PYR1* complemented 12458 plants
363 indicating that *PYR1* and *PYL2* are the most important receptors for the fast ABA
364 response of guard cells. However, one might not be able to exclude the possibility,
365 that either *PYL8* or heterodimers involving receptors other than *PYL2*, are also
366 competent to rescue the ABA-insensitive phenotype of the 12458 mutant.

367

368 In terms of stomatal CO₂-responsiveness, a previous report agrees that CO₂-induced
369 induced stomatal closure is disrupted in ABA-receptor mutant backgrounds⁸. In
370 contrast another paper concludes that “rapid CO₂ signal transduction leading to
371 stomatal closure via an ABA-independent pathway”⁴⁴. How might these radically
372 different conclusions be reconciled? It is of course only possible to speculate.
373 However, as documented earlier²³ stomatal responsiveness to ABA varies from

374 insensitivity to sensitivity and that this is regulated by relative air humidity (VPD).
375 Modulation of stomatal sensitivity by plant growth conditions such as relative humidity
376 could provide a framework to explain the disparity in the results. The veracity of such
377 a possibility requires further experimentation. Nevertheless, it is worth pointing out
378 that examination of the data in Hsu et al.⁴⁴, like before in Merilo⁷, reveals that the
379 quadruple receptor mutants *pyr1/pyl4/5/8* and hexuple *pyr1/pyl1/2/4/5/8* display
380 reduced CO₂ responsiveness compared with wild type. These data do indicate a role
381 for ABA receptors in the response to CO₂. This was also the conclusion reached
382 when stomatal conductance in response to CO₂ was analysed in wild type and
383 *pyr1/pyl1/2/4/5/8*⁷. Finally, long-term exposures of the in-gel kinase assays done by
384 Hsu et al.⁴⁴, showed a basal activity of OST1 in guard cells which, according to the
385 authors, is probably necessary for rapid CO₂-induced stomatal closure. Such basal
386 level of phosphorylation would be very sensitive to phosphatase and
387 PYR/PYL/RCAR activity, which can be modified by nanomolar changes in ABA
388 concentration (K_d for ternary complexes in the 20-40 nM range^{11,13}). However, to
389 return to the current investigation, our data, including its in-depth analysis of receptor
390 mutants, are strongly supportive of a role for ABA receptors, in particular PYL4 and
391 PYL5 in the stomatal response to increased concentrations of CO₂.

392

393 Together our investigations, reveal not only the complexity of the underlying cellular
394 mechanisms responsible for controlling stomatal responses to closure-inducing
395 signals and how this might contribute towards stomatal response acclimation, but
396 they also reveal a plausible mechanism for how stomata might integrate multiple
397 signals. The results here are likely to be of benefit to plant breeders who are

398 interested in engineering crops to respond to the complex multiple environmental
399 stresses that are likely to be associated with future climates.

400

401

402 **Material and Methods**

403

404 **Plant Material and Growth Conditions**

405 *Arabidopsis thaliana* plants were grown in soil that was semi sterilized for 20 minutes
406 at 100 °C and cultivated in climate chambers (Binder KBWF 720; www.binder-
407 world.com) in a 12 h day night rhythm (22/16 °C, 60% RH) and were illuminated with
408 125 $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ white light. The gas exchange measurements and the expression
409 studies were performed with 6 to 8 weeks old adult, non-flowering plants.

410

411 **Preparation of the ABA-receptor mutants**

412 Using Col genomic DNA as template we amplified by PCR the promoter region of
413 At1g22690 located 1716 bp upstream of the start codon, named GC1³⁷, using the
414 primers FGC1: 5'-ACCATGGAGTAAAGATTCAGTAACCC and RGC1: 5'-
415 ATCCATGGTATTTCTTGAGTAGTGATTTTGAAG. Next GC1 was cloned in
416 pCR8/GW, excised as a NcoI fragment and cloned in front of either PYR1, PYL2,
417 PYL4, PYL5 or PYL8. The resulting pGC1-PYR/PYL construct was recombined by
418 LR reaction into modified pAlligator2⁴⁵, which has been previously HindIII-EcoRV
419 doubly digested, treated with Klenow and religated to obtain a construct lacking the
420 35S promoter. Each modified pAlligator2-GC1:PYR/PYL construct was transferred to
421 *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* C58C1 (pGV2260)⁴⁶ by electroporation and used to
422 transform 12458 and 11458 mutant plants^{28,33} by the floral dip method⁴⁷. T1

423 transgenic seeds were selected based on seed GFP fluorescence and sowed in soil
424 to obtain the T2 generation. Homozygous T3 progeny was used for further studies.
425 Several *PYL8::12458* complementation lines were also tested but did not grow
426 properly. They showed a severe phenotype and excised leaves wilted immediately.
427 These mutants could not be used in any of our physiological experiments and were
428 thus excluded from our analyses.

429

430 **Infra-Red-Gas-Analyses (IRGA)**

431 *Stomatal closing assays*: ABA and low air humidity application were performed as
432 described⁶. In brief, ABA solution (50 μM +/- ABA) was sprayed to the plants until the
433 surface was fully covered. The low humidity treatment was performed by reducing
434 the RH from 80% to 20% at 22°C what equals a VPD change from 0.529 to 2.116
435 kPa. High CO₂ (1000 ppm) was applied to plants in airtight boxes after two hours
436 illumination at ambient air to close stomata. For the samples in darkness plants were
437 fully shaded following two hours of illumination. Each closing signal persisted for four
438 hours. To minimize diurnal effects on gene expression, all procedures were started in
439 the morning following two hours after onset of illumination.

440

441 *Leaf gas exchange measurements*: Transpiration rates were measured with a
442 custom-made system as described elsewhere³⁸. CO₂ response measurements were
443 performed with intact plants at 20°C and 52,5 \pm 3% RH (VPD = 1.123 kPa). The soil
444 surface of the pots was tightly covered with plastic foil to avoid water evaporation.
445 After the transpiration rates had stabilized in darkness, plants were illuminated with
446 125 $\mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{s}^{-1}$ white light. After 1h of illumination the CO₂-concentration of the air
447 stream was increased from 400ppm to 1000ppm.

448 The effect of ABA on the light induced transpiration of Arabidopsis was measured
449 with detached leaves and the same conditions as described for the CO₂
450 measurements. To avoid xylem embolism, the leaves were cut under water. The
451 petioles were directly transferred into 50 μM +/- ABA solution and incubated in
452 darkness. After one hour ABA incubation leaves were illuminated with 125 μmol m⁻²
453 s⁻¹ white light and the transpirational water loss was recorded.

454

455 **ABA Electro-Infusion**

456 This method was performed according to⁴⁸. Excised leaves from 5-6-week-old plants
457 were attached to a petri dish using double-sided tape and submerged in a bath
458 solution (1mM KCl, 1mM CaCl₂ 5mM MES/BTP, pH 6). The petri dish was mounted
459 to an upright microscope (Axioskop 2FS, Zeiss, Jena, Germany) and the leaves were
460 left for incubation while being exposed to 125 μmol m⁻² s⁻¹ light. Stomata on the
461 leaves abaxial side were visualized with a water immersion objective (Achromat
462 x63/0.9 W, Zeiss) and images were recorded with a camera (CoolSNAP HQ, Visitron
463 Systems, Puchheim, Germany) in 30 sec intervals using VisiView (Visitron Systems)
464 imaging software. Electrodes from borsilicat capillaries (inner/outer diameter =
465 0.56/1.0 mm; Hilgenberg, Malsfeld, Germany) were pulled on a horizontal laser puller
466 (P2000, Sutter Instrument, Novato, CA, USA) to achieve resistances ranging from 60
467 to 100 MΩ. The electrodes were tip-loaded with 50 μM +/- ABA, backfilled with 300
468 mM KCl and connected by Ag/Ag half cells to the head stage (HS-2A x 0.01; Axon
469 Instruments, Molecular Devices, Sunnyvale, CA, USA) of a TEVC amplifier
470 (GeneClamp 500; Axon Instruments). Reference electrodes were prepared using
471 capillaries filled with 300 mM KCl, sealed with an agar plug (2 % w/v agarose, 300
472 mM KCl and connected to ground with an Ag/Ag half-cell). Microelectrodes were

473 driven with a piezo-electric micromanipulator (MM3A; Kleindiek, Reutlingen,
474 Germany). Prior to electro-infusion the electrode was brought in close proximity to an
475 open stoma and left for 10 min to ensure no mechanical closing stimulus was
476 applied. ABA or control solution was released from the capillary by a negative 10
477 min, 1 nA current-puls. After additional 10 min the image recording was stopped.

478

479 **ABA spray experiments**

480 *Arabidopsis* plants were ABA treated via spraying until leaves were moist. To
481 investigate the dose dependency of the ABA receptor expression in wildtype plants,
482 ABA solutions with 0 (control plants) 0.025, 0.1, 0.25, 2.5 and 25 μ M ABA in
483 deionised water containing 1:10000 Triton-X100 were used. To investigate ABA
484 regulated guard cell expression patterns, plants were sprayed with 25 μ M ABA
485 solution or deionised water with Triton-X100. After 4h of incubation guard cells were
486 sampled and RNA was extracted.

487

488 **CO₂ treatment for microarrays**

489 Single potted 6-7 week old *Arabidopsis thaliana* (Col 0) plants were subjected to an
490 airstream containing ambient CO₂ (380ppm) and 50 \pm 5% RH (VPD = 1.322 kPa) in
491 climate chambers at 22 \pm 2 °C and 100 μ mol m⁻² sec⁻¹ white light. After 1h half of
492 the plants were treated with 1000 ppm CO₂ for 4h. Guard cells were sampled and
493 RNA was extracted for microarray hybridisation.

494

495 **Darkness treatment for microarrays**

496 Single potted 6-7 weeks old *Arabidopsis thaliana* (Col 0) plants were subjected to an
497 airstream containing ambient CO₂ (400ppm) and 50 \pm 5% RH (VPD = 1.322 kPa) in

498 climate chambers at 22 ± 2 °C and $100 \mu\text{mol m}^{-2} \text{sec}^{-1}$ white light. After 2 h half of
499 the plants were kept into darkness for 2 h. Guard cells were sampled and RNA was
500 extracted for microarray hybridisation.

501

502 **ABA and low RH (increased VPD) treatment**

503 These microarray data come from a previous study⁶ in which the ABA and low
504 humidity (increased VPD) signals persisted over 4 hours.

505

506 **Sampling and RNA Extraction**

507 Guard cell sampling and RNA extraction were performed as described⁶. Guard cell
508 samples were frequently tested via vital staining to confirm that contaminations by
509 other cell types remained below 5%–10%.

510

511 **Quantitative Real-Time PCR**

512 Quantitative real-time PCR (qPCR) was performed as described⁴⁹. All transcripts
513 were normalized to 10,000 molecules of actin2/8 and thus denoted as relative
514 expression. All indicated replicate numbers refer to biological replicates. Primer
515 sequences used: PYR1fwd 5'-GCTGACGAATTACAAATCCGTT-3',
516 PYR1rev 5'-ACCGTCGCGAGTTTCTG-3', PYL1fwd 5'-CGTGAACGTGATAAGTGG-
517 3', PYL1rev 5'-TGAACCGTCGTAACCGAT-3',
518 PYL2fwd 5'-CATAACCCAACGCATCCA-3', PYL2rev 5'-AACTCAAGCCGCTCGGTA-
519 3', PYL4 fwd 5'-CCGCTCGTTTTACACACAC-3', PYL2rev 5'-
520 GTGTTGCCTGGAGGAACATC-3', PYL5fwd 5'-TGGTGCAGATGATCCACG-3',
521 PYL4rev 5'-AGACTGAAGGTTGCACCG-3', PYL8fwd 5'-TGTGTGGTCACTTGTGAG-
522 3', PYL8rev 5'-TGAACCGCAAGACGTTCA-3',

523 KCR2fwd 5'-ATGTGGATGCACTATCA-3', KCR2rev 5'-AAGGTTATCCGGTACAA-3',
524 ABI2fwd 5'-GGACTTAGAGGCTATTG-3', ABI2rev 5'-AGGATTAATCCATTAGTG-3',
525 MYB60fwd 5'-ATGCTGTGACAAGATAGG-3', MYB60rev 5'-
526 AAAGTTTCCACGTTTAAT-3' CIPK25fwd 5'-AGATCCAAAACGTAGAAG-3',
527 CIPK25rev 5'-CTTACACAACACTCAACGAC-3',
528 HAI1fwd 5'-GTTGAATAGTTTTGACGA-3', HAI1rev 5'-GCCGTATTTAGGATAAGC-3',
529 ABRfwd 5'-GGTGAATGATGGACAAG-3', ABRrev 5'-ATAAAGATCCAAATGGACG-
530 3', RAB18fwd 5'-AGAAGGAATAACACAAA-3', RAB18rev 5'-
531 CAATACAACGACCGAA-3'.

532

533 **PYL2 protein identification**

534 For the identification and quantification of PYL2, parallel reaction monitoring (PRM)
535 via mass spectrometry was used. Four or five biological replicates from each
536 experimental group were examined. Proteins were extracted from the ground GCs
537 following the phenol extraction/ammonium acetate precipitation method described⁵⁰.
538 Briefly: 150 mg starting material was processed. For tryptic digestion, an aliquot of 20
539 µg protein was digested with 0.2 µg trypsin. Samples were cleaned using C18 solid
540 phase extraction according to the manufacturer (Pierce™ C18 Spin Columns,
541 Thermo Fisher Scientific, Gent, Belgium) and dissolved in 5% ACN, 0.1% formic
542 acid. Peptides from the candidate proteins were designed using Skyline (version 4.2)
543 and ordered from Thermo Fisher Scientific (UK) (PEPotec Grade 1). The ultra
544 performance liquid chromatography - tandem mass spectrometer (UPLC–MS/MS)
545 analysis was performed on an Ultimate 3000 UPLC system (Dionex, Thermo Scientific)
546 equipped with a C18 PepMap100 precolumn (5 µm, 300 µm × 5 mm, Thermo
547 Scientific) and an EasySpray C18 column (3 µm, 75 µm × 15 cm, Thermo Scientific)

548 using a gradient of 5% to 20% ACN in 0.1% formic acid (FA) for 10 min followed by a
549 gradient of 10% to 35% ACN in 0.1% FA for 4 min and a final gradient from 35% to
550 95% ACN in 0.1% FA for 2.5 min and a Q Exactive Orbitrap mass spectrometer
551 (Thermo Scientific, USA). The flow-rate was set at 250 µl/min. The Q Exactive was
552 operated in a positive ion mode with a nanospray voltage of 1.5 kV and a source
553 temperature of 250 °C. ProteoMass LTQ/FT-Hybrid ESI Pos. Mode CalMix
554 (MSCAL5-1EA SUPELCO, Sigma-Aldrich) was used as an external calibrant and the
555 lock mass 445.12003 as an internal calibrant. For the characterization of the
556 standard peptide library, the instrument was operated in a data-dependent
557 acquisition mode with a survey MS scan at a resolution of 70,000 (FWHM at m/z
558 200) for the mass range of m/z 350–1800 for precursor ions, followed by MS/MS
559 scans of the top 10 most intense peaks with + 2, + 3 and + 4 charged ions above a
560 threshold ion count of 16,000 at a 35,000 resolution using a normalized collision
561 energy (NCE) of 28 eV with an isolation window of 3.0 m/z and dynamic exclusion of
562 10 s. All data were acquired with Xcalibur 2.2 software (Thermo Scientific). The most
563 suitable peptide per protein was chosen to set the PRM analysis. To avoid
564 overlapping time windows the samples were analysed on the QE in PRM mode in 2
565 separate runs.

566

Peptide Name	Sequence	Peptide Length	m/z	Z	Start	End	Run
PYL2	LISGDGDVGSVR	12	587,8068	2	25,9	28,9	1

567

568 PRM analysis was performed in Skyline 4.2. The dicyano-1,4-benzoquinone (DDQ)
569 analysis of the peptide library was analysed with proteome discoverer and the library
570 was loaded in Skyline as a msf file. The NCBI Arabidopsis fata file was loaded and

571 the results of the PRM run were loaded as raw files with the following settings: MS1
572 orbitrap detection 70 000 resolution MS2 orbitrap detection 20 000 resolution. Only
573 peptides showing 3 accurate transitions were accepted.

574 **Microarray Hybridization**

575 For transcriptome profiling samples were hybridized on an Agilent Platform using the
576 Agilent *Arabidopsis* V4 (design number 021169) microarray chips
577 (<http://www.agilent.com>). RNA quantity was measured with a ND-100
578 Spectrophotometer v3.3.0 (NanoDrop Technologies). RNA integrity was confirmed
579 using an Agilent RNA 6000 Nano Chip on an Agilent 2100 BioAnalyzer (vB.02.03
580 BSI307). 500 ng total RNA were used for each sample labeling. Labeling and
581 preparation of samples for hybridization was performed as described in the one-color
582 microarray-based gene expression analysis protocol provided by Agilent including
583 the one-color RNA spike-in kit (v5.0.1, 2006; Agilent Technologies, Santa Clara).
584 Slides were scanned on the Agilent Microarray Scanner with extended dynamic
585 range (XDR) at high resolution (5 μ m). Data sets were extracted by propriety
586 software package (v9.5.3.1/ Agilent Technologies) using a standard protocol.

587

588 **Array Analysis**

589 Data preprocessing was performed using the Bioconductor software⁵¹ with the
590 statistical programming environment R⁵². Normalization has been performed using
591 negative control probes and quantile normalization using negative and positive
592 control probes as implemented in the `neqc` function⁵³ of the `Limma` package⁵⁴.
593 Differential gene expression for all stimuli was calculated using the moderated t-
594 statistic approach as implemented in the R-package `Limma`⁵⁴, which has been
595 specifically developed for the analysis of small sample size experiments. The p-

596 values of all results were corrected for multiple testing by using the false discovery
597 rate (FDR)⁵⁵. In order to identify guard cell specific gene regulation, we used a meta-
598 analysis approach based on the order statistic of the stimulus p-values. Therefore, p-
599 values from a one-sided moderated t-test of differential expressed genes between
600 guard cells and leaf tissue have been derived from the Limma model. Subsequently,
601 for each stimulus a combined p-value has been calculated using the second order
602 statistics of the stimulus and the guard cell versus leaf p-value. This results in a set of
603 genewise p-values for guard cell specific stimulus effects.

604

605 **Pathway enrichment Analyses**

606 Analysis was carried out by a model-based approach which can directly be integrated
607 into the Limma analysis of differential expression. A competitive gene set test has
608 been applied to all stimulation contrasts as implemented in the function camera⁵⁶.
609 This function tests whether a set of genes is highly ranked relative to other genes in
610 terms of differential expression, accounting for potential inter-gene correlation.
611 Pathways for the analysis have been obtained from the MapMan catalogue⁵⁷ based
612 on TAIR version 10 (2012), from which all gene sets with more than 5 genes and
613 fewer than 500 genes have been included in the analysis.

614

615 **Integrative Network Analysis**

616 Network data has been obtained from the STRING database (version 9.0,
617 <http://string-db.org>)⁵⁸. All interactions of the genome of *Arabidopsis thaliana* have
618 been extracted from the database yielding a total of 717,810 interactions between
619 16,465 genes. For the analysis we used the high confidence network (combined
620 score > 0.7) resulting in 69,603 interactions between 7,090 genes. After mapping all

621 genes on the array to the network the resulting largest connected component
622 comprising 69,329 interactions between 6,724 genes has been extracted. This
623 constitutes the base network used in all subsequent network analyses.

624

625 An optimal algorithm has been established to decompose the large intricate network
626 structure into functionally coherent network modules⁵⁹. These modules can be
627 viewed as building blocks of cellular processes, such as basic metabolic pathways or
628 stimuli-specific signalling. To identify these signalling sub networks the genes
629 (network nodes) need to be scored according to their measured regulation and
630 responsive modules can be identified using an exact search algorithm.

631 Here a statistical model to derive functional scores of closing signal responsiveness
632 in guard cells has been used. Therefore, all stimuli p-values have been derived from
633 the Limma analysis as detailed above. Integrated network analysis node (gene)
634 scores have been computed based on these p-values as detailed in⁵⁹ using the
635 routines implemented in the R-package BioNet⁶⁰. Briefly, a Beta-uniform mixture
636 model (BUM) has been fitted to the p-value distribution, thereby decomposing the
637 signal and noise components of the distribution. Based on this, network scores have
638 been calculated as log likelihood ratio of the signal to the noise component. Thus,
639 positive scores reflect signal content (low p-values) whereas the negative scores
640 reflect non-significant genes (noise). The signal to noise threshold has been multiple
641 testing adjusted using the FDR. For the different stimuli appropriate FDR values have
642 been selected according to the different effect strengths controlling the size of the
643 resulting modules. These mainly contain either genes with a maximal response, but
644 also a few tightly associated genes that show no differential regulation on the
645 transcriptomic level (represented as squares in the network). Subsequently, an

646 exhaustive network search has been performed on the entire node-scored network to
647 identify the maximum scoring sub networks using an exact algorithm⁵⁹. The resulting
648 optimal solutions represent maximally significant differentially regulated modules.
649 Based on the functional scoring of stimulation this constitutes the optimal responsive
650 modules within the entire network. This also means that no other module shows a
651 stronger guard cell-specific closing signal response.

652

653

654 **Statistics**

655 To test significances on qPCR (Supplementary Figs. 3, 6 and related Tables 1, 2) we
656 used a multivariable linear model on log transformed expression values (relative to
657 actin) adjusting additionally for day of experiment. Heteroscedasticity-consistent (HC)
658 standard errors for regression coefficients have been calculated as implemented in
659 sandwich package using default setting⁶¹. For dose response experiments
660 (Supplementary Fig. 3) comparisons of different concentrations to the unstimulated
661 control have been multiple testing corrected based on Dunnet's Post hoc test
662 procedure for many-to-one comparisons. We used the step down adjustment
663 (method="free") as implemented in the 'multcomp' package in R⁶². Reported p-values
664 are based two-sided tests, p-values < 0.05 have been regarded as significant. Levels
665 of significance were * $p \leq 0.05$, ** $p \leq 0.01$, *** $p \leq 0.001$.

666

667 **Data availability**

668 The data that support the findings of this study are available from the corresponding
669 authors upon reasonable request. Microarray data of the ABA and low air humidity
670 treatments which were taken from⁶ were deposited in the Gene Expression Omnibus

671 (GEO) database <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/geo> with accession no. GSE41054. The
672 microarray data from CO₂ and darkness experiments were deposited at the same
673 database under GSE118520.

674

675 **Code availability**

676 Algorithms and statistics used in the analyses are based on published approaches
677 available in R packages (mainly Bioconductor framework) and other cited public
678 available repositories.

679 **Corresponding authors**

680 Correspondence and requests for materials should be addressed to A.M.H. and T.M.

681

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692

693 **Author contributions**

694 M.D. and T.M. conceived and conducted bioinformatics. H.M.M., H.B. and P.A.
695 conceived, performed and analysed the expression studies. H.M.M. conducted and

696 analysed gas exchange measurements. M.P.L. and P.L.R. conceived and conducted
697 the generation of transgenic plants. C.M.G. and S.C.C. conceived and conducted
698 proteomic analyses. J.H. conceived, conducted and analysed electro infusion
699 experiments. P.A., P.L.R., H.K., K.A.S.A.-R., T.M., A.M.H. and R.H. designed and
700 conceived the study. M.D., T.M., P.A., A.H.M. and R.H. wrote the manuscript. All
701 authors discussed the results and commented on the manuscript.

702

703 **Competing interests**

704 The authors declare no competing financial interests.

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897 **Figure legends**

898 **Fig. 1 Guard cell signalling pathway analysis.** MapMan pathways with a
899 significant enrichment in at least one stimulus are visualized in a heatmap. Pathways
900 are listed in rows and stimuli in columns. Darker shades (corresponding to the
901 negative decadic logarithm of the enrichment pvalue) depict more significant
902 enrichments. For each treatment and the respective controls four microarrays were
903 analysed except darkness (n=3). All replicates represent biologically independent
904 samples. A competitive pathway enrichment test was performed as implemented in
905 the camera function from the limma package based on the gene expression data.

906

907 **Fig. 2 Integrative networks analysis identify distinct stomatal closing signal**
908 **modules.** Stimulus specific modules: Optimal responsive sub networks of regulated
909 genes in the entire network for a, ABA, b, RH, c, darkness, and d, CO₂ stimulation.
910 Circles denote positive scoring genes (with highly significant expression changes)

911 whereas rectangles denote negative scoring nodes (e.g. additional nodes of modest
912 regulation) which are implicated by the algorithm on the bases of their functional
913 network context. Red indicates up regulation, green down regulation, where darker
914 colours correspond to higher fold change values. Gene clusters of common cellular
915 processes are enclosed by shaded lines highlighting the functional sub structure of
916 the modules. Only ABA-responsive genes are named (for details see Supplementary
917 Fig. 2). e, ABA receptors are main components in adaptation to stomatal closing
918 signals. Each module contains a cluster of typical ABA responsive genes. In all cases
919 ABA receptors are affected. Among the closing signals the kind of receptors as well
920 as the direction of regulation differ markedly indicating an altered sensitivity towards
921 ABA in the adaptation process to the individual signals. For each treatment and the
922 respective controls four microarrays were analysed except darkness (n=3). All
923 replicates represent biologically independent samples. The network analysis is based
924 on the statistics and p-values described in Table S1a.

925

926 **Fig. 3. PYL2 is sufficient for stomatal ABA sensitivity.** Excised leaves, in
927 darkness were preincubated with ABA fed via the petiole to prevent stomatal opening
928 in the light. Stomatal aperture was measured by gas exchange as a function of
929 relative transpiration. a, Stomata of wildtype and the 11458-mutant (PYL2 present)
930 remained almost closed, while those of the 12458-mutant appeared ABA-insensitive.
931 b, PYL2 in the 12458-background fully restored the wildtype phenotype, while PYR1
932 reacted with incomplete ABA-sensitivity. c, PYL4 and PYL5 were unable to restore
933 ABA sensitivity of the 12458-quintuple background line. Values are normalized to
934 timepoint 0. n=28 for Col0, n=6 for 12458, n=9 for 11458, n=5 for PYR1::12458, n=5

935 for PYL2::12458, n=6 for PYL4::12458, n=7 for PYL5::12458. All replicate numbers
936 represent biologically independent samples, mean±SE.

937

938 **Fig. 4. ABA-induced movements of individual stoma.** Electro-infusion of ABA to
939 single stoma. a, Stomata of wildtype, 11458-mutants (PYL2 present) and the
940 PYL2::12458 complementation line closed within 10 minutes following an ABA-pulse.
941 In contrast, stomata of the 12458-mutant (without PYL2) and the PYL5::12458
942 complementation line remained fully open. b, Amplitudes of the changes in stomatal
943 pore width from fully open to maximum closed after ABA infusion revealed that PYL2
944 presence is sufficient to close stomata to wildtype levels. Stomata of the 12458
945 mutant remained open. In contrast to all other samples, the width of PYL5::12458
946 stomata showed little but ABA-independent closure over time. c, stomatal width of
947 wildtype and mutants after 20 minutes illumination. Only 12458 mutants showed
948 significantly wider stomatal pores prior to ABA application. n=9, all replicate numbers
949 represent biologically independent samples, mean±SE.

950

951 **Fig. 5 PYL4 and 5 render guard cells CO₂-sensitive.** Whole plants were placed in
952 gas exchange cuvettes in the dark at 400 ppm CO₂ and stomatal aperture was
953 measured as a function of the relative transpiration by gas exchange. Following
954 stomatal opening in the light the CO₂ concentration was increased to 1000 ppm. a,
955 Stomata of wildtype plants closed about 60%, while both quintuple-mutants did not
956 react. b, The PYL2 complemented 12458-mutant did not react to elevated CO₂ and
957 also the PYR1 complemented stomata remained impaired. c, 12458-mutants
958 complemented with either PYL4 or PYL5 closed their stomata in a wildtype manner.
959 Values are normalized to timepoint 0. n=20 for Col0, n=12 for 12458, n=6 for 11458,

960 n=4 for PYR1::12458, n=6 for PYL2::12458 and n=7 for PYL5::12458. All replicate
 961 numbers represent biologically independent samples, mean ± SE.

962

PYR1	At4g17870					64
PYL1	At5g46790					
PYL2	At2g26040				39	18
PYL4	At2g38310			66	36	19
PYL5	At5g05440				33	16
PYL8	At5g53160				77	54
MYB60	At1g08810					42
ABR	At3g02480				1331	5679
HAI1	At5g59220		173*		594	1535
ABA		25 nM	100 nM	250 nM	2,5 µM	25 µM

963

964 **Table 1 ABA-dose-response of the transcription of guard cell ABA-receptor**
 965 **and ABA-regulated genes.** Upon ABA-spray application transcription was either
 966 induced, reduced or remained unchanged. Numbers represent the expression
 967 changes presented in Supplementary Fig.3 (in percent) relative to untreated control.
 968 Blue = down-regulation, yellow to red = up-regulation, grey = no change in
 969 expression. Asterisk denotes that this value has weak significance and represents
 970 only 11 % of the maximum induction (for sample sizes and statistics see related
 971 Supplementary Fig. 3 and Methods).

972

	MYB60	ABI2	CIPK25	KCR2	RAB18
wt	26	268	268	195	400
12458 (PYL1 present)		298	269	285	1218
PYR1::12458	40		303	194	1436
PYL2::12458	38	251	228	200	731
PYL4::12458		307	331	244	491
PYL5::12458		314			381
11458 (PYL2 present)	31				649

PYR1::11458	22	203			956
PYL1::11458	14	160	178		433
PYL4::11458	25				421
PYL5::11458	25				301
PYL8::11458	43		215		493

973

974 **Table 2 Individual ABA receptor family members control the expression of**
975 **downstream genes.** ABA-spraying (25 μ M) led to up or downregulation of genes in
976 wildtype plants. Quintuple knockout and complementation lines revealed the
977 receptors necessary for ABA-induced gene-regulation. Numbers represent the
978 expression changes presented in Supplementary Fig.6 (in percent) relative to
979 untreated control. Blue = downregulation, yellow to red = up-regulation, grey = no
980 change in expression. (for sample sizes and statistics see related Supplementary
981 Fig. 6 and Methods).









