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Corentin Mollier, Joanna Skrzydel, Dorota Borowska-Wykret, Mateusz Majda, Mateusz Dulski, et al.. Spatial consistency of cell growth direction during organ morphogenesis requires **CELLULOSE-SYNTHASE INTERACTIVE1**. 2022. hal-03832428

HAL Id: hal-03832428

<https://hal.science/hal-03832428v1>

Preprint submitted on 27 Oct 2022

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Spatial consistency of cell growth direction during organ morphogenesis requires CELLULOSE-SYNTHASE INTERACTIVE1

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22 **Abstract**

24 Extracellular matrices generally contain fibril-like polymers that may be organized in parallel
26 arrays. Although their role in morphogenesis has been recognized, it is still unclear how the
28 subcellular control of fibril synthesis translates into well-defined organ shape. Here, we
30 addressed this question using the *Arabidopsis* sepal as a model organ. In plants, cell growth is
32 driven by turgor pressure and restrained by the extracellular matrix known as the cell wall.
34 Cellulose is the main load-bearing component of the plant cell wall and cellulose microfibrils
36 are thought to channel growth perpendicularly to their main orientation. We investigated the
38 role of the guidance of cellulose synthesis by CELLULOSE SYNTHASE INTERACTIVE 1
(CSI1) in sepal morphogenesis. We observed that sepals are shorter in *csi1* mutants, although
the newest cellulose microfibrils are more aligned in *csi1*. Surprisingly, cell growth anisotropy
was similar in *csi1* and wild-type plants. We resolved this apparent paradox using polarized
Raman microspectroscopy and live imaging of growing sepals. We found that CSI1 is required
for spatial consistency of growth direction across the sepal and for the maintenance of overall
organ elongation. We confirmed our conclusions at sepal scale, notably using bespoke
mechanical assays. Our work illustrates how the subcellular regulation of the extracellular
matrix may control morphogenesis at multiple scales.

40

Key words: cellulose, CSI1, morphogenesis, growth coordination, sepal

42

44 Introduction

46 Living organisms display an amazing variety of forms. While a given form may be achieved
through several morphogenetic trajectories, morphogenesis often involves elongation or
48 anisotropic growth, i.e. more growth along one axis of the organ. Elongated forms may result
from coordinated cell rearrangements such as intercalation^{1,2}, from patterned heterogeneity in
50 the physical properties of cells³⁻⁶, or from guidance of growth by a matrix surrounding cells or
tissues, usually a material reinforced by fibrils⁷⁻⁹. Here, we consider the link between fibril
52 arrangement and elongation.

54 The nature of fibrils and the guidance of fibril synthesis largely vary between kingdoms. In
several rod-shaped bacteria, the synthesis of peptidoglycans is guided by MreB, an actin
56 homologue, following membrane curvature^{10,11} and driving bacterial elongation. In *Drosophila*
oocytes, microtubules guide the polar secretion of collagen in the surrounding epithelium^{8,9}.
58 Collagen deposition is associated with a global rotation of the oocyte inside the matrix, which
yields a circumferential arrangement of fibrils and a mechanically anisotropic extracellular
60 matrix, which is required for oocyte elongation^{7,12}. Finally in plants, cells are surrounded by a
cell wall composed of cellulose microfibrils embedded in a matrix of pectins, hemicelluloses,
62 and structural proteins. Cellulose microfibrils may lead to mechanical anisotropy of the cell
wall and channel growth¹³. Despite increasing knowledge about the link between cellulose
64 microfibrils arrangement and cellular growth¹³⁻¹⁵, how this yields well-defined organ forms
remains poorly understood.

66
Cellulose chains are polymerized at the plasma membrane by complexes of cellulose synthase
68 (CESA) and bundle into microfibrils in the cell wall. CESA complexes are associated with other
proteins such as KORRIGAN that is involved in targeting CESA to the membrane^{16,17},
70 CELLULOSE COMPANION 1 that stabilizes the microtubules guiding the CESA¹⁸, and
CELLULOSE SYNTHASE INTERACTIVE PROTEIN 1 (CSII) that binds microtubules and
72 CESA complexes¹⁹⁻²¹. Two genes closely related to *CSII* have been identified: expression of
CSI2 is restricted to pollen, while mutations of *CSI3* yield no visible phenotype²². *csil* mutant
74 exhibits hyper aligned cellulose microfibrils in the hypocotyl²³, probably because in the absence
of microtubule guidance, CESA are partly guided by previously deposited cellulose
76 microfibrils²⁴. Strangely, this hyper alignment of cellulose in *csil* hypocotyls was not

78 associated with an increased cell/organ growth anisotropy^{19,20}, questioning the link between
microfibrils alignment and anisotropic growth. In this work we addressed this link, from cellular
to tissue scale.

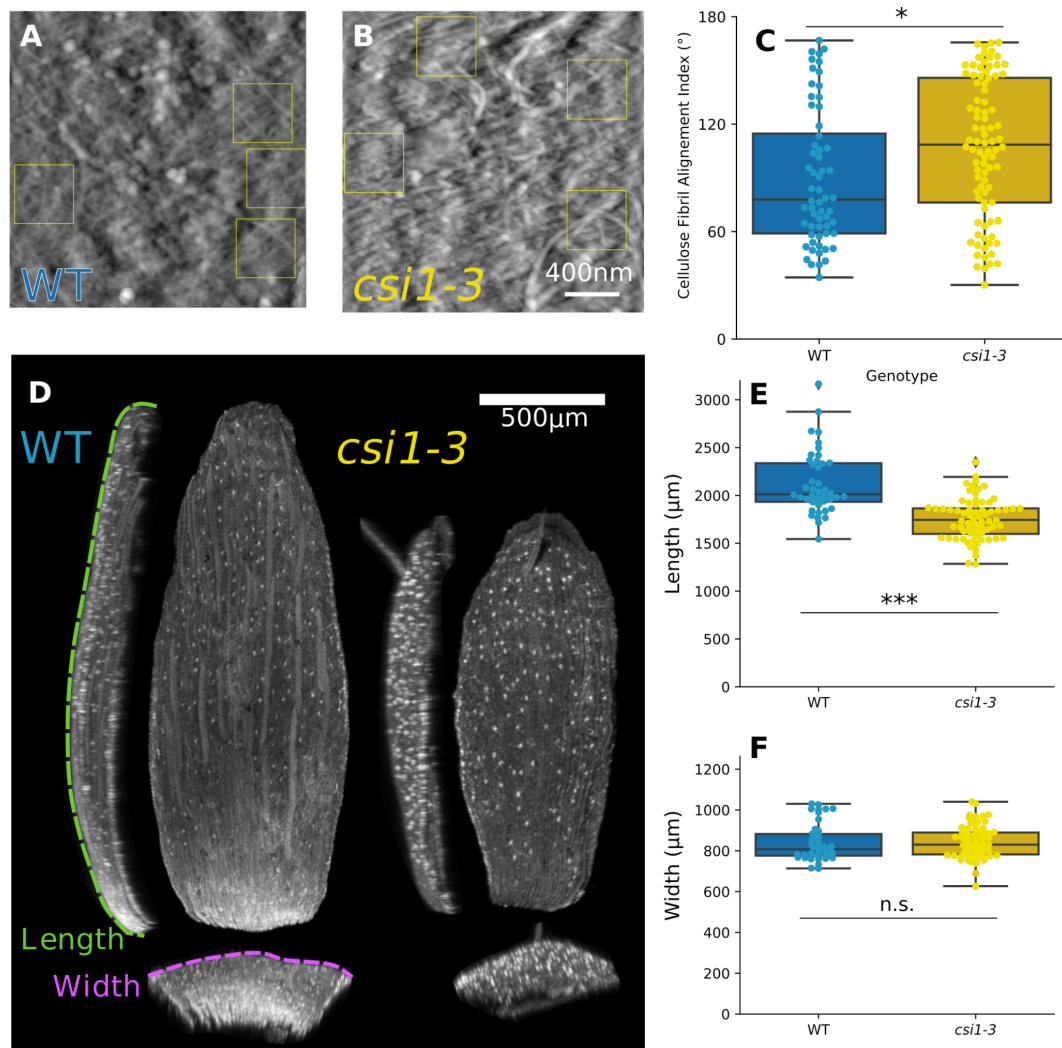
80

Growth of etiolated hypocotyls is highly stereotyped⁵ and mostly uniaxial, limiting the use of
82 the hypocotyl to explore the relation between cellulose microfibrils deposition and growth
direction. We chose to investigate this relation in the Arabidopsis sepal, the green leaf-like
84 organ that protects a flower before its opening. Sepal shape and size are robust²⁵, despite
variability in areal cell growth^{26,27} and putatively in growth direction. We studied the links
86 between cellulose organization, growth anisotropy and main growth direction, from cell to
organ scale, using *csi1* mutation to test our conclusions.

88

Results

90



92 **Figure 1: Recently deposited cellulose microfibrils are more aligned in *csil* than in wild-type**
 93 **(WT), but *csil* sepals are shorter**

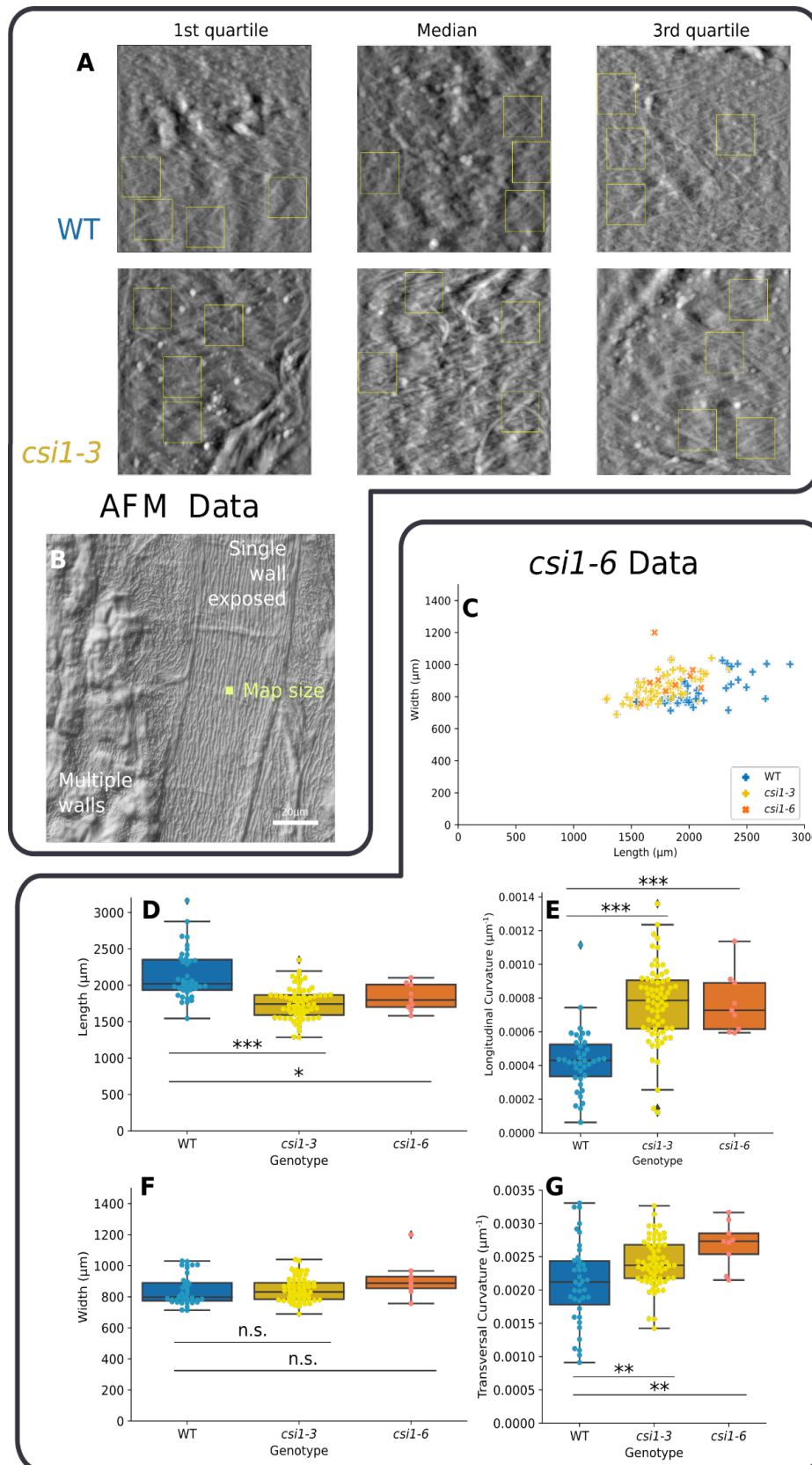
94 **A,B.** Representative topography maps, obtained with Atomic Force Microscopy (AFM), of WT and
 95 *csil-3* outer epidermis cell wall imaged from the protoplast side after removing internal tissues and
 96 epidermis protoplasts of the sepal (maps corresponding to the median value of the alignment index for
 97 each genotype). Yellow squares outline regions used for the index assessment.

98 **C.** Alignment index of cellulose microfibrils, with high values corresponding to more aligned
 99 microfibrils. Boxplots for WT and *csil-3* (N=5 and 6 stage 12 sepals and n=60 and 105 regions of
 100 400nm×400nm from 9 and 14 cells, respectively; p-value of Mann-Whitney test = 0.005).

101 **D.** Representative front, top, and side views of WT and *csil-3* fully grown sepals (stage 12 of flower
 102 development), obtained from projections of confocal images. Cell walls were stained using propidium
 103 iodide. The dotted lines show sepal maximal width and length as measured along the outer (abaxial)
 104 surface of the sepal.

105 **E,F.** Comparison of length and width of WT and *csil-3* sepals, measured as in D (n=39 and 67,
 106 respectively. t-test p-values = 1×10^{-10} , 0.73, for length and width, respectively.)

108 Here and elsewhere, the boxes extend from the first to the third quartiles of the distributions, the line
inside the box indicates the median, the whiskers span the full range of the data (except when outliers
110 are present, corresponding to points further than 1.5 x interquartile range from the corresponding
quartile), and the points correspond to individual values. Statistical significance: *= $p < 0.05$, **= $p < 0.005$, and ***= $p < 0.0005$.



112

Supplementary Figure 1:

114 **A.** Atomic Force Microscopy (AFM) maps corresponding to first quartile, median, and third quartile for the alignment index (the first quartile corresponds to a low alignment index). Small yellow rectangles

116 show the areas with visible microfibrils used for the analysis. Whole map size = $2\mu\text{m}\times 2\mu\text{m}$, single region analyzed = $400\text{nm}\times 400\text{nm}$.

118 **B.** Differential interference contrast microscopy image of the samples analyzed in AFM. The yellow square near the image center indicates the size of an AFM map. The protoplast-facing surface of the outer periclinal wall is exposed in the cell slightly to the right, while the cells on the left are covered by walls of inner sepal cells (parenchyma). The lines that are visible in the background correspond to cuticular ridges that are present on the other side of the cell wall.

122 **C.** Length and width of individual WT, *csil-3* and *csil-6* sepals.

124 **D,E.** Comparison of length and width of WT, *csil-3* and *csil-6* sepals, measured as shown in Figure 1D (n=39, 67 and 9, respectively. t-test p-values between WT and *csil-6* = 0.01, 0.06 for length and width. See legend of Figure 1 for the comparison with *csil-3*.)

126 **F,G.** Comparison of curvatures along the main axes of the sepal. Curvature is defined as the inverse of the radius of a circle fitted to the center of the sepal (p-values of t-test for longitudinal curvature = 7×10^{-12} and 8×10^{-6} for comparison between WT and *csil-3* or *csil-6*, respectively. p values for transversal curvature = 2×10^{-3} and 9×10^{-3} for comparison between WT and *csil-3* or *csil-6*, respectively.)

132

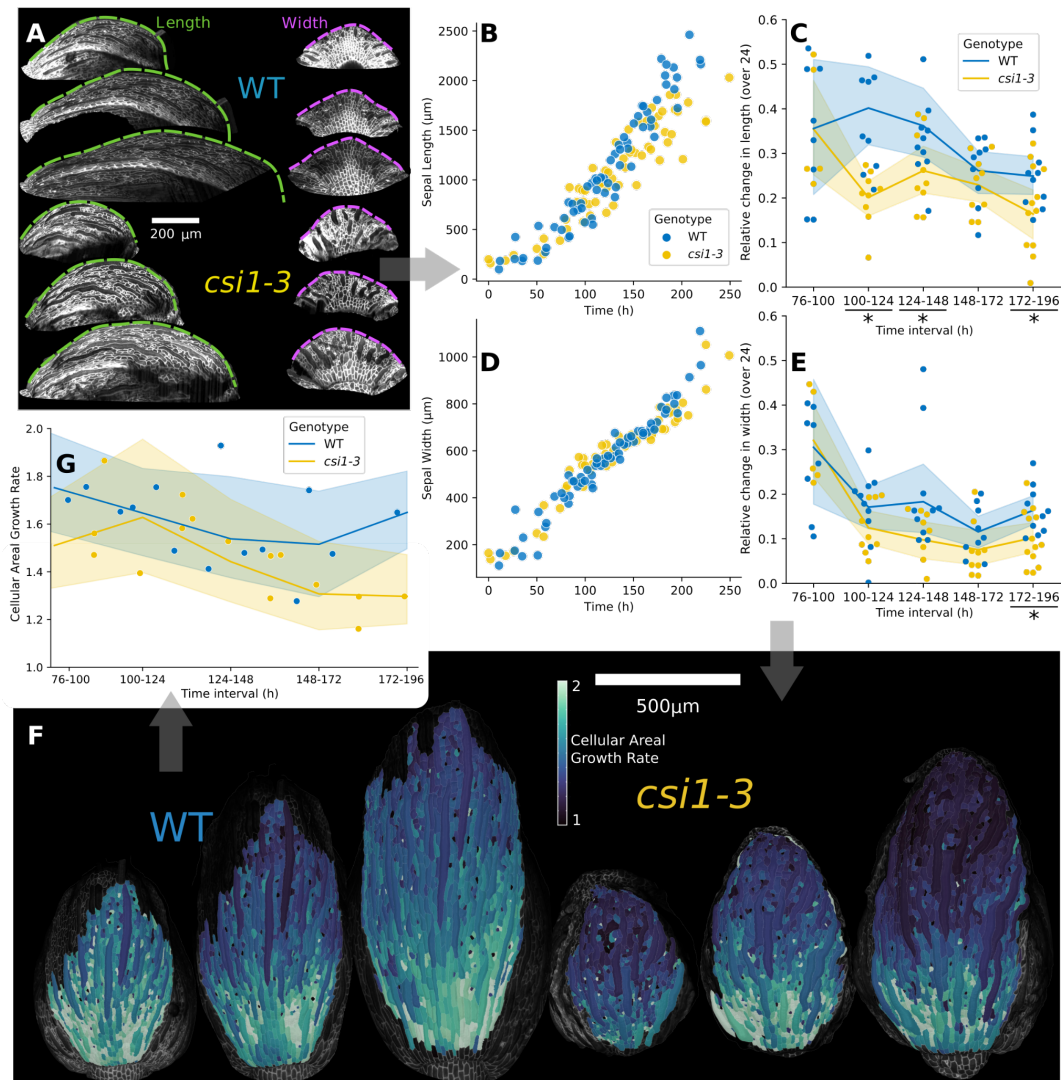
Cellulose microfibrils arrangement is more anisotropic in *csil*

134 We first compared cellulose microfibrils patterns between the cell walls of WT and *csil-3* sepals. To expose the inner surface of the outer epidermal wall before imaging, we gently scratched inner sepal tissues and removed protoplasts using chemical treatment, until we had only one cell-wall remaining. Because this method did not require grinding, this allowed us to keep track of the approximate position of the wall on the sepal, as well as to ensure the observation of the external wall of the epidermis, as confirmed by optical microscopy (**Fig 140 S1B**). We then used Atomic Force Microscopy to visualize recently deposited cellulose microfibrils in the outer wall of the abaxial epidermis of sepals²⁸: a nanometer-sized probe was used to scan the protoplast-facing surface of the wall sample and measure the height of contact (**Fig 142 1A,B**). Maps presented various orientations of microfibrils (**Fig 1A,B**). There was also a proportion of regions with only one apparent orientation (2 out of 62 for WT, 12 out of 100 for *csil-3*), although the difference between these proportions was not significant (p-value of normal z-test = 0,08). Therefore, we developed an index to quantify to what extent the microfibrils are aligned (**Fig 144 1C**). Briefly, microfibrils orientation distribution was decomposed into Gaussians and the alignment index was computed as the maximum angular distance between these Gaussians. We found that cellulose microfibrils were more aligned in *csil-3* compared to WT (means = 90 and 107° for WT and *csil-3*, respectively; p-value of Mann-

Whitney test = 0.005). Next, we examined whether the effect of this mutation on cellulose
152 deposition was associated with affected sepal morphogenesis.

154 ***csi1* sepals are shorter owing to reduced elongation rates**

Because Arabidopsis sepals are curved, we used 3D confocal microscopy to quantify their shape
156 parameters (**Fig 1D**). We found that *csi1-3* sepals were shorter compared to WT but had a
similar width (**Fig 1E,F** means = 2140 and 1760 μ m for length and 840 and 846 μ m for width,
158 for WT and *csi1-3*, respectively. p-value of t-test = 1×10^{-10} , 0.73, for length and width,
respectively). This phenotype was similar for the *csi1-6* allele (**Fig S1A-C**), confirming that it
160 is indeed the result of *CSII* loss of function. Sepal contours (as seen from front, Figure 1D) also
differed between genotypes, with for instance a narrower base for *csi1-3*. We quantified
162 curvature and found that *csi1-3* sepals were significantly more curved compared to WT (**Fig**
S1E,G). Higher anisotropy of microfibrils arrangement is usually associated with a higher cell
164 growth anisotropy^{13–15}, which would be expected to yield longer sepals. Surprisingly, higher
anisotropy of microfibrils arrangement in *csi1-3* is associated with shorter organs. We therefore
166 analyzed the origin of the differences in elongation of *csi1-3* compared to WT.



168

Figure 2: *csi1* sepals have smaller elongation rates than WT at organ level, but cellular growth rates less different.

170

A. Representative time series of sepal growth in WT (top) and *csi1-3* (bottom). Cell membranes are labeled using a *pATML1::RCI2A-mCitrine* construct. Colored dashed lines indicate measured sepal length and width. Time between acquisitions = 24h.

174

B,D. Sepal length (B) and width (D) as a function of time. Temporal sequences were registered with regard to time to define a common starting time using width, which can be mapped to developmental stages (see Supplementary Figure 2).

176

C,E. Relative growth rates in length (C) and width (E) as a function of registered time. Comparisons were made over a sliding 24h window, which corresponds to the imaging interval. Asterisks at the bottom indicate significant differences (p -value of Mann-Whitney test <0.05). WT is in blue and *csi1-3* in yellow. The lines correspond to median, the shading to the interquartile range, and the points to individual sepals.

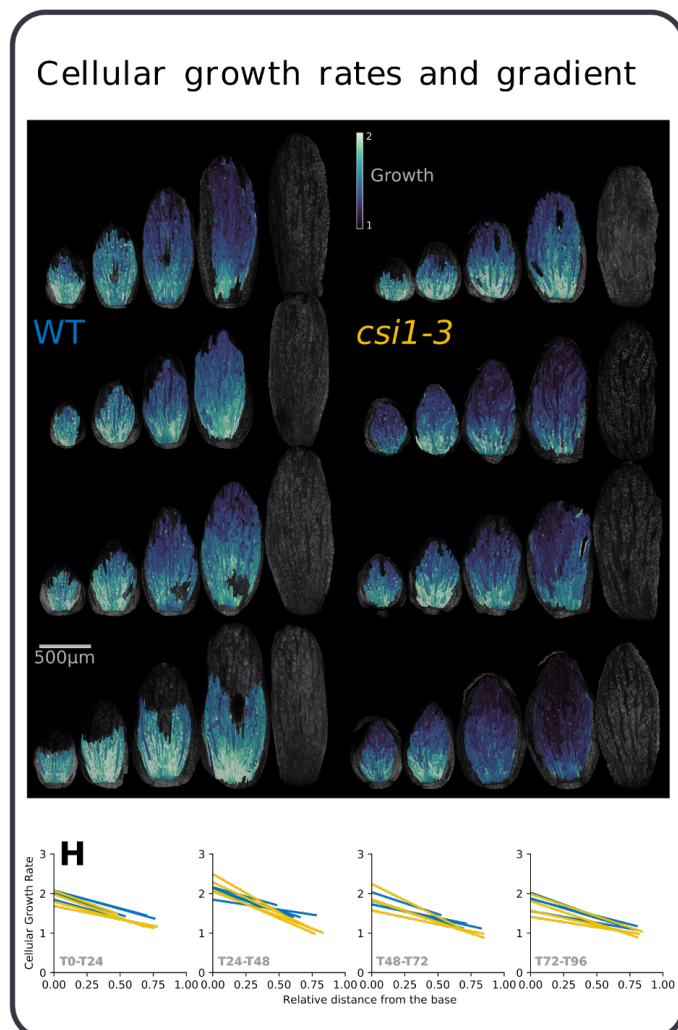
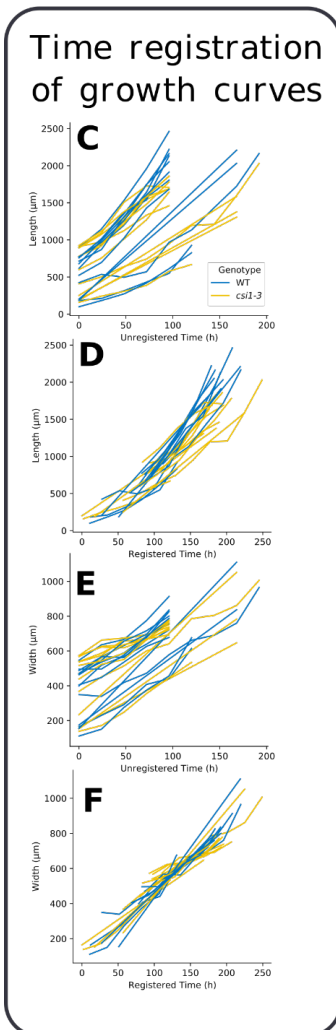
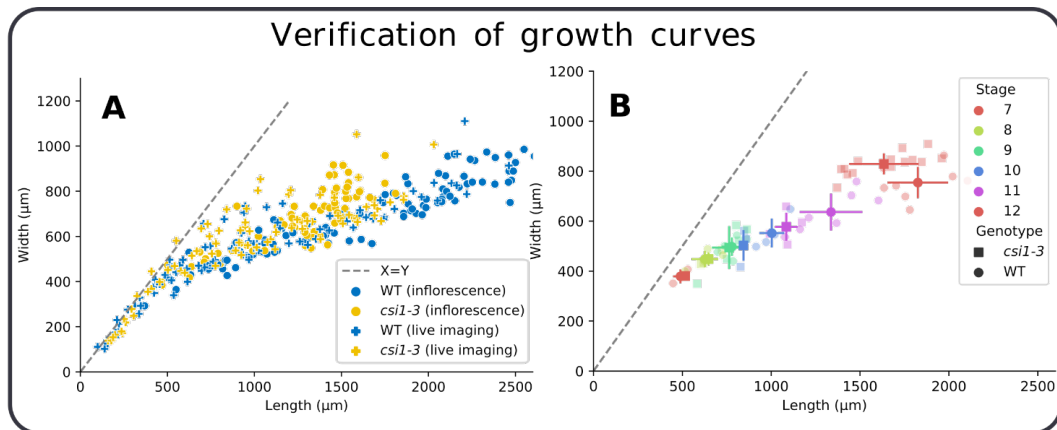
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F. Top view of representative time series, with cellular growth rate color-coded. Growth was calculated as the ratio of cell surface area between consecutive time points. The first sepals images are associated

184 with the 100-124h interval. Time between acquisitions = 24h. The initial time point of each series was
 chosen so that sepals have similar width.

186 **G.** Quantification of growth rates as a function of registered time, measured as shown in F. Time
 registration and symbols are the same as for panels B-E. (p-value of t-test between sepal medians: 0.1,
 188 0.9, 0.5, 0.2 for time intervals 76h-100h, 100h-124h, 124h-148h, 148h-172, respectively. p-value of t-
 test between all cells of the sepals: 7×10^{-31} , 2×10^{-7} , 2×10^{-14} , 1×10^{-57} for the same time intervals)

190



192 **Supplementary Figure 2:**

194 **A.** Comparison of growth trajectories between plants used for live imaging (individual flowers imaged live over a few days and grown in vitro following dissection) and culture room grown plants (static images from dissected inflorescences).

196 **B.** Comparison of developmental stage and length-width value between WT and *csiI-3* sepals. Stages used are defined in Smyth et al.⁷³ Note that width values of WT and *csiI-3* sepals at a given stage overlap more than length values, allowing us to use width to register time (panels C-F).

198 **C-F.** Growth curves from live imaging, before (C,E) and after time registration (D,F) for length (C,D) and width (E,F).

200 **G.** All heatmaps of cellular growth rates in area for all sepals (WT on the left, *csiI-3* on the right); sepals were imaged over 5 days, yielding 4 maps. Regions with a low quality signal were not segmented.

202 **H.** Growth gradients visualized for all the time points. Each line corresponds to a first degree polynomial fit between cellular growth rates and relative distance from cell to the base of the sepal. Sepal total length used here to compute the relative position was measured manually.

206

To understand the differences in final length between WT and *csiI-3* sepals, we considered sepal morphogenesis and performed live imaging of developing sepals (**Fig 2A**). As we used dissected inflorescences grown in vitro, we first checked whether our in vitro growth conditions produced similar organs compared to normally grown plants. We compared sepal length and width between inflorescences growing in the two conditions (**Fig S2A**). We found that sepal dimensions are similar throughout development showing that in vitro conditions do not affect sepal morphogenesis. In order to compare developmental trajectories between the two genotypes, WT and *csiI-3*, we developed a common temporal frame for all sepals. Because width is similar between WT and *csiI-3* sepals at a given developmental stage (stage 12 in **Fig 1F**; all stages in Fig S2B), we used width to shift the time of each live imaging sequence and put all sepals into the same time frame, further referred to as registered time (**Fig S2C-F**). The outcome is shown in **Fig 2B,D**, with a common initial time (0h) that corresponds to stage 5 of flower development.

220 We found that sepal growth can be approximately decomposed in two different phases. In the first, overall sepal growth is isotropic, with length and width increasing similarly, up to a size of about 500 μ m, corresponding to a time of about 75h in our registered time frame. Differences between WT and *csiI-3* are small in this isotropic growth phase. In the second phase, sepal growth is anisotropic and trajectories of WT and *csiI-3* appear to diverge (**Fig S2A**). We

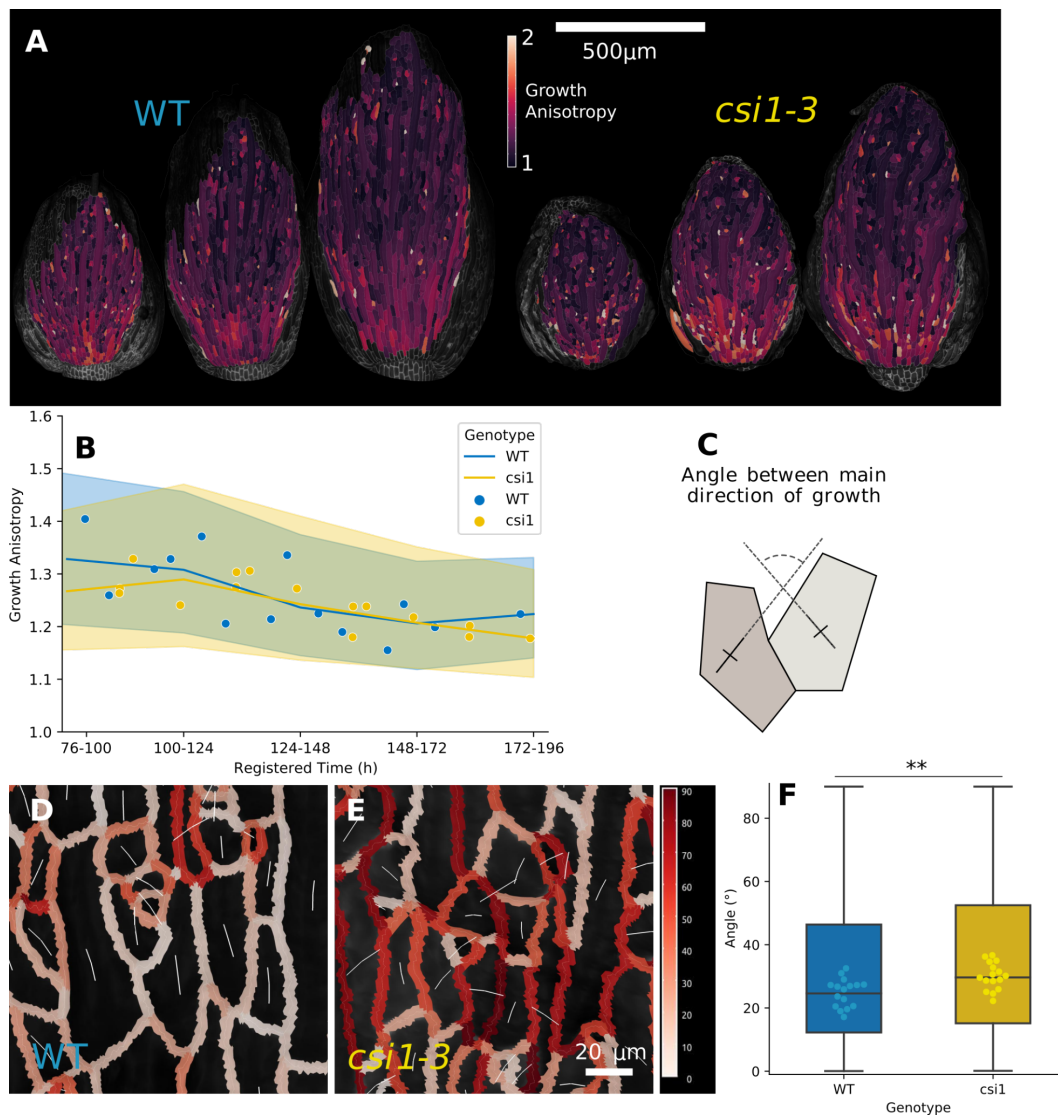
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quantified the rate of increase in dimensions of WT and *csi1-3* sepals during this second phase.

226 We found no differences concerning width except for the last time interval (**Fig 2E**). Rate of
increase in length is however smaller in *csi1-3* throughout development (**Fig 2C**) showing that
228 sepals from *csi1-3* plants are shorter because they elongate less compared to the WT all along
the second phase of sepal morphogenesis, and not because of an early arrest of growth.

230 **At cellular scale, neither growth rate nor growth anisotropy can explain differences in
sepal elongation**

232 Next, we sought to understand the cellular basis of the differences in sepal elongation rates. We
first focused on the simplest aspect of growth: cell areal growth rate. We imaged sepals in
234 dissected inflorescences with cellular resolution, segmented and tracked over time the surface
of outer epidermal cells from the times series of highest quality among those used for **Fig 2F**
236 (N=4 for WT and for *csi1-3*). We quantified cell areal growth rate as the ratio of area between
two consecutive time points (if a cell has divided, we fuse the daughter cells to compute this
238 ratio). We found cellular growth rates slightly higher in WT compared to *csi1-3* when looking
at the whole sepal, which may explain the difference in final sepal area (**Fig 2G**). We verified
240 that the possible existence of a base-to-tip growth gradient does not affect this conclusion (**Fig**
S2G,H). However, these differences in cellular growth rates cannot explain the differences in
242 the ratio of length to width observed for mature sepals. Other cellular parameters that could
explain macroscopic differences are the main direction in which cells are growing (i.e. the
244 direction of maximal growth), and how much they grow in this direction compared to the
perpendicular direction (i.e. the direction of minimal growth), which is known as cell growth
246 anisotropy.



248 **Figure 3: Growth anisotropy is similar between *csi1* and WT, but spatial consistency of growth**
direction is affected in *csi1*

250 **A.** Representative time series, with cellular growth anisotropy color coded. Growth anisotropy was
 252 quantified on the basis of relative displacements of three-way wall junctions — a value of 1 means that
 growth is isotropic and the highest values of anisotropy are above 2 (the color scale was capped to 2 to
 avoid saturation).

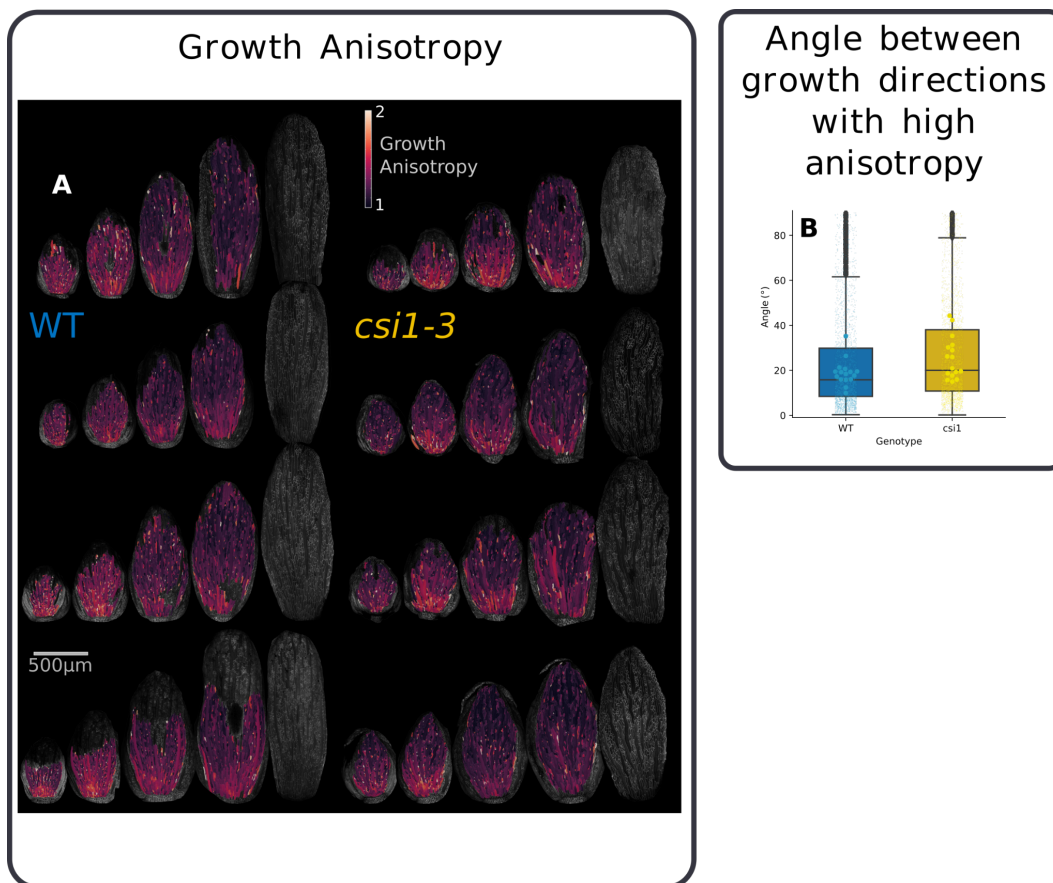
254 **B.** Quantification of cellular growth anisotropy as a function of registered time, corresponding to all
 times series as in A. WT is in blue and *csi1-3* in yellow. The lines correspond to median, the shading to
 256 the interquartile range, and the points to average values for individual sepals (four series for each
 genotype). (p-value of t-test between sepal medians: 0.2, 0.7, 0.9, 0.7 for time intervals 76h-100h, 100h-
 258 124h, 124h-148h, 148h-172, respectively. p-value of t-test between all cells of the sepals: 8×10^{-4} , 0.23,
 0.08, 0.02 for the same time intervals)

260 **C.** Schematic drawing explaining the quantification of spatial consistency of main growth direction
 shown in panels D and E. The angle is measured between the 3D vectors corresponding to the main
 262 growth directions of each pair of neighboring cells.

264 **D,E.** Representative images of main growth direction (white lines, with line length proportional to cell growth anisotropy) and of angle between growth directions of pairs of neighboring cells visualized by the color of their common anticlinal wall (the red colorbar spans angles from 0 to 90°).

266 **F.** Boxplots of the angle between main growth directions in neighboring cells. Box plots were constructed using all pairs of neighboring cells. Points represent the median angles for individual sepals. (Total number of pairs of cells analyzed = 30972, and 27853 for WT, *csi1-3*, respectively. p-value of t-test between every pair of cells = 10^{-88} . p-value of t-test between the median values for individual sepals = 0.002).

272



274 **Supplementary Figure 3**

276 **A.** Heatmaps of cellular growth anisotropy for all the examined sepals (WT on the left, *csi1-3* on the right); sepals were imaged over 5 days, yielding 4 maps. Zones with a low quality signal were not segmented.

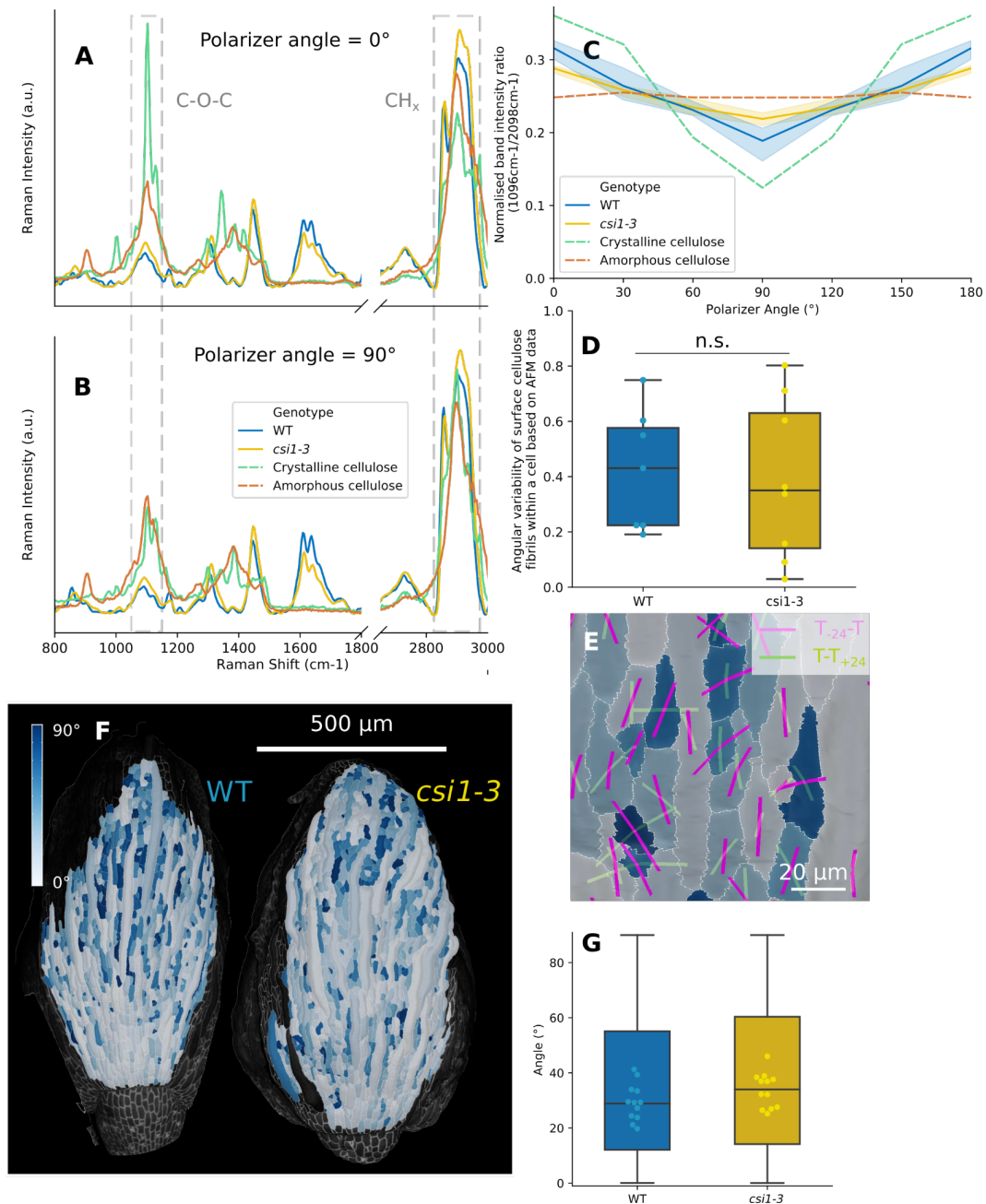
278 **B.** Angle between main growth directions in neighboring cells with anisotropy of at least 1.4. Large dots represent the median angle for a given sepal. Small points represent individual values between pairs of cells. Box plots were constructed using all the pairs of cells. (Total number of pairs of cells analyzed = 2583, and 2285 for WT, *csi1-3*, respectively. p-value of t-test between the median values for cell pairs = 10^{-11} . p-value of t-test between the median values for sepals = 0.03).

284 Using the same live imaging data, we quantified cell growth anisotropy (**Fig 3A**). We found no
differences between WT and *csi1-3* (**Fig 3B**). This was unexpected considering that at organ
286 scale sepals grow less anisotropically in *csi1-3* than in WT. In order to find the cause of organ
scale differences, we then considered a remaining cellular parameter, the main direction of cell
288 growth.

Spatial consistency of growth direction is lower in *csi1*

290 We assessed spatial consistency by measuring the angle between the directions of maximal
growth of all pairs of neighboring cells (**Fig 3C,D,E**). If the angle is small, it means that the
292 two cells grow in a similar direction. In order to assess the meaning of these values, we
computed a theoretical maximum for this angle. When we assigned random orientations to cell
294 growth on a sepal mesh, we found a median of 45° for the angle between growth directions of
two cells. In live imaging data, we found that the median angle between the main growth
296 directions of cells in *csi1-3* is higher compared to WT, 30° and 25°, respectively (**Fig 3F**). These
values are smaller than 45°, which means that there is some level of spatial consistency in the
298 two genotypes, but with higher consistency for WT. Because the definition of cell growth direction is not meaningful in the case of cells with nearly
isotropic growth, we also computed the same metrics for cells with a growth anisotropy higher
300 than a threshold of 1.4 and ended up with the same conclusion (**Fig S3A**). These results show
302 that CSII plays a role in the consistency of growth direction. Cells growing in less consistent
directions in *csi1-3*, compared to WT, may explain reduced elongation of *csi1-3* sepals.

304 An outstanding discrepancy is that cellulose appears more aligned in *csi1-3* than in wild-type
in AFM maps, whereas anisotropy of cell growth is unaffected. A possible explanation could
306 be that AFM topography only detects the most recently deposited layer of cellulose microfibrils,
while all the layers of the cell wall play a role in the control of growth anisotropy. We therefore
308 assessed cellulose alignment over the entire thickness of the cell wall using Raman
microspectroscopy.



310

Figure 4: Cellulose is less aligned at micrometric scale in *csil* compared to WT, and growth direction is slightly less persistent in *csil*

312

A-B. Representative Raman spectra of cell walls from WT and *csil-3* sepals and purified extract of crystalline and amorphous cellulose collected at different polarization angles (here 0° is shown in panel A and 90° in panel B). Spectrum fragments include two cellulose-specific bands centered at 1096cm-1 (related to C-O-C linkage), and at 2898cm-1 (CH_x, x=1,2 linkages)

314

316

C. Overall cellulose alignment in the outer epidermal cell walls assessed by ratio of integrated intensity changes from cellulose-specific bands accompanying polarizer angle changes in the 0-180° range. Analysis of WT and *csil* was compared with two reference samples: crystalline and amorphous cellulose. Each ratio value was normalized by the sum of all ratios for the sample to better illustrate the relative changes between samples. The values from 120° to 180° have been duplicated from the 0° to

320

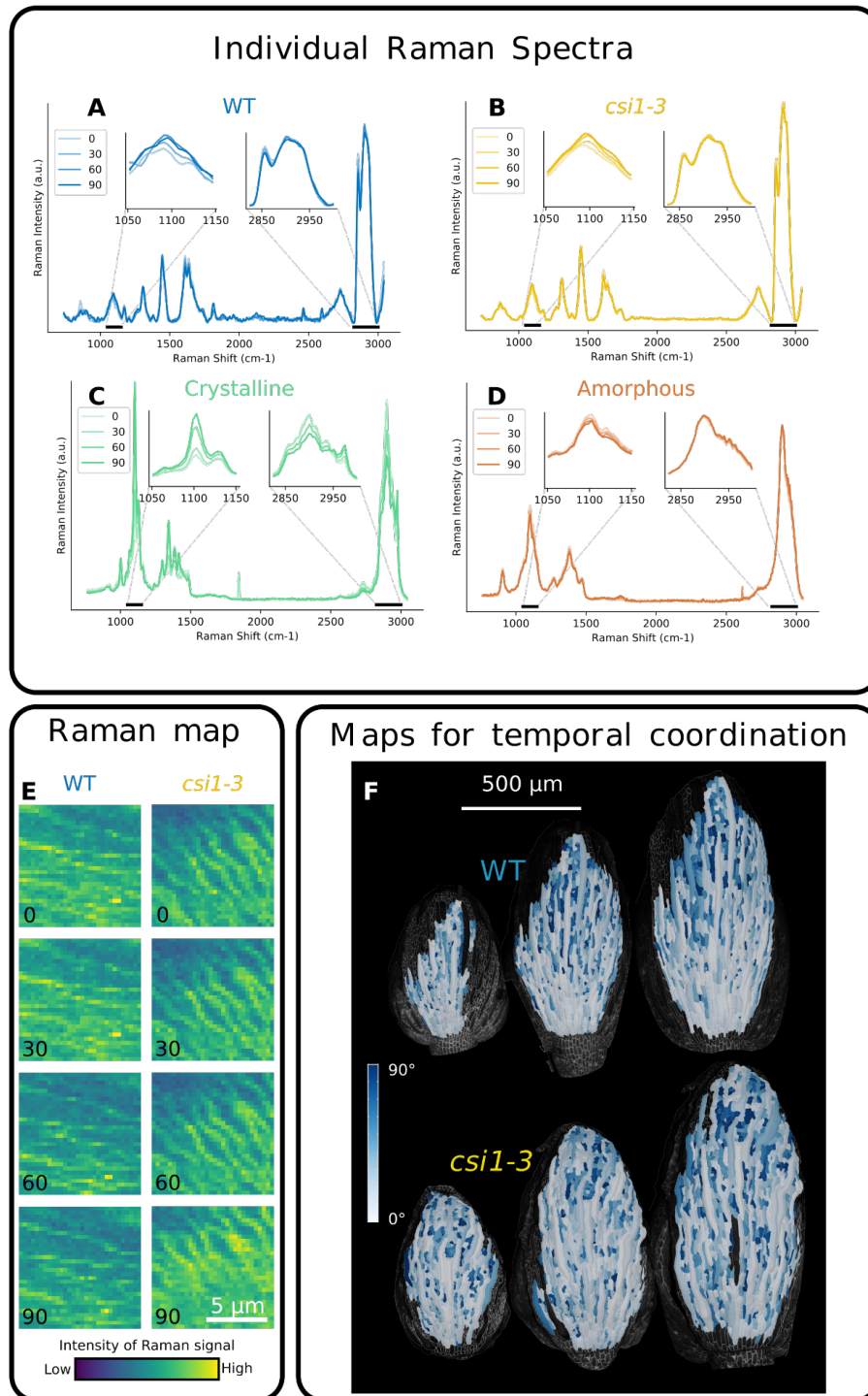
322 60° values to show periodicity. The lines correspond to median, the shading to the interquartile range
for sepals. (Total number of sepals analyzed = 4 for WT and *csi1-3*. p-values of t-test for each angle
324 between WT and *csi1-3* = 0.02, 0.70, 0.69, 0.09 for angles 0°, 30°, 60° and 90°, respectively).

D. Angular variability within a cell of the main cellulose microfibrils orientation on the wall surface
326 facing the protoplast, computed on the basis of AFM maps. Angular variability is defined as the circular
variance and is therefore bounded between 0 and 1. (Total number of sepals analyzed = 7 and 8, for WT
328 and *csi1-3*, respectively. p-value of t-test between angular variability = 0.78).

E. Illustration of the quantification shown in F & G. Main growth directions of the cells are represented
330 by magenta and green lines, corresponding to growth direction computed with the previous time point,
and with the following, respectively. Cells are colored depending on the angle between growth directions
332 at consecutive time intervals. Colorbar is the same as in F.

F. Representative maps with cell color coded depending on the angle between growth directions at
334 consecutive time intervals.

G. Angle between growth directions at consecutive time intervals. Points represent the median angle for
336 a given sepal. Box plots were constructed using all cells. (Total number of cells analyzed = 7533, and
7025 for WT, *csi1-3*, respectively. p-value of t-test between every cell = 10^{-14} . p-value of t-test between
338 the median values for sepals = 0.1).



340 **Supplementary Figure 4:**

342 **A-D.** Examples of Raman spectra obtained for WT, *csi1-3*, crystalline cellulose and amorphous cellulose
344 at different polarization angles. Insets represent a zoom around the bands centered at 1096cm⁻¹ and
2898cm⁻¹, which were considered for the main figure analysis. Differences in color intensity correspond
to the different angular positions of the polarizer.

346 **E.** Examples of Raman maps prepared on the basis of the integrated intensity over a C-O-C band at 1096cm^{-1} ($10\mu\text{m}\times 10\mu\text{m}$) of WT and *csiI-3* outer wall of epidermis. Numbers at the lower left corner indicate the angle of the polarizer.

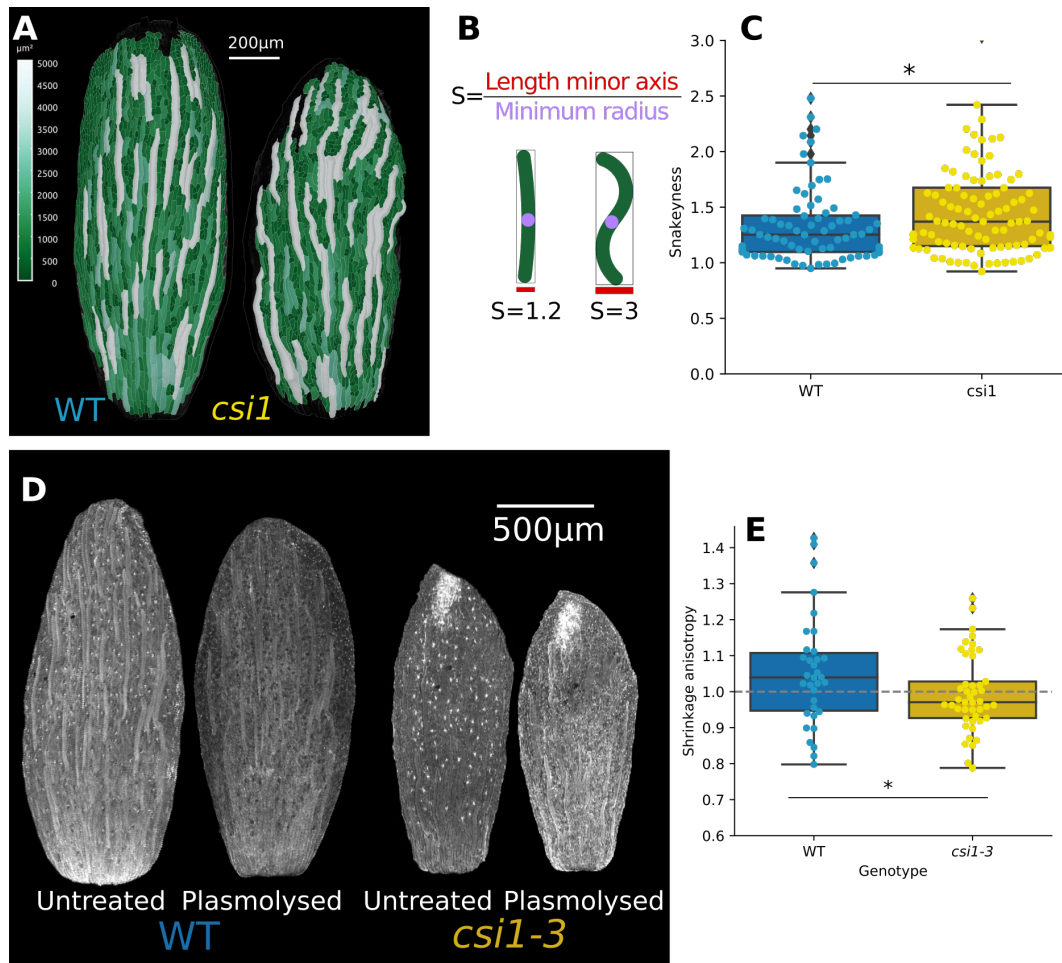
348 **F.** Maps of the angle between growth directions at consecutive times.

350 **Cellulose is less aligned at micrometric scale in *csiI* compared to WT**

352 Polarized Raman microspectroscopy is an imaging mode that provides spatial information on the molecular structure of the cell wall, including crystallinity and, thanks to light polarization, main orientation of the functional groups of cell wall polymers^{29,30}. Cellulose that forms microfibrils is an example of such polarization-sensitive polymer. Thus, to assess the arrangement of cellulose, we compared the Raman spectra of outer cell walls of *csiI-3* and WT sepal epidermis to two reference samples composed of pure crystalline cellulose or pure amorphous cellulose (**Fig 4A,B S4A,B,C,D**). We considered the integrated intensity ratio of two spectral bands: one centered at 1096cm^{-1} that is related to C-O-C linkages, and the other focused at 2898cm^{-1} , related to C-H and H-C-H linkages. If cellulose microfibrils are aligned, the signal intensity of these two bands is anticorrelated (one is maximal while the other is minimal, at the same polarizer angle)³¹. First, we found that for the crystalline cellulose the signal intensity ratio changes dramatically when the polarizer angle changes, as expected for a highly organized material, depicting a strongly anisotropic cellulose arrangement (**Fig S4A**). We defined the 0° polarizer angle as that for which the signal of 1096cm^{-1} band attains a maximum value, and 90° as an angle of the minimal signal (**Fig 4A,B, S4A,B,C,D**). Also as expected, amorphous cellulose presented no obvious maximum, but rather a constant signal intensity independent of the polarizer angle, indicating an isotropic material (**Fig 4C, S4D**). In both WT and *csiI-3* changes in the signal ratio lie between the reference samples indicating an intermediate anisotropy of cellulose microfibrils arrangement (**Fig 4C**). Furthermore, *csiI-3* cell wall is more similar to amorphous cellulose than WT cell wall (**Fig 4C**). This indicates that, at micrometric scale, the arrangement of cellulose is less anisotropic in *csiI-3* sepals. Considering that microfibrils arrangement in recently deposited wall layers in *csiI-3* is more anisotropic than in WT, we interpreted the Raman results as an indication that either microfibrils orientation varies more along the cell wall or across cell wall thickness in the mutant. To test this hypothesis, we looked at variation along the surface of the cell wall in our AFM data. For cells that had several regions that were imaged with high cellulose microfibrils alignment, we measured the main microfibrils orientation on each map and quantified the

circular variance associated with each cell (**Fig 4D**). We found no significant differences
380 between WT and *csi1-3*, favoring the hypothesis that the differences observed between the
AFM and the Raman results come from variability of cellulose microfibrils orientation across
382 the thickness of the wall. If microfibrils orientation across the cell wall layer kept changing in
csi1, we would expect cell growth to be less persistent over time (cells can not maintain growth
384 direction over a long period of time).

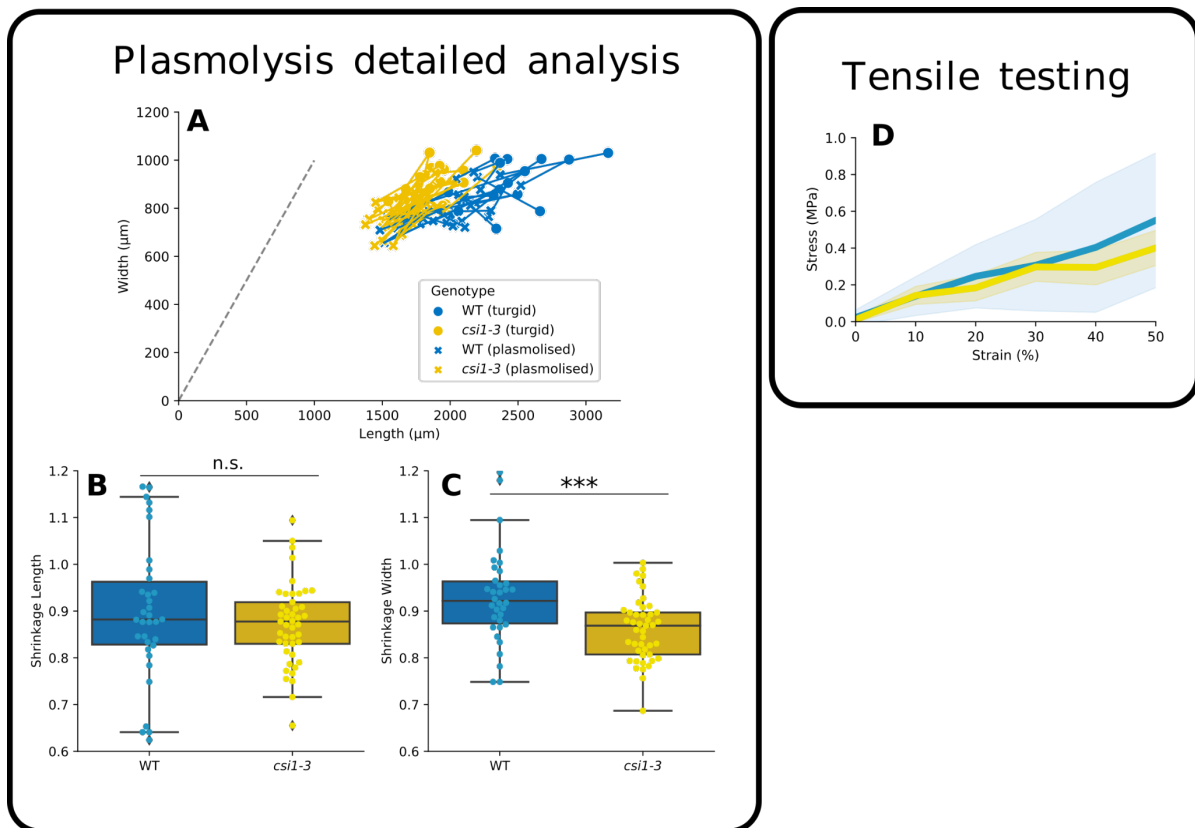
386 Cell capacity to maintain a growth direction over extended periods of time likely depends on
how long they are able to keep a consistent reinforcement of their cell walls (dependent on
388 orientation of cellulose microfibrils). To quantify persistence of growth directions, we projected
cell growth directions at consecutive time intervals (computed from 3 consecutive segmented
390 images) on the image corresponding to the intermediate image, and quantified the angle
between the two vectors corresponding to the main growth direction (**Fig 4E,F,G, S4F**). We
392 found temporal variations of growth direction to be slightly higher in *csi1-3* compared to WT,
with medians of 34° and 29°, respectively (see p-values in figure legend). Altogether, we
394 concluded that CSI1 is required for temporal persistence and spatial consistency of growth
direction. We further tested this conclusion by examining its potential consequences on cell
396 arrangements and tissue mechanics in fully grown sepals.



398

Figure 5: In *csil*, giant cells are snakey and sepal mechanical anisotropy is reduced

- 400 **A.** Representative confocal images of cells of WT and *csil-3* mature sepal. Cell area is color coded.
- B.** Illustration of the quantification of snake-y-ness.
- 402 **C.** Box plot of the quantification of cell snakeyness (Total number of cells analyzed = 75 from 4 WT sepals, 101 from 5 *csil-3* sepals, p-value of t-test = 0.04)
- 404 **D.** Representative front view of sepals before and after plasmolysis in 0.4M NaCl for 1h.
- E.** Box plot of anisotropy of sepal shrinkage upon osmotic treatment. Points represent individual sepals
- 406 (n = 34 for WT, 45 for *csil-3* , p value of t-test = 0.04).



408

Supplementary Figure 5:

410 **A.** Representation of shrinkage in length/width coordinates. Circles correspond to sepals before osmotic
treatment, crosses to after treatment. Points for each sepal are linked by a line.

412 **B,C.** Quantification of sepal shrinkage upon osmotic treatment for length and width, respectively (p
values of t-test = 0.3 and 5×10^{-4}); the vertical axis indicates the ratio of dimension (length or width) after
414 treatment to before treatment.

D. Stress vs. strain for sepals stretched by extensometry. WT is in blue and *csi1-3* in yellow; the lines
416 correspond to median and the shading to the interquartile range (N=8 sepals for WT and *csi1-3*).

418

Reduced spatial consistency in *csi1* is associated with snakey giant cells and reduced 420 mechanical anisotropy at organ level

422 At the scale of a few cells, we expected that mechanical conflicts generated by reduced spatial
consistency (differences in growth direction between neighboring cells) in *csi1-3* affects cell
424 shapes, as cells in a tissue are tightly connected through their cell walls. To test this prediction,
we used a confocal microscope to image the cells of mature (fully grown) sepals in WT and
426 *csi1-3* (**Fig 5A**). The most striking phenotype is observed for giant cells that are approximately
straight in WT and snakey in *csi1-3*. To quantify “snakeyness” we computed the ratio between

428 the small side of the rectangle that wraps the cell and the radius of the cell (**Fig 5B**). Cells that
are straight will present similar values for these two parameters while snakey cells will have
430 the small side of the rectangle bigger than cell radius. We found that giant cells from *csi1-3*
sepals were indeed more snakey compared to WT (**Fig 5C**). Both the absence of spatial
432 consistency and the lack of temporal persistence could explain this phenotype. Because cells
are growing in more variable directions with respect to each other in *csi1-3*, cells on one side
434 of a giant cell could grow perpendicularly to the axis of the giant cell while cells on the other
side could grow parallel to this axis, leading to the snakey phenotype.

436 At macroscopic scale, we expected that reduced spatial consistency and temporal persistence
in *csi1-3* yields less consistent orientation of cellulose microfibrils along mature sepal than in
438 WT and thus decreases the mechanical anisotropy of the whole sepal. To quantify sepal
mechanical anisotropy, we assessed shrinkage of the whole sepal upon osmotic treatment²⁵ and
440 determined sepal shape parameters with our imaging pipeline (**Fig 5D**). We measured shrinkage
on a length-width axis and shrinkage anisotropy defined as the ratio of shrinkage in length to
442 shrinkage in width (**Fig S5A,B,C**). We found significant differences in the shrinkage in width
(**Fig S5C**) but no differences in the shrinkage in length (**Fig S5B**). We performed independent
444 measurements of the mechanical properties in length via tensile testing³², which agreed with
the results of osmotic treatments for the same magnitudes of strain (**Fig S5D**). Consequently,
446 *csi1-3* shrinks less anisotropically than WT (**Fig 5E**), in agreement with expectations.

448

Discussion

450 We investigated the link between sepal morphogenesis and the guidance of cellulose synthases
by microtubules using the *csi1* mutant. We found that, despite increased anisotropic
452 arrangement of recently deposited cellulose microfibrils, sepals are less elongated in the *csi1*
mutant. This could not be ascribed to cell growth anisotropy which is comparable between *csi1*
454 and wild-type (WT). However, we found that growth directions in *csi1* cells are temporally
slightly less persistent and spatially less consistent than in WT. This lack of consistency in *csi1*
456 explains shorter sepals and leads to snakey cells and to mechanically less anisotropic organs.

458 While cellulose microfibrils in *csi1* hypocotyls appear highly aligned³³, we observed that they
were not as strongly aligned in *csi1* sepals (Figure 1). In the absence of guidance by cortical
460 microtubules, cellulose synthases (CESA) were observed to either follow previous microfibrils
or to move along a straight line^{24,34}. The relative weight of these modes of CESA motion may

462 depend on the organ, potentially explaining differences in the *csiI* phenotype between
hypocotyl and sepal, possibly due to different proteomes between the two types of organs³⁵. In
464 addition, other matrix polysaccharides are also likely involved in guidance of CESA³⁶⁻³⁸.

466 Here, we found that guidance of CESA by microtubules does not influence the degree of growth
anisotropy but rather growth direction. Disruption of guidance increased spatial and temporal
468 variations of growth direction. As proposed in²⁴, synthesis along previous fibrils could provide
memory of the wall state and help resisting perturbations by forming a template for when
470 cellulose synthesis starts again^{18,39,40}, whereas guidance by microtubules provides the control
needed for morphogenetic events⁴¹ or to keep track of an organ level direction. Similar ideas
472 might extend to extracellular matrix in animals, with regimes in which direction of matrix
synthesis is steady⁴², and regimes associated with morphogenetic events^{43,44}.

474
How cells in a tissue all align in the same direction has been partly elucidated in animals. Cell
476 polarity may be oriented by an instructive signal formed by a large-scale gradient or by polarity
of neighboring cells via surface proteins^{45,46}. Similar ideas have been proposed for plants^{45,47},
478 in which the coupling between polarities of neighboring cells would involve a large set of
actors⁴⁸. Although CSII could have other functions than guidance, our work suggests that CSII
480 contributes to growth coordination by translating cell polarity into growth direction, through
CESA guidance by microtubules. Whereas we did not observe any twisting phenotype in sepal,
482 *csiI* mutation leads to twisting of other organs such as the leaf^{49,50}, hypocotyl or shoot⁵¹. Instead,
csiI sepal featured snakey cells. Interestingly, *Drosophila* mutant oocytes with deficient
484 polarity also show snakey cell files⁵². Organ twisting and cell snakyness could be interpreted
as impaired orientation by large-scale instructive signals.

486
Plant hormones are good candidates for such organ-level signals. In particular, auxin presents
488 gradients and its movement is polarly facilitated by PIN proteins⁵³, notably in lateral organs
such as the leaf⁵⁴. PIN1 polarity is coupled with microtubule orientation⁵⁵, supporting a
490 potential role for auxin in orienting cell growth direction. Indeed, sepals with affected auxin
polarity displayed reduced length⁵⁶, although it is unclear whether this involves lack of
492 consistency of growth direction. Mechanical stress is another potential organ-level instructive
signal, and studies in animals suggest that it may orient cell polarity^{57,58}. In plants, microtubules
494 align with maximal stress direction^{59,60}, which explains the transverse orientations of
microtubules seen in sepal⁶¹.

496

Here, we propose that the main role in organ morphogenesis of guidance of CESA by
498 microtubules is to enable growth direction to follow large scale signals. Interestingly, chemical
perturbation of the consistency of cortical microtubules orientation in the root reduces overall
500 organ elongation⁶². We extend these results by describing consistency of cell growth direction
and pinpoint the role of CSI1 in consistency. It would be worthwhile to examine whether similar
502 ideas apply to elongation of animal organs. For instance, cell division is oriented during limb
bud elongation in the mouse⁶³, but the spatial consistency of divisions has not been assessed.
504 Altogether, our work illustrates the potential in deciphering the basis of the robustness of
morphogenesis by assessing spatial and temporal variability of growth and of its regulators,
506 from subcellular to organ scale.

508

Acknowledgements

510 We acknowledge the contribution of SFR Biosciences (UAR3444/CNRS, US8/Inserm, ENS de
Lyon, UCBL) imaging facility, PLATIM / Lymic. We acknowledge A. Lacroix, J. Berger, P.
512 Bolland, H. Leyral and I. Desbouchages for assistance with plant growth and logistics. We
thank Mathilde Dumond and Justine Chabredier for the initial exploration of the *csi1* phenotype.
514 We thank Olivier Hamant, Adrienne Roeder, and Christophe Tréhin for fruitful discussions and
suggestions. We thank Yoshiharu Nishiyama for the generous gift of reference cellulose
516 samples. This work was funded by the French National Research Agency (ANR, grant ANR-
17-CAPS-0002-01 V-Morph, to AB and OH) the National Science Centre, Poland (NCN, grant
518 2017/24/Z/NZ3/00548, to DK), and the German Research Foundation (DFG, grant 355722357,
to RS) through a European ERA-NET Coordinating Action in Plant Sciences (ERA-CAPS)
520 grant. This work was also directly funded by the French National Research Agency (ANR,
grant ANR-17-CE20-0023-02 WALLMIME, to AB) and by the National Science Centre,
522 Poland (SHENG1 grant 2018/30/Q/00189, to DBW).

524

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526 Conceptualization: CM, FM, DK, AB
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528 Software: CM, JS, RS, DK
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530 Formal Analysis: CM, JS, MM, MD, AF, RS, DK
Investigation: CM, JS, DBW, MM, MD, RW, DK
532 Data Curation: CM, JS, DBW, MM, MD, DK
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534 Writing - Review & Editing: CM, JS, MD, RS, FM, DK, AB
Visualization: CM
536 Supervision: RS, FM, DK, AB
Project Administration: RS, DK, AB
538 Funding Acquisition: RS, DK, AB

Materials and methods

540 Experimental model and subject details

Arabidopsis thaliana plant lines used for live imaging and analysis of mature sepal cell shape
542 were pAR169 (ATML1p::mCitrine-RCI2A,²⁷) and *csi1-3* x pAR169. In all other cases the
plants used were Col-0, *csi1-3* (SALK_138584,⁶⁴), *csi1-6* (SALK_115451,⁶⁴). All lines had a
544 Col-0 background. Plants were grown on soil at 22°C in culture rooms with long day conditions
(16 h light/8 h darkness). For in vivo imaging, inflorescences were cut off from the plants,
546 dissected up to the desired bud (all buds used in this study were comprised between the 10th
and 20th organ initiated along the inflorescence²⁵) and grown into apex culture medium plates⁶⁵
548 supplemented by 0.1% V/V plant preservative mixture (PPM; Plant Cell Tech). Plates were
then stored in growth cabinets with the same lighting/temperature conditions as in culture
550 rooms.

552 Methods Details

554 *Confocal imaging and analysis*

Whole sepal images were collected using a LSM700 confocal microscope (Zeiss, Germany)
556 equipped with a 5x air objective (NA = 0.25). Propidium iodide (PI) was excited using a 555
nm laser and the emitted light filtered through a 560-630 band pass filter.
558 Live-imaging images were collected using a SP8 confocal microscope (Leica Microsystems,
Germany) equipped with a 25× long-distance water objective (NA = 0.95). mCitrine was
560 excited using a 514 nm laser and the emitted light filtered through a 520-550nm band pass filter.

562 Samples used for whole sepal measurements were stained in PI at 100 μ M final concentration in water for 15 minutes prior to imaging. Sepals used for osmotic treatments were then plasmolysed for 1h in 0.4M NaCl solution supplemented with PI at 100 μ M.

564 Whole sepal measurements were performed following⁶⁶. Quantification of macroscopic growth rates was done by measuring manually sepal curved length and width using oriented images in
566 ImageJ.

Live imaging data was analyzed using MorphoGraphX⁶⁷, which included segmentation, lineage tracking and computation of the cell areas and principal direction of growth. Principal growth
568 directions of each cell were computed based on the relative displacement of three-way cell junctions between consecutive imaging time points. Growth anisotropy was then calculated as
570 the ratio between magnitudes associated with the maximum and minimum principal directions of growth.
572

574 *Atomic Force Microscopy (AFM) and quantification of cellulose microfibrils arrangement on protoplast-facing wall surface*

576 Samples of recently formed cell wall surface (i.e. the protoplast-facing surface) were prepared for AFM measurements using a modified protocol of Wuyts et al.⁶⁸ Briefly, the sepals were
578 plasmolysed in 0.4 M NaCl for 10 min and fixed in 70% ethanol (first kept under vacuum for 1 h at room temperature, next fixed for at least 24 h at 4°C). Afterwards they were treated with
580 absolute chloroform for 10 min (to remove membranes and cuticle), rehydrated in decreasing ethanol series (70%, 50%, 30%) followed by deionized water (5 min in each medium), placed
582 in protoplast lysis buffer of sodium dodecyl sulfate and sodium hydroxide (1% SDS in 0.2M NaOH) for 3 h, treated with 0.01% α -amylase (Sigma-Aldrich; from *Bacillus licheniformis*) in
584 PBS (Phosphate Buffered Saline) (pH 7.0) in 37°C overnight (to remove residual starch), moved to over-saturated water solution of chloral hydrate (200 g / 50 ml) for 4 h (to remove
586 protoplast remnants), and rinsed in water (3 x 15 min). Superficial cell walls of the abaxial epidermis were then gently peeled off from the sepal and placed on the glass slide such that the
588 protoplast facing wall surface was exposed. In order to better visualize the cellulose microfibrils in some samples, pectins were removed by treatment with 2% pectinase (Serva, Heidelberg,
590 FRG; from *Aspergillus niger*) in sodium-phosphate buffer (pH 5.7) at room temperature for 30 min, or the buffer alone. The samples were then rinsed in water and dried at room temperature,
592 during which the wall became attached to the glass slide by adhesion.

Atomic Force Microscopy (AFM) measurements were performed with a NanoWizard®3
594 BioScience (JPK Instruments, Berlin, Germany) operating in intermittent contact mode, using

HQ:NSC15 rectangular Si cantilevers (MicroMasch, Estonia) with spring constant specified as
596 40 N/m, cantilever resonant frequency of about 325 kHz, and tip radius 8 nm. All scans were
conducted in air in laboratory conditions (22°C, constant humidity of 45%). Images were
598 obtained using the JPK Data Processing software (JPK Instruments).

Anisotropy of cellulose microfibrils arrangement was assessed for square regions (400 nm x
600 400 nm) with distinct microfibrils chosen from measured height images of 2 µm x 2 µm AFM
scans (2-4 regions per scan). Histogram of microfibrils orientation was obtained for each region
602 using Directionality tool (<https://imagej.github.io/plugins/directionality>) of Fiji (Fourier
components method). In the Directionality tool, alignment is assessed for a single curve fitted
604 to the highest peak while in most cell wall regions the distribution of microfibrils orientation
was multimodal. Thus, we developed a bespoke protocol written in Matlab (Mathworks,
606 Natick, MA, USA) to quantify microfibrils arrangement using the following steps: (i) smooth
the histogram by a moving average; (ii) obtain a series of least square approximations of the
608 histogram by a sum of an increasing number of Gaussian models (up to 8); (iii) choose the
approximation with the lowest number of Gaussians with adjusted $R^2 > 0.94$; (iv) exclude
610 Gaussians with half-width bigger than 180°; (v) concatenate Gaussians with peaks separated by
less than 10°; (vi) exclude Gaussians with height smaller than ¼ of the highest peak; (vii)
612 compute the alignment index as the maximal angular distance between the remaining Gaussian
peaks.

614 We examined both giant and non-giant epidermal cells of sepals (5 sepals in WT; 6 in *csil-3*)
from stage 12 flowers. In WT we obtained 16 AFM maps from 9 cells, in *csil-3* - 32 maps from
616 14 cells.

Angular variability was computed on cells on which at least three AFM regions with alignment
618 index greater than 140° were obtained. Angles were periodised and circular variability was
measured using the asotropy package^{69,70}.

620

Raman spectroscopy

622 Sample preparation for Raman microspectroscopy followed the AFM protocol up to the
treatment with chloral hydrate and rinsing in water⁶⁸. Such prepared sepals were put on glass
624 slides (1 mm thick), immersed in pure deionized water to preserve environmental conditions,
and covered by CaF₂ 0.15-0.18 mm thick coverslips (CAMS1602, Laser Optex).

626 Raman data were collected using WITec confocal Raman microscope CRM alpha 300R,
equipped with an air-cooled solid-state laser ($\lambda = 532$ nm), an thermoelectrically cooled CCD
628 camera, and Zeiss C-Apochromat (100x/1.25 NA) water immersion objective. The excitation

630 laser radiation was coupled to the microscope through a single-mode optical fiber (50 μm
diameter). Raman scattered light was focused onto a multi-mode fiber (50 μm diameter) and
monochromator with a 600 line mm^{-1} grating. The spectrometer monochromator was calibrated
632 using the emission of a Ne lamp, while the signal of a silicon plate (520.7 cm^{-1}) was used for
checking beam alignment.

634 Surface Raman imaging was applied to differentiate the signal of the cuticular ridges and cell
wall. Data were collected in a central fragment of the cell in a 10 $\mu\text{m} \times 10 \mu\text{m}$ area using 30 \times
636 30 pixels (=900 spectra) and an integration time of 40 ms per spectrum. The precision of the
horizontal movement of the sample during measurements was $\pm 0.2 \mu\text{m}$. The lateral resolution
638 (LR) was estimated according to the Rayleigh criterion $\text{LR} = 0.61\lambda/\text{NA}$ as $\text{LR} = 427 \text{ nm}$. All
spectra obtained during Raman imaging were collected in the 120 - 4000 cm^{-1} range with a
640 resolution of 3 cm^{-1} and at 30 mW on the sample.

The output data were processed by performing a baseline correction using an autopolynomial
642 function of degree 3, submitted to an automatic cosmic rays removal procedure by comparing
each pixel (i.e. each CCD count value at each wavenumber) to its adjacent pixels and finally
644 smoothed by Savitzky–Golay filter. Chemical images were generated using cluster analysis
(CA). *K*-means approach with the Manhattan distance for all Raman imaging maps was carried
646 out to distinguish signal of cuticular ridges and cell wall. Every spectrum obtained from the
clustering analysis was normalized by dividing by its total area using WITec Project Five Plus
648 software. The procedure was repeated for ten non-giant pavement cells located in the basal half
of different sepals.

650 Every time data were gathered for 13 consecutive orientations of the polarization plane (the
angular range 0-180°), each rotated by 15°. From such obtained set of 13 averaged spectra after
652 the *K*-means cluster analysis, the spectrum with maximal signal intensity of the C-O-C band
(1096 cm^{-1}) was chosen to represent angular position 0°, while the other spectra represent angle-
654 dependent integrated intensity alteration with minimum at 90°. Once positions of the two
angular extrema were recognized, the 4 spectra (every 30° from 0° to 90°) were used for further
656 analysis. For each spectrum the spectral parameters like band position, full width at half
maximum, intensity and integrated intensity were determined by deconvolution of the spectra
658 through the peak fitting procedure facilitated by GRAMS\AI 9.2 software. For each spectrum,
the Voigt function with the minimum number of the components was used to reproduce the
660 experimentally observed band arrangement. The applied procedure allows one to separate
cellulose-specific bands, e.g. 1096 cm^{-1} (C-O-C) and 2898 cm^{-1} (CH_x, x=1,2) from non-
662 cellulose bands originating from other polysaccharides present in the cell wall. Finally, the ratio

of integrated intensity around the C-O-C and CHx bands was calculated to follow the angle-
664 dependent character of the sample and estimate the extent of cellulose microfibrils ordering.
The ratio of integrated intensity values estimated for those two regions was calculated for
666 different polarizer angles (every 30° from 0° to 90°) and normalized by the sum of the four
values.

668 Data from WT and *csil-3* mutant were compared with purified reference samples of crystalline
(*Halocynthia roretzi*) and amorphous (DMAc/LiCl) cellulose⁷¹.

670

672 *Extensometry*

Sepal extensometry and analysis was performed according to Majda et al.³²

674

676 *Quantifications and Statistical Analysis*

Analysis and statistical testing were performed with custom made python scripts. Statistical
678 testing was performed using the `scipy.stats` library⁷².

To obtain a default value of spatial consistency, we computed the median angle between
680 neighboring cells in a sepal, ascribing a random orientation to each cell. Indeed, the maximal
angle between two cells is 90°, but three neighboring cells cannot all be oriented at 90° to each
682 other. Here, we used one example of segmented sepal mesh and we replaced growth direction
with a random vector that is tangential to the surface of the epidermis because we are only
684 considering growth of the sepal outer surface. In practice, the random vector was drawn on the
plane best-fitting centroids of neighboring cells. We then applied the same pipeline used for the
686 quantification of spatial consistency of growth direction.

688 **Data and Code Availability**

All data and scripts will be made available with the final version of the article.

690

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692

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