

# In planta haploid induction by kokopelli mutants

Nathanaël Jacquier, Andrea Calhau, Yannick Fierlej, Jean-Pierre Martinant, Peter Rogowsky, Laurine Gilles, Thomas Widiez

## ▶ To cite this version:

Nathanaël Jacquier, Andrea Calhau, Yannick Fierlej, Jean-Pierre Martinant, Peter Rogowsky, et al.. In planta haploid induction by kokopelli mutants. Plant Physiology, 2023, 193 (1), pp.182-185. 10.1093/plphys/kiad328. hal-04205657

HAL Id: hal-04205657

https://hal.science/hal-04205657

Submitted on 4 Apr 2024

**HAL** is a multi-disciplinary open access archive for the deposit and dissemination of scientific research documents, whether they are published or not. The documents may come from teaching and research institutions in France or abroad, or from public or private research centers. L'archive ouverte pluridisciplinaire **HAL**, est destinée au dépôt et à la diffusion de documents scientifiques de niveau recherche, publiés ou non, émanant des établissements d'enseignement et de recherche français ou étrangers, des laboratoires publics ou privés.

# In planta haploid induction by kokopelli mutants Nathanaël M.A. Jacquier<sup>1,2</sup>, Andrea R.M. Calhau<sup>1</sup>, Yannick Fierlej<sup>1</sup>, Jean-Pierre Martinant<sup>2</sup>, Peter M. Rogowsky<sup>1</sup>, Laurine M. Gilles<sup>2</sup>, Thomas Widiez<sup>1\*</sup> <sup>1</sup> Laboratoire Reproduction et Développement des Plantes, Univ Lyon, ENS de Lyon, UCB Lyon 1, CNRS, INRAE, F-69342, Lyon, France. <sup>2</sup> Limagrain, Limagrain Field Seeds, Research Centre, F-63360 Gerzat, France. \* corresponding author: Thomas Widiez (thomas.widiez@ens-lyon.fr) Running title: kokopelli triggers haploid induction **Keywords**: plant breeding, haploid induction, doubled haploid technology, fertilization, pollen, plant reproduction, haploid embryos.

20 Dear Editors,

Double haploid (DH) technology is a powerful way to improve plant breeding efficiency (Jacquier et al., 2020). DH breeding based on *in planta* haploid induction represents the most attractive way to induce haploid plants because it leads to seed-based haploid embryo formation, without the need of labor-intensive *in vitro* embryo rescue (Jacquier et al., 2020). This strategy has recently become even more attractive since, in combination with CRISPR-Cas9 technology, it allows gene editing of non-transformable elite lines and the immediate recovery of homozygous mutants (Kelliher et al., 2019). However, the availability of *in planta* haploid induction systems is presently limited to a handful of crop species (Jacquier et al., 2020). In this work, mutation of *KOKOPELLI* (*AtKPL*) was found to be able to triggers maternal haploid induction in *Arabidopsis Thaliana*.

The identification of DOMAIN OF UNKNOWN FUNCTION 679 membrane proteins (DMP) as molecular players contributing to *in planta* haploid induction in maize (Zhong et al., 2019), allowed the successful translation of the haploid induction property to Arabidopsis (Zhong et al., 2020) and rapidly to many dicot crops such as tomato, *Brassica napus*, *Nicotiana tabacum*, *Brassica oleracea* and potato (Zhong et al., 2022a; Zhong et al., 2022b; Zhao et al., 2022; Zhang et al., 2022). In addition to producing haploid embryos, knocking-out the two orthologous *DMP* genes in *Arabidopsis* (*Atdmp8/9*) was found to lead to double fertilization defects and seed abortions (Cyprys et al., 2019; Zhong et al., 2020). More precisely, the *Arabidopsis Atdmp8/9* double mutation led to preferential single fertilization of the central cell suggesting a role in the interaction of male and female gametes (Takahashi et al., 2018; Cyprys et al., 2019).

In order to identify additional genes exploitable for in planta haploid induction, we hypothesized that other mutants impaired in gamete interactions might also induce haploid embryos. We thus searched for genes in the Arabidopsis male gametophyte that lead to single fertilization events when mutated, similarly to what had been reported for the Atdmp8/9 mutant. We selected AtKPL (KOKOPELLI, AT5G63720) gene (Ron et al., 2010; Maruyama et al., 2013) for haploid induction tests. In order to unambiguously detect maternal haploid induction, a female tester line was created that combines both a recessive phenotypic marker, i.e. absence of trichomes due to the glabra1 mutation, and an F1 hybrid genetic background between the Columbia-0 (Col-0) and Landsberg erecta (Ler) accessions (gl1 Col/gl1 Ler) (Figure 1a). Haploid inducing capacity of Atkpl mutants was evaluated by the following pipeline (Figure 1a): (1) Mutant pollens were deposited on pistils of the gl1\_Col/gl1\_Ler tester line, (2) the offspring were germinated and screened for absence of trichomes indicating a putative desired maternal haploid seedling, or an undesired self-pollination of the female tester line (contamination) (Figure 1a); (3) a first distinction between haploids and contaminations by selfing of the gl1 Col/gl1 Ler tester female parent was based on two typical haploid phenotypes: sterility (absence of silique) and smaller organs (Figure 1a-b); (4) haploidy was further assessed by flow cytometry (Figure 1a, c) and (5) confirmed genetically using 83 single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) markers distributed on all 5 Arabidopsis thaliana chromosomes.

These 83 SNPs are at a heterozygous state in the female tester line, and are thus expected to behave like homozygous markers in maternal haploid plantlets (**Figure 1a, d**).

Two independent mutant T-DNA insertion lines for AtKPL were evaluated (Atkpl-1 and Atkpl-2 in WS-4 and Ler genetic background, respectively) (Ron et al., 2010), and the Atdmp8/9 double mutant (col0 background) was used as positive control for haploid induction. Using the pipeline described above, the previously reported haploid induction capacity for Atdmp8/9 double mutant (Zhong et al., 2020) was confirmed since 9/490 plants screened were found to be haploid, i.e. a haploid induction rate (HIR) of 1.87% (Figure 1e). Interestingly, haploid induction was also observed for both Atkpl-1 and Atkpl-2, with 4 haploids among 1179 plants (HIR 0.34%) and 1 haploid among 1389 plant (HIR 0.07%), respectively (Figure 1e). Since the three tested mutants (Atdmp8/9, Atkpl-1 and Atkpl-2) were in different genetic backgrounds, three different wild-type accessions, Col-0, WS-4 and Ler, were evaluated for their HIR, and no haploid were scored out of 1840, 1738 and 1468 plants, respectively (**Figure 1e**). Thus, the HIR of atkpl-1 is statistically significant in comparison to the HIR of WS-4 wild-type plants (Kruskall-Wallis, p-value = 0.049). All plants classified as haploids passed all steps of the pipeline. The final genetic analyses for haploid plants revealed that (1) all markers were detected as at the "homozygous" state confirming the haploid status of those plants. and (2) 100% of SNPs that could be attributed to a parent came from the maternal parent (Figure **1d**). Thus, pollination using *Atkpl-1* and *Atkpl-2* mutant pollen produces true maternal haploid plants.

Altogether, these results demonstrate that inactivation of *AtKPL* triggers *in planta* maternal haploid induction and that *Atkpl* mutants could be used as haploid inducer lines. The higher HIR of *Atkpl-1* (0.34%) as compared to *Atkpl-2* (0.07%) might come from difference in allele strength, since Ron *et al.*, (2010) showed *Atkpl-1* has more severed reduced seed set as compared to *Atkpl-2*. The fact that both the *Atdmp8/9* double mutant and *Atkpl* single mutant are impaired in double fertilization, tends to support that single fertilization is an important feature for *in planta* haploid induction. Interestingly, a double mutation in the egg cell specific endopeptidase genes *Atecs1/Atecs2* leads to preferential fertilization of the central cell (Jiang et al., 2022), and is able to confer haploid induction capacity (Mao et al., 2022). Contrary to *Atdmp8/9* and *Atkpl*, *Atecs1/Atecs2* acts from the female side, and thus reinforces the hypothesis that disruption of double fertilization, and probably preferential fertilization of the central cell over the egg cell, is a prerequisite for or a sufficient trigger of haploid induction. It would be interesting to test if combinations of these mutations have additive or synergistic effects on HIR.

Although the ~0.34% HIR of *Atkpl-1* is quite low for an application in plant breeding, this may be different in other species. For example, maize *Zmdmp* mutants have a HIR of 0.15% compared to a HIR of ~2% for *dmp* mutants in dicots. In addition, the possible synergy of the *kpl* mutation with other mutations needs to be explored. Indeed, although the maize *Zmdmp* single mutant has a very low HIR (~0.15%), its combination with a mutation in *MATRILINEAL / NOT-LIKE-DAD / ZmPHOSPHOLIPASE-A1* (*MTL/NLD/ZmPLA1*) leads to a synergistic effect boosting the HIR to 3-4 times (Jacquier et al., 2020). Taken together, both the *per se* evaluation of *kokopelli* mutants in other species and the interaction of *kpl* mutation with other mutants drives the interest in this new player in

haploid induction. The identification of *AtKPL* orthologs in other species appears straight forward despite the presence of recent duplications in some species, as illustrated by the phylogenetic tree in **Figure 1f**, which depicts some crop plants only. The presence of orthologous genes in both monocotyledonous and dicotyledonous plants can be thus leveraged for setting-up or improving *in planta* haploid induction capacity in crops lacking this breeding tool.

### Legend Figure 1

#### Atkpl triggers maternal haploid plants.

(a) Workflow used to assess maternal haploid induction. Pollen from mutants to be tested were used to pollinate the *glabra* (absence of trichomes) maternal tester line, which is a F1 hybrid between Col-0 and Ler accessions. A first phenotypic screen based on absence of trichome allowed selection of putative haploid plants, which were further validated using sterility criteria, flow cytometry, and genotyping of 83 SNP markers with genome-wide distribution. (b) Representative illustration of diploid plants (left), as compared to the smaller haploid plants (right). (c) Representative ploidy verification of haploid and diploid sibling using flow cytometry for *Atkpl-1*, *Atkpl-2* and *Atdmp8/9*. The X axes depict the DNA content for nuclei (DAPI fluorescence signal), whereas the Y axis represents the number of nuclei. (d) Genotyping results to confirm haploidy and maternal origin of putative haploid plants (sterile *glabra*). m= numbers of markers for which it was possible to track unambiguously their parental origin. 1= Example of diploid plant resulted from undesired selfing of maternal tester line. na= non-applicable. (e) Haploid Induction Rate (HIR). 2= independent crosses are emasculated inflorescence (~1 to 4 siliques) pollinated with a unique male parent. \* P<0.05, Kruskall-Wallis statistical test. (f) Phylogenetic tree of KOKOPELLI proteins in selected crops.

#### Supplemental data

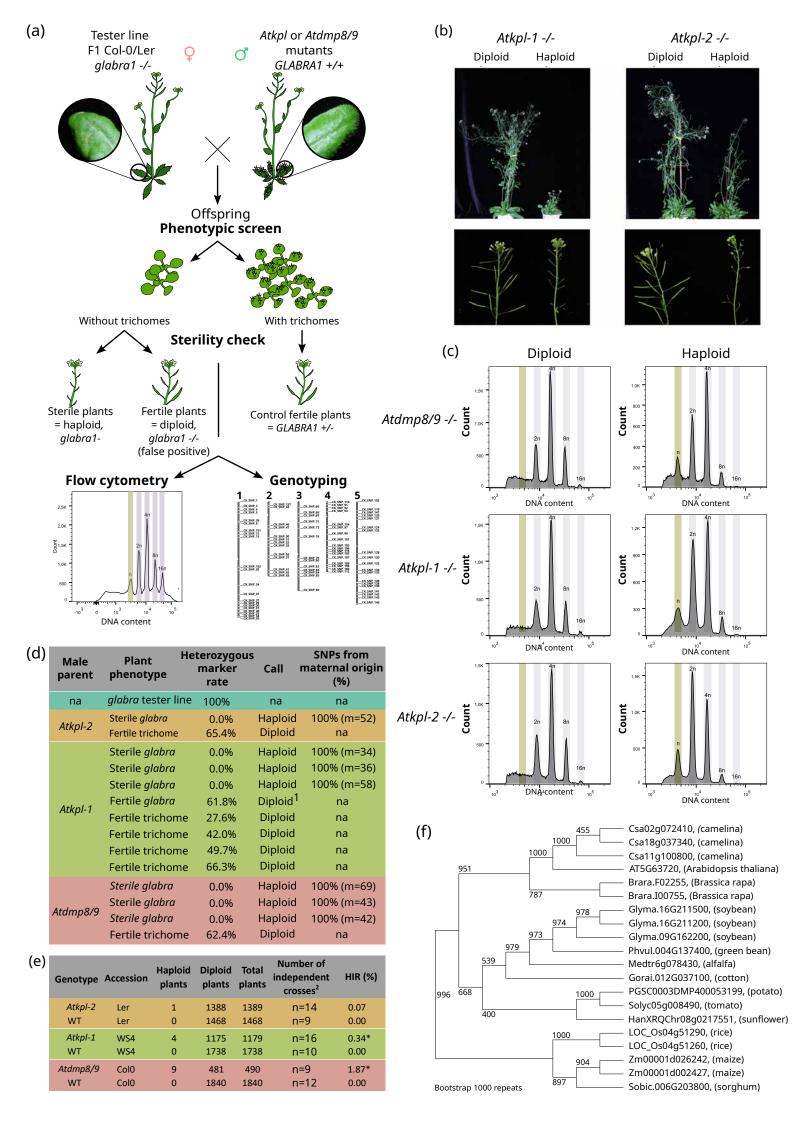
- The following materials are available in the online version of this article.
- 123 Author contributions
- 124 Supplemental Materials and Methods
- Supplemental Table S1. Sequences of the primers used in this study.
- **Supplemental Table S2**. KASP markers used in this study to detect SNPs.

#### Acknowledgements

- We thank Stefanie Sprunck for providing mutant lines (Atdmp8/9) (Cyprys et al., 2019). We are
- grateful to J. Berger, P. Bolland and A. Lacroix for plant culture and to I. Desbouchages and H.
- Leyral for buffer and media preparation. We acknowledge the contribution of SFR Biosciences
- 132 (UMS3444/CNRS, US8/Inserm, ENS de Lyon, UCBL) facilities, and in particular the help of E.
- Devevre and S. Dussurgey with flow cytometry. We acknowledged the contribution of the Molecular
- 134 Analysis Platform from Limagrain with genotyping. This research was supported by the ANR grant

"Not-Like-Dad" (ANR-19-CE20-0012,) to T.W., by the "pack ambition recherche" from the Région 135 136 Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes ("HD-INNOV") to T.W and by the « France Relance » scheme via the grant 137 ANR-21-PRRD-0097-01 to T.W. N.M.A.J. was supported by CIFRE PhD fellowships from ANRT 138 funding agency (grant # 2019/0771). 139 140 **Conflict of interest statement** 141 A patent application covering the results of this manuscript was submitted. NMAJ, LMG, and JPM 142 are employees of Limagrain Europe. TW and PR are involved in collaborative research with 143 Limagrain Europe. PR is a member of the operational directorate of the PlantAlliance consortium. 144 145 References 146 Cyprys P, Lindemeier M, Sprunck S (2019) Gamete fusion is facilitated by two sperm cell-expressed DUF679 membrane proteins. 147 Nature Plants 5: 253-257 148 Jacquier NMA, Gilles LM, Pyott DE, Martinant J-P, Rogowsky PM, Widiez T (2020) Puzzling out plant reproduction by haploid 149 induction for innovations in plant breeding. Nature Plants 1-10 150 Jiang J, Stührwohldt N, Liu T, Huang Q, Li L, Zhang L, Gu H, Fan L, Zhong S, Schaller A, et al (2022) Egg cell-secreted aspartic 151 proteases ECS1/2 promote gamete attachment to prioritize the fertilization of egg cells over central cells in Arabidopsis. J 152 Integr Plant Biol. doi: 10.1111/jipb.13371 153 Kelliher T, Starr D, Su X, Tang G, Chen Z, Carter J, Wittich PE, Dong S, Green J, Burch E, et al (2019) One-step genome editing of elite 154 crop germplasm during haploid induction. Nature Biotechnology 37: 287–292 155 Mao Y, Nakel T, Serbes IE, Tekleyohans DG, Joshi S, Baum T, Groß-Hardt R (2022) ECS1 and ECS2 regulate polyspermy and suppress 156 the formation of haploid plants by promoting double fertilization. 2022.01.20.476184 157 Maruyama D, Hamamura Y, Takeuchi H, Susaki D, Nishimaki M, Kurihara D, Kasahara RD, Higashiyama T (2013) Independent 158 Control by Each Female Gamete Prevents the Attraction of Multiple Pollen Tubes. Developmental Cell 25: 317–323 159 Ron M, Saez MA, Williams LE, Fletcher JC, McCormick S (2010) Proper regulation of a sperm-specific cis-nat-siRNA is essential for 160 double fertilization in Arabidopsis. Genes Dev 24: 1010-1021 161 Takahashi T, Mori T, Ueda K, Yamada L, Nagahara S, Higashiyama T, Sawada H, Igawa T (2018) The male gamete membrane protein 162 DMP9/DAU2 is required for double fertilization in flowering plants. Development 145: dev170076 163 Zhang J, Yin J, Luo J, Tang D, Zhu X, Wang J, Liu Z, Wang P, Zhong Y, Liu C, et al (2022) Construction of homozygous diploid potato 164 through maternal haploid induction. aBIOTECH. doi: 10.1007/s42994-022-00080-7 165 Zhao X, Yuan K, Liu Y, Zhang N, Yang L, Zhang Y, Wang Y, Ji J, Fang Z, Han F, et al (2022) In vivo maternal haploid induction based on 166 genome editing of DMP in Brassica oleracea. Plant Biotechnology Journal pbi.13934 167 Zhong Y, Chen B, Li M, Wang D, Jiao Y, Qi X, Wang M, Liu Z, Chen C, Wang Y, et al (2020) A DMP -triggered in vivo maternal haploid 168 induction system in the dicotyledonous Arabidopsis. Nat Plants 6: 466-472 169 Zhong Y, Chen B, Wang D, Zhu X, Li M, Zhang J, Chen M, Wang M, Riksen T, Liu J, et al (2022a) In vivo maternal haploid induction in 170 tomato. Plant Biotechnology Journal 20: 250-252 171 Zhong Y, Liu C, Qi X, Jiao Y, Wang D, Wang Y, Liu Z, Chen C, Chen B, Tian X, et al (2019) Mutation of ZmDMP enhances haploid 172 induction in maize. Nat Plants 5: 575-580 173 Zhong Y, Wang Y, Chen B, Liu J, Wang D, Li M, Qi X, Liu C, Boutilier K, Chen S (2022b) Establishment of a dmp based maternal haploid 174 induction system for polyploid Brassica napus and Nicotiana tabacum. JIPB 64: 1281-1294

175



### Figure 1. Atkpl triggers maternal haploid plants.

(a) Workflow used to assess maternal haploid induction. Pollen from mutants to be tested were used to pollinate the *glabra* (absence of trichomes) maternal tester line, which is a F1 hybrid between Col-0 and Ler accessions. A first phenotypic screen based on absence of trichome allowed selection of putative haploid plants, which were further validated using sterility criteria, flow cytometry, and genotyping of 83 SNP markers with genome-wide distribution. (b) Representative illustration of diploid plants (left), as compared to the smaller haploid plants (right). (c) Representative ploidy verification of haploid and diploid sibling using flow cytometry for *Atkpl-1*, *Atkpl-2* and *Atdmp8/9*. The X axes depict the DNA content for nuclei (DAPI fluorescence signal), whereas the Y axis represents the number of nuclei. (d) Genotyping results to confirm haploidy and maternal origin of putative haploid plants (sterile *glabra*). m= numbers of markers for which it was possible to track unambiguously their parental origin. 1= Example of diploid plant resulted from undesired selfing of maternal tester line. na= non-applicable. (e) Haploid Induction Rate (HIR). 2= independent crosses are emasculated inflorescence (~1 to 4 siliques) pollinated with a unique male parent. \* P<0.05, Kruskall-Wallis statistical test. (f) Phylogenetic tree of KOKOPELLI proteins in selected crops.

#### **Parsed Citations**

Cyprys P, Lindemeier M, Sprunck S (2019) Gamete fusion is facilitated by two sperm cell-expressed DUF679 membrane proteins. Nature Plants 5: 253–257

Google Scholar: Author Only Title Only Author and Title

Jacquier NMA, Gilles LM, Pyott DE, Martinant J-P, Rogowsky PM, Widiez T (2020) Puzzling out plant reproduction by haploid induction for innovations in plant breeding. Nature Plants 1–10

Google Scholar: Author Only Title Only Author and Title

Jiang J, Stührwohldt N, Liu T, Huang Q, Li L, Zhang L, Gu H, Fan L, Zhong S, Schaller A, et al (2022) Egg cell-secreted aspartic proteases ECS1/2 promote gamete attachment to prioritize the fertilization of egg cells over central cells in Arabidopsis. J Integr Plant Biol. doi: 10.1111/jipb.13371

Google Scholar: Author Only Title Only Author and Title

Kelliher T, Starr D, Su X, Tang G, Chen Z, Carter J, Wittich PE, Dong S, Green J, Burch E, et al (2019) One-step genome editing of elite crop germplasm during haploid induction. Nature Biotechnology 37: 287–292

Google Scholar: Author Only Title Only Author and Title

Mao Y, Nakel T, Serbes IE, Tekleyohans DG, Joshi S, Baum T, Groß-Hardt R (2022) ECS1 and ECS2 regulate polyspermy and suppress the formation of haploid plants by promoting double fertilization. 2022.01.20.476184

Google Scholar: Author Only Title Only Author and Title

Maruyama D, Hamamura Y, Takeuchi H, Susaki D, Nishimaki M, Kurihara D, Kasahara RD, Higashiyama T (2013) Independent Control by Each Female Gamete Prevents the Attraction of Multiple Pollen Tubes. Developmental Cell 25: 317–323

Google Scholar: Author Only Title Only Author and Title

Ron M, Saez MA, Williams LE, Fletcher JC, McCormick S (2010) Proper regulation of a sperm-specific cis-nat-siRNA is essential for double fertilization in Arabidopsis. Genes Dev 24: 1010–1021

Google Scholar: Author Only Title Only Author and Title

Takahashi T, Mori T, Ueda K, Yamada L, Nagahara S, Higashiyama T, Sawada H, Igawa T (2018) The male gamete membrane protein DMP9/DAU2 is required for double fertilization in flowering plants. Development 145: dev170076

Google Scholar: Author Only Title Only Author and Title

Zhang J, Yin J, Luo J, Tang D, Zhu X, Wang J, Liu Z, Wang P, Zhong Y, Liu C, et al (2022) Construction of homozygous diploid potato through maternal haploid induction. aBIOTECH. doi: 10.1007/s42994-022-00080-7

Google Scholar: Author Only Title Only Author and Title

Zhao X, Yuan K, Liu Y, Zhang N, Yang L, Zhang Y, Wang Y, Ji J, Fang Z, Han F, et al (2022) In vivo maternal haploid induction based on genome editing of DMP in Brassica oleracea. Plant Biotechnology Journal pbi.13934

Google Scholar: Author Only Title Only Author and Title

Zhong Y, Chen B, Li M, Wang D, Jiao Y, Qi X, Wang M, Liu Z, Chen C, Wang Y, et al (2020) A DMP -triggered in vivo maternal haploid induction system in the dicotyledonous Arabidopsis. Nat Plants 6: 466–472

Google Scholar: <u>Author Only Title Only Author and Title</u>

Zhong Y, Chen B, Wang D, Zhu X, Li M, Zhang J, Chen M, Wang M, Riksen T, Liu J, et al (2022a) In vivo maternal haploid induction in tomato. Plant Biotechnology Journal 20: 250–252

Google Scholar: Author Only Title Only Author and Title

Zhong Y, Liu C, Qi X, Jiao Y, Wang D, Wang Y, Liu Z, Chen C, Chen B, Tian X, et al (2019) Mutation of ZmDMP enhances haploid induction in maize. Nat Plants 5: 575–580

Google Scholar: Author Only Title Only Author and Title

Zhong Y, Wang Y, Chen B, Liu J, Wang D, Li M, Qi X, Liu C, Boutilier K, Chen S (2022b) Establishment of a dmp based maternal haploid induction system for polyploid Brassica napus and Nicotiana tabacum. JIPB 64: 1281–1294

Google Scholar: <u>Author Only Title Only Author and Title</u>