



Plant, Cell and Environment (2014) 37, 1626-1640

Original Article

Mutants of phospholipase A (pPLA-I) have a red light and auxin phenotype

Yunus Effendi¹*, Katrin Radatz¹, Corinna Labusch¹, Steffen Rietz², Rinukshi Wimalasekera¹, Hanna Helizon³, Mathias Zeidler³ & Günther F. E. Scherer¹

¹Leibniz Universität Hannover, Institut für Zierpflanzenbau und Gehölzwissenschaften, Abt. Molekulare Ertragsphysiologie, D-30419 Hannover, Germany, ²Universität Kiel, Institut für Phytopathologie, D-24118 Kiel, Germany and ³Justus-Liebig Universität Giessen, Institut für Pflanzenphysiologie, D-35390 Giessen, Germany

ABSTRACT

pPLA-I is the evolutionarily oldest patatin-related phospholipase A (pPLA) in plants, which have previously been implicated to function in auxin and defence signalling. Molecular and physiological analysis of two allelic null mutants for pPLA-I [ppla-I-1 in Wassilewskija (Ws) and ppla-I-3 in Columbia (Col)] revealed pPLA-I functions in auxin and light signalling. The enzyme is localized in the cytosol and to membranes. After auxin application expression of early auxin-induced genes is significantly slower compared with wild type and both alleles show a slower gravitropic response of hypocotyls, indicating compromised auxin signalling. Additionally, phytochrome-modulated responses like abrogation of gravitropism, enhancement of phototropism and growth in far red-enriched light are decreased in both alleles. While early flowering, root coils and delayed phototropism are only observed in the Ws mutant devoid of phyD, the light-related phenotypes observed in both alleles point to an involvement of pPLA-I in phytochrome signalling.

Key-words: *Arabidopsis*; gravitropism; patatin-related phospholipase A; phototropism; phytochrome; root coiling; shade avoidance.

INTRODUCTION

Phospholipase A (PLA) hydrolyses phospholipids either at the hydroxyl group of the C_1 (PLA₁) or of the C_2 atom (PLA₂) and liberates free fatty acids and lysophospholipids as products. Several structurally different enzymes can show this activity in plants (Scherer 2010; Scherer *et al.* 2010). These enzymes are the small (14 kDa) secreted PLA₂ (sPLA₂) (Ståhl *et al.* 1999), also found in fungi and animals, and the larger soluble patatin-related PLA (pPLA), which encompass the homologous soluble calcium-independent PLA₂ (iPLA₂) in animals (Six & Dennis 2000; Balsinde &

Correspondence: G. F. E. Scherer. Fax: +49 511 762 3608; e-mail: scherer@zier.uni-hannover.de

*Present address: Al Azhar Indonesia University, Department of Biology, Jakarta 12110, Indonesia.

Balboa 2005) and patatin-related PLA (pPLA) (Scherer et al. 2010). pPLAs hydrolyse fatty acids of both phosphoand galactolipids (Matos et al. 2001; Yang et al. 2007). The plant *pPLA* gene family is divided into three subfamilies (Holk et al. 2002; Scherer et al. 2010). The enzymes of the pPLA groups II and III with no additional domains have a molecular weight of around 50 ± 5 kDa. Proteins of subfamilies II and III do not have domains besides the enzymatic domain itself and can be distinguished by overall homology and their exon-intron structure. Group I in Arabidopsis comprises only one gene (At-pPLA-I) having an additional N-terminal leucin-rich repeat (LRR) domain with a Gprotein-binding motif within this LRR domain, and a Cterminal domain with unknown function. Gene pPLA-I is the one gene most similar to the homologous so-called calciumindependent PLAs (iPLA) described for animals (Winstaed et al. 2000; Holk et al. 2002), and therefore, probably the evolutionarily oldest pPLA gene in plants.

Our laboratory investigated the function of auxinactivated and elicitor-activated patatin-related PLA (pPLA). Activation of pPLA by auxin is detectable after 2-5 min, depending on the method of measurement (Scherer & André 1989; Paul et al. 1998). pPLA blockers inhibit activity of purified recombinant patatin-related pPLA, auxin activation of pPLA activity in vivo, elongation growth (Scherer & Arnold 1997; Holk et al. 2002) and auxin-induced proton secretion (Yi et al. 1996). Moreover, auxin regulation of the DR5 promoter and of several IAA genes is sensitive to pPLA inhibitors (Scherer et al. 2007). Three group II pPLAs can be phosphorylated at a serine in the C-terminus, and this phosphorylation enhances the pPLA-II\delta and pPLA-IIE activity in vitro. Moreover, pPLA-IIE knockout mutants have fewer lateral roots, and a pPLA-II γ null mutant does not respond to phosphate deficiency (Rietz et al. 2010) by forming lateral roots and decreasing the main root length, both being typical responses to phosphate deficiency (Pérez-Torres et al. 2008). pPLA-IIS null mutants have an auxin hypersensitive-like root phenotype (Li et al. 2011; Labusch et al. 2013). Several laboratories have demonstrated rapid activation of pPLAs in defence-related processes. Plant defence elicitors were shown to induce the production of free fatty acids and lysophospholipids within minutes in tomato leaves (Narváez-Vásquez et al. 1999), Eschscholtzia *californica* cells (Viehweger *et al.* 2002, 2006) and *Petroselinum crispum* cells (Scherer *et al.* 2000, 2002). Viehweger *et al.* (2006) were the first to show that elicitors induce a transient rise of lysophosphatidylcholine (LPC), which is followed by activation of a Na⁺/H⁺ exchange transporter, which thus acidifies the cytosol. LPC is also a second messenger in mycorrhiza formation (Drissner *et al.* 2007). Taken together, all previous works point to functions of plant pPLAs in auxin and defence signalling.

Because of the genetic resundance of 10 pPLA genes in the Arabidopsis genome, a functional analysis of individual genes is needed. The first knockout mutant plants of the pPLA-I gene of this gene family, pplaI-1 and pplaI-2, were described by Yang et al. (2007). The T-DNA insertion mutants of pPLA-I investigated here, pplaI-1 (in Ws) and pplaI-3 (in Col), do not exhibit an obvious growth defect when grown in soil or on agar plates. However, we found the mutants to have a complex phenotype regulation of delayed early auxin-responsive genes, delayed gravitropism in darkness and decreased abrogation of gravitropism by far red (FR) in both alleles as well as and delayed phototropism in ppla-I-1. Coil formation was found in ppla-I-1 and phyB but not in *ppla-I-3*. Interestingly, both mutants showed a hypersensitive growth response in FR-enriched light pointing to compromised and low output of phyB signalling.

RESULTS

Small differences in phenotypes of *ppla-I-1* and *ppla-I-3* are not explained by structural difference in gene or mRNAs

We isolated two T-DNA insertion mutants for the pPLAI gene, pplaI-1 (Ws background) and pplaI-1 (Col background). For *pPLA-I* an early annotation lists a sequence with 17 exons (NM_104867.3), whereas the newest annotation predicts 18 exons in the gene and two splicing sites different from the earlier version (NM_104867). During the course of our work, we noted some differences between the two mutant lines, which might have been due to sequence or splicing differences. This prompted us to sequence the genomic loci and cDNAs of both lines, which proved to be identical to the latest annotation (18 exons each; Fig. 1 a). Yang et al. (2007) described the sequence of a BAC clone CD4-16 encompassing the pPLA-I cDNA with exon4 missing, and used this clone for the expression of the pPLA-I protein. We found, however, that this clone lacked exon7, not exon4, and contained 19 single base errors when compared with the genomic sequence, apparently introduced by the reverse transcriptase used to create the clone. According to our sequence data of CD4-16, it can code for a protein of about one-third of the complete protein, only containing several amino acid changes in that fragment. After that, a stop codon would terminate this potential protein (Fig. 1b). The missing exon7 in CD4-16 could be due to a splicing error. We tested this by choosing primers for quantitative RT-PCR in the upstream 5'-terminal part of the RNA, for the exon7 alone, and for the downstream 3'-terminal part of



Figure 1. Genomic and exon-intron structure, mRNA sequences and splicing and transcription of pPLA-I. (a) Genomic sequence, known and postulated RNA sequences, and deduced protein sequences. A genomic BAC clone [BAC F8K4, source Col wild type (WT)] was used to isolate large fragments, which were sequenced and aligned by us. From both Ws and Col WT large fragments of cDNAs sequences were isolated and combined and gave the mRNA sequence by comparison with the genomic sequence. From a lambda cDNA library (CD4-16) made from Col WT the sequence was constructed from isolated fragments and a protein sequence deduced by us differing from the one described as NM_104486.3 (Yang et al. 2007). Our isolate from library CD4-16 was sequenced by us and the predicted protein sequence is given and below the protein sequence predicted by the last entrance in the The Arabidopsis Information Resource database. (b) Schematic presentation of potential protein sequences translated from the above mRNAs. (c,d) Relative amplicon frequencies as derived from the RNAs from Ws and from Col.

the RNA. In both Ws and Col wild type (WT) the exon7 was present in mRNA at levels 25 times lower than the 5'-terminal part and about eight times less than the 3'terminal part (Fig. 1c). From this we conclude that missplicing, resulting in the excision of exon7, occurs 25 times more often than formation of the complete mRNA productive for protein biosynthesis. The reason for not coding a full protein is that the potential translation of mRNA without exon7 is also terminated prematurely in a stop codon. We cannot exclude that the full-length mRNA transcribed from the pPLA-I gene was present in low abundance in the CD4-16 clone, but despite much effort, the missing exon7 was not found there and CD4-16 was not useful for protein expression. In conclusion, differences in pPLA-I gene or mRNA sequence, or in RNA splicing, are not a cause for the differences observed in the mutant lines ppla-I-1 or ppla-I-3.

Expression pattern of pPLA-I

Both mutant lines are null mutants (Fig. 2a & b). We isolated Col plants transformed by a p_{AIPLAI} ::uidA construct linking



Figure 2. Expression of *pPLA-I*. (a) Exon–intron structure of the *pPLA-I* gene. Black boxes highlight the LRR structure; the small white boxes the catalytic center. Black arrows for insertions, red arrows for RT-PCR as shown in (b). (b) RT-PCR on 1-week-old seedlings of *pPLA-I* expression in Col, Ws, *pplaI-1* and *pplaI-3*. GUS expression overview from P_{PLAI} :.uidA (c–k). (c) P_{PLAI} :.uidA expression in the vascular of the inflorescence stem; (d) in a single the bundle of an inflorescence stem; (e) in a bundle of a petiole; (f) in the stele of the root; (g) in emerging lateral root; (h) in trichomes, (i) in the root tip; (j) localization of P_{PLAI} :.uidA in the flower; and (k) in the pollen.

the *uidA* reporter gene to the promoter of the *AtPLA-I* gene. Prolonged (8 h) staining indicated p_{AtPLAI} -directed GUS activity in the vascular bundles of mature leaves and in pollen and trichomes only (Fig. 2e,h,i,j). With extended staining up to 48 h, the stem vascular bundles and the root stele were also stained (Fig. 2c,d,f,g), as was the columella, albeit weakly (Fig. 2i). At the site of lateral root emergence, we found stronger GUS activity in the stele of the newly formed lateral roots (Fig. 2g).

Tissue and subcellular localization was also investigated in plants expressing *PpPLA-I:PPLA-I-GFP* in *ppla-I-1* (Fig. 3) and *ppla-I-3* background (Supporting Information Fig. S1) showing essentially the same tissue patterns. pPLA-I-GFP was expressed in the root tip and weakly in the columella (Fig. 3A, a & b), and there less in the rhizodermis and cortex, but strongly in the stele and endodermis (Fig. 3A, c–g).

Expression decreased towards the root base (Fig. 3A, h-k). Young lateral root tips showed clear expression in the tip meristem (Fig. 3A, 1). In root hairs, no expression was apparent (Fig. 3A, m), but strong in pollens (Fig. 3A, m). At higher magnification (Fig. 3A, g), a perinuclear localization, probably at the endoplasmic reticulum and nuclear membrane became visible. This could be observed clearly in endodermis cells, but is less intense in cortex cells exhibiting weaker expression. In addition, we found pPLA-I localization in the cytosol and near the plasma membrane. In the more mature parts of the root, in the transition from the meristematic part to the elongation zone and in the elongation zone, pPLA-I-GFP was found near the plasma membrane and not perinulear (Fig. 3A, j). Expression in the ppla-I-3 background was nearly identical (Supporting Information Fig. S1).

Figure 3. Tissue and subcellular localization of pPLA-I. (a) pPLA-I-GFP expression in *ppla-I-1* background. Plants were grown in white light for 7 d. (i) root tip; (ii) quiescent centre with root cap; (iii) mitotic zone in root tip; (iv) stele lined by endodermis on both sides; (v) stele, endodermis, cortex and rhizodermis; (vi) rhizodermis flat section; (vii) row of endodermis and cortex cells (right); (viii) transition of elongation zone towards maturation zone; (ix) elongation zone; (x) elongation zone at higher magnification; (xi) mature zone; (xii) lateral root tip; (xiii) root hair; and (xiv) pollen. Bars: $20 \,\mu$ m. (i'-xiv') light microscopy of otherwise identical settings. (b) Expression of pPLA-I determined by antibody against an N-terminal peptide in Ws seedlings. Plants were grown in white light for 7 d. (i) root tip; (ii) quiescent centre with root cap; (iii) mitotic zone in root tip; (iv) cross section (left to right): epidermis, cortical cell row, endodermis; (v) flat section of cortical cells; (vi) endodermis (compared with 4',6-diamidin-2-phenylindol (DAPI) staining in vi'); (vii) cortical row (compared with DAPI in vii'); (viii) transition of elongation zone towards maturation zone; (ix) elongation zone; (x) elongation zone at higher magnification; (xi) lateral root tip; (xii) root hair; and (xii) pollen. Bars: $20 \,\mu$ m. (i'-xii') light microscopy of otherwise identical settings. (c) Transient pPLA-I-GFP expression in *Arabidopsis* mesophyll protoplasts and coexpression of markers. (i, vi) pPLA-I-GFP; (ii, vii) ER-CFP marker; (iii, viii) NLS-RFP; (iv, ix) merger of pPLA-I-GFP; and ER-CFP (v, x) differential interference contrast light microscopy.



Localization was confirmed by immunocytochemistry with the anti-C-terminal antibody in the Ws WT (Fig. 3B). Results with the anti-N-terminus peptide-antibody were indistinguishable as were the results with the antibodies using Col WT plants (Supporting Information Fig. S2). Controls done with ppla-I-1 and ppla-I-3 plants showed no binding (Supporting Information Fig. S3). In the meristematic part of the root tip, all cell types expressed pPLA-I (Fig. 3B, a-g). The rhizodermal cells showed only weak expression. In the root cap, pPLA-I was not detected. Expression at the upper part of the meristematic zone decreased, and then, in the beginning of the elongation zone, was mainly found in the central cylinder (Fig. 3B, h-j). Localization within cells was found in the cytosol, near the plasma membranes and in a perinuclear ring-like distribution in some cell types, but especially in the subepidermal cortical cells (Fig. 3B, f & g). Comparison with 4',6-diamidin-2-phenylindol (DAPI) staining verified the perinuclear staining (Fig. 3B, f' & g'). Strong association with the plasma membrane was found in the endodermis (Fig. 3B, d & f).

In order to corroborate the subcellular localization of pPLA-I, we co-transfected p355:: PLA-I:GFP with either p₃₅₅::ER:CFP or p₃₅₅::GOLGI:CFP (Nelson et al. 2007) and p₃₅₅:: VirD2:mCHERRY (Chakrabarty et al. 2007) into Arabidopsis (Col) mesophyll cell protoplasts. We also included pBIN-P19 (Silhavy et al. 2002) in some transformations to enhance expression of the transgenes. Fluorescence of PLA-I-GFP fusions was visible in the cytoplasm of transformed protoplasts, in some instances, fluorescent foci could be observed. In cases the Golgi and endoplasmatic reticulum marker protein - cyano-fluorescent protein fusion proteins were co-expressed, very similar localization patterns of the marker proteins and the PLA-I-GFP fusion protein was apparent. No localization in the nucleus was observed. Tissue localization of GUS activity and by pPLA-I-GFP and immunocytochemistry using antibodies were in good agreement with each other. Expression in main root and lateral root caps and in trichomes was not found by immuno-detection, but because the whole mount labelling method requires cell walls, digestion properties in those cell walls could have retarded digestion.

ppla-I mutants have a dynamic auxin response phenotype

When seedlings were grown in white (W) light or darkness, no obvious differences between the respective WT and *ppla-I-1* and *ppla-I-3* mutant lines were observed. When tested on their response to auxin, no obvious differences in main root length or lateral root formation were found between mutants and respective WT. Therefore, the expression of early auxinactivated genes in both mutant lines and WT was tested to monitor a potential auxin response (Fig. 4). Rapidity of expression of the candidate genes regulation by exogenous auxin was chosen as a main criterion (Effendi *et al.* 2011), and the selected candidate genes fall into three groups: *IAA* genes, some of which are involved in the formation of lateral roots (Fig. 4a); *SAUR* genes (Fig. 4b); and *PIN2*, *PIN3*, and *GH3.5* (Fig. 4c). Thirty minutes after the application of 10 μ M, 10 of 18 genes tested IAA in *ppla-I-1* (Ws), and 11 in *ppla-I-3* (Col) were induced significantly more weakly than in the corresponding WT.

In order to narrow down the time span during which pPLA-I could exert an influence on TIR1-directed transcription of early auxin genes, we investigated the expression of selected genes in the knockouts also after 10 min (Fig. 4d). In both alleles, delayed up-regulation of IAA19, SAUR9 and SAUR15 could be observed even in this short time window. pPLA-I expression itself is not influenced by auxin after 10 min (Fig. 4e), and only slightly after 30 min, excluding transcriptional regulation of pPLA-I as the cause of the diminished auxin-induction effect on early auxin-induced genes. When basal expression in untreated Col and Ws WT were compared, only PIN2 was clearly differently expressed (25×) while others were only about twofold differently expressed (IAA13, SAUR15, PIN3; Fig. 4f). Together, despite the absence of an obvious phenotype, both mutant lines show a clear phenotype in delayed auxin-induced expression of key auxin induceable genes.

Phototropism and gravitropism are impeded and root coiling is increased in *ppla-I* mutants

When both mutant lines were illuminated with unilateral blue light after 3 d in D (dark), only the *pplaI-1* mutant showed a delayed phototropic response, but *pplaI-3* did not, when compared with the respective WT (Fig. 5a & b). After excluding sequence differences as potential cause for different phenotypes in the two alleles we speculated that the lack of phytochrome D (Aukerman *et al.* 1997) could be the cause for such dissimilarities. Phototropism can be promoted by switching off negative gravitropism in FR by phyA (Lariguet & Fankhauser 2004). Therefore we included *phyA* and *phyB* null mutants in the analysis. Indeed, the *phyA* mutant showed a reduced phototropic reaction, similar to *ppla-I-1*, whereas *phyB* reacted indistinguishable from WT (Fig. 5c & e).

In the dark hypocotyls of *pplaI-1* and *ppla-I-3*, the response to a gravitropic stimulus was considerably slower than the respective WT (Fig. 6a & b). After 24 h the average bending angle of the roots of dark-grown ppla-I-3 seedlings was statistically indistinguishable from WT, while the one of ppla-I-1 was slightly smaller than that observed of WT roots (Fig. 5c & d). Hypocotyl gravitropism is decreased by R and FR light (Robson & Smith 1996; Fankhauser & Casal 2004) and in pif1pif4 double and pif1pif3pif4pif5 quadruple mutants (Shin et al. 2009; Kim et al. 2011). The pif quadruple mutant hypocotyls are agravitropic in the dark indicating phytochromes as light receptors and their downstream transcription factors to be involved in gravitropism regulation. Therefore, we tested gravitropism in phyA and phyB seedlings under the same conditions as for ppla-I alleles. Only phyB hypocotyls showed a clearly reduced gravitropic response, whereas phyA roots and hypocotyls and *phyB* roots were indistinguishable from or very similar to WT in their responses (Fig. 6e-h).

Furthermore, we investigated the inhibition of hypocotyl gravitropism by FR light (Fankhauser & Casal 2004). In *phyB*



Figure 4. Regulation of early auxin-inducible genes in light-grown ppla-I-1 and ppla-I-3 knockout mutant lines and respective WT seedlings. The results are arranged into different groups of early auxin-inducible genes and other genes. (a) Regulation of selected IAA genes. (b) Transcription of SAUR genes (c) Expression levels of PIN genes and GH3-5. Black bars: auxin-treated 30 min; white: non-treated 0 min. (d) Responses after 10 min in selected genes. Grev background in panels highlight significant differences WT versus mutant lines. (e) Decrease of transcription of pPLA-I after extended treatment with 10 µM IAA (measured in WS background). (f) Comparison of WT Col (grey bars) and Ws (black bars) od all tested genes in non-treated samples. PIN2 was about 30-fold higher in Ws. The results are from four to six biological treatments with three technical repeats for each measurement. Relative expression calculation and statistical analysis were carried out with REST 2009 software (Pfaffl et al. 2002). Asterixes above columns indicate significant differences between the mutants and the corresponding WT or treatments at P < 0.05 (*), P < 0.01 (**), and P < 0.001 (***) level according to t-test.

either a subtle defect in phyA signalling or a decreased phyB signalling output as argued by Liscum and Hangarter (1993). A rather obvious feature of the mutant *pplaI-1* was the

much higher tendency of the root coil formation on 45° tilted



mutants, FR light abrogated gravitropism *via* phyA therefore hypocotyls grew random (Fig. 7b). In fact, both *ppla-I* mutant lines showed a slightly weaker abrogation of hypocotyl gravitropism than the respective WT, while the *phyA* mutant, because blind to FR, grew almost upright (Fig. 7b). In this test, both *ppla-I* knockouts displayed phenotypes resembling

Figure 5. Phototropic bending of hypocotyls of 3-day-old dark-grown seedlings after 12 h lateral blue light (1 μ E). Black bars: WT, white bars: mutants. (a) Ws: 67.1°, *ppla-I-1*: 45.6° (*P* < 0.001). (b) Col: 46.6°, *ppla-I-3*: 47.2°. (c) Col: 51.2°, *phyA:* 33.1° (*P* < 0.001). (d) Col: 51.2°, *phyB*: 41.2° (*P* < 0.001). (means indicated, *n* = 66–129).

© 2014 John Wiley & Sons Ltd, Plant, Cell and Environment, 37, 1626–1640



Figure 6. Gravitropic bending of hypocotyls or roots of 3-day-old dark-grown seedlings after 24 h tilting by 90°. (a,c,e,g) Hypocotyl bending angle frequencies. (b,d,f,h) Root bending angle frequencies. Black bars: WT. White bars: mutants. (a) Ws: 43.1°; *ppla-I-1*: 30.0° (P < 0.001). (c) Col: 45°; *ppla-I-3*: 33.8° (P < 0.001). (e) Col: 51.6°; *phyA*: 48.9°. (g) Col: 51.6°; *phyB*: 40.4° (P < 0.001). (b) Ws: 58.5°; *ppla-I-1*: 54.7°. (d) Col: 46.4°; *ppla-I-3*: 52.4° (P < 0.014). (f) Col: 54°; *phyA*: 54.9°. (h) Col: 54° *phyB*: 51.1°. Means indicated, n = 73–120.

hard agar plates (Simmons *et al.* 1995) than Ws WT's tendency (Fig. 7a,b,g). Here, the *ppla-I-3* line was indistinguishable from the Col WT (Fig. 8d,e,g), corresponding to results on root gravitropism. Coil formation was increased by increasing the osmotic strength of the medium (Fig. 8h). This has been noted before (Buer *et al.* 2000). When we tested *phyA* and *phyB* seedlings for root coil formation, *phyB* roots on 45° tilted agar produced about 80% coils, whereas *phyA* roots only produced 5–10% (Fig. 8c,f,i). To test contributions from blue-light receptors, we also investigated *cry1,2* and *phot1,2* double mutants. Both produced no coils (Fig. 8i).



Figure 7. Interaction of far red light with hypocotyl gravitropism. Growth of seedlings in continuous far red light (10 μ E) for 3 d and inhibition of gravitropism. (a) Representative seedlings of the different genotypes used. (b) The bending angle is the angle deviating from the plumb line in absolute values. In all treatments, the differences between respective wild type (WT) and *ppla-I* mutants were highly significant (P < 0.001; n = 50–80).

ppla-I mutants have a subtle light phenoytpe

We noticed that in short days, *ppla-I-1* flowered earlier. We verified this in a growth chamber under controlled conditions, but *ppla-I-3* did not flower earlier (Fig. 9a). Early flowering is consistent with reduced signalling by phyB or



Figure 8. Formation root coils in seedlings grown on hard agar at a 45° tilted angle in (a,b,d,e) on 1/1 MS agar and in (c, f) on one-half MS agar. A plate with Ws wild type (WT) (a), *pplaI-1* (b), *phyA* (c), Col (d), *ppla-I-3* (e), and *phyB* in (f) is shown. (g) Comparison of coil frequency on 1/1 MS medium of the two mutant *ppla-I* lines. (h) Dependence of coiling response on the osmolarity of the medium in *ppla-I-1* (white bars) and Ws WT (black bars). (i) Comparison of coiling in of several photoreceptor mutants on one-half MS agar. Each experiment was conducted with four to six agar plates harbouring 15 or 30 seedlings each (SE).



Figure 9. Phytochrome B-related properties in *ppla-I* null mutants. (a) Flowering dates of wild type (WT) and *ppla-I* mutants in short days (22 °C; 16 L/8D). The day of the appearance of the first flower was recorded. Differences between corresponding WT/ mutants were highly significant (both P < 0.001; n = 36-39; SE). (b–h) Light and shade avoidance response phenotype of *ppla-I* mutants. (b) Seedlings were grown for 3 d in the dark and then treated for 12 h with continuous far red and blue light (1 μ E each). (c,d) Growth of seedlings in W supplemented with a low ratio of R:FR (red/far red). Bar = 2 mm. In (d) the differences between respective WTand *ppla-I* mutants were highly significant (P < 0.001). (e,f) WT and complemented seedlings grown in W supplemented with a low ratio R:FR light. Bar = 4 mm. (g,h) Growth of seedlings in W supplemented with a high ratio of R:FR (red/far red). Bar = 2 mm; n = 50-80.

the phyB-like phyD missing in *ppla-I-1* (Devlin *et al.* 1999). Therefore, on our quest to understand the light phenotype in *ppla-I* mutants, we quantified the responses of the *ppla-I* mutant lines to continuous R, FR, and B (blue light) (Supporting Information Fig. S4). We could not find convincing differences between mutants and corresponding WT when grown in continuous monochromatic light (R, FR, B of 1 or $5 \,\mu$ mol m⁻² s⁻¹). Only when we combined FR and B (1 μ mol m⁻² s⁻¹ each) were both mutant alleles significantly taller than WT (Fig. 9b).

The combination of FR and B light could indicate a different response to shade just as early flowering. Therefore, we also tested the elongation response to W supplemented with low R:FR and high R:FR in hypocotyls of *ppla-I-1* and *ppla-I-3* and the respective WT and compared it with *phyA* and *phyB* mutants (Fig. 9c–h). In low R:FR conditions, both *ppla-I* mutant lines were much taller than the respective WT (Fig. 9c & d). Both WT were taller in low R:FR than in high R:FR, but the differences between *ppla-I-1* and Ws or *ppla-I-3* and Col in low R:FR were much greater. Therefore both mutants appear to be hypersensitive in their responses to low R:FR light, comparable with shade conditions. When we tested the *ppla-I* lines complemented by transformation of P_{pPLA-I} :*pPLA-I-GFP* the response to low ratio R/FR light was like the respective WT (Fig. 9e & f). The classical explanation is that shade avoidance response to low R:FR is mediated by the low signalling output of phyB (Lau & Deng 2010; Stamm & Kumar 2010).

DISCUSSION

ppla-I-1 in Ws background and *ppla-I-3* in Col background show common phenotypes and background (accession)-specific characteristics

In regulation of early auxin genes, gravitropism of darkgrown seedlings, inhibition of hypocotyl gravitropism by FR light, and in response to FR-enriched W light, ppla-I-1 and ppla-I-3 are very similar. On the other hand, they differ in other responses (phototropism, early flowering, root coils). Several of these responses are known to involve phytochrome signalling or to potentially involve phytochrome signalling. In fact, Ws is a natural deletion mutant for phyD(Aukerman et al. 1997) and Col is not. We excluded differences in genomic and mRNA sequence and in RNA splicing as a basis for the phenotypic differences of the two lines (Fig. 1). Moreover, the response of both alleles to shade like conditions was complemented by expressing the pPLA-I-GFP protein in both alleles (Fig. 9g & h). The tissue distribution of pPLA-I-promoter-controlled GUS expression compared with the pPLA-I-GFP expression pattern also indicates that the pPLA-I protein is expressed in the same tissues, probably reconstituting function in the null background. Other gene differences besides phyD between Ws and Col are known (Ulm et al. 2001; Yang & Hua 2004; Bartels et al. 2009). Whereas the lack of phyD in ppla-I-1 and Ws clearly seems to have an impact on the mutant phenotype, it remains elusive whether other genetic differences could have an impact on responses in ppla-I mutants.

ppla-I mutants have a dynamic auxin phenotype similar to *abp1* receptor mutants

Despite a lack of obvious morphological response to exogenous auxin in the knockout mutant lines compared with corresponding WT, we found clear defects in both knockout mutant lines in auxin-induced gene regulation using a set of selected genes as a physiological test (Fig. 4). This is reminiscent of our findings on the other investigated abp1 and eir1/ pin2 mutants (Effendi & Scherer 2011; Effendi et al. 2011, 2013), and the other nine *ppla* null mutants that were tested the same way (Labusch et al. 2013). In abp1/ABP1 seedlings, all auxin-regulated genes were mis-regulated while in eir1/ pin2, 9 of 12 were affected. In the case of both pplaI alleles described here, 11 of 18 auxin-regulated genes were affected. Auxin-induced inhibition of pPLA-I transcription was minor after 30 min (Fig. 4e), so that transcriptional regulation of *pPLA-I* itself as a component of this signalling appears rather unlikely (Fig. 4d).

In contrast to the pPLA-I gene itself, whose expression was not changed within 10 min, we already found after 10 min, delayed transcription of early auxin-induced genes in ppla-I alleles (Fig. 4d). A transcriptional regulation by auxin of pPLA-I should be controlled by TIR1, but was not observed. Obviously, auxin-induced events elicited in less than 10 min need a receptor other than TIR1 (Scherer 2011; Scherer et al. 2012; Labusch et al. 2013). Therefore, our data rather indicate an auxin triggered post-transcriptional activation/inactivation event on pPLA-I to be evoked in less than 10 min. The strikingly similar phenotypes of abp1/ABP1 and abp1-5 (Effendi & Scherer 2011; Effendi et al. 2011, 2013) and the *ppla-I* alleles here, and the proven capacity of ABP1 to trigger rapid auxin responses (Scherer 2011; Scherer et al. 2012) favour ABP1 as the respective receptor although the specific mechanism remains to be uncovered. Moreover, the co-localization of pPLA-I (Fig. 3B, d-g; C, a,b,e,g) and ABP1 (Klode et al. 2011) in the plasma membrane, perinuclear ER and nuclear membrane is a precondition for their functional association.

Compromised phototropism, gravitropism and root coiling in *ppla-I* mutants point to pPLA-I functions in influencing PIN mobility and phytochrome signalling

Phototropism

Phototropin (PHOT) is the blue-light receptor-mediating phototropism in higher plants (Christie 2007). Few intermediates downstream from PHOT1 are known. Interactors with PHOT1 are NPH3 and PKS1. NPH3 binds to PHOT1 (Motchoulski & Liscum 1999; Pedmale & Liscum 2007), and PKS1 is one of four homologous proteins that act as intermediates between phototropin and phytochromes (Lariguet et al. 2006; Molas & Kiss 2008). Long known is the positive influence of red light on phototropism, and phyA was identified as the responsible phytochrome (Liu & Iino 1996a,b; Parks et al. 1996; Lariguet & Fankhauser 2004; Whippo & Hangarter 2004). A recent study describes a physical interaction between phyA and PHOT1 on the plasma membrane, making a modulation of directional sensing by phytochrome plausible and putting the receptors close to the auxin carriers (Jaedicke et al. 2012). Further downstream, PIN2 and PIN3 relocalization most likely mediates the auxin flux to the shaded flank in order to execute the asymmetrical growth response (Müller et al. 1998; Friml et al. 2002; Ding et al. 2011). Quite surprisingly, the phototropic defect in ppla-I-1 was not found in ppla-I-3. Because one major difference between the Ws-derived mutant ppla-I-1 and the Col-derived mutant ppla-I-3 is the lack of phyD in ppla-I-1 and Ws (Aukerman et al. 1997), this could change the interaction of intermediates common to the PHOT-induced and phy-induced pathways. Localization of pPLA-I near the plasma membrane would allow interaction with those (Fig. 3B, d). How exactly pPLA-I fits to these interactors remains to be solved.

Gravitropism

Gravitropic and phototropic bending involve differential growth regulation by auxin redistribution. Redristribution of

auxin transport is mainly dependent on mobile PIN proteins, more specifically PIN2 and PIN3. In darkness, defects in gravitropism in pin2 and pin3 originate mostly as a consequence of disturbed gravisensing and subsequent misregulation of PIN2 and PIN3 subcellular localization and hence, disturbed lateral auxin transport (Friml et al. 2002; Abas et al. 2006; Ding et al. 2011). Mis-regulation of early auxin-induced genes during the gravitropic response could be another reason for defects in gravitropic responses. Up-regulation of PIN3 transcription by auxin was delayed in both mutant lines and may contribute to delayed gravitropism in our experiments. Other key auxin-dependent genes like ARF7, IAA19 and SHY2/IAA3 are supposed to be involved in hypocotyl gravitropism (Kim et al. 1998; Soh et al. 1999; Harper et al. 2000; Liscum & Reed 2002; Tatematsu et al. 2004). PIN3, IAA19, IAA3 and SAUR15 (Fig. 4a-d) were mis-regulated in ppla-I-1 and ppla-I-3. These components have been implicated to regulate growth asymmetry in response to lateral auxin transport carried out by PIN2 and PIN3 (Friml 2003).

Gravitropism is abrogated by FR and R (Poppe et al. 1996; Robson & Smith 1996; Correll & Kiss 2005), and abrogation light is mediated by phyA and phyB (Fankhauser & Casal 2004). A delayed gravitropic response of hypocotyls grown in darkness was found in both ppla-I lines and in phyB, but to a much lower extent in *phyA*, meaning that in this experiment, gravitropism, was not influenced by light and yet ppla-I alleles responded in a manner similar to a phyB mutant. We point out, however, that in a *phyB* signalling mutant possessing no PIF1 or PIF3 transcription factors, gravitropic orientation is also disturbed in the dark (Shin et al. 2009). The same phenotype is much stronger in the quadruple loss-offunction mutant pif1pif3pif4pif5 in both darkness and light (Kim et al. 2011). Further components downstream from phyB, which act in the regulation of hypocotyl orientation are GIL1 (Allen et al. 2006) and PKS4 (Schepens et al. 2008). Here both *ppla-I* alleles show a weak phenotype similar to the phyA mutant. This observation might indicate a role of pPLA-I in phyA signalling although low phyB signalling output cannot be excluded. As cytoplasmic phyA signalling has been described (Rösler et al. 2007, 2010) and an interaction of phyA and PHOT near the plasmamembrane has been observed (Jaedicke et al. 2012), a role for a PLA in modulating phyA signalling appears possible.

Coiling

Root coiling in the *ppla-I-1* mutant is likely to be caused by decreased gravisensing in the roots, which is a phenotype similar to the phenotype of several auxin-signalling mutants (Simmons *et al.* 1995; Sedbrook & Kaloriti 2008). Further factors contributing to root coiling are circumnutation and negative thigmotropism (Mullen *et al.* 1998; Migliaccio & Piconese 2001). Lack of *phyA* or *phyB* is known to decrease hypocotyl gravitropism (Robson & Smith 1996) and root gravitropism (Kunihiro *et al.* 2011), which explains why the *phyB* mutant strongly and the *phyA* mutant to a weaker degree produce root coils (Fig. 7). Measurements on the

influence of light on auxin transport showed that in tomatoes, phyB2 exerts the strongest positive influence (Liu *et al.* 2011), supporting our observations that root coils in *ppla-I-1* could be a consequence of reduced auxin transport because of compromised phyB signalling in the roots. Because the additional *phyD* deletion in *ppla-I-1* may make it a weak *phyB/phyD*-like mutant the higher numbers of coils in *ppla-I-1* as compared with *ppla-I-3* could be a result of the missing phyD.

ppla-I mutants are hypersensitive to shade conditions

The most surprising aspect of the *ppla-I* mutant phenotype was the hypersensitive response to shade light. At the same time, this involvement of pPLA-I in the regulatory interaction of auxin and red light signalling, suggests this is starting with ABP1 as the receptor. The very same phenotypes in *abp1–5* and *abp1/ABP1*, and in *ppla-I*, together with all the other facets of auxin- and red light-related phenotype elements, provide this hypothesis (Scherer *et al.* 2012). Potential interactors of phototropism and gravitropism and red light were discussed earlier and may in part explain delayed tropistic responses.

Elongation of hypocotyls in shade is considered to be due to the down-regulation of phyB signal output as the major receptor for this response (Lau & Deng 2010; Stamm & Kumar 2010). Shade avoidance is somewhat enhanced in a phyBphyD double mutant, but also in a phyD single mutant (Devlin et al. 1999), showing that the two genes redundantly regulate this response. phyA has been shown to inhibit hypocotyl extension in light-grown plants and hence, contributes to plant reactions to changes in the R:FR ratio (Johnson et al. 1994). In low R:FR, the phyA mutant has long hypocotyls similar to those of phyB seedlings in high R:FR (Fig. 9). This reaction of phyA seedlings reflects the missing suppression of phyA on hypocotyl elongation in low R:FR shade (i.e. high FR) conditions in addition to low phyB signalling output. This indeed was also apparent in the mutant lines, and could be complemented by the expression of pPLA-I:GFP (Fig. 9c,d).

A HIR-insensitive or B-insensitive phenotype, as seen in *phyA* mutants, was not observed (Supporting Information Fig. S4). Only in a combination of FR and B, a hypocotyl growth inhibition was observed (Fig. 9b) supporting our interpretation along the classical views that shade-induced elongation is mainly due to decreased phyB output. The early-flowering phenotype of *pplaI-1* could be a result of a decreased output of phyB-like phytochromes in Ws because Ws is a *phyD* null mutant (Fig. 8a) (Devlin *et al.* 1999). Nevertheless, in view of some phyA-influenced phenotypes in the *ppla-I* mutants, a contribution of phyA-dependent HIR cannot be completely ruled out.

Hypersensitivity to shade conditions may explain why a low JA content in *ppla-I-1* and *ppla-I-2* has been found (Yang *et al.* 2007). Both their *ppla-I-1* and *ppla-I-2* alleles are in the Ws background. Moreover, the accumulation of jasmonate in response to *Botrytis* was indistinguishable in Ws and mutants so that pPLA-I was concluded to not be the enzyme to release linolenic acid for jasmonate biosynthesis (Yang *et al.* 2007). Jasmonate is an inhibitor of elongation so that depending on the quality and quantity of light, the jasmonate content of plants defective in phyB signalling could be low (Robson *et al.* 2010). Consistent with this notion is the observation that the jasmonate receptor mutant *coi1–16* shows exaggerated sensitivity of hypocotyl elongation to shade (Robson *et al.* 2010). On that basis, our observations are consistent with the previous findings on pPLA-I functions in JA responses *ppla-I-1* (Yang *et al.* 2007).

The *ppla-I* and *abp1* mutants identify a function at the intersection of auxin and light signalling. There is overall similarity of phenotypes of the *abp1/ABP1* and *abp1–5* mutant and the *ppla-I* mutants, which consist of the similar regulatory defects in auxin-dependent responses like gene regulation, phototropism and gravitropism (Effendi & Scherer 2011; Effendi *et al.* 2011, 2013). Additionally, both *ppla-I-1* and *abp1/ABP1* flower early.

As a hypothetical mechanism, we suggested that ABP1 binds to a transmembrane protein as a co-receptor, likely a receptor kinase, which could transmit the auxin signal to a cytsolic network one component of which is suggested to be pPLA-I Effendi *et al.*, 2013). Recent publications described a mechanism to down-regulate phyB and phyB by phosphorylation in the cytosol (Medzihradszky *et al.* 2013; Nito *et al.* 2013). There is only one report that the fatty acid oleic acid activates a protein phosphatase and pPLA-I could provide such a metabolite (Baudouin *et al.* 1999). The results presented here are a platform for further research on this first PLA identified to have functions in light signalling. We therefore conclude that pPLA-I functions downstream of ABP1 and at so far unknown factors common to phytochromes and ABP1.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Growth conditions and physiological experiments

For gravitropism and phototropism experiments, seeds were stratified for 4 d, treated for 4 h with W and grown for 3 d on upright 0.5× MS agar plates in the dark at 22.5 °C. For testing gravitropism, plants were turned by 90° for 24 h and then scanned; for phototropism $1 \mu E$ lateral B was applied and scanned after 8 h (CanoScan 8800F Canon Deutschland, Krefeld, Germany; resolution 600 dot per inch). For testing shade avoidance, after stratification seeds were treated with white light (W) for 4 h, and then kept in the dark for 24 h. For 3 subsequent days, W (24.5 μ mole m⁻² s⁻¹) was applied, after that red and FR either with a high R:FR ratio (2.1) or a low R:FR ratio (0.098) was applied in a light-emitting diode box at 22.5 °C (CLF, Plant Climatics, Wertingen, Germany) for another 3 d at 22.5 °C. Light-growth experiments with continuous light were carried out in a similar fashion. Lengths or angles were measured using AxioVision LE Ver.4.6 software (Zeiss, Oberkochen, Germany). For flowering experiments, plants grew in a growth chamber at 22.5 °C in 8/16 (L/D). For root coiling assays, seedlings were grown in the light on 2% hard agar containing half or full concentration of MS medium plus 1 or 2% sucrose, respectively (Murashige & Skoog 1962). Plates stood upright for 3 d to orient the roots according to gravity, then tilted to 45° to induce coiling (Simmons *et al.* 1995).

Identification of homozygous knockout mutant lines

Homozygous AtplaI-1 knockout mutant plants in the Ws background were isolated as described (Krysan et al. 1996; see primer list). The site of T-DNA integration for Atpla-1-1 was localized by sequencing of amplified PCR product in the second exon at nucleotide 22856893, corresponding to nucleotide 483 counted from the A in the AUG codon in the coding sequence and thus inserted into the second intron. Yang et al. (2007) isolated two knockout mutant alleles in the Ws background from the same collection (Krysan et al. 1996) and localized one insertion in exon2, but reported the insertion at nucleotide 438 after the AUG codon, which, however, corresponds with the end of the first exon (assuming the AUG is included into counting). However, in Fig. 1, the insertion is placed into in the second exon. Therefore, we conclude that their T-DNA insertion mutant, giving rise to their mutant ppla-I-1, is highly likely to be identical to the one we isolated (nucleotide 483 instead of 438), so it was also named ppla-I-1. Homozygous knockout pplaI-3 plants (SALK 061667) in the Columbia background were isolated by using the same genespecific primers described earlier plus the Lba1 primer and the T-DNA position for pplaI-3 was 22856359 in the first intron. The lack of mRNA expression in the homozygous lines was shown by RT-PCR (see primer list).

P_{PLAI}::uidA construct

The promoter sequence of AtPLAI (P_{PLAI}) comprises 1940 bp in the 5'-region of AtPLAI (At1g61850) and ends at nucleotide +1 prior to the translation initiation site, including the unknown transcriptional start site. The primers (see list) included *SaI*I and *Xba*I restriction sites at their 5'ends, respectively. The promoter fragment was digested with *SaI*I and *Xba*I restriction enzymes and ligated in front of the *uidA* gene of the binary plant transformation vector pGPTV and introduced into the *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* strain GV3101. *Arabidopsis thaliana* (Col) were used for *in planta* transformation (Bechtold *et al.* 1993).

Histochemical GUS assay

Plants were grown on soil in the greenhouse to stain shoots, petioles and flowers, and grown *in vitro* on MS agar for staining roots and small leaves. To stain shoots, petioles and roots, the plant tissue was soaked in 2 mM 5-bromo-4-chloro-3-indolyl- β -D-glucuronic acid (X-Gluc) in 50 mM NaH₂PO₄ (pH 7.0), 0.5% Triton-X, and 0.5 mM potassium ferriand ferrocyanide for 24–48 h at 37 °C. To stain leaves and flowers, this substrate buffer containing 1 mM X-Gluc was used for 16–22 h at 37 °C (Jefferson 1987). Three different lines showed the same pattern of GUS staining.

Expression of P_{pPLA-I} : pPLA-I-GFP in ppla-I lines and confocal laser scan microscope

A 7.8-kb genomic fragment of DNA containing the coding region of *pPLA-I* (*At1g61850*) and 1.42 kb 5'- and 0.55 kb 3'-untranslated regions was amplified by PCR from BAC clone F8K4 and the cDNA sequence was verified. The construct was introduced into the *A. tumefaciens* strain GV3101 with the vector pGWB4 (Nakagawa *et al.* 2007) by heat shock transformation. Plant transformation was done into *pPLA-I* knockout mutant *ppla-I-1* using the vacuum infiltration method (Bechtold *et al.* 1993) to produce P_{pPLA-I} ·*pPLA-I-GFP*. Seed selection was done by plant growth on 1/2 MS media containing hygromycin. Selected seedlings were cultivated in the greenhouse and seeds were harvested.

Seedlings of the transgenic line $P_{pPLA-I}pPLA-I-GFP$ with native promotor were grown for 7–28 d on 1/2 MS media, 1% agar on vertically plates and exposed to W (16/8 h). Seedlings were mounted in water, covered with glass slides and sealed using nail polish. Samples were visualized using an inverted confocal laser scanning Carl Zeiss LSM 510 Axiovert 200 M Zeiss microscope (Carl Zeiss, Inc., Oberkochen, Germany) with standard filter set. Laser monochromatic excitation light = 488 nm was obtained from argon/krypton gas mixture. Emission light was collected using a long-pass 505 nm filter for GFP signal. Image analysis was done with the Zeiss LSM software and ImageJ (Java-based image processing program provided freely by the National Institutes of Health).

Immunocytochemistry

For immunization, almost the complete C-terminal exon18 was cloned from the BAC clone CD4–16 into pDONR221 and then into expression vector pEX-2TM-GW expressed as his-tagged fusion protein and affinity-purified for immunization (Pineda Antikörper-Service, Berlin). Gateway primers are listed in Supporting Information Table S1. The antibody against the N-terminus was made against a synthetic peptide identified in the N-terminus (H₂N-CMQDEGNRSVIGKDEN-COOH) by Eurogentec (Aachen, Germany). Fixation and whole mount immunocytochemistry was made as described (Gälweiler *et al.* 1998).

Reporter construct

The promoter sequence of AtPLAI (P_{PLAI}) comprises 1940 bp in the 5'-region of AtPLAI (At1g61850) and ends at nucleotide +1 prior to the translation initiation site, including the unknown transcriptional start site. The primers (see list) included *Sal*I and *Xba*I restriction sites at their 5'ends, respectively. The promoter fragment was digested with *Sal*I and *Xba*I restriction enzymes and ligated in front of the *uidA* gene of the binary plant transformation vector pGPTV and introduced into the *A. tumefaciens* strain GV3101. *A. thaliana* (Col) was used for *in planta* transformation (Bechtold *et al.* 1993). For mesophyll protoplast transformation, cDNA of *AtPLA-I* was amplified with primers HH115 and HH116 and cloned into SalI and KpnI digested pGFP2 (Kost *et al.* 1998). Protoplast transformation and observation was essentially done as described in Rösler *et al.* (2007).

Transcriptional measurements

For transcription measurements of early auxin genes, seedlings were grown in MS/2 liquid medium for 7 d under long day conditions. For auxin treatment, the medium was removed and replaced with fresh medium. After 4 h of calibration in the fresh medium, seedlings were treated either with 10 μ M IAA or only with MS/2 liquid medium for 30 min or as indicated. Seedlings were blotted on filter paper and frozen in liquid nitrogen for further use.

For quantitative RT-PCR, total RNA from auxin-treated seedlings was prepared using TRIzol® reagent according to the manufacturer's instructions (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA, USA). RNA was converted to cDNA with RevertAidTM H Minus First Strand cDNA Synthesis kit (Fermentas, Vilnius, Lithuania). Primers were selected from previous works (Li *et al.* 2011; Effendi *et al.* 2011; see primer list). Relative expression calculation and statistical analysis were carried out with REST 2009 software (Livak & Schmittgen 2001; Pfaffl *et al.* 2002). The expression level for the control treatment was set as onefold. PCR conditions were: activation of the polymerase at 95 °C for 10 min; 40 cycles of DNA melting at 95 °C for 15 s and DNA annealing at 62 °C for 60 s. Each data point is the mean value of four to six biological treatments and three technical repeats for each of those.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This work was supported by the Deutsches Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt/Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung (grant 50 WB 50WB0627 and 50WB0633), the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (Sche 207/9-1 and Sche207/24-1) and a grant from the Ministerium für Wissenschaft und Kultur 'Biotechnologie Niedersachsen'. Technical assistance by Martin Pähler, Peter Pietrzyk, Christa Ruppelt, Marianne Langer and Melanie Bingel is gratefully acknowledged. Kate Hunter helped with language corrections.

REFERENCES

- Abas L., Benjamins R., Malenica N., Paciorek T., Wiśniewska J., Moulinier-Anzola J.C., . . . Luschnig C. (2006) Intracellular trafficking and proteolysis of the *Arabidopsis* auxin-efflux facilitator PIN2 are involved in root gravitropism. *Nature Cell Biology* **3**, 249–256.
- Allen T., Ingles P.J., Praekelt U., Smith H. & Whitelam G.C. (2006) Phytochrome-mediated agravitropism in *Arabidopsis* hypocotyls requires GIL1 and confers a fitness advantage. *The Plant Journal* **46**, 641–648.
- Aukerman M.J., Hirschfeld M., Wester L., Weaver M., Clack T., Amasino R.M. & Sharrock R.A. (1997) A deletion in the PHYD gene of the *Arabidopsis* Wassilewskija ecotype defines a role for phytochrome D in red/far-red light sensing. *The Plant Cell* 9, 1317–1326.
- Balsinde J. & Balboa M.A. (2005) Cellular regulation and proposed biological functions of group VIA calcium-independent phospholipase A₂ in activated cells. *Cellular Signalling* **17**, 1052–1062.
- Bartels S., Anderson J.C., Besteiro M.A.G., Carreri A., Hirt H., Buchala A., ... Ulm R. (2009) MAP kinase phosphatase1 and protein tyrosine

phosphatase1 are repressors of salicylic acid synthesis and SNC1-mediated responses in *Arabidopsis. The Plant Cell* **21**, 2884–2897.

- Baudouin E., Meskiene I. & Hirt H. (1999) Unsaturated fatty acids inhibit MP2C, a protein phosphatase 2C involved in the wound-induced MAP kinase pathway regulation. *The Plant Journal* 20, 343–348.
- Bechtold N., Ellis J. & Pelletier G. (1993) In planta Agrobacterium mediated gene transfer by infiltration of adult Arabidopsis thaliana plants. Comptes Rendus de l'Académie des Sciences – Series III 316, 1194–1199.
- Buer C.S., Masle J. & Wasteneys G.O. (2000) Growth conditions modulate root-wave phenotypes in *Arabidopsis*. *Plant & Cell Physiology* **41**, 1164– 1170.
- Chakrabarty R., Banerjee R., Chung S.M., Farman M., Citovsky V., Hogenhout S.A., . . . Goodin M. (2007) pSITE Vectors for stable integration or transient expression of autofluorescent protein fusions in plants: probing *Nicotiana benthamiana*-virus interactions. *Molecular Plant-Microbe Interactions* 20, 740–750.
- Christie J.M. (2007) Phototropin blue-light receptors. Annual Review of Plant Biology 58, 21–45.
- Correll M.J. & Kiss J.Z. (2005) The roles of phytochromes in elongation and gravitropism of roots. *Plant & Cell Physiology* **46**, 317–323.
- Devlin P.F., Robson P.R., Patel S.R., Goosey L., Sharrock R.A. & Whitelam G.C. (1999) Phytochrome D acts in the shade-avoidance syndrome in *Arabidopsis* by controlling elongation growth and flowering time. *Plant Physiology* **119**, 909–915.
- Ding Z., Galván-Ampudia C.S., Demarsy E., Langowski L., Kleine-Vehn J., Fan Y., . . . Friml J. (2011) Light-mediated polarization of the PIN3 auxin transporter for the phototropic response in *Arabidopsis*. *Nature Cell Biology* **13**, 447–452.
- Drissner D., Kunze G., Callewaert N., Gehrig P., Tamasloukht M., Boller T., ... Bucher M. (2007) Lyso-phosphatidylcholine is a signal in the arbuscular mycorrhizal symbiosis. *Science* **318**, 265–268.
- Effendi Y. & Scherer G.F.E. (2011) AUXIN BINDING-PROTEIN1 (ABP1), a receptor to regulate auxin transport and early auxin genes in an interlocking system with PIN proteins and the receptor TIR1. *Plant Signaling & Behavior* **6**, 1101–1103.
- Effendi Y., Rietz S., Fischer U. & Scherer G.F.E. (2011) The heterozygous *abp1/ABP1* insertional mutant has defects in functions requiring polar auxin transport and in regulation of early auxin-regulated genes. *The Plant Journal* **65**, 282–294.
- Effendi Y., Jones A.M. & Scherer G.F.E. (2013) AUXIN-BINDING-PROTEIN1 (ABP1) in the phytochrome-B-controlled shade response. *Journal of Experimental Botany* **64**, 5065–5074.
- Fankhauser C. & Casal J.J. (2004) Phenotypic characterization of a photomorphogenic mutant. *The Plant Journal* 39, 747–760.
- Friml J. (2003) Auxin transport shaping the plant. *Current Opinion in Plant Biology* **6**, 7–12.
- Friml J., Wisniewska J., Benkova E., Mendgen K. & Palme K. (2002) Lateral relocation of auxin efflux regulator PIN3 mediates tropism in *Arabidopsis*. *Nature* 415, 806–809.
- Gälweiler L., Guan C., Müller A., Wisman E., Mendgen K., Yephremov A. & Palme K. (1998) Regulation of polar auxin transport by AtPIN1 in *Arabidopsis* vascular tissue. *Science* **282**, 2226–2230.
- Harper R.M., Stowe-Evans E.L., Luesse D.R., Muto H., Tatematsu K., Watahiki M.K., ... Liscum E. (2000) The NPH4 locus encodes the auxin response factor ARF7, a conditional regulator of differential growth in aerial *Arabidopsis* tissue. *The Plant Cell* **12**, 757–770.
- Holk A., Rietz S., Zahn M., Paul R.U., Quader H. & Scherer G.F.E. (2002) Molecular identification of cytosolic, patatin-related phospholipases A from *Arabidopsis* with potential functions in plant signal transduction. *Plant Physiology* **130**, 90–101.
- Jaedicke K., Lichtenthäler A.L., Meyberg R., Zeidler M. & Hughes J. (2012) A phytochrome-phototropin light signaling complex at the plasma membrane. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America 109, 12231–12236.
- Jefferson R.A. (1987) Assaying chimeric genes in plants: the GUS gene fusion system. *Plant Molecular Biology Reporter* **5**, 387–405.
- Johnson E., Bradley M., Harberd N.P. & Whitelam G.C. (1994) Photoresponses of light grown phyA mutants of *Arabidopsis*. Phytochrome A is required for the perception of daylength extensions. *Plant Physiology* **105**, 141–149.
- Kim B.C., Soh M.S., Hong S.H., Furuya M. & Nam H.G. (1998) Photomorphogenic development of the *Arabidopsis shy2-1D* mutation and its interaction with phytochromes in darkness. *The Plant Journal* 15, 61– 68.

- Kim K., Shin J., Lee S.H., Kweon H.S., Maloof J.N. & Choi G. (2011) Phytochromes inhibit hypocotyl negative gravitropism by regulating the development of endodermal amyloplasts through phytochrome-interacting factors. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States* of America 108, 1729–1734.
- Klode M., Dahlke R.I., Sauter M. & Steffens B. (2011) Expression and subcellular localization of *Arabidopsis thaliana* auxin-binding protein 1 (ABP1). *Journal of Plant Growth Regulation* **30**, 416–424.
- Kost B., Spielhofer P. & Chua N.H. (1998) A GFP-mouse talin fusion protein labels plant actin filaments *in vivo* and visualizes the actin cytoskeleton in growing pollen tubes. *The Plant Journal* 16, 393–401.
- Krysan P.J., Young J.C., Tax F. & Sussman M.R. (1996) Identification of transferred DNA insertions within *Arabidopsis* genes involved in signal transduction and ion transport. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America* **93**, 8145–8150.
- Kunihiro A., Yamashino T., Nakamichi N., Niwa Y., Nakanishi H. & Mizuno T. (2011) Phytochrome-interacting factor 4 and 5 (PIF4 and PIF5) activate the homeobox ATHB2 and auxin inducible IAA29 genes in the coincidence mechanism underlying photoperiodic control of plant growth of *Arabidopsis thaliana*. *Plant & Cell Physiology* 52, 1315–1329.
- Labusch C., Shishova M., Effendi Y., Li M., Wang X. & Scherer G.F.E. (2013) Patterns and timing in expression of early auxin-induced genes in phospholipase A (pPLA) T-DNA insertion mutants reveal a runction in auxin signaling. *Molecular Plant* 6, 1473–1486.
- Lariguet P. & Fankhauser C. (2004) Hypocotyl growth orientation in blue light is determined by phytochrome A inhibition of gravitropism and phototropin promotion of phototropism. *The Plant Journal* **40**, 826–834.
- Lariguet P, Schepens I., Hodgson D., Pedmale U.V., Trevisan M., Kami C., ... Fankhauser C. (2006) Phytochrome kinase substrate 1 is a phototropin 1 binding protein required for phototropism. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America* **103**, 10134– 10139.
- Lau O.S. & Deng X.W. (2010) Plant hormone signaling lightens up: integrators of light and hormones. *Current Opinion in Plant Biology* **13**, 571–577.
- Li M., Bahn S.C., Guo L., Musgrave W., Berg H., Welti R. & Wang X. (2011) Patatin-related phospholipase pPLAIIIβ-induced changes in lipid metabolism alter cellulose content and cell elongation in *Arabidopsis*. *The Plant Cell* **23**, 1107–1123.
- Liscum E. & Hangarter R.P. (1993) Genetic evidence that the red-absorbing form of phytochrome B modulates gravitropism in *Arabidopsis thaliana*. *Plant Physiology* **103**, 15–19.
- Liscum E. & Reed J.W. (2002) Genetics of Aux/IAA and ARF action in plant growth and development. *Plant Molecular Biology* **49**, 387–400.
- Liu X., Cohen J. & Gardner G. (2011) Low fluence red light increases the transport and biosynthesis of auxin. *Plant Physiology* **158**, 1988–2000.
- Liu Y.J. & Iino M. (1996a) Effect of red light on the fluenceresponse relationship for pulse-induced phototropism of maize coleoptiles. *Plant, Cell & Environment* **19**, 609–614.
- Liu Y.J. & Iino M. (1996b) Phytochrome is required for the occurrence of time-dependent phototropism in maize coleoptiles. *Plant, Cell & Environment* 19, 1379–1388.
- Livak K.J. & Schmittgen T.D. (2001) Analysis of relative gene expression data using real time quantitative PCR and the 2ΔΔCt method. *Methods (San Diego, Calif.)* **25**, 402–408.
- Matos A.R., d'Arcy-Lameta A., França M., Pêtres S., Edelman L., Kader J.C., ... Pham-Ti A.T. (2001) A novel patatin-like gene stimulated by drought stress encodes a galactolipid hydrolase. *FEBS Letters* **491**, 188–192.
- Medzihradszky M., Bindics J., Ádám É., Viczián A., Klement É., Lorrain S., ... Nagy F. (2013) Phosphorylation of phytochrome B inhibits light-induced signaling via accelerated dark reversion in *Arabidopsis*. *The Plant Cell* **25**, 535–544.
- Migliaccio F. & Piconese S. (2001) Spiralizations and tropisms in *Arabidopsis* roots. *Trends in Plant Science* **6**, 561–565.
- Molas M.L. & Kiss J.Z. (2008) PKS1 plays a role in red-light-based positive phototropism in roots. *Plant, Cell & Environment* **31**, 842–849.
- Motchoulski A. & Liscum E. (1999) NPH3: a NPH1 photoreceptor-interacting protein essential for phototropism. *Science* 286, 961–964.
- Mullen J.L., Turk E., Johnson K., Wolverton C., Ishikawa H., Simmons C., ... Evans M.L. (1998) Root-growth behavior of the *Arabidopsis* mutant *rgr1*. Roles of gravitropism and circumnutation in the waving/coiling phenomenon. *Plant Physiology* **118**, 1139–1345.
- Murashige T. & Skoog F. (1962) A revised medium for rapid growth and bioassay with tobacco tissue cultures. *Physiologia Plantarum* **15**, 473–498.

- Müller A., Guan C., Gälweiler L., Tänzler P., Huijser P., Marchant A., ... Palme K. (1998) AtPIN2 defines a locus of *Arabidopsis* for root gravitropism control. *The EMBO Journal* **17**, 6903–69011.
- Nakagawa T., Kurose T., Hino T., Tanaka K., Kawamukai M., Niwa Y., ... Kimura T. (2007) Development of series of gateway binary vectors, pGWBs, for realizing efficient construction of fusion genes for plant transformation. *Journal of Bioscience and Bioengineering* **104**, 34–41.
- Narváez-Vásquez J., Florin-Christensen J. & Ryan C.A. (1999) Positional specificity of a phospholipase A activity induced by wounding, systemin, and oligosaccharide elicitors in tomato leaves. *The Plant Cell* **11**, 2249–2260.
- Nelson B.K., Cai X. & Nebenführ A. (2007) A multicolored set of in vivo organelle markers for co-localization studies in *Arabidopsis* and other plants. *Plant Journal* 51, 1126–1136.
- Nito K., Wong C.C., Yates J.R. 3rd & Chory J. (2013) Tyrosine phosphorylation regulates the activity of phytochrome photoreceptors. *Cell Reports* 27, 1970– 1979.
- Parks B.M., Quail P.H. & Hangarter R.P. (1996) Phytochrome A regulates red-light induction of phototropic enhancement in *Arabidopsis*. *Plant Physi*ology **110**, 155–162.
- Paul R., Holk A. & Scherer G.F.E. (1998) Fatty acids and lysophospholipids as potential second messengers in auxin action. Rapid activation of phospholipase A₂ activity by auxin in suspension-cultured parsley and soybean cells. *The Plant Journal* 16, 601–611.
- Pérez-Torres C.A., López-Bucio J., Cruz-Ramírez A., Ibarra-Laclette E., Dharmasiri S., Estelle M. & Herrera-Estrella L. (2008) Phosphate availability alters lateral root development in *Arabidopsis* by modulating auxin sensitivity via a mechanism involving the TIR1 auxin receptor. *The Plant Cell* 20, 3258–3272.
- Pedmale U. V & Liscum E. (2007) Regulation of phototropic signaling in *Arabidopsis* via phosphorylation state changes in the phototropin 1-interacting protein NPH3. *The Journal of Biological Chemistry* 282, 19992– 20001.
- Pfaffl M.W., Horgan G.W. & Dempfle L. (2002) Relative expression software tool (REST©) for group-wise comparison and statistical analysis of relative expression results in real-time PCR. *Nucleic Acids Research* **30**, e36.
- Poppe C., Hangarter R.P., Sharrock R.A., Nagy F. & Schäfer E. (1996) The light-induced reduction of the gravitropic growth-orientation of seedlings of *Arabidopsis thaliana* (L.) Heynh. is a photomorphogenic response mediated synergistically by the far-red-absorbing forms of phytochromes A and B. *Planta* 199, 511–514.
- Rietz S., Dermendjiev G., Oppermann E., Tafesse F.G., Effendi Y., Holk A.,... Scherer G.F.E. (2010) Roles of *Arabidopsis patatin*-related phospholipases A in root development related to auxin response and phosphate deficiency. *Molecular Plant* **3**, 524–538.
- Robson F., Okamoto H., Patrick E., Harris S.R., Wasternack C., Brearley C. & Turner J.G. (2010) Jasmonate and phytochrome A signaling in *Arabidopsis* wound and shade responses are integrated through JAZ1 stability. *The Plant Cell* 22, 1143–1160.
- Robson P.R. & Smith H. (1996) Genetic and transgenic evidence that phytochromes A and B act to modulate the gravitropic orientation of *Arabidopsis thaliana* hypocotyls. *Plant Physiology* **110**, 211–216.
- Rösler J., Klein I. & Zeidler M. (2007) Arabidopsis fhl/fhy1 double mutant reveals a distinct cytoplasmic action of phytochrome A. Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America 104, 10737– 10742.
- Rösler J., Jaedicke K. & Zeidler M. (2010) Cytoplasmic phytochrome action. *Plant & Cell Physiology* 51, 1248–1254.
- Schepens I., Boccalandro H.E., Kami C., Casal J.J. & Fankhauser C. (2008) PHYTOCHROME KINASE SUBSTRATE4 modulates phytochromemediated control of hypocotyl growth orientation. *Plant Physiology* 147, 661–671.
- Scherer G.F.E. (2010) Phospholipase A in plant signal transduction. In *Lipid Signaling in Plants*. Plant Cell Monographs (ed. T. Munnik) Springer, Heidelberg. 16, 3–22.
- Scherer G.F.E. (2011) Auxin-binding-protein1, the second auxin receptor: what is the significance of a two-receptor concept in plant signal transduction? *Journal of Experimental Botany* 62, 3339–3357.
- Scherer G.F.E. & André B. (1989) A rapid response to a plant hormone: auxin stimulates phospholipase A_2 *in vivo* and *in vitro*. *Biochemical and Biophysical Research Communications* **163**, 111–117.
- Scherer G.F.E. & Arnold B. (1997) Auxin-induced growth is inhibited by phospholipase A₂ inhibitors. Implications for auxin-induced signal transduction. *Planta* **202**, 462–469.

- Scherer G.F.E., Paul R.U. & Holk A. (2000) Phospholipase A₂ in auxin and elicitor signal transduction in cultured parsley cells (*Petrosilenium crispum* L.). *Plant Growth Regulation* **32**, 123–128.
- Scherer G.F.E., Paul R.U., Holk A. & Martinec J. (2002) Down-regulation by elicitors of phosphatidylcholine-hydrolyzing phospholipase C and up-regulation of phospholipase A in plant cells. *Biochemical and Biophysi*cal Research Communications 293, 766–770.
- Scherer G.F.E., Zahn M., Callis J. & Jones A.M. (2007) A role for phospholipase A in auxin-regulated gene expression. *FEBS Letters* 581, 4205–4211.
- Scherer G.F.E., Ryu S.B., Wang X., Matos A.R. & Heitz T. (2010) Patatinrelated phospholipase A: nomenclature, subfamilies, and functions in plants. *Trends in Plant Science* 15, 693–700.
- Scherer G.F.E., Labusch C. & Effendi Y. (2012) Phospholipases and the network of auxin signal transduction with ABP1 and TIR1 as two receptors: a comprehensive and provocative model. *Frontiers in Plant Science* 3, 56. doi: 10.3389/fpls.2012.00056.
- Sedbrook J.C. & Kaloriti D. (2008) Microtubules, MAPs and plant directional cell expansion. *Trends in Plant Science* 13, 303–310.
- Shin J., Kim K., Kang H., Zulfugarov I.S., Bae G., Lee C.H., ... Choi G. (2009) Phytochromes promote seedling light responses by inhibiting four negatively-acting phytochrome-interacting factors. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America* **106**, 7660– 7665.
- Silhavy D., Molnar A., Lucioli A., Szittya G., Hornyik C., Tavazza M. & Burgyan J. (2002) A viral protein suppresses RNA silencing and binds silencing-generated, 21- to 25-nucleotide doublestranded RNAs. *The EMBO Journal* **21**, 3070–3080.
- Simmons C., Migliaccio F., Masson P., Caspar T. & Söll D. (1995) A novel root gravitropism mutant of *Arabidopsis thaliana* exhibiting altered auxin physiology. *Physiologia Plantarum* 93, 790–798.
- Six D.A. & Dennis E.A. (2000) The expanding superfamily of phospholipase A₂ enzymes: classification and characterization. *Biochimica et Biophysica Acta* 1488, 1–19.
- Soh M.S., Sung H., Hong S.H., Kim B.C., Vizir I., Park D.H., ... Nam H.G. (1999) Regulation of both light- and auxin-mediated development by the *Arabidopsis IAA3/SHY2* gene. *Journal of Plant Biology* 42, 239–246.
- Stamm P. & Kumar P.P. (2010) The phytohormone signal network regulating elongation growth during shade avoidance. *Journal of Experimental Botany* 61, 2889–2903.
- Ståhl U., Lee M., Sjödahl S., Archer D., Cellini F., Ek B.,... Stymme S. (1999) Plant low-molecular-weight phospholipase A₂S (PLA₂s) are structurally related to the animal secretory PLA₂s and are present as a family of isoforms in rice (Oryza sativa). *Plant Molecular Biology* **41**, 481–490.
- Tatematsu K., Kumagai S., Muto H., Sato A., Watahiki M.K., Harper R.M., ... Yamamoto K.T. (2004) MASSUGU2 encodes Aux/IAA19, an auxinregulated protein that functions together with the transcriptional activator NPH4/ARF7 to regulate differential growth responses of hypocotyl and formation of lateral roots in *Arabidopsis thaliana*. The Plant Cell 16, 379– 393.
- Ulm R., Revenkova E., di Sansebastiano G.-P., Bechtold N. & Paszkowski J. (2001) Mitogen-activated protein kinase phosphatase is required for genotoxic stress relief in *Arabidopsis. Genes & Development* 15, 699–709.
- Viehweger K., Dordschbal B. & Roos W. (2002) Elicitor-activated phospholipase A₂ generates lysophosphatidylcholines that mobilize the vacuolar H⁺ pool for pH signaling via the activation of Na⁺-dependent proton fluxes. *The Plant Cell* **14**, 1509–1525.
- Viehweger K., Schwartze W., Schumann B., Lein W. & Roos W. (2006) The G alpha protein controls a pH-dependent signal path to the induction of phytoalexin biosynthesis in *Eschscholzia californica*. The Plant Cell 18, 1510–1523.
- Whippo C.W. & Hangarter R.P. (2004) Phytochrome modulation of blue-lightinduced phototropism. *Plant, Cell & Environment* 27, 1223–1228.
- Winstaed M.V., Balsinde J. & Dennis E.A. (2000) Calcium-independent phospholipase A₂: structure and function. *Biochimica et Biophysica Acta* 1488, 28–39.
- Yang S. & Hua J. (2004) A haplotype-specific resistance gene regulated by BONZAII mediates temperature-dependent growth control in *Arabidopsis*. *The Plant Cell* **16**, 1060–1071.
- Yang W., Devaiah S.P., Pan X., Isaac G., Welti R. & Wang X. (2007) AtPLAI is an acyl hydrolase involved in basal jasmonic acid production and Arabidopsis resistance to Botrytis cinerea. The Journal of Biological Chemistry 282, 18116–18128.

Yi H., Park D. & Lee Y. (1996) *In vivo* evidence for the involvement of phospholipase A and protein kinase in the signal transduction pathway for auxin-induced corn coleoptile elongation. *Physiologia Plantarum* 96, 359– 368.

Received 23 January 2013; accepted for publication 27 December 2013

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Additional Supporting Information may be found in the online version of this article at the publisher's web-site:

Figure S1. Expression of P_{pPLA-I} : pPLA-I-GFP in ppla-I-3 background.

Figure S2. Immunocytochemistry of tissue and subcellular localization of pPLA-I.

Figure S3. Immunocytochemistry in ppla-I-1 and ppla-I-3 mutants.

Figure S4. Responses to continous colored light in *ppla-I* mutants.

Table S1. Primer List.