

Contents

Introduction	1
1. Introduction to the phytohormones gibberellins	3
2. Gibberellin signaling: GA-dependent degradation of DELLA proteins	4
3. Molecular mechanisms of DELLA-mediated transcriptional regulation	7
4. DELLAAs as transcriptional hubs	9
5. Evolution of GA signaling: GA perception and DELLA degradation across land plants.....	12
6. Evolution of DELLA proteins	15
7. References	17
Objectives	31
Chapter 1	35
0. Abstract	37
1. Introduction.....	38
2. Results and discussion.....	41
Construction of networks and subnetworks	41
DELLA-associated subnetworks reflect increased relevance of DELLAs after being recruited by GA signaling	44
Efficiency of transcriptional regulation is a DELLA-associated parameter	46
The regulation of the stress response: a likely role of ancestral DELLA proteins	48
3. Conclusion	50
4. Materials and methods	51
Gene co-expression network inference.....	51
Data compilation and processing	52
Network analysis and visualization.....	53
Acknowledgments	53
5. Supplementary material	53
6. References	54

Chapter 2.....	61
0. Abstract.....	63
1. Introduction	63
2. Results and discussion.....	64
DELLA promiscuity is a conserved trait.....	64
DELLA promiscuity is modulated in a taxon-specific manner	67
DELLA function evolution reflects the life history traits of the interacting partners	71
3. Conclusion.....	75
4. Materials and Methods	75
DELLA interactome studies	75
Determination of 3D structure and conservation of GRAS domains .	77
Heterologous complementation tests in <i>A. thaliana</i>	77
Heterologous complementation tests in <i>M. polymorpha</i>	82
Comparison of DELLA-regulated genes in different species	83
5. Supplementary material.....	86
6. References	98
General Discussion	105
1. DELLA promiscuity is a conserved ancestral property.....	107
2. Functional innovation in DELLAs is linked to the evolution of TFs and their targets.....	108
3. Conservation of core functions highlights a role for DELLA in stress responses	110
4. Biotechnological implications of DELLA evolutionary studies	112
5. References	113
Conclusions	115