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3 ***Short Communication***

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5 **Traffic jam on the cellular secretory pathway generated by a**
6 **replication protein from a plant RNA virus**

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11 **Key words:** secretory pathway; ADP ribosylation factor 1 (Arf1); secretion-associated
12 RAS-related 1 (Sar1); plant RNA virus; replication protein; intracellular membrane

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18

19 **Abstract**

20 Although positive-strand RNA [(+)RNA] viruses have a limited coding capacity, they
21 can replicate efficiently in host cells because of their ability to use host-derived proteins,
22 membranes, lipids, and metabolites, and to rewire cellular trafficking pathways.
23 Previously, we showed that a plant RNA virus, *Red clover necrotic mosaic virus*
24 (RCNMV), hijacked Arf1 and Sar1, which are small GTPases that regulate the
25 biogenesis of COPI and COPII vesicles, respectively, for viral RNA replication. These
26 small GTPases are relocated from appropriate subcellular compartments to the viral
27 RNA replication sites by p27 replication protein, which raises the possibility that
28 RCNMV interferes with the cellular secretory pathway. Here, we examined this
29 possibility by using green fluorescent protein-fused rice SCAMP1 and Arabidopsis
30 LRR84A as secretory pathway marker proteins and showed that p27 inhibited the
31 trafficking of these proteins. RCNMV-mediated inhibition of the host secretion pathway
32 and its possible impact on plant–virus interaction are discussed.

1 **Exploiting early secretory components for viral RNA replication**

2 The secretory pathway in eukaryotic cells has essential roles in biogenesis and proper
3 intracellular distribution of a wide range of proteins and lipids. Anterograde transport of
4 newly synthesized proteins and lipids is initiated at the endoplasmic reticulum (ER).
5 Therefore, ER-to-Golgi transport represents a vital gateway to the endomembrane
6 system.¹ Coat protein complex II (COPII) drives the anterograde pathway from the ER,
7 whereas COPI regulates the retrograde trafficking from the Golgi.¹ The interdependence
8 of the antero- and retrograde trafficking pathways are generally conserved across
9 eukaryotes.¹ The *trans*-Golgi network (TGN) conducts final sorting steps to post-Golgi
10 destinations such as plasma membrane (PM) and exchanges material with the endocytic
11 pathway.²

12
13 *Red clover necrotic mosaic virus* (RCNMV) belongs to the genus *dianthovirus* in the
14 family *Tombusviridae*. RCNMV encodes two replication proteins, an auxiliary
15 replication protein p27, and RNA-dependent RNA polymerase p88^{pol}. p27 has multiple
16 functions during RNA replication and is an essential component of the RCNMV
17 replicase complex, which assembles on the ER membranes and synthesizes progeny
18 viral RNAs.³ p27 interacts with many partners such as p27 itself, p88^{pol}, viral genomic
19 RNAs, and host heat shock proteins, Hsp70 and Hsp90.⁴⁻⁷ Moreover, p27 induces ER
20 membrane alternations.^{8,9} We previously showed that a host small GTPase, ADP
21 ribosylation factor 1 (Arf1) plays an essential role during the replication of RCNMV.¹⁰
22 Arf1 is implicated in the formation of COPI vesicles on Golgi membranes.¹ Arf1
23 function can be inhibited by brefeldin A (BFA) that is a well-known fungal
24 metabolite.¹¹ BFA inhibits the activation of Arf small GTPases by targeting
25 BFA-sensitive guanine nucleotide-exchange factors (GEFs) via locking the abortive
26 Arf-GDP-GEF complex, thereby blocking guanine nucleotide release.¹²⁻¹⁴ We found
27 that down-regulation of Arf1 expression by virus-induced gene silencing decreased viral
28 RNA accumulation in leaves of *Nicotiana benthamiana* inoculated with the virus, and
29 that BFA or expression of dominant-negative forms of Arf1 inhibited RCNMV RNA
30 replication in protoplasts, indicating that Arf1 plays an essential role in RCNMV
31 replication.¹⁰ Moreover, BFA inhibited the accumulation of viral replicase complexes
32 and disrupted p27-induced ER remodeling, suggesting that Arf1 is involved in the

1 formation of the membrane-bound RCNMV replicase complex. Direct interactions
2 between p27 and Arf1 were shown by GST pull down assays *in vitro* and bimolecular
3 fluorescent complementation assays in *N. benthamiana* epidermal cells. Consistent with
4 this, p27 recruits Arf1 from the Golgi apparatus to the p27-positive perinuclear ER
5 aggregated structures. From these findings, we concluded that RCNMV alters proper
6 subcellular localization of Arf1 and actively utilizes it for viral multiplication.

7 8 **RCNMV interferes with the cellular secretory pathway**

9 Sar1 (secretion-associated RAS-related 1), which is a small GTPase, is also required for
10 RCNMV replication, and is relocalized with p27 in p27-induced large aggregate
11 structures of ER membranes.¹⁰ Sar1 is implicated in the biogenesis of the COPII
12 vesicles at ER exit sites. Our recent affinity purification and liquid
13 chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry analysis revealed that Sar1 potentially
14 interacts with p27 (unpublished data). Since Arf1 and Sar1 are essential factors in the
15 biogenesis of COPI and COPII vesicles, respectively, we hypothesized that p27 affects
16 the cellular secretory pathway. To address this hypothesis, we used two secretory
17 marker proteins fused with green fluorescent protein (GFP); OsSCAMP1 (rice secretory
18 carrier membrane protein 1), a tetraspan transmembrane protein, and Arabidopsis
19 LRR84A, a type I integral membrane protein belonging to the leucine-rich repeat
20 receptor-like kinase protein family, and tested whether p27 affects subcellular
21 localization of these marker proteins. Both OsSCAMP1 and AtLRR84A can reach the
22 PM via the conventional ER-Golgi-TGN pathway in tobacco BY-2 protoplasts.^{15,16}
23 When transiently expressed in BY-2 protoplasts, both OsSCAMP1-GFP and
24 AtLRR84A-GFP were found on the PM (Fig. 1A and 1C), as reported.^{15,16} However,
25 when coexpressed with p27, the PM localization of these proteins was partially
26 inhibited (Fig. 1B and 1D). Instead, a fraction of these proteins was found in the
27 p27-containing ER aggregate structures (Fig. 1B and 1D). Moreover, in BY-2
28 protoplasts infected with a recombinant RCNMV in which the coat protein open reading
29 frame was replaced by mCherry, the intracellular fluorescence of OsSCAMP1-GFP was
30 observed (Fig. 1E). From these results, we propose that p27 interferes with the secretory
31 pathway between the ER and the Golgi (Fig. 1F). The interference may be the result of
32 p27-mediated sequestration of secretory pathway regulator proteins such as Arf1 and

1 Sar1 from their original compartments.
2 The cellular secretory pathway is important for plant immunity for active defense
3 against potential pathogens.¹⁷ By contrast, invasive pathogens have evolved a means to
4 use these trafficking pathways for the suppression of plant defenses and for the benefit
5 of microbial proliferation.¹⁷ For example, the *Pseudomonas syringae* pv *tomato*
6 DC3000 effector HopM1 targets an Arf-GEF AtMIN7 that is required for both the
7 pathogen-associated molecular pattern- and effector-triggered immunities.^{18,19} Moreover,
8 Arf1 is required for both the nonhost resistance against a bacterial pathogen and *N*
9 gene-mediated resistance against *Tobacco mosaic virus* in *N. benthamiana*.²⁰ Therefore,
10 it may be possible that p27-mediated interference of the cellular secretory pathway
11 compromises plant immunity. It should be noted that the secretory pathway plays an
12 important role not only in the delivery of antimicrobial molecules, but also in systemic
13 acquired resistance, which provides broad-spectrum resistance against pathogens
14 including viruses in plants.²¹⁻²³ In animal viruses, enterovirus 3A protein binds to and
15 inhibits the function of GBF1, a mammalian GEF for Arf1.²⁴ This leads to inhibition of
16 ER-to-Golgi transport, a function previously suggested to be important for viral
17 suppression of immune responses.²⁴ A virus carrying a 3A protein defective in
18 inhibiting ER-to-Golgi transport is less virulent in mice.²⁴ Hijacking of the host
19 secretory pathway by RCNMV may be important not only for viral multiplication, but
20 also for suppression of active defenses against viruses. Future studies will address this
21 fascinating possibility.

22

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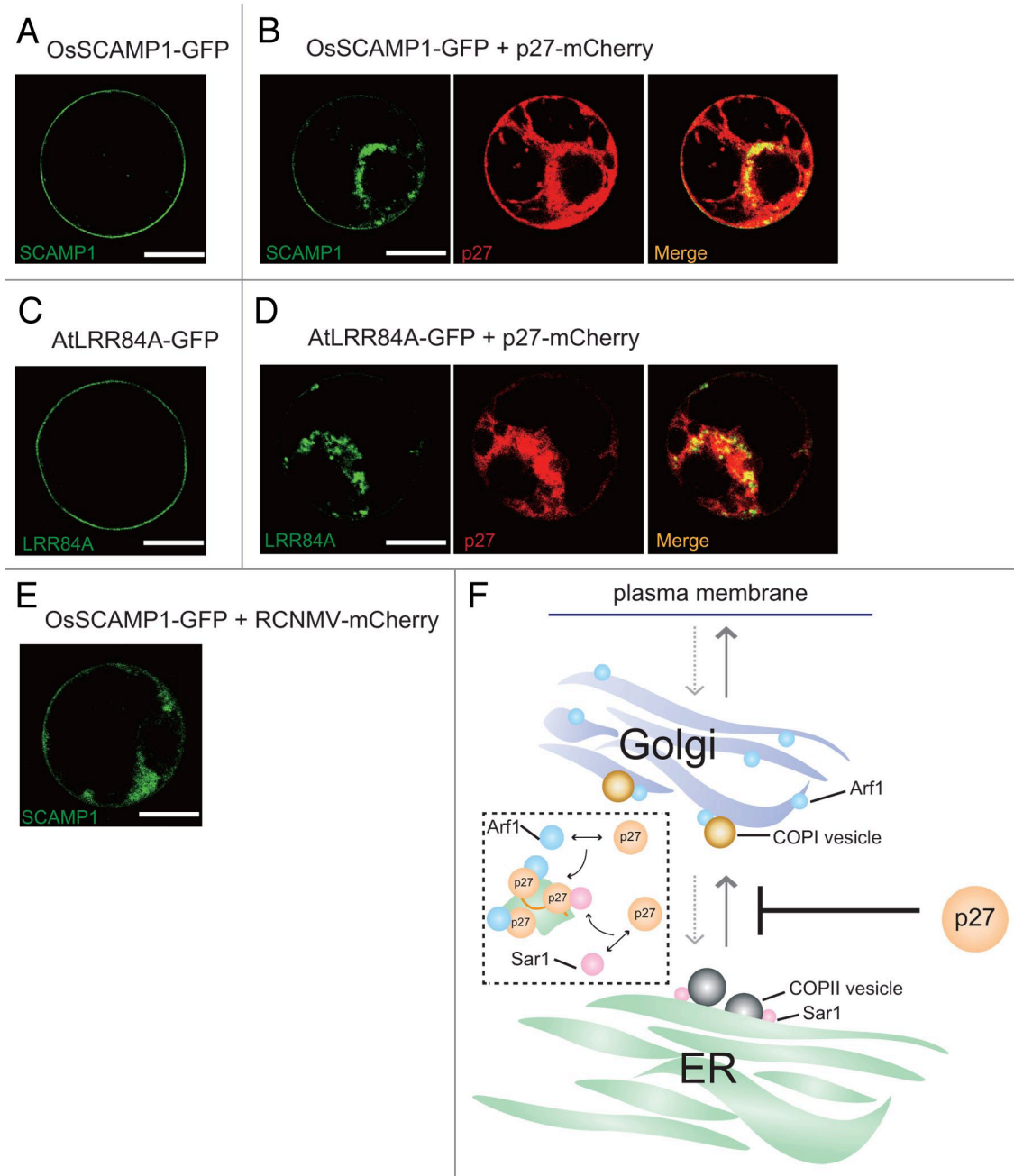
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Figure 1. Interference of protein trafficking mediated by *dianthovirus* p27 replication protein. A plasmid expressing OsSCAMP1-GFP (5 μ g) (A and B) or AtLRR84A-GFP (5 μ g) (C and D) was cotransfected with a plasmid expressing empty vector (12.5 μ g) or p27-mCherry (12.5 μ g) into tobacco BY-2 protoplasts. Images were taken at 20 h by confocal laser scanning microscopy. (E) A plasmid expressing OsSCAMP1-GFP (5 μ g) was cotransfected with RNA1-mCherry, in which the coat protein open reading frame was replaced by mCherry, and RNA2 into tobacco BY-2 protoplasts. Images were taken at 24 h by confocal laser scanning microscopy. Scale bar = 10 μ m. (F) Predicted model of the inhibition step of intracellular trafficking of AtLRR84A and OsSCAMP1 mediated by p27 replication protein. Appropriate trafficking of AtLRR84A and OsSCAMP1 (gray arrows) is likely to be inhibited by p27

1 at the ER-to-Golgi step. Arf1 and Sar1 are likely to be recruited to viral replication sites
2 from their original compartments (as shown in the dashed-line square). Gray
3 dashed-line arrows indicate retrograde trafficking route. ER, endoplasmic reticulum;
4 Arf1, ADP ribosylation factor 1; Sar1, secretion-associated RAS-related 1; COPI, coat
5 protein complex I, COPII, coat protein complex II.
6