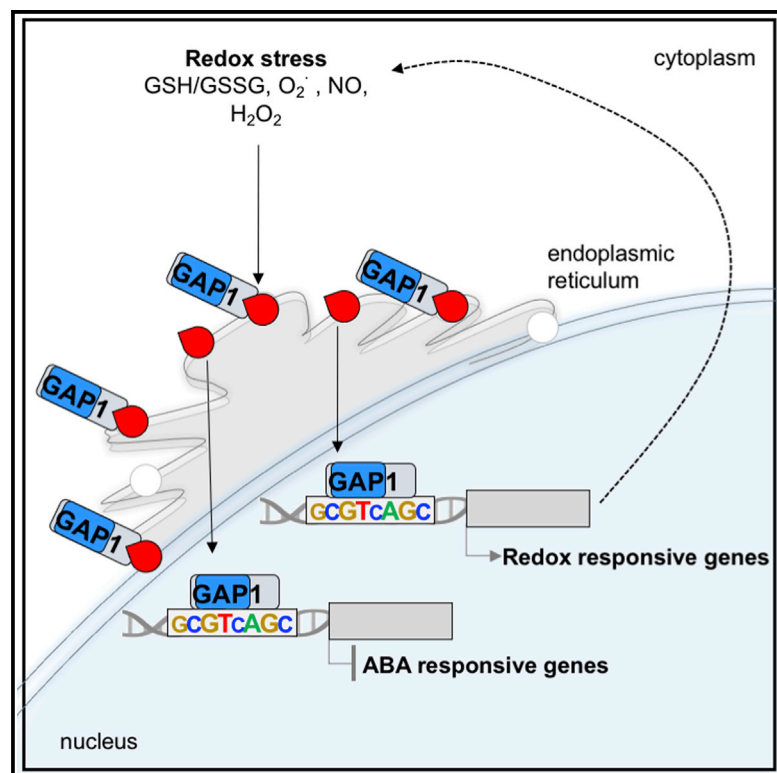


Redox feedback regulation of ANAC089 signaling alters seed germination and stress response

Graphical abstract



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In brief

Albertos et al. report the cleavage of ANAC089 transcription factor from the membrane-anchoring domain in the endoplasmic reticulum, controlled by cell redox alterations. Once in the nucleus, ANAC089 induces redox homeostasis-related genes and represses ABA-responsive genes to increase NO levels and ABA insensitivity during seed germination and abiotic stress.

Highlights

- GAP1 encodes transcription factor ANAC089, expressed in seeds and stress
- Changes in cellular redox status induce translocation of ANAC089 to the nucleus
- ANAC089 binds specifically to genes controlling seed germination and abiotic stress
- ANAC089 regulates NO levels and cell redox and represses ABA synthesis and signaling



Report

Redox feedback regulation of ANAC089 signaling alters seed germination and stress response

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SUMMARY

The interplay between the phytohormone abscisic acid (ABA) and the gasotransmitter nitric oxide (NO) regulates seed germination and post-germinative seedling growth. We show that *GAP1* (*germination in ABA and cPTIO 1*) encodes the transcription factor ANAC089 with a critical membrane-bound domain and extranuclear localization. ANAC089 mutants lacking the membrane-tethered domain display insensitivity to ABA, salt, and osmotic and cold stresses, revealing a repressor function. Whole-genome transcriptional profiling and DNA-binding specificity reveals that ANAC089 regulates ABA- and redox-related genes. ANAC089 truncated mutants exhibit higher NO and lower ROS and ABA endogenous levels, alongside an altered thiol and disulfide homeostasis. Consistently, translocation of ANAC089 to the nucleus is directed by changes in cellular redox status after treatments with NO scavengers and redox-related compounds. Our results reveal ANAC089 to be a master regulator modulating redox homeostasis and NO levels, able to repress ABA synthesis and signaling during *Arabidopsis* seed germination and abiotic stress.

INTRODUCTION

Seed germination starts with water uptake by the dry seed, involving the reactivation of metabolic and gene expression events and finishes with the protrusion of the embryonic axis through the seed coat (Bewley and Black, 1994). This process is arguably one of the most important and vulnerable of a plant life cycle. The phytohormone abscisic acid (ABA) and the gasotransmitter nitric oxide (NO) are involved in regulating seed formation and germination (Bethke et al., 2004b; Finkelstein, 2013; Sanz et al., 2015).

ABA acts through a complex signaling cascade of transcription factors (TFs) to fine-tune ABA responses and induce changes in gene expression; thus, multiple stress responses are modulated by this pathway during seed germination (Nakashima and Yamaguchi-Shinozaki, 2013). Different ABA-inducible TFs include members of AREB/ABI5 (ABA-response element

[ABRE]-binding proteins), VP1/B3/ABI3, AP2/ABI4, MYC, MYB, HD-ZIP, and NAC (NAM-ATAF1,2-CUC2) family proteins (Fujita et al., 2011). The NAC domain-containing proteins constitute a large family of plant-specific TFs that is represented by at least 117 members in *Arabidopsis thaliana* (Nuruzzaman et al., 2010). Interestingly, several *Arabidopsis* NACs, such as ATAF1, ATAF2, ANAC019, ANAC055, ANAC072/RD26, NAC2, and NTL8, are involved in ABA-dependent responses to abiotic stresses (drought, salt, cold) during different developmental windows (Fujita et al., 2004; He et al., 2005; Jensen et al., 2010; Jiang et al., 2009; Kim et al., 2008; Mao et al., 2012; Tran et al., 2004). Similarly, *anac092-1*, *ntl8-1*, and *ntm2-1* mutants are positive regulators of seed germination under high salt conditions (Balazadeh et al., 2010; Kim et al., 2008; Park et al., 2011).

The crosstalk between NO and ABA signaling pathways during seed germination has been demonstrated by two different molecular mechanisms (Albertos et al., 2015; Gibbs et al., 2014;



Sánchez-Vicente et al., 2019). On the one hand, NO promotes group ERF VII TFs degradation by the N-degron pathway, preventing *ABI5* expression and enhancing seed germination (Gibbs et al., 2014). On the other hand, *ABI5* S-nitrosation, a NO-dependent post-translational modification, triggers degradation of this central ABA repressor to promote seed germination and post-germination (Albertos et al., 2015). Additional control of ABA perception and signaling pathways by NO occurs at the level of PYR/PYL/RCAR receptors, which are inhibited by Tyr nitration (Castillo et al., 2015), enabling the activation of PP2C, which in turn inactivates SnRKs. Furthermore, the inhibition of the activity of SnRKs 2.2, 2.3, and 2.6 by S-nitrosation and *SnRK2.6* downregulation by NO treatment, impairs seed germination and stomatal closure (Wang et al., 2015a, 2015b; Zhao et al., 2016). However, signaling components that regulate NO homeostasis in connection with ABA-dependent targets are currently unknown. Here, we report on the identification and molecular characterization of the redox-sensitive TF ANAC089 during seed germination and seedling establishment. We show that *ANAC089* encodes an extranuclear localized NAC-domain TF with a crucial transmembrane domain (TM), which functions as an ABA synthesis and response repressor, regulates NO levels, and modulates cell redox-related homeostasis genes in seeds. The isolation of two *anac089* gain-of-function mutants demonstrates the functional relevance of ANAC089 in the ABA and NO/redox transcriptional networks during seed germination and in stress responses. Moreover, we determine the DNA binding specificity of ANAC089 following a microarray-based approach. Information on ANAC089 binding specificity, together with bioinformatics analysis of the transcriptome data, associates this TF with target genes relevant to the germination and stress responses. We conclude that ANAC089 is a master regulator of seed germination and seedling development under abiotic stress.

RESULTS

GAP1 encodes the ANAC089 TF expressed in dry seeds

To gain further insight into the regulation of seed germination by ABA and NO, we implemented genetic screening to identify *gap* (germination in ABA and 2-4-carboxyphenyl-4,4,5,5-tetramethylimidazoline-1-oxyl-3-oxide [cPTIO]) mutants (Albertos et al., 2015). Apart from 5 *abi5* alleles, 2 other mutants, *gap1-1* and *gap1-2*, were isolated from ethyl methane sulfonate (EMS)-mutagenized Landsberg *erecta* (*Ler*) and fast neutron-mutagenized Col-0 M2 seeds, respectively (Figure 1).

Both mutant lines were independently mapped, based on Col/*Ler* polymorphisms, to the top arm of chromosome 5. The *gap1-1* mutation is located in an 86-kb region between cleaved amplified polymorphic sequence (CAPS) markers, At5g22050/*Hinfl* and MWD9-25.3/*Accl*, and the *gap1-2* mutation in a 25-kb region between MWD9/*EcoRV* and MWD9-25.3/*Accl* (Figures 1A and S1A). This shared 25-kb region contains 8 genes, and sequencing of them revealed that both mutants contained a mutation in the At5g22290. This gene encodes ANAC089, a NAC TF with a deduced protein of 340 amino acids (Molecular Mass ~38 kDa), holding a TM on the C terminus (Figure 1B) (Ooka et al., 2003). The *gap1-1* mutation substitutes Trp323

to a premature stop codon. Southern blot and PCR analysis suggested that the *gap1-2* mutation was an ~700-bp deletion that includes the C-terminal region (Figures S1A and S1B). In addition, the *gap1-3* knockout ANAC089 mutant was identified as a gene trap insertional line (Figure S1C).

Our genetic studies indicate that mutations in the *ANAC089* sequence in *gap1-1* and *gap1-2* alleles compromise the C-terminal part of the protein, generating the truncated versions lacking the TM ANAC089 Δ C-1 and ANAC089 Δ C-2, respectively (Figures 1B, 1C, and S1D). To test this fact, total protein extracted from the *Arabidopsis* Col-0, *Ler* and ANAC089 gain- and loss-of-function mutants was analyzed by immunoblotting using the anti-ANAC089 polyclonal antibody (Figure 1C). Genetic crosses between parental lines (Col-0) and the mutant (*gap1-2*) resulted in an ABA-insensitive phenotype of F1 progeny and point to *gap1-2* as a dominant mutation (Figure S1E).

ANAC089 expression appears during seed maturation, rising up to the highest levels in dry seeds (Figure S1F). Quantitative RT-PCR was performed to examine the mRNA abundance of ANAC089 found to be accumulated in dry seed and reduced after 24 and 48 h of seed imbibition (Figures S1G and S1H), while 48-h ABA treatment induced the expression of ANAC089 in seeds (Figure S1I). Previous microarray analysis indicated that mRNA of the ANAC089 is the 7th most abundant in 740 mRNA species for TFs in Col-0 dry seeds (Preston et al., 2009). The *gap1-2* mutant reduced transcript abundance of ANAC089 in both dry and imbibed seeds (Figure S1G). These ANAC089 expression patterns in seeds may be indicative of a variety of functions during this developmental stage.

gap1-1 and gap1-2 are gain-of-function mutants

Germination assays were performed to corroborate the ABA and cPTIO insensitivity of *gap1-1* and *gap1-2* alleles (Figures S2A–S2D). A dose-response assay with the NO scavenger cPTIO revealed that 100 μ M was a suitable concentration to evaluate the maintenance of seed dormancy for further analysis (Figures S2A and S2B). Freshly harvested seeds of Col-0, *Ler*, and *gap1* mutants were collected and directly sown on mannitol salt (MS) agar plates untreated (control) or supplemented with 100 μ M cPTIO. *gap1-1* and *gap1-2* mutants were not dormant and displayed insensitive phenotypes to endogenous NO depletion by cPTIO, which prevented seed germination in wild-type and *gap1-3* knockout mutants (Figure 1D). The effect of different ABA concentrations on the inhibition of seed germination was also analyzed with significant differences at 0.5 and 1 μ M ABA (Figures S2C and S2D). Thus, 3-day-old stratified seeds from Col-0, *Ler*, and *gap1* mutants were sown in media supplemented with 1 μ M ABA. As expected from the screening, *gap1-1* and *gap1-2* mutants exhibited ABA-insensitive phenotypes during seed germination and seedling establishment in contrast to the inhibitory response to ABA in wild-type and *gap1-3* knockout mutant (Figure 1E). To delve into the role of ANAC089 and NO homeostasis during seed germination, combinations of ABA together with cPTIO or S-nitrosoglutathione (GSNO) were analyzed in the wild-type (Col-0, *Ler*) and *gap1* mutants. The dominant mutants *gap1-1* and *gap1-2* still showed a clear insensitive phenotype to a combined treatment of ABA plus cPTIO (Figures S2E

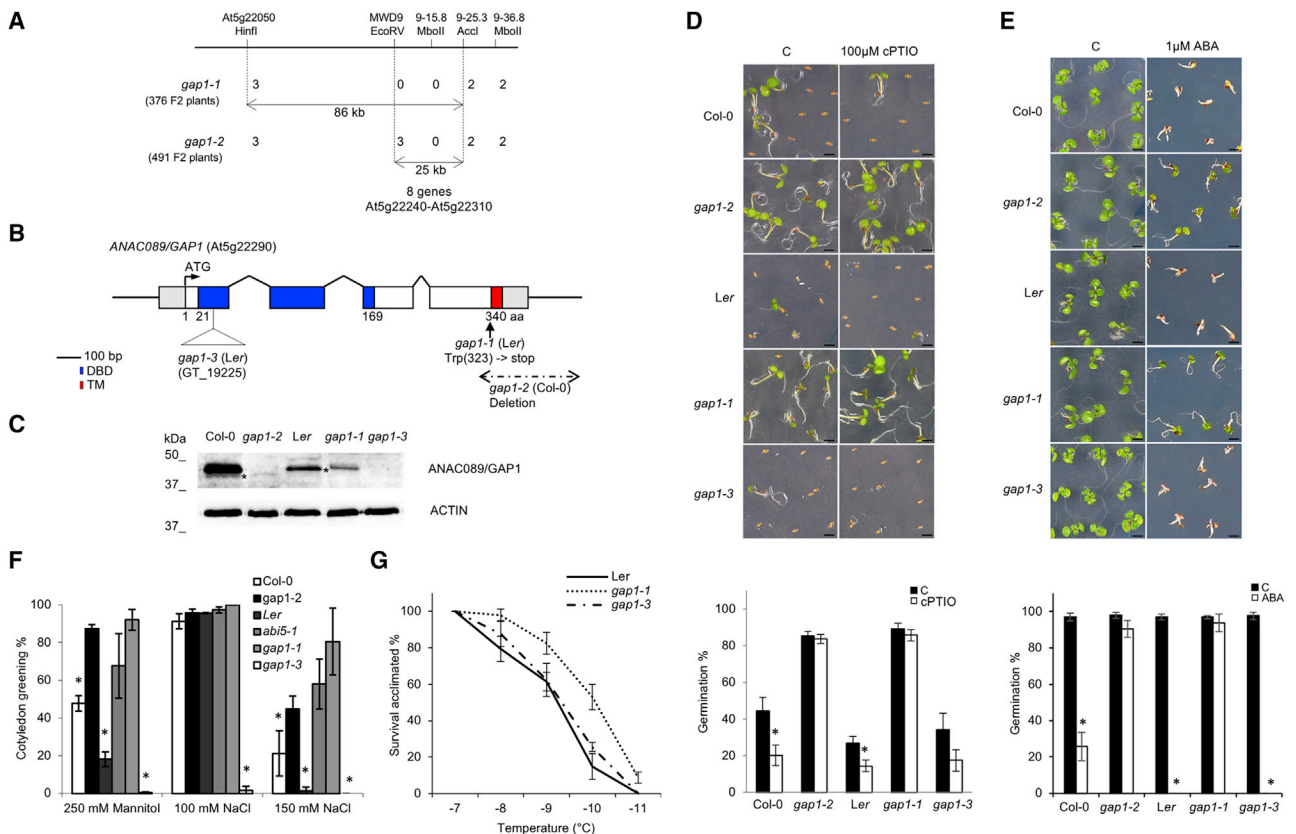


Figure 1. Molecular characterization of *gap1* encoding ANAC089 transcription factor during seed germination and stress

(A) Mapping based on Col/Ler polymorphisms in top arm of chromosome 5 where *gap1-1* and *gap1-2* mutation were located. (B) Schematic representation of ANAC089 with the position of the 3 alleles *gap1-1*, *gap1-2*, and *gap1-3*. NAC domain (blue) and transmembrane domain (TM, red) are indicated. (C) ANAC089 protein levels in 3-day-old imbibed seeds from indicated backgrounds. Asterisks indicate bands corresponding to ANAC089 Δ C-2 and ANAC089 Δ C-1 protein detected in *gap1-2* and *gap1-1* mutants. Actin protein levels are shown as a loading control. (D) Insensitivity of *gap1-1* and *gap1-2* mutants to NO scavenging by cPTIO compared to the wild-type (Col-0, Ler) and *gap1-3* mutant during seed germination and seedling establishment. Seeds were freshly harvested and sown in control media (C) or contain 100 μ M cPTIO. Images were taken after 7 days and germination percentages 3 days after sowing. Scale bars, 1 mm. (E) Insensitivity of *gap1-1* and *gap1-2* mutants to ABA compared to the wild-type (Col-0, Ler) and *gap1-3* mutant during seed germination and seedling establishment. Seeds of the indicated genotypes were stratified for 3 days and sown in control media (C) or contain 1 μ M ABA. Images were taken after 10 days and germination percentages 3 days after sowing. Scale bars, 1 mm. (F) Stress germination assays in MS medium supplemented with either 250 mM mannitol or 100 and 150 mM NaCl. (G) Freezing tolerance of 2-week-old cold-acclimated (7 d, 4°C) plants exposed to the indicated freezing temperatures for 6 h. Survival percentages were evaluated after 1 week of recovery at 22°C under long-day conditions. In all of the graphs, each value represents the average germination percentage of 50–100 seeds, with error bars being the SEs of 3 replicates. Asterisks indicate significant differences compared with control versus treatment or Col-0 and Ler, respectively (t test, $p < 0.05$).

and S2G). Regarding the combination of ABA plus GSNO, the cotyledon greening was greatly improved in the wild-type Col-0, showing that GSNO is able to counteract the action of ABA, as previously reported (Albertos et al., 2015). For *gap1-1* and *gap1-2* mutants, the cotyledon greening reached 100%, while Ler and *gap1-3* showed higher ABA sensitivity, and the GSNO treatment was unable to promote seed germination and seedling development (Figures S2F and S2G). The fact that *gap1-1* and *gap1-2* mutants displayed a gain-of-function phenotype (i.e., insensitivity to ABA and cPTIO treatments during seed germination and post-germinative development) was further corroborated in several *pANAC089:ANAC089 Δ C-1-*

GFP expression lines, which exhibited ABA-insensitive phenotypes and constitutive nuclear localization (Figures S3A–S3C). To further characterize the function of the ANAC089 gene in abiotic stress responses, we analyzed seed germination and early development under salt, osmotic, and cold stresses (Figures 1F, 1G, and S3D–S3F). *gap1* mutants Col-0 and *abi5-1* were sown on MS medium supplemented with NaCl (100 and 150 mM) and mannitol (250 mM) (Figure 1F). The inhibitory effects of NaCl and mannitol on the germination of *gap1* mutants were scored after 7 days of incubation based on green cotyledons and compared to the one in wild-type Col-0 and *abi5-1* seeds (Figures 1F and S3D). Similarly, the *gap1-1* mutant

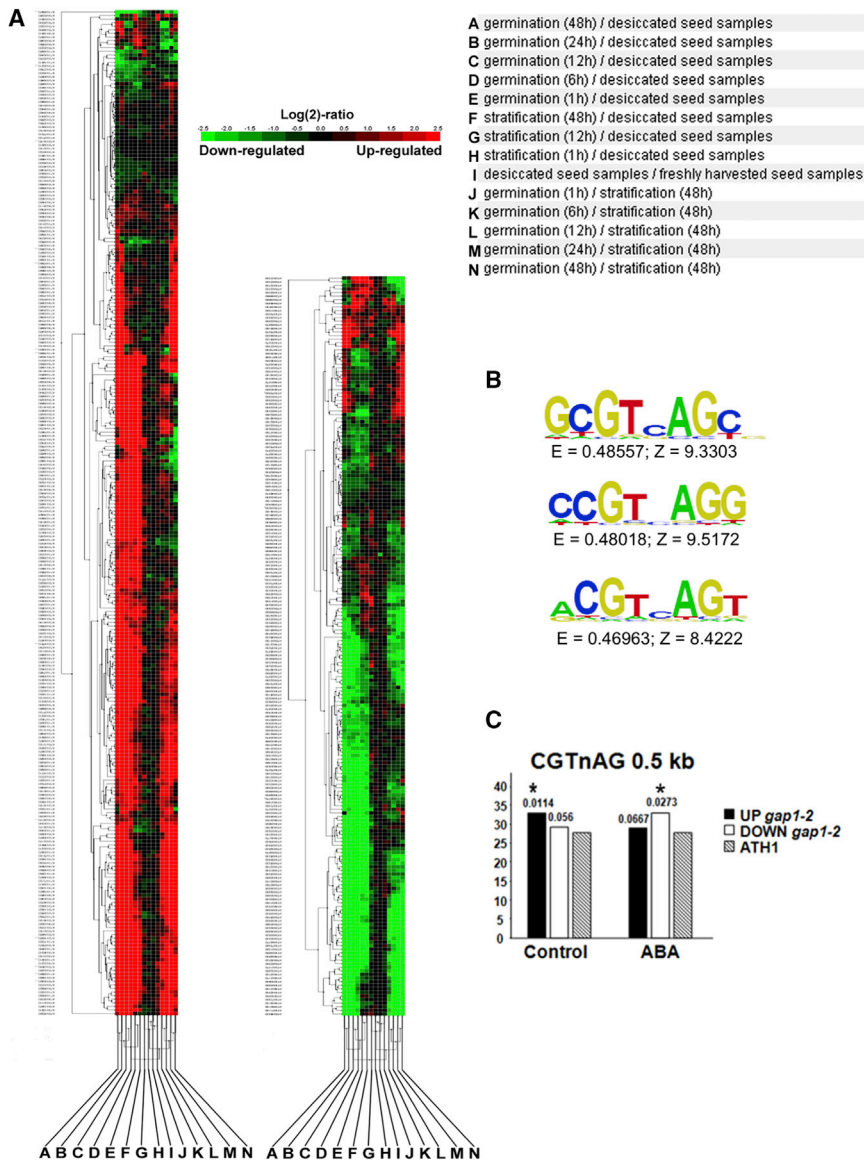


Figure 2. Differential transcriptomic profile in *gap1-2* during seed germination and consensus *cis*-element binding site of ANAC089

(A) Hierarchical cluster analysis of 465 differentially expressed ANAC089-responsive genes and at least one of the developmental stages of wild-type (Col-0) *Arabidopsis* seeds (≥ 2 - and ≤ -2 -fold change in expression compared to wild type). Genes (rows) and experiments (columns) were clustered by TIGR (The Institute for Genomic Research) using different seed germination experiments. Gene subclusters of interest are discussed in the text.

(B) DNA-binding sequences that are recognized by the ANAC089 protein.

(C) Sequence significantly overrepresented in the promoters of upregulated (control) or downregulated (ABA) genes of ANAC089 in *gap1-2* mutant background.

(false discovery rate [FDR] < 0.01 and \log_2 ratio > 1 or < -1) have been followed to select statistically significant differences in gene expression. A hierarchical clustering analysis of 465 genes differentially expressed in *gap1-2* versus Col-0, with those regulated by different seed germination, stratification, and desiccation conditions allowed their categorization in different groups (Figure 2A). The most relevant group showed genes related to the start of germination, which were upregulated in *gap1-2* mutant versus Col-0 (Figure 2A, left), including genes of cell wall remodeling enzymes and redox homeostasis-related genes. The second group comprises genes downregulated in *gap1-2* versus Col-0 that were also repressed in the different comparisons, highlighting ABA and gibberellin (GA) hormone homeostasis (Figure 2A, right).

showed an increased tolerance to freezing temperatures before (Figure S3E) and after cold acclimation (Figures 1G and S3F). These tolerant phenotypes of *gap1* gain-of-function mutants to inhibitory conditions for seed germination and seedling establishment paved the way for the ANAC089 regulation of abiotic stress responses.

Differential gene expression pattern in *gap1-2* during seed germination

To deepen our understanding of the NO- and ABA-related responses affected in *gap1-2* seeds, transcriptional profiling was performed. Transcripts from 3-day-old stratified *gap1-2* and Col-0 wild-type seeds after 3 h of imbibition under light were compared, and the results are summarized in Figure 2 (raw data can be found in Tables S1 and S2). Two independent criteria

We analyzed the response between upregulated and downregulated genes (265 and 200 genes, respectively, cutoff 2-fold) in *gap1-2* mutant versus Col-0 wild-type. ANAC089 gene (fold change = -29.93) is the most strongly repressed gene. This result is consistent with an autoregulatory feedback loop (Figure S1G) and may be explained due to the fact that 6 of the 11 probes of ANAC089 gene, in the Affymetrix GeneChip *Arabidopsis* ATH1 Genome Array, are integrated inside the deletion present in the ANAC089 of *gap1-2* allele (Figures S4A and S4B). Among the 265 genes with increased expression in the *gap1-2* mutant, $\sim 10\%$ are directly related to seed germination processes (Table S1), being the 10 most induced critical genes for cell wall remodeling enzymes (i.e., *ATEXPA2*, *ATEXPA9*, *XTH19*, *BXL2*, *EXP3*, and *ATPME3*). Recently, it has been shown that the TFs NAC25 and NAC1L, both expressed in the seed endosperm, are

Table 1. Significant upregulated and downregulated genes in *gap1-2* mutant versus Col-0 wild type falling in the GO fine category of “redox-related”

Fold change	Transcript ID	Gene symbol/gene description	CGTnAG 1 kb
4.78	At1g26410	unknown protein similar to reticuline oxidase-like protein; FAD-binding Berberine family protein; oxidoreductase activity	666
4.3	At1g26420	hypothetical protein similar to reticuline oxidase-like protein; FAD-binding Berberine family protein; oxidoreductase activity	977
3.79	At5g21105	plant L-ascorbate oxidase; oxidoreductase activity, L-ascorbate oxidase activity, copper ion binding	–
3.33	At5g20250	DIN10 (DARK INDUCIBLE 10); hydrolase, hydrolyzing O-glycosyl compounds	857
3.1	At5g39580	peroxidase ATP24a	410–983
3.08	At5g57220	CYP81F2; electron carrier/heme binding/iron ion binding/monooxygenase/oxygen binding	–
3.05	At4g01610	cathepsin B-like cysteine protease, putative similar to GI: 609175 from <i>Nicotiana rustica</i>	–
2.77	At5g39610	ATNAC6 (ARABIDOPSIS NAC DOMAIN CONTAINING PROTEIN 6); protein heterodimerization/homodimerization/transcription factor	214–342
2.46	At1g26380	hypothetical protein similar to reticuline oxidase-like protein GB: CAB45850 GI: 5262224 from <i>Arabidopsis thaliana</i> FAD-binding Berberine family protein; electron carrier activity, oxidoreductase activity, FAD binding, catalytic activity	–
2.42	At1g69920	ATGSTU12 (GLUTATHIONE S-TRANSFERASE TAU 12); glutathione transferase	201
2.38	At1g27130	ATGSTU13 (A. THALIANA GLUTATHIONE S-TRANSFERASE TAU 13); glutathione transferase	–
2.35	At2g24150	HHP3/HHP3 (heptahelical protein 3); receptor	922
2.3	At2g30870	GSTF10 (GLUTATHIONE S-TRANSFERASE PHI 10); copper ion binding/glutathione binding/glutathione transferase	–
2.28	At5g20230	ATBCB (ARABIDOPSIS BLUE-COPPER-BINDING PROTEIN); copper ion binding/electron carrier	–
2.28	At1g07890	APX1 (ascorbate peroxidase 1); L-ascorbate peroxidase	731
2.18	At1g60660	CB5LP (CYTOCHROME B5-LIKE PROTEIN); heme binding	903–983
2.17	At1g69930	ATGSTU11 (GLUTATHIONE S-TRANSFERASE TAU 11); glutathione transferase	327
2.08	At1g73120	hypothetical protein; response to oxidative stress	846

(Continued on next page)

Table 1. Continued

Fold change	Transcript ID	Gene symbol/gene description	CGTnAG 1 kb
2.05	At2g22420	putative peroxidase; peroxidase superfamily protein; peroxidase activity, heme binding; oxidation reduction, response to oxidative stress	13
2.04	At4g02380	SAG21 (SENESCENCE-ASSOCIATED GENE 21)	–
2.02	At2g31570	ATGPX2 (GLUTATHIONE PEROXIDASE 2); glutathione peroxidase	–
–29.93	At5g22290	ANAC089 (<i>Arabidopsis</i> NAC domain containing protein 89); transcription factor	–
–4.5	At1g62180	APR2 (5-ADENYLYLPHOSPHOSULFATE REDUCTASE 2); adenylyl-sulfate reductase/phosphoadenylyl-sulfate reductase (thioredoxin)	893
–3.25	At2g29490	ATGSTU1 (GLUTATHIONE S-TRANSFERASE TAU 1); glutathione transferase	–
–2.82	At4g21990	APR3 (APS REDUCTASE 3); adenylyl-sulfate reductase	102
–2.68	At2g40300	ATFER4 (ferritin 4); binding/ferric iron binding/oxidoreductase/transition metal ion binding	992
–2.67	At1g71695	peroxidase ATP4a identical to GB:CAA67309 GI:1429213 from <i>A. thaliana</i>	124
–2.53	At1g10370	ERD9 (EARLY-RESPONSIVE TO DEHYDRATION 9); glutathione transferase	–
–2.5	At5g64240	AtMC3 (metacaspase 3); cysteine-type endopeptidase	–
–2.43	At1g75270	DHAR2 (DEHYDROASCORBATE REDUCTASE 2); glutathione binding/ glutathione dehydrogenase (ascorbate)	217–656
–2.41	At4g20820	reticuline oxidase-like protein reticuline oxidase (EC 1.5.3.9) precursor, <i>Eschscholzia californica</i> ; FAD-binding Berberine family protein; oxidation reduction	–
–2.36	At1g20630	CAT1 (CATALASE 1); catalase	540
–2.22	At2g29420	ATGSTU7 (<i>A. THALIANA</i> GLUTATHIONE S-TRANSFERASE TAU 7); glutathione transferase	–
–2.05	At1g75280	NADPH oxidoreductase, putative similar from <i>A. thaliana</i>	736

Genes with specific *cis*-acting elements recognized by the ANAC089 TF are highlighted in bold. GO, Gene Ontology; GI, Gene Identifier; GB, Gene Bank.

indispensable for *EXPA2* induction by GAs (Sánchez-Montesino et al., 2019). In addition, the *GA3ox2* gene responsible for active GA biosynthesis was induced in the *gap1-2* mutant, suggesting increased levels of bioactive GAs to promote germination (Finch-Savage and Leubner-Metzger, 2006). Interestingly, ~8% of the total induced genes belonged to redox-related processes involved in the glutathione and ascorbate cycle and oxidative stress (Table 1) (i.e., L-ascorbate oxidases At5g21105, At5g39580, At2g22420; L-ascorbate peroxidase At1g07890; glutathione

peroxidase At2g31570 and glutathione transferases At1g69920, At1g27130, At2g30870, At1g69930). Finally, ~5% of the upregulated genes were related to cysteine-type endopeptidases and serine-type carboxypeptidases, a group of peptidases previously noted to be involved in ANAC089 cleavage from the membrane (Klein et al., 2012) (i.e., *SCPL20*, *SCPL44*, *SCPL29*, *SCPL25*, *SLP2*, *CP1*, and *DELTA-VPE*).

Concerning the 200 genes detected with repressed expression in the microarray (Table S2), apart from *ANAC089* and

NITRILASE4 (NIT4) (Figure S4C) as the highest repressed genes, one of the most important genes involved in the induction of seed dormancy, *DOG1*, was strongly repressed (fold change = -5.12). *DOG1* expression and especially *DOG1* protein levels directly determine the dormancy release of freshly harvested seeds (Nakabayashi et al., 2012). This pronounced *DOG1* repression may cooperate with the NO effect in the non-dormant phenotype displayed by the *gap1-2* mutant (Figure 1D). In addition, significant changes in ABA and GAs homeostasis-related genes were found (Figure S4D), supporting the ABA insensitivity displayed in the *gap1-2* mutant, mainly *NCED9* from the ABA biosynthetic pathway (Frey et al., 2012; Kanno et al., 2010), *GA2ox2*, one of the main genes responsible for GA catabolism (Thomas et al., 1999), and *GA20ox3* of the GA biosynthetic pathway (Phillips et al., 1995). Moreover *IAA30*, previously reported to be an inhibitor of seed germination under salt stress conditions after induction by the *NTM2* (ANAC069) (Park et al., 2011), was also repressed in the *gap1-2* mutant background. As shown in Table 1 and Figure S4E, redox-related genes (6% of the total repressed genes) had an altered expression in *gap1-2* (i.e., glutathione transferases *At2g29490*, *At1g10370*, and *At2g29420*, and glutathione dehydrogenase *DHAR2* and catalase *CAT1*). Therefore, the altered expression of hormone and redox-related genes (either induced or repressed) in *gap1-2* mutant seeds may be responsible for the changes in cell redox status during germination.

DNA binding specificity of the ANAC089 TF

To identify the consensus *cis*-element binding site of ANAC089, we have used a DNA protein binding microarray (PBM) (Godoy et al., 2011). The sequence significantly overrepresented in the PBM analysis was *GCGTCAGC* and the two variants *CCGTCAGG* and *ACGTCAGT* (Figure 2B).

The complete DNA-binding sequence, which is recognized by the ANAC089 protein, includes modifications to the so-called *NAC RECOGNITION SEQUENCE (NACR) CATGTG* and the *NAC-BINDING SITES (NACBS) CGTGA* (Jensen et al., 2010; Olsen et al., 2004, 2005; Tran et al., 2004). As shown in Figure 2C, Tables 1, S1, and S2, sequence examination revealed the *CGTnAG* motifs in the promoter region of 47% (28% upregulated and 19% downregulated) of the total differentially expressed genes. Furthermore, this *CGTnAG* motif was overrepresented in upregulated genes of the *gap1-2* mutant background in the microarray performed in control conditions (Figure 2C). Conversely, this consensus *cis*-element binding site of ANAC089 was overrepresented in the downregulated genes of the *gap1-2* mutant background in a microarray performed after 3 h of 5 μ M ABA treatment (Figure 2C and GEO: GSE25159). All of these results indicate the ability of ANAC089 to discriminate and bind a specific *cis*-regulatory element in the promoters of redox homeostasis and ABA-responsive genes, respectively, to regulate *Arabidopsis* seed germination.

gap1 mutants alter NO, ABA, thiol, and disulfide levels in seeds

We further analyzed the extent to which the transcriptional changes may reflect hormone and metabolic alterations during seed germination. To this end, we examined the endogenous

NO levels in 24-h-imbibed seeds and isolated embryos by using 2 independent methods (Mur et al., 2011), the fluorescence indicator 4,5-diaminofluorescein diacetate (DAF-2DA) and the Griess assay (Liu et al., 2009; Fernández-Marcos et al., 2011; Albertos et al., 2015). The NO-specific dye reveals higher levels of NO abundance in *gap1-1* and *gap1-2* mutants after seed imbibition and localized mainly in the seed endosperm, as described previously (Liu et al., 2009), but also in seed embryos (Figures 3A, 3B, S5A, and S5B). Application of the NO scavenger cPTIO reduced the NO-dependent DAF-2DA fluorescence signal (Figures S5C and S5D). In addition, the NO release during seed imbibition measured by the Griess assay in *gap1-2* and *gap1-1* backgrounds was increased almost 6-fold and 2-fold compared with wild-type *Col-0* and *Ler*, respectively (Figure 3C). Examination of endogenous NO levels were also analyzed in ABA-treated seeds with DAF-2DA (Figures S5E and S5F). In control conditions, *gap1-1* and *gap1-2* showed constitutively high NO levels that slightly increased after ABA treatment. However, in wild-type seeds from *Col-0* and *Ler*, the NO levels after ABA treatment were highly increased. These results confirmed that the gain-of-function mutants had already constitutive higher NO levels and were partially insensitive to the effect of ABA. Meanwhile, the wild-type clearly responded to an ABA treatment that prompted endogenous NO production, as previously described (Desikan et al., 2002; Planchet et al., 2014).

Furthermore, ABA endogenous levels in desiccated and 24-h-imbibed seeds were also quantified (Figure S5G). A clear decrease in ABA content was found in *gap1-1* and *gap1-2*, whereas it was not apparent in *gap1-3*. The major significant difference in ABA content between the desiccated and imbibed seed batches is reliable for *gap1-1* versus *Ler*. Accordingly, *gap1* gain-of-function mutants display the insensitive ABA and NO-depletion (caused by cPTIO during seed germination) phenotypes, as a consequence of their lower ABA and higher NO endogenous levels after seed imbibition. Increasing NO levels by exogenous application of NO donors provoke seed dormancy breaking and germination promotion (Beligni and Lamattina, 2000; Bethke et al., 2004a, 2004b).

We previously investigated the ABA and NO crosstalk and the effect of altered NO levels in the ABI5 protein accumulation during seed germination (Albertos et al., 2015). The ABI5 central repressor is S-nitrosated by the NO produced after seed imbibition, promoting the interaction with CUL4-based and KEG E3 ligases, and it is rapidly degraded by the proteasome during seed germination. Since the 2 *gap1* isolated mutants display elevated endogenous NO levels after seed imbibition, we analyzed whether the ABI5 protein levels were modulated in *gap1* mutant backgrounds after seed imbibition. We observed a slight decrease in ABI5 levels in the *gap1-2* mutant and a notable decrease in the *gap1-1* mutant background regarding their respective wild-type, *Col-0*, and *Ler* (Figures S5H and S5I).

In addition, low-molecular-weight (LMW) thiols and disulfides were measured in after-ripened seeds. In dry seeds, there were significant changes in the level of total (thiol and disulfide) cysteine and total glutathione, in which *gap1-2* had more total cyst(e)ine than *Col-0* and *gap1-1* had more total cyst(e)ine and total glutathione than *Ler*; *gap1-3* had wild-type levels of glutathione and cysteine (Figures 3D and 3E). This consistent

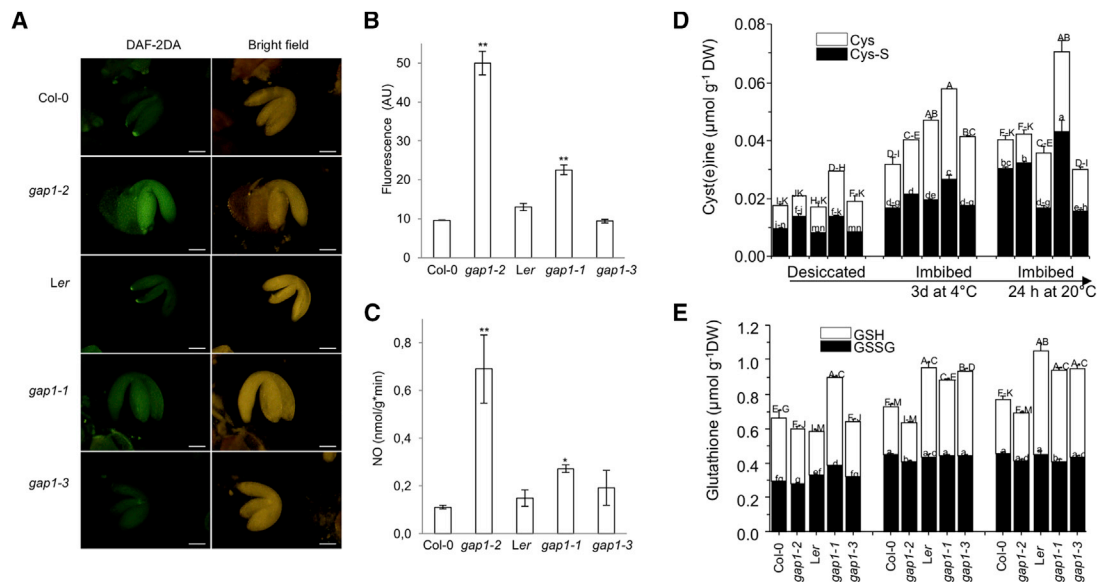


Figure 3. Endogenous NO levels in embryos and total thiols and disulfides in seeds

(A) Fluorescence corresponding to NO accumulation in embryos 24 h after seed imbibition. Scale bars, 100 μm.

(B) Quantitative data of NO-dependent DAF-2DA fluorescence embryo images. Values represent the means ± SEs (n = 3). Asterisks indicate statistically significant differences between *gap1-2* versus Col-0 (t test, **p < 0.01); *gap1-1* versus Ler (t test, *p < 0.05).

(C) Measurement of NO release (nmol/g * min) after 24 h in wild-type (Col-0, Ler) and mutant (*gap1-1*, *gap1-2*, *gap1-3*) seeds. Error bars represent means ± SEs (n = 3). Asterisks indicate statistically significant differences between *gap1-2* versus Col-0 (t test, **p < 0.01); *gap1-1* versus Ler (t test, *p < 0.05).

(D and E) Levels of cystine (black bars) and cysteine (white bars) (D) and glutathione disulfide (GSSG, black bars) and glutathione (GSH, white bars) (E) in after-ripened, dry, and imbibed seeds of *gap1-1* and *gap1-2* mutants compared to the wild-type (Col-0, Ler) and *gap1-3* mutant. Values represent means ± SEs (n = 3). Letters indicate statistically significant differences (p < 0.05) according to 1-way ANOVA with Tukey's post hoc test.

difference was also revealed in the half-cell redox potential analysis, but only in the Ler background. Therefore, these mutations affect seed development on the maternal plant in a consistent way, which could also affect germination-related processes. After stratification (3 days at 4°C), a significant accumulation of cysteine occurred in all of the genotypes, which continued during germination (24 h at 20°C), whereby *gap1-1* had double the cysteine levels relative to Ler, indicating that stratified seeds are at different physiological states/germination stages. The significantly higher levels of the disulfide cysteine in *gap1-1* could be explained by increased NO production in these mutants, which could oxidize LMW thiols to disulfides. Changes in the thiol:disulfide ratio led to alterations in the GSNO concentration, the main endogenous NO storage (Malik et al., 2011; Mur et al., 2013), increasing NO levels during seed germination.

Subcellular localization of ANAC089 is altered by redox modifications

To determine the possible effects of NO-, reactive oxygen species (ROS)-, and redox-related compounds in the subcellular localization of ANAC089 protein, we analyzed the ROS content of wild-type plants and *gap1* mutants with the fluorescence probe 2',7'-dichlorodihydrofluorescein diacetate (DCF-DA) (Figures S6A–S6C). The dominant mutants *gap1-1* and *gap1-2* showed more reduced ROS content than wild-type plants and the knockout mutant *gap1-3*. This feedback regulation between the levels of NO and ROS in the plant has been already reported by Sanz et al. (2014) and reviewed in Lindermayr and Durner (2015).

Then, we generated *Arabidopsis* transgenic lines by expressing GFP-ANAC089 under control of the 35S promoter in the wild-type (Col-0) background (Figures 4, S6D, and S6E). This line showed a wild-type phenotype under ABA treatment (Figure S6D), suggesting that the GFP tag in the N-terminal part of ANAC089 affected the functional properties of the TF (i.e., DNA binding), as previously reported by Li et al. (2011).

Previous confocal microscopy studies located the ANAC089 full version in the cytoplasm for *in planta* studies on *Arabidopsis* or in the endoplasmic reticulum for *in vivo* studies on *Arabidopsis* protoplasts and *Nicotiana benthamiana* leaves (Klein et al., 2012; Li et al., 2010, 2011; Smyczynski et al., 2006). Truncated versions of ANAC089 lacking the TM present constitutive nuclear localization (Klein et al., 2012; Li et al., 2010, 2011; Yang et al., 2014). Thus, 35S:GFP-ANAC089-overexpressor lines were studied using confocal laser scanning microscopy to examine the localization of the GFP-ANAC089 *in planta* under different NO/redox-related and ABA treatments. GFP-ANAC089 displayed extranuclear localization in control conditions corroborated by previous investigations (Li et al., 2011; Yang et al., 2014) (Figure 4A). This subcellular localization was also detected after cold treatment (4°C), ABA, NO-donor GSNO, and glutathione disulfide (GSSG) (Figures 4A and S6F). Conversely, treatments with the NO scavenger cPTIO and with reductant agents, such as dithiothreitol (DTT) and glutathione (GSH), released GFP-ANAC089 from the C-terminal TM anchored to the membrane to allow the nuclear subcellular localization of the protein (Figures 4A and S6F).

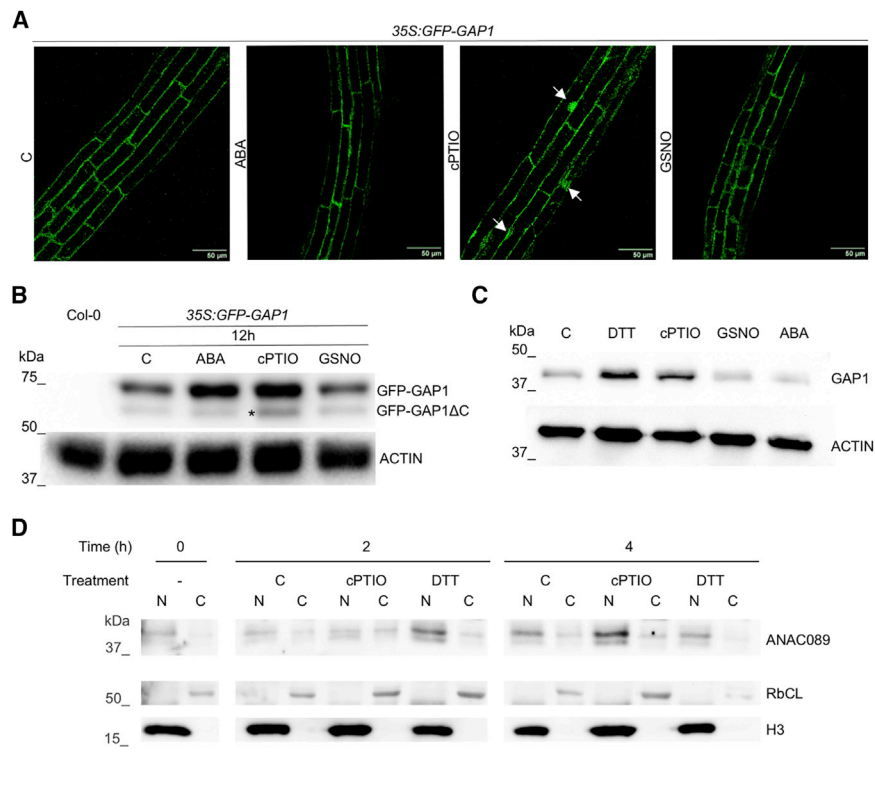


Figure 4. ANAC089 subcellular localization and protein accumulation in response to NO- and redox-related treatments

(A) Confocal microscopy of 7-day-old *Arabidopsis* roots of 35S:GFP-ANAC089-overexpressor lines after 4 h of control (C), 5 μ M ABA, 1 mM cPTIO, and 1 mM GSNO treatments. Nuclear localization of GFP-ANAC089 protein after the corresponding treatments is indicated by arrows. Scale bars, 50 μ m.

(B) Immunoblot analysis of GFP-ANAC089 protein levels in 7-day-old seedling extracts of 35S:GFP-ANAC089-overexpressor line under control (C) conditions or treated 12 h with 5 μ M ABA, 500 μ M cPTIO, and 500 μ M GSNO. Asterisk (60 kDa) indicates nuclear GFP-ANAC089 Δ C localized protein while the extranuclear GFP-ANAC089 protein is 65 kDa. Actin protein levels are shown as a loading control.

(C) ANAC089 levels in 3-day-old stratified Col-0 seed extracts (C) and after 3 h of treatments with 1 mM DTT, 500 μ M cPTIO, 500 μ M GSNO, and 5 μ M ABA. Actin protein levels are shown as a loading control.

(D) Subcellular localization of ANAC089 protein by nuclear/cytoplasmic fractionation assays in 7-day-old 35S:GFP-ANAC089 *Arabidopsis* seedlings grown in MS medium (C) or MS medium supplemented with 1 mM cPTIO and 1 mM DTT for 0, 2, and 4 h. Histone3 (H3) and Rubisco large subunit (RbcL) were used as loading controls from nucleus (N) and cytoplasm (C), respectively.

To extend these findings, the chimeric GFP-ANAC089 and the wild-type ANAC089 proteins under different treatments were analyzed by western blot (Figures 4B and 4C). Seven-day-old GFP-ANAC089-overexpressor lines were untreated (C) or treated for 12 h with 5 μ M ABA, 500 μ M cPTIO, and 500 μ M GSNO before collection for western blot analysis. Seedlings treated with cPTIO resulted in higher GFP-ANAC089 levels and increased truncated/nuclear versions of GFP-ANAC089 Δ C lacking the TM, with 5 kDa less than the GFP-ANAC089 (Figure 4B lower band, asterisk). Likewise, 3-day-old stratified Col-0 seeds were untreated (C) or treated for 3 h with 5 μ M ABA, 500 μ M cPTIO, 500 μ M GSNO, and 1 mM DTT, and wild-type ANAC089 protein levels were analyzed. Again, an increase in ANAC089 levels was found exclusively after treatments with cPTIO and the reductive agent DTT (Figure 4C).

To further confirm that the signal triggered the cleavage and translocation of ANAC089 protein to the nucleus occur in a short window, a subcellular fractionation was carried out (Figure 4D). Thus, 7-day-old 35S:GFP-ANAC089 seedlings were treated with DTT or cPTIO or non-treated for 2 and 4 h, and the nucleus and the cytoplasm were fractionated. After 2 h of treatment with DTT, there was an enrichment of ANAC089 in the nuclear fraction, while under the cPTIO scavenger, this enrichment appeared after 4 h of treatment. These findings imply that alterations in the cell redox status, either by decreasing endogenous NO levels (cPTIO) or increasing reductant agents (DTT), translocate ANAC089 into the nucleus and promote ANAC089 protein accumulation.

DISCUSSION

The plant-specific family of NAC TFs is involved in myriad developmental programs, hormonal signaling, and biotic and abiotic stress responses (Nakashima et al., 2012; Puranik et al., 2012). The conserved NAC domain within the N-terminal region harbors the DNA binding domain, the dimerization domain, and the nuclear localization sequence (Ernst et al., 2004). However, high variability in the C-terminal part of the NAC TFs is exhibited, including the presence of a TM (Ooka et al., 2003). ANAC089 contains all of these features and has been sorted in the group of OsNAC08-related NACs together with ANAC060 and ANAC040 (Ooka et al., 2003).

The membrane-tethered ANAC089 protein shows extranuclear localization, requiring detachment after particular and specific signals to reach the nucleus and regulate gene expression (Klein et al., 2012; Li et al., 2010, 2011; Yang et al., 2014). Hence, the lack of the membrane association domain causes the inability of ANAC089 to anchor into the membrane, and consequently, the truncated proteins display constitutive nuclear localization exhibiting major functions in different processes—for example, suppressing fructose signaling (Li et al., 2011) and promoting endoplasmic reticulum stress-induced programmed cell death (Yang et al., 2014). The premature stop codon mutation in *gap1-1* and the deletion in the C-terminal region in *gap1-2* result in truncated proteins lacking the membrane-bound domain, as detected in the imbibed seeds of these mutants. Thus, the presence of C terminally truncated versions of ANAC089 protein is responsible

for the gain-of-function phenotypes of *gap1-1* and *gap1-2* mutants in ABA and cPTIO during seed germination. These truncated ANAC089 proteins (ANAC089 Δ C-1 and ANAC089 Δ C-2) are constitutively located in the nucleus and regulate essential ABA responsive and redox-related homeostasis genes, placing ANAC089 as a central regulator of myriad abiotic stress (i.e., salt, osmotic, and cold) responses during *Arabidopsis* seed germination and post-germinative development. Accordingly, the transgenic lines expressing complete versions of ANAC089 protein with the GFP tag fused to the N-terminal show endoplasmic reticulum localization that maintains the protein outside the nucleus, causing wild-type responses to the stimulus analyzed (Li et al., 2011 and the present work). It has been reported that ANAC060 expression is induced by ABI4, belonging to the sugar-ABA signaling cascade, but the nuclear ANAC060 lacking the TM attenuates ABA induction and ABA signaling, resulting in sugar insensitivity during seed germination (Li et al., 2014). Similarly, our evidence supports that ABA can induce the expression of ANAC089 and protein accumulation in seeds and seedlings.

The freezing tolerance phenotype of 2-week-old *gap1-1* mutants before and after cold acclimation confers a notable role onto ANAC089 during cold stress response. Several tethered membrane ANAC proteins are regulated under cold or heat stress conditions (Kim et al., 2007; Seo et al., 2010). The integration of the ABA, fructose, and redox-related signaling pathways with this noteworthy function of ANAC089 remains to be investigated. Of note, NO production has been involved in cold acclimation and freezing tolerance in *Arabidopsis* (Costa-Broseta et al., 2018, 2019; Zhao et al., 2009).

Transcriptomic profiling revealed differentially expressed genes in the *gap1-2* mutant background crucially related to germination processes such as ABA and GA hormone metabolism, modifying the cellular redox status. To detect *cis*-regulatory sequences, we used high-throughput identification of the consensus binding site of ANAC089 to search for overrepresented motifs in the promoters of ANAC089 differentially expressed genes, considering that co-regulated genes usually depend on the same TF for their expression. Thus, ANAC089 has the ability to bind the specific *cis*-regulatory CGTnAG motif that is overrepresented in the promoters of upregulated redox-related homeostasis genes and downregulated ABA-responsive genes.

Several authors reported the tight relationship between ANAC089 and redox status (Klein et al., 2012; Yang et al., 2014). On the one hand, treatments with the reducing agent DTT and tunicamycin, which promote protein misfolding and induces endoplasmic reticulum stress, respectively, release ANAC089 from the trans-Golgi network and endoplasmic reticulum membrane and relocate it in the nucleus (Klein et al., 2012; Yang et al., 2014). On the other hand, this nuclear relocated ANAC089 protein negatively regulates the expression of *sAPX* (*stromal ASCORBATE PEROXIDASE*) and plays an important role in regulating downstream genes involved in programmed cell death (Klein et al., 2012; Yang et al., 2014). We provide significant evidence that ANAC089 has essential roles in the regulation of redox-related homeostasis genes identified through the microarray analysis. Remarkably, some of these genes also

contain the specific *cis*-regulatory sequence for ANAC089 binding in their promoter region. Thus, first, the modification of cell redox status directed by ANAC089 may be responsible for displaying increased NO levels in *gap1-1* and *gap1-2* mutants in imbibed seeds and cPTIO-insensitive phenotype during germination. Second, this redox status, with a reduction in ROS levels, may negatively affect the membrane-anchoring domain, increasing the rate of non-anchoring protein that may be processed and translocated into the nucleus to activate the response against ABA and/or stress. Furthermore, different treatments with NO- and redox-active compounds such as cPTIO and GSH reveal changes in ANAC089 subcellular localization *in planta*, and release ANAC089 to the nucleus, highlighting again the feedback interaction between the cell redox status and ANAC089 reported previously (Klein et al., 2012; Yang et al., 2014). Apart from the effect on the subcellular localization, changes in ANAC089 accumulation under treatments with DTT and cPTIO were detected, suggesting that ROS and/or NO balance may regulate the stability of ANAC089. We therefore conclude that redox-sensitive ANAC089 integrates ABA and NO responses during seed germination and early development in *Arabidopsis*, conferring key functions to this hub/central regulator in the successful growth of the plant under abiotic stress.

STAR★METHODS

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SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Supplemental information can be found online at <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.celrep.2021.109263>.

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AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

P.A. performed most of the experiments, analyzed the data, and wrote the manuscript. K.T., K.N., and E.N. performed the genetic screening, mapping, and cloning, analyzed the data, and provided essential reagents. I.M., I.S.-V., and A.F.-A. performed the germination, the subcellular fractioning, the ROS detection, and the transcriptomic assays. M.G., J.M.F., and R.S. performed the microarray and contributed to the experimental design of PBM11 and the statistical analysis. D.G., T.R., W.S., and I.K. measured the ABA, thiol, and disulfide levels and analyzed the data. C.P.-R. and J.S. performed the cold stress assays and contributed to the interpretation. O.L. conceived the study, designed the experiments, and wrote the manuscript. All of the authors discussed the results and commented on the manuscript.

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

The authors declare no competing interests.

INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY

One or more of the authors of this paper self-identifies as a member of the LGBTQ+ community. The author list of this paper includes contributors from the location where the research was conducted who participated in the data collection, design, analysis, and/or interpretation of the work.

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STAR★METHODS

KEY RESOURCES TABLE

REAGENT or RESOURCE	SOURCE	IDENTIFIER
Antibodies		
Living Colors® GFP Monoclonal Antibody	Clontech	Cat#632375; RRID:AB_2756343
Anti-ANAC089 Purified Rabbit Immunoglobulin	Biomedal	Custom antibody
Anti-ABI5 Purified Rabbit Immunoglobulin	Biomedal	Custom antibody
Anti-Actin clone 10-B3 Purified Mouse Immunoglobulin	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat#A0480; RRID:AB_476670
ECL Rabbit HRP-linked	GE Healthcare Life Sciences	Cat#NA934;RRID: AB_772206
ECL Mouse IgG, HRP-linked	GE Healthcare Life Sciences	Cat#NA931; RRID:AB_772210
Anti-Maltose Binding Protein antibody	Abcam	Cat#ab9084; RRID:AB_306992
(Goat) anti-rabbit IgG DyLight 549 conjugated	Pierce	Cat#DI-1549; RRID:AB_2336407
H3 Histone H3 (rabbit antibody) (nuclear marker)	Agrisera	Cat#AS10 710; RRID:AB_10750790
RbcL Rubisco large subunit	Agrisera	Cat#AS03 037; RRID:AB_2175402
Bacterial and virus strains		
<i>BL21(DE3) Competent E. coli</i>	NEB	Cat#C25271
One-Shot TOP10 <i>E. coli</i>	Invitrogen	Cat#K240020
<i>Agrobacterium tumefaciens</i> strain C58C1 (pGV2260)	Deblaere et al., 1985	N/A
<i>Agrobacterium tumefaciens</i> strain GV3101	Nambara Lab	N/A
Chemicals, peptides, and recombinant proteins		
Abscisic acid, ABA	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat#A1049
Carboxy-PTIO	ThermoFisher	Cat#C7912
Sodium chloride	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat#S7653
Mannitol	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat#M4125
4,5-Diaminofluorescein diacetate solution, DAF-2DA	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat#D225
S-Nitrosoglutathione, GSNO	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat#N4148
L-Glutathione oxidized, GSSG	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat#G4376
L-Glutathione reduced, GSH	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat#G4251
DL-Dithiothreitol	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat#D0632
Bleach (4-5% sodium hypochlorite)	Conejo	N/A
Triton 100X	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat#T8787
MURASHIGE & SKOOG MEDIUM + VITAMINS/MES	Duchefa Biochemie	Cat#M0255.0001
Sucrose	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat#S7903
PLANT AGAR	Duchefa Biochemie	Cat#P1001
Potassium hydroxide	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat#P1767
Recombinant protein ANAC089	Biomedal	Custom r. protein
Trizma® base	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat#T1503
Sodium chloride	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat#S7653
EGTA	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat#E3889
Magnesium chloride	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat#M8266
Sodium fluoride	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat#S7920

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Continued		
REAGENT or RESOURCE	SOURCE	IDENTIFIER
β -Glycerol phosphate	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat#50020
Immobilon-P Membran, PVDF, 0,45 μ m	Millipore	Cat#IPVH00010
Sodium pyrophosphate tetrabasic	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat#P8010
cOmplete Protease Inhibitor Cocktail	Roche	Cat#04693124001
Bio-Rad Protein Assay	Bio-Rad	Cat#5000001
Tween® 20	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat#P2287
Critical commercial assays		
Nitric Oxide (total), detection kit (Griess assay)	Enzo Life Sciences	Cat#ADI-917-020
RNeasy Plant Mini Kit	QIAGEN	Cat#74904
CellLytic PN Isolation/Extraction Kit	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat#CELLYTPN1
ECL Advance Western Blotting Detection Kit	GE Healthcare Life Sciences	Cat#RPN2135
Experimental models: organisms		
<i>Arabidopsis thaliana</i> lines		
Col-0	NASC	N1093
Ler	NASC	NW20
<i>gap1-1</i>	This study	N/A
<i>gap1-2</i>	This study	N/A
<i>gap1-3</i>	CSHL	CSHL_GT19225
<i>abi5-1</i>	NASC	N8105
<i>pGAP1:GAP1ΔC1-GFP</i>	This study	N/A
<i>35S:GFP-GAP1</i>	This study	N/A
<i>Nicotiana benthamiana</i>	N/A	N/A
M2 seeds: EMS-Col, EMS-Ler and FN-Col	Lehle Seeds	N/A
Oligonucleotides		
Primers	N/A	See Table S3
Recombinant DNA		
pENTR/D-TOPO	Invitrogen	Cat#K240020
pENTR/D-TOPO- <i>pANAC089:ANAC089ΔC-1</i>	This study	N/A
pGWB4	T. Nakagawa, Shimane U.	N/A
pGWB4- <i>pANAC089:ANAC089ΔC-1</i>	This study	N/A
pENTR/D-TOPO-CaMV35S:ANAC089-GFP	This study	N/A
pMDC45	M. Curtis, U. Grossniklaus	Cat#CD3-739
pMDC45- <i>CaMV35S:ANAC089-GFP</i>	This study	N/A
Software and algorithms		
ImageJ	Schneider et al., 2012	https://imagej.nih.gov/ij/
Office Excel Power Point 2016	Microsoft	N/A

RESOURCE AVAILABILITY

Lead contact

Further information and requests for resources and reagents should be directed to and will be fulfilled by the Lead Contact, Oscar Lorenzo (oslo@usal.es).

Materials availability

Plant lines generated in this study will be made available on request, but we may require a completed Materials Transfer Agreement if there is potential for commercial application.

Data and code availability

The published article includes all raw and analyzed datasets generated during this study. Original data have been deposited to NCBI GEO: GSE25159. Sequence data from this article can be found in the GenBank/EMBL data libraries under the following accession number: NAC089, AT5G22290.

EXPERIMENTAL MODEL AND SUBJECT DETAILS

Plant material

Arabidopsis thaliana (L.) Heynh ecotypes Columbia (Col-0) and Landsberg *erecta* (Ler) are the genetic backgrounds for all wild-type plants used in this work. *gap1-1* (bck Ler) and *gap1-2* (bck Col-0) mutant plants were genuinely generated and identified for this work. Seed stock of *anac089-3* loss of function allele was obtained from the Martienssen laboratory at CSHL *Arabidopsis* gene trap collection lines (<http://genetrapp.cshl.edu>). Genetic crosses were performed using both *gap1-2* and Col-0 as donor and acceptor, respectively. F1 seeds were sown in 1 μ M ABA to check dominant mutation (Figure S1D). *Arabidopsis thaliana* *pGAP1:GAP1 Δ C1-GFP* and *35S:GFP-GAP1* transgenic plants were generated for this work by floral-dipping Col-0 plants (Clough and Bent, 1998) with *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* containing *pGWB4-pGAP1:GAP1 Δ C1-GFP* and *pMDC45-35S:GFP-GAP1* plasmid, respectively.

Growth conditions

For *in vitro* culture, *Arabidopsis* seeds were surface-sterilized in 75% (v/v) bleach (4%–5% sodium hypochlorite) and 0.01% (w/v) Triton X-100 for 5 min and washed three times in sterile water before sowing. Seeds were stratified for 3 d at 4°C and then sowed on Murashige and Skoog (MS) (Murashige and Skoog, 1962) solid medium with 2% (w/v) Suc and 0.6% (w/v) agar and the pH was adjusted to 5.7 with KOH before autoclaving. Seeds were sown on the media supplemented or not with different treatments ABA, cPTIO or GNSO and plates were sealed and incubated in a controlled environment growth chamber.

Six- to fifteen-day-old *Arabidopsis pGAP1:GAP1 Δ C1-GFP* and *35S:GFP-GAP1* seedlings were grown *in vitro* and treated with NO scavenger (cPTIO), NO donor (GSNO) reducing agents (DTT, GSH) or ABA between 2 or 4 hours before imaging with confocal microscopy or nucleus/cytoplasm fragmentation assays.

For seed propagation, *Arabidopsis* plants were grown in a growth chamber or greenhouse under 50%–60% humidity, a temperature of 22°C and with a 16-h light/8-h dark photoperiod at 80 to 100 μ E m⁻² s⁻¹ in pots containing 1:3 vermiculite:soil mixture.

METHOD DETAILS

Mutant screening

M2 seeds of ethyl methane sulfonate (EMS)-mutagenized Columbia (EMS-Col), EMS-mutagenized Landsberg *erecta* (EMS-Ler) and fast neutron-mutagenized Columbia (FN-Col) were purchased from Lehle Seeds (Round Rock, TX) and each of approximately 20,000 M2 seeds (20 batches of ~1,000 M2 seeds harvested from ~1,000 M1 seeds) was used for screening to isolate ABA and cPTIO-insensitive mutants. Screening conditions were described previously (Nambara et al., 2002) except for (+)-S-ABA and cPTIO were used. Briefly, M2 seeds were surface-sterilized, sown on 0.8% agar plates supplemented with half strength of MS and 3 μ M (+)-S-ABA or 100 μ M cPTIO. Seeds were stratified for 4 days and incubated in the presence of ABA for 4 days at room temperature under continuous light condition. Germination in cPTIO was tested under continuous light conditions at room temperature without stratification. Seedlings were transferred to hormone-free media, incubated for several days and transferred to pots for seed harvest.

Mapping and cloning of the ANAC089 locus

Mutants were crossed with wild-type of different accession from the mutant. SNPs of Col/Ler were used for mapping the mutations. The *gap1-1* and *gap1-2* mutations were independently mapped using 376 and 491 F2 plants, respectively. Following CAPS markers defined the 86 kb and 25 kb regions of *gap1-1* and *gap1-2*, respectively (Table S3). Genomic DNA corresponding to candidate genes was amplified by PCR from *gap1-1* mutant plants and sequenced to identify the *gap1* mutation.

Germination assays

To measure ABA and NO sensitivity during germination, seeds were plated on solid medium composed of MS basal salts, 2% (w/v) Suc or 0.6% w/v agar plates (adjusted to pH 5.8 by MES buffer), and different concentrations of 0.5, 1, 3 or 5 μ M ABA, 100 μ M cPTIO (NO scavenger) and/or 500 μ M GSNO (NO donor). Seed lots to be compared were harvested at same seed maturation stages from individual plants grown under identical environmental conditions. For the dormancy assays freshly harvested seed lots were directly used without stratification. Seed germination was assessed during 10 days after sowing as the percentage of seeds with an emerged radicle or seedlings that germinated and developed green fully expanded cotyledons. Each value represents the average germination percentage of 50 to 100 seeds with the SE of three replicates. Experiments were repeated at least three times with three independent seed batches obtaining similar results.

Cold stress tolerance assays

For freezing tolerance assays, 2-week-old *Arabidopsis* plants growing in soil under control conditions (non-acclimated) or exposed 7 additional days to 4°C (cold acclimated) were transferred to a freezing chamber set to 4°C for 30 min in darkness. Subsequently, temperature was allowed to decrease at a rate of – 1°C per 30 min until reaching the final desired freezing temperature, which was maintained for 6 h. Then, temperature was increased to 4°C at the same rate and thawing was allowed for 12 h before returning plants to control conditions for recovering. Tolerance to freezing was determined as the percentage of plants surviving after one week of recovery.

Constructs and transgenic plants

A 4,077-bp fragment of *gap1-1 ANAC089* genomic DNA was amplified by PCR using primers “Compl” (Table S3), to obtain the sequence *pANAC089:ANAC089ΔC-1*. This PCR product was cloned into pENTR/D-TOPO vector (Invitrogen), and transferred into the binary vector pGWB4 (GFP tag at the C terminus) via the LR reaction (Invitrogen) (Nakagawa et al., 2007). To generate *CaMV35-S:ANAC089-GFP*, a 1,022-bp cDNA of *ANAC089* was PCR amplified with the primers “cDNA” (Table S3). The PCR product was cloned into pENTR/D-TOPO vector (Invitrogen) and recombined into pMDC45 (GFP tag at the N terminus) using Gateway LR Clonase (Invitrogen). The binary vectors pGWB4 and pMDC45 were introduced into *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* strain GV3101 and C58C1 (pGV2260), respectively, and used to transform Col-0 plants by floral dip method (Clough and Bent, 1998) as described previously (Saavedra et al., 2010).

Detection of endogenous NO

24 hours stratified seeds of Col-0, *Ler*, *gap1-1*, *gap1-2* and *gap1-3* untreated or treated with 5 μM ABA or 1 mM cPTIO were assayed with 4,5-diaminofluorescein diacetate (DAF-2DA, Sigma) for detection of endogenous NO as previously described (Albertos et al., 2015). Quantification of fluorescence intensity was performed with ImageJ software. To support these results, NO production was measured spectrophotometrically at 540 nm using the Griess reaction within the Total Nitric Oxide Kit (Stressgen) following the manufacturer’s instructions. The final NO concentration expressed in nanomoles per gram per minutes was measured in 50 mg of 24h imbibed seeds of Col-0, *Ler*, *gap1-1*, *gap1-2* and *gap1-3* after the correlation between the total nitrite concentration of the samples and a nitrite standard curve as previously described (Liu et al., 2009; Fernández-Marcos et al., 2011).

Detection of endogenous ROS

ROS levels were detected in 6-day-old *Arabidopsis* seedlings of Col-0, *Ler*, *gap1-1*, *gap1-2* and *gap1-3* using 2',7'-dichlorofluorescein diacetate (DCF-DA) at 5 μM in Tris-HCl 10 mM pH 7,4 for 30 min in dark conditions. Fluorescence was examined with a LEICA DM LB Microscope. Excitation source was a mercury lamp EBQ 100 Isolated and fluorescence was detected by a GFP filter. Quantification of intensity was analyzed with ImageJ software. Sample without the DCF-DA was used as a negative control.

Analysis of LMW thiols and disulfides

Low-molecular-weight (LMW) thiols and disulfides were measured using the HPLC method specified in Bailly and Kranner (2011). Briefly, ca. 15 mg freeze-dried seeds (> 50 seeds) / replicate (n = 2-3) were finely ground before being extracted in 1 mL of 0.1 M ice-cold HCl, centrifuged for 20000 g for 10 min at 4°C and 800 μl of supernatant were transferred avoiding the congealed lipids. The extract was re-centrifuged as before and 120 μl of the supernatant was taken for the determination of total thiols and disulfides. First, the pH was adjusted to 8.0 using 180 μl of 200mM bicine buffer (pH 9.1) and disulfides were reduced by DTT before labeling thiol groups with monobromobimane (mBBR) and terminating the reaction with methanesulfonic acid. To measure disulfides only, 400 μl of supernatant was pH-adjusted to 8.0 with 600μl bicine buffer. LMW thiols were blocked with N-ethylmaleimide (NEM) and excess NEM was removed with an equal volume of toluene four times before disulfides were reduced with DTT and labeled with mBBR as above. After further centrifugation, the labeled LMW thiols were separated by reversed-phase using an Agilent 1100 HPLC system (Agilent Technologies, Santa Clara, CA, USA) on a ChromBudget 120-5-C18 column (5.0 μm, BISCHOFF Analysentechnik u. -geraete GmbH, Leonberg, Germany) and detected by fluorescence (excitation wavelength = 380 nm, emission wavelength = 480 nm). Data were calculated using individual calibration curves for each LMW thiol that were linear over the range measured. The amount of LMW thiols were calculated by subtracting the amount of LMW disulfides from the amount of total LMW disulfides and thiols.

LC-MS/MS analysis of ABA

Analyses of ABA were carried out according to Schausberger et al. (2019). In brief, 10-20 mg of lyophilized seed powder were extracted in 1.5 ml of ice-cold acetone/water/acetic acid (80:20:1, v:v:v) after addition of 25 μl stable isotopically labeled internal standard (IS) solution (1 μM ABA-d6) by shaking (TissueLyser II, QIAGEN, Düsseldorf, Germany) at 30 Hz for 5 min using two 3 mm agate beads per Eppendorf tube, followed by centrifugation at 10,000 × g, 4 °C for 12 min. Supernatants were evaporated to dryness using a SpeedVac SPD111 vacuum concentrator (Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc., Waltham, MA, USA), followed by resuspension in 150 μl of ACN/water (50:50, v:v), supported by 5 min ultrasonication in an ice-cooled water bath. The extracts were filtered through 0.2 μm PTFE filters before injection into the UHPLC-MS/MS system. ABA was identified and quantified by LC-MS, using an ekspert ultraLC 100 UHPLC system coupled to a QTRAP 4500 mass spectrometer (AB SCIEX, Framingham, MA, USA).

Quantitative RT-PCR

Total RNA preparation from Col-0 and *gap1-2* mutant seeds and first strand cDNA synthesis were carried out as described previously (Okamoto et al., 2006) and quantitative RT-PCR (Q RT-PCR) was performed by the QuantiTect SYBR Green PCR kit (QIAGEN) as described previously (Endo et al., 2008). Primers used were Q2-ANAC089 and 18S rRNA as a standard control (Table S3).

RNA extraction for microarray analysis

Total RNA was extracted from 3-day-stratified seeds and 3 hours untreated or 3 μ M ABA treated Col-0 and *gap1-2* seeds under light conditions as previously described (Oñate-Sánchez and Vicente-Carbajosa, 2008).

Synthesis of biotinylated cRNA for microarrays analysis

Each RNA preparation was tested for degradation using the Agilent 2100 Bioanalyzer (Agilent technologies, Palo Alto, CA). cDNA was synthesized from 4 μ g of total RNA using One-cycle target labeling and control reagents (Affymetrix, Santa Clara, CA) to produce biotin labeled cRNA. The cRNA preparations (15 μ g) were fragmented at 94°C for 35 min into 35-200 bases in length.

Hybridization, washing, and scanning of microarrays

Three biological replicates for each condition were independently hybridized. If the quality control was correct, then 10 μ g of fragmented cRNA were hybridized to the *Arabidopsis* ATH1 Genome array (Affymetrix, Santa Clara, CA), containing 22500 transcript variants from 24000 well-characterized *Arabidopsis thaliana* genes. Each sample was added to a hybridization solution containing 100mM 2-(N-morpholino) ethanesulfonic acid, 1 M Na⁺, and 20mM of EDTA in the presence of 0.01% of Tween-20 to a final cRNA concentration of 0.05 μ g/ml. Hybridization was performed for 16 h at 45°C. Each microarray was washed and stained with streptavidin-phycoerythrin in a Fluidics station 450 (Affymetrix) and scanned at 2.5 μ m resolution in a GeneChip® Scanner 3000 7G System (Affymetrix) Data analysis were performed using GeneChip Operating Software (GCOS).

Data analysis for microarrays experiments

Analysis was performed using the affylmaGUI R package (Wettenhall et al., 2006). Robust Multi-array Analysis (RMA) algorithm was used for background correction, normalization, and expression levels summarization (Irizarry et al., 2003). Next, differential expression analysis was performed with the Bayes t-statistics from the linear models for Microarray data (limma), included in the affylmGUI package. P values were corrected for multiple-testing using the Benjamini-Hochberg's method (False Discovery Rate) (Benjamini and Hochberg, 1995; Reiner et al., 2003). Genes were considered to be differentially expressed if the corrected P values were < 0.05. In addition, only genes with a signal log ratio > 1 or < -1 were considered for further analysis.

Correlation analysis, functional categories, and gene classification

Correlation studies were performed between *gap1-2* and different germination conditions. Two different expression categories were considered, one corresponding to all genes induced (≥ 2 -fold) or repressed (≤ -2 -fold) in both conditions compared, and other corresponding to genes showing high induction (≥ 2 -fold) or repression (≤ -2 -fold) in one condition and in the other condition at least minimum induction (1-fold $\leq x,y < 2$ -fold) or repression (-1 -fold $\geq x,y > -2$ -fold), respectively. A total of 465 genes were analyzed. The hierarchical cluster was calculated and drawn using The Institute for Genomic Research (TIGR) MeV (Multiarray experiment Viewer, version 4.4) software provided by the TIGR Institute (Saeed et al., 2003) and using Pearson uncentered and complete linkage. CEL files for the different treatments were obtained from AtGenExpress project (<http://www.arabidopsis.org/portals/expression/microarray/ATGenExpress.jsp>), and all the selected datasets were normalized using RMAExpress and analyzed. The display and gene classifications are based on MapMan (Thimm et al., 2004; Usadel et al., 2005). A full description of the bins and layout can be obtained at <http://www.gabi.rzpd.de/projects/MapMan/>, version 3.0.0.

Universal protein binding microarray 11 (PBM11) for determining TFs DNA-binding specificities

Godoy et al. (2011) designed a DNA microarray containing all possible DNA sequences of 11 nucleotides (4,194,325 sequences) compacted in 167,773 35 nucleotides-long oligonucleotides, so each probe contained 25 overlapping 11-nt sequences. The design was based on the properties of de Bruijn sequence of order 11 with an alphabet of size 4 (ATCG; Berger et al., 2006; Philippakis et al., 2008). To determine the sequence of every oligonucleotide probe in the microarray the de Bruijn sequence was divided into 167,773 35-nt fragments overlapping 10 nucleotides to ensure that all subsequences of size 11 were included. All the probes started with the common 25-nt sequence (5'-TGTCTGTGTTCCGTTGTCGGTCTG-3'). Microarrays of 267x912 single-stranded 60-nt oligonucleotides were manufactured by Agilent Technologies. The difference between available spots and 167,773 different probes was occupied with 73,626 probes randomly chosen, in a way that 94,147 probes were represented once in the PBM11 and 73,626 twice.

Synthesis of double-stranded microarray, protein incubation, and immunological detection of DNA-protein complexes for the PBM11

Synthesis *in situ* of double-stranded DNA and processing of slides were as in Berger and Bulyk (2009) but omitting the blocking steps. The binding mixture was adjusted to 100 μ l and contained 2% milk, 100 ng of poly deoxyinosinic-deoxycytidylic acid (di-dC), 0.5 μ g of denatured salmon sperm DNA (ssDNA), 1 μ g of purified protein and 25 μ l of binding buffer 4x (10mM Tris-HCl pH 8, 60mM KCl, 4mM

MgCl₂, 0,1mM EDTA, 10% glycerol, 200mg/ml BSA). For incubation with ANAC089 recombinant protein expressed *in planta*, the binding mixture contained dl-dC, ssDNA and milk as before, and 70 μl of protein extract isolated from *N. benthamiana* leaves (Godoy et al., 2011). The binding mixture was deposited onto the slide, covered with a LifterSlip (22x65 mm; Erie Scientific) and incubated in a humid chamber for 2.5 hours at room temperature. Slides were washed 3 times in 50 mL of Phosphate Buffered Saline (PBS)-1% Tween 20 (5 minutes), 3x in PBS-0.01% Triton X-100 (5 minutes) and spun dry by centrifugation. DNA-protein complexes were incubated with 16 μg of Rabbit polyclonal to Maltose Binding Protein (Abcam) in PBS-2% milk for 16 h at room temperature. Slides were washed 3x in PBS- 0.05% Tween 20, 3x in PBS-0.01% Triton X-100 (5 minutes each wash) and dried. Labeling of DNA-protein complexes were performed by incubating the microarrays with 0.4 μg of goat anti-rabbit IgG DyLight 549 conjugated (Pierce) in PBS-2% milk for 3 hours at room temperature, followed by the same washes as before and the slides dried for scanning.

Image acquisition, data processing, and analysis of PBM11

Two different images were obtained for each microarray at 5 μm in a GenePix 4000B scanner (Axon Instruments) and quantified in the GenePix Pro 5.1 software. One corresponded to double-stranded DNA at 635 nm, generating “control DNA” GPR files. The second image was obtained after labeling of DNA-protein complexes at 532 nm, generating “binding” GPR files. Combining of “control” and “binding” files, normalization and adjustment of the probe intensities and transformation to a list of scores for all the k-mers considered were carried out with the PBM Analysis Suite from Berger and Bulyk (2009); http://the_brain.bwh.harvard.edu/PBMAnalysisSuite/index.html. We adapted these scripts to the dimensions of our PBM11 microarray and for calculating average intensities of duplicated probes. The best scored motif, represented as an energy- based matrix, was converted into a graphical logo with the on-line tool enoLOGOS (<http://chianti.ucsd.edu/cgi-bin/enologos/enologos.cgi>).

Production of recombinant ANAC089 protein and polyclonal antibodies

ANAC089 cDNA was recombined into pET-28a+ vector to obtain fusion protein with N-terminal His-tag. Recombinant protein was expressed in *Escherichia coli* and purified using His-Select® Nickel Affinity Gel (IMAC) (Sigma) according to manufacturer (Biomedal). A primary dose of 750 μg purified recombinant protein 6xHis-ANAC089 was emulsified in Freund's complete adjuvant (Sigma) and administered subcutaneously in two rabbits. Three doses of the protein (375 μg) emulsified in Freund's incomplete adjuvant (Sigma) were administered at intervals (21 days). After the third booster injection (10 days), blood was collected from the rabbits and the sera were separated. Antibodies (Anti-ANAC089) were isolated by column chromatography with a protein-G column (GE Healthcare Life Sciences).

Western blot

Total proteins from Col-0, *Ler*, *gap1-1*, *gap1-2*, *gap1-3*, *35S::GFP-ANAC089* and *pANAC089:ANAC089ΔC-1-GFP* lines were extracted after the indicated treatments and times for western blot analysis. Tissue was powdered with mortar and pestle and incubated for 10 min on ice with extraction buffer (50mM Tris-HCl 7.5 pH, 75mM NaCl, 15mM EGTA, 15mM MgCl₂, 1mM DTT, 0.1% Tween 20, 1mM NaF, 0.2M NaV, 2mM Na-pyrophosphate, 60mM β-glycerolphosphate and 1x proteases inhibitor mix, Roche) followed by centrifugation for 10 min at 13000 rpm at 4°C. Protein concentration was determined by the Bio-Rad Protein Assay (Bio-Rad) based on the Bradford method (Bradford, 1976). 60 μg of total protein was loaded per well in SDS-acrylamide/bisacrylamide gel electrophoresis using Tris-glycine-SDS buffer. Proteins were electrophoretically transferred to an ImmobilonTM-P PVDF membrane (Millipore) using the Trans-Blot® Turbo (Bio-Rad). Membranes were blocked in TBS-T containing 5% Blocking Agent and probed with antibodies diluted in blocking buffer. Anti-ANAC089 Purified Rabbit Immunoglobulin (Biomedal), anti-ABI5 Purified Rabbit Immunoglobulin (Biomedal), Anti-GFP (Clontech), Anti-Actin clone 10-B3 Purified Mouse Immunoglobulin (Sigma) and ECL-Peroxidase labeled anti-rabbit and anti-mouse (Amersham) antibodies were used in the western blot analyses. Detection was performed using ECL Advance Western Blotting Detection Kit (Amersham) and the chemiluminescence was detected using an Intelligent Dark-Box II, LAS-1000 scanning system (Fujifilm). Quantification of band intensity was performed with ImageJ software.

Fluorescence microscopy

7-day-old *35S::GFP-ANAC089* plants were treated during 4 hours with 1 mM cPTIO, 1 mM DTT, 500 μM GSNO, 1.5 mM GSH, 1.5 mM GSSG, 1 μM ABA or without treatment (control) for changes in subcellular localization of ANAC089. The fluorescent photographs were taken using a Leica SP5 confocal microscope and Bio-Rad Radiance 2100 laser scanning confocal imaging system (LaserSharp v.5 Image software). For GFP detection, the excitation source was an argon ion laser at 488 nm and detection filters between 481 and 530 nm.

Nuclear/cytoplasmic fractioning assays

7-day-old *35S::GFP-ANAC089* plants were treated during 2 or 4 hours with 1 mM cPTIO or 1 mM DTT and the corresponding control and immediately harvested to proceed with subcellular fractioning studies. Briefly, 1,5 g of sample were mortar and pestle-grounded and resuspended in 5 mL of 1X NIB buffer (CelLytic™PN, Sigma) supplemented with freshly prepared 1 mM DTT. The suspension was filtered and centrifuged at 1,260 g for 10 min at 4°C. Pellets were resuspended in 1 mL of NIBA (1X NIB, 1X cOmplete® EDTA-free proteases inhibitor) 0.3% Triton X-100 and centrifuged at 1,200 g for 10 min at 4°C. The supernatants were collected as the cytosolic fraction whereas pellets were washed five times in 1 mL of NIBA for crude nuclei preparation. Protein concentration was determined

by the Bio-Rad Protein Assay (Bio-Rad) based on the Bradford method (Bradford, 1976). 20 μ g of total protein per sample was loaded to proceed with western blot experiments. Anti-ANAC089 Purified Rabbit Immunoglobulin (Biomedal) to detect ANA089, and anti-H3 histone (Agrisera) and anti-RuBisCo-Large subunit (Agrisera) were used to determine the pureness of nuclear and cytoplasmic sub-cellular fractions, respectively.

QUANTIFICATION AND STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

Information about statistical tests used and technical and biological replicate experiments for each experiment are detailed in the relevant STAR Methods sections. Values are represented as mean \pm SE. The statistical analysis were performed by a two tailed Student's t test where $p < 0.05$, $p < 0.01$, $p < 0.001$ are considered significant and expressed as *, **, ***, respectively.