

## 2 Starch Biosynthesis in Guard Cells But Not in Mesophyll Cells Is Involved in CO<sub>2</sub>-Induced Stomatal Closing.

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GOOD FOR TEACHING | INTERESTING HYPOTHESIS | NEW FINDING

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It is well known that the regulation of both stomata movements and development are highly sensitive to modifications in the surrounding environment {1,2} and therefore stomata play a significant role in mediating plant-environment interactions.

In this outstanding research the group around Julian Schroeder has provided evidence for a functional role of guard cell metabolism in CO<sub>2</sub>-induced stomatal movements.

By analyzing the stomatal responses to changes in [CO<sub>2</sub>] coupled with net CO<sub>2</sub> assimilation rates in different tissue-specific starch accumulation mutants, Azoulay-Shemer and colleagues were able to suggest that starch biosynthesis in guard cells is involved in CO<sub>2</sub>-induced stomatal closing rather than in mesophyll cells.

Although compelling evidence has demonstrated that mesophyll tissues produce a diffusible signal involved in stomatal responses to CO<sub>2</sub> changes {3,4}, the results obtained by Azoulay-Shemer and colleagues indicate that this signal is not directly connected with mesophyll starch. Further research is clearly required to ascertain the importance of both guard cell and mesophyll metabolism in the regulation of stomatal movements.

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#### Disclosures

None declared

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### Abstract:

#### ABSTRACT

Starch metabolism is involved in stomatal movement regulation. However, it remains unknown whether starch-deficient mutants affect CO<sub>2</sub>-induced stomatal closing and whether starch biosynthesis in guard cells and/or mesophyll cells is rate limiting for high CO<sub>2</sub>-induced stomatal closing. Stomatal responses to [CO<sub>2</sub>] shifts and CO<sub>2</sub> assimilation rates were compared in *Arabidopsis* (*Arabidopsis thaliana*) mutants that were either starch deficient in all plant tissues (ADP-Glc-pyrophosphorylase [ADGase]) or retain starch accumulation in guard cells but are starch deficient in mesophyll cells (plastidial phosphoglucose isomerase [pPGI]). ADGase mutants exhibited impaired CO<sub>2</sub>-induced stomatal closure, but pPGI mutants did not, showing that starch biosynthesis in guard cells but not mesophyll functions in CO<sub>2</sub>-induced stomatal closing. Nevertheless, starch-deficient ADGase mutant alleles exhibited partial CO<sub>2</sub> responses, pointing toward a starch biosynthesis-independent component of the response that is likely mediated by anion channels. Furthermore, whole-leaf CO<sub>2</sub> assimilation rates of both ADGase and pPGI mutants were lower upon shifts to high [CO<sub>2</sub>], but only ADGase mutants caused impairments in CO<sub>2</sub>-induced stomatal closing. These genetic analyses determine the roles of starch biosynthesis for high CO<sub>2</sub>-induced stomatal closing. © 2016 American Society of Plant Biologists. All Rights Reserved.

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