Title: COMPOSITIONS AND METHODS FOR REGULATING ABA INDUCED CLOSURE OF PLANT STOMATA

Abstract: A novel gene, AAPPK, is disclosed. Loss of function of the protein encoded by AAPPK is associated with reduced sensitivity to abscisic acid-induced stomatal closure in plants. Also disclosed are transgenic plants and mutants having altered sensitivity to abscisic acid-mediated transpiration and other desirable agronomic features. The regulation of transpiration provided by the present invention is different from that of previously described mechanisms to control transpiration in plants.
INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC(7) : C07H 21/02,04; C12N 5/00,02,04,10 15/00,09,63,70,74
US CL : 435/320.1, 410, 419; 536/23.1, 23.2, 23.6, 24.3, 24.33
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
U.S. : 435/320.1, 410, 419; 536/23.1, 23.2, 23.6, 24.3, 24.33

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
Please See Continuation Sheet

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages</th>
<th>Relevant to claim No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Li et al. Abscisic acid-activated and calcium-independent protein kinase from guard cells of fava bean. The Plant Cell. December 1996, Vol. 8, pages 2359-2368, especially page 2360 Figure 1.</td>
<td>1-3, 11, 14-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Y</td>
<td>MORI et al. Abscisic acid activates a 48-kilodalton protein kinase in guard cell protoplasts. Plant Physiology. 1997, Vol. 113, pages 833-839, especially page 835 Figure</td>
<td>1-3, 11, 14-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Li et al. Guard cells possess a calcium-dependent protein kinase that phosphorylates the KAT1 potassium channel. Plant Physiology. 1998, pages 785-795.</td>
<td>1-3, 11, 14-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X,P</td>
<td>Li et al. Regulation of abscisic acid-induced stomatal closure and anion channels by guard cell AAPK kinase. Science. 14 January 2000, Vol. 287, pages 300-303, especially page 300, column 2, paragraph 3 to column 3 paragraph 1, and column 3 paragraph 2.</td>
<td>1-3, 11, 14-15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:
  - "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
  - "E" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date
  - "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
  - "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
  - "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed
  - "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
  - "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
  - "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
  - "&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search:
22 November 2000 (22.11.2000)

Date of mailing of the international search report:
05 JAN 2001

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US
Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
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Washington, D.C. 20231
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Form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet) (July 1998)
**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**

**Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of Item 1 of first sheet)**

This international report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. □ Claim Nos.:  
   because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. ✗ Claim Nos.: 7-10,16 and 19-21  
   because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:  
   the sequence CRF was defective; specific SEQ ID NOS could not be searched

3. □ Claim Nos.:  
   because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

**Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of Item 2 of first sheet)**

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. □ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.

2. ✗ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.

3. □ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. □ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

**Remark on Protest** □ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.  
□ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

Form PCT/ISA/210 (continuation of first sheet(1)) (July 1998)
Continuation of B. FIELDS SEARCHED Item 3: WEST, STN (agricola, biosis, biotechnology, biotechds, biotechabs, cabal, caplus, embase, medline, scisearch) Terms: abscisic acid, stomat?, kinase, inventors' names