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Evidence for Early Evolution of Sulfated Peptide Signaling in Plant Development

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Abstract

In plants, the cell wall fixes the position of each cell; therefore, during development, plants rely on cellular proliferation and expansion for tissue patterning and organ formation. How plant cells communicate with neighboring cells to coordinate expansion for properly patterned tissues and organs is not well understood. In seed plants, organ growth is known to be modulated by sulfotyrosyl peptide signaling. Here, we report that the activity of TYROSYL PROTEIN SULFOTRANSFERASE (TPST), which is responsible for the post-translational modification of sulfotyrosyl peptides, is essential for expansion during development in the non-vascular plant, *Physcomitrium patens*. Plants that harbor a null mutation in the gene encoding TPST ($\Delta tpst$) were smaller, formed fewer caulonemal filaments, and were unable to form expanded gametophores. In $\Delta tpst$ multiple aspects of gametophore development were affected, including the first division of the gametophore initial, as well as reduced rates of cell division and expansion. Mutational analysis of *P. patens* TPST identified the residue Histidine 124, a candidate catalytic residue, as essential for TPST function. Notably, addition of the sulfated signaling peptide, PSY1 from either *P. patens* or *Arabidopsis thaliana*, rescued all $\Delta tpst$ developmental deficits. Taken together, these data suggest that TPST functions to sulfate PSY, and this activity is necessary for plant growth and development. Furthermore, since addition of AtPSY fully rescues $\Delta tpst$ and PpPSY promotes root elongation in *Arabidopsis* and rice, these findings suggest that PSY signaling is evolutionarily conserved.

Introduction

In multicellular organisms, development involves cell proliferation, expansion, and differentiation. Unlike animal cells, plant cells are unable to undergo cell migration due to their encasement in a semi-rigid cell wall. Thus, the ultimate body shape depends on patterns of cell division and cell expansion (Cosgrove, 2005). How plant cells coordinate expansion with neighboring cells to shape tissue development and organ formation is not known.

Tyrosine-sulfated peptide signaling regulates plant growth, development, and immune response (Kaufmann and Sauter, 2019). A member of the PLANT PEPTIDE-CONTAINING SULFATED TYROSINE (PSY) family, mature PSY1 is an 18-amino acid tyrosine-sulfated peptide (Amano *et al.*, 2007). Exogenous PSY1 at nanomolar concentrations enhances cellular expansion and proliferation in *Arabidopsis* (Amano *et al.*, 2007) and overexpression or exogenous application of PSY1 promotes root elongation in *Arabidopsis* and rice (Amano *et al.*, 2007; Pruitt *et al.*, 2017; Ercoli *et al.*, 2024; Shi *et al.*, 2024). Other characterized sulfopeptide hormones include PHYTOSULFOKINE (PSK), a 5-amino acid tyrosine-sulfated peptide that functions with the plant hormones auxin and cytokinin to mediate cell cycle reentry (Matsubayashi and Sakagami, 1996; Matsubayashi *et al.*, 1999), ROOT MERISTEM GROWTH FACTORS (RGFs), and CASPARIAN STRIP INTEGRITY FACTORS (CIFs) (Matsuzaki *et al.*, 2010; Doblas *et al.*, 2017; Nakayama *et al.*, 2017). However, the molecular mechanisms that link tyrosine-sulfated peptides to cell expansion are not well understood.

In plants, sulfated signaling peptides are processed and post-translationally modified from precursor peptides. The prepropeptide amino-terminal signal peptide is cleaved during secretion in the endoplasmic reticulum, and then it moves to the Golgi for tyrosine sulfation and other modifications as appropriate. Propeptides are then transported, likely to the apoplast, and become mature

51 sulfated signaling peptides when they are cleaved at the amino- and carboxyl-
52 termini by largely unknown proteases (Komori *et al.*, 2009; Kaufmann and Sauter,
53 2019).

54 Sulfotyrosine (sTyr) residues are formed by TYROSYL PROTEIN
55 SULFOTRANSFERASE (TPST) in the Golgi and are critical for certain protein-protein
56 interactions in animals and plants (Stewart and Ronald, 2022). TPST catalyzes
57 sulfate transfer from adenosine 3'-phosphate 5'-phosphosulfate (PAPS) to the
58 hydroxyl group of specific tyrosyl residues (Stewart and Ronald, 2022). Both TPST
59 and soluble sulfotransferase sequences contain a residue (Glu or His) whose side-
60 chain provides the catalytic base, as well as PAPS-binding residues in two
61 conserved motifs, the 5' phospho-sulfate binding (5'-PSB) and the 3' phosphate
62 binding (3'-PB) elements (Stewart and Ronald, 2022). Although these conserved
63 elements were not initially identified in the plant TPST sequence (Komori *et al.*,
64 2009), recent analysis detected putative PAPS-binding motifs (Stewart and Ronald,
65 2022). AtTPST is a type I transmembrane protein, with a single membrane
66 spanning segment and the carboxyl-terminus exposed to the cytosol. In contrast,
67 animal TPST is a type II transmembrane protein, with the amino-terminus exposed
68 to the cytosol. These different topologies and apparent absence of sequence
69 similarity suggested that plant and animal TPSTs evolved independently via
70 convergent evolution (Komori *et al.*, 2009).

71 In Arabidopsis, TPST is expressed throughout the plant but most highly at
72 the root apical meristem (Komori *et al.*, 2009). An Arabidopsis *tpst* null mutant
73 displays various developmental and growth phenotypes, including dwarfism and
74 early senescence (Komori *et al.*, 2009). TPST-mediated sulfation of tyrosine residues
75 in PSYs, PSKs, RGFs, and CIFs is critical for high-affinity binding to their cognate

receptors (Kaufmann and Sauter, 2019; Stewart and Ronald, 2022). The plant *TPST* gene is conserved from angiosperms to mosses (Zhao *et al.*, 2019).

The spreading earth moss *Physcomitrium patens* is a tractable model for understanding early events in plant evolution (Rensing *et al.*, 2020). Unlike angiosperms, whose genomes encode four classes of sTyr peptides (PSK, PSY, RGF, and CIF), which have multiple paralogs in each class, thus far, the *P. patens* genome has been found to only encode one copy of *PSY* and one copy of *PSK* (Furumizu *et al.*, 2021). However, two immune-responsive PSY-like peptides in *P. patens* were recently identified (Lyapina *et al.*, 2025). In addition to the ease of genome editing, *P. patens* is an advantageous model organism because it is predominantly haploid and undergoes expansion in two main ways. In juvenile stages, protonemal filaments expand via tip growth, and in adult tissues, gametophores form, in which the phyllids, or the leaf-like structure, expand using diffuse growth (Schumaker and Dietrich, 1998). By analyzing TPST function in *P. patens*, we can not only understand the role of sulfation in a system with fewer predicted sulfo-peptides, but also investigate both diffuse and tip growth. Thus, *P. patens* provides a platform from which to study plant TPST, such as identifying catalytic residues and defining substrate specificity determinants. Here we report that tyrosine-sulfated peptides are required for development, that the catalytic residue found in animal sulfotransferases is conserved in *P. patens*, and that PSY signaling-induced expansion is evolutionarily conserved.

Results

Sulfated peptides are required for development

To investigate the role of *TPST* (Pp3c16_24250) in cellular proliferation and development, we generated a null mutant using CRISPR/Cas9-mediated genome editing. *TPST* in *P. patens* has several predicted gene models, leading to two main predicted transcripts (Fig. S1A). The annotation in Phytozome suggests that both transcripts encode a single-pass type I transmembrane protein similar to Arabidopsis TPST (Komori *et al.*, 2009; Goodstein *et al.*, 2012; The UniProt Consortium, 2025). Additionally, both transcripts encode the same predicted signal peptide sequence. The only major difference between the two predicted proteins is the number of amino acids between the PAPs-binding catalytic region and the transmembrane domain (Fig. S1C). Both the short and long transcripts were detected using RT-PCR (Fig. S1B). Sequencing confirmed that the long transcript matches the predicted gene model V3.5, and the short transcript matches the predicted gene model V3.1. Therefore, we targeted a region of the locus corresponding to the amino-terminal coding region to create a *tpst* null mutant regardless of transcript length. Two independent *tpst* null mutant lines were recovered, each resulting from a frameshift near the protospacer cut site as a result of a deletion ($\Delta tpst-6$) and an insertion ($\Delta tpst-7$) (Fig. S1A). Both null mutants were smaller than wild-type plants (Fig. S1D and S1E). $\Delta tpst-6$ was selected for future study and is subsequently referred to as $\Delta tpst$.

We found that $\Delta tpst$ plants had a dark center, appeared denser than wild type, and were very round (Fig. 1A). We measured total plant area and found that 14-day-old $\Delta tpst$ plants regenerated from protoplasts were 48% smaller than wild type ($p < 0.0001$) (Fig. 1B). To determine if the difference in plant area was a result of growth rate and or cell size, we measured chloronemal and caulonemal growth rates and cell size. While there was a trend that $\Delta tpst$ chloronemal and caulonemal apical cells grew slower, this was not statistically significant (Fig. S1F). We found

that *Δtpst* caulonemal subapical cells were 12% smaller than wild type ($p = 0.0288$), but there was no significant difference in chloronemal subapical cell length (Fig. S1G). Since the slightly shorter caulonemal cells do not account for the difference in total plant area, we quantified the number of caulonemal filaments emerging from the 14-day-old plants. We found that *Δtpst* plants had 47% less caulonemal filaments compared to wild type ($p < 0.001$) (Fig. 1C), suggesting that the *Δtpst* protonemal phenotype is a result of deficits of the transition from chloronema to caulonema. As an alternative method to measure the lack of caulonemal filaments, we quantified circularity, which is proportional to the ratio of the area to the square of the perimeter. The more caulonemata that extend from the plant, the lower the ratio. The difference in circularity closely reflects the reduction in the number of caulonemal filaments with wild-type plants exhibiting an average circularity of 0.023 and *Δtpst* 0.041 (Fig. 1D). As plants continued to mature, *Δtpst* was unable to form expanded gametophores and instead appeared to abort growth once a bud was formed, despite forming the same amount of buds per area as wild type (Fig. S1H, Fig. 1E). Additionally, *Δtpst* turned brown before wild type, an indication of early senescence (Fig. 1F). These data demonstrate that *TPST* function is critical for multiple aspects of *P. patens* development, including protonemal growth, gametophore expansion, and senescence.

Sulfated peptides are required for normal cell division and expansion during gametophore development

To investigate why *Δtpst* fails to form fully expanded gametophores, we used confocal microscopy to image bud development. We created a *tpst* null mutant in a moss line that stably expresses mEGFP-tubulin and has the plasma membrane-

151 localized protein, TONNEAU1 (TON1), endogenously-tagged with 3XmRuby2 (Fig.
152 S2A), which can be used to visualize the outline of cells during gametophore
153 development. To follow bud development, we used live-cell imaging in microfluidic
154 chambers (Bascom *et al.*, 2016). The cell divisions underlying early bud formation
155 in *P. patens* during gametophore development have been well-established
156 (Harrison *et al.*, 2009). The bud initial emerges similar to a protonemal side branch,
157 but soon after emergence it appears swollen or bulbous in appearance (Harrison
158 *et al.*, 2009). It then undergoes an oblique cell division, followed by three
159 subsequent asymmetric divisions, which establish a tetrahedral apical cell and
160 mark the transition to three-dimensional growth (Harrison *et al.*, 2009). Because of
161 the marked appearance of a bud initial, the switch from filamentous to shoot fate
162 is made prior to the first oblique division (Harrison *et al.*, 2009). However, in *Δtpst*,
163 we noticed irregular bud morphology at the 4-cell stage. The bud initial appears
164 bulbous, but the first division is not oblique, suggesting a delay in the decision
165 between branch or bud fate (Fig. 2A). Time-lapse imaging beginning at the 6-cell
166 stage showed that wild type undergoes a series of 12 cell divisions over the course
167 of approximately 12 hours (Fig. 2B, Fig. S2B, Video 1). However, in the same time
168 frame, *Δtpst* underwent only 3 divisions (Fig. 2B, Fig. S2C, Video 2). As gametophore
169 development progressed, *Δtpst* continued to divide less than wild type and did not
170 form a phyllid at the same time in development (Fig. 2C, Videos 3 and 4). Confocal
171 imaging of early phyllid formation over the course of 23 hours showed that wild
172 type performed both cellular expansion and division to form a phyllid (Fig. 2D,
173 Video 5). However, a *Δtpst* bud of approximately the same size (which is older than
174 the wild type bud because of fewer cell divisions) only expanded during the same
175 23-hour period (Fig. 2D, Video 6). Overall, defects in gametophore formation in
176 *Δtpst* were apparent from the onset of bud formation, characterized by deficits in

177 cell division, including irregular first divisions and markedly slower rates of cell
178 division.

179 In addition to cell division, *Δtpst* exhibited defects in cellular expansion
180 during gametophore formation. During phyllid expansion, cells in a wild-type
181 phyllid expanded as the leaf grew outwards, changing from a smaller, square
182 shape to a rectangle, with an average of a 1.92-fold change in cell area over the
183 course of 24 hours (Fig. 3A and B, Video 7). In contrast, cells in a *Δtpst* phyllid
184 retained an oblong morphology and did not significantly expand during a 24-hour
185 imaging period, with an average increase in cellular area of only 1.08-fold (Fig. 3A
186 and B, Video 8). Therefore, TPST function, and thus sulfated signaling peptides, are
187 required for normal cellular expansion and division during gametophore
188 development.

189

190 ***Catalytic residues are conserved in PpTPST***

191 Candidate 5'-PSB, 3'-PB, and catalytic base residues were identified in plant
192 TPST sequences (Stewart and Ronald, 2022) (Fig. 4A). We therefore used
193 CRISPR/Cas9 and homology-directed repair to generate Ala substitutions at three
194 residues: Arg-81 in the putative 5'-PSB element, Arg-144 in the putative 3'-PB
195 element, and His-124, the putative catalytic base (Fig. S3). Quantitative growth
196 assays revealed that all three mutants (*tpst-R81A*, *tpst-H124A* and *tpst-R144A*) were
197 significantly smaller than the wild type ($p < 0.001$) but were not significantly
198 different from the *Δtpst* mutant or each other (Fig. 4C). This indicates that all three
199 mutants had compromised TPST activity. However, there were differences in
200 protonemal morphology amongst the mutants. The *tpst-H124A* mutant was dense,
201 round, and had fewer caulonemal filaments, similar to the *Δtpst* mutant (Fig. 4B). In

202 contrast, the *tpst-R81A* and *tpst-R144A* mutants were less dense and exhibited more
203 caulonemal filaments.

204 To quantify these differences in plant morphology, we measured the
205 circularity of each plant as a readout for the amount of caulonemal filaments. Wild-
206 type plants had an average circularity of 0.0182. *Δtpst* and *tpst-H124A* plants had
207 significantly higher circularity values of 0.0344 and 0.0333, respectively, whereas
208 *tpst-R81A* (0.0210) and *tpst-R144A* (0.229) displayed intermediate values (Fig. 4D).
209 These results demonstrated that the *tpst-H124A* alteration phenocopied the defect
210 in transition to caulonemal filaments associated with the *Δtpst* null allele, whereas
211 the *tpst-R81A* and *tpst-R144A* alterations conferred an intermediate phenotype.

212 To assess whether these alterations affect gametophore development or
213 senescence, we continued to monitor the growth and development of the mutants.
214 After 8 weeks, the *Δtpst* and *tpst-H124A* mutants exhibited early senescence in
215 comparison to the wild type, the *tpst-R81A* and *tpst-R144A* mutants (Fig. 4F).
216 Additionally, the *tpst-H124A* mutant, like the *Δtpst* mutant, did not form expanded
217 gametophores, whereas *tpst-R81A* and *tpst-R144A* plants formed fully expanded
218 gametophores (Fig. 4E). Together, the decreased average plant area combined with
219 intermediate circularity values despite forming fully expanded gametophores
220 suggest that the R81A and R144A alterations have lost some TPST function. In
221 contrast, the H124A and *Δtpst* alterations are indistinguishable, indicating that
222 residue His-124 is essential for TPST function.

223

224 ***PSY is evolutionarily conserved***

225 Because *Δtpst* plants presumably cannot produce tyrosine sulfated peptides
226 (Komori *et al.*, 2009; Matsuzaki *et al.*, 2010; Kaufmann, Stührwohldt and Sauter,

2021), we investigated whether exogenous application of *P. patens* PSY1 (PpPSY1), *A. thaliana* PSY1 (AtPSY1), and *A. thaliana* PSK1 (AtPSK1) synthetic peptides could alter the *Δtpst* phenotype. Initially, we exposed 8-day-old tissue regenerated from protoplasts to peptides for 12 days and screened for gametophore formation. The *Δtpst* mutant formed expanded gametophores after exposure to 200 nM of AtPSY1 or 1 μM of PpPSY1, but not to 200 nM of AtPSK1 (Fig. 5A). We repeated this experiment to test several doses of peptide to determine the optimal concentration (Fig. 5B). To observe expanded gametophores in *Δtpst*, we used a higher concentration of PpPSY1 compared to AtPSY1.

To quantify the peptide-mediated rescue of protonemal growth in *Δtpst*, we moved 7-day-old plants regenerated from protoplasts to media supplemented with AtPSY1 or PpPSY1. After 5 days of peptide treatment, *Δtpst* plants closely resembled wild type (Fig. 6A). Interestingly, wild-type plants grown on either peptide were significantly larger than wild-type plants in the absence of peptide (Fig. 6B). There was no significant difference between the *Δtpst* and wild-type plants grown on AtPSY1 ($p > 0.05$). When grown on PpPSY1, *Δtpst* plants were the same size as the wild-type controls. However, in comparison to all other peptide conditions, *Δtpst* grown on PpPSY1 were the smallest. These observations support that the PpPSY1 peptide is less effective at rescuing *Δtpst* than AtPSY1. However, both PpPSY1 and AtPSY1 in the media were able to rescue the circularity phenotype of *Δtpst*, indicating that the addition of sulfated peptide rescues the developmental defect in the transition from chloronema to caulonema (Fig. 6C).

We continued to transfer the protoplast-regenerated plants on cellophane to fresh peptide media every week and confirmed our previous results that in the presence of either peptide, *Δtpst* exhibited expanded gametophores (Fig. 6D). There was no noticeable difference in wild-type gametophore expansion in the

253 presence of AtPSY1 or PpPSY1. As the protoplast-regenerated plants continued to
254 age, we found that *Δtpst* turned brown around 7 weeks after protoplasting (tissue
255 that is grown on cellophane behaved differently than tissue that was moved
256 directly onto media). However, *Δtpst* grown on peptide media remained green,
257 similar to wild type, suggesting that in the presence of the peptide, *Δtpst* did not
258 age as quickly as *Δtpst* under control conditions (Fig. 6E). *Δtpst* grown on either
259 PpPSY1 or AtPSY1 did not senesce at the same time as *Δtpst* under control
260 conditions. Therefore, supplementing media with exogenous PSY1 rescued all
261 developmental aspects of the *Δtpst* phenotype, restoring normal protonemata,
262 gametophore expansion, and timing of senescence. Notably, the ability of AtPSY1
263 to rescue *Δtpst* in *P. patens* suggests that the PSY signaling pathway is
264 evolutionarily conserved.

265 Given that Arabidopsis PSY1 peptide influences *P. patens* development, we
266 tested whether PSY from *P. patens* affects other plant species. Previous work
267 demonstrated that exogenous application of AtPSY1 and OsPSY1 peptides promote
268 root growth in Arabidopsis and rice (Pruitt *et al.*, 2017; Ercoli *et al.*, 2024; Shi *et al.*,
269 2024), so we conducted root assays in these species using the synthetic PpPSY1
270 peptide. In Arabidopsis, we were able to demonstrate that both wild-type (Col-0)
271 and *tpst-1* plants showed an increase in root elongation in response to synthetic
272 AtPSY1 and PpPSY1 treatment, when compared to mock-treated plants (Fig. 7 A,B).
273 However, the impact of PpPSY1 on wild-type Arabidopsis roots is stronger at
274 250nM ($p = 0.0034$) compared to 100nM (Fig. 7B, left panel). Additionally,
275 exogenous application of PpPSY1 peptide promoted root elongation in wild-type
276 Kitaake seedlings (Fig. 7C, D). We repeated this experiment with the addition of the
277 synthetic AtPSY1 and OsPSY1 peptides (Fig. S4); results show that PSY peptides
278 from moss, Arabidopsis, and rice promote root elongation of Kitaake seedlings ($p <$

0.0005) (Fig. S4). These results further support that PSY signaling is evolutionarily conserved.

Discussion

Here, we report that sulfotyrosyl peptides are critical for cellular expansion and division, as *Pp Δ tpst* null mutants (*Δ tpst*), which are deficient in producing sulfated peptides, have defects in cell expansion in the juvenile (protonemata) and adult (gametophores) phases of moss growth. During gametophore development, *Δ tpst* exhibited an abnormal first division, and decreased rates of cell division and cellular expansion. Additionally, *Δ tpst* plants age earlier than wild-type plants.

The *Δ tpst* developmental phenotypes in *P. patens* were largely rescued by exogenous application of AtPSY1. Reciprocally, exogenous addition of PpPSY1 to both *Arabidopsis* and rice elicited root elongation. These results indicate that PSY peptides act as functional orthologs in plant development and further suggest that peptide recognition may function through an evolutionarily conserved signaling pathway. While PSY receptors have been identified and characterized in *Arabidopsis* (Ogawa-Ohnishi *et al.*, 2022), future work will aim to elucidate the receptors in *P. patens* and their downstream signaling modules. The comparison of peptide function in different plant species and the binding of orthologous receptors will shed light on the conserved biological functions mediated by PSY-signaling.

Overall, our findings indicate that PSY signaling is conserved in *P. patens* and is critical for development. Null mutants of *TPST* in both *Arabidopsis* (*tpst-1*) and *P. patens* (*Δ tpst*) exhibit dwarfism and decreased plant area, respectively, and display early senescence. These phenotypic similarities suggest possible functional

304 conservation of TPST. The lower efficacy of PpPSY1 in rescuing *Δtpst* and promoting
305 root elongation in *Arabidopsis* and rice might be attributed to the PpPSY1 peptide
306 sequence containing two cysteine residues, which are not a conserved feature of
307 PSY peptides (Amano et al., 2007; Kaufmann and Sauter 2019), and give the
308 synthesized peptide the potential to be easily oxidized over time. The inability of
309 AtPSK1 to rescue *Δtpst* might be explained by the possibility that PSK1 may not be
310 sulfated in *P. patens*, and thus not dependent on TPST function. The putative PSK1
311 sequence from *P. patens* (Furumizu et al., 2021) lacks the highly conserved aspartic
312 acid residue that precedes the PSK1 peptide sequence. All known sulfated
313 peptides, with the exception of GLV9, contain a DY motif (Kaufmann and Sauter,
314 2019), which is absent from the PSK1 sequence in *P. patens*. The aspartic acid
315 residue that precedes the sulfated tyrosine residue is one of the most important
316 factors for directing tyrosine sulfation in PSK1 (Matsubayashi and Sakagami, 1996).
317 Given the absence of this motif from PpPSK1, which instead has an FY motif, it is
318 possible that the mature peptide lacks a sulfated tyrosine, suggesting that PSK
319 signaling in *P. patens* may not require tyrosine sulfation.

320 Recently, two immune-responsive small secreted peptides were identified in
321 *P. patens* as sharing similarities with the PSY peptide motif, creating a new category
322 of sulfated peptides, PSY-like (PSYL) (Lyapina et al., 2025). Quantification of
323 protonemal cell elongation of wild-type plants on media containing varying
324 concentrations of both the sulfated and non-sulfated versions of PSY, PSYL1, and
325 PSYL2 showed that the sulfation of the tyrosine residue is necessary for activity of
326 the PSY and PSYL peptides in *P. patens*. This result is consistent with our finding
327 that TPST function and, therefore, its post-translational modification of sTyr
328 peptides, were critical for proper development. The addition of sulfated PSY, PSYL1,
329 or PSYL2 to the media increases cell length, which is in line with our findings that

330 the addition of exogenous PSY increased plant area. Both PSYL1 and PSYL2 peptide
331 sequences contain a motif that resembles the PSY peptide motif (DY*(D)
332 (P)**N**H*P), but the conserved His and Pro residues are in different positions
333 than in PSY (Lyapina *et al.*, 2025). Given the resemblance to PSY, it is possible that
334 the addition of exogenous PSYL1 and PSYL2 could rescue some of the
335 developmental deficits of *Δtpst*, including protonemal plant size, gametophore
336 expansion, and senescence.

337 Moss mutants carrying an alanine substitution of the candidate catalytic
338 base, His-124 in PpTPST, resembled the moss *Δtpst* mutant phenotype. This
339 indicates that His-124 is essential for protein function and thus necessary for
340 proper plant development. These observations agree with prior findings that the
341 histidine in the active site of *M. musculus* EST and *F. chlorifolia* F3ST is required for
342 enzymatic activity (Marsolais and Varin, 1997; Kakuta *et al.*, 1998). Thus, the
343 conserved histidine found in the active site of other studied sulfotransferases,
344 which is required for catalytic activity, is conserved in plant TPSTs. Based on this
345 finding and the identification of putative PAPS-binding motifs in plant TPSTs
346 (Stewart and Ronald, 2022), it is possible that plant and animal TPSTs did not evolve
347 via convergent evolution as first suggested (Komori *et al.*, 2009).

348 Although *tpst-H124A* most closely resembled *Δtpst*, the other point mutants,
349 *tpst-R81A*, and *tpst-R144A*, are the same size as *Δtpst*, but with a lower circularity,
350 which could potentially be attributed to the point mutants retaining some weak
351 PAPS binding. Prior studies have found that some missense substitutions in the 5'-
352 PSB and 3'-PSB motifs of other sulfotransferases retain some wild-type enzymatic
353 activity (Bick *et al.*, 2010; Liu and Pedersen, 2022). Therefore, this residual activity
354 could help explain the small protonemal phenotype of *tpst-R81A* and *tpst-R144A*.

355 This finding suggests that plant TPSTs use the same catalytic mechanism as animal
356 sulfotransferases.

357

358 **Materials and Methods**

359 *Tissue propagation*

360 *P. patens* lines were propagated weekly by moderate homogenization in
361 water and then plated onto PpNH4 (1.03 mM MgSO₄, 1.86 mM KH₂PO₄, 3.3 mM
362 Ca(NO₃)₂, 2.7 mM (NH₄)₂-tartrate, 45 μM FeSO₄, 9.93 μM H₃BO₃, 220 nM CuSO₄,
363 1.966 μM MnCl₂, 231 nM CoCl₂, 191 nM ZnSO₄, 169 nM KI, and 103 nM Na₂MoO₄,
364 containing 0.7% agar) plates covered with cellophane (Wu and Bezanilla, 2014).
365 Tissue was grown in Percival growth chambers at room temperature under 85
366 μmol_{photons}/m²s light with long-day (16/8) conditions. Peptide media was created by
367 pouring 25 mL PpNH4 plates supplemented with either 200 nM AtPSY1, 200nM
368 AtPSK1, or 1 μM PpPSY1.

369

370 *RT-PCR*

371 We isolated total RNA from 8-day old wild-type plants regenerated from
372 protoplasts using an RNeasy Plant mini prep kit (Qiagen). cDNA was prepared from
373 1μg of total RNA using a SuperScript III reverse transcriptase kit, following the
374 manufacturer's recommendation (Invitrogen). We amplified the TPST transcripts
375 using the primers listed in Supplementary Table 2 using 1 μL of cDNA.

376

377 *Generation of knockout and point mutation lines*

Approximately one-week-old tissue was used for transformations.

Transformations into *P. patens* protoplasts were done using the PEG-mediated transformation protocol described in (Wu, Ryken and Bezanilla, 2023). To generate knockouts (*Δtpst-6*), 15 µg of the CRISPR plasmid (pMH-Cas9-sgRNA plasmid backbone) was used. For HDR transformations using annealed oligonucleotides (*Δtpst-7*, *tpst-R81A*, *tpst-H124A*, *tpst-R144A*), 15 µg of the CRISPR plasmid and 10 µL of annealed oligonucleotides were used. The sequences of each oligonucleotide and protospacer used are located in Supplementary Table 2.

After transformation, protoplasts were plated onto PRMB media covered in cellophane and left to recover for 4 days. The cellophane from the PRMB media (PpNH₄ medium supplemented with 8.5% mannitol and 10 mM CaCl₂), which contains the protoplasts, was moved to selection (PpNH₄ media containing 15 µg ml⁻¹ hygromycin) for 1 week. Surviving protoplasts have taken up the CRISPR plasmid. After 1 week of selection, the cellophane was moved to PpNH₄ media. After 1-2 weeks, protoplast-regenerated plants were individually picked to fresh PpNH₄ plates without cellophane, before being genotyped around 2 weeks later.

Genotyping

Genomic DNA was extracted from *P. patens* tissue (Wu, Ryken and Bezanilla, 2023). Competition PCR was used to genotype plants. All genotyping primers are listed in Supplementary Table 2. Competition PCR uses two primers, one forward and one reverse, that are around 500 base pairs upstream and downstream of the protospacer region. In addition, a third internal primer was used, which was designed to anneal to the CRISPR cut site. Therefore, in edited plants, the internal

402 primer does not bind, and only the larger PCR product is obtained. If the plant is
403 not edited, the shorter PCR product, using the internal primer, is preferentially
404 produced. Any plants that had a larger PCR product were used to PCR amplify the
405 targeted region a second time, using only the external primers. The PCR product
406 was sequenced using Sanger sequencing.

407 To identify point mutations, a second competition PCR was conducted using
408 the same external primers and one primer that annealed to the desired point
409 mutation and silent mutations. Therefore, in plants with the correct point
410 mutation, the internal primer binds, forming the smaller PCR product. Any plants
411 without the correct point mutation had a larger PCR product, as the internal
412 primer could not bind. DNA from plants producing the smaller product was then
413 amplified again with the only external primers, and those products were
414 sequenced using Sanger sequencing.

415

416 *Imaging and morphometric analysis of growth assays*

417 Protoplast preparation for growth assays was performed using a standard
418 protocol (Wu, Ryken and Bezanilla, 2023). Approximately one week old ground
419 tissue was protoplasted and plated onto PRMB media for 4 days. Afterwards, the
420 protoplasts on cellophane were moved to PpNH₄ media. All growth assays were
421 performed using 2-week-old plants except for the data presented in Fig. 6.

422 Brightfield and chlorophyll autofluorescence images were collected using a
423 stereomicroscope (Nikon SMZ25) equipped with a CCD color camera (Nikon digital
424 DS-Fi2) with a 1X objective. Acquisition settings were held at the same settings for
425 each image. Chlorophyll autofluorescence was captured using a 480/40 excitation

426 filter with a 510 long pass emission filter. The red channel of the fluorescence
427 image corresponds to chloroplast autofluorescence.

428 To ensure image acquisition occurred with the sample identity blinded to the
429 observer, the genotype of each line was hidden at the time of imaging. Each line
430 was imaged on the same day, and 30 images of individual plants were taken from
431 each line. Both brightfield and fluorescence images were collected. To quantify
432 plant area, the red channel was separated from each RGB fluorescence image.
433 Images from the red channel were then analyzed using a macro in ImageJ (Galotto,
434 Bibeau and Vidali, 2019). The threshold was set at max entropy and was manually
435 set for each plant. The total area of each plant was calculated using the largest
436 thresholded object in a cropped window.

437 For growth assays pertaining to plants grown on peptide, 1-week-old
438 protoplasts on cellophane were transferred to peptide media or a fresh plate of
439 PpNH₄ as the control. After 5 days on peptide, 12-day-old protoplast-regenerated
440 plants were imaged for growth assays. Growth assays were analyzed as described
441 above. The cellophanes containing the protoplast-regenerated plants were moved
442 to freshly poured peptide media or PpNH₄ for the control on a weekly basis. Plants
443 were moved to fresh media each week until senescence occurred.

444

445 *Senescence*

446 To check whether mutant plants have a senescence phenotype, individual
447 plants from protoplast-regenerated tissue were placed on the same plate of
448 PpNH₄ and left in the growth chamber for several weeks until at least one line
449 turned brown (senescence). Senescence images were taken using a cellphone.

450

451 *Brightfield microscopy*

452 For protonemal growth rate and subapical cell length, 2-week-old
453 protoplast-regenerated plants were mounted on a square agar pad on a glass slide
454 and submerged in Hoagland's medium (4 mM KNO₃, 2 mM KH₂PO₄, 1 mM Ca(NO₃)₂,
455 89 µM Fe citrate, 300 µM MgSO₄, 9.93 µM H₃BO₃, 220 nM CuSO₄, 1.966 µM MnCl₂,
456 231 nM CoCl₂, 191 nM ZnSO₄, 169 nM KI, 103 nM Na₂MoO₄) (Wu and Bezanilla,
457 2014). The coverslip was sealed with VALAP (1:1:1 parts of Vaseline, lanoline, and
458 paraffin). Images were acquired using a Nikon Ti microscope equipped with a 0.8
459 NA 20X objective. Protonemal growth rate was calculated by measuring the change
460 in length of a growing tip cell during a 2-hour time-lapse using ImageJ. Multiple XY
461 positions were acquired at a single focal plane. White light was continuously
462 provided throughout the timelapse to support plant growth. Subapical cell length
463 was determined by measuring the distance between subapical cell plates in
464 ImageJ.

465

466 *Laser scanning confocal microscopy*

467 Homogenized plant tissue was pipetted into a PDMS microfluidic chamber
468 (Bascom *et al.*, 2016), followed by an infusion of Hoagland's medium. The chamber
469 was then submerged in Hoagland's medium under 85 µmol_{photons}/m²s light with
470 long-day (16/8) conditions until plants were ready to image (Wu *et al.*, 2023).
471 Confocal images were captured using a Nikon A1R laser scanning confocal with a
472 0.75 NA 20X objective (Nikon) at room temperature. Acquisition was controlled by
473 NIS-Elements. Laser illumination was set to nm for 3XmRuby (laser power, 1%;

474 Gain, 35-50; PMT offset 20-28). Emission filter was 595/50 nm and collected with a
475 GaAsP PMT. Images were deconvolved using 20 iterations of Richardson-Lucy on
476 NIS-Elements software. For time-lapses, multiple XY positions were acquired at
477 several focal planes. Images were acquired every 10 minutes. White light was
478 provided between acquisition times to support plant growth.

479

480 *Bud and gametophore quantification*

481 Images were collected using a stereomicroscope (Nikon SMZ25) equipped
482 with a CCD color camera (Nikon digital DS-Fi2) with a 1X objective. For
483 quantification of bud and gametophore formation of wild type versus *Δtpst* (Fig.
484 S1H), images of 14-day-old ground tissue were collected. The number of buds and
485 gametophores per field of view (32.0972763 μm^2) was counted and averaged. For
486 quantification of gametophore formation under various peptide conditions,
487 images were acquired of approximately 3-week-old protoplast-regenerated *Δtpst*
488 plants. The number of gametophores or *Δtpst* buds was counted for each image.
489 The proportion of gametophores or *Δtpst* buds per condition was calculated.

490

491 *Cellular expansion quantification*

492 24 hour time-lapses were acquired using maximum intensity projections of
493 confocal images. 4 cells in wild type and *Δtpst* were identified and outlined using
494 the polygon tool in ImageJ. The area of each polygon was measured. The same cell
495 was identified at the 8-hour, 16-hour, and 24-hour mark. The area was measured
496 for each cell at each time point.

497

498 *Peptide Synthesis*

499 The peptides used in this study include PpPSY1 (DY^SEKPCANKKHDPVCKNG),
500 AtPSY1 (DY^SGDPSANPKHDPGVPPSA), OsPSY1 (DY^SPAPGANPRHNPKRPPG), and
501 AtPSK1 (Y^SIY^STQ). All peptides are tyrosine-sulfated as indicated (Y^S). The synthetic
502 AtPSY1 peptide used in these experiments lacks the hydroxy- and L-Ara3-
503 modifications at the C-terminus. All peptides were obtained from Pacific
504 Immunology (Ramona, CA, USA) and resuspended in double distilled water.

505

506 *Root Growth Assays*

507 *Arabidopsis thaliana* ecotype Columbia (Col-0, wild type) and *tpst-1*
508 (SALK_009847) seeds were surface sterilized with 70% ethanol for 10 minutes,
509 rinsed three times with 100% ethanol, and then stratified in 0.1% agarose for 2-4
510 days at 4°C before germination. Seedlings were sown on standard 1X MS media
511 plates (Murashige Skoog salt mixture with vitamins, MSP09-Caisson Laboratories),
512 1% sucrose, and 0.3% gellan gum (G024-Caisson-Gelzan), adjusted to pH 5.8 with
513 KOH. MS plates were supplemented with various concentrations of synthetic
514 PpPSY1, AtPSY1, or water (mock control). For each experiment, MS media was
515 freshly prepared and cooled in a 55-60°C water bath after autoclaving before
516 adding chemicals. Seeds were placed on the plates (15-20 seeds per plate) and the
517 lids were secured with Micropore surgical tape (1530-0). For root assays, plants
518 were grown in vertically positioned plates in a chamber under long day conditions
519 (16 hours light:8 hours dark) at 21°C. Germination for each seedling was marked,
520 and primary root length was marked every day until the end of the experiment (6-
521 or 8-days post germination, dpG). *Arabidopsis* root plates were scanned and

522 primary root growth was measured using Fiji Is Just ImageJ (Version 2.16)
523 (Schindelin *et al.*, 2012).

524 *Oryza sativa* ssp. *Japonica* cultivar Kitaake (wild type) seeds were dehusked,
525 surface-sterilized in 20% bleach for 30 minutes, and thoroughly washed with
526 autoclaved water. The seeds were grown on 1X MS media (MSP09-Caisson
527 Laboratories) with 1% sucrose (pH 5.8), either as solid media plates containing
528 0.3% gellan gum or hydroponically in flasks with 100 mL of 1X MS without gellan
529 gum. For solid medium conditions, seeds were sown on plates (15 per plate),
530 sealed with Micropore tape, and placed vertically for 7 days. For hydroponic
531 conditions, flasks containing 1X MS were cooled before adding peptides and
532 sterilized seeds (15 per flask), and then placed in the rice incubator for 6 days. The
533 incubators used for rice germination and growth were set with a 14-h-light/10-h-
534 dark photoperiod at 28°C/24°C. MS plates or flasks were supplemented with
535 synthetic PpPSY1, AtPSY1, OsPSY1, or water (mock control); the concentration of
536 the peptide treatment is specified in the figure legends. For rice seedlings grown
537 on plates, the germination was marked, and the root length was marked every day
538 until the end of the experiment (6 dpv). Rice seedlings grown hydroponically or on
539 solid media were imaged, and root length measurements were done in Fiji Is Just
540 ImageJ (Version 2.16) (Schindelin *et al.*, 2012).

541

542 *Statistical Analyses*

543 A non-parametric approach was taken to analyze differences between
544 different experimental groups. Statistical significance was determined using a
545 Kruskal-Wallis test followed by a post-hoc Dunn's test when a significant difference
546 was found. A Bonferroni correction was applied to the p-values resulting from

Dunn's test to control for multiple comparisons. Pairwise adjusted p-values at a significance level of $\alpha = 0.05$ were used to identify groups that were statistically different from each other. The compact letter display (CLD) approach was used to categorize each group into statistically distinguishable subsets. Letters were assigned to indicate significance between groups. Groups with the same letter were not statistically different. Groups with non-overlapping letters are not statistically different. Analyses were performed using R version 4.4.1 (Team, R. C., 2024).

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671 **Figure legends**

672 **Figure 1. TPST is required for normal development.** A) Representative brightfield
673 and chlorophyll autofluorescence images of 2-week-old wild type and *Δtpst* from
674 plants that were regenerated from protoplasts on cellophane. Scale bar, 500 μm. B)
675 Plant area was quantified and normalized to wild type. Experiments were repeated
676 three independent times and the total number of plants quantified for each was:
677 84, WT; 80, *Δtpst*. C) Number of caulonemal filaments protruding from the center
678 per 2-week-old protoplast-regenerated plant. Filament number was calculated by
679 counting the number per ¼ of plant and multiplying by 4. C) Quantification of
680 circularity using the 2-week-old protoplast-regenerated plants measured in B. (B-D)
681 Significance was calculated using a Kruskal-Wallis Test with a significance level of
682 $\alpha=0.05$. $p<0.0001$, for all comparisons. E) Representative brightfield images of 5-
683 week-old tissue that had been regenerated from protoplasts. Arrow denotes a fully
684 expanded gametophore. Arrowheads denote gametophore buds. Scale bar, 500
685 μm. F) 11-week-old whole plants that were regenerated from protoplasts. Scale bar,
686 0.5 cm.

687

688 **Figure 2. TPST is required for normal cell division during gametophore**
689 **development.** Plasma membranes are labeled with 3XmRuby2-TON1(magenta),
690 and microtubules are labeled with mEGFP-tubulin (green). All images are
691 maximum intensity projections of confocal Z-stacks. Scale bar for all images, 20
692 μm. A) Wild type and three example *Δtpst* buds at the 4-cell stage. B) Time-lapse
693 imaging starting at the 6-cell stage of the wild type bud from A and the *Δtpst* bud
694 labeled (1) from A. Also see Videos 1 and 2. C) Time-lapse imaging of the wild type
695 and *Δtpst* buds from B. Also see Videos 3 and 4. Time elapsed between acquisitions

696 was approximately the same for both wild type and *Δtpst*. D) Time-lapse imaging of
697 phyllid expansion in a developing wild type and *Δtpst* bud of approximately the
698 same size. Also see Videos 5 and 6.

699

700 **Figure 3. TPST is required for cellular expansion during gametophore**

701 **development.** (A) Time-lapse imaging of gametophore expansion in wild type and
702 in *Δtpst*. Plasma membranes are labeled with 3XmRuby2-TON1(magenta) and
703 microtubules are labeled with mEGFP-tubulin (green). Orange, yellow, green, and
704 blue lines indicate the outline of 4 cells across 24 hours. All images are maximum
705 intensity projections of confocal Z-stacks. Scale bar for all images, 20 μm. B)
706 Quantification of the change in area of the outlined cells in A across 24 hours.
707 Colors on the graph correspond to the color outline in A. Solid lines indicate wild
708 type. Dashed lines indicate *Δtpst*. Also see Videos 7 and 8.

709

710 **Figure 4. Histidine 124 is catalytically important for TPST function.** A) Sequence

711 motifs of different sulfotransferases across organisms showing the 5'-PSB,
712 candidate catalytic base, and 3'-PB. Adapted from Stewart and Ronald, 2022 to
713 include *P. patens* TPST. Numbers on the left and right of the motifs indicate the
714 starting and ending position. The numbers between motifs indicate the number of
715 residues in between the selected sequences. Substitutions of residues in red
716 decrease enzymatic activity. Numbers underneath the black boxes indicate the
717 position in *P. patens* TPST. Enzymes are EST, estrogen 17-β sulfotransferase (*Mus*
718 *musculus*; Protein Data Bank [PDB] code: 1AQU); HS3OST-1, heparan sulfate (3-O)
719 sulfotransferase (*M. musculus*; PDB code: 1S6T); HS2OST, heparan sulfate (2-O)
720 sulfotransferase (*Homo sapiens*; PDB code: 3F5F); HS6OST-3, heparan sulfate (6-O)
721 sulfotransferase (*Danio rerio*; PDB code: 5T03); animal TPST (*H. sapiens*; PDB code:

5WRI); bacterial TPST (*Xanthomonas spp.*; GenBank accession number: WP_027703307); *A. thaliana* TPST (*Arabidopsis thaliana*; BAI22702); *P. patens* TPST (NCBI Reference Sequence: XM_024542583.2). B) Representative brightfield images of 2-week-old plants regenerated from protoplasts on cellophane. Scale bar, 500 μ m. C and D) Quantification of plant area and circularity using images of 2-week-old regenerated protoplasts. Plant area is quantified and normalized to wild type. Significance was calculated using a Kruskal-Wallis Test with a significance level of $\alpha=0.05$. Experiments were repeated two independent times, and a total number of 49 plants was quantified for each line. E) Representative brightfield images of 3-week-old tissue on cellophane. Scale bar, 500 μ m. F) 8-week-old whole plants from protoplast-regenerated tissue. Scale bar, 0.5 cm.

733

Figure 5. Addition of exogenous PSY1 induces gametophore expansion in

***Δtpst*.** A) 20-day-old protoplast-regenerated plants on cellophane after 12 days on PpNH₄ media supplemented with either 1 μ M PpPSY1, 200 nM AtPSY1, or 200 nM AtPSK1. Arrows denote an example of an expanded gametophore. Arrowheads denote an example of a gametophore bud. The 18 amino acid sequence of PSY1 in *P. patens* (moss) and *A. thaliana*, and the 5 amino acid sequence of PSK1 in *A. thaliana* are shown above the corresponding image. Black boxes represent the

sulfated tyrosine residues. Scale bar, 0.1 cm. B) Quantification of gametophore formation compared to *Δtpst* bud formation on approximately 3-week-old protoplast-regenerated *Δtpst* plants grown on media supplemented with varying doses of peptide.

745

Figure 6. Exogenous PSY1 enhances growth. A) Representative brightfield images of wild type and *Δtpst* from 12-day-old regenerated protoplasts. Scale bar, 500 μm. B and C) Quantification of plant area (B) and circularity (C) using images of 12-day-old regenerated protoplasts on cellophane. All values are normalized to the wild-type control. Letters indicate groups that are significantly different as determined by a Kruskal-Wallis test ($\alpha = 0.05$) with a Dunn's post hoc test and Bonferroni correction. Experiments repeated three independent times and the total number of plants quantified for each was: 80, WT and *Δtpst* control; 80, WT and *Δtpst* + 200 μM AtPSY1; 55, WT and *Δtpst* + 1 μM PpPSY1. D) Representative brightfield images of expanded gametophores in 20-day-old protoplast-regenerated wild type and *Δtpst* plants on cellophane after 15 days on peptide media. Scale bar, 200 μm. E) 7-week-old whole plants from protoplast-regenerated tissue on cellophane. Scale bar, 0.5 cm.

Figure 7. Synthetic PpPSY1 peptide promotes root elongation in Arabidopsis & Rice seedlings. (A) Representative images of primary root growth of Col-0 (wild type, left) or *tpst-1* (right) seedlings 6-days-post germination (dpg) grown on 1X MS vertical plates with or without synthetic peptide treatment (250nM AtPSY1 or PpPSY1). Enhanced root elongation of peptide treated samples indicated by the white serrated line, with the arrows indicating the primary root tip. Scale represents 5mm. (B) Quantification of primary root elongation for Col-0 (left, n=19-29) or *tpst-1* (right, n=42-44) seedlings grown on 1X MS vertical plates with or without synthetic peptide PpPSY1 or AtPSY1 treatment (100nM or 250nM). 6-dpg for Col-0 and 8-dpg for *tpst-1*. Different letters indicate significant differences, as determined by a Kruskal-Wallis test ($\alpha = 0.05$) with a Dunn's post hoc test and Bonferroni correction. Experiments repeated three independent times. (C)

772 Representative image of primary root growth of Kitaake (wild type) seedlings
773 grown hydroponically in 1X MS with or without synthetic PpPSY1 treatment
774 (500nM), 6-days-post treatment. Enhanced root elongation of peptide treated
775 samples indicated by the black serrated line, with the arrows indicating the
776 primary root tip. Scale bar represents 1cm. (D) Quantification of root elongation of
777 Kitaake seedlings (n= 14-15), 6-dpg, grown on 1X MS plates with or without
778 synthetic 500nM PpPSY1 treatment. Different letters indicate significant
779 differences, as determined by a Kruskal-Wallis test ($\alpha = 0.05$). Experiments
780 repeated three independent times.

781

782 **Supplementary figure legends**

783 **Supplementary Figure 1. CRISPR-Cas9-mediated editing of *TPST*.** A) Diagram of
784 two predicted gene models of the *TPST* locus. Coding exons are represented by
785 green (V3.5) or magenta (V3.1) boxes. Green lines represent the 5' and 3' UTR.
786 Location of the protospacer targeted to create a *tpst* null mutant is denoted by PS1.
787 The sequences below show the sequence around PS1, with the PS1 sequence in
788 red. The PAM is underlined. All mutants have the indicated mutations, resulting in
789 early translational stops. Deletions are indicated by dashes, and insertions are
790 indicated in green text. Small arrows above each model indicate primers used for
791 RT-PCR. Numbers on the right of each model indicate product size using cDNA. B)
792 PCR products obtained with the indicated primers using either genomic DNA or
793 cDNA isolated from protonemal tissue were separated on an agarose gel. Green
794 arrow indicates the V3.5 transcript, and magenta arrow indicates the V3.1
795 transcript. C) *TPST* predicted primary structure encoded by the V3.5 or V3.1
796 transcript, drawn approximately to scale. SP denotes the signal peptide sequence.

797 PAPs binding denotes the region between the first residue of the 5'-PSB motif and
798 the last residue of the 3'-PB motif. Black lines indicate the approximate position of
799 the 5'-PSB and 3'-PB elements, and the catalytic base. TM denotes the predicted
800 transmembrane domain. The number of amino acids between the last residue of
801 the 3'-PB and the first residue of the transmembrane domain is indicated below
802 the dashed lines. D) Representative brightfield and chloroplast autofluorescence
803 images of wild type, *Δtpst-6*, and *Δtpst-7* from 2-week-old plants that were
804 regenerated from protoplasts on cellophane. Scale bar, 500 μm. E) Plant area was
805 quantified and normalized to wild type. Significant differences determined by a
806 Kruskal-Wallis test ($\alpha = 0.05$) with a Dunn's post hoc test and Bonferroni correction
807 are indicated by different letters (n = 20). F and G) Quantification of protonemal
808 growth rate (F) and subapical cell length (G) of caulonemal and chloronemal
809 filaments from 2-week-old plants regenerated from protoplasts. Statistically
810 significant difference in means was calculated using a Student's t-test for unpaired
811 data with unequal variance ($\alpha = 0.05$) and is indicated by different letters. H)
812 Quantification of gametophore and bud formation of 2-week-old ground tissue.
813 Significant differences determined by a Kruskal-Wallis test ($\alpha = 0.05$) with a Dunn's
814 post hoc test and Bonferroni correction are indicated by different letters.
815

816 **Supplementary Figure 2. *Δtpst* undergoes fewer cell divisions during bud**
817 **development.** A) Diagram of the two predicted gene models of the *TPST* locus.
818 Coding exons are represented by green (V3.5) or magenta (V3.1) boxes. Green lines
819 represent the 5' and 3' UTR. Location of the protospacer targeted to create a *tpst*
820 null mutant is denoted by PS1. The sequences below show the sequence around
821 PS1, with the PS1 sequence in red. The PAM is underlined. Insertions are indicated
822 in green text. B and C) Confocal time-lapse images of wild type (B) and *Δtpst* (C) of

the same buds depicted in Fig. 2B. Each image represents a different cell division at the corresponding time. Arrowheads denote a cell division marked by phragmoplast expansion with mEGFP-tubulin. Also see Videos 1 and 2.

Supplementary Figure 3. Creating point mutations in *TPST*. Diagram of the *TPST* locus. Coding exons are represented by green boxes. Black lines represent the coding region, and green boxes represent the 5' and 3' UTR. Location of the protospacers used to create point mutations through homology directed repair is denoted by PS1-3. The sequences below show the protospacer sequence in red, and the PAMs are underlined. Lowercase blue letters indicate base pair changes to incorporate silent mutations or alanine substitutions in bold. Blue capital letters represent the point mutation.

Supplemental Figure 4: Synthetic PSY1 peptide from three distinct plant species promotes root elongation in rice seedlings. Quantification of primary root elongation of Kitaake seedlings (n > 20) grown hydroponically in 1X MS with or without indicated synthetic peptide treatment (500nM), 6-days-post treatment. Different letters indicate significant differences determined by a Kruskal-Wallis test ($\alpha = 0.05$) with a Dunn's post hoc test.

Supplementary tables

Table S1. Mutant lines used and created

Name	Background	Genetic alteration	Translation
<i>Δtpst-6</i>	Wild type	7 bp deletion	Stop at AA90, aa 81-

($\Delta tpst$)			89 are irrelevant
$\Delta tpst-7$	Wild type	Stop oligo insertion	Stop at AA85, aa 82-84 are irrelevant
<i>tpst-R81A</i>	Wild type	CGA→GCT (241-243, AA change), C246T (silent), C249A (silent), C252A (silent)	R81A
<i>tpst-H124A</i>	Wild type	C348T (silent), C351T (silent), C354T (silent), T361C (silent), G363T (silent), T366A (silent), A369T (silent), CAC→GCT (370-372, AA change)	H124A
<i>tpst-R144A</i>	Wild type	CGC→GCT (430-432, AA change), C435T (silent), A438T (silent), G441T (silent), T444C (silent), T447A (silent)	R144A
3XmRuby2-TON1	mEGFP-tubulin	Insertion of sequences encoding 3 tandem mRuby2 proteins at the 5' end of the <i>TON1</i> gene at the endogenous locus	N-terminal fusion of 3XmRuby2 with TON1
3XmRuby2-TON1/ $\Delta tpst$	3XmRuby2-TON1	Stop oligo insertion	Stop at AA85, aa 82-84 are irrelevant

846

847 **Table S2.** Table of primers, oligos, and protospacer sequences

Name	Sequence (5' to 3')	Purpose
TPST-F	AGCACACTTACTATCTGGCC	RT-PCR
TPST-R	gcccttgctcaccatcgatcctccgccaccCAGCTTTTCATGA ACTTGCAAC	RT-PCR
TPST stop oligo F	ggaaaattctggaactctgttcttttgcattctcgaatAGCTGAT TAAacttatcaccagtggatggatttact	Stop oligo for TPST
TPST stop oligo R	agtaaaccataccactgggtataagtTTAATCAGCTAttcgagg aatatgcaaaaagaacagaagtccagaattttcc	Stop oligo for TPST
TPST protospacer 1	ATAGGAAGGTGGAGGACTTACAACCCATatattc ctcgaaccggcggcGTTTTAGAGCTATGCTGAAAAG	TPST protospacer

TPST-comp-F	ttctctctgtctctgttgatcacc	TPST genotyping
TPST-cutsiteF	atattcctcgaaccggcgg	TPST genotyping, anneals to protospacer 1
TPST-compR	gcgcaacagtctacgtgc	TPST genotyping
<i>tpst-H124A</i> oligo F	ggtagggcttgagggtgcagacagCCTAGTTGTaagcttCTTTCATCTGCTgatgacatgagcattttgagcaagatac	TPST H124A oligo
<i>tpst-H124A</i> oligo R	gtatcttgctcaaaatgctcatgtcatcAGCAGATGAAAGaagcttACAAC TAGGctgtctgcacctcaagccctaacc	TPST H124A oligo
<i>tpst-R81A</i> oligo F	ggaaaattctggaactctgttcttttgcatttctGCTACTGGAGGACGAacttatcaccagtggatggatttact	TPST R81A oligo
<i>tpst-R81A</i> oligo R	agtaaaccataccactgggtataagtTCGTCCTCCAGTAGCa ggaatatgcaaaaagaacagaagttccagaattttcc	TPST R81A oligo
<i>tpst-R144A</i> oligo F	gcatctgttgtaacgaatttgGCTAATCCTGTTAACCGAgtgttgagcacctatgagttttcagtggaagttgctgctcg	TPST R144A oligo
<i>tpst-R144A</i> oligo R	cgagcagcaactccactgaaaactcataggtgctcaacacTCGGTTAACAGGATTAGCcaaattcgttacaacagatgc	TPST R144A oligo
<i>tpst-S152A</i> oligo F	agcatctgttgtaacgaatttgcgcaacCCTGTTAACcgtgtgttgGCTacctatgagttttcagtggaagttgctgctc	TPST S152A oligo
<i>tpst-S152A</i> oligo R	gagcagcaactccactgaaaactcataggtAGCcaacacacgGTTAACAGGgttgcgcaaattcgttacaacagatgct	TPST S152A oligo
TPST protospacer 2	ATAGGAAGGTGGAGGACTTACAACCCATtgctcaacacacgattcactgttttagagctatgctgaaaag	Protospacer for <i>tpst-R144A</i>
TPST protospacer 3	ATAGGAAGGTGGAGGACTTACAACCCATgaagacaaaagcttgacgtgttttagagctatgctgaaaag	Protospacer for <i>tpst-H124A</i>
TPST-gt-F1	caaagtatcagcagcaccacc	Genotyping for <i>tpst-R81A</i>
TPST-gt-R1	gtgagatccttcgcttcccaata	Genotyping for

		<i>tpst-R81A</i>
TPST-gt-F2	cgtgcaggtacagctctagg	Genotyping for <i>tpst-H124A</i> and <i>tpst-R144A</i>
TPST-gt-R4	gtaagcaaaggagaacatgccc	Genotyping for <i>tpst-H124A</i> and <i>tpst-R144A</i>
TPST-gt-R2	tgaagacaaaagcttgacgtg	Genotyping, anneals to protospacer 2
TPST-gt-R3	tgctcaacacacgattcactgg	Genotyping, anneals to protospacer 3
TPST-R81A-R	ccactggtgataagtTCGTCC	Genotyping, anneals to <i>tpst-R81A</i>
TPST-H124A-R	caaaatgctcatgtcatcAGCAGATG	Genotyping, anneals to <i>tpst-H124A</i>
TPST-R144A-F	gttgtaacgaattgGCTAATCCTGT	Genotyping, anneals to <i>tpst-R144A</i>