# Analysis of Leaf Development in *fugu* Mutants of Arabidopsis Reveals Three Compensation Modes That Modulate Cell Expansion in Determinate Organs<sup>1[W]</sup>

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In multicellular organisms, the coordination of cell proliferation and expansion is fundamental for proper organogenesis, yet the molecular mechanisms involved in this coordination are largely unexplored. In plant leaves, the existence of this coordination is suggested by compensation, in which a decrease in cell number triggers an increase in mature cell size. To elucidate the mechanisms of compensation, we isolated five new Arabidopsis (*Arabidopsis thaliana*) mutants (*fugu1–fugu5*) that exhibit compensation. These mutants were characterized together with *angustifolia3 (an3), erecta (er)*, and a *KIP-RELATED PROTEIN2 (KRP2)* overexpressor, which were previously reported to exhibit compensation. Time-course analyses of leaf development revealed that enhanced cell expansion in *fugu2-1, fugu5-1, an3-4*, and *er-102* mutants is induced postmitotically, indicating that cell enlargement is not caused by the uncoupling of cell division from cell growth. In each of the mutants, either the rate or duration of cell expansion was selectively enhanced. In contrast, we found that enhanced cell expansion in *KRP2* overexpressor occurs during cell proliferation. We further demonstrated that enhanced cell expansion occurs in cotyledons with dynamics similar to that in leaves. In contrast, cell expansion was not enhanced in roots even though they exhibit decreased cell numbers. Thus, compensation was confirmed to occur preferentially in determinate organs. Flow cytometric analyses revealed that increases in ploidy level are not always required to trigger compensation, suggesting that compensation is only partially mediated by ploidy-dependent processes. Our results suggest that compensation reflects an organ-wide coordination of cell proliferation and expansion in determinate organs, and involves at least three different expansion pathways.

One of the fundamental features of multicellular organisms is their ability to coordinate developmental processes and signals at the tissue, organ, and organismal levels. Leaf development is mediated by the temporal and spatial regulation of cell proliferation and expansion. In Arabidopsis (*Arabidopsis thaliana*), cell proliferation occurs throughout the developing leaf primordium, but gradually becomes restricted to the proximal part of the young leaf blade (Donnelly et al., 1999). Subsequently, the progression of cell-cycle arrest from the distal to the proximal part of a young

<sup>[W]</sup> The online version of this article contains Web-only data. www.plantphysiol.org/cgi/doi/10.1104/pp.107.099325 leaf marks the spatiotemporal transition from cell proliferation to postmitotic expansion (Donnelly et al., 1999; Nath et al., 2003; Palatnik et al., 2003; White, 2006). At this stage of leaf development, cell proliferation and expansion show complementary distribution patterns by occurring in the proximal and distal parts, respectively, of the same primordium. After cell proliferation ends, leaf cells continue postmitotic cell expansion until the mature leaf attains its final size.

The control mechanisms of cell proliferation and expansion in leaf development have been the focus of many studies. For example, a defect in polar cell proliferation in *rotundifolia4-D* (*rot4-D*) results in the formation of short leaves (Narita et al., 2004). Also, mutations in the *ANGUSTIFOLIA* (*AN*) and *ROT3* genes result in the formation of narrow and rounded leaves, respectively, caused by abnormal polar cell expansion (Tsuge et al., 1996; Kim et al., 2002). Many other studies have also revealed the fundamental mechanisms of cell proliferation and expansion. However, the mechanisms that coordinate these two processes during leaf morphogenesis have received less attention.

Recent work has provided evidence for the organwide coordination of cell proliferation and expansion. When cell proliferation in a leaf primordium is reduced because of certain mutations, the reduction in the final leaf area is compensated for by an increase in

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the size of individual leaf cells. This compensation phenomenon could aid in the understanding of the regulation of cell proliferation and expansion at the organ level (Tsukaya, 2002a, 2002b, 2003, 2005, 2006; Beemster et al., 2003; Horiguchi et al., 2005, 2006a). For example, the loss-of-function mutation in the AN3/ GRF-INTERACTING FACTOR1 gene (Kim and Kende, 2004), which positively regulates cell proliferation in leaf primordia, causes the typical compensation syndrome (Horiguchi et al., 2005). Similarly, several other mutations that affect leaf cell proliferation have been described to cause the compensation syndrome, including aintegumenta (ant), struwwelpeter, swellmap, *G*-protein  $\alpha$ -subunit1 (gpa1), and deformed roots and leaves1 (Mizukami and Fischer, 2000; Ullah et al., 2001; Autran et al., 2002; Nelissen et al., 2003; Clay and Nelson, 2005). Impaired cell proliferation caused by the reduced activity of cyclin-dependent kinases also induces compensation in leaves (Hemerly et al., 1995; Wang et al., 2000; De Veylder et al., 2001; Boudolf et al., 2004). Recently, compensation has also been reported in transgenic rice (Oryza sativa) plants that overexpress the OsKRP1 gene, which encodes a KIP-related protein (KRP; Barrôco et al., 2006). This observation provides evidence that compensation is a universal phenomenon in monocot and eudicot species.

Given that significant cell enlargement occurs during compensation and an increase in ploidy level is associated with cell-size increases in specialized cell types such as pavement cells and trichomes (Melaragno et al., 1993), endoreduplication, a modified cell cycle in which DNA successively duplicates without intervening mitosis, could be involved in compensationinduced cell enlargement. However, several recent reports have demonstrated that ploidy level is not always correlated with cell size (De Veylder et al., 2001; Schnittger et al., 2003; Sugimoto-Shirasu and Roberts, 2003; Beemster et al., 2005; Kozuka et al., 2005). Thus, a detailed analysis to clarify the ambiguous relationship between ploidy level and cell size is necessary.

We recently isolated 205 mutants with altered leaf size and/or shape and classified them into groups based on the effects of the mutations on cell number, cell size, or both (Horiguchi et al., 2006a, 2006b; Fujikura et al., 2007). Based on this categorization, we have identified a specific class of mutants that exhibit a compensation phenotype. To further explore the compensation mechanism, we characterized five new mutants that exhibit compensation, fugu1 to fugu5, as well as the receptor-like kinase mutant erecta-102 (er-102), a KRP2 overexpressor (KRP2 o/e), and an3, each of which were previously reported to exhibit compensation (Torii et al., 1996; De Veylder et al., 2001; Horiguchi et al., 2005, 2006b). Here, we report time-course analyses of cell proliferation and cell expansion within the first leaves and cotyledons of the wild type and compensation-exhibiting mutants, revealing the stage at which and manner by which compensation occurs during leaf development. Our results demonstrate that the significant cell enlargement in the mutants was caused by enhanced cell expansion either during cell proliferation or postmitotically. Furthermore, the increase in postmitotic cell expansion occurred in two ways: through either an increased expansion rate or an increased expansion period. Our findings suggest that cell proliferation activity and cell expansion are coordinated during the development of determinate organs. A working model of coordination is presented.

### RESULTS

# Morphological and Histological Characterization of Mutants That Exhibit Compensation

From a collection of 205 mutants with leaf cells of altered size, number, or both (Horiguchi et al., 2006a, 2006b), we isolated five new compensation-exhibiting mutants: *fugu1* to *fugu5*. Fugu is a Japanese term for the puffer fish, which inflates its body size severalfold when threatened. In addition to the *fugu* mutants, an allele of the *er* mutant was isolated and found to exhibit compensation (Horiguchi et al., 2006b). In subsequent experiments, we used *er-102*, a well-characterized allele of *er* (Torii et al., 1996), to analyze compensation.

The leaves of the *fugu* mutants have various shapes and sizes (Fig. 1). Leaves of the *fugu1* mutant are small, normally shaped, and show epinastic growth as compared to the wild type; *fugu2-1* has narrow, serrated leaves, and *fugu3-D* is characterized by rounded leaves and short petioles reminiscent of the *rot* mutants (Tsuge et al., 1996; Narita et al., 2004). *fugu4-D* has small, narrow, yellowish leaves (Fig. 1) with underbranched trichomes (data not shown), and *fugu5-1* is almost indistinguishable from the wild type, except for its slightly smaller leaves and oblong cotyledons (Figs. 1 and 5A). The other strains examined also vary in leaf shape and size: *an3* has narrow leaves, and *KRP2* o/e and *er-102* have serrated and rounded leaves, respectively (Fig. 1).

Three alleles each were identified for *fugu2* and *fugu5*. The visible phenotypes of *fugu2-1*, *fugu2-2*, and *fugu2-3*, and those of *fugu5-1*, *fugu5-2*, and *fugu5-3* were almost identical; thus, *fugu2-1* and *fugu5-1* were used as representative lines. Whereas *fugu1*, *fugu2*, and *fugu5* were found to be inherited as recessive mutations, *fugu3-D* and *fugu4-D* are semidominant. The offspring of *fugu3-D* heterozygotes showed a phenotype segregation of 51% wild type, 41% heterozygous, and 8% homozygous. Homozygous *fugu3-D* plants died before bolting. *fugu4-D* heterozygotes, with no homozygotes.

Although the leaves of each mutant had a unique shape and size, the cellular phenotypes were similar, with fewer cells of larger size compared to the wild type (Fig. 2). The extent of the decrease in cell number and the increase in the cell size in the mutants varied (Fig. 2, A and B). All mutants had palisade cells that were 20% to 90% fewer in number but 130% to 240%



**Figure 1.** Morphology of aerial parts of mutants that exhibit compensation. A, Shoots of 25-d-old plants. Bar: 10 mm. B, Mature first leaves from 25-d-old plants. The leaves were cleared to observe the cells. The leaf areas (mm<sup>2</sup>) of the wild type and the compensation-exhibiting mutants are indicated; data are represented as the mean  $\pm$  sD (n = 8). Bar: 5 mm.

larger than those of the wild type (Fig. 2). Our observations of *an*3-4 and *KRP*2 o/e confirmed previous results (De Veylder et al., 2001; Kim and Kende, 2004; Horiguchi et al., 2005).

# Compensation Is Induced during Cell Proliferation or after Exiting the Mitotic Cell Cycle

The manner and timing of the induction of compensation has not yet been elucidated. To analyze these phenomena, we performed kinematic analyses of cell proliferation and expansion activities in compensation-exhibiting mutants. It was not possible to perform this analysis in the homozygous *fugu3-D* and *fugu4-D*, because these mutations were lethal.

The cell number was determined by counting the number of adaxial subepidermal cells along the length of the leaf blade (Fig. 3A). We found that cell division was active until day 11 in the wild type and the *fugu2-1*, *fugu5-1*, and *er-102* mutants (Fig. 3B). However, *KRP2* o/e and *an3-4* cells ceased dividing on days 7 and 8, respectively (Fig. 3B). This result suggests that the period of active cell proliferation varies in these lines. Moreover, the rate of the increase in the cell number was lower in *fugu2-1*, *fugu5-1*, and *er-102* than in the wild type (Fig. 3B).

Average cell size depends on the balance between cell division and cell-expansion rates (CERs; Green, 1976). The average size of the subepidermal cells was determined at two different locations, the distal and proximal parts of the leaf blade (Fig. 3A). Cells in the distal part of young leaf primordia of the wild type and all of the mutants divided actively until day 5, and then began postmitotic cell expansion around day 6 (data not shown). The beginning of the postmitotic expansion phase occurred with a time lag along the length of the leaf blade, which corresponds to the developmental gradient created by the arrest front (Fig. 3, C and D; Donnelly et al., 1999; De Veylder et al., 2001; White, 2006). In the distal part of the first leaf, there was no significant difference in cell size until day 5 between the wild type and fugu2-1, fugu5-1, er-102, and *an3-4* mutants (Fig. 3C, inset), indicating that cell division and cell expansion are coupled in these mutants during cell proliferation. In contrast, cells in *KRP2* o/e ( $83.4 \pm 16.7 \,\mu\text{m}^2$ ) were already 2-fold larger in size than wild-type cells (40.9  $\pm$  6.6  $\mu$ m<sup>2</sup>) on day 4 (De Veylder et al., 2001). In KRP2 o/e, the set point for cell size appears to have changed, but division and expansion remained coupled. This is clear in the proximal region, where cell size in KRP2 o/e remains constant, although larger, until day 7 (Fig. 3D, inset). A coupling between cell division and cell expansion was also confirmed in the proximal part of the leaves of the wild type and all other mutants (Fig. 3D, inset). Taken together, these results indicate that compensation occurs during cell proliferation in KRP2 o/e, but postmitotically in all other mutants.

# Three Distinct Compensation Modes Are Associated with Leaf Cell Enlargement

To determine the manner by which compensation occurs, we calculated the rate of cell-size increase in the mutants (Fig. 4A) from the data shown in Figure 3C. This rate represents the difference between cell-expansion and cell division rates (Green, 1976). Two major patterns of cell-size increase were identified. The first was characterized by a high rate of cell-size increase and was observed in *fugu2-1*, *an3-4*, *er-102*, and *KRP2* o/e (Fig. 4A); *fugu2-1* and *KRP2* o/e showed the highest rates. Although the maximal cell-size increase



Figure 2. Number and size of palisade cells in first leaves of the wild type and compensationexhibiting mutants. A, The number of palisade cells in the subepidermal layer of mature first leaves was determined in the wild type and compensation-exhibiting mutants. The value for each line is an average of the results from eight leaves. The results are expressed relative to wildtype values  $\pm$  sp. B, Area of palisade cells from 21-d-old first leaves observed from a paradermal view. The results represent the average cell area of 160 cells from eight different first leaves. The results are expressed relative to wild-type values  $\pm$ sp. C, Palisade cells observed from a paradermal view. First leaves from 21-d-old plants were collected, fixed, and cleared for microscopic analysis. Bar: 50 μm.

rate values were similar in *fugu2-1* and *KRP2* o/e, the latter reached its peak 2 d earlier than *fugu2-1* (Fig. 4A).

The second type was characterized by an extended expansion period and was unique to *fugu5-1*. The pattern of the cell-size increase in *fugu5-1* was similar to that in the wild type until day 13 or 14, differing from the behavior of the other mutants (Fig. 4A). Thereafter, whereas the expansion rate of wild-type cells declined gradually, that of *fugu5-1* cells continued to increase until reaching a maximum around day 16. Thus, the cell enlargement observed in compensation-exhibiting mutants is associated with at least two distinct cell-expansion pathways.

To determine the stage of leaf development at which compensation is induced, we calculated the CER (see "Materials and Methods" for details). CER was determined in the distal part of the first leaf between days 6 and 30, during which no cell division occurs. We found that CER in KRP2 o/e was the highest on day 6, then decreased below the wild-type values from day 8 until day 30 (Fig. 4B). In contrast, CER in fugu2-1, fugu5-1, and er-102 mutants was comparable to that of wildtype plants immediately after exiting cell division. Afterward, the CER in these mutants was significantly higher than that of the wild type in the postmitotic stage (Fig. 4B). CER in the an3-4 mutant was higher than that of the wild type until day 8, after which it was either equal or slightly lower. Although CER in the *an3-4* mutant mimics *KRP2* o/e to some extent, cell size in an3-4 during the cell proliferation stage was normal, suggesting that compensation in an3-4 and *KRP2* o/e is mediated by different mechanisms. These results reiterate that compensation occurs during the cell proliferation stage in KRP2 o/e and postmitotically in all other mutants. In KRP2 o/e, this finding is Figure 3. Time-course analyses of leaf growth. The first leaves of the wild type, fugu2-1, fugu5-1, an3-4, er-102, and KRP2 o/e were collected on the indicated days after sowing. A, Scheme of first leaf showing where the cell number and cell size were determined. B, Changes in the leaf cell number during development. The number of cells in the lengthwise adaxial subepidermal layer was determined. Data are means  $\pm$  sp (n = 8). C and D, Area of adaxial subepidermal cells during leaf development. The cell area was determined in either the distal region (C) or the proximal region (D) of the leaf blade. Data are represented as the mean  $\pm$  sD (n = 160, from eight leaves). Insets in C and D show a portion of the data that was magnified to show cell-size differences in the early stages of leaf development.



also supported by the enlarged size of dividing cells, a feature that was not observed in the other mutants (Fig. 3, C and D).

We also carried out a similar time-course analysis on cotyledons, because in this organ postgerminative cell expansion can be analyzed separately from cell proliferation, the majority of which occurs during embryogenesis. This phenomenon is advantageous in studying the kinetics of compensation (Tsukaya et al., 1994; De Veylder et al., 2002; Stoynova-Bakalova et al., 2004). Histological analysis revealed that in all mutants, a decreased cell number in mature cotyledons is associated with significant cell enlargement, demonstrating that compensation also occurs in cotyledons (Figs. 5 and 6). Furthermore, time-course analysis of cell size revealed that the cell enlargement patterns in cotyledons are almost identical to those in the first leaf (Fig. 6; Supplemental Fig. S2), suggesting that mechanisms for the coordination of cell proliferation and cell expansion are the same in these determinate organs.

On the other hand, we found that dividing cells in leaves from *KRP2* o/e were larger than those from wild-type plants and the other mutants (Fig. 3, C and D, insets therein). To determine if cotyledon development is affected in these lines, we determined the size

of subepidermal cells in embryonic cotyledons. As expected, we found that subepidermal cells in embryonic cotyledons were 2.3-fold larger in KRP2 o/e than in wild-type plants, a phenotype that concurs with that observed in leaves (Supplemental Fig. S3). Surprisingly, we found that *an*3-4 cells were 1.9-fold larger than in the wild type. This suggests that cells in *an3-4* seeds mimic those of *KRP2* o/e to some extent, which is not the case in leaves. Finally, the size of subepidermal cells in embryonic cotyledons from *fugu2-1*, *fugu5-1*, and er-102 was similar to the wild type (Supplemental Fig. S3). Thus, although KRP2 o/e and an3-4 cotyledons are not useful for the spatiotemporal separation of cell proliferation and expansion processes, those of fugu2-1, fugu5-1, and er-102 are better suited for the purpose of understanding compensation mechanisms.

### Compensation Occurs in Determinate Organs But Not in Roots

Compensation has been observed in leaves and petals, and we demonstrated above that it also occurs in cotyledons. Because all of these organs show determinate growth, whether compensation occurs in organs with indeterminate growth, such as roots, is a



**Figure 4.** Kinematic analysis of leaf growth. A, Cell-size increase rates in the distal part of the first leaf. B, CERs in the distal part of the first leaf. Cell-size increase rates and CERs were calculated from the results shown in Figure 3C (see "Materials and Methods" for details).

critical question in assessing the nature of compensation. In roots, increased cell production caused by mutations in the components of G-protein signaling pathway (regulators of G-protein signaling and G-protein  $\beta$ -subunit) does not affect mature cortical cell size, and this increase in cell production rate requires functional GPA1 (Ullah et al., 2001; Chen et al., 2003, 2006). To test whether roots exhibit compensation in response to a decrease in cell number, we characterized root phenotypes in our mutant lines. All compensation-exhibiting mutants had roots 20% to 40% shorter than wild-type roots, except an3-4, the roots of which were of a similar length to wild-type roots (Fig. 7A). In contrast, in all mutants examined, the lengths of the mature root cortex cells were similar to that of the wild type (Fig. 7B), suggesting that the number of cells in roots is lower in the mutants. Therefore, we concluded that a significant decrease in cell number does not induce compensation in roots, which have an indeterminate fate.

### Relationship between Endoreduplication and Compensation Phenotypes

Finally, we examined the possible involvement of endoreduplication in compensation by measuring the ploidy distribution in mature first leaves of the wild type and the compensation-exhibiting mutants. For a better comparison of ploidy levels, we also calculated the endoreduplication factor (EF; Cookson et al., 2006) based on our results. We found that the ploidy-level distribution in the mutants was mildly shifted toward higher ploidy compared to the wild type (Fig. 8A). For example, in *fugu2-1* and *an3-4*, although the 2C levels showed no significant change, the 8C and higher ploidy levels increased at the expense of the 4C levels (Fig. 8A). However, there was no clear correlation between the magnitude of the EF and the mature cell



**Figure 5.** Palisade cell size in the cotyledons of the wild type and compensation-exhibiting mutants. Cotyledons from 21-d-old plants were collected, fixed, and cleared for microscopic analysis. A, Mature cotyledons. Bar: 2 mm. B, Micrographs showing palisade cells in the subepidermal layer from a paradermal view. Bar: 50  $\mu$ m.



**Figure 6.** Time-course analyses of cotyledon growth. Cotyledons of wild type and *fugu2-1*, *fugu5-1*, *an3-4*, *er-102*, and *KRP2* o/e plants were collected at the indicated days after seeding. A, The number of palisade tissue cells per cotyledon was determined. Data are means  $\pm$  sD (n = 8). B, Area of palisade cells in the subepidermal layer of the cotyledon. The cell-size values on day 0 represent the size of adaxial subepidermal cells of embryonic cotyledons after imbibition of dry seeds. Data are represented as the mean  $\pm$  sD (n = 160, from eight cotyledons).

size in the mutants (Fig. 8B). For example, although the EF in *fugu2-1* was higher than that in *KRP2* o/e cells, the final size of *KRP2* o/e cells was much larger than that of *fugu2-1* cells. The analysis of ploidy levels in cotyledons provided similar conclusions (data not shown). These results suggest that compensation-induced cell enlargement is mostly independent from endoreduplication, and it is reasonable to postulate that ploidy contributes only partially to increases in cell size.

### DISCUSSION

Understanding the regulation of cell proliferation and expansion is key to understanding organogenesis in multicellular organisms (Tsukaya, 2003, 2006; Ingram and Waites, 2006). We performed time-course analyses of leaf development in compensation-exhibiting mutants. The results clearly showed that compensation is not merely the uncoupling of cell division and cell growth. Our data also demonstrated that compensation is a phenomenon that can occur in several different ways. Compensation was observed in determinate organs but not in roots, which have indeterminate growth. Therefore, compensation indicates the presence of mechanisms that are specific to determinate organs and regulate their size by coordinating cell



**Figure 7.** Analysis of root growth in compensation-exhibiting mutants. Wild-type and compensation-exhibiting mutant seedlings were collected 7 d after sowing. A, The length of the primary root was measured (n = 15). B, The length of root cortex cells in the root differentiation zone was measured (n = 180, from six roots).



**Figure 8.** Flow cytometric analysis of nuclear DNA content. Nuclei were isolated from fully expanded 29-d-old first leaves and subsequently analyzed by flow cytometry. A, Distribution of the ploidy level in wild type and compensation-exhibiting mutants. The results represent the average of six replicates from two independent experiments, using about six first leaves for each measurement. Data are represented as the mean  $\pm$  sD (n = 6, from two independent sets). B, Scatter plot of the EF values plotted against relative average cell size.

proliferation and cell expansion. Below, we discuss how compensation occurs and propose a model of its potential mechanisms.

### Uncoupling of Cell Division and Cell Growth Is Not Responsible for Compensated Cell Enlargement

Compensation can be viewed from the organismal, cell, and neo-cell perspectives (for review, see Tsukaya, 2002a, 2003; Beemster et al., 2003). Early research suggested that cell division and leaf morphogenesis are uncoupled, based on the observation that  $\gamma$ -ray irradiated wheat (*Triticum vulgare*) developed leaves

that were smaller than normal but normally shaped (Haber, 1962). This interpretation is based on the organismal theory. However, a possible explanation from cell theory, which posits that the behavior of each cell is autonomous, is that the retardation of cell division produces larger daughter cells through sustained cell growth (Inzé, 2005). Such an uncoupling of cell division and cell growth is a widely accepted idea in yeast (*Saccharomyces cerevisiae* and *Schizosaccharomyces pombe*) and animal cells (Potter and Xu, 2001; Kellogg, 2003; Jorgensen and Tyers, 2004).

However, this was not the case in all compensationexhibiting mutants analyzed here. Proliferating cells in *fugu2-1, fugu5-1, er-102,* and *an3-4* mutants were of normal size despite apparent defects in cell proliferation (Fig. 3, C and D, and insets therein). Differences in cell size were only observed at the postmitotic stage of leaf development in these mutants (Fig. 3). It is noteworthy that despite the enlargement of *KRP2* o/e dividing cells, cell division and growth were coupled (Fig. 3D, inset). Thus, this phenomenon should be termed compensated cell enlargement to distinguish it from an uncoupling of cell division and cell growth.

# Endopolyploidy Is Not Correlated with Compensated Cell Enlargement

How is compensated cell enlargement regulated? In Arabidopsis, an increase in ploidy level caused by endocycles is often, but not always, correlated with an increase in cell size (Melaragno et al., 1993; Sugimoto-Shirasu et al., 2002, 2005; Schnittger et al., 2003; Beemster et al., 2005; Kozuka et al., 2005; Cookson et al., 2006). The manipulation of cyclin-dependent kinase A activity has demonstrated that a premature transition from the mitotic cell cycle to endocycles results in decreased cell number and increased cell size (Verkest et al., 2005). This result suggests that compensated cell enlargement is mediated, at least partially, by a trade-off between the mitotic cycle and endocycles, which could occur autonomously in cells.

However, we found that the induction of compensation is not always associated with increased ploidy (Fig. 8). In fact, there was no direct correlation between the relative increase in ploidy level and the final cell size among the mutants analyzed (Fig. 8B). Furthermore, strong *KRP2* o/e lines, in which both the mitotic cycle and endocycles are severely inhibited, exhibit compensation (De Veylder et al., 2001). Recently, we reported the *extra-small sisters* (xs) mutants, in which cell size is reduced in leaves but cell number is normal (Fujikura et al., 2007). Some xs mutations completely suppress compensated cell enlargement in an3 (Fujikura et al., 2007). Interestingly, these xs mutants have reduced, normal, or increased ploidy levels compared to the wild type (Fujikura et al., 2007). These results demonstrate that compensated cell enlargement is mediated by ploidy-independent processes. The molecular details of the relationship between increased ploidy and increased cell size remain elusive.

Therefore, we cannot exclude the alternative possibility that endoreduplication may be driven by cell growth.

How, then, is compensated cell enlargement regulated? As an explanation, Tsukaya (2002a, 2003) proposed the neo-cell theory, wherein the basic component of organ morphogenesis is the cell, but the behavior of each cell is coordinated by cell-cell communication.

## Non-Cell Autonomous Control of Multicellular Organs

Because fugu2-1, fugu5-1, er-102, and an3-4 mutants have normal-sized leaf cells as they enter the differentiation process, the amount of cellular resources is most likely similar in cells of the mutants and the wild type. Thus, during compensated cell enlargement, a differentiating mutant cell should show altered gene expression and protein synthesis and take up more resources to support its enhanced growth. These changes would be triggered by a decrease in cell number (or meristematic activity). How does a single differentiating cell recognize the reduced cell numbers in the developing leaf? Cell-cell communication offers the simplest explanation. For example, if a diffusive factor (factor X) is released from proliferating leaf cells and inhibits postmitotic cell expansion, then a mutation that causes reduced cell proliferation would lead to a reduction in this inhibitory signal. As a consequence, leaf cells would be larger than normal. The effects of factor X may be saturated in the wild type because the overexpression of AN3 and ANT increases the number of cells but does not further inhibit cell expansion (Mizukami and Fischer, 2000; Horiguchi et al., 2005). Alternatively, this factor X can be produced and maintained in each proliferating cell, and may affect the cell autonomously in later cell expansion. To address this, local modification of cell proliferation activity in the leaf primordium is required.

An alternative interpretation is that the *FUGU* genes have dual functions, both stimulating cell division and inhibiting cell expansion. It is also plausible that the *FUGU* genes affect cell expansion rather than cell division. However, because compensation was not induced in roots despite their decreased cell numbers, the latter hypothesis of the function of *FUGU* genes is not valid, at least in roots. This finding also suggests that compensation is a process that is specific to determinate organs.

Are compensation-like control systems specific to plants? A similar non-cell autonomous organ-size control system governed by a total mass checkpoint has been reported in *Drosophila* wings (De la Cova et al., 2004; Huh et al., 2004; Jorgensen and Tyers, 2004; Ryoo et al., 2004). In *Drosophila* wings, stimulated cell proliferation results in many small cells and induces cell death, whereas its inhibition results in fewer but larger cells (Potter and Xu, 2001; De la Cova et al., 2004; Huh et al., 2004; Jorgensen and Tyers, 2004). However, in plants that overexpress *AN3* or *ANT*, the leaf cell number increases without affecting the cell size (Mizukami and Fischer, 2000; Horiguchi et al., 2005). Furthermore, in plants, cell death does not play a role in the final leaf size. Thus, the mechanisms of organsize control in Arabidopsis leaves are unique to plants and differ from those in *Drosophila* wings. Therefore, our results provide new insight into organ-size control in multicellular organisms.

## Compensated Cell Enlargement Is a Heterogeneous Phenomenon

In this study, the mutants that exhibited compensation were subcategorized according to the rates and periods of cell proliferation and expansion (Fig. 3). For example, *fugu2-1* and *fugu5-1* showed very similar patterns of cell proliferation, but fundamentally different patterns of cell expansion (Fig. 3). Thus, we suggest that compensated cell enlargement is regulated by at least three different mechanisms.

The first mechanism is utilized by *KRP2* o/e, in which compensated cell enlargement occurs during cell proliferation stage and the set point for cell size is increased. The second is postmitotic and involves *fugu2-1, er-102,* and *an3-4.* In this mechanism, compensated cell enlargement occurs following an increase in the CER. The third mechanism is also postmitotic but unique to *fugu5,* in which cell enlargement is associated with an increase in the duration of cell expansion.

On the other hand, in tobacco (*Nicotiana tabacum*) leaves, overexpressing the *AUXIN-BINDING PRO-TEIN1 (ABP1)* gene induces cell enlargement with a compensating decrease in cell number (Jones et al., 1998). Furthermore, in BY-2 cell lines with reduced ABP1 levels, auxin-induced cell expansion is lost (Chen et al., 2001). These observations suggest that ABP1 regulates cell expansion and that decreased cell pro-liferation can be triggered by ABP1-mediated cell expansion.

Taken together, compensated cell enlargement is not a simple system, but rather involves an intricate regulatory network. Likewise, the components of postmitotic cell expansion are heterologous in terms of their involvement in compensated cell enlargement. As mentioned above, we recently found that only a subset of the *xs* mutants could suppress *an3*-mediated compensated cell enlargement (Fujikura et al., 2007). Similar analyses of the cell-expansion pathways downstream of the *FUGU* genes are now under way. By revealing the molecular mechanisms of cell expansion in plants, we should gain more knowledge of the network that regulates this process.

# **Concluding Remarks**

A large-scale mutant screen allowed us to isolate new compensation-exhibiting mutants. Examination of *fugu* mutants together with previously studied mutants showed that compensated cell enlargement does not occur via the uncoupling of cell division and cell growth. Instead, compensated cell enlargement is mediated by at least three different expansion pathways, indicating that cell proliferation and cell expansion are interconnected via several pathways within a single organ. To our knowledge, this study provides the first evidence that cell expansion is specifically upregulated in compensation. Future investigations, such as the isolation of the *FUGU* genes, should clarify the nature of the organ-level coordination and the mechanism of size regulation of multicellular organs.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Plant Materials and Growth Conditions

All plants were grown at 22°C in a photoperiod of 16-h light/8-h dark and a light intensity of approximately 40  $\mu$ mol m<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>. Seeds were sown on rock wool, and the seedlings were watered with 0.5 g L<sup>-1</sup> Hyponex solution (Hyponex). The wild-type accession was Columbia-0 (Col-0). The *fugu* mutants were isolated from an M2 population generated from the Col-0 background by fast-neutron bombardment,  $\gamma$ -ray irradiation, or T-DNA tagging (Horiguchi et al., 2006a, 2006b). Prior to the analyses, all of the mutants were backcrossed to Col-0 at least three times. For histological analyses, wild-type plants, mutants, and transgenic plants were grown side by side in the same container to minimize variables that might arise from differences in the microenvironments of the growth room. Although the cell numbers and cell sizes of the plants varied in independent experiments, the qualitative differences among the strains were reproducible.

#### Generation of KRP2-Overexpressing Lines

A *KRP*<sup>2</sup> cDNA was amplified using the PCR with the primer pair 5'-AAA-AAGCAGGCTATGGCGGCGGTTAGGAGAAG-3' and 5'-AGAAAGCTGG-GTCATGGATTCAATTTAACCCACT-3' and cDNA from shoots as the template. The products of the first reaction were subjected to a second round of PCR with the primer pair 5'-GGGGACAAGTTTGTACAAAAAAGCA-GGCT-3' and 5'-GGGGACCACTTTGTACAAGAAGCTGGGT-3'. The products of the second reaction were fused into pDONR201 using BP Clonase (Invitrogen). The resultant vector, pENT226, was subjected to the LR reaction with pH35G, a binary vector containing a Gateway cassette (Invitrogen) behind a cauliflower mosaic virus 35S promoter (Horiguchi et al., 2005), to yield pH35G226. Arabidopsis (*Arabidopsis thaliana*) plants were transformed with pH35G226 using the floral-dip method (Clough and Bent, 1998). At least six independent lines overexpressing the exogenous *KRP2* gene from a single T-DNA insertion locus were identified (Supplemental Fig. S1). Line number 226-18 was chosen for further study.

#### **Histological Analyses**

Leaves and roots were fixed in formalin-acetic acid-alcohol and cleared using chloral solution as described by Tsuge et al. (1996). Whole leaves and leaf cells were observed under a stereoscopic microscope (MZ16a) and a Nomarski differential interference contrast microscope (DMRXE; Leica Microsystems). Because cell proliferation occurs in a gradient along the proximodistal axis of the leaf blade, the cell proliferation activity in leaves was monitored by counting the total number of palisade cells along the leaf length direction as described previously (Horiguchi et al., 2005). During leaf development, a front of cell-cycle arrest that progresses from the tip to the base creates two different zones in the leaf blade: a distal part in which most cells are beginning to differentiate, and a proximal part in which the cells are still actively dividing (Donnelly et al., 1999; White, 2006). To monitor the changes in cell size within the first leaf, the cell size was determined at two different locations in the first leaf, the distal, and proximal parts. The average cell area of 20 palisade cells per leaf, observed from the paradermal view, was measured. To measure cell size in embryonic cotyledons, embryos were isolated shortly after seed imbibition as previously described (Ohto et al., 2005). To determine the root cortex cell length, the average length of 180 root cortex cells in the differentiation zone, which was easily recognizable due to the differentiation of root hairs, was measured in six different roots.

### Flow Cytometric Analysis

Flow cytometric analysis was carried out as described (Kozuka et al., 2005) using an Epics XL flow cytometer (Beckman Coulter). Six independent measurements were performed in two independent experiments for each sample, and the average percentage of cells at 2, 4, 8, 16, and 32C was calculated. The EF was then calculated from these percentages as reported previously (Cookson et al., 2006). The EF value gives an estimate of the mean number of endocycles per 100 cells.

# Data Treatment for the Kinematic Analysis of Cell Expansion

The cell-size increase rate is the increase in area per cell per unit of time. For the first leaf (distal and proximal parts) and the cotyledons, a Boltzmann sigmoidal function (Eq. 1) was fitted to the values of cell size versus time:

$$f(t) = a + \frac{b}{1 + \exp(-(t - t_0)/s)}$$
(1)

where *a* is the minimal cell-size value, *b* is the difference between maximal and minimal cell-size values,  $t_0$  is time when growth is maximal, and *s* is the steepness of maximum growth.

To calculate the cell-size increase rate, the differential of the sigmoidal function (1) was determined (Eq. 2):

$$\frac{d}{dt}f(t) = \frac{(1/s)b\exp(-(t-t_0)/s)}{(1+\exp(-(t-t_0)/s))^2}$$
(2)

CER is the increase in cell area compared to the area that is already present per unit of time. The sigmoidal function (Eq. 1) was fitted to natural logarithm values of cell size versus time. CER values were determined by Equation 2, as described above.

#### Supplemental Data

The following materials are available in the online version of this article.

- Supplemental Figure S1. Construction of transgenic plants overexpressing the *KRP2* gene.
- Supplemental Figure S2. Kinematic analysis of cotyledon growth.
- **Supplemental Figure S3.** Size of subepidermal cells in the embryonic cotyledons of wild type and compensation-exhibiting mutants.

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