

Mutations of an α 1,6 Mannosyltransferase Inhibit Endoplasmic Reticulum–Associated Degradation of Defective Brassinosteroid Receptors in *Arabidopsis*

Zhi Hong,^a Hua Jin,^{a,1} Anne-Catherine Fichette,^b Yang Xia,^a Andrew M. Monk,^a Loïc Faye,^b and Jianming Li^{a,2}

^aDepartment of Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109-1048

^bLaboratoire GLYCAD, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique-Université de Rouen, Faculté des Sciences, F-76130 Mont Saint Aignan, France

Asn-linked glycans, or the glycan code, carry crucial information for protein folding, transport, sorting, and degradation. The biochemical pathway for generating such a code is highly conserved in eukaryotic organisms and consists of ordered assembly of a lipid-linked tetradecasaccharide. Most of our current knowledge on glycan biosynthesis was obtained from studies of yeast *asparagine-linked glycosylation (alg)* mutants. By contrast, little is known about biosynthesis and biological functions of N-glycans in plants. Here, we show that loss-of-function mutations in the *Arabidopsis thaliana* homolog of the yeast ALG12 result in transfer of incompletely assembled glycans to polypeptides. This metabolic defect significantly compromises the endoplasmic reticulum-associated degradation of bri1-9 and bri1-5, two defective transmembrane receptors for brassinosteroids. Consequently, overaccumulated bri1-9 or bri1-5 proteins saturate the quality control systems that retain the two mutated receptors in the endoplasmic reticulum and can thus leak out of the folding compartment, resulting in phenotypic suppression of the two *bri1* mutants. Our results strongly suggest that the complete assembly of the lipid-linked glycans is essential for successful quality control of defective glycoproteins in *Arabidopsis*.

INTRODUCTION

Asn (or N)-linked glycosylation is an important posttranslational protein modification process in eukaryotes (Banerjee et al., 2007). Through interactions with carbohydrate binding proteins, N-glycans regulate protein folding, transport, sorting, degradation, and intracellular signaling (Kato and Kamiya, 2007; Molinari, 2007). N-glycosylation is catalyzed in the endoplasmic reticulum (ER) by oligosaccharyltransferase (OST) that transfers a preassembled $\text{Glc}_3\text{Man}_9\text{GlcNAc}_2$ glycan (Glc for glucose, Man for mannose, and GlcNAc for N-acetylglucosamine) from the dolichylpyrophosphate (Dol-PP) carrier to Asn residue in the Asn-Xaa-Ser/Thr motif (Xaa represents any amino acid except Pro) on nascent polypeptides (Kelleher and Gilmore, 2006). The assembly of Dol-PP- $\text{Glc}_3\text{Man}_9\text{GlcNAc}_2$ starts on the cytoplasmic face of the ER membrane with the addition of GlcNAc-UDP to dolichylphosphate followed by addition of another GlcNAc and five Man residues, generating Dol-PP- $\text{Man}_5\text{GlcNAc}_2$ (Figure 1). This septasaccharide is then flipped over into the ER lumen where four more Man and three Glc residues are sequentially added to form Dol-PP-


$\text{Glc}_3\text{Man}_9\text{GlcNAc}_2$ with three mannose branches. The addition of 6th and 7th Man residues, catalyzed by ALG3 and ALG9, respectively, forms the middle α 1,3- α 1,2-dimannose branch (Aebi et al., 1996; Burda et al., 1996), while the addition of 8th and 9th Man residues, catalyzed by ALG12 and ALG9, respectively, generates the upper α 1,6- α 1,2-dimannose branch (Burda et al., 1999; Frank and Aebi, 2005). Adding three Glc residues to the lower branch, catalyzed sequentially by ALG6, ALG8, and ALG10, is thought to be necessary for recognition by OST (Burda et al., 1999).


Further processing of the N-linked $\text{Glc}_3\text{Man}_9\text{GlcNAc}_2$ determines the fate of nascent proteins. Immediately after glycan transfer, the first two Glc residues are sequentially removed by glucosidase I and II (GI and GII) (Trombetta, 2003; Figure 1). The resulting $\text{Glc}_1\text{Man}_9\text{GlcNAc}_2$ is specifically recognized by two ER lectins, calnexin (CNX) and its soluble homolog calreticulin (CRT), which recruit other ER chaperones to assist protein folding (Helenius and Aebi, 2004). Further removal of the 3rd Glc by GII liberates glycoproteins from CNX/CRT. A fully folded glycoprotein leaves the ER and transits into the Golgi for further glycan modifications. By contrast, an incompletely/misfolded glycoprotein is recognized and reglucosylated by UDP-glucose:glycoprotein glucosyltransferase (UGGT), an ER-resident protein-folding sensor (Caramelo and Parodi, 2007). As a result, the glycoprotein reassociates with CNX/CRT for additional folding. The alternating activities of GII and UGGT drive the CNX/CRT cycle until the glycoprotein attains its native conformation (Caramelo and Parodi, 2008). A protein that fails to obtain its native structure within a time window undergoes Man trimming from $\text{Man}_9\text{GlcNAc}_2$ to $\text{Man}_{5-8}\text{GlcNAc}_2$ catalyzed by α 1,2 mannosidases (Molinari, 2007) and is subsequently

¹ Current address: Department of Molecular and Cellular Physiology, School of Medicine, Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94305

² Address correspondence to jian@umich.edu.

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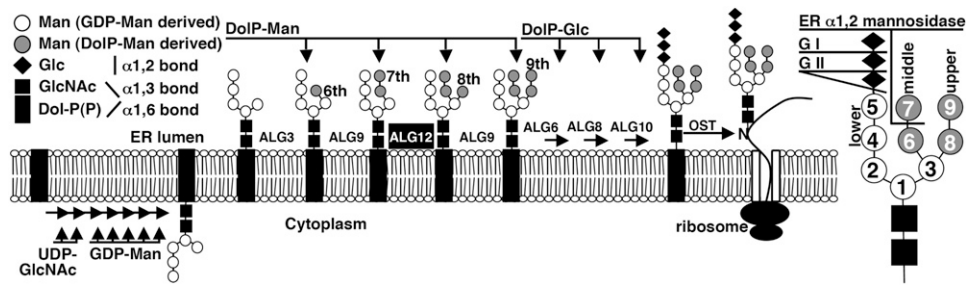


Figure 1. Proposed Scheme of Biosynthesis of Dol-PP-Linked $\text{Glc}_3\text{Man}_9\text{GlcNAc}_2$ in *Arabidopsis*.

Dol-PP- $\text{Man}_9\text{GlcNAc}_2$ is formed at the cytoplasmic side of the ER using cytoplasmic UDP-GlcNAc and GDP-Man as substrates and is flipped over into the ER lumen. Four Man and three Glc residues are sequentially added from Dol-P-Man and Dol-P-Glc, respectively, to form Dol-PP- $\text{Glc}_3\text{Man}_9\text{GlcNAc}_2$ that is transferred to nascent proteins OST. The high-mannose (H)-type glycans produced here are further processed in the Golgi into complex (C)-type glycans. The added glycoresidues, the corresponding glycosyltransferases, and three types of mannosyl bonds are shown. Three mannose branches are indicated on the enlarged $\text{Glc}_3\text{Man}_9\text{GlcNAc}_2$ structure with circled numbers representing the order by which each Man is added. Glycosidases involved in trimming Glc and Man residues (GI, GII, and α -1,2 mannosidase) are also shown.

retrotranslocated into cytosol for ER-associated degradation (ERAD) (Vembar and Brodsky, 2008).

Our knowledge of glycan biosynthesis, ER quality control (ERQC), and ERAD was mainly obtained from studies of yeast mutants and mammalian cell cultures (Burda and Aebi, 1999; Molinari, 2007), but little is known about biosynthesis and biological functions of N-glycans in plants (Pattison and Amtmann, 2009). The *Arabidopsis thaliana bri1-9* and *bri1-5* mutants are excellent tools to study ERQC and ERAD in plants (Jin et al., 2007; Hong et al., 2008). BRI1 is a leucine-rich-repeat receptor-like kinase that functions as a cell surface receptor for brassinosteroids (BRs) (Li and Chory, 1997; Kinoshita et al., 2005). *Arabidopsis* mutants defective in BR biosynthesis/signaling exhibit a characteristic set of phenotypes, including dwarf stature, short hypocotyls in the dark, and delayed flowering. Studies in the past decade have uncovered a linear signaling pathway that relies on protein phosphorylation to transmit the BR signal into the nucleus (Li and Jin, 2007). Recently, we discovered that the mutant phenotypes of *bri1-9* and *bri1-5* are caused by failure of the two mutated BR receptors, which carry the Ser662Phe and Cys69Tyr mutations, respectively, to reach the cell surface. This failure is caused by operation of overzealous ERQC systems in *Arabidopsis* that retain the mutated receptors in the ER (Jin et al., 2007, 2009; Hong et al., 2008). Loss-of-function mutations in *EMS-mutagenized Bri1 Suppressor1 (EBS1)* and *EBS2*, encoding the *Arabidopsis* UGGT homolog and the *Arabidopsis* CRT3, respectively, significantly compromise the ERQC of *bri1-9* to allow some mutated receptors to be correctly targeted to the cell surface. By contrast, loss of UGGT function fails to suppress but instead enhances the other ER-retained *bri1* allele, *bri1-5*, due to involvement of other retention mechanisms to keep the Cys-69-mutated BR receptor in the ER (Hong et al., 2008).

To identify other factors that affect protein quality control in the ER, we isolated additional *ebs* mutants. Genetic and biochemical analyses of these mutants led to identification of several allelic *ebs4* mutants that contain more *bri1-9* proteins than the parental *bri1-9*. Using a candidate gene approach, we found that *EBS4* encodes the *Arabidopsis* ortholog of the yeast ALG12 that

catalyzes addition of the 8th Man in the assembly of Dol-PP- $\text{Glc}_3\text{Man}_9\text{GlcNAc}_2$. This metabolic defect interferes with ERAD of *bri1-9* and *bri1-5* and is responsible for increased export of two defective receptors out of the ER. We conclude that transfer of the fully assembled glycan precursor to nascent polypeptides is critical to ensure successful ER quality control in *Arabidopsis*.

RESULTS

The ER-Retained *bri1-9* Is Degraded by a Proteasome-Mediated ERAD Process

Our previous studies revealed that a mutated BR receptor *bri1-9* carrying a single amino acid change (Ser662Phe) in the extracellular ligand binding domain is retained in the ER due to an overzealous protein quality control system (Jin et al., 2007, 2009). We suspected that the mutated BR receptor is cleared by ERAD to prevent blockage of the secretory pathway. Indeed, immunoblot analysis using an anti-BRI1 antibody revealed that the abundance of *bri1-9* is much lower than that of the wild-type BRI1 (Figure 2A). Consistent with their subcellular localizations (Jin et al., 2007), the two BR receptors were differentially sensitive to endoglycosidase H (Endo H) that cleaves high mannose (H)-type glycans on ER-localized glycoproteins but can't remove Golgi-processed complex (C)-type N-glycans (Figure 2A). Thus, an ER-localized protein with H-type glycans will show a much greater mobility shift than a processed protein with C-type glycans. The small mobility shift of the Endo H-digested BRI1 is likely due to the presence of a few incompletely processed H-type N-glycans on the plasma membrane-localized BR receptor. This simple assay was used throughout this study to determine whether or not ER-retained BR receptors move out of the folding compartment since passage through the Golgi network converts their H-type N-glycans to C-type N-glycans. We also treated *bri1-9* and the wild-type control seedlings with kifunensine (Kif), a widely used inhibitor of α 1,2 mannosidases that generate the glycan signal for ERAD (Tokunaga et al., 2000). As shown in Figure 2B, Kif treatment significantly increased the

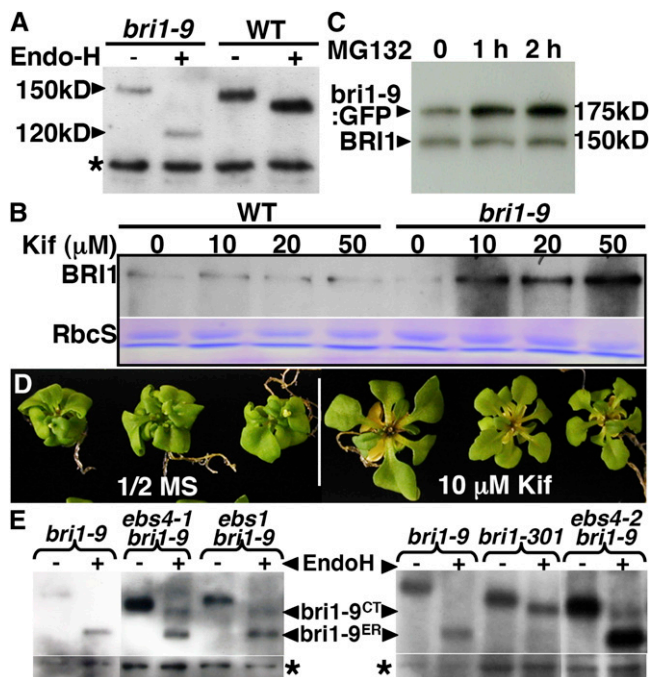


Figure 2. *bri1-9* Undergoes a Proteasome-Mediated ERAD.

(A) Immunoblot analysis of *bri1-9* and BRI1. The asterisk denotes a nonspecific band for loading control. Molecular masses of *bri1-9* and BRI1 are indicated on the left.

(B) Immunoblot analysis of *bri1-9* and BRI1 abundance in 3-week-old seedlings treated with or without Kif for 24 h. Coomassie blue staining of the small subunit of ribulose-1,5-bis-phosphate carboxylase/oxygenase (RbcS) serves as the loading control.

(C) Immunoblot analysis of *bri1-9*:GFP and endogenous BRI1 proteins in 3-week-old seedlings treated with or without 20 μ M MG132. Molecular masses of BRI1 and *bri1-9*:GFP are shown on the right. The abundance of the endogenous wild-type BRI1 serves as a loading control.

(D) Longer Kif treatment partially suppresses the dwarf phenotype of *bri1-9*. Shown here are 4-week-old seedlings grown on regular half-strength Murashige and Skoog (MS) medium for 3 weeks followed by 1-week growth on half-strength MS medium containing no or 10 μ M Kif.

(E) Immunoblot analysis of *bri1-9* abundance in 3-week-old soil-grown seedlings. *bri1-9^{CT}* denotes *bri1-9* carrying C-type N-glycans, while *bri1-9^{ER}* indicates the ER-retained *bri1-9*. The asterisks denote a nonspecific band for loading control.

For **(A)** and **(E)**, equal amounts of total proteins extracted in 1 \times SDS buffer from 3-week-old seedlings were treated with 1000 units of Endo H for 1 h at 37°C, separated by SDS-PAGE, and analyzed by immunoblotting with anti-BRI1 antibody. For **(B)** and **(C)**, 3-week-old seedlings were incubated in liquid half-strength MS medium supplemented with or without Kif or MG132 for a suitable length of time and extracted with 1 \times SDS buffer. Equal amounts of protein extracts of each sample were separated by SDS-PAGE and analyzed by immunoblot with anti-BRI1 antibody.

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bri1-9 abundance but had little effect on the BRI1 stability. We thus concluded that ER-retained *bri1-9* undergoes ERAD.

We previously showed that another ER-retained BR receptor, *bri1-5*, is degraded by a proteasome-independent ERAD process (Hong et al., 2008). To examine if *bri1-9* is similarly degraded, we treated 3-week-old seedlings of a *pBRI1-bri1-9:GFP*

transgenic line with 20 μ M MG132, a widely used proteasome inhibitor that can prevent degradation of many ERAD substrates (Schmitz and Herzog, 2004). Such a transgenic line expresses both the green fluorescent protein (GFP)-tagged *bri1-9* and the endogenous BRI1 that was known to be degraded by proteasome (Hong et al., 2008). Figure 2C shows that *bri1-9*:GFP was more stabilized by MG132 than the wild-type BRI1, suggesting that ERAD of *bri1-9* involves proteasomes. Similar to what we observed with the *bri1-5* mutant (Hong et al., 2008), longer Kif treatment could suppress the *bri1-9* phenotype (Figure 2D), likely due to leakage of some BR receptors as a result of saturating the *bri1-9* retention mechanism by overaccumulated *bri1-9* in the ER. Consistently, overexpression of *bri1-9*:GFP driven by its native promoter could also suppress the *bri1-9* dwarf phenotype (see Supplemental Figure 1 online).

Identification of *ews* Mutants That Accumulate *bri1-9*

Previously, we identified \sim 80 *ews* mutants (Jin et al., 2007). Our Kif rescue and *bri1-9*:GFP overexpression experiments suggested that mutations inhibiting ERAD of *bri1-9* should suppress the *bri1-9* mutation and that genetic studies of these mutants might uncover components or regulators of the *Arabidopsis* ERAD machinery. We thus performed immunoblot analysis of some *ews* mutants using an anti-BRI1 antibody coupled with the Endo H assay, which can reveal if an *ews* mutation results in increased *bri1-9* abundance and/or escape of *bri1-9* from the ER. Figures 2E shows that two such mutants contain more *bri1-9* proteins than the parental *bri1-9*, some of which acquire Endo H-resistant N-glycans similar to *bri1-9* in the *ews1 bri1-9* mutant that contains plasma membrane-localized *bri1-9* due to compromised ERQC (Jin et al., 2007). These two potential ERAD mutants were later found to be allelic to each other and were named *ews4-1* and *ews4-2*.

ews4 Mutations Partially Suppress *bri1-9* and Restore Its BR Sensitivity

As shown in Figure 3, both *ews4 bri1-9* mutants are moderate *bri1-9* suppressors. They have bigger rosette leaves with noticeable petioles (Figure 3A), exhibit longer hypocotyls in the dark (Figure 3B), and are much taller at maturity (Figure 3C) than *bri1-9*. Consistent with these morphological phenotypes and detection of a slower-moving Endo H-digested *bri1-9* band on immunoblots (Figure 2E), the two *ews4* mutants regain partial sensitivity to brassinolide (BL), the most active BR, as measured by both the root growth inhibition and BL-induced BES1 dephosphorylation assays (Clouse et al., 1996; Mora-Garcia et al., 2004). As shown in Figure 3D, BL treatment inhibited root growth of wild-type and *ews4 bri1-9* seedlings but had little effect on that of *bri1-9*. The regained BR sensitivity in *ews4 bri1-9* was also observed at the biochemical level. It was known that BR treatment results in rapid dephosphorylation of BES1, an important transcription factor that regulates expression of many known BR-responsive genes (Yin et al., 2002, 2005). As shown in Figure 3E, 1-h treatment of BL resulted in nearly complete dephosphorylation of BES1 in the wild type and partial dephosphorylation of BES1 in the two *ews4* mutants but had a marginal effect on BES1 phosphorylation in *bri1-9*. These

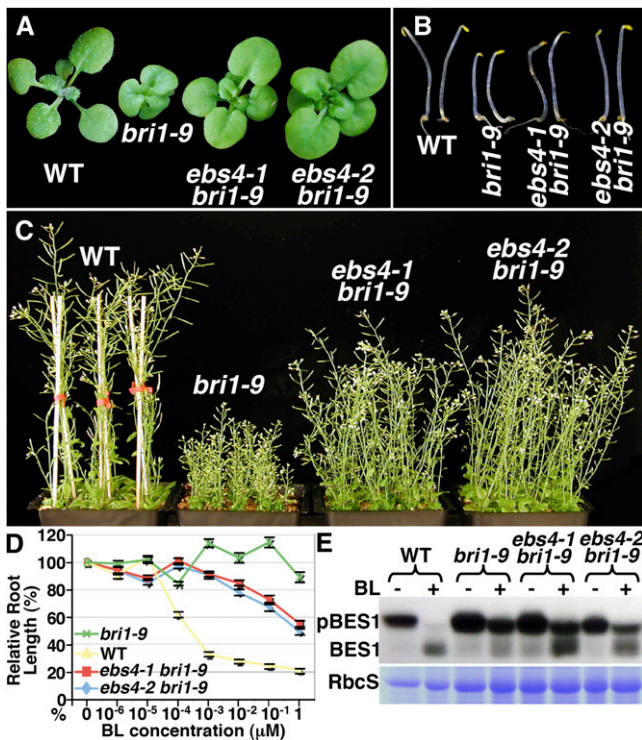


Figure 3. *ebs4-1* and *ebs4-2* Are Moderate Suppressors of *bri1-9*.

(A) Two-week-old soil-grown seedlings of wild-type, *bri1-9*, and two allelic *ebs4* mutants.

(B) Five-day-old dark-grown seedlings of wild-type, *bri1-9*, and two allelic *ebs4* mutants.

(C) Seven-week-old soil-grown mature plants of wild-type, *bri1-9*, and two allelic *ebs4* mutants.

(D) The root growth-inhibition assay. Root lengths of 7-d-old seedlings grown on BL-containing half-strength MS medium under a 16-h-light/8-h-dark growth condition in a 22°C growth chamber were measured and presented as the relative value of the average root length of BL-treated seedlings to that of untreated seedlings of the same genotype. Each data point represents the average of ~40 seedlings of duplicated experiments. Error bars denote SE.

(E) Immunoblot analysis of the BL-induced BES1 dephosphorylation. Total proteins were extracted in 1× SDS buffer from 3-week-old seedlings treated with or without 1 μM BL for 1 h in liquid half-strength MS medium, separated by 10% SDS-PAGE, and analyzed by immunoblotting with anti-BES1 antibody. Coomassie blue staining of RbcS serves as the loading control.

results thus suggested that accumulated *bri1-9* proteins in *ebs4* mutants might saturate the *bri1-9* ERQC machinery and leak out of the ER to the cell surface where they activate BR signaling to promote plant growth.

The *ebs4* Mutations Likely Affect Assembly of Lipid-Linked Glycans

In addition to stabilizing *bri1-9*, the *ebs4* mutations also reduce its molecular weight. As shown in Figure 2E, the *bri1-9* mobility in both *ebs4 bri1-9* mutants is slightly faster than that in the *bri1-9* single mutant. Endo H assay revealed that most of the *bri1-9*

proteins are still retained in the ER and that the mobility of the fast-moving band of Endo H-digested *bri1-9* in the two *ebs4* mutants is the same as that in the parental *bri1-9*, indicating that the *ebs4* mutations likely affect glycoforms on *bri1-9*. The *bri1-9* is either hypoglycosylated with Glc₁Man₉GlcNAc₂ on fewer glycosylation sites or fully glycosylated on all 14 predicted glycosylation sites with incompletely assembled glycans. Since hypoglycosylation often results in discrete bands each with different numbers of glycans, the presence of a single faster-moving *bri1-9* band on immunoblots suggested that the *ebs4* mutations most likely affect the assembly of the lipid-linked tetradecasaccharide. This hypothesis was supported by our finding that the mobility of the wild-type BRI1 in *ebs4-2* is the same as that in the *EBS4*⁺ background (see Supplemental Figure 2 online) since hypoglycosylation (on fewer sites) should result in a fast-moving BRI1 band on immunoblots, whereas full glycosylation with incompletely assembled glycans has no effect on BRI1 mobility due to Golgi-mediated further glycan modifications (Henquet et al., 2008).

The effect of *ebs4* mutation on N-glycosylation was also investigated by both immunoblotting and lectin affinity blotting. The immunoblotting was performed using antibodies against α1,3-fucose or β1,2-xylose residues characteristic of plant-specific C-type N-glycans (Faye et al., 1993), while the affinity blotting was performed with the concanavalin A (Con A)/peroxidase system specific for H-type N-glycans (Faye and Chrispeels, 1985). Whereas no significant difference in C-type N-glycans between *bri1-9* and *ebs4-2 bri1-9* was detected by either antibody (see Supplemental Figure 3 online), noticeable differences in H-type N-glycans between the two mutants were detected by affinity blotting. As shown in Figure 4A, not only is the intensity of Con A-positive signals lower in *ebs4-2 bri1-9* than in *bri1-9*, but also the mobility of two major Con A-positive bands is faster in *ebs4-2 bri1-9* than in *bri1-9*, most likely due to presence of H-type N-glycans with fewer Man residues in the double mutant. These results further support our conclusion that *ebs4* mutations result in transfer of incompletely assembled glycan precursor to nascent glycoproteins in the ER.

ebs4 Mutations Activate the Unfolded Protein Response

We also examined the effect of *ebs4* mutations on N-glycosylation of an important ER-localized folding enzyme, protein disulfide isomerase (PDI), which catalyzes the thiol-disulfide exchange reaction. The *Arabidopsis* genome encodes at least nine PDIs (named PDIL1-1 to 1-6 and PDIL2-1 to 2-3) (Houston et al., 2005). Using an anti-PDIL1 antibody, we repeatedly detected a faster-moving PDI band in two *ebs4* mutants but not in the *ebs1* mutant defective in UGGT that catalyzes reglucosylation of *bri1-9* (Jin et al., 2007). In addition to the mobility change, all three *ebs* mutations also increase the abundance of PDI (Figure 4B), likely caused by unfolded protein response (UPR), a highly conserved ER stress response that stimulates production of ER chaperones/folding enzymes (Bernales et al., 2006). Further support for the UPR induction by *ebs4* mutations was provided by additional immunoblot analyses using anti-spinach BiP antibody and anti-maize CRT antibody that detects two CRTs and two CNXs in *Arabidopsis* (Persson

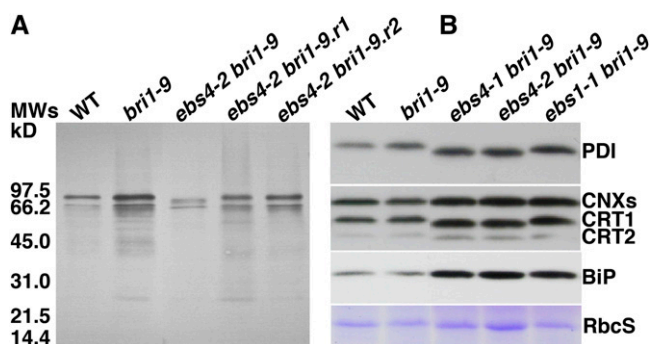


Figure 4. *ebs4* Mutations Affect Mobility of Several Glycoproteins Carrying H-Type N-Glycans and Lead to UPR.

(A) Affinoblotting analysis of glycoproteins. Proteins were extracted by the phenol method (Fitchette et al., 1999) from leaves of 4-week-old soil-grown plants of wild-type, *bri1-9*, *ebs4-2 bri1-9*, and two independently rescued *ebs4-2 bri1-9* lines, resolved in 1× SDS buffer, separated by SDS-PAGE, and analyzed by the Con A/peroxidase system (Faye and Chrispeels, 1985). Equal amounts of proteins were loaded in each lane. The sizes and positions of molecular mass markers are shown on the left. (B) Immunoblot analysis of PDI, CNX/CRT, and BiP. Equal amounts of total protein extracts in 1× SDS sample buffer from 3-week-old seedlings of wild-type, *bri1-9*, two *ebs4 bri1-9* mutants, and *ebs1-1 bri1-9* were separated by SDS-PAGE and analyzed by immunoblotting with antibodies made against the *Arabidopsis* PDIL1-1, maize (*Zea mays*) CRTs, or a spinach (*Spinacia oleracea*) BiP. Coomassie blue staining of RbcS serves as the loading control.

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et al., 2003). As shown in Figure 4B, accumulation of BiP, CNXs, and at least one CRT were substantially increased in the three *ebs4* mutants. It is worthwhile to note that the mobility of both CRT1 and CRT2 is also altered in the *ebs4* mutants (Figure 4B), consistent with previous prediction that CRT1 and CRT2 carry three and one N-glycans, respectively (Persson et al., 2003).

ebs4 Mutations Also Suppress the *bri1-5* Mutation

Since Kif treatment prevented ERAD of *bri1-5* and suppressed the *bri1-5* mutation (Hong et al., 2008), we suspected that the *ebs4* mutations should also be able to suppress *bri1-5*. Indeed, when crossed into *bri1-5*, *ebs4-2* was able to partially suppress the rosette phenotype of *bri1-5* (Figure 5A). This was in sharp contrast with the *ebs1* mutations that fail to suppress but instead enhance the *bri1-5* mutation (Hong et al., 2008). In addition, a genetic screen for extragenic *bri1-5* suppressors resulted in identification of the third ethyl methanesulfonate-generated *ebs4* allele that suppresses many of the *bri1-5* mutant phenotypes, including small rosette, short hypocotyls in the dark, and short inflorescence stems of mature plants (Figures 5B to 5D). Figure 5E shows that the *ebs4-3 bri1-5* mutant accumulated more BR receptors than *bri1-5* or even the wild-type control. Consistent with the detection of C-type N-glycan-containing *bri1-5* suggestive of cell surface localization (Figure 5E), a BR-induced BES1 dephosphorylation assay confirmed that *ebs4-3 bri1-5* regained partial sensitivity to the plant steroid hormone. As shown in Figure 5F, 1-h treatment with 1 μM BL resulted in

almost complete, marginal, and partial BES1 dephosphorylation in wild-type, *bri1-5*, and *ebs4-3 bri1-5*, respectively.

EBS4 Encodes the *Arabidopsis* Homolog of the Yeast ALG12 Enzyme

Our discovery that the *ebs4* mutations affect the size of H-type N-glycans and inhibit ERAD of both *bri1-5* and *bri1-9* but have no effect on biosynthesis of C-type N-glycans suggested that *EBS4* might encode one of the three ER-localized mannosyltransferases catalyzing the assembly of the Dol-PP-Glc₃Man₉GlcNAc₂ (Figure 1). We thus sequenced the two *Arabidopsis* genes *At2g47760* and *At1g16900* annotated to encode homologs of the yeast ALG3 and ALG9, respectively, from the *ebs4* mutants but failed to identify any nucleotide change. At the time of

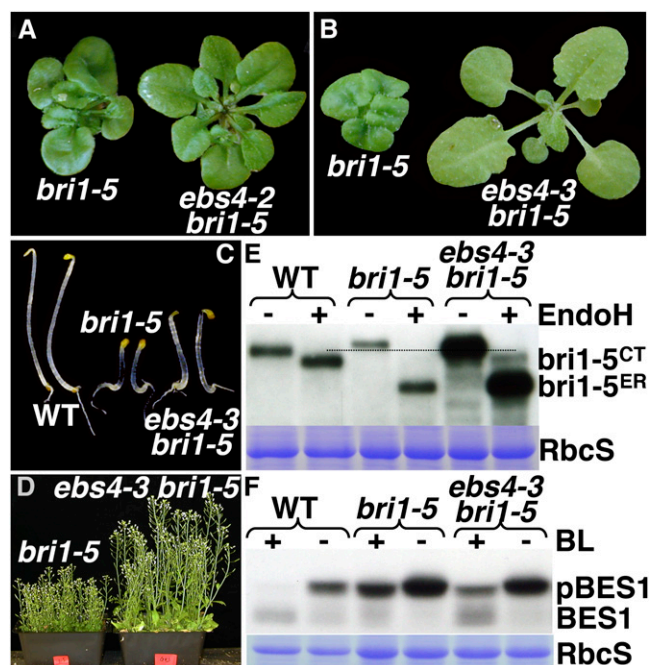


Figure 5. *ebs4* Can Suppress the *bri1-5* Mutation.

(A) Four-week-old soil-grown plants of *bri1-5* and *ebs4-2 bri1-5*. (B) Two-week-old soil-grown plants of *bri1-5* and *ebs4-3 bri1-5*. (C) Five-day-old dark-grown seedlings of *bri1-5* and *ebs4-3 bri1-5*. (D) Seven-week-old soil-grown mature plants of *bri1-5* and *ebs4-3 bri1-5*. (E) Immunoblot analysis of BRI1 and *bri1-5* with or without Endo H treatment in 3-week-old seedlings. Equal amounts of total proteins extracted in 1× SDS buffer from 3-week-old seedlings were treated with or without 1000 units of Endo H for 1 h at 37°C, separated by SDS-PAGE, and analyzed by immunoblotting with anti-BRI1 antibody. *bri1-5^{CT}* is the ER-localized form, while *bri1-5^{ER}* indicates *bri1-5* carrying C-type N-glycans. (F) Immunoblot analysis of the BES1 phosphorylation status in 3-week-old seedlings treated with or without 1 μM BL. Total proteins were extracted in 1× SDS buffer from 3-week-old seedlings treated with or without 1 μM BL for 1 h in liquid half-strength MS medium, separated by 10% SDS-PAGE, and analyzed by immunoblotting with anti-BES1 antibody. pBES1 is the phosphorylated form of BES1. In both (E) and (F), Coomassie blue staining of RbcS serves as the loading control.

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sequencing, there was no annotated gene encoding an ALG12 homolog. Using the yeast ALG12 (Burda et al., 1999) as a query, a BLASTX search against the entire *Arabidopsis* genome did identify a region between *At1g02140* and *At1g02150* that encodes a potential ALG12 homolog (annotated later in GenBank as *At1g02145*). As shown in Figures 6A and 6B, *At1g02145* contains 20 exons and 19 introns, and its predicted 497-amino

acid polypeptide displays high sequence homology with ALG12s of yeast and human and a predicted rice (*Oryza sativa*) ALG12 homolog. Based on previous sequence analysis of ALG12 proteins and our bioinformatic analysis, we predicted that the *Arabidopsis* ALG12 also contains 12 transmembrane segments with both N and C termini exposed to the cytosol and the highly conserved 1st loop facing the ER lumen (Figure 6C).

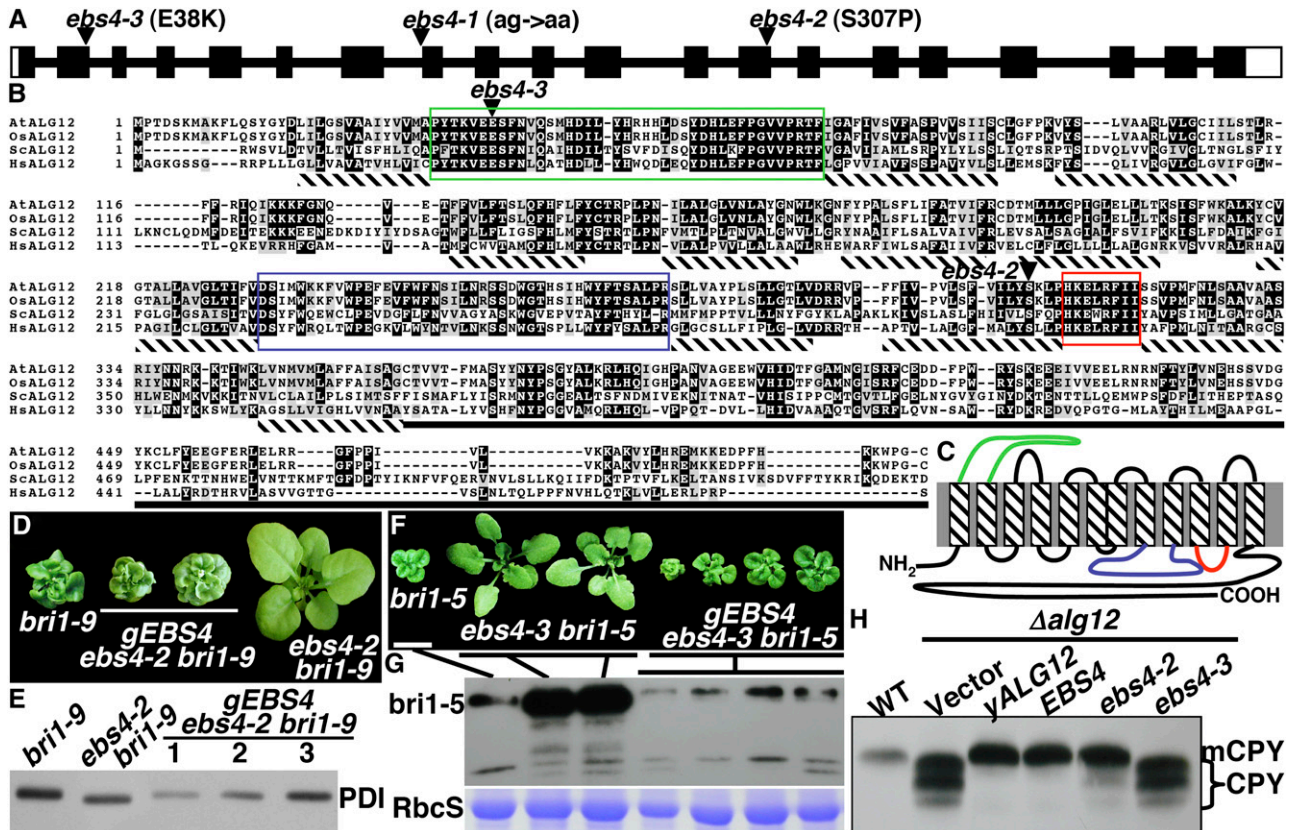


Figure 6. EBS4 is the likely *Arabidopsis* Ortholog of the Yeast ALG12.

(A) Schematic presentation of *EBS4* gene structure. Black bars denote exons, with open bars denoting untranslated regions, and the thin lines represent introns. The positions and molecular nature of the three *ebs4* mutations are indicated.

(B) Sequence alignment of EBS4 with the yeast ALG12 and ALG12 homologs of rice and human. Alignment of EBS4 (accession number NP_001077448) with the yeast ALG12 (ScALG12, NP_014427) and ALG12 homologs from rice (OsALG12, NP_001053463) and human (HsALG12, NP_077010) was performed at the Tcoffee server (<http://tcoffee.vital-it.ch/cgi-bin/Tcoffee/tcoffee.cgi/index.cgi>). Identical residues in ≥ 3 sequences are shaded black, while similar residues are shaded in gray using the BoxShade server at http://www.ch.emblnet.org/software/BOX_form.html. Two largest loops and a highly conserved cytoplasmic loop are color-boxed, and potential transmembrane domains are underlined with hatched bars. Triangles indicate the residues mutated in *ebs4-2* and *ebs4-3*.

(C) EBS4 contains 12 predicted transmembrane segments. Prediction of potential transmembrane domains was performed at the DAS server (<http://www.sbc.su.se/~miklos/DAS/>) and was later adjusted based on the predicted topology of other ALG12 homologs (Oriol et al., 2002). The two largest loops and the highly conserved 5th cytoplasmic loop are shown in colors corresponding to the boxes in (B).

(D) Four-week-old soil-grown plants of *bri1-9*, *ebs4-2 bri1-9*, and two *EBS4*-complemented *ebs4-2 bri1-9* transgenic lines carrying a genomic *EBS4* transgene (*gEBS4*) that contains its native promoter and 3'-terminator.

(E) Immunoblot analysis of a PDI in *bri1-9*, *ebs4-2 bri1-9*, and three independent *gEBS4*-complemented *ebs4-2 bri1-9* lines.

(F) Three-week-old soil-grown plants of one *bri1-5* mutant, two *ebs4-3 bri1-5* mutants, and four independent *gEBS4*-rescued *ebs4-3 bri1-5* transgenic lines.

(G) Immunoblot analysis of *bri1-5* abundance in plants shown in (F). For both (E) and (G), equal amounts of total proteins extracted in 1× SDS sample buffer from 3-week-old seedlings were separated by SDS-PAGE and analyzed by immunoblots using anti-PDI (E) or anti-BRI1 (G) antibody. Coomassie blue staining of RbcS serves as a loading control (G).

(H) Immunoblot analysis of CPY glycosylation in wild-type or transformed $\Delta alg12$ yeast cells containing the vector plasmid, the yeast *ALG12* gene, the wild-type *EBS4*, or a mutated *EBS4* gene carrying the *ebs4-2* or *ebs4-3* mutation. See Methods for experimental details.

Sequencing *At1g02145* of *obs4-1 bri1-9* identified a single nucleotide substitution (G to A) at the end of the predicted 7th intron (Figure 6A), which likely results in aberrant RNA splicing leading to premature translational termination. The identity of *At1g02145* as *EBS4* was confirmed by two different experiments. First, sequencing of two other *obs4* alleles identified additional single nucleotide changes in *At1g02145*, mutating the predicted Ser-307 to Phe in *obs4-2* and Glu-38 to Lys in *obs4-3* (Figures 6A and 6B). We also conducted complementation experiments by transforming a genomic transgene (*gEBS4*), which contains the entire *At1g02145* gene with its native promoter and terminator, into the *obs4-2 bri1-9* or *obs4-3 bri1-5* mutants. As shown in Figures 6D and 6F, expression of the *At1g02145* gene in two *obs4* mutants inhibited the suppression activity of the *obs4* mutations on the two *bri1* mutants. In addition, *At1g02145* expression rescued several biochemical defects of the *obs4* mutations, including the faster mobility of the two major Con A–positive bands (Figure 3A) and PDI (Figure 6E) on immunoblots as well as compromised ERAD of *bri1-5* (Figure 6G).

The *EBS4* Gene Can Complement the Yeast $\Delta alg12$ Mutation

To directly test if the *EBS4* gene can replace the function of the yeast *ALG12*, we generated yeast expression plasmids *pYEp352-EBS4*, *pYEp352-obs4-2*, and *pYEp352-obs4-3*, each containing the promoter and terminator of the yeast *ALG12* gene, and transformed them individually into the yeast *ALG12* cells that exhibit hypoglycosylation of an ER-localized carboxypeptidase Y (CPY) (Burda et al., 1999). Total yeast proteins were extracted from the wild-type and transformed $\Delta alg12$ cells, and the CPY glycosylation pattern was analyzed by immunoblotting. As shown in Figure 6H, a single band of mCPY (m indicates mature) was detected in wild-type cells, and three discrete faster-moving CPY* bands (* denotes abnormal CPY) were detected in $\Delta alg12$ cells transformed with an empty vector. Expression of the yeast *ALG12* gene or the wild-type *EBS4* cDNA was able to rescue the glycosylation defect of CPY, converting the three CPY* bands to a single mCPY band on immunoblots, whereas the *obs4-3*-mutated construct failed to complement the $\Delta alg12$ mutation. Interestingly, although the *Arabidopsis obs4-2* mutant exhibits almost identical phenotypes to *obs4-1* that carries a splicing-defective mutation (Figure 3), the *obs4-2* mutation only slightly reduces the *EBS4* ability to complement the $\Delta alg12$ mutation since the majority of detected CPY in *pYEp352-obs4-2* $\Delta alg12$ yeast cells exhibited the same mobility as the single mCPY band in wild-type cells (Figure 6H). We thus conclude that *EBS4* is the likely *Arabidopsis* ortholog of the yeast *ALG12* that catalyzes the addition of 8th Man in assembling the Dol-PP-Glc₃Man₉GlcNAc₂ glycan.

Expression of the *EBS2* Gene Rescues the *obs4 bri1-9* Phenotype

There are two possible reasons that the *obs4* mutations suppress the *bri1-9* mutant phenotype. The first reason is that reduced numbers of Man residues of N-glycans on *bri1-9* might reduce its affinity to interact with ER lectins; the second reason is that overaccumulated *bri1-9* saturates its ER retention machinery. Our Kif rescue and *bri1-9* overexpression experiments

(Figure 2D; see Supplemental Figure 1 online) seemed to support the second explanation, which was further supported by our discovery that the *obs4-2* mutation did not reduce the *bri1-9*-CNX interaction (see Supplemental Figure 4 online). Our previous studies discovered two major components of this ERQC machinery, *EBS1*, the *Arabidopsis* UGGT homolog, and *EBS2*, a plant-specific CRT3, which act together to keep *bri1-9* in the ER (Jin et al., 2007, 2009). To test which component is likely saturated by overaccumulated *bri1-9*, we introduced an *EBS1* or *EBS2* transgene into *obs4-2 bri1-9*. As shown in Figures 7C to 7E, overexpression of *EBS1* driven by the 35S promoter had little effect on *obs4-2 bri1-9*, but expression of *EBS2* driven by its native promoter resulted in transgenic plants that are similar to or even smaller than the *gEBS4*-complemented *obs4-2 bri1-9* mutants. Thus, *EBS2* is likely a limiting factor that can be easily saturated by overaccumulated *bri1-9* proteins.

DISCUSSION

bri1-9 Is Degraded by a Proteasome-Dependent ERAD Pathway

In this study, we have shown using chemical inhibitors that the ER-retained *bri1-9* is degraded by a proteasome-mediated



Figure 7. The Morphological Effect of Transgene Expression on the *obs4-2 bri1-9* Mutant.

Shown here are images of 4-week-old soil-grown transgenic *obs4-2 bri1-9* plants carrying the empty *pPZP212* vector (A), a genomic *EBS4* transgene (*gEBS4*) (B), an *EBS1* overexpression transgene driven by the 35S promoter (*p35S-EBS1*) (C), and a genomic *EBS2* transgene (*gEBS2*) (D). [See online article for color version of this figure.]

ERAD process. We demonstrated that treatment of *bri1-9* seedlings with Kif resulted in a strong increase in *bri1-9* abundance and phenotypic suppression of its dwarf phenotype. It was this result that prompted us to conduct a secondary screen with previously isolated *ebs* mutants for mutations that compromise the ERAD of *bri1-9*. What was a bit surprising was our discovery that the degradation of *bri1-9* seems to be dependent on proteasome since treatment with MG132 was able to stabilize *bri1-9*. This is in sharp contrast with our previous finding that ERAD of *bri1-5* does not involve a proteasome-mediated process. It will be interesting to know why the two ER-retained BR receptors are degraded differently and to determine the factors that drive them into different degradation pathways.

EBS4 Is the likely *Arabidopsis* Ortholog of the Yeast ALG12

The assembly of lipid-linked glycans is a highly conserved pathway in higher eukaryotes and was elucidated mainly through genetic and biochemical analysis of the yeast *alg* mutants (Burda and Aebi, 1999). Mutations in human *ALG* genes result in type I congenital disorders of glycosylation largely due to hypoglycosylation of important glycoproteins (Freeze and Aebi, 2005). However, little is known about the assembly of lipid-linked glycan in plants (Pattison and Amtmann, 2009). A recent study reported the first loss-of-function *Arabidopsis alg* mutant through a reverse genetic approach and revealed that the incompletely assembled $\text{Man}_5\text{GlcNAc}_2$ glycan can be efficiently transferred to glycoproteins and processed in the Golgi to produce normal C-type N-glycans in *Arabidopsis* (Henquet et al., 2008).

In this study, we identified another *Arabidopsis ALG* gene through a forward genetic screen looking for second site mutations that suppress *bri1-5* or *bri1-9*. We present strong evidence that *EBS4* encodes a putative *Arabidopsis* ortholog of the yeast ALG12, an α 1,6 mannosyltransferase that catalyzes the addition of the 8th Man during the assembly of the lipid-linked $\text{Glc}_3\text{Man}_9\text{GlcNAc}_2$ glycan (Figure 1). First, the *EBS4* candidate gene was initially discovered by BLASTX search against the entire *Arabidopsis* genome using the yeast ALG12 as query. Second, *ebs4* mutations, while having no effect on C-type N-glycan biosynthesis, result in transfer of incompletely assembled glycans onto proteins, as shown by slower mobility of *bri1-9*, PDI, CRTs, and two major Con A-positive bands on immunoblots (Figures 2E, 4A, and 4B). Third, *ebs4* mutations inhibit ERAD of two ER-retained BR receptors, consistent with the effect of the yeast Δalg12 mutation on a model yeast ERAD substrate CPY (Jakob et al., 1998). Finally, the wild-type *EBS4* gene but not the mutated *EBS4* plasmid carrying the E38K mutation (*ebs4-3*) was able to complement the yeast Δalg12 mutation.

Interestingly, E38 is absolutely conserved not only among ALG12 homologs but also among members of three α 2-mannosyltransferase families that include ALG9, PIG-B, and SMP3 (Oriol et al., 2002). ALG9 catalyzes the addition of 7th and 9th Man residues in the assembly of Dol-PP- $\text{Glc}_3\text{Man}_9\text{GlcNAc}_2$, while the other two are involved in the synthesis of the phosphatidylinositol glycan anchor, better known as PIG (Ferguson, 1992). Sequence analysis indicated that this acidic residue is located

within the highly conserved long loop between the first two transmembrane segments (Figure 6C). We predicted that this Glu residue might be directly involved in catalyzing the mannosyltransferase reaction. It should also be interesting to note that the Ser-307 residue mutated in *ebs4-2* is located in the 10th transmembrane segment, three amino acids away from a highly conserved small loop linking the 10th and 11th transmembrane domains. Surprisingly, while this mutation results in similar phenotypes as *ebs4-1* that carries a 7th intron/8th exon junction mutation that likely causes a splicing defect and early translational termination (Figure 3), it only slightly reduces the ALG12 activity in yeast cells (Figure 6H). Based on its location, the Ser307Pro mutation in EBS4 might behave similarly to the Ser662Phe mutation in BRI1 by affecting protein folding with a marginal effect on catalytic activity. It is possible that the Ser307Pro-mutated EBS4 protein is not efficiently recognized by the yeast quality control system but is recognized and degraded by a high-fidelity ER quality control system and its associated ERAD machinery in *Arabidopsis*. Further studies using an anti-EBS4 antibody or a GFP-tagged EBS4 protein could shed light on this interesting mutation.

The Likely Reasons for *ebs4* Mutations to Inhibit ERAD of *bri1-5* and *bri1-9*

One likely explanation for the *ebs4* mutations' ability to inhibit ERAD of both *bri1-5* and *bri1-9* is lack of the ERAD glycan signal on the two defective BR receptors due to their glycosylation with incompletely assembled glycans. Although the removal of the 7th Man residue was previously considered as the ERAD signal (Lederkremer and Glickman, 2005), two recent studies presented convincing evidence that the exposure of an α 1,6 mannose on N-glycans is a true ERAD signal to degrade misfolded glycoproteins (Quan et al., 2008; Clerc et al., 2009). These two studies showed that the yeast HTM1 protein, which was previously thought to function as an ERAD receptor (Jakob et al., 2001), is responsible for removing the 9th Man from the upper dimannose branch. Further investigation, such as overexpression of EBS4 in an *alg9* mutant or construction of a triple mutant of *alg3 ebs4 bri1-9*, could tell if a similar mechanism is used in plants to generate the ERAD glycan signal on a misfolded glycoprotein. The former approach will generate an $\text{Man}_7\text{GlcNAc}_2$ glycan with an exposed α 1,3 Man on the middle arm (6th Man) and an exposed α 1,6 Man (8th Man) on the upper arm, while the latter approach will generate an $\text{Man}_5\text{GlcNAc}_2$ glycan exposing a different α 1,6 Man (3rd Man) that can also be recognized by an ERAD lectin (Clerc et al., 2009).

The Role of N-Glycosylation in Plant Development and Plant Stress Response

N-glycosylation is a complex process involving the assembly of $\text{Glc}_3\text{Man}_9\text{GlcNAc}_2$ and its subsequent transfer to nascent polypeptide in the ER and extensive N-glycan remodeling in the Golgi. Recent studies using *Arabidopsis* mutants indicated that N-glycosylation plays an essential role in plant development as mutations in most enzymes involved in the assembly of $\text{Glc}_3\text{Man}_9\text{GlcNAc}_2$ cause severe developmental defect including

embryo lethality (reviewed in Pattison and Amtmann, 2009). By contrast, mutations of a Golgi-localized N-glycan-modifying enzyme have little effect on plant development but result in reduced stress tolerance (Strasser et al., 2005; Frank et al., 2008; Kang et al., 2008). It seems that mutations affecting the formation of a monoglucosylated lower mannose branch (Figure 1) often lead to severe developmental defects since the terminal Glc residue is essential for a nascent protein to acquire its native conformation in the ER by interacting with CNX/CRT. This study and the previous report on the *Arabidopsis alg3* mutants revealed that mutations in enzymes involved in the ER luminal addition of Man residues to assemble $\text{Glc}_3\text{Man}_9\text{GlcNAc}_2$ have no detectable effect on plant growth and development or the formation of C-type N-glycan, raising a question why plants need these enzymes in the first place. Our discovery that *ebs4* mutations block ERAD of a mutated cell surface receptor provided a possible answer to this question. The assembly of a complete $\text{Glc}_3\text{Man}_9\text{GlcNAc}_2$ N-glycan precursor is required for generating an ERAD signal that diverts a misfolded protein into the ERAD pathway and might therefore play an important role in plant stress tolerance since stressful conditions could reduce protein folding efficiency and lead to accumulation of misfolded proteins in the ER. Further experiments using *alg3*, *alg9*, and *alg12/ebs4* mutants will be needed to test our hypothesis.

METHODS

Plant Materials and Growth Conditions

Arabidopsis thaliana ecotypes Columbia (Col-0) and Wassilewskija-2 (Ws-2) were used as wild-type controls. The *ebs4-1*, *ebs4-2*, and other *ebs* mutants were discovered in the genetic screen for extragenic suppressors of *bri1-9* (Jin et al., 2007), while *ebs4-3* was identified as a suppressor for *bri1-5*. Ethyl methanesulfonate mutagenesis of *bri1-5* was performed as previously described (Jin et al., 2007). Seed sterilization and plant growth conditions were described previously (Li et al., 2001), and a root growth inhibition assay was performed as described (Clouse et al., 1996).

Isolation of the Full-Length *EBS4* cDNA

A partial *EBS4* cDNA clone DQ492199 was obtained from the ABRC. The missing 5' 130-bp fragment was obtained by RT-PCR from total RNAs of 2-week-old wild-type seedlings using the *EBS4*-5' RT primer set: 5'-CGAAGCTTGAGACGATGCCGACGGATTC-3' and 5'-TAC-CATATGCCAGATTGACTAATCC-3' (the underlined sequences are restriction sites for *Hind*III and *Nde*I, respectively) and the SuperScript first-strand synthesis system for RT-PCR (Invitrogen). The resulting PCR fragment was double digested with *Hind*III and *Nde*I and cloned into a *Hind*III/*Xba*I-digested pBluescript KS- (Stratagene) plasmid along with an *Nde*I/*Xba*I-cut DQ492199 cDNA fragment to create a full-length *EBS4* cDNA plasmid *pBS-EBS4*.

Plasmid Construction and Plant Transformation

The construction of a *pPZP222-gEBS2* was previously described (Jin et al., 2009). The full-length *EBS1* cDNA was PCR amplified and cloned into the binary vector *pCHF1* that carries the 35S promoter and the pea (*Pisum sativum*) *RbcS-E9* terminator (Fankhauser et al., 1999). A 6.6-kb genomic fragment, including 1.6-kb promoter region and the entire *EBS4* coding region, was PCR amplified from BAC T7123 and cloned into the

binary vector *pPZP212* (Hajdukiewicz et al., 1994). Each constructed plasmid involving PCR was fully sequenced to ensure that there were no PCR-introduced errors. These plasmids were transformed individually into *ebs4-2 bri1-9* or *ebs4-3 bri1-5* mutants via the *Agrobacterium tumefaciens*-mediated vacuum infiltration method (Clough and Bent, 1998).

Yeast Complementation Assay

For the yeast complementation assay, the yeast *pYEp352-ALG12* was used as the positive control and to make the *pYEp352-EBS4* plasmid by replacing the entire open reading frame of the yeast *ALG12* with that of the *EBS4* gene. Site-directed mutagenesis using the QuickChange XL site-directed mutagenesis kit (Stratagene) was performed to generate *pYEp352-ebs4-2* and *pYEp352-ebs4-3* plasmids, while a *pYEp352* plasmid lacking only the *ALG12* open reading frame was used as the negative control. Each plasmid was fully sequenced to ensure that there were no PCR-generated errors and was transformed into $\Delta alg12$ yeast cell using a rapid yeast transformation protocol (Gietz and Woods, 2002).

Protein Extraction and Immunoblot Analysis

Arabidopsis seedlings harvested from agar, soil, or liquid half-strength MS medium supplemented with or without BL (Chemiclones), Kif (Toronto Research Chemicals), or MG132 (Sigma-Aldrich) were grounded in liquid nitrogen, dissolved in 1× SDS sample buffer, and boiled for 10 min. After centrifugation to remove tissue debris, supernatants were used for immunoblot analyses or subjected to Endo H assay (Jin et al., 2007). Ninety microliters of supernatant were mixed with 10 μL 10× G5 buffer and incubated with or without 1000 units of Endo H_f (New England Biolabs) at 37°C for 1 h. Protein samples extracted from the same amount of seedlings were separated on 7% or 10% SDS-PAGE gel and stained with Coomassie Brilliant Blue to determine the relative amount of total proteins among different samples. Proteins from duplicated gels were transferred onto Immobilon-P membranes (Millipore) and analyzed by immunoblot with antibodies made against BRI1 (Mora-Garcia et al., 2004), BES1 (Mora-Garcia et al., 2004), PDI (Rose Biotechnology), BiP (SPA-818; Stressgen), and maize (*Zea mays*) CRTs (Pagny et al., 2000).

Equal amounts of yeast cells of mid-log phase grown at 30°C were collected by centrifugation, resuspended in 1× bead buffer (0.3 M sorbitol, 0.1 M NaCl, 5 mM MgCl₂, and 10 mM Tris, pH 7.4), lysed by vortexing with glass beads, and mixed with equal volumes of 2× SDS buffer. After 5 min boiling and 5 min centrifugation, the resulting supernatants were separated by SDS-PAGE and analyzed by immunoblotting with a monoclonal anti-CPY antibody (10A5; Invitrogen).

For all immunoblot experiments, horseradish peroxidase-conjugated goat anti-mouse (for anti-BiP or anti-CPY antibody), goat anti-rat (for anti-BES1 antibody), or goat anti-rabbit (for anti-BRI1, anti-PDI, or anti-maize-CRT antibody) IgG secondary antibodies and an Immobilon Western Chemiluminescent HRP substrate (ECL) kit (Millipore) were used for detection. The chemiluminescent signals were recorded on x-ray films (Blue Basic Autorad Film; ISC BioExpress) with multiple exposures to obtain nonsaturated signals for each protein of interest.

N-Linked Glycan Assays

Total proteins were extracted from lyophilized shoot tissues of 4-week-old soil-grown plants by the phenol method (Fitchette et al., 1999), resolved in 1× SDS sample buffer. Twenty-five milligrams of proteins/each extract were separated on 15% SDS-PAGE gels and visualized by Coomassie Brilliant Blue staining. After transferring to nitrocellulose membranes, glycoproteins were analyzed by lectin affino blotting using the Con A/oxidase system specific for H-type N-glycans (Faye and Chrispeels, 1985) or immunoblotting with antibodies made against

β 1,2-xylose or α 1,3-fucose characteristic of C-type N-glycans in plants (Faye et al., 1993). Briefly, affindetection of blots was performed by saturation in TBS buffer (20 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.4, containing 0.5M NaCl) containing 0.1% (v/v) Tween 20 (TTBS) for 1 h, followed by two successive incubations at room temperature in 25 μ g/mL Con A (Sigma-Aldrich) in TTBS containing 1 mM MgCl₂ and 1mM CaCl₂ for 1.5 h and in 50 μ g/mL horseradish peroxidase (Sigma-Aldrich) in TTBS for 1 h. For immunodetection, blots were first saturated in 3% (w/v) gelatin in TBS for at least 1 h and incubated with anti-glycan antibodies (1/1000 dilution) in TBS with 1% (v/v) gelatin for 2 h and with horseradish peroxidase-conjugated goat anti-rabbit IgG antibodies (Bio-Rad) (1/3000 dilution) in TBS with 1% (v/v) gelatin for 1 h at room temperature. All nitrocellulose membranes were incubated with 4-chloro-1-naphtol and hydrogen peroxide with gentle agitation at room temperature until signals reached desired intensities.

Accession Numbers

Sequence data from this article can be found in the GenBank/EMBL data libraries under the following accession numbers: NP_001077448 (EBS4, At1g01245), NP_014427 (yeast ALG12), NP_077010 (human ALG12), and NP_001053463 (a rice ALG12 homolog).

Supplemental Data

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

Supplemental Figure 1. Overexpression of bri1-9:GFP Can Suppress the Dwarf Phenotype of *bri1-9*.

Supplemental Figure 2. The *ews4-2* Mutation Has Little Effect on the Molecular Weight of the Wild-Type BRI1.

Supplemental Figure 3. The *ews4-2* Mutation Has No Effect on the C-Type N-Glycan Biosynthesis.

Supplemental Figure 4. The *ews4-2* Mutation Does Not Inhibit the bri1-9-CNX Interaction.

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