

# CLAVATA Signaling Pathway Receptors of *Arabidopsis* Regulate Cell Proliferation in Fruit Organ Formation as well as in Meristems

Amanda R. Durbak\* and Frans E. Tax\*<sup>†,1</sup>

\*Department of Plant Sciences and <sup>†</sup>Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona 85721

**ABSTRACT** The CLAVATA1 (CLV1), CLV2, and CORYNE (CRN) receptors in *Arabidopsis thaliana* maintain cell proliferation in shoot apical meristems by restricting expression of the transcription factor *WUSCHEL* (*WUS*). Previously characterized receptor mutants generate extra fruit and floral organs that are proposed to arise from enlarged floral meristems (FMs). We identified new alleles in *clv1*, *clv2*, and *crn* and found that most mutants produce only extra fruit organs and generate FMs of similar dimensions as wild type. Characterization of gynoecium development in receptor mutants revealed increased cell proliferation and ectopic fruit organ initiation after FM termination. These regions of increased cell division also display expanded expression of the cell proliferation-promoting transcription factor *SHOOTMERISTEMLESS* (*STM*), similar to the expansion of *WUS* expression in the shoot apical meristems of strong *clv1* mutants. We also examined genetic interactions between the ERECTA (ER) and BARELY ANY MERISTEM 1 (BAM1) receptor-like kinases and CLV pathway receptors. Our results suggest a model in which CLV1/BAM1 and CLV2/CRN complexes act in separate, parallel pathways in shoot meristems, while the CLV1, CLV2, and CRN receptors function together in a linear pathway during fruit development. These results demonstrate the importance of regulating cell proliferation in plants that undergo organogenesis throughout their life cycle.

**I**N the majority of animals, the formation of new organs is completed during embryogenesis or during juvenile stages. However, plants undergo organogenesis throughout their life cycle. For this indeterminate growth, plants maintain populations of stem cells in discrete structures called meristems, which retain their organization via cell–cell signaling (Satina and Blakeslee 1942; Stewart *et al.* 1972; Brand *et al.* 2000; Schoof *et al.* 2000). During embryogenesis in most plants, a pool of stem cells is established within the shoot apical meristem (SAM). Upon germination, the SAM produces primarily leaves, and after the vegetative-to-reproductive switch, transitions into the inflorescence meristem (IM). The IM forms floral meristems (FMs), which produce floral organs, including sepals, petals, stamens, and carpels, the structures that ultimately give rise to the fruit (reviewed in Barton 2010).

Although all cells within an adult plant can be traced back to the primary SAM or root apical meristem (RAM), additional meristems maintain populations of actively dividing or undifferentiated cells and are essential for the production of specialized tissues. Secondary meristems, such as the procambium, which generates new cells in the vasculature, maintain undifferentiated cells in an indeterminate manner, but lack the organized structure characteristic of shoot meristems (Baucher *et al.* 2007; reviewed in Girin *et al.* 2009). Other meristematic regions maintain partially differentiated cells but undergo prolonged proliferation, which terminates once the desired cells/organs are formed (Girin *et al.* 2009).

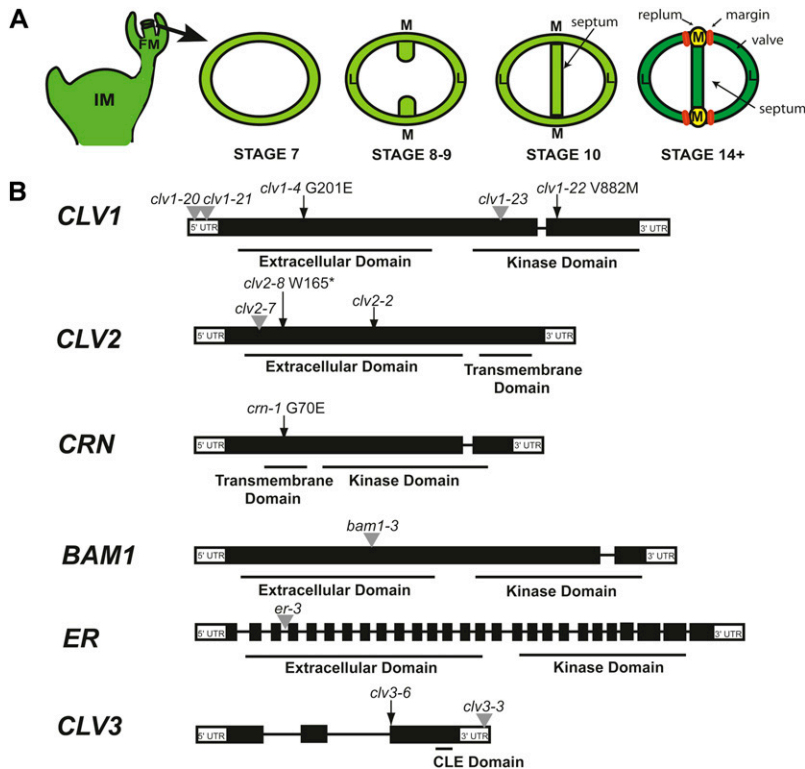
One such meristematic region that maintains prolonged proliferation is located in the medial regions of developing fruit (Pautot *et al.* 2001). In *Arabidopsis thaliana*, wild-type fruit development begins when two carpels initiated from the FM form a hollow cylinder of cells that grows apically to generate the gynoecium (Figure 1A). Simultaneously, two medial ridges grow through directed cell division toward each other, where they fuse and create the septum. The septum divides the cylinder into two chambers, reflecting

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<sup>1</sup>Corresponding author: Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology, 1007 East Lowell, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ, 85721. E-mail: fetax@u.arizona.edu



**Figure 1** Gynoecium and fruit development in *Arabidopsis thaliana*. (A) The major stages of gynoecium and fruit development relevant to this study. M, medial region; L, lateral region; IM, inflorescence meristem; FM, floral meristem. (B) Gene models for *CLV1*, *CLV2*, *CRN*, *BAM1*, *ER*, and *CLV3* and the location of alleles used in this study. Black boxes are exons and black lines are introns. Point mutations are denoted by black arrows, a 1-bp deletion is denoted by a black arrowhead, and the positions of T-DNA insertions are denoted by gray arrowheads.

the original two carpels, with two lateral domains and two medial regions located at either end of the septum. Meristematic cells at the junction between the septum and cylinder in the medial region produce placental tissue that develops into ovules (Bowman *et al.* 1999; Ferrandiz *et al.* 1999). Upon establishment of the gynoecium, cells in the cylinder differentiate into three types of mature fruit organs: valves, repla, and margins (Figure 1A; Bowman *et al.* 1999; Ferrandiz *et al.* 1999). Although a transcription factor network specifying each of these organs has been identified (Dinneny *et al.* 2005), the mechanisms regulating fruit organ number remain uncharacterized. The current hypothesis proposes that FM size determines carpel number, which then leads to an equivalent number of valves in the fruit (Ferrandiz *et al.* 1999).

Stem cell populations in shoot meristems (SAMs, IMs, and FMs) are maintained by the CLAVATA (CLV) signaling pathway, which consists of the small secreted CLV3 peptide, the receptor-like kinases (RLKs) CLV1 and CORYNE (CRN), and the receptor-like protein CLV2 (Clark *et al.* 1993, 1997; Kayes and Clark 1998; Jeong *et al.* 1999; Muller *et al.* 2008). The prevailing model for CLV signaling suggests that CLV1, CLV2, and CRN perceive the CLV3 peptide, and receptor activation ultimately functions to restrict the expression of the stem cell-promoting homeodomain transcription factor *WUSCHEL* (*WUS*) to a small subset of cells in the center of shoot meristems (Brand *et al.* 2000; Schoof *et al.* 2000). The *WUS* expression domain acts as an organizing center required for maintenance of the stem cell population (Schoof *et al.* 2000). Mutations in *CLV1*, *CLV2*, *CLV3*, or *CRN* result

in the expansion of the *WUS* expression domain and subsequent increase in the stem cell population in shoot meristems (Schoof *et al.* 2000). Live imaging studies have shown that loss of CLV3 causes cells that had previously differentiated and decreased their proliferation to return to a stem cell state, thus creating increased cell division in the IM (Clark *et al.* 1995; Laux *et al.* 1996; Brand *et al.* 2000; Schoof *et al.* 2000; Reddy and Meyerowitz 2005).

Along with *WUS*, the homeodomain transcription factor *SHOOTMERISTEMLESS* (*STM*) is expressed in shoot meristems and is required to maintain cell proliferation (Long *et al.* 1996). Although *stm* and *wus* mutants produce similar phenotypes, there are discrete differences between these genes. For example, while *WUS* expression is found in a small number of cells within the SAM (Mayer *et al.* 1998), *STM* is expressed broadly throughout shoot meristems and shares overlap with the *CLV1* domain (Long *et al.* 1996; Clark *et al.* 1997). Furthermore, genetic interactions between hypomorphic *stm* and *wus* mutants suggest that *WUS* acts to maintain stem cell function, while *STM* is required for maintenance of an undifferentiated state (Endrizzi *et al.* 1996).

Evidence from genetic studies has led to the hypothesis that the CLV1 and CLV2 receptors act in a common pathway to regulate *WUS* expression. However, experiments analyzing the genetic interactions between the more recently identified CRN receptor kinase and CLV1 and CLV2 suggest that a CLV2/CRN receptor complex binds CLV3 and regulates *WUS* in a pathway separate from CLV1 (Muller *et al.* 2008; Ogawa *et al.* 2008; Guo *et al.* 2010). Results from recent

biochemical studies indicate that while CLV2 and CRN readily form heterodimers and CLV1 forms homodimers, CLV1 and CLV2 do not appear to interact in the absence of CRN, although there is evidence for the formation of a CLV1/CLV2/CRN receptor complex at the plasma membrane (Bleckmann *et al.* 2010; Zhu *et al.* 2010).

Most of the evidence for the structure of the CLV pathway in *Arabidopsis* meristems is based on genetic interactions using valve number as a readout for carpel number and meristem size. However, double mutants between *clv1* and either *crn* or *clv2* mutants have produced inconsistent phenotypes, depending on the use of strong or weak *clv1* alleles. The ambiguity of these results can be partially explained by the observation that mutations in the CLV1 receptor kinase demonstrate unusual properties. Plants homozygous for missense mutations in the CLV1 extracellular domain such as *clv1-4* display stronger phenotypes than null mutants (Clark *et al.* 1993; Dievart *et al.* 2003). The proteins encoded by these mutations are proposed to act in a dominant-negative manner through inhibitory interactions with closely related BARELY ANY MERISTEM (BAM) receptors (DeYoung *et al.* 2006; DeYoung and Clark 2008), CLV2, CRN, and/or additional unknown receptors that eliminate all repression of *WUS*. Genetic interactions are consistent with the model that BAM receptors can compensate for the absence of CLV1 protein and form complexes with other receptors such as CLV2 or CRN, repressing *WUS* (DeYoung and Clark 2008).

Strong *clv1* mutants contain several phenotypes associated with enlarged shoot meristems, including fasciated or flattened stems, increased floral and fruit organ number, and the presence of an extra gynoecium inside the fruit, often called a fifth whorl, that forms when the FM fails to terminate due to prolonged *WUS* expression (Clark *et al.* 1993, 1997; Schoof *et al.* 2000). However, null and hypomorphic *clv1* mutants lack the majority of these phenotypes, with the exception that they produce extra fruit organs, albeit fewer than dominant-negative alleles (Clark *et al.* 1993). *clv2* and *crn* mutants are similar to weak *clv1* alleles in that they only produce extra fruit organs (Kayes and Clark 1998; Muller *et al.* 2008). Mutants that generate only extra fruit organs are not consistent with the model that extra floral organs arise from enlarged meristems.

Through the characterization of mutants in known CLV pathway receptors, we have identified an alternative mechanism for the generation of fruit organs. Our results provide evidence that the CLV1, CLV2, and CRN receptors function in a single pathway in the gynoecium to repress proliferation, while CLV1/BAM1 and CLV2/CRN act in parallel pathways to restrict carpel number in shoot meristems.

## Materials and Methods

### Plant growth conditions and phenotypic analyses

**Growth of plants:** Plants were grown as described in Belkhadir *et al.* (2010).

**Identification of *clv1*, *clv2*, *crn*, and *er* alleles:** *clv1-23*, *clv2-8*, and *crn-1*: Wild-type seeds in the Wassilewskija-2 (*Ws-2*) accession were mutagenized with EMS as previously described (Zhao *et al.* 2002). Three mutants with only extra fruit organs (14-7, 15-6, and 16-1) were identified and were crossed into the Col accession three times for mapping and for phenotypic analysis. Linkage analysis of the PCR-based markers NF5I14 and nga111 (available on [www.arabidopsis.org](http://www.arabidopsis.org)) placed the 14-7 and 15-6 mutations near At1g65380 (*CLAVATA2*) and At1g75820 (*CLAVATA1*). In 14-7, which failed to complement *clv1-20*, we identified a G-to-A nucleotide substitution at position 2722, which corresponds to a V-to-M at position 882 in CLV1, and 14-7 was renamed *clv1-23*. In 15-6, which failed to complement *clv2-2*, we identified a G-to-A nucleotide substitution at position 494, which corresponds to a W-to-stop at position 165 in CLV2, and 15-6 was renamed *clv2-8*. For 16-1, linkage analysis of the PCR-based markers nga158 and nga139 placed 16-1 near At5g13290 (*CORYNE*). We sequenced CRN in 16-1 and found a G-to-A nucleotide substitution at nucleotide position 208, which corresponds to a G-to-E substitution at position 70 in CRN. This mutation was found to be identical to the *crn-1* mutant identified by Muller *et al.* (2008); therefore, we renamed 16-1 as *crn-1*.

*clv1-20*, *clv1-21*, *clv1-22*: Three additional alleles were found in sequenced-tagged insertion libraries (<http://signal.salk.edu/cgi-bin/tdnaexpress>) generated in the Columbia accession. The *clv1-20* allele (SALK\_008670) and the *clv1-21* allele (SAIL\_802C08) both contain insertions within the 5'-UTR of CLV1. We resequenced T-DNA flanking PCR products and found that the insertions in *clv1-20* and *clv1-21* are 217 and 146 bp, respectively, upstream of the predicted transcriptional start. The insertion in the *clv1-22* allele, (WiscDsLox489-49), is located 2042 bp downstream of the predicted transcriptional start within the kinase domain of CLV1.

*clv1-4*: This allele is a missense amino acid change at position 201 (G-to-E substitution) within leucine-rich-repeat (LRR) 5 of the extracellular domain (McKelvie 1962). Before conducting our analysis, the *clv1-4* mutation was introgressed to plants in the *Ws-2* accession for three generations, and the strain we analyzed does not contain the *er-1* mutation found in the Landsberg *erecta* accession.

*er-3*: The *er-3* allele (SALK\_044110) contains an insertion 906 bp downstream of the predicted transcriptional start.

### RT-PCR

RNA was extracted from 100 mg of inflorescence tissue from the four new *clv1* mutant alleles and Col using the RNEasy Plant Extraction kit (Qiagen). A total of 1 µg of total RNA was used to perform the first strand synthesis, primed with gene-specific primers that amplify the entire coding region (supporting information, Table S3) per manufacturer recommendations (Fermentas). Second strand synthesis was performed using the following primer pairs: CLV1 RT F and R, and ACT7 F and R (30 cycles, annealing at 55°).

### Phenotypic analysis of floral organs

For all mutants and wild-type controls, the sepal, petal, anther, and valve number were counted for the buds (up to 30) on the main inflorescence. Each bud was analyzed at stages 13–14 (just prior to fertilization) to ensure that all organs would be counted before dehiscence.

### Histological analysis

Floral buds and meristems were collected from the primary stem of plants 1–2 weeks after bolting. Sample preparation and imaging were performed as described by Belkhadir *et al.* (2010). Stage 3 floral meristem height was measured as the distance between the interior base of the medial sepal primordia and the top of the dome, and width was measured as the distance between sepal primordia (Figure S2). Inflorescence meristem height was measured as the distance between the interior base of the medial first incipient primordia to the top of the dome, and width was measured as the entire distance across the region from the first incipient primordia (Figure S2).

### CLV1 promoter cloning and analysis of transcriptional fusion to GUS

Through phenotypic analysis of insertions upstream of *CLV1* including *clv1-20* and *clv1-21*, we deduced that the genomic region corresponding to 3.4 kb upstream from the *CLV1* ATG was required for *CLV1* expression. This region through the start codon was cloned into pENTR/D-TOPO using the TOPO-TA cloning kit (Invitrogen), subcloned into pBIB: BASTA-GUS (Gou *et al.* 2010), and transformed into Col plants via *Agrobacterium*-mediated transformation (Table S3). To visualize GUS expression, plants were incubated in X-Gluc staining solution (2 mM X-Gluc dissolved in 1 mL DMSO, 2 mM potassium ferrocyanide, 2 mM potassium ferricyanide, 0.2% Triton X-100, 50 mM NaPO<sub>4</sub>, pH 7.2) for 1–16 hr, then cleared in 9:1 ethanol/acetic acid for 3–16 hr, followed by 1 hr in chloral hydrate solution (8:2:1 chloral hydrate/water/glycerol).

### RNA in situ hybridization

Floral buds were fixed and sectioned as previously described (Franks *et al.* 2002). Riboprobes labeled with digoxigenin for STM were created per manufacturer's recommendations (Roche). To generate riboprobes for FIL, CLV1, CLV2, and CRN, the cDNA was generated from Col RNA with similar methods used to perform RT-PCR and cloned into pCR8/GW/TOPO using the TOPO-TA cloning kit (Invitrogen; Table S3). The plasmid was used as template in a PCR reaction utilizing gene-specific primers for which either the sense or antisense primer contained the T7 recognition sequence at the 5' end. These pools of DNA were used as template to generate riboprobes labeled with digoxigenin per manufacturer's recommendations (Roche). Hybridization, washes, and detection were performed as previously described (Franks *et al.* 2002). Images were captured using QCapture Pro 5.0 software.

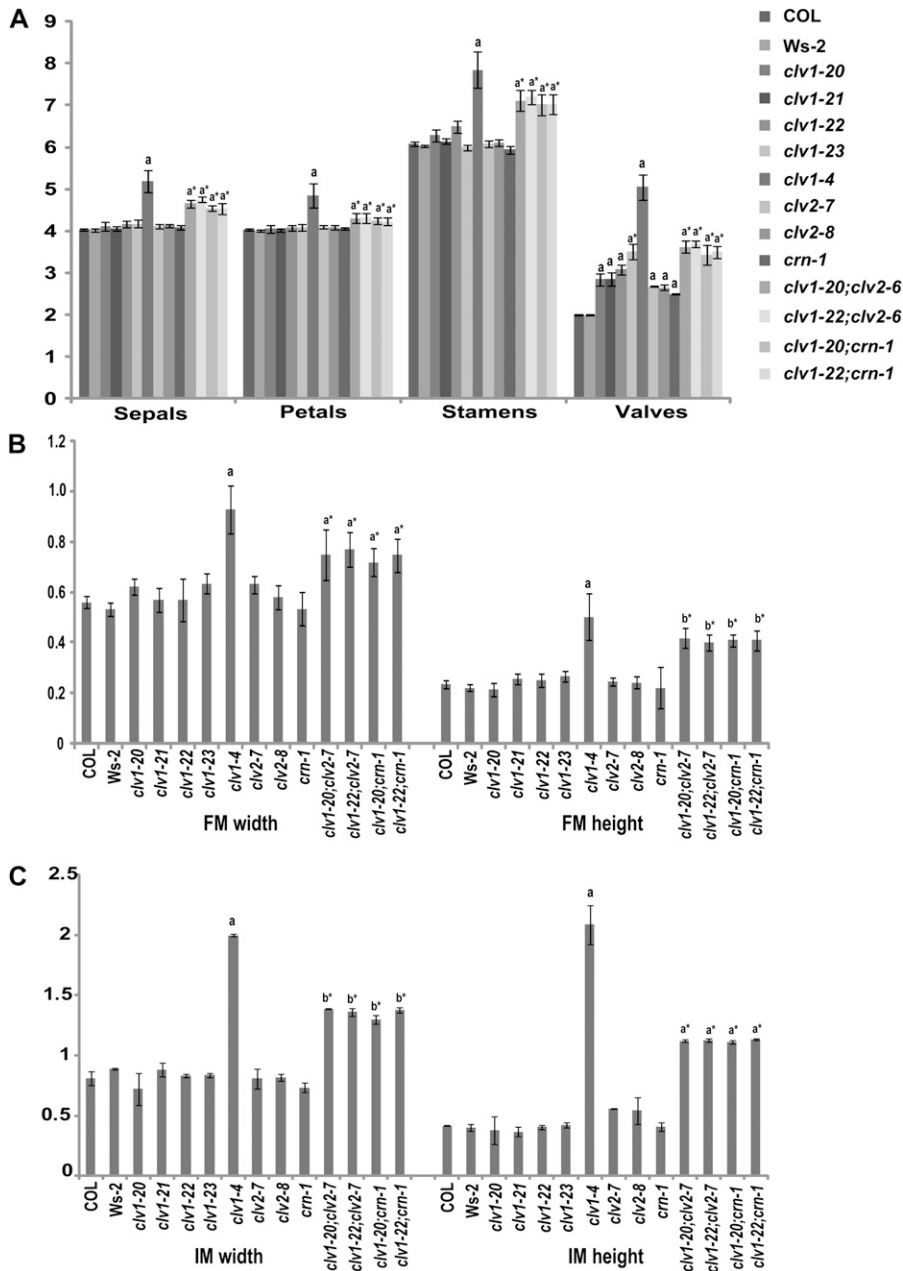
## Results

### Most *clv* and *crn* mutants produce gynoeceium-specific increases in fruit organ number

To identify genes that regulate fruit organ number, we performed a screen for mutants that produce wild-type numbers of sepals, petals, and stamens, but generated more than two valves. We identified three mutants: *clv1-23*, a novel missense mutation in the kinase domain of *CLV1*; *clv2-8*, a novel missense mutation leading to an early stop codon in the extracellular domain of *CLV2*; and the identical mutation as the *crn-1* mutant previously identified by Muller *et al.* (2008) (Figure 1B). To more completely characterize the phenotypes of loss-of-function mutations in these three genes, we also analyzed three T-DNA insertion alleles of *clv1*, the previously characterized *clv1-4* allele (McKelvie 1962; Clark *et al.* 1993; 1997), and two previously characterized *clv2* mutants (Figure 1B; Forstheofel *et al.* 1992; Kayes and Clark 1998). Our molecular analysis indicates that *clv1-20* and *clv1-21*, two insertions located in the 5'-UTR, result in decreased levels of *CLV1* mRNA; and *clv1-22*, an insertion in the kinase domain, is a transcriptional null (Figure 1B; Figure S1). Both *clv2* alleles are predicted to be nulls.

We next characterized the fruit and floral organ phenotypes of these mutants. We found that with the exception of *clv1-4*, all *clv1*, *clv2*, and *crn-1* mutants only produced extra fruit organs and did not generate extra sepals, petals, or stamens (Figure 2A). On the basis of their molecular nature and fruit organ phenotypes, we categorized *clv1-20*, *clv1-21*, *clv1-22*, *clv2-7*, *clv2-8*, and *crn-1* as “weak,” *clv1-23* and *clv2-2* as “intermediate,” and *clv1-4* as “strong.” Although our quantification of fruit organs is lower on average than previously reported for each class, our groupings for the *clv1* alleles are consistent with classifications of other *clv1* alleles (Clark *et al.* 1993, 1997; Leyser and Furner 1992; Medford *et al.* 1992; Pogany *et al.* 1998; Dievart *et al.* 2003). The lower averages we obtained are most likely due to our counting methods. We assign a 0.5 value to partial valves, a phenotype observed in a significant percentage of fruit from all alleles (see below; Table 2; Figure S3), rather than one, as in previous studies (Kayes and Clark 1998; DeYoung and Clark 2008).

Our finding that *clv1*, *clv2*, and *crn* mutants do not generate extra sepals, petals, and stamens is not consistent with the model that larger meristems generate more organs. To directly test whether our mutants produce larger meristems, we measured FMs and IMs from weak and intermediate mutants and compared them to the FMs and IMs of *clv1-4*, which is known to produce larger meristems (Clark *et al.* 1993; Clark *et al.* 1995; Clark *et al.* 1997). FMs and IMs from all weak and intermediate mutants were similar in dimension to wild-type meristems (Figure 2, B and C; Figure S2), with the exception of *clv2-2*, which we believe is due to the presence of a partial loss-of-function mutation in the ERECTA (ER) receptor kinase in the Landsberg *erecta* (*Ler*) ecotype (see below).



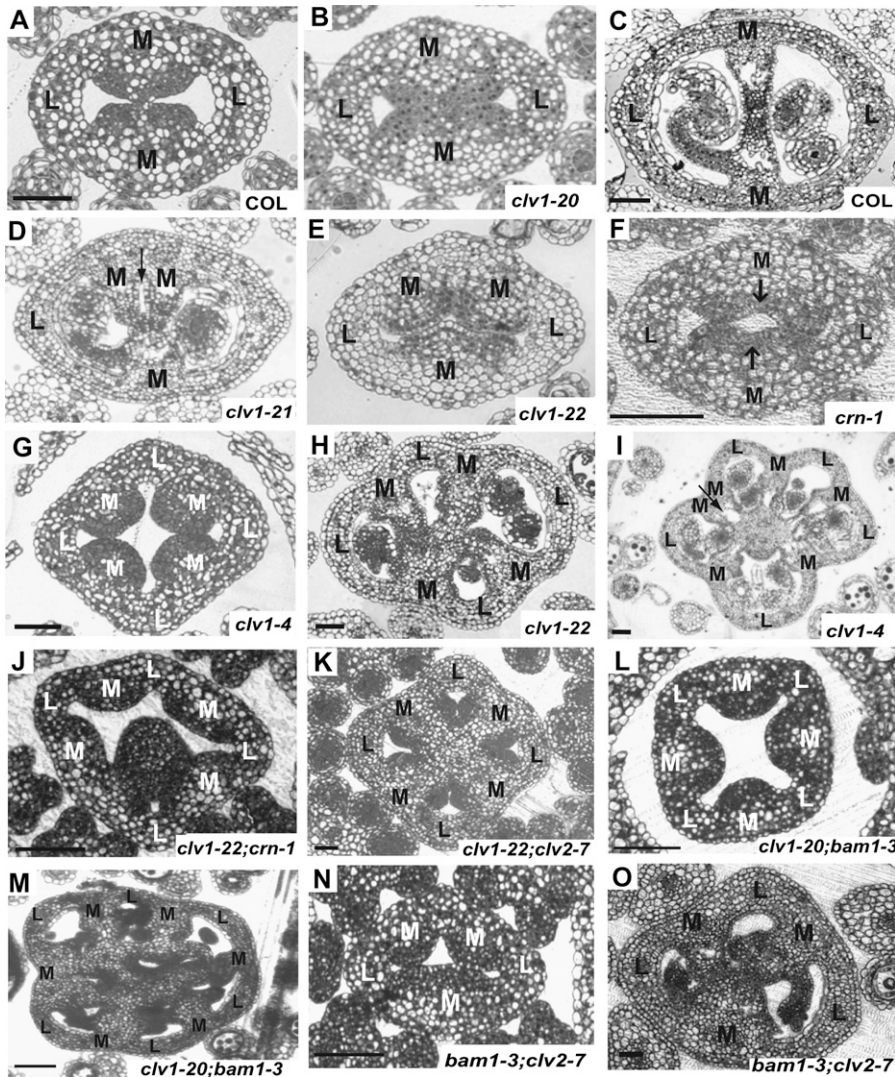
**Figure 2** Floral and meristem phenotypes in *clv1*, *clv2*, and *crn* single and double mutants. (A) Floral organ number in plants homozygous for *clv1*, *clv2*, and *crn* single and double mutants. Values for organ numbers represent the average of 30 flowers for >20 plants. (B) Floral meristem width and height in *clv1*, *clv2*, and *crn* single and double mutants. (C) Inflorescence meristem width and height in *clv1*, *clv2*, and *crn* single and double mutants.  $N < 5$  for each allele for both FM and IM measurements. Error bars represent the standard deviation above and below the mean. All alleles are in the Col background except for *clv1-4* which was introgressed into the Ws-2 background from the Ler background. *clv1-23*, *clv2-8*, and *crn-1* were initially identified in the Ws-2 accession, but were introgressed into the Col accession. a, two-tailed *t* test ( $P < 0.01$ ), indicating that values are significantly greater than wild type. b, two-tailed *t* test ( $P < 0.05$ ), indicating that values are significantly greater than wild type. \*, denotes values that are significantly higher than wild type, but significantly lower than *clv1-4*.

### *clv1*, *clv2*, and *crn* mutants generate new organs during gynoecium development

As our mutants did not produce larger meristems, we hypothesized that weak and intermediate mutants generate extra fruit organs during gynoecium development, after termination of the FM. Therefore, we generated sections from a series of 10 consecutive flower buds per plant, ranging from stages 7–14 of flower development (Smyth *et al.* 1990; Figure 1A). During stages 6–12 of gynoecium development, the medial regions maintain meristematic properties to allow for ovule formation (Bowman *et al.* 1999). Although the physical structures that will differentiate into valves and repla are present by stages 11–12, differentiation of the fruit organs occurs around stage 13,

making it unlikely that a new organ would be initiated after this stage (Ferrandiz *et al.* 1999; Roeder *et al.* 2003). Since we never observed an increase in fruit organ number between stages 14 and 17 (Table S2), this indicates that extra organs are initiated between stages 6 and 13.

At stages 7–9 when septa primordia initiate and fuse, most buds homozygous for the weak *clv1-20* and *clv1-21* alleles produced two primordia in a fashion similar to wild type, although the primordia appeared wider than wild-type controls (Figure 3, A and B). This phenotype is significant, as the FM has terminated by these stages. However 85 and 87% of *clv1-20* and *clv1-21* mutants, respectively, contain at least one extra fruit organ at maturity (Table S1). Therefore, the FM is most likely not the source of the extra fruit organs found in



**Figure 3** Gynoecium phenotypes in *clv1*, *clv2*, and *crn* single and double mutants. (A) Wild-type Columbia (Col) stages 7–9 ( $N = 25$ ). (B) Representative stage-7 to -9 *clv1-20* section. Totals of 28/28 *clv1-20* buds and 19/21 *clv1-21* buds displayed this phenotype (C) Col, stages 10–11. (D) *clv1-21*, stages 10–11. Totals of 5/28 *clv1-21* buds and 19/30 *clv1-20* buds displayed this phenotype. (E) Representative stage-7 to -9 *clv1-22* section. Totals of 19/29 *clv1-22* buds and 24/29 *clv1-23* buds displayed this phenotype. (F) Representative stage-7 to -9 *crn-1* section. A total of 12/20 *crn-1* buds displayed this phenotype. Totals of 14/21 *clv2-7* buds and 8/16 *clv2-8* buds also displayed this phenotype. (G) *clv1-4*, stages 7–9 with four, evenly spaced septa primordia. (H) *clv1-22*, stages 10–11. (I) *clv1-4*, stages 10–11. (J) Representative stage-7 to -9 *clv1-22*; *crn-1* section. Totals of 15/15 *clv1-22*; *crn-1* buds and 18/18 *clv1-20*; *crn-1* buds displayed this phenotype. Totals of 26/26 *clv1-20*; *clv2-7* and 22/22 *clv1-22*; *clv2-7* buds also displayed this phenotype. (K) Representative stage-10 to -11 *clv1-22*; *clv2-7* section. Totals of 14/14 *clv1-20*; *clv2-7* and 17/17 *clv1-22*; *clv2-7* buds displayed this phenotype. Totals of 12/12 *clv1-20*; *crn-1* and 10/10 *clv1-22*; *crn-1* buds also displayed this phenotype. (L) *clv1-20*; *bam1-3*, stages 7–9 ( $N = 24/24$ ). (M) *clv1-20*; *bam1-3*, stages 10–11 ( $N = 15/15$ ). (N) *bam1-3*; *clv2-7*, stages 7–9 ( $N = 15/15$ ). A total of 17/17 *bam1-3*; *crn-1* buds displayed this phenotype. (O) *bam1-3*; *clv2-7*, stages 10–11. A total of 9/9 *bam1-3*; *crn-1* buds displayed this phenotype ( $N = 12/12$ ). M, medial region; L, lateral region. Bars, 50  $\mu\text{m}$ . Bar in A is the same for B. Bar in C is the same for D. Arrow indicates splitting of the septum.

these mutants, as we would expect to see extra primordia by this stage. Starting at stage 10, we began to see the presence of extra septa and additional chambers within the gynoecium, in *clv1-20* and *clv1-21* mutants (Figure 3, C and D), and by stage 12, in almost all buds. We also found extra cells in the medial regions, similar to earlier stages.

In *clv1-22*, *clv1-23*, *clv2-7*, *clv2-8*, and *crn-1* mutants, at stages 7–9, approximately half of the buds resembled *clv1-20* and *clv1-21* mutants and displayed wild-type numbers of primordia. However, in the other half, we observed either (1) multiple primordia emerging from separate medial regions that arise adjacent to one another without the presence of an extra lateral region (Figure 3E) or (2) one large primordium emerging from a single medial region that was split into two septa at the end of the primordia (Figure 3F). In the former case, the adjacent primordia were located directly across from either a single primordium (three septa) or two adjacent primordia (four septa). Although the *clv1-22*, *clv2-7*, *clv2-8*, and *crn-1* mutants ultimately displayed only weak increases in fruit organ number, similar to *clv1-20* and *clv1-21* mutants, the early development phenotypes in gynoecia

were more similar to intermediate *clv1-23* mutants. Therefore, we will refer to *clv1-20* and *clv1-21* as weak and *clv1-22*, *clv1-23*, *clv2-7*, *clv2-8*, and *crn-1* as developmentally intermediate on the basis of this gynoecium phenotype.

We next compared the extra primordia phenotype observed in the developmentally intermediate mutants to stages 7–9 *clv1-4* mutants. In *clv1-4*, we find initiation of multiple septa primordia; however, the primordia were evenly spaced, with the medial regions separated by a full lateral region and never adjacent to one another (Figure 3G). This phenotype is consistent with a model in which additional septa, formed at early stages in *clv1-4* mutants, are derived from extra carpels initiated in the FM.

We next asked whether *clv1-4* mutants also produce extra organs during gynoecium development. We observed wide primordia with extra cells and medial regions arising adjacent to one another at later stages (Figure 3I), similar to the other *clv1*, *clv2*, and *crn* mutants. These results indicate that *clv1-4* mutants generate extra organs both from enlarged FMs and during gynoecium development; loss of both mechanisms contribute to the strong phenotype. As the organs

**Table 1 Average fruit organ number at stages 7-9 vs. stage 17**

Allele	Stages 7-9	Stage 17
COL <sup>a</sup>	2 ± 0	2.01 ± 0.0147
<i>clv1-20</i> <sup>a</sup>	2 ± 0	2.85 ± 0.149
<i>clv1-21</i> <sup>a</sup>	2.15 ± 0.366	2.86 ± 0.149
<i>clv1-22</i> <sup>b</sup>	2.86 ± 0.838	3.084 ± 0.12
<i>clv1-23</i> <sup>b</sup>	3.22 ± 0.676	3.5 ± 0.183
<i>clv1-4</i> <sup>a</sup>	4.19 ± 0.55	5.05 ± 0.306
<i>clv2-7</i> <sup>b</sup>	2.32 ± 0.466	2.68 ± 0.0131
<i>clv2-8</i> <sup>b</sup>	2.5 ± 0.474	2.66 ± 0.0693
<i>crn-1</i> <sup>b</sup>	2.31 ± 0.412	2.5 ± 0.0165
<i>clv1-20; clv2-7</i> <sup>a</sup>	3.38 ± 0.471	3.63 ± 0.132
<i>clv1-22; clv2-7</i> <sup>b</sup>	3.23 ± 0.6201	3.69 ± 0.0802
<i>clv1-20; crn-1</i> <sup>a</sup>	2.79 ± 0.838	3.44 ± 0.216
<i>clv1-22; crn-1</i> <sup>a</sup>	3.1 ± 0.541	3.47 ± 0.241

Valve primordia (stages 7-9) and valves (stage 17) were counted for all five alleles. ±, standard deviation.

<sup>a</sup>  $P < 0.01$ .

<sup>b</sup>  $P < 0.05$ , two-sample *t* test for unequal variance.

formed in the gynoecium have a different ontogeny from those initiated in the FM, we will refer to organs formed from the FM as carpels and organs formed during gynoecium development as ectopic valves.

We next compared septa primordia number in young gynoecia (stages 7-9) and valve number in mature fruit and found that for all mutants tested, significantly more valves were present in mature fruit vs. primordia in young gynoecia (Table 1). This was especially true for *clv1-4* mutants, which produce an average of four and never more than six carpels, yet mature fruit contained an average of >5 valves, while examples of fruit containing 7-10 valves were common (Table 1). We never observed extra septa in young wild-type gynoecia ( $N = 25$ ; Table 1); however, we did occasionally see extra valves in mature fruit ( $N = 600$ ; Table 1).

In *clv1*, *clv2*, and *crn* mutants, we frequently observe a phenotype in mature fruit where the apical region contains more valves than the base (Figure S3A). These additional valves vary from 10 to 90% of total valve length and were found in a significant proportion (14-31%) of fruit in all mutants analyzed (Table 2). Although previous studies of *clv2* report a phenotype described as “valveless” in which part of the valve is replaced by replum tissue (Kayes and Clark 1998; DeYoung and Clark 2008; Figure S3, C and C’), the partial valve phenotype we identified did not match this description. Serial sectioning of gynoecia at various stages of development revealed that the additional organs seen in the apical region appear to form when an enlarged septa splits into two (Figure S3, D-F). Also, we never saw the valveless phenotype in our sections of *clv2* mutants, indicating that the partial valve phenotype is likely separate from the valveless phenotype. Partial valves could be identified in the weak mutants starting at stage 10, and as early as stage 8 in developmentally intermediate mutants. This phenotype cannot be explained by the presence of extra carpels in the FM, but rather suggests that ectopic valves can be initiated anywhere along the medial region during stages 7-13 of gynoecium development.

**Table 2 Partial valves in *clv1*, *clv2*, and *crn* mutants**

Allele	No. partial valves	%
COL	8/600	1.33
Ler	12/600	2.0
<i>clv1-20</i>	131/600	21.8
<i>clv1-21</i>	119/600	19.8
<i>clv1-22</i>	84/600	14.0
<i>clv1-23</i>	86/600	14.3
<i>clv1-4</i>	144/600	24.0
<i>clv2-2</i>	186/600	31.0
<i>clv2-7</i>	95/600	15.8
<i>clv2-8</i>	129/600	21.5
<i>crn-1</i>	77/600	12.8

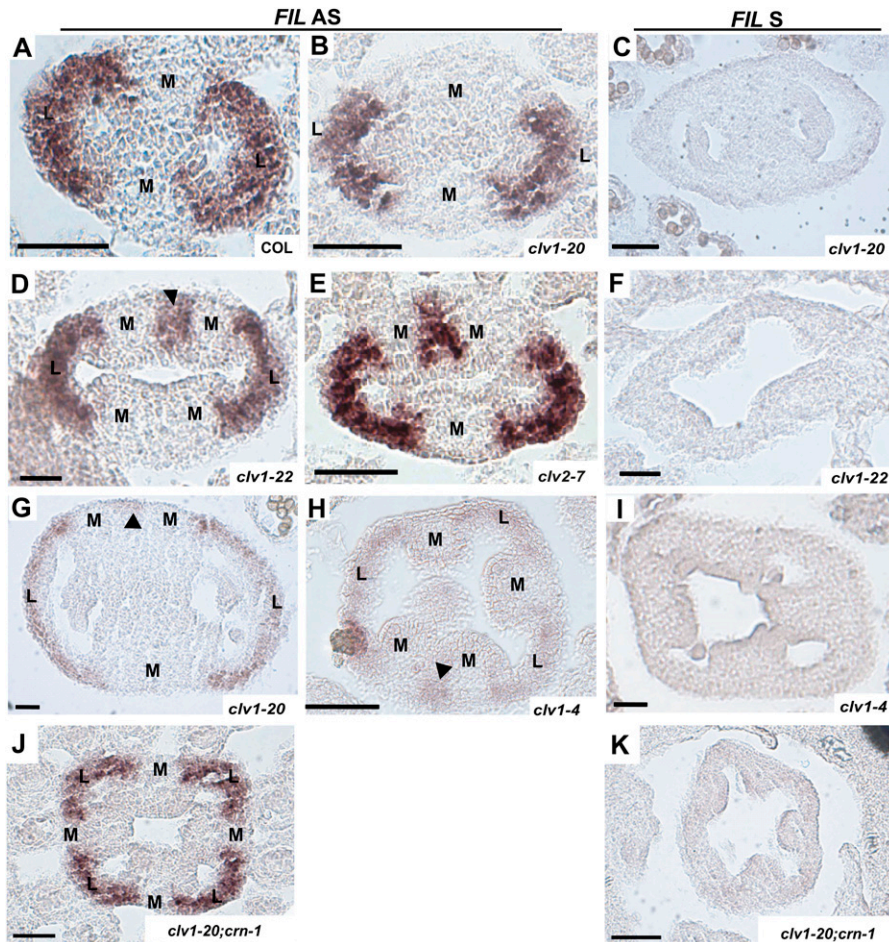
Percentage of total fruit containing at least one partial valve out of 600 stage-17 fruit examined for each allele.

### Ectopic organ specification occurs during gynoecium development in *clv1*, -2, and *crn* mutants

We next tested whether ectopic expression of fruit organ specification genes accompanies the initiation of ectopic valves in these mutants. We performed RNA *in situ* hybridization with probes for *FILAMENTOUS FLOWER (FIL)*, a component of the fruit specification network and an early marker for lateral regions that eventually form valves (Figure 4A; Siegfried *et al.* 1999; Dinneny *et al.* 2005). In stages 7-9, wild type and weak mutants where two primordia are initiated, *FIL* is expressed in broad arches that correspond to the two lateral regions (Figure 4, A and B). In most stage-7 to -9-developmentally intermediate mutants, we saw *FIL* expressed in the two lateral regions. However, we also detected smaller patches of *FIL* expression in areas where two primordia abut one another or in the center of medial regions where the primordium has split at the internal end (Figure 4, D and E). We saw similar ectopic *FIL* expression in the weak mutants starting at stage 10 (Figure 4G). In *clv1-4* mutants, we consistently found *FIL* expressed in broad arches in multiple lateral regions, indicative of extra carpels; however, we also found patches of *FIL* in adjacent medial regions (Figure 4H), similar to stage-7 to -9-developmentally intermediate and stage-10 to -12 weak mutants. These results further support the hypothesis that ectopic valves are initiated during gynoecium development in *clv1-4* mutants.

### CLV1, CLV2, and CRN are expressed in developing fruit

To explain the enlarged medial regions in *clv1*, *clv2*, and *crn* mutants (Figure S4, B and D-H), we propose that CLV pathway receptors act to repress cell proliferation in medial regions during gynoecium development. Previous studies showed *CLV1* and *CLV2* transcripts in overlapping domains in the center of shoot meristems (Clark *et al.* 1993; Kayes and Clark 1998) and *CLV1* expression in the vasculature (An *et al.* 2004; Zhao *et al.* 2005). *CRN* is expressed throughout shoot meristems, in young flower and carpel primordia, and in floral and pedicel vasculature (Muller *et al.* 2008). However, gynoecium expression of *CLV1*, *CLV2*, or *CRN* has not been shown. We generated a reporter gene containing the



**Figure 4** Expression of *FIL* in *clv1*, *clv2*, and *crn* single and double mutants (A, B, D, E, G, H, and J) Antisense. (C, F, I, and K) Sense. (A) Col stage 8. (B) *clv1-20* stages 8–9. Totals of 22/22 *clv1-20* and 12/12 *clv1-21* buds displayed this phenotype. (C) Col stage 9. (D) Section through the top of a *clv1-22* stage-8 to -9 bud. A total of 8/23 buds displayed extra patches of *FIL* in the medial regions, while 13/23 buds had no ectopic expression. A total of 5/23 buds demonstrated differential expression of *FIL* between the apical and basal regions. A total of 11/19 *crn-1* buds showed ectopic expression of *FIL*, and 8/17 *clv1-23* buds showed ectopic *FIL* expression, 4 with *FIL* expression in apical and basal regions. (E) *clv2-7* stage 8 with ectopic *FIL* expression. A total of 3/15 buds had no ectopic *FIL* expression, even when extra septa primordia were visible. (F) *clv1-22* stages 7–9. (G) *clv1-20* stages 10–11. (H) *clv1-4* stage 9. A total of 27/27 buds had *FIL* expression in extra lateral regions and 2 also displayed extra patches of *FIL*. (I) *clv1-4* stage 9. (J) *clv1-20*; *crn-1* stages 8–9. A total of 3/13 *clv1-20*; *crn-1* and 3/10 *clv1-22*; *crn-1* buds displayed no ectopic regions of *FIL* expression. All other buds analyzed contained ectopic regions of *FIL*. (K) *clv1-20*; *crn-1* stages 8–9. M, medial region; L, lateral region. Arrowheads indicate ectopic regions of *FIL* expression. Bars, 50  $\mu$ m.

native *CLV1* promoter upstream of B-galacturonidase (GUS), which was expressed in shoot meristems as previously shown with *in situ* hybridization (Clark *et al.* 1993). In addition, we found expression in medial regions of gynoecia starting at stage 10, becoming stronger at stages 13–14 (Figure S4, A and B).

To further examine gynoecium-specific expression of *CLV1*, *CLV2*, and *CRN*, we performed RNA *in situ* hybridization. We detected weak expression for all three genes in the center of the medial regions of the gynoecia starting at stages 8–9 (Figure S4, C, G, and K) that included the vasculature of the medial regions, but was not limited to this area. At stages 10–12, these genes were specifically expressed in the medial regions and in the vasculature of the lateral regions, as well as in the transmitting tract where the septa fuse (Figure S4, D, H, and L).

#### ***STM* is a likely target of the CLV pathway receptors in gynoecia**

In shoot meristems, *CLV1*, *CLV2*, and *CRN* function to maintain stem cell populations and repress proliferation (Clark *et al.* 1993, 1997; Schoof *et al.* 2000). The proliferation defects in the medial regions of *clv1*, *clv2*, and *crn* mutants implicate these receptors in maintenance of cell populations with higher plasticity in medial regions of gynoecia (Bowman

*et al.* 1999). In shoot meristems, these receptors act on *WUS*; however, *WUS* is not expressed in developing gynoecia (Goss-Hardt *et al.* 2002). *SHOOTMERISTEMLESS* (*STM*), also involved in meristem maintenance, is expressed in meristems as well as in young gynoecia (Endrizzi *et al.* 1996; Long *et al.* 1996). Furthermore, there is evidence for a genetic interaction between the *CLV1* and *STM* orthologs *TASSEL DWARF1* and *KNOTTED1*, respectively, in maize reproductive meristems (Lunde and Hake 2009).

To test whether *CLV1*, *CLV2*, and *CRN* regulate *STM* in gynoecia, we examined *STM* expression in the *clv1*, *clv2*, and *crn* mutants at different stages of development with *in situ* hybridization. In wild type, *STM* is weakly expressed in medial regions at stages 7–9 (Figure 5A). In all *clv1*, *clv2*, and *crn* mutants, *STM* was expressed in medial regions, but in an expanded number of cells compared to wild type (Figure 5, B–F). In *clv1-4* mutants, we also found strong expression in the center of fruit that corresponds to the fifth whorl (Clark *et al.* 1993; Schoof *et al.* 2000; Figure 5F). At stage 10 and later, *STM* expression is restricted to the center of the medial regions and is never observed in the septum in wild type (Figure 5G). However, in *clv1*, *clv2*, and *crn* mutants, *STM* is broadly expressed throughout the medial regions and in the septum where it is never present in wild type (Figure 5, I–N). This expansion of *STM* expression in the medial region/



septa is very reminiscent of the expanded *WUS* expression domain seen in shoot meristems of strong *clv1* mutants (Schoof *et al.* 2000).

The misregulation of *STM* in *clv1*, *clv2*, and *crn* mutants suggests that *STM* acts downstream of the CLV pathway in gynoecia. We next tested for a genetic interaction between *clv1* and *stm* mutants using the weak *clv1-20* and null *clv1-22* alleles in combination with the weak *stm-2* mutant (Clark *et al.* 1996). For most *clv1-20; stm-2* and *clv1-22; stm-2* mutants, plants displayed phenotypes similar to *stm-2* single mutants where plants fail to maintain viable shoot, inflorescence, or floral meristems, producing bushy plants (Figure 6, A and B). Occasionally, a meristem was maintained long enough to produce a single inflorescence (Figure 6B). Most buds on the inflorescence did not produce complete sets of organs and contained sepaloid and petaloid structures. However, on occasion, a mature fruit was produced that was shorter than wild type, but always generated two valves (Figure 6C). We sectioned inflorescences from *clv1-20; stm-2* and *clv1-22; stm-2* mutants and found that in most cases, young buds were devoid of any identifiable floral organs, but when fruit were initiated (*clv1-20; stm-2*  $N = 22$ ; *clv1-22; stm-2*  $N = 26$ ), the number of carpels and valves were similar to wild type (Figure 6D). The observation that formation of ectopic fruit organs is strongly suppressed in *clv1; stm-2* double mutants containing the weak *stm-2* mutation further supports the hypothesis that *STM* is the downstream target of *CLV1*.

#### **Mutations in *ERECTA* enhance meristem defects in CLV pathway mutants**

Previous studies show that *clv* and *crn* mutants produce enlarged meristems and significant increases in valve number (Clark *et al.* 1993, 1997; Kayes and Clark 1998; Muller *et al.* 2008). However, in our studies, most *clv1*, *clv2*, and *crn* mutants have only modest increases in valve organ number and produce meristems that are similar in size to the wild type. One possible explanation for these differences could be ecotype-specific effects, in particular the presence of the *erecta* mutation in the *Ler* accession. Most previous studies analyzed mutants generated in or introgressed into *Ler*; however, in our study, all alleles are in the *Col* accession or were introgressed into *Col* from the *Ws-2* accession, with two exceptions: *clv1-4*, which was introgressed from the *Ler* accession into *Ws-2*, and *clv2-2*, in the *Ler* accession.

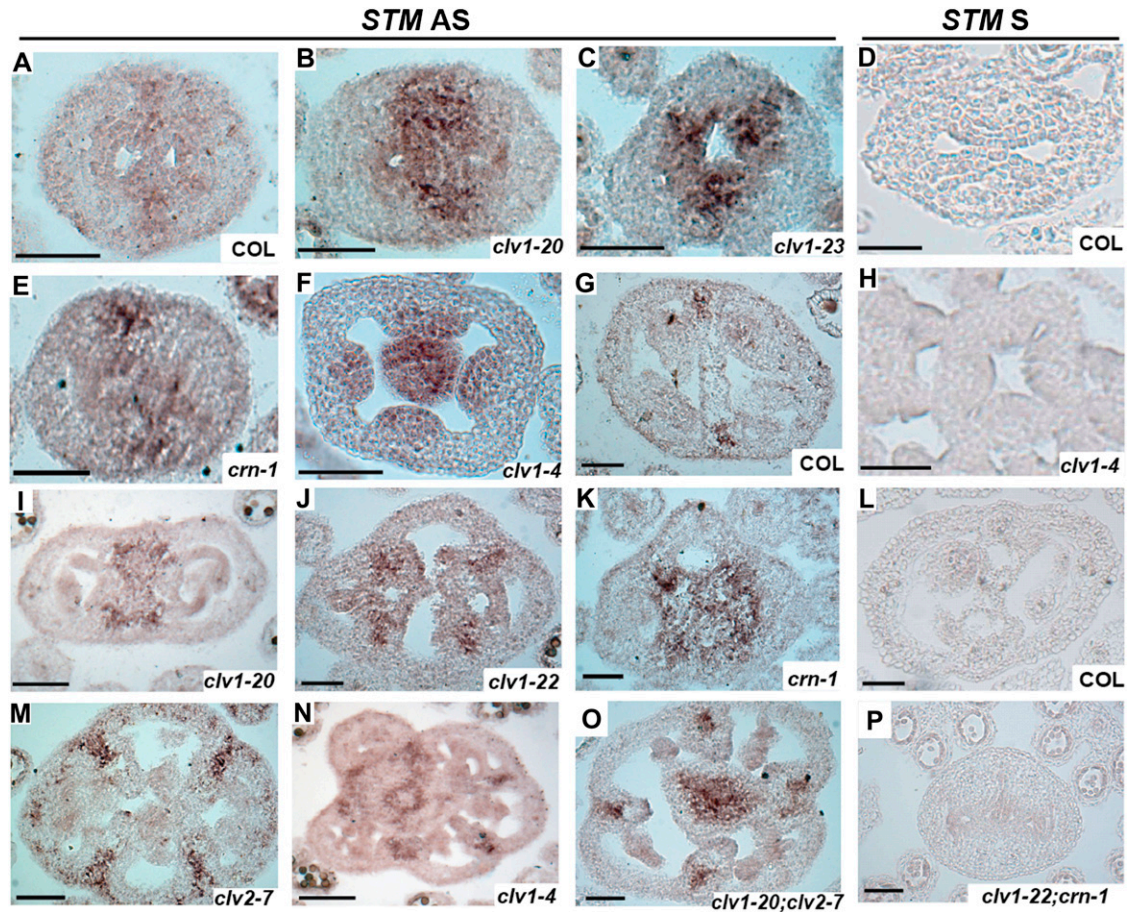
Comparison of the *clv2-2* and *clv2-7* alleles revealed significant differences in valve number (3.23 vs. 2.68) (Figure 7A). As both alleles are predicted to be null mutants (Kayes and Clark 1998; Wang *et al.* 2008), the differences in their molecular nature (a single base-pair deletion vs. a coding region insertion) should not contribute to the differences seen in the fruit phenotype. We analyzed IMs and FMs from *clv2-2* mutants and found that they produced IMs similar in width to *Ler*; however, they generated FMs that were taller than *Ler*, consistent with previous reports (Figure 7, B and C; Kayes and Clark 1998). As *clv2-2* was the only *clv2* allele to

have a significant increase in meristem size (Figure 7, B and C;  $P < 0.01$ ,  $t$  test), we propose that interactions between *clv2* and mutations in *Ler* result in the larger meristems seen in previous studies (Clark *et al.* 1993, 1997; Kayes and Clark 1998; Muller *et al.* 2008).

The *ERECTA* (ER) RLK is known to affect the shape of shoot meristems, and the *Ler* accession contains the *er-1* partial loss-of-function allele (Torii *et al.* 1996; Yokoyama *et al.* 1998). To test whether mutations in *ER* are responsible for the stronger phenotype in *clv* and *crn* mutants, we generated double mutants between *crn-1* and the *er-3* T-DNA insertion in the *Col* accession. The original characterization of *crn-1* (isolated in the *Ler* accession) described significant increases in both meristem size and valve number (Muller *et al.* 2008), while analysis of the *crn-1* mutant identified in this study (isolated in *Ws-2* and introgressed into *Col*), which contains the identical base-pair change, revealed meristems of wild-type dimensions and only a modest increase in valve number (Figure 2). We chose to focus on *crn* for this analysis because the mutations are identical and differ only in their genetic background.

*er-3* single mutants generate extra valves, similar to *crn-1* mutants (Figure 7A). In *crn-1; er-3* double mutants, valve number was additive compared to our *crn-1* and *er-3* single mutants (Figure 7A), although it was lower than the values obtained for the *Ler crn-1* allele (Muller *et al.* 2008). This difference is most likely due to our quantification methods (see above). We next compared FMs and IMs from *Ler*, *er-3*, and *crn-1; er-3* mutants. We found that FM width and height in *er-3* mutants were slightly, but significantly increased compared to *Col* and *crn-1* mutants (Figure 7B;  $t$  test,  $P < 0.05$ ). Although there is no significant difference in FM height between *Col* and *Ler*, there was also no significant difference in FM height between *Ler* and *er-3* mutants (Figure 7B;  $t$  test). In IMs, there was no significant difference in width between *er-3* mutants and *Col*, *Ler*, or *crn-1* mutants; however, there was a significant increase in height between *er-3* and *Col* and between *Ler* and *crn-1* (Figure 7C;  $t$  test,  $P < 0.01$ ). In *crn-1; er-3* double mutants, FM width and height were significantly greater than *Col*, *Ler*, and single mutants (Figure 7B;  $t$  test,  $P < 0.01$ ). While *crn-1; er-3* double mutants showed no differences in IM width (Figure 7C;  $t$  test,  $P < 0.05$ ), IM height was significantly increased compared to *Col*, *Ler*, and single mutants (Figure 7C;  $t$  test,  $P < 0.01$ ).

Sectioning of stages 7–9 gynoecia revealed that *crn-1; er-3* mutants generated some gynoecia with septa primordia arising adjacent to one another, as seen in *crn-1* single mutants, while other gynoecia produced evenly spaced septa primordia similar to *clv1-4* mutants (Figure S5). We also observed the formation of fifth whorls in the *crn-1; er-3* double mutants, which was never seen in our *crn-1* single mutants (Figure S5). These results suggest genetic interactions between mutations in *clv1*, *clv2*, or *crn*; and the *er* mutations, including the *er-1* mutation in *Ler*, cause the formation of larger FMs, which in turn leads to the strong



**Figure 5** Expression of *STM* in *clv1*, *clv2*, and *crn* single and double mutants (A–C, E–G, I–K, M–O) Antisense. (D, H, L, and P) Sense. (A) Col stages 8–9 ( $N = 19$ ). (B) *clv1-20* stages 8–9 ( $N = 23$ ). Similar results were observed for *clv1-21* ( $N = 16$ ). (C) *clv1-23* stages 8–9 ( $N = 17$ ). Similar results were observed for *clv1-22* ( $N = 15$ ). (D) Col stages 8–9 ( $N = 10$ ). (E) *crn-1* stages 8–9 ( $N = 12$ ). A total of 14/14 *clv2-7* buds displayed the same phenotype. (F) *clv1-4* stages 8–9 ( $N = 15$ ). (G) Col stages 11–12 ( $N = 15$ ). (H) *clv1-4* stages 8–9 ( $N = 7$ ). (I) *clv1-20* stages 10–11 ( $N = 18$ ). Similar results were observed for *clv1-21* ( $N = 15$ ). (J) *clv1-22* stages 10–11 ( $N = 19$ ). Similar results were observed for *clv1-23* ( $N = 13$ ). (K) *crn-1* stages 11–12 ( $N = 13$ ). (L) Col stages 10–11 ( $N = 8$ ). (M) *clv2-7* stages 10–11 ( $N = 12$ ). (N) *clv1-4* stages 10–11 ( $N = 9$ ). (O) *clv1-20; clv2-7* stages 10–11. Totals of 11/11 *clv1-20; clv2-7* and 10/10 *clv1-22; clv2-7* buds displayed this phenotype. Totals of 12/12 *clv1-20; crn-1* and 14/14 *clv1-22; crn-1* buds also displayed this phenotype. (P) *clv1-22; crn-1*. A total of 10/10 buds displayed this phenotype. Bars, 50  $\mu\text{m}$ .

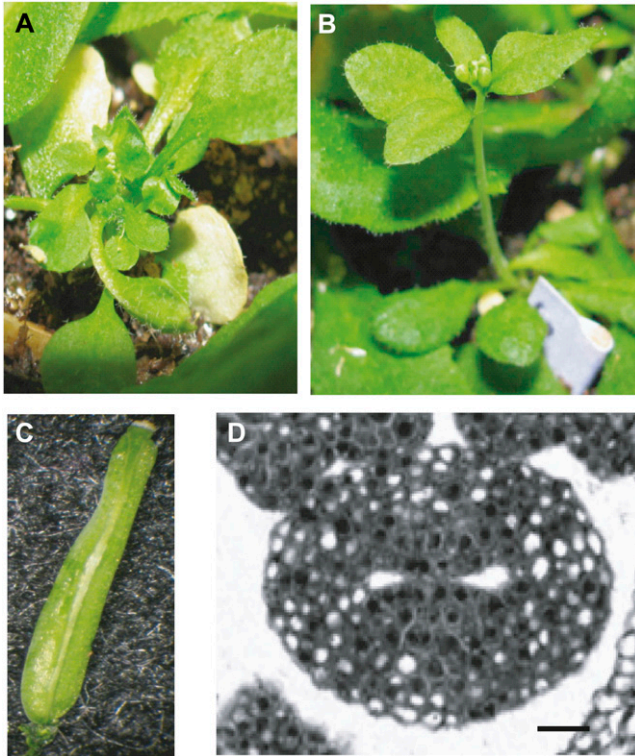
meristem and fruit organ phenotypes typically associated with *CLV* pathway receptor mutants.

#### ***CLV1*, *CLV2*, and *CRN* function together in meristems and gynoecia to regulate fruit organ number**

To elucidate the relationships among the *CLV1*, *CLV2*, and *CRN* receptors in both meristems and gynoecia, we generated *clv1* and either *clv2* or *crn* double mutants. Previous analyses looking at the interactions between *clv1* and either *clv2* or *crn* were frequently performed with dominant-negative *clv1* mutants that display significantly stronger meristem and fruit organ phenotypes compared to *clv2* or *crn* single mutants (Kayes and Clark 1998; Muller *et al.* 2008). Instead, we utilized the *clv1-20* hypomorphic allele and the *clv1-22* null allele that display similar phenotypes as *clv2* and *crn* mutants (Figures 1B and 2). In *clv1-20; clv2-7*, *clv1-22; clv2-7*, *clv1-20; crn-1*, and *clv1-22; crn-1* double mutants we observed significantly more sepals, petals, and

stamens than in wild type or single mutants (Figure 2A; *t* test,  $P < 0.01$ ). Furthermore, we saw an additive increase in valve number in double mutants compared to single mutants (Figure 2A).

We next tested whether the additive valve number phenotype in *clv1; clv2* and *clv1; crn* mutants was due to extra carpel initiation or an increase in ectopic valve formation. We sectioned IMs and FMs from *clv1; clv2* and *clv1; crn* double mutants and found significantly larger meristems compared to wild type (Figure 2, B and C), suggesting that at least some extra valves form from extra carpels. We next compared gynoecium development in *clv1; clv2* and *clv1; crn* double mutants to single mutants. At stages 7–9, all double mutants produced extra septa primordia (Figure 3J); however, in contrast to the single *clv1-22*, *crn-1*, and *clv2-7* mutants, the extra primordia were evenly spaced, with lateral regions separating each medial region (Figure 3, E, F, and J). We also observed the presence of fifth whorls in the



**Figure 6** Mutant phenotypes for *stm-2; clv1* double mutants. (A) Three-week-old *stm-2* mutant plant. (B) Three-week-old *stm-2; clv1-20* mutant plant. Totals of 10/20 *stm-2; clv1-20* and 9/20 *stm-2; clv1-22* plants produce a visible stem as in B. All other *stm-2; clv1* plants resembled the image in A. (C) *stm-2; clv1-22* stage 17 silique with two valves. Totals of 26/52 *stm-2; clv1-20* and 22/47 *stm-2; clv1-22* plants generated a mature fruit, all of which displayed two valves. Only one fruit per inflorescence was ever observed. (D) A cross-section of a stage-6 to -7 *stm-2; clv1-20* fruit. Out of 16 buds sectioned, only 1 bud produced any structure recognizable as a fruit. Bar, 50  $\mu$ m.

double mutants (Figure 3J), similar to *clv1-4* mutants (Clark *et al.* 1993, 1995).

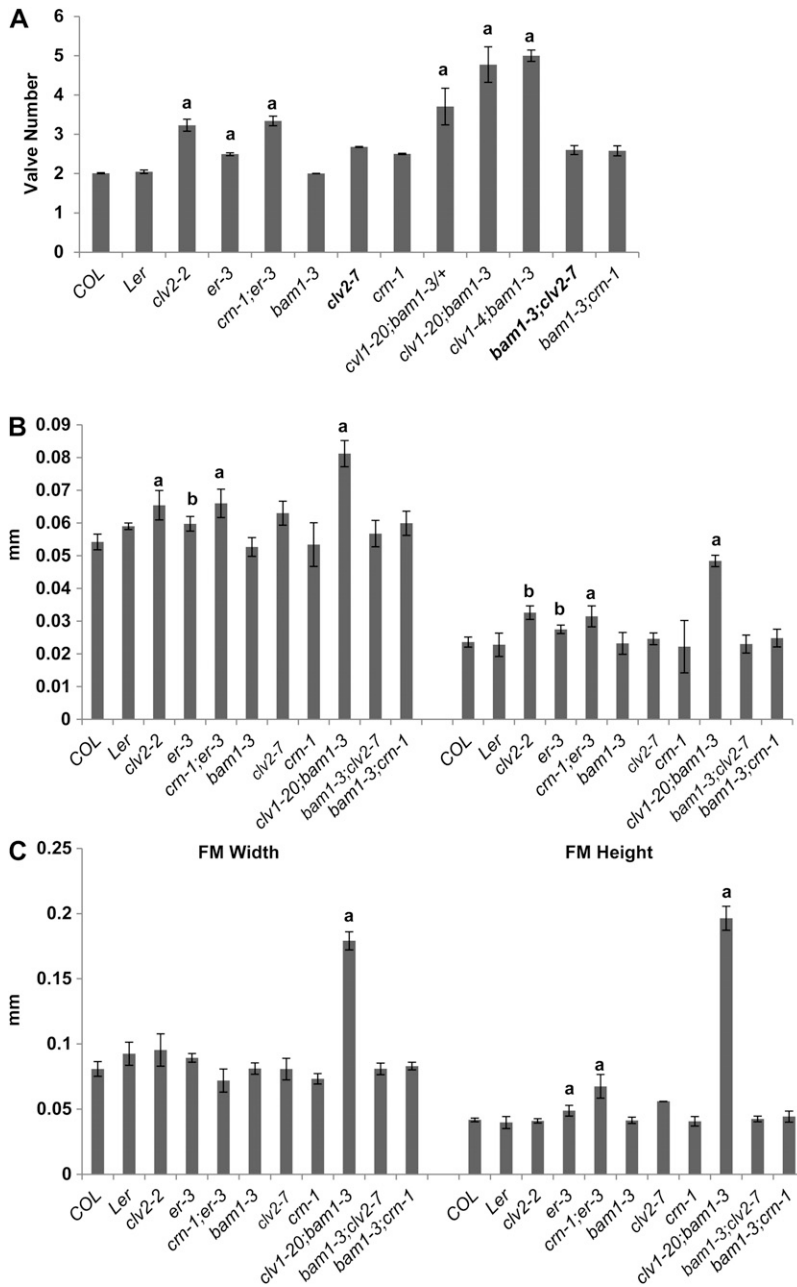
Although the primordia were evenly spaced in *clv1-20; crn-1, clv1-22; crn-1, clv1-20; clv2-7, and clv1-22; clv2-7* doubles, we also observed septa primordia arising adjacent to one another (Figure 3J). This is similar to *clv1-4* mutants, which generate both extra carpels and ectopic valves. We measured average organ number at stages 6–9 of gynoecium development and compared this value to valve number at stage 17. There were significantly more organs at stage 17 compared to earlier stages, suggesting that ectopic valves form in *clv1; clv2* and *clv1; crn* mutants (Table 1). To confirm this phenotype, we examined *FIL* expression in double mutants and observed expression in broad arches in clearly defined lateral regions (Figure 4J); however, we also occasionally saw small patches of *FIL* expression in medial regions, indicating that both mechanisms for generating fruit organs are aberrant in *clv1; clv2* and *clv1; crn* mutants. As the frequency of ectopic valve initiation per bud was the same between single and double mutants, we propose that the increase in valve number in double mutants is mainly due to the initiation of extra carpels.

### The *CLV1/BAM1* receptors, and not *CLV2/CRN*, are the primary regulators of meristem size

Missense mutations in the extracellular domain of *CLV1*, such as *clv1-4*, generate the strongest phenotypes of any mutation in *CLV1* (Dievart *et al.* 2003). Although *clv1-20; crn-1, clv1-22; crn-1, clv1-20; clv2-7, and clv1-22; clv2-7* mutants displayed additive and synergistic increases in fruit and floral organ number compared to single mutants, the defects were not as severe as the *clv1-4* phenotype (Figure 2B; *t* test,  $P < 0.05$ ; Clark *et al.* 1993, 1995), suggesting that related receptors may be compensating for the loss of *CLV1*, *CLV2*, or *CRN* function.

*CLV1* has three close relatives named *BAM1*, -2, and -3. Single *bam* mutants do not display a fruit organ number phenotype, although triple *bam1; bam2; bam3* mutants have reduced meristem size (DeYoung *et al.* 2006). Genetic interactions between *clv1, clv2, and bam* revealed that *clv1; bam1* and *clv1; bam2* double mutants result in synergistic meristem and valve defects compared to weak, intermediate, and strong *clv1* mutants, while a slight decrease in valve number was observed in *clv2; bam1* mutants (DeYoung and Clark 2008). It was proposed that *BAM1* functions to (1) restrict stem cell populations through interactions with *CLV1* and (2) promote division of stem cell populations through interactions with other receptors, such as *CLV2* (DeYoung and Clark 2008). However, these experiments, which used valve number as a measure of meristem function, were performed prior to the knowledge that ectopic valves form during gynoecium development.

To better understand the relationship between *BAM1* and the *CLV* pathway receptors, we generated double mutants between *bam1* and *clv1, clv2, or crn* mutants. Removal of a single copy of *bam1-3* in a *clv1-20* background significantly increased valve number to the levels observed in *clv1; crn* and *clv1; clv2* double mutants (Figure 7A). Double mutants between *bam1-3* and *clv1-20* mutants produced a strongly synergistic extra valve defect, similar to *clv1-4* mutants, and significantly stronger than *clv1; crn-1* or *clv1; clv2-7* mutant phenotypes (Figure 7A). Analysis of IMs and FM from the *clv1-20; bam1-3* mutants revealed enlarged meristems compared to wild type, *clv1-20*, and *bam1* single mutants (Figure 7, B and C), as well as *clv1; clv2* and *clv1; crn* double mutants (Figure 2, B and C). Analysis of gynoecium development in *clv1-20; bam1-3* mutants revealed that at both early (7–9) and late (10–12) stages, development in *clv1-20; bam1-3* mutants was identical to *clv1-4* mutants (Figure 3, L and M). As the phenotypes in *clv1-20; bam1-3* mutants mimic the phenotypes of *clv1-4* single mutants, we propose that the *clv1-4* dominant-negative mutation causes inhibitory interactions with *bam1* protein. Although previous studies reported a synergistic phenotype in *clv1-4; bam1-3* mutants compared to *clv1-4* single mutants (DeYoung and Clark 2008), we suspect that the stronger phenotype is due to use of the *Ler* accession.



**Figure 7** Genetic interactions between *bam1* and *er* and CLV pathway mutants. (A) Valve number in plants homozygous for *clv1*, *clv2*, *crn*, *bam1-3*, and *er-3* single and double mutants. Values for valve number represent the average of 30 flowers for >20 plants. (B) Floral meristem width and height in *clv1*, *clv2*, *crn*, *bam1-3*, and *er-3* single and double mutants. (C) Inflorescence meristem width and height in *clv1*, *clv2*, *crn*, *bam1-3*, and *er-3* single and double mutants.  $N > 5$  for each mutant for both IM and FM measurements. a, two-tailed  $t$  test ( $P < 0.01$ ). b, two-tailed  $t$  test ( $P < 0.05$ ). Error bars represent the standard deviation above and below the mean. a, two-tailed  $t$  test ( $P < 0.01$ ). b, two-tailed  $t$  test ( $P < 0.05$ ), indicating that values are significantly greater than wild type. Significance of the values for the double mutants was tested against each single mutant.

The strong phenotypes seen in *clv1*; *bam1* mutants can be attributed to either (1) loss of CLV1/ BAM1 signaling, the primary regulators of meristem size or (2) loss of both CLV1 and CLV2/CRN/BAM1 signaling, both of which are required to regulate meristem size. To distinguish between these mechanisms, we generated double mutants between *bam1-3* and either *crn-1* or *clv2-7*. On the basis of the molecular nature of CLV2 (lacking a kinase domain) and CRN (lacking a receptor domain), we hypothesized that loss of *bam1* and either *clv2* or *crn* should result in complete loss of any CLV2/CRN/BAM1 signaling and should result in additive or synergistic defects. However, we found that there was no effect on valve number in the double mutants compared

to *crn-1* or *clv2-7* single mutants (Figure 7A). Furthermore, analysis of meristems from double mutants revealed that there was no difference in IM or FM size between double and single mutants (Figure 7, B and C). Characterization of gynoecium development in *bam1-3; crn-1* and *bam1-3; clv2-7* double mutants at early and later stages showed no difference between double and single mutants (Figure 3, N and O). These results support a model in which BAM1 is partially redundant with CLV1 but not CLV2/CRN in shoot meristems. This is further supported by recent biochemical data that shows physical interactions between BAM1 and CLV1 and not BAM1 and CLV2/CRN (Guo *et al.* 2010). However, these experiments do not rule out a redundant role for CLV1 and

BAM1 in interacting with CLV2/CRN, although this proposed function is not supported by current biochemical interactions.

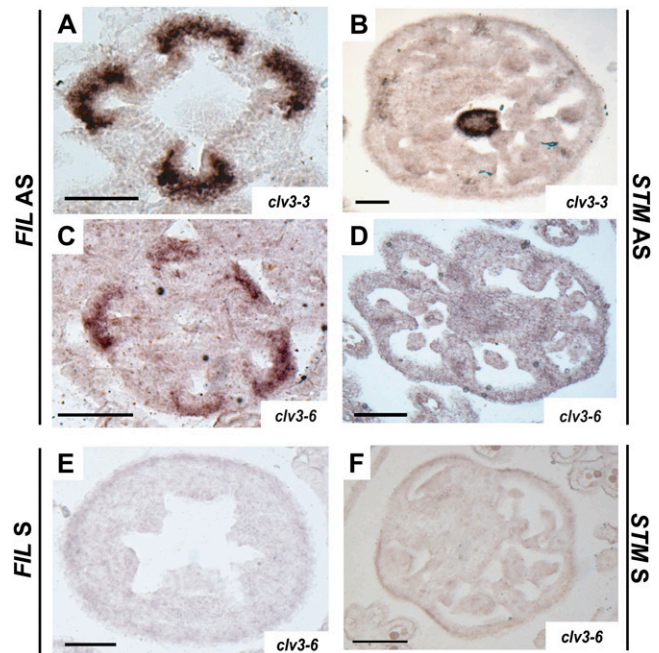
### **CLV3 is not the primary ligand in gynoecia**

In shoot meristems, the CLV1, CLV2, CRN, and BAM1 receptors bind the CLV3 signaling peptide (reviewed in Miwa *et al.* 2009; Guo *et al.* 2010). In developing gynoecia, the CLV1, CLV2, and CRN receptors appear to restrict expression of *STM* in a similar manner to the CLV/CRN–WUS pathway in meristems, although the ligand in this pathway remains unknown. *clv3* mutants display very strong fruit organ phenotypes and generate extremely large shoot meristems (Clark *et al.* 1995), suggesting that *clv3* mutants produce extra carpels. To determine whether *clv3* mutants produce ectopic valves as well, we looked for ectopic *FIL* expression in medial regions at various stages of development in *clv3-3* and *clv3-6* mutants. We found *FIL* expression only in broad arches that correspond to lateral regions at stages 7–9 (Figure 8, A and C) and never in the medial regions at any stage of development (7–12). The latter was striking, as we saw significantly enlarged medial regions and septa in both *clv3-3* and *clv3-6* mutants. Furthermore, when we examined *clv3* mutants for changes in *STM* regulation, we found that *STM* expression in the medial regions was similar to wild-type controls, and strong expression was only observed in the fifth whorl in the center of the fruit (Figure 8, B and D). These results imply that the extra cells in the medial regions of *clv3* mutants are the product of misregulation of *STM* and are most likely derived from extra cells in the meristem.

### **Discussion**

#### **CLV pathway receptor mutants generate extra fruit organs via two separate mechanisms**

In our analysis of CLV pathway receptor mutants, we found that extra fruit organs initiate not only from extra carpels forming in FMs, but can form from the medial regions of gynoecia younger than stage 13. Our conclusions are supported by our observations that (1) most mutations in *clv1*, *clv2*, and *crn* affect only fruit organ number and not the numbers of other floral organs; (2) most *clv1*, *clv2*, and *crn* mutants produce IMs and FMs of comparable size to wild type; (3) weak and intermediate *clv1* and *clv2* and *crn* mutants do not display phenotypes during early gynoecia development that are associated with extra carpel inception, although they still produce extra valves at maturity; and (4) all receptor mutants tested, including those with larger meristems, contain significantly more organs at maturity than at the onset of gynoecium development. These results indicate that the CLV pathway receptors function in two temporally distinct mechanisms that regulate valve number—formation of extra carpels in floral meristems and generation of ectopic valves in the medial regions of developing gynoecia.



**Figure 8** Expression of *FIL* and *STM* in *clv3* mutants. (A and C) *FIL* antisense; (B and D) *STM* antisense; (E) *FIL* sense; (F) *STM* sense; (A) *clv3-3* stage 8 ( $N = 18$ ); (B) *clv3-3* stage 12 ( $N = 14$ ); (C) *clv3-6* stage 8 ( $N = 7$ ); (D) *clv3-6* stage 12 ( $N = 8$ ); (E) *clv3-6* stage 8; and (F) *clv3-6* stage 12. Bar, 50  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Although the medial regions of young gynoecia do not retain the conserved structure of shoot meristems, they do express the meristem identity genes *STM* and *REPLUMLESS* (*RPL*) (Long *et al.* 1996; Roeder *et al.* 2003). Furthermore, medial regions maintain meristematic properties, including increased proliferation (Pautot *et al.* 2001) and the ability to initiate organs (Bowman *et al.* 1999). These data suggest that the medial regions are also competent to form new fruit organs. The process by which the medial regions obtain meristematic characteristics is poorly understood. However, it is likely that this process is similar to axillary meristem formation, which occurs via one of two ways. In the “*de novo*” mechanism, fully differentiated cells undergo dedifferentiation to give rise to new meristematic regions (Snow and Snow 1942; McConnell and Barton 1998), while in the “detached” hypothesis, groups of cells derived from meristems maintain an undifferentiated state after they detach from the meristem (Steeves and Sussex 1989). The fact that *STM* is downregulated in incipient floral organ primordia (Long *et al.* 1996) supports the *de novo* hypothesis. However, it is possible that only a few cells maintain a meristematic fate, and detecting expression in these cells is difficult. Whether the medial regions become meristematic through the *de novo* or the detached mechanism, it is clear that *CLV1*, *CLV2*, and *CRN* are required in both meristem and gynoecium development.

In IMs and FMs, the CLV pathway plays a vital role in the regulation of *WUS* expression and subsequently in meristem maintenance and function. However, in gynoecia, this

pathway appears to be acting on a different downstream target, namely *STM*. The functional importance of regulating *STM* levels in gynoecia is supported by previous results in which the *stm-2* mutant partially suppressed the strong *clv1-1* fruit organ phenotype (Clark *et al.* 1996). We show that interactions between *stm-2* and either weak or null *clv1* alleles result in complete suppression of extra fruit organs (Figure 6). Although it is possible that the CLV pathway and STM perform in separate but overlapping mechanisms in gynoecia to regulate proliferation and differentiation, respectively, the changes in the *STM* expression pattern in *clv1*, *clv2*, and *crn* mutants combined with the complete suppression of ectopic valve formation in *clv1-20*; *stm-2* and *clv1-22*; *stm-2* mutants suggests that the CLV pathway receptors and STM act in a single pathway during fruit development.

We propose that initiation of an extra valve occurs when cell proliferation in the medial regions reaches a critical threshold, regulated by *STM*. Thus, in weak mutants, where *STM* expression is minimally affected, the threshold is reached at later stages (Figure 9). Meanwhile, in mutants with a stronger effect on *STM* expression (Figure 5) the threshold is achieved earlier, as demonstrated by the splitting of medial regions observed in intermediate *clv1*, *clv2*, and *crn* mutants (Figure 3). In strong *clv1* mutants that have meristem defects and misregulate *STM*, extra carpel formation and ectopic valve initiation occurs, producing the strongest extra organ phenotypes (Figure 9). The idea that a threshold is required to initiate ectopic organs can also explain how partial valves form. As the apical region of developing fruit is older, it has more time to undergo cell divisions than the basal region. If the threshold is not reached in the basal regions by approximately stage 13, then a partial valve forms in the apical region only.

#### **Fruit organ specification can occur independently from carpel specification**

One major implication of our results is the potential direct link between CLV signaling and the transcription factor network required for fruit organ specification. *STM* directly regulates *REPLUMLESS* (*RPL*), a transcription factor required for specification of the replum and regulation of fruit organ patterning (Dinneny *et al.* 2005; Kanrar *et al.* 2006). Our analysis suggests that this network acts as a default patterning mechanism that is activated when undifferentiated cells are present to ensure that extra cells do not simply continue proliferating. This idea is supported by the fact that both extra carpels and ectopic valves give rise to normally patterned fruit organs.

To fully understand the mechanisms that regulate fruit organ number, it is important to identify the source of the extra cells in stages 7–9 medial regions. Although we did not observe larger FMs in *clv1*, *clv2*, and *crn* mutants, it is possible that just a few extra or undifferentiated cells could initiate proliferation within FMs. Although the misregula-

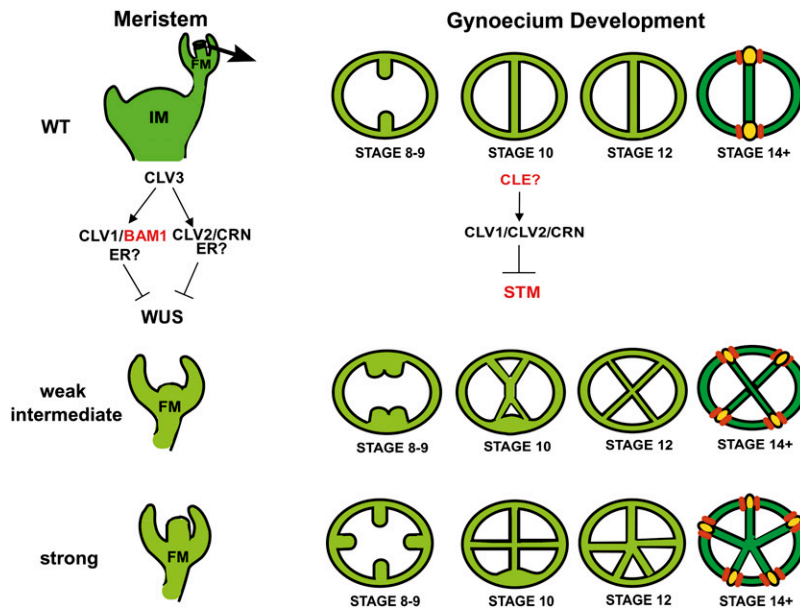
tion of *STM* in *clv1*, *clv2*, and *crn* mutants suggests that additional cells are produced in the medial region through loss of CLV1 inhibition, a more definitive way to prove this would be to conduct live imaging in FMs. Specifically, monitoring the expression domains of *CLV1*, *WUS*, *CLV3*, and *STM*, as well as other markers for cell division and stem cells, would be very useful for understanding the cellular dynamics of proliferation in FMs and fruit.

#### **Distinct roles for CLV1, CLV2, CLV3, and CRN in meristems and gynoecia**

Upon the identification of CLV2 as a member of the CLV signaling pathway, the CLV1 and CLV2 receptors were proposed to function in a single complex (Kayes and Clark 1998; Jeong *et al.* 1999). However, the identification of CRN suggested a new hypothesis in which CLV2/CRN receptor complexes act in parallel with CLV1 to regulate *WUS* expression (Muller *et al.* 2008). Genetic evidence from interactions between *crn*, *clv1*, and *clv2* mutants only supports the later hypothesis when certain *clv1* alleles are utilized (Kayes and Clark 1998; Jeong *et al.* 1999; Muller *et al.* 2008). Furthermore, recent biochemical data suggest that CRN/CLV2 and CLV1/CLV1 or CLV1/BAM1 complexes can readily form, and there is also evidence that CLV1, CLV2, and CRN receptors are capable of forming a single complex (Bleckmann *et al.* 2010; Guo *et al.* 2010; Zhu *et al.* 2010).

Previous genetic interaction analyses interpreted carpel number (measured as valve number) as a gauge of meristem function (Kayes and Clark 1998; Jeong *et al.* 1999; Muller *et al.* 2008). As these studies only considered contributions from the meristem, we examined the effect of removing a member of each receptor pathway on extra carpel and ectopic valve formation, with the prediction that there would be a strong increase in extra carpels and ectopic valves in the case of two parallel pathways. We found that *clv1*; *clv2* and *clv1*; *crn* double mutants containing weak or intermediate *clv1* alleles resulted in additive increases in fruit and floral organ number that was due to increased meristem size (and therefore more carpels) (Figure 7) and not due to increased ectopic valve formation. These data suggest a situation in which CLV1, CLV2, and CRN utilize different dynamics in different tissues, with CLV1 and CLV2/CRN functioning in separate pathways in shoot meristems, and all three receptors working together in a linear fashion in gynoecia.

We also tested whether mutations in *CLV3*, the ligand of the CLV pathway, produce severe phenotypes through defects in meristems, gynoecia, or both. We found that while *clv3* mutants do contain extra cells in the medial regions of developing fruit, they do not display ectopic *FIL* expression or expansion of *STM* expression, suggesting that *clv3* mutants do not initiate ectopic valves. A previous study looking at the genetic interactions between *stm-2* and *clv3* mutants showed partial suppression of the *clv3* phenotype (Clark *et al.* 1996). Although we cannot rule out that *CLV3* functions in gynoecia at earlier stages or through an



**Figure 9** Model for development of valves in the wild type, weak, intermediate, and strong CLV pathway mutants.

unidentified pathway, the fact that *clv3* mutants generate greatly enlarged shoot meristems indicates that the extra valves in these mutants are derived from extra carpels (Clark *et al.* 1997). We hypothesize that another ligand(s) is acting in the CLV pathway in gynoecia, most likely a member of the CLE (*CLV3/ESR*, *Embryonic Surrounding Region*) family, of which *CLV3* is a founding member (Kondo *et al.* 2006; Ohya *et al.* 2009). Although none of the *cle* mutants analyzed to date have been reported to have an extra valve phenotype, several *CLE* genes are expressed in the medial regions in gynoecia (Jun *et al.* 2010). Analysis of genetic interactions and expression patterns will likely identify candidate CLE ligands in gynoecia.

#### **BAM1 receptors are partially redundant with CLV1 in shoot meristems**

Although the fruit and floral organ phenotypes in *clv1; clv2* and *clv1; crn* double mutants containing weak or intermediate *clv1* alleles were additive compared to single mutants, they were not as severe as the phenotypes of strong *clv1* mutants. We predicted that this could be due to other receptors acting redundantly with CLV1, CLV2, or CRN in shoot meristems. A previous study suggests that the BAM receptors interact with CLV1 in shoot meristems (DeYoung and Clark 2008) and we tested whether this was the case in gynoecia as well. We found that the *clv1-20* phenotype was extremely sensitive to the presence of BAM1, as taking away a single copy resulted in synergistic meristem and valve phenotypes, while in plants homozygous for *bam1* and *clv1-4* there was no significant difference in valve number between *clv1-4* single and double mutants. This latter result is not consistent with previous reports, and we suspect that use of the *Ler* accession contributed to the additive fruit organ phenotype previously observed in *clv1-4; bam1* double mutants (DeYoung and Clark 2008).

We also examined the interactions between *bam1* and *clv2* or *crn* mutants. On the basis of the predicted structures of the CLV2 and CRN receptors, we hypothesized that if BAM1 acts redundantly with either CLV2 or CRN in a complex separate from CLV1, we would see additive fruit and floral organ phenotypes. Surprisingly, we found that *bam1; clv2* and *bam1; crn* double mutants were indistinguishable from *clv2* and *crn* single mutants. This result would typically be interpreted as evidence that BAM1 acts in the same pathway as CLV2/CRN. However, if BAM1 were in the CLV2/CRN pathway, we would expect (1) *clv1; bam1* mutants to display similar phenotypes as *clv1; clv2* and *clv1; crn* double mutants and (2) *bam1* mutants to have similar phenotypes as *clv2* and *crn* single mutants with respect to fruit organ number. Although the interaction data between *bam1* and either *clv2* or *crn* cannot rule out the possibility that a BAM1/CLV2/CRN receptor complex exists, the fact that *bam1* mutants are wild type with regard to fruit organ number and *clv1; bam1* mutants display significantly stronger phenotypes compared to *clv1; clv2* or *clv1; crn* mutants, suggests that BAM1 does not function in the CLV2/CRN pathway. This hypothesis is supported by recent biochemical evidence that BAM1 interacts readily with CLV1, but not CLV2 or CRN (Guo *et al.* 2010).

From these data, we propose a model in which CLV1 and/or CLV1/BAM1 complexes are the primary regulators of stem cell populations in shoot meristems, with CLV2/CRN receptor complexes playing a secondary role. Although hypomorphic, null, and kinase domain *clv1* mutants do not display defects in meristem size, the interactions between *bam1* and weak *clv1* mutants suggest that BAM1 can perform a similar function to CLV1 in the absence of CLV1 protein. However, in strong *clv1* mutants, dominant-negative interactions occur that lead to inhibition of interacting receptors (Dievart *et al.* 2003), including BAM1, resulting

in strong phenotypes. Furthermore, recent biochemical evidence suggests that BAM1 binds CLV3 with similar affinity as CLV1 (Guo *et al.* 2010). This model is further supported by the fact that *crn* and *clv2* mutant phenotypes appear to be almost entirely derived from ectopic valve formation, and that *clv2* and *crn* mutants do not produce as strong of an induction of *WUS* expression as that observed for strong *clv1* mutants (Schoof *et al.* 2000). However, we cannot rule out that other RLKs, including BAM2 or BAM3, or homologs of *CRN* and *CLV2*, may be interacting with the *CRN/CLV2* pathway in the meristem, and thus masking the effects of removing *CRN* or *CLV2*.

#### ***clv1*, *clv2*, and *crn* mutant phenotypes are sensitive to mutations in the *ERECTA* gene**

Previous studies have suggested that mutations in *ER* enhance meristem-derived phenotypes such as fruit organ number in *clv1* and *clv3* mutants (Dievart *et al.* 2003). As the *Ler* accession contains a hypomorphic mutation in the *ER* gene (Torii *et al.* 1996), we suspect that this is the source of the differences in meristem size and valve number phenotypes between our *Col* alleles and previous results in the *Ler* accession. This is further supported by our evidence that an identical *crn* mutation in the *Col* accession produces significantly weaker fruit and meristem phenotypes than in the *Ler* background (Muller *et al.* 2008), and that the genetic interaction between *crn-1* and *er-3*, both in the *Col* background, recapitulates the meristem and fruit organ number phenotypes seen in the *Ler crn-1* mutant (Muller *et al.* 2008). These results are indicative of *ER* playing an important role in the regulation of meristem size.

Although it has been previously hypothesized that *ER* may also be part of the CLV receptor complex (Dievart *et al.* 2003), the exact nature of this role remains unclear. The fact that mutations in *ER* enhance phenotypes of all CLV pathway receptor mutants suggests that *ER* may play a role in meristem maintenance separate from the CLV pathway (Figure 9). However, differences between *Ler* and *Col* alleles appear to be more dramatic in *clv2* and *crn* mutants than *clv1* mutants, suggesting that *ER* acts in the CLV1/BAM1 pathway and not the CLV2/CRN pathway. Biochemical and genetic experiments looking at the physical interactions between CLV1, BAM1, CLV2, and CRN and *ER* will help to clarify the nature of receptor dynamics in the meristem and in fruit.

#### **Implications for fruit development in *Arabidopsis* and other species**

Our results, that increased proliferation in young gynoecia generates extra organs, implicate the regulation of cell division in meristems and/or gynoecia as critical for regulation of fruit organ number. We show that the CLV pathway receptors CLV1, CLV2, and CRN, previously identified because of their involvement in meristem maintenance, perform a similar function in developing gynoecia, likely through the action of an unidentified CLE ligand or

ligands. Whether other components of the CLV pathway also perform fruit-specific roles remains to be addressed. Our discovery of a new role for CLV1, CLV2, and CRN in gynoecia suggests that there may be other as yet undiscovered regulators of fruit organ number. In particular, the links between the CLV pathway, *STM*, and the fruit organ specification pathway suggests that genes downstream of the CLV pathway in gynoecia may act in fruit organ number regulation in other species. This hypothesis is supported by evidence that a YABBY-like gene, most closely related to *AtYABBY2*, was identified as the *fasciated* quantitative trait locus in tomato, a known regulator of fruit organ number (Cong *et al.* 2008). *AtYABBY2* is closely related to *FIL* and *YABBY3*, which are part of the *Arabidopsis* transcription factor network that specifies fruit organs (Dinny *et al.* 2005). Identification of more components of the proposed CLV-STM network will provide links to key players in the regulation of fruit size in tomatoes and other crop plants.

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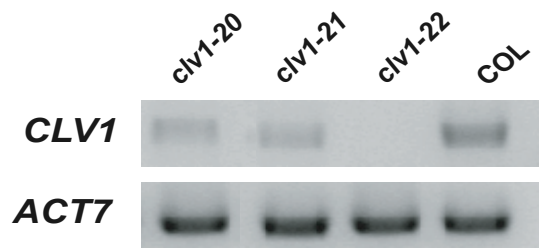
# GENETICS

Supporting Information

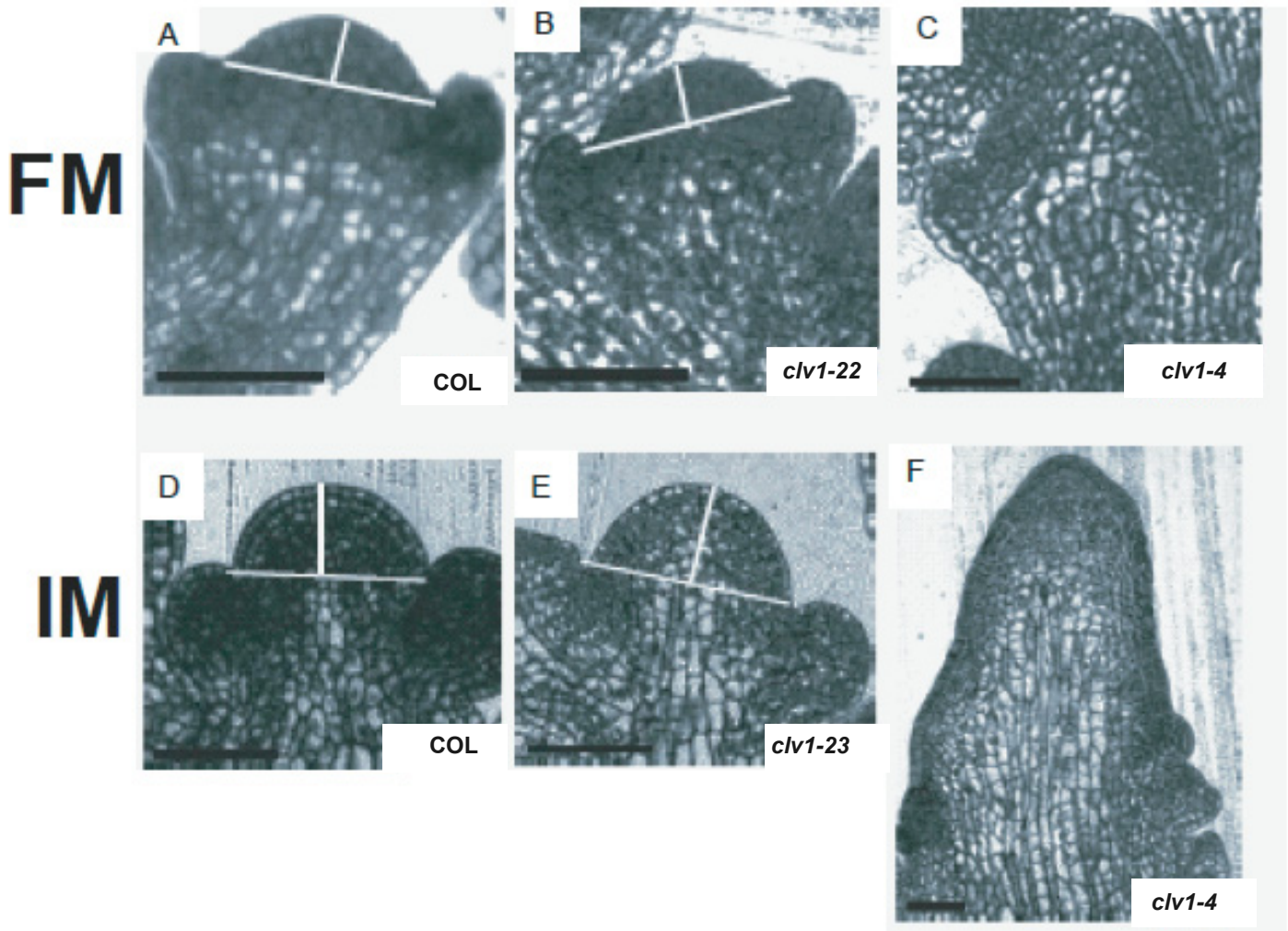
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## **CLAVATA Signaling Pathway Receptors of *Arabidopsis* Regulate Cell Proliferation in Fruit Organ Formation as well as in Meristems**

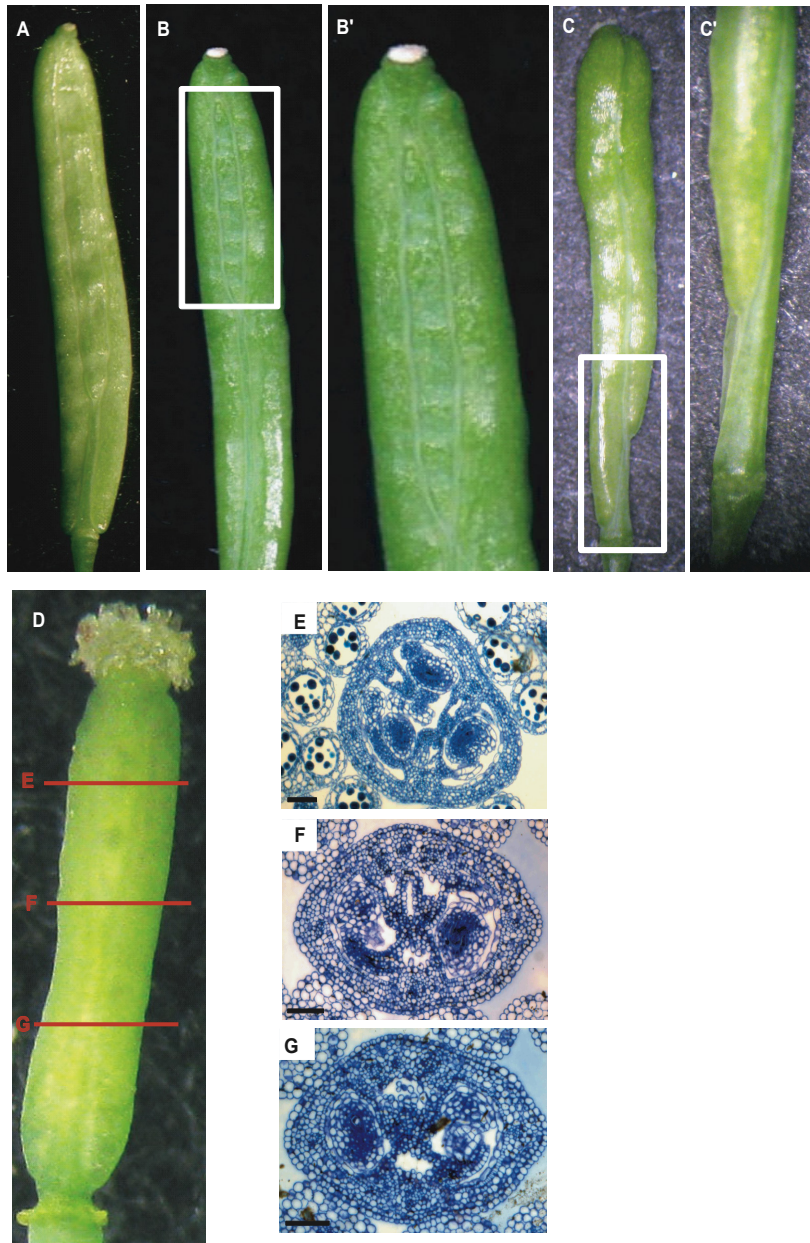
Amanda R. Durbak and Frans E. Tax



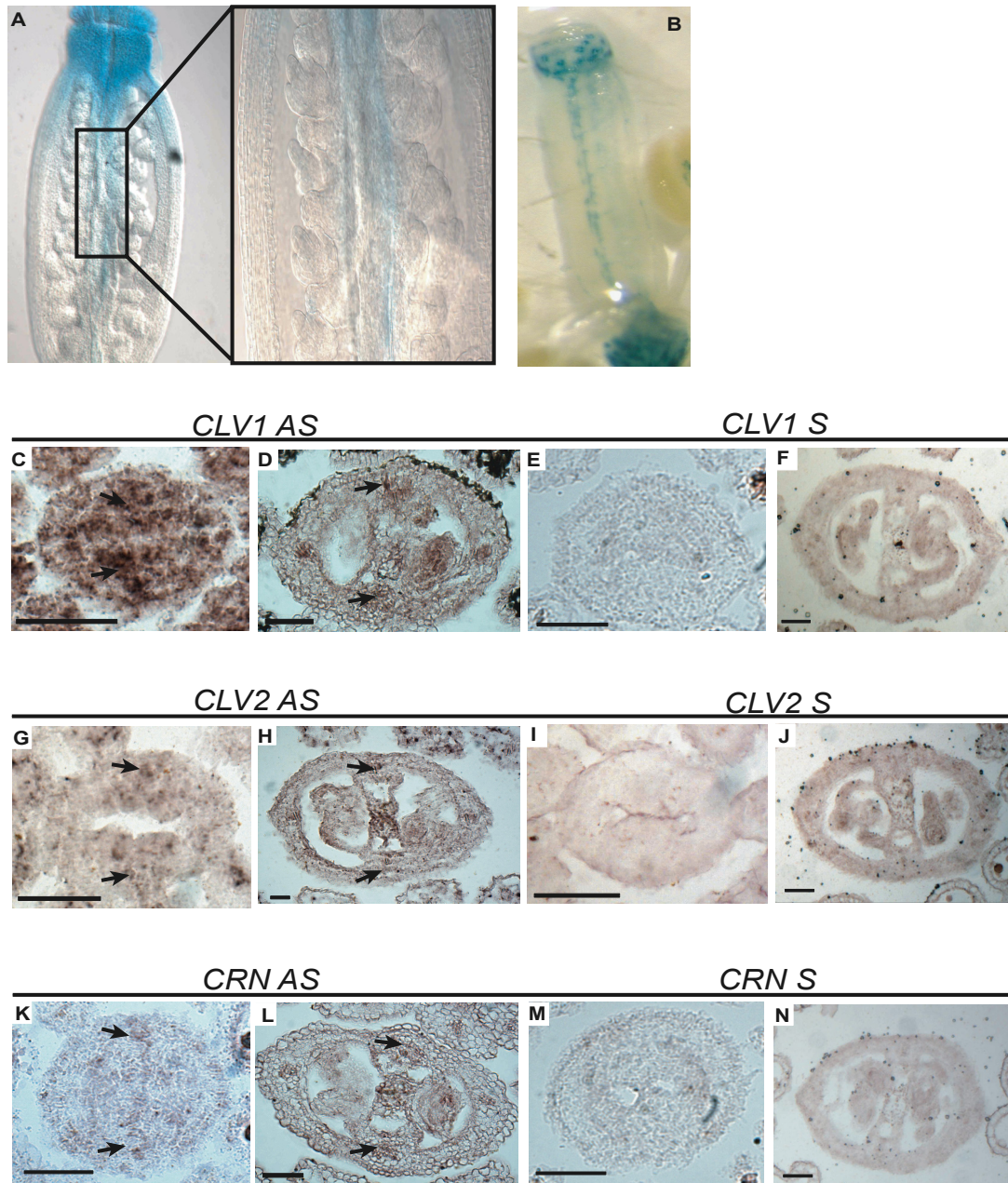
**Figure S1** RT-PCR showing transcript levels for *clv1-20*, *clv1-21* and *clv1-22* relative to Col.



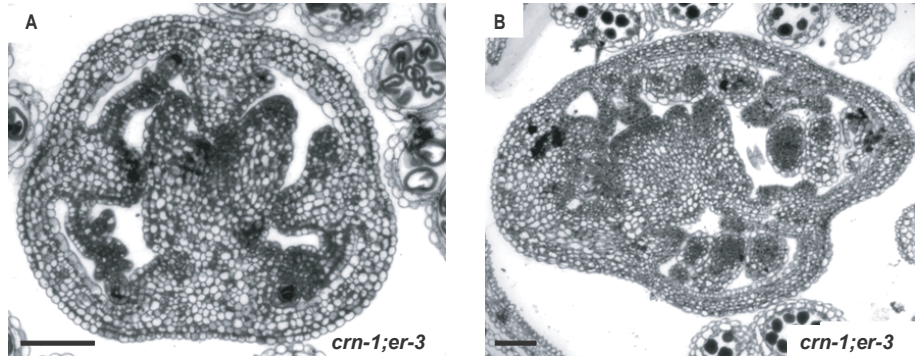
**Figure S2** Floral and inflorescence meristems of receptor mutants. (A-C) Stage 3 FMs representative of the wild type and mutants that produce either wildtype size or enlarged FMs. (A) Col. White lines indicate boundaries for height and width measurements. Lines in A and B are identical. (B) *clv1-23* (C) *clv1-4* (D-F) Representative IMs from wild-type and mutants that produce either wildtype or enlarged IMs. (D) Col (E) *clv1-22* (F) *clv1-4*. All scale bars = 50  $\mu$ m.



**Figure S3** Partial valve phenotype in *clv1*, *clv2* and *crn* mutants (A) *clv1-23* stage 17 fruit with a partial valve ~75% of the length of the fruit (B) *clv1-22* stage 17 fruit with partial valve ~25% of the length of the fruit (B') close-up of box in B (C) *clv2-6* stage 17 fruit with a 'valveless' phenotype where the bottom of the fruit failed to elongate the length of the fruit (C') close-up of box in C (D) *clv1-21* stage 10 fruit. Red lines indicate location of sections shown in E, F, and G. (E-G) Serial sections from a single *clv1-21* stage 10 fruit. (E) top of fruit containing 3 valves (F) center of fruit where the partial valve is first visible (G) bottom of fruit containing 2 valves.



**Figure S4** *CLV1*, *CLV2* and *CRN* expression in developing fruit. (A) *pCLV1::GUS* expression in style and medial tissue in stage 10 fruit. Right depicts close-up of box at left. (B) *pCLV1::GUS* expression in style and medial tissue in stage 13 fruit. (C,D) *CLV1* Antisense (AS) probe. (E,F) *CLV1* Sense (S) probe (G, H) *CLV2* AS probe. (I,J) *CLV2* S probe (K,L) *CRN* AS probe. (M,N) *CRN* S probe. (C) Col stage 7-8. (D) Col stage 11-12 bud (E) Col stage 8 (F) Col stage 11-12 (G) Col stage 8 (H) Col stage 11-12 (I) Col stage 8 (J) Col stage 11-12 (K) Col stage 7-8 (L) Col stage 11-12 (M) Col stage 7-8 (N) Col stage 11-12. All scale bars = 50 μm.



**Figure S5** Gynoecium phenotypes of *crn-1;er-3* mutants. (A) *crn-1;er-3* stage 8-9 bud containing a 5<sup>th</sup> whorl. (B) *crn-1;er-3* stage 11-12 bud containing a 5<sup>th</sup> whorl. Error bars in A-B represent the standard deviation above and below the mean.



Table S1. Percent of Fruit Containing Extra Valves in *clv1*, *clv2*, and *crn* mutants. n=600.

<b>Allele</b>	<b>% Fruit Containing &gt; 2 Valves</b>
COL	<1%
Ler	1.2%
<i>clv1</i> -20	85%
<i>clv1</i> -21	87%
<i>clv1</i> -22	92%
<i>clv1</i> -23	95%
<i>clv1</i> -4	100%
<i>clv2</i> -2	94%
<i>clv2</i> -7	83%
<i>clv2</i> -8	83%
<i>crn</i> -1	82%

**Table S2.** Average fruit organ number at stage 14 versus stage 17.  $\pm$  represents standard deviation

Allele	Stage 14	Stage 17
COL	2.01 $\pm$ 0.0048	2.01 $\pm$ 0.0147
<i>clv1-20</i>	2.78 $\pm$ 0.179	2.85 $\pm$ 0.149
<i>clv1-21</i>	2.79 $\pm$ 0.172	2.86 $\pm$ 0.149
<i>clv1-22</i>	3.01 $\pm$ 0.272	3.084 $\pm$ 0.12
<i>clv1-23</i>	3.44 $\pm$ 0.273	3.5 $\pm$ 0.183
<i>clv1-4</i>	4.95 $\pm$ 0.59	5.05 $\pm$ 0.306
<i>clv2-7</i>	2.66 $\pm$ 0.089	2.68 $\pm$ 0.0131
<i>clv2-8</i>	2.5 $\pm$ 0.098	2.66 $\pm$ 0.0693
<i>crn-1</i>	2.31 $\pm$ 0.0177	2.5 $\pm$ 0.0165

Table S3. Primers used in this study.

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CLV1 RT F 5'-AGAGTACCACTCGGTGGTCAATTCTTGG-3'  
CLV1 RT R 5'-TTCACCAACAGGTTTCTTCCCAGCTA-3  
ACT7 F 5'-GGTGA GGATATTCAGCCACTTGTCTG-3'  
ACT7 R 5'-TGTGAGATCCCGACCCGCAA GATC-3'  
CLV1 GUS 1 5'-CACCGGTCCAGGTTGACTATGAACAAAAG-3'  
CLV1 GUS 2 5'-CATTTTTTTAGTGCCTCTCAGTGA-3'  
STM F1 5'-GCTTCTTCTTCTTCTC CTTCTTGTG-3'  
STM R1 5'-TGCGCAAGAGCTGTCCTTTAA-3'  
FIL F 5'-AGCAACCCAACAATCAAG-3'  
FIL R 5'-TTGATTGTCTGGCACGAG-3'

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