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Tomato brown rugose fruit virus resistance generated by quadruple knockout of homologs of TOBAMOVIRUS MULTIPLICATION1 in tomato

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Abstract

Tomato brown rugose fruit virus (ToBRFV) is an emerging virus of the genus Tobamovirus. ToBRFV overcomes the tobamovirus resistance gene $Tm-2²$ and is rapidly spreading worldwide. Genetic resources for ToBRFV resistance are urgently needed. Here, we show that clustered regularly interspaced short palindromic repeats/CRISPR associated protein 9 (CRISPR/Cas9)-mediated targeted mutagenesis of four tomato (Solanum lycopersicum) homologs of TOBAMOVIRUS MULTIPLICATION1 (TOM1), an Arabidopsis (Arabidopsis thaliana) gene essential for tobamovirus multiplication, confers resistance to ToBRFV in tomato plants. Quadruple-mutant plants did not show detectable ToBRFV coat protein (CP) accumulation or obvious defects in growth or fruit production. When any three of the four TOM1 homologs were disrupted, ToBRFV CP accumulation was detectable but greatly reduced. In the triple mutant, in which ToBRFV CP accumulation was most strongly suppressed, mutant viruses capable of more efficient multiplication in the mutant plants emerged. However, these mutant viruses did not infect the quadruple-mutant plants, suggesting that the resistance of the quadruple-mutant plants is highly durable. The quadruple-mutant plants also showed resistance to three other tobamovirus species. Therefore, tomato plants with strong resistance to tobamoviruses, including ToBRFV, can be generated by CRISPR/Cas9-mediated multiplexed genome editing. The genome-edited plants could facilitate ToBRFV-resistant tomato breeding.

Introduction

Tomato mosaic virus (ToMV), a member of the genus Tobamovirus, was a major threat to the production of tomato (Solanum lycopersicum) [\(Broadbent, 1976](#page-6-0)), but ToMV infection has been controlled for $>$ 40 years since the introduction of durable resistance gene $Tm-2^2$ into commercial tomato cultivars [\(Pelham, 1966](#page-7-0); [Hall, 1980](#page-7-0)). However, a new tobamovirus, tomato brown rugose fruit virus (ToBRFV),

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which is insensitive to $\textit{Tm-2}^2$, emerged in the Middle East in 2014 ([Salem et al., 2016](#page-7-0); [Luria et al., 2017\).](#page-7-0) ToBRFV rapidly spread worldwide and threatens global tomato production [\(van de Vossenberg et al., 2021\)](#page-7-0). Tobamovirus virions can survive for many years in soil. These viruses are transmitted mechanically during agricultural activities, or via seeds [\(Broadbent, 1976;](#page-6-0) [Dombrovsky et al., 2017](#page-6-0)). Therefore, effective and durable resistance genes to control ToBRFV and other tobamoviruses are needed. Tomato cultivars showing tolerance to ToBRFV, in which ToBRFV multiplies but disease symptoms are not evident, and others showing resistance to ToBRFV, in which ToBRFV multiplication is suppressed, have been reported ([Zinger et al., 2021\)](#page-7-0). Genetic analyses revealed that the tolerance trait is controlled by a single recessive gene, whereas the resistance trait is controlled at least by the gene conferring tolerance and another gene located near or at the ToMV resistance gene Tm-1 [\(Zinger et al., 2021](#page-7-0)). The genes controlling these phenotypes have not been identified and the durability of these traits has not been described.

Many resistance genes used to protect crops from virus infection are genetically dominant. Most, such as $Tm-2^2$, encode nucleotide binding site-leucine-rich repeat proteins [\(Kang et al., 2005;](#page-7-0) [de Ronde et al., 2014](#page-6-0)). These dominant resistance gene products recognize viral factors to elicit host defense reactions. In general, viral mutations that promote escape from recognition can easily occur, and if they do not affect viral fitness, the resistance is overcome. Other virus resistance genes are genetically recessive. They represent lossof-function alleles of genes that encode the host factors nec-essary for efficient multiplication of viruses ([Kang et al.,](#page-7-0) [2005;](#page-7-0) [Hashimoto et al., 2016](#page-7-0)). Interestingly, most natural recessive resistance genes identified to date are to potyviruses that encode eukaryotic translation initiation factor 4E (eIF4E) or its isoform eIF(iso)4E ([Kang et al., 2005](#page-7-0); Sanfaçon, [2015\)](#page-7-0). Mutations in the eIF4E or eIF(iso)4E genes confer resistance to specific classes of potyviruses [\(Piron et al., 2010;](#page-7-0) [Chandrasekaran et al., 2016](#page-6-0); [Gauffier et al., 2016;](#page-7-0) [Pyott et al.,](#page-7-0) [2016\)](#page-7-0). Knockout of the host genes necessary for virus multiplication could confer virus resistance, but successful examples are still limited to several cases ([Chandrasekaran et al.,](#page-6-0) [2016;](#page-6-0) [Pyott et al., 2016](#page-7-0); [Gomez et al., 2019](#page-7-0); [Atarashi et al.,](#page-6-0) [2020;](#page-6-0) [Pramanik et al., 2021\)](#page-7-0), possibly because the loss-offunction of endogenous genes also affects host growth and development ([Gauffier et al., 2016](#page-7-0)).

Previously, we identified TOBAMOVIRUS MULTIPLICATION1 (TOM1) in Arabidopsis (Arabidopsis thaliana) [\(Ishikawa et al.,](#page-7-0) [1991](#page-7-0)). TOM1 is necessary for efficient multiplication of tobamoviruses and encodes a seven-pass transmembrane protein that interacts with tobamovirus-encoded replication proteins [\(Yamanaka et al., 2000](#page-7-0)). The TOM1 protein plays roles in the formation of, and is a component of active tobamovirus replication complexes ([Nishikiori et al., 2011\)](#page-7-0). Simultaneous lossof-function mutations in TOM1 and its putative paralog TOM3 resulted in near-complete inhibition of tobamovirus multiplication ([Yamanaka et al., 2002\)](#page-7-0). Importantly, the tom1 tom3 double mutant and a triple mutant with an additional T-DNA insertion in TOM THREE HOMOLOG1, another putative TOM1 paralog in Arabidopsis, do not exhibit substantial defects in plant growth and development [\(Fujisaki et al.,](#page-7-0) [2006\)](#page-7-0). Although the function of TOM1, other than supporting tobamovirus multiplication, is unknown, TOM1 homologs are found in numerous plant species. In tobacco (Nicotiana tabacum), Nicotiana benthamiana, and tomato, knockdown of TOM1 homologs by RNA interference (RNAi) suppresses tobamovirus multiplication ([Asano et al., 2005](#page-6-0); [Chen et al.,](#page-6-0) [2007;](#page-6-0) [Ali et al., 2018\)](#page-6-0). However, RNAi plants fall under GMO legislation, hampering their use in agriculture. Thus, we aimed here to confer ToBRFV resistance to tomato by targeted mutagenesis of TOM1 homologs.

Results

Knockout of TOM1 gene homologs in tomato

We used the clustered regularly interspaced short palindromic repeats/CRISPR associated protein 9 (CRISPR/Cas9) to knock out TOM1 genes in tomato to confer ToBRFV resistance. A BLAST search of a tomato genome sequence database (ITAG release 4.0) using the Arabidopsis TOM1 amino acid sequence as a query identified five genes, named here SITOM1a–e [\(Table 1](#page-2-0)). SITOM1a, b, and c were previously identified and named LeTH1, LeTH2, and LeTH3, re-spectively [\(Ali et al., 2018](#page-6-0)). Following the change of the scientific name of tomato, we propose gene names starting with "Sl" (S. lycopersicum) instead of "Le" (Lycopersicon esculentum). We targeted these three genes (SITOM1a-c) and another expressed homolog, SlTOM1d. Because the expression level of SlTOM1e was extremely low in the public data (Tomato functional genomics database; [http://ted.bti.cornell.](http://ted.bti.cornell.edu/cgi-bin/TFGD/digital/home.cgi) [edu/cgi-bin/TFGD/digital/home.cgi](http://ted.bti.cornell.edu/cgi-bin/TFGD/digital/home.cgi)), it was not analyzed here. SlTOM1a–d proteins showed amino acid sequence identity $>$ 50% with one another ([Supplemental Figure S1](https://academic.oup.com/plphys/article-lookup/doi/10.1093/plphys/kiac103#supplementary-data)). Chromosomal locations of these genes were different from those of previously mapped tobamovirus resistance genes (Tm-1 and Tm-2) or a tolerance locus [\(Zinger et al., 2021\)](#page-7-0).

For targeted mutagenesis of SlTOM1a–d genes by the CRISPR/Cas9 system, guide RNA sequences were designed using the CRISPR-P program ([http://cbi.hzau.edu.cn/crispr/;](http://cbi.hzau.edu.cn/crispr/) [Lei et al., 2014\)](#page-7-0). Because of the high nucleotide sequence identity, we used a common guide RNA sequence for the SITOM1a and d genes. Therefore, we constructed a vector to express Streptococcus pyogenes Cas9 and three single guide RNA (sgRNA) sequences to target the SlTOM1a–d genes ([Figure 1A\)](#page-2-0). This gene cassette was introduced to tomato cultivar Craigella GCR26, which is susceptible to ToMV and ToBRFV, by Agrobacterium-mediated transformation. Among the progenies of the transformants, we identified individuals that carried frameshift mutations in the SlTOM1a–d genes but lost the Cas9-sgRNA cassette ([Figure 1B](#page-2-0)). By crossing these plants with each other or with wild-type (wt) plants, we established single-, double-, triple-, and quadruple-mutant lines in which homozygous mutations were introduced in any of SlTOM1a–d. No obvious

Table 1 TOM1 homologs in tomato

^aSolanaceae Genomics Network (https://solgenomics.net/). ^aSolanaceae Genomics Network ([https://solgenomics.net/\)](https://solgenomics.net/).
^bSGN blastn (https://solgenomics.net/tools/blast/), databas

°SGN blastn (<https://solgenomics.net/tools/blast/>), database: tomato genome coding sequences (ITAG release 4.0), query: Arabidopsis TOM1 amino acid sequence.
^cNational Center for Biotechnology Information (https://www.nc

'National Center for Biotechnology Information [\(https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/\)](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/).
^dTomato functional genomics database [\(http://ted.bti.cornell.edu/cgi-bin/TFGD/digital/home.cgi\)](http://ted.bti.cornell.edu/cgi-bin/TFGD/digital/home.cgi), Experiment D004: Transcriptome analysis of var Heinz and the wild relative Solanum pimpinellifolium; Data S0593: Heinz leaves.

Figure 1 CRISPR/Cas9 mutagenesis of SITOM1 genes. A, CRISPR/Cas9 constructs for disruption of SITOM1 genes. Pcubi, ubiquitin gene (Ubi4-2) promoter from Petroselinum crispum; FFCas9, S. pyogenes Cas9 gene codon-optimized for Arabidopsis; Pnos, Nopaline synthase gene promoter from Rhizobium radiobacter; nptll, neomycin phosphotransferase II; U6, Arabidopsis U6-26 promoter. B, CRISPR/Cas9-induced mutations in SlTOM1 genes. The protospacer adjacent motif sequences and inserted or deleted nucleotide residues are indicated by blue and red letters, respectively. C, wt and Sltom1 quadruple-mutant plants (29 d after imbibition) and fruits. Scale bars represent 5 cm.

differences in growth or fruit production were observed between wt plants and the mutant plants including the quadruple mutant (Figure 1C). In triple- or quadruple-mutant plants, the accumulation levels of SlTOM1a, c, or d mRNA from the mutant genes were lower than those from the nonmutated genes in triple mutants or from wt plants, probably due to nonsense-mediated mRNA decay ([Supplemental](https://academic.oup.com/plphys/article-lookup/doi/10.1093/plphys/kiac103#supplementary-data) [Figure S2\)](https://academic.oup.com/plphys/article-lookup/doi/10.1093/plphys/kiac103#supplementary-data). Expression of SlTOM1e was undetectable in the triple or quadruple mutant plants or in the wt plants.

Effects of tom1 mutations on virus multiplication in tomato

We inoculated ToBRFV onto cotyledons of Sltom1 mutant plants and examined viral coat protein (CP) accumulation in the inoculated leaves at 7 d post-inoculation (dpi) by SDS-PAGE followed by Coomassie blue staining [\(Figure 2A](#page-3-0) [and](#page-3-0) [Supplemental Figure S3, A and B\)](https://academic.oup.com/plphys/article-lookup/doi/10.1093/plphys/kiac103#supplementary-data) or immunoblotting [\(Supplemental Figure S3C\)](https://academic.oup.com/plphys/article-lookup/doi/10.1093/plphys/kiac103#supplementary-data). In Sltom1 single or double mutants, ToBRFV CP accumulated to nearly wt levels. In some double mutants, including Sltom1ac, ToBRFV CP accumulation was slightly reduced compared with wt plants [\(Figure 2A and](#page-3-0) [Supplemental Figure S3](https://academic.oup.com/plphys/article-lookup/doi/10.1093/plphys/kiac103#supplementary-data)). After longer incubation, ToBRFV-inoculated single and double mutants systemically accumulated viral CP and showed disease symptoms. In Sltom1 triple mutants, ToBRFV CP accumulation was reduced compared with that in wt plants. The level of CP accumulation at 7 dpi was in the order wt $>$ Sltom1bcd \geq Sltom1abd $>$ Sltom1abc $>$ Sltom1acd [\(Figure 2A and](#page-3-0) [Supplemental Figure S3](https://academic.oup.com/plphys/article-lookup/doi/10.1093/plphys/kiac103#supplementary-data)). This suggests that the contribution of SlTOM1 genes to ToBRFV multiplication

ToBRFV inoculation

Figure 2 ToBRFV multiplication in wt and Sltom1 mutant plants. A, ToBRFV CP accumulation in wt, Sltom1 single- (a, b, c, and d), double- (ab, ac, ad, bc, bd, and cd), triple- (abc, abd, acd, and bcd), and quadruple- (abcd) mutant and $Tm-2^2$ plants. Inoculated cotyledons were harvested at 7 dpi and CP accumulation was examined by SDS-PAGE (NuPAGE; Invitrogen, 12%) and Coomassie blue staining. Each lane corresponds to an individual plant. The rightmost five plants in the lower panel were inoculated with ToMV. Samples prepared in parallel from noninoculated plants were analyzed for comparison and are indicated by asterisks. M: Protein Marker Precision Plus Protein Dual Color Standards (Bio-Rad, Hercules, CA, USA). Positions of ToBRFV and ToMV CP bands are indicated by "CP." Numbers represent approximate molecular masses of the marker proteins in kilodalton. Only the relevant parts of the gels with the CP bands were shown in this figure and whole gel images are provided in [Supplemental Figure S3.](https://academic.oup.com/plphys/article-lookup/doi/10.1093/plphys/kiac103#supplementary-data) B, ToBRFV-inoculated wt and Sltom1 quadruple-mutant plants. Uninoculated plants grown side-by-side are shown for comparison. ToBRFV-inoculated and uninoculated plants are shown by " + " and "-," respectively. Photographs were taken at 21 dpi. Scale bars represent 5 cm.

is in the order SITOM1a \geq SITOM1c $>$ SITOM1d $>$ SlTOM1b. The contribution of SlTOM1 genes to ToBRFV multiplication showed weak association with relative mRNA accumulation levels of respective SlTOM1 genes [\(Supplemental Figure S2\)](https://academic.oup.com/plphys/article-lookup/doi/10.1093/plphys/kiac103#supplementary-data). Because ToBRFV CP accumulation was higher in the Sltom1ac double mutant than the Sltom1abc triple mutant (Figure 2A and [Supplemental](https://academic.oup.com/plphys/article-lookup/doi/10.1093/plphys/kiac103#supplementary-data) [Figure S3\)](https://academic.oup.com/plphys/article-lookup/doi/10.1093/plphys/kiac103#supplementary-data), the contribution of SlTOM1b to ToBRFV multiplication is nonnegligible. In ToBRFV-inoculated Sltom1acd mutant plants, CP was barely detectable at 7 dpi, but after longer (e.g. 21 d) incubation, a low level of ToBRFV CP was detected not only in inoculated leaves, but also in systemic ones, and disease symptoms were observed in some plants. The other triple mutants (Sltom1bcd, abd, and abc) systemically accumulated viral CP and showed disease symptoms. In Sltom1abcd quadruple-mutant plants, neither ToBRFV CP accumulation nor disease symptoms were observed at ≥ 21 dpi (Figure 2, A and B and [Supplemental Figure S3](https://academic.oup.com/plphys/article-lookup/doi/10.1093/plphys/kiac103#supplementary-data)).

Similar results were obtained when ToMV was inoculated onto Sltom1 mutant plants [\(Supplemental Figure S4](https://academic.oup.com/plphys/article-lookup/doi/10.1093/plphys/kiac103#supplementary-data)). Importantly, ToMV CP accumulation was not detected in Sltom1 quadruple-mutant plants ([Figure 3](#page-4-0) and [Supplemental](https://academic.oup.com/plphys/article-lookup/doi/10.1093/plphys/kiac103#supplementary-data) [Figure S4, A and B\)](https://academic.oup.com/plphys/article-lookup/doi/10.1093/plphys/kiac103#supplementary-data). The Sltom1 quadruple-mutant plants did not show CP accumulation when inoculated with other tobamoviruses; that is, tobacco mosaic virus (TMV) (strain OM) or youcai mosaic virus (YoMV, or TMV-Cg) ([Figure 3](#page-4-0) and [Supplemental Figure S5](https://academic.oup.com/plphys/article-lookup/doi/10.1093/plphys/kiac103#supplementary-data)). Viruses taxonomically distinct from tobamoviruses—tomato aspermy virus (TAV; genus Cucumovirus) and potato virus X (TVX; genus Potexvirus) multiplied and accumulated CPs in Sltom1 quadruplemutant plants to levels similar to those in wt tomato plants ([Figure 3](#page-4-0) and [Supplemental Figure S5](https://academic.oup.com/plphys/article-lookup/doi/10.1093/plphys/kiac103#supplementary-data)). These results indicated that simultaneous loss-of-function mutations in SlTOM1a–d genes confer tobamovirus resistance to tomato.

CP accumulation was delayed in ToBRFV-inoculated Sltom1acd mutant plants. To examine whether ToBRFV

Figure 3 CP accumulation of ToMV, TMV, YoMV, TAV, and PVX in wt and Sltom1 quadruple mutant plants. Virus-inoculated cotyledons of wt plants were harvested at 7 dpi (ToMV, TAV, and PVX) or 6 dpi (TMV and YoMV), and those of Sltom1 quadruple-mutant plants (abcd) were harvested at 7 dpi (ToMV, TAV, and PVX) or 10 dpi (TMV and YoMV). CP accumulation was examined and presented as described in [Figure 2A.](#page-3-0) Positions of viral CP bands are indicated by "CP" with virus names. Only the relevant parts of the gels with the CP bands are shown in this figure and whole gel images are provided in [Supplemental Figures S4](https://academic.oup.com/plphys/article-lookup/doi/10.1093/plphys/kiac103#supplementary-data) (ToMV) and [S5](https://academic.oup.com/plphys/article-lookup/doi/10.1093/plphys/kiac103#supplementary-data) (TMV, YoMV, TAV, and PVX).

multiplied slowly with or without mutating, we inoculated ToBRFV to 42 Sltom1acd plants. About half (22/42) of the plants accumulated CP in systemic leaves at 18 dpi [\(Supplemental Figure S6A](https://academic.oup.com/plphys/article-lookup/doi/10.1093/plphys/kiac103#supplementary-data)). Virions were separately recovered from plants #20, 41, and 42, in which CP accumulated to high levels [\(Supplemental Figure S6A](https://academic.oup.com/plphys/article-lookup/doi/10.1093/plphys/kiac103#supplementary-data)), and separately passaged in Sltom1acd mutant plants. After the passage, we purified virions from one plant per inoculum (#20-4, 41-5, and 42-4). In the Sltom1acd triple-mutant plants inoculated with virions recovered from plants #20-4, 41-5, and 42-4, CP accumulation was higher and more frequent, and disease symptoms were observed more frequently, than in those inoculated with original ToBRFV [\(Supplemental Figure S6B\)](https://academic.oup.com/plphys/article-lookup/doi/10.1093/plphys/kiac103#supplementary-data), suggesting that the recovered virions contain mutants that can multiply in Sltom1acd plants more efficiently. We next sequenced the replication protein-coding region of genomic RNA of the mutants. The viruses carried missense mutations in close but distinct codons ([Figure 4A](#page-5-0)). We introduced these mutations back into the wt ToBRFV infectious cDNA clone and confirmed that the infectious clone-derived

mutant viruses accumulated more CP and caused disease symptoms in Sltom1acd triple-mutant plants more frequently than wt ToBRFV [\(Figure 4B and](#page-5-0) [Supplemental](https://academic.oup.com/plphys/article-lookup/doi/10.1093/plphys/kiac103#supplementary-data) [Figure S7,](https://academic.oup.com/plphys/article-lookup/doi/10.1093/plphys/kiac103#supplementary-data) left two panels). Also, the introduced mutations were maintained and no additional mutation occurred after multiplication of the cDNA-derived mutant viruses in Sltom1acd triple-mutant plants. These results suggest that ToBRFV multiplies with low efficiency using SlTOM1b in Sltom1acd triple-mutant plants, and mutants with increased infectivity and multiplication efficiency in Sltom1acd triplemutant plants emerged. The ToBRFV mutants may have evolved their replication proteins to have higher affinity to SlTOM1b.

Importantly, no CP accumulation was observed after inoculation of these mutant viruses to Sltom1 quadruple-mutant plants [\(Figure 4B and](#page-5-0) [Supplemental Figure S7,](https://academic.oup.com/plphys/article-lookup/doi/10.1093/plphys/kiac103#supplementary-data) right two panels). Because loss of TOM1 function inhibits tobamovirus RNA replication (more specifically, negative-strand RNA synthesis [\(Nishikiori et al., 2011\)](#page-7-0)), ToBRFV RNA replication in initially infected Sltom1 quadruple-mutant cells would hardly

Figure 4 ToBRFV mutants with increased infectivity to Sltom1acd triple-mutant plants. A, Mutation sites in the ToBRFV genome. Boxes represent the coding regions for the 126-kDa and 183-kDa replication proteins, movement protein (MP), and CP. Regions for methyltransferase-like (Met), helicase-like (Hel), and polymerase-like (Pol) domains, and intervening region of the replication proteins are shown. Amino acid changes from original ToBRFV to the mutants are shown along with the ID numbers of plants from which the mutant ToBRFV was recovered. B, ToBRFV CP accumulation in Sltom1 quadruple- (abcd) and Sltom1acd triple- (acd) mutant plants. Tomato plants were cotyledon-inoculated with leaf homogenates that were prepared from N. benthamiana leaves to which capped RNA synthesized from wt or mutant ToBRFV infectious clone plasmids had been inoculated. Upper uninoculated leaves were harvested at 21 dpi (Sltom1acd) or 20 dpi (Sltom1abcd) and CP accumulation was examined and presented as described in [Figure 2A.](#page-3-0) Only the relevant parts of the gels with the CP bands are shown in this figure and whole gel images are provided in [Supplemental Figure S7](https://academic.oup.com/plphys/article-lookup/doi/10.1093/plphys/kiac103#supplementary-data).

occur, minimizing the risk of emergence of mutant viruses that can overcome the resistance. In fact, no emergence of such a mutant virus in the quadruple mutant has been observed to date.

Discussion

In this study, we demonstrated that simultaneous knockout of the four TOM1 homologs in tomato confers strong resistance to ToBRFV. Single mutations in TOM1 homologs do not affect ToBRFV or ToMV CP accumulations, indicating that SlTOM1a–d are functionally redundant. Such a redundancy, frequently observed in plant genes, has been an obstacle to breeding. CRISPR/Cas9-mediated genome editing enables the introduction of multiple loss-of-function mutations in plant genes, which accelerates crop improvement if appropriate target genes to confer beneficial traits are available. Host genes necessary for the multiplication of pathogens (so-called "susceptibility genes") are suitable for creation of beneficial traits using the CRISPR/Cas9 system, because simple loss-of-function mutations lead to resistance to pathogens. The functions of TOM1 family genes in plants are unknown but knockout-mutant Arabidopsis and tomato plants did not show obvious growth defects under greenhouse conditions. Therefore, knockout of TOM1 homologs is expected to have no apparent negative side effects, and to be useful to confer tobamovirus resistance to other plant species. In pepper (Capsicum annuum L.), tobamovirus resistance genes L^1 – L^4 have been used to protect plants from pepper mild mottle virus but virus strains that can over-come this resistance have emerged ([Genda et al., 2007](#page-7-0)). ToBRFV is also an emerging disease agent in pepper [\(Salem](#page-7-0) [et al., 2020](#page-7-0)). In cucurbit crops, effective natural resistance

genes against tobamoviruses are not available and cucurbit production is damaged by tobamoviruses [\(Dombrovsky](#page-6-0) [et al., 2017\)](#page-6-0). Because conferring tobamovirus resistance by knockout of TOM1 homologs does not rely on natural resistance resources, the strategy is applicable to other tobamovirus-sensitive crops for which genome editing or other targeted mutagenesis methods are available. Also in these cases, it is preferable to completely knockout all functional TOM1 homologs because low rate of viral accumulation can lead to the emergence and spread of resistancebreaking mutants as observed in Sltom1acd triple mutant plants.

Materials and methods

Targeted gene disruption in tomato

The CRISPR vector pDe-Cas9 (Km) carries gene cassettes expressing codon-optimized S. pyogenes Cas9 and NPTII and a gateway recombination cassette (R1–R2) to clone sgRNA modules [\(Fauser et al., 2014;](#page-7-0) [Ritter et al., 2017\)](#page-7-0). To combine three sgRNA modules, we used the entry clones pMR203, pMR204, and pMR205, which are suitable for MultiSite Gateway LR cloning to pDe-Cas9 (Km). These plasmids were constructed and provided by Drs. Mily Ron and Anne Britt. Briefly, to construct pMR203, pMR204, and pMR205, primers with appropriate attB/attBr flanking sites (B1–B4, B4r–B3r, and B3–B2, respectively) were used to amplify the sgRNAexpression cassette from pEn_Chimera (L1–L2) [\(Fauser](#page-7-0) [et al., 2014](#page-7-0)). The amplified fragment was cloned into the corresponding pDONR221 vector (pDONR221 P1-P4, P4r-P3r, and P3-P2, respectively) by a Gateway BP reaction. An additional BbsI site in the pDONR backbone was eliminated by site-directed mutagenesis via In-Fusion reaction with the

primers noBbsI_F and noBbsI_R [\(Ritter et al., 2017\).](#page-7-0) The CRISPR vectors were obtained via Drs. Masaki Endo and Seiichi Toki.

For each sgRNA sequence, two complementary 23–24-nucleotide 5'-phosphorylated synthetic DNA oligos [\(Supplemental Table S1\)](https://academic.oup.com/plphys/article-lookup/doi/10.1093/plphys/kiac103#supplementary-data) were annealed and inserted at the BbsI site of the entry clones. These entry clones were mixed with pDe-Cas9 (Km) and subjected to a Gateway LR reaction to obtain the final expression plasmid.

The expression plasmid was introduced to Agrobacterium tumefaciens GV3101 (pMP90) and used for transformation of cotyledon explants of the tomato (S. lycopersicum) cultivar Craigella GCR26, as described previously [\(Sun et al.,](#page-7-0) [2006](#page-7-0)).

Viruses

A gene cassette containing the T7 RNA polymerase promoter, complete cDNA of ToBRFV genomic RNA (GenBank: KT383474.1, nucleotides 6–9 were deleted), and a unique AgeI restriction site were chemically synthesized, assembled, and cloned in pUC57 (pToBRFV-A2, prepared by GenScript). ToBRFV was propagated by inoculating capped in vitro transcript synthesized from AgeI-linearized pToBRFV-A2 onto tomato (GCR26) or N. benthamiana leaves. The other tobamoviruses—TMV (strain OM) (Asano et al., 2005), ToMV (strain L) [\(Ishikawa et al., 1991\)](#page-7-0), and YoMV [\(Ishikawa et al.,](#page-7-0) [1991](#page-7-0))—were described previously. TAV and PVX were obtained from the NARO Genebank (MAFF260123 and MAFF715063, respectively).

Virus multiplication assay

Tomato plants were grown at 25°C under a 16-h light/8-h dark cycle in a growth chamber. Viruses or viral infectious transcripts were rub-inoculated onto cotyledons 10 d after imbibition using carborundum. Viral CPs were analyzed by SDS-PAGE (NuPAGE 12% Bis–Tris gel; Thermo Fisher Scientific, Beverly, MA, USA) and Coomassie blue staining. Total RNA was purified from tomato leaves using RNAiso Plus (TaKaRa, Shiga, Japan) and analyzed.

Accession numbers

Accession numbers of the SlTOM1 genes and proteins are shown in [Table 1.](#page-2-0)

Supplemental data

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

[Supplemental Figure S1.](https://academic.oup.com/plphys/article-lookup/doi/10.1093/plphys/kiac103#supplementary-data) Comparison of amino acid sequences of SlTOM1 proteins.

[Supplemental Figure S2.](https://academic.oup.com/plphys/article-lookup/doi/10.1093/plphys/kiac103#supplementary-data) Expression of TOM1 homologs in wt, Sltom1 quadruple-, and triple-mutant tomato plants.

[Supplemental Figure S3](https://academic.oup.com/plphys/article-lookup/doi/10.1093/plphys/kiac103#supplementary-data). ToBRFV CP accumulation in wt, Sltom1 single-, double-, triple-, and quadruple-mutant and $Tm-2^2$ plants.

[Supplemental Figure S4](https://academic.oup.com/plphys/article-lookup/doi/10.1093/plphys/kiac103#supplementary-data). ToMV CP accumulation in wt, Sltom1 single-, double-, triple-, and quadruple-mutant plants.

[Supplemental Figure S5.](https://academic.oup.com/plphys/article-lookup/doi/10.1093/plphys/kiac103#supplementary-data) TMV, YoMV, TAV, and PVX CP accumulation in wt and Sltom1 quadruple-mutant plants.

[Supplemental Figure S6.](https://academic.oup.com/plphys/article-lookup/doi/10.1093/plphys/kiac103#supplementary-data) Emergence of ToBRFV mutants in tomato Sltom1acd triple-mutant plants.

[Supplemental Figure S7](https://academic.oup.com/plphys/article-lookup/doi/10.1093/plphys/kiac103#supplementary-data). CP accumulation of ToBRFV mutants in Sltom1acd triple-mutant and Sltom1 quadruplemutant plants.

[Supplemental Table S1](https://academic.oup.com/plphys/article-lookup/doi/10.1093/plphys/kiac103#supplementary-data). DNA oligonucleotides used to construct the sgRNA sequence-containing entry clones.

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Conflict of interest statement. A.K. is employed by Takii and Company, Limited. M.I., A.K., and K.I. are named as inventors on a patent application related to this work (JP6810946B1).

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