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Arabidopsis HEAT SHOCK FACTOR BINDING PROTEIN is required to limit meiotic crossovers and HEI10 transcription

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Abstract

The number of meiotic crossovers is tightly controlled and most depend on pro-crossover ZMM proteins, such as the E3 ligase HEI10. Despite the importance of HEI10 dosage for crossover formation, how HEI10 transcription is controlled remains unexplored. In a forward genetic screen using a fluorescent crossover reporter in Arabidopsis thaliana, we identify heat shock factor binding protein (HSBP) as a repressor of HEI10 transcription and crossover numbers. Using genome-wide crossover mapping and cytogenetics, we show that hsbp mutations or meiotic HSBP knockdowns increase ZMM-dependent crossovers toward the telomeres, mirroring the effects of HEI10 overexpression. Through RNA sequencing, DNA methylome, and chromatin immunoprecipitation analysis, we reveal that HSBP is required to repress HEI10 transcription by binding with heat shock factors (HSFs) at the HEI10 promoter and maintaining DNA methylation over the HEI10 5' untranslated region. Our findings provide insights into how the temperature response regulator HSBP restricts meiotic HEI10 transcription and crossover number by attenuating HSF activity.

Keywords Crossover; HEI10; HSBP; HSF; meiosis

Subject Categories Chromatin, Transcription & Genomics; DNA Replication, Recombination & Repair; Plant Biology

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Introduction

During meiosis, homologous chromosomes (homologs) undergo reciprocal DNA exchanges, called crossovers. Crossovers ensure the correct segregation of homologs during meiosis I and create new combinations of alleles in gametes (Villeneuve & Hillers, 2001; Hunter, 2015). Meiotic recombination is initiated by the formation of DNA double-strand breaks (DSBs) (Gray & Cohen, 2016). Numerous DSBs are formed, but only about 5% of DSBs are repaired as crossovers, and thus, the number of crossovers is limited to 1–3 per homolog (Mercier *et al*, 2015). Meiotic DSB ends are resected to generate 3' single-stranded DNA ends that are then bound by recombinases DMC1 and RAD51 (Gray & Cohen, 2016). The resulting nucleoprotein complex then invades sister or non-sister chromatids to produce a displacement loop (D-loop) structure (Hunter, 2015; Gray & Cohen, 2016). Interhomolog D-loops are resolved into crossovers by the formation of double Holliday junctions (dHJs). Alternatively, D-loops are dissolved to produce non-crossovers (Hunter, 2015; Mercier *et al*, 2015).

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Two crossover pathways are conserved across eukaryotes (Mercier et al, 2015). The class I pathway is responsible for approximately 85–90% of crossovers in Arabidopsis (Arabidopsis thaliana) (Mercier et al, 2015). Class I crossover formation is promoted by a group of ZMM proteins (ZIP4, SHOC1, PTD, MER3, MSH4, MSH5, and HEI10) and MutLy (MLH1-MLH3) dHJ resolvases (Copenhaver et al, 2002; Higgins et al, 2004; Mercier et al, 2005, 2015; Chelysheva et al, 2012; Duroc et al, 2017; De Muyt et al, 2018). ZMM proteins stabilize interhomolog D-loops and protect them from anticrossover helicases and facilitate the recruitment of MutLy resolvases at crossover sites (Pyatnitskaya et al, 2019; Cannavo et al, 2020). Class I crossovers are subject to interference, which prevents the formation of another crossover nearby (Berchowitz & Copenhaver, 2010). Conversely, class II crossovers are non-interfering and formed by MUS81 (Berchowitz et al, 2007). In Arabidopsis, class II crossovers are restricted by anti-recombination proteins such as FANCM, RECQ4A, and RECQ4B that promote non-crossovers (Crismani et al, 2012; Girard et al, 2015; Séguéla-Arnaud et al, 2015).

One of the ZMM proteins required for class I crossover formation is the E3 ubiquitin/SUMO ligase HEI10 (Human enhance of

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invasion-10) (Chelysheva et al, 2012; Wang et al, 2012; De Muyt et al. 2014; Oiao et al. 2014). Arabidopsis HEI10 is loaded onto the meiotic chromosome axes as numerous foci during early prophase I, followed by their progressive reduction in numbers during pachytene, with only approximately 10-12 HEI10 foci remaining from late pachytene to diakinesis, marking crossover sites with MLH1 foci (Chelysheva et al, 2012; Morgan et al, 2021). HEI10 interacts with several ZMM proteins in rice and Arabidopsis (Li et al, 2018; Zhang et al, 2019; Nageswaran et al, 2021). The biochemical activity of HEI10 remains elusive in plants, although protein modifications and degradation play critical roles in meiosis (Reynolds et al, 2013; Qiao et al, 2014; Rao et al, 2017; Gao & Colaiácovo, 2018). Studies in Arabidopsis and mice have shown that HEI10 is a dosage-sensitive pro-crossover factor (Qiao et al, 2014; Ziolkowski et al, 2017; Serra et al, 2018). HEI10 foci dynamics are also likely associated with crossover interference and the effects of temperature on class I crossover formation (Lloyd et al, 2018; Modliszewski et al, 2018; Morgan et al, 2021). Despite the importance of HEI10 expression in controlling crossover numbers, very little is known about the regulation of HEI10 transcription during meiosis.

In a forward genetic screen using a fluorescent crossover reporter in *Arabidopsis*, here, we describe the identification of *HIGH CROSS-OVER RATE2* (*HCR2*), which encodes HSBP (heat shock factor binding protein), as a repressor of crossover frequency. The *hcr2* mutant and meiosis-specific *HSBP* knockdown increased *HEI10* transcript levels, leading to more crossovers in distal euchromatic regions and lower interference. HSBP is associated with heat shock factors (HSFs) at the *HEI10* promoter and maintained DNA methylation over the *HEI10* 5' untranslated region. Our work, thus, revealed how the conserved HSBP-HSF transcriptional module controls *HEI10* transcription and restricts class I crossovers during meiosis.

Results

A forward genetic screen identifies *hcr2* as a hypomorphic allele (*hsbp-3*) of *HSBP*

To identify new anti-crossover factors, we performed a forward genetic screen for mutants with an elevated crossover rate using ethyl methanesulfonate (EMS) mutagenesis and the fluorescent recombination reporter 420 in the Arabidopsis Columbia-0 (hereafter, Col) background (Fig 1A and Appendix Fig S1A–B) (Nageswaran et al, 2021). The 420 reporter system carries two fluorescent reporter transgenes located on the upper arm of chromosome 3 and allows high-throughput measurements of crossover frequency in individual plants (Melamed-Bessudo et al, 2005; Ziolkowski et al, 2015, 2017; Nageswaran *et al*, 2021). We isolated the high crossover rate (*hcr*) mutants *hcr1*, *hcr2*, *hcr3*, and *hcr4* (*t*-test, all $P < 4.21 \times 10^{-5}$) (Fig 1A and B and Appendix Table S1) (Nageswaran et al, 2021). We showed previously that HCR1 encodes PROTEIN PHOSPHATASE X-1 (PPX1), which interacts with ZMM proteins and limits class I crossovers, whereas hcr4 was a fancm mutant allele (Nageswaran et al, 2021). The genetic distance measured between the two 420 fluorescent reporters was 35 cM in *hcr2*, representing a significantly higher crossover frequency (*t*-test, $P = 1.32 \times 10^{-10}$) than the 20 cM in Col, or hcr2/+ heterozygotes (t-test, HCR2 versus hcr2/+, P = 0.629), indicating that *hcr2* is a recessive mutation (Fig 1C and Appendix Table S2). We mapped the causal *hcr2* mutation using a BC_1F_2 population and bulk segregant sequencing (Fig 1C and Appendix Fig S1C and D, and Table S3) (Sun & Schneeberger, 2015; Nageswaran et al, 2021). hcr2 (hereafter hsbp-3; see below) harbored an EMS-driven single substitution mutation (C-to-T) close to the donor splicing site between the fourth and fifth exons in At4g15802, which encodes heat shock factor binding protein (HSBP) (Fig 1D). HSBP is conserved across eukaryotes and represses transcription by binding to heat shock transcription factors (HSFs) (Appendix Fig S2A-C) (Satyal et al, 1998; Hsu et al, 2010). The fourth intron of Arabidopsis HSBP is of the conserved minor AT-AC intron splicing class (Fig 1D and Appendix Fig S2D) (Russell et al, 2006). The C-to-T substitution in hsbp-3 resulted in aberrant shorter and longer HSBP splice variants that introduce premature stop codons, compared to Col transcripts (Figs 1E and EV1A and B). We found that HSBP transcripts and HSBP protein levels decreased to approximately 53 and 58%, respectively, of Col levels in hsbp-3 buds (Figs 1E and F, and EV1B and C). The hsbp-1 and hsbp-2, T-DNA insertion mutants, also showed reduced HSBP transcript levels (hsbp-1, 70%; hsbp-2, 9%) and HSBP protein levels (hsbp-1, 77%; hsbp-2, 17%) relative to Col, indicating that hsbp alleles are unlikely to be null mutants but instead accumulate HSBP to different levels (Figs 1E and F, and EV1B and C).

To confirm that *HCR2* is *HSBP*, we generated complementation lines by introducing the entire *HSBP* genomic region from Col into

Figure 1. The hcr2 mutant is a weak hsbp allele.

- A Representative images of seed fluorescence segregation in 420/++ in wild type (Col) and hcr2. Scatterplots to the right show red (dsRed) and green (eGFP) fluorescence values in 420/++ Col (top) and hcr2 (bottom). Scale bars: 2 mm.
- B 420 crossover frequencies (cM) in Col, *hcr1*, *hcr2*, *hcr3*, and *hcr4* mutants. $n \ge 7$ plants of biological replicates.
- C As in (B), 420 crossover frequencies (cM) in Col, hcr2/HCR2, hcr2/hcr2, and individual hcr2 BC₁F₂ plants. $n \ge 6$ plants of biological replicates.
- D Schematic diagram of the HSBP locus and position of the hcr2 (hsbp-3) substitution (red asterisk). Black boxes, exons; gray boxes, UTRs; introns, black lines. The conserved splicing sequence of AT-AC class introns is underlined. Primer positions for the RT–PCR and RT–qPCR analyses are indicated by arrows.
- E End-point RT–PCR analysis of HSBP in Col, hsbp-3, hsbp-2, and hsbp-1. Hash and asterisk indicate aberrant long and short splicing variants of HSBP in hsbp-3, respectively. Image J was used to measure relative PCR band intensity for hsbp-3 (53%), hsbp-2 (9%), and hsbp-1 (70%). TUB2 was used as an internal control.
- F As in (E), but showing immunoblot analysis of HSBP. hsbp-3, hsbp-2 and hsbp-1 accumulate about 58, 17, and 77% of HSBP levels, respectively. Coomassie-stained membrane was used as a loading control.
- G As in (B), 420 crossover frequencies in Col, hsbp-3, and hsbp-3 T_1 lines harboring the HSBP or HSBP-myc transgene. $n \ge 6$ plants of biological replicates.
- H As in (B), 420 crossover frequencies (cM) in Col, hsbp-3, and meiMIGS-HSBP T_1 transgenic plants. $n \ge 6$ plants of biological replicates.
- As in (B), but showing *l3bc* crossover frequency (cM) in Col, *hsbp-3*, *hsbp-3/hsbp-2* F_1 hybrid, and *hspb-2* plants. $n \ge 5$ plants of biological replicates.

Data information: (E, F) Experiments were performed at least three times. (B, G, H) Red dots and horizontal lines indicate mean \pm s.d. of cM values from individual plants (one-sided Welch's t-test). Black dots represent cM values of individual plants. (I) Colored dots represent cM values from individual plants. Source data are available online for this figure.

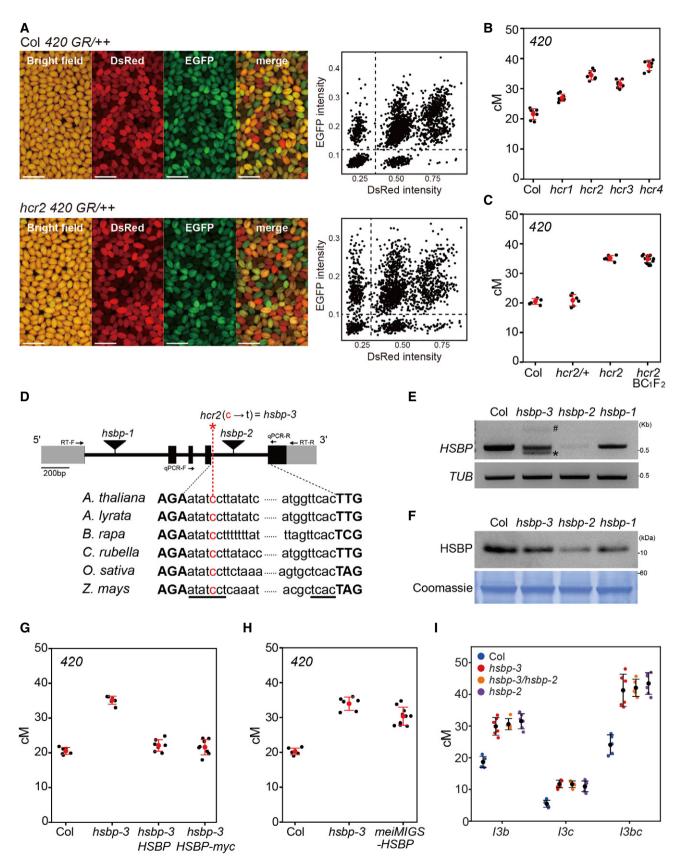


Figure 1.

the 420/++ hsbp-3 background via transformation (Fig 1G and Appendix Table S4). Primary (T₁) transgenic plants harboring genomic *HSBP* reduced the crossover frequency of the *hsbp-3* mutant to Col levels (*t*-test, *HSBP P* = 0.192, *HSBP-myc P* = 0.436) (Fig 1G and Appendix Table S4). We also specifically decreased *HSBP* transcript levels during meiosis using meiMIGS (meiosis-specific miRNA induced gene silencing) in the 420/++ background (Figs 1H and EV2A–E) (de Felippes *et al*, 2012; Nageswaran *et al*, 2021). These *meiMIGS*^{DMC1}-HSBP T₁ transgenic plants showed increased 420 crossover frequencies compared with Col plants (*t*-test, *P* = 7.22 × 10⁻⁸) (Fig 1H and Appendix Table S5). Importantly, *meiMIGS*^{DMC1}-HSBP T₂ plants had lower HSBP transcript levels that negatively correlated with 420 crossover frequencies (*r* = -0.83, *P* = 1.28 × 10⁻⁴) (Fig EV2E).

We then crossed the 420 hsbp-3 line with the hsbp-2 T-DNA insertion allele to produce F1 hybrid plants (hsbp-3/hsbp-2) for an allelism test (Fig 1D). The hsbp-3/hsbp-2 F1 hybrid plants exhibited increased 420 crossover frequencies compared to Col plants (t-test, $P = 1.03 \times 10^{-6}$ (Appendix Fig S3A). However, homozygous hsbp-2 F₂ seeds derived from these F₁ plants showed silencing of both fluorescent reporters in the seed coat, which led to altered segregation ratios (Appendix Fig S3B–D), possibly due to the role of HSBP in seed development (Fu et al, 2002; Hsu et al, 2010; Rana et al, 2012). We, therefore, used the three-color pollen FTL (fluorescence tagged line) I3bc to assess crossover frequencies in hsbp-2 and hsbp-3 using DeepTetrad (Lim et al, 2020) (Figs 1I and 2A). We allowed the hsbp-3/hsbp-2 F₁ plants (I3bc/+++, hsbp-3/ hsbp-2, qrt1/QRT1) to self-fertilize and measured crossover frequency in F₂ individuals (Fig 1I). Neither hsbp-2 nor hsbp-3 mutations led to silencing of the fluorescent reporters in the pollen grains (Appendix Fig S3E). Homozygous plants for hsbp-3 or, hsbp-2, as well as hsbp-3/hsbp-2 hybrid plants, showed increased crossover frequencies in I3bc compared with Col plants (t-test, all $P < 8.79 \times 10^{-5}$) but not between them (*t*-test, all P > 0.305) (Fig 11 and Appendix Table S6). Together, these results demonstrate that HCR2 encodes HSBP.

hsbp-3 increases crossover frequency in euchromatic regions

We investigated the effect of *hsbp-3* on crossover frequency in other chromosomal regions. For this, we crossed *hsbp-3* with 22 seed fluorescent recombination reporters, CTLs (Col traffic lines) distributed across the genome, and measured sex-averaged *CTL* crossover

frequency in individual F₂ plants (Fig 2A and Appendix Table S7) (Wu et al. 2015). Homozygous hsbp-3 plants showed higher crossover frequency than Col plants in CTLs along euchromatic chromosome arms (CTL1.17, CTL1.11, CTL1.13, CTL1.22, CTL2.8, CTL2.2, CTL2.7, CTL3.2, CTL3.6, CTL3.15, CTL4.7, CTL5.1, CTL5.2, and *CTL5.14*) (*t*-test, all $P < 3.62 \times 10^{-4}$), which supports a role for HSBP in repressing crossover frequency outside of the 420 intervals (Fig 2B). However, crossover frequency decreased moderately (CTL2.1, CTL3.9, CTL4.1, CTL5.5) (t-test, all $P < 7.78 \times 10^{-3}$) or was unchanged (CTL1.5, CTL3.8) (t-test, CTL1.5 P = 0.847, CTL3.8 P = 0.09) in intervals spanning centromeres (Fig 2B). Indeed, we observed a strong negative correlation between the crossover increase in hsbp-3 and the proximity of each CTL interval midpoint to the centromere $(r = -0.89, R^2 = 0.78, P = 3.145 \times 10^{-7})$ (Fig 2 C). Consistently, the *meiMIGS* ^{DMC1}-HSBP line also exhibited higher crossover frequencies in the distal intervals CTL1.13, CTL1.26, and *CTL2.7* (*t*-test, all $P < 5.64 \times 10^{-4}$) but no difference in the centromeric interval CTL1.5 (t-test, P = 0.598) (Fig 2D and Appendix Table S8).

HSBP limits crossovers in both male and female meiosis

We measured male- and female-specific crossover frequencies by reciprocally crossing 420/++ hsbp-3 with Col plants. hsbp-3 significantly elevated 420 crossover frequencies during both male and female meiosis (*t*-test, all $P < 1.87 \times 10^{-7}$) (Fig 2E and Appendix Table S9), with a higher crossover frequency increase in female (hsbp-3, 283%) than male meiosis (hspb-3, 149%). This result indicated that HSBP restricts crossovers in females more strongly than in males. We further investigated the effects of hsbp-3 on male crossover frequency using the pollen-specific FTLs I1bc, I3bc, and I5ab (Fig 2A). The hsbp-3 mutant showed increased male crossover frequency in all tested FTL intervals (*t*-test, all $P < 2.35 \times 10^{-4}$) (Fig 2F and Appendix Table S10). In addition, multiple meiMIGS-HSBP T1 plants with different meiosis-specific promoters (DMC1, HEI10, ASY1) displayed elevated I3bc crossover frequency in male meiosis, compared to Col plants (t-test, all $P < 8.38 \times 10^{-3}$) (Fig EV2F and Appendix Table S11).

hsbp-3 decreases crossover interference

The crossover interference ratio (IFR) is the ratio between an interval's map distance (cM) with and without an adjacent crossover,

Figure 2. hsbp-3 and meiMIGS-HSBP increase crossover frequency and reduce interference strength.

- A Seed and pollen FTL T-DNA intervals throughout the Arabidopsis genome used for crossover frequency measurements. Horizontal lines represent the intervals. Circles and triangles indicate LAT52- and NapA-driven FTL transgenes, respectively. The red asterisk indicates the chromosomal position of hsbp-3.
- B Crossover frequencies of seed FTL/CTL lines in Col (blue) and hsbp-3 (red). $n \ge 6$ plants of biological replicates.
- C Correlation between FTL cM changes in *hsbp-3* and the midpoint of the FTL interval analyzed.
- D As in (B), crossover frequencies of seed FTL in Col (blue) and $meiMIGS^{DMC1}$ -HSBP (red). $n \ge 6$ plants of biological replicates.
- E As in (B), 420 crossover frequencies (cM) in male and female meiosis for Col (blue) and hsbp-3 (red). $n \ge 5$ plants of biological replicates.
- F As in (B), crossover frequencies (cM) in pollen FTL *I1bc*, *I3bc*, and *I5ab* in Col and *hsbp-3*. $n \ge 5$ plants of biological replicates.
- G Crossover interference ratios (IFRs) measured using FTL pollen tetrads in Col (blue) and hsbp-3 (red). $n \ge 5$ plants of biological replicates.
- H Double crossover (DCO) ratios detected in FTL pollen tetrads in Col (blue) and hsbp-3 (red). The DCO ratio was calculated as (number of tetrads with more than two crossovers)/(total number of tetrads). $n \ge 5$ plants of biological replicates.

Data information: (B, D; E) Mean \pm s.d. of cM values are indicated by black dots and horizontal lines (one-sided Welch's *t*-test). Blue and red dots indicate cM values from individual plants. (G) Mean \pm s.d. of IFR values are indicated by black dots and horizontal lines. (H) Mean \pm s.d. of DCO ratio values are indicated by black dots and horizontal lines (one-sided Welch's *t*-test).

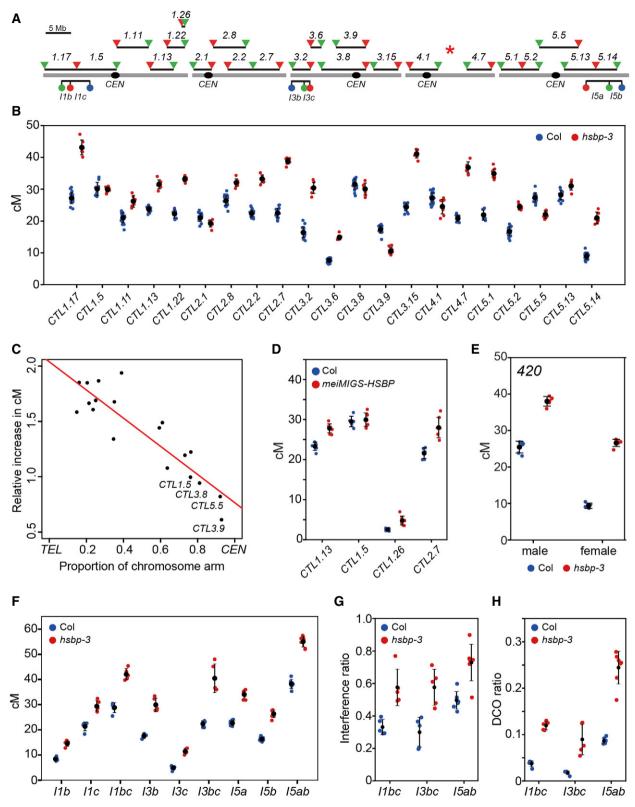


Figure 2.

and it can be measured using three-color pollen FTLs (Francis *et al*, 2007; Berchowitz & Copenhaver, 2008; Lim *et al*, 2020). IFR values for FTLs *I1bc*, *I3bc*, and *I5ab* were significantly higher in *hsbp* compared to their values of Col (*t*-test, all $P < 5.55 \times 10^{-3}$), indicating that interference was weaker in *hsbp-3* relative to Col (Fig 2G and Appendix Table S10). Consistently, we detected more double crossovers within FTL intervals in *hsbp-3* compared with those in the Col (*t*-test, all $P < 8.02 \times 10^{-3}$) (Fig 2H). However, interference was still evident in *hsbp-3* with IFR values below 1, whereas class II anti-recombination mutants typically show no interference (IFR = 1) (Crismani *et al*, 2012; Girard *et al*, 2015; Séguéla-Arnaud *et al*, 2015). These findings indicate that HSBP is required for crossover interference.

Genetic analyses suggest that HSBP restricts class I crossovers

To understand how HSBP limits crossovers, we measured crossover frequency in double or triple mutants between hsbp-3 and other recombination pathway mutants (Fig 3). We observed an additive increase in crossover frequency in both 420 and CTL1.26 in the fancm hsbp-3 double mutant compared with either single mutant (t-test, fancm P = 0.012, hsbp-3 P = 0.0134) (Fig 3A and B, and Appendix Tables S12 and S13). Similarly, the hcr1 hsbp-3 double mutant showed a higher crossover frequency in CTL1.26 relative to the single mutants (t-test, hcr1 $P = 4.97 \times 10^{-5}$, hspb-3 P = 1.85×10^{-4}) (Fig 3B and Appendix Table S13). Using the *I3bc* FTL, we detected an additive effect of hsbp-3 on crossover frequency in recq4a recq4b, similar to fancm (t-test, hsbp-3 $P = 1.30 \times 10^{-4}$, *recq4a recq4b* $P = 2.49 \times 10^{-3}$) (Fig 3C and Appendix Table S14). These results indicate that HSBP restricts crossover number independently of FANCM, RECQ4A/4B, and HCR1 (Fig 3A-C). Unlike fancm and recq4a recq4b mutants that restore the low fertility and bivalents of zip4 mutants to Col levels by increasing class II crossovers (Crismani et al, 2012; Séguéla-Arnaud et al, 2015), hsbp-3 restored neither zip4 fertility (zip4, ~3.03 seeds/silique; zip4 hsbp-3, ~2.94 seeds/silique) (Wilcoxon test, P = 0.11) nor bivalents per cell of *zip4* (Wilcoxon test, P = 0.17) (Fig 3D-F and Appendix Tables S15 and S16). Furthermore, 420 crossover frequencies in the hsbp-3 zip4 double mutant did not differ from that of *zip4* (*t*-test, P = 0.977), indicating that the elevated crossover frequency of hsbp-3 requires ZIP4 activity (Fig 3A). Together, these genetic analyses indicate that HSBP represses class I crossover formation.

Meiotic HSBP knockdown elevates crossovers on chromosome arms in Col/Ler hybrids

Because *hsbp-3* elevated crossover frequency in Col inbred FTL intervals, we investigated the genome-wide effects of *hsbp-3* on crossover formation in Col/Ler hybrid plants. Accordingly, we mapped genomic crossover sites using genotyping by sequencing (GBS) of F₂ individuals derived from a cross between *420 meiMIGS*-*HSBP* in Col and Ler (Fig 4). We observed increased *420* crossover frequencies in *meiMIGS-HSBP* Col/Ler F₁ hybrids compared with those in Col/Ler F₁ plants (*t*-test, $P = 8.44 \times 10^{-11}$) (Fig 4A and B, and Appendix Table S17). We then performed GBS on 288 F₂ progeny from one *meiMIGS-HSBP* Col/Ler F₁ hybrid. Genome-wide crossover maps of *meiMIGS-HSBP* Col/Ler F₂ plants revealed more

crossovers per individual F₂ plant (Wilcoxon test, $P = 2.2 \times 10^{-16}$) and per chromosome, compared with those in Col/Ler F₂ plants (n = 240) (Fig 4C and D, and Appendix Table S18). Most of the additional crossovers in *meiMIGS-HSBP* occurred within the chromosome arms toward the telomeres (Fig 4E and F), which was consistent with the increased crossover frequency seen in *hsbp-3* FTLs (Fig 2). Collectively, meiotic knockdown of *HSBP* increased crossovers on chromosome arms in both inbred and hybrid plants. We noticed that the *meiMIGS-HSBP* transgenic line might possess a T-DNA insertion-mediated chromosomal rearrangement, as evidenced by the suppression of crossovers around the pericentromere and the sharp increase in crossovers at the arms of chromosome 3 (Fig 4F). Therefore, we excluded chromosome 3 in the telomere and centromere analysis (Fig 4E).

hsbp and meiMIGS-HSBP increase HEI10 transcription

Because HSBP interacts with HSF trimers and attenuates their transcriptional activity during the heat shock response (Satyal et al, 1998; Hsu et al, 2010), we performed transcriptome deep sequencing (RNA-seq) using hsbp-3 and Col meiocyte-containing unopened buds (<1 mm) (Fig 5A). Among known meiotic genes, HEI10 and ASY1 transcript levels were significantly higher in hsbp-3 compared with their levels in Col (Fig 5A). Increased HEI10 transcript levels in hsbp-3 were consistent with the higher crossover frequencies seen in the mutant (Figs 2 and 3) because HEI10 is a dosage-dependent pro-crossover factor in Arabidopsis (Ziolkowski et al, 2017; Serra et al, 2018). We confirmed higher HEI10 and ASY1 transcript levels in hsbp-3, hsbp-2, and meiMIGS-HSBP buds by RT–qPCR (*t*-test, all $P < 1.39 \times 10^{-2}$), while *DMC1*, MLH1, and MUS81 transcript levels were comparable to those of Col (*t*-test, P > 0.113) (Appendix Fig S4A and C). To validate the effect of hsbp-3 on HEI10 transcription during meiosis, we purified male meiocytes and performed RT-qPCR analysis. We again observed elevated HEI10 transcript levels in hsbp-3 meiocytes compared with those in Col (*t*-test, $P = 1.15 \times 10^{-9}$) (Fig 5B). HSBP transcripts were also highly expressed in these purified meiocytes (*t*-test, $P = 2.93 \times 10^{-14}$) (Fig 5C) and meiotic buds (*t*-test, $P = 1.18 \times 10^{-12}$) (Appendix Fig S4B) compared with their expression in seedlings. Immunoblot analysis of HSBP indicated that HSBP abundance is also higher in buds than in seedlings (Fig EV1C) and reduced in hsbp and meiMIGS-HSBP buds (Fig EV2G). These results suggest that meiotic HSBP may limit crossover frequency by directly or indirectly repressing HEI10 transcription.

hsbp-3 increases HEI10-dependent crossovers

To test the above hypothesis genetically, we generated a *hsbp-3 hei10* double mutant. *420* crossover frequencies were the same in the *hsbp-3 hei10* double mutant and in *hei10* (*t*-test, P = 0.985) (Fig 5D and Appendix Table S19), indicating that the increased crossovers in *hsbp-3* depend on HEI10 activity. *420* crossover frequencies also increased additively in Col and *hsbp-3* upon the introduction of a single copy of *HEI10-myc* transgene (*HEI10*, red) (Ziolkowski *et al*, 2017) (*t*-test, *hsbp-3* $P = 6.41 \times 10^{-4}$, *HEI10-myc* $P = 1.16 \times 10^{-5}$) (Fig 5D and Appendix Table S19). We confirmed the effect of *HEI10* copy number on increasing crossover frequency

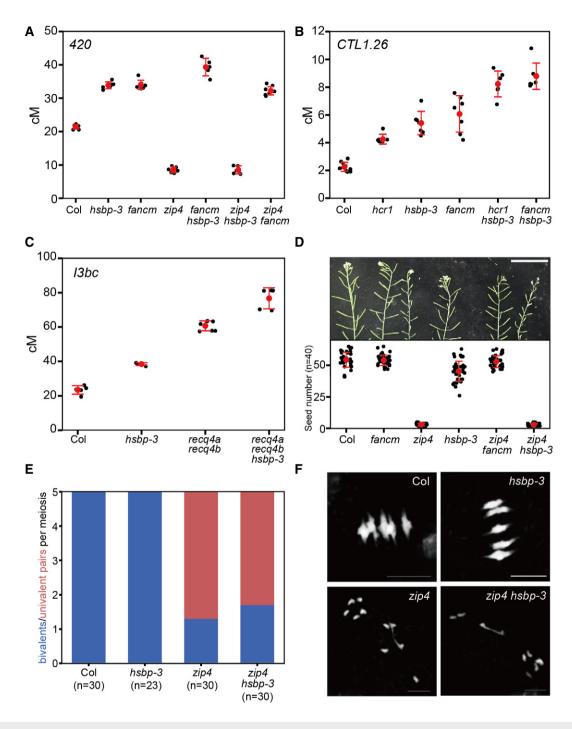


Figure 3. *hsbp-3* leads to an increase in ZMM-dependent crossovers.

- A 420 crossover frequencies (cM) in Col, hsbp-3, fancm, zip4, fancm hsbp-3, zip4 hsbp-3, and zip4 fancm. n ≥ 5 plants of biological replicates.
- B As in (A), CTL1.26 crossover frequencies (cM) in Col, hcr1, hsbp-3, fancm, hcr1 hsbp-3, and fancm hsbp-3. n ≥ 6 plants of biological replicates.
- C As in (A), 13bc crossover frequencies (cM) in Col, hsbp-3, recq4a recq4b, and recq4a recq4b hsbp-3. $n \ge 5$ plants of biological replicates.
- D Representative silique images and average number of seeds per silique from Col, *fancm*, *zip4*, *hsbp-3*, *zip4 fancm*, and *zip4 hsbp-3* plants. Scale bar: 5 cm. Red dots and horizontal lines indicate mean \pm s.d. of seed number from siliques. Black dots represent seed number from individual siliques. Significance between genotypes was assessed by Wilcoxon test. n = 40 siliques.
- E Average number of bivalents (blue) and pairs of univalent (red) per male meiocyte from Col, *hsbp-3*, *zip4* and *zip4 hsbp-3*. The number of analyzed cells is indicated in parentheses. Significance between genotypes was assessed by Wilcoxon test.
- F As in (E), but showing representative metaphase I chromosome spreads stained with DAPI. Scale bar, 10 µm. Images represent three biological replicates.

Data information: (A–C) Red dots and horizontal lines indicate mean ± s.d. of cM values (one-sided Welch's t-test). Black dots represent cM values of individual plants.

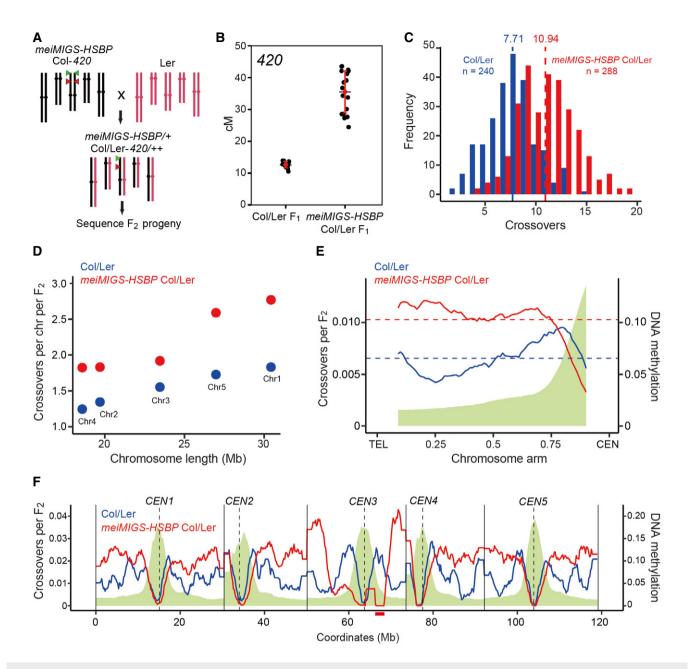


Figure 4. Genome-wide crossover maps in meiMIGS-HSBP.

- A Schematic diagram of the crossing scheme between *meiMIGS-HSBP* Col-420 (black) and Ler (red) to generate an F₂ population for genotyping by sequencing. Green and red triangles indicate the fluorescent reporters in the 420 background on chromosome 3.
- B 420 crossover frequencies (in cM) in Col/Ler and meiMIGS-HSBP Col/Ler F_1 hybrids. Red dots and horizontal lines indicate mean \pm s.d. of cM values (one-sided Welch's t-test). $n \ge 12$ plants of biological replicates.
- C Distribution of crossover numbers per F₂ individual in Col/Ler (blue) and *meiMIGS-HSBP* Col/Ler (red). Vertical dashed lines indicate mean crossover numbers. Significance between genotypes was assessed by one-sided Welch's *t*-tests.
- D Crossover numbers per chromosome in Col/Ler (blue) and meiMIGS-HSBP Col/Ler (red) F₂ populations.
- E Normalized crossover frequencies along chromosome arms from the telomere (TEL) to the centromere (CEN) in Col/Ler (blue) and *meiMIGS-HSBP*/Ler F₂ populations (red). Crossover data for chromosome 3 were excluded due to a possible T-DNA-driven chromosome rearrangement. DNA methylation levels are shown in green. Horizontal dashed lines indicate mean values.
- F As in (E), without TEL-CEN scaling. Vertical solid and dashed lines indicate telomeres and centromeres, respectively. The region of T-DNA-driven chromosome rearrangement in the pericentromere of chromosome 3 is shown as a solid red underline.

Data information: Significance between genotypes was assessed by one-sided Wilcoxon tests (D, E).

using a *HEI10-myc* transgenic line (one-way ANOVA test, all $P < 1.39 \times 10^{-8}$) (Fig 5E and Appendix Table S20) as previously reported (Ziolkowski *et al*, 2017). Varying *HEI10* transcript levels

using the promoters of other meiotic genes (*ASY1*, *REC8*, *DMC1*) also increased 420 crossover frequencies to variable extents (*t*-test, all $P < 1.61 \times 10^{-5}$) (Fig 5E and Appendix Table S20).

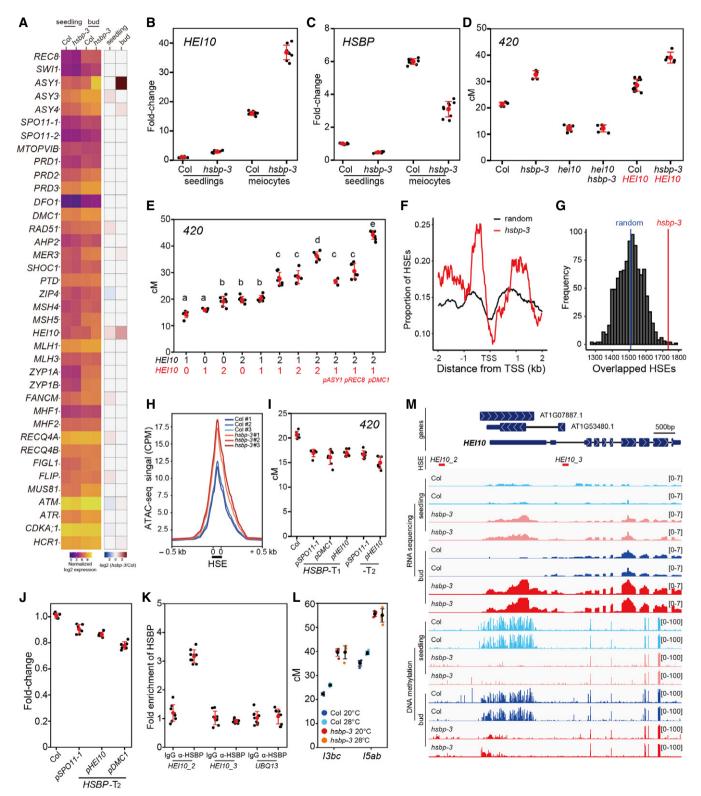


Figure 5.

Figure 5. HSBP represses HEI10 transcription via HSF inhibition and DNA methylation.

- A Heatmap representation of transcript levels for meiotic recombination genes in Col and hsbp-3 seedlings and buds from RNA-seq data.
- B *HEI10* transcript levels in Col and *hsbp-3* meiocytes, compared with seedlings by RT–qPCR. Experiments were performed at least three times. $n \ge 6$ two or three technical duplicates of three biological replicates.
- C As in (C), HSBP transcript levels. $n \ge 6$ two or three technical duplicates of three biological replicates.
- D 420 crossover frequencies in Col, hei10, hsbp-3, hei10 hsbp-3, HEI10, and HEI10 hsbp-3. HEI10 (red), HEI10-myc transgene. $n \ge 6$ plants of biological replicates.
- E As in (D), plants with different *HEI10* dosage and varying meiotic *HEI10* expression from the indicated promoters. Black numbers represent *HEI10* and the endogenous *HEI10* genotype (0, *hei10*; 1, *hei10/HEI10*; 2, *HEI10/HEI10*). Red numbers represent *HEI10* and *HEI10-myc* transgene copy number using *HEI10* or other meiotic gene promoters. One-way analysis of variance determined significant differences. *n* ≥ 6 plants of biological replicates.
- F Mean coverage of HSE peaks around the transcription start site (TSS) of upregulated genes (n = 983) in hsbp-3 (red) and 1,000 sets of 983 randomly selected genes (black).
- G As in (F), distribution of simulation frequencies (y-axis) and HSE numbers (x-axis) in upregulated genes in hsbp-3 compared with 1,000 simulations of 983 randomly selected genes. Vertical blue line, mean number of the random HSE sets.
- H Mean ATAC-seq signal around HSEs in Col and hsbp-3 buds. The y-axis indicates mean CPM (counts per million mapped reads) of ATAC-seq.
- As in (D), 420 crossover frequencies in Col and transgenic plants expressing HSBP under the indicated promoters. $n \ge 6$ plants of biological replicates.
- As in (B), RT–qPCR analysis of HEI10 in Col and meiotic HSBP transgenic plant (T_2) buds. $n \ge 6$ two or three technical duplicates of three biological replicates.
- K HSBP ChIP–qPCR analysis at the *HEI10* promoter in buds. The *HEI10* primer positions are shown as red lines in (I). *UBQ13*, negative control. Experiments were performed three times. Data points (black) indicate three technical duplicates of three biological replicates. Red dots and horizontal lines indicate mean ± s.d. values (one-sided Welch's t-test).
- L As in (D), but showing crossover frequency of *I3bc* and *I5ab* in Col and *hsbp-3* grown under optimal or high temperatures. Black dots and horizontal lines indicate mean \pm s.d. of cM values from individual plants. Colored dots represent cM values of individuals. $n \ge 4$ plants of biological replicates.
- M Integrative genomic viewer window showing the HEI10 region of RNA-seq and BS-seq (DNA methylation) data in Col and hsbp-3.

Data information: (B, C, J) Data points (black) indicate two or three technical duplicates of three biological replicates. Red dots and horizontal lines indicate mean \pm s.d. from duplicates (one-sided Welch's t-test). (D, E, I) Red dots and horizontal lines indicate mean \pm s.d. of cM values from individual plants (one-sided Welch's t-test). Black dots represent cM values of individual plants.

HSBP directly represses *HEI10* transcription by binding and inhibiting HSFs

Because HSBP inhibits HSF activity by direct binding (Morimoto, 1998; Satyal *et al*, 1998), we investigated whether HSBP shares target genes with HSFs. We used published genome-wide HSE (heat stress element) maps from DNA affinity purification sequencing (DAP-seq) of HSFs (O'Malley *et al*, 2016). We plotted HSE peaks within 2-kb windows centered on transcription start sites of genes (n = 983) that are upregulated in *hsbp*-3 (Fig 5F and G). We observed a significant enrichment of HSEs in the promoters of these upregulated genes compared with the mean coverage value of HSEs from 1,000 simulations with the same number (n = 983) of randomly selected genes (permutation test, $P < 2.2 \times 10^{-16}$) (Fig 5F and G), which suggests that HSBP and HSFs bind to a common set of genes.

To investigate if HSBP and HSFs control HEI10 transcription in vivo, we performed protoplast transient transfection assays for HSFs, followed by RT-qPCR analysis of HEI10 transcript levels. We selected HSFA1a and HSFA7a among the class A HSF activator family because they are highly expressed in meiotic buds and HSFA7a was induced in hsbp-3 (Fig EV3A). Transient expression of HSFA1a or HSFA7a increased HEI10 transcription (Fig EV3B and C). Importantly, HSBP inhibited HSF-mediated HEI10 transcriptional activation when HSBP and HSF were co-transfected in protoplasts (Fig EV3B and C). To further examine the inhibition of HSF activity by HSBP, we performed ATAC-seq (assay of transposase accessible chromatin sequencing) in Col and hsbp-3 buds to analyze DNA accessibility around 42,258 HSEs (Fig 5H) (O'Malley et al, 2016). hsbp-3 showed elevated DNA accessibility around the HSEs, compared with Col, indicating that HSBP attenuates HSF DNA-binding and transcriptional activities (Fig 5H). To validate the inhibitory effect of HSBP on crossover frequency in planta, we generated transgenic 420/++ plants that express HSBP additively using the SPO11-1, DMC1, or HEI10 promoters. These transgenic T₁ and T₂ plants exhibited lower 420 crossover frequencies (*t*-test, all $P < 1.03 \times 10^{-5}$) and lower *HEI10* transcript levels (*t*-test, all $P < 2.78 \times 10^{-4}$) compared with Col plants (Fig 5I and J, and Appendix Table S21), suggesting that *HEI10* transcription is controlled by an HSF–HSBP transcriptional module whereby HSBP inhibits HSF activity during meiosis.

To examine if HEI10 transcription is controlled directly by HSFs and HSBP, we performed chromatin immunoprecipitation, followed by qPCR analysis (ChIP-qPCR) for HSFA7a at the HEI10 locus using a protoplast transient assay and HSF DAP-seq information (Fig EV3D and E) (O'Malley et al, 2016). We observed a significant enrichment of HSFA7a at one HSE within the HEI10 promoter, thus defining an in vivo binding site of HSFA7a (t-test, HEI10_2 $P = 1.17 \times 10^{-8}$) (Fig EV3E). Next, we performed ChIP–qPCR analysis for HSBP at the HEI10 promoter in heat-treated seedlings (37°C, 4 h) and unopened buds (Figs 5K and EV3F). HSBP was enriched at the same HSE in the HEI10 promoter in both buds and seedlings (ttest, buds, $P = 5.29 \times 10^{-12}$; seedlings, $P = 1.30 \times 10^{-9}$), which demonstrated that HSBP directly represses HEI10 transcription. Exposure to high temperature (37°C) induced HEI10 transcription even in Col seedlings (Fig EV3G), but the hsbp-3 mutant seedlings displayed a de-repression of HEI10 transcription under normal growth temperature (20°C), and this was exacerbated at high temperature (Fig EV3G). We also confirmed the high temperature and hydrogen peroxide (H₂O₂)-mediated translocation of HSBP from the cytosol to the nucleus, and the co-localization and coimmunoprecipitation of HSBP with HSF proteins in protoplasts (EV3H, I, K and L) (Hsu et al, 2010). These results indicate that HSBP represses HEI10 transcription directly by binding and attenuating HSF function at the HEI10 promoter.

HSBP is required for temperature-sensitive crossover control

High temperature increases class I crossovers compared to the optimal growth temperature of approximately 18°C in *Arabidopsis*

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(Lloyd *et al*, 2018; Modliszewski *et al*, 2018). We, therefore, examined the effect of temperature (28°C versus 20°C) on crossover frequency in Col and *hsbp-3* using the FTLs *I3bc* and *I5ab*. We determined that high temperature increased crossover frequency moderately in *I3bc* (116.7%, *t*-test, $P = 3.24 \times 10^{-5}$) and *I5ab* (109.7%, *t*-test, $P = 2.61 \times 10^{-4}$) as previously reported (Lloyd *et al*, 2018; Modliszewski *et al*, 2018), whereas *hsbp-3* showed the same high crossover frequency at both temperatures (*I3bc*, 98.5%, *t*-test, P = 0.95; *I5ab*,100.8%, *t*-test, P = 0.637) (Fig 5L and Appendix Table S22). The effect of high temperature on crossovers was thus compromised in *hsbp-3*, indicating that HSBP contributes to the control of crossover formation in response to changes in temperature.

HSBP is required for 5[′] UTR DNA methylation and transcriptional repression of *HEI10*

DNA cytosine methylation was reported to be enriched in the HEI10 5' untranslated region (5' UTR) in Col plants (Kawakatsu et al, 2016). To examine if HSBP controls HEI10 transcription via DNA methylation, we performed bisulfite sequencing (BS-seq) using seedlings and unopened buds of Col and hsbp-3 (Fig 5M and Appendix Fig S6). Intriguingly, *hsbp-3* led to a loss of DNA methylation at the HEI10 5' UTR in both seedlings and buds compared with Col (Fig 5 M). We also found that the expression of genes associated with DNA demethylation pathways (DEMETER, ROS1, DML2, and IDM1) is induced in hsbp-3 buds, which may contribute to the loss of methylation in a subset of genes including HEI10 (Appendix Fig S6D–F). In Col tissues, DNA methylation levels at the HEI10 5' UTR were higher in seedlings than in buds, suggesting that DNA methylation inhibits HEI10 transcription and decreases during early meiosis. Consistent with the BS-seq results, the RNA-seq data demonstrated that HEI10 transcript levels are 16-fold higher in Col meiocytes compared with seedlings and were also higher in hsbp-3 seedlings and buds relative to Col (Fig 5M). To examine if HSBP is required for maintenance of the DNA methylation at the HEI10 5' UTR, we performed McrBC-qPCR analysis with the cytosine methylation-sensitive endonuclease McrBC using seedlings and unopened buds for Col, hsbp-3, hsbp-2, and meiMIGS-HSBP (Appendix Fig S5A). McrBC-qPCR showed that both hsbp-3 and hsbp-2 had lower DNA methylation at the HEI10 5' UTR in seedlings and buds compared with the DNA methylation in Col (Appendix Fig S5A). meiMIGS-HSBP plants showed a sharp reduction (34.4%) in DNA methylation at the HEI10 5' UTR in buds but a modest

reduction (7.78%) in seedlings (Appendix Figs S4A and S5A). Consistently, *meiMIGS-HSBP* did not increase *HEI10* transcript levels in seedlings to the same extent as *hsbp-3* or *hsbp-2* (Appendix Fig S4A).

To test the effect of DNA hypomethylation at the *HEI10* 5' UTR on *HEI10* transcription and crossover frequency, we generated 420/++ plants with epi-alleles at the *HEI10* 5' UTR by crossing 420 to *met1* mutant (Appendix Fig S5B). Hypomethylated alleles at the *HEI10* 5' UTR exhibited higher 420 crossover frequencies and *HEI10* transcription than Col (*t*-test, 420 all $P < 2.85 \times 10^{-5}$) (Appendix Fig S5C–E and Table S23). We also identified natural epigenetic variation at the *HEI10* 5' UTR in *Arabidopsis* accession C24 (Kawakatsu *et al*, 2016), with a loss of DNA methylation that resulted in higher *HEI10* transcript levels in C24 seedlings and buds, relative to Col and Cvi (Appendix Fig S5F and G). Together, these results show that HSBP is required to maintain DNA hypermethylation at the *HEI10* 5' UTR in both somatic tissue and meiotic buds, and natural variations likely contribute to changes in DNA methylation of *HEI10* 5' UTR.

hsbp-3 shows higher MLH1 and HEI10 foci

We investigated meiosis cytologically using *Arabidopsis* male chromosome spreads (Fig 6). DAPI (4',6-diamidino-2-phenylindole) staining of male meiocytes revealed no significant differences between the Col and *hsbp-3*, with normal synapsis, bivalent formation, and chromosome segregation (Fig 6A). The *hsbp-3* plants produced shorter siliques and had lower seed fertility (*t*-test, silique all $P < 1.31 \times 10^{-17}$, fertility all $P < 6.53 \times 10^{-6}$) (Fig 6B and C, and Appendix Tables S24 and S25), as previously described for other *hsbp* alleles (Hsu *et al*, 2010). Pollen viability of *hsbp-3* and *hsbp-2* did not differ from that of Col pollen, as evidenced by Alexander staining (Fig 6D and Appendix Table S26) (*t*-test, *hsbp-3* P = 0.465, *hsbp-2* P = 0.334), suggesting that reduced fertility in *hsbp-3* and *hsbp-2* mutants may result from seed abortion during embryogenesis.

We counted the number of RAD51 recombinase foci marking meiotic DSB sites along chromosome axes at the leptotene stage using co-immunostaining with ASY1, a marker of the chromosome axis (Fig 6E). *hsbp-3* and Col had comparable numbers of RAD51 foci (Wilcoxon test, P = 0.588) (Fig 6F and Appendix Table S27). We then investigated the number of MLH1 foci, which mark class I crossover sites (Fig 6G). Significantly more MLH1 foci accumulated

Figure 6. Increased MIH1 and HEI10 foci in hsbp-3.

- A Representative images of meiocyte spreads stained with DAPI in Col and *hsbp-3* at the indicated meiotic stages. Scale bars: 10 μm.
- B–D Silique lengths (B), seed numbers (C), and pollen viability (D) in Col, hsbp-3, and hsbp-2. Red dots and horizontal lines indicate mean \pm s.d. of cM values (one-sided Welch's t-test). n = 30 siliques of biological replicates (B, C). n = 10 plants of biological replicates (D).
- E Representative images of ASY1 (green) and RAD51 (red) immunostaining in Col and hsbp-3. Nuclei spreads were stained with DAPI (blue). Scale bars: 10 µm.
- ⁵ Quantification of RAD51 foci numbers per cell in Col (blue) and hsbp-3 (red). n = 20 cells of biological replicates.
- G Representative images of MLH1 (red) immunostaining in Col, hsbp-3, hsbp-2, Col/Ler, and meiMIGS-HSBP Col/Ler. Nuclear DNA was stained with DAPI. Scale bar: 5 µm.
- H Quantification of the number of MLH1 foci per cell is shown in (G). $n \ge 32$ cells of biological replicates.
- I Representative images of HEI10 (red) and ASY1 (green) immunostaining in Col and hsbp-3. Scale bar: 2 µm.
- Ouantification of the number of HEI10 foci per cell is shown in (I), $n \ge 21$ cells of biological replicates.
- K Immunoblot analysis of HEI10 and HEI10-Myc in Col, hsbp-3, HEI10-myc, and HEI10-myc plants. Experiments were performed at least three times.
- L Representative images of HSBP (green) immunostaining during meiosis. Nuclei spreads were stained with DAPI. Scale bars: 5 µm.

Data information: (F, H, J) Black dots and horizontal lines indicate mean \pm s.d. of values (Wilcoxon test). Source data are available online for this figure.

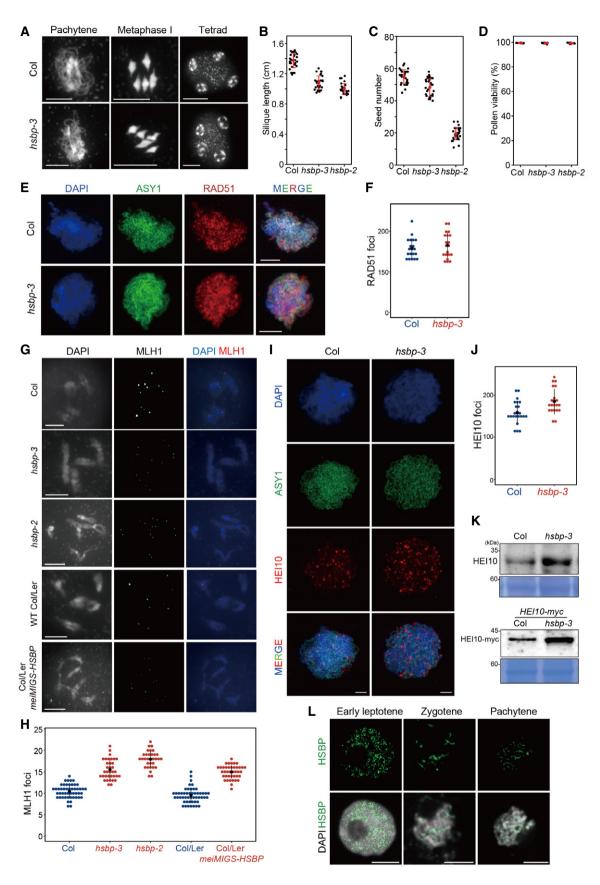


Figure 6.

in hsbp-3, hsbp-2, and meiMIGS-HSBP Col/Ler than in Col and Col/Ler plants (Wilcoxon test, *hsbp-3*, $P = 6.81 \times 10^{-14}$; *hsbp-2*, $P = 2.95 \times 10^{-14}$; meiMIGS-HSBP, $P = 4.89 \times 10^{-15}$) (Fig 6H and Appendix Table S28). We also counted the number of immunostained HEI10 foci per cell from the zygotene to the mid-pachytene stage (Fig 6I and J). hsbp-3 showed more HEI10 foci per cell than Col (Wilcoxon test, $P = 4.45 \times 10^{-3}$) (Fig 6J and Appendix Table S29), which correlated with higher HEI10 and HEI10-myc abundance in the hsbp-3 background, compared with control plants, as determined by immunoblot analysis (Fig 6K). This observation is consistent with increased HEI10 transcription in hsbp-3 and the genetic interactions of HSBP with meiotic recombination mutants (Figs 3 and 5). Finally, we determined the localization of HSBP during meiosis using immunostaining with an anti-HSBP antibody and HSBPpro:HSBP-YFP plants (Figs 6L and EV3J). We detected abundant HSBP proteins in the nucleus from leptotene to pachytene that overlap with DAPI signals in Col (Fig 6L), whereas HSBP abundance was low in hsbp-3 and very low in hsbp-2, as expected from RT-PCR and immunoblot results (Fig 1E and F, and EV3J, and EV4).

Discussion

We demonstrate that the negative regulator of heat shock response HSBP directly represses HEI10 transcription and restricts crossovers. HSBP forms hexamers that bind to the hydrophobic heptad repeat of HSFs, leading to their dissociation from active HSF trimers to inactive monomers, thereby attenuating HSF transcriptional and DNAbinding activities (Morimoto, 1998). In plants, transcript levels of heat shock-responsive genes increase in hsbp mutants and HSBP translocates from the cytosol to the nucleus at high temperatures (Fu et al, 2002; Hsu et al, 2010; Rana et al, 2012). Notably, Arabidopsis HSBP and its rice orthologs are highly expressed in reproductive tissues and are required for embryogenesis (Fu et al, 2002; Hsu et al, 2010; Rana et al, 2012). We determined that Arabidopsis HSBP is abundant in meiocytes and localizes to the nucleus during meiosis (Figs 5 and 6). Our identification of HSBP as a HEI10 transcriptional repressor suggests a possible model for the control of HEI10 expression, whereby HSFs activate HEI10 transcription during early meiosis I, and the activity of HSFs is simultaneously or subsequently attenuated by HSBP, which may determine transcript levels of HEI10 (Fig EV5A-C). We propose that a transcriptional module of HSFs and HSBP contributes to the regulation of meiotic HEI10 transcription, and control of HEI10 protein level during early meiosis I (Chelysheva et al, 2012).

The cycle of HSF activity is dependent on high temperature through trimerization and nuclear translocation, DNA-binding, and post-translational modifications (Gomez-Pastor *et al*, 2018). In addition to high temperature, HSFs are activated by developmental signals, including reactive oxygen species (ROS) (Ahn & Thiele, 2003; Giesguth *et al*, 2015; Guo *et al*, 2016; Gomez-Pastor *et al*, 2018). In maize anthers, hypoxia facilitates somatic cells to differentiate as meiocytes (Kelliher & Walbot, 2012). Single-cell RNA-seq showed sharp and gradual expression patterns of meiotic recombination genes in maize; however, it remains largely unknown how developmental factors or signals control transcriptional changes of meiotic genes during plant meiosis (Nelms & Walbot, 2019). High *HSBP*

expression levels and nuclear localization of HSBP observed here in meiocytes suggest that HSBP and HSFs may share meiotic signals such as ROS with other transcriptional regulators during transcriptional control of *HEI10* and other meiotic genes, including *ASY1*. Ambient temperatures outside of the optimal range may induce HSF activation and affect the developmental factors that increase class I crossovers in *Arabidopsis* (Choi *et al*, 2013; Lloyd *et al*, 2018; Modliszewski *et al*, 2018). In barley, a modest temperature shift leads to a higher number of interstitial chiasmata, indicating a conserved temperature effect on crossover formation (Higgins *et al*, 2012). However, high temperatures only modestly promoted class I crossovers (approximately 10–15%) in *Arabidopsis*, which is likely due to the inhibitory and buffering roles of HSBP on HSF activity for *HEI10* transcriptional control.

DNA methylation at the HEI10 5' UTR was reduced in hsbp-3, which correlated with higher HEI10 transcript levels. We found that HSBP is required to maintain DNA hypermethylation at the HEI10 5' UTR; however, it remains unclear how HSBP maintains DNA hypermethylation specifically at the HEI10 5' UTR. It is likely that transcription of HEI10 contributes to reduce DNA methylation of the HEI10 5' UTR during meiosis. hsbp might disrupt the cycle of HSF activity during meiosis, seed development, and responses to diverse environmental stresses. Therefore, hspb may cause the continuous production or accumulation of developmental and environmental stress signals such as protein misfolding and ROS, affecting DNA methylation via misregulation of genes involved in small RNA and DNA methylation pathways (Fig 5M and Appendix Figs S5 and S6F). A modest decrease in crossovers at pericentromeres and centromeres in hsbp-3 and meiMIGS-HSBP is likely due to a slight increase in DNA methylation via upregulation of the genes involved in transposon-associated small RNA production and DNA methylation (Figs 2B and 4E, and Appendix Fig S6A-C and F). It is also worth noting that hsbp mutants may affect a newly identified epigenetic protein complex comprising a J-domain protein and HSP70 in plants (Ichino et al, 2021) because HSBP associates with HSP70 (Satyal et al, 1998). Determining whether and how HSBP, HSFs, HSPs, and temperature interact to modulate transcription and the epigenetic landscape in Arabidopsis accessions will be instrumental to our understanding of local adaptation and crossover change.

We determined that HSBP represses class I crossovers, adding to the previously described HCR1 and ZYP1 (Capilla-Pérez *et al*, 2021; France *et al*, 2021; Nageswaran *et al*, 2021). Genetic disruption of *HSBP* orthologs using genome editing or RNA interference may increase crossovers and accelerate breeding in crop species. Importantly, our findings shed light on how the evolutionarily conserved transcriptional regulators of HSFs and HSBP have been hitchhiked to control transcription during meiosis, epigenetic information, and crossover recombination in plants and other eukaryotes (Abane & Mezger, 2010).

Materials and Methods

Plant materials

The *Arabidopsis* (*Arabidopsis thaliana*) accession Col-0 was used as the wild type and grown in controlled growth rooms (20°C, 50–60% humidity, and 16-h-light/8-h-dark photoperiod). Seed and pollen

FTL lines were used as previously described (Melamed-Bessudo *et al*, 2005; Wu *et al*, 2015). The T-DNA insertion lines *hsbp-2* (SALK_093051) (Hsu *et al*, 2010), *zip4-2* (SALK_068052) (Chelysheva *et al*, 2012), and the *fancm-1* mutant (Crismani *et al*, 2012) were provided by the *Arabidopsis* Biological Resource Center (ABRC). Genotyping of *hcr2* was performed by PCR using oligonucleotides hcr2-geno F and R, followed by *SspI* (NEB, UK) restriction endonuclease digestion. Genotyping of *hsbp-2* was performed by PCR using primers hsbp-2 geno_F and R for Col and hsbp-2 geno_R and LBb1.3 for the T-DNA allele. The oligonucleotides used for genotyping, plasmid constructs, and experiments in this study are listed in Appendix Table S30.

Isolation and mapping of hcr2

The forward genetic screen and mapping of EMS-derived *hcr2* in the 420 *GR*/++ hemizygous background were performed as described previously (Nageswaran *et al*, 2021). To map *hcr2*, the mutant *hcr2* in the 420 reporter background (*hcr2 420 GR/GR*) was backcrossed to Col. The resulting F_1 plants (*hcr2/HCR2*; 420 *GR/*++) were allowed to self-fertilize to produce BC₁F₂ populations (Fig 1 and Appendix Fig S1). F_3 seeds from individual BC₁F₂ plants were harvested and used to measure the 420 crossover frequencies. Fifty F_2 plants with high crossover rates, as determined by 420 crossover frequencies in their F_3 seeds, were selected and their BC₁F₃ seeds were pooled. Nuclear genomic DNA (gDNA) of pooled F_3 seedlings was isolated and used to construct a DNA sequencing library as described (Nageswaran *et al*, 2021). The SHOREmap (v.3.0) pipeline was applied to map candidate mutations responsible for the *hcr2 (hspb-3)* phenotype, as described (Nageswaran *et al*, 2021).

Genetic complementation of hcr2 by a genomic copy of HSBP

A 3.8-kb *HSBP* gDNA fragment including the promoter (1.0-kb) and coding regions was PCR amplified using primers HSBP-genomic F and R (Appendix Table S30). For the *HSBP-myc* (6x mycs) transgenic line, the *HSBP* promoter and coding region without stop codon were PCR amplified using HSBP-genomic F and HSBP-myc R primers. The resulting PCR products were cloned into the binary vector pPZP211-6x myc, which harbors the *nopaline synthase* (*NOS*) terminator, as described (Choi *et al*, 2018). The pPZP211-*HSBP* and pPZP211-*HSBP-myc* constructs were electroporated into Agrobacterium (*Agrobacterium tumefaciens*) strain GV3101-pSOUP and transformed into *Arabidopsis* 420/++ F₁ Col plants by the floral dip method. T₁ plants were selected for kanamycin resistance, grown, and measured for 420 crossover frequencies.

Measurement of crossover frequency using fluorescent seed and pollen FTLs

The CellProfiler image analysis pipeline was used to measure crossover frequency (cM) by analyzing the number of fluorescent and non-fluorescent seeds from *FTL/++* hemizygous plants (Carpenter *et al*, 2006; Ziolkowski *et al*, 2015). Crossover frequency (in cM) was calculated by counting green-alone fluorescent seeds (N_{Green}), red-alone fluorescent seeds (N_{Red}), and total seeds (N_{Total}) using the formula cM = $100 \times (1 - [1 - 2(N_{Green} + N_{Red})/N_{Total}]^{1/2})$ (Melamed-Bessudo *et al*, 2005; Ziolkowski *et al*, 2015). Welch's *t*-test was used to determine the significance of differences in crossover frequency between genotypes. Pollen tetrad FTL-based measurement of crossover frequency and interference ratio (IFR) were performed using DeepTetrad and pollen FTLs in the *qrt1* mutant background, as described (Berchowitz & Copenhaver, 2008; Lim *et al*, 2020).

Generation of meiMIGS-HSBP and meiotic HSBP transgenic plants

The vectors for meiosis-specific microRNA-mediated gene silencing (*meiMIGS*) transgenic plants were constructed using Golden Gate cloning, as described (Nageswaran *et al*, 2021). The *HSBP* coding sequence (At4g15802) was cloned into the Lv0 vector (pICH41331) following amplification using EJ-HSBP-F forward primers, which include the miR173 target sequence and EJ-HSBP-R reverse primers (Appendix Table S30). The Lv2 binary vector was electroporated into Agrobacterium strain GV3101-pSOUP and transformed into *Arabidopsis* via floral dipping. The promoters of meiotic genes were cloned into Lv0 vectors to drive *meiMIGS-HSBP* expression during meiosis. To generate transgenic plants that additively express *HSBP*, the Lv0 vectors with the *DMC1*, *SPO11-1*, or *HE110* promoters were assembled individually into the Lv1 vector with *HSBP* Lv0 and pICH41421 terminator vector and subsequently assembled to Lv2 binary vectors.

RT–qPCR analysis

Total RNA was isolated using TRIzol reagent (Invitrogen) and used for reverse-transcriptase quantitative PCR using a reverse transcription kit (enzynomics, EZ405S). Total RNA of *Arabidopsis* male meiocytes was isolated from stage 9 floral buds by gently squeezing between a glass slide and coverslip as described (Walker *et al*, 2018). Quantitative PCR was performed using a CFX real-time PCR detection system (Bio-Rad). *TUB2 (TUBULIN BETA CHAIN2)* was used as a reference for normalization. RT–qPCRs were performed and analyzed for three biological replicates and three technical repeats per replicate.

HSBP protein purification and antibody generation

The coding sequence of HSBP (At4g15802) was amplified by PCR with pET-HSBP_F and pET-HSBP_R primers using the cDNA as template. The PCR product was cloned into the NdeI and XhoI restriction sites of pET30a (Novagen) to add a C-terminal 6x-his tag using the Gibson assembly cloning system. The resulting construct was transformed into Escherichia coli strain BL21 (DE3) RIL. Bacterial cells harboring the construct were grown in 1 L of LB medium containing kanamycin (50 mg/ml) and chloramphenicol (25 mg/ ml) at 37°C. After the addition of 1.0-mM IPTG (Isopropyl-B-Dthiogalactoside), the culture was maintained at 18°C for 16 h for protein production. Bacterial cells were collected by centrifugation at 11,000 g for 15 min at 4°C and the pellet was resuspended in buffer A (40-mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.0). The cell pellet was disrupted by sonication and the cell debris was removed by centrifugation at 11,000 g for 30 min at 4°C. The lysate was bound to Ni-NTA agarose (QIAGEN) and the bound proteins were eluted with 300-mM imidazole in buffer A. Recombinant HSBP protein was purified by dialysis and used to produce the polyclonal antibody against HSBP by inoculating rabbits (GWVITEK, Korea).

Generation of genome-wide crossover maps by genotyping by sequencing (GBS)

Col/Ler and *meiMIGS-HSBP* Col/Ler F_2 individuals were grown on soil for 3 weeks. Genomic DNA (gDNA) from two to three adult leaves per plant was extracted by the CTAB method to prepare sequencing libraries as described (Ziolkowski *et al*, 2017; Serra *et al*, 2018; Nageswaran *et al*, 2021). Then, 150 ng gDNA from each F_2 plant was fragmented using dsDNA Shearase (Zymo Research) and used to generate one sequencing library per plant. The 96 barcoded libraries were pooled and subjected to paired-end 150-bp sequencing using an Illumina HiSeq X instrument (Macrogen, Korea). The TIGER pipeline was used to analyze the sequencing data and map crossovers as described (Nageswaran *et al*, 2021).

RNA sequencing

RNA extraction and library construction were performed as described (Choi et al, 2018). Briefly, 5 µg of total RNA was extracted from unopened floral buds (smaller than approximately 1 mm) and 10-dayold seedlings using TRIzol reagent (Invitrogen). A Ribo-Zero magnetic kit (MRZPL116, Epicentre) was used for rRNA depletion from total RNA. Then, 50 ng of rRNA-depleted RNA was used to construct sequencing libraries using a ScriptSeq v2 RNA-seq Library Preparation Kit (SSV21124, Epicentre). Twelve PCR cycles were used for amplification of the libraries, which were indexed using ScriptSeq Index PCR Primers (RSBC10948, Epicentre). Sequencing was performed on an Illumina HiSeq instrument (Macrogen, Korea). Adapter sequences were trimmed from the raw reads with Trim Galore (v. 0.6.6) with parameters -q 0 --stringency 3 --length 20. Trimmed reads were aligned to the TAIR10 reference genome using STAR (v. 2.7.3) (Dobin et al, 2013) with default parameters. The number of reads mapping to exons was calculated using featureCounts (v. 2.0.1) with default parameters (Liao et al, 2014). Differentially expressed genes (DEGs) were identified among meiosis-related genes (in-house list) with the R package *DESeq2* using a Benjamini–Hochberg adjusted *P*-value < 0.01 as cutoff (Love et al, 2014).

ATAC sequencing

The purification of nuclei and ATAC-seq library construction were performed as described (Maher et al, 2018). Briefly, 1 g of Arabidopsis unopened flower buds was ground in liquid nitrogen. The ground powder was resuspended in nuclei purification buffer (NPB, 20-mM MOPS, pH 7.0, 40-mM NaCl, 90-mM KCl, 2-mM EDTA, 0.5mM spermidine, 0.2-mM spermine, 0.5-mM EGTA, 1× Roche Complete protease inhibitor cocktail). Nuclei were isolated by sucrose density gradient centrifugation. Approximately 100,000 nuclei were used for ATAC-seq library construction by measuring gDNA concentrations using a Qubit[™] dsDNA BR Assay Kit (Thermo, Q32850). Tagmentation was performed using the Tagment DNA Enzyme and Buffer kit (Illumina, 20034210). Transposed DNA fragments were purified using AMPure XP beads (Beckman Coulter, A63881). After purification, transposed DNA was PCR amplified with 12 cycles using Next High-Fidelity 2×PCR Master Mix (NEB, M0541) with Nextera DNA CD Index primers. The indexed libraries were subjected to paired-end 50-bp sequencing using an Illumina HiSeq X instrument (Macrogen, Korea).

Genome-wide bisulfite sequencing (BS-seq) analysis

For BS-seq library construction, gDNA was isolated with the DNeasy Plant Mini Kit (Qiagen 69104, USA). The gDNA was fragmented by sonication using a Bioruptor (Diagenode, Belgium) to a mean size of approximately 250 bp, followed by blunt-ending, 3'-end dA addition, and adaptor ligation according to the manufacturer's instructions. The ligation products were used for bisulfite conversion using an EZ DNA Methylation-Gold kit (ZYMO). The different-sized fragments were separated and collected by electrophoresis on 2% Tris-acetate EDTA (TAE) agarose gels, followed by fragment purification (QIAquick Gel Extraction kit, Qiagen), PCR amplification, and cyclization. The DNA libraries were sequenced on a DNBseq platform (BGI, Hong Cong). BS-seq raw reads were aligned to the TAIR10 reference genome allowing one mismatch, and cytosine coverage was calculated using Bismark (v. 0.22.3). Identification of differentially methylated regions (DMRs) was performed as described (Williams & Gehring, 2017). All biological replicates were merged into one, and only the cytosines with a coverage of more than five reads were considered for further analysis. Cytosines with different methylation levels between *hsbp-3* and Col-0 (CG, 35%; CHG, 20%; CHH, 15%) were identified as differentially methylated cytosines (DMCs). Each 200-bp bin overlapping by 100 bp was assigned a "DMR score" calculated as:

200-bp bins with a DMR score higher than 1.5 or lower than -1.5 were defined as hyperDMR or hyperDMR, respectively.

McrBC-qPCR analysis

gDNA was isolated using the DNeasy Plant Mini Kit (Qiagen 69104, USA). Then, 50 ng of gDNA was digested in NEBuffer2 with McrBC (NEB, M0272S) at 37°C for 4 h and inactivated at 65°C for 30 min. Digested DNA was used for quantitative PCR using a CFX real-time PCR detection system (Bio-Rad). gDNA in the same digestion reaction without McrBC treatment was used as a control. McrBC–qPCRs were performed and analyzed for three biological replicates and three technical repeats per replicate.

Immunocytological analysis of wild-type and hsbp-3 meiocytes

Floral buds containing meiocytes were fixed in 3:1 (v/v) ethanol: acetic acid, and chromosome spreading was performed as described (Ross *et al*, 1996). The chromatin was stained with DAPI, and immunostaining of MLH1 was performed as described (Lambing *et al*, 2020). Co-immunostaining of ASY1, RAD51, and HEI10 was performed on chromosome spreads using Lipsol and fresh anthers, as described (Lambing *et al*, 2020). Images were captured using a DeltaVision Personal DV microscope (Applied Precision/GE Healthcare) equipped with a CDD CoolSNAP HQ2 camera (Photometrics). Image analyses were performed using softWoRx software version 5.5 (Applied Precision/GE Healthcare) and ImageJ. The following published antibodies were used: α -ASY1 (rat, 1:200 or 1:500 dilution), α -MLH1 (rabbit, 1:200 dilution), α -RAD51 (rabbit, 1:300 dilution), α -HEI10 (chicken, 1:1,000, a gift from Mathilde Grelon) and

 α -HSBP (rabbit, 1:1,000 dilution) (Higgins *et al*, 2005; Sanchez-Moran *et al*, 2007; Chelysheva *et al*, 2010). Quantification of the number of MLH1 foci per meiotic cell and the number of RAD51 foci per cell associated with the axis protein ASY1 was performed manually. The number of HEI10 foci per cell was automatically counted using CellProfiler. A Wilcoxon test was used to assess significant differences for RAD51, MLH, and HEI10 foci counts between genotypes.

Arabidopsis protoplast transient transfection assays

Vectors for the transient transfection of Arabidopsis protoplasts were constructed using Golden Gate cloning. The full-length coding sequences of HSBP and HSFs were cloned into the Lv0 universal vector (pICH41331), as described (Nageswaran et al, 2021). Plasmid DNA transfection into protoplasts was performed as described (Nageswaran et al, 2021). To examine the effects of HSF and HSBP transient overexpression on HEI10 transcription, 20 µg of plasmid DNA was transfected into 20×10^3 protoplasts and incubated at room temperature for 12 h, followed by incubation at 40°C for 1 h. Total RNA was isolated using TRIzol reagent (Invitrogen) for RT-qPCR analysis. For translocation of HSBP into the nucleus, colocalization, and co-immunoprecipitation of HSBP and HSF, 20 µg of total plasmid DNAs (35Spro:HSF-GFP and 35Spro:RFP-HSBP) was co-transfected into protoplasts and incubated at room temperature for 12 h, followed by incubation at 40°C for 1 h. Fluorescence from transfected protoplasts was detected using a confocal microscope (LSM 800, Zeiss). Cotransfected protoplasts were used for co-immunoprecipitation and immunoblotting experiments, as described (Nageswaran et al, 2021).

Chromatin immunoprecipitation and quantitative PCR (ChIP–qPCR) analysis

HSF7a ChIP was performed using Arabidopsis protoplasts. Approximately 2×10^7 protoplasts were transfected with 400 µg of plasmid DNA (35Spro:HSF7a-HA) and incubated at room temperature for 6 h in constant low-light conditions (50 μ mol m⁻² s⁻¹), followed by incubation at 40°C for 1 h. Transfected protoplasts were crosslinked in 1% (w/v) formaldehyde for 10 min, then quenched with 0.125 M glycine for 5 min at room temperature. Crosslinked protoplasts were used for nuclei isolation, immunoprecipitation with anti-HA antibody (ab9110, Abcam), and DNA recovery as described (Choi et al, 2018). HSBP ChIP experiments were performed using 2 g of 10-day-old seedlings that were heat treated at 37°C for 4 h and unopened floral buds. Nuclei isolation, chromatin crosslinking, and recovery were performed as described (Choi et al, 2018). Briefly, chromatin was sheared using a Bioruptor pico instrument (Diagenode) for 10 min at high power alternating 30 s on/30 s off. Chromatin immunoprecipitation was performed using an α -HSBP antibody (10 μ g), or normal IgG, and DNA purification was performed as described (Choi et al, 2018). Purified DNA was used for qPCR on a CFX real-time PCR detection system (Bio-Rad). All ChIP-qPCRs were performed and analyzed for three biological replicates and three technical repeats per replicate. The oligonucleotides used for the ChIP-qPCR are listed in Appendix Table S30.

Data availability

Sequencing data of F₂ individuals of *meiMIGS-HSBP* Col/Ler and Col/Ler have been deposited in the ArrayExpress database at EMBL-EBI (http://www.ebi.ac.uk/arrayexpress) under accession number E-MTAB-10168 (https://www.ebi.ac.uk/arrayexpress/experiments/ E-MTAB-10168/), E-MTAB-10783 (https://www.ebi.ac.uk/arrayexpress/ experiments/E-MTAB-10783/), and E-MTAB-11586 (https://www. ebi.ac.uk/arrayexpress/experiments/E-MTAB-11586/). RNA-seq, BS-seq, and ATAC-seq data for the Col and *hcr2* (*hsbp-3*) have been deposited in the ArrayExpress database at EMBL-EBI under accessions E-MTAB-10791 (https://www.ebi.ac.uk/arrayexpress/experiments/ E-MTAB-10791 (https://www.ebi.ac.uk/arrayexpress/experiments/ E-MTAB-10791/), E-MTAB-10657 (https://www.ebi.ac.uk/arrayexpress/ experiments/E-MTAB-10657/), and E-MTAB-10790 (https://www.ebi. ac.uk/arrayexpress/experiments/E-MTAB-10790/).

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Author contributions

Juhyun Kim: Conceptualization; Data curation; Formal analysis; Investigation; Visualization; Methodology; Writing-original draft. Jihye Park: Data curation; Formal analysis; Validation; Investigation; Visualization; Methodology; Writing –original draft. Heejin Kim: Investigation; Visualization; Methodology; Writing-review & editing. Namil Son: Data curation; Software; Formal analysis; Validation; Visualization; Writing-review & editing. Eun-Jung Kim: Investigation; Methodology; Writing—review & editing. Jaeil Kim: Data curation; Formal analysis; Investigation; Visualization; Methodology; Writing-review & editing. Dohwan Byun: Data curation; Formal analysis; Validation; Investigation; Visualization; Methodology; Writing-review & editing. Youngkyung Lee: Investigation; Methodology; Writing-review & editing. Yeong Mi Park: Validation; Investigation; Methodology; Writing-review & editing. Divyashree C Nageswaran: Investigation; Methodology; Writing-review & editing. Pallas Kuo: Investigation; Methodology; Writing-review & editing. Teresa Rose: Investigation; Methodology. Tuong Vi T Dang: Methodology; Writing-review & editing. Ildoo Hwang: Supervision; Funding acquisition; Writing-review & editing. Christophe Lambing: Supervision; Funding acquisition; Investigation;

Visualization; Methodology; Writing—review & editing. **Ian R Henderson:** Formal analysis; Supervision; Funding acquisition; Writing—review & editing. **Kyuha Choi:** Conceptualization; Data curation; Formal analysis; Supervision; Funding acquisition; Investigation; Visualization; Methodology; Writing—original draft; Project administration; Writing—review & editing.

In addition to the CRediT author contributions listed above, the contributions in detail are:

JuK, JP, and KC designed experiments. JuK, JP, NS, DB, JaK, CL, IRH, and KC analyzed the data. JuK, JP, HK, NS, CL, EK, JaK, DB, YL, YMP, DCN, PK, TR, TVD, and KC conducted experiments. KC wrote the manuscript with assistance from JuK and JP. All authors reviewed the manuscript.

Disclosure and competing interests statement

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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