



**Fig. S8** Possible working model of TaCML21-TaZFP-5B complex in plant defense responses. The TaCML21-TaZFP-5B complex represses the expression of target gene(s) that are involved in regulation of plant defense; upon pathogen infection, the generated  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  signal could interact with TaCML21-TaZFP-5B complex that leads to the complex degradation and transcriptional de-repression and activation of plant defense responses. Dash lines represent hypothetical situations. Red spheres denote  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  ions. The number of red spheres represent the level of concentration.