



Supplementary Fig. 1 Phylogenetic relationship within the plant specific B3 gene family reveals that the conifer *VP1* genes group together with *ABI3* from *Arabidopsis* and the maize *VP1* gene. The figure shows a 50% majority rule tree derived from those trees sampled after "burn-in" using Bayesian inference. The tree represents a selected subsample of the B3 region of 32 *Arabidopsis* genes, the *Zea Mays* *ZmVP1* gene, the *Picea abies* *PaVP1* gene and the *Pinus sylvestris* *PsVP1* gene. Genes in boldface type shows the two conifer *VP1* sequences further analyzed in this study. Numbers next to each node represents the posterior probabilities for those branches. Accession numbers are shown in brackets after each gene