

Supporting Information

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SI Materials and Methods

Quantitative Trait Loci Mapping. Quantitative trait loci (QTL) mapping used the previously described Landsberg *erecta* (*Ler*) × Shakhara (Sha) recombinant inbred line (RIL) mapping population and a genetic map composed of 89 genetic markers (1). The 117 RILs were divided into three randomized blocks. Each RIL was plated on two agar plates for low water potential treatment and four samples (two from each plate) collected for proline analysis. The entire experiment was then repeated with the population divided into different randomized blocks giving a total of eight proline measurements per line. QTL associated with measured proline abundances were mapped using a combination of interval and composite interval mapping (CIM) (2) as implemented in the R statistics package R/QTL (3). Our approach centered on initial genome scans using an interval mapping algorithm to identify candidate QTL regions as expressed in each environmental condition. These scans were subsequently followed by more detailed multiple QTL models as implemented in CIM. CIM tests the hypothesis that an interval flanked by two adjacent markers contains a QTL affecting a phenotype, but statistically accounts for the effects of additional QTL outside the test interval. CIM is expected to improve power and localization of QTL for traits segregating multiple QTL. In each case, a genome-wide critical threshold value for the experiment-wise type 1 error rate was set for each phenotype by randomly permuting the line means among genotypes 1,000 times and using empirical false-positive rates (4–6). In each case, mapping was conducted on a 1-cM grid using a Haley–Knott regression approximation and assuming normally distributed phenotypes. Given the relatively simple genetic architecture observed from interval mapping, we implemented conservative CIM models fitting the number of markers detected in interval mapping as background cofactors for each phenotype and using a window size of 15 cM. All mapping was conducted on recombinant inbred line least-squares means after controlling for blocking in the experimental designs using the Proc Mixed procedure in SAS (7). We searched for pair-wise epistatic interactions between QTL using the step-wise scan algorithm in R/QTL (8). However, these scans revealed no strong support for interactions and so we present only our simpler additive QTL results.

We calculated the additive effect ($2a$) of each QTL identified from our final CIM models as the difference between the *Ler* and Sha homozygotes at a particular QTL position for each trait in each environment. Positive-additive effects indicate that the Sha parental genotype has the higher mean. We estimated confidence intervals for the location of QTL using a standard 1.5-LOD score drop on the results from our CIM models. Scripts detailing our QTL mapping approach are available upon request.

Analysis of *P5CS1* alternative splicing by 5'-RACE. Total RNA isolated from *Ler* and Sha seedlings after 10 h of -1.2 MPa water stress treatment using RNeasy Plant mini kit (Qiagen) was used for 5'-RACE. The 5'-RACE-Ready cDNA were synthesized by using the SMARTer RACE cDNA Amplification Kit (Clontech). Briefly, the synthesis of cDNA for 5'-RACE was performed in a final volume of 10 μ L containing 1 μ g of total RNA, 1.2 μ M lock-docking oligo(dT) primer [5'-RACE CDS Primer A: 5'-(T)₂₅V N-3', where $n = A, C, G,$ or T and $V = A, G,$ or C], 1.2 μ M SMARTer IIA oligo (5'-AAG CAG TGG TAA CAA CGC AGA GTA CXX XXX-3', where X = undisclosed base in the proprietary SMARTer oligo sequence), 1 \times first-strand buffer, 2 mM DTT, 1 mM each of dNTPs, 10 Units of RNase inhibitor and 10

units of SMARTscribe reverse transcriptase. After the reaction, the 5'-RACE-Ready first strand cDNAs were diluted six times in 10 mM Tricine-1 mM EDTA buffer and used as template for 5'-RACE. The 5'-RACE PCR was carried out in a final volume of 20 μ L containing 1 \times Advantage 2 PCR buffer, 0.25 mM each of dNTPs, 1 μ L of 5'-RACE-Ready cDNA, 1 \times universal primer A mix (long: 5'-CTA ATA CGA CTC ACT ATA GGG C AA GCA GTG GTA TCA ACG CAG AGT-3'; short: 5'-CTA ATA CGA CTC ACT ATA GGG C-3'), 0.5 μ M *P5CS1* gene-specific primer (*P5CS1* 5'-RACE GSP1) (Table S3) and 1 \times Advantage 2 Polymerase mix. The PCR products were then cloned into the pJET1.2 vector (Fermentas) using CloneJet PCR cloning kit and clones were sequenced using vector and gene specific primers. Sequence analysis of clones based on the position of SMARTer IIA oligo suggested that transcriptional start site of *P5CS1* differed from the TAIR annotation and instead was consistent with the RIKEN RAFL cDNA clone (RAFL05-20-023, National Center for Biotechnology Information accession no. AY080771). Besides exon 3-skip *P5CS1*, the only other *P5CS1* alternative splicing detected was a single clone with retention of intron 17 in Col-0. This form of *P5CS1* could not be detected by RT-PCR, suggesting that it was a very low-frequency event.

Semiquantitative RT-PCR. Total RNA was extracted from seedlings of *Ler* and Sha ecotypes after 0, 10, and 96 h of -1.2 MPa water stress treatment using RNeasy Plant mini kit (Qiagen). Semiquantitative RT-PCR experiments were carried out with cDNAs generated from 1 μ g of total RNA using the SuperScript III Reverse Transcriptase (Invitrogen). The PCR was carried out within the exponential range of the amplification to allow comparison of cDNA amounts. *Actin2* was used as a reference gene. The primers used in the semiquantitative PCR are shown in the primer table (Table S3).

Quantification of Exon 3-Skip *P5CS1* Transcript. Total RNA were extracted from seedlings of various ecotypes or *p5cs1-4* lines complemented with *Ler* or Sha *P5CS1* genomic fragment (see below) after 96 h of -1.2 MPa water stress treatment using RNeasy Plant mini kit (Qiagen). One microgram of total RNA was used for first strand cDNA synthesis using the SuperScript III Reverse Transcriptase (Invitrogen). The resulting cDNA was used as DNA template for amplification of exon 3-skipped/exon 3-retained *P5CS1* fragments using a forward primer in exon 2 and reverse primer in exon 6 (Table S3). Twenty-four cycles of the PCR was used which was within exponential range of the amplification. Amplified products were run on the agarose gel and the unsaturated gel images were scanned using a Bio-Rad Gel Doc EQ system and Quantity One v4.5.0 software. The band density of the exon 3-skip and full length *P5CS1* fragments were determined using ImageJ software (National Institutes of Health v1.44J).

Genotyping of Intron 2 Insertion Size. For genotyping, DNA were isolated from seedlings of *Arabidopsis* ecotypes using C-TAB extraction and used to amplify the region flanking the 3' end of *P5CS1* intron 2 using primer LSPDP2 F and LSPDP2 R (Table S3). The resultant fragments were run on a 4% agarose gel and band shift in relation to the *Ler*/Sha amplicon was scored and used to determine the size of DNA fragments of other ecotypes. For sequencing to confirm genotyping results of some ecotypes, fragments corresponding to *P5CS1* intron 2, exon 3, and intron 3 were amplified using *P5CS1* exon 2 F and LSPDP R primer and phusion DNA polymerase (Finnzymes). The resulted fragments

were cloned in pJET1.2 (Fermentas) Vector using the CloneJet PCR cloning kit and sequenced.

Cloning, Construct Preparation, and Plant Transformation. For preparation of 35S:*P5CS1*_{exon3-skip}-eYFP and 35S:*P5CS1*-eYFP plant transformation construct as well as C-terminal FLAG fusions of both cDNAs, full-length or exon 3-skip *P5CS1* were amplified using *Ler* or *Sha* cDNA and moved to gateway entry vector pDONR207 (Invitrogen) by BP reaction. The DNA fragments were then moved to gateway destination vector by LR reaction. The binary vectors pGWB441 and pGWB411 (9) were used as a gateway destination vectors for the expression of recombinant protein in fusion with C-terminal eYFP or FLAG tags, respectively, under the control of 35S promoter. Plant transformation was done by *Agrobacterium* mediated floral-dip method. Wild-type Col or *p5cs1-4* plants were used for the preparation of transgenic plants with eYFP tag. For *Ler/Sha P5CS1* genomic construct preparation, a ~5.9-kb fragment containing the *P5CS1* proximal promoter, 5' UTR, ORF, and partial 3' UTR were amplified using *Ler/Sha* genomic DNA as template using phusion DNA polymerase (Finnzymes) and cloned in to pENTR/D-TOPO (Invitrogen). The *Ler/Sha P5CS1* genomic fragments were moved to plant gateway binary vector pGWB401 (9) using LR reaction. *Ler*, *Sha*, or *p5cs1-4* plants were transformed by *Agrobacterium* mediated floral-dip method. T₃ homozygous lines were used for all measurements with the exception of observation of *P5CS1*:eYFP fusion protein (Fig. S3), which was done in the T₂ generation.

Expression and Purification of P5CS1 Protein, Antibody Preparation, and Western Blots. *P5CS1* ORF (cloned from Col-0) in pDONR207 was moved to gateway vector pET-301/CT-DEST (Invitrogen) using LR reaction for expression of the *P5CS1*-6× His recombinant protein in *Escherichia coli*. Rosetta (Merck) *E. coli* cells were transformed with the resulting construct and induced with 0.4 mM isopropyl-β-D-thiogalactopyranoside for production of recombinant *P5CS1*-6× His protein. The recombinant protein was expressed primarily as a truncated form of ~55 kDa and was present in inclusion bodies. The recombinant protein was solubilized and then purified using Ni-NTA column and used for antibody generation in rabbit (performed by LTK BioLaboratories).

For Western blotting, proteins were extracted from seedlings as described by Martínez-García et al. (10) with minor modification. Briefly, 50- to 100-mg seedlings were ground to fine powder with liquid N₂ using a microfuge pestle and 100 μL of extraction buffer [125 mM Tris-HCl pH 8.8, 1% (wt/vol) SDS, 10% (vol/vol) glycerol, 1 mM PMSF] added with continued mixing. After centrifugation, the protein content of supernatant was determined using Pierce BCA protein assay kit (Thermo Scientific). Proteins (generally 50 μg of total protein) were separated by SDS-PAGE using 12% gels and wet-transferred to PVDF membrane (Bio-Rad). Membranes were probed with primary antibodies (Anti-*P5CS1* at 1:3,000 dilution). Anti-rabbit HRP-conjugated antibody was used as a secondary antibody (Jackson Laboratories). Immunoblots were developed by using Pierce ECL Western blotting substrate (Thermo Scientific). Stripping and reprobing blots of with α-tubulin (T5168; Sigma-Aldrich) was used as a loading control.

Association of SNPs Near P5CS1 with Proline and Exon 3-Skip P5CS1 Percentage. We used a mixed model association mapping framework to study whether SNPs within 10 kb of *P5CS1* were associated with proline abundance (log) and exon 3-skip *P5CS1* percentage (log + 1). Haplotypes were constructed at 29 5-SNP intervals generated by sliding a window across SNPs within 10 kb of *P5CS1*. Each unique combination of allele states at the 5 SNPs comprising an interval was considered a haplotype. We compared phenotypes

of accessions sharing the *Ler* haplotype to those sharing the *Sha* haplotype in each 5-SNP interval. We again used the kinship method as a technique of controlling for population structure. In this model, proline or exon 3-skip *P5CS1* percentages were response variables, haplotypes were treated as fixed-effect factors, and the kinship matrix was a random effect. We used the R package “kinship” to implement this model.

Of 24 5-SNP intervals around *P5CS1* where *Ler* vs. *Sha* haplotypes were polymorphic, haplotype variation at seven intervals was significantly associated with alternative splicing, while controlling for kinship (linear mixed model on log-percent exon 3-skip *P5CS1* + 1, $\alpha = 0.05$). In the interval where accessions with *Ler* vs. *Sha* haplotypes were most divergent, *Sha*, KZ-9, N4, Ts-5, and four other accessions shared the haplotype associated the greatest exon 3-skip *P5CS1* percentage. With the exception of Ts-5, these named accessions also had relatively long insertions in intron 2 and had identical sequences at intron 3 (Fig. 3C). *Ler*, *Bch-1*, *Tsu-1*, *Si-0*, *Wt-5*, *Ob-1*, *Jm-2*, and 46 other accessions shared a haplotype associated with significantly lower exon 3-skip *P5CS1* percentage. These accessions had relatively short or no insertions in intron 2, and all had identical sequences in intron 3 except for *Tsu-1* (Fig. 3C).

The 5-SNP interval where *Ler* vs. *Sha* haplotypes were most divergent in proline abundance was the same as the interval most strongly associated with exon 3-skip *P5CS1* percentage. Haplotype variation at 6 of 24 *P5CS1* 5-SNP intervals where *Ler* and *Sha* were polymorphic was significantly associated with proline abundance, (linear mixed model on log-proline abundance, $\alpha = 0.05$). In addition to comparing *Ler* vs. *Sha* haplotypes, we compared phenotypes of all haplotypes represented by more than one accession in each 5-SNP interval, while accounting for kinship. Haplotypes had significantly different exon 3-skip *P5CS1* percentage at 9 of 29 total 5-SNP intervals, and had significantly different proline abundance at 10 of the 29 intervals (Wald test of fixed effects, linear mixed model, $\alpha = 0.05$).

Correlation of Exon 3-Skip P5CS1 or Proline with Climate Factors. We compiled 101 climate variables on precipitation, temperature, vapor pressure deficit, interannual precipitation variation, growing season conditions, and climate extremes (11–13). We joined climate data to accessions based on published collection locations (14). We focused on accessions in the native Eurasian range, discarding those from North America that are more recently introduced (14). Accessions with unreliable collection location were also discarded (15), as were accessions for which 250 K SNP data were missing (14). We calculated principal components axes of climatic variation among accessions, and we kept the first 10 axes that cumulatively explained 97% of climatic variation.

We then studied the association between proline abundance and exon 3-skip *P5CS1* percentage with climate variables. Phenotypic variation can be caused by population structure, and climate-phenotype associations can be observed if population structure is correlated to climate. Thus, to discern climate-phenotype relationships that are putatively adaptive we attempted to correct for population structure (16). A kinship matrix among accessions was calculated using SNP identity-in-state (17). The kinship matrix was then included as a random effect in a linear model (EMMA) where a climate variable was the predictor and a molecular phenotype the dependent variable (16). We tested all climate variables for associations with proline abundance (log) and exon 3-skip *P5CS1* percentage (log + 1). We also tested for associations using less conservative nonparametric Spearman's rank correlations between climate and molecular phenotypes.

Population Genetics of P5CS1 and Evidence for Selection. Population genetic analyses were completed on the aligned coding sequences of *P5CS1* from 80 accessions of *Arabidopsis* published as part of the 1001 Genomes Project (18) (www.1001genomes.org) using

the *Arabidopsis lyrata* *P5CSI* coding sequence as an outgroup. We performed a McDonald–Kreitman test (19) using DNASP (20). In addition, genome selection scans of the pair-wise haplotype sharing (PHS) and F_{st} statistics were used to ask whether *P5CSI* variation was extreme in its values relative to the genome-wide distribution of values using the published scans from Hancock et al. (14) (<http://bergelson.uchicago.edu/regmap-data/climate-genome-scan>). The PHS test asks whether the haplotype

associated with a given SNP extends further than is expected given a genome-wide distribution of haplotype lengths, and F_{ST} asks whether there is spatially structured variation at a locus. In both cases, extreme test statistics at a candidate gene relative to the genome-wide pattern give support for rejecting the null hypothesis of neutral evolution at the target locus. Finally, using analyses presented by Hancock et al. (14), we asked whether SNPs in *P5CSI* are associated with particular climate variables.

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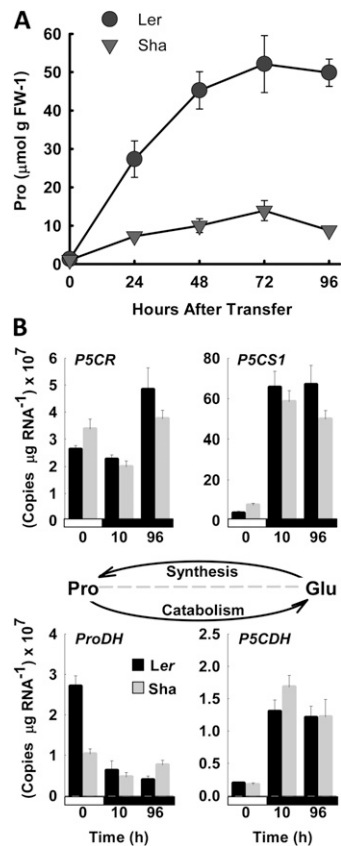


Fig. S1. Time course of proline content and proline metabolism gene expression in Ler and Sha. (A) Time course of proline content after transfer of 7-d-old Ler and Sha seedlings from control (-0.25 MPa) to low water potential (-0.7 MPa) media. Data are means \pm SE ($n = 4$). (B) Proline metabolism gene expression measured before transfer (Time 0) or at 10 and 96 h after transfer of 7-d-old seedlings to low ψ_w (-1.2 MPa). Data are means \pm SE ($n = 3$). Quantitative PCR was conducted using Taqman primer/probe sets as described in Sharma and Verslues (1). The Taqman primer/probe set recognizes the 3' end of *P5CS1*, downstream of the alternative splicing event described in the main text. *P5CS1*: Δ^1 -pyrroline-5-carboxylate synthetase1; *P5CR*: Δ^1 -pyrroline-5-carboxylate reductase; *ProDH*: proline dehydrogenase1; *P5CDH*: Δ^1 -pyrroline-5-carboxylate dehydrogenase.

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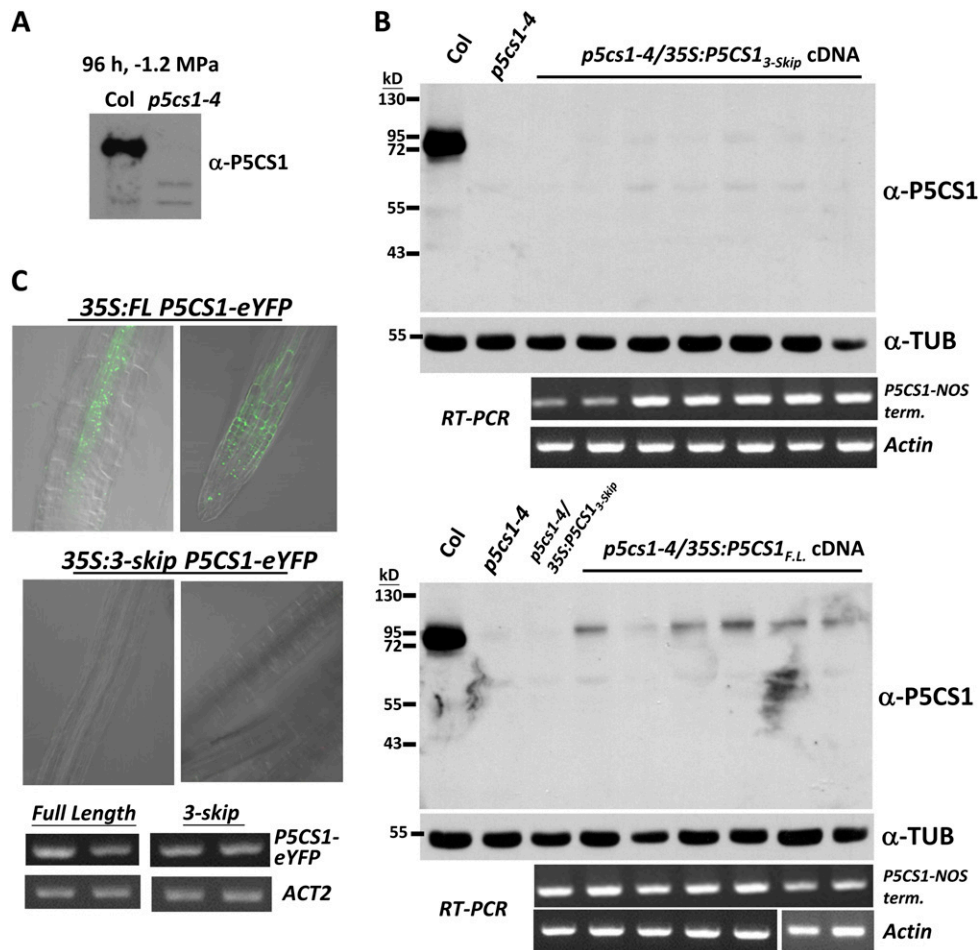


Fig. S3. Exon 3-skip *P5CS1* transcript is not translated to P5CS1 protein. (A) Characterization of α -P5CS1 polyclonal antisera. α -P5CS1 recognizes a single major band in wild-type and this band is absent in *p5cs1-4* (Salk_063517). Occasionally, small amounts of truncated P5CS1 protein could be detected in *p5cs1-4*; consistent with the position of the T-DNA insertion near the 3' end (exon 14) of *P5CS1*. (B) RT-PCR and Western blotting of several transgenic lines expressing either the exon 3-skip *P5CS1* cDNA (Upper) or full-length (F.L.) *P5CS1* cDNA (Lower). Western blotting consistently detected P5CS1 protein in transgenic lines expressing the full-length *P5CS1* cDNA. P5CS1 protein was not detected in any transgenic lines expressing the exon 3-skip *P5CS1* cDNA. Western blots were reprobbed with α -tubulin (TUB) as a loading control. RT-PCR was conducted with primers recognizing *P5CS1* and the NOS terminator to specifically detect transgene-encoded *P5CS1* RNA. (C) Example confocal microscope images of root tissue from plants expressing a C-terminal fusion of eYFP to either the full-length *P5CS1* cDNA or the exon 3-skip *P5CS1* cDNA. YFP fluorescence could be detected in transgenic lines expressing the full-length *P5CS1* cDNA-eYFP fusion but was not detected in transgenic lines containing the exon 3-skip *P5CS1*-eYFP (more than 10 independent transgenic lines were analyzed). Transcript of the *P5CS1*-eYFP transgene was detected in all lines using *P5CS1*-eYFP-specific primers.

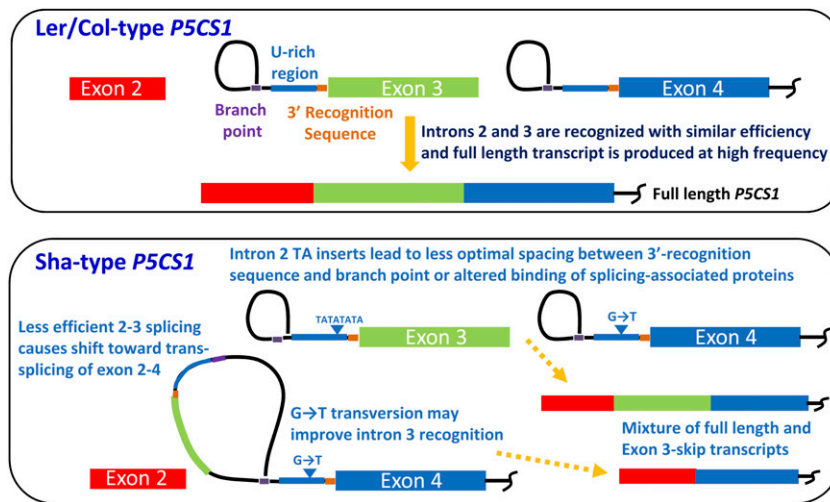


Fig. S6. Model of splicing differences between Ler/Col-type *P5CS1* vs. Sha type-*P5CS1* containing intron 2 TA insertions and intron 3 G-to-T transversion. Optimal spacing between the 3' intron recognition sequence and the branch point is needed for efficient splicing. The TA insertions in Sha and other high exon 3-skip *P5CS1* accessions are likely to disrupt this spacing or alter the binding of splicing-associated proteins. This decreases the efficiency of intron 2 recognition and exon 2–3 splicing. Because the presence of TA-repeat sequence in intron 2 rather than a poly-T tract already suggest that this may be a relatively weakly recognized intron, the altered spacing or binding of splicing proteins is enough to cause substantial exon 2–4 splicing. The G-to-T transversion in intron 3 may also contribute by making intron 3 more efficiently recognized and further promoting exon 2–4 splicing.

Table S1. QTL mapping results

Treatment	Marker	Chromosome	cM	Confidence interval	LOD score	P value	Additive effect ($2a \pm 1SE$)
PEG (–0.7)							
<i>PRO-W2</i>	T3K9	2	61	(54–65)	7.16	0.000	-8.89 ± 1.49
PEG (–1.2)							
<i>PRO-W2</i>	T3K9	2	62	(58–64)	7.02	0.001	-12.35 ± 2.12
<i>PRO-W5</i>	MUA22	5	13	(0–14)	4.75	0.005	9.08 ± 2.12

QTL mapping of proline contents at either –0.7 or –1.2 MPa detected 2 QTL (*Pro-W2* and *Pro-W5*). (See *SI Materials and Methods* for details of QTL mapping procedure.)

Table S2. QTL × PEG-treatment interaction analysis

Fixed effect	df	F-value	P value
<i>PRO-W2</i>	1,111	41.3	<0.0001
<i>PRO-W5</i>	1,111	17.26	<0.0001
PEG-Treatment	1,111	592.97	<0.0001
<i>PRO-W2</i> *PEG-Treatment	1,111	5.76	0.0181
<i>PRO-W5</i> *PEG-Treatment	1,111	8.18	0.0051
<i>PRO-W2</i> * <i>PRO-W5</i>	1,111	2.61	0.1091
<i>PRO-W2</i> * <i>PRO-W5</i> *PEG-Treatment	1,111	0.24	0.6283

No evidence of interaction of the two QTL (*Pro-W2***Pro-W5*) was found. (See *SI Materials and Methods* for details of QTL mapping procedure.)

Table S3. Primers used for cloning, 5' RACE, RT-PCR, and genotyping

Primer name and purpose	Sequence
5'-RACE, cloning and RT-PCR of <i>P5CS1</i>	
5'-RACE CDS Primer A	(T)25V N-3, where n = A, C, G, or T and V = A, G, or C
SMARTer IIA oligo	AAGCAGTGGTAACAACGCAGAGTACXXXXX, where X = undisclosed base in the proprietary SMARTer oligo sequence
Universal primer A mix long	CTAATACGACTCACTATAGGGCAAGCAGTGGTATCAACGCAGAGT
Universal primer A mix short	CTAATACGACTCACTATAGGGC
P5CS1 Seq1 F	AAGTCAAAGCTGCAGTCAATG
P5CS1 5'-RACE GSP1 (3' UTR primer, Fig. 2)	TGGTGCAATCCTAACCCATAAATCAAAACC
P5CS1 Exon2 F (primer a, Fig. 2)	TGGCTCTTGGTCGTTTAGGAG
P5CS1 Exon3 F (primer b, Fig. 2)	ACTCGGATGGATTTGAGGTG
P5CS1 Exon 6 (primer c, Fig. 2)	TTGCAGTCATACCCCTCTC
P5CS1 Exon 18 F (Fig. 2)	GCACAAGATTCTCAGATGGTTTC
ACT2 RT F	GCCATCCAAGCTGTTCTCTC
ACT2 RT R	GAACCACCGATCCAGACACT
p5cs1 GW F no stop (cDNA Gateway cloning)	GGGGACAAGTTTGTACAAAAAAGCAGGCTATGGAGGAGCTAGATCGT
p5cs1 GW R no stop (cDNA Gateway cloning)	GGGGACCACTTTGTACAAGAAAGCTGGGTCTAGCTTGGATGGGAATGTC
P5CS1 F (RT-PCR of Nos-T or eYFP fusion trans.)	AAGTTGCAGAGCTATTTCCTTC
eYFP R	GATGAACTTCAGGGTCAGCTT
NosT R	AGACCGGCAACAGGATTC AATC
AtP5CS1 genomic D-TOPO 1 F	CACCAGAAATGGATTGGCTAATCACAC
AtP5CS1 genomic D-TOPO 1 R	GTGTAGGTAGCTTACAATGACAA
Markers used for screening of NILs	
T6A23 F	GGTATTGATATCCAGTCACA
T6A23 R	TCTAATGACTGAAGCAAAGC
T11A7 F	GGAGATCAAAATAAGTCTGA
T11A7 R	ACGTATTACGTAGCATAGATC
<i>P5CS1</i> markers for second backcross NIL selection and intron 2 insertion scoring	
LSPDP F (NIL genotyping)	CAGTGACATGTGTTTATGTGTG
LSPDP R (NIL genotyping)	CCTTCCCATCAAGTTCAGT
LSPDP2 F (scoring of intron 2 insertion size)	GACATGTGAAATTATTCATGCGTAG
LSPDP2 R (scoring of intron 2 insertion size)	CAAGACCAACCGCACCAGAT

Other Supporting Information Files

[Dataset S1 \(XLS\)](#)

[Dataset S2 \(XLS\)](#)

[Dataset S3 \(XLS\)](#)

[Dataset S4 \(XLS\)](#)

[Dataset S5 \(XLS\)](#)