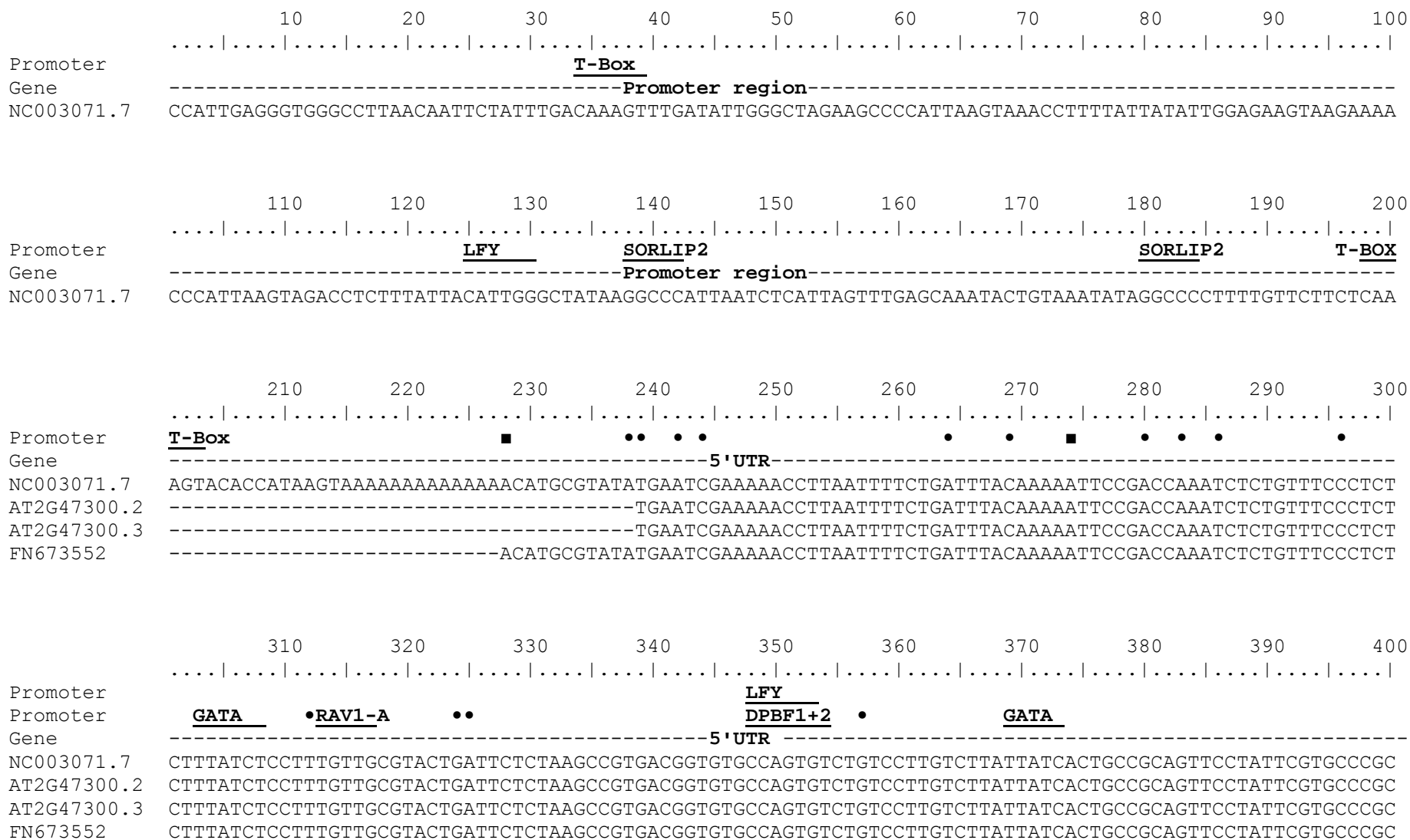


SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

Supplementary Figure 1:

Regulatory elements and coding regions of mRNAs encoding putative AtPop1p variants




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      810      820      830      840      850      860      870      880      890      900
.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|
Gene -----Exon1-----
NC003071.7  AAGAGAAGAATGGAACCTTAAAGGGAACCCTGAAACTGGGTTTTGTACTTCTGGTGGTATGGAACCTAAGAGGCTGAGAACACATGTTTGGCACGCTAAACGAT
AT2G47290.1 AAGAGAAGAATGGAACCTTAAAGGGAACCCTGAAACTGGGTTTTGTACTTCTGGTGGTATGGAACCTAAGAGGCTGAGAACACATGTTTGGCACGCTAAACGAT
AT2G47300.2  AAGAGAAGAATGGAACCTTAAAGGGAACCCTGAAACTGGGTTTTGTACTTCTGGTGGTATGGAACCTAAGAGGCTGAGAACACATGTTTGGCACGCTAAACGAT
AT2G47300.3  AAGAGAAGAATGGAACCTTAAAGGGAACCCTGAAACTGGGTTTTGTACTTCTGGTGGTATGGAACCTAAGAGGCTGAGAACACATGTTTGGCACGCTAAACGAT
FN673552     AAGAGAAGAATGGAACCTTAAAGGGAACCCTGAAACTGGGTTTTGTACTTCTGGTGGTATGGAACCTAAGAGGCTGAGAACACATGTTTGGCACGCTAAACGAT
Protein -----POP1 domain-----
Primer                                             <<<<<<<<<POP1-
```

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      910      920      930      940      950      960      970      980      990     1000
.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|
Gene -----Exon1-----UAA1-----Intron1-----
NC003071.7  TCACTATGACTAAGCTTTGGGGTTTTTCACCTTCCTCTTGGTTTACACGGAAGGTAAATTTCAAATTTGCAGTGTTTTTGATTCTGATAGGTTACAAAAA
AT2G47290.1  TCACTATGACTAAGCTTTGGGGTTTTTCACCTTCCTCTTGGTTTACACGGAAG-----
AT2G47300.2  TCACTATGACTAAGCTTTGGGGTTTTTCACCTTCCTCTTGGTTTACACGGAAG-----
AT2G47300.3  TCACTATGACTAAGCTTTGGGGTTTTTCACCTTCCTCTTGGTTTACACGGAAG-----
FN673552     TCACTATGACTAAGCTTTGGGGTTTTTCACCTTCCTCTTGGTTTACACGGAAG-----
Protein -----POP1 domain-----
Primer  GSP2R<<<          <<<<<POP1-5'ss<<<<<
```

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     1010     1020     1030     1040     1050     1060     1070     1080     1090     1100
.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|
Gene -----Intron1-----UAG1-----Exon2-----
NC003071.7  GTTAAGAGTCTTTTGAATCTTAAAGTGTGTGTCATGGTTCAGAGGAAGGGGATCTAGGGATGTCTTGAAGCAGTCTCGGCAAGGTGTTCTTGTTTC
AT2G47290.1  -----AGGAAGGGGATCTAGGGATGTCTTGAAGCAGTCTCGGCAAGGTGTTCTTGTTTC
AT2G47300.2  -----AGGAAGGGGATCTAGGGATGTCTTGAAGCAGTCTCGGCAAGGTGTTCTTGTTTC
AT2G47300.3  -----GAAGGGGATCTAGGGATGTCTTGAAGCAGTCTCGGCAAGGTGTTCTTGTTTC
FN673552     -----AGGAAGGGGATCTAGGGATGTCTTGAAGCAGTCTCGGCAAGGTGTTCTTGTTTC
Protein -----POP1 domain-----
Primer                                     >>>>POP1-3'ss>>>>
```

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      1110      1120      1130      1140      1150      1160      1170      1180      1190      1200
      .....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|
Gene      AUG2-----Exon2-----UGA1-----Intron2-----
NC003071.7 ATGATGCAAGCTATCACATTGCTGTGCAATTGGAGGGTCCAGAGGCAGGCATTACACTTATTCTTGATATCCTTCTATAAGTTTTTTTTCAACTTGGTTG
AT2G47290.1 ATGATGCAAGCTATCACATTGCTGTGCAATTGGAGGGTCCAGAGGCAGGCATTACACTTATTCTTGA
AT2G47300.2 ATGATGCAAGCTATCACATTGCTGTGCAATTGGAGGGTCCAGAG-----
AT2G47300.3 ATGATGCAAGCTATCACATTGCTGTGCAATTGGAGGGTCCAGAGGCAG-----
FN673552    ATGATGCAAGCTATCACATTGCTGTGCAATTGGAGGGTCCAGAG-----
Protein    -----POP1 domain-----
Primer     <<<<<POP1-GSP9R<<<<<                               <<<<<<<<POP1-R<<<<<<<<
Primer     <<<<<15R<<<<-----
Primer     <<<<<17R<<<<-----

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      1210      1220      1230      1240      1250      1260      1270      1280      1290      1300
      .....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|
Gene      -----Exon3-----
NC003071.7 TGTGTTTCATATTTTCTTCATGTCTTTTGGCTTTGAATTTCTCAGGGCTCACTCTTATCGATATTTAAATATGCTACTAGAGCCTTCTCCGTCATCTCATTC
AT2G47300.2 -----GGCTCACTCTTATCGATATTTAAATATGCTACTAGAGCCTTCTCCGTCATCTCATTC
AT2G47300.3 -----GGCTCACTCTTATCGATATTTAAATATGCTACTAGAGCCTTCTCCGTCATCTCATTC
FN673552    -----GGCTCACTCTTATCGATATTTAAATATGCTACTAGAGCCTTCTCCGTCATCTCATTC
Primer     >>>>>POP1-GSP3F>>>>>
Primer     -----<<<15R<<<
Primer     -----<<<<17R<<<<

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      1310      1320      1330      1340      1350      1360      1370      1380      1390      1400
      .....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|
Gene      -----Exon3-----Intron3-----
NC003071.7 GAAGGAAGTTTTTCGACTCTATTCTCACTGGCGGTAGTTATGAAAACGCCATGGTATAGTGAATTTATGAATTCATTTAATAGGAATCAAGACGATAACTT
AT2G47300.2 GAAGGAAGTTTTTCGACTCTATTCTCACTGGCGGTAGTTATGAAAACGCCATG-----
AT2G47300.3 GAAGGAAGTTTTTCGACTCTATTCTCACTGGCGGTAGTTATGAAAACGCCATG-----
FN673552    GAAGGAAGTTTTTCGACTCTATTCTCACTGGCGGTAGTTATGAAAACGCCATG-----
Primer     <<<<<POP1-GSP7R<<<<<

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      1410      1420      1430      1440      1450      1460      1470      1480      1490      1500
      .....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|
Gene      -----Intron3-----Exon4+4a-----
NC003071.7 TAGAATGATGTAACCGCAAGTTGTTTGTGTTTTCTTCAGCTTTATCATGTGCGAACCACCAGTTTCTCAGGCGATTGCTCCTGTTACTTATATGTGGAGACCT
AT2G47300.2 -----CTTTATCATGTGCGAACCACCAGTTTCTCAGGCGATTGCTCCTGTTACTTATATGTGGAGACCT
AT2G47300.3 -----CTTTATCATGTGCGAACCACCAGTTTCTCAGGCGATTGCTCCTGTTACTTATATGTGGAGACCT
FN673552    -----CTTTATCATGTGCGAACCACCAGTTTCTCAGGCGATTGCTCCTGTTACTTATATGTGGAGACCT
Primer     <<<<<POP1-GSP6R<<<<<

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1510      1520      1530      1540      1550      1560      1570      1580      1590      1600
....|. ....|. ....|. ....|. ....|. ....|. ....|. ....|. ....|. ....|. ....|. ....|. ....|. ....|. ....|.
Gene-----Exon4+4a-----FUE-----
NC003071.7 TCTAAGATACCAAAGAGAAGAAATGAGGAGAAAGGGGGTGACGGCATAGGAACTGATCTCCCAGTCTCAGATAAAGATCATGAAGACTTTTCGTAAACTTT
AT2G47300.2 TCTAAGATACCAAAGAGAAGAAATGAGGAGAAAGGGGGTGACGGCATAGGAACTGATCTCCCAGTCTCAGATAAAGATCATGAAGACTTTTCGTAAACTTT
AT2G47300.3 TCTAAGATACCAAAGAGAAGAAATGAGGAGAAAGGGGGTGACGGCATAGGAACTGATCTCCCAGTCTCAGATAAAGATCATGAAGACTTTTCGTAAACTTT
FN673552 TCTAAGATACCAAAGAGAAGAAATGAGGAGAAAGGGGGTGACGGCATAGGAACTGATCTCCCAGTCTCAGATAAAGATCATGAAGACTTTTCGTAAACTTT

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1610      1620      1630      1640      1650      1660      1670      1680      1690      1700
....|. ....|. ....|. ....|. ....|. ....|. ....|. ....|. ....|. ....|. ....|. ....|. ....|. ....|.
Gene-----Exon4+4a-----Intron4/Exon4a-----
NC003071.7 GGGTGTGGATCCATGCTTCTTCCTTCAGTGAAGGATATGCTATTCTTAAAGTAGCTTGTCAGAAACAGGTAGCTATTTGTTGTCTTTTGAGGTTATTTTT
AT2G47300.2 GGGTGTGGATCCATGCTTCTTCCTTCAGTGAAGGATATGCTATTCTTAAAGTAGCTTGTCAGAAACAG-----
AT2G47300.3 GGGTGTGGATCCATGCTTCTTCCTTCAGTGAAGGATATGCTATTCTTAAAGTAGCTTGTCAGAAACAG-----
FN673552 GGGTGTGGATCCATGCTTCTTCCTTCAGTGAAGGATATGCTATTCTTAAAGTAGCTTGTCAGAAACAGGTAGCTATTTGTTGTCTTTTGAGGTTATTTTT
Primer <<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<<

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1710      1720      1730      1740      1750      1760      1770      1780      1790      1800
....|. ....|. ....|. ....|. ....|. ....|. ....|. ....|. ....|. ....|. ....|. ....|. ....|. ....|.
Gene--UGA2--Intron4/Exon4a--NUE--↓--Exon5--
NC003071.7 GTGACGTTTTGTTGTTAGCTATATGCTTTACATATTCTTGTGGAGATAATGACACCTCAAGTTCCTTCATTTCAGATGAATGAGACAGGTGTCTCAGTTGAT
AT2G47300.2 -----ATGAATGAGACAGGTGTCTCAGTTGAT
AT2G47300.3 -----ATGAATGAGACAGGTGTCTCAGTTGAT
FN673552 GTGACGTTTTGTTGTTAGCTATATGCTTTACATATTCTTGTGGAGATAATGACACCTCAAGTTCCTTCAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA
Primer R2<<

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1810      1820      1830      1840      1850      1860      1870      1880      1890      1900
....|. ....|. ....|. ....|. ....|. ....|. ....|. ....|. ....|. ....|. ....|. ....|. ....|. ....|.
Gene-----Exon5-----
NC003071.7 TGCTTTTCACTCGAGGGTCAGCTTGCAAAACTTGAGATTTTTGGTTCAAAAGCATCTCATCTTCTCCAGAAGACCTTACATCCTGCTACAAGGTGAGCCA
AT2G47300.2 TGCTTTTCACTCGAGGGTCAGCTTGCAAAACTTGAGATTTTTGGTTCAAAAGCATCTCATCTTCTCCAGAAGACCTTACATCCTGCTACAAG-----
AT2G47300.3 TGCTTTTCACTCGAGGGTCAGCTTGCAAAACTTGAGATTTTTGGTTCAAAAGCATCTCATCTTCTCCAGAAGACCTTACATCCTGCTACAAG-----

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1910      1920      1930      1940      1950      1960      1970      1980      1990      2000
....|. ....|. ....|. ....|. ....|. ....|. ....|. ....|. ....|. ....|. ....|. ....|. ....|. ....|.
Gene-----Intron5-----Exon6-----
NC003071.7 TCTGAGTAAATATAGAATGATTTTCAAGAACGCAAATGAACAAAGGAAAATTTATCTCAGGTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTGGTCTTTGCAGTACCTCTGAGAA
AT2G47300.2 -----TACCTCTGAGAA
AT2G47300.3 -----TACCTCTGAGAA

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                2510      2520      2530      2540      2550      2560      2570      2580      2590      2600
Gene      .....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|
-----Intron6-----Exon7-----
NC003071.7 AAAAGTAATCATTGTTATTTTCTTTTCAGATGGTCTCTTATTCTTCCCCTTAGTTGGATCAAAGTCTTCTGGAATGCCTTCGTCTCAAAGGAGCTCATGC
AT2G47300.2 -----ATGGTCTCTTATTCTTCCCCTTAGTTGGATCAAAGTCTTCTGGAATGCCTTCGTCTCAAAGGAGCTCATGC
AT2G47300.3 -----ATGGTCTCTTATTCTTCCCCTTAGTTGGATCAAAGTCTTCTGGAATGCCTTCGTCTCAAAGGAGCTCATGC
Protein      POPLD
Primer      >>>>>POP1-

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                2610      2620      2630      2640      2650      2660      2670      2680      2690      2700
Gene      .....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|
-----Exon7-----Intron7-----
NC003071.7 AATAGGTCAGAGGGAGAAAACGCTGGGTTTCATGTGATGTATATTTTCGCTCTCCTAAACTTTATTCTCTGAATGTTAAGATTCTCTTGCTATGTAAACTT
AT2G47300.2 AATAGGTCAGAGGGAGAAAACGCTGGGTTTCATGTGAT-----
AT2G47300.3 AATAGGTCAGAGGGAGAAAACGCTGGGTTTCATGTGAT-----
Protein      POPLD
Primer      GSP4F>>>>>

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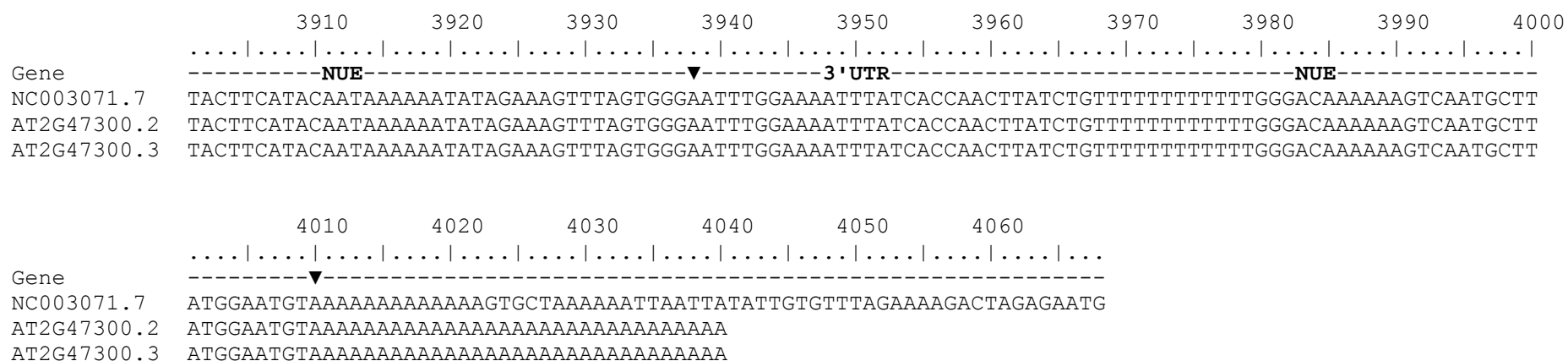
                2710      2720      2730      2740      2750      2760      2770      2780      2790      2800
Gene      .....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|
-----Intron7-----Exon8-----
NC003071.7 GTTAAATCTTATATTTGAAAACGTCTGAAACTTGTCATTTTCTTTATTTGCAGGATGGTTTACCCTTTTTCCCATCAGATTTTCCCGACTGTAAAGCGT
AT2G47300.2 -----GATGGTTTACCCTTTTTCCCATCAGATTTTCCCGACTGTAAAGCGT
AT2G47300.3 -----GATGGTTTACCCTTTTTCCCATCAGATTTTCCCGACTGTAAAGCGT
Protein      POPLD

```

```

                2810      2820      2830      2840      2850      2860      2870      2880      2890      2900
Gene      .....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|.....|
-----Exon8-----
NC003071.7 ATTCATCTTTTACACTGAGCGAGGCTGCAGACTTGGAAGAAAAGGCACAACGTCGCCCTCCAGCCATAAGACCTTTTCAGAATTCCCATTCCACCTCCATG
AT2G47300.2 ATTCATCTTTTACACTGAGCGAGGCTGCAGACTTGGAAGAAAAGGCACAACGTCGCCCTCCAGCCATAAGACCTTTTCAGAATTCCCATTCCACCTCCATG
AT2G47300.3 ATTCATCTTTTACACTGAGCGAGGCTGCAGACTTGGAAGAAAAGGCACAACGTCGCCCTCCAGCCATAAGACCTTTTCAGAATTCCCATTCCACCTCCATG
Protein      POPLD
Primer      <

```

Legend to Supplementary Fig. 1:

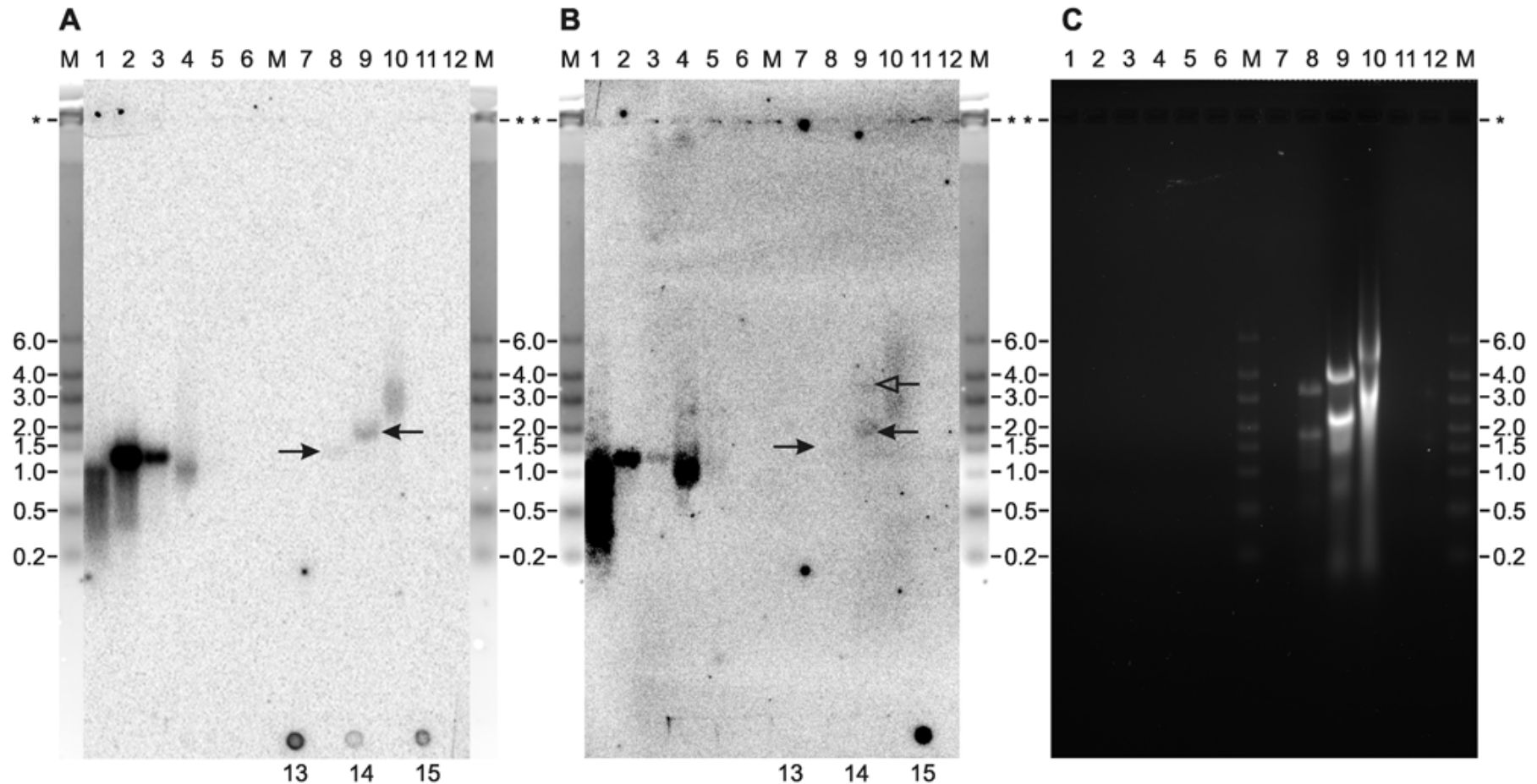
Promoter: possible transcription factor binding sites. **Gene:** gene structure (mRNA processing pattern). **Protein:** protein domains (POP1 domain [pfam06978] and POP-like domain [POPLD; NUC188 domain; pfam08170]); coding regions are indicated by double lines. **Primer:** position of primers used for RACE and Northern analysis; primer orientation is indicated by carets. For graphical clarity, the prefix "AT" is omitted from primer names; 15R/17R are AtPOP1-GSP15R and AtPOP1-GSP17R, respectively.

Symbol characters: • transcription start sites from published ESTs and ■ from this study; ▼ cleavage and polyadenylation sites from published annotations and ESTs and ▾ experimentally determined (this study). RNAs are shown as cDNA sequences; intron positions are depicted as dashed lines. Primers and protein domains pertaining to two exons (or being subject to a line break) are split and connected by dashed lines. FUE, NUE and CS: far and near upstream elements and cleavage/polyadenylation sites, respectively.

Sequences: NC003071.7: *A. thaliana* Chr.2, genomic region encoding Pop1p (19418233-19422300); AT2G47290.1: 573 nt mRNA (NCBI) encoding a 190 aa ORF (variant 1; EBI-Accession: AAB63829.1). Due to the in-frame UAA1 stop codon at the beginning of intron 1, the unspliced RNA encodes a 151 aa long truncated version of AtPop1p which still contains most of the conserved POP1 domain and was used for antigen production and RNA binding studies. AT2G47300.2: 2908 nt mRNA (TAIR) encoding a 826 aa protein (variant 2a); AT2G47300.3: 2910 nt mRNA (TAIR) encoding a putative 659 aa protein (variant 2b). The main polyadenylation signals for these two mRNAs are located between positions 3792-3979 (FUE), 3983-3990 (NUE) and 4010 (annotated CS); additional upstream cleavage sites identified in ESTs and a putative corresponding NUE are also shown.

FN673552: experimentally determined novel 1259 nt mRNA encoding a 307 aa protein (variant 3; this study). The putative polyadenylation signals for this mRNA are located between positions 1588-1717 (FUE), 1745-1750 (NUE) and at 1768 (CS).

Supplementary Figure 2: Identification of AtPop1 mRNAs by Northern blot hybridization



Electrophoresis samples: Lane 1: Pop1 mRNA transcript 1 (crude, 20 ng); 2 and 3: transcription template, 1112 bp (20 and 2 ng, respectively); 4 and 5: gel purified AtPop1 transcript, 1095 nt (10 and 1 ng, corresponding to 28 and 2.8 fmoles); 8-10: *Arabidopsis* total RNA (1, 10 and 25 μ g, respectively); Lanes 6, 7, 11 and 12, sample buffer. M, size marker (Fermentas RiboRuler High Range; length in kb). -*, position of gel slots.

Dot Blot hybridization controls: 13 and 14: ATPOP1-GSP15R-target representing the alternative splice site (0.1 and 0.02 ng corresponding to 7 and 1.4 fmoles, respectively); the target oligonucleotide contains two binding sites for the probe. 15: POP1 transcript 1 representing the wild-type splice site (1 ng, corresponding to about 2.8 fmoles).

Panel A: Hybridization with AtPOP1-GSP15R recognizing the alternatively spliced intron 2 of the annotated mRNA 2b (encoding the putative 659 aa protein; At2G47300.3); **B:** Hybridization with AtPOP1-GSP17R recognizing the "wild type" intron 2 splice sites leading to the annotated mRNA 2a (encoding the 826 aa protein; At2G47300.3) and the novel mRNA3 encoding a 307 aa protein (FN673552). **C:** EtBr stained gel prior to blotting. To facilitate RNA size estimation, the right marker lane from (C) has been copied to the edges of both blots.

Methods:

To generate a hybridization control and size marker, a transcription template covering the coding region of mRNA variant 3 was constructed. The 5' part of the sequence was amplified from pT7AtPOP1ΔI using T7Promseq and AtPOP1-GSP9R; the 3' part was amplified from the 3' RACE product of variant 3, using AtPOP1-3'ss and AtPOP1-R2. The purified products were used as a combined template for amplification with T7Promseq and AtPOP1-R2, cloned into pCRII-TOPO and sequenced. Transcription was performed from the PCR product and the transcript was DNase I-treated before electrophoresis; the 1095 nt long transcript includes the vector-coded region and ends at UGA2 (see suppl. Fig. 1). The transcripts, PCR products and total *Arabidopsis* RNA preparations were subjected to agarose gel electrophoresis on a 1 % agarose / formaldehyde gel, followed by Northern blotting onto ZetaProbe membrane (Biorad). Additional hybridization controls were spotted onto the dry membrane as indicated. After immobilization by baking, the filter was hybridized successively with different ³²P-labeled oligonucleotide probes at 3 °C below calculated T_m and stripped between reprobing.

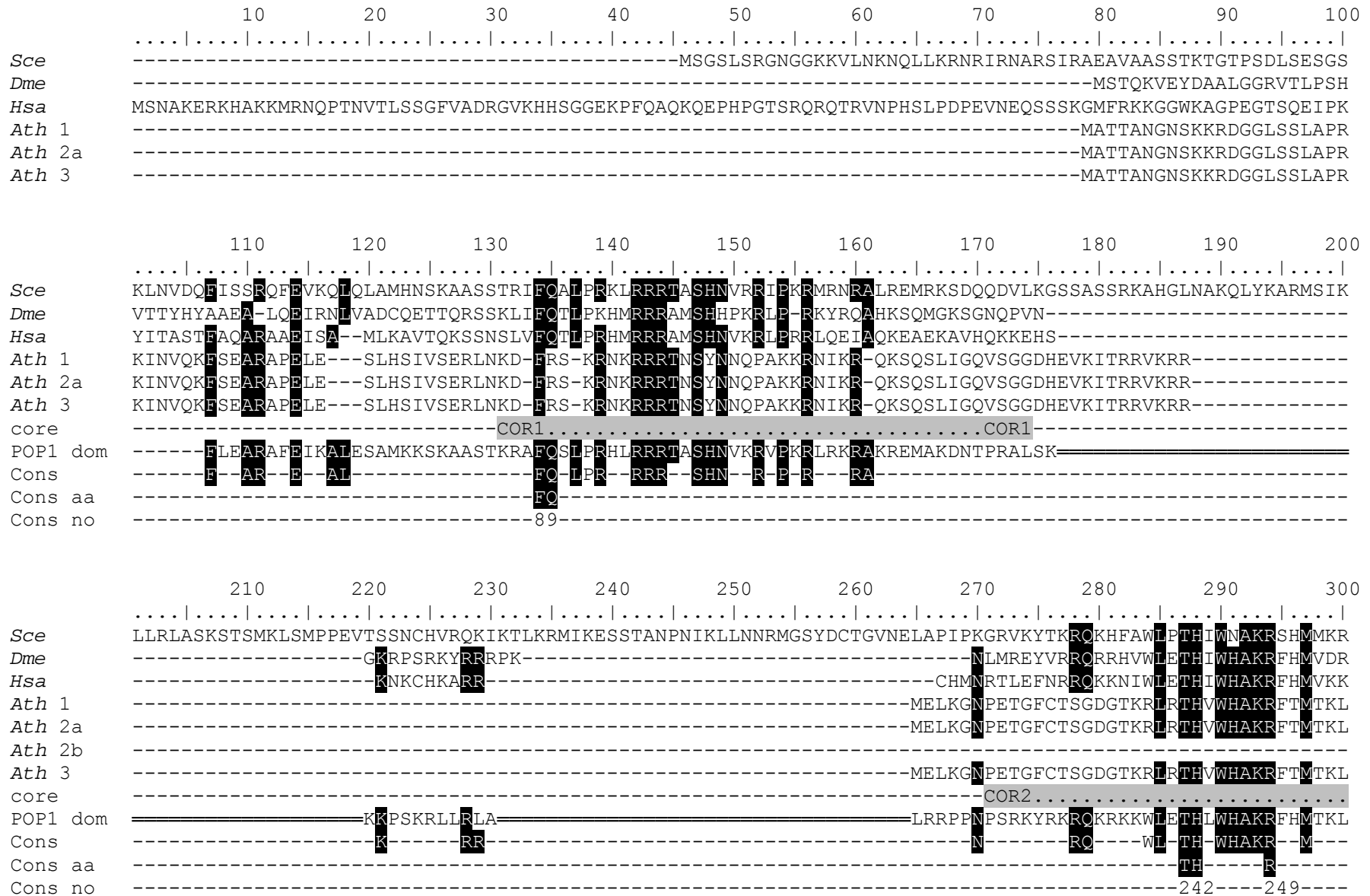
Oligonucleotides used in this experiment and not mentioned in the main text: AtPOP1-GSP15R: GTGAGCCCTGCCTCTGG; AtPOP1-GSP17R: GAGTGAGCCCTCTGGACC; AtPOP1-GSP15R-target: ATCCAGAGGCAGGGCTCACGATTCTCATCCAGAGGCAGGGCTCACAT; T7Promseq: TAATACGACTCACTATAGGG; AtPOP1-R2: TCACAAAATAACCTCAAAG.

Results:

The two hybridization experiments were performed with primers discriminating between differently spliced intron 2 boundaries (see suppl. Fig. 1) leading to frameshift events and thus to different putative translation products. The probe recognizing the "wild type" splice sites of intron 2 (present in mRNA variant 2a and 3) detected two RNA populations (panel B): one of about 1200-1500 nt, possibly representing the mRNA 3 encoding the 307 aa protein (FN673552; mRNA length: 1260 nt including 5' UTR, but without poly(A) tail). The other RNA population has a length of about 3000 nt and is thus in accordance with the mRNA 2a encoding the 826 aa protein (At2G47300.3; length of annotated mRNA: 2910 nt). In contrast, the probe recognizing the "alternative" splice sites of mRNA 2b reveals only a single RNA population (panel A), which migrates on the same position as the shorter RNAs in (B). Careful examination of RNA positions on gel and blots (taking into consideration the effects due to gel overloading in samples 9 and 10) shows that the position of the signals is close, but not identical to the rRNAs. The observation that the probe AtPOP1-GSP15R recognizes variant 2b and - though significantly weaker - the wild type splice sites, but AtPOP1-GSP17R recognizes only the wild type pattern (see dot blot samples 13-15), makes a quantification of the RNA populations difficult. The results show clearly that only the wild type splice pattern is present in the long mRNAs which encode the 826 aa protein; the shorter mRNA population is very likely a mixture of both splicing isoforms, including the mRNA encoding the 307 aa protein.

Supplementary Figure 3:

Similarity of AtPop1p variants to the homologous protein from yeast, man and fly, and position of conserved protein domains



```

          310      320      330      340      350      360      370      380      390      400
Sce  WG--YQMVW-----APTQKCFKLTHRLGGDTC-SSDGALCMDSSYIGTIIVKDKSNDSEGDFLKSIIGKLTAERANLRKYREGQVLFQG
Dme  WG--HRLPY-----ASCDKTYRACYRASAEHCLLQDISFYGCVELRGPLD-MLREGFARLTSPQC-GLGITARTFLSGRREGSVELFED
Hsa  WG--YCLGE-----RPTVKSHRACYRAMTNRCLLQDISYCCLELKGKEEIILKALSG--MCNIDTGLTFAAVHCLSGKRQGSLVLYRV
Ath 1  WGFHLPLGL-----HGRGRGSRDVLKQSRQGVLVHDASYHIAVQLEGPE-----agihtys-----
Ath 2a  WGFHLPLGL-----HGRGRGSRDVLKQSRQGVLVHDASYHIAVQLEGPEGSLLSILNMLLEPSPSSHSKEVFDSILTGGSYENAMLYHV
Ath 2b  -----mmqaitllcnwrvqrq-----GSLLSILNMLLEPSPSSHSKEVFDSILTGGSYENAMLYHV
Ath 3  WGFHLPLGL-----HGRGRGSRDVLKQSRQGVLVHDASYHIAVQLEGPEGSLLSILNMLLEPSPSSHSKEVFDSILTGGSYENAMLYHV
core  .....COR2.....
POP1 dom WGFKLPL-----TPTQKSYRATHRASKHGAVVHDASYSTIELEGP
Cons  WG-----K-R-R-----D-SY-----L-G-E-L-----L-----L-G-----L-----

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          410      420      430      440      450      460      470      480      490      500
Sce  LIYSFNEENGEDSTKPLGPCDVFWVQK-----DTAIIRLHPSIYTQVFNILLQHKEKLTVQDCRSLASVTLKGAK
Dme  GRY-----PYGALQRASFMWRPREEEDEKQTN-----HTLWLWLHPSGAQAVLNQLISVFQLKSTRQQKLPLNEAVTEEKM
Hsa  NKY-----PREMLGPVTFIWKSQRTPGDPSES-----RQLWIWLHPTLKQDILEEI-----KAACQCVEPIKSAVCIADPLPT
Ath 2a  EPP-----VSQAIAPVTYMWRPSKIPKRRNEEKGGDGIGTDLPVSDKDHEDFRKLWVWIHASSFSEGYAIL-----KVACQQMNETGVSVDCFSLEG
Ath 2b  EPP-----VSQAIAPVTYMWRPSKIPKRRNEEKGGDGIGTDLPVSDKDHEDFRKLWVWIHASSFSEGYAIL-----KVACQQMNETGVSVDCFSLEG
Ath 3  EPP-----VSQAIAPVTYMWRPSKIPKRRNEEKGGDGIGTDLPVSDKDHEDFRKLWVWIHASSFSEGYAIL-----KVACQQ-----vaiccllrfl
Cons  -----P-T-W-----R-L-W-W-HPS-----L-K-----

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          510      520      530      540      550      560      570      580      590      600
Sce  ALESLASCLRSTEYSKSFEQFKMVSMITDHNALPQRCTFAFEAIDPRHLAAPKLNDSQRKTVNSDDILSLHENYPQDEINAVFNELCDPESRTQSYNNQ
Dme  DVDKIEPVELSKETSPGKKNSKKKPEQRPLRFWTKTKAFDPQSYFNSDGTLHLVLLQREFNRFRLTGPRAQKVLFASLRPHREEELQDKANYCQALQL
Hsa  PSQEKSQTELPDEKIGKRKRKDDGENAKPIKIIGDGTRDPCLPYSWISPTTGIIISDLTMEMNRFRLIGPLSHSILTEAIKAASVHTVGEDTETPHR
Ath 2a  QLAKLEIFGSKASHLLQKTLHPATSTSENPSILRKCSMEKAEVKNVADLYTEENVSSGAILAQFVIDPRLILTSPHDDRTVSVETIKTEPTESVETTTNT
Ath 2b  QLAKLEIFGSKASHLLQKTLHPATSTSENPSILRKCSMEKAEVKNVADLYTEENVSSGAILAQFVIDPRLILTSPHDDRTVSVETIKTEPTESVETTTNT

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          610      620      630      640      650      660      670      680      690      700
Sce  NTLKEISARRYKLLTATPNSINKTTVPFKESDD-----
Dme  SSPAELLSNLVMAHLVVDPRLQRPKRTKAVGKMEQPPLSAGDLLMNQPKSLPESPLWSKKARERLAKGIMSAHKYDQLREQHAVVPGAPCAFEQQM---
Hsa  WWIETCKKPDSVSLHCRQEAIFELLGGITSPAEIPAGTILGLTVGDPRINLPQKKSNALPNPEKCQ-----DNEKV
Ath 2a  EAETFPEVFNCLWDANSELTPPEEENMLCWEKHQSRMDSLCLDDPAAEVPKVSSRPRSS-----
Ath 2b  EAETFPEVFNCLWDANSELTPPEEENMLCWEKHQSRMDSLCLDDPAAEVPKVSSRPRSS-----

```

710 720 730 740 750 760 770 780 790 800

ScePSIPLVII---RRLK--TRDWIVVLPWFVLLPLWHLL

DmeQALPVILIQRPGSQDPYKRL-GYGC**GW**DVIA**PAGY**GMTL**WL**TL

Hsa RQLLLEGPVECTHSFIWNQDICKSVTENKISDQDLNRMSELLVPGSQLILGP**HESKI**PIL**LI**Q**Q**PG**VT**GED-RL-GWGS**GW**DV**LL**P**KG**W**MA**FW**IP**F

Ath 2aR**SC**PL**LL**LL**KH**-----K**KL**G**N**AP**T****GW**SL**IL**PL**SL**W**IK**V**F**W**NA**F

Ath 2bR**SC**PL**LL**LL**KH**-----K**KL**G**N**AP**T****GW**SL**IL**PL**SL**W**IK**V**F**W**NA**F

coreCOR3.....

POPLD**GW**TL**IL**P**WG**W**GL**P**FW**IS**L**

ConsP-L.....**GW**--**ILP**--**W**--**FW**----

810 820 830 840 850 860 870 880 890 900

Sce NRIPRMYHIGLRQFQIQYENKQLY**F**-**PD**D**YP**FT**QL**GYIENSFYKKEASKTKWDR**K**P**MG**K**R**IN**FE**K**IK**DIH**NT**KL**P**AYS**GE**IG**DF**FSSD**WR**FLQIL**R**NGI

Dme TMW**G**-AR**PG**GL**RE**LDSVAREAGAEIHL---P**DT**LAGV**Q**R**AA**AS**AD**E-LR**AR**Y**FR**M**PP**N**K**RTN**Y**R**K**LAV**S**P**FT**AP**WR**H**L**VR**D**WR**AS**FSS**AS**E**G**SS**F**Y**V**L

Hsa IY**R**G-V**R**V**G**GL**KE**SAVHSQYK**R**SP**N**V-P**G**D**F**P**DC**P**AG**-ML**FA**EEQ**A**KN**L**LE**K**Y**K**RR**PP**AK**R**P**NY**V**KL**GT**L**AP**FC**P**WE**Q**L**T**Q**D**W**ES**R**VQ**AY**E**E**PS**V**ASS**P**

Ath 2a V**SK**G-A**H**A**I**G**Q**RE**K**R**W**V**S**C**D**D**G**L**P**F**F**-P**S**D**F**P**D**C**KA**-Y**S**S**F**T**L**SE**AD**LE**E**K**A**Q**R**RP**P**A**I**R**P**F**R**I**P**I**P**P**W**NS**I**H**V**T**R**S**I**G**E**GS**N**Q**F**SS**N**GR**S**V**E**ISS

Ath 2b V**SK**G-A**H**A**I**G**Q**RE**K**R**W**V**S**C**D**D**G**L**P**F**F**-P**S**D**F**P**D**C**KA**-Y**S**S**F**T**L**SE**AD**LE**E**K**A**Q**R**RP**P**A**I**R**P**F**R**I**P**I**P**P**W**NS**I**H**V**T**R**S**I**G**E**GS**N**Q**F**SS**N**GR**S**V**E**ISS

coreCOR3.....

POPLD VY**I**G-V**R**AG**GL**KE**RR**Q**IA**F**ES**G**P**F**F**-P**G**D**F**P**D**T**K**AG**W**-L**W**E**L**E**E**R**E**E**L**E**K**K**W**K

Cons ---G---GL-E-----P-F-P-D-PD-A-----RRPP-R-----

910 920 930 940 950 960 970 980 990 1000

Sce DY**L**Q**R**ND**K**T**L**E**L**M**S**K**T**G**F**NA**Q**G**V**R**D**IN**C**V**N**D**V**L**F**E**CK**D**Y**E**AK**T**K**AM**S**L**S**I**E**EN**I**P**V**AL**CK**N**R**K**C**Q**F**R**T**P**D**S**I**SV**N**----

Dme R**H**R**Q**Q**L**E**E**I**V**E**S**I**R**H**R**S**P**L**P**Q**T**L**P**D**D**-----

Hsa N**G**K**E**S**D**L**R**R**S**E**V**P**C**A**M**P**K**K**H**Q**P**S**D**E**V**G**T**S**I**E**H**P**R**E**A**E**E**V**M**D**A**G**C**Q**E**S**A**G**P**E**R**I**T**D**Q**E**A**S**E**N**H**V**A**A**T**G**S**H**L**C**V**L**R**S**R**K**L**L**Q**L**S**A**W**C**G**P**S**S**E**D**S**R**G**G**R**

Ath 2a Y**G**G**N**L**F**D**G**I**V**A**R**T**S**D**S**L**T**T**F**L**Q**T**F**T**S**D**N**M**L**L**F**P**H**N**T**S**K**P**S**T**D**L**M**M**T**L**Q**E**D**D**K**K**V**R-----

Ath 2b Y**G**G**N**L**F**D**G**I**V**A**R**T**S**D**S**L**T**T**F**L**Q**T**F**T**S**D**N**M**L**L**F**P**H**N**T**S**K**P**S**T**D**L**M**M**T**L**Q**E**D**D**K**K**V**R-----

1010 1020 1030 1040 1050 1060 1070 1080 1090 1100

Sce -----SS**S**F**S**L**T**F**F**P**R**C**I**I**A**V**S**C**T**L**L**E**R**G**H**P**K**D**N**A**R**I**Y**Q**V**E**K**-D**L**E**H**W**L**Q**L**A**K**G**V**Y**R**P**N**G**R**K**D**H**D**L**K**I**P**L**P**E**V**-----

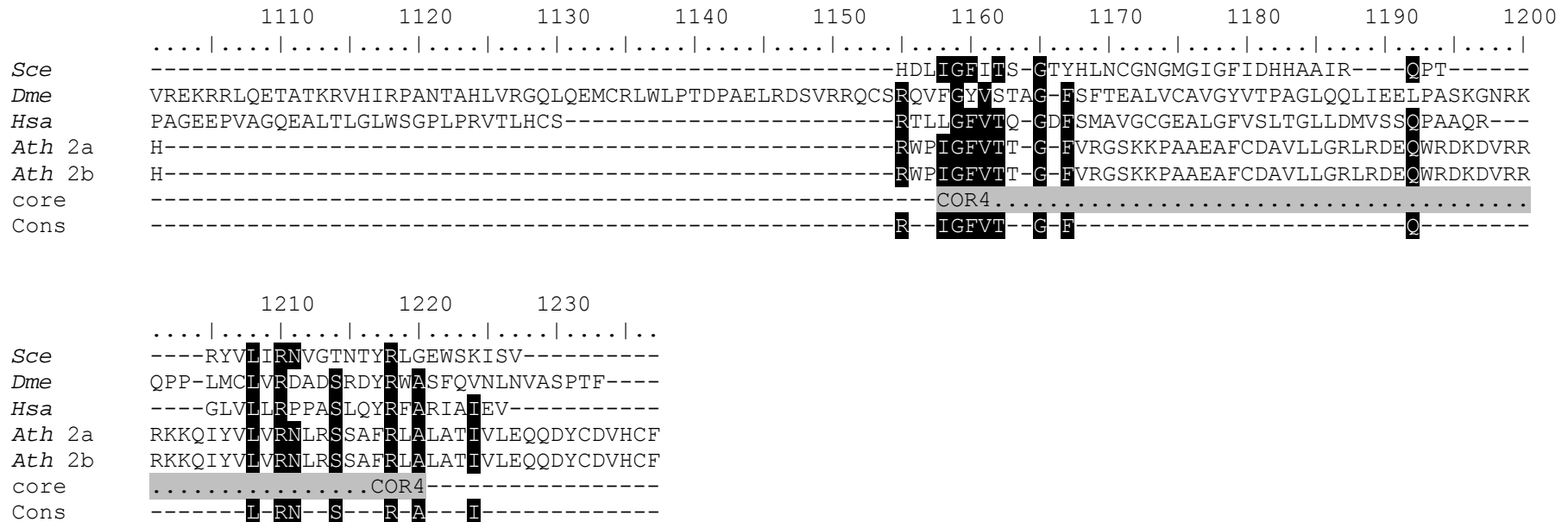
Dme -----A**I**I**Q**I**Q**L**L**S**R**G**H**-V**K**D**N**A**L**I**C**L**P**T**A**A**D**H**K**K**R**W**R**Q**L**K**H**N**D**Q**A**P**V**H**V**E**P**T**Q**P**D**L**N**E**Q**L**R**K**E**L**R**Q**S**H**K**L**K**L**R**S**R**

Hsa A**P**G**R**G**Q**Q**L**T**R**E**A**C**L**S**I**L**G**H**F**P**R**A**L**V**W**V**S**L**S**L**S**K**G**S-P**E**P**H**T**M**I**C**V**P**A**K**E**D**F**L**Q**L**H**E**D**W**H**Y**C**G**P**Q**E**S**K**H**S**D**P**F**R**S**K**I**L**K**Q**E**K**K**K**R**E**K**R**Q**K**P**G**R**A**S**S**D**G

Ath 2a -----A**Q**I**H**Q**S**S**N**K**L**C**L**V**R**V**L**L**H**A**F**K**E**G**S**-F**E**E**G**A**V**V**C**A**P**T**L**A**D**I**S**L**L**K**S**S**C**S**E**G**E**D**G**R**V**T**I**P**Q**S**S**V**S**S**Y**F**Q**E**Q**P**C**G**T**W**E**L**N**V**P**E**D**T**L**T**E**Q**S**

Ath 2b -----A**Q**I**H**Q**S**S**N**K**L**C**L**V**R**V**L**L**H**A**F**K**E**G**S**-F**E**E**G**A**V**V**C**A**P**T**L**A**D**I**S**L**L**K**S**S**C**S**E**G**E**D**G**R**V**T**I**P**Q**S**S**V**S**S**Y**F**Q**E**Q**P**C**G**T**W**E**L**N**V**P**E**D**T**L**T**E**Q**S**

Cons -----L**V**-**V**-----G**S**-----C**P**-**D**-----



Alignment method:

A consensus sequence was obtained by aligning the Pop1p sequences from *M. musculus*, *S. cerevisiae*, *D. melanogaster*, *H. sapiens*, *A. thaliana*, *O. sativa*, *A. fumigatus*, *V. vinifera*, *S. pombe* and *D. discoideum* with ClustalW, followed by manual refinement according to the conserved regions. Amino acid positions with over 60 % identity in this original alignment are highlighted in black. The alignment shown here is reduced to the sequences from *S. cerevisiae* (*Sce*), *D. melanogaster* (*Dme*), *H. sapiens* (*Hsa*) and the four annotations from *Arabidopsis* (*Ath*).

Ath 1, originally annotated 190 aa *A. thaliana* protein (At2g47290.1; AAB63829.1); *Ath 2a*, annotated 826 aa protein (NP_001078072; DQ069804); *Ath 2b*, annotated 659 aa protein (NP_001078073; DQ069805); *Ath 3*, 307 aa protein (FN673552; this study). The truncated variant 1-u (151 aa) used for antibody production has been omitted from this alignment; its C-terminus is at position 328.

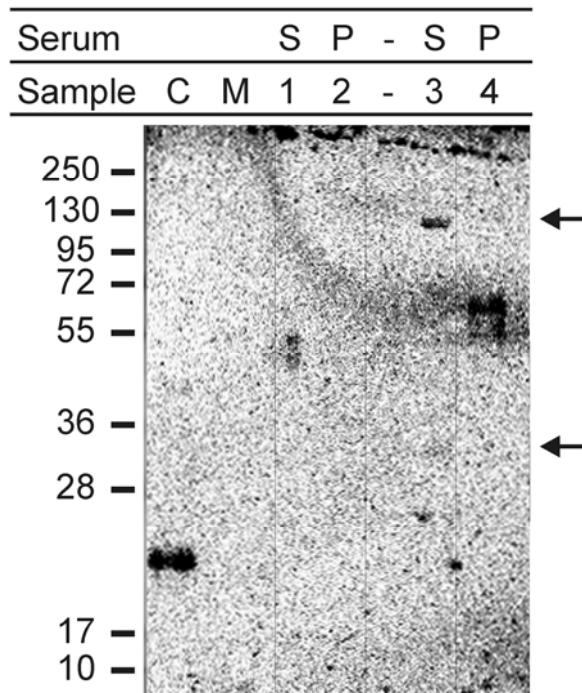
Core, the conserved regions COR1-COR4 described by (27). They are highlighted in grey; their termini are connected by dots and indicated by the respective names. **POP1 dom / POPLD**: the conserved POP and POP-like domains; the isolated stretches of the POP1 domain are connected by a double line. **Cons**, amino acids with >60 % identity between all tested organisms. **Cons aa/Cons no**: identity and position of conserved amino acids which have been tested by mutation analysis in yeast (27). Sequences in minuscules arose from frameshift events in the mRNAs and were placed outside of conserved regions.

Supplementary Figure 4: Assessment of antibody specificity for AtPop1-related proteins by Western analysis

Methods:

Arabidopsis protein extracts were obtained by grinding young leaves in dry ice, followed by suspension of the tissue powder in a buffer containing 20 mM Tris-Cl pH8, 0.5% SDS; 5% β -Mercaptoethanol, 1 mM PMSF, 2 μ M Leupeptin and 1 μ M Pepstatin, and homogenisation with an Ultra-Turrax. After centrifugation at 16000 g for 30 min, the supernatant (S16) was further concentrated by methanol:acetone precipitation. The dry sediment was resuspended in a buffer containing 20 mM Tris-Cl pH8, 5 mM MgCl₂, 1 mM PMSF, 2 μ M Leupeptin and 1 μ M Pepstatin.

AtPop1p-specific serum or preimmune serum, respectively was coupled to two aliquots of Protein A/G Agarose (10 mg each; Pierce Crosslink IP Kit) according to the manufacturer's instructions. 750 μ g of the above extract was loaded onto the columns. After washing, bound proteins were eluted in three fractions and again precipitated as above. Following solubilisation in sample buffer containing 2 % SDS and 2 M urea, the proteins were separated by SDS PAGE (12 % PAA) and transferred to PVDF membrane by semidry electroblotting. After blocking for 16 h with 3 % nonfat dry milk in PBS + 0.1 % Tween 20, the membrane was incubated for 16 h with AtPop1p-specific antiserum depleted of *E. coli* specific antibodies (32). The blot was washed 5 times with PBS + 0.3 % Tween 20 and incubated for 1 h with HRP-coupled Goat-anti-rabbit antibodies (dil. 1: 10000; Sigma) in PBS containing 3 % nonfat milk powder + 0.05 % Tween 20. After washing 5 times with PBS + 0.05 % Tween 20, the signals were developed with ECL Plus substrate at 20 °C and recorded for 60 min on an AlphaImager.



Detection of AtPop1-related proteins by IP-Western with AtPop1p-specific antibodies.

Serum specificity: S, eluates from the column coupled with AtPop1p-specific antiserum; P, eluates from the column with preimmune serum.

Samples: Lanes 1 and 2 contain the first eluate, lanes 3 and 4 the combined eluates 2 and 3 from each column, respectively. C, 22.5 ng recombinant AtPop1p antigen (expressed from pRSET-AtPOP1; 187 aa, 21.4 kDa). M: Page Ruler Plus Prestained Protein Ladder, Fermentas. The size and position of the marker proteins visible on the membrane directly after blotting is shown to the left. The two signals of about 35 and 100 kDa detected in the eluate from the AtPop1p-specific column (lane 3) are indicated with arrows.

Results and Discussion:

Prior to performing immunoprecipitation experiments, the specificity of the antisera created against the recombinant *Arabidopsis* POP1 domain (AtPop1p, variant 1-u) was examined by Western blotting. No specific bands could be recognized in crude extracts or S23 preparations from *Arabidopsis*, possibly due to low abundance of the target protein (not shown). Using proteins enriched by immunoprecipitation with the same antiserum, a clear signal at approximately 100 kDa and a weak band at about 35 kDa were detected. They most likely correspond to the 826 aa (92.5 kDa) and 307 aa (34.6 kDa) ORFs evident from mRNA analysis, respectively. The signal at about 70 kDa visible in lane 4 is due to partially denatured IgG leaking from the column.

The presence of two specific signals corroborates the translation of mRNA variant 2a and of the novel mRNA variant 3 into the 92.5 and 34.6 kDa proteins, with the smaller protein present in a significantly lower amount. The putative 73.8 kDa ORF encoded by mRNA variant 2b lacks the POP1 domain and thus can not be detected by this antiserum.

Supplementary Figure 5: Complex formation between AtMRP1 RNA and the POP1 domain of AtPop1p.

Methods:

The transcription clone for AtMRP RNA1 was constructed by amplification of the coding region from genomic DNA with the primers 5'MRP-2 and 3'MRPanti-2 and ligation into SmaI-cleaved pUC19. The T7 promoter and appropriate restriction sites were introduced by amplification with 5'MRPEcoT7 and 3'MRPFokHind, cleavage with EcoRI and HindIII and ligation into appropriately cut pUC19 to obtain pT7ATMRP1, ready for runoff transcription after cleavage with FokI.

Oligonucleotides used for this construct: 5'MRP-2: CAATTGTCACTGGACG; 3'MRPanti-2: GTTGCTTGTCATTGAAAC; 5'MRP-EcoT7: CGGAATTCTAATACGACTCACTATAGGGACAATTGTCCTG; 3'MRP-FokHind: CGCAAGCTTGGATGTCCGGATCCAAAAGTTGCTTGTCATTGAAAC.

Construction of expression plasmids for the *Arabidopsis* POP1 domain was achieved by amplification of the pAtPOP1 insert with AtPOP1-Bam-F and AtPOP1-Sma-R, and cloning as an in-frame fusion into the BamHI and XmaI sites of pQE30 (Qiagen). The original starting ATG of the ORF was converted into GTG by PCR directed mutagenesis using the primers POP1-mutF and POP1-mutR to give pQE-AtPOP1. A second expression vector (pBlue-AtPOP1) was constructed by introducing a synthetic T7 terminator composed of oligonucleotides T7Term1 and T7Term2 into the HindIII site of pBluescribe M13⁺, and ligating the EcoRI-XmaI fragment of pQE-AtPOP1 into this plasmid to give pBlue-AtPOP1. The final expression plasmid was created by ligating the BamHI fragment of pBlue-AtPOP1 into pRSETa (Invitrogen) to yield pRSET-AtPOP1. The 187 aa long recombinant AtPop1p obtained from this construct contains an N-terminal His-tag attached to the 151 aa long truncated POP1 domain.

Oligonucleotides used for this construct: AtPOP1-Bam-F: CGCGGATCCATGGCTACTACTGCG; AtPOP1-Sma-R: GCACCCGGGTCAAGAATAAGTGTG; POP1-mutF: CCATCACGGATCCGTGGCTACTACTGCGAATGG; POP1-mutR: CCATTCGCAGTAGTAGCCACGGATCCGTGATGG; T7Term1: AGCTTAATTAGCTGAACCCCTTGGGGCCTCTAAACGGGTCTTGAGGGGTTTTTTA; T7Term2: AGCTTAAAAAACCCTCAAGACCCGTTTAGAGGCCCAAGGGGTTTCAGCTAATTA.

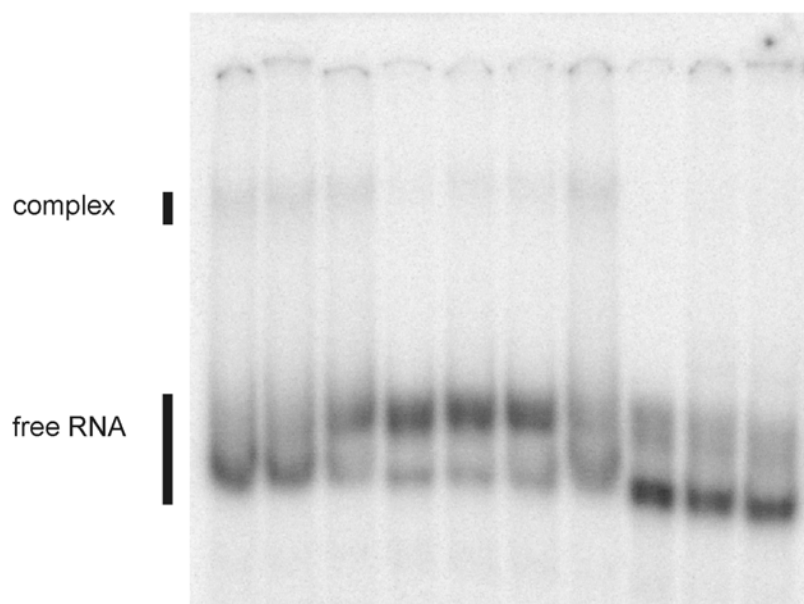
For formation of RNA-protein complexes, recombinant AtPop1p was dialysed against buffer F-GP. MRP RNA transcripts dissolved in TE plus 2 mM MgCl₂ were carried through a folding cycle by heating to 75 °C for 5 min followed by cooling to 25 °C. After addition of binding buffer (final concentrations: 10 mM Tris-HCl pH 8, 50 mM NaCl, 5 mM MgCl₂, 0.1 % (v/v) Triton X-100, 1 mM DTT; 0.4 u RNasin/assay), assays were set up with 1 pmol protein and 50 fmoles of radiolabelled, renatured MRPR1 in a total volume of 15 µl. Competition assays were supplemented with different unlabeled RNAs (see figure caption). Binding was initiated by addition of protein to the refolded RNA. After 30 min incubation at 22 °C with gentle agitation (Eppendorf Thermomixer, 350 rpm), 1 vol. of EMSA sample buffer (50 % v/v glycerol, 0.03 % (w/v) Bromophenol blue and Xylene cyanol FF) was added. The samples were immediately loaded onto native gels (5.6 % (w/v) Acrylamide-bisacrylamide (29:1) in 0.5 x TG (12.5 mM Tris, 96 mM Glycine, pH 8.3) and separated at 4 °C. Gels were dried before exposure to a Phosphorimager and densitometric analysis.

Results:

The POP domain of AtPop1p can form RNA-protein complexes with AtMRP RNA

Under the conditions used for optimal complex formation, AtMRP1 is present in at least two interconvertible conformational populations, visible as distinct bands in the lower part of the gel. MRP1 RNA and the POP1 domain can form a complex with retarded gel mobility; the radioactive transcript can be competed out by an excess of unlabeled MRP RNA (lanes 4-7). Binding specificity was tested by competition with unrelated RNAs. The double-stranded copolymer poly(I•C) did not exert a detectable influence on complex formation (lanes 1-3). A preparation of total poly(A⁺)-RNA led to almost complete inhibition of MRP1 binding by AtPop1p (lanes 9-10), suggesting a preference for single-stranded RNA. This is in contrast to the finding made by Aspinall et al. (24), where a preference for double stranded RNA was deduced from pull-down assays. The weak binding observed in our study may possibly be attributed to the lack of the POPLD region in this truncated protein. Due to the diffuse bands and differences between individual protein preparations, an estimation of binding parameters is unreliable and gives estimated K_d values between 30 and 130 nM.

	Poly (I•C)			MRP1				mRNA		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Poly (I•C) (μg)	0.1	0.2	0.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MRP1 (pmol)	-	-	-	2	1	0.5	-	-	-	-
mRNA (μg)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.1	0.2
POP1p	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+



Supplementary Figure 5:

Electrophoretic Mobility Shift Assay of complex formation between AtMRP1 RNA and the POP1 domain of AtPop1p.

Complexes were formed from 1 pmol AtPop1p and 50 fmoles radiolabelled MRPR1; amounts of competing RNAs are given in the caption. Samples 1-3: competition with double-stranded poly(I•C); 4-7: homologous competition with unlabeled MRP1; 8: MRP1 under binding conditions; 9-10: competition with total mRNA. Positions of free RNA and complex are indicated to the left of the gel.