

Supplemental Figure 1. Comparison of the developmental stages of *D. lotus* **and** *D. kaki* **flowers. a,** Developmental stages of male and female flower primordia in *D. lotus* and *D. kaki.* Specific developmental stages were assigned a number based on a previous report (Yonemori et al., 1993). The mean stage numbers are shown for male and female *D. kaki* and *D. lotus* flower primordia (*N* = 10-15), and standard errors are indicated. After July 1st (30 days), most male primordia had reached stages 4-5 and exhibited differentiated sepals before dormancy was established. In contrast, at that time, female primordia had on average only reached stage 3. **b,** Observation of the male and female primordia under SEM and dissecting microscopes. In both *D. lotus* and *D. kaki*, male primordia were trifurcated and contained a central bud (CB) and two lateral buds (LB), corresponding to stages 4-5, before entering dormancy. When emerging from dormancy, in March of the next year, male flowers exhibited differentiated sepals (Se), while female flowers were at stage 3-4 (see panel **a**), with no distinct flower organs. Br: bract, BP: bud primordia. Bars indicate 50 µm. **c,** Male and female *D. lotus* and *D. kaki* unopened flowers. CF: central flower, LF: lateral flower. **d,** Male and female flower organs in *D. lotus* and *D. kaki*. Overall, *D. lotus* and *D. kaki* exhibited similar timing and morphological differences between male and female flowers across developmental stages. DS: defective stamens (no pollen), St: stamens, Pi: pistil, DP: defective pistil.

* Coverage: 0-300, except in Early Apri. and Late Apr. (0-2000)

Supplemental Figure 2. Pattern of smRNA accumulation on the *MeGI* **transcript.**

smMeGI distribution in male and female buds/flowers in dioecious *D. lotus* and monoecious *D. kaki* throughout the year.

Supplemental Figure 3. Conservation of *D. kaki***-specific SINE insertions in the** *OGI* **5' region. a-b,** PCR analysis of the Kali SINE-like sequences in the *OGI* 5' promoter region. **a,** The Kali-in primer set (see panel **c**) was designed to amplify sequences within the SINE insertion. Kali amplicons were detected in a wide variety of *D. kaki* cultivars carrying the *OGI* gene(s) (blue lines), as well as in cultivars that do not carry the *OGI* sequences (pink line), but not in other *Diospyros* species. This suggested that this SINE-like sequence is specific to *D. kaki*. The pOGI-Kali primer set (see panel **c**) was designed to specifically detect the SINE sequence copy that flanks the *OGI* gene. Among the 172 cultivars tested, all 59 cultivars carrying *OGI* also carried the Kali insertion in the promoter region. This *OGI*-specific SINE insertion was not detected in male individuals of other dioecious *Diospyros* species (nos. 1, 3, 4, and 5). **b,** The pOGI*-OGI* primer set (see panel **c**) amplifies the *OGI* promoter across the Kali insertion (when present). Size of the PCR product thus indicates the presence or absence of the Kali insertion. All cultivars tested contained the Kali insertion, demonstrating that it is conserved in all alleles in *D. kaki*. **c,** Schematic structure of the *OGI* promoter region and the Kali-in and *OGI*-Kali primer sets.

Supplemental Figure 4. Analysis of Kali-like sequences in the *Diospyros* **genome. a.** Partial alignment of the Kali and Kali-like sequences from *D. kaki*. The regions including the 24-nt smRNA sequence were aligned to characterize variation among the Kali-like sequences. Kali was identical to Kali-like 1 across the smRNA sequence. **b.** Phylogenetic analysis of the divergence of Kali and Kali-like SINEs. Kali and 6 Kali-like sequences were derived from *D. kaki* SINE amplified sequences, which were not observed in the genomes of *D. lotus* and *D. virginiana*, the closest relatives of *D. kaki*. Bootstrap values are shown as percentages on the branches.

Supplemental Figure 5. Small RNAs targeting the *OGI* **gene and promoter elements.**

Abundance of 21 nt (gray) and 24 nt (black) smRNA targeting *OGI* during primordia formation, bud dormancy, and flower development, in developing buds and branches of monoecious *D. kaki* and dioecious *D. lotus.* Values are expressed in reads per million. 21 nt smRNA and 24 nt smRNA levels are stacked on top of each other for each data point. The different sequences analyzed are: promoter (a total of 500 bps immediately upstream of the start codon but excluding the Kali element), Kali SINE element (the 256-bp SINE element), *OGI* gene (genomic sequence including introns), and finally the *OGI* gene (IR and FR only). An "X" indicates a time-point for which data are not available".

Supplemental Figure 6. 24-nt small RNA accumulation on the Kali SINE-like insertion in the *OGI* **promoter.** The structure of the *OGI* promoter region is shown on top. For each sample type, the coverage track is shown in black above the smRNA mapping tracks. All smRNA mapped to the Kali SINE-like region are 24-nt long. Mapped reads are shown in different colors depending on their mapping quality, with unambiguously mapped reads shown in pink (forward mapped reads) or blue (reversely mapped reads) and ambiguously mapped reads shown in gray.

Supplemental Figure 7. DNA methylation across the *OGI* **promoter**. Cytosine methylation levels across the *OGI* promoter in a variety of tissue types from hexaploid *D. kaki* cultivar Taishu. Each bar represents one cytosine residue in either the sense or antisense strand. The position of the SINE element relative to the start codon of the *OGI* pseudo-gene is represented at the bottom. Young stems and leaves from male branches (harvested in May), as well as developing flowers from male and female branches at various developmental stages were analyzed.

Supplemental Figure 8. Seasonal DNA methylation on the *MeGI* **promoter in male buds/flowers.** Variation in DNA methylation levels across the *MeGI* promoter region in developing male flowers of monoecious *D. kaki*. Different colors represent the different sequence contexts (CH, CHG, and CHH, are indicated in blue, red, and black, respectively). The gene model is shown at the bottom. Methylation data values at each position were normalized based on the control gene *MatK*.

0.444

0.444

Methylation rate

0.333

0.167

 0.143

 0.000

 0.000

Supplemental Figure 10. Phenotypic effects of zebularine treatment on male *D. lotus* **flowers. a,** Representative phenotype of zebularine-treated and control *D. lotus* male flowers. On average, petals were smaller after zebularine treatment. **b-g,** Comparison of the anthers in zebularine-treated (b, d, and f) and control (c, e, and g) *D. lotus* male flowers. In the zebularine-treated flowers, stamens did not fully mature (d and f), and could not produce pollen grains. On the other hand, stamens in the control flowers turned brown and fully matured to produce normal pollen. **h,** Distribution of the phenotypes (see Supplemental Table 3 for actual numbers). Over 60% of the zebularine-treated flowers (top) showed no distinct morphological change and produced fertile pollen. Approximately 30% of them exhibited semi-severe phenotypes (middle), where pollen grains were produced normally, but exhibited a significant reduction in germination rate (*P* < 0.01, in Student's T-test) compared to the control pollen grains. The remaining 10% of the zebularine-treated flowers exhibited strong phenotypes and did not produce any pollen grains. The severe phenotypes, i.e., shorter petals and defective anthers, are consistent with the characteristics of Arabidopsis plants transformed by CaMV35S-*MeGI* (Akagi et al. 2014a). Bars indicate 1 mm in all panels.

Supplemental Figure 11. Effect of zebularine treatment on male *D. kaki* **flowers. a-c,** Effect of zebularine treatment on cultivar Zenjimaru. **a-b,** Effect of zebularine treatment on pistil length and pollen tube growth. **a,** Comparison of pistil length in male zebularine-treated and control flowers, as well as female flowers. Pistils from zebularine-treated flowers were significantly longer than those from the control male flowers (*P* < 0.0001, Student's T-test, *n* = 10, standard errors are shown) but shorter than those from female flowers (*P* < 0.0001, Student's T-test, *n* = 10). **b,** Pollen tube growth in zebularine-treated and control male flowers. The zebularine-treated flowers showed immature stamens and a significant reduction in pollen viability (Fig. 5B). **c,** Percentage of methylated cytosine residue in the promoter region of the *MeGI* gene of zebularine-treated (green and gray bars) or control (blue bars) flowers in three different cultivars (Zenjimaru, Taishu and Fudegaki). The percentage of methylated cytosine at all cytosine positions was averaged over *ca.* 400-bp region including 250-bps upstream of the start codon and 150-bp of the first exon. For each cultivar, zebularine-treated samples were categorized as feminized or WT depending on their phenotypic characteristics. Methylation data values at each position were normalized based on the control gene *MatK*. **d,** *smMeGI* population from zebularine-treated and control developing flowers. The exon/intron model for the *MeGI* transcript is shown on top. Below the model are sm*MeGI* smRNA-Seq reads from zebularine-treated and control flowers. Coverage tracks and some of the mapped reads are shown for each sample. In the zebularine-treated flowers, the expression level of *smMeGI* was reduced to approximately 25% of the control, but the pattern of smRNA accumulation across the *MeGI* transcript was conserved. Numbers in brackets ([0-250]) indicate the scale for the coverage tracks shown above (in black, indicating the distribution of the mapped reads). **e,** Zebularine-treated cv. Fudegaki male. In cv. Fudegaki, which carries the *OGI* gene and is monoecious, zebularine treatment has no morphological effect on the gynoecia or the androecia. Anthers (At) in both the zebularine-treated and the control flowers exhibited normal ability to produce fertile pollen, and pistinodes (Pn) did not bear seed.

Supplemental Table 1: Small-*MeGI* **expression levels in male buds/flowers of cv. Taishu throughout the year.** The normalized RPKM values in each length are given. Except during the flower development stages (early-Apr and late Apr), 21-nt *smMeGI* were predominant in male buds.

Supplemental Table 2: Multiple discriminant analysis (MDA) of the pattern of bud/flower sexuality based on biological and environmental variables. A model for flower sexuality was built based on data from eight cultivars (see Methods). Posterior probabilities obtained in representative conditions based on (i) sexuality of the parental branch, (ii) parental branch length, and (iii) bud position are indicated. For each branch, position is determined relative to the base of the branch, with the apical buds bearing the highest number.

Supplemental Table 3: DNA methylation status of the *MeGI* **promoter throughout the year.** Comparison of CG-CHG-CHH DNA methylation percentages on the *MeGI* promoter region. Mean methylation percentage were calculated across the 284 bps directly upstream of the *MeGI* start codon. Developing flowers sampled throughout the year were analyzed.

SS: Sense strand, AS: Antisense strand.

Supplemental Table 4: Flower phenotypes after zebularine treatment in *D. kaki* **and** *D. lotus***. a,** Number of semi-feminized and male zebularine-treated and control flowers in three *D. kaki* cultivars. In cvs. Zenjimaru and Taishu, semi-feminized flowers were also observed in control samples, although at a low rate. Here, the semi-feminized flowers were all similar in appearance. **b,** Number of flowers for which zebularine treatment resulted in strong, intermediate, and no substantial effect in diploid *D. lotus*. Photographs of each of the phenotypic classes are presented in Supplemental Figure 10.

Supplemental Table 5: List of plant materials

^a*Diospyros kaki* can be hexaploid (6x) or nonaploid (9x), but only hexaploid cultivars were used here.

b The gender of the *D. kaki* cultivars was based on information from previous reports. Some monoecious cultivars have been observed to occasionally bear hermaphrodite-like flowers. monoecious cultivars have been observed to occasional pultivar was used is indicated. MDA: multiple discriminant analysis, EA: expression analysis, MA: methylation analysis, ZT: zebularine treatment, OP: *OGI* promoter PCR test.

Supplemental Table 6: smRNA-Seq sample information.

Supplemental Table 7: Bisulfite amplicon sequencing sample information.

^a Sense and antisense strands were mixed.

b Derived from female parent branches.

^c Derived from male parent branches.

Supplemental Table 8: Primer sequences

