

SI Appendix

1

2 **Mechanistic basis for the activation of plant membrane receptor kinases by SERK-family co-** 3 **receptors.**

4 Ulrich Hohmann^a, Julia Santiago^{a,#}, Joël Nicolet^a, Vilde Olsson^b, Fabio M. Spiga^c, Ludwig A. Hothorn^d,
5 Melinka A. Butenko^b, Michael Hothorn^{a,1}

6 *Author affiliations*

7 ^aStructural Plant Biology Laboratory, Department of Botany and Plant Biology, University of Geneva,
8 Switzerland

9 ^bDepartment of Biosciences, Section for Genetic and Evolutionary Biology, University of Oslo, Oslo,
10 Norway

11 ^cCreoptix AG, Wädenswil, Switzerland

12 ^dInstitute of Biostatistics, Leibniz University, Hannover, Germany

13 [#]Present address: Department of Plant Molecular Biology, University of Lausanne, Switzerland

14 *Corresponding Author*

15 ¹To whom correspondence may be addressed. Email: michael.hothorn@unige.ch

16 **Supplementary Methods**

17 Protein expression and purification for LRR-RK ectodomains

18 The SERK3 (residues 1-220) and BRI1 (residues 1-788) ectodomains were amplified from *Arabidopsis*
19 *thaliana* cDNA (Col-0) and cloned into a modified pFastBac (Geneva Biotech) vector, providing a
20 TEV (tobacco etch virus protease) cleavable C-terminal StrepII-9xHis tag. A synthetic gene for
21 HAESA residues 20-620 was codon-optimized for expression in *Trichoplusia ni*, (Invitrogen GeneArt,
22 Germany) and cloned in a pFastBac vector providing an N-terminal azurocidin signal peptide.
23 Mutations were introduced by site-directed mutagenesis. For protein expression, *Trichoplusia ni*
24 Tnao38 cells (1) were infected with a multiplicity of infection (MOI) of 1.5, and incubated for 3 days at
25 21°C. The secreted ectodomains were purified from the supernatant by sequential Ni²⁺ (HisTrap excel;
26 GE Healthcare; equilibrated in 25 mM KP_i pH 7.8, 500 mM NaCl) and StrepII (Strep-Tactin Superflow
27 high capacity; IBA; equilibrated in 25 mM Tris pH 8.0, 250 mM NaCl, 1 mM EDTA) affinity
28 chromatography. The proteins were further purified by size-exclusion chromatography on a Superdex
29 200 increase 10/300 GL column (GE Healthcare), equilibrated in 20 mM sodium citrate pH 5.0, 150
30 mM NaCl. Proteins were analyzed for purity and structural integrity by SDS-PAGE and thermal shift
31 assays, respectively (see below: SI Appendix, Fig. S2). The molecular weight of the purified proteins
32 was determined by MALDI-TOF mass spectrometry to be 29.95 kDa (SERK3 ectodomain), 105.04

33 kDa (BRI1) and 74.90 kDa (HAESA). We could not evaluate the SERK3^{R146A} mutant *in vitro*, as the
34 recombinant protein tends to aggregate in our preparations.

35 Hypocotyl growth assay

36 Seeds were surface-sterilized using 70 % Ethanol, 0.1 % Triton X-100 and plated on ½ MS plates with
37 1 % agar. The plates were either supplemented with 1 µM brassinazole (BRZ, from a 10 mM stock
38 solution in 100 % DMSO, Tokyo Chemical Industry Co. LTD) or, for the untreated controls, with 0.1 %
39 (v/v) DMSO. Plated seeds were stored at 4 °C for 2 d, exposed to light at 22 °C for 1 h and
40 subsequently incubated at 22 °C for 5 d in the dark. Plates were then scanned on a regular flatbed
41 scanner (CanoScan 9000F, Canon) at 600 dpi. Hypocotyls were measured using FIJI (2) and analyzed
42 using the packages mratios (3) and multcomp (4) as implemented in R (5) (version 3.3.2). For wild-
43 type and each SERK3 mutant, a single transgenic line with similar SERK3 protein levels was analyzed
44 (n=50). We report unadjusted 95 % confidence limits for fold-changes, rather than p-values (6). The
45 log-transformed endpoint hypocotyl length was analyzed by a mixed effects model for the ratio of the
46 transgenic lines to the wild-type allowing heterogeneous variances. To evaluate the treatment-by-
47 mutant interaction, the 95 % two-sided confidence intervals for the ratio-of-ratios (untreated vs. BRZ-
48 treated hypocotyl length)/(wild-type vs. mutant line) was calculated for the log-transformed length.

49 Plant protein extraction and immunoprecipitation

50 Surface-sterilized and cold-treated seedlings were grown for ~14 d at 22 °C in 16 h light / 8 h dark
51 cycles. Seedlings were harvested in ~250 mg batches in 2 ml eppendorf tubes, frozen in liquid nitrogen
52 and ground in a tissue lyzer (MM400, Retsch). Ground material was resuspended in 800 µl extraction
53 buffer (50mM Bis-Tris pH 6.5, 150mM NaCl, 10 % (v/v) glycerol, 1 % Triton X-100, 5 mM DTT,
54 protease inhibitor cocktail [P9599, Sigma]), incubated with gentle agitation for 1 h at 4°C and
55 centrifuged for at 30 min at 4 °C and 17,000 x g. Protein concentration were estimated using a bradford
56 assay. For each co-immunoprecipitation (co-IP), 1 mg of total protein extract was incubated with 50 µl
57 of anti-HA superparamagnetic MicroBeads (Miltenyi Biotec) for 1 h at 4 °C with agitation.
58 Subsequently, the beads were collected using µMACS Columns (Miltenyi Biotec). Samples were
59 washed three times with 700 µl extraction buffer, bound proteins were eluted using 50 µl elution buffer
60 (Miltenyi Biotec) at 95 °C, and samples were then separated on 10 % SDS-PAGE gels. For the
61 subsequent western blotting, anti-HA antibody coupled to horse radish peroxidase (HRP, Miltenyi
62 Biotec) at 1:5000 dilution was used to detect SERK3:6HA. BRI1 was detected with an anti-BRI1 (7)

63 (1:5000 on input samples, 1:2500 on elution samples) antibody, followed by a secondary anti-rabbit
64 HRP antibody (1:10.000, Calbiochem #401353).

65 Petal break-strength assay

66 Plants were grown at 22 °C in 16 h light – 8 h dark cycles until they had a minimum of 15 mature
67 siliques. The force in gram equivalents required to remove a petal at a given position on the
68 inflorescence was measured using a load transducer as described previously (8). Three independent
69 transgenic lines were measured and a minimum of 15 measurements for each position was performed.

70 Kinase domain expression, purification and *in vitro* kinase assays

71 The SERK3 kinase domain (SERK3-KD, residues 250-615) was cloned into a modified pET-vector
72 (Novagen) providing a TEV-cleavable N-terminal 8xHis-StrepII-Thioredoxin tag. The BRI1 kinase
73 (BRI1-KD, residues 814-1196) was cloned into the same modified pET-vector for expression in *E. coli*,
74 as well as in a modified pFastBac vector (Geneva Biotech) with a TEV-cleavable N-terminal 10xHis-
75 StrepII-Maltose-binding-protein tag for expression in insect cells. Point mutations SERK3^{D434N} and
76 BRI1^{D1027N} were used to create kinase inactive (m) proteins. pET plasmids were transformed into *E. coli*
77 Rosetta 2 (DE3) (Novagen) and cultures were grown to a OD_{600 nm} = ~0.6. Protein expression was
78 induced by adding IPTG (0.5 mM final concentration) and the bacterial cells were harvested after
79 incubation at 16 °C for 18 h. For MBP-BRI1-KD in pFastBac, a virus was produced in insect cells as
80 described above. The protein was then expressed in *Spodoptera frugiperda* (Sf9) cells for three days at
81 28 °C after infection with a MOI = 2. In both cases the pellets were resuspended in buffer A (20 mM
82 Tris-HCl pH 8.0, 500 mM NaCl, 4 mM MgCl₂, 2 mM β-mercaptoethanol), supplemented with 15 mM
83 imidazole and 0.1 % (v/v) Igepal, lysed by sonication and cell debris was removed by centrifugation
84 for 30 min and 4 °C at 35,000 x g. The recombinant proteins were then purified in batch by Co²⁺ metal
85 affinity purification (HIS-Select Cobalt Affinity Gel, Sigma, St. Louis, MO, 600 µl per purification),
86 the resin was washed with buffer A supplemented with 15 mM imidazole, and proteins were eluted in
87 buffer A + 250 mM imidazole. Elutions were dialyzed against buffer B (20 mM Tris-HCl pH 8.0, 250
88 mM NaCl, 4 mM MgCl₂ and 0.5 mM TCEP) and for all SERK3-KDs the tags were cleaved-off with
89 TEV protease during dialysis. The protease as well as the cleaved tag were then removed with an
90 additional Co²⁺ affinity purification step. Proteins were then concentrated and gelfiltrated at 4 °C on a
91 Superdex 200 increase 10/300 GL column (GE Healthcare) in buffer B. Peak fractions were analyzed
92 by SDS-PAGE and concentrated to 1 mg/ml. For *in vitro* kinase assays 1 µg of each indicated kinase
93 was used in a total reaction volume of 16 µl in buffer B. The reactions were incubated for 30 min at

94 room temperature after adding 4 mCi [γ - ^{32}P]-ATP (Perkin-Elmer, Waltham, MA) and stopped by adding
95 4 μl of 6xSDS loading dye and immediate incubation at 95 °C for 5 min. Boiled samples were
96 separated by SDS-PAGE in 4–15 % gradient gels (TGX, Biorad, Hercules, CA) and stained with
97 Instant Blue (Expedeon, San Diego, CA). A X-ray film (Fuji, SuperRX, Valhalla, NY) was exposed by
98 the gel to visualize ^{32}P -derived signals.

99 Crystallization and data collection

100 Crystals of the BRI1^{G644D} (*bri1-6*) ectodomain developed at room temperature in hanging drops
101 composed of 1.5 μl protein solution (20 mg/ml) and 1.5 μl of crystallization buffer (18 % [w/v] PEG
102 4,000, 0.2 M $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4$, 0.1 M citric acid pH 4.0), suspended over 1.0 ml of the latter as reservoir
103 solution and using microseeding protocols. Crystals were cryo-protected by serial transfer into 20 %
104 (w/v) PEG 4,000 and 1.7 M sodium malonate pH 4.0, and cryo-cooled in liquid nitrogen. A native data
105 set to 2.55 Å resolution was collected at SLS beam-line PXIII at the Swiss Light Source (SLS),
106 Villigen, Switzerland. Data processing and scaling was done with the program XDS (9) (version: Nov,
107 2016).

108 Structure solution and refinement

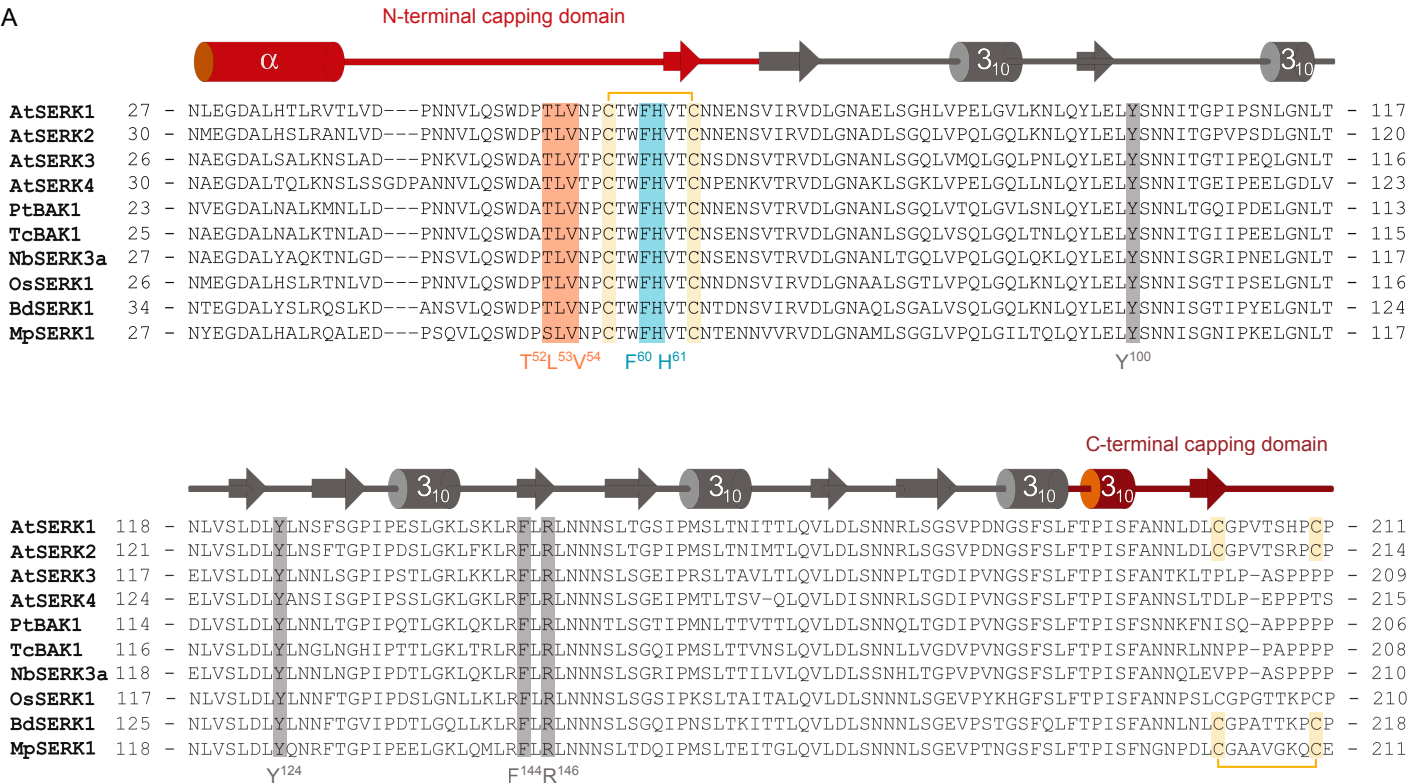
109 Based on PDB entry 3RIZ , the structure of BRI1 *bri1-6* was completed in alternating cycles of model
110 building in COOT (10) and restrained TLS refinement in Refmac5 (11). The quality of the refined
111 structure was assessed using the program MolProbity (12) (see Table S3) and structural representations
112 were prepared in Povscript+ (13) and povray (www.povray.org).

113 Thermal shift assay

114 Purified ectodomains of BRI1, SERK3 and HAESA and respective mutants were diluted to 0.5 mg/ml.
115 18 μl of each recombinant protein was mixed with 2 μl of 10x Sypro Orange (Sigma-Aldrich) in a 96
116 well RT-PCR plate (Roche). On a LightCycler 480 II (Roche), the fluorescence of Sypro Orange at 570
117 nM was monitored while a temperature gradient from 20 °C to 95 °C was applied (0.05 °C/s). The
118 obtained data was analyzed by fitting a Boltzmann function in R (5), where the melting temperature T_m
119 corresponds to the first inflection point.

120 Supplementary Figures

A



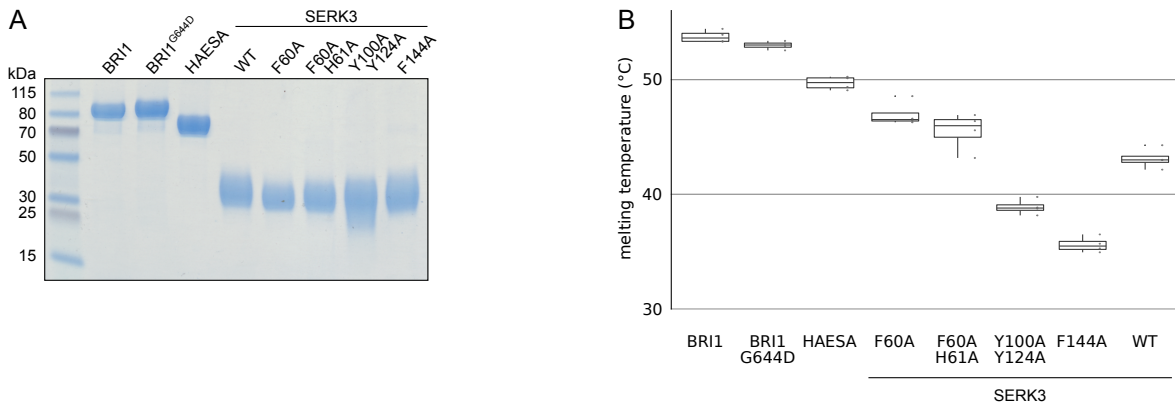
B

AtSERK3 ²⁶⁻²⁰⁹	Identity
AtSERK1 ²⁷⁻²¹¹	77 %
AtSERK2 ³⁰⁻²¹⁴	77 %
AtSERK4 ³⁰⁻²¹⁵	81 %
PtBAK1 ²³⁻²⁰⁶	83 %
TcBAK1 ²⁵⁻²⁰⁸	84 %
NbSERK3a ²⁷⁻²¹⁰	94 %
OsSERK1 ²⁶⁻²¹⁰	77 %
BdSERK1 ³⁴⁻²¹⁸	78 %
MpSERK1 ²⁷⁻²¹¹	72 %

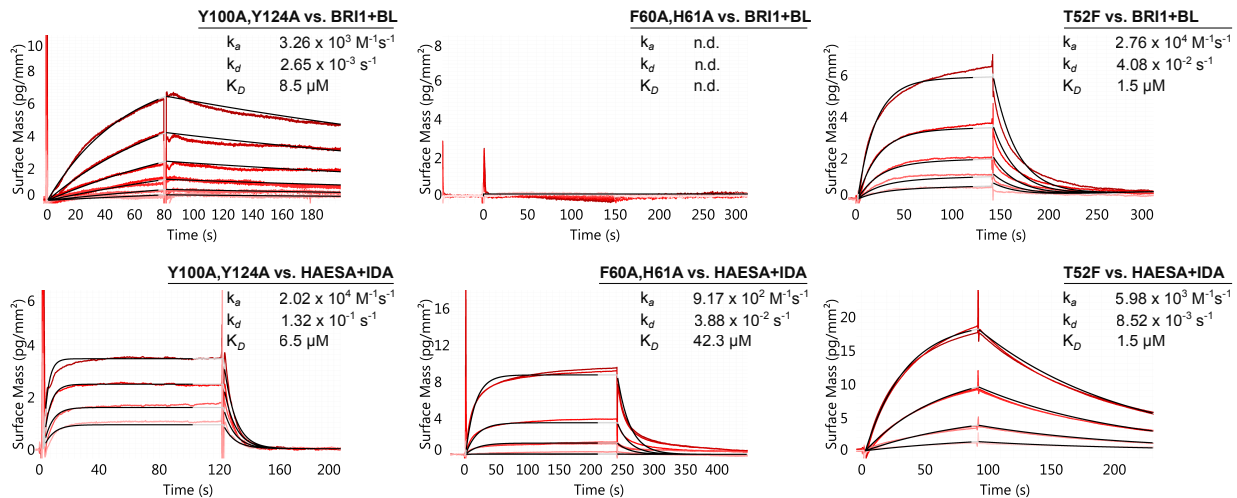
121 **Fig. S1. SERK residues interacting with BRI1 and HAESA are conserved among SERK-family members from**
 122 **different species.**

123 (A) Structure based sequence alignment of SERK ectodomains from *Arabidopsis thaliana* SERK1 (Uniprot
 124 (<http://www.uniprot.org>) identifier: Q94AG2), SERK2 (Uniprot identifier: Q9XIC7), SERK3/BAK1 (Uniprot identifier:
 125 Q94F62), SERK4 (Uniprot identifier: Q9SKG5), *Populus tomentosa* BAK1 (Uniprot identifier: A0A1I9W083), *Theobroma*
 126 *cacao* (Uniprot identifier: A0A061E3D3), *Nicotiana benthamiana* SERK3a (Uniprot identifier: E3VXE6), *Oryza sativa*
 127 *subsp. indica* SERK1 (Uniprot identifier: B8BB68), *Brachypodium distachyon* SERK1 (Uniprot identifier: I1IYF6) and
 128 *Marchantia polymorpha* RLK2 (Uniprot identifier: A7VM18). A secondary structure assignment, calculated with the
 129 program DSSP (14), is shown alongside. SERK residues in direct contact with BL in the BRI1 – BL – SERK1 complex are
 130 highlighted in blue, residues interacting with the IDA peptide in the HAESA – IDA – SERK1 complex are shown in orange.
 131 Residues contributing to the direct receptor – co-receptor interface present in both complexes are highlighted in gray,
 132 cysteines forming disulfide bonds in yellow. All numbering refers to AtSERK3.

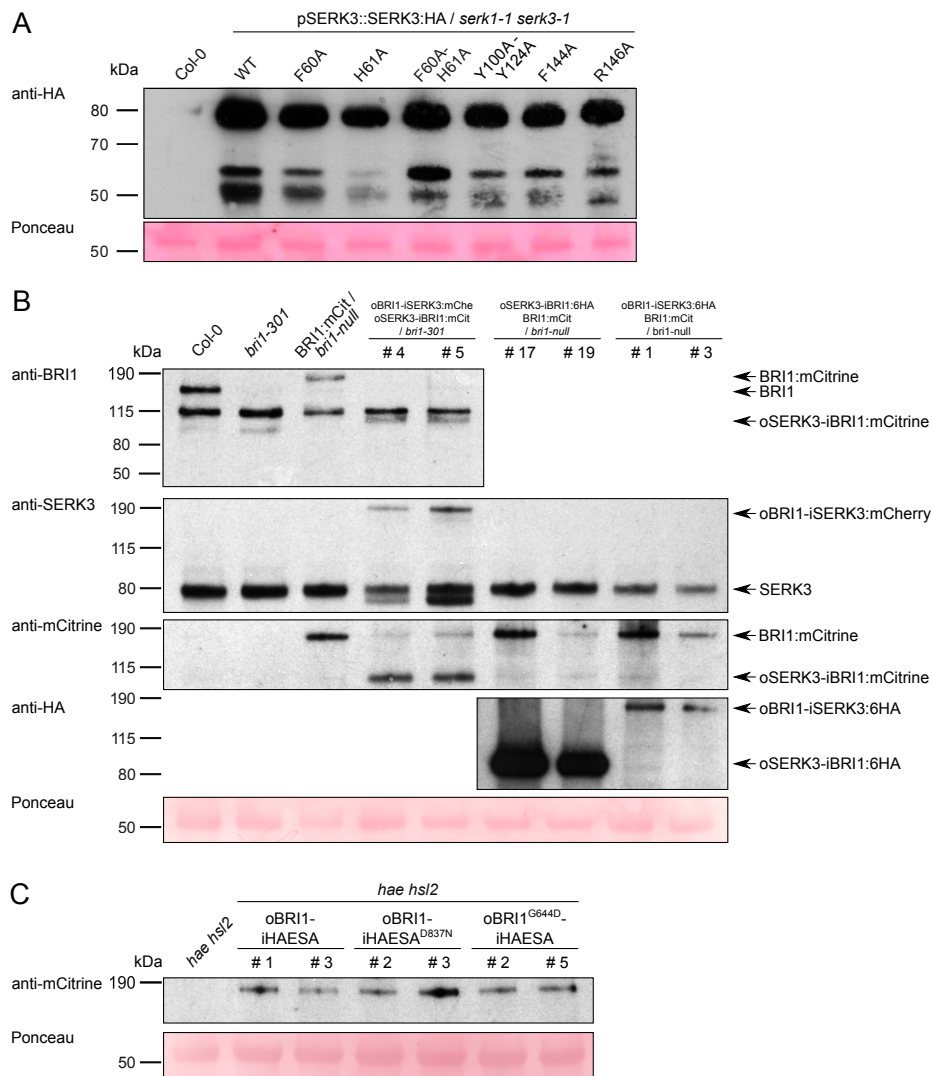
133 (B) Table summary of amino-acid sequence identities between SERK3 and other SERK ectodomains shown in (A).



134 **Fig. S2. Purity, stability and structural integrity of the recombinantly expressed LRR ectodomains used in this study.**
 135 (A) Coomassie-stained SDS PAGE containing 5 μg of indicated LRR protein isolated from monomeric peak fraction
 136 purified by size-exclusion chromatography.
 137 (B) Box-plots of melting temperatures of the purified LRR ectodomains used in this study assessed by a thermal shift assay.
 138 $\text{SERK3}^{\text{F144A}}$ ($T_m=35.6$ °C) and $\text{SERK3}^{\text{Y100A/Y124A}}$ ($T_m=38.9$ °C) show moderately reduced melting temperatures when
 139 compared to wild-type SERK3 ($T_m=43.1$ °C), but behaved well in ITC and GCI biochemical assays. Experiments were
 140 performed in quadruplicates.



141 **Fig. S3. Effects of SERK3 interface mutations on BRI1 and HAESA binding kinetics.**
 142 Grating-coupled interferometry (GCI)-derived binding kinetics for BRI1 and HAESA vs. their ligands and SERK3. Shown
 143 are sensorgrams with data in red and their respective fits in black (see Methods). Mutation of the constitutive receptor – co-
 144 receptor interface in $\text{SERK3}^{\text{Y100A/Y124A}}$ impairs both BRI1-BL and HAESA-IDA interaction (left). Interfering with the direct
 145 contacts made by SERK3 to BL bound to BRI1 by mutating Phe60 and His61 to alanine abolishes SERK3 binding to BRI1-
 146 BL and reduces the binding affinity for HAESA-IDA (right). $\text{SERK3}^{\text{T52F}}$ has no effect on receptor interaction for both BRI1
 147 and HAESA. Table summaries of kinetic parameters are shown alongside (k_a , association rate constant; k_d , dissociation rate
 148 constant; K_D , dissociation constant).



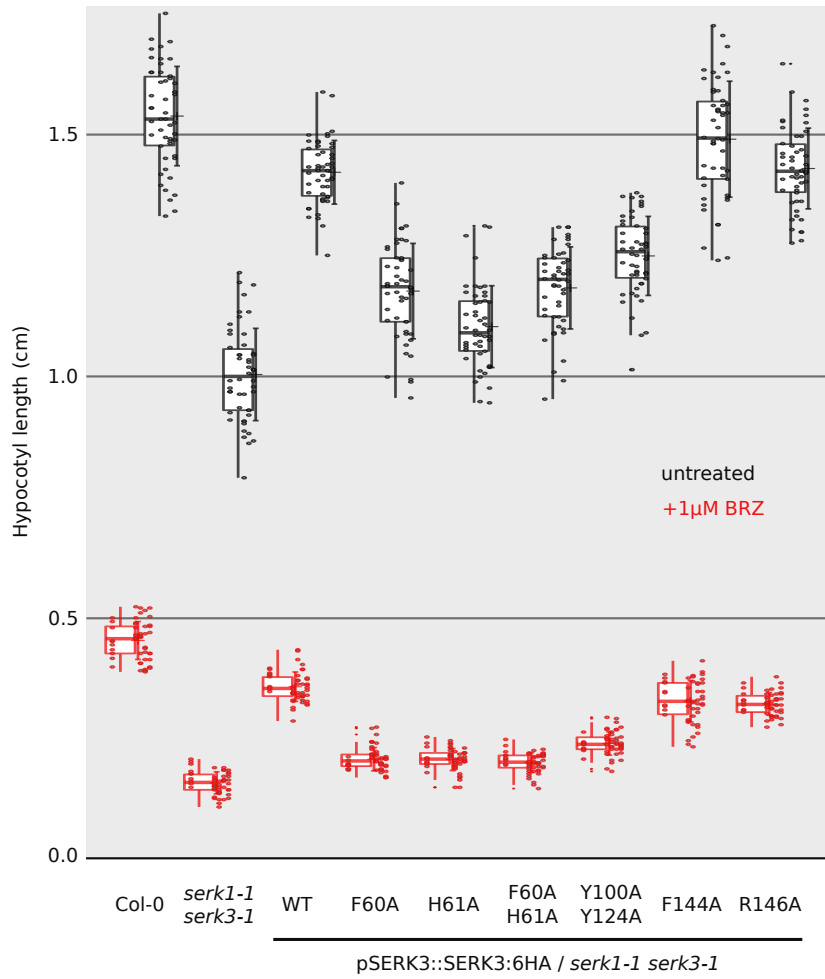
149 **Fig. S4. Expression levels of proteins in transgenic *A. thaliana* lines used in this study**

150 (A) Western blot on protein extracts from SERK3 wild-type and mutant lines shown in Fig. 2A. SERK3:HA was detected
 151 using anti-HA antibody (Miltenyi Biotec Anti-HA-HRP), the Ponceau-stained membrane is shown as loading control
 152 alongside. The bands marked by * correspond to truncated SERK3 proteins (15)

153 (B) Western blots on protein extracts from wild-type Col-0, *bri1-301*, BRI1:mCit/*bri1-null* and BRI1-SERK3 chimerae
 154 probed with anti-BRI1 and anti-SERK3 antibodies, both raised against the respective cytosolic kinase domain (7) as well as
 155 anti-mCitrine (Miltenyi Biotec Anti-GFP-HRP) and anti-HA. No BRI1 is detected in the *bri1-null* mutant and *bri1-301*
 156 shows reduced BRI1 levels compared to wild-type. The Ponceau-stained membrane for anti-SERK3 is shown alongside as
 157 loading control.

158 Shown in figure 3 are oBRI1-iSERK3:mChe/oSERK3-iBRI1:mCit/*bri1-301* #4, oSERK3-iBRI1:6HA/BRI1:mCit/*bri1-null*
 159 #19 and oBRI1-SERK3:6HA/BRI1:mCit/*bri1-null* #1.

160 (C) Western blot on protein extracts from *hae hsl2* and oBRI1-iHAESA seedlings. The Ponceau-stained membrane for is
 161 shown alongside. Shown in figure 3 are oBRI1-iHAESA/*hae hsl2* #3, oBRI1-iHAESA^{D837N}/*hae hsl2* #2 and oBRI1^{G644D}-
 162 iHAESA/*hae hsl2* #5.

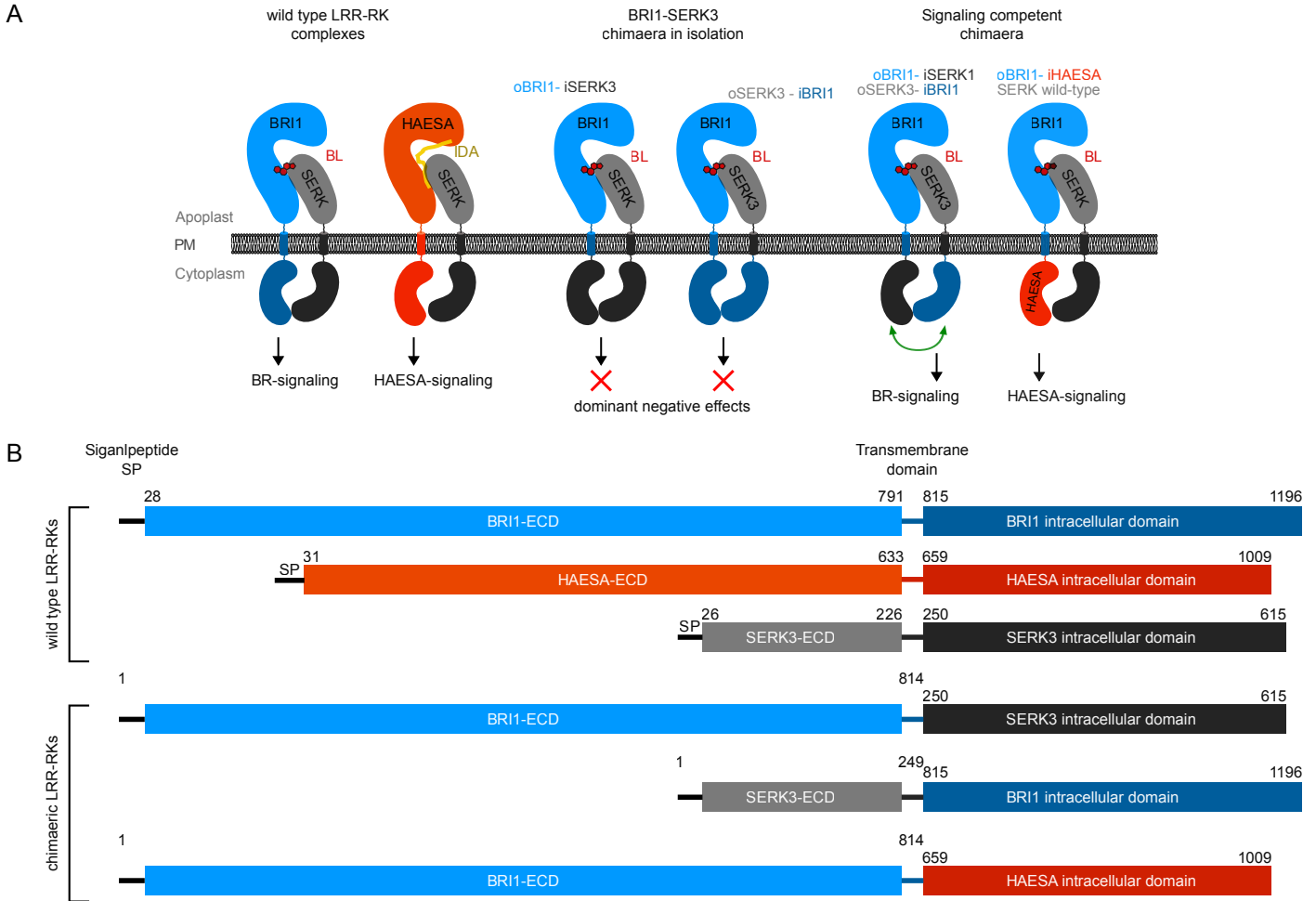


163 **Fig. S5. Representation of the hypocotyl growth assay raw data**

164 Box-plots of treated and untreated wild-type and mutant SERK lines, including raw data represented as dots (16).

165 Seedlings were grown for 5 d in the dark in the pre- (red) or absence (black) of the brassinosteroid biosynthesis inhibitor BRZ and

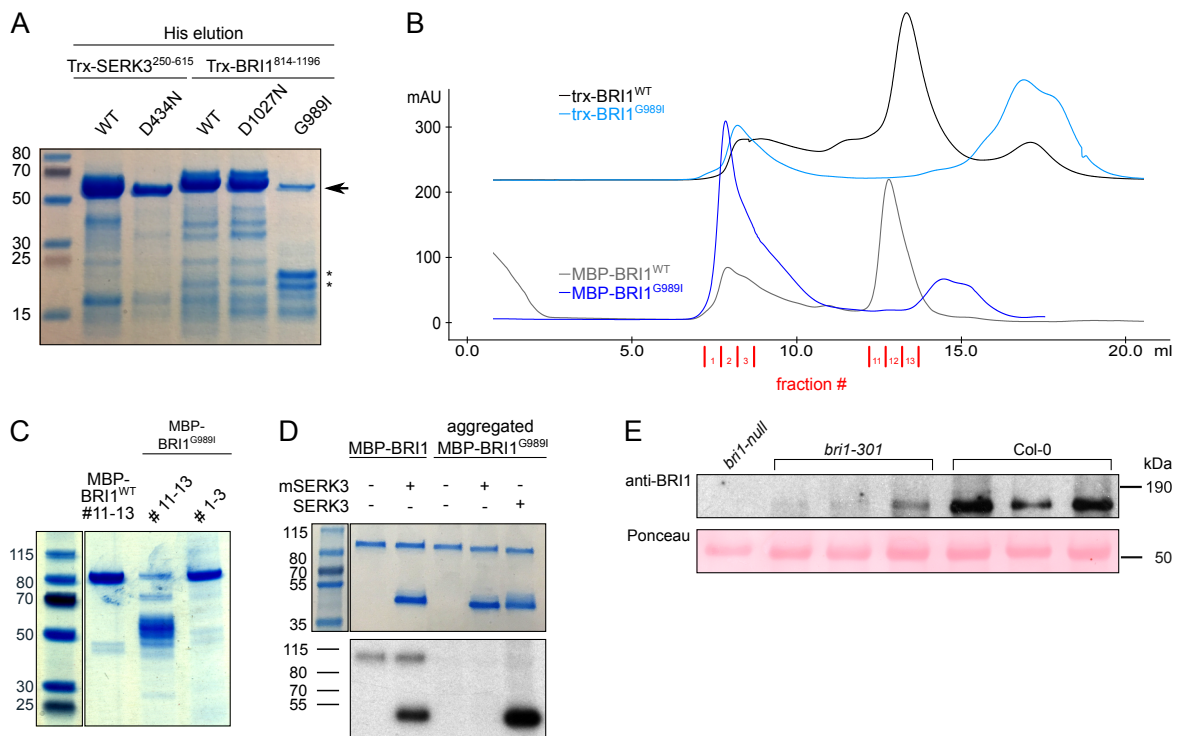
166 hypocotyl lengths were measured using FIJI (2). Data were analyzed using the package multcomp (4).



167 **Fig. S6. Overview of the envisioned signaling scenarios in wild-type and transgenic Arabidopsis lines and design of**
 168 **receptor chimaera.**

169 (A) Schematic view of wild-type and chimaeric LRR-RK complexes. BRI1 domains are shown in blue, HAESA in orange
 170 and SERK in gray. Heteromeric wild-type complexes are signaling active as are chimaeric complexes that allow for the
 171 interaction of a cytoplasmic receptor and co-receptor kinase. Individual oBRI1-iSERK3 and oSERK3-iBRI1 chimaera may
 172 form signaling-incompetent complexes with endogenous interaction partners when expressed in isolation, rationalizing their
 173 dominant negative growth phenotypes.

174 (B) Domain structure of BRI1, HAESA and SERK3 and the chimaeric constructs used in this study. Color coding as in (A),
 175 signal peptides (SP) are indicated in black. Numbers refer to the respective first and last residue of a given domain.



176 **Fig. S7. Mutation of Gly989 to Ile in *bri1-301* renders BRI1 unstable *in vitro* and *in planta*.**

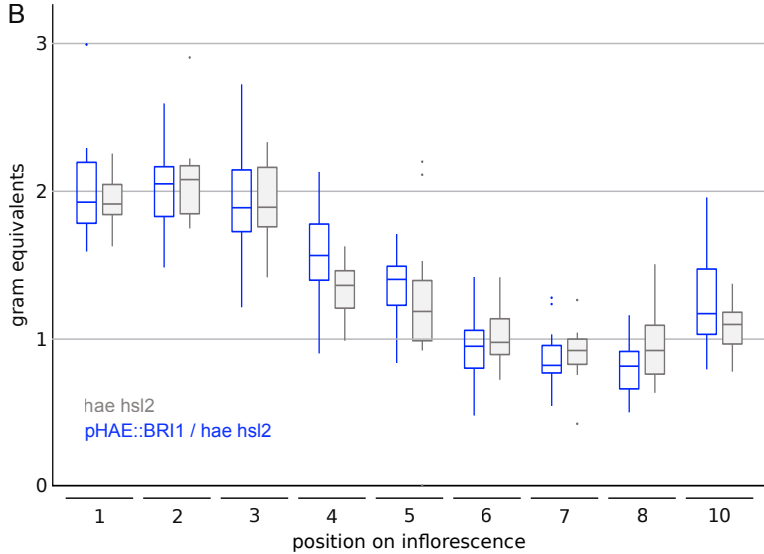
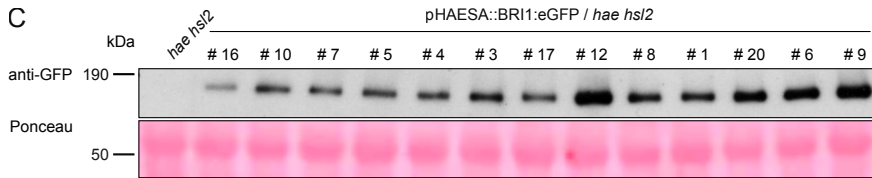
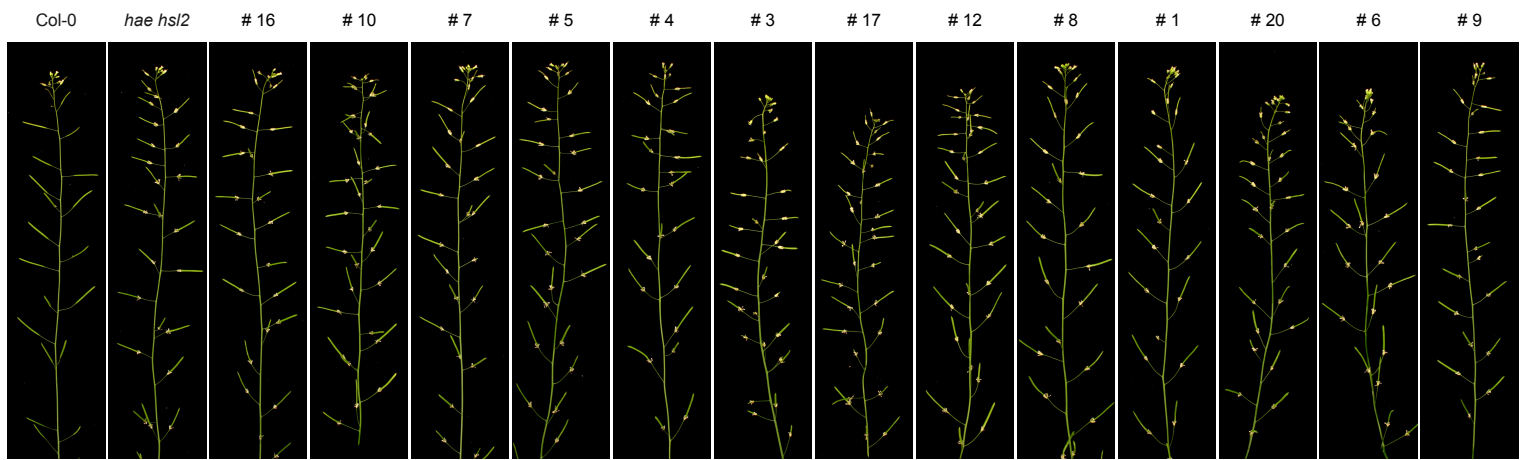
177 (A) Coomassie-stained SDS-PAGE gel showing the elution fractions of metal affinity purification of wild-type and mutant
 178 BRI1 and SERK3 kinase domains (Trx, *E. coli* thioredoxin A). BRI1 and SERK3 kinase domains can be stably over-
 179 expressed and purified from in *E. coli*, with the exception of BRI1^{G989I} which shows pronounced protein degradation
 180 (indicated by a *).

181 (B) Size-exclusion chromatography traces of purified wild-type and BRI1^{G989I} mutant proteins, fused to Trx (expressed in *E.*
 182 *coli*) or maltose-binding protein (MBP, expressed in insect cells). An SDS-PAGE analysis of peak fractions is show
 183 alongside (C). For each lane 2 µg of protein from the respective concentrated fractions was loaded. Note that in contrast to
 184 the wild-type kinase domain, BRI1^{G989I} is found completely aggregated when expressed from insect cells. The same
 185 construct leads to protein degradation in preparations from *E. coli* (compare panel (A)).

186 (D) *In vitro* kinase assay of BRI1 wild-type vs. BRI1^{G989I} kinase domains. A Coomassie-stained SDS-PAGE gel is shown on
 187 top, a autoradiograph is shown below. (m = kinase inactive mutant). In contrast to the wild-type enzyme, aggregated
 188 BRI1^{G989I} kinase preparations show neither auto- nor trans-phosphorylation activity (lanes 3+4) and are not a substrate for
 189 SERK3 (lane 5). The phenotype of *bri1-301* plants however suggests that the endogenous protein is partly functional *in*
 190 *vivo*, as recently suggested (17).

191 (E) Western blot of protein extracts from *bri1-null*, *bri1-301* and wild-type Col-0 seedlings, probed with an anti-BRI1
 192 antibody (7). No BRI1 is detected in the *bri1-null* mutant and *bri1-301* shows reduced BRI1 levels compared to wild-type.
 193 The Ponceau-stained membrane is shown alongside as loading control.

A

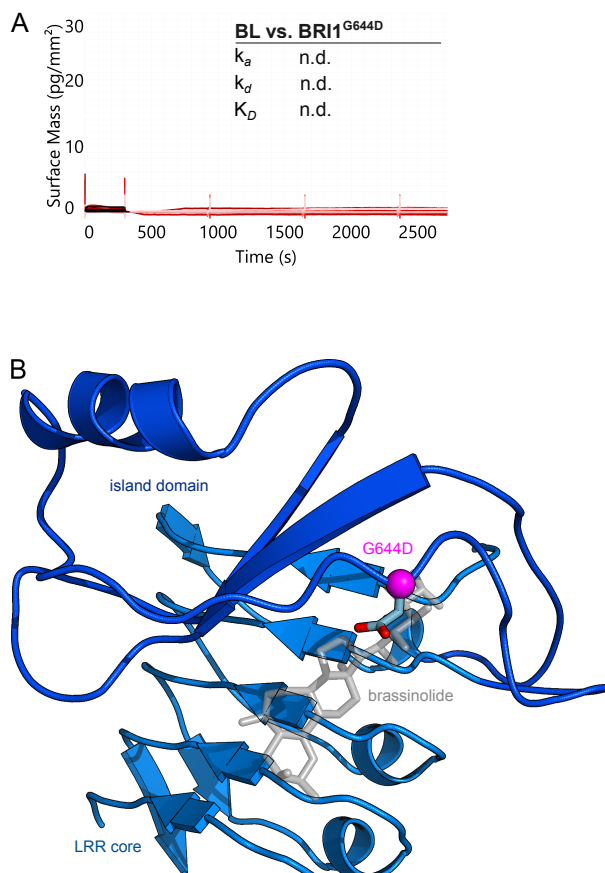
pHAESA::BRI1:eGFP / *hae hsl2*

194 **Fig. S8. Ectopic expression of the LRR-RK BRI1 under the control of the *HAESA* promoter does not induce floral**
 195 **abscission.**

196 (A) Inflorescences of ~9 week old Arabidopsis plants. Abscission of floral organs is impaired in *hae hsl2* mutant plants
 197 compared to Col-0 wild-type. Expression of full-length BRI1 under the control of the *HAESA* promoter and fused to a C-
 198 terminal eGFP tag does not complement the *hae hsl2* floral abscission phenotype. Shown are thirteen independent T1 lines
 199 showing various BRI1 protein expression levels.

200 (B) Western blot of protein extracts from the lines shown in (A) probed with an anti-GFP antibody. The Ponceau-stained
 201 membrane is shown alongside as loading control.

202 (C) Box plots of pHAESA::BRI1:eGFP/*hae hsl2* vs. *hae hsl2* mutant lines. In a quantitative petal break-strength assay, the
 203 force required to remove a petal at a given position on the inflorescence is measured in gram equivalents. 20 independent T1
 204 lines were used in the assay, with at least 15 independent measurements per floral position taken. Statistical analysis is
 205 shown in Table S2.



206 **Fig. S9. Mutation of glycine 644 in the BRI1 island domain to aspartate specifically interferes with brassinosteroid**
 207 **binding.**

208 (A) Grating coupled interferometry ligand binding assay using the recombinantly expressed BRI1^{G644D}, ectodomain vs.
 209 brassinolide (BL). No binding can be detected (n.d.) under assay conditions where wild-type BRI1 binds BL with a K_D of ~
 210 10 nM (compare Fig. 1B).

211 (B) Ribbon diagram of the BRI1^{G644D} mutant structure refined at a resolution of 2.54 Å. This BRI1 LRR core and island
 212 domains are shown in light- and dark-blue, respectively. Asp644 is shown in bonds-representation and highlighted by a
 213 magenta sphere. The position of BL has been inferred from the BRI1 – BL complex structure (PDB-ID 3RJ0) (18). The
 214 G644D mutation in the BRI1 island domain as found in *bri1-6* plants does not affect the overall structure of the island
 215 domain, but appears to specifically interfere with ligand binding.

216 **Supplementary Tables**217 **Table S1.** Transgenic lines used in this study

Promoter	Gen	Tag	Resistance	Genetic background
<i>pSERK3</i>	<i>gSERK3</i>	<i>6HA</i>	Hygromycin	<i>serk1-1 serk3-1</i>
<i>pSERK3</i>	<i>oSERK3-iBRI1</i>	<i>mCitrine</i>	Hygromycin	<i>bri1-301</i>
<i>pBRI1</i>	<i>oBRI1-iSERK3</i>	<i>mCherry</i>	Hygromycin	
<i>pSERK3</i>	<i>oSERK3-iBRI1</i>	<i>6HA</i>	Basta	<i>pBRI1::BRI1:mCitrine / bri1-null</i>
<i>pBRI1</i>	<i>oBRI1-iSERK3</i>	<i>6HA</i>	Hygromycin	<i>pBRI1::BRI1:mCitrine / bri1-null</i>
<i>pHAESA</i>	<i>oBRI1-iHAESA</i>	<i>eGFP</i>	Basta	<i>hae hsl2</i>
<i>pHAESA</i>	<i>BRI1</i>	<i>eGFP</i>	Basta	<i>hae hsl2</i>

218 **Table S2.** Statistic evaluation of the petal break-strength assay shown in Fig 4.

(A) Ratios of oBRI1-iHAESA / hae hsl2 and Col-0 to hae hsl2 per position

	Pos1	lo. CI	up. CI	Pos2	lo. CI	up. CI	Pos3	lo. CI	up. CI	Pos4	lo. CI	up. CI
oBRI1-iHAESA / hae hsl2	1.07	1.22	0.95	1.14	1.26	1.03	1.17	1.32	1.03	1.41	1.94	1.03
Col-0 / hae hsl2	0.48	0.59	0.40	0.54	0.64	0.46	0.57	0.70	0.47	0.61	1.00	0.37

	Pos5	lo. CI	up. CI	Pos6	lo. CI	up. CI	Pos7	lo. CI	up. CI
oBRI1-iHAESA / hae hsl2	1.72	2.24	1.32	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Col-0 / hae hsl2	0.95	1.45	0.63	2.14	3.35	1.37	56.65	113.89	28.18

(B) TOST on equivalence between mutant oBRI1-iHAESA / hae hsl2 and hae hsl2 per position

	Pos1	lo. CI	up. CI	Pos2	lo. CI	up. CI	Pos3	lo. CI	up. CI	Pos4	lo. CI	up. CI
oBRI1-iHAESAD837N / hae hsl2	1.07	0.95	1.20	0.97	0.90	1.05	1.01	0.92	1.11	1.12	1.05	1.18
oBRI1G644D-iHAESA / hae hsl2	1.07	0.99	1.16	1.03	0.93	1.13	1.05	0.96	1.15	1.06	0.99	1.13
pHAESA::BRI1 / hae hsl2	1.03	0.92	1.15	1.17	0.95	1.43	0.96	0.81	1.14	0.26	0.04	1.64

	Pos5	lo. CI	up. CI	Pos6	lo. CI	up. CI	Pos7	lo. CI	up. CI
oBRI1-iHAESAD837N / hae hsl2	1.11	1.00	1.24	1.39	1.14	1.71	1.77	1.34	2.34
oBRI1G644D-iHAESA / hae hsl2	1.03	0.95	1.11	1.49	1.22	1.83	1.68	1.35	2.09
pHAESA::BRI1 / hae hsl2	0.92	0.75	1.12	1.21	0.99	1.47	1.20	1.00	1.44

219 lo. CI = lower confidence interval, up. CI = upper confidence interval

220 (A) Fold-changes of transgenic lines expressing BRI1-HAESA chimaera vs. Col-0 or *hae hsl2* were
 221 estimated separately for each floral position together with their Dunnett-type simultaneous confidence
 222 limits, assuming log-normal distribution. Note that there is a strong line-by-position interaction.

223 (B) The similarity between oBRI1-iHAESA^{D837N}, oBRI1^{G644D}-iHAESA and pHAESA::BRI1 vs. *hae hsl2*
 224 was demonstrated by a two-one-sided-t-test approach (TOST), reporting two-sided 90% confidence
 225 limits. Claiming no interaction was performed by a double-ratio approach according to (46).

226 **Table S3.** Crystallographic data collection and refinement for the BRI1^{G644D} mutant protein

BRI1 G644D (bri1-6)	
Data collection	
Space group	C2
Wavelength (Å)	0.97963
Cell dimensions	
<i>a</i> , <i>b</i> , <i>c</i> (Å)	175.11, 67.57, 119.68
α , β , γ (°)	90, 121.55, 90
Resolution (Å)	19.89 – 2.54 (2.69 – 2.54)
R_{meas} [#]	0.071 (1.25)
CC(1/2) (%) [#]	99.9 (77.8)
$I/\sigma I$ [#]	13.89 (1.0)
Completeness (%) [#]	100.0 (99.8)
Redundancy [#]	5.2 (5.0)
Wilson B-factor [#]	78.7
Refinement	
Resolution (Å)	19.89 – 2.54 (2.61 – 2.54)
No. reflections	37'172 (2'449)
R_{work}/R_{free} [§]	0.20/0.25 (0.39/0.42)
No. atoms	
protein	5'626
glycan	189
solvent	27
Res. B-factors [§]	
protein	90.4
glycan	129.1
solvent	65.5
R.m.s deviations [§]	
Bond lengths (Å)	0.020
Bond angles (°)	1.928
Molprobit results	
Ramachandran outliers (%) [‡]	0.13
Ramachandran favored (%) [‡]	92.9
Molprobit score [‡]	1.34
PDB - ID	6FIF

227 [#]as defined in XDS (50)228 [§]as defined Refmac5 (52)229 [‡]as defined in Molprobit (53)

230 **Table S4.** Primers used in this study

Primer name	Sequence
BRI1prom-attB4	GGGGACAACCTTTGTATAGAAAAGTTGCTGATCTTCCTTCTTTAATTG
BRI1prom-attB1R	GGGGACTGCTTTTTTTGTACAAACTTGCTTCTCAAGAGTTTGTGAG
SERK3prom-attB4	GGGGACAACCTTTGTATAGAAAAGTTGCTTGTTTTTTTGGAAACAGAG
SERK3prom-attB1R	GGGGACTGCTTTTTTTGTACAAACTTGCTTTATCCTCAAGAGATTA
HAESAprom_attB4	GGGGACAACCTTTGTATAGAAAAGTTGCTATCTTCAATTGTTTTTTC
HAESAprom_attB1R	GGGGACTGCTTTTTTTGTACAAACTTGCGCTTTGGATTTGTGAATAAAAACG
SERK3-attB1	GGGGACAAGTTTGTACAAAAAAGCAGGCTTAACCAT GGAACGAAGATTAATGATCCC
SERK3noSTOP-attB2	GGGGACCACTTTGTACAAGAAAAGCTGGGTATCTTGGACCCGAGGGGTATT
SDM-fwSERK3_T52F	GATGCTTTTTCTTGTACTCCATGTACATGGTTTCATG
SDM-rvSERK3_T52F	TAACAAGAAAAGCATCCCAACTTTGAAGCACCTTATTAG
SDM-fwSERK3_V54F	ACTCTTTTTACTCCATGTACATGGTTTCATGTTACTTGC
SDM-rvSERK3_V54F	TGGAGTAAAAAGAGTAGCATCCCAACTTTGAAGCAC
SDM-fwSERK3_F60A	CATGGGCTCATGTTACTTGC AATAGCGACAATAGTGTTACACG
SDM-rvSERK3_F60A	AGTAACATGAGCCCATGTACATGGAGTAACAAGAGTAGCATCCC
SDM-fwSERK3_H61A	CATGGTTTGCTGTTACTTGC AATAGCGACAATAGTGTTACACG
SDM-rvSERK3_H61A	AGTAACAGCAAACCATGTACATGGAGTAACAAGAGTAGCATCCC
SDM-fwSERK3_H61A-F60A	CATGGGCTGCTGTTACTTGC AATAGCGACAATAGTGTTACACG
SDM-rvSERK3_H61A-F60A	AGTAACAGCAGCCCATGTACATGGAGTAACAAGAGTAGCATCCC
SDM-fwSERK3_Y100A	AGGGAGCTTGCTAGCAATAACACTTACTGGGACAATCCCAG
SDM-rvSERK3_Y100A	GCTAGCAAGCTCCCTGTCATTACCATTCTTTAATATTAATTTTC
SDM-fwSERK3_Y100A-cds	GGAGCTTGCTAGCAATAACACTTACTGGGACAATCCCAG
SDM-rvSERK3_Y100A-cds	GTTATTGCTAGCAAGCTCCAAGTACTGCAAGTTTGGAAAGC
SDM-fwSERK3_Y124A	GATCTTGCCTTGAACAATTTAAGCGGGCCTATTCCATCAAC
SDM-rvSERK3_Y124A	GTTCAAGGCAAGATCCAAGCTCACCAATTCCGTCAGATTTCC
SDM-fwSERK3_F144A	CTCCGTGCCTTGTATGCACCATATTCTACTCTCTTTTAAATAC
SDM-rvSERK3_F144A	GCATACAAGGCACGGAGTTTCTTAAGTCGGCCGAGAGTTG
SDM-fwSERK3_F144A-cds	CTCCGTGCCTTGCCTTAAATAACAATAGCTTATCTGGAG
SDM-rvSERK3_F144A-cds	GACGCAAGGCACGGAGTTTCTTAAGTCGGCCGAGAGTTG
SDM-fwSERK3_R146A	GGTTAGGGCTCTTAATAACAATAGCTTATCTGGAGAAAT
SDM-rvSERK3_R146A	TATTAAGAGCCCTAACCACCAATACAAAAAGAGAATGTC
SDM-fwSERK3_R146A-cds	GTTTCTTGGCTCTTAATAACAATAGCTTATCTGGAGAAAT
SDM-rvSERK3_R146A-cds	TATTAAGAGCCAAGAAACGGAGTTTCTTAAGTCGGCCG
SDM-fwBRI1_G644D	CTATGGAGATCACACTTCGCCGACGTTTGATAACAATGG
SDM-rvBRI1_G644D	GAAGTGTGATCTCCATAGACTCTGCTAGTGATATTAC
SDM-fwHAESA_D837N	GTTGCTAACTTTGGGATCGCTAAAGTCGGTCAG
SDM-rvHAESA_D837N	CCCAAAGTTAGCAACTTTAGCCCCATAATCGC

231 Supplementary references

1. Hashimoto Y, Zhang S, Blissard GW (2010) Ao38, a new cell line from eggs of the black witch moth, *Ascalapha odorata* (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae), is permissive for AcMNPV infection and produces high levels of recombinant proteins. *BMC Biotechnol* 10:50.
2. Schindelin J, et al. (2012) Fiji: an open-source platform for biological-image analysis. *Nat Methods* 9(7):676–682.
3. Kitchin A, Hothorn LA (2014) Testing for qualitative interaction using ratios of treatment differences. *Stat Med* 33(9):1477–1489.
4. Hothorn T, Bretz F, Westfall P (2008) Simultaneous inference in general parametric models. *Biom J* 50(3):346–363.
5. R Core Team (2014) *R: A language and environment for statistical computing*. R Foundation for Statistical Computing, Vienna, Austria. 2013 (ISBN 3-900051-07-0).
6. Nuzzo R (2014) Scientific method: statistical errors. *Nature* 506(7487):150–152.
7. Bojar D, et al. (2014) Crystal structures of the phosphorylated BRI1 kinase domain and implications for brassinosteroid signal initiation. *Plant J* 78(1):31–43.
8. Stenvik G-E, et al. (2008) The EPIP peptide of INFLORESCENCE DEFICIENT IN ABSCISSION is sufficient to induce abscission in arabidopsis through the receptor-like kinases HAESA and HAESA-LIKE2. *Plant Cell* 20(7):1805–1817.
9. Kabsch W (1993) Automatic processing of rotation diffraction data from crystals of initially unknown symmetry and cell constants. *J Appl Crystallogr* 26(6):795–800.
10. Emsley P, Cowtan K (2004) Coot: model-building tools for molecular graphics. *Acta Crystallogr D Biol Crystallogr* 60(Pt 12 Pt 1):2126–2132.
11. Murshudov GN, Vagin AA, Dodson EJ (1997) Refinement of macromolecular structures by the maximum-likelihood method. *Acta Crystallogr D Biol Crystallogr* 53(Pt 3):240–255.
12. Davis IW, et al. (2007) MolProbity: all-atom contacts and structure validation for proteins and nucleic acids. *Nucleic Acids Res* 35(Web Server issue):W375–383.
13. Fenn TD, Ringe D, Petsko GA (2003) POVScript+: a program for model and data visualization using persistence of vision ray-tracing. *J Appl Crystallogr* 36(2):944–947.
14. Kabsch W, Sander C (1983) Dictionary of protein secondary structure: pattern recognition of hydrogen-bonded and geometrical features. *Biopolymers* 22(12):2577–2637.
15. Domínguez-Ferreras A, Kiss-Papp M, Jehle AK, Felix G, Chinchilla D (2015) An Overdose of the Arabidopsis Coreceptor BRASSINOSTEROID INSENSITIVE1-ASSOCIATED RECEPTOR KINASE1 or Its Ectodomain Causes Autoimmunity in a SUPPRESSOR OF BIR1-1-Dependent Manner. *Plant Physiol* 168(3):1106–1121.

16. Pallmann P, Hothorn LA (2016) Analysis of means: a generalized approach using R. *J Appl Stat* 43(8):1541–1560.
17. Sun C, et al. (2017) Scanning for new BRI1 receptor mutations via TILLING analysis. *Plant Physiol* 174(3):1881–1896.
18. Hothorn M, et al. (2011) Structural basis of steroid hormone perception by the receptor kinase BRI1. *Nature* 474(7352):467–471.