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Poster: Transformation

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TRANSFORMING ARABIDOPSIS WITH GENES FROM WILD BARLEY FOR THE ANALYSIS OF DROUGHT TOLERANCE

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Wild barley is the progenitor of cultivated barley, *Hordeum vulgare*, and is still widely distributed over the eastern Mediterranean rim and western Asia. Wild barley has, particularly with accessions from the desert regions, unique resistance to water stress. We have cloned and characterized a number of candidate genes associated with drought tolerance from wild barley. Transforming barley, however, has been tedious and inefficient with either agrobacterium or particle bombardment. We are currently transforming *Arabidopsis* plants with wild barley Dhn1 gene using the flower-dip technique. This approach could prove useful in accelerating our process of analyzing candidate genes of drought tolerance in wild barley.

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