

FUNCTIONAL ANALYSIS OF

TTG1 HOMOLOGUES IN

COTTON

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John Humphries

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Department of Molecular Biosciences

Adelaide University

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1. Introduction

Cotton fibres are single epidermal cells developed from the ovule. While a number of genes expressed exclusively in cotton fibre development have been isolated, the genes responsible for differentiation of fibre cells have not yet been identified (Basra, 1999). *Arabidopsis* leaf trichomes could potentially serve as a model for investigating the genetic mechanism controlling cotton fibre differentiation, as the two developmental processes have several features in common. *Arabidopsis* trichome development is well characterised both genetically and molecularly, and provides an excellent model for plant cell differentiation for several reasons (Marks et al., 1991). These reasons include ease of observation, relative simplicity of the developmental process, and viability of plants with mutant trichomes. One gene shown to be required for *Arabidopsis* trichome initiation is TRANSPARENT TESTA GLABRA1 (*TTG1*) (Koornneef, 1981). This gene has recently been cloned and shown to encode a 341 amino acid protein with four WD40 repeats (Walker et al., 1999). The *TTG1* locus regulates several pathways in *Arabidopsis* (in addition to leaf trichome formation), including anthocyanin pigmentation, root hair formation, and seed coat mucilage production. Due to the role played by *TTG 1* in *Arabidopsis* trichome initiation, it was thought homologues of *TTG1* might exist in cotton to control fibre initiation. Four putative *TTG1* homologues have been isolated from cotton, designated *TTG(I)*, *TTG(II)*, *TTG⊕P1* and *pTTG(c)E2* (Orford, unpublished).

The aim of this project was to test for functional homologues of the *Arabidopsis* *TTG1* (*AtTTG1*) gene in cotton. Four putative *TTG1* homologues have previously been isolated from cotton, designated TTG(I), TTG(II), TTG⊕P1 and pTTG(c)E2 (Orford, unpublished). Two separate assays were performed to test each of these genes for functional homology to *Arabidopsis* *TTG1*, which has roles in trichome development and anthocyanin production. The first was a transient expression of these *TTG1*-like genes in a *Matthiola incana* *ttg1* mutant. Wild-type *M. incana* has purple petals, but the *ttg1* mutant has white petals, due to the anthocyanin production pathway being disrupted (see Figure 1) (A. Walker, pers. comm.).



Figure 1: Wild-type *M. incana* flower (left) and *ttg1* mutant (right).

Each cotton *TTG1*-like gene was transiently expressed in the mutant *M. incana* via particle bombardment. Restoration of the purple petal phenotype in some cells would demonstrate that complementation of the mutation has occurred, indicating that the cotton gene used in the bombardment was a functional homologue of *TTG1*. The *Arabidopsis* *TTG1* gene was also used in this assay as a positive control.

The second test involved a stable transformation of the *Arabidopsis ttg1* mutant, to determine if the cotton homologues could complement the mutant phenotype. *Arabidopsis* with a mutant *ttg1* gene exhibits no trichome formation and a transparent testa phenotype (Szymanski *et al.*, 2000). Mutant plants were to be transformed with the four *TTG1*-like cotton genes via *Agrobacterium*-mediated transformation, and progeny selected for successful transformation, and studied for restoration of trichome formation and normal testa colour. As with the *M. incana* assay, the *Arabidopsis TTG1* gene will be used as a positive control.

2. Particle Bombardment of *Matthiola*: a transient assay

2.1 Formation of constructs for particle bombardment

The four cotton *TTG1*-like genes were cloned into the vector pART7 (Gleave, 1992) (Figure 2) such that their expression would be driven by the constitutive cauliflower mosaic virus (CaMV) 35S promoter. This promoter confers high-level expression in all plant tissues (Harpster *et al.*, 1988), and hence would enable transient expression of the *TTG1*-like genes after particle bombardment.

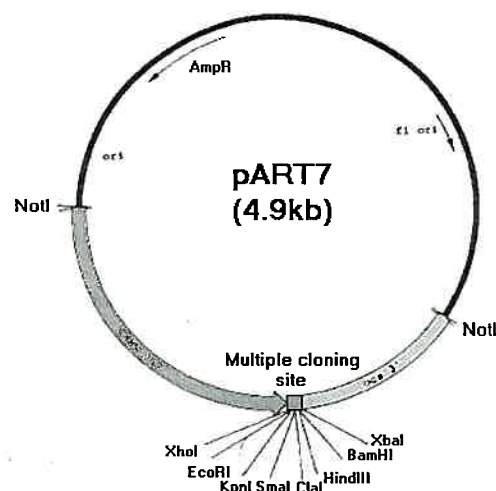


Figure 2: pART7, the 4.9 kb primary cloning vector with ampicillin resistance (Amp^{R}), multiple cloning site (orange), *NotI* restriction sites, cauliflower mosaic virus 35S promoter (green) and 3' octopine synthase terminator region (blue) indicated (Adapted from Gleave, 1992).

The original vector containing three of the four *TTG1*-like genes (TTG(I), TTG(II) and pTTG(c)E2) was the plasmid pBluescript SK(-), whilst TTG \oplus P1 was in pGEM-T Easy.

The multiple cloning site of pART7 contains *XhoI*, *EcoRI*, *KpnI*, *SmaI*, *HindIII*, *ClaI*, *BamHI* and *XbaI* restriction sites to facilitate cloning of the gene of interest downstream of the 35S promoter (Figure 3).

35S ACGCTCGAGGAATTCGGTACCCCGGGTTCGAAATCGAAATCGATAAGCTTGGATCCTCTAGA ocs

XhoI *EcoRI* *KpnI* *SmaI*

Clal *HindIII* *BamHI* *XbaI*

Figure 3: Multiple cloning site of pART7

Directional cloning into pART7 was accomplished by performing a double digest on the clones containing TTG(I), TTG⊕P1, and pTTG(c)E2. However, TTG(II) in pBluescript contained no suitable restriction enzyme sites for cloning into pART7 because the original clone was chimeric. A 508 bp region of unknown cDNA was inserted 5' of TTG(II) in this chimeric clone (see Figure 4). This region of unknown cDNA would preferably be excluded from cloning into pART7. Therefore, instead of a direct insertion by digestion into pART7, PCR was performed on TTG(II) to first clone it into pGEM-T Easy.

1	CGACCTTTGG	AAATGGCTAA	CCGGTCAAGA	ACAACCACCC	GAAGCAGTGA
51	CCGTAAATCC	TGTCTTCTCT	GCAGTGCAAC	AGAAGGTTTT	GAAAAACCTC
101	AACAACCATT	CCTCTCCCGA	GACCCGAGCA	ACCCGTGGCC	GGCCATGGGT
151	GAGAGGGTGG	GATGATATCA	AAAAATGGTC	GCGATAGCCC	AATCACCGGGA
201	AATCAGTAGC	TTTCTTTGCC	TTGAGATAAC	AGGTTCTGAA	GGCTTGTTTA
251	TTTCGAAACA	AATTAAGGTT	TGTAATATGT	AATTTCTTCG	ATATTGTATG
301	CTAGAATATG	AAATAAGGAT	GGCTGCATTG	CTGCAGAAGC	TGGAGATGTA
351	AGAAAACCCT	GAATGTATTT	GGTATAGGCC	TTATTTAAGC	TGGAGAATAG
401	CATAAAAATT	GTGGCTTGAA	FTTGTCAATTT	CTTCTCTGTG	CTTTAGCAAA
451	TAGTTAGAAA	TAAAGGTTTC	TAGTACTCTT	TGAGCCAAAA	AAAAAAAAAA
501	AAAAAAAAAGC	CGGCTTTGAT	CCGGTAGTAA	CATTTCTGTG	GTATAGCCTT
551	GGAAT AAGAA	ACCAAAGGGA	GTGGC AGTGG	AAG ATG GCCG	CTAGCAGCGA
601	TCCTAACCCG	GAGGGTTCG	ATGAGCAGCA	GAAACGATCC	GAGATATACA
651	CTTACGAGGC	CCCTTGGCAT	ATCTACGCCA	TGAACTGGAG	TGTCGGCCGC
701	GACAAGAAAT	ACCGTCTCGC	CATCGCCAGC	TTGCTCGAGC	ATTACAACAA
751	CCGCCTTGAG	ATTGTCCAGC	TCGATGACTC	CAATGGCGAG	ATCCGATCGG
801	ACCCAAATCT	CTCCTTCGAT	CATCCTTATC	CCCCGACCAA	GACCATCTTC
851	ATCCCCGACA	AGGAGTGCCA	GAAACCCGAC	CTTCTCGCCA	CGTCCCTCCGA
901	CTTCTCCGC	ATTTGGCGCA	TCTCCGATGA	CCACTCCC GC	GTCGACCTCA
951	AGTCTCTCCT	TAATGGCAAT	AAGAACAGTG	AATTCCTGCGG	TCCTCTTACC
1001	TCCTTCGACT	GGAATGAGGC	GGAGCCCAAG	CGAATCGGCA	CTCCTCCAT
1051	TGATACGACT	TGTACTATAT	GGGATATCGA	GAGGGAGACG	GTGGATACCC
1101	AGCTTATCGC	CCACGATAAG	GAGGTTTATG	ATATTGCC TG	GGCGGGCGTC
1151	GGTGTTTTGG	CTTCCGTCTC	TGCTGATGGG	TCCGTTAGGG	TTTTTCGACCT
1201	GCGCGACAAG	GAGCACTCCA	CTATCATTTA	TGAAAGTTCG	GAGCCCGATA
1251	CTCCGCTTGT	ACGGTTGGGG	TGGAACAAGC	AGGACCCGAG	ATATATGGCT
1301	ACTATAATTA	TGGACAGTGC	TAAGGTTGTT	GTTTTGGATA	TCCGCTTCCC
1351	GACACTGCCG	GTAGTTGAGC	TGCAGAGGCA	CCAGGCTAGC	GTCAATGCCA
1401	TCGCATGGGC	ACCCACAGC	TCTTGCCACA	TTTGCACCCG	CGGGGATGAT
1451	TCCCAGGCCT	TGATTTGGGA	CTTGTCCCTC	ATGAGTCAGC	CTGTGGAGGG
1501	TGGGCTTGAC	CCCATCCCTG	CCTACACCCG	TGGGGCTGAA	ATCGAGCAGT
1551	TACAGTGGTC	ATCTTCCAG	CTTGATTGGG	TTGCCATCGC	CTTCTCCACC
1601	AAGCTTCAGA	TTCTCAGGGT	ATGAG TGA AT	GGGATTGGTA	TATTGGGTCG
1651	TATTCAATGC	TAAATTGCTA	ATTCATAGTC	TAGTAATTGT	ACTCAGATCT
1701	AGAGGAATAA	CAAGATTGTT	GCTGTCGTTG	TGTCTGAGCT	GACTAAAAGT
1751	CCCAAACTG	TTTTGGTTTT	CCTGTTGTTT	CGTTTGTCTT	CAACATGTTT
1801	GGATAGTTGA	TTGAACACCA	ATCTCTTTAT	TCTGTTCTTA	TTTTAGTGTT
1851	TCCCATTCCT	TTACATCCAA	ACCTTTCCCT	GTTTTATTGT	AGTTGTGAGA
1901	GCAAAAGAGC	TGCAGACTCA	TTTTTTTAGA	ACGCATGGGA	AGCAGTGATT
1951	TATGGACCCCT	GAAC T GAAAC	ACAAGATCAA	GACGACCACT	CTTTGCTGTT
2001	TGGTTTATGC	AACATAATCT	TTGTCTGTTCT	GTTGGACAAG	ATGAGTGTGT
2051	TTTCAGTTTA	TTTGGTTGTC	TGATAAGTTT	GATTAGTTAC	TATAAATGTG
2101	ATAAATGATG	GGCAGGAAGA	TATGGGTGGC	TTACCCTGGG	CTGCTTTCAG
2151	ATGCTTGTGT	TGTGTTAATG	TTAAAAC TAG	CTTTAGCCAT	AAAAAAAAAA
	AAAAAAAA				

Figure 4: TTG(II) insert sequence in pBluescript

Blue shading represents unknown cDNA, yellow shading represents TTG(II) region. Binding site of primer ttg2bp1 is signified by red. Start and stop codons of TTG(II) are indicated by green boxes.

2.1a Isolation and cloning of TTG(II)

In order to exclude the 508 bp segment of unknown cDNA prior to ligation into pGEM-T Easy, a primer was designed to bind a 20 bp region 3' of this unknown section, but 5' of the initiation codon of TTG(II) (Figure 4). This primer contained an engineered *Bam*HI site in order to excise the TTG(II) gene from this point in the next cloning step, excluding the section of unknown cDNA. The primer was designated ttg2bp1, and its sequence was as follows:

*Bam*HI Binding region

ttg2bp1: 5' GGGGATCCAAGAAACCAAAGGGAGTGGC 3'

PCR was carried out on the TTG(II) clone in pBluescript, using the ttg2bp1 primer and the reverse sequencing primer (RSP) of pBluescript to amplify a 1.9 kb region containing the TTG(II) gene (Figure 5). The conditions for the PCR were as follows; Initial denaturation at 94°C for 2 minutes, followed by 30 cycles of denaturation at 94°C for 30 seconds, primer annealing at 53°C for 30 seconds, and extension at 72°C for 2 minutes, followed by final extension at 72°C for 4 minutes.

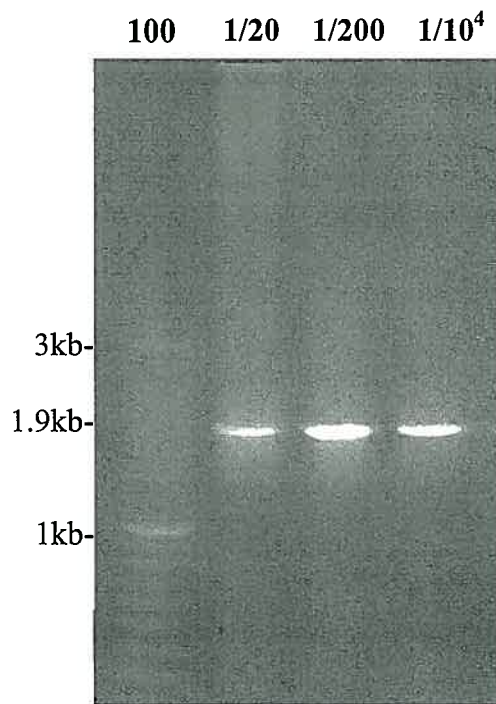


Figure 5: PCR of TTG(II) gene in pBluescript using RSP and ttg2bp1 primers. Above each lane the dilution of alkaline lysis miniprep used as the template is indicated. Amplification of the required 1.9 kb band is displayed in each lane, with different dilutions having apparently little effect

As pBluescript possesses the same antibiotic resistance gene (Amp^R) as pGEM-T Easy, the PCR bands were required to be extracted from the gel before ligation into pGEM-T Easy. This was performed to reduce the chance of recovering TTG(II) in pBluescript. Gel extraction was performed over three PCR bands using the QIAGEN gel extraction kit. After eluting in 50 μ L 1 X TE and ethanol precipitation, the DNA was resuspended in 10 μ L dH_2O . Approximately 200 ng of DNA (3 μ L) was added to the ligation reaction with 50 ng of pGEM-T Easy. After heat-shock transformation at 42°C using $CaCl_2$ -competent cells (DH5 α F') (Sambrook, 1989), blue/white selection was carried out on an ampicillin plate (supplemented with IPTG and X-gal) to identify recombinants. Alkaline lysis minipreps (Sambrook, 1989) were performed on three white colonies, and these were digested with *Eco*RI to check for the presence of the TTG(II) insert. If the TTG(II) gene was ligated into pGEM-T Easy correctly, an *Eco*RI digest was expected to give fragments of 2.9 kb, 1.5 kb and 400 bp (Figure 6A). The digests produced the expected fragments, as shown in Figure 6B.

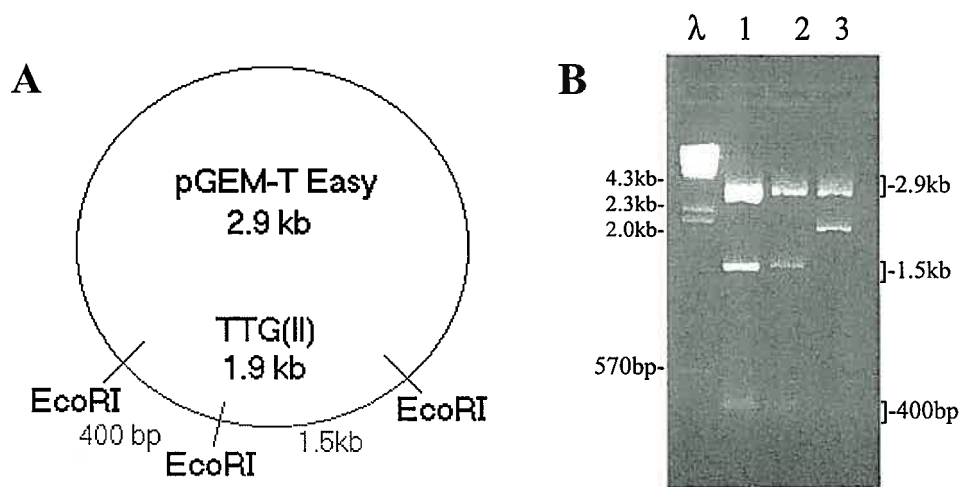


Figure 6: *EcoRI* digestion of TTG(II) in pGEM-T Easy.

(A) Expected fragment sizes for *EcoRI* digest of TTG(II) inserted correctly into pGEM-T Easy.

(B) Agarose gel of *EcoRI* digestion of the three colonies tested (1-3)

Figure 6B demonstrates that samples 1 and 2 contain the TTG(II) PCR product in pGEM-T Easy, as they display the expected fragment sizes. The fragments generated from sample 3 are inconsistent with expectation. Plasmid DNA from clone #2 was sequenced with the SP6 and T7 primers, which confirmed that TTG(II) had been correctly ligated into pGEM-T Easy.

2.1b Cloning of cotton *TTG1*-like genes into pART7

The next step was to transfer the four cotton *TTG1*-like genes from their respective vectors (TTG(I) and TTG(c)E2 in pBluescript, TTG(II) and TTG⊙P1 in pGEM-T Easy) into the pART7 plasmid. This was achieved by excising each gene by the restriction digests shown in Figure 7. pART7 was digested with the appropriate enzymes to provide the desired sticky ends for cloning of each of these inserts. The enzymes used for digestions are detailed in Figure 7.

Insert	Excised with	Expected size	Digest pART7 with
TTG(I)	<i>Bam</i> HI and <i>Hind</i> III	1.3 kb	<i>Bam</i> HI and <i>Hind</i> III
TTG(II)	<i>Bam</i> HI	1.9 kb	<i>Bam</i> HI
TTG⊙P1	<i>Sma</i> I and <i>Spe</i> I	1.7 kb	<i>Sma</i> I and <i>Xba</i> I*
pTTG(c)E2	<i>Xba</i> I and <i>Kpn</i> I	1.9 kb	<i>Xba</i> I and <i>Kpn</i> I

* Digestion with *Spe*I and *Xba*I provides compatible ends for ligation.

Figure 7: Excision of each *TTGI*-like gene from their respective plasmid by digestion.

After a three-hour digestion at 37°C, each of the four pART7 digests was phenol-chloroform extracted and ethanol precipitated to purify the plasmid DNA. pART7 digested for TTG(II) insertion (*Bam*HI single digest) was CIP-treated to suppress re-ligation of the vector. This was not necessary for the remaining three vector digests, as these were prepared as double digests, and the two restriction sites used were incompatible.

Gel extraction of each *TTGI*-like gene from the original vector was required because both vectors containing the genes of interest (pGEM-T Easy and pBluescript) possess ampicillin resistance, as does pART7. Approximately 1 µg of each construct was digested (as detailed in Figure 7) to excise the desired fragment from the vector (see Figure 8).

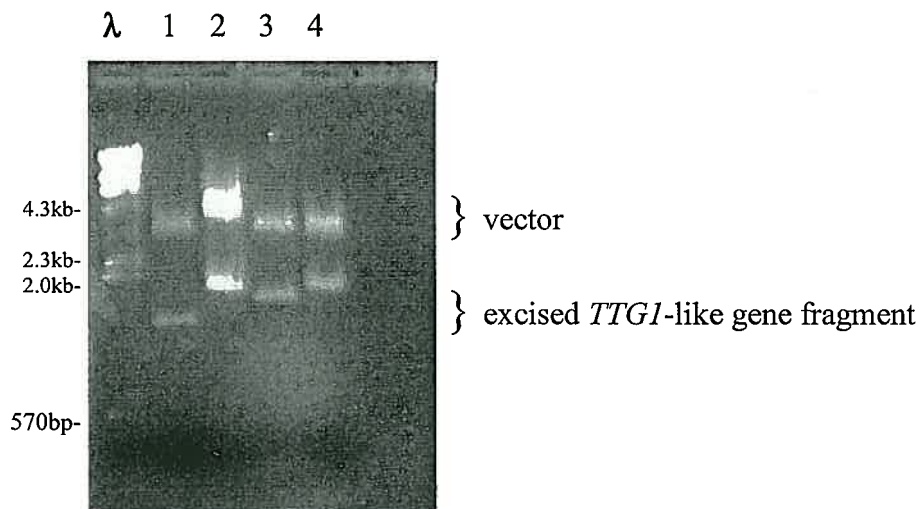


Figure 8: Cloning digests of the four *TTGI*-like genes

- 1) TTG(I) in pBluescript (excised band 1.3 kb)
- 2) TTG(II) in pGEM-T Easy (1.9 kb)
- 3) TTG⊕P1 in pGEM-T Easy (1.7 kb)
- 4) pTTG(c)E2 in pBluescript (1.9 kb)

After extracting the lower bands of each digest using Qiagen Gel Extraction Kit, and eluting in 30 μ L Tris-Cl, 2 μ L of each was run on a gel to ensure sufficient DNA was present (Figure 9)

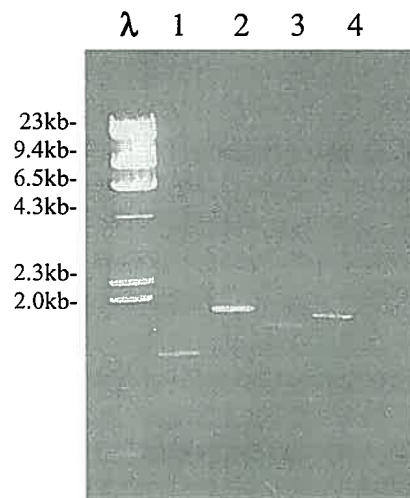


Figure 9: Gel fragment preparations to be ligated into pART7

- Lane 1: TTG(I) (1.3) kb
- Lane 2: TTG(II) (1.9) kb
- Lane 3: TTG⊕P1 (1.7) kb
- Lane 4: pTTG(c)E2 (1.9) kb

For ligation into pART7, 5 μ L (approximately 200 ng) of each fragment was added to 50 ng of the appropriately digested pART7 vector, plus T4 DNA ligase and buffer,

with incubation overnight at 16°C. Ligation reactions were also performed on the four pART7 digests alone (no insert DNA) as a negative control. These ligations were transformed into CaCl₂-competent cells using the heat-shock method. Un-ligated pART7 (digested for each of the four inserts) was also transformed to check the levels of undigested plasmid present. When plated onto ampicillin, the un-ligated plasmids resulted in almost no colonies on the four plates, indicating a low level of undigested pART7. Re-ligated pART7 prepared for the four inserts resulted in a small number of colonies, demonstrating that the level of pART7 digested by only one of the enzymes in each pair was low, and that CIP-treatment of *Bam*HI digested plasmid had been successful. Ligations with the insert present resulted in 10-fold the number of colonies compared to the negative controls; an indication that all four ligations had been successful.

To test colonies for the correct insert on the TTG(I) and pTTG(c)E2 ligation plates, a rapid lysis boiling prep was performed using 1.5 ml of culture grown from five TTG(I) colonies and ten pTTG(c)E2 colonies. PCR was performed on 12 colonies on the TTG(II) ligation plate, and 20 colonies from the TTG⊙P1 plate to test for the desired insert.

Verification of TTG(I) integration into pART7

*Not*I and *Cla*I digests were performed on the five colony preps to check for correct TTG(I) ligation into pART7. *Cla*I linearises the construct by cutting within the multiple cloning site of pART7 (Figure 10). The expected fragment size resulting

from *ClaI* digestion would therefore be 6.2 kb if the insert was present, or 4.9 kb if the vector alone was present. pART7 has two *NotI* restriction sites in pART7, such that *NotI* digestion would produce fragment sizes of 2.0 kb and 2.9 kb. If the TTG(I) insert had been correctly ligated into the pART7 MCS, the expected fragments sizes would be 3.3 kb and 2.9 kb. (Figure 10).

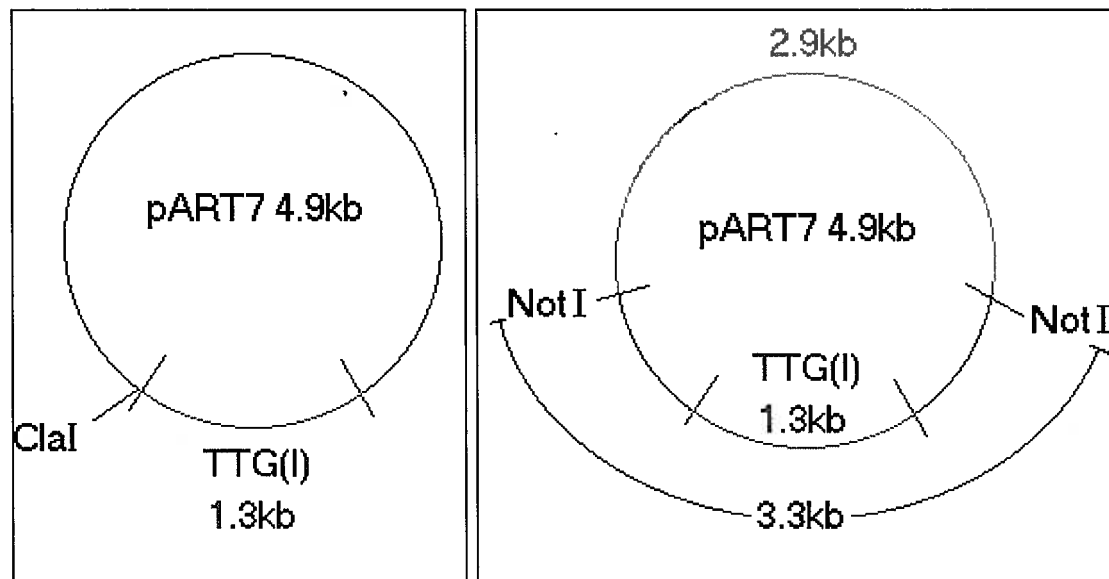


Figure 10: *ClaI* (left) and *NotI* (right) digestion of TTG(I) in pART7, with expected fragment sizes shown.

Approximately 200 ng of DNA from each rapid lysis boiling prep was digested for 2 hours at 37°C with *NotI* or *ClaI*. The results of these digests are shown below (Figure 11). pART7 alone was digested as a control.

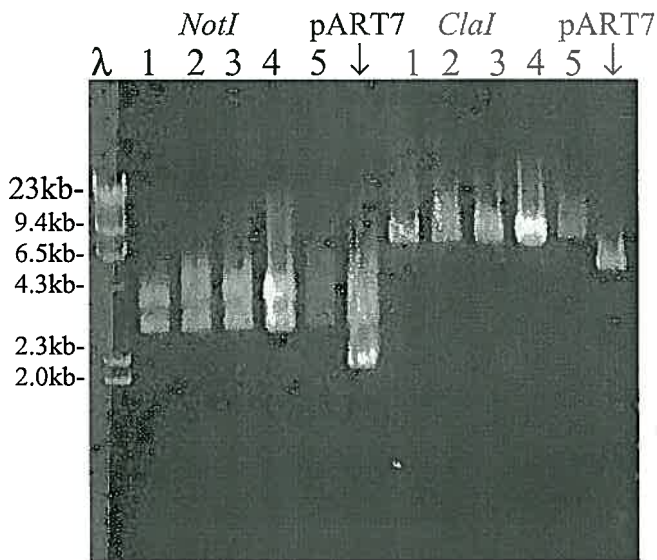


Figure 11: *NotI* (left) and *ClaI* (right) digestion of TTG(I)/pART7 ligation samples 1-5.

Figure 11 indicates that TTG(I) was correctly inserted into pART7 in all five samples, as the 2 kb band from the *NotI* digest of pART7 alone has 'increased' in size to approximately 3.3 kb, although sample 5 did not show clear bands. The *ClaI* digest, where all five samples show an increase in size compared to pART7 alone, confirms the insertion of TTG(I) into pART7. Plasmid DNA from clone #1 was subsequently sequenced, which confirmed that the ligation was successful (see Section 2.2 and Appendix A).

Verification of TTG(II) integration into pART7

To test for the presence of the TTG(II) insert in pART7, PCR was performed on 12 colonies. As the integration of TTG(II) into pART7 was not a directional cloning step, PCR was also used to test for the correct orientation of TTG(II). This was

accomplished using the internal TTG(II) primer, pTTG4 and the external primer pART7A, which binds the vector upstream of the multiple cloning site of pART7 (see Section 2.2). If the insert were in the correct orientation in the vector, these primers would amplify a 650 bp region. However, if the insert were in the incorrect orientation, both primers would extend in the same direction, and there would be no amplification.

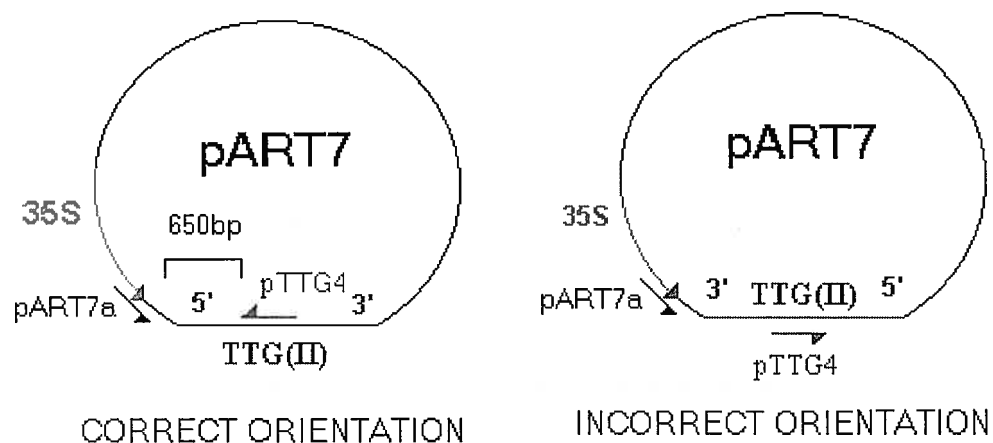


Figure 12: Correct (left) and incorrect (right) orientation of TTG(II) in pART7, with the 650 bp region to be amplified indicated in the correct orientation.

The results of the PCR of samples 1-12 are shown in Figure 13.

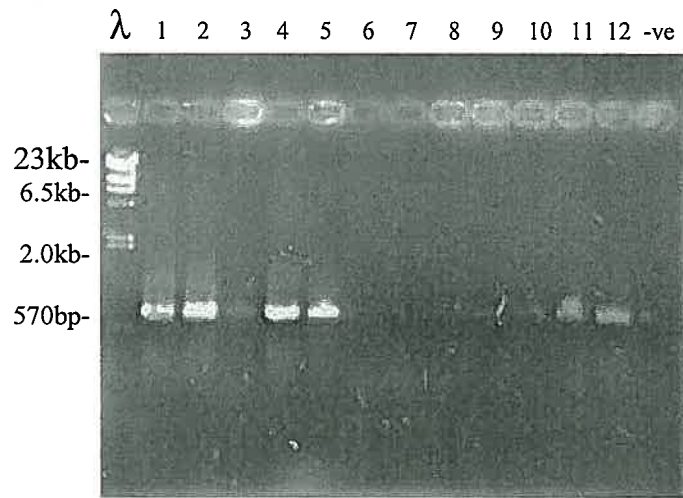


Figure 13: Agarose gel of PCR using pART7a and pTTG4 primers to amplify a 650 bp region with TTG(II) in the correct orientation in samples 1-24. No DNA was added to the negative control.

The results in Figure 13 show that samples 1, 2, 4, 5, 11 and 12 contained the TTG(II) insert in the correct orientation, as all generated the expected 650 bp band on the gel. Sample 2 was sequenced to confirm the ligation had been successful (see Section 2.2 and Appendix B).

Verification of TTG \oplus P1 integration into pART7

PCR was performed on 20 colonies from the TTG \oplus P1/pART7 ligation plate, using internal primers pTTG2B and pTTG1 (Orford, unpublished), which amplify a 570 bp region of the TTG \oplus P1 gene (Figure 14).

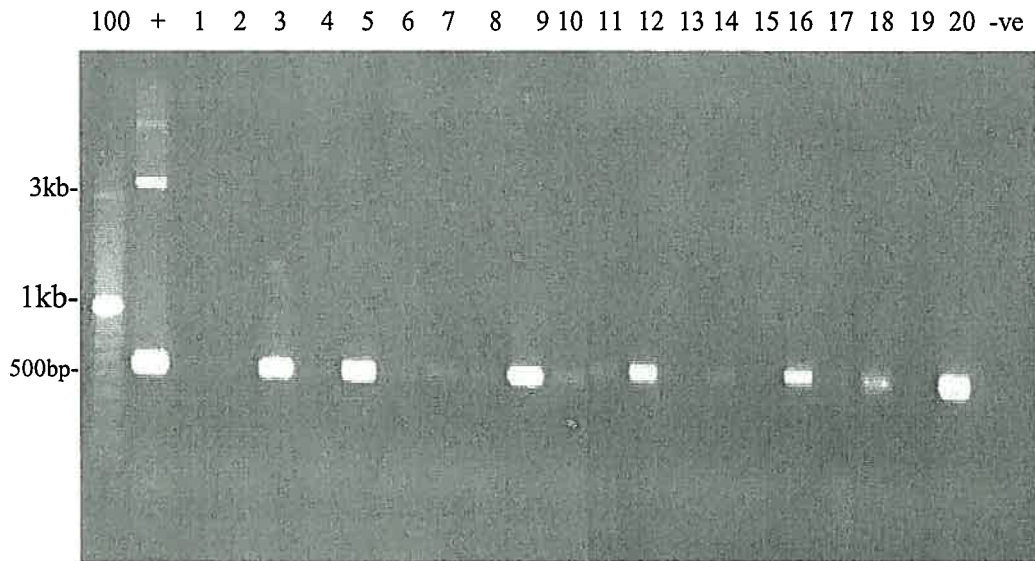


Figure 14: Agarose gel of PCR of TTGⓅP1/pART7 ligation colonies (samples 1-20) with primers pTTG2B and pTTG1. The original pGEM-T Easy clone containing the TTGⓅP1 gene was amplified with the same primers as a positive control. No DNA was added to the negative control.

This result demonstrates that several clones (3, 5, 9, 12, 16, 18, 20) contained the TTGⓅP1 insert, since they all displayed the amplified 570 bp region. Sample 5 was subsequently sequenced to confirm the successful ligation (see Section 2.2 and Appendix C).

Verification of pTTG(c)E2 integration into pART7

A rapid lysis boiling prep was performed on 10 colonies resulting from the pTTG(c)E2 ligation into pART7. Each was digested with *Xho*I, which cuts within the pTTG(c)E2 gene, and in the MCS of pART7 (see Figure 15).

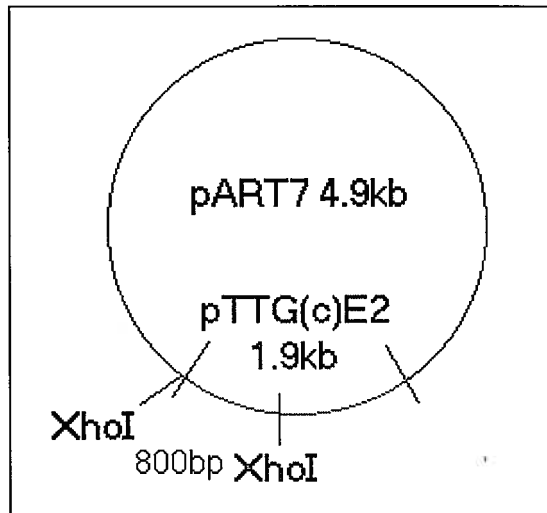


Figure15: *XhoI* digestion of pART7 with pTTG(c)E2 inserted.

If the pTTG(c)E2 insert had been successfully ligated into pART7, a *XhoI* digest of the construct would be expected to give a 6.0 kb and 800 bp fragment. The pART7 vector alone would show a single 4.9 kb fragment. The results of the digest are shown in Figure 16.

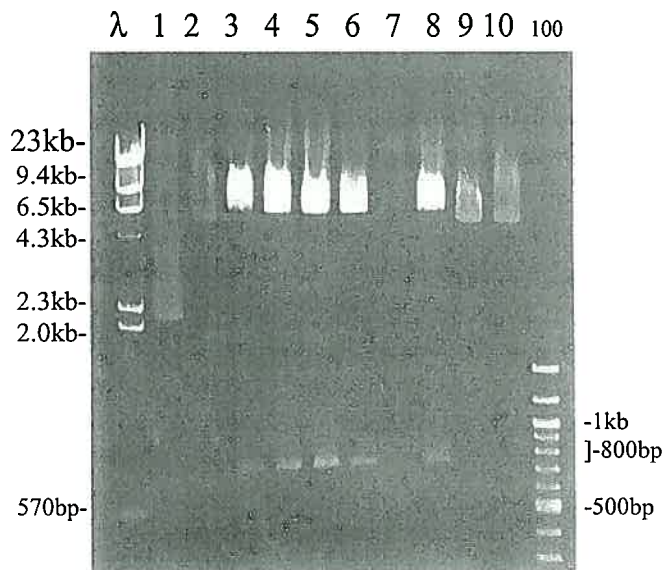


Figure 16: Agarose gel of *XhoI* digest of potential pTTG(c)E2 in pART7 constructs (samples 1-10).

Figure 16 shows that the *Xho*I digest of clones 3, 4, 5, 6 and 8 produced the expected fragments of approximately 6 kb and 800 bp, while samples 2, 9 and 10 reflected the pART7 vector only, with a single band at 4.9 kb. Sample 8 was subsequently sequenced, to confirm the ligation had occurred correctly (see Section 2.2 and Appendix D).

2.2 Sequence Analysis of constructs for particle bombardment

After template DNA purification using the Bio-rad Plasmid Miniprep kit, each pART7 construct was sequenced using internal primers that were specific for each inserted gene (Orford, unpublished). All of these sequences matched their original gene sequence (Orford, unpublished), as expected. However, these sequences showed only that the gene of interest was present, not how it was orientated into pART7, as none of the vector is sequenced in these reactions.

To gain information about the nature of the genes' integration into the vector, external primers were designed to bind upstream and downstream of the multiple cloning site of pART7 (designated pART7A and pART7B) (see Figure 17B).

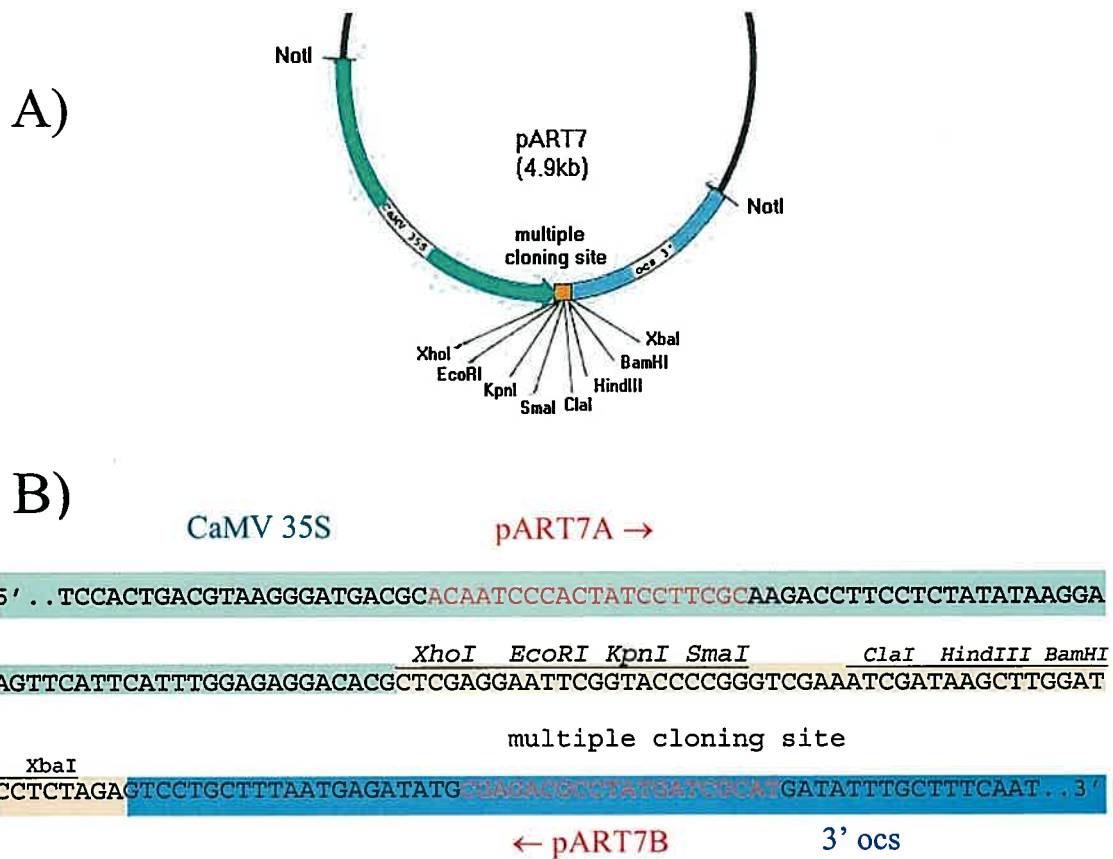


Figure 17: (A) Diagram of pART7 multiple cloning site (orange) flanked by 35S CaMV promoter (green) and the 3' octopine synthase terminator region (blue). (B) Sequence of pART7 MCS and flanking primer sites of pART7A and pART7B (shown in red).

Using either of these primers (pART7A or pART7B), the gene of interest can be sequenced in the context of the pART7 vector. These primers have an additional advantage in that they can be used in PCR to test for presence or size of an insert in the MCS of pART7 without being specific for the gene of interest.

Appendices A-D detail the data obtained by sequencing each of the four constructs with pART7A and pART7B in conjunction with internal primers specific for each of the *TTG1*-like cotton genes (Figure 18). These sequences were as expected, confirming that all four genes had correctly ligated into the MCS of pART7.

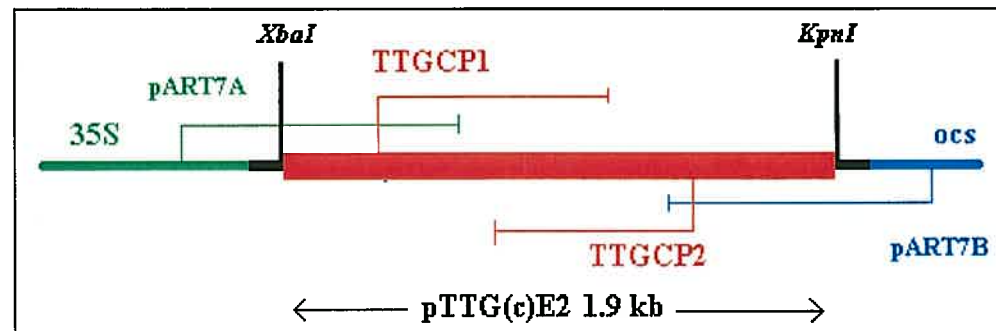
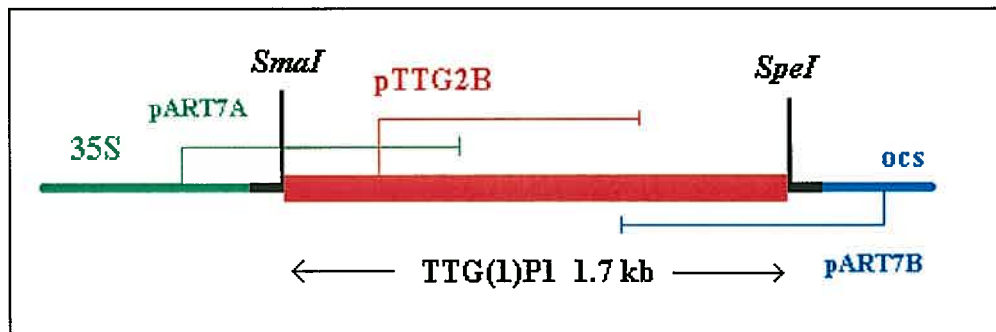
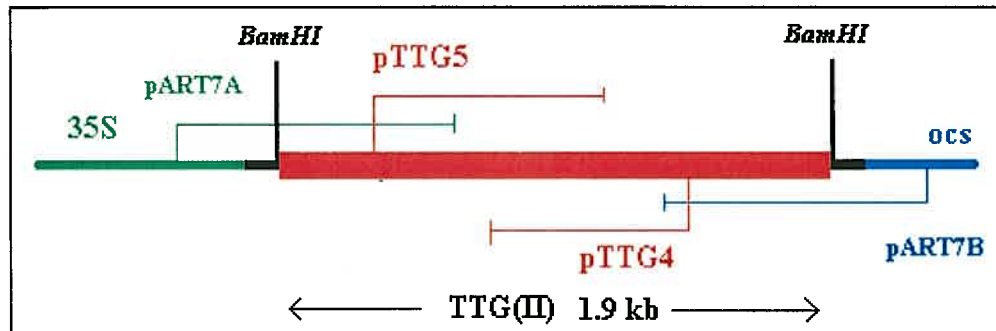
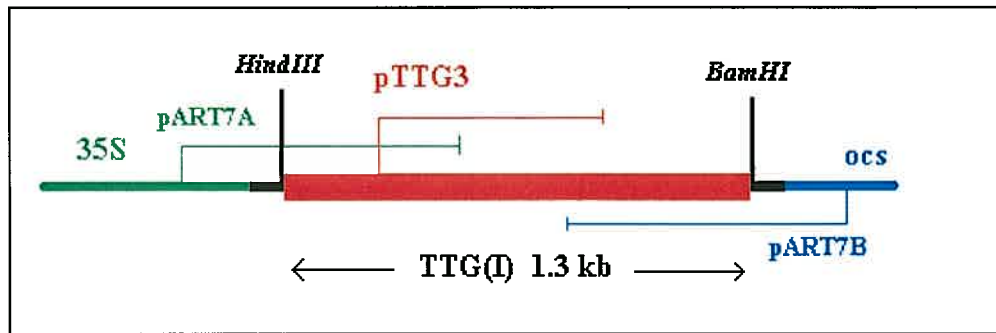


Figure 18: Sequencing scheme for each clone. The two pART7 primers (pART7A and pART7B) flanking the MCS were used to sequence each clone, while internal primers for each gene (shown in red) were used to complete gaps in the sequence. Restriction sites used for ligation into pART7 are indicated.

2.3 Particle Bombardment

Introduction

The principle of particle bombardment is to use high-velocity microprojectiles to penetrate outer cell walls in order to introduce genetic material into living cells. DNA is coated onto the microprojectile (gold particles to be used in this investigation), and accelerated to velocities of approximately 300 m/s to penetrate intact plant cell walls (Oard, 1993). The particle injection gun accelerates particles directly in a stream of low pressure helium (Vain *et al.*, 1993). The process is performed in a vacuum chamber to reduce the air friction of particles and tissue damage.

M. incana mutants were used for particle bombardments. The white petal phenotype of *ttgl* mutants was tested for complementation by bombarding petals with cotton *TTGI*-like gene constructs, and inspecting for anthocyanin induction within transformed cells. Chalcone synthase (*chs*) mutants were also bombarded as a negative control. Chalcone synthase is involved early in the anthocyanin biosynthesis pathway, while *TTGI* is involved in later regulatory steps (Graham, 1998). The *chs* mutant in *M. incana* also produces the white petal phenotype. Transformation of the *chs* mutant with *AtTTGI* is not expected to produce purple spots of anthocyanin and therefore provides an ideal negative control for this assay.

***M. incana* bombardment procedures**

A selection of flowers for transient expression assays was removed from *Matthiola incana ttgl* (line 17) or *chs* (line 18) mutants, and were placed onto a sterile petri dish containing Murashige and Skoog (MS) media and 0.75% (w/v) agar until

bombardment (Figure 19B). The *M. incana* plants used were sterile, due to chromosome rearrangements (Lesley, 1973). There was therefore an experimental advantage to using these plants, as cells of the petal still expand, but cell division stops once petals have formed. The *tgl1* homologue within the mutant line 17 (*tgl1* mutant) has been sequenced and shown to contain a lesion (arginine substitution for a tryptophan) in one of the WD-40 repeats (Figure 33) (A. Walker, pers. com.).

Each of the pART7 constructs was purified using the QIAGEN midi-plasmid kit, yielding DNA concentrations ranging from 2 to 4 $\mu\text{g}/\mu\text{l}$. 1 micron gold particles were used as the vehicle for the bombardment. For each round of transformation (eight bombardments), 8 mg of gold was prepared by washing in cold ethanol and sterile water, before resuspending thoroughly in a final volume of 100 μl of water. 10 μg of plasmid DNA was then added to the gold suspension, followed by the addition of 40 μl 0.1M spermidine and 100 μl 2.5M CaCl_2 with gentle vortexing to precipitate the DNA onto the gold. The DNA-coated gold suspension was pipetted onto each of eight Swinney filter holders (Figure 19A), and allowed to dry for 10 minutes. The filter with absorbed gold particles was then screwed into the particle injection gun, and a *M. incana* flower placed approximately 25 cm beneath it (Figure 19C). The chamber was then evacuated to 90 psi and petals bombarded with the DNA-coated gold particles *via* helium injection for 0.12 milliseconds. Bombarded flowers were then incubated on MS plates at 25°C for approximately 40 hours before examination for purple spots of anthocyanin.

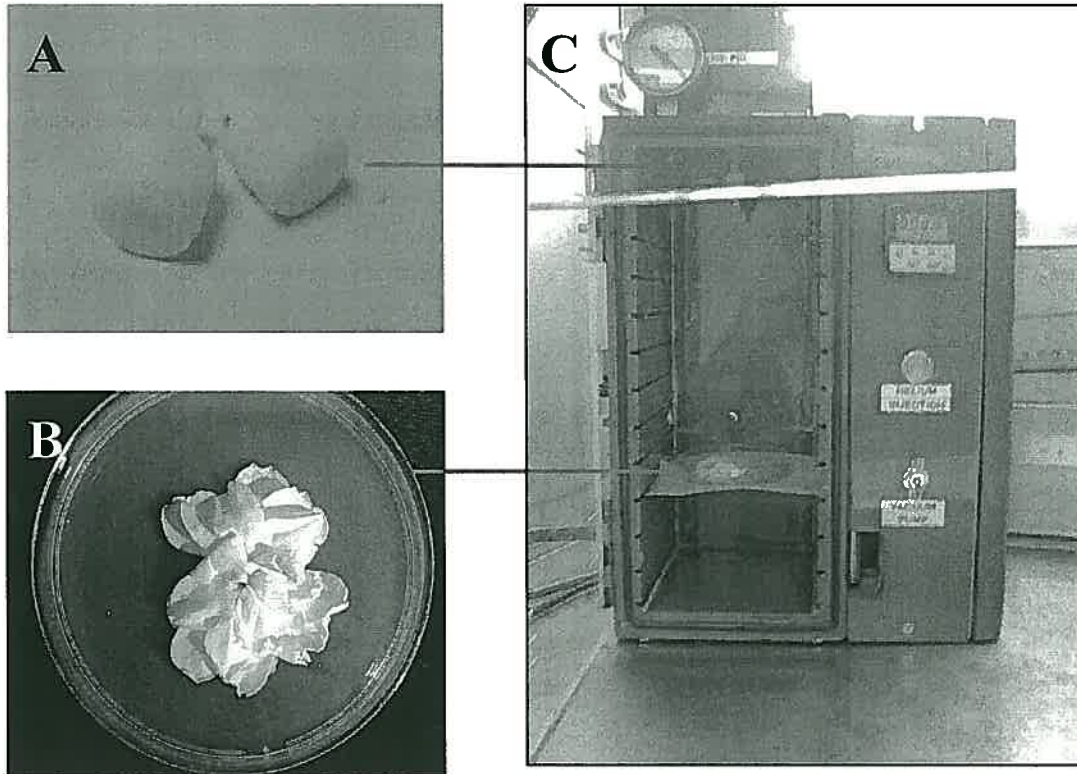


Figure 19: Particle bombardment procedure. (A) Swinney filter holders onto which DNA-coated gold particles are placed. (B) A *Matthiola* flower placed on MS agar. (C) The particle injection gun.

2.4 Transient functional assay: Positive control

To ensure that the particle preparation and bombardment conditions were suitable, bombardment was first performed using the *Arabidopsis TTG1 (AtTTG1)* gene as a positive control (cloned into pART7; A. Walker, pers. comm.). *AtTTG1* bombardment of *M. incana ttg1* mutant petals has previously been shown to produce purple spots of anthocyanin (A. Walker, pers. comm.).

Particle bombardment was performed on four *M. incana ttg1* mutant flowers, and four *chs* mutants as a negative control. Purple spots of anthocyanin were observed by the

naked eye on the four *ttg1* *M. incana* mutant flowers approximately 40 hours after bombardment (Figure 20 A-D). The anthocyanin spots increased in intensity until approximately 60 hours after transformation. No spots were observed on any of the four negative controls (Figure 20 E).

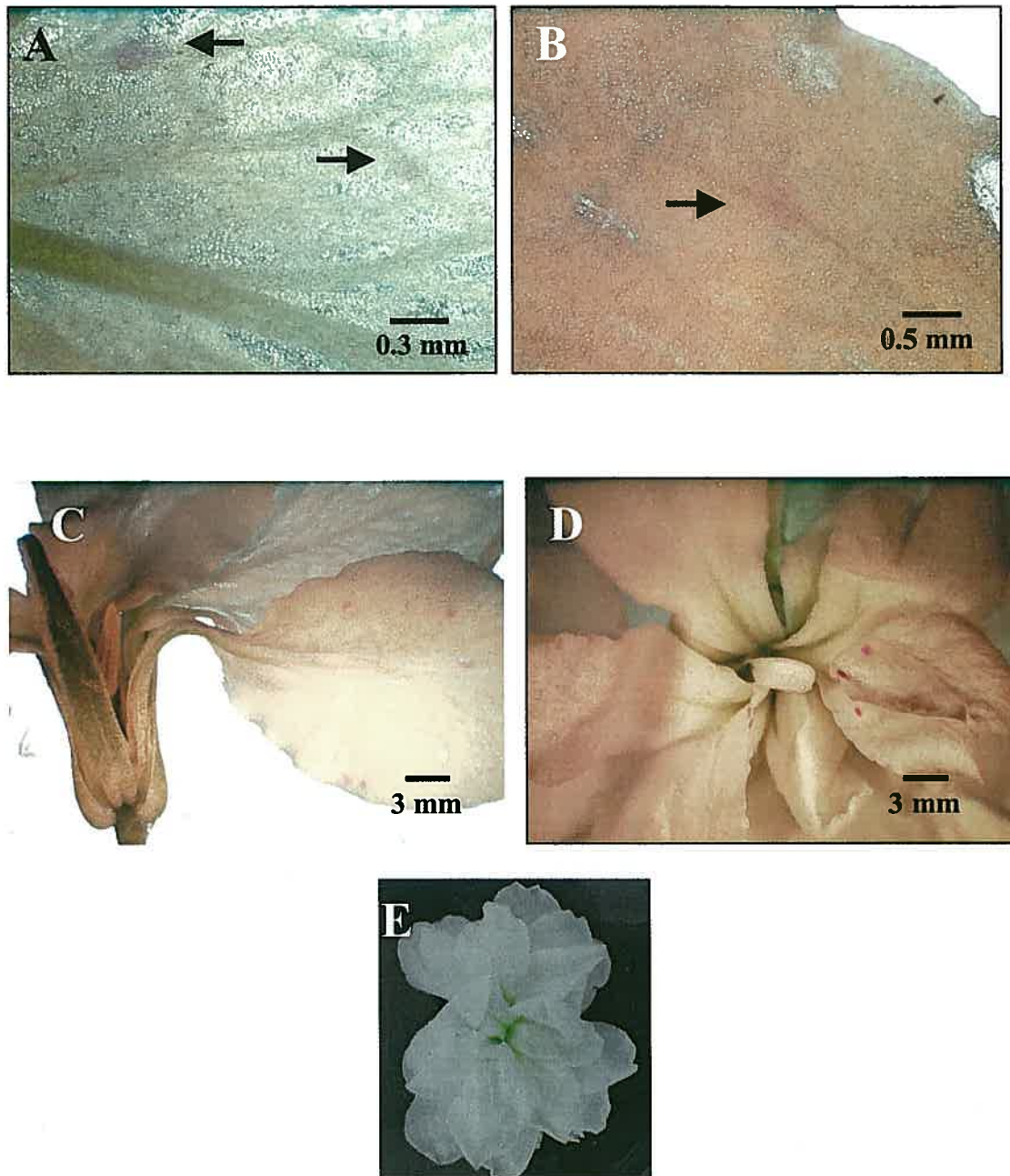


Figure 20: Four *M. incana* *ttg1* flowers (A-D) 48 hours after transformation with *AtTTG1* displaying purple spots of anthocyanin, and *chs* mutant (E) with negative result.

2.5 Particle bombardment of *Matthiola* with cotton *TTG1*-like genes

Once the bombardment conditions were shown to be suitable for this assay (see Section 2.4), biolistic transformation was performed on *M. incana ttg1* mutants with each of the four cotton *TTG1*-like genes to test for complementation of the mutant phenotype. In each experiment, two different genes could be bombarded. In the first experiment, TTG(I) and TTG(II) constructs were each used to bombard three sample flowers from the *M. incana ttg1* mutant with the *chs* mutant as a negative control. After approximately 40 hours at 25°C, purple spots of anthocyanin were visible on two of the three *ttg1* flowers bombarded with TTG(I) (Figure 21). None of the petals bombarded with TTG(II), nor either of the *chs* mutant negative controls, showed any sign of purple anthocyanin production.



Figure 21: Two of the *M. incana ttg1* mutant flowers transformed with cotton gene TTG(I) .

In the next series of bombardments (performed several days later), cotton genes TTG⓪P1 and pTTG(c)E2 were tested for functional homology to *TTG1*, again by bombarding each onto three *ttg1 M. incana* mutant flowers with a *chs* mutant flower as a negative control. After approximately 40 hours incubation at 25°C, purple spots were observed on all three *ttg1* mutant flowers bombarded with TTG⓪P1, but on none of those transformed with pTTG(c)E2 (Figure 22). No anthocyanin production was observed on either of the *chs* mutant flowers.

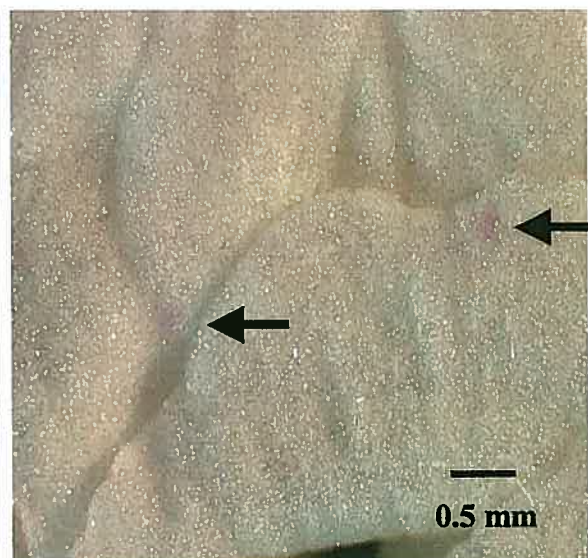
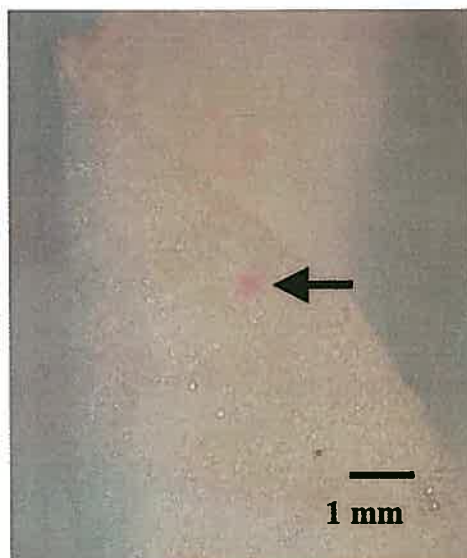
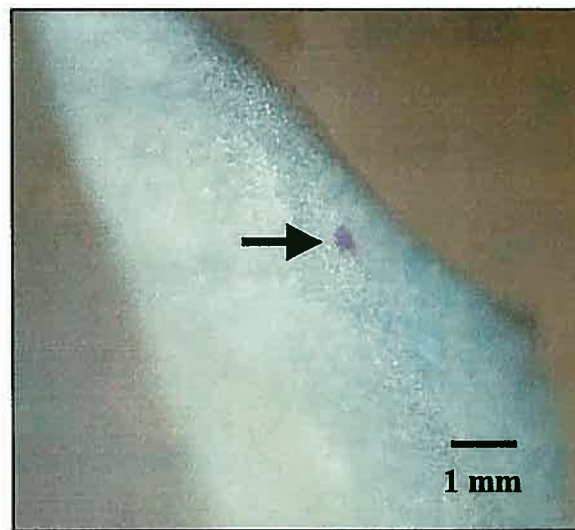


Figure 22: Purple patches of anthocyanin from TTG⓪P1 bombardment of three *ttg1 M. incana* mutant flowers.

It was observed that in both rounds of bombardments, the first gene construct transformed (TTG(I) and TTGⓅP1) produced purple patches of anthocyanin, whereas the second gene bombarded gave a negative result. To rule out the possibility that the results obtained were a consequence of favourable conditions for gold particles prepared and bombarded first in each pair, the transformations were repeated, but the order of bombardment was reversed.

Optimization of particle bombardment

In the replicate experiments, the flower being transformed was placed approximately 5 cm closer to the particle gun than in previous bombardments in an attempt to improve efficiency of transformation to enable results to be viewed more easily. This second round of experiments verified the results of the original bombardments, with TTG(I) and TTGⓅP1 producing purple patches of anthocyanin on bombarded petals. Some petals were observed to undergo a 50-fold increase in the number of purple patches, compared with the original bombardments (see Figure 23). The intensity of anthocyanin spots also increased in the repeated bombardments, suggesting that the decrease in distance between the particle injection gun and the flower being transformed considerably increased the efficiency.

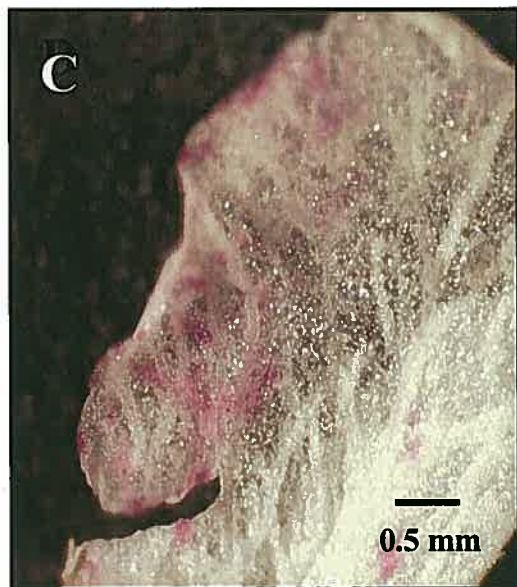
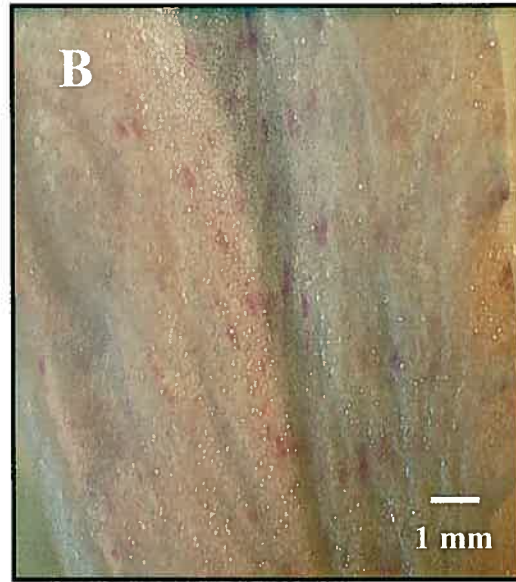
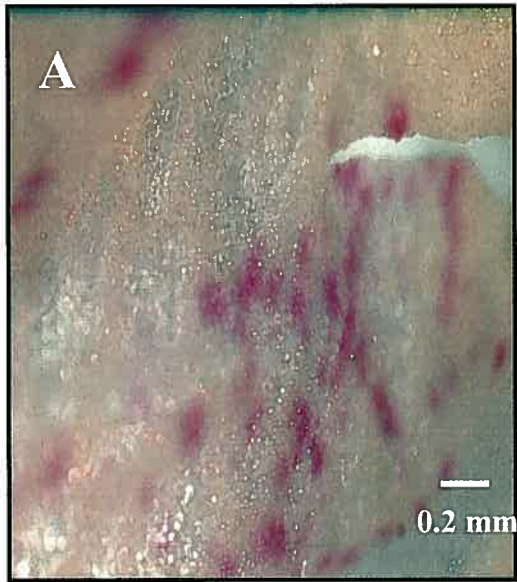


Figure 23: Increased intensity and frequency of purple anthocyanin patches. Petals bombarded by TTG(I) (A and B) and TTG \oplus P1 (C and D).

Transformation produced multi-cellular spots

The purple patches observed were not single transformed cells, but groups of cells, allowing visualisation with the naked eye. It has been shown previously that complementation of a *M. incana* bHLH mutant (line 19, A. Walker, pers. comm.) by particle bombardment results in only single cells containing visible anthocyanin. Therefore, the multi-cellular spots observed complementing *ttg1* mutants is unlikely to be due to clusters of cells being hit by gold particles, or diffusion of anthocyanin between cells, as this could have equally occurred when complementing the bHLH mutant. The presence of multi-cellular spots in the *ttg1* mutants may indicate that cell-cell communication has occurred. The TTG1 protein itself may move between cells, or may regulate a biosynthetic intermediate that is transported between cells.

Variation in anthocyanin patches

The size of the anthocyanin spots varied between bombardments, as did the intensity of the pigmented areas. These variations could be caused by a number of factors. The stage of flower development, or varying flower shape, may affect the receptiveness of the target plant tissue to express foreign DNA, or susceptibility to damage may vary between flowers. Additionally, a range of transcription factors is required for a flower to be competent for anthocyanin production, so a lack or decrease in purple patches in a petal may simply reflect a low level of certain transcription factors. There may be variation from shot-to-shot in the amount of DNA-coated gold particle added to each filter, the amount of DNA precipitated onto the particles, and small variations in particle acceleration from the injection gun.

One petal only of flower displayed purple patches

In some cases, a single petal of a *Matthiola* flower showed strong anthocyanin production, while surrounding petals of the flower remained unchanged (Figure 25). This may simply be due to a petal being in a prominent position at the time of bombardment. However, this situation appeared to occur primarily in flowers that were just opening, indicating that cells may only be competent for transient gene expression and anthocyanin production during a specific time period of petal development.

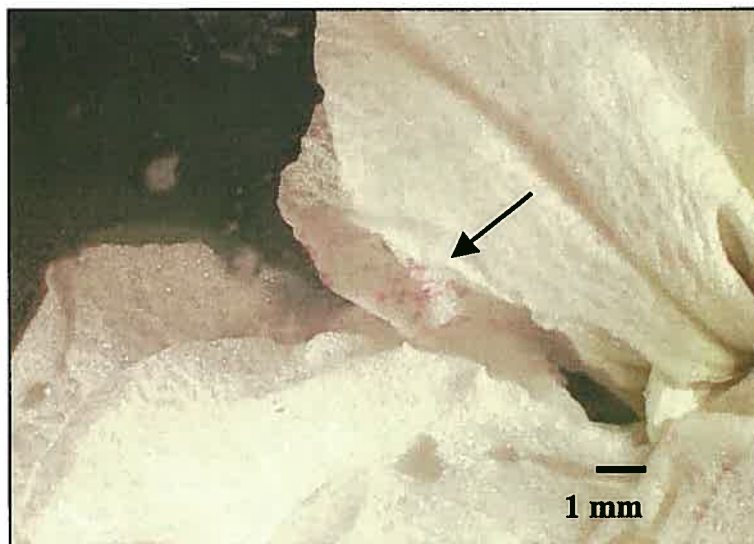


Figure 24: Example of a single petal transformed, where surrounding petals show no purple anthocyanin.

Detached petals showed no anthocyanin induction

In addition to complete flowers, detached petals on MS agar were also bombarded with the four cotton genes (Figure 25). Anthocyanins were not induced in any of the detached petals, when bombarded with any of the cotton TTG1-like genes. This may have been due to damage caused to the single petals by the bombardment, or the reduced capacity of the detached petals to survive for over 40 hours on the MS agar. Senescence signals from the flower may be required for anthocyanin production to occur.

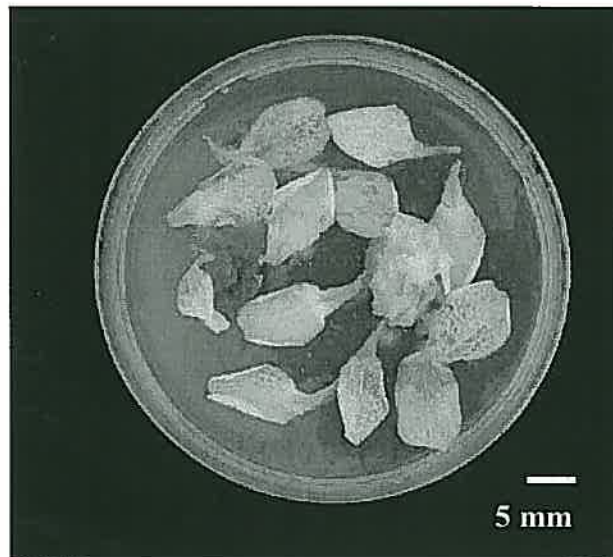


Figure 25: Detached petals bombarded with cotton TTG1-like genes produced negative results.

Anthocyanin patches frequently observed along edges of petals

In some cases, purple patches of anthocyanin were seen in increased intensity along the edges of petals (Figure 26).

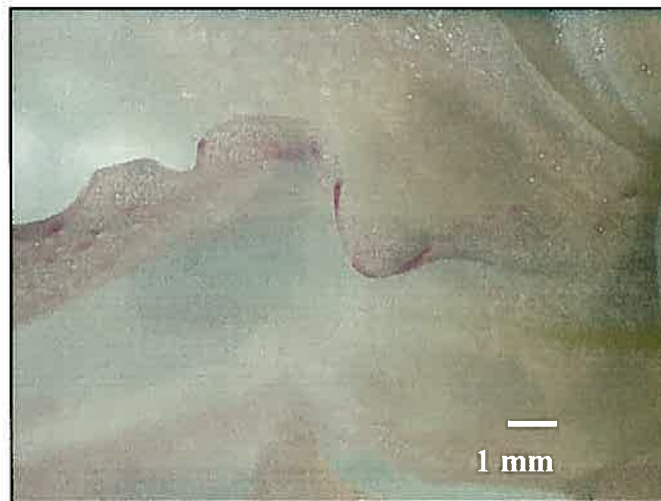


Figure 26: Purple anthocyanin localised along edge of *M. incana ttg1* petal

The presence of these anthocyanin clusters may have been caused by the petal edges being prominently exposed at the time of bombardment. Alternatively, these clusters may have been due to the expansion of epidermal cells outwards to the tip of the petal as the flower develops. While spots in the middle of petals would spread out and diffuse as cell expansion occurs, anthocyanin patches near the edge of petals would accumulate at these boundaries, causing an increase in anthocyanin intensity. Another possible explanation is that cells located at the edge of petals may be more susceptible to transformation by particle bombardment.

In summary, two of the four cotton *TTG1*-like genes, namely TTG(I) and TTGⓅP1, were able to complement a *ttg1* mutation in *Matthiola incana*, thereby restoring anthocyanin production in petals. It is possible that proteins produced by the two cotton genes act in a similar way to *Arabidopsis* TTG1 and may therefore play a pivotal role in trichome, or cotton fibre, development.

3 *Agrobacterium*-mediated transformation of *Arabidopsis*: whole-plant transformation

3.1 Introduction

The bacterial plant pathogen *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* carries a large tumour inducing (Ti) plasmid, a segment of which is designated T-DNA. The T-DNA segment is transmitted by *A. tumefaciens* into individual plant cells, where it penetrates the plant cell nucleus. The T-DNA is then integrated randomly into the genome, where it is stably incorporated and inherited. *Agrobacterium*-mediated transformation takes advantage of this natural plant transformation system to stably transform genes of interest into particular plant species. *A. tumefaciens* is 'dis-armed' by removing oncogenic genes responsible for the formation of tumours, and in their place virtually any gene of interest can be inserted. This results in the stable integration of the desired gene within the plant genome after infection with this altered strain of *Agrobacterium*.

In the *Agrobacterium*-mediated transformation method, *A. tumefaciens* carrying a cloned gene of interest is applied directly to mature flowering *Arabidopsis* plants. The flowers of the plant to be transformed are submerged into an *Agrobacterium* solution harbouring vectors which contain the gene of interest. This method introduces the bacteria into intercellular spaces within the plant tissue, so infection of the plant can occur.

In investigating functional homology to *AtTTG1* of the four cotton *TTG1*-like genes, it is the function of trichome initiation which is most relevant to cotton fibre

development. It is for this reason that the putative cotton *TTG1* homologues were tested for complementation of the *ttg1* mutant phenotype in a second assay in *Arabidopsis*. Additionally, much of the variation observed in the *M. incana* functional assay is likely to be caused by the bombardment process, and a stable transformation is required for stronger evidence of functional homology to *AtTTG1*. Restoration of trichome formation and complementation of the transparent testa phenotype in the seed coat of *Arabidopsis ttg1* mutant will confirm the results from the transient assay.

3.2 Preparation of constructs

Whilst the pART7 constructs were suitable for particle bombardment, a further cloning step was required for *Agrobacterium*-mediated transformation of *Arabidopsis*. For *Agrobacterium*-mediated delivery of a gene into plants, the DNA is cloned into a binary vector, in this case pART27 (Gleave, 1992). This binary vector contains the RK2 minimal replicon (Schmidhauser *et al.*, 1985) for replication in both *E.coli* and *A. tumefaciens*. pART27 also contains a kanamycin resistance gene, so transformed progeny of plant can be selected

To clone each cotton *TTG1*-like gene into pART27, the expression cartridge of pART7 (comprising the CaMV 35S promoter, the gene of interest, and the 3' transcriptional terminator region of the octopine synthase gene) was transferred as a *NotI* fragment into the binary vector. (Figure 27) (Gleave, 1992).

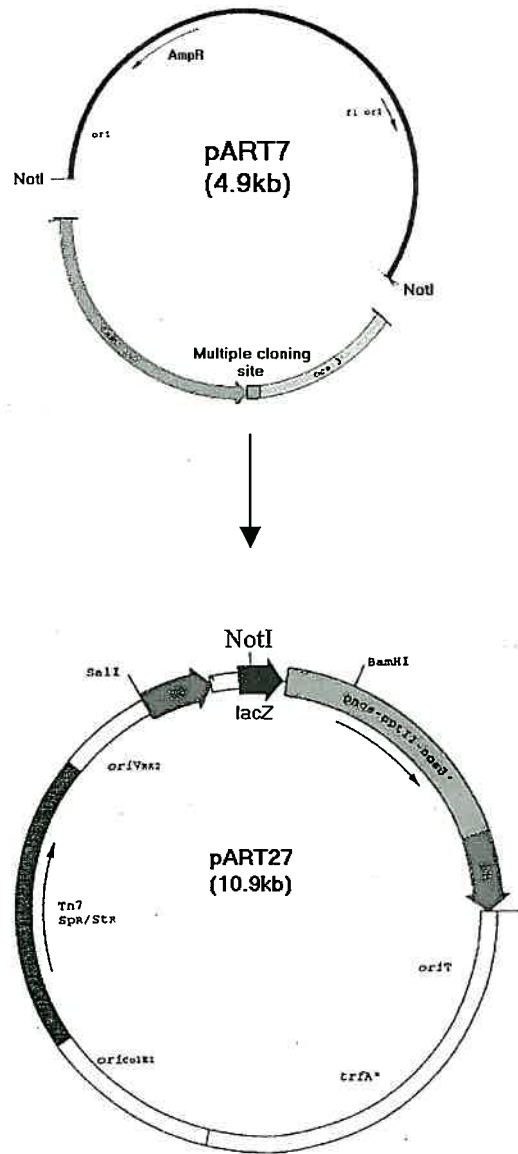


Figure 27: Ligation of pART7 expression cassette into the binary vector pART27 containing right and left borders (red arrows), kanamycin resistance gene (green) and *lacZ* region with *NotI* site. (Adapted from Gleave, 1992).

A *NotI* digestion was performed on 2 μ g of each of the four cotton *TTG1*-like genes and *AtTTG1* in pART7. The size of the *NotI* fragment to be ligated into pART27 ranged from approximately 3.2 kb for the *Arabidopsis ttg1* gene insert up to 4 kb for the pTTG(c)E2 insert. An agarose gel of the *NotI* digest of the five constructs shows the 2.9 kb backbone of pART7, and the larger expression cartridge (Figure 28).

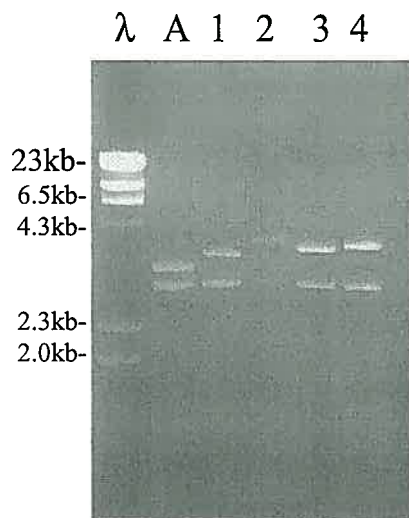


Figure 28: *NotI* digest of *Arabidopsis TTGI* gene (A) and the four cotton *TTGI*-like genes (1-4) in pART7. The lower band is the 2.9 kb segment remaining of pART7, while the higher band represents the expression cartridge to be ligated into pART27.

In this case there was no need for a gel extraction, as pART27 has the kanamycin resistance gene, whilst pART7 has ampicillin resistance. As a consequence of this, only cells containing ligations of the pART7 expression cartridge into pART27 (or pART27 re-ligations) would survive on kanamycin plates. pART27 also contains a *lacZ* region for blue/white selection of colonies, so re-ligation of the vector was easily identified.

The fragments shown in Figure 27 were purified by phenol/chloroform extraction, followed by an ethanol precipitation, and resuspension in a final volume of 15 μ L. Approximately 500 ng (5 μ l) of these purified fragments was added to 50 ng of *NotI*-digested pART27 plasmid (which had also been purified by a phenol/chloroform extraction and CIP-treated) for the ligation reaction at 16°C overnight.

Initially heat-shock at 42°C was performed to transform the ligations into CaCl₂-competent cells. However, this method failed to generate any colonies when plated onto kanamycin plates. This lack of colonies was most likely due to the large size of the pART27 plasmid (10.9 kb). With the inserts correctly ligated into pART27, constructs to be transformed had an expected size of approximately 15 kb. Heat-shock transformation was subsequently attempted using cells (DH5αF') prepared by the method described by Inoue *et al.* (1990), which are capable of a much higher efficiency of transformation (2×10^8 transformants per μg of DNA compared to 1×10^4 for CaCl₂-competent cells (Hengen, 1996)). 1 ng of uncut pART27 was transformed using these competent cells as a positive control, and generated approximately 1000 colonies, indicating that a much higher transformation efficiency had been achieved. The five constructs were then transformed using this method. White colonies generated from these ligations of the four cotton *TTGI*-like genes and *AtTTGI* into pART27 were selected. Alkaline lysis minipreps were performed on each, which were digested with *NotI* to test for the presence of the expression cassette. Each gene of interest was shown to have been inserted correctly, with the *NotI* digest displaying a 10.9 kb band for the pART27 plasmid, and the expected size of the expression cassette (Figure 29). The orientation of the insert into pART27 did not matter, as the 35S promoter from pART7 would drive expression of the gene of interest regardless of the orientation.

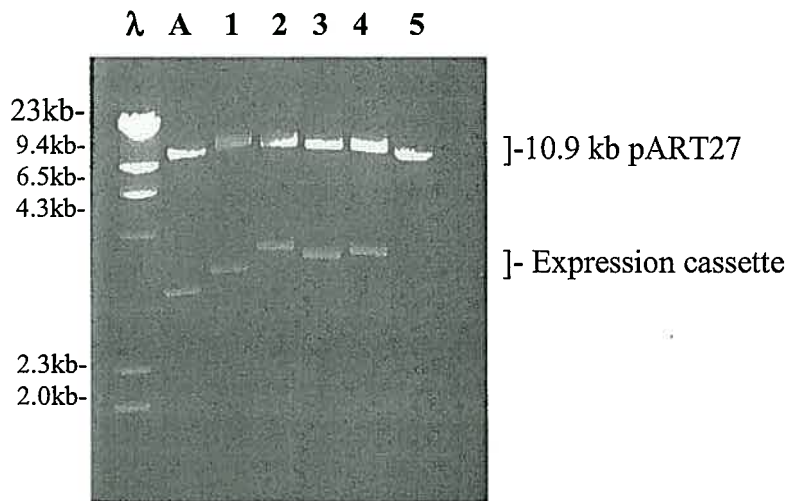


Figure 29: *NotI* digests of the five pART27 constructs (*Arabidopsis TTG1* (lane A) and four cotton genes (lanes 1-4)), and pART27 alone (lane 5).

3.3 Transformation of *Agrobacterium*

Each pART27 construct was purified with the QIAGEN midi-plasmid kit. In preparation for transformation of *Arabidopsis*, these plasmids were transferred to *Agrobacterium* by electroporation (Walkerpeach and Velten, 1994). 200 ng of plasmid DNA was added to 40 μ l of electro-competent cells, which were then pulsed at specified settings and left to recover in 1 ml of Luria broth for 4 hours prior to plating onto YEB agar with kanamycin. An *Agrobacterium* miniprep was performed on colonies formed after incubation at 28°C for approximately 72 hours. PCR was then carried out on each miniprep using internal primers specific for each gene to ensure the plasmid had indeed been transformed into the *Agrobacterium*. The results of the PCR (Figure 30) showed that each construct had been successfully transformed into *Agrobacterium*.

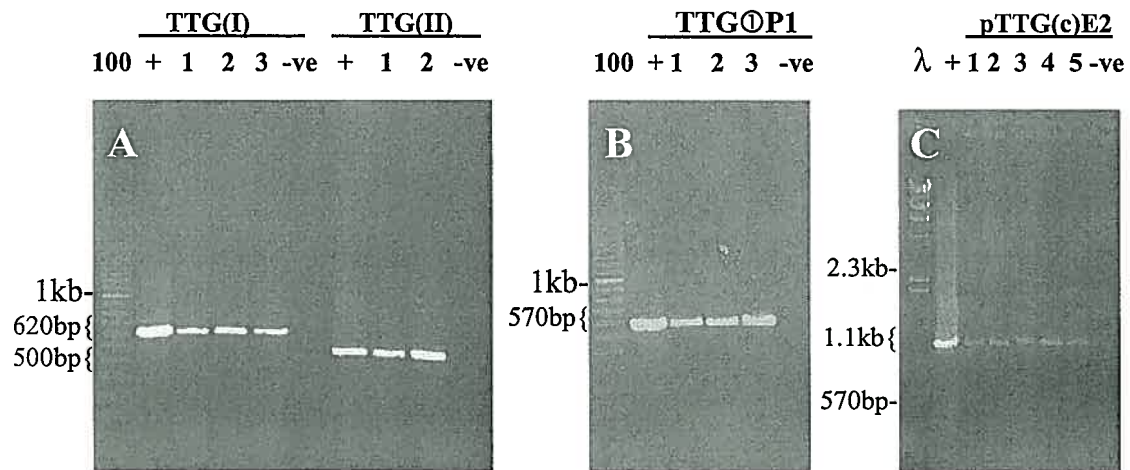


Figure 30: PCR of *Agrobacterium* minipreps using gene-specific primers.

- A) TTG(I) samples 1-3 (expected size 620 bp) and TTG(II) samples 1 and 2 (500 bp)
 B) TTG⊙P1 samples 1-3 (570 bp)
 C) pTTG(c)E2 samples 1-5 (1.1 kb).

Positive controls (+) for each gene were obtained by amplifying the original clone known to contain the gene of interest with the same primers as the samples tested. No DNA was added to the negative controls (-).

As no internal primers for the *AtTTG1* gene (positive control) were available, six *Agrobacterium* minipreps of *AtTTG1/pART27* were digested with *NotI* to demonstrate that this construct had been successfully transformed into *Agrobacterium*. Fragment sizes of 3.1 kb (insert) and 10.9 kb (vector) were expected for a positive result (see Figure 31).

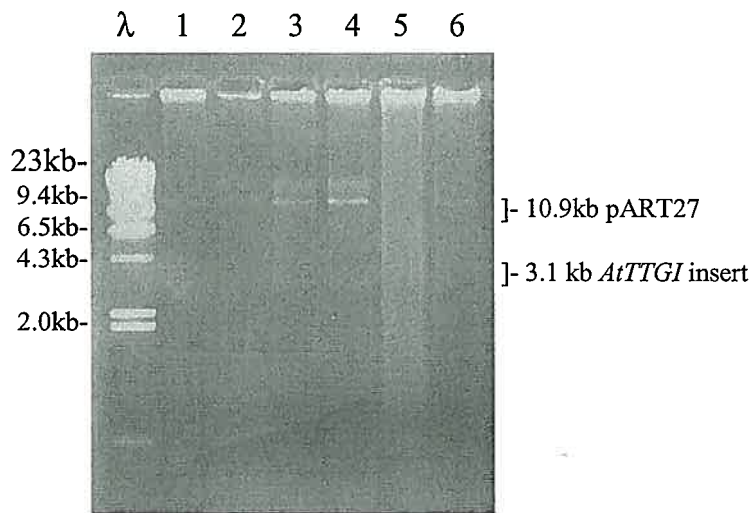


Figure 31: *NotI* digestions of *Agrobacterium* midpreps containing AtTTG1/pART27 construct (samples 1-6).

While *Agrobacterium* minipreps rarely provide high yields of DNA (as can be seen from the low intensity of the bands in Figure 29), the agarose gel showed that samples 3 and 4 contained the *AtTTG1*/pART27 construct. A quantity of un-digested plasmid or genomic DNA can be seen above the 10.9 kb pART27 band in these samples. The five constructs in *Agrobacterium* were kept as glycerol stocks until transformation of *Arabidopsis* was performed.

3.4 Growth of *Arabidopsis* plants

Arabidopsis thaliana ttg1 mutant seeds (line N89) were supplied by the Nottingham (UK) Arabidopsis Stock Centre (NASC). The seeds were sterilised in a sodium hypochlorite solution, and then planted in small pots of autoclaved soil. The plants were grown at room temperature in natural daylight until flowering.

As only a small number of seeds were obtained from NASC, the first plants grown were originally intended for the harvesting of more seeds for the *Agrobacterium*-mediated transformations. However, a combination of slow growth and low survival rate of these plants resulted in only five or six plants flowering in time for transformation to be performed within the time-course of the project (Figure 32).

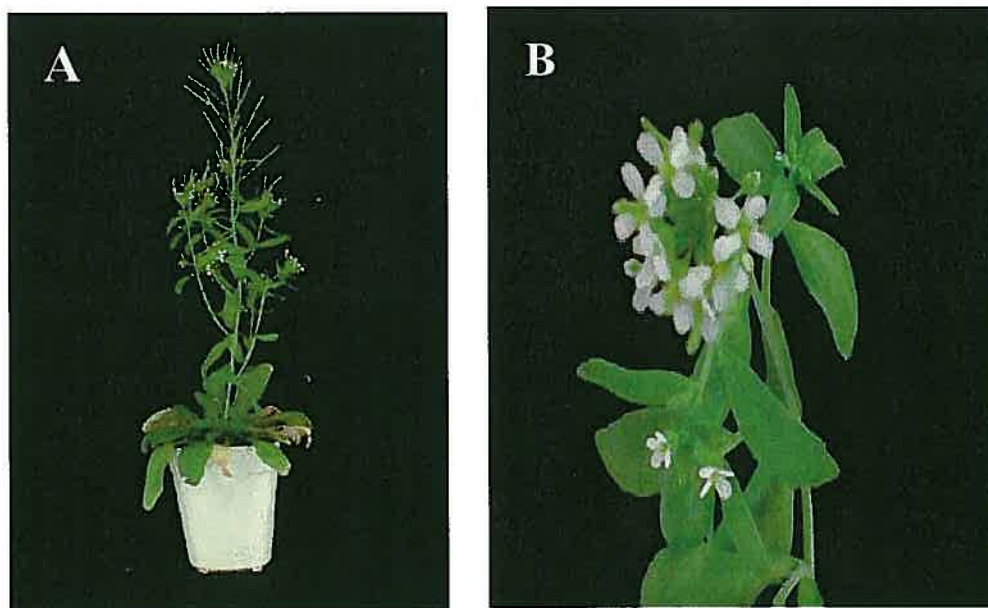


Figure 32: *Arabidopsis ttg1* mutant suitable for transformation, with bolt length of approximately 10 cm (A), and opened flowers (B).

3.5 Transformation of mutant Arabidopsis with pART27 constructs

As a result of having so few plants available, only one gene construct was used to transform all the plants. The cotton gene with the highest homology to *AtTTG1*, TTG⊕P1 was selected to transform four *Arabidopsis ttg1* mutant plants. TTG⊕P1 had also been shown to complement the *Matthiola ttg1* mutant phenotype, and was therefore considered most likely to complement the mutant *Arabidopsis*.

In preparation for the transformation, a single *Agrobacterium* colony containing TTG⊕P1 in pART27 was used to inoculate 25 ml of liquid YEB with kanamycin. The night before transformation, 10 ml of this culture was used to start a 500 ml YEB liquid culture (plus kanamycin), which was grown overnight to $OD_{600}=1.5$. The bacteria were harvested by centrifugation of the culture, followed by resuspension in 500 ml of infiltration medium (Bent *et al.*, 1998). The *Agrobacterium* suspension was then transferred to a large beaker, and a surfactant (Silwet L-77) was added to enhance infiltration. The plants were inverted and flowers submerged in the *Agrobacterium* suspension for about 5 seconds to allow introduction of *Agrobacterium* into plant tissue. After transformation, the plants were kept in humid conditions with minimal watering for two days. Approximately one week after the first transformation, the plants were dipped into a fresh *Agrobacterium* solution to increase the chance of obtaining positive transformants.

Due to time limitations, seeds are not yet mature on these transformed *Arabidopsis* plants, so no results are presently available.

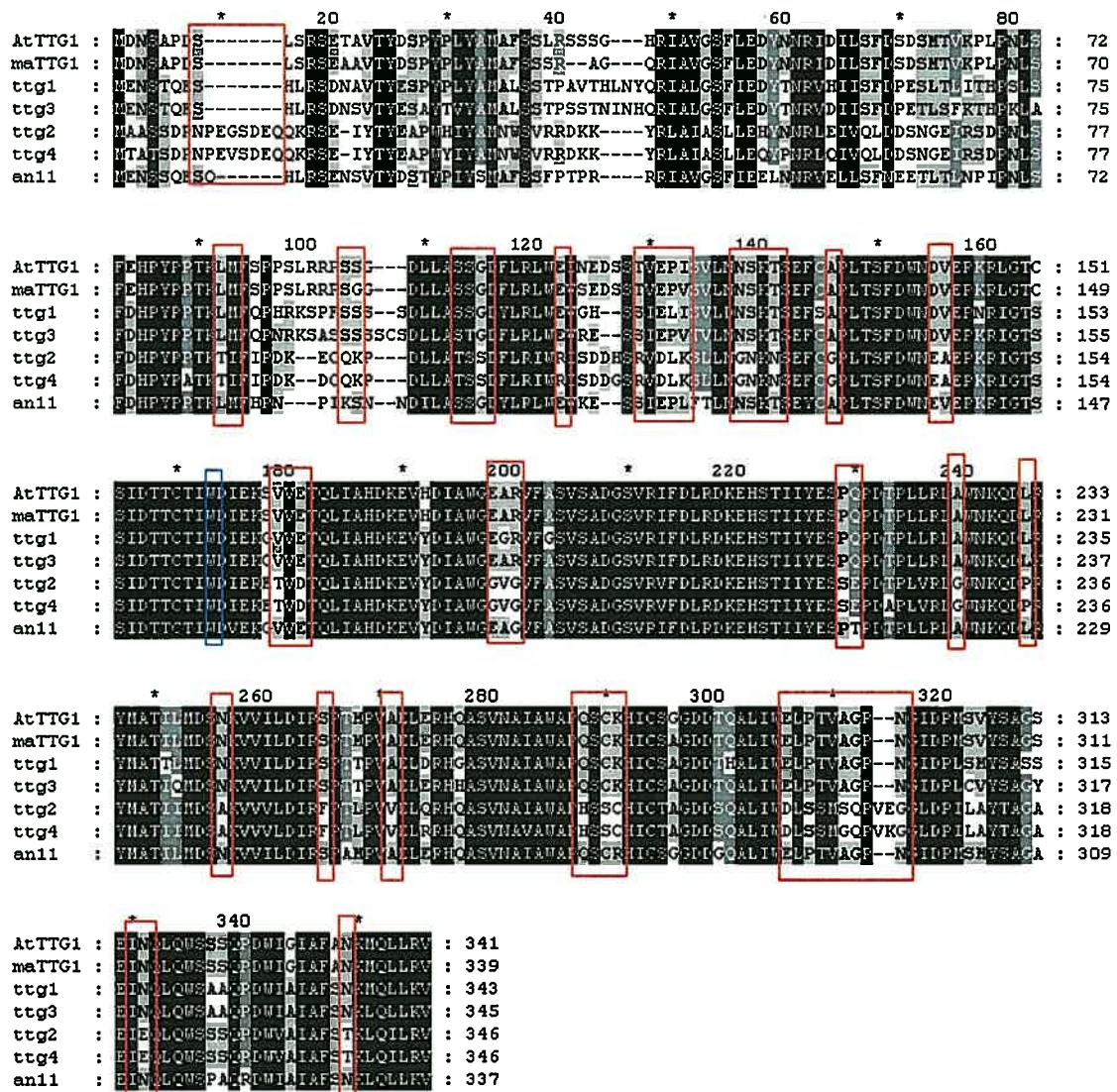


Figure 33: Conceptual translation of four cotton *TTG1*-like genes (*ttg1-4*) compared with *Arabidopsis* and *Matthiola* *TTG1*. Variable regions where *TTG1* and *TtTG1* are similar to *AtTTG1* to the exclusion of *TTG(II)* and *pTTG(c)E2* are shown in red boxes. The arginine of the WD-40 repeat that is mutated in the *Matthiola ttg1* mutant is indicated by a blue box.

The particle bombardment results therefore correlate with the protein alignment, as those genes displaying functional homology (*TTG(I)* and *TTG⊕P1*) possess the highest sequence similarity to *AtTTG1*.

BlastP searches on the two cotton TTG1-like proteins that did not complement the *Matthiola ttg1* mutant (TTG(II) and pTTG(c)E2) indicated that they possess high homology to the *Arabidopsis* protein ATAN11a (de Vetten *et al.*, 1997) (Figure 34).

```

      *           20           *           40           *           60           *
atan11.pep : MGTSSDFIQDSSDEQQRSEIYTYEAPWIIYAMNUSVRRDKKYRLAITSLLEQYENRVEIVQLDSSNGEIRSDPNLSF : 78
ttg2.pep   : MAASSDFNPEGSDEQQRSEIYTYEAPWIIYAMNUSVRRDKKYRLAITSLLEQYENRLEIVQLDSSNGEIRSDPNLSF : 78
ttg4.pep   : MTA TSDPNPEVSDEQQRSEIYTYEAPWIIYAMNUSVRRDKKYRLAITSLLEQYENRLEIVQLDSSNGEIRSDPNLSF : 78

      80           *           100          *           120          *           140          *
atan11.pep : EHPYPTTKTIFIPDKFCQRPDLLATSSDFLRRLWRIADDHSRVLKSCLMGNKNSEFCGPLTSFDWNEAEPKRRIGTSSIT : 156
ttg2.pep   : DHPYPTTKTIFIPDKFCQRPDLLATSSDFLRRLWRIADDHSRVLKSCLMGNKNSEFCGPLTSFDWNEAEPKRRIGTSSIT : 156
ttg4.pep   : DHPYPTTKTIFIPDKFCQRPDLLATSSDFLRRLWRIADDHSRVLKSCLMGNKNSEFCGPLTSFDWNEAEPKRRIGTSSIT : 156

      160          *           180          *           200          *           220          *
atan11.pep : DTTCTINDIEREAVDTQLIAHDKEVVDIAUGGVGVFASVSADGSRVRFDLRDKEHSTIIYESSEPDPLVRLGMNKQD : 234
ttg2.pep   : DTTCTINDIEREAVDTQLIAHDKEVVDIAUGGVGVFASVSADGSRVRFDLRDKEHSTIIYESSEPDPLVRLGMNKQD : 234
ttg4.pep   : DTTCTINDIEKEAVDTQLIAHDKEVVDIAUGGVGVFASVSADGSRVRFDLRDKEHSTIIYESSEPDPLVRLGMNKQD : 234

      240          *           260          *           280          *           300          *
atan11.pep : PRYMATIIMDSAKVVVLDIRFFALPVVELQRHQASVMATAUAPHSSCHICTAGDQSQUALIUDLSSMCPVWGGLDPIL : 312
ttg2.pep   : PRYMATIIMDSAKVVVLDIRFFALPVVELQRHQASVMATAUAPHSSCHICTAGDQSQUALIUDLSSMCPVWGGLDPIL : 312
ttg4.pep   : PRYMATIIMDSAKVVVLDIRFFALPVVELRRHQASVMATAUAPHSSCHICTAGDQSQUALIUDLSSMCPVWGGLDPIL : 312

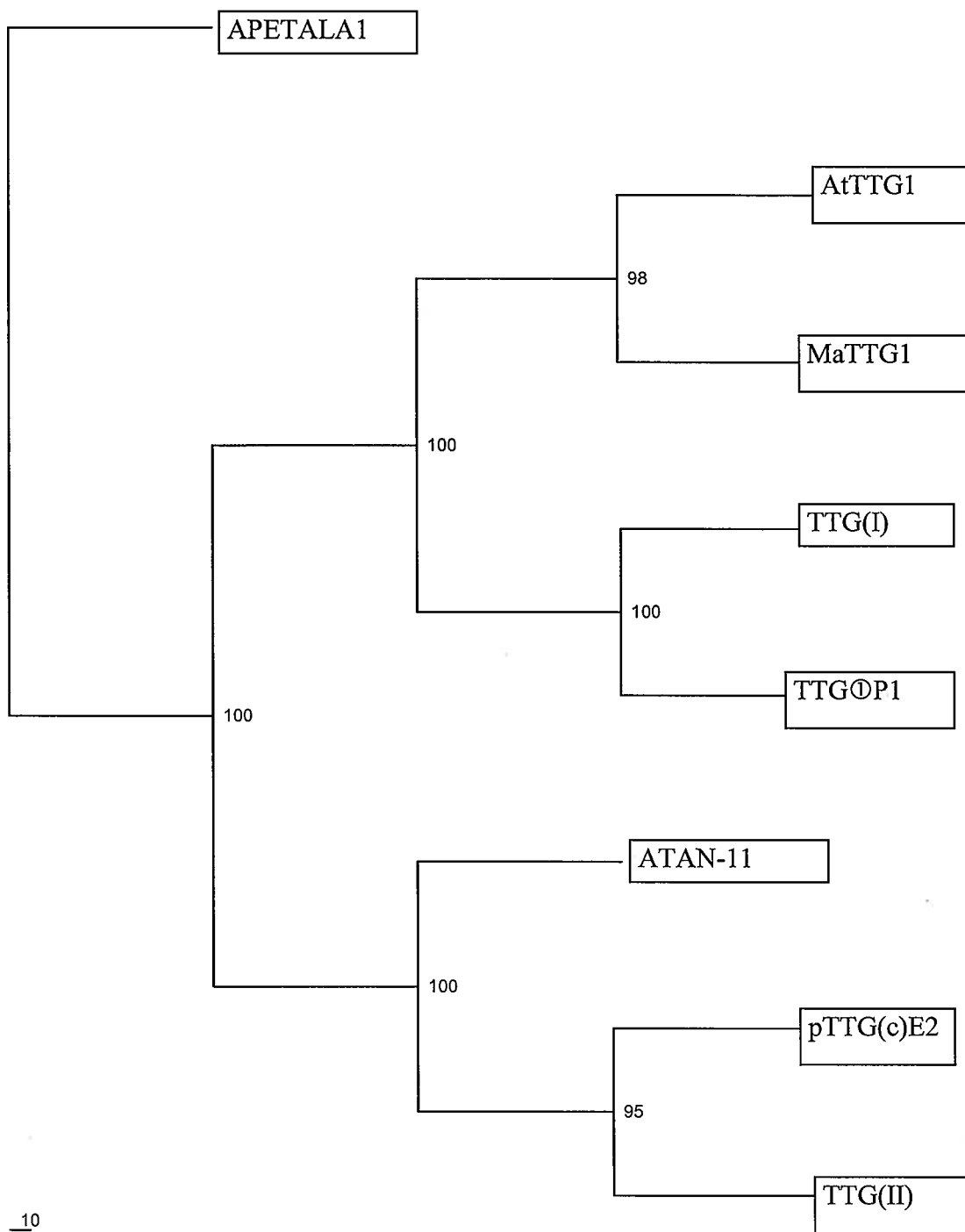
      320          *           340
atan11.pep : AYTAGEIEQLQWSSSQPDWVAIAFSTKLQILRV : 346
ttg2.pep   : AYTAGEIEQLQWSSSQPDWVAIAFSTKLQILRV : 346
ttg4.pep   : AYTAGEIEQLQWSSSQPDWVAIAFSTKLQILRV : 346

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Figure 34: Amino acid sequence comparison of cotton proteins TTG(II) and pTTG(c)E2 with *Arabidopsis* protein ATAN-11.

TTG(II) displays 96% amino acid identity to ATAN-11, while pTTG(c)E2 possesses 93% identity.

A maximum parsimony phylogenetic tree (Figure 35) derived from comparisons of these sequences suggests a potential functional relationship, with TTG(II) and pTTG(c)E2 grouping with ATAN-11a, while TTG(I) and TTG⊕P1 form a monophyletic group with the TTG1 proteins from *M. incana* and *Arabidopsis*.



10

Figure 35: Phylogenetic tree of cotton TTG1-like proteins with *Arabidopsis* and *Matthiola* TTG1, AN-11 of petunia and ATAN-11 of *Arabidopsis*. Accession numbers: APETALA1: Z16421, AtTTG1: AJ133743.1, ATAN-11a: U94748, remaining sequences not submitted.

So far the role of ATAN11a in *Arabidopsis* is largely unknown, although it is also thought to be involved in flower pigmentation. Further investigation into the roles of ATAN11a in *Arabidopsis* may give an insight into possible roles of TTG(II) and pTTG(c)E2 in cotton.

It must be noted that the results obtained in this investigation provide evidence for the replacement of AtTTG1 function by cotton TTG(I) and TTGⓅP1 in anthocyanin production only. While this may provide an indication of homology in the function of trichome initiation for these cotton genes, it is by no means direct evidence. It remains to be seen whether the complementation of one phenotype of the *ttg1* mutant by these cotton genes will necessarily correlate with a complementation of other phenotypes. The fact that many alleles of *ttg1* have the same pleiotropic phenotype (Walker et al., 1999) indicates the functions are strongly linked, and hence suggests complementation of the anthocyanin pathway may extend to the function of trichome initiation. It is the role of TTG1 in trichome initiation which is most relevant to possible roles in cotton fibre development.

The *R* gene in maize, and *delila* in snapdragon are bHLH proteins implicated in anthocyanin production (Spelt et al., 2000). The *R* gene in maize has previously been shown to complement both the glabrous and anthocyanin-deficient phenotypes of *Arabidopsis ttg1* mutants (Lloyd et al., 1992). However, the *delila* gene in snapdragon alters pigmentation in transgenic tomato and tobacco, but does not affect trichome deficiency in *ttg1* mutants. Additionally, *an11*, which controls pigmentation in

petunia, is expressed in all tissues, but does not affect hair formation (de Vetten *et al.*, 1997). Thus, the fact that the cotton genes TTG(I) and TTG⊕P1 can replace TTG1 function in anthocyanin production only hints at a role in trichome initiation. Results from the stable transformation of *Arabidopsis ttg1* mutants would provide evidence for this.

To complete the investigation into complementation of the *ttg1* mutant in *Arabidopsis*, plants transformed with TTG⊕P1 will be harvested for seeds about four weeks after transformation. Transgenic progeny will then be identified by germination of seeds on selective media (kanamycin). These progeny will then be inspected microscopically for restoration of trichome formation. Seeds will be harvested from plants not transformed to grow more *ttg1* mutant *Arabidopsis* to test remaining cotton TTG1-like genes for complementation.

Functional homology to *TTG1* indicates a possible role for TTG(I) and TTG⊕P1 in the initiation of cotton fibres. The results also appear to strengthen the link suggested between cotton fibre development and *Arabidopsis* trichomes, providing further support for the use of trichomes as a model for cotton fibre development in general. The link between cotton fibre and trichome initiation will become more definite if a role in cotton fibre initiation is established for these TTG1 homologues in cotton.

To study the influence these genes have on fibre development, expression analysis could be performed on lint and fuzz cotton fibres, to test for any differences in expression of TTG(I) or TTG⊕P1. A significant increase in gene expression of a cotton *TTG1*-like gene in lint fibres compared to the shorter fuzz fibres would be an

excellent indicator for a role in cotton fibre initiation. Additionally, an increase in expression during fibre initiation compared to other stages of fibre development would be indicative of a genes' role in initiating cotton fibres.

Experiments could be performed to identify regions responsible for the complementation of the *ttg1* mutant phenotype in *M. incana*. The variable regions (as identified in Figure 33, red boxes) could be removed from TTG(I) and TTG⊕P1 to identify which are important for the complementation of the *ttg1* mutant. The region surrounding the site of substitution causing the white-petal phenotype (Figure 33, blue box) appears likely to be significant in TTG1's role in anthocyanin production.

The generation of transgenic cotton may be required to further investigate the role of TTG(I) and TTG⊕P1 in cotton fibre development. Anti-sense genes have previously been used to reduce levels of specific proteins in cotton (John, 1996). The observation of phenotypic changes in fibres of a cotton plant with reduced TTG(I) or TTG⊕P1 levels would provide strong evidence of a role for these genes in cotton fibre development, or specifically fibre initiation, depending on the types of changes observed. The tetraploid nature of the cotton genome, and the possibility of gene redundancy, complicates this experiment.

5 Conclusion

By placing four cotton *TTGI*-like genes under the control of a constitutive 35S promoter, each was tested for complementation of the *M. incana* white petal phenotype by particle bombardment. Two of these genes, designated TTG(I) and TTG⊙P1, produced purple patches of anthocyanin on transformed petals. This result indicates that these two cotton genes are functional homologues of the *TTGI* gene. However, it is only the role played by *TTGI* in anthocyanin production which has been complemented, and not that of its function in trichome initiation. Restoration of trichome formation in *Arabidopsis ttg1* mutants will provide evidence for functional homology in trichome initiation, which can be more strongly linked to the development of cotton fibres.

The results of this project provide putative evidence for a role of two cotton *TTGI*-like genes in fibre initiation, by demonstrating functional homology to *TTGI*. As no regulators of cotton fibre cell growth have yet been isolated, further characterisation of these genes may lead to significant advances in the understanding of cotton fibre initiation.

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Appendix A-D

Appendixes A-D describe sequences obtained of the four TTG1-like cotton genes ligated into pART7. The sequences were obtained in most cases from external pART7 primers either side of the point of insertion (pART7a and pART7b) and also via internal primers within the gene itself, combined to give all or the majority of the gene sequence. For each construct, the expected sequence was compiled (top line in Appendixes A-D), and compared with the sequence data received (bottom line). Following is the region of the construct represented by the colour shading of the sequence:

-  CaMV 35S promoter in pART7
-  pART7 multiple cloning site
-  TTG-like insert
-  pBluescript remnant from previous cloning digest
-  3' Octopine synthase region of pART7

Binding sites of external primers are shown in red.

Insertion restriction sites are shown in blue.

'Blast' searches performed on an unexpected stretch of sequence 3' of TTG(II) (Appendix B) revealed a cloning vector, likely to have been used in previous cloning steps. This explanation is also probable for a similar 12bp region 5' of TTG(I) (Appendix A).

Appendix A: TTG(I) in pART7

	10	20	30	40	50	60
35.ttg1.ocs part7.1.seq	ATGGTGGAGCACGACACTCTCGTCTACTCCAAGAATATCAAAGATACAGTCTCAGAAGAC -----					
35.ttg1.ocs part7.1.seq	CAAAGGGCTATTGAGACTTTTCAACAAAGGGTAATATCGGGAAACCTCCTCGGATTCAT -----					
35.ttg1.ocs part7.1.seq	TGCCCAGCTATCTGTCACTTCATCAAAGGACAGTAGAAAAGGAAGGTGGCACCTACAAA -----					
35.ttg1.ocs part7.1.seq	TGCCATCATTCGATAAAGGAAAGGCTATCGTTCAAGATGCCTCTGCCGACAGTGGTCCC -----					
35.ttg1.ocs part7.1.seq	AAAGATGGACCCCCACCCACGAGGAGCATCGTGGAAAAAGAAGACGTTCCAACCACGCT -----					
35.ttg1.ocs part7.1.seq	TCAAAGCAAGTGGATTGATGTGATAACATGGTGGAGCACGACACTCTCGTCTACTCCAAG -----					
35.ttg1.ocs part7.1.seq	AATATCAAAGATACAGTCTCAGAAGACCAAGGGCTATTGAGACTTTTCAACAAAGGGTA -----					
35.ttg1.ocs part7.1.seq	ATATCGGGAAACCTCCTCGGATTCATTTGCCAGCTATCTGTCACTTCATCAAAGGACA -----					
35.ttg1.ocs part7.1.seq	GTAGAAAAGGAAGGTGGCACCTACAAATGCCATCATTCGATAAAGGAAAGGCTATCGTT -----					
35.ttg1.ocs part7.1.seq	CAAGATGCCTCTGCCGACAGTGGTCCCAAAGATGGACCCCCACCCACGAGGAGCATCGTG -----					
35.ttg1.ocs part7.1.seq	GAAAAAGAAGACGTTCCAACCACGCTTCAAAGCAAGTGGATTGATGTGATATCTCCACT -----					
35.ttg1.ocs part7.1.seq	GACGTAAGGGATGACGCACAATCCCACTATCCTTCGCAAGACCTTCCTCTATATAAGGAA -----AAGACCTTCCTCTATATAAGGAA *****					
35.ttg1.ocs part7.1.seq	GTTCAATTCATTTGGAGAGGACACGCTCGAGGAATTCGGTACCCCGGGTTCGAAATCGAT GTTCAATTCATTTGGAGAGGACACGCTCGAGGAATTCGGTACCCCGGGTTCGAAATCGAT *****					
35.ttg1.ocs part7.1.seq	AAGCTTGATATCGAATTC-----CTAGAGGAAAAATCCAATGGAGAATTCA AAGCTTGATATCGAATTCGGTTGCTGTCGCCCTAGAGGAAAAATCCAATGGAGAATTCA *****					
35.ttg1.ocs part7.1.seq	ACTCAGGAATCCCACCTCCGATCCGATAACGCCGTAACCTACGAATCACCTACCCACTC ACTCAGGAATCCCACCTCCGATCCGATAACGCCGTAACCTACGAATCACCTACCCACTC *****					
35.ttg1.ocs part7.1.seq	TACGCCATGGCCTTATCTTCCACGCCCGCGTCACCCATCTCAACTACCAACGCATCGCT TACGCCATGGCCTTATCTTCCACGCCCGCGTCACCCATCTCAACTACCAACGCATCGCT *****					

35. ttg1.ocs
part7.1.seq

CTCGGCAGTTTCAATCGAGGATTAACAATAACAGAGTCCACATAAATCTCTTTTCGACCCCTGAA
CTCGCAGTTTCAATCGAGGATTAACAATAACAGAGTCCACATAAATCTCTTTTCGACCCCTGAA

35. ttg1.ocs
part7.1.seq

TCACTTACCCTCATAAACCACCCCACTTTGTCTGTTCCAGCCACCCTTACCACCCACCAAAA
TCACTTACCCTCATAAACCACCCCACTTTGTCTGTTCCAGCCACCCTTACCACCCACCAAAA

35. ttg1.ocs
part7.1.seq

CTTATGTTCCAACCCACCCGAAATCCCCCTTTCTCTTCCCTCCGACCTCCCTCCGTTCA
CTTATGTTCCAACCCACCCGAAATCCCTTTCTCTCTCCCTCCCTCCGACCTCCCTCCGTTCA

35. ttg1.ocs
part7.1.seq

TCCGGTGACTACCTCCGTCCTCTGGGAAGTTGGGCACCTCTATCGAAGTTATCTCCGTT
TCCGGTGACTACCTCCGTCCTCTGGGAAGTTGGGCACCTCTCTATCGAAGTTATCTCCGTT

35. ttg1.ocs
part7.1.seq

CTCGACAAACAGCAAAACAGCGAGTTTTCTGCTCCCTTAACTTCCCTTCGATTTGGAACGAC
CTCGACAAACAGCAAAACAGCGAGTTTTCTGCTCCCTTAACTTCCCTTCGATTTGGAACGAC

35. ttg1.ocs
part7.1.seq

GTTGAAACCCCAATAGAAATCGGAACATCCAGCATCGACACCACCTGCACCAATTTGGACATTT
GTTGAAACCCCAATAGAAATCGGAACATCCAGCATCGACACCACCTGCACCAATTTGGGACATTT

35. ttg1.ocs
part7.1.seq

GAAAAAGCGGTTGTGAAAAACCCAAATGATGCTCACGAAAGGAGGTTTACGACATCGCT
GAAAAAGCGGTTGTGAAAAACCCAAATGATGCTCACGAAAGGAGGTTTACGACATCGCT

35. ttg1.ocs
part7.1.seq

TGGGGTGAAGGTAGATTTTCGGTTCGGTTCCGCTGATGGGTCCTAAGGATTTTCGAT
TGGGGTGAAGGTAGATTTTCGGTTCGGTTCCGCTGATGGGTCCTAAGGATTTTCGAT

35. ttg1.ocs
part7.1.seq

TTAAGGGACAAGAACAACACTCAACTATCATCTACGAAAGCCCTCAACCCGGACACCCCTTTTG
TTAAGGGACAAGAACAACACTCAACTATCATCTACGAAAGCCCTCAACCCGGACACCCCTTTTG

35. ttg1.ocs
part7.1.seq

CTAAGATTAGCTTTGGAAACAAAACAAGATTTGAGGTATATGGCTACGACACTAATGGATAGC
CTAAGATTAGCTTTGGAAACAAAACAAGATTTGAGGTATATGGCTACGACACTAATGGATAGC

35. ttg1.ocs
part7.1.seq

AATAAAGTTGTGATTTTGGACATAAGTTCGCCCTACTACGCCGGTGGCTGAGTTGGATAGA
AATAAAGTTGTGATTTTGGACATAAGTTCGCCCTACTACGCCGGTGGCTGAGTTGGATAGA

35. ttg1.ocs
part7.1.seq

CATGAGCCAGTGTCAATGCGATGCTTTGGGCTCCCCAGAGCTGTAAGCACATTTGCTCT
CATGAGCCAGTGTCAATGCGATGCTTTGGGCTCCCCAGAGCTGTAAGCACATTTGCTCT

35. ttg1.ocs
part7.1.seq

GCAGGGATGATACGGCATGCCCTTATTTGGGAGTTACCAACTGTAGCTGGGCCTAACGGA
GCAGGGATGATACGGCATGCCCTTATTTGGGAGTTACCAACTGTAGCTGGGCCTAACGGA

35. ttg1.ocs
part7.1.seq

ATCGATCCTTTGTCATAATGTAATCGGCTAGTTCCGAAATTAATCAGTTGCAAGTGGTCTGCT
ATCGATCCTTTGTCATAATGTAATCGGCTAGTTCCGAAATTAATCAGTTGCAAGTGGTCTGCT

35. ttg1.ocs
part7.1.seq

GCTCAGCCTGATTTGGATGCCATTTGCCCTTCTCCAACAAAATGCAGCTTCTCAAAAGTTTGA
GCTCAGCCTGATTTGGATGCCATTTGCCCTTCTCCAACAAAATGCAGCTTCTCAAAAGTTTGA

35. ttg1.ocs
part7.1.seq

GGTTCCTGCTTGAATGTATTTCAACTCTCATTTTTTGTTCATATACTGCTCAGCTTGT
GGTTCCTGCTTGAATGTATTTCAACTCTCATTTTTTGTTCATATACTGCTCAGCTTGT

35. ttg1.ocs
part7.1.seq

AATTAGGTGGGAGTTAAAACTGTAGAAATCAGTTTTATTTGGCTGATAAATTTGTTAGTAC
AATTAGGTGGGAGTTAAAACTGTAGAAATCAGTTTTATTTGGCTGATAAATTTGTTAGTAC

35.ttg1.ocs
part7.1.seq
TTTGTAAGACCAGCTTTAATCTACAATTATTTGTTAGGTCCTCACAAATAATGAGACT
TTTGTAAGACCAGCTTTAATCTACAATTATTTGTTAGGTCCTCACAAATAATGAGACT

35.ttg1.ocs
part7.1.seq
CGAATGCATATTTGGATTTTGACCTGCAGCCCGGGGATCCTCTAGAGTCCTGCTTTAAT
CGAATGCATATTTGGATTTTGACCTGCAGCCCGGGGATCCTCTAGAGTCCTGCTTTAAT

35.ttg1.ocs
part7.1.seq
GAGATATGCGAGACGCTATGATCGCATGATATTTGCTTTCAATTCTGTGTGCACGTTG
GAGATATG-----

35.ttg1.ocs
part7.1.seq
TAAAAACCTGAGCATGTGTAGCTCAGATCCTTACCGCCGGTTTCGGTTCATTCTAATGA

35.ttg1.ocs
part7.1.seq
ATATATCACCCGTTACTATCGTATTTTATGAATAATATTCTCCGTTCAATTTACTGATT

35.ttg1.ocs
part7.1.seq
GTACCCCTACTACTTATATGTACAATATTAATAAATGAAAACAATATATTGTGCTGAATAGGT

35.ttg1.ocs
part7.1.seq
TTATAGCGACATCTATGATAGAGCGCCACAATAACAAACAATTGCGTTTATTATTACAA

35.ttg1.ocs
part7.1.seq
ATCCAATTTTAAAAAAGCGGCAGAACCGGTCAAACCTAAAAGACTGATTACATAAATCT

35.ttg1.ocs
part7.1.seq
TATTCAAATTTCAAAGGCCCCAGGGCTAGTATCTACGACACACCGAGCGGCGAATCAA

35.ttg1.ocs
part7.1.seq
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35.ttg1.ocs
part7.1.seq
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35.ttg1.ocs
part7.1.seq
CGGCGCCCGGTAAACCGACTTGCTGCCCGGAGAATTATGCAGCATTTTTTTGGTGTATGT

35.ttg1.ocs
part7.1.seq
GGGCCCCAAATGAAGTGCAGGTCAAACCTTGACAGTGACGACAAATCGTTGGCGGGTCC

35.ttg1.ocs
part7.1.seq
AGGGCGAATTTTTCGACAACATGTCGAGGCTCAGCAGGACCCGGT

Appendix B: TTG(II) in pART7

35.ttg2.ocs
pART7.2.seq
ATGGTGGAGCACGACACTCTCGTCTACTCCAAGAATATCAAAGATACAGTCTCAGAAGAC

35.ttg2.ocs
pART7.2.seq
CAAAGGGCTATTGAGACTTTTCAACAAAGGGTAATATCGGGAAACCTCCTCGGATTCCAT

35.ttg2.ocs
pART7.2.seq
TGCCAGCTATCTGTCACTTCATCAAAGGACAGTAGAAAAGGAAGGTGGCACCTACAAA

35.ttg2.ocs
pART7.2.seq
TGCCATCATTGCGATAAAGGAAAGGCTATCGTTCAAGATGCCTCTGCCGACAGTGGTCCC

35.ttg2.ocs
pART7.2.seq
AAAGATGGACCCCCACCCACGAGGAGCATCGTGGAAAAAGAAGACGTTCCAACCACGTCT

35.ttg2.ocs
pART7.2.seq
TCAAAGCAAGTGGATTGATGTGATAACATGGTGGAGCACGACACTCTCGTCTACTCCAAG

35.ttg2.ocs
pART7.2.seq
AATATCAAAGATACAGTCTCAGAAGACCAAAGGGCTATTGAGACTTTTCAACAAAGGGTA

35.ttg2.ocs
pART7.2.seq
ATATCGGGAAACCTCCTCGGATTCCATTGCCAGCTATCTGTCACTTCATCAAAGGACA

35.ttg2.ocs
pART7.2.seq
GTAGAAAAGGAAGGTGGCACCTACAAATGCCATCATGCGATAAAGGAAAGGCTATCGTT

35.ttg2.ocs
pART7.2.seq
CAAGATGCCTCTGCCGACAGTGGTCCCAAAGATGGACCCCCACCCACGAGGAGCATCGTG

35.ttg2.ocs
pART7.2.seq
GAAAAAGAAGACGTTCCAACCACGTCTTCAAAGCAAGTGGATTGATGTGATATCTCCACT

35.ttg2.ocs
pART7.2.seq
GACGTAAGGGATGACGCACAATCCCACTATCCTTCGCAAGACCTTCCTCTATATAAGGAA
-----GNAGTTTTTTNNTNTNTNTAAGGA

35.ttg2.ocs
pART7.2.seq
GTTTCATTTTCATTTGGAGAGGACACGCTCGAGGAATTCGGTACCCCGGGTTCGAAATCGAT
AGTTTTTTTCATTTGGAGAGGACACGCTCGAGGAATTCGGTACCCCGGGTTCGAAATCGAT

35.ttg2.ocs
pART7.2.seq
AAGCTTGGATCCAAGAAACCAAAGGGAGTGGCAGTGAAGATGGCCGCTAGCAGCGATCC
AAGCTTGGATCCAAGAAACCAAAGGGAGTGGCAGTGAAGATGGCCGNTAGCAGCGATCC

35.ttg2.ocs
pART7.2.seq
TAACCCGGAGGGTTCCGATGAGCAGCAGAAACGATCCGAGATATACACTTACGAGGCCCC
TAACCCGGAGGGTTCCGATGAGCAGNAGAAACGATCCGAGATATACACTTACGAGGCCCC

35.ttg2.ocs
pART7.2.seq
TTGGCATATCTACGCCATGAACTGGAGTGTCCGCCGCGACAAGAAATACCGGTCTCGCTC
TTGGCATATCTACGCCATGAACTGGAGTGTTCGTNGCGACAAGAAATACCGGTCTCGCTC

35.ttg2.ocs
pART7.2.seq ATCGCCAGCCTTGCTCGAGCATTACAACAACCGCCTTGAGATTGTCCAGCTCGATGACTC
ATCGCCAGCCTTGCTCGAGCATTACANCANCCGCCTTGAGATTGTCCAGCTCGATGACTC

35.ttg2.ocs
pART7.2.seq CAATGGCGAGATCC-GATC-GGACCC-AAAT-CTCTCCTTCG-ATCATCC-TTATCCCC
CAATGNCNANATTCNATCCGGACCCCAAATCNTCTCCTTGNATCATCCCTTNTCCCC

35.ttg2.ocs
pART7.2.seq CGGACCCAAGACACATTCTTCATCCCCGACCAAGGAGCTGCCAGAAACCCGACCTTCT
CGGACCCAAGACACATTCTTTATCCCCCCCCAAAGGAGCTGCCAGAACTCGACCTTCT

35.ttg2.ocs
pART7.2.seq CGCCACGTCCCTCCGACTTCTCCGCATTTGGCGCATCTCCGATGACCACTCCCGGTCTGA
CGCCACGTCCCTCCGACTTCTCCGCATTTGGGGCATCTCCGATGACCACTCCCGGTCTGA

35.ttg2.ocs
pART7.2.seq CCTCAAGTCTCTCCTTAATGGCAATAAGAACAGTGAATCTGCGGTCTCTTACCTCCTT
CCTCAAGTCTCTCCTTAATGGCAATAAGAACAGTGAATCTGCGGTCTCTTACCTCCTT

35.ttg2.ocs
pART7.2.seq CGACTGGAATGAGGCGGAGCCCAAGCGAATCGGCACCTCCTCCATTGATACGACTTGTAC
CGACTGGAATGAGGCGGAGCCCAAGCGAATCGGCACCTCCTCCATTGATACGCTTGTAC

35.ttg2.ocs
pART7.2.seq TATATGGGATATCGAGAGGGAGACGGTGGATACCCAGCTTATCGCCACGATAAGGAGGT
TATATGGGATATCGAGAGGGAGACGGTGGATACCCAGCTTATCGCCACGATAAGGAGGT

35.ttg2.ocs
pART7.2.seq TTATGATATTGCCCTGGGGCGCGTCCGGTGTTTTTGCTTCCGTCTCTGCTGATGGGTCCGT
TTATGATATTGCCCTGGGGCGCGTCCGGTGTTTTTGCTTCCGTCTCTGCTGATGGGTCCGT

35.ttg2.ocs
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Appendix C: TTG⓪P1 in pART7

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Appendix D: pTTG(C)E2 in pART7

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