

1 **Short Title:** Spatial control of gene expression by TCPs.

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6 **Spatial control of gene expression by miR319-regulated TCP transcription**  
7 **factors in leaf development**

8

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21 **One sentence summary:** microRNA319 regulated TCP transcription factors influence leaf  
22 development in distinct ways in central and marginal parts of the organ.

23

24 **Author contributions:** E.G.B., R.E.R. and C.S. performed the experiments. E.G.B., U.C., R.E.R.,  
25 C.S. and J.P. analysed the data. C.S. and J.P. wrote the article. All authors revised and approved  
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30 **Footnote**

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39

40 **Abstract**

41 The characteristic leaf shapes we see in all plants are in good part outcome of the combined  
42 action of several transcription factor networks that translate into cell division activity during  
43 the early development of the organ. We show here that wild-type leaves have distinct  
44 transcriptomic profiles in center and marginal regions. Certain transcripts are enriched in  
45 margins, including those of *CINCINNATA* (*CIN*)-like *TCPs*, and members of the *NGATHA* (*NGA*)  
46 and *STYLISH* (*STY*) gene families. We study in detail the contribution of miR319 regulated *TCP*  
47 (*TEOSINTE BRANCHED CYCLOIDEA*, *PCF1/2*) transcription factors to the development of the  
48 center and marginal regions of *Arabidopsis* leaves. We compare in molecular analyses  
49 wildtype, a *tcp2 tcp4* mutant that has enlarged flat leaves and a *tcp2 tcp3 tcp4 tcp10* mutant  
50 with strongly crinkled leaves. The different leaf domains of the *tcp* mutants show changed  
51 expression patterns for many photosynthesis related genes, indicating delayed differentiation,  
52 especially in the marginal parts of the organ. At the same time, we found an upregulation of  
53 cyclin genes and other genes that are known to participate in cell division, specifically in the  
54 marginal regions of *tcp2 tcp3 tcp4 tcp10*. Using *GUS* reporter constructs we confirmed  
55 extended mitotic activity in the *tcp2 tcp3 tcp4 tcp10* leaf which persisted in small defined foci  
56 in the margins when the mitotic activity had already ceased in wild-type leaves. Our results  
57 describe the role of miR319-regulated *TCP* transcription factors in the coordination of activities  
58 in different leaf domains during the organs development.

59

### 60 Introduction

61 Leaves are impressive examples for the plasticity found in plant development. The size and  
62 shape of leaves vary not only between different species, but also depend considerably on plant  
63 age and the environment. Leaves are generated at the flanks of the shoot apical meristem.  
64 They first appear as rod-shaped primordia, which then expand and grow to form flat laminae  
65 through the activity of a marginal meristem (Donnelly et al., 1999). Cell divisions in the growing  
66 leaf lamina are maintained mainly by a plate meristem and occurs first throughout the organ,  
67 and then become restricted to a region in the proximal part of the organ, until ceasing rather  
68 abruptly (Donnelly et al., 1999; Beemster et al., 2005; Kazama et al., 2010; Andriankaja et al.,  
69 2012; Powell and Lenhard, 2012; Rodriguez et al., 2014). Dispersed meristematic cells  
70 producing stomata and vascular cells continue to proliferate for a longer period of time (White,  
71 2006; Andriankaja et al., 2012). After cell proliferation stops, cell enlargement becomes the  
72 driving force for organ growth. The coordination of cell division and cell expansion throughout  
73 the organ is a key to establish leaf size and shape. Around this time of transition from division  
74 to expansion, chloroplasts already develop and genes involved in photosynthesis are being  
75 activated and influence in turn cell proliferation (Andriankaja et al., 2012).

76 The *TCP* transcription factors are a plant specific family of transcription factors, named  
77 after the first identified members, *TEOSINTE BRANCHED*, *CYCLOIDEA* and *PCF1/PCF2* (Kosugi  
78 and Ohashi, 1997; Cubas et al., 1999). In *Arabidopsis*, 24 family members have been identified  
79 which can be further classified according to similarities in the TCP domain and biological  
80 functions (Nicolas and Cubas, 2016). Five *TCPs*, *TCP2*, *TCP3*, *TCP4*, *TCP10* and *TCP24* and their  
81 homologs in different species are regulated by the evolutionary conserved microRNA (miRNA)  
82 miR319 (Palatnik et al., 2003). High levels of miR319 down-regulate these *TCPs* and cause  
83 important changes in *Arabidopsis* leaf morphogenesis and the generation of crinkled leaves  
84 (Palatnik et al., 2003; Koyama et al., 2007; Efroni et al., 2008). A triple mutant in miR319-  
85 regulated *TCPs* also affects leaf development severely, as well as mutations in the snapdragon  
86 gene *CINCINNATA*, a *TCP4* homolog (Nath et al., 2003; Schommer et al., 2008). The effects of  
87 miR319 regulated *TCPs* in the generation of crinkles are enhanced by three other *TCPs*: *TCP5*,  
88 *TCP13*, and *TCP17* (usually referred to as CIN-LIKE *TCPs*). These three *TCPs* lack the regulation  
89 by miR319 but are closely related to the miRNA regulated family members, based on  
90 similarities in their amino acid sequence (Efroni et al., 2008; Li, 2015). Transcriptome analysis  
91 of leaves with modified *TCP* levels have shown that their differentiation program is modified  
92 (Efroni et al., 2008). However, *TCPs* have also been shown to directly activate *MIR396b* and  
93 *CYCLIN DEPENDENT KINASE INHIBITOR1 (ICK1)* (Schommer et al., 2014), which are known to

94 regulate cell proliferation (Wang et al., 2000;; Rodriguez et al., 2010;). Furthermore, miR319  
95 regulated TCPs are involved in hormone biosynthesis and response [reviewed in (Nicolas and  
96 Cubas, 2016)].

97 Leaf margins can be smooth, lobed or serrated. The typical shape that is acquired  
98 varies between species and depends on plant age. How the margin is defined and which genes  
99 are involved in constructing the typical shape of a leaf is not well understood. Various studies  
100 describe genes and mutants or transgenic lines that affect margin development such as *ICK1*  
101 overexpressors, *yucca* mutants or plants with changes the *CUP SHAPED COTYLEDON*  
102 (*CUC*)/miR164 balance and *pin formed1*, which affect the degree of serration of the  
103 Arabidopsis leaf (Nikovics et al., 2006; Kawamura et al., 2010; Engelhorn et al., 2012; Steiner et  
104 al., 2012). *NGATHA (NGA)* and *STYLISH (STY)* genes initially described by their function in  
105 gynoecium development have also been found to be important in the generation of leaf  
106 margins. Both gene families promote auxin biosynthesis (Sohlberg et al., 2006; Martinez-  
107 Fernandez et al., 2014) and multiple knock outs have leaves with more serrations than wild  
108 type (Kuusk et al., 2002; Beemster et al., 2005; Alvarez et al., 2009; Trigueros et al., 2009;  
109 Ballester et al., 2015; Alvarez et al., 2016). Recent studies show that simultaneous  
110 downregulation of miR319 regulated *TCPs* and *NGAs* results in dramatic leaf phenotypes with  
111 indefinite growth at the margins (Alvarez et al., 2016).

112 Transcriptome studies have been carried out at different stages of leaf development  
113 and their analyses have led to the identification of genes involved in cell proliferation and  
114 differentiation in different leaves (Beemster et al., 2005; Schmid et al., 2005; Efroni et al.,  
115 2008), as well as genes involved in the transition from primary to secondary morphogenesis  
116 (Andriankaja et al., 2012). Detailed studies during the progression of leaf development have  
117 identified markers of leaf differentiation, implicating functions for the TCPs in the regulation of  
118 developmental timing, especially in the control of early differentiation events during leaf  
119 development (Efroni et al., 2008).

120 Interestingly, previous transcriptomic studies have been performed in whole leaves,  
121 which might underscore the events occurring in specific leaf domains. Here, we isolate a  
122 quadruple knock out *tcp2 tcp3 tcp4 tcp10*, which has crinkled margins in a similar or stronger  
123 way as the *jaw-D* mutant that overexpresses miR319. In contrast, *tcp* double mutants have  
124 larger leaves with no obvious appearance of crinkles. We performed transcriptomic studies on  
125 the margins and central parts of leaves from wildtype, *tcp2 tcp4* and *tcp2 tcp3 tcp4 tcp10*  
126 mutants. We found that the reduction of TCP activity had general effects on the transcriptome  
127 of the organ as well as we detected domain specific differences. We also found a strong

128 activation of cell proliferation markers in leaf margins, which had not been detected in  
129 previous transcriptomic studies using whole leaves. We found that most of the genes enriched  
130 in leaf margins are affected by downregulation of miR319-regulated *TCPs*. Still, a group of  
131 margin specific genes with an over-representation on transcription factors is acting  
132 independent of TCP control. Our data provide new insights into leaf development and the role  
133 of miRNA regulated TCPs in the coordination of organ growth.

134

## 135 **Results**

### 136 **Differential effects of *tcp* double and quadruple mutants on leaf development**

137 To study the functions of miR319-regulated *TCPs* we characterized a series of loss-of-function  
138 *tcp* insertional knock-out mutants including single, double, triple and quadruple mutants  
139 (Figure 1). The leaves and rosettes of *tcp* single mutants were slightly larger than wild type  
140 (Figure 1). In contrast to small effects on the size of the single *tcp* knockouts, we observed a  
141 significant increase of leaf size in *tcp2 tcp4* double knock outs (Figure 1). The *tcp* quadruple  
142 mutant had a different phenotype, with strongly crinkled leaves (Figure 1). While changes in  
143 the leaf curvature are seen in all quadruple knock out leaves, we observed that crinkles and  
144 small folds at the margins become more predominant starting with leaf five and onwards. We  
145 determined the area of the crinkles by flattening the leaves and considering the areas that  
146 were folded one or more times on top of each other and entered them as multiples into the  
147 calculations of the total leaf area (Figure 1). Analysis of the first leaf revealed that the  
148 complete area was smaller than wild type, if not considering folded areas (Figure 1). Yet, the  
149 *tcp* quadruple mutant had smaller leaves than the double mutant (Figure 1).

150 The triple mutant *tcp2 tcp4 tcp10* had an intermediate phenotype between double and  
151 quadruple mutants. The leaves already had some crinkles (Figure 1), however to a much lower  
152 extent than the quadruple *tcp* mutant. Leaves of *tcp2 tcp4 tcp10* were larger than wild type,  
153 but similar to *tcp2 tcp4*, even after considering folded regions (Figure 1).

154 We analyzed the first leaf at cellular level. The number of palisade parenchyma mesophyll  
155 cells increased in single and double mutants with respect to wild-type leaves (Figure 1). As the  
156 cell size remained fairly constant in these leaves (Figure 1), the increase of leaf size in *tcp* single  
157 and double mutants correlated directly with an increase in cell number. A different scenario  
158 was observed in plants with a strong decrease in TCP activity. First, the cell number did not  
159 increase steadily with the combination of *tcp* mutants, rather, the total number of cells in  
160 double, triple and quadruple *tcp* knock-outs was similar (Figure 1). We also noticed that the

161 cell size in the *tcp2 tcp3 tcp4 tcp10* quadruple knock-out was reduced (Figure 1), which  
162 explains its reduced in leaf area (Figure 1). Therefore, a mild decrease in TCP activity such as  
163 seen in single and double mutants caused an increase in cell number, which in turn produced  
164 larger leaves. Further loss of TCP activity triggered additional changes in leaf morphogenesis,  
165 namely a modification of organ curvature and a reduction of cell expansion.

166

### 167 **Transcriptome analysis of leaf margins and inner lamina**

168 Previous transcriptomic analyses have focused on whole developing leaves or leaves dissected  
169 into proximal and distal parts (Efroni et al., 2008; Li et al., 2010; Pettko-Szandtner et al., 2015;  
170 Nicolas and Cubas, 2016). Here, we decided to analyze the plant transcriptome in the margins  
171 and the center of the leaf. To do this we collected developing fifth leaves of wildtype, *tcp2 tcp4*  
172 and *tcp2 tcp3 tcp4 tcp10* mutants (Figure 2, see methods for details). The leaves were  
173 dissected with the help of a stereo microscope as shown in Figure 2 and the marginal or  
174 central areas respectively were collected. Biological triplicates representing the margins and  
175 central regions of more than 50 individual plants were subjected to transcriptome analysis by  
176 RNA sequencing (Anders et al., 2013).

177 In a first step, we focused on the analysis of the wild type samples. We identified 141  
178 transcripts enriched in the margins and 237 enriched in the center samples (at least two-fold  
179 change in expression levels and FDR < 0,01) (Figure 2, Table S1), indicating that the expression  
180 profile of the leaf is not homogeneous but that margins and center parts have their specific  
181 signature.

182 Among the 141 genes enriched in wild-type margins we detected 13 transcription  
183 factors of the *WRKY*, *BHLH*-like, *NGA*, *STY* and *TCP* gene families (Table S1). Interestingly,  
184 several of those have been shown to affect leaf shape and size when misregulated (Kuusk et  
185 al., 2002; Alvarez et al., 2006; Kuusk et al., 2006; Efroni et al., 2008; Alvarez et al., 2009;  
186 Trigueros et al., 2009; Ballester et al., 2015; Lee et al., 2015).

187 We inspected the 141 genes that are enriched in wild-type margins also in the  
188 margins of the *tcp* mutants. We found that the margin-specific genes decreased their  
189 expression in the double and quadruple *tcp* mutant margins (Figure 2C). In contrast, we  
190 observed that the expression of 237 center enriched genes from wild-type leaves were less  
191 affected in the centers of the *tcp* mutant leaves (Figure 2C, Table S1). These results are  
192 consistent with the morphological changes observed in the margins of the plants with low TCP  
193 activity.

194 An analysis of the 6 different samples in the RNAseq experiment displayed in  
195 multidimensional scaling (MDS) and smear plots further visualized that the margins of the  
196 quadruple *tcp* mutant were strikingly different in their expression profiles from wildtype and  
197 the double *tcp* knock out (Figure 2, Figure S1). However, we also detected that the *tcp2 tcp4*  
198 knock out, which does not appear to have morphologically changed margins compared to  
199 wildtype, on molecular level displayed more changes in the marginal than in the central part of  
200 the leaf (Figure 2, Figure S1). Therefore, our analysis detected approximately 140 genes  
201 enriched in the borders of developing leaves and showed that miR319-regulated TCPs are  
202 necessary to assure a correct regulation of many of those.

203

### 204 **Differential control of gene expression by TCPs in leaf domains: down-regulated genes in *tcp*** 205 **mutants**

206 Next, we inspected the genes that were down-regulated in the margins and the center of the  
207 *tcp* mutant leaves compared to wildtype (Table S2). We found that 863 genes were down-  
208 regulated in the margins of the quadruple *tcp* mutants and 254 in the center of the organ  
209 (Figure 3, Table S2). That *tcp2 tcp3 tcp4 tcp10* had more changes in the margin than in the  
210 center is consistent with mutant leaves having crinkles and changes in leaf curvature especially  
211 along the border regions. 210 genes were downregulated in both, margin and center of the  
212 *tcp2 tcp3 tcp4 tcp10* mutants (Figure 3), and most of the genes affected in *tcp2 tcp4* were a  
213 subgroup of those affected in the quadruple knockout (Table S2) demonstrating that the  
214 double mutant reflects to a certain extent a partial state of TCP activity between wild type and  
215 the *tcp2 tcp3 tcp4 tcp10* quadruple mutant.

216 MiR319-regulated TCPs bind a core sequence GGACCA (Schommer et al., 2008). We  
217 observed that the presence of this sequence was enriched in the promoters of the  
218 downregulated genes (defined as 1kb upstream of the transcription start) in *tcp2 tcp4* margins,  
219 and in the promoters of *tcp2 tcp3 tcp4 tcp10* center and margin samples (Figure 3, Table S3).  
220 Among the downregulated genes were validated TCP targets such as *LIPOXYGENASE2*, *ICK1*  
221 and the *ARABIDOPSIS RESPONSE REGULATER 16* (Table S2) (Schommer et al., 2008; Efroni et  
222 al., 2013; Schommer et al., 2014) and noteworthy also the *NGA2* gene, whose activity had  
223 been shown to be reduced in the miR319a overexpressing *jaw-D* background (Ballester et al.,  
224 2015).

225 Analysis of GO-term enrichment in the down-regulated genes in the center and the  
226 margins of *tcp2 tcp3 tcp4 tcp10* leaves revealed that 'response to stimuli' was the most

227 frequent category (Table S4). Most interesting, we saw that among down-regulated genes in  
228 the quadruple *tcp* mutant margins were many genes related to photosynthesis (Figure 3, Table  
229 S2). It has been recently found that many photosynthesis related genes start being expressed  
230 close to the timepoint when cell proliferation stops during leaf development (Andriankaja et  
231 al., 2012).

232 We then looked at the expression of photosynthesis related genes (light reactions) in  
233 the center and margin of wild-type plants, and found that many of them were stronger  
234 expressed in the margins than in the center (Figure 3). However, when we looked at the  
235 relative activity levels of these genes in the *tcp* knock outs we found an opposite pattern of  
236 expression, with a tendency of photosynthetic genes to be expressed at higher levels in the  
237 center compared to the margins (Figure 3). As expected, the effect was stronger in the  
238 quadruple than in the double *tcp* mutant, but already clear in *tcp2 tcp4* (Figure 3). Overall,  
239 these results strongly suggest that TCPs are necessary to coordinate the maturation program  
240 of the photosynthetic machinery in the margin and center of the leaf. We estimated the  
241 chlorophyll levels in chloroplasts of developing leaves of wildtype and the *tcp* quadruple knock  
242 out by analysing the fluorescence intensity with a laser scanning confocal microscope. Like this  
243 we visualized the distribution of chloroplasts and displayed the state of maturation of the leaf  
244 in terms of photosynthesis in its different areas. In agreement with other studies (Andriankaja  
245 et al., 2012) in wildtype more chlorophyll had accumulated in the distal parts of the leaf and  
246 along the margins when compared to the center of the leaf. In the quadruple knockout mutant  
247 we detected a lower level of chlorophyll fluorescence in the distal part of the leaf indicating a  
248 delayed maturation of chloroplasts (Figure 3). Furthermore, and in contrast to wildtype, less  
249 chlorophyll fluorescence was emitted from the marginal regions compared to the central part  
250 of the leaf (Figure 3). This confirmed our results towards photosynthesis related genes that we  
251 had obtained from the RNAseq experiments and showed the delayed maturation in general  
252 and especially in the marginal regions of the quadruple knock out leaves. However, we did not  
253 find an enrichment of the GGACCA motif in the promoters of the photosynthetic genes,  
254 suggesting that the effect of the TCPs is indirect or at least not caused by their direct binding.

255

### 256 **TCPs repress cell proliferation and early leaf developmental programs in the margins**

257 Next, we analyzed upregulated genes in the *tcp* knock outs. We found that in the center region  
258 of the *tcp2 tcp4* mutant only 56 genes increased their expression levels (Figure 4), while at the  
259 same time 279 genes were upregulated in the *tcp2 tcp3 tcp4 tcp10* blade (Figure 4). 47 of the



260 56 genes that were enriched in *tcp2 tcp4* out were also upregulated in *tcp2 tcp3 tcp4 tcp10*  
261 (Figure 4, Table S5), confirming that largely the genes that are changing their expression levels  
262 in the double mutant are a subgroup of those affected in the quadruple mutant.

263 Drastic were the changes in the margins of the *tcp2 tcp3 tcp4 tcp10* quadruple mutant  
264 compared to wildtype, as 799 genes were upregulated (Figure 4, Table S5). Again, the  
265 difference between *tcp2 tcp4* and wildtype was much less pronounced with only 123 genes  
266 being enriched (Figure 4, Table S5). An analysis for GO-term enrichment within the genes  
267 upregulated in the center region of the *tcp2 tcp3 tcp4 tcp10* mutants revealed GO-term  
268 enrichment related to stimulus (Figure 4, Table S4). We obtained a different view once we  
269 analyzed genes up-regulated in the margins. The most up regulated categories were related to  
270 cell cycle and microtubule based processes, as required during mitosis (Figure 4, Table S6). All  
271 Arabidopsis *CYCLINB* genes were upregulated in the margins of *tcp2 tcp3 tcp4 tcp10* leaves,  
272 while they were unchanged or diminished in the center (Figure 4, Table S6). This is interesting  
273 as B type cyclins control the G2 to M transition of the cell cycle (Polyn et al., 2015). We  
274 extended the analysis to a list of mitosis specific genes (Menges et al., 2005) and other genes  
275 that have already been described to be involved in early leaf development and obtained  
276 similar results, finding them to be expressed at higher levels in the *tcp2 tcp3 tcp4 tcp10*  
277 compared to wildtype margin (Figure 4, Table S6).

278 *JAGGED* was the most up-regulated gene in *tcp* quadruple knock out margins, and  
279 *GROTH REGULATING FACTOR 5* and *WUSCHEL-RELATED HOMEBOX 5* were among the top  
280 ten (Figure 4, Table S5). An analysis of genes known to participate in leaf development  
281 revealed the upregulation of *ASYMETRIC LEAVES1*, *ASYMETRIC LEAVES2*, *AINTEGUMENTA*,  
282 and *WUSCHEL-RELATED HOMEBOX 1* (Figure 4, Table S5, Table S6). Most interestingly, these  
283 genes changed in the margins of the quadruple knock outs but were largely unaffected in the  
284 central leaf regions (Figure 4, Table S6). Overall these results suggest that processes related to  
285 early leaf development and cell division remain active specifically in the margins of the *tcp2*  
286 *tcp3 tcp4 tcp10* leaves when they are already shut down in the wildtype leaf or the central  
287 zones of the *tcp* mutant leaves.

288

### 289 **Interaction between cell proliferation programs and miR319-regulated TCPs in different** 290 **leaves.**

291 Previous studies in snapdragon *cin* mutants and young leaves of miR319 overexpressors have  
292 shown a delay in the repression of B-type cyclin activity mostly in the organ margins, which has

293 been associated with a corresponding change in leaf curvature, although microarray studies of  
294 these leaves did not reveal an increase in mitotic activity (Nath et al., 2003; Palatnik et al.,  
295 2003). That crinkles at the leaf margins of *jaw-D* or quadruple *tcp* mutants increase in leaves  
296 that are generated later during the plants life cycle and that cell proliferation markers  
297 represent the most up-regulated group of genes in our transcriptomic experiments in leaf five  
298 prompted us to look in more detail into the interaction between cell proliferation and the  
299 miR319-*TCP* network during development of different leaves.

300 To study this, we overexpressed miR319a, which causes the same phenotypic effects  
301 as a *tcp2 tcp3 tcp4 tcp10* mutant (Figure 1), in the context of a *CYCLINB1;1:GUS* reporter line,  
302 which labels cells undergoing mitosis (Donnelly et al., 1999). In wild-type plants the reporter is  
303 expressed initially in the whole leaf primordia but then becomes restricted to the base of  
304 young developing leaves, until cell proliferation stops and leaves continue to grow by cell  
305 expansion (Figure 5) (Donnelly et al., 1999). In the first true leaves, we observed that upon  
306 overexpression of miR319 cell proliferation was extended to the margins (Figure 5) and lasted  
307 longer than in wildtype, in agreement with previous observations (Nath et al., 2003; Efroni et  
308 al., 2008).

309 However, a closer inspection of the B-type cyclin *CYCLINB1;1* behavior in the fourth leaf of  
310 Arabidopsis plants overexpressing miR319 revealed additional changes in the pattern of  
311 proliferating cells in these leaves. We found that discrete regions at the margins of the leaf  
312 harbored cells undergoing mitosis, in contrast to wild-type leaves (Figure 5, also see insets).  
313 This effect was even more pronounced in young seventh leaves (Figure 5). Therefore,  
314 Arabidopsis leaves with low TCP activity do not simply have a delay in the mitotic arrest front,  
315 but also cell proliferation continues to be activated in specific subdomains at the leaf margins.  
316 The *foci* of dividing cells persisted for extended periods, even after proliferation in wild-type  
317 leaves had completely ceased (Figure 5). Leaves produced by older plants normally have more  
318 serrations than the younger ones (Poethig, 2003). In the case of miR319 overexpressors, we  
319 also noticed that more discrete *foci* harboring proliferating cells were detected rather in later  
320 than in earlier leaves, which is consistent with a larger number of crinkles in these leaves. We  
321 propose that probably an extension of the cell proliferation, such as seen in the first leaves of  
322 Arabidopsis or snapdragon would cause a change in leaf curvature, but the formation of  
323 discrete *foci* would result in crinkles along the leaf margins as seen in leaves produced later  
324 during development of miR319 overexpressors or *tcp* mutants (Figure 5).

325

### 326 Identification of margin specific genes independent of TCPs

327 In our analysis we had identified 237 genes enriched in the center and 141 genes in the  
328 margins of wild-type leaves (Figure 2, Table S1). We performed the same analysis with the  
329 margin and center samples of the *tcp2 tcp4* and *tcp2 tcp3 tcp4 tcp10* leaves and searched for  
330 center and margin enriched genes in the mutants. We found that of the 237 genes enriched in  
331 the center of the wild-type leaves, 154 (approximately 65%) were still enriched in the center of  
332 the quadruple *tcp* mutant leaves (Table S1, Figure S2). In contrast, when we looked at the  
333 expression of the 141 margin-specific genes that we identified in wild-type leaves, we  
334 observed that only 31 continued to be enriched in the margin of quadruple *tcp* mutants (Table  
335 S1, Figure S2).

336 We focused then on the genes that were enriched in the margins of both wild-type  
337 and *tcp* quadruple mutant leaves, suggesting that the expression of these genes will be at least  
338 partially independent of the miR319-regulated TCPs. Interestingly, among the total of 31 genes  
339 (Table 1), we found eight transcription factors belonging to the groups of *NGA*, *STY* and *CIN*-  
340 LIKE TCPs. More specifically, we identified *NGA1*, *NGA3*, *STY1*, *STY2* and *SHI-RELATED*  
341 *SEQUENCE 4* as well as the three *CIN*-LIKE TCPs *TCP5*, *TCP13* and *TCP17* to be enriched in  
342 both, wild-type and mutant margins (Table 1). Interesting was also the identification of the  
343 auxin biosynthesis gene *YUCCA2* as margin enriched, as it is thought to be regulated by *NGAs*  
344 (Trigueros et al., 2009). The *STY* gene family consists of eight members, three of which we  
345 determined to be margin enriched. Noteworthy, some of these genes have already been  
346 described to play a role in margin development either of the gynoecium or the leaf. So have  
347 multiple *sty* mutants and plants with reduced *NGA* activity stronger serrated leaves than  
348 wildtype (Kuusk et al., 2002; Kuusk et al., 2006; Alvarez et al., 2009).

349 We suggest that at least part of the identified group of 31 genes that continued to be  
350 expressed in the margins of the *tcp* mutants likely represent pathways that are involved in  
351 margin development in a manner independent of miR319 regulated TCPs. This would also be in  
352 agreement with the additive or synergistic effects observed in margin development when  
353 overexpressing miR319 and simultaneously decreasing other *CIN*-like TCPs (Efroni et al., 2008)  
354 or *NGA* genes (Alvarez et al., 2016). Still, several of these genes quantitatively decrease in *tcp*  
355 mutants (Table 1), suggesting that complex regulatory networks might exist that relate these  
356 transcription factors. In good agreement, *NGA2* was enriched in the margins of the quadruple  
357 knockout compared to its blade region, albeit its level of expression was decreased (Table S7).

358

### 359 **Vasculature development is impaired in the *tcp2 tcp3 tcp4 tcp10* mutant**

360 In the analysis of the RNAseq experiments we also observed that several genes related to  
361 auxin biosynthesis or signaling were downregulated in the margins of the *tcp2 tcp3 tcp4 tcp10*  
362 mutant, including 19 *SMALL AUXIN UPREGULATED RNA* genes and eight *INDOLE-3-ACETIC ACID*  
363 *INDUCIBLE* genes (Table S2). Auxin is known to play an important role in the establishment of  
364 the vasculature (Scarpella et al., 2006) and observations of alterations in the vasculature  
365 organization have also been reported in studies with TCP3-SRDX constructs (Li and Zachgo,  
366 2013). We analyzed the venation patterns in the *tcp2 tcp4* double and *tcp2 tcp3 tcp4 tcp10*  
367 quadruple mutants compared to wildtype. In the Columbia wildtype cotyledon we usually  
368 observed one midvein and secondary vein loops parting from it, generating four areoles  
369 (Figure 6). In the *tcp2 tcp4* and *tcp2 tcp3 tcp4 tcp10* mutants we observed significant  
370 occurrence of distal pegs, ectopic vein pieces distal from the closing loops which end  
371 unconnected and close to the distal margin of the cotyledon (Figure 6). We further observed  
372 an increased tendency for secondary veins ending unconnected and therefore not generating  
373 proximal areoles. However, the total average number of areoles was slightly higher in the  
374 quadruple mutant, due to an increased number of branchpoints (Figure 6). Furthermore, the  
375 quadruple mutant veins were often not straight but had a wiggly appearance (Figure 6 insets).

376 We also analyzed the vasculature of the first true leaf, which is more complex than that of  
377 cotyledons. We found that the numbers of branch points and areoles significantly increased in  
378 the double and quadruple mutants with respect to wildtype (Figure 6). Moreover, the  
379 vasculature per leaf area increased, and in turn decreased the average size of the areoles in  
380 double and quadruple knock outs (Figure 6). Taken together these data demonstrated that the  
381 *tcp2 tcp3 tcp4 tcp10* leaf had a more extended vascular system than wildtype, and that these  
382 differences are already seen between wildtype and *tcp2 tcp4* double mutants.

383

384

### 385 **Discussion**

386 In this study, we analyzed the effects of reduced TCP activity on different domains of the  
387 growing leaf. We employed a set of cumulative single and multiple mutants with decreasing  
388 TCP levels focusing on *tcp2 tcp4* double mutants that have large flat leaves and *tcp2 tcp3 tcp4*  
389 *tcp10* quadruple mutants with strongly crinkled organs. We dissected the leaf center and  
390 marginal regions. In a first step our analyses revealed many genes that were enriched in either  
391 margins or central areas of developing wildtype Arabidopsis leaves. In subsequent analyses of

392 the *tcp* double and quadruple mutant samples we identified both, organ-wide and margin  
393 specific effects of the *TCPs*. Most conspicuously, cell proliferation genes were significantly  
394 upregulated only in the margins of the *tcp* mutants.

395

### 396 **Spatial control of gene expression by TCP transcription factors**

397 Leaf size initially increased with loss of TCP activity. However, it did not continue to increase  
398 steadily in triple and quadruple knockouts, but rather stagnated. Leaves from quadruple *tcp*  
399 mutants were smaller than those from double mutants and had mesophyll cells that were  
400 significantly smaller than those of their wildtype and double mutant counterparts. The  
401 reduced cell size is likely the consequence of a disturbed or delayed cell differentiation in the  
402 quadruple knock-out leaves, which is in agreement with other reports describing a role for  
403 TCPs in the control of differentiation (Efroni et al., 2008; Sarvepalli and Nath, 2011, 2011).

404 Previous work has focused on the analysis of whole leaves or transversal organ  
405 sections (Efroni et al., 2008; Li et al., 2010; Pettko-Szandtner et al., 2015), reflecting the  
406 developmental program along the proximo-distal axis of the leaf. Here, we focus on the medial  
407 to lateral axis of the organ by performing a comparative analysis of leaf margins and center  
408 regions. Using this approach, we detected large numbers of genes differentially expressed in  
409 the center or margin of the leaf. Mutations in the TCPs affected gene activity in both, the  
410 center and margin of the leaves, however, margins were much more affected even *in tcp2 tcp4*  
411 double mutants that have flat leaves, confirming a primary role of these transcription factors  
412 in the developmental control of the leaf margins. Even though *tcp* mutants have largely  
413 affected leaf margins, we detected a small group of genes that continued to be enriched in  
414 wildtype and *tcp* mutant leaf margins. Several of the margin enriched genes detected here  
415 have already been described with biological functions related to margins. They include for  
416 example eight transcription factor genes of the *CIN-like TCPs*, *NGA* and *STY* gene families and  
417 hormone biosynthetic genes such as *YUCCA2*. Downregulation of the *CIN-like TCPs TCP5*,  
418 *TCP13* and *TCP17* has been shown to synergistically enhance the effects of miR319-regulated  
419 TCPs in the control of leaf growth (Efroni et al., 2008). *NGA* and *STY* genes have been known to  
420 be important in the generation of margins, initially of the gynoecium but also in leaf  
421 development. They influence organ shape, as seen in *sty1 sty2* double knock outs, as well as  
422 quadruple *nga1 nga2 nga3 nga4* knock outs, which also have leaves that are larger and more  
423 serrated than wild type. In contrast, over-expressors of *STY1* or *NGA* genes have smooth leaf  
424 margins (Kuusk et al., 2002; Alvarez et al., 2009; Trigueros et al., 2009; Lee et al., 2015). *NGA*

425 genes also seem to regulate *YUCCA2* (Trigueros et al., 2009), which we identified to be margin  
426 enriched. Recently, a combined knockdown of miR319 regulated *TCPs* and *NGA* genes has  
427 been shown to have a dramatic additive effect on leaf development with undetermined  
428 growth of the margins (Alvarez et al., 2016). In this elegant study it was concluded that  
429 miR319-regulated *TCPs* and *NGAs* are working redundantly in the inhibition of meristematic  
430 activity in the leaf margins and its proximal part. It may be plausible to think that simultaneous  
431 down-regulation of the margin enriched genes identified here together with the miR319-  
432 regulated *TCPs* would also cause synergistic effects in margin development. Furthermore, it is  
433 worthwhile to note that all three group of transcription factors have not only be implied in leaf  
434 development, affecting shape and vasculature, but also in gynoecium or fruit development,  
435 suggesting that indeed they may be able to entertain close interactions (Palatnik et al., 2003;  
436 Kuusk et al., 2006; Martinez-Fernandez et al., 2014).

437         The origination of the vascular pattern in the leaf is closely related to the  
438 establishment of leaf shape and to the presence of auxin convergence points in the leaf  
439 margins (Scarpella et al., 2006; Scarpella et al., 2010). Therefore, disturbed margin  
440 development may go hand in hand with defects in auxin signaling or biosynthesis and may be  
441 the reason for the observed alterations in the *tcp* mutants vasculature.

442         A careful analysis of the group of downregulated genes in the *tcp* mutant margins  
443 compared to the center samples revealed that it contained many genes related to  
444 photosynthesis. This is in contrast to what is seen in wildtype where in general photosynthesis  
445 related genes were expressed at higher levels in the margins than in the center region of the  
446 leaf. We visualized by confocal microscopy that the distribution of chlorophyll in the leaf was  
447 as predicted by the transcriptome analysis and confirmed a delayed maturation of the  
448 photosynthetic apparatus in the *tcp2 tcp3 tcp4 tcp10* leaf, especially in the marginal regions.

449         Simultaneous downregulation of miR319 regulated *TCPs* and *NGA* genes results in  
450 strongly crinkled leaves with white margins indicating the lack of chlorophyll (Alvarez et al.,  
451 2016). Interestingly, we observed a change in the relative expression domain of photosynthetic  
452 genes also in *tcp2 tcp4* double mutants, suggesting that TCP activity quantitatively regulates  
453 the expression of photosynthesis related genes. The activation of photosynthesis happens  
454 upon the decision of differentiation very early in leaf development, and chloroplast  
455 differentiation is linked to the control of cell proliferation (Andriankaja et al., 2012). Therefore,  
456 a delay in the activation of photosynthesis related genes upon the reduction or lack of TCP  
457 activity aids further into the role of the *TCPs* as coordinators of cell proliferation and  
458 differentiation with specific roles in the medial-lateral axis of the leaf blade. Our results are

459 also in agreement with earlier observations which indicated that TCPs trigger the  
460 differentiation of leaf cells (Efroni et al., 2008).

461         Although the *NGA* genes were identified as margin enriched genes in wild-type and in  
462 *tcp2 tcp3 tcp4 tcp10* margins the expression levels of all detected *NGA* genes were reduced in  
463 the double and quadruple *tcp* mutant samples compared to wildtype in both center and  
464 marginal regions. These results are consistent with previous data showing that TCP2 and TCP3  
465 can bind to a conserved promoter element of all *NGA* genes in yeast experiments and also to  
466 the *NGA3* promoter in transient *Nicotiana benthamiana* assays and activate it (Ballester et al.,  
467 2015). Overall, the results suggest that the microRNA regulated TCPs partially control *NGA*  
468 expression, both in the center and margins of the leaf (our results, (Ballester et al., 2015)), and  
469 that the two groups of transcription factors synergistically control margin development  
470 (Alvarez et al., 2016). The margin specific *STY* genes did not show a uniform downregulation in  
471 the *tcp* knock out samples which suggests that their functions in margin development might be  
472 less connected to the *TCPs* than those of the *NGAs*.

473

### 474 **Margin-specific control of cell proliferation by miR319-regulated TCPs**

475         While previous transcriptomic analyses did not detect changes in the expression of cell  
476 cycle genes upon overexpression of miR319 (Efroni et al., 2008; Schommer et al., 2008), our  
477 specific analysis of young leaf margins identified a major up-regulation of genes known to  
478 participate in cell proliferation in the *tcp* mutants. An analysis for GO term enrichment in the  
479 *tcp2 tcp3 tcp4 tcp10* margin samples resulted in rankings with GO terms related to cell cycle  
480 and microtubule based processes being the top overrepresented groups.

481         An interaction between the TCP network and the cell cycle machinery, with other  
482 factors involved in the control of plant age has been suggested. Recent results point towards  
483 the TCPs interacting with SQUAMOSA PROMOTER BINDING PROTEIN-LIKE transcription factors  
484 (Rubio-Somoza et al., 2014), which might provide further explanations for different effects of  
485 the TCPs in different leaves. Analysis of a *CYCLINB1;1* reporter revealed changes in its  
486 expression pattern that were dependent on the point of appearance of the leaf during the  
487 plants ontogeny. Leaves of plants overexpressing miR319 and of *tcp2 tcp3 tcp4 tcp10* knock  
488 outs that are produced later in plant life history have strong crinkles at their margins in  
489 addition to a general change in leaf curvature. In the first pair of true leaves, we found that cell  
490 proliferation was extended towards the margins and detectable for a longer period of time,  
491 similar to what has been described in previous studies (Nath et al., 2003; Efroni et al., 2008).

492 However, in higher order leaves we observed that cell proliferation was maintained in discrete  
493 *foci* along the leaf margins, until later stages of leaf development. We propose that these *foci*  
494 are responsible for the localized generation of extra cells that cause the conspicuous  
495 phenotype of crinkled leaves as observed in adult plants with low TCP activity due to the  
496 overexpression of miR319 or loss of function of multiple *TCP* genes.

497 The changes in cell proliferation observed in the margins of plants with very low TCP  
498 activity are consistent with a role of the miR319-regulated TCPs in the control of the marginal  
499 meristem of the leaf (Donnelly et al., 1999; Alvarez et al., 2016). However, despite their  
500 prominent effects on margin development the TCPs do have functions in the control of cell  
501 proliferation in the leaf blade. Leaves of the single and double knock outs that do not obviously  
502 change their morphological appearance are larger than wild-type leaves. Furthermore, the  
503 snap dragon *cincinnata* mutant has been described to show bulky growth of the intervein  
504 sections (Nath et al., 2003) which might suggest that also in the leaf blade some cells remain  
505 with mitotic activity that should have ceased to proliferate to achieve the neutral curvature of  
506 the blade.

507 That *TCP2*, *TCP3*, *TCP4*, and *TCP10* were not identified as margin-enriched genes, hints  
508 that their tissue-specific effects may not be directly achieved through their transcriptional  
509 regulation. Recent studies show that TCPs can interact and form protein complexes with other  
510 transcription factors. In a global analysis where dimerization abilities of all Arabidopsis TCP  
511 family members were tested by yeast two hybrid assays, it turned out that miR319 regulated  
512 TCPs have a strong tendency to hetero-dimerize with TCP5, TCP13 and TCP17 (Danisman et al.,  
513 2013). Curiously, the transcripts of these exact three members of the TCP family were  
514 identified in our analyses to be margin enriched. It might be that heterodimers between the  
515 miR319 regulated TCPs and the closely related TCP5, 13 and 17 are necessary to guarantee  
516 normal leaf development in the margins. In addition, it has been suggested that changes in leaf  
517 morphogenesis during the plant life cycle can be achieved by competition of transcription  
518 factor complexes between TCPs, members of the SQUAMOSA PROMOTER BINDING PROTEIN-  
519 LIKE and CUC transcription factor families. The function of TCPs may be to sequester CUC2 and  
520 CUC3 proteins in order to avoid functional CUC dimers to build (Rubio-Somoza et al., 2014),  
521 with CUC2 especially being expressed in the marginal leaf regions (Nikovics et al., 2006).  
522 Furthermore, TCP4 interacts with other proteins like TCP INTERACTOR CONTAINING EAR  
523 MOTIF PROTEIN 1 which then leads to the establishment of functional complexes that regulate  
524 transcription (Tao et al., 2013). TCP4 has also been shown to interact with chromatin  
525 remodeling complexes harboring BRHAMA ATPases (Efroni et al., 2013). Taken together, it



526 seems possible that the formation of different protein complexes may be one of the ways in  
527 which the TCPs achieve their various ways of action throughout the plants lifecycle and in  
528 different regions of the leaf.

529

530

531

### 532 **Materials and Methods**

533

#### 534 **Plant Material**

535 *Arabidopsis thaliana* accession Columbia (Col-0) wildtype and mutants were grown at 23°C in  
536 long day conditions (16h light/8h dark). *tcp2*, *tcp4* and *tcp10* insertional mutants and the  
537 cyclinB reporter have been described in earlier work (Schommer et al., 2008; Rodriguez et al.,  
538 2010). The *tcp3* insertional mutant was obtained from ABRC, stock number: CS855978.

539

#### 540 **Measurements of Leaf Size**

541 Leaves were detached and mounted between two glass plates before photographing with  
542 illumination from below. Leaf circumferences were calculated with ImageJ software and the  
543 folded areas that were identified by darker color in the image were calculated  
544 correspondingly.

545

#### 546 **Measurement of Cell Size and Number and Observation of Vasculature**

547 To obtain paradermal views of palisade cells, leaves were fixed with FAA and cleared with  
548 chloral hydrate solution as described (Horiguchi et al., 2005). Palisade leaf cells were observed  
549 using differential interference contrast (DIC) microscopy.

550

#### 551 **β-glucuronidase assays**

552 To visualize the activity of the reporters, transgenic plants were subjected to GUS staining,  
553 according to Donnelly et al. (Donnelly et al., 1999). Stained tissue was transferred to 70%  
554 EtOH.

555

### 556 RNA-Seq experiments

557 For this experiment seeds were surface sterilized sown on plates with MS-Agar medium and  
558 stratified for at least 2 days. To synchronize the developmental stage of the three genotypes at  
559 tissue collection, an offset of 2 days was generated before placing in the greenhouse the plates  
560 of the next plant line, starting with *tcp2 tcp3 tcp4 tcp10* and ending with Col-0. Once in the  
561 greenhouse, plates were grown at 23°C in long day conditions (16h light/8h dark) for 5 days, at  
562 which point seedlings were transplanted to individual soil pots. At emergence of the 7<sup>th</sup> leaf,  
563 the 5<sup>th</sup> leaf of each plant was harvested at Zeitgeber time (ZT) 6, dissected on a cold plate into  
564 “Center” and “Margin” samples as shown in Figure 2, and transferred to separate tubes  
565 containing 200ul of RNALater™ solution (Ambion #AM7020). Each “Center” and “Margin”  
566 sample consisted of the center and margin portions respectively of the 5<sup>th</sup> leaf of 15-20  
567 different individual plants. This was performed by quadruplicates for each line. After tissue  
568 harvest, RNALater™ was removed by placing the contents of each tube on a piece of sterile  
569 absorbent paper, and the sample was immediately flash frozen in liquid nitrogen. Total RNA  
570 was extracted using TRIzol™ (Invitrogen #15596-018), treated with Turbo™ DNase (Ambion  
571 #AM2238), and re-purified by Phenol-Chloroform-Isoamyl Alcohol (25:24:1, v/v) extraction.  
572 Total RNA integrity was confirmed on the BioAnalyzer™ (Agilent). Barcoded libraries were  
573 constructed using the Illumina TruSeq™ RNA kit with an average of 1 µg of total RNA as  
574 starting material. Library quality was monitored on the BioAnalyzer™ and then sequenced as  
575 100-bp single end reads using an Illumina HiSeq™ sequencer. Resulting RNA-Seq raw data was  
576 processed as described elsewhere (Anders et al., 2013) and differential expression assessed  
577 with edgeR v.3.8.6 (Robinson et al., 2010). Differentially expressed genes were selected based  
578 on a minimum fold-change of ±2 and a FDR < 0.01 (False Discovery Rate, i.e. p-value adjusted  
579 for multiple testing with the Benjamini-Hochberg procedure). GO analysis was performed with  
580 AGRIGO (Du et al., 2010; Tian et al., 2017). Functional enrichments were visualized with  
581 MAPMAN (Thimm et al., 2004).

582

583

### 584 Supplemental Information

585

#### 586 Supplemental Figure 1

587 M (‘minus’) vs. A (‘add’) plots for RNAseq data.

#### 588 Supplemental Figure 2

589 Center and Margin enriched transcripts.

#### 590 Supplemental Table S1

591 Center and Margin enriched genes.

#### 592 Supplemental Table S2

593 Downregulated Genes in *tcp* mutants.

594 **Supplemental Table S3**

595 Identification of GGACCA boxes in downregulated genes.

596 **Supplemental Table S4**

597 GO-term enrichment analysis in center and marginal parts of *tcp* mutants.

598 **Supplemental Table S5**

599 Upregulated Genes in *tcp* mutants.

600 **Supplemental Table S6**

601 Mitosis and early leaf development associated genes in *tcp* mutants.

602 **Supplemental Table S7**

603 Expression levels of *NGA* and *STY* genes.

604

605

606 **Accession Numbers**

607 The RNAseq data discussed in this publication have been deposited in NCBI's Gene Expression

608 Omnibus (Edgar et al., 2002) and are accessible through GEO Series accession number

609 GSE99854 (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/geo/query/acc.cgi?acc=GSE99854>).

610

611 **Acknowledgements:** RNAseq experiments were carried out in Detlef Weigel's lab under the

612 supervision of N. Rubio-Somoza and with the help of C. Becker. We thank members of the RNA

613 Biology lab for critical discussions.

614 **Table 1. Expression levels of margin specific genes independent of TCP activity. Expression values of double and quadruple knock out centers**  
 615 **and margins are expressed as normalized counts per million (CPM) and fold change of margin samples compared to center samples. n/d: not**  
 616 **detected; n/s: non-significant.**

617

618

Transcription Factors	normalized counts per million			normalized counts per million			Fold-change (FC)		
	Center			Margin			Margin/Center		
	WT	2KO	4KO	WT	2KO	4KO	WT	2KO	4KO
AT1G01030 NGA3	2.80±0.38	1.31±0.86	0.51±0.09	6.79±0.82	5.01±0.64	3.43±0.91	2,41	4,16	6,49
AT2G18120 SRS4	0.81±0.07	0.92±0.39	1.26±0.32	2.25±0.52	2.26±0.67	4.04±0.73	2,78	n/s	3,15
AT2G46870 NGA1	8.77±1.10	4.43±1.33	2.47±0.90	25.54±2.62	18.93±2.09	13.2±0.46	2,92	4,45	5,33
AT3G02150 TCP13	5.79±1.52	5.97±1.53	5.04±1.44	12.19±2.24	13.34±1.10	10.75±2.04	2,11	2,19	2,09
AT3G51060 STY1	0.12±0.00	0.09±0.09	n/d	1.18±0.39	1.24±0.52	0.47±0.10	8,45	11.60	39,15
AT4G36260 STY2	0.16±0.31	0.04±0.07	0.31±0.31	2.23±0.88	1.85±0.20	3.44±1.13	12,25	30,58	10,81
AT5G08070 TCP17	1.46±0.24	1.01±0.52	1.52±0.69	4.34±0.68	4.59±0.69	4.45±0.60	2,95	4.30	2,94
AT5G60970 TCP5	4.99±0.50	4.93±0.53	5.53±1.56	11.73±2.31	13.31±1.93	14.05±1.35	2,32	2,62	2,58

#### Hormones and Metabol.

Pectin lyase									
AT1G56710 superfam.	0.08±0.16	0.04±0.07	0.13±0.19	2.69±0.75	3.01±1.99	0.92±0.33	27,44	50,85	6,17
AT1G70560 CKRC1	3.09±0.20	2.82±0.45	1.51±0.38	13.77±0.19	9.17±1.60	5.77±1.03	4,45	3,35	3,78
AT2G04160 AIR3	10.50±1.78	5.93±0.79	0.67±0.31	53.78±8.03	26.16±2.61	3.35±0.53	5,09	4,44	5,03
AT2G23170 GH3.3	0.20±0.16	0.20±0.29	1.36±0.32	1.23±0.79	0.27±0.26	4.37±0.86	5,72	n/s	3,12
AT2G43840 UGT74F1	1.42±0.41	0.97±0.35	0.54±0.03	3.56±0.22	1.54±0.43	1.59±0.44	2.50	n/s	2.90
AT3G13380 BRL3	4.74±1.56	4.48±1.40	2.58±0.82	10.09±2.46	7.36±0.97	5.26±0.15	2,13	n/s	2,02
AT4G13260 YUC2	2.35±0.44	2.21±1.23	1.28±0.44	8.06±1.22	6.71±0.96	4.81±0.31	3,38	3.20	3,79
AT5G26220 GGCT2;1	1.02±0.66	3.49±2.98	1.46±0.65	4.55±1.91	7.08±4.55	6.83±3.32	4,43	n/s	4,67
AT5G28030 DES1	2.76±0.51	1.84±0.21	0.58±0.27	15.33±4.13	11.13±0.41	5.63±1.33	5,49	5,98	9,43
AT5G59130 Subtilase fam.	15.83±0.21	18.76±4.4	12.99±3.19	34.49±3.43	39.81±3.05	30.67±3.51	2,18	2,14	2,37

## Spatial control of gene expression by TCPs

### Transport related

AT1G74810	BOR5	5.28±1.11	7.87±0.34	9.96±2.35	11.43±0.83	13.87±1.1	20.41±0.66	2,15	1,75	2.10
AT2G36590	PROT3	3.97±0.30	3.24±0.49	2.35±0.70	10.30±0.56	6.95±2.13	5.28±1.23	2,59	2,11	2,21
AT4G24120	YSL1	7.14±1.58	6.17±0.93	4.98±1.94	14.61±6.32	18.42±1.55	10.61±1.42	2,03	2,96	2,08
AT5G17700	MATE efflux fam.	16.59±3.74	16.27±2.94	6.13±1.85	43.7±1.04	50.25±7.07	19.62±3.36	2,64	3,14	3,25
AT5G50790	SWEET10	0.61±0.23	0.43±0.27	0.14±0.07	2.00±0.55	3.42±0.83	1.85±0.57	3,29	7,08	12,71
AT5G55930	OPT1	9.00±3.88	7.36±1.61	4.18±0.75	23.03±5.30	19.51±1.28	9.59±1.31	2,57	2,61	2,28

### Others

AT1G22900	Disease resist.- respons.	0.12±0.24	0.15±0.04	0.14±0.28	6.15±0.12	5.00±0.48	1.16±0.79	44,65	32,28	7,97
AT2G47880	Glutaredoxin fam.	2.68±1.56	3.13±1.51	0.77±0.11	30.60±5.42	26.33±6.45	2.16±0.12	11,39	8,63	2,84
AT3G05730	unknown	15.44±3.12	4.55±2.44	4.39±3.06	652.26±60.06	341.85±26.96	11.08±1.97	42,17	76,86	2,52
AT3G09520	EXO70H4	3.21±0.94	3.61±1.14	3.11±0.57	7.41±1.86	6.13±1.39	7.72±1.50	2,33	n/s	2,44
AT3G16120	Dyn.light chain t1 fam.	0.97±0.12	1.18±0.44	1.64±0.50	2.66±0.76	3.79±0.76	5.71±0.75	2,76	3,26	3.40
AT3G16660	Pollen Ole e 1	1.58±0.15	0.36±0.19	0.65±0.53	69.08±5.14	36.25±3.71	3.27±0.41	43,25	93,08	5.20
AT5G37540	Euk. Asp. protease fam.	2.68±0.41	2.57±0.19	2.35±0.24	5.86±1.80	5.67±1.97	5.84±1.13	2,21	2.10	2,48

619

620

621 **Figure Legends**

622

623 **Figure 1.** Effects of decreasing TCP levels on leaf size and shape. A, Four weeks old rosettes of  
624 Arabidopsis plants with decreased levels of TCP activity. B, Disassembled rosettes of indicated  
625 genotypes. C, Leaf area of leaf number one and two of the indicated genotypes. Marked in orange the  
626 contribution of folded regions to the total leaf area (see Materials and Methods). D, Number of cells in  
627 the same leaves as in C. E, Cell area of the same leaves in C, asterisk indicating statistical significance of  
628 difference according to  $p < 0.01$  by Student's t-test. F, Cleared and flattened leaves of the different  
629 genotypes that have reduced TCP activity. Yellow arrows indicate folded regions. Violet bars used to  
630 illustrate how leaf size and curvature develop with respect to the gradual reduction of TCP activity. The  
631 mutants *tcp2 tcp4*, *tcp2 tcp4 tcp10* and *tcp2 tcp3 tcp4 tcp10* are labelled *tcp2-4*, *tcp2-4-10* and *tcp2-3-4-*  
632 *10* respectively.

633

634 **Figure 2.** Transcriptome analysis of leaf domains of wild type and *tcp* mutants. A, Rosettes with  
635 emerging leaf number five as used for transcriptome analysis by RNAseq experiments. B, Schematic  
636 display of regions that were used as marginal and center samples to obtain RNA for the RNAseq  
637 experiments. In wild type 237 center and 141 margin enriched genes were identified. C, Graphical  
638 display as fold change of behaviour of genes that were determined in B to be margin or center enriched  
639 in wild type samples, in *tcp2 tcp4* and *tcp2 tcp3 tcp4 tcp10* mutants. The black line represents the  
640 average expression level of all margin or center enriched genes. D, Multidimensional scaling (MDS) plot  
641 for count data (all genes). Distances correspond to leading log-fold-changes between each pair of RNA  
642 samples.

643

644 **Figure 3.** Coordination of gene expression related to photosynthesis by miR319-regulated TCPs. A, Venn  
645 diagram showing the intersections of downregulated genes in margins and centers of *tcp2 tcp4* and *tcp2*  
646 *tcp3 tcp4 tcp10* compared to wildtype. B, Promoter analysis of downregulated genes in *tcp2 tcp4* and  
647 *tcp2 tcp3 tcp4 tcp10* center and margin regions for overrepresentation of TCP binding motif GGACCA. C,  
648 Graphical display of MapMan analysis of gene expression for photosynthesis related genes in *tcp2 tcp3*  
649 *tcp4 tcp10* margins compared to wildtype. D, Graphical display of relative expression changes of  
650 photosynthesis related genes between center and marginal regions in wildtype, *tcp2 tcp4* and *tcp2 tcp3*  
651 *tcp4 tcp10* as determined by RNAseq experiments. The mutants *tcp2 tcp4* and *tcp2 tcp3 tcp4 tcp10* are  
652 labelled *tcp2-4* and *tcp2-3-4-10* respectively. E, Chlorophyll content in developing young leaves as  
653 estimated by their fluorescence under a light scanning confocal microscope. Left with close up wildtype,  
654 *tcp2 tcp3 tcp4 tcp10* and close up, right. The coloured bar indicates the fluorescence intensity profile  
655 used from blue (low fluorescence) to white (high fluorescence).

656

657 **Figure 4.** Up-regulation of the leaf developmental program and mitotic genes in *tcp* mutant margins. A,  
658 Venn diagram showing the intersections of upregulated genes in margins and centers of *tcp2 tcp4* and  
659 *tcp2 tcp3 tcp4 tcp10* compared to wildtype. B, Output of gene ontology (GO) enrichment analysis for  
660 upregulated genes in *tcp2 tcp3 tcp4 tcp10* margin and center regions. C, Display of expression changes  
661 of B-type cyclin genes in *tcp2 tcp4* and *tcp2 tcp3 tcp4 tcp10* center and marginal leaf samples in RNAseq  
662 analysis. Y-axis is log fold change compared to wildtype. D, Display of expression changes of selected  
663 genes that are active in early stages of leaf development in *tcp2 tcp4* and *tcp2 tcp3 tcp4 tcp10* center and

664 marginal leaf samples. Y-axis is log of fold change of mutant samples compared to wildtype. The  
665 mutants *tcp2 tcp4* and *tcp2 tcp3 tcp4 tcp10* are labelled *tcp2-4* and *tcp2-3-4-10* respectively.

666  
667 **Figure 5.** Activation of discrete foci expressing CYCLINB1;1GUS upon TCP downregulation. A-L,  $\beta$ -  
668 glucuronidase assays. A-D,I,K young developing leaves of a CYCLINB1;1-GUS reporter line. E-H,J,L, young  
669 leaves of the same a CYCLINB1;1-GUS reporter overexpressing miR319a, resulting in crinkly leaves. A,  
670 Leaf one seven DAS. B, Leaf one nine DAS. C, Leaf one at 11 DAS. D, Leaf four, E, Leaf one of miR319  
671 overexpressor at eight DAS. F, Leaf one of miR319 overexpressor at 10 DAS. G, Leaf one of miR319  
672 overexpressor at 12 DAS. The dashed line delimits the domain containing cycling cells. H, Leaf four  
673 miR319 overexpressor. I, Leaf seven. J, Leaf seven of miR319 overexpressor. K,L More mature leaves of  
674 wildtype (K) and miR319a overexpressor (L). M, Model showing the effect of miR319 regulated TCPs on  
675 cell division in the developing leaf of wild-type (top) and *tcp* quadruple knock outs or miR319  
676 overexpressing plants (bottom). Blue dots indicate proliferating cells. Scale bars: A,E,I,J 0,2mm, B,C,F,G  
677 0,5mm, D,H,K,L 1mm.

678  
679 **Figure 6.** Modification of the venation pattern in *tcp* mutants. A-C, Cleared cotyledons of wildtype (A),  
680 *tcp2 tcp4* (B) and, *tcp2 tcp3 tcp4 tcp10* (C). D-F, Cleared first leaves of wildtype (D), *tcp2 tcp4* (E) and  
681 *tcp2 tcp3 tcp4 tcp10* (F). G, table summarizing the scored parameters describing the venation pattern.  
682 Scale bars: 1mm.

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## 686 References

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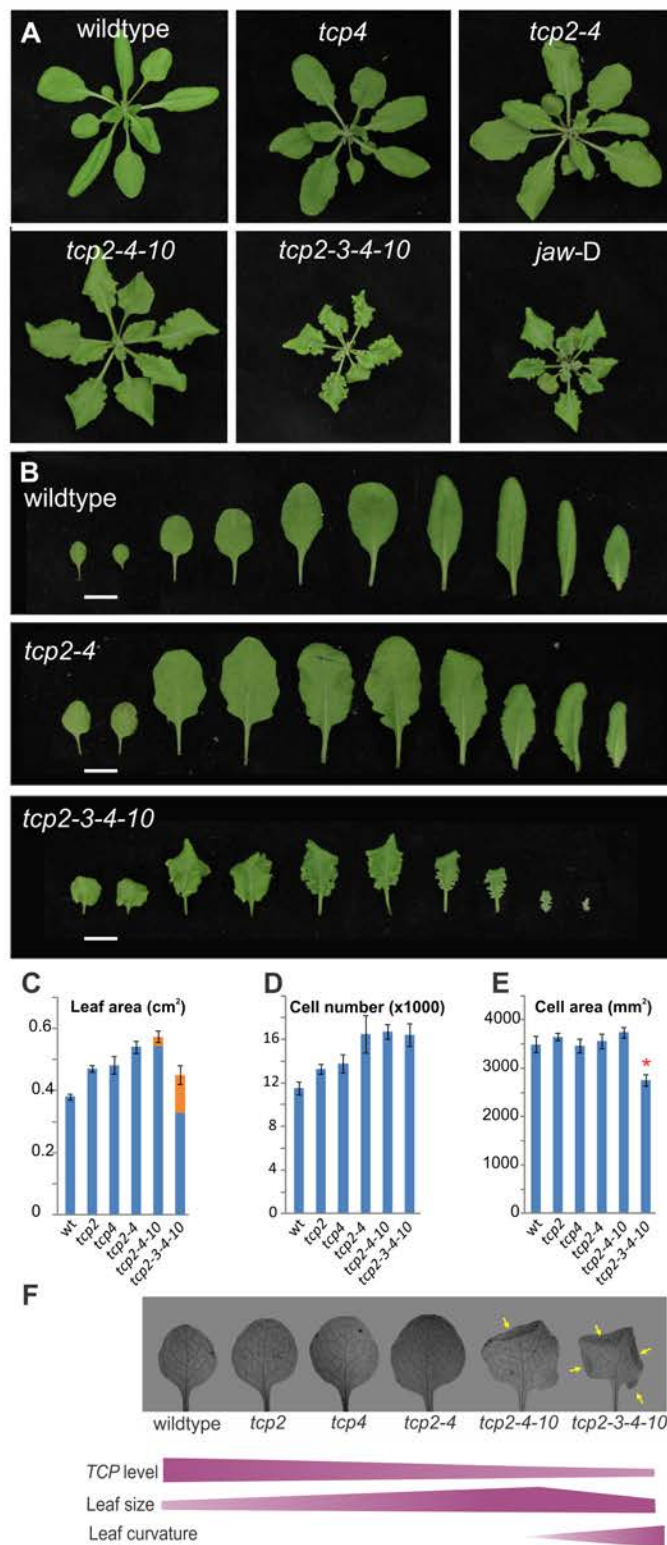
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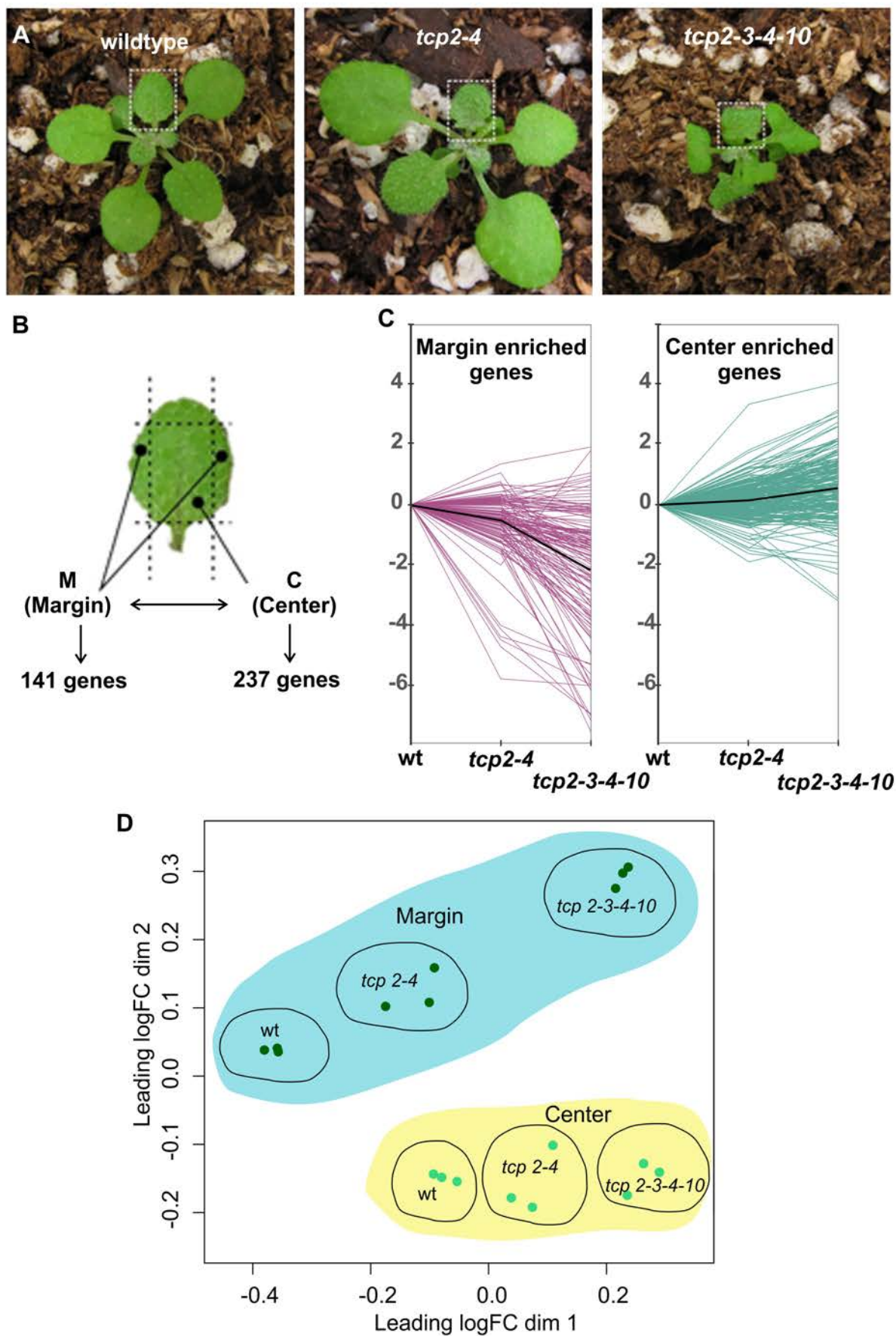
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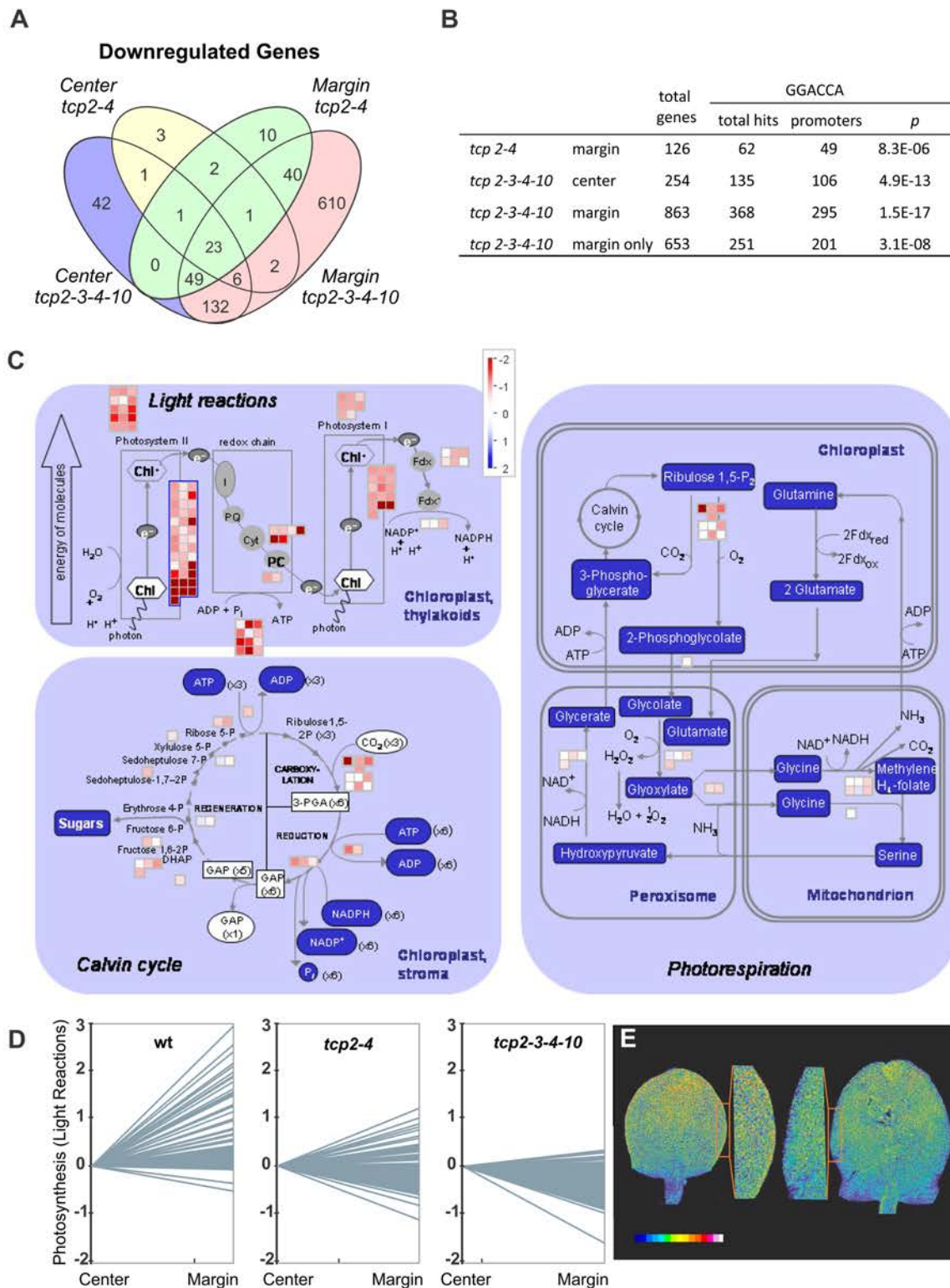


**Figure 1.** Effects of decreasing TCP levels on leaf size and shape.

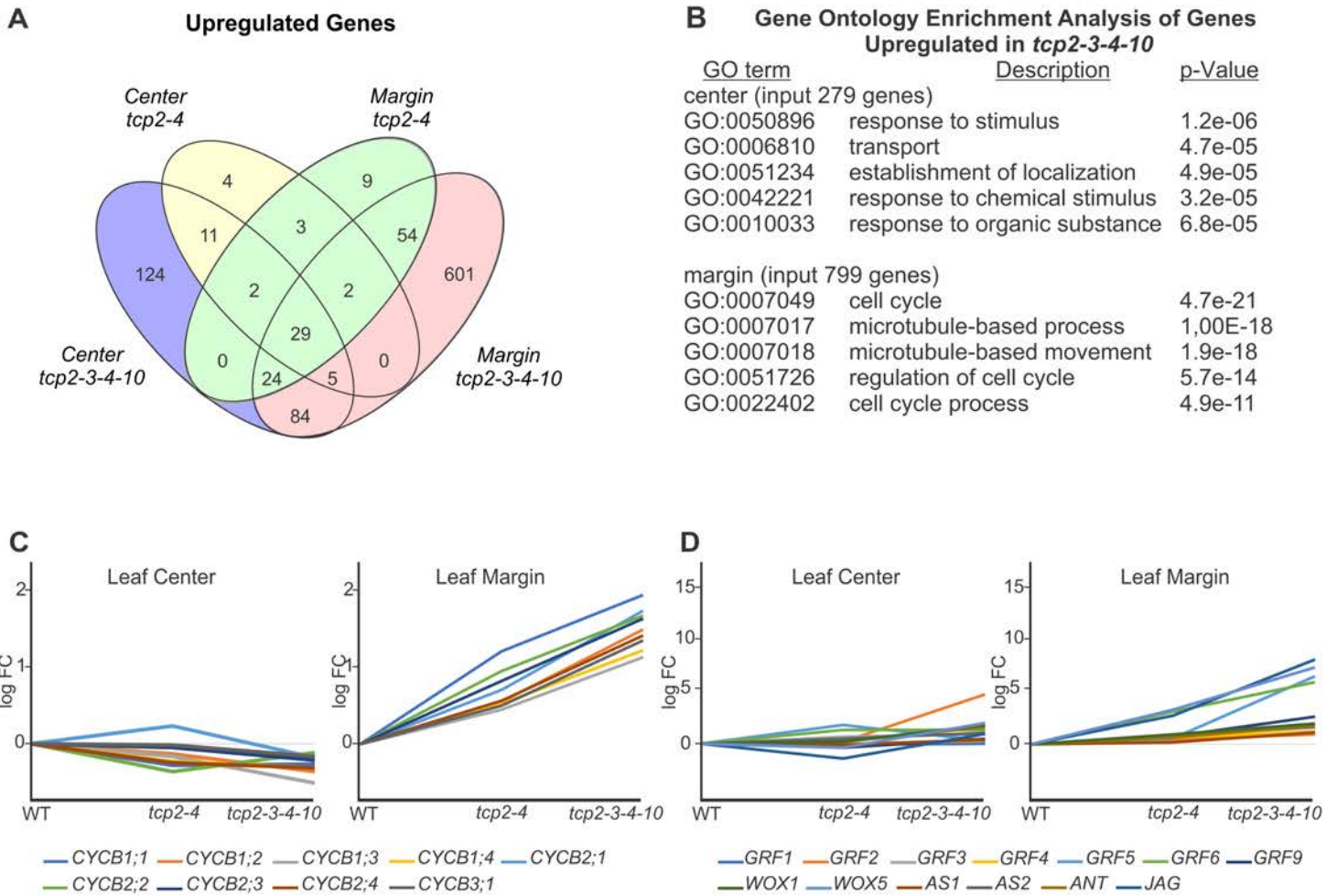
A, Four weeks old rosettes of *Arabidopsis* plants with decreased levels of TCP activity. B, Disassembled rosettes of indicated genotypes. C, Leaf area of leaf number one and two of the indicated genotypes. Marked in orange the contribution of folded regions to the total leaf area (see Materials and Methods). D, Number of cells in the same leaves as in C. E, Cell area of the same leaves in C, asterisk indicating statistical significance of difference according to  $p < 0.01$  by Student's t-test. F, Cleared and flattened leaves of the different genotypes that have reduced TCP activity. Yellow arrows indicate folded regions. Violet bars used to illustrate how leaf size and curvature develop with respect to the gradual reduction of TCP activity. The mutants *tcp2 tcp4*, *tcp2 tcp4 tcp2-4-10* respectively.



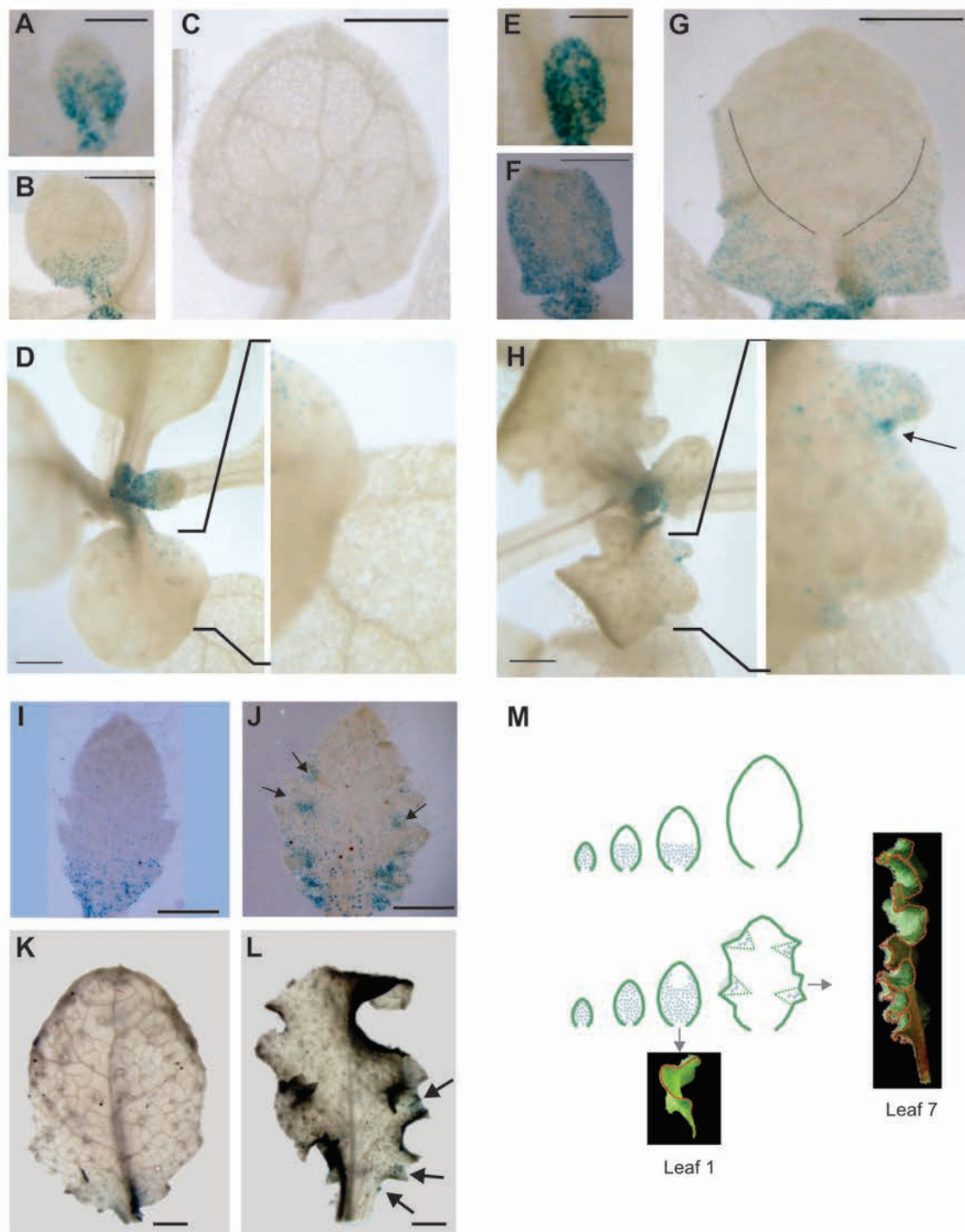
**Figure 2.** Transcriptome analysis of leaf domains of wild type and *tcp* mutants. A, Rosettes with emerging leaf number five as used for transcriptome analysis by RNAseq experiments. B, Schematic display of regions that were used as marginal and center samples to obtain RNA for the RNAseq experiments. In wild type 237 center and 141 margin enriched genes were identified. C, Graphical display as fold change of behaviour of genes that were determined in B to be margin or center enriched in wild type samples, in *tcp2 tcp4* and *tcp2 tcp3 tcp4 tcp10* mutants. The black line represents the average expression level of all margin or center enriched genes. D, Multidimensional scaling (MDS) plot for count data (all genes). Distances correspond to leading log-fold-changes between each pair of RNA samples.



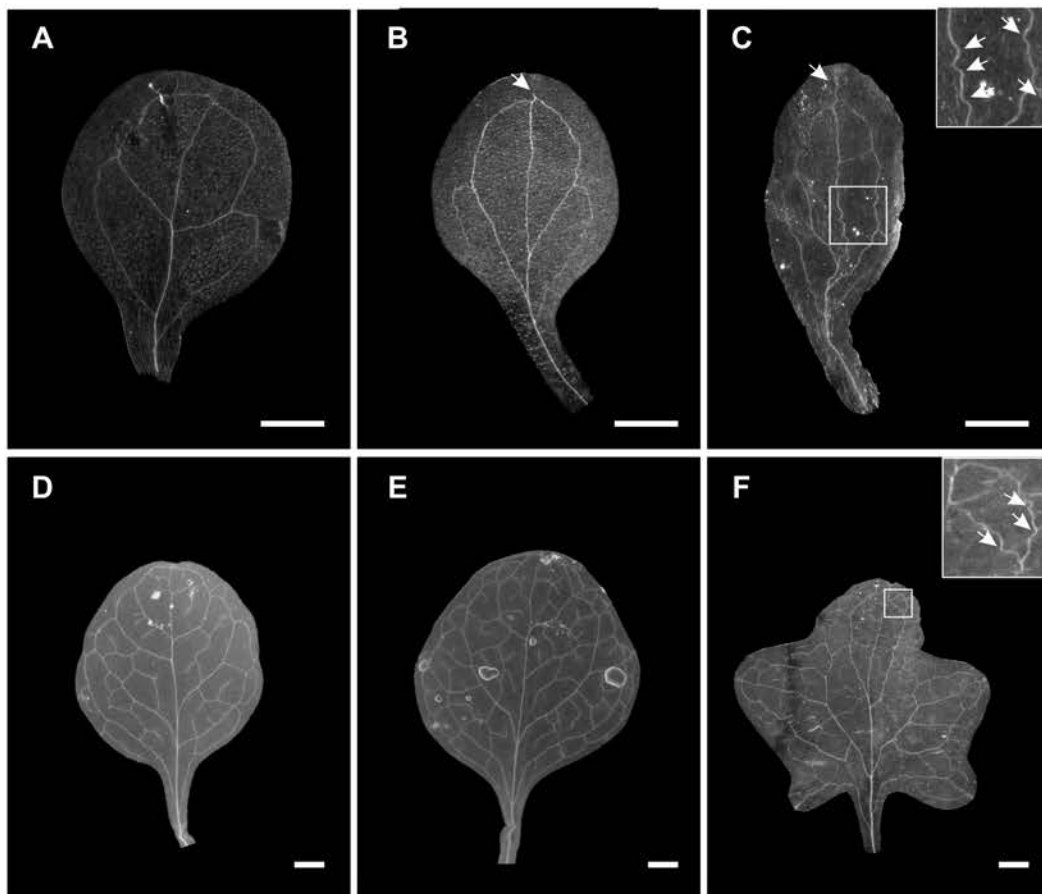
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**Figure 4.** Up-regulation of the leaf developmental program and mitotic genes in *tcp* mutant margins. A, Venn diagram showing the intersections of upregulated genes in margins and centers of *tcp2 tcp4* and *tcp2 tcp3 tcp4 tcp10* compared to wildtype. B, Output of gene ontology (GO) enrichment analysis for upregulated genes in *tcp2 tcp3 tcp4 tcp10* margin and center regions. C, Display of expression changes of B-type cyclin genes in *tcp2 tcp4* and *tcp2 tcp3 tcp4 tcp10* center and marginal leaf samples in RNAseq analysis. Y-axis is log fold change compared to wildtype. D, Display of expression changes of selected genes that are active in early stages of leaf development in *tcp2 tcp4* and *tcp2 tcp3 tcp4 tcp10* center and marginal leaf samples. Y-axis is log of fold change of mutant samples compared to wildtype. The mutants *tcp2 tcp4* and *tcp2 tcp3 tcp4 tcp10* are labelled *tcp2-4* and *tcp2-3-4-10* respectively.



**Figure 5.** Activation of discrete foci expressing CYCLINB1;1GUS upon TCP downregulation. A-L,  $\beta$ -glucuronidase assays. A-D,I,K young developing leaves of a CYCLINB1;1-GUS reporter line. E-H,J,L, young leaves of the same a CYCLINB1;1-GUS reporter overexpressing miR319a, resulting in crinkly leaves. A, Leaf one seven DAS. B, Leaf one nine DAS. C, Leaf one at 11 DAS. D, Leaf four, E, Leaf one of miR319 overexpressor at eight DAS. F, Leaf one of miR319 overexpressor at 10 DAS. G, Leaf one of miR319 overexpressor at 12 DAS. The dashed line delimits the domain containing cycling cells. H, Leaf four miR319 overexpressor. I, Leaf seven. J, Leaf seven of miR319 overexpressor. K,L More mature leaves of wildtype (K) and miR319a overexpressor (L). M, Model showing the effect of miR319 regulated TCPs on cell division in the developing leaf of wild-type (top) and *tcp* quadruple knock outs or miR319 overexpressing plants (bottom). Blue dots indicate proliferating cells. Scale bars: A,E,I,J,0,2mm, B,C,F,G,0,5mm, D,H,K,L,1mm.



### G

	Areoles	Branch Points	Secondary Veins	Distal Peg	Free Ends	
cotyledons						
wildtype	3.4 ± 0.1	4.6 ± 0.5	3.3 ± 0.2	0%	30.8%	
<i>tcp2-4</i>	2.9 ± 0.3	3.5 ± 0.3	3.1 ± 0.2	36.8%	47.4%	
<i>tcp2-3-4-10</i>	4.2 ± 0.3*	8.0 ± 0.5*	3.5 ± 0.2	85.2%	74.%	
	Areoles	Branch Points	Leaf Area (cm <sup>2</sup> )	Areole Size (cm <sup>2</sup> )	Total Length of Vasculature (cm)	Vasculature/Leaf Area (cm/cm <sup>2</sup> )
leaf one						
wildtype	22.6 ± 1.1 <sup>a</sup>	57 ± 3 <sup>a</sup>	0.39 ± 0.02 <sup>a</sup>	1.75 ± 0.1 <sup>a</sup>	8.24 ± 0.31 <sup>a</sup>	21.3 ± 0.4 <sup>a</sup>
<i>tcp2-4</i>	43.9 ± 3.4 <sup>b</sup>	112 ± 8 <sup>b</sup>	0.58 ± 0.04 <sup>b</sup>	1.33 ± 0.1 <sup>b</sup>	13.76 ± 0.81 <sup>b</sup>	23.8 ± 0.4 <sup>a</sup>
<i>tcp2-3-4-10</i>	40.7 ± 4.5 <sup>b</sup>	97 ± 6 <sup>b</sup>	0.34 ± 0.02 <sup>a</sup>	0.89 ± 0.1 <sup>c</sup>	9.63 ± 0.52 <sup>a</sup>	28.7 ± 1.5 <sup>b</sup>

**Figure 6.** Modification of the venation pattern in *tcp* mutants. A-C, Cleared cotyledons of wildtype (A), *tcp2 tcp4* (B) and, *tcp2 tcp3 tcp4 tcp10* (C). D-F, Cleared first leaves of wildtype (D), *tcp2 tcp4* (E) and *tcp2 tcp3 tcp4 tcp10* (F). G, table summarizing the scored parameters describing the venation pattern. Scale bars: 1mm.



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