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Coruzzi et al.

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(54) **PLANT GLUTAMATE RECEPTORS**

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(21) Appl. No.: **09/406,640**

(22) Filed: **Sep. 27, 1999**

Related U.S. Application Data

(60) Division of application No. 08/658,335, filed on Jun. 5, 1996, now Pat. No. 5,981,703, which is a continuation-in-part of application No. 08/629,291, filed on Apr. 8, 1996, now Pat. No. 5,959,174, which is a continuation-in-part of application No. 08/481,956, filed on Jun. 7, 1995, now Pat. No. 5,824,867.

(51) **Int. Cl.**⁷ **G01N 33/48; G01N 33/53**

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **435/7.2; 435/7.1; 435/69.1; 436/501**

(58) **Field of Search** **436/501; 435/7.1, 435/69.1, 7.2**

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(List continued on next page.)

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

The present invention relates to a family of GluR in plants, including ionotropic (iGluR), metabotropic (mGluR) and other glutamate-like plant receptors. The plant GluRs of the invention may function as signal transducers involved in the regulation of plant growth. The invention also relates to the identification of compounds that modulate the activity of the plant GluR, and the use of such compounds as plant growth regulators, including herbicides.

7 Claims, 46 Drawing Sheets

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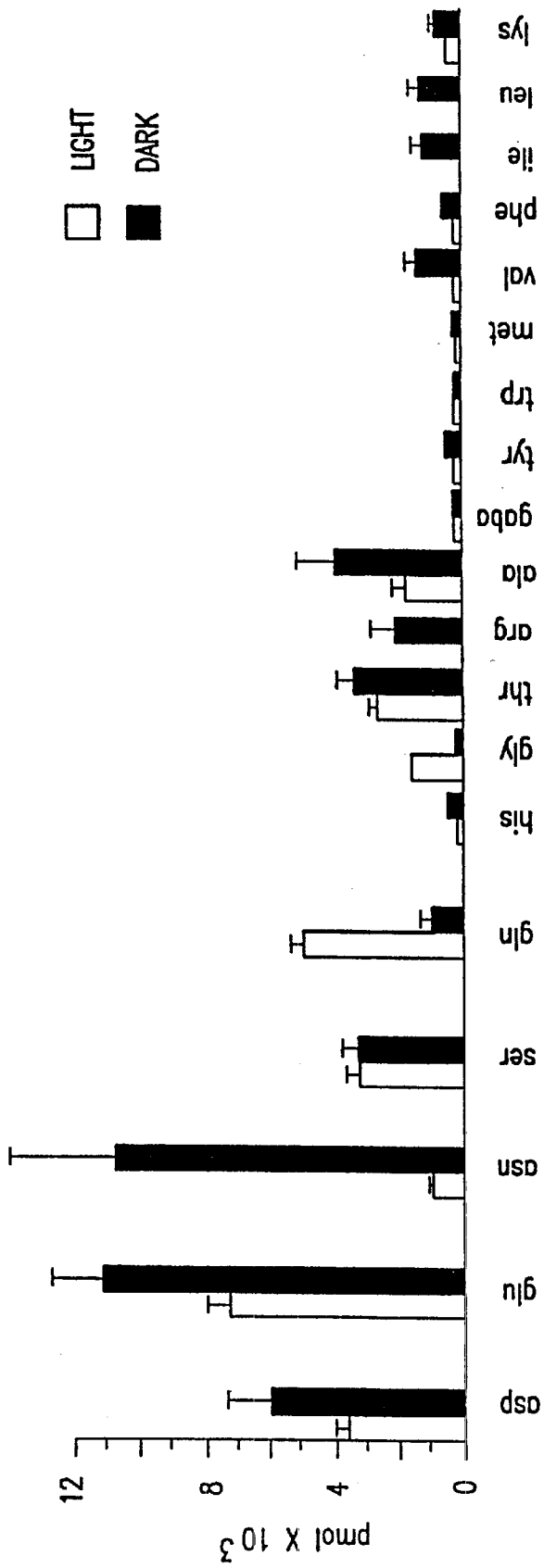


FIG.1A

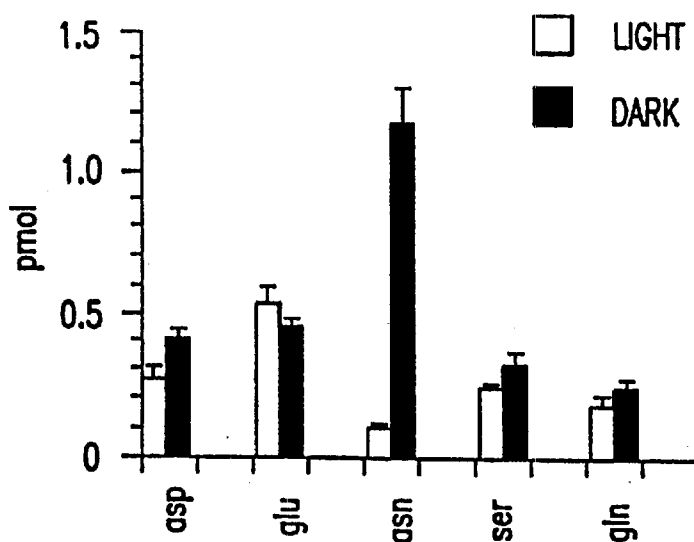


FIG.1B

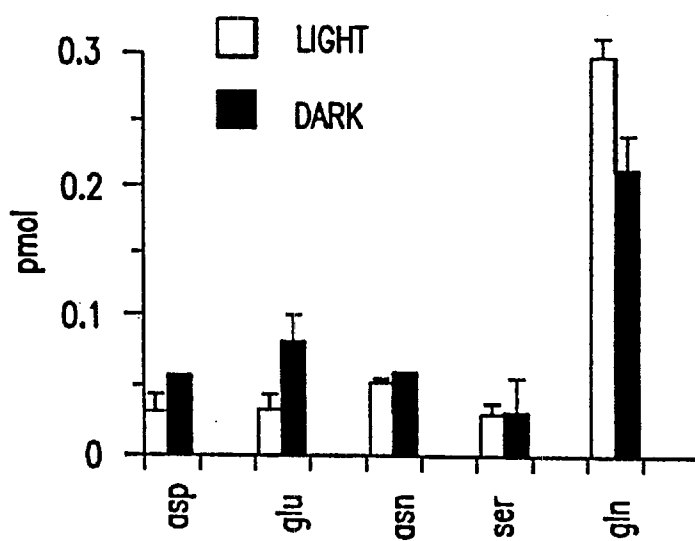


FIG.1C

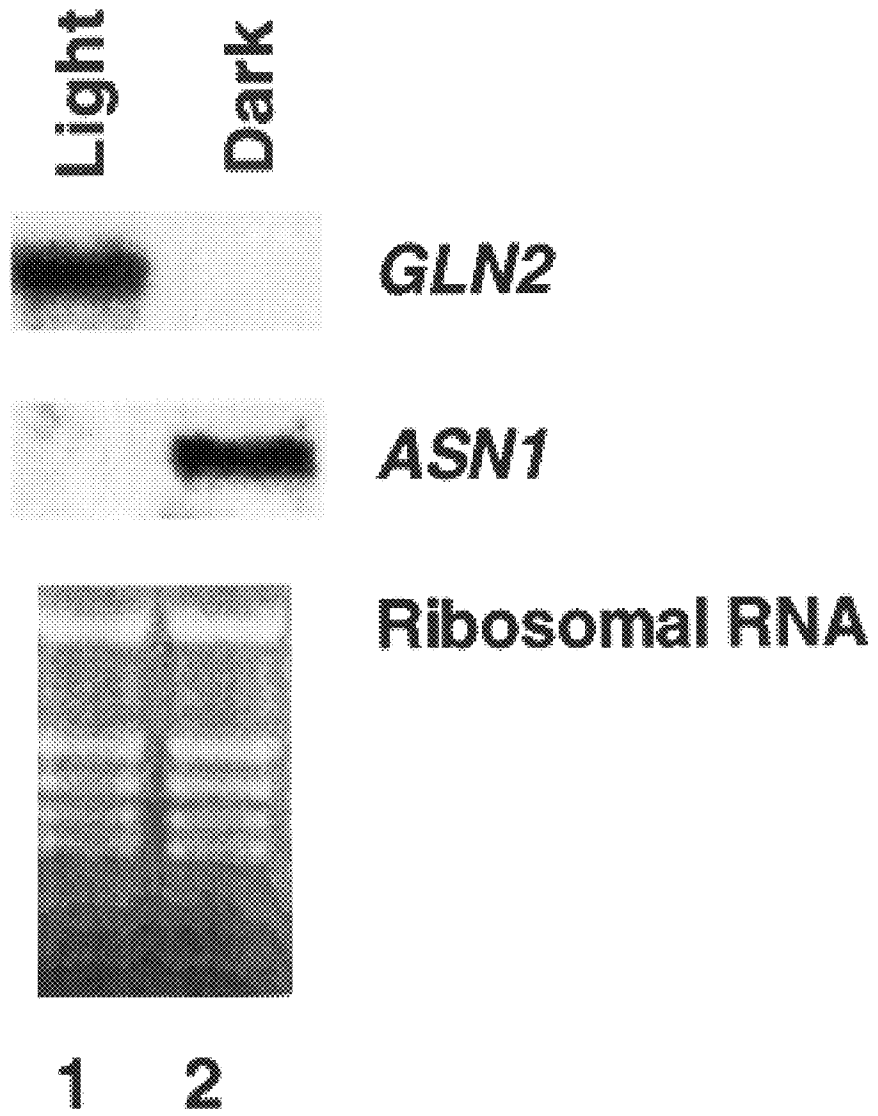


FIG. 2

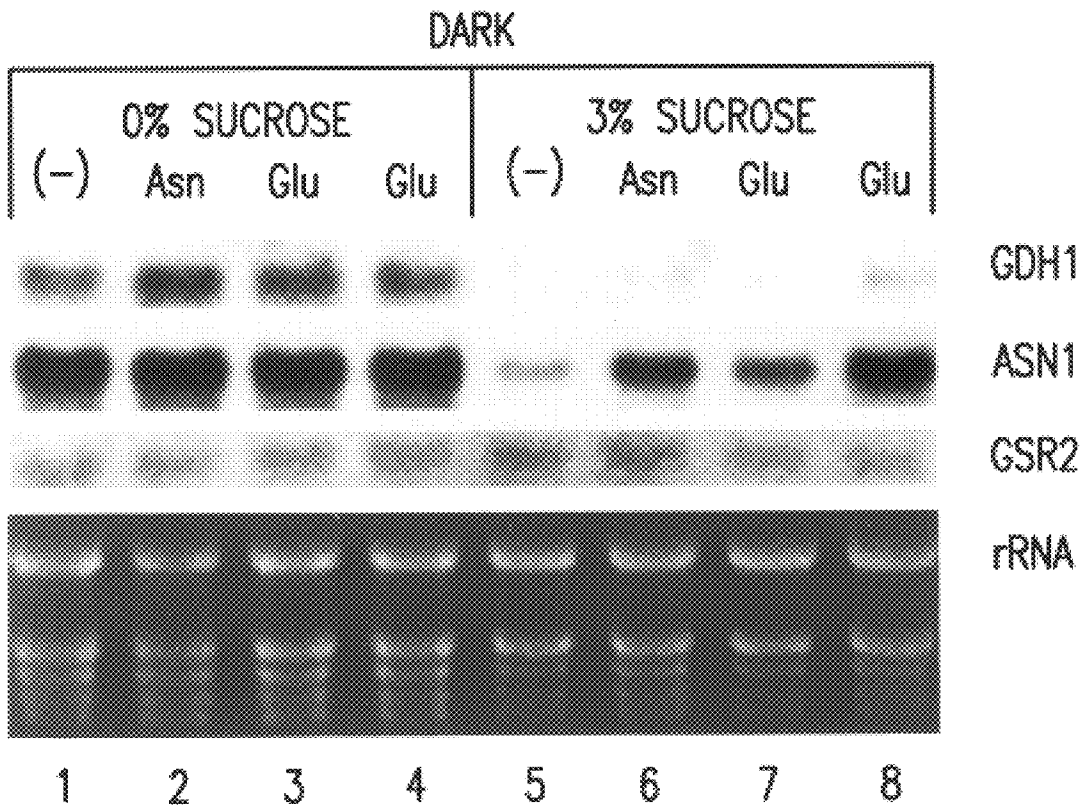


FIG.3

	Metabolic Conditions	Nitrogen Flow	Active Genes
A	LIGHT or High Sucrose → High C:N	N → Gln + Glu	GLN2, GLU1
B	DARK or Low Sucrose → Low C:N	<p>N → Gln → Asn Glu → NH₄⁺</p>	ASN1 GDH

FIG. 4

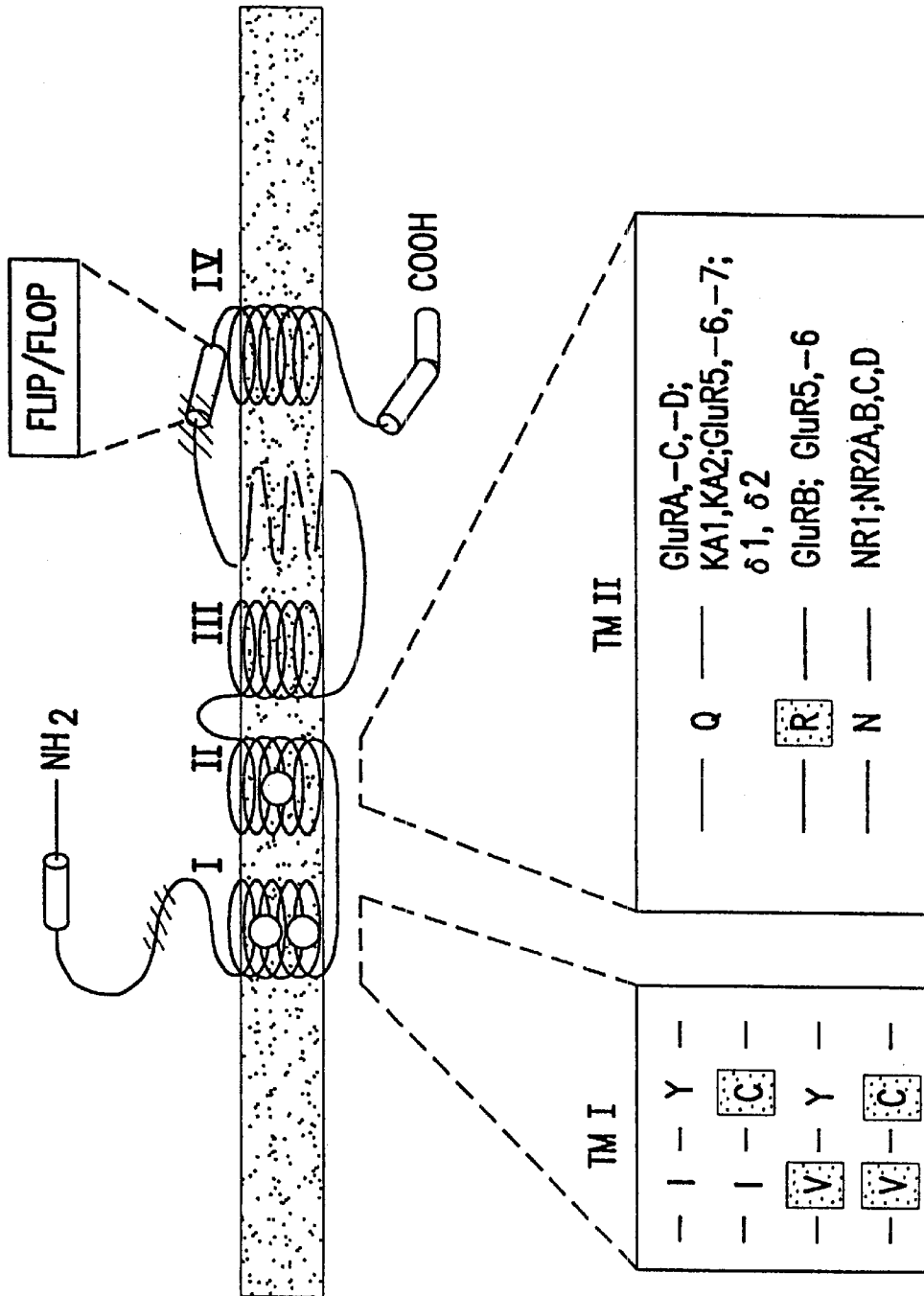


FIG. 5

BACTERIA	E. COLI GI _h H (58-98)	QTKNVDLALAGITITDERKKAIDFSDGYKSGLLVMVKANN
ANIMAL	CHICK KBP (90-130)	LRQEADIAVAPLITVSAREEVVSFTTFFLQIGIGILLRKET
	FROG KBP (89-129)	IRKEADLAIAPLITTSVRENAISFTKPFMQTIGIGILLKKDT
	RAT GI _u R-K1 (464-504)	VYGRADVAVAPLITTLVREEVIDFSKPFMSLGISIMIKKPPQ
	RAT GI _u R-K2 (470-510)	VYGRADIAVAPLITTLVREEVIDFSKPFMSLGISIMIKKPPQ
	RAT GI _u R-K3 (468-508)	VYGKADIAIAPLITTLVREEVIDFSKPFMSLGISIMIKKPPQ
PLANT	ARABIDOPSIS GI _u R	* * * * * QRDKYDAAVGDITITSNRSLYVDFTLPYTDIGIGILTVKKK

FIG. 6

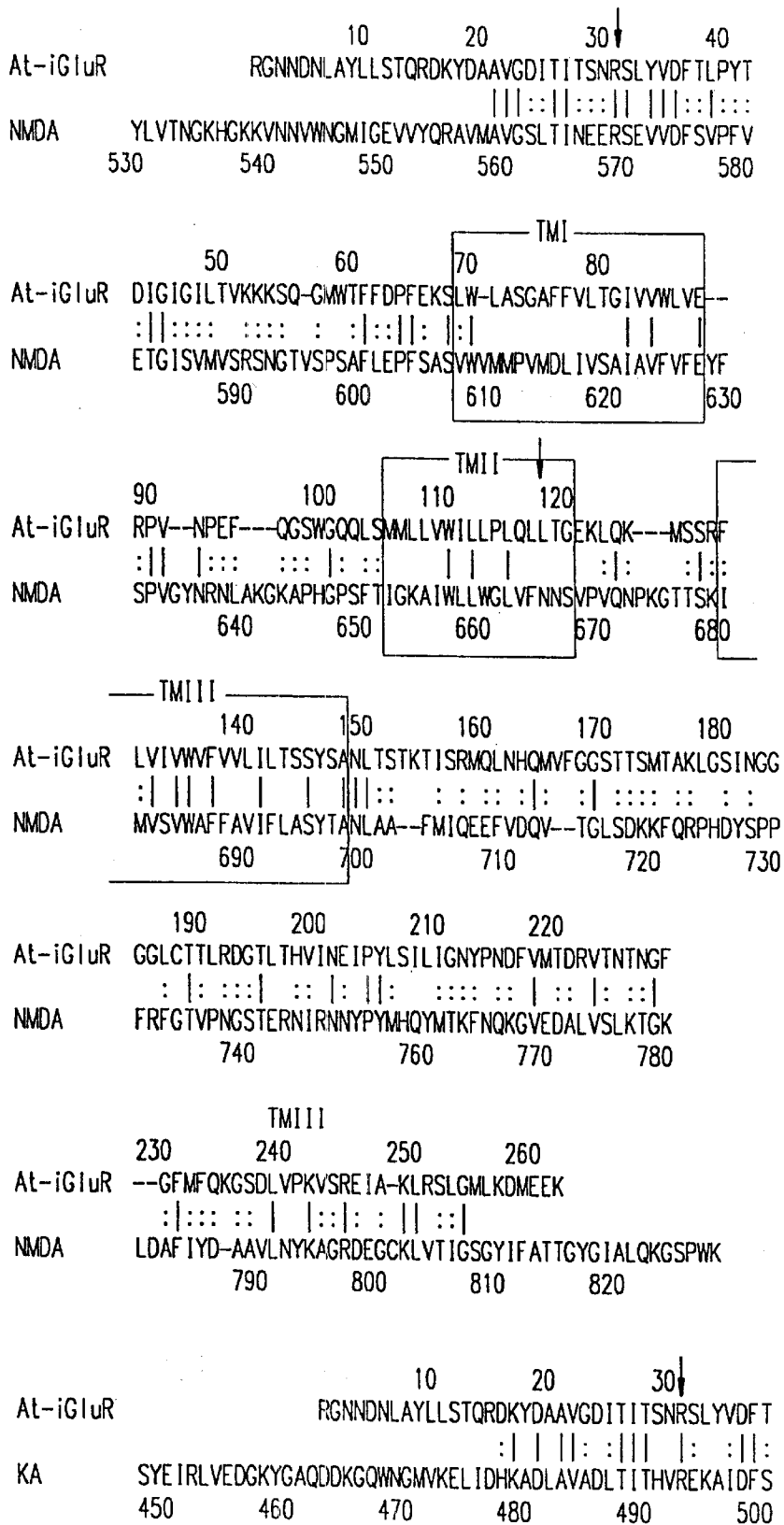


FIG. 7A(I)

	40	50	60	70		TM I
At-iGluR	LPYTDIGIGILTVKKK--SQGMWTFDFPFESSLWL-----ASGAFF					
	: :: :: : ::::: :: :: : :					
KA	KPFMTLGVSLYRKPNGTNPVSFSLNPLSPDIWMYVLLAYLGVSCVLF					
	510	520	530	540	550	

	80	90	100	110	120		TM II
At-iGluR	VLTGIVV--WLVERPVNPEFQGSWQQLSMMLLVWILLPLCLLTGEKL--Q						
	: : : ::::: : : : : :						
KA	VIARFSPYEWYDAHPCNPGSEVV-ENNFTLLNSFWFGMSLMQGGSELMPK						
	560	570	580	590	600		

	130	140	150	160	170		TM III
At-iGluR	KMSSRF LVIWVFWVLLTSSYSANLTSTKTSRMQLNHQMVFGGSTTSMT						
	: :: : : : : :: : :: : : : : : :						
KA	ALSTR IIGGIWFFTLIISSYTANLAAFLTVERMESPIDSA--DDLAKQTK						
	610	620	630	640	650		

	180	190	200	210	220	
At-iGluR	AKLGSINGGGLCTTLRDGTLTHVINEIPYLSILIGNYPNDFVMTDRVTNT					
	: ::: ::: : :::: : ::: : : : : :					
KA	IEYGAVKDGATH-TFFKSKISTFEKMWAFMSSKPSALVKNNEEGIQRTL					
	660	670	680	690	700	

	230	240	250	260	
At-iGluR	NGFGFMFQGS-DLVPKVSREIAKLRSLGMLKDMEEK				
	: : : : : : : : : : :				
KA	ADYALLMESTTIEYITQRNCNLTQIGGLIDSKGYGIGTPMGSPYR				
	710	720	730	740	

FIG.7A(II)

```

*   *   *   ** *   *
520   530   540   550   560   570
Mgr7_R   GKGVREIPSSVCTLPCKPGQRKKTQKGTCCWTCEP-CDGYQYQFDEMTQCQHCOPYDQRPN
          ||  :: |:: :|:::|: || | :
ARABIDOPSIS   TFXCWLKNAFCASSFFQLSSME-----PYRLRLR
                10      20

580   590   600   610   620   630
Mgr7_R   ENRTGCQNIPIIKLEWSPWAVIPVFLAMLGIIATIFVMATFIRYNDTPIVRASGRELSY
          : | : : | : : : | : : : | : : : | : : : | : : : |
ARABIDOPSIS   FSFQKC-SIAAF-LGPAVSFNSIERFLNSLS-TSLIFVXFSSMYF--LSXTCSSSIIFSV
                30      40      50      60      70      80

640   650   660   670   680   690
Mgr7_R   VLLTGIFLCYIITFLMIAKPDVAVCSFRRVFLGLGMCISYAALLTKTNRIYRIFEQKKS
          :::| | |
ARABIDOPSIS   XVITGAFLARPSAPISAFSFGSDAIISFSLK
                90      100     110

```

FIG. 7B

EST# ATT50711

1 TGAAGATGCA GGACAGGTTT AATGGAGGTA TGATAACCCT CCAGACTTCA
51 ATAGTGTGAA CCAGCTCTTT GAAGAAGGCC AGACTAAGGT GTGGCCAGAA
101 GGTTCGTTAG AAGAGACAGT GCAAAACGCG ATCAAGTCAT GGGAGATGGA
151 GTTCTCACAT AAGATCCGTT TACAGGACTT CAAGACTATA AACCCTGAGA
201 AGTTTAAGCT CTTTTGTCAA TGGGAGAGAA GGTTT

EST# ATT52655

1 GGTGAATCTT TCGAGGTTGA GGAGGCGGTG GCTCTCGAGT CACAAACCAT
51 AGCGCATATG GTTGAAGACG ACTGCGTNAN CAACGGAGTC CCTCTTCCTA
101 ACGTCACGAG CAAGATCCTN GCCAAGGTGA TCGAGTATTG CAAGAGGCAC
151 GTCGAGGCTG CTGCCTNTAA AGGCCGA

EST# T20773

1 TCGTTTGCTC GAAGATCCGC TGCTTGATCT GCTCGCCACA CGCTATNGGA
51 GAGGNAANGG TTAGGGTTAC TNATTTTCCG TCGAGTAGTC TNACNAAAA
101 CTGCAACGGC TTACAACCTT GATCCGCCAT CGATTTTCTGA TTCTAAAGCT
151 TGGACGAAGN AGAAGNANAA AGTTCGATTC GATTTCTGGA GAGAAATTGG
201 GGGAAAGTTT AAAAACGGAT CCCTAAGGTA GTCTGAGTCT CTCTCTC

FIG. 7C

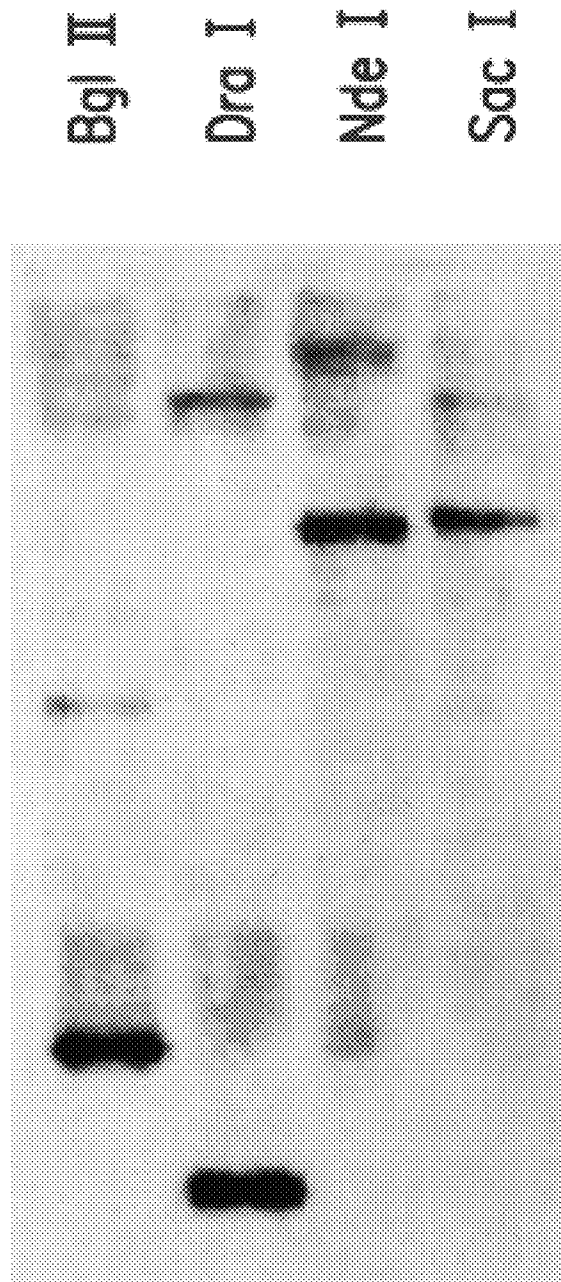


FIG.8

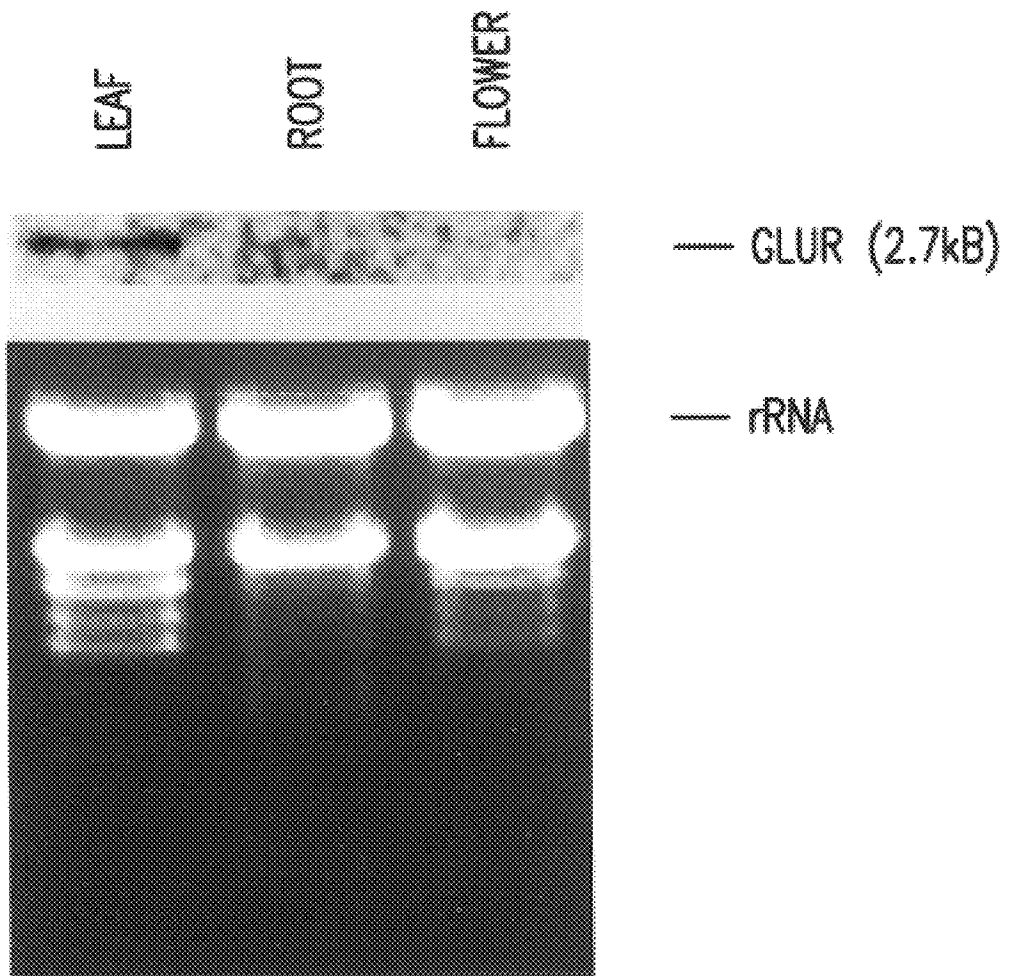
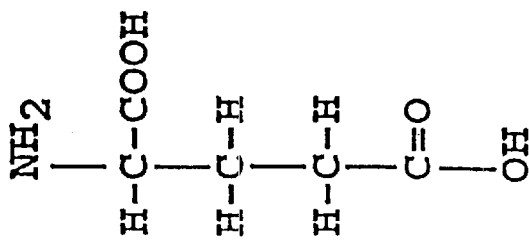
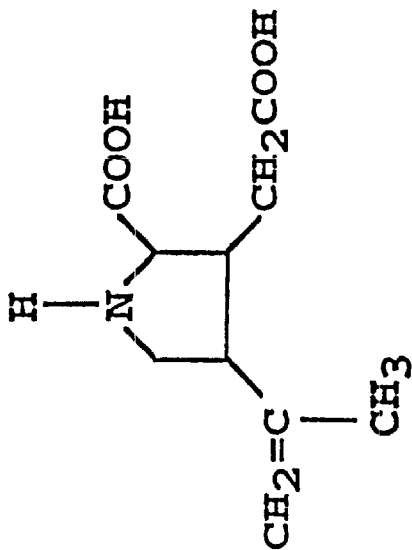


FIG.9

Glutamate



Kainate
(GluR agonist)



DNQX
(GluR antagonist)

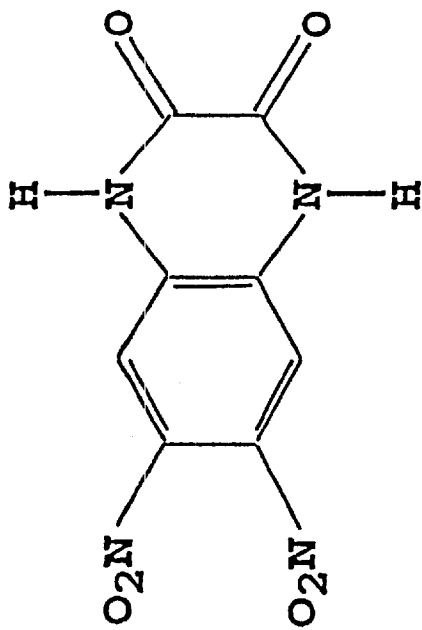


FIG. 10

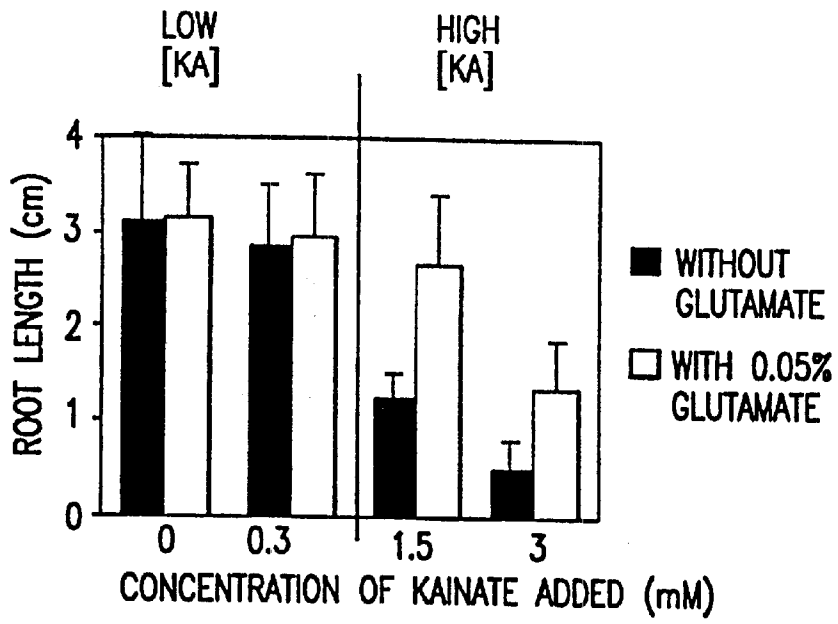


FIG.11A

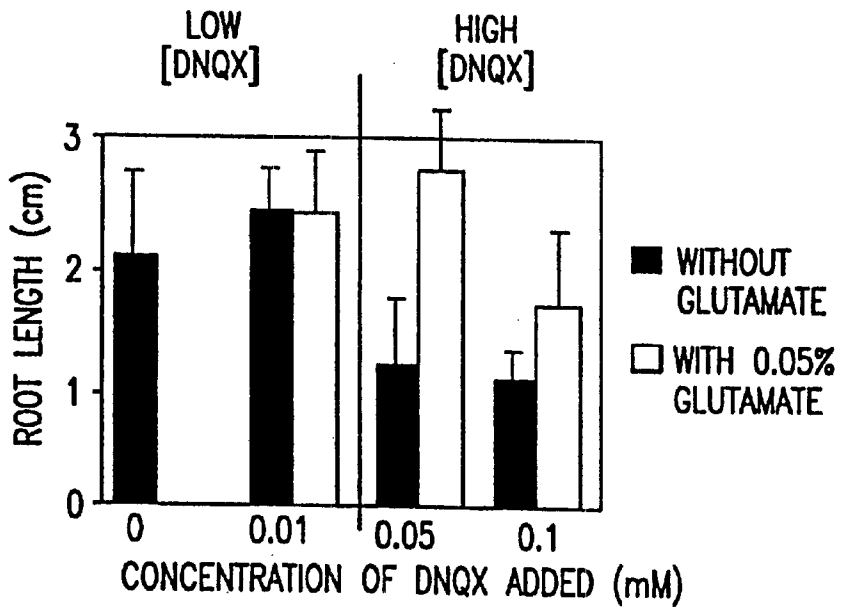


FIG.11B

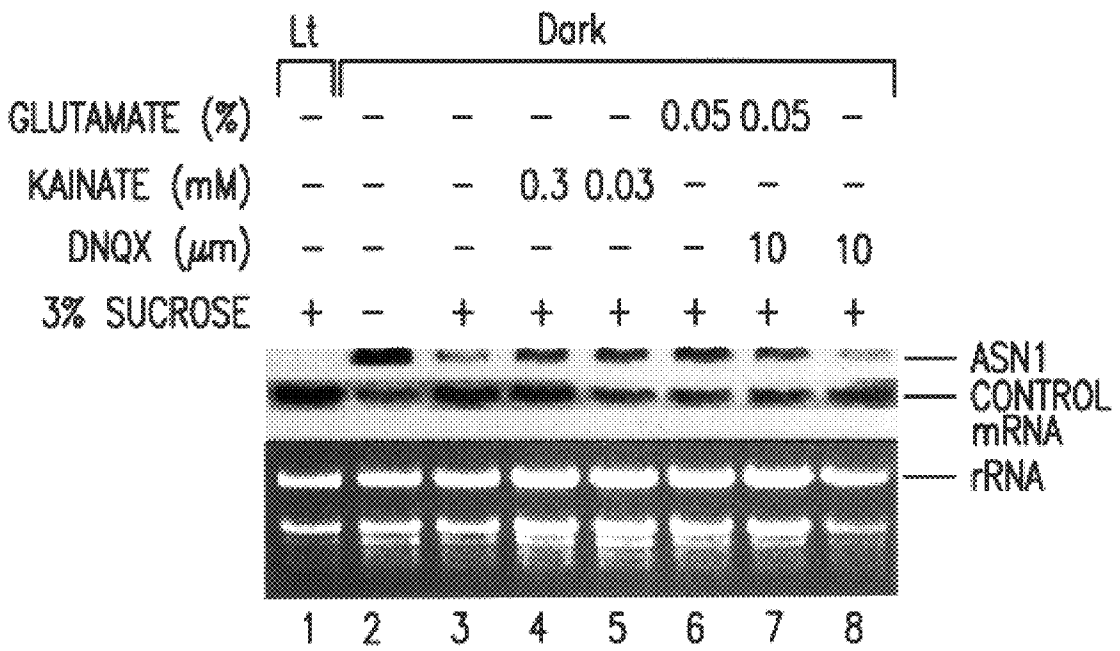


FIG.12A

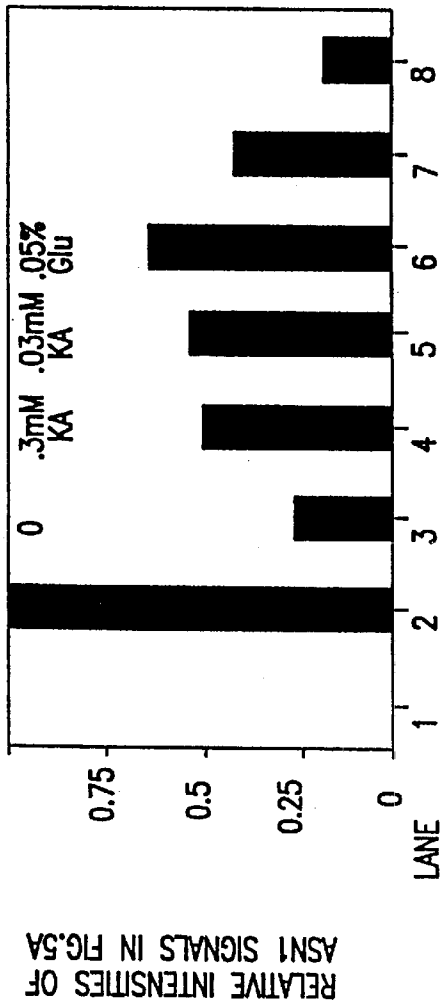


FIG.12B

LANES	TREATMENTS	AVERAGE FOLD INDUCTION OF ASN1 RELATIVE TO CONTROL (LANE 3)
4	+0.3 mM KAINATE	1.82 +/- 0.05
5	+0.03 mM KAINATE	1.97 +/- 0.02
6	+0.05% GLUTAMATE	2.46 +/- 0.40

FIG.12C

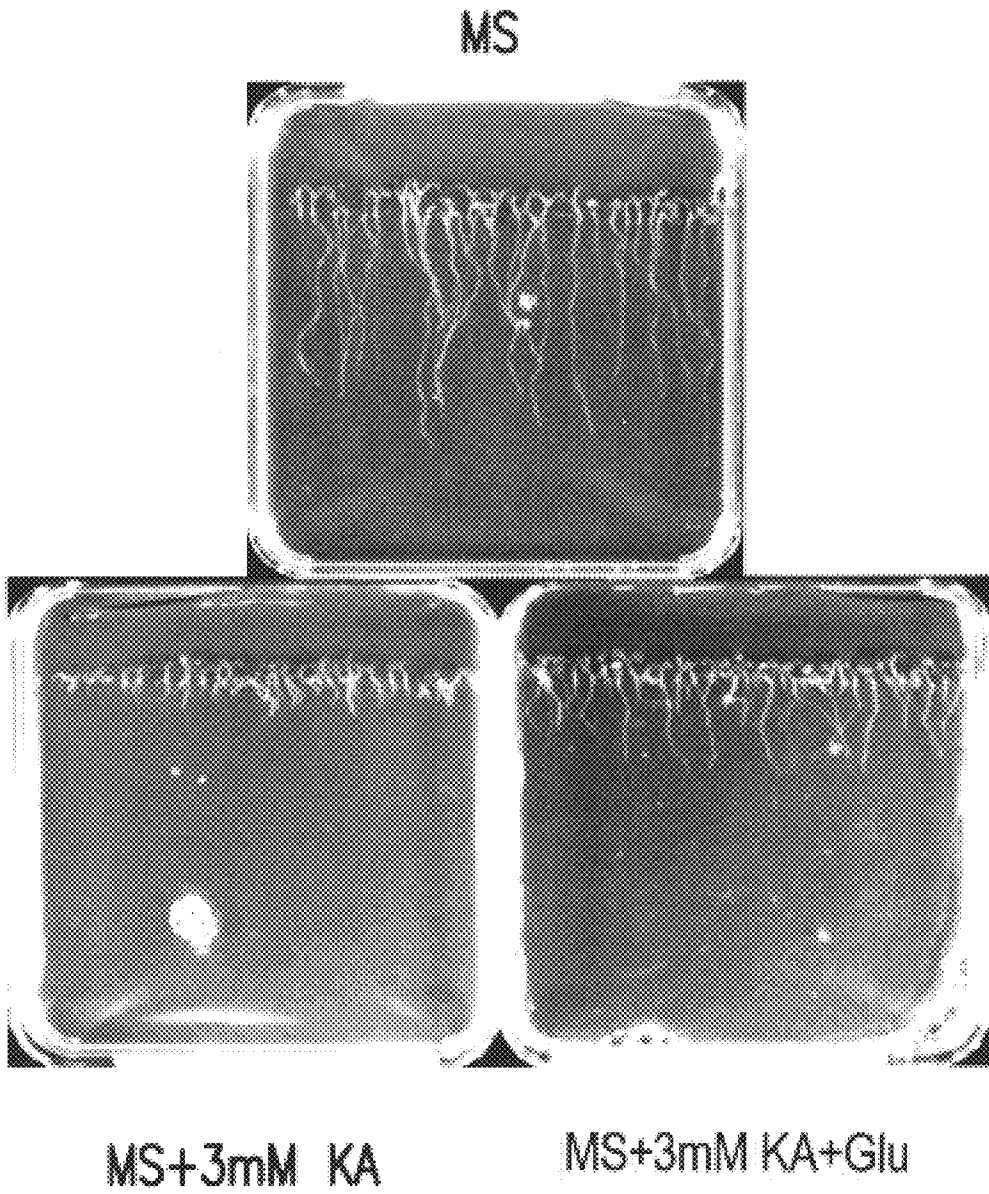


FIG. 13A



FIG. 13B

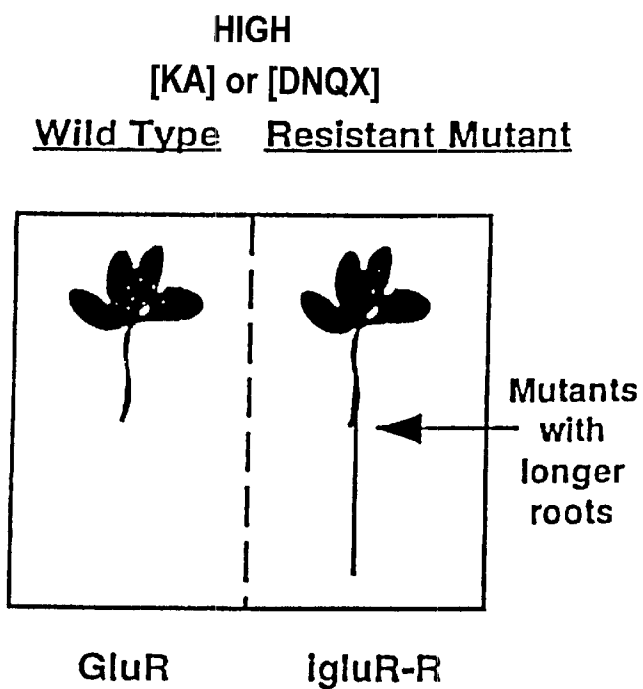


FIG. 14A

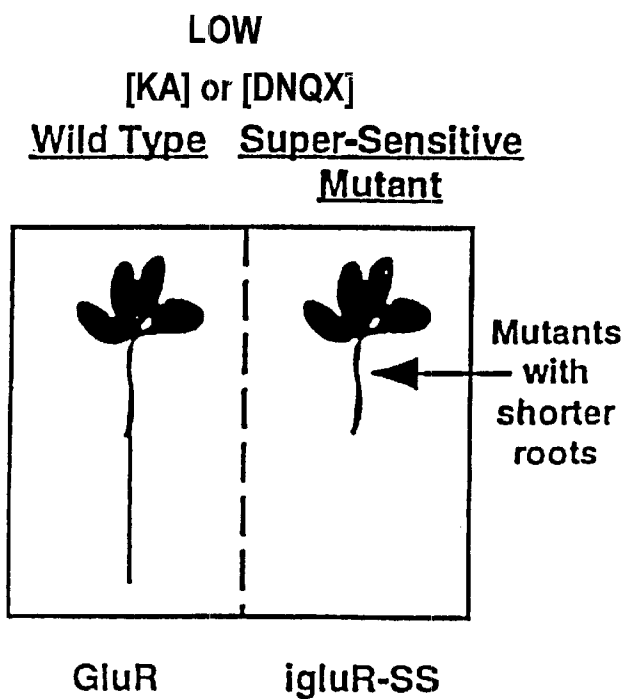


FIG. 14B

ATGGAGATTCTGTTTTCTATTTCCATTCTTGCTCTTCTCTTTTCCGGAGTAGTAGCTGCT
34 -----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+----- 93
TACCTCTAAGACAAAAGATAAAGGTAAGAACGAGAAGAGAAAAGGCCTCATCATCGACGA
M E I L F S I S I L A L L F S G V V A A -
CCAAGCGACGATGATGTTTTCGAAGAGGTTAGGGTTGGATTGGTGGTTGACTTGAGTTCT
94 -----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+----- 153
GGTTCGCTGCTACTACAAAAGCTTCTCCAATCCCAACCTAACCACCAACTGAACTCAAGA
P S D D D V F E E V R V G L V V D L S S -
ATCAAGGCAAGATTCTGGAACTTCTTTAACTTAGCGCTTTCAGATTTCTATGGCATC
154 -----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+----- 213
TAAGTCCGTTCTAAGACCTTTGAAGAAAATTGAATCGCGAAAGTCTAAAGATACCGTAG
I Q G K I L E T S F N L A L S D F Y G I -
AACAATGGATACCGAACCAGAGTCTCTGTTTTGGTCAGAGACTCCCAAGGAGACCCGATC
214 -----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+----- 273
TTGTTACCTATGGCTTGGTCTCAGAGACAAAACCACTCTCTGAGGGTTCCTCTGGGCTAG
N N G Y R T R V S V L V R D S Q G D P I -
ATTGCTCTTGCCGCCGCTACTGATCTTCTCAAAAATGCAAAAGCGGAAGCCATTGTTGGT
274 -----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+----- 333
TAACGAGAACGGCGGCGATGACTAGAAGAGTTTTACGTTTTTCGCTTCGGTAACAACCA
I A L A A A T D L L K N A K A E A I V G -
GCACAATCATTACAAGAGGCAAAGCTTTTGGCGACGATTAGCGAAAAAGCTAAAGTCCG
334 -----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+----- 393
CGTGTTAGTAATGTTCTCCGTTTCGAAAACCGCTGCTAATCGCTTTTTTCGATTTCAAGGC
A Q S L Q E A K L L A T I S E K A K V P -
GTCATATCTACTTTCTTGCCAAACACGTTATCTTTGAAGAAATACGATAACTTTATTCAA
394 -----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+----- 453
CAGTATAGATGAAAGAACGGTTTGTGCAATAGAACTTCTTTATGCTATTGAAATAAGTT
V I S T F L P N T L S L K K Y D N F I Q -

FIG. 15A

TGGACGCATGATACTACATCAGAGGCTAAGGGAATTACAAGTCTCATACAAGATTTTCAGT
 454 -----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+----- 513
 ACCTGCGTACTATGATGTAGTCTCCGATTCCCTAATGTTTCAGAGTATGTTCTAAAGTCA

 W T H D T T S E A K G I T S L I Q D F S -

 TGTAATCGGTTGTGGTTATATACGAGGATGCTGATGATTGGAGTGAGAGTTTGCAAATA
 514 -----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+----- 573
 ACATTTAGCCAACCAATATATGCTCCTACGACTACTAACCTCACTCTCAAACGTTTAT

 C K S V V V I Y E D A D D W S E S L Q I -

 TTGGTTGAGAATTTTCAAGATAAAGGAATCTATATCGCTCGTTCTGCTTCTTTTGCAGTC
 574 -----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+----- 633
 AACCAACTCTTAAAAGTTCTATTTCCCTTAGATATAGCGAGCAAGACGAAGAAAACGTCAG

 L V E N F Q D K G I Y I A R S A S F A V -

 TCATCATCAGGAGAAAATCATATGATGAATCAGCTAAGGAAGCTTAAGGTCTCAAGAGCA
 634 -----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+----- 693
 AGTAGTAGTCCTCTTTTAGTATACTACTTAGTCGATTCCCTTCGAATTCAGAGTTCTCGT

 S S S G E N H M M N Q L R K L K V S R A -

 TCGGTTTTTGTGGTGCATATGTCCGAGATTCTTGTTTCTCGTCTCTTCCAATGTGTAGAG
 694 -----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+----- 753
 AGCCAAAAACACCACGTATACAGGCTCTAAGAACAAAGAGCAGAGAAGGTTACACATCTC

 S V F V V H M S E I L V S R L F Q C V E -

 AAGTTAGGTTTGTGGAAGAAGCGTTCGCTTGGATCCTCACTGCAAGAACCATGAACTAC
 754 -----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+----- 813
 TTCAATCCAAACTACCTTCTTCGCAAGCGAACCTAGGAGTGACGTTCTTGGTACTTGATG

 K L G L M E E A F A W I L T A R T M N Y -

 TTGGAACATTTTGAATAACTAGGTCGATGCAAGGGTCATTGGTTTCAAATCTTACATC
 814 -----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+----- 873
 AACCTTGTAACGTTATTGATCCAGCTACGTTCCCCAGTAACCAAAGTTTAGAATGTAG

 L E H F A I T R S M Q G V I G F K S Y I -

FIG. 15B

CCTGTATCTGAAGAAGTTAAGAATTTTACTTCAAGATTGAGGAAACGTATGGGAGATGAT
 874 -----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+----- 933
 GGACATAGACTTCTTCAATTCTTAAAATGAAGTTCTAACTCCTTTGCATACCCTCTACTA
 P V S E E V K N F T S R L R K R M G D D -
 ACAGAAACAGAGCATTCTAGTGAATCATCGGTTTACGCGCACACGATATCGCTTGTATT
 934 -----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+----- 993
 TGTCTTTGTCTCGTAAGATCACATTAGTAGCCAAATGCGCGTGTGCTATAGCGAACATAA
 T E T E H S S V I I G L R A H D I A C I -
 CTAGCAAATGCAGTAGAGAAGTTCAGTGAAGTGGTAAAGTTGAAGCATCTTCGAATGTA
 994 -----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+----- 1053
 GATCGTTTACGTCATCTCTTCAAGTCACATTCACCATTTCAACTTCGTAGAAGCTTACAT
 L A N A V E K F S V S G K V E A S S N V -
 TCAGCTGATCTTCTGGATAACAATTAGACATAGTAGATTCAAGGGTTTGAGTGGTGACATC
 1054 -----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+----- 1113
 AGTCGACTAGAAGACCTATGTTAATCTGTATCATCTAAGTTCCCAAACCTCACCCTGTAG
 S A D L L D T I R H S R F K G L S G D I -
 CAAATCTCTGACAACAAATTTATCTCAGAGACATTTGAAATCGTGAATATTGGaagagaa
 1114 -----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+----- 1173
 GTTTAGAGACTGTTGTTTAAATAGAGTCTCTGTAACCTTTAGCACTTATTACcttctctt
 Q I S D N K F I S E T F E I V N I G R E -
 aacagagaaggataggatTatggagtggtagtTTTaGCcaaagaagacagattggt
 1174 -----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+----- 1233
 tttgtctcttctatacctaAtacctcaccaccatcaAAAtCGgtttcttctgtctaacia
 K Q R R I G L W S G G S F S Q R R Q I V -
 tggcctggcaggtctcgttaagatcccaagacaccgtgttttggcagagaAaggtgAaaaG
 1234 -----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+----- 1293
 accggaccgtccagagcattctagggttctgtggcacaaaaccgtctctTtccacTtttC
 W P G R S R K I P R H R V L A E K G E K -

FIG. 15C

1294 AAGGTGCTTAGGGTCTTAGTTACCGCAGGAAACAAGTCCCGCATCTAGTGTGGTGCCT 1353
 ---+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+---
 TTCCACGAATCCCAGAATCAATGGCGTCCTTTGTTcCAGGGCGTAGATCACAGCCACGCA

 K V L R V L V T A G N K V P H L V S V R -

 1354 CCTGATCCTGAAACAGGTGTTAATACTGTCTCTGGATTCTGCGTAGAGGTTTTCAAGACT 1413
 ---+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+---
 GGACTAGGACTTTGTCCACAATTATGACAGAGACCTAAGACGCATCTCCAAAAGTTCTGA

 P D P E T G V N T V S G F C V E V F K T -

 1414 TGCATTGCTCCTTTTAACTACGAGCTTGAATTCATACCTACCGTGGAAACAATGACAAT 1473
 ---+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+---
 ACGTAACGAGGAAAATTGATGCTCGAACTTAAGTATGGAATGGCACCTTTGTTACTGTTA

 C I A P F N Y E L E F I P Y R G N N D N -

 1474 CTTGCTTATCTACTTTCTACTCAGAGAGACAAGTATGATGCAGCAGTTGGTGATATCACC 1533
 ---+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+---
 GAACGAATAGATGAAAGATGAGTCTCTGTTCATACTACGTCGTCACCCTATAGTGG

 L A Y L L S T Q R D K Y D A A V G D I T -

 1534 ATCACTTCCAACAGATCTTTGTATGTTGATTTTACTTTGCCGTACACTGACATTGGTATT 1593
 ---+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+---
 TAGTGAAGGTTGTCTAGAAAACATACTAAATGAAACGGCATGTGACTGTAACCATAA

 I T S N R S L Y V D F T L P Y T D I G I -

 1594 GGAATCCTGACAGTAAAAAGAAAAGCCAAGGGATGTGGACTTTCTTTGATCCTTTTGAA 1653
 ---+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+---
 CCTTAGGACTGTCATTTTCTTTTCGGTCCCTACACCTGAAAGAACTAGGAAACTT

 G I L T V K K K S Q G M W T F F D P F E -

 1654 AAATCCTTGTGGCTAGCaAGTGGAGCTTTCTTtGTCTTaACTGGGATTGTTGTTGGTTa 1713
 ---+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+---
 TTTAGGAACACCGATCGtTCACCTCGAAAGAAaCAGAAtTGaCCCTAACAAACAAACCAat

 K S L W L A S G A F F V L T G I V V W L -

FIG. 15D

1714 GTTGAACGGtCCGTTAATCCGGAaTTTCaGgGCTCTTGGGGACAACAACCTTAGTATGATG 1773
 -----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----
 CAACTTGCCaGGCAATTAGGCCTtAAAGTcCCGAGAACCCTGTTGTTGAATCATACTAC

 V E R S V N P E F Q G S W G Q Q L S M M -

 1774 CTCTGGTTTGGtTTCTCaACCATTGTaTTTGCTCACAGaGAGAAGCTACAGAAAATGTCA 1833
 -----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----
 GAGACCAAACCaAAGAGtTGTAACATAAACGAGTGTctCTCTTCGATGTCTTTTACAGT

 L W F G F S T I V F A H R E K L Q K M S -

 1834 TCAAGATTCTTAGTCATAGTTTGGGTTTTTGTGGTGTTAATATTGACTTCAAGTTACAGC 1893
 -----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----
 AGTTCTAAGAATCAGTATCAAACCCAAAAACACCACAATTATAACTGAAGTTCAATGTCG

 S R F L V I V W V F V V L I L T S S Y S -

 1894 GCAAACCTTGACATCAACCAAGACCATTTCTCGCATGCAATTAATCATCAGATGGTTTTTC 1953
 -----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----
 CGTTTGAACtGTAGTTGGTTCTGGTAAAGAGCGTACGTTAATTTAGTAGTCTACCAAAG

 A N L T S T K T I S R M Q L N H Q M V F -

 1954 GGGGGATCTACGACGTCAATGACTGCGAAGCTCGGATCCATTAATGcAGtTGAGGCCTAT 2013
 -----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----
 CCCCCTAGATGCTGCAGTTACTGACGCTTCGAGCCTAGGTAATTAGgTCaACTCCGGATA

 G G S T T S M T A K L G S I N A V E A Y -

 2014 GCACAACTTTtGCGAGATGGAACtCTTAaTCATGTCATCAATGAAATACCTTATCTCAGT 2073
 -----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----
 CGTGTGAAAaCGCTCTACCTTGAGAATtAGTACAGTAGTTACTTTATGGAATAGAGTCA

 A Q L L R D G T L N H V I N E I P Y L S -

 2074 ATCCTTATCGGAAATTATCCGAATGATTTTCGTAATGACAGATAGAGTGACTAATACCAAT 2133
 -----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----
 TAGGAATAGCCTTTAATAGGCTTACTAAAGCATTACTGTGTATCTCACTGATTATGGTTA

 I L I G N Y P N D F V M T D R V T N T N -

FIG. 15E

2134 GGCTTTGGCTTTATGTTCCAGAAAGGTTCCGGATTTGGTTCCTAAAGTATCGCGAGAAATC 2193
 -----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----
 CCGAAACCGAAATACAAGGTCCTTCCAAGCCTAAACCAAGGATTTTCATAGCGCTCTTTAG
 G F G F M F Q K G S D L V P K V S R E I -
 2194 GCGAAGCTAAGaTCATTgGGAATGTTGAAAGACATGGAGAAAAAATGGTTTCAAAAaCTG 2253
 -----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----
 CGCTTCGATTCTaGTAAcCCTTACAACCTTCTGTACCTCTTTTTTACCAAAGTTTTtGAC
 A K L R S L G M L K D M E K K W F Q K L -
 2254 GATTCACTAAATGTACATTCCAACACcGAGGAAGTTGCaTCTACCAACGACGATGATGAG 2313
 -----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----
 CTAAGTGATTTACATGTAAGGTTGTGgCTCCTTCAACGtAGATGGTTGCTGCTACTACTC
 D S L N V H S N T E E V A S T N D D D E -
 2314 GCATCTAAGCGATTACCTTCCGTGAGTTGCGCGGTTTGTTCATCATTGCGGGAGCTGCT 2373
 -----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----
 CGTAGATTTCGCTAAGTGAAGGCACTCAACGCGCCAAACAAGTAGTAACGCCCTCGACGA
 A S K R F T F R E L R G L F I I A G A A -
 2374 CATGTTCTCGTACTAGCCCTACATCTCTTTCATACGCGTCAAGAGGTATCAGACTATGC 2433
 -----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----
 GTACAAGAGCATGATCGGGATGTAGAGAAAGTATGCGCAGTTCTCCATAGTGCTGATACG
 H V L V L A L H L F H T R Q E V S R L C -
 2434 ACCAAACTTCAAAGCTTCTATAAGTAAAAAGTGATCCATCgTTCATAAGCTCTACTATAG 2493
 -----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----
 TGGTTTGAAGTTTCGAAGATATTCATTTTTCACTAGGTAGcAAGTATTCGAGATGATATC
 T K L Q S F Y K * K V I H R S * A L L * -
 2494 CAATTGAcGGgacAGGACTCATAA 2517
 -----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----
 GTTAACTgCCctgTCCTGAGTATT
 Q L T G Q D S * -

FIG. 15F

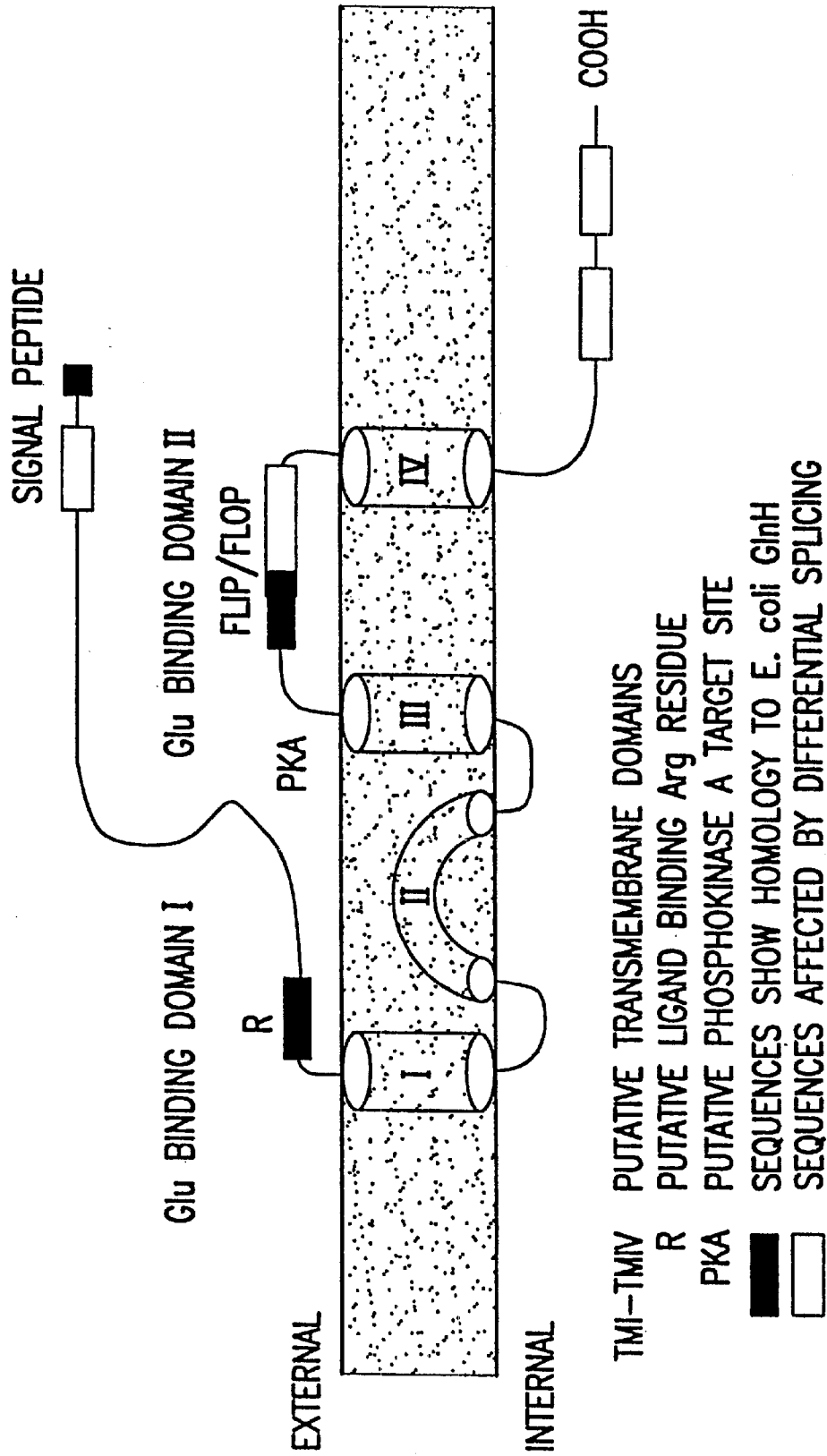
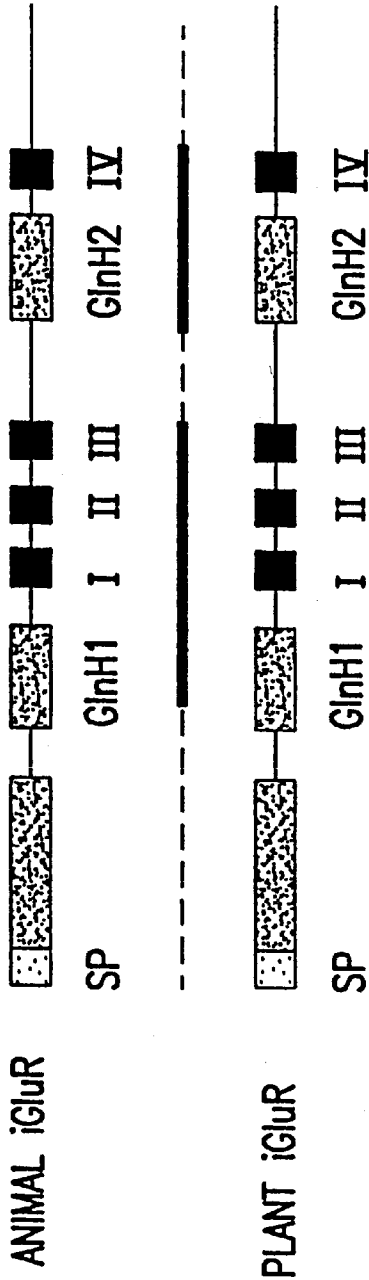
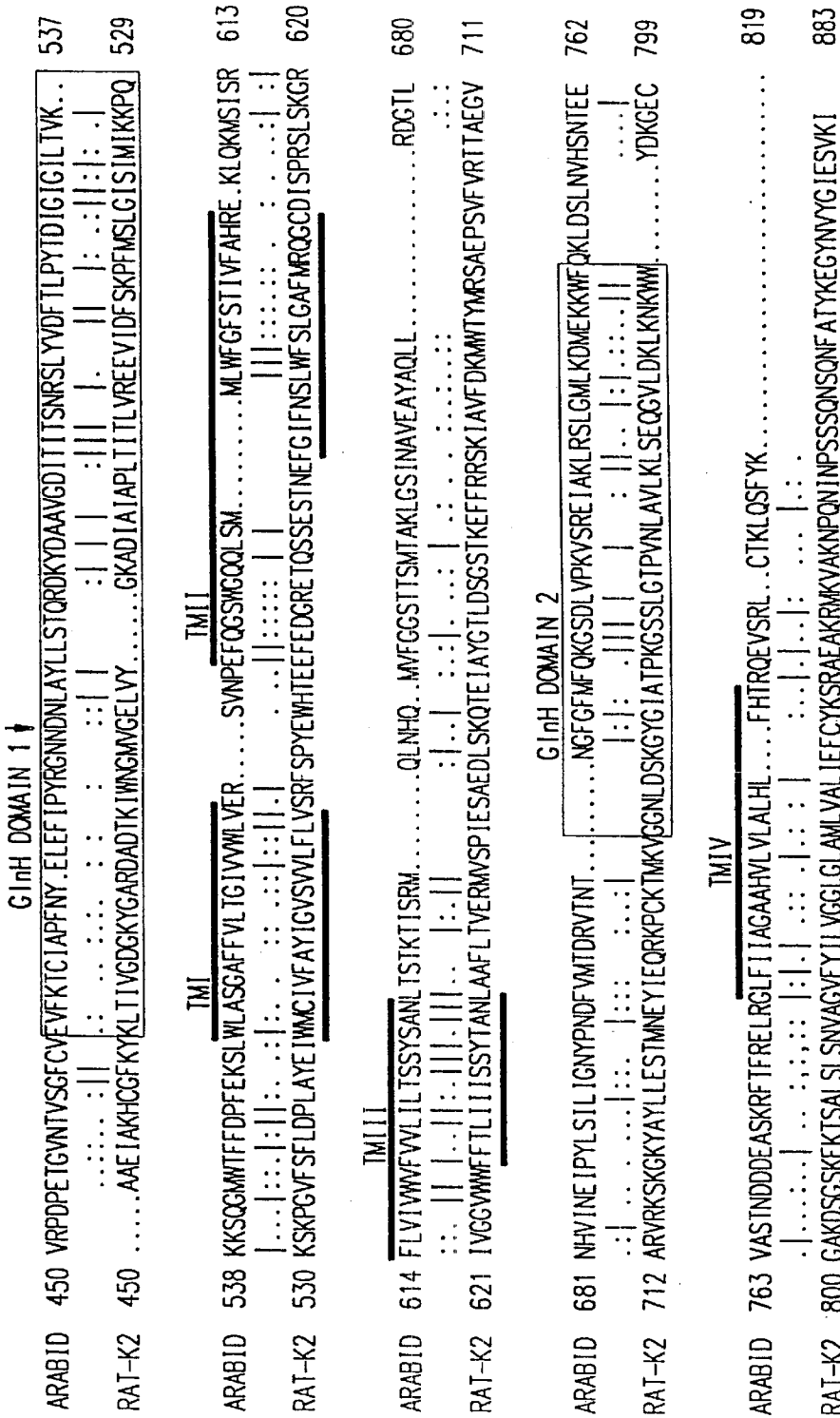


FIG.16



- REGIONS OF STRONG/INTERMEDIATE HOMOLOGY BETWEEN ANIMAL AND PLANT iGluRs
- ▤ TWO REGIONS OF iGluRs HOMOLOGOUS TO E.coli GLUTAMINE PERMEASE (GlnH1 AND GlnH2)
- PUTATIVE TRANSMEMBRANE DOMAINS (I, II, III, AND IV)
- ▣ PUTATIVE SIGNAL PEPTIDE (SP)

FIG.17



↓ CONSERVED LIGAND BINDING
 — PUTATIVE TRANSMEMBRANE DOMAINS

FIG.18

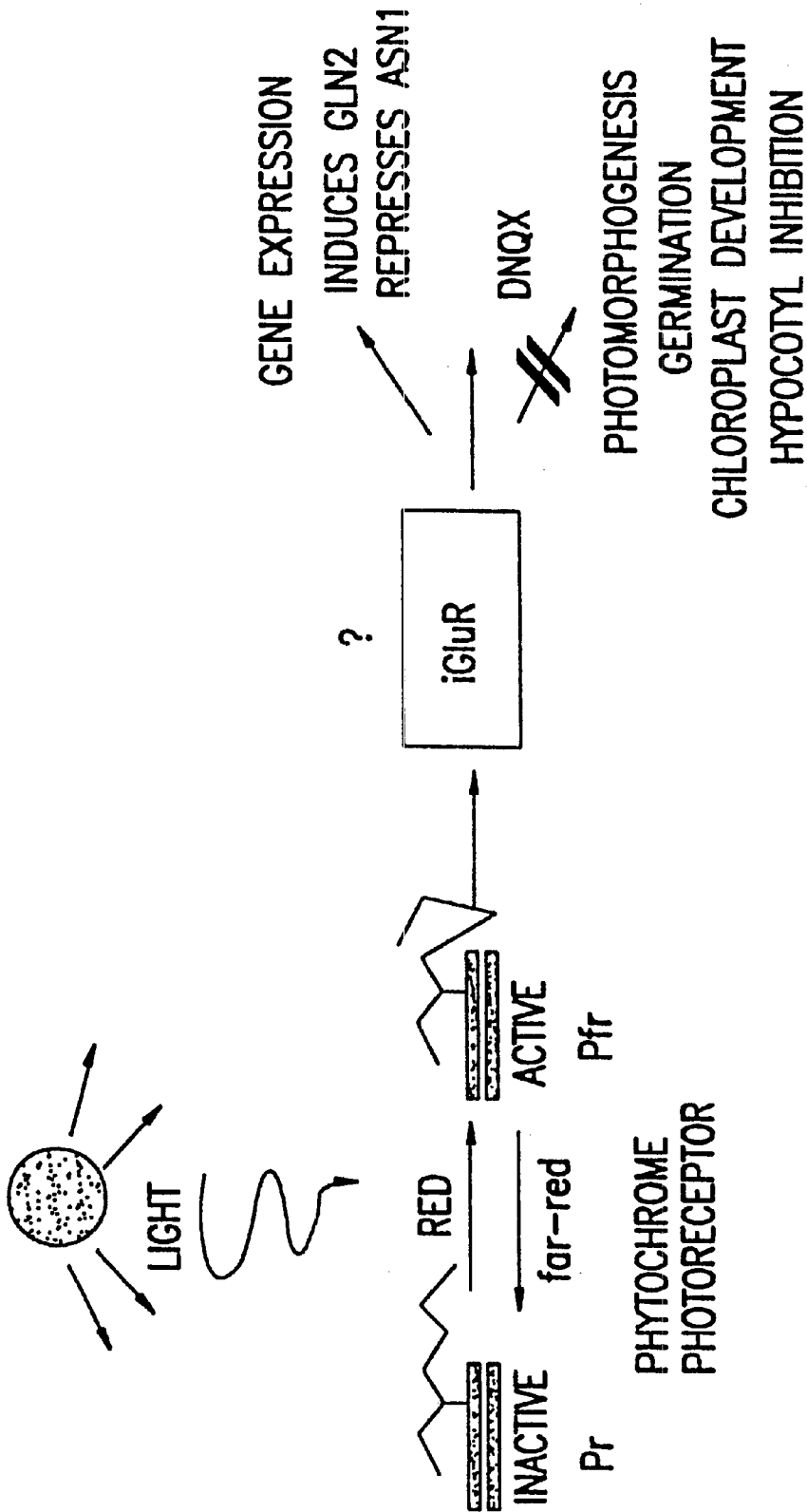


FIG. 19

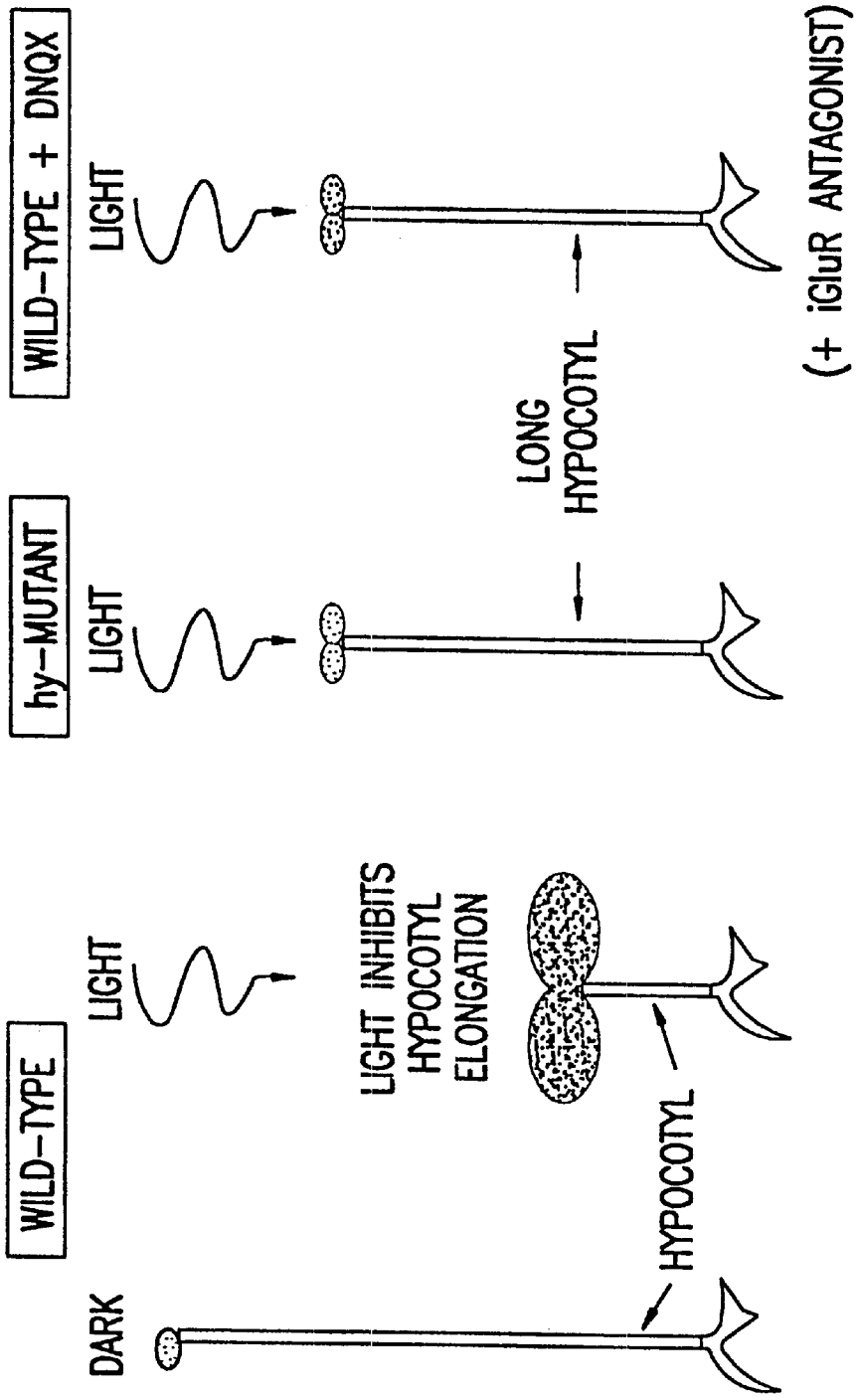


FIG. 20

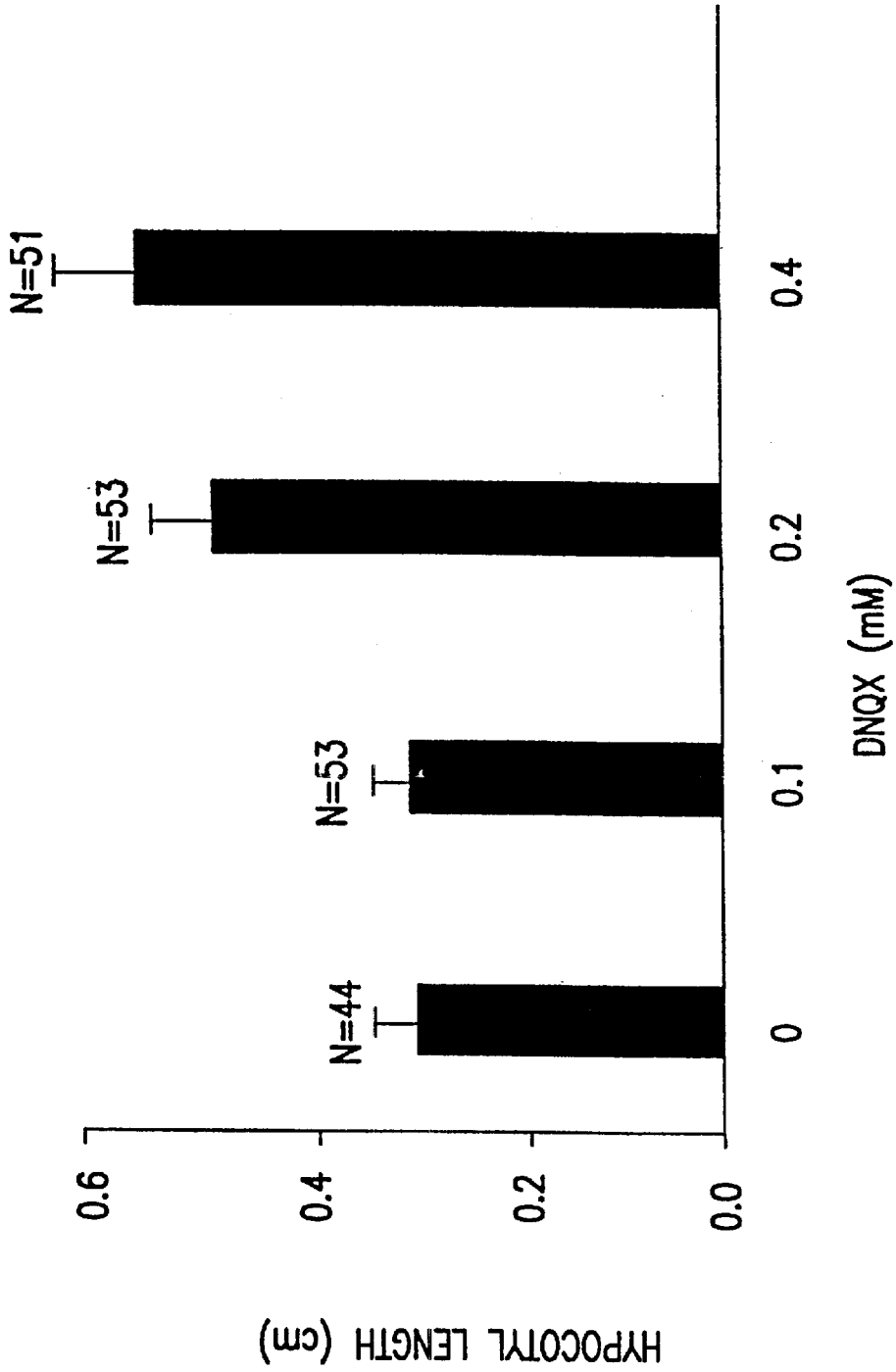


FIG.21

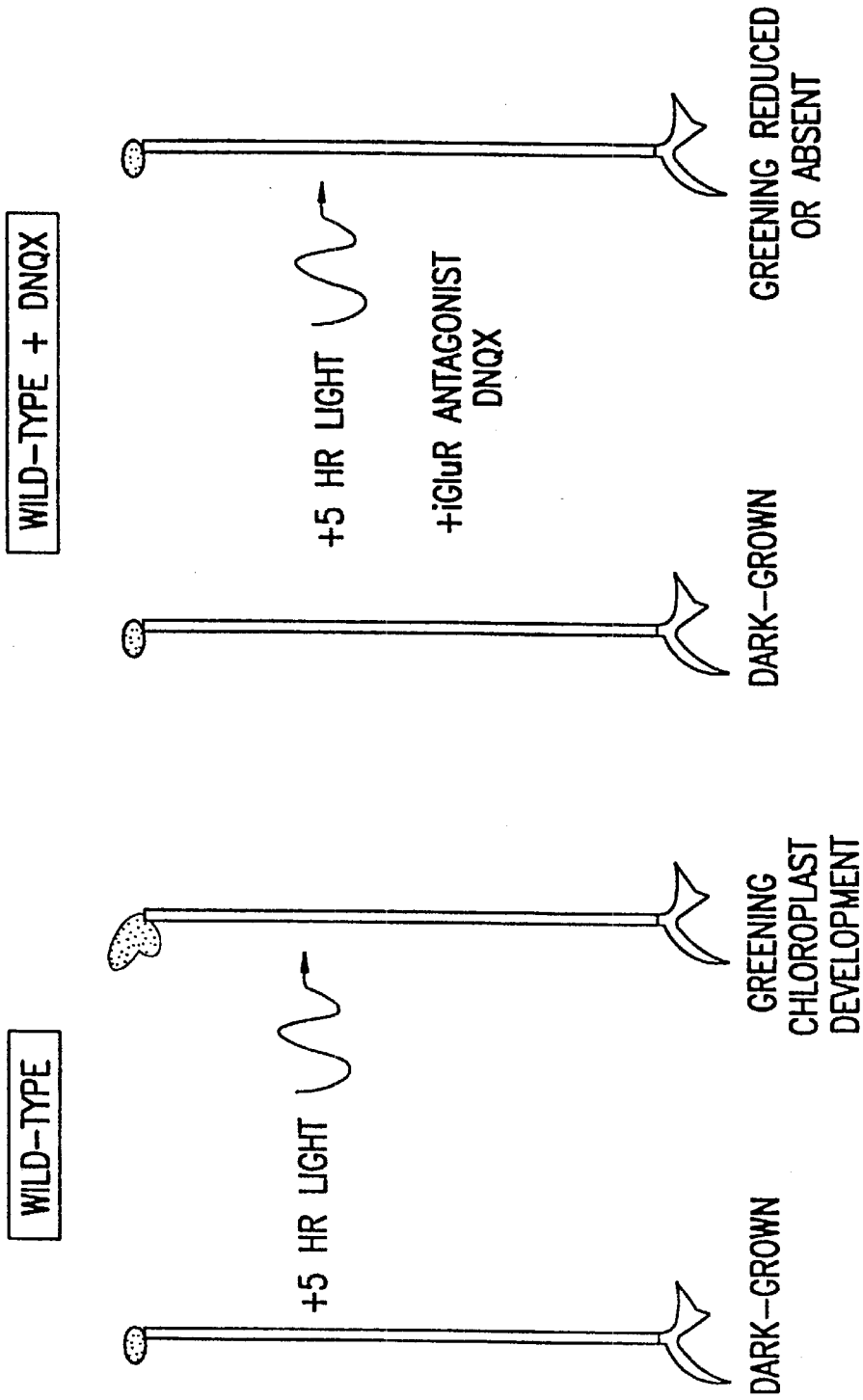


FIG.22

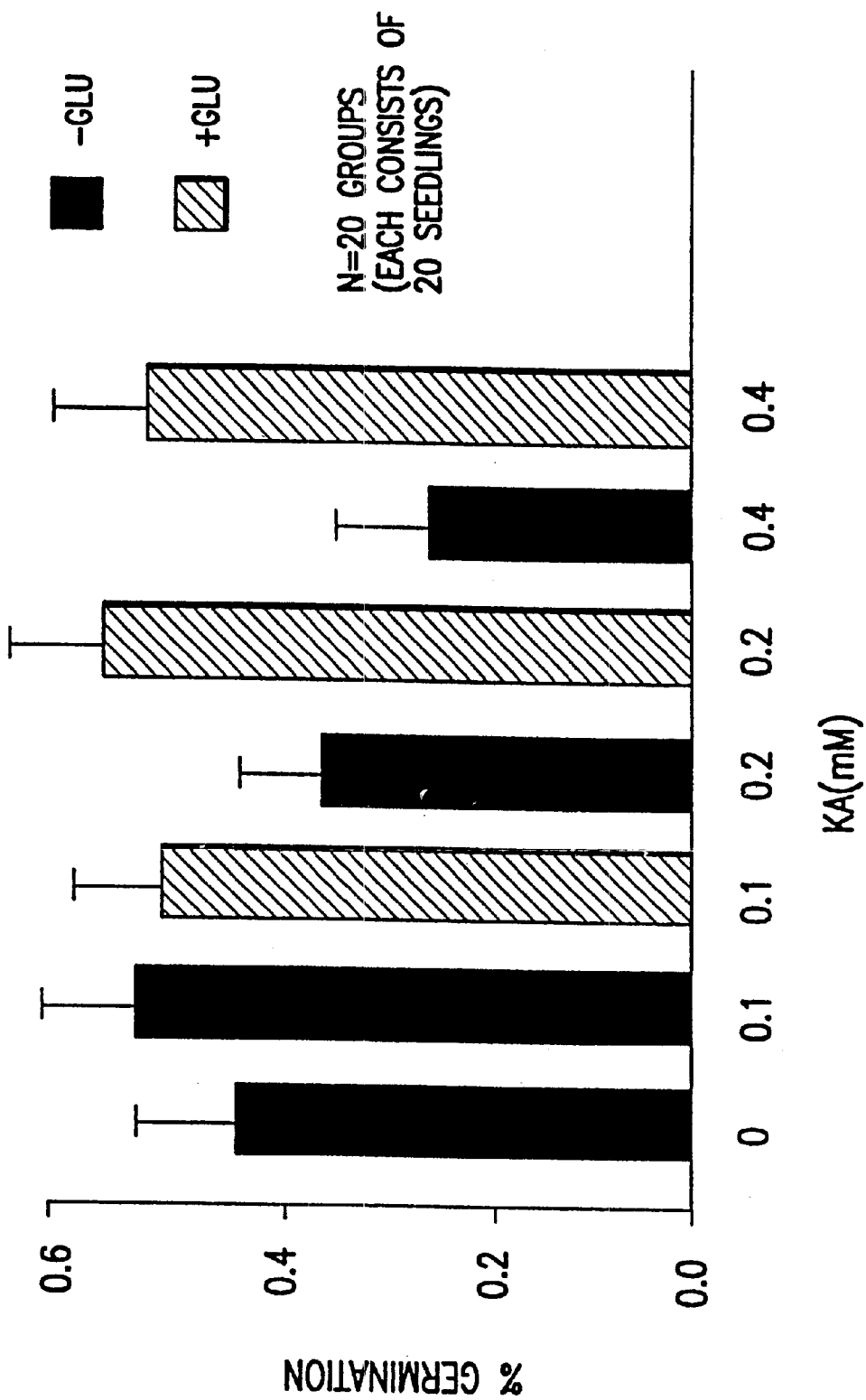


FIG. 23

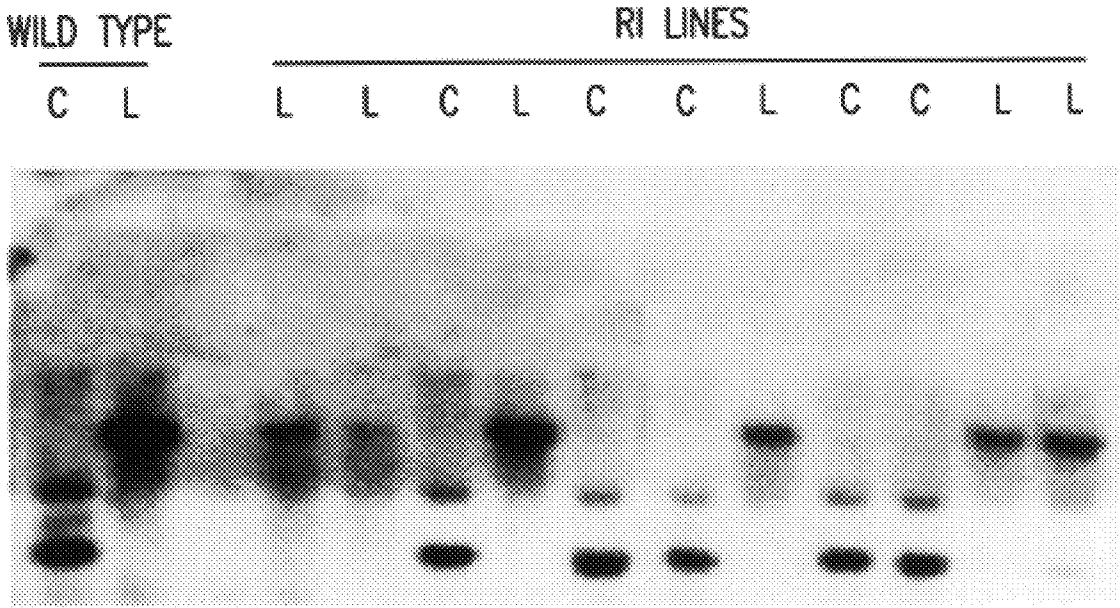


FIG.24

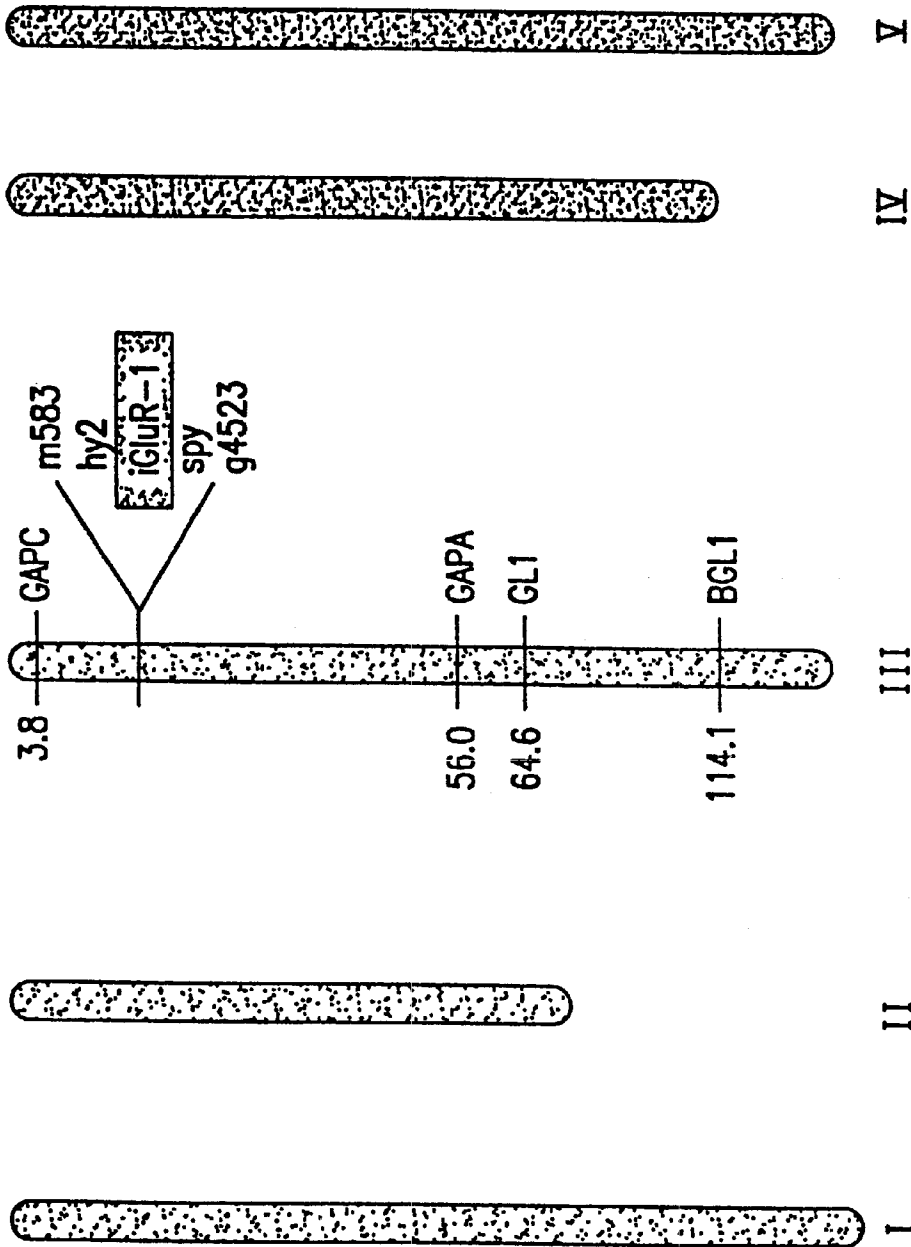
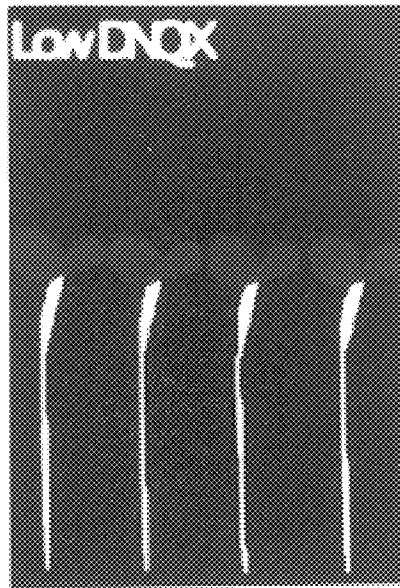
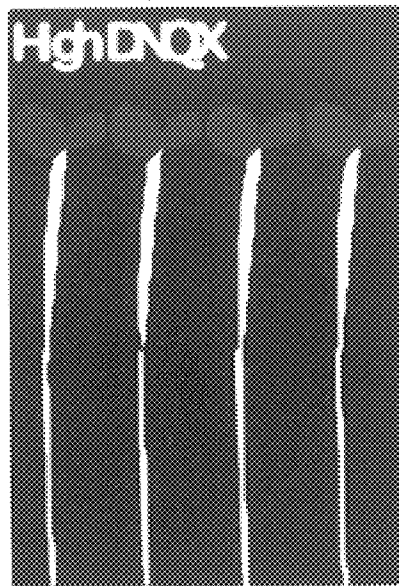


FIG.25



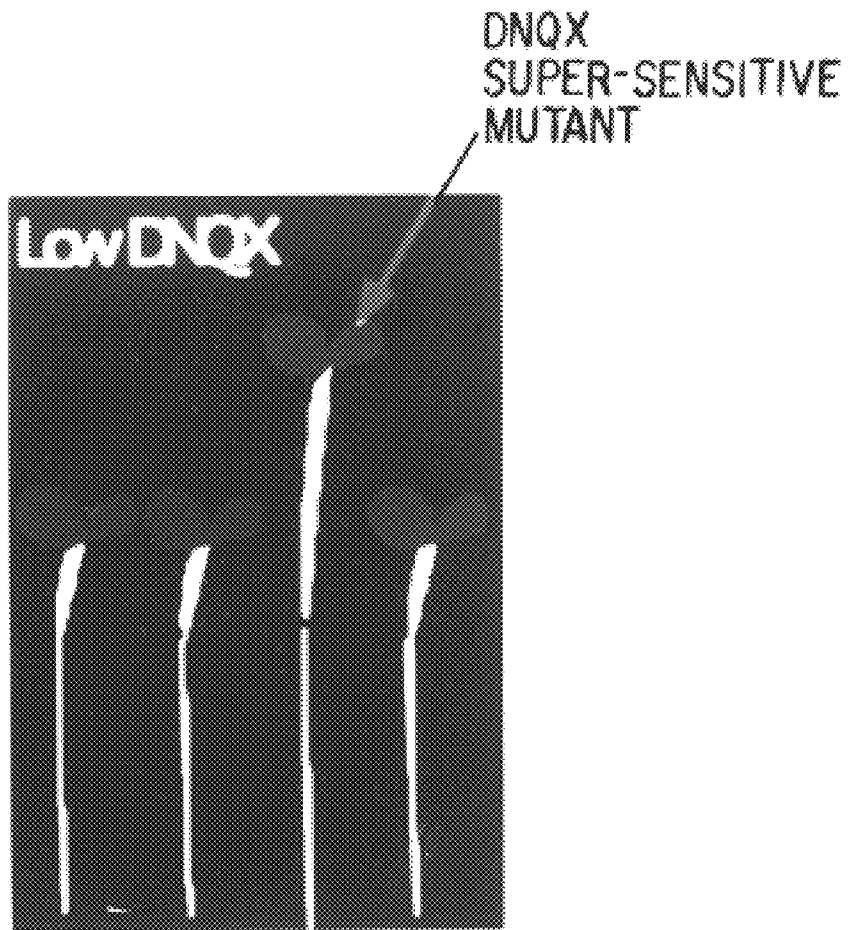
WILD TYPE

FIG.26A



WILD TYPE

FIG.26B



EMS MUTAGENIZED M2 SEEDS

FIG.26C

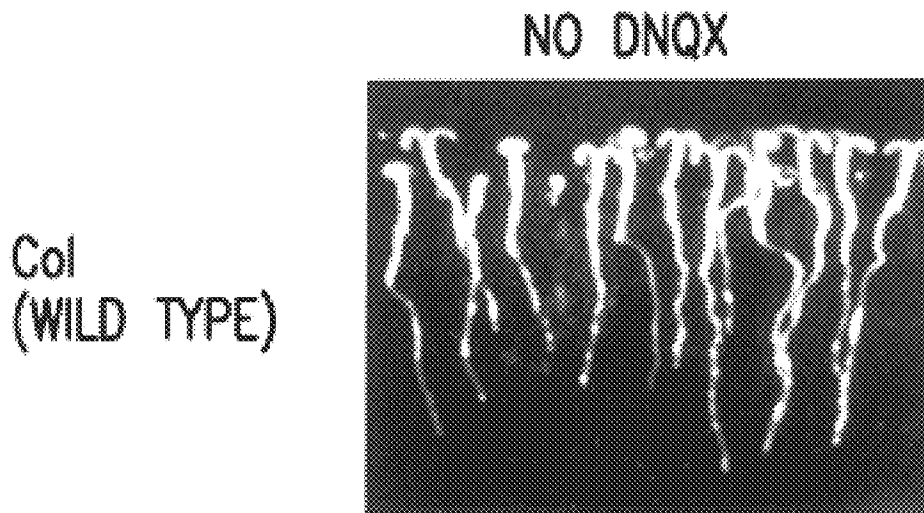


FIG.27A

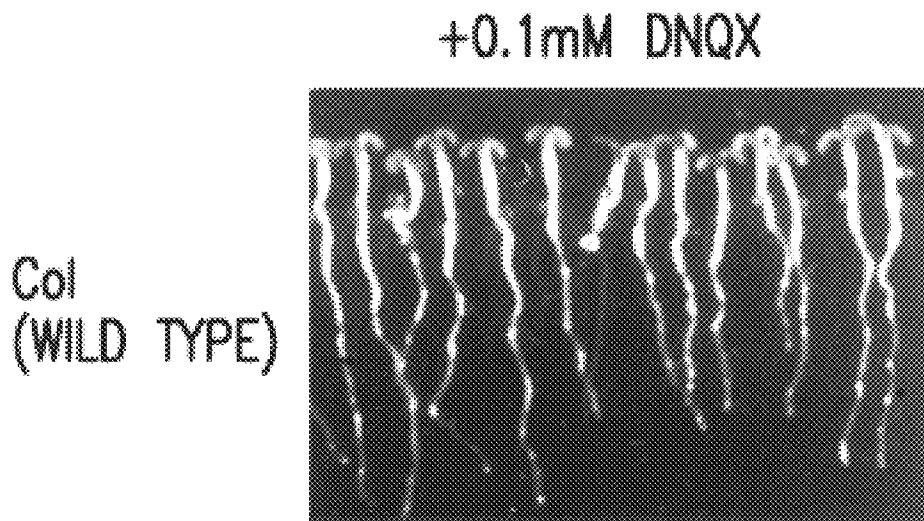


FIG.27B

NO DNQX

DNQX
SUPER-SENSITIVE
MUTANT

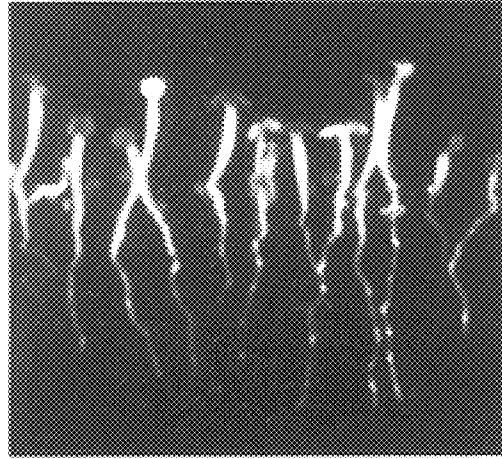


FIG.27C

+0.1mM DNQX

DNQX
SUPER-SENSITIVE
MUTANT

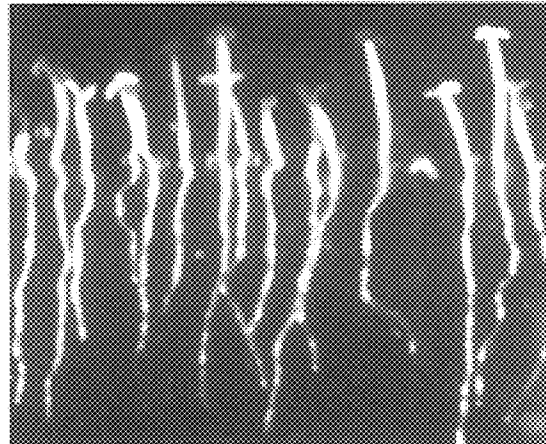


FIG.27D

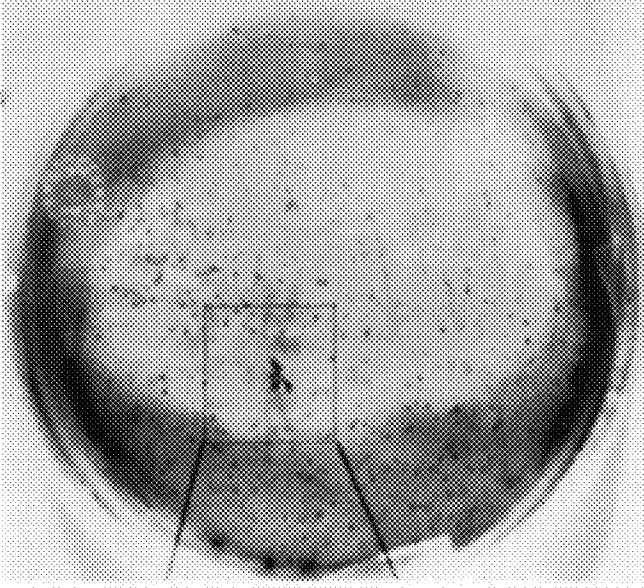


FIG.28A

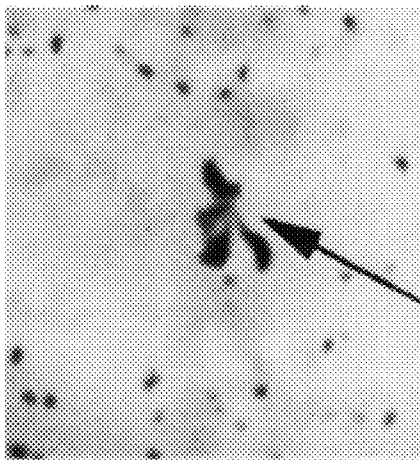


FIG.28B

KA RESISTANT MUTANT

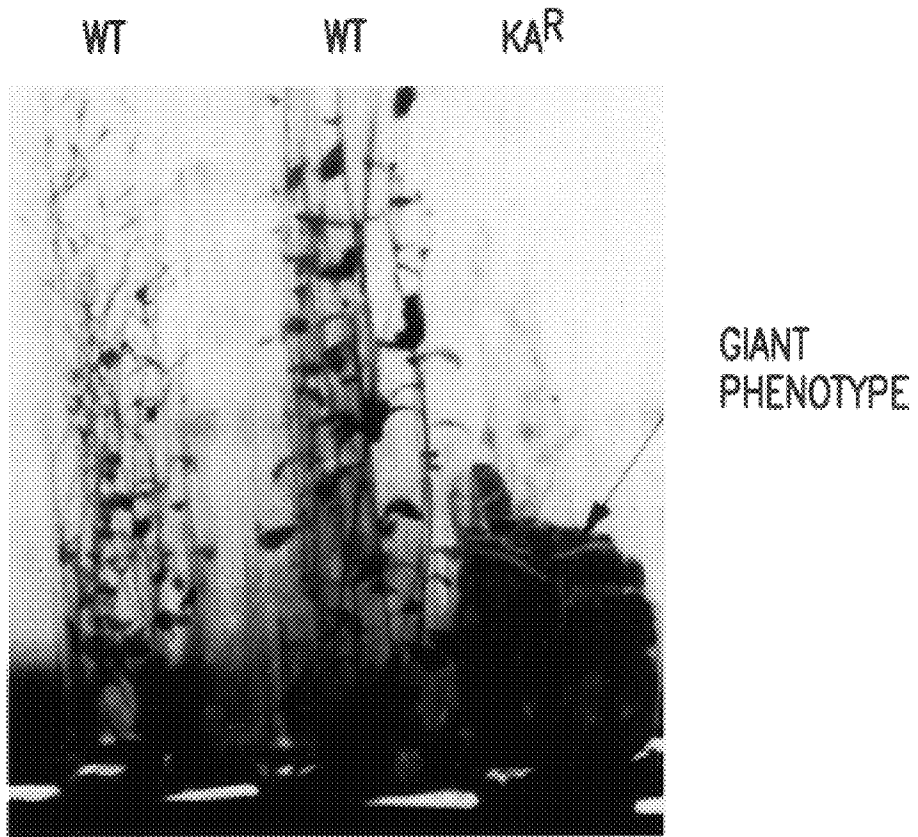


FIG.29A

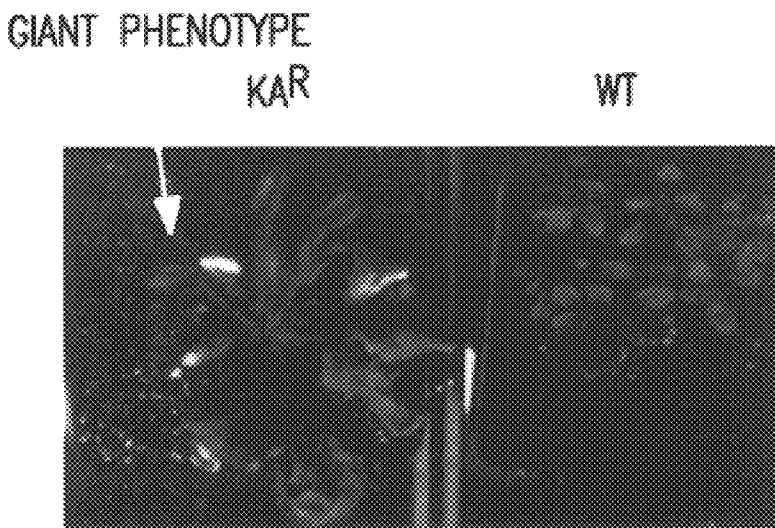


FIG.29B

Rat K2

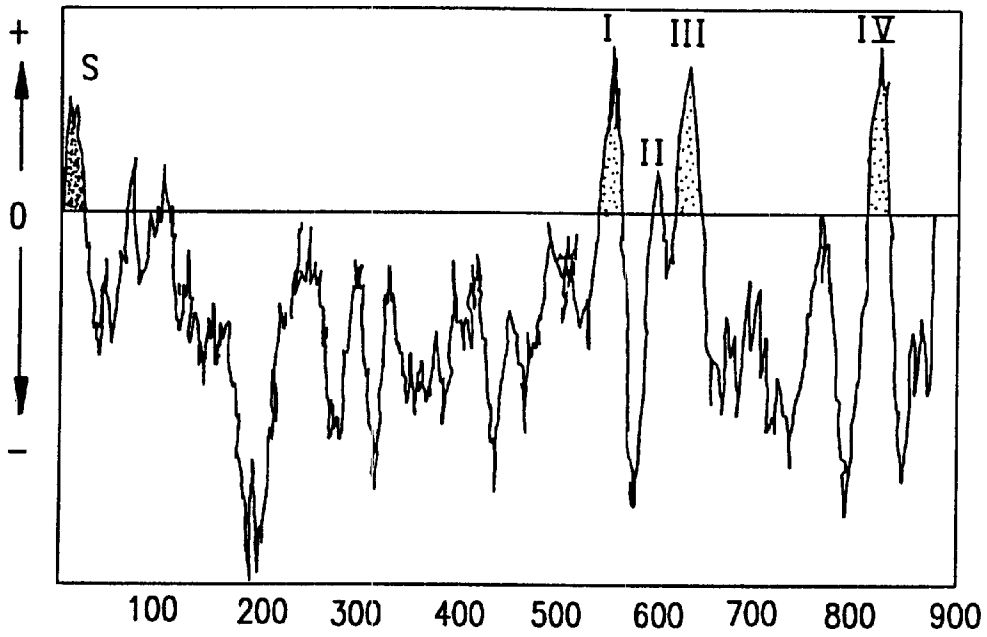


FIG.30A

Arabidopsis iGlr-1

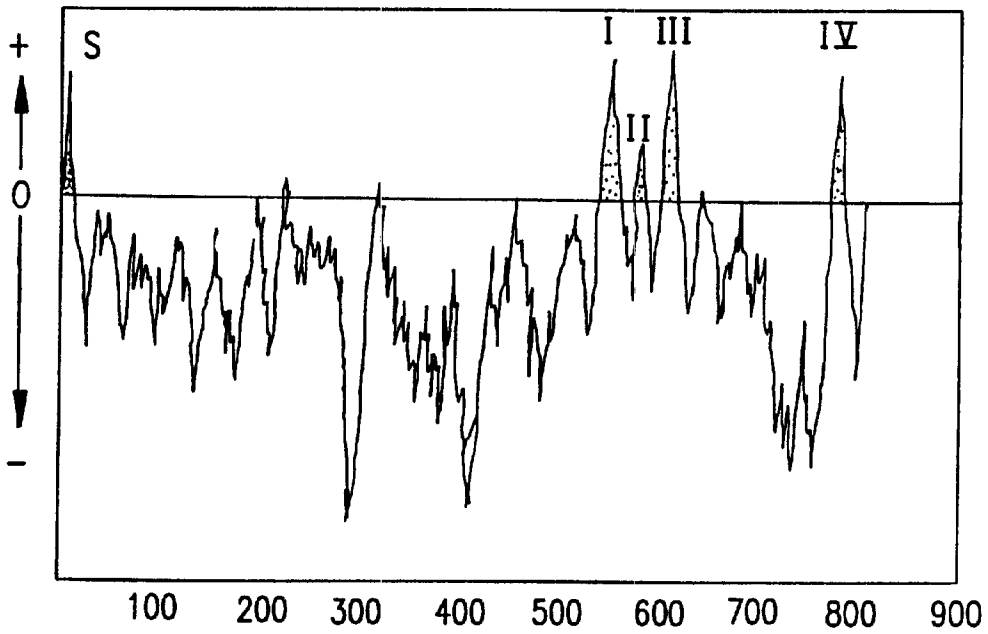


FIG.30B

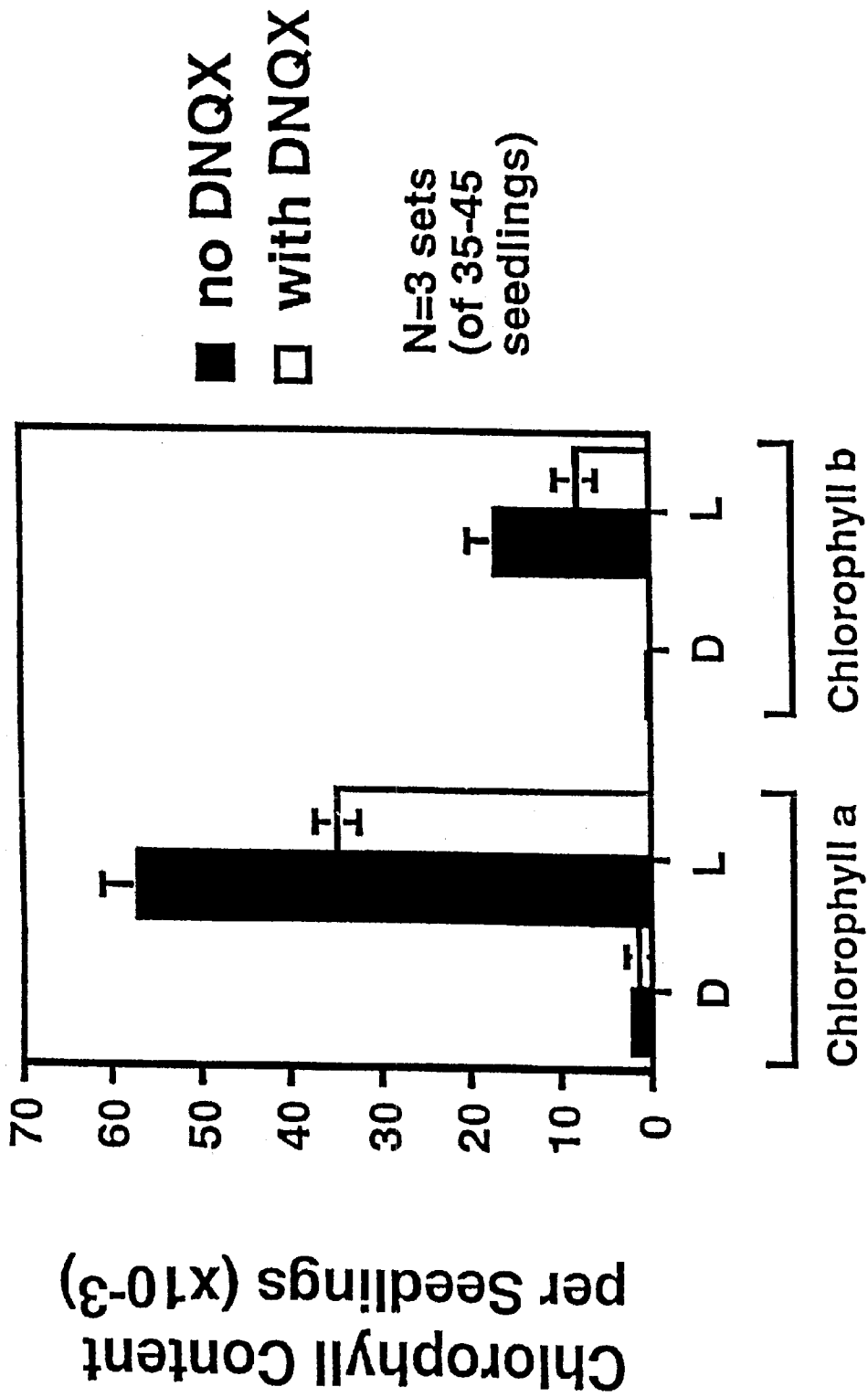
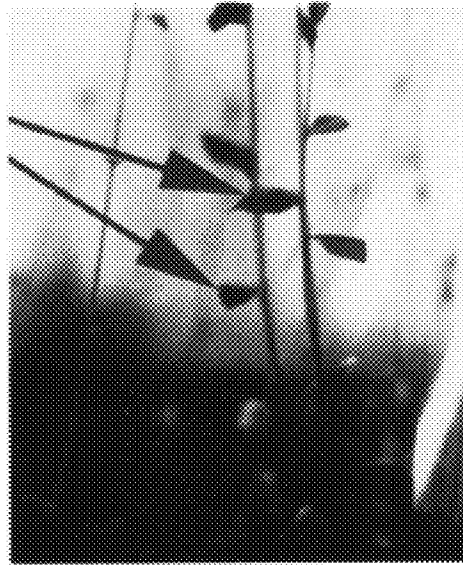


FIG. 31



WILD TYPE

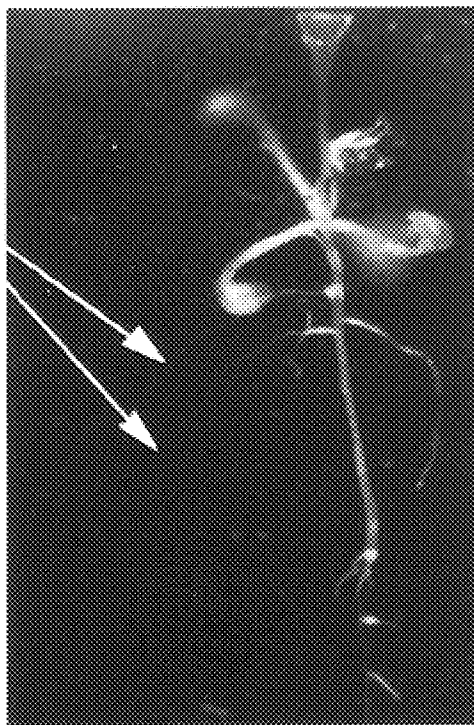
FIG.32A



KA RESISTANT GIANT

FIG.32B

ROOTS
INITIATED FROM
HYPOCOTYL



ELONGATED
HYPOCOTYL

FIG.33

PLANT GLUTAMATE RECEPTORS

This is a division of application Ser. No. 08/658,335, filed Jun. 6, 1996 now U.S. Pat. No. 5,981,703 which is a continuation-in-part of application Ser. No. 08/629,291, filed Apr. 8, 1996 now U.S. Pat. No. 5,959,174, which is a continuation-in-part of application Ser. No. 08/481,956, filed Jun. 7, 1995 now U.S. Pat. No. 5,824,867.

This invention was made with U.S. government support under NIH grant GM-32877. The U.S. government has certain rights in the invention.

1. INTRODUCTION

The invention relates to a family of glutamate receptors (GluR) in plants, compounds that modulate the activity of the plant GluR, and the use of such compounds as plant growth regulators, including herbicides. The invention also relates to nucleotide sequences encoding the plant GluR and to plant assay systems designed to identify novel plant growth regulators that may be used as herbicides and/or pharmaceutical drugs.

2. BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

2.1. Metabolic and Regulatory Roles of Glutamate in Plants

Glutamate has important roles in plant nitrogen metabolism. Glutamate is the amino acid into which inorganic nitrogen is first assimilated into organic form. Plants have three distinct nitrogen processes related to nitrogen metabolism: (1) primary nitrogen-assimilation, (2) photorespiration, and (3) nitrogen "recycling." All three processes involve assimilation of ammonia into glutamate and glutamine by the operation of glutamine synthetase (GS) and glutamate synthase (GOGAT). Glutamate and glutamine, being the first products of nitrogen-assimilation, in turn serve as nitrogen donors in the biosynthesis of essentially all amino acids, nucleic acids, and other nitrogen-containing compounds such as chlorophyll (Lea et al., in: *Recent Advances in Phytochemistry*, edited by Poulton et al., New York and London: Plenum Press, 1988, pp. 157-189).

Glutamate is also a principal "nitrogen-transport" compound in plants. It and glutamine are two major amino acids used to transport nitrogen within a plant (Lea and Mifflin, in: *The Biochemistry of Plants*, Vol. 5, edited by Stumpf and Conn, Academic Press, 1980, pp. 569-607; Urquhart and Joy, 1981, *Plant Physiol.* 68:750-754). In light-grown metabolically active plants, glutamate and glutamine are used in anabolic reactions and are transported as such. By contrast, in etiolated or dark-adapted plants, glutamine is converted into inert asparagine for long-term nitrogen storage.

Glutamate also may be a signal or regulatory molecule in regulating the expression of plant genes. Specifically, glutamate along with glutamine and asparagine appears to have an antagonistic role to that of sucrose in regulating certain nitrogen assimilation genes. Sucrose has been shown to induce the expression of genes for nitrate reductase (NR), nitrite reductase (NiR), and chloroplastic glutamine synthetase (GS2) in tobacco (Saur et al., 1987, *Z. Naturforsch.* 42:270-278; Vincentz et al., 1993, *Plant J.* 3:315-324). Sucrose also induces genes for GS2 and ferredoxin-dependent glutamate synthase (Fd-GOGAT) in *Arabidopsis*. Sucrose-induction of the NR and NiR in tobacco is suppressed by subsequent additions of glutamine, glutamate or asparagine to the media (Vincentz et al., *ibid.*). Conversely, a nitrogen metabolism gene, glutamine-dependent aspar-

agine synthetase (ASN1), in *Arabidopsis* is repressed by light or sucrose (Lam et al., 1994, *Plant Physiol.* 106:1347-1357). The sucrose repression of ASN1 can be relieved by additions of glutamine, glutamate, or asparagine (Id.).

2.2. Glutamate Receptors in Animal Cells

Excitatory amino acids constitute the principal neurotransmitter receptors that mediate synaptic communication in animals (Gasic et al., 1992, *Annu. Rev. Physiol.* 54: 507-536). In particular, L-glutamate is the major excitatory neurotransmitter of the mammalian central nervous system (Monaghan et al., 1989, *Annu. Rev. Pharmacol. Toxic.* 29: 365-402). Glutamate signaling in animals is important for many physiological and pathological processes such as developmental plasticity, long-term potentiation, and excitotoxic damage in ischemia and other neurodegenerative disorders (Choi, 1988, *Neuron* 1: 623-624; Kennedy, 1989, *Cell* 59: 777-787).

In animals, glutamate can trigger various downstream physiological responses by interacting with different GluR. GluRs in animals are involved in central nervous system (CNS) disorders such as Huntington's disease, Parkinson's disease and Alzheimer's disease. The GluR is involved in the initiation and propagation of seizures and in massive neuronal cell death during periods of ischemia and hypoglycemia. GluRs have been grouped into five distinct subtypes (Gasic et al., 1992, *Annu. Rev. Physiol.* 54: 507-536): (a) NMDA (N-methyl-D-aspartate), (b) KA (Kainate), (c) AMPA (α -amino-3-hydroxy-5-methyl-4-isoxazole propionate), (d) L-AP4 (2-amino-4-phosphonobutyrate) and (e) ACPD (trans-1-amino-cyclopentane-1,3 dicarboxylate). NMDA, KA and AMPA, which form ligand gated ion channels that are activated on a msec scale, are the ionotropic (iGluR) subtypes. By contrast, metabotropic (mGluR) subtypes, L-AP4 and ACPD, are coupled to G proteins and operate on a time scale of several hundred msec to seconds. L-AP4 receptor probably acts via a G protein by increasing the hydrolysis of cGMP and subsequently leads to the closure of ion channels conducting an inward current. The ACPD subtype, which couples with a G protein that is linked to inositol phosphate/diacylglycerol formation and subsequent release of calcium from internal stores. Both iGluR and mGluR seem to play a role in the activation of transcription factors, such as c-jun and c-fos (Condorelli et al., 1993, *J. Neurochem.* 60: 877-885; Condorelli et al., 1994, *Neurochem. Res.* 19: 489-499).

2.2.1. Ionotropic Glutamate Receptors

There are major differences in the neurophysiological functions of the three subtypes of iGluR (Seeburg, 1995, *TINS* 16:359-365). AMPA receptors are found in the majority of all fast excitatory neurotransmission. The very low Ca⁺⁺ permeability of AMPA receptor suggests that they probably do not trigger biochemical reactions directly via an increase in intracellular Ca⁺⁺ levels. In NMDA receptor, Ca⁺⁺ flux will trigger different processes ranging from trophic developmental actions to an activity-dependent resetting of the synaptic strength underlying some forms of learning and memory. The significance of high-affinity kainate sites in the nervous systems is yet to be fully understood.

(A) AMPA Receptor

AMPA receptors consist of at least four different subunits: GluR1-GluR4. The two major forms, named "flip" and "flop", which are formed by differential splicing, display different expression profiles in the mature and the develop-

ing brain (Sommer et al., 1990, *Science* 249:1580–1585). For GluR2 subunit, RNA editing (Q to R) in transmembrane domain (TM) II has been shown to regulate the Ca⁺⁺ permeability. RNA editing leads to a decrease in Ca⁺⁺ permeability (Burnashev et al., 1992, *Neuron*, 8:189–198; Hume et al., 1991, *Science* 253:1028–1031).

(B) Kainate Receptors

High-affinity kainate receptors are composed of subunits GluR5–GluR7, KA1, and KA2 (Seeburg et al., 1995, *TINS* 16:359–365). Both GluR5 and GluR6 subunits also display the Q to R editing similar to the case of GluR2 of AMPA receptors (Sommer et al., 1991, *Cell* 67:11–19). GluR6 has two additional positions in TMI that are modified by RNA editing (Kohler et al., 1993, *Neuron* 10:491–500). For GluR6, only when TMI is edited does editing in TMII (Q to R) influence Ca⁺⁺ permeability (Kohler et al., 1993, *Neuron* 10:491–500). In contrast to the AMPA receptor channel, GluR6(R) channels edited in TMI show a higher Ca⁺⁺ permeability than GluR6(Q) channels (Kohler et al., 1993, *Neuron* 10:491–500).

(C) NMDA Receptor

NMDA receptors are highly permeable to Ca⁺⁺. The NMDA receptor can be reconstituted as heteromeric structures from two subunit types: NRI and one of the four NR2 (NR2A–NR2D) (Seeburg, 1995, *TINS* 16:359–365). All of the subunits do not show RNA editing in TMI and TMII. In fact all subunits contain an N at the site which Q to R editing occurs in non-NMDA iGluR. The most distinct feature of NMDA receptors is that they require both glycine and glutamate or both glycine and NMDA to activate the channel. The NMDA receptor has been linked to regulation of coccidian rhythm in rat brains.

2.2.2. Metabotropic Glutamate Receptors

In contrast to ionotropic glutamate receptors, (iGluR) the hallmark of the mGluR receptors resides on the fact that these molecules are coupled to G proteins and thus able to elicit typical G protein-driven intracellular responses (Gasic et al., 1992, *Annu. Rev. Physiol.* 54:507–536; Minakami et al., 1994, *Biochem. Biophys. Res. Commun.* 199:1136–1143; Schoepp et al., 1993, *Trends in Pharmacol. Sci.* 14:13–20).

The cloning of mGluR1 from a expression cDNA library of a rat cerebellum (mGluR1a), was followed by the cloning and characterization of six other mGluR genes (Schoepp et al., 1993, *Trends in Pharmacol. Sci.* 14:13–20). The mGluR1 a, the prototype member of the family, possess a large extracellular domain, a putative “seven pass” transmembrane region and display highly conserved amino acids with other members of the mGluRs both at the membrane spanning region, extracellular region and intracytoplasmic loops between transmembrane domains (Gasic et al., 1992, *Annu. Rev. Physiol.* 54:507–536; Minakami et al., 1994, *Biochem. Biophys. Res. Commun.* 199:1136–1143; Schoepp et al., 1993, *Trends in Pharmacol. Sci.* 14:13–20). The mGluR genes are unique in that they do not show significant homology with any of the previously characterized G proteins (Nakanishi et al., 1994, In: *Toward a molecular basis of alcohol use and abuse.* ed. by Jansson et al. p 71–80; Schoepp et al., 1993, *Trends in Pharmacol. Sci.* 14:13–20) and very little is known on the signal transduction mechanisms and second messenger responses for each mGluR receptor (Schoepp et al., 1993, *Trends in Pharmac. Sci.* 14:13–20).

Studies in the in situ localization of mRNA encoding the different mGluRs shows them to be differentially distributed

in the brain with cells from diverse tissues expressing one or more combinations of the various members of the mGluR family of receptors, suggestive of a relevant participation in the modulation of several important biological processes (Schoepp et al., 1993, *Trends in Pharmac. Sci.* 14:13–20). Indeed, the mGluR proteins have been reported to be involved with neuroprotection and neuronal pathophysiology (Baskys, 1992, *Trends in Neuro Sci.* 15:92–96; Schoepp et al., 1993, *Trends in Pharmac. Sci.* 14:13–20).

Analysis of the pharmacological properties of the individual mGluR molecules revealed that the agonists L-AP4 (L-2-amino-4-phosphonobutyrate) and ACPD (trans-1-amino-cyclopentane-1,3 dicarboxylate) can selectively stimulate different mGluR serving as a basis for the classification of this group of proteins (Nakanishi et al., 1994, In: *Toward a molecular basis of alcohol use and abuse.* Ed. Jansson et al. p 71–80).

(A) L-AP4 Receptor

The L-AP4 receptor has been defined electrophysiologically as an inhibitory glutamate site and biochemical evidence suggest that mGluR4, mGluR6 and mGluR7 are involved in this response (Nakanishi et al., 1994, In: *Toward a molecular basis of alcohol use and abuse* ed by Jansson et al. p 71–80; Schoepp et al., 1993, *Trends in Pharmacol. Sci.* 14:13–20). The L-AP4 receptor appears to be localized pre-synaptically such that activation inhibits the release of excitatory neurotransmitter through a mechanism involving a pertussis toxin sensitive G protein (Nakanishi et al., 1994, In: *Toward a molecular basis of alcohol use and abuse.* Ed. Jansson et al. p 71–80). The molecular identity and possible biological function of this group of receptors come from studies where mammalian cells were transfected with a cloned isoform of mGluR (mGluR4) responded to both L-glutamate and L-AP4 by depressing forskolin-stimulated cAMP levels (Nakanishi et al., 1994, In: *Toward a molecular basis of alcohol use and abuse.* ed. by Jansson, p 71–80; Schoepp et al., 1993, *Trends in Pharmacol. Sci.* 14:13–20). L-AP-4 has also been shown to reduce electrically-stimulated excitatory transmission, suggestive of a close interaction between mGluR and Ca²⁺ channels (Cunningham et al., 1993, *Life Sciences* 54:135–148; Schoepp et al., 1993, *Trends in Pharmac. Sci.* 14:13–20) and specifically in the regulation of ionotropic glutamate receptors (Baskys, 1992, *Trends in Neuro. Sci.* 15:92–96). Very little is known about the signal transduction mechanisms and second messenger responses elicited by this subgroup of mGluR.

(B) ACPD Receptor

The mechanisms of signal transduction of this subgroup of receptors is better understood than that of the L-AP4-responsive mGluRs. Transfection of the cDNA for mGluR1, mGluR2, mGluR3 and mGluR5 in CHO cells revealed that this receptors are strongly responsive to the drug ACPD (trans-1-amino-cyclopentane-1,3 dicarboxylate) (Cunningham et al., 1993, *Life Sciences* 54:135–148; Schoepp et al., 1993, *Trends in Pharmac. Sci.* 14:13–20). However, not all mGluR activate the same pathways and different mGluR can elicit diverse intracellular responses. Thus, mGluR5 possess high homology with mGluR1 yet these two receptors differ in which mGluR5 does not induce formation of cAMP. Moreover, stimulation of the mGluR2 and 3 does not lead to phosphoinositide hydrolysis and mGluR2 has been shown to inhibit cAMP formation in transfection experiments (Schoepp et al. 1993). The diversity of the mGluR family of receptors can be further appreciated by the recent observation that mGluR2 and mGluR3

receptors display an unusually high response to stimulation by quisqualate when compared to other ACPD mGluR responses (Nakanishi et al., 1994, In: Toward a molecular basis of alcohol use and abuse. ed. by Jansson et al. p 71-80; Schoepp et al., 1993, Trends in Pharmacol. Sci. 14:13-20) which argues in favor of their further grouping in a more specialized division among the ACPD-induced receptors. Finally, stimulation of primary neuronal cultures with ACPD and quisqualate caused a strong and transient induction of immediate early genes such as c-fos, c-jun and zif-268 mRNAs (Condorelli et al., 1994, Neurochem Res. 19:489-499).

3. SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a family of GluR in plants, including ionotropic (iGluR), metabotropic (mGluR) and other glutamate-like plant receptors. The plant GluRs of the invention may function as signal transducers involved in the regulation of plant growth. The invention also relates to the identification of compounds that modulate the activity of the plant GluR, and the use of such compounds as plant growth regulators, including herbicides.

The invention is based in part, on a number of unanticipated surprising discoveries. One is the discovery of plant proteins that have high degree of amino acid sequence homology to the animal ionotropic or metabotropic glutamate receptors previously found only in vertebrate tissues. The other is the finding that agonists and antagonists of animal glutamate receptors function to modulate expression of plant genes and as plant growth regulators. These agonists and antagonists structurally constrained or do not resemble glutamate. Thus, their actions in plants likely are due to their specific interaction with one or more plant glutamate receptors, rather than to general effects on glutamate-utilizing enzymes. These findings together indicate that plants have glutamate receptors that function as signal transducers.

The invention encompasses: (a) nucleotide sequences that encode the plant GluR, including mutants, recombinants, and fusion proteins; (b) the expression of such nucleotide sequences in genetically engineered host cells and/or in transgenic plants; (c) the isolated GluR plant proteins and GluR engineered gene products, including mutants, fragments, and fusion proteins; (d) antibodies to the plant GluR proteins and polypeptides; (e) screening assays involving the use of plants, transgenic plants, genetically engineered cells that express the plant GluR or mutants thereof, or GluR proteins or peptides, to identify compounds that act as agonists or antagonists; (f) the use of such agonists or antagonists as plant growth regulators, including herbicides; (g) the engineering of transgenic plants resistant to herbicidal antagonists of the plant GluR and/or transgenic plants with improved agronomic or industrial properties; and (h) the use of antagonists or agonists of the plant GluR identified in the screening assays described herein as drugs for animal use, including humans.

3.1. Definitions

An agonist is defined herein as an agent that acts like a referenced compound or that activates a receptor molecule.

An antagonist is defined herein as an agent that acts in opposition to an agonist or a referenced compound or that inhibits a receptor molecule.

A chimeric gene comprises a coding sequence linked to a regulatory region, i.e., promoters, enhancer elements and additional elements known to those skilled in the art that

drive and regulate expression, that said coding sequence is not naturally linked to. The coding sequence may encode messenger RNA (mRNA), antisense RNA or ribozymes.

4. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIGS. 1A, 1B, 1C. HPLC Analysis of Free Amino Acids in Arabidopsis

FIG. 1A. Amino acids were extracted from leaves of Arabidopsis plants that were grown in light (empty boxes) or subsequently dark adapted for 24 hours (filled boxes). Amino acids were derivatized and separated by reverse phase HPLC. Each sample represents the average of three different plants (two leaves/plant). The standard three letter code is used for all amino acids; gaba: γ -amino butyric acid.

FIG. 1B. Average amino acid content in phloem exudates of three independent plants (one leaf/plant).

FIG. 1C. Average amino acid content of xylem sap collected from cut hypocotyls of three independent plants. Data are from Schultz (1994).

FIG. 2. Reciprocal Control By Light On Arabidopsis GLN2 and ASN1 Expression

The effects of light on GLN2 and ASN1 expression were tested in mature Arabidopsis plants. Plants were grown on soil under a 16-h light/8-h dark cycle for 2 weeks and transferred to continuous light (lane 1) or continuous darkness (lane 2) for 5 d. Total RNA (10 μ g) was used for each of the lanes. Hybridization was performed by [α - 32 P]dATP-labeled GLN2 or digoxigenin-labeled ASN1 DNA probes in Stratagene QuikHyb solution under high stringency condition. The nylon filter was first hybridized with the GLN2 probe, then stripped, and rehybridized with the ASN1 probe. (Lam et al., 1994).

FIG. 3. Effect Of C:N Ratio On The mRNA Levels Of ASN1 And GDH

Arabidopsis seeds were grown on plates containing MS medium plus 3% (w/v) Suc under 16-h light/8-h dark cycle for 2 weeks. The plants were then transferred to media described below and grown in complete darkness for 2.5 d. Lanes 1 to 4, MS medium with no sugar; lanes 5 to 8, MS medium with 3% (w/v) Suc. MS was supplemented with 0.4 mM Asn (lanes 2 and 6), 3.4 mM Gln (lanes 3 and 7), or 3.3 mM Glu (lanes 4 and 8). The expression of ASN1, GDH, and a cytosolic GS (GSR2) were detected by northern analyses (under high-stringency conditions in 50% [v/v] formamide solution). 10 μ g of total RNA was used for each lane. The nylon filter was first hybridized with ASN1, then stripped, and re-hybridized with the GSR2 probe. The nylon filter was then stripped again and re-hybridized with the GDH probe.

FIGS. 4A and 4B. A Model Depicting The Regulation Of Nitrogen Assimilation Genes By C:N Ratio

FIG. 4A. In the light, when photosynthesis occurs and carbon skeletons are abundant, nitrogen is assimilated and transported as glutamine and glutamate; levels of mRNA for genes involved in glutamine and glutamate synthesis (GLN2, GLU1) are accordingly induced by both light and sucrose. By contrast, light represses the synthesis of asparagine which therefore accumulates only in tissues of dark-adapted plants.

FIG. 4B. Levels of ASN1 mRNA are dramatically induced in dark-adapted plants, and this induction is repressed by light or by high levels of sucrose. Thus, under conditions of carbon limitation or nitrogen excess, plants activate genes for asparagine biosynthesis (Lam et al., 1995). The mRNA level of GDH was found to be under similar control (see also FIG. 3).

FIG. 5. Proposed Topology and Functional Domains of Ionotropic Glutamate Receptor Subunits

Hydrophobicity plots of GluR subunit sequences predict four transmembrane (TM) segments (TM I-IV), depicted here hypothetically as a helices I-IV.

FIG. 6. Peptide Sequence Homology Between The Arabidopsis iGluR (SEQ ID NO:1) and Animal iGluRs [*E. coli* GlnH:(SEQ ID NO:2); Chick KBP:(SEQ ID NO:3); Frog KBP:(SEQ ID NO:4); Rat GluR-K1:(SEQ ID NO:5); Rat GluR-K3:(SEQ ID NO:6); Rat GluR-K2:(SEQ ID NO:7)]

Peptide sequence analysis shows that the putative Arabidopsis iGluR contains a conserved glutamine binding domain which exists in all animal iGluRs.

FIG. 7A. Peptide sequence analysis shows the extensive homology between the putative Arabidopsis iGluR (SEQ ID NO:8) animal iGluRs. The region of homology extends from the glutamine binding domain into the transmembrane domains.

FIG. 7B. Peptide sequence analysis shows the extensive homology between the putative Arabidopsis mGluR and animal iGluR [NMDA:(SEQ ID NO:9); KA:(SEQ ID NO:10)]. The region of homology extends from the glutamate binding domain into the transmembrane domain.

FIG. 7C. Arabidopsis EST clones with low degree homology to glutamate binding domains. These EST clones have no homology to ionotropic nor metabotropic GluR. Partial nucleotide sequence of EST clones are provided here [ATT50711:(SEQ ID NO:13); ATT52655:(SEQ ID NO:14); T20773:(SEQ ID NO:15)].

FIG. 8. Genomic Southern Analysis of Arabidopsis iGluR

Two μ g of CsCl-purified Arabidopsis genomic DNA was digested with different restriction enzymes. Genomic Southern blot analyses were performed by running the digested DNA on a 1% (w/v) Tris-phosphate-EDTA agarose gel. The DNA was transferred to a nylon membrane after depurination, denaturation, and neutralization steps, followed by high-stringency hybridization with DIG-labeled probes which are generated by random-primed reactions (as described in the Boehringer-Mannheim Genius System User's Guide).

FIG. 9. Expression Of Arabidopsis iGluR In Different Tissues

Twenty μ g of total RNA from each of the leaf, root, and flower tissues were run on a 1% formaldehyde agarose gel. Northern blot analyses were performed with high-stringency hybridization conditions at a temperature of 42° C. in 50% (v/v) formamide hybridization solution. Washing and chemiluminescent detection were performed according to the Boehringer-Mannheim Genius System User's Guide. The Northern shows that Arabidopsis iGluR mRNA is expressed predominantly in leaves and also at lower levels in roots and flowers of Arabidopsis.

FIG. 10. Chemical Structures of Glutamate, Kainate, and DNQX

FIGS. 11A and 11B. Effects Of iGluR Agonist and On The Growth Of Arabidopsis

Arabidopsis seeds were grown on MS+3% sucrose vertical tissue culture plates containing various amounts of kainate (FIG. 11A) or DNQX (FIG. 11B), with (white bars) or without (black bars) glutamate supplementation. The effects of each drug on plant growth were assayed by measuring root length after two week. The results were discussed in text.

FIGS. 12A, 12B, 12C. Induction of Gene Expression by iGluR Agonist

FIG. 12A. Arabidopsis seeds were grown on plates containing MS medium plates 3% (w/v) Suc under 16-h light/8-h dark cycle for 2-3 weeks. The plants were then transferred to media described below and grown in complete darkness for 2 d. All samples containing 3% sucrose except for lane 2. MS was supplemented with kainate (lane 4:0.3 mM and lane 5:0.03 mM), 0.05% (w/v) glutamate (lanes 6 and 7), and 10 μ M DNQX (lanes 7 and 8). The expression of ASN1 and a control gene were detected by northern analyses on duplicate blots (under high-stringency conditions in 50% [v/v] formamide-solution), 20 μ g of total RNA was used for each lane.

FIG. 12B. Quantitation of the Northern blot results in (A) by densitometry scan.

FIG. 12C. Average folds of induction in two Northern lot experiments.

FIGS. 13A and 13B. Inhibition of Arabidopsis Growth by High Dosage of Kainate and DNQX

Photographic representation of high dosage inhibitory effects of kainate and DNQX on the growth of Arabidopsis as described in FIG. 11.

FIGS. 14A and 14B. Model Depicting Effects of Agonists and Antagonists on Plants Expressing Wildtype and Mutant GluR.

FIG. 15. Nucleotide and deduced amino acid sequence of full length Arabidopsis iGluR cDNA, called iGlr1. The regions of highest homology to animal iGluR are denoted in FIGS. 17 and 18.

The full-length Arabidopsis iGlr1 cDNA clone was constructed as follows: the partial EST cDNA clone 107M14T7 was used as a hybridization probe to isolate two additional iGlr cDNA clones (HM299 and HM262) from two different Arabidopsis cDNA libraries, KC-HM1 and CD4-7 (obtained from the Arabidopsis stock center, Ohio). Portions of each iGlr cDNA clone were annealed to generate a full-length Arabidopsis iGlr1 cDNA which was given the trivial name HM330.

FIG. 16. Proposed membrane topology of iGluR receptors in animals. The model shows the important domains of animal iGluRs and their membrane topology. This figure is included as a reference, and does not include data generated in our lab. In addition to a signature 3+1 transmembrane topology, animal iGluRs contain two extracellular domains which are proposed to bind to glutamate. The two putative glutamate bindings domains have been previously shown to have homology to the *E. coli* glutamine permease gene (GlnH).

FIG. 17. Conserved domains between animal and Arabidopsis iGluR gene. The Arabidopsis iGlr1 cDNA encodes numerous conserved features of animal iGluRs including, 1. a signal peptide to direct it to the membrane (SP), 2. two putative glutamate-binding domains with homology to *E. coli* (GlnH1 and GlnH2), 3. Four transmembrane domains (TM I-IV). The amino acid sequences spanning the high homology region are shown in FIG. 4.

FIG. 18. Amino acid identities between Arabidopsis iGlr1 (SEQ ID NOS:26-27) and iGluR (SEQ ID NOS:28-31) gene of rat. Boxed are the GlnH1 and GlnH2 domains which show homology to *E. coli* glutamine permease (as defined in the animal sequence; see FIG. 17), the four transmembrane domains (TM I-IV). The arrow points to the conserved ligand-binding residue in the GlnH1 domain.

FIG. 19. A proposed role for plant iGluR in light signal transduction. We have shown that the iGluR antagonist DNQX and high concentrations of the iGluR agonist KA can

block photomorphogenic processes such as germination, chloroplast development and hypocotyl elongation (see FIGS. 20–23). This model proposes a role for plant iGluR in the light signal transduction cascade.

FIG. 20. iGluR antagonist DNQX phenocopies Arabidopsis long hypocotyl (hy) mutants impaired in light signal transduction. Light normally promotes greening and inhibits hypocotyl elongation in wild-type seedlings. hy mutants are impaired in light perception/signal transduction. hy mutants when grown in light take on the morphology of dark-grown seedlings (long hypocotyl). When wild-type plants are treated with DNQX, they grow as hy mutants (long hypocotyl).

FIG. 21. DNQX has a significant effect on hypocotyl length in Arabidopsis. Increasing doses of DNQX (200 μ M and 400 μ M) cause significant increases in hypocotyl elongation in Arabidopsis. N=number of plants measured.

FIG. 22. DNQX, the iGluR antagonist blocks light-induced chloroplast development in Arabidopsis. Left panel. Plants grown in darkness have unopened yellow cotyledons. When these plants are exposed to light for 5 hrs, the cotyledons begin to green. If plants are grown in the dark with DNQX in the media, the cotyledons remain yellow and unopened after 5 hrs of light exposure. Thus, DNQX appears to block light-induced chloroplast development.

FIG. 23. Effects of kainate of germination of Arabidopsis in the dark. Arabidopsis seedlings germinated on media containing increasing amounts of kainate (200–400 μ M) show a significant inhibition of germination of dark-grown seedlings. This inhibition of germination is likely to be specific to iGluR as it is specifically reversed by the supplementation of glutamate to the growth media.

FIG. 24. The Arabidopsis iGlr1 gene was mapped using recombinant inbred lines of Arabidopsis. An RFLP for iGlr1 was identified in the wild-type Arabidopsis ecotypes Columbia (C) and Landsberg (L). This iGlr1-specific RFLP was used to identify the genotype of the iGlr1 gene in 30 Recombinant Inbred lines as being derived from the C or L parents. The “pattern” of inheritance of the iGlr1 gene in the recombinant inbred lines was compared to known markers and used to determine a map position (see FIG. 25).

FIG. 25. iGlr1 maps to chromosome III to a similar position as two known mutants, hy2 and spy. Using data from recombinant inbred lines hy2 is a mutant impaired in light signal transduction (see review Whitelam & Harberd, *Plant Cell Environment* 1994, 17, 615–625). The spy mutant is impaired in GA hormone signal transduction (Jacobsen & Olszewski, 1993, *Plant Cell* 5, 887–896).

FIG. 26. Screen for Arabidopsis mutants with altered sensitivity to the iGluR antagonist DNQX. Mutants affected in iGluR can be used to test the in vivo function of plant iGluR and could also be mapped relative to the cloned gene. To isolate mutants in Arabidopsis iGluR we developed a screen for plants that are super-sensitive to the iGluR antagonist DNQX. Normally wild-type Arabidopsis only show an elongated hypocotyl phenotype when exposed to high doses of DNQX (200–400 μ M) and show no hypocotyl elongation at low-concentrations (100 μ M) (see FIG. 21). Therefore, ems mutagenized M2 seeds were germinated on media containing 100 μ M DNQX and look for mutants that displayed an elongated hypocotyl at this low dose of DNQX.

FIGS. 27A–D. Isolation of putative Arabidopsis mutants that are super-sensitive to the iGluR antagonist DNQX. Arabidopsis wild-type seedlings show no significant hypocotyl elongation when germinated on 100 μ M DNQX (FIG. 27B) compared to control MS (FIG. 27A). By contrast, the

putative DNQX supersensitive mutant shows an elongated hypocotyl when germinated on 100 μ M DNQX (FIG. 27D). The putative super-sensitive mutant also shows an elongated hypocotyl compared to wild-type when germinated in the absence of DNQX (FIG. 27C). This is not unexpected that a mutation in iGluR would cause a phenotype of light-insensitivity.

FIGS. 28A and 28B. Selection of Arabidopsis mutants resistant to the iGluR agonist Kainate. High doses of kainate (12 mM) kill wild-type seedlings. This is not unexpected as high doses of the iGluR agonist kainate function as a neurotoxin in animals. Arabidopsis mutants with putative defects in the KA binding site of iGluR were selected for the ability to grow in the presence of 12 mM kainate. FIG. 28A shows ems mutagenized Arabidopsis M2 seedlings sown on 12 mM kainate. Note the one KA-resistant plant is enlarged in FIG. 28B.

FIG. 29. Arabidopsis mutants resistant to the iGluR agonist kainate, display a Giant phenotype. Three independent Arabidopsis were mutants selected for growth on 12 mM KA (see FIG. 28). When the putative KA-resistant plants are transferred to soil, they each display varying degrees of a Giant vegetative phenotype. This result may indicate that iGluR affects/enhances overall plant growth.

FIG. 30. Hydropathy plots of plant vs. animal iGluR. The hydropathy plot and prediction of transmembrane regions based on deduced primary sequence of rat iGluR K2 (upper panel) and Arabidopsis iGlr1 (lower panel) were performed with the program TMPred (K. Hofmann and W. Stoffel, *TMbase—A database of membrane spanning proteins segments*, *Biol. Chem. Hoppe-Seyler* 347,166 (1993)). Results showed that in both animal and plant iGluRs, there is a N-terminal signal peptide as well as a 3+1 transmembrane domain at the C-terminal region. These are structural features conserved in all iGluR genes.

FIG. 31. Inhibitory effects of iGluR antagonist DNOX on light-induced chlorophyll synthesis in Arabidopsis. Seedlings were sown on MS+3% sucrose agar plates and grown in complete darkness (etiolated) for 5 days. On day 6, half of the seedlings were kept in the dark (D) and the other half were transferred to white light (L) for 7.5 hours. Levels of chlorophyll a and chlorophyll b were measured using the method by Moran (*Plant Physiol.* 1982, 69:1376–1381). The cotyledons of 30–40 plants were used for each data point. The results of each treatment were an average of three groups of plants. The error bars represent standard deviation. Black bar=no DNQX treatment. White bar=treatment with 0.4 mM DNQX. Treatment with DNQX resulted in a 30–35% reduction in light-induced chlorophyll synthesis.

FIG. 32. Late flowering in KA-resistant “giant” mutants. Two independent KA-resistant mutants (KA-giant-1 and KA-Giant-2) show a giant, late flowering phenotype. Some of the cauline leaves from the flowering stalks of these KA-resistant giant mutants (panel B) display the morphology of rosette leaves in contrast to the normal morphology in wild type plants (panel A). These results suggest that iGluR may be involved in flowering and developmental processes.

FIG. 33. Isolation of a homeotic mutant from the DNQX supersensitive screen. One DNQX supersensitive mutant (0.1DNQX-10) showed a homeotic phenotype. Lateral roots emerged from the elongation hypocotyl of the plant (shown by the arrows). In wild type plants, lateral roots emerge only from roots.

5. DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a family of plant glutamate receptors, and glutamate-like receptors, the iden-

tification of compounds that modulate the activity of the plant GluR, and their use as plant growth regulators, including herbicides, or the identification of pharmaceutical agents used in animals, including man. The present invention is based, in part, on the discovery that glutamate may serve not only to transport nitrogen within a plant, but also act as a signaling molecule. A number of observations and discoveries described herein support the conclusion that the amino acids function as signaling molecules in plants. First, out of the 20 amino acids, only the amide amino acids, glutamate, glutamine, aspartate, and asparagine, accumulate to any significant levels as free amino acids in plant tissues, accounting for 64% of the total free amino acids in Arabidopsis leaves (FIG. 1). Second, out of the 20 amino acids only these four amide amino acids are found circulating within the plant vasculature to significant levels. Glutamate is the predominant amino acid transported within the phloem of light grown plants (FIG. 1 open bars). That glutamate may serve as a signaling molecule in plants is further supported by the fact that levels of free asparagine, glutamate, glutamine and aspartate are not static, but modulated by light. Glutamate levels are higher in the dark and low in the light (FIG. 1). In addition, the present invention is based on the discovery that glutamate, glutamine or asparagine each affects the expression of several nitrogen assimilatory genes in Arabidopsis (Lam et al., 1994, *Plant Physiol.* 106: 1347-1357; Vincentz et al., 1993, *Plant J.* 3:315-324). These amino acids have also been shown to affect the expression of genes involved in nitrate reduction to ammonia (Vincentz et al., 1993, *The Plant Journal* 3: 315-324).

The proposed role for glutamate is supported by the Applicants' identification of a full-length Arabidopsis cDNA, *Glr1*, that encodes a putative glutamate receptor most homologous to the iGluR class of animal glutamate receptors. The encoded *Glr1* protein contains all the characteristic features of ionotropic glutamate receptors (iGluR) including a signal peptide, two halves of the putative glutamate-binding domain and the three plus one transmembrane domains. Applicants have identified a family of iGluR genes in a variety of plants including Arabidopsis, dicots, legumes and monocots.

The proposed role for glutamate is supported by the identification of two Arabidopsis cDNAs with striking identity to iGluR and mGluR found previously only in the animal nervous system. The Applicants identified two cDNA clones each with identity to a distinct type of animal glutamate receptor. One Arabidopsis cDNA clone (EST#107M1417, pAt-iGR-1) shares high identity to a class of glutamate receptors called ionotropic (iGluR) receptors which constitutes ligand-gated ion channels (Gasic, G. P. and Hollmann, 1992, *Annu. Rev. Physiol.* 54:507-536; Kanai et al., 1993, *TINS* 16:365-370; O'Hara et al., 1993, *Neuron* 11:41-52; Seeburg, 1993, *TINS* 16:359-365). In animals, binding of glutamate to membrane bound iGluR stimulates the influx of Ca⁺⁺ resulting in and fast excitatory neurotransmission which will subsequently cause a wide variety of downstream responses (Gasic and Hollmann, 1992, *Annu. Rev. Physiol.* 54:507-536; Kanai et al., 1993, *TINS* 16:365-370; O'Hara et al., 1993, *Neuron* 11:41-52; Seeburg, 1993, *TINS* 16:359-365). For example, iGluRs may play a role in the activation of transcription factors such as c-fos and c-jun in primary neuronal cultures (Condorelli et al., 1993, *J. Neurochem.* 60:877-885; Condorelli et al., 1994, *Neurochem. Res.* 19:489-499).

The invention also relates to a second Arabidopsis cDNA (EST# 97C23T7, pAT-mGR-1) which shares identity to another class of animal glutamate receptors called metabo-

tropic glutamate receptor, mGluR (Gasic and Hollmann, 1992, *Annu. Rev. Physiol.* 54:507-536). In animals, the mGluR class of glutamate receptors is coupled to a G protein that is linked to inositol phosphate/diacylglycerol formation which results in subsequent release of calcium from internal stores (Gasic, and Hollmann, 1992, *Annu. Rev. Physiol.* 54:507-536). In animals, mGluRs also have been reported to activate immediate early response genes, such as c-fos, c-jun, zif-268 (Condorelli et al., *ibid*).

The present invention is also based on the Applicants' discovery that in addition to possessing GluR genes, plants possess functional GluRs. The Arabidopsis iGluR cDNA (pAt-iGR-1) shows high identity to the animal GluR specifically activated by an iGluR agonist called kainic acid (KA). The plant iGluR is unique in that it has homology to both NMDA-type and KA-type GluR in animals. These kainate-selective iGluR receptors are competitively inhibited by an iGluR antagonist called 6,7-dinitroquinoxaline (DNQX). This iGluR agonist (KA) and antagonist (DNQX) are structurally distinct from glutamate (see FIG. 10), yet they bind to the iGluR receptor and stimulate or inhibit its action. Thus, any responses which these drugs may effect in plants, are likely to be due to their specific interaction with a iGluR-type receptor, rather than to general effects caused by inhibition of glutamate-utilizing enzymes. This iGluR agonist/antagonist pair can specifically affect the expression of nitrogen metabolic genes in Arabidopsis.

That plants possess a functional GluR is further supported by Applicants' discovery that specific iGluR against, KA, inhibits plant growth and this inhibition can at least partially be reversed by glutamate. A specific iGluR antagonist, DNQX, is able to phenocopy Arabidopsis mutants impaired in light and/or hormone signal transduction. These data combined strongly suggest that plant iGluRs are involved in plant signal transduction and may be involved in more than one signal transduction pathway.

The invention also relates to the use of the plant GluR as a target to select for new herbicides. The cloned plant GluR described herein can be utilized for the selection of new plant specific herbicides. Glutamate analogs, such as L-methionine-S-sulfoximine (MSO) and phosphonothricin (PPT), are effective herbicides. MSO and PPT may be herbicides acting not only through target enzymes, but also through GluR.

As shown in the working examples, *infra* the present invention also provides methods of screening and identifying novel plant growth regulators and pharmaceutical drugs that mimic or antagonize glutamate in regulating plant metabolism, physiology and/or gene expression. The novel plant growth regulators may have structural homology to agonists or antagonists of animal glutamate receptors. Such agonists and antagonists have uses as stimulatory or inhibiting plant growth regulators. Due to their structural homologies with animal glutamate receptors, plant glutamate receptors proteins and polypeptides can also be used in *in vitro* screening for drugs that act on animal glutamate receptors.

The methods of identifying these novel plant growth regulators are based on *in vivo* screening of chemicals for their abilities to alter plant growth, development or gene expression in a manner that can be reversed or enhanced by glutamate or glutamate-antagonists.

In other embodiments, the methods are based on *in vitro* screening of chemicals for their abilities to compete or interfere with glutamate binding of plant or animal GluR.

The present invention also encompasses the use of the cDNA clones of the plant GluR to not only select for new

herbicides, but to also genetically engineer herbicide resistant plants. Given that glutamate acts as an important signal for growth and development, the invention also encompasses modulating the activity of the iGluR and mGluR to alter growth and development patterns of the plants by techniques such as transgenic plants. Therefore gene constructs encoding the plant glutamate receptor protein and polypeptides can be used in genetic engineering of plants to improve their agronomic or industrial properties.

The present invention also encompasses the use of plant iGluR mutants to screen for new drugs affecting the central nervous system (CNS) in humans. Agonists and antagonists of iGluR receptors in animals are used as drugs for treating CNS disorders such as Epilepsy, stroke, dementia and CNS trauma. Arabidopsis mutants super-sensitive to mammalian iGluR agonists or antagonists could potentially be used to screen for new drugs to treat these types of neurodegenerative diseases in humans.

5.1. The Plant Glutamate Receptor Gene

The present invention encompasses the nucleotide coding sequence encoding plant GluR proteins and polypeptides. These nucleotide sequences were identified in Arabidopsis and shown to have homology to the animal glutamate receptor genes, iGluR and mGluR. Additional nucleotide sequences were identified in Arabidopsis as having a low degree of homology to the glutamate binding domain of the glutamate receptor, which are neither ionotropic nor metabotropic, are also described herein. In a specific embodiment described herein, the plant GluR genes were identified by searching the Arabidopsis Expressed Sequence Tag (EST) databand (Newman et al., 1994, Plant Physiol. 106: 1241–1255) for cDNAs with identity to the glutamate receptor of animals. The five EST clones that are identified in the present invention were not previously known to contain a high enough degree of homology to animal glutamate receptors to be identified as such in the Genebank. In the present invention the five EST clones were identified as potential glutamate receptors due to sequence homology and then further characterized as such as described below.

The cDNA sequence and the deduced amino acid sequence that encodes a plant glutamate receptor most homologous to the iGluR class of animal glutamate receptors are shown in FIG. 15.

The invention includes nucleic acid One Arabidopsis cDNA clone (EST#107M14T7, pAt-iGR-1) shares high identity to a class of glutamate receptors called ionotropic (iGluR) receptors which constitutes ligand-gated ion channels (Gasic and Hollmann, 1992, Annu. Rev. Physiol. 54:507–536; Kanai et al., 1993, TINS 16:365–370; O'Hara et al., 1993, Neuron 11:41–52; Seeburg, 1995, TINS 16:359–365). In animals, binding of glutamate to membrane bound iGluR stimulates the influx of Ca⁺⁺ resulting in and fast excitatory neurotransmission which will subsequently cause a wide variety of downstream responses (Gasic and Hollmann, 1992, Annu. Rev. Physiol. 54:507–536; Kanai et al., 1993, TINS 16:365–370; O'Hara et al., 1993, Neuron 11:41–52; Seeburg, 1995, TINS 16:359–365).

A second Arabidopsis cDNA (EST# 97C23T7, pAt-mGR-1) shares identity to another class of animal glutamate receptors called metabotropic glutamate receptor, mGluR (Gasic and Hollmann, 1992, Annu. Rev. Physiol. 54:507–536). In animals, the mGluR class of glutamate receptors is coupled to a G protein that is linked to inositol phosphate/diacylglycerol formation which results in subsequent release of calcium from internal stores (Gasic and Hollmann, 1992, Annu. Rev. Physiol. 54:507–536).

Three additional clones (EST# T20773, EST# ATT50711, EST# ATS2655) were identified in Arabidopsis as having a low degree of homology to the glutamate binding domain of the animal glutamate receptor. However, these clones do not correspond to ionotropic nor metabotropic animal GluRs. Therefore these clones may represent a novel class of glutamate-like receptors in plants. The plant GluR of the present invention span the plant cellular membrane, as well as intracellular membranes including vacuolar membranes, chloroplast membranes and mitochondrial membranes.

The Arabidopsis iGluR cDNA, pAt-iGR-1, shares extensive identity with animal iGluRs. The plant GluR is unique in that it has homology to both NMDA-type and KA-type GluR in animals. About 700 nucleotides from the 5' end of the clone pAt-iGR-1 have been sequenced. This clone encodes a truncated peptide which shares an extended region of homology with the ionotropic glutamate receptors which covers part of the glutamate-binding site close to transmembrane domain I (TMI) and continues through TMII until the end of TMIII (FIG. 5 and FIG. 7A). The highest identity to animal iGluR is in the glutamate-binding domain (52%) (FIG. 6). The glutamate-binding region of animal iGluR is a two cleft domain shown by the hatched bars in FIG. 5. The Arabidopsis sequence shown in FIG. 7B, corresponds to the first of these glutamate-binding domains in animal iGluR (FIG. 5). The glutamate-binding domain shared between animal and plant iGluR has low but significant identity to the glutamine-binding domain of an *E. coli* permease gene (Nakanishi et al., 1990, Neuron 5:569–581) (FIG. 6). The ligand-binding R residue, which is conserved in all ionotropic glutamate receptors, is also conserved in the putative Arabidopsis iGluR (Kuryatov et al., 1994, Neuron 12:1291–1300).

In non-NMDA type animal iGluRs (kainate-binding iGluR and AMPA iGluR), their mRNAs are subject to RNA editing which modifies their function. For example, in the GluR2 subunit in AMPA type iGluR, RNA editing (Q to R) in TM II (FIG. 1) has been shown to regulate the Ca⁺⁺ permeability. RNA editing leads to a decrease in Ca⁺⁺ permeability (Choi, 1988, Neuron 1:623–634; Hume et al., 1991, Science 253:1028–1031). In Kainate-Binding type iGluR, both the GluR5 and GluR6 subunits also display the Q to R editing similar to the case of GluR2 of AMPA receptors (Sommer et al., 1991, Cell 67:11–19). GluR6 has two additional positions in TMI that are modified by RNA editing (Kohler et al., 1993, Neuron 10:491–500). For GluR6, only when TMI is edited does editing in TMII (Q to R) influence Ca⁺⁺ permeability (Kohler et al., 1993, Neuron 10:491–500). In contrast to the AMPA receptor channel, GluR6(R) channels edited in TMI show a higher Ca⁺⁺ permeability than GluR6(Q) channels (Kohler et al., 1993, Neuron 10:491–500). In the case of NMDA type iGluR, all of the subunits do not show RNA editing in TMI and TMII. In fact all subunits contain an N at the site which Q to R editing occurs. NMDA receptors are highly permeable to Ca⁺⁺.

Interestingly, the Q/R residue of animal non-NMDA-type ionotropic glutamate receptor which are subject to RNA editing or the corresponding non-editing. N residue of NMDA-type ionotropic glutamate receptor within TMII (Seeburg, 1995, TINS 16:359–365), are missing from the predicted peptide of Arabidopsis pAt-iGR-1. Since these residues are important for the regulation of permeability of Ca⁺⁺ ions in animal ionotropic glutamate receptors (Burnashev et al., 1992, Neuron 8:189–198; Kohler et al., 1993, Neuron 10:491–500; Sommer et al., 1991, Cell 67:11–19) the Ca⁺⁺ ion permeability in plant glutamate receptors may be regulated by a different mechanism.

The nucleotide sequences encoding Arabidopsis iGluR and mGluR genes can be used to screen cDNA libraries obtained from Arabidopsis and other plant species to identify further plant iGluR and mGluR genes. A plant cDNA library may be screened, under conditions of reduced stringency, using a radioactively or nonradioactively labeled fragment of the Arabidopsis iGluR and mGluR clones. Alternatively, the Arabidopsis iGluR and mGluR sequences can be used to design degenerate or fully degenerate oligonucleotide probes which can be used as PCR probes or to screen plant cDNA libraries. Alternatively, the probes may be used to screen genomic libraries. As shown by working example, *infra*, this type of analysis has revealed the presence of both iGluR and mGluR genes in other dicots, such as tobacco, a legume, pea, and two monocots, corn and rice. For a review of cloning strategies which may be used, see e.g., Maniatis 1989 Molecular Cloning, A Laboratory Manual, Cold Spring Harbor Press, N.Y.

The plant GluR nucleotide sequences of the invention include (a) the DNA sequence shown in FIG. 15; (b) any nucleotide sequence that encodes the amino acid sequence shown in FIG. 15; (c) any nucleotide sequence that hybridizes to the complement of the cDNA sequence shown in FIG. 15 and encodes a functionally equivalent product; (d) any nucleotide sequence that hybridizes to the complement of the DNA sequences that encode the amino acid sequence shown in FIG. 15 and encodes a functionally equivalent product; (e) any nucleotide sequence encoding a plant protein containing the amino acid sequence of the glutamate binding domain shown in FIG. 6; (f) any nucleotide sequence encoding a plant protein containing the amino acid sequences shown in FIG. 7A, 7B and/or 7C. Functional equivalents of the plant GluR include naturally occurring plant GluR in other plant species, and mutant GluR whether naturally occurring or engineered. The invention also includes degenerate variants of sequences (a) through (f).

The invention also includes nucleic acid molecules, preferably DNA molecules, that hybridize to, and are therefore the complements of, the nucleotide sequences (a) through (f), in the preceding paragraph. Such hybridization conditions may be highly stringent or less highly stringent, as described above. In instances wherein the nucleic acid molecules are deoxyoligonucleotides ("oligos"), highly stringent conditions may refer, e.g., to washing in 6xSSC/0.05% sodium pyrophosphate at 37° C. (for 14-base oligos), 48° C. (for 17-base oligos), 55° C. (for 20-base oligos), and 60° C. (for 23-base oligos). These nucleic acid molecules may encode or act as plant GluR antisense molecules, useful, for example, in plant GluR gene regulation (for and/or as antisense primers in amplification reactions of plant GluR gene nucleic acid sequences). With respect to plant GluR gene regulation, such techniques can be used to regulate, for example, plant growth, development or gene expression. Further, such sequences may be used as part of ribozyme and/or triple helix sequences, also useful for plant GluR gene regulation.

In addition to the plant GluR nucleotide sequences described above, full length plant GluR cDNA or gene sequences present in the same species and/or homologs of the plant GluR gene present in other plant species can be identified and readily isolated, without undue experimentation, by molecular biological techniques well known in the art. The identification of homologs of plant GluR in related species can be useful for developing plant model systems for purposes of discovering plant iGluR agonists or antagonists to modify iGluR in plants to alter the

following processes in either a positive or negative way: germination, growth rate, light-signal transduction and hormone signal transduction. Alternatively, such cDNA libraries, or genomic DNA libraries derived from the organism of interest can be screened by hybridization using the nucleotides described herein as hybridization or amplification probes. Furthermore, genes at other genetic loci within the genome that encode proteins which have extensive homology to one or more domains of the plant GluR gene product can also be identified via similar techniques. In the case of cDNA libraries, such screening techniques can identify clones derived from alternatively spliced transcripts in the same or different species.

Screening can be by filter hybridization, using duplicate filters. The labeled probe can contain at least 15–30 base pairs of the plant GluR nucleotide sequence, as shown in FIG. 15. The hybridization washing conditions used should be of a lower stringency when the cDNA library is derived from an organism different from the type of organism from which the labeled sequence was derived.

Low stringency conditions are well known to those of skill in the art, and will vary predictably depending on the specific organisms from which the library and the labeled sequences are derived. For guidance regarding such conditions see, for example, Sambrook et al., 1989, Molecular Cloning, A Laboratory Manual, Cold Springs Harbor Press, N.Y.; and Ausubel et al., 1989, Current Protocols in Molecular Biology, Green Publishing Associates and Wiley Interscience, N.Y.

Alternatively, the labeled plant GluR nucleotide probe may be used to screen a genomic library derived from the organism of interest, again, using appropriately stringent conditions. The identification and characterization of plant genomic clones is helpful for designing diagnostic tests and clinical protocols for regulating plant growth rate, germination, light-signal transduction and hormone signal transduction. For example, sequences derived from regions adjacent to the intron/exon boundaries of the plant gene can be used to design primers for use in amplification assays to detect mutations within the exons, introns, splice sites (e.g. splice acceptor and/or donor sites), etc., that can be used in diagnostics.

Further, a plant GluR gene homolog may be isolated from nucleic acid of the organism of interest by performing PCR using two degenerate oligonucleotide primer pools designed on the basis of amino acid sequences within the plant GluR gene product disclosed herein. The template for the reaction may be cDNA obtained by reverse transcription of mRNA prepared from, for example, plant cell lines or tissue, known or suspected to express a plant GluR gene allele.

The PCR product may be subcloned and sequenced to ensure that the amplified sequences represent the sequences of a plant GluR gene. The PCR fragment may then be used to isolate a full length cDNA clone by a variety of methods. For example, the amplified fragment may be labeled and used to screen a cDNA library, such as a plant cDNA library. Alternatively, the labeled fragment may be used to isolate genomic clones via the screening of a genomic library.

PCR technology may also be utilized to isolate full length cDNA sequences. For example, RNA may be isolated, following standard procedures, from an appropriate cellular or tissue source (i.e., one known, or suspected, to express the plant GluR gene. A reverse transcription reaction may be performed on the RNA using an oligonucleotide primer specific for the most 5' end of the amplified fragment for the

priming of first strand synthesis. The resulting RNA/DNA hybrid may then be "tailed" with guanines using a standard terminal transferase reaction, the hybrid may be digested with RNAase H, and second strand synthesis may then be primed with a poly-C primer. Thus, cDNA sequences upstream of the amplified fragment may easily be isolated. For a review of cloning strategies which may be used, see e.g., Sambrook et al., 1989, supra.

The plant GluR gene sequences may additionally be used to isolate mutant plant GluR gene alleles. Such mutant alleles may be isolated from plant species either known or proposed to have a genotype which contributes to the symptoms plant growth rate, germination, light-signal transduction or hormone-signal transduction. Mutant alleles and mutant allele products may then be utilized in the therapeutic and diagnostic systems described below. Additionally, such plant GluR gene sequences can be used to detect plant GluR gene regulatory (e.g., promoter or promotor/enhancer) defects which can affect plant growth.

A cDNA of a mutant plant GluR gene may be isolated, for example, by using PCR, a technique which is well known to those of skill in the art. In this case, the first cDNA strand may be synthesized by hybridizing an oligo-dT oligonucleotide to mRNA isolated from tissue known or suspected to be expressed in a plant species putatively carrying the mutant plant GluR allele, and by extending the new strand with reverse transcriptase. The second strand of the cDNA is then synthesized using an oligonucleotide that hybridizes specifically to the 5' end of the normal gene. Using these two primers, the product is then amplified via PCR, cloned into a suitable vector, and subjected to DNA sequence analysis through methods well known to those of skill in the art. By comparing the DNA sequence of the mutant plant GluR allele to that of the normal plant GluR allele, the mutation(s) responsible for the loss or alteration of function of the mutant plant GluR gene product can be ascertained.

Alternatively, a genomic library can be constructed using DNA obtained from a plant species suspected of or known to carry the mutant plant GluR allele, or a cDNA library can be constructed using RNA from a tissue known, or suspected, to express the mutant plant GluR allele. The normal plant GluR gene or any suitable fragment thereof may then be labeled and used as a probe to identify the corresponding mutant plant GluR allele in such libraries. Clones containing the mutant plant GluR gene sequences may then be purified and subjected to sequence analysis according to methods well known to those of skill in the art.

Additionally, an expression library can be constructed utilizing cDNA synthesized from, for example, RNA isolated from a tissue known, or suspected, to express a mutant plant GluR allele in a plant species suspected of or known to carry such a mutant allele. In this manner, gene products made by the putatively mutant tissue may be expressed and screened using standard antibody screening techniques in conjunction with antibodies raised against the normal plant GluR gene product, as described, below, in Section 5.3. (For screening techniques, see, for example, Harlow, E. and Lane, eds., 1988, "Antibodies: A Laboratory Manual", Cold Spring Harbor Press, Cold Spring Harbor.) Additionally, screening can be accomplished by screening with labeled GluR fusion proteins. In cases where a plant GluR mutation results in an expressed gene product with altered function (e.g., as a result of a missense or a frameshift mutation), a polyclonal set of antibodies to plant GluR are likely to cross-react with the mutant plant GluR gene product. Library clones detected via their reaction with such labeled antibodies can be purified and subjected to sequence analysis according to methods well known to those of skill in the art.

The invention also encompasses nucleotide sequences that encode mutant plant GluR, peptide fragments of the plant GluR, truncated plant GluR, and plant GluR fusion proteins. These include, but are not limited to nucleotide sequences encoding mutant plant GluR described in section 5.2 infra; polypeptides or peptides corresponding to the signal peptide, two halves of the putative glutamate-binding domain and the three plus one transmembrane (TM) domains; truncated plant GluR in which one or two of the domains is deleted, e.g., a soluble plant GluR lacking the signal peptide, the glutamate-binding domain, or the TM domains, or a truncated, nonfunctional plant GluR lacking all or a portion of the glutamate binding domain. Nucleotides encoding fusion proteins may include by are not limited to full length plant GluR, truncated plant GluR or peptide fragments of plant GluR fused to an unrelated protein or peptide, such as for example, a transmembrane sequence, which anchors the plant GluR ECD to the cell membrane or an enzyme, fluorescent protein, luminescent protein which can be used as a marker.

The invention also encompasses (a) DNA vectors that contain any of the foregoing plant GluR coding sequences and/or their complements (i.e., antisense); (b) DNA expression vectors that contain any of the foregoing GluR coding sequences operatively associated with a regulatory element that directs the expression of the coding sequences; and (c) genetically engineered host cells that contain any of the foregoing plant GluR coding sequences operatively associated with a regulatory element that directs the expression of the coding sequences in the host cell. As used herein, regulatory elements include but are not limited to inducible and non-inducible promoters, enhancers, operators and other elements known to those skilled in the art that drive and regulate expression. Such regulatory elements include but are not limited to the promoters derived from the genome of plant cells (e.g., heat shock promoters; the promoter for the small subunit of RUBISCO; the promoter for the chlorophyll a/b binding protein) or from plant viruses (e.g., the 35S RNA promoter of CaMV; the coat protein promoter of tobacco mosaic virus (TMV), cytomegalovirus hCMV immediate early gene, the early or late promoters of SV40 adenovirus, the lac system, the trp system, the TAC system, the TRC system, the major operator and promoter regions of phage A, the control regions of fd coat protein, the promoter for 3-phosphoglycerate kinase, the promoters of acid phosphatase, and the promoters of the yeast α -mating factors.

5.2. Plant GluR Proteins and Polypeptides

Plant GluR protein, polypeptides and peptide fragments, mutated, truncated or deleted forms of the plant GluR and/or plant GluR fusion proteins can be prepared for a variety of uses, including but not limited to the generation of antibodies, the identification of other cellular gene products involved in the regulation of plant growth, as reagents in assays for screening for compounds that can be used as herbicides, and as pharmaceutical reagents useful in the treatment of CNS related disorders the plant GluR protein.

FIGS. 15, 6, 7A, 7B, and/or 7C show the amino acid sequence of the plant GluR protein respectively. As shown in FIG. 15 in this form of the plant GluR, the glutamate binding domain 1 spans from amino acid 466 to about 537; the TMI spans from amino acid 555 to about 580; the TMII spans from amino acid 592 to 608; the TMIII spans from about amino acid 614 to 634; the glutamate binding domain 2 spans from about amino acid 714 to 748; and TMIV spans from about amino acid 782 to 809. FIGS. 17 and 18 show the amino acid sequence alignment with these domains.

The plant GluR sequence begins with a methionine in a DNA sequence context consistent with a translation initiation site, followed by a typical hydrophobic signal sequence of peptide secretion.

The plant GluR amino acid sequences of the invention include the amino acid sequence shown in FIG. 15, FIG. 6 or FIGS. 7A, 7B and/or 7C, or the amino acid sequence encoded by cDNA clone PAT-iGR-1 (EST #107M14T7), or encoded by cDNA clone PAT-mGR-1 (EST #97C23T7). Further, plant GluR of other plant species are encompassed by the invention. In fact, any plant GluR protein encoded by the plant GluR nucleotide sequences described in Section 5.1, above, are within the scope of the invention.

The invention also encompasses proteins that are functionally equivalent to the plant GluR encoded by the nucleotide sequences described in Section 5.1, as judged by any of a number of criteria, including but not limited to the ability to bind glutamate, the binding affinity for glutamate, the resulting biological effect of glutamate binding, e.g., signal transduction, a change in cellular metabolism (e.g., ion flux, tyrosine phosphorylation) or change in phenotype when the plant GluR equivalent is present in an appropriate cell type such as, an increase in plant growth. Such functionally equivalent plant GluR proteins include but are not limited to additions or substitutions of amino acid residues within the amino acid sequence encoded by the plant GluR nucleotide sequences described, above, in Section 5.1, but which result in a silent change, thus producing a functionally equivalent gene product. Amino acid substitutions may be made on the basis of similarity in polarity, charge, solubility, hydrophobicity, hydrophilicity, and/or the amphipathic nature of the residues involved. For example, nonpolar (hydrophobic) amino acids include alanine, leucine, isoleucine, valine, proline, phenylalanine, tryptophan, and methionine; polar neutral amino acids include glycine, serine, threonine, cysteine, tyrosine, asparagine, and glutamine; positively charged (basic) amino acids include arginine, lysine, and histidine; and negatively charged (acidic) amino acids include aspartic acid and glutamic acid.

While random mutations can be made to plant GluR DNA (using random mutagenesis techniques well known to those skilled in the art) and the resulting mutant plant GluRs tested for activity, site-directed mutations of the GluR coding sequence can be engineered (using site-directed mutagenesis techniques well known to those skilled in the art) to generate mutant plant GluRs with increased function, e.g., higher binding affinity for glutamate, and/or greater signalling capacity; or decreased function, e.g., lower binding affinity for glutamate, and/or decreased signal transduction capacity.

For example, the alignment of animal form of GLuR and the plant GluR homolog is shown in FIG. 18 in which identical amino acid residues are indicated by vertical lines and conserved residues are indicated by dots. Conservative alterations at the variable positions can be engineered in order to produce a mutant plant GLuR that retains function; e.g., glutamate binding affinity or signal transduction capability or both. Non-conservative changes can be engineered at these variable positions to alter function, e.g., glutamate binding affinity or signal transduction capability, or both. Alternatively, where alteration of function is desired, deletion or non-conservative alterations of conserved residues in the glutamate binding domain (indicated in FIG. 18) can be engineered. For example, deletion or non-conservative alterations (substitutions or insertions) of the glutamate binding domains, e.g., amino acid residues 466 to 537 and 714 to 748 (FIG. 18) of plant GluR or portions of the glutamate binding domain, e.g., amino acid residues 466-537 (FIG. 18) of

plant GluR, or amino acid residues 714-748 can be engineered to produce a mutant plant GluR that binds glutamate but is signalling-incompetent. Non-conservative alterations to the residues in the TMs shown in FIG. 18 can be engineered to produce mutant plant GluRs with altered binding affinity for glutamate.

Other mutations to the plant GluR coding sequence can be made to generate plant GluRs that are better suited for expression, scale up, etc. in the host cells chosen. For example, cysteine residues can be deleted or substituted with another amino acid in order to eliminate disulfide bridges; N-linked glycosylation sites can be altered or eliminated to achieve, for example, expression of a homogeneous product that is more easily recovered and purified from yeast hosts which are known to hyperglycosylate N-linked sites. To this end, a variety of amino acid substitutions at one or both of the first or third amino acid positions of any one or more of the glycosylation recognition sequences which occur in the extracellular domain (ECD) (N-X-S or N-X-T), and/or an amino acid deletion at the second position of any one or more such recognition sequences in the ECD will prevent glycosylation of the plant GluR at the modified tripeptide sequence.

Peptides corresponding to one or more domains of the plant GluR (e.g., ECD, TM or CD), truncated or deleted plant GluR (e.g., GluR in which the TM and/or CD is deleted) as well as fusion proteins in which the full length GluR, a GluR peptide or truncated GluR is fused to an unrelated protein are also within the scope of the invention and can be designed on the basis of the GluR nucleotide and GluR amino acid sequences disclosed in this Section and in Section 5.1, above. Such fusion proteins include but are not limited to IgFc fusions which stabilize the plant GluR protein or peptide and prolong half-life in vivo; or fusions to any amino acid sequence that allows the fusion protein to be anchored to the cell membrane, allowing the ECD to be exhibited on the cell surface; or fusions to an enzyme, fluorescent protein, or luminescent protein which provide a marker function.

While the plant GluR polypeptides and peptides can be chemically synthesized (e.g., see Creighton, 1983, *Proteins: Structures and Molecular Principles*, W.H. Freeman & Co., N.Y.), large polypeptides derived from the GluR and the full length GluR itself may advantageously be produced by recombinant DNA technology using techniques well known in the art for expressing nucleic acid containing plant GluR gene sequences and/or coding sequences. Such methods can be used to construct expression vectors containing the plant GluR nucleotide sequences described in Section 5.1 and appropriate transcriptional and translational control signals. These methods include, for example, in vitro recombinant DNA techniques, synthetic techniques, and in vivo genetic recombination. See, for example, the techniques described in Sambrook et al., 1989, *supra*, and Ausubel et al., 1989, *supra*. Alternatively, RNA capable of encoding plant GluR nucleotide sequences may be chemically synthesized using, for example, synthesizers. See, for example, the techniques described in "Oligonucleotide Synthesis", 1984, Gait, M. J. ed., IRL Press, Oxford, which is incorporated by reference herein in its entirety.

A variety of host-expression vector systems may be utilized to express the plant GluR nucleotide sequences of the invention. Where the GluR peptide or polypeptide is a soluble derivative (e.g., GluR peptides corresponding to the ECD; truncated or deleted GluR in which the TM and/or CD are deleted) the peptide or polypeptide can be recovered from the culture, i.e., from the host cell in cases where the

GluR peptide or polypeptide is not secreted, and from the culture media in cases where the GluR peptide or polypeptide is secreted by the cells. However, the expression systems also encompass engineered host cells that express the plant GluR or functional equivalents *in situ*, i.e., anchored in the cell membrane. Purification or enrichment of the plant GluR from such expression systems can be accomplished using appropriate detergents and lipid micelles and methods well known to those skilled in the art. However, such engineered host cells themselves may be used in situations where it is important not only to retain the structural and functional characteristics of the plant GluR, but to assess biological activity, e.g., in herbicide screening assays.

Methods which are well known to those skilled in the art can be used to construct expression vectors containing the plant GluR coding sequence and appropriate transcriptional/translational control signals. These methods include *in vitro* recombinant DNA techniques, synthetic techniques and *in vivo* recombination/genetic recombination. See, for example, the techniques described in Maniatis et al., 1989, *Molecular Cloning A Laboratory Manual*, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, N.Y. and Ausubel et al., 1989, *Current Protocols in Molecular Biology*, Greene Publishing Associates and Wiley Interscience, N.Y.

A variety of host-expression vector systems may be utilized to express the plant GluR coding sequence. These include but are not limited to microorganisms such as bacteria transformed with recombinant bacteriophage DNA, plasmid DNA or cosmid DNA expression vectors containing the plant GluR coding sequence; yeast transformed with recombinant yeast expression vectors containing the plant GluR coding sequence; insect cell systems infected with recombinant virus expression vectors (e.g., baculovirus) containing the plant GluR coding sequence; plant cell systems infected with recombinant virus expression vectors (e.g., cauliflower mosaic virus, CaMV; tobacco mosaic virus, TMV) or transformed with recombinant plasmid expression vectors (e.g., Ti plasmid) containing the plant GluR coding sequence; or animal cell systems infected with recombinant virus expression vectors (e.g., adenovirus, vaccinia virus) including cell lines engineered to contain multiple copies of the plant GluR either stably amplified (CHO/dhfr) or unstably amplified in double-minute chromosomes (e.g., murine cell lines).

The expression elements of these systems vary in their strength and specificities. Depending on the host/vector system utilized, any of a number of suitable transcription and translation elements, including constitutive and inducible promoters, may be used in the expression vector. For example, when cloning in bacterial systems, inducible promoters such as pL of bacteriophage λ , plac, ptrp, ptac (ptrp-lac hybrid promoter) and the like may be used; when cloning in insect cell systems, promoters such as the baculovirus polyhedrin promoter may be used; when cloning in plant cell systems, promoters derived from the genome of plant cells (e.g., heat shock promoters; the promoter for the small subunit of RUBISCO; the promoter for the chlorophyll a/b binding protein) or from plant viruses (e.g., the 35S RNA promoter of CaMV; the coat protein promoter of TMV) may be used; when cloning in mammalian cell systems, promoters derived from the genome of mammalian cells (e.g., metallothionein promoter) or from mammalian viruses (e.g., the adenovirus late promoter; the vaccinia virus 7.5K promoter) may be used; when generating cell lines that contain multiple copies of the plant GluR DNA SV40-, BPV- and EBV-based vectors may be used with an appropriate selectable marker.

In bacterial systems a number of expression vectors may be advantageously selected depending upon the use intended for the plant GluR expressed. For example, when large quantities of plant GluR are to be produced for the generation of antibodies or to screen peptide libraries, vectors which direct the expression of high levels of fusion protein products that are readily purified may be desirable. Such vectors include but are not limited to the *E. coli* expression vector pUR278 (Ruther et al., 1983, *EMBO J.* 2:1791), in which the plant GluR coding sequence may be ligated into the vector in frame with the lac Z coding region so that a hybrid GluR lac Z protein is produced; pIN vectors (Inouye & Inouye, 1985, *Nucleic acids Res.* 13:3101-3109; Van Heeke & Schuster, 1989, *J. Biol. Chem.* 264:5503-5509); and the like. pGEX vectors may also be used to express foreign polypeptides as fusion proteins with glutathione S-transferase (GST). In general, such fusion proteins are soluble and can easily be purified from lysed cells by adsorption to glutathione-agarose beads followed by elution in the presence of free glutathione. The pGEX vectors are designed to include thrombin or factor Xa protease cleavage sites so that the cloned polypeptide of interest can be released from the GST moiety.

In yeast, a number of vectors containing constitutive or inducible promoters may be used. For a review see, *Current Protocols in Molecular Biology*, Vol. 2, 1988, Ed. Ausubel et al., Greene Publish. Assoc. & Wiley Interscience, Ch. 13; Grant et al., 1987, *Expression and Secretion vectors for Yeast*, in *Methods in Enzymology*, Eds. Wu & Grossman, 1987, Acad. Press, N.Y., Vol. 153, pp. 516-544; Glover, 1986, *DNA Cloning*, Vol. II, IRL Press, Wash., D.C., Ch. 3; and Bitter, 1987, *Heterologous Gene Expression in Yeast*, *Methods in Enzymology*, Eds. Berger & Kimmel, Acad. Press, N.Y., Vol. 152, pp. 673-684; and *The Molecular Biology of the Yeast Saccharomyces*, 1982, Eds. Strathern et al., Cold Spring Harbor Press, Vols. I and II.

In cases where plant expression vectors are used, the expression of the plant GluR coding sequence may be driven by any of a number of promoters. For example, viral promoters such as the 35S RNA and 19S RNA promoters of CaMV (Brisson et al., 1984, *Nature* 310:511-514), or the coat protein promoter of TMV (Takamatsu et al., 1987, *EMBO J.* 6:307-311) may be used; alternatively, plant promoters such as the small subunit of RUBISCO (Coruzzi et al., 1984, *EMBO J.* 3:1671-1680; Broglie et al., 1984, *Science* 224:838-843); or heat shock promoters, e.g., soybean hsp17.5-E or hsp17.3-B (Gurley et al., 1986, *Mol. Cell. Biol.* 6:559-565) may be used. These constructs can be introduced into plant cells using Ti plasmids, Ri plasmids, plant virus vectors, direct DNA transformation, microinjection, electroporation, etc. For reviews of such techniques see, for example, Weissbach & Weissbach, 1988, *Methods for Plant Molecular Biology*, Academic Press, NY, Section VIII, pp. 421-463; and Grierson & Corey, 1988, *Plant Molecular Biology*, 2d Ed., Blackie, London, Ch. 7-9.

For long-term, high-yield production of recombinant proteins, stable expression is preferred. For example, cell lines which stably express the plant GluR may be engineered. Rather than using expression vectors which contain viral origins of replication, host cells can be transformed with the plant GluR DNA controlled by appropriate expression control elements (e.g., promoter, enhancer, sequences, transcription terminators, polyadenylation sites, etc.), and a selectable marker. Following the introduction of foreign DNA, engineered cells may be allowed to grow for 1-2 days in an enriched media, and then are switched to a selective media. The selectable marker in the recombinant plasmid

confers resistance to the selection and allows cells to stably integrate the plasmid into their chromosomes and grow to form foci which in turn can be cloned and expanded into cell lines. This method may advantageously be used to engineer cell lines which express the plant GluR on the cell surface, and which respond to glutamate mediated signal transduction. Such engineered cell lines are particularly useful in screening glutamate analogs.

A number of selection systems may be used, including but not limited to the herpes simplex virus thymidine kinase (Wigler, et al., 1977, Cell 11:223), hypoxanthine-guanine phosphoribosyltransferase (Szybalska & Szybalski, 1962, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 48:2026), and adenine phosphoribosyltransferase (Lowy et al., 1980, Cell 22:817) genes can be employed in tk⁻, hgp^rt⁻ or apr^t- cells, respectively. Also, antimetabolite resistance can be used as the basis of selection for dhfr, which confers resistance to methotrexate (Wigler et al., 1980, Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 77:3567; O'Hare et al., 1981, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 78:1527); gpt, which confers resistance to mycophenolic acid (Mulligan & Berg, 1981, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 78:2072); neo, which confers resistance to the aminoglycoside G-418 (Colberre-Garapin et al., 1981, J. Mol. Biol. 150:1); and hyg^r, which confers resistance to hygromycin genes (Santerre, et al., 1984, Gene 30:147). Recently, additional selectable genes have been described, namely trpB, which allows cells to utilize indole in place of tryptophan; hisD, which allows cells to utilize histinol in place of histidine (Hartman & Mulligan, 1988, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 85:8047); and ODC (ornithine decarboxylase) which confers resistance to the ornithine decarboxylase inhibitor, 2-(difluoromethyl)-DL-ornithine, DFMO (McConlogue L., 1987, In: Current Communications in Molecular Biology, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory ed.). The invention also encompasses (a) DNA vectors that contain any of the foregoing coding sequences and/or their complements (i.e., antisense); (b) DNA expression vectors that contain any of the foregoing coding sequences operatively associated with a regulatory element that directs the expression of the coding sequences; and (c) genetically engineered host cells and/or plants that contain any of the foregoing coding sequences operatively associated with a regulatory element that directs the expression of the coding sequences in the host cell. As used herein, regulatory elements include but are not limited to inducible and non-inducible promoters, enhancers, operators and other elements known to those skilled in the art that drive and regulate expression.

In addition to the gene sequences described above, homologues of such sequences, as may, for example, be present in other plant species may be identified and may be readily isolated, without undue experimentation, by molecular biological techniques well known in the art. Further, there may exist genes at other genetic loci within the genome that encode proteins which have extensive homology to one or more domains of such gene products. These genes may also be identified via similar techniques.

For example, the isolated GluR gene sequence may be labeled and used to screen a cDNA library constructed from mRNA obtained from the organism of interest. The hybridization conditions used should be of a lower stringency when the cDNA library is derived from an organism different from the type of organism from which the labeled sequence was derived. Alternatively, the labeled fragment may be used to screen a genomic library derived from the organism of interest, again, using appropriately stringent conditions. Low stringency conditions are well known to those of skill in the art, and will vary predictably depending

on the specific organisms from which the library and the labeled sequences are derived. For guidance regarding such conditions see, for example, Sambrook et al., 1989, Molecular Cloning, A Laboratory Manual, Cold Springs Harbor Press, N.Y.; and Ausubel et al., 1989, Current Protocols in Molecular Biology, Green Publishing Associates and Wiley Interscience, N.Y.

Further, previously unknown GluR gene-type sequences may be isolated by performing PCR using two degenerate oligonucleotide primer pools designed on the basis of amino acid sequences within the gene of interest. The template for the reaction may be cDNA obtained by reverse transcription of mRNA prepared from cell lines or tissue known or suspected to express an GluR gene allele.

The PCR product may be subcloned and sequenced to ensure that the amplified sequences represent the sequences of an GluR gene-like nucleic acid sequence. The PCR fragment may then be used to isolate a full length cDNA clone by a variety of methods. For example, the amplified fragment may be labeled and used to screen a bacteriophage cDNA library. Alternatively, the labeled fragment may be used to screen a genomic library.

PCR technology may also be utilized to isolate full length cDNA sequences. For example, RNA may be isolated, following standard procedures, from an appropriate cellular or tissue source. A reverse transcription reaction may be performed on the RNA using an oligonucleotide primer specific for the most 5' end of the amplified fragment for the priming of first strand synthesis. The resulting RNA/DNA hybrid may then be "tailed" with guanines using a standard terminal transferase reaction, the hybrid may be digested with RNAase H, and second strand synthesis may then be primed with a poly-C primer. Thus, cDNA sequences upstream of the amplified fragment may easily be isolated. For a review of cloning strategies which may be used, see e.g., Sambrook et al., 1989, supra.

In cases where the GluR gene identified is the normal, or wild type gene, this gene may be used to isolate mutant alleles of the gene. Mutant alleles may be isolated from plants either known or proposed to have a genotype which contributes abnormal growth characteristics. Mutant alleles and mutant allele products may then be utilized in the development of in vitro assays, plant assay systems, and transgenic plants as described below.

A cDNA of the mutant gene may be isolated, for example, by using PCR, a technique which is well known to those of skill in the art. In this case, the first cDNA strand may be synthesized by hybridizing an oligo-dT oligonucleotide to mRNA isolated from tissue known or suspected to be expressed in an individual putatively carrying the mutant allele, and by extending the new strand with reverse transcriptase. The second strand of the cDNA is then synthesized using an oligonucleotide that hybridizes specifically to the 5' end of the normal gene. Using these two primers, the product is then amplified via PCR, cloned into a suitable vector, and subjected to DNA sequence analysis through methods well known to those of skill in the art. By comparing the DNA sequence of the mutant gene to that of the normal gene, the mutation(s) responsible for the loss or alteration of function of the mutant gene product can be ascertained.

Alternatively, a genomic or cDNA library can be constructed and screened using DNA or RNA, respectively, from plant cells, tissues or whole plants suspected of expressing the gene of interest in an individual suspected of or known to carry the mutant allele. The normal gene or any suitable fragment thereof may then be labeled and used as a

probed to identify the corresponding mutant allele in the library. The clone containing this gene may then be purified and subjected to sequence analysis according to methods well known to those of skill in the art.

Additionally, an expression library can be constructed utilizing DNA isolated from or cDNA synthesized from plant cells, tissues or whole plants suspected of expressing the gene of interest in an individual suspected of or known to carry the mutant allele. In this manner, gene products made by the putatively mutant tissue may be expressed and screened using standard antibody screening techniques in conjunction with antibodies raised against the normal gene product, as described, below, in Section 5.3. (For screening techniques, see, for example, Harlow, E. and Lane, eds., 1988, "Antibodies: A Laboratory Manual", Cold Spring Harbor Press, Cold Spring Harbor.) In cases where the mutation results in an expressed gene product with altered function (e.g., as a result of a missense mutation), a polyclonal set of antibodies are likely to cross-react with the mutant gene product. Library clones detected via their reaction with such labeled antibodies can be purified and subjected to sequence analysis according to methods well known to those of skill in the art.

5.2.1. Identification of Transfectants or Transformants Expressing the Plant GluR Gene Product

The host cells which contain the plant GluR coding sequence and which express the biologically active gene product may be identified by at least four general approaches: (a) DNA-DNA or DNA-RNA hybridization; (b) the presence or absence of "marker" gene functions; (c) assessing the level of transcription as measured by the expression of plant GluR mRNA transcripts in the host cell; and (d) detection of the gene product as measured by immunoassay or by its biological activity.

In the first approach, the presence of the plant GluR coding sequence inserted in the expression vector can be detected by DNA-DNA or DNA-RNA hybridization using probes comprising nucleotide sequences that are homologous to the plant GluR coding sequence or portions or derivatives thereof.

In the second approach, the recombinant expression vector/host system can be identified and selected based upon the presence or absence of certain "marker" gene functions (e.g., thymidine activity, resistance to antibiotics, resistance to methotrexate, transformation phenotype, occlusion body formation in baculovirus, etc.). For example, if the plant GluR coding sequence is within a marker gene sequence of the vector, recombinants containing the plant GluR coding sequence can be identified by the absence of the marker gene function. Alternatively, a marker gene can be placed in tandem with the plant GluR sequence under the control of the same or different promoter used to control the expression of the plant GluR coding sequence. Expression of the marker in response to induction or selection indicates expression of the plant GluR coding sequence.

In the third approach, transcriptional activity for the plant GluR coding region can be assessed by hybridization assays. For example, RNA can be isolated and analyzed by Northern blot using a probe homologous to the plant GluR coding sequence or particular portions thereof substantially as shown in FIGS. 6 and 7. Alternatively, total nucleic acids of the host cell may be extracted and assayed for hybridization to such probes.

In the fourth approach, the expression of the plant GluR protein product can be assessed immunologically, for

example by Western blots, immunoassays such as radioimmuno-precipitation, enzyme-linked immunoassays and the like. The ultimate test of the success of the expression system, however, involves the detection of the biologically active plant GluR gene product. Where the host cell secretes the gene product, the cell free media obtained from the cultured transfectant host cell may be assayed for plant GluR activity. Where the gene product is not secreted, cell lysates may be assayed for such activity. In either case, a number of assays can be used to detect plant GluR activity including but not limited to the following: cyclooxygenase activity may be determined in the culture medium by the addition of exogenous arachidonic acid substrate (30 μ M for 15 min. at 37° C.) followed by conversion of the prostaglandin E₂₀ product to a methyl oximate form. This bicyclic derivative may then be quantitated by radioimmunoassay (kit from Amersham Corp).

Desired plants and plant cells may be obtained by engineering the gene constructs described herein into a variety of plant cell types, including but not limited to, protoplasts, tissue culture cells, tissue and organ explants, pollen, embryos as well as whole plants. In an embodiment of the present invention, the engineered plant material is selected or screened for transformants (i.e., those that have incorporated or integrated the introduced gene construct(s)) following the approaches and methods described below. An isolated transformant may then be regenerated into a plant. Alternatively, the engineered plant material may be regenerated into a plant or plantlet before subjecting the derived plant or plantlet to selection or screening for the marker gene traits. Procedures for regenerating plants from plant cells, tissues or organs, either before or after selecting or screening for marker gene(s), are well known to those skilled in the art.

A transformed plant cell, callus, tissue or plant may be identified and isolated by selecting or screening the engineered plant material for traits encoded by the marker genes present on the transforming DNA. For instance, selection may be performed by growing the engineered plant material on media containing inhibitory amounts of the antibiotic or herbicide to which the transforming marker gene construct confers resistance. Further, transformed plants and plant cells may also be identified by screening for the activities of any visible marker genes (e.g., the β -glucuronidase, luciferase, B or C1 genes) that may be present on the recombinant nucleic acid constructs of the present invention. Such selection and screening methodologies are well known to those skilled in the art.

Physical and biochemical methods also may be used to identify a plant or plant cell transformant containing the gene constructs of the present invention. These methods include but are not limited to: 1) Southern analysis or PCR amplification for detecting and determining the structure of the recombinant DNA insert; 2) Northern blot, S-1 RNase protection, primer-extension or reverse transcriptase-PCR amplification for detecting and examining RNA transcripts of the gene constructs; 3) enzymatic assays for detecting enzyme or ribozyme activity, where such gene products are encoded by the gene construct; 4) protein gel electrophoresis, western blot techniques, immunoprecipitation, or enzyme-linked immunoassays, where the gene construct products are proteins; 5) biochemical measurements of compounds produced as a consequence of the expression of the introduced gene constructs. Additional techniques, such as in situ hybridization, enzyme staining, and immunostaining, also may be used to detect the presence or expression of the recombinant construct in specific plant organs and tissues. The methods for doing all these assays are well known to those skilled in the arts.

5.2.2. Purification of the Plant GluR Gene Product

Once a cell that produces high levels of biologically active plant GluR is identified, the cell may be clonally expanded and used to produce large quantities of the receptor. The receptor may be purified using techniques well-known in the art including, but not limited to, immunoaffinity purification, chromatographic methods including high performance liquid chromatography and the like. Where the gene product is secreted by the cultured cells, plant GluR polypeptides or peptides may be readily recovered from the culture medium.

Where the plant GluR coding sequence has been engineered to encode a cleavable fusion protein, the purification of plant GluR may be readily accomplished using affinity purification techniques. For example, an antibody specific for the heterologous peptide or protein can be used to capture the durable fusion protein; for example, on a solid surface, a column etc. The plant GluR moiety can be released by treatment with the appropriate enzyme that cleaves the linkage site.

The ease of cDNA construction using the polymerase chain reaction, transfection and purification of the expressed protein permits the isolation of small, but sufficient amount of plant GluR for characterization of the receptor's physical and kinetic properties. Using site-directed mutagenesis or naturally occurring mutant sequences, this system provides a reasonable approach to determine the effects of the altered primary structure on the function of the protein. Fusion constructs having the domain of plant GluR preceding the amino terminus of the cleavable protein versus constructs having the opposite arrangement, may also be engineered to evaluate which fusion construct will interfere the least, if at all, with the protein's biologic function and the ability to be purified.

Using this aspect of the invention, any cleavage site or enzyme cleavage substrate may be engineered between the plant GluR sequence and a second peptide or protein that has a binding partner which could be used for purification, e.g., any antigen for which an immunoaffinity column can be prepared.

5.3. Antibodies to GluR Proteins

Antibodies that define the GluR gene product are within the scope of this invention, and include antibodies capable of specifically recognizing one or more GluR gene product epitopes. Such antibodies may include, but are not limited to, polyclonal antibodies, monoclonal antibodies (mAbs), humanized or chimeric antibodies, single chain antibodies, Fab fragments, F(ab')₂ fragments, fragments produced by a Fab expression library, anti-idiotypic (anti-Id) antibodies, and epitope-binding fragments of any of the above. Such antibodies may be used, for example, in the detection of an GluR gene product in a biological sample, including, but not limited to, blood plasma and serum. Alternatively, the antibodies may be used as a method for the inhibition of abnormal GluR gene product activity.

Monoclonal antibodies, which are homogeneous populations of antibodies to a particular antigen, may be obtained by any technique which provides for the production of antibody molecules by continuous cell lines in culture. These include, but are not limited to, the hybridoma technique of Kohler and Milstein, (1975, *Nature* 256:495-497; and U.S. Pat. No. 4,376,110), the human B-cell hybridoma technique (Kosbor et al., 1983, *Immunology Today* 4:72; Cole et al., 1983, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 80:2026-2030), and the EBV-hybridoma technique (Cole et

al., 1985, *Monoclonal Antibodies And Cancer Therapy*, Alan R. Liss, Inc., pp. 77-96). Such antibodies may be of any immunoglobulin class including IgG, IgM, IgE, IgA, IgD and any subclass thereof. The hybridoma producing the mAb of this invention may be cultivated in vitro or in vivo.

In addition, techniques developed for the production of "chimeric antibodies" (Morrison et al., 1984, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.*, 81:6851-6855; Neuberger et al., 1984, *Nature*, 312:604-608; Takeda et al., 1985, *Nature*, 314:452-454) by splicing the genes from a mouse antibody molecule of appropriate antigen specificity together with genes from a human antibody molecule of appropriate biological activity can be used. A chimeric antibody is a molecule in which different portions are derived from different animal species, such as those having a variable region derived from a murine mAb and a human immunoglobulin constant region.

Alternatively, techniques described for the production of single chain antibodies (U.S. Pat. No. 4,946,778; Bird, 1988, *Science* 242:423-426; Huston et al., 1988, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 85:5879-5883; and Ward et al., 1989, *Nature* 334:544-546) can be adapted to produce single chain antibodies against GluR gene products. Single chain antibodies are formed by linking the heavy and light chain fragments of the Fv region via an amino acid bridge, resulting in a single chain polypeptide.

Antibody fragments which recognize specific epitopes may be generated by known techniques. For example, such fragments include but are not limited to: the F(ab')₂ fragments which can be produced by pepsin digestion of the antibody molecule and the Fab fragments which can be generated by reducing the disulfide bridges of the F(ab')₂ fragments. Alternatively, Fab expression libraries may be constructed (Huse et al., 1989, *Science*, 246:1275-1281) to allow rapid and easy identification of monoclonal Fab fragments with the desired specificity.

5.4. Transgenic Plants that Express Mutant GluR

Glutamate in plants may also act as an important signal for growth and development. It is therefore possible to alter the growth and development patterns of the plants by modulating the iGluR or mGluR or glutamate-like receptor activities by engineering transgenic plants express either wild type or mutant forms of plant GluR as discussed in Sections 5.1 and 5.2. Glutamate has potential activity in regulating circadian rhythm, therefore it is possible to engineer transgenic plants expressing mutated GluR to alter the plant's response to light and the biological clock. Thus, for example it would be possible to engineer plants which flower early or later, etc. The overexpression of AS and GS genes results in plants with excellent growth traits, that is, they grow faster and larger. Therefore, it is possible by altering the GluR to stimulate over expression of the AS gene, to genetically engineer plants with similar growth traits. In addition, by altering the GluR in genetically engineered cells it may also be possible to synchronize cells in culture, as well as synchronizing plants and seed germination.

According to the present invention, a desirable plant or plant cell may be obtained by transforming a plant cell with the nucleic acid constructs described in Section 5.1. In some instances, it may be desirable to engineer a plant or plant cell with several different gene constructs. Such engineering may be accomplished by transforming a plant or plant cell with all of the desired gene constructs simultaneously. Alternatively, the engineering may be carried out sequentially. That is, transforming with one gene construct, obtain-

ing the desired transformant after selection and screening, transforming the transformant with a second gene construct, and so on.

In an embodiment of the present invention, *Agrobacterium* can be employed to introduce the gene constructs into plants. Such transformations preferably use binary *Agrobacterium* T-DNA vectors (Bevan, 1984, *Nuc. Acid Res.* 12:8711-8721), and the co-cultivation procedure (Horsch et al., 1985, *Science* 227:1229-1231). Generally, the *Agrobacterium* transformation system is used to engineer dicotyledonous plants (Bevan et al., 1982, *Ann. Rev. Genet* 16:357-384; Rogers et al., 1986, *Methods Enzymol.* 118:627-641). The *Agrobacterium* transformation system may also be used to transform as well as transfer DNA to monocotyledonous plants and plant cells. (see Hernalsteen et al., 1984, *EMBO J* 3:3039-3041 ; Hooykass-Van Slogteren et al., 1984, *Nature* 311:763-764; Grimsley et al., 1987, *Nature* 325:1677-179; Boulton et al., 1989, *Plant Mol. Biol.* 12:31-40.; Gould et al., 1991, *Plant Physiol.* 95:426-434).

In other embodiments, various alternative methods for introducing recombinant nucleic acid constructs into plants and plant cells may also be utilized. These other methods are particularly useful where the target is a monocotyledonous plant or plant cell. Alternative gene transfer and transformation methods include, but are not limited to, protoplast transformation through calcium-, polyethylene glycol (PEG)- or electroporation-mediated uptake of naked DNA (see Paszkowski et al., 1984, *EMBO J* 3:2717-2722, Potrykus et al. 1985, *Molec. Gen. Genet.* 199:169-177; Fromm et al., 1985, *Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci. USA* 82:5824-5828; Shimamoto, 1989, *Nature* 338:274-276) and electroporation of plant tissues (D'Halluin et al., 1992, *Plant Cell* 4:1495-1505). Additional methods for plant cell transformation include microinjection, silicon carbide mediated DNA uptake (Kaepler et al., 1990, *Plant Cell Reporter* 9:415-418), and microprojectile bombardment (see Klein et al., 1988, *Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci. USA* 85:4305-4309; Gordon-Kamm et al., 1990, *Plant Cell* 2:603-618).

According to the present invention, a wide variety of plants and plant cell systems may be engineered for the desired physiological and agronomic characteristics described herein using the nucleic acid constructs of the instant invention and the various transformation methods mentioned above. In preferred embodiments, target plants and plant cells for engineering include, but are not limited to, those of maize, wheat, rice, soybean, tomato, tobacco, carrots, peanut, potato, sugar beets, sunflower, yam, *Arabidopsis*, rape seed, and petunia.

The present invention also encompasses the use of the cDNA clones of the plant GluR to not only select for new herbicides, but to also genetically engineer herbicide resistant plants. Gene constructs encoding the plant glutamate receptor protein and polypeptides can be used in genetic engineering of plants to alter the plant's growth requirements or conditions. The invention also encompasses genetically engineered plants that express mutagenized forms of the plant GluR so that the plants are able to utilize alternative nitrogen sources, which may prove to be beneficial, for example in improving plant growth in nitrogen limited soil. Given the important role that glutamate signaling plays in timing of cell division or flowering, transgenic plants may be engineered to produce more flowers or fruit in response to a specific nitrogen source. Therefore the present invention has many utilities in genetic engineering of plants to improve their agronomic or industrial properties.

The invention further encompasses transgenic plants expressing chimeric GluR. By exchanging portions of the

glutamate binding domain with segments of receptors sensitive to other compounds it is possible to engineer a receptor with specific resistance or growth response to that specific compound. Animal GluR subunits with specificity to particular agonists have been identified. (Bach et al., 1994, *Neuron* 13: 1343-1357). Through mutagenesis of the plant GluR it is possible to identify similar segments in plants and to genetically engineer GluR responsive to one specific agonist or analog of glutamate. Transgenic plants expressing such receptors would have improved agronomic and industrial properties.

5.5. Screening Assays for Herbicides

The present invention also encompasses screening assays to identify agonists and antagonists of glutamate induced signaling. This invention provides a novel, rapid and cost effective means of screening or identifying novel plant growth regulators and pharmaceutical drugs. The methods are based in some cases on in vivo screening of drugs for their abilities to alter plant growth, development or gene expression in a manner that can be reversed or enhanced by glutamate or glutamate-antagonists. In other embodiments, the methods are based on in vitro screening of drugs for their abilities to compete or interfere with glutamate binding of plant or animal glutamate receptors. These methods may be used to identify novel stimulatory or inhibitory plant growth regulatory compounds.

5.5.1. In Vitro Assays

The present invention also encompasses the use of in vitro screens to identify drugs for their ability to interfere with glutamate binding of plant or animal glutamate receptors. A potential method for in vitro screening involves linking the isolated plant glutamate receptor to a solid matrix, such as a sepharose. A solution containing glutamate along with the specific drug in varying concentrations. After several washes, the amount of glutamate bound to the receptor can be measured by applying a radioactively or fluorescently tagged antibody directed to the glutamate binding domain. The effectiveness of the inhibitors would be measured by the amount of antibody in the flow through. This would be a very rapid and cost effective assay to initially screen for potential inhibitors of glutamate binding to its receptor.

5.5.2. Cell Culture Assays

The present invention encompasses the use of cell lines, that express the plant GluR, in in vitro assays to screen drugs for their effects on plant growth mediated by the GluR. Preferably, continuous cell lines stably expressing the GluR gene product or mutants thereof as described above and preferably which respond to the signal generated by glutamate binding are utilized in assays to identify novel drugs that either mimic the effects of glutamate or act as glutamate antagonists. Cell lines that may be used in the cell culture assay include any cells, including animal, human or plant cells, that are engineered (as described in Section 5) to express the plant GluR. Glutamate receptor gene products encoding plant iGluR, mGluR, glutamate-like receptors, or any other glutamate receptor expressed in plants, as described in Section 5.1. may be expressed in cells for use in cell culture assay system.

In this assay, cells expressing the GluR in culture medium will be treated with potential agonists and antagonists. These drugs will be added in serial dilution to the culture medium. The effects of these drugs will be measured as changes in cell metabolism or growth, changes in gene expression,

changes in downstream signaling events and changes in membrane potential. The effects of the drugs should be reversed by glutamate supplementation, which indicates that the inhibitory effects are specific to the glutamate-related process.

The cell culture assay will include cells expressing glutamate responsive gene promoters linked to reporter genes. AS and GS genes are induced in response to glutamate binding its receptor. Therefore, drugs can be tested for their ability to activate the GluR by induction of AS and GS genes. Induction of gene expression will be measured by linking the AS and GS promoters to reporter genes, such as chloramphenicol transferase, which are commonly used in the art. Induction of the GluR will be rapidly measured by assaying for the reporter genes activity.

The cell culture assay will also include assaying for GluR activators or inhibitors by measuring an electrophysiological response. Cells, i.e. HeLa cells, expressing the plant GluR can be used to assay for inhibitors or activators of the GluR by measuring changes in membrane potential. Ionotropic GluR are known to be ion gated therefore activation or inhibition of the GluR may be measured as a change in membrane potential by methods well known to those skilled in the art.

The in vitro cell assay will provide a very rapid method to screen potential agonists and antagonists of the GluR. The use of cell lines expressing mutants of the GluR will provide more information regarding the action of these compounds. Primary cell cultures, protoplast and/or cell lines stably expressing the GluR which also express mutations in the signal transduction pathways will be a very useful tool in determining the downstream signaling events. For example, cell lines stably expressing the GluR may also express a mutant of the plant ras homolog or the plant mitogen-activated kinase (MAPK) homolog in order to determine whether ras or MAPK is required by glutamate mediated effects on cell metabolism and gene expression. Changes in MAPK activity or phosphorylation may also be utilized as an indicator of GluR activation.

This in vitro assay system is useful for screening and identifying potential inhibitors or activators of signaling cascades activated by plants. Cell lines expressing mutagenized GluR will provide a means of identifying inhibitors of GluR activated signaling events which may be potential herbicides. The effects of inhibitors or activators may be observed by measuring changes in gene expression and phosphorylation events by methods well known by those skilled in the art.

In another embodiment, the methods are based on in vitro screening of drugs for their abilities to compete or interfere with glutamate binding of animal glutamate receptors. Therefore the invention also encompasses plant cells expressing both wild-type and mutant forms of the animal GluR. In order to perform cell culture assays for drugs which would stimulate or inhibit animal glutamate receptors.

5.5.3. Plant Growth Assay

In order to screen for potential plant growth regulators, assays measuring changes in plant growth in response to potential GluR agonists and antagonists in encompassed by the present invention. Assay measuring changes in plant growth include changes in root, stem, or leaf growth. The use of transgenic plants as described in Section 5.4. is also included.

The following assay may be utilized in order to screen drugs for their effects on plant growth mediated by the GluR.

Arabidopsis seedlings expressing or overexpressing the GluR are treated with the potential agonist or antagonist. In this plant growth assay, Arabidopsis seeds are plated on tissue culture plates in MS Medium (Murashige and Skoog Salt Mixture-plant basic medium available from Gibco (BRL)). A dose-response curve is determined using various concentrations of the potential agonist or antagonist added to the medium. The plants are grown vertically in a growth chamber at 22° C. with a 16 hour light/8 hour dark cycle for two weeks. The effects of each herbicide on plant growth is assessed by measuring root length on vertical tissue culture plates. The effectiveness of the drug is measured by a increase or reduction in root growth. The effect of the drug should be reversed by glutamate supplementation, which indicates that the inhibitory effects are specific to a glutamate-related process.

This assay also has utility in the selection of new pharmacological agonists and antagonist for use as human drugs. The pathophysiological involvement of GluR receptors in animals has been reviewed (Gasic et al., 1992, *Annu. Rev. Physiol.* 54: 507-536). As summarized by Gasic and Hollmann (1992), glutamate receptors in animals are involved in CNS disorders such as Huntington's disease, Parkinson's disease, and Alzheimer's disease. GluR is also involved in the initiation and propagation of seizures and in massive neuronal cell death during periods of ischemia and hypoglycemia. It has also been reported that NMDA receptor antagonists may confer protection to some neurotoxicity in an experimental model of Parkinson's disease (Graham et al. 1990, *Life Sci* 47:PL91-PL97). Moreover, both non-competitive NMDA receptor antagonist (dizocilpine) and competitive NMDA receptor antagonist (DIL-(E)-2-amino-4-methyl-5-phosphono-3-pentonoic acid) may act as antidepressant (Papp et al., 1994, *Eur. J. Pharmacol.* 263:1-7). Isolated Arabidopsis mutants which are supersensitive to GluR agonists or antagonists will be utilized to screen for new pharmaceutical drugs such as new antidepressants. The bioassay for new GluR acting drugs would be sensitive, rapid, and cost-effective to operate.

This assay will also have utility to screen and identify potential inhibitors or activators of signaling cascades activated by the plant GluR. The activation of the GluR leads to activation of downstream signaling events which are required for the observed changes in plant metabolism and development. Therefore the mutagenized Arabidopsis seedlings will have utility in assaying potential inhibitors or activators of the GluR activated signaling events. The effects of the inhibitors or activators will be observed by measuring changes in root length on vertical tissue plates.

5.6. Herbicides that Block the GluR Signal

A further aspect of the invention relates to novel plant growth regulators that mimic or antagonize glutamate in regulating plant metabolism, physiology and/or gene expression. The novel plant growth regulators may have structural homology to agonists or antagonists of animal glutamate receptors. Plant growth regulators that mimic or antagonize the GluR may also be useful in synchronizing plant development and seed germination, as well as synchronizing cells in culture. The novel plant growth regulators may also have activities as agonists or antagonists of animal glutamate receptors.

Glutamate analogs should be effective herbicide targets, given that they are all acting not only through some target enzymes, but through plant amino acids receptors which signal downstream responses. The short-term and long-term

herbicidal effects on the downstream reactions of these receptors would be more profound than the inhibition of a single biochemical reaction. The suggestion that some herbicides can affect a whole series of downstream responses have been implicated in Balke's review (Balke, 1985, In: Weed Physiology. CRC Press, Inc., p113-139). Several herbicides are suggested to be able to affect the hormonal and environmental regulation of membrane functions. For example, both the auxin and auxin antagonist herbicides affect membrane functions that are associated with the action of IAA in plant cells. Several herbicides can also affect the phytochrome-regulated Ca⁺⁺ transport and blue light induced absorbance change. However, the detailed mechanisms of these herbicidal effects are yet to be fully elucidated and the corresponding receptors of the signals are poorly understood.

The present invention also includes plant growth regulators, including herbicides that prevent glutamate from binding to the glutamate receptor. Potential herbicides include, but are not limited to, peptides corresponding to extracellular domain of the glutamate receptor. These peptides would bind to glutamate and prevent binding to the receptor.

The present invention also includes herbicides that would not only act by binding to the GluR, but rather act intracellularly to inhibit downstream signaling pathways. Activation of the plant GluR results in the activation of signaling cascades. These signaling cascades and inhibitors thereof are well characterized in animals. Therefore given the strong identity between the animal and plant glutamate receptors, it is likely that similar signaling pathways are activated downstream and therefore inhibitors of these pathways in animal cells would have utility in plants. Therefore potential herbicides include, but are not limited to, inhibitors of plant homologues of ras, raf, protein tyrosine kinases, protein tyrosine phosphatases. Potential herbicides also include reagents which would inhibit intracellular activation of the glutamate receptor therefore blocking activation of downstream signaling cascades.

Herbicides which act via the GluR signaling pathway but are too large to cross the blood-brain barrier are especially preferred since they would be relatively non-toxic to humans and animals. For example, glutamate analogs such as PPT in theory should also be toxic to animals, as animals possess GS and glutamate receptors. However, PPT is not toxic to animals, as it does not pass the blood-brain barrier and effectively excreted in kidneys. This indicates that there may be plenty of room for constructing a herbicide which only affects plants but not animals. In addition, since the plant iGluR described herein appears to be "novel" in structure (combines kainate and NMDA domains), it is possibly distinct from those animal iGluRs and may be used to develop plant-specific herbicides.

In examples described below, glutamate is shown to induce the expression of a gene for asparagine synthetase (ASN1) in *Arabidopsis thaliana*. Thus, glutamate, an amino acid thought to be involved in nitrogen transport, can also act as a signaling molecule in plants. Arabidopsis cDNAs with high identity to an ionotropic animal glutamate receptor (iGluR) as well as one with high identity to animal metabotropic glutamate receptor (mGluR) are identified herein. The data described below shows that kainate, an iGluR agonist, can mimic the glutamate-stimulated induction of ASN1 mRNA. Conversely, an iGluR antagonist (DNQX) partially blocks the induction of ASN1 mRNA by glutamate. These data indicate that Arabidopsis possesses a functional iGluR.

6. EXAMPLE

Identification and Characterization of Arabidopsis Homologs of the Animal Glutamate Receptor Gene

Two Arabidopsis cDNA clones contained in the Arabidopsis Expressed Sequence Tag (EST) databank (Newman

et al., 1994, Plant Physiol. 106:1241-1255). Two cDNA clones each with identity to a distinct type of animal glutamate receptor. One Arabidopsis cDNA clone (EST#107M14T7, pAt-iGR-1) shares high identity to a class of glutamate receptors called ionotropic (iGluR) receptors which constitutes ligand-gated ion channels (Gasic, G. P. and Hollmann, 1992, Annu. Rev. Physiol. 54:507-536; Kanai et al., 1993, TINS 16:36-370; O'Hara et al., 1993, Neuron 11:41-52; Seeburg, Ph.D., 1995, TINS 16:359-365). A second Arabidopsis cDNA (EST# 97C23T7, pAT-mGR-1) shares identity to another class of animal glutamate receptors called metabotropic glutamate receptor, mGluR (Gasic, G. P. and Hollmann, 1992, Annu. Rev. Physiol. 54:507-536).

6.1. The iGluR cDNA Clone

Sequence analysis of each clone indicates that the Arabidopsis iGluR cDNA, pAt-iGR-1, shares extensive identity with animal iGluRs. About 700 nucleotides from the 5' end of the clone pAt-iGR-1 have been sequenced. This clone encodes a truncated peptide which shares an extended region of homology with the ionotropic glutamate receptor which cover part of the glutamate-binding site close to transmembrane domain I (TMI) and continues through TMII until the end of TMIII (FIG. 5 and FIG. 7A). The highest identity to animal iGluR is in the glutamate-binding domain (52%) (FIG. 6). The glutamate-binding region of animal iGluR is a two cleft domain shown by the hatched bars in FIG. 5. The Arabidopsis sequence shown in FIG. 6, corresponds to the first of these glutamate-binding domains in animal iGluR (FIG. 5). The glutamate-binding domain shared between animal and plant iGluR has low but significant identity to the glutamine-binding domain of an *E. coli* permease gene (Nakanishi et al., 1990, Neuron 5:569-581) (FIG. 6). The ligand-binding R residue, which is conserved in all ionotropic glutamate receptors, is also conserved in the Arabidopsis iGluR (Kuryatov et al., 1994, Neuron 12:1291-1300).

The mRNAs of non-NMDA type iGluRs (kainate-binding iGluR and AMPA iGluR) are subject to RNA editing which modifies their function. For example, in the GluR2 subunit in AMPA type iGluR, RNA editing (Q to R) in TM II (FIG. 1) has been shown to regulate the Ca⁺⁺ permeability. RNA editing leads to a decrease in Ca⁺⁺ permeability (Choi, D. W., 1988, Neuron 1:623-634; Hume et al., 1991, Science 253:1028-1031). In Kainate-binding type iGluR, both the GluR5 and GluR6 subunits display Q to R editing similar to that of the GluR2 subunit of AMPA receptors (Sommer et al., 1991, Cell 67:11-19). GluR6 has two additional positions in TMI that are modified by RNA editing (Kohler et al., 1993, Neuron 10:491-500). For GluR6, only when TMI is edited does editing in TMII (Q to R) influence Ca⁺⁺ permeability (Kohler et al., 1993, Neuron 10:491-500). In contrast to the AMPA receptor channel, GluR6(R) channels edited in TMI show a higher Ca⁺⁺ permeability than GluR6 (Q) channels (Kohler et al., 1993, Neuron 10:491-500). In the case of NMDA type iGluR, all of the subunits do not show RNA editing in TMI and TMII. In fact all subunits contain an N at the site at which Q to R editing occurs. NMDA receptors are highly permeable to Ca⁺⁺.

Interestingly, the Q/R residue of non-NMDA-type ionotropic glutamate receptor which are subject to RNA editing or the corresponding non-editing N residue of NMDA-type ionotropic glutamate receptor within TMII (Seeburg, P. H., 1995, TINS 16:359-365), are missing from the predicted peptide of Arabidopsis pAt-iGR-1. Since these residues are important for the regulation of permeability of Ca⁺⁺ ions in animal ionotropic glutamate receptors (Burnashev et al.,

1992, Neuron 8:189–198; Kohler et al., 1993, Neuron 10:491–500; Sommer et al., 1991, Cell 67:11–19) the Ca⁺⁺ ion permeability in plant glutamate receptors may be regulated by a different mechanism.

Sequence searches of GeneBank data using FASTA program show that the peptide encoded by Arabidopsis pAt-iGR-1 has a strong homology to all of the kainate-binding, NMDA, and AMPA types of animal iGluRs, although it seems to have a slightly higher overall homology to kainate-binding type of iGluRs. FIG. 7A shows the extensive homology between the peptide encoded by the first 700 nucleotides of Arabidopsis pAt-iGR-1 to a NMDA and a kainate-binding iGluR (FIG. 7A). In contrast to animals which have distinct kainate and NMDA receptors, plants may possess a “novel” type of iGluR that combines domains of kainate and NMDA receptors.

Northern blot analysis of leaf, root and flower tissues show that the iGluR mRNA is expressed at detectable levels (FIG. 9). In these experiments twenty μ g of total RNA isolated from each of the leaf, root and flower tissues were electrophoresed on a 1% formaldehyde agarose gel. The Northern blot analyses were performed with high-stringency conditions at a temperature of 42° C. in 50% (v/v) formamide hybridization solution. Washing and chemiluminescent detection were performed according to the Boehringer-Mannheim Genius System User’s Guide. This Northern shows iGluR mRNA is detected in 20 μ g of total RNA. This Northern blot analysis also shows that Arabidopsis iGluR in RNA (2.7 Kb) is of comparable size to animal iGluR mRNA (3.0 Kb) (FIG. 8). The Arabidopsis iGluR mRNA is expressed predominantly in leaves and also at lower levels in roots and flowers of Arabidopsis.

6.2. The mGluR cDNA Clone

The Arabidopsis clone pAT-mGR-1 (EST #97C23T7) shares a high degree of homology to an animal mGluR as shown in FIG. 7B. The homologous region between Arabidopsis mGluR and animal mGluR includes part of the cysteine-rich region of animal mGluR and spans part of the 7 transmembrane domains (O’Hara et al., 1993, Neuron 11:41–52). In the Arabidopsis pAT-mGR-1 clone, there are several C residues in the cysteine-rich signature region as well (FIG. 7B).

Genomic Southern analyses demonstrate that the iGluR of Arabidopsis are bona-fide Arabidopsis genes as shown by the strongly hybridizing DNA fragments in Arabidopsis genomic DNA under high stringency condition (FIG. 8). The weakly hybridizing bands in each lane indicate that there may be additional GluR genes in the Arabidopsis genome. In these Southern blot analyses, two μ g of CsCl₁-purified Arabidopsis genomic DNA was digested with different restriction enzymes. The digested DNA was electrophoresed on a 1% (w/v) Tris-phosphate-EDTA agarose gel. The DNA was transferred to a nylon membrane after depurination, denaturation and neutralization steps. Hybridization steps were carried out under high stringency conditions (65° C. in 0.5 \times SSC) or low stringency conditions (50° C. in 1 \times SSC).

Southern blot analyses using the Arabidopsis iGluR cDNAs on genomic DNA from other dicots (tobacco), a legume (pea), and two monocots (corn and rice) were performed under low-stringency conditions. This Southern blot analysis demonstrates that all plant species possess the iGluR genes described for Arabidopsis.

Genomic Southern blot analysis using Arabidopsis mGluR cDNA on genomic DNA from other dicots (tobacco), a legume (pea) and two monocots (corn and rice)

were performed under low stringency conditions (50° C. in 1 \times SSC). The analysis demonstrated bands hybridizing to the mGluR in all species.

7. EXAMPLE

Use of iGluR Agonist (KA) and Antagonist (DNQX) to Define a Functional iGluR in Arabidopsis

The Arabidopsis iGluR cDNA (pAt-iGR-1) shows high identity to the animal glutamate receptors specifically activated by an iGluR agonist called kainic acid (KA). These kainate-selective iGluR receptors are competitively inhibited by an iGluR antagonist called 6,7-dinitroquinoxaline (DNQX). This iGluR agonist (KA) and antagonist (DNQX) are structurally distinct from glutamate (see FIG. 10), yet they bind to the iGluR receptor and stimulate or inhibit its action. Thus, any responses which these drugs may effect in plants, are likely to be due to their specific interaction with a iGluR-type receptor, rather than to general effects caused by inhibition of glutamate-utilizing enzymes. The experiments described below show that agonists, such as KA, mimic the effects of glutamate on gene induction and by contrast, that antagonists such as DNQX suppress glutamate gene induction. Thus, these experiments provide evidence that plants express a functional GluR.

7.1. Effect of GluR Agonists and Antagonists on Plant Growth

A dose-response curve using various concentrations of KA or DNQX was performed and the effects of each drug on plant growth was determined by measuring root length on vertical tissue culture plates (see FIG. 11). Low concentrations of agonist (KA) have no adverse effects on plant growth (FIG. 11A, left panel, compare 0 to 0.3 mM KA). Low concentrations of DNQX also have no adverse effects on growth (FIG. 11B, left panel, compare 0 to 0.1 mM KA). At high concentrations of agonist (KA) or antagonist (DNQX), a reduction in root growth is observed (FIGS. 11A & B, right panels, black bars). In each case, the effect of high doses of KA or DNQX is at least partially reversed by glutamate supplementation (FIGS. 12A & B, right panels, white bars). The partial rescue by glutamate indicates that the inhibitory effects of high KA or DNQX are specific to a glutamate-related process.

7.2. The iGluR Agonist (KA) is Able to Induce the Expression of Plant Nitrogen-Assimilatory Genes

The ability of a iGluR agonist to mimic the glutamate-stimulated expression of nitrogen assimilatory genes in Arabidopsis was tested using low concentrations of agonist KA and monitoring ASN1 mRNA levels as a measure of gene induction by KA. The results demonstrate that this iGluR agonist pair can specifically affect the expression of nitrogen metabolic genes in Arabidopsis. These data provide evidence that plants possess a functional glutamate receptor.

ASN1 mRNA accumulates to high levels specifically in dark-treated plants (FIG. 12A, lane 2), and is repressed by light (FIG. 12A, lane 1) or sucrose (FIG. 12A, lane 3). The results demonstrate that glutamate is able to partially relieve this sucrose repression (FIG. 12A, compare lane 6 to lane 3). Two concentrations of the iGluR agonist KA (300 μ M and 30 μ M) are each able to relieve the: sucrose repression of ASN1 mRNA (FIG. 12A, lanes 4 & 5). ASN1 mRNA levels are determined by Northern blot analysis. FIG. 12B shows a quantitative bar graph of these Northern blot results.

Quantitatively, KA and glutamate are each able to relieve the sucrose repression of ASN1 mRNA to nearly equivalent levels (FIG. 12C). This roughly 2-fold induction of ASN1 mRNA by KA or glutamate is comparable to the level of metabolic induction of several amino acid genes in yeast (2–4 fold) (Zalkin, H. and Yanofsky, C., 1982, *J. Biol. Chem.* 257:1491–1500). Conversely, the iGluR antagonist DNQX seems to partially inhibit glutamate-induction of ASN1 mRNA (FIGS. 12A & B, compare lanes 6 & 7). The discovery that an iGluR agonist can mimic glutamate induction of a plant gene indicates that a functional iGluR glutamate receptor exists in plants.

7.3. Linking the Arabidopsis iGluR Gene to a Functional Glutamate Receptor in Plants

The next experiments demonstrate that the iGluR gene(s) is responsible for the observed *in vivo* responses of ASN1 gene expression to iGluR agonist (KA) or iGluR antagonist (DNQX), using a genetic approach. Arabidopsis mutants are screened for insensitivity or supersensitivity to the iGluR agonist KA or antagonist DNQX. Arabidopsis mutants were selected in which a mutation in a iGluR gene may improve or disturb the binding affinity of the agonist or antagonist. In this assay, Arabidopsis seeds are plated on tissue culture plates in Ms Medium (Murashige & Skoog Salt Mixture-plant basic medium available from Gibco (BRL). Agonists and antagonists are added in serial dilution to the medium. The plates are grown vertically in a growth chamber at 22° C. with a 16 hour light/8 hour dark cycle for two weeks. The effect of agonists and antagonists is determined by changes in root length. Mutagenized M2 Arabidopsis seedlings were screened for those which are insensitive (resistant) to the iGluR agonist (KA) or antagonist (DNQX) by screening for long roots on high concentrations of either drug (FIG. 15A). Conversely, mutants that are super-sensitive to either drug are being identified by screening for seedlings with short roots on low doses of KA or DNQX (FIG. 14B).

8. EXAMPLE

Use of Agonists and Antagonists to Define a Functional mGluR in Arabidopsis

The Arabidopsis mGluR cDNA (pAt-mGR-1) shows high identity to the animal glutamate receptors specifically activated by mGluR agonists called L-AP4 and ACPD. These mGluR receptors are specifically inhibited by mGluR antagonists L-AP3 (L-(+) amino phosphoropropionate) and L-ABHA (L-aspartate-B-hydroxymate). Any responses which these drugs may effect in plants are likely due to their specific interaction with an mGluR-type receptor, rather than to general effects caused by inhibition of glutamate-utilizing enzymes. In order to test that plants express a functional mGluR the assay described herein can be used, wherein agonists such as L-AP4 and ACPD will mimic the effects of glutamate on gene induction and by contrast antagonists such as L-AP3 and L-ABHA suppress glutamate gene induction. The effects of these agonists/antagonists can be tested using the vertical root growth assay as described in the working example, Section 7. Serial dilutions of the agonists/antagonists to be tested can range from 3 mM to 0 mM. In each case, the effects of doses of L-AP3, L-ABHA, L-AP4 and ACPD should be reversed by glutamate supplementation, indicating that the effect of these drugs are specific to glutamate related processes.

9. EXAMPLE

The Complete Sequence of the iGluR cDNA

The nucleotide deduced amino acid sequence of the full length Arabidopsis iGluR cDNA called iGlr1 was deter-

mined (five pages long) (FIG. 15). The nucleotide sequence of the full-length Arabidopsis iGlr1 cDNA clone (see below) is shown, as is the deduced encoded protein. The regions of highest homology to animal iGluR are denoted in FIGS. 17 & 18. The full-length Arabidopsis iGlr1 cDNA clone was constructed as follows: the partial EST cDNA clone 107M14T7 was used as a hybridization probe to isolate two additional iGlr cDNA clones (HM299 and HM262) from two different Arabidopsis cDNA libraries, KC-HM1 and CD4-7 (obtained from the Arabidopsis stock center, Ohio). Portions of each iGlr cDNA clone were annealed to generate a full-length Arabidopsis iGlr1 cDNA which was given the trivial name HM330.

10. EXAMPLE

iGluR Antagonist DNQX Phenocopies Plant Mutants Impaired in Light Signal Transduction

This example demonstrates that a specific antagonist of iGluR, DNQX, phenocopies plant mutants impaired in light signal transduction. Light induces leaf expansion and chloroplast development (greening) in Arabidopsis. Light also inhibits hypocotyl elongation. Plants germinated in the dark show an etiolated morphology, yellow unopened cotyledons and long hypocotyl.

Light normally promotes greening and inhibits hypocotyl elongation in wild-type seedlings. *hy* mutants are impaired in light perception/signal transduction. *hy* mutants when grown in light take on the morphology of dark-grown seedlings (long-hypocotyl) (FIG. 20). When wild-type plants are treated with DNQX, an iGluR antagonist, they grow as *hy* mutants (long hypocotyl). Plants grown on normal MS media show a short hypocotyl, while plants grown on media containing 400 μ M DNQX show elongated hypocotyl, similar to *hy* mutants (FIG. 21).

Plants grown in darkness have unopened yellow cotyledons, but if exposed to light for 5 hrs. the cotyledons begin to green. If plants are grown in the dark with DNQX in the media, the cotyledons remain yellow and unopened even after 5 hrs. of light exposure. Thus DNQX blocks light-induced chloroplast development in Arabidopsis (FIG. 22).

In conclusion, DNQX a specific antagonist of iGluR, inhibits the plant's responses to light signal transduction, e.g., induction of leaf expansion and chloroplast development (greening).

11. EXAMPLE

iGluR Antagonist DNQX Inhibits Light Induced Chlorophyll Synthesis

This example demonstrates that a specific antagonist of iGluR, DNQX, phenocopies plant mutants impaired in light signal transduction. Light induces synthesis of chlorophyll a and chlorophyll b in Arabidopsis, and treatment with DNQX inhibits this light induced response.

Arabidopsis seedlings were sown on MS+3% sucrose agar plates and grown in complete darkness for 5 days. On day 6, half of the seedlings were kept in the dark (D) and the other half were transferred to white light (L) for 7.5 hours and were grown in the presence or absence of 0.4 mM DNQX (FIG. 31). Levels of chlorophyll a and chlorophyll b were measured using the method of Moran (Moran et al., 1982, *Plant Physiol.* 69:1376–13810). The cotyledons of 30–40 plants were used for each data point.

The presence of DNQX significantly inhibits synthesis of chlorophyll a and b in Arabidopsis plants grown in the light.

Therefore DNQX, a specific antagonist of iGluR, inhibits the plant's responses to light signal transduction to induce synthesis of chlorophyll.

12. EXAMPLE

The iGluR Agonist Kainate (KA) Inhibits Light-Induced Germination

Kainate inhibition of germination in the dark is reversed by glutamate. Plants germinated in the dark on "normal" MS media (MS) as a positive control. Kainate, the iGluR agonist, causes a specific inhibition of germination of plants grown in MS media containing KA. The inhibition of germination by KA is reversed by the addition of glutamate to the media (MS+KA+Glu) (FIG. 23). Germination involves a light signal. Dark-grown seedlings are sown in the light and transferred to the dark. These results indicate that at high concentrations, the iGluR agonist is able to block light-induced germination, and that glutamate the natural agonist for iGluR can reverse the inhibitory effect of high KA. High doses of KA an agonist of iGluR in animals functions as a neurotoxin.

The effects of kainate on germination of Arabidopsis in the dark was determined. Arabidopsis seedlings germinated on media containing increasing amounts of kainate (200–400 μ M) show a significant inhibition of germination of dark-grown seedlings. This inhibition of germination is likely to be specific to iGluR as it is specifically reversed by the supplementation of glutamate to the growth media (FIG. 23).

13. EXAMPLE

The Arabidopsis iGlr-1 Gene Maps to Chromosome III

The Arabidopsis iGlr-1 gene was mapped using recombinant inbred lines of Arabidopsis. An RFLP for iGlr1 was identified in the wild-type Arabidopsis ecotypes Columbia (C) and Landsberg (L). This iGlr1-specific RFLP was used to identify the genotype of the iGlr1 gene in 30 Recombinant Inbred lines as being derived from the C or L parents. The "pattern" of inheritance of the iGlr1 gene in the recombinant inbred lines was compared to known markers and used to determine a map position (see FIG. 24).

The iGlr-1 gene maps to chromosome III to a similar position as two known mutants, hy2 and spy (FIG. 25). Using data from recombinant inbred lines hy2 is a mutant impaired in light signal transduction (see review Whitelam & Harberd, Plant Cell Environment 1994, 17, 615–625. The spy mutant is impaired in GA hormone signal transduction (Jacobsen & Olszewski, 1993, Plant Cell 5, 887–896).

14. EXAMPLE

Isolation of Arabidopsis Mutants Super Sensitive to DNQX

In this assay Arabidopsis mutants were screened for altered sensitivity to the iGluR antagonist DNQX. Mutants affected in iGluR can be used to test the in vivo function of plant iGluR and could also be mapped relative to the cloned gene. To isolate mutants in Arabidopsis iGluR plants were screened for super-sensitivity to the iGluR antagonist DNQX. Normally wild-type Arabidopsis only show an elongated hypocotyl phenotype when exposed to high doses of DNQX (200–400 μ M) and show no hypocotyl elongation at low concentrations (100 μ M) (see FIG. 21). The ems

mutagenized M2 seeds were germinated on media containing 100 μ M DNQX and mutants that displayed an elongated hypocotyl at this low dose of DNQX were selected.

Putative Arabidopsis mutants that are super-sensitive to the iGluR antagonist DNQX were isolated. Arabidopsis wild-type seedlings that show no significant hypocotyl elongation when germinated on 100 μ M DNQX were compared to control MS. By contrast the putative DNQX supersensitive mutant shows an elongated hypocotyl when germinated on 100 μ M DNQX. The putative super-sensitive mutant also demonstrates an elongated hypocotyl compared to wild-type when germinated in the absence of DNQX. An additional DNQX supersensitive mutant was isolated that demonstrated a homeotic phenotype. Lateral roots emerged from the elongation hypocotyl of the plant (see FIG. 33). In wild type plants, lateral roots emerge only from roots.

Thus mutations in iGluR caused a phenotype of light-insensitivity, supporting the Applicants' model.

15. EXAMPLE

Arabidopsis Mutants Resistant to Kainate Display a Giant Phenotype

Arabidopsis mutants resistant to the iGluR agonist Kainate were selected. High doses of kainate (12 mM) kill wild-type seedlings. This is not unexpected as high doses of the iGluR agonist kainate function as a neurotoxin in animals. Arabidopsis mutants with putative defects in the KA binding site of iGluR were selected by selecting for mutants able to grow in the presence of 12 mM kainate. The ems mutagenized Arabidopsis M2 seedlings were sown on 12 mM kainate. Note the one KA-resistant plant is enlarged in Panel B, (FIG. 28).

Arabidopsis mutants resistant to the iGluR agonist kainate, display a Giant phenotype. Two independent Arabidopsis were mutants selected for growth on 12 mM KA (see FIG. 28). When the putative KA-resistant plants are transferred to soil, they each display varying degrees of a Giant vegetative phenotype. This result may indicate that iGluR affects/enhances overall plant growth.

Two additional independent KA-resistant mutants (KA-giant-1 and KA-giant-2) show a giant, late flowering phenotype (FIG. 32). Some of the cauline leaves from the flowering stalks of these KA-resistant giant mutants (panel B) display the morphology of rosette leaves in contrast to the normal morphology in wild type plants (panel A). These results suggest that iGluR may be involved in flowering and developmental processes.

A number of references have been cited and the entire disclosure of which are incorporated herein by reference.

The present invention is not to be limited in scope by the specific embodiments described which are intended as single illustrations of individual aspects of the invention, and functionally equivalent methods and components are with in the scope of the invention. Indeed various modifications of the invention, in addition to those shown and described herein will become apparent to those skilled in the art from the foregoing description and accompanying drawings. Such modifications are intended to fall within the scope of the appended claims.

SEQUENCE LISTING

(1) GENERAL INFORMATION:

(iii) NUMBER OF SEQUENCES: 36

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 1:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 41 amino acids
- (B) TYPE: amino acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: <Unknown>
- (D) TOPOLOGY: unknown

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: peptide

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 1:

Gln Arg Asp Lys Tyr Asp Ala Ala Val Gly Asp Ile Thr Ile Thr Ser
 1 5 10 15
 Asn Arg Ser Leu Tyr Val Asp Phe Thr Leu Pro Tyr Thr Asp Ile Gly
 20 25 30
 Ile Gly Ile Leu Thr Val Lys Lys Lys
 35 40

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 2:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 41 amino acids
- (B) TYPE: amino acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: <Unknown>
- (D) TOPOLOGY: unknown

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: peptide

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 2:

Gln Thr Lys Asn Val Asp Leu Ala Leu Ala Gly Ile Thr Ile Thr Asp
 1 5 10 15
 Glu Arg Lys Lys Ala Ile Asp Phe Ser Asp Gly Tyr Tyr Lys Ser Gly
 20 25 30
 Leu Leu Val Met Val Lys Ala Asn Asn
 35 40

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 3:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 41 amino acids
- (B) TYPE: amino acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: <Unknown>
- (D) TOPOLOGY: unknown

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: peptide

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 3:

Leu Arg Gln Glu Ala Asp Ile Ala Val Ala Pro Leu Thr Val Thr Ser
 1 5 10 15
 Ala Arg Glu Glu Val Val Ser Phe Thr Thr Pro Phe Leu Gln Thr Gly
 20 25 30
 Ile Gly Ile Leu Leu Arg Lys Glu Thr
 35 40

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 4:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 41 amino acids
- (B) TYPE: amino acid

-continued

(C) STRANDEDNESS: <Unknown>
 (D) TOPOLOGY: unknown

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: peptide

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 4:

Ile Arg Lys Glu Ala Asp Leu Ala Ile Ala Pro Leu Thr Ile Thr Ser
 1 5 10 15
 Val Arg Glu Asn Ala Ile Ser Phe Thr Lys Pro Phe Met Gln Thr Gly
 20 25 30
 Ile Gly Ile Leu Leu Lys Lys Asp Thr
 35 40

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 5:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 (A) LENGTH: 41 amino acids
 (B) TYPE: amino acid
 (C) STRANDEDNESS: <Unknown>
 (D) TOPOLOGY: unknown

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: peptide

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 5:

Val Tyr Gly Arg Ala Asp Val Ala Val Ala Pro Leu Thr Ile Thr Leu
 1 5 10 15
 Val Arg Glu Glu Val Ile Asp Phe Ser Lys Pro Phe Met Ser Leu Gly
 20 25 30
 Ile Ser Ile Met Ile Lys Lys Pro Gln
 35 40

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 6:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 (A) LENGTH: 41 amino acids
 (B) TYPE: amino acid
 (C) STRANDEDNESS: <Unknown>
 (D) TOPOLOGY: unknown

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: peptide

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 6:

Val Tyr Gly Arg Ala Asp Ile Ala Val Ala Pro Leu Thr Ile Thr Leu
 1 5 10 15
 Val Arg Glu Glu Val Ile Asp Phe Ser Lys Pro Phe Met Ser Leu Gly
 20 25 30
 Ile Ser Ile Met Ile Lys Lys Pro Gln
 35 40

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 7:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 (A) LENGTH: 41 amino acids
 (B) TYPE: amino acid
 (C) STRANDEDNESS: <Unknown>
 (D) TOPOLOGY: unknown

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: peptide

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 7:

Val Tyr Gly Lys Ala Asp Ile Ala Ile Ala Pro Leu Thr Ile Thr Leu
 1 5 10 15
 Val Arg Glu Glu Val Ile Asp Phe Ser Lys Pro Phe Met Ser Leu Gly
 20 25 30

-continued

Ile Ser Ile Met Ile Lys Lys Pro Gln
35 40

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 8:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 262 amino acids
- (B) TYPE: amino acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: <Unknown>
- (D) TOPOLOGY: unknown

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: protein

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 8:

Arg Gly Asn Asn Asp Asn Leu Ala Tyr Leu Leu Ser Thr Gln Arg Asp
1 5 10 15
Lys Tyr Asp Ala Val Gly Asp Ile Thr Ile Thr Ser Asn Arg Ser
20 25 30
Leu Tyr Val Asp Phe Thr Leu Pro Tyr Thr Asp Ile Gly Ile Gly Ile
35 40 45
Leu Thr Val Lys Lys Lys Ser Gln Gly Met Trp Thr Phe Phe Asp Pro
50 55 60
Phe Glu Lys Ser Leu Trp Leu Ala Ser Gly Ala Phe Phe Val Leu Thr
65 70 75 80
Gly Ile Val Val Trp Leu Val Glu Arg Pro Val Asn Pro Glu Phe Gln
85 90 95
Gly Ser Trp Gly Gln Gln Leu Ser Met Met Leu Leu Val Trp Ile Leu
100 105 110
Leu Pro Leu Cys Leu Leu Thr Gly Glu Lys Leu Gln Lys Met Ser Ser
115 120 125
Arg Phe Leu Val Ile Val Trp Val Phe Val Val Leu Ile Leu Thr Ser
130 135 140
Ser Tyr Ser Ala Asn Leu Thr Ser Thr Lys Thr Ile Ser Arg Met Gln
145 150 155 160
Leu Asn His Gln Met Val Phe Gly Gly Ser Thr Thr Ser Met Thr Ala
165 170 175
Lys Leu Gly Ser Ile Asn Gly Gly Gly Gly Leu Cys Thr Thr Leu Arg
180 185 190
Asp Gly Thr Leu Thr His Val Ile Asn Glu Ile Pro Tyr Leu Ser Ile
195 200 205
Leu Ile Gly Asn Tyr Pro Asn Asp Phe Val Met Thr Asp Arg Val Thr
210 215 220
Asn Thr Asn Gly Phe Gly Phe Met Phe Gln Lys Gly Ser Asp Leu Val
225 230 235 240
Pro Lys Val Ser Arg Glu Ile Ala Lys Leu Arg Ser Leu Gly Met Leu
245 250 255
Lys Asp Met Glu Glu Lys
260

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 9:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 295 amino acids
- (B) TYPE: amino acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: <Unknown>
- (D) TOPOLOGY: unknown

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: protein

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 9:

-continued

Tyr Leu Val Thr Asn Gly Lys His Gly Lys Lys Val Asn Asn Val Trp
 1 5 10 15
 Asn Gly Met Ile Gly Glu Val Val Tyr Gln Arg Ala Val Met Ala Val
 20 25 30
 Gly Ser Leu Thr Ile Asn Glu Glu Arg Ser Glu Val Val Asp Phe Ser
 35 40 45
 Val Pro Phe Val Glu Thr Gly Ile Ser Val Met Val Ser Arg Ser Asn
 50 55 60
 Gly Thr Val Ser Pro Ser Ala Phe Leu Glu Pro Phe Ser Ala Ser Val
 65 70 75 80
 Trp Val Met Met Phe Val Met Leu Leu Ile Val Ser Ala Ile Ala Val
 85 90 95
 Phe Val Phe Glu Tyr Phe Ser Pro Val Gly Tyr Asn Arg Asn Leu Ala
 100 105 110
 Lys Gly Lys Ala Pro His Gly Pro Ser Phe Thr Ile Gly Lys Ala Ile
 115 120 125
 Trp Leu Leu Trp Gly Leu Val Phe Asn Asn Ser Val Pro Val Gln Asn
 130 135 140
 Pro Lys Gly Thr Thr Ser Lys Ile Met Val Ser Val Trp Ala Phe Phe
 145 150 155 160
 Ala Val Ile Phe Leu Ala Ser Tyr Thr Ala Asn Leu Ala Ala Phe Met
 165 170 175
 Ile Gln Glu Glu Phe Val Asp Gln Val Thr Gly Leu Ser Asp Lys Lys
 180 185 190
 Phe Gln Arg Pro His Asp Tyr Ser Pro Pro Phe Arg Phe Gly Thr Val
 195 200 205
 Pro Asn Gly Ser Thr Glu Arg Asn Ile Arg Asn Asn Tyr Pro Tyr Met
 210 215 220
 His Gln Tyr Met Thr Lys Phe Asn Gln Lys Gly Val Glu Asp Ala Leu
 225 230 235 240
 Val Ser Leu Lys Thr Gly Lys Leu Asp Ala Phe Ile Tyr Asp Ala Ala
 245 250 255
 Val Leu Asn Tyr Lys Ala Gly Arg Asp Glu Gly Cys Lys Leu Val Thr
 260 265 270
 Ile Gly Ser Gly Tyr Ile Phe Ala Thr Thr Gly Tyr Gly Ile Ala Leu
 275 280 285
 Gln Lys Gly Ser Pro Trp Lys
 290 295

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 10:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 297 amino acids
- (B) TYPE: amino acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: <Unknown>
- (D) TOPOLOGY: unknown

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: protein

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 10:

Ser Tyr Glu Ile Arg Leu Val Glu Asp Gly Lys Tyr Gly Ala Gln Asp
 1 5 10 15
 Asp Lys Gly Gln Trp Asn Gly Met Val Lys Glu Leu Ile Asp His Lys
 20 25 30
 Ala Asp Leu Ala Val Ala Pro Leu Thr Ile Thr His Val Arg Glu Lys
 35 40 45

-continued

Ala Ile Asp Phe Ser Lys Pro Phe Met Thr Leu Gly Val Ser Ile Leu
 50 55 60
 Tyr Arg Lys Pro Asn Gly Thr Asn Pro Ser Val Phe Ser Phe Leu Asn
 65 70 75 80
 Pro Leu Ser Pro Asp Ile Trp Met Tyr Val Leu Leu Ala Tyr Leu Gly
 85 90 95
 Val Ser Cys Val Leu Phe Val Ile Ala Arg Phe Ser Pro Tyr Glu Trp
 100 105 110
 Tyr Asp Ala His Pro Cys Asn Pro Gly Ser Glu Val Val Glu Asn Asn
 115 120 125
 Phe Thr Leu Leu Asn Ser Phe Trp Phe Gly Met Gly Ser Leu Met Gln
 130 135 140
 Gln Gly Ser Glu Leu Met Pro Lys Ala Leu Ser Thr Arg Ile Ile Gly
 145 150 155 160
 Gly Ile Trp Trp Phe Thr Leu Ile Ile Ser Ser Tyr Thr Ala
 165 170 175
 Asn Leu Ala Ala Phe Leu Thr Val Glu Arg Met Glu Ser Pro Ile Asp
 180 185 190
 Ser Ala Asp Asp Leu Ala Lys Gln Thr Lys Ile Glu Tyr Gly Ala Val
 195 200 205
 Lys Asp Gly Ala Thr Met Thr Phe Phe Lys Lys Ser Lys Ile Ser Thr
 210 215 220
 Phe Glu Lys Met Trp Ala Phe Met Ser Ser Lys Pro Ser Ala Leu Val
 225 230 235 240
 Lys Asn Asn Glu Glu Gly Ile Gln Arg Thr Leu Thr Ala Asp Tyr Ala
 245 250 255
 Leu Leu Met Glu Ser Thr Thr Ile Glu Tyr Ile Thr Gln Arg Asn Cys
 260 265 270
 Asn Leu Thr Gln Ile Gly Gly Leu Ile Asp Ser Lys Gly Tyr Gly Ile
 275 280 285
 Gly Thr Pro Met Gly Ser Pro Tyr Arg
 290 295

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 11:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 179 amino acids
- (B) TYPE: amino acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: <Unknown>
- (D) TOPOLOGY: unknown

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: protein

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 11:

Gly Lys Gly Val Arg Glu Ile Pro Ser Ser Val Cys Thr Leu Pro Cys
 1 5 10 15
 Lys Pro Gly Gln Arg Lys Lys Thr Gln Lys Gly Thr Pro Cys Cys Trp
 20 25 30
 Thr Cys Glu Pro Cys Asp Gly Tyr Gln Tyr Gln Phe Asp Glu Met Thr
 35 40 45
 Cys Gln His Cys Pro Tyr Asp Gln Arg Pro Asn Glu Asn Arg Thr Gly
 50 55 60
 Cys Gln Asn Ile Pro Ile Ile Lys Leu Glu Trp His Ser Pro Trp Ala
 65 70 75 80
 Val Ile Pro Val Phe Leu Ala Met Leu Gly Ile Ile Ala Thr Ile Phe
 85 90 95

-continued

Val Met Ala Thr Phe Ile Arg Tyr Asn Asp Thr Pro Ile Val Arg Ala
 100 105 110

Ser Gly Arg Glu Leu Ser Tyr Val Leu Leu Thr Gly Ile Phe Leu Cys
 115 120 125

Tyr Ile Ile Thr Phe Leu Met Ile Ala Lys Pro Asp Val Ala Val Cys
 130 135 140

Ser Phe Arg Arg Val Phe Leu Gly Leu Gly Met Cys Ile Ser Tyr Ala
 145 150 155 160

Ala Leu Leu Thr Lys Thr Asn Arg Ile Tyr Arg Ile Phe Glu Gln Gly
 165 170 175

Lys Lys Ser

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 12:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 (A) LENGTH: 115 amino acids
 (B) TYPE: amino acid
 (C) STRANDEDNESS: <Unknown>
 (D) TOPOLOGY: unknown

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: peptide

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 12:

Thr Phe Xaa Cys Trp Leu Lys Asn Ala Phe Cys Ala Ser Ser Phe Phe
 1 5 10 15

Gln Leu Ser Ser Met Glu Pro Tyr Arg Leu Arg Leu Arg Phe Ser Phe
 20 25 30

Gln Lys Cys Ser Ile Ala Ala Phe Leu Gly Pro Ala Val Ser Phe Asn
 35 40 45

Ser Ile Glu Arg Phe Leu Asn Ser Leu Ser Thr Ser Leu Ile Phe Val
 50 55 60

Xaa Phe Ser Ser Met Tyr Phe Leu Ser Xaa Thr Cys Ser Ser Ser Ile
 65 70 75 80

Ile Phe Ser Val Xaa Val Ile Thr Gly Ala Phe Leu Ala Arg Pro Ser
 85 90 95

Ala Pro Ile Ser Ala Phe Ser Phe Gly Ser Asp Ala Ile Ile Ser Phe
 100 105 110

Ser Leu Lys
 115

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 13:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 (A) LENGTH: 235 base pairs
 (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
 (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
 (D) TOPOLOGY: unknown

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 13:

TGAAGATGCA GGACAGGTTT AATGGAGGTA TGATAACCCT CCAGACTTCA ATAGTGTGAA 60

CCAGCTCTTT GAAGAAGGCC AGACTAAGGT GTGGCCAGAA GGTTCGTTAG AAGAGACAG 120

GCAAAACGCG ATCAAGTCAT GGGAGATGGA GTTCTCAT AAGATCCGTT TACAGGACT 180

CAAGACTATA AACCTGAGA AGTTTAAGCT CTTTGTCAA TGGGAGAGAA GGTTT 235

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 14:

-continued

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 (A) LENGTH: 177 base pairs
 (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
 (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
 (D) TOPOLOGY: unknown

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 14:

```
GGTGAATCTT TCGAGGTTGA GGAGGCGGTG GCTCTCGAGT CACAAACCAT AGCGCATATG    60
GTTGAAGACG ACTGCGTNAN CAACGGAGTC CCTCTTCCTA ACGTCACGAG CAAGATCCT    120
GCCAAGGTGA TCGAGTATTG CAAGAGGCAC GTCGAGGCTG CTGCCTNTAA AGGCCGA    177
```

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 15:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 (A) LENGTH: 247 base pairs
 (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
 (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
 (D) TOPOLOGY: unknown

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 15:

```
TCGTTTGTC GAAGATCCGC TGCTTGATCT GCTCGCCACA CGTATNGGA GAGGNAANGG    60
TTAGGGTTAC TNATTTTCCG TCGAGTAGTC TNACNAAAAA CTGCAACGGC TTACAACTT    120
GATCCGCCAT CGATTTTCGA TTCTAAAGCT TGGACGAAGN AGAAGNANAA AGTTCGATT    180
GATTTCTGGA GAGAAATTGG GGGAAAGTTT AAAAACGGAT CCCTAAGGTA GTCTGAGTC    240
CTCTCTC                                     247
```

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 16:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 (A) LENGTH: 29 amino acids
 (B) TYPE: amino acid
 (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
 (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: peptide

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 16:

```
Val Arg Pro Asp Pro Glu Thr Gly Val Asn Thr Val Ser Gly Phe Cys
 1           5           10           15
Val Glu Val Phe Lys Thr Cys Ile Ala Pro Phe Asn Tyr
          20           25
```

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 17:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 (A) LENGTH: 59 amino acids
 (B) TYPE: amino acid
 (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
 (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: peptide

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 17:

```
Glu Leu Glu Phe Ile Pro Tyr Arg Gly Asn Asn Asp Asn Leu Ala Tyr
 1           5           10           15
Leu Leu Ser Thr Gln Arg Asp Lys Tyr Asp Ala Ala Val Gly Asp Ile
          20           25           30
Thr Ile Thr Ser Asn Arg Ser Leu Tyr Val Asp Phe Thr Leu Pro Tyr
          35           40           45
```

-continued

Thr Asp Ile Gly Ile Gly Ile Leu Thr Val Lys
50 55

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 18:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 (A) LENGTH: 37 amino acids
 (B) TYPE: amino acid
 (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
 (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: peptide

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 18:

Lys Lys Ser Gln Gly Met Trp Thr Phe Phe Asp Pro Phe Glu Lys Ser
1 5 10 15

Leu Trp Leu Ala Ser Gly Ala Phe Phe Val Leu Thr Gly Ile Val Val
20 25 30

Trp Leu Val Glu Arg
35

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 19:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 (A) LENGTH: 16 amino acids
 (B) TYPE: amino acid
 (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
 (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: peptide

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 19:

Ser Val Asn Pro Glu Phe Gln Gly Ser Trp Gly Gln Gln Leu Ser Met
1 5 10 15

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 20:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 (A) LENGTH: 15 amino acids
 (B) TYPE: amino acid
 (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
 (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: peptide

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 20:

Met Leu Trp Phe Gly Phe Ser Thr Ile Val Phe Ala His Arg Glu
1 5 10 15

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 21:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 (A) LENGTH: 38 amino acids
 (B) TYPE: amino acid
 (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
 (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: peptide

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 21:

Lys Leu Gln Lys Met Ser Ser Arg Phe Leu Val Ile Val Trp Val Phe
1 5 10 15

Val Val Leu Ile Leu Thr Ser Ser Tyr Ser Ala Asn Leu Thr Ser Thr
20 25 30

Lys Thr Ile Ser Arg Met
35

-continued

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 22:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 (A) LENGTH: 5 amino acids
 (B) TYPE: amino acid
 (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
 (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: peptide

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 22:

Gln Leu Asn His Gln
 1 5

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 23:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 (A) LENGTH: 27 amino acids
 (B) TYPE: amino acid
 (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
 (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: peptide

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 23:

Met Val Phe Gly Gly Ser Thr Thr Ser Met Thr Ala Lys Leu Gly Ser
 1 5 10 15

Ile Asn Ala Val Glu Ala Tyr Ala Gln Leu Leu
 20 25

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 24:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 (A) LENGTH: 35 amino acids
 (B) TYPE: amino acid
 (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
 (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: peptide

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 24:

Arg Asp Gly Thr Leu Asn His Val Ile Asn Glu Ile Pro Tyr Leu Ser
 1 5 10 15

Ile Leu Ile Gly Asn Tyr Pro Asn Asp Phe Val Met Thr Asp Arg Val
 20 25 30

Thr Asn Thr
 35

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 25:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 (A) LENGTH: 90 amino acids
 (B) TYPE: amino acid
 (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
 (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: peptide

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 25:

Asn Gly Phe Gly Phe Met Phe Gln Lys Gly Ser Asp Leu Val Pro Lys
 1 5 10 15

Val Ser Arg Glu Ile Ala Lys Leu Arg Ser Leu Gly Met Leu Lys Asp
 20 25 30

Met Glu Lys Lys Trp Phe Gln Lys Leu Asp Ser Leu Asn Val His Ser
 35 40 45

-continued

Asn Thr Glu Glu Val Ala Ser Thr Asn Asp Asp Asp Glu Ala Ser Lys
 50 55 60
 Arg Phe Thr Phe Arg Glu Leu Arg Gly Leu Phe Ile Ile Ala Gly Ala
 65 70 75 80
 Ala His Val Leu Val Leu Ala Leu His Leu
 85 90

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 26:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 (A) LENGTH: 10 amino acids
 (B) TYPE: amino acid
 (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
 (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: peptide

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 26:

Phe His Thr Arg Gln Glu Val Ser Arg Leu
 1 5 10

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 27:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 (A) LENGTH: 9 amino acids
 (B) TYPE: amino acid
 (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
 (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: peptide

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 27:

Cys Thr Lys Leu Gln Ser Phe Tyr Lys
 1 5

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 28:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 (A) LENGTH: 41 amino acids
 (B) TYPE: amino acid
 (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
 (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: peptide

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 28:

Ala Ala Glu Ile Ala Lys His Cys Gly Phe Lys Tyr Lys Leu Thr Ile
 1 5 10 15
 Val Gly Asp Gly Lys Tyr Gly Ala Arg Asp Ala Asp Thr Lys Ile Trp
 20 25 30
 Asn Gly Met Val Gly Glu Leu Val Tyr
 35 40

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 29:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 (A) LENGTH: 39 amino acids
 (B) TYPE: amino acid
 (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
 (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: peptide

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 29:

Gly Lys Ala Asp Ile Ala Ile Ala Pro Leu Thr Ile Thr Leu Val Arg
 1 5 10 15

-continued

Glu Glu Val Ile Asp Phe Ser Lys Pro Phe Met Ser Leu Gly Ile Ser
 20 25 30

Ile Met Ile Lys Lys Pro Gln
 35

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 30:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 259 amino acids
- (B) TYPE: amino acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: peptide

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 30:

Lys Ser Lys Pro Gly Val Phe Ser Phe Leu Asp Pro Leu Ala Tyr Glu
 1 5 10 15

Ile Trp Met Cys Ile Val Phe Ala Tyr Ile Gly Val Ser Val Val Leu
 20 25 30

Phe Leu Val Ser Arg Phe Ser Pro Tyr Glu Trp His Thr Glu Glu Phe
 35 40 45

Glu Asp Gly Arg Glu Thr Gln Ser Ser Glu Ser Thr Asn Glu Phe Gly
 50 55 60

Ile Phe Asn Ser Leu Trp Phe Ser Leu Gly Ala Phe Met Arg Gln Gly
 65 70 75 80

Cys Asp Ile Ser Pro Arg Ser Leu Ser Gly Arg Ile Val Gly Gly Val
 85 90 95

Trp Trp Phe Phe Thr Leu Ile Ile Ile Ser Ser Tyr Thr Ala Asn Leu
 100 105 110

Ala Ala Phe Leu Thr Val Glu Arg Met Val Ser Pro Ile Glu Ser Ala
 115 120 125

Glu Asp Leu Ser Lys Gln Thr Glu Ile Ala Tyr Gly Thr Leu Asp Ser
 130 135 140

Gly Ser Thr Lys Glu Phe Phe Arg Arg Ser Lys Ile Ala Val Phe Asp
 145 150 155 160

Lys Met Trp Thr Tyr Met Arg Ser Ala Glu Pro Ser Val Phe Val Arg
 165 170 175

Thr Thr Ala Glu Gly Val Ala Arg Val Arg Lys Ser Lys Gly Lys Tyr
 180 185 190

Ala Tyr Leu Leu Glu Ser Thr Met Asn Glu Tyr Ile Glu Gln Arg Lys
 195 200 205

Pro Cys Asp Thr Met Lys Val Gly Gly Asn Leu Asp Ser Lys Gly Tyr
 210 215 220

Gly Ile Ala Thr Pro Lys Gly Ser Ser Leu Gly Thr Pro Val Asn Leu
 225 230 235 240

Ala Val Leu Lys Leu Ser Glu Gln Gly Val Leu Asp Lys Leu Lys Asn
 245 250 255

Lys Trp Trp

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 31:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 94 amino acids
- (B) TYPE: amino acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

-continued

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: peptide

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 31:

Tyr Asp Lys Gly Glu Cys Gly Ala Lys Asp Ser Gly Ser Lys Glu Lys
 1 5 10 15
 Thr Ser Ala Leu Ser Leu Ser Asn Val Ala Gly Val Phe Tyr Ile Leu
 20 25 30
 Val Gly Gly Leu Gly Ala Met Leu Val Ala Leu Ile Glu Phe Cys Tyr
 35 40 45
 Lys Ser Arg Ala Glu Ala Lys Arg Met Lys Val Ala Lys Asn Pro Gln
 50 55 60
 Asn Ile Asn Pro Ser Ser Ser Gln Asn Ser Gln Asn Phe Ala Thr Tyr
 65 70 75 80
 Lys Glu Gly Tyr Asn Val Tyr Gly Ile Glu Ser Val Lys Ile
 85 90

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 32:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 2484 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ix) FEATURE:

- (A) NAME/KEY: mat_peptide
- (B) LOCATION: 1...2424
- (D) OTHER INFORMATION:

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 32:

ATG GAG ATT CTG TTT TCT ATT TCC ATT CTT GCT CTT CTC TTT TCC GGA 48
 Met Glu Ile Leu Phe Ser Ile Ser Ile Leu Ala Leu Leu Phe Ser Gly
 1 5 10 15
 GTA GTA GCT GCT CCA AGC GAC GAT GAT GTT TTC GAA GAG GTT AGG GTT 96
 Val Val Ala Ala Pro Ser Asp Asp Val Phe Glu Glu Val Arg Val
 20 25 30
 GGA TTG GTG GTT GAC TTG AGT TCT ATT CAA GGC AAG ATT CTG GAA ACT 144
 Gly Leu Val Val Asp Leu Ser Ser Ile Gln Gly Lys Ile Leu Glu Thr
 35 40 45
 TCT TTT AAC TTA GCG CTT TCA GAT TTC TAT GGC ATC AAC AAT GGA TAC 192
 Ser Phe Asn Leu Ala Leu Ser Asp Phe Tyr Gly Ile Asn Asn Gly Tyr
 50 55 60
 CGA ACC AGA GTC TCT GTT TTG GTC AGA GAC TCC CAA GGA GAC CCG ATC 240
 Arg Thr Arg Val Ser Val Leu Val Arg Asp Ser Gln Gly Asp Pro Ile
 65 70 75 80
 ATT GCT CTT GCC GCC GCT ACT GAT CTT CTC AAA AAT GCA AAA GCG GAA 288
 Ile Ala Leu Ala Ala Ala Thr Asp Leu Leu Lys Asn Ala Lys Ala Glu
 85 90 95
 GCC ATT GTT GGT GCA CAA TCA TTA CAA GAG GCA AAG CTT TTG GCG ACG 336
 Ala Ile Val Gly Ala Gln Ser Leu Gln Glu Ala Lys Leu Leu Ala Thr
 100 105 110
 ATT AGC GAA AAA GCT AAA GTT CCG GTC ATA TCT ACT TTC TTG CCA AAC 384
 Ile Ser Glu Lys Ala Lys Val Pro Val Ile Ser Thr Phe Leu Pro Asn
 115 120 125
 ACG TTA TCT TTG AAG AAA TAC GAT AAC TTT ATT CAA TGG ACG CAT GAT 432
 Thr Leu Ser Leu Lys Lys Tyr Asp Asn Phe Ile Gln Trp Thr His Asp
 130 135 140
 ACT ACA TCA GAG GCT AAG GGA ATT ACA AGT CTC ATA CAA GAT TTC AGT 480
 Thr Thr Ser Glu Ala Lys Gly Ile Thr Ser Leu Ile Gln Asp Phe Ser
 145 150 155 160
 TGT AAA TCG GTT GTG GTT ATA TAC GAG GAT GCT GAT GAT TGG AGT GAG 528

-continued

Cys	Lys	Ser	Val	Val	Val	Ile	Tyr	Glu	Asp	Ala	Asp	Asp	Trp	Ser	Glu	
				165					170						175	
AGT	TTG	CAA	ATA	TTG	GTT	GAG	AAT	TTT	CAA	GAT	AAA	GGA	ATC	TAT	ATC	576
Ser	Leu	Gln	Ile	Leu	Val	Glu	Asn	Phe	Gln	Asp	Lys	Gly	Ile	Tyr	Ile	
		180						185					190			
GCT	CGT	TCT	GCT	TCT	TTT	GCA	GTC	TCA	TCA	TCA	GGA	GAA	AAT	CAT	ATG	624
Ala	Arg	Ser	Ala	Ser	Phe	Ala	Val	Ser	Ser	Ser	Gly	Glu	Asn	His	Met	
		195					200					205				
ATG	AAT	CAG	CTA	AGG	AAG	CTT	AAG	GTC	TCA	AGA	GCA	TCG	GTT	TTT	GTG	672
Met	Asn	Gln	Leu	Arg	Lys	Leu	Lys	Val	Ser	Arg	Ala	Ser	Val	Phe	Val	
	210					215					220					
GTG	CAT	ATG	TCC	GAG	ATT	CTT	GTT	TCT	CGT	CTC	TTC	CAA	TGT	GTA	GAG	720
Val	His	Met	Ser	Glu	Ile	Leu	Val	Ser	Arg	Leu	Phe	Gln	Cys	Val	Glu	
	225			230					235					240		
AAG	TTA	GGT	TTG	ATG	GAA	GAA	GCG	TTC	GCT	TGG	ATC	CTC	ACT	GCA	AGA	768
Lys	Leu	Gly	Leu	Met	Glu	Glu	Ala	Phe	Ala	Trp	Ile	Leu	Thr	Ala	Arg	
			245						250					255		
ACC	ATG	AAC	TAC	TTG	GAA	CAT	TTT	GCA	ATA	ACT	AGG	TCG	ATG	CAA	GGG	816
Thr	Met	Asn	Tyr	Leu	Glu	His	Phe	Ala	Ile	Thr	Arg	Ser	Met	Gln	Gly	
			260					265						270		
GTC	ATT	GGT	TTC	AAA	TCT	TAC	ATC	CCT	GTA	TCT	GAA	GAA	GTT	AAG	AAT	864
Val	Ile	Gly	Phe	Lys	Ser	Tyr	Ile	Pro	Val	Ser	Glu	Glu	Val	Lys	Asn	
	275						280					285				
TTT	ACT	TCA	AGA	TTG	AGG	AAA	CGT	ATG	GGA	GAT	GAT	ACA	GAA	ACA	GAG	912
Phe	Thr	Ser	Arg	Leu	Arg	Lys	Arg	Met	Gly	Asp	Asp	Thr	Glu	Thr	Glu	
	290					295					300					
CAT	TCT	AGT	GTA	ATC	ATC	GGT	TTA	CGC	GCA	CAC	GAT	ATC	GCT	TGT	ATT	960
His	Ser	Ser	Val	Ile	Ile	Gly	Leu	Arg	Ala	His	Asp	Ile	Ala	Cys	Ile	
	305				310					315					320	
CTA	GCA	AAT	GCA	GTA	GAG	AAG	TTC	AGT	GTA	AGT	GGT	AAA	GTT	GAA	GCA	1008
Leu	Ala	Asn	Val	Val	Glu	Lys	Phe	Ser	Val	Ser	Gly	Lys	Val	Glu	Ala	
			325						330					335		
TCT	TCG	AAT	GTA	TCA	GCT	GAT	CTT	CTG	GAT	ACA	ATT	AGA	CAT	AGT	AGA	1056
Ser	Ser	Asn	Val	Ser	Ala	Asp	Leu	Leu	Asp	Thr	Ile	Arg	His	Ser	Arg	
			340					345						350		
TTC	AAG	GGT	TTG	AGT	GGT	GAC	ATC	CAA	ATC	TCT	GAC	AAC	AAA	TTT	ATC	1104
Phe	Lys	Gly	Leu	Ser	Gly	Asp	Ile	Gln	Ile	Ser	Asp	Asn	Lys	Phe	Ile	
	355					360						365				
TCA	GAG	ACA	TTT	GAA	ATC	GTG	AAT	ATT	GGA	AGA	GAA	AAA	CAG	AGA	AGG	1152
Ser	Glu	Thr	Phe	Glu	Ile	Val	Asn	Ile	Gly	Arg	Glu	Lys	Gln	Arg	Arg	
	370					375					380					
ATA	GGA	TTA	TGG	AGT	GGT	GGT	AGT	TTT	AGC	CAA	AGA	AGA	CAG	ATT	GTT	1200
Ile	Gly	Leu	Trp	Ser	Gly	Gly	Ser	Phe	Ser	Gln	Arg	Arg	Gln	Ile	Val	
	385				390					395					400	
TGG	CCT	GGC	AGG	TCT	CGT	AAG	ATC	CCA	AGA	CAC	CGT	GTT	TTG	GCA	GAG	1248
Trp	Pro	Gly	Arg	Ser	Arg	Lys	Ile	Pro	Arg	His	Arg	Val	Leu	Ala	Glu	
			405					410						415		
AAA	GGT	GAA	AAG	AAG	GTG	CTT	AGG	GTC	TTA	GTT	ACC	GCA	GGA	AAC	AAG	1296
Lys	Gly	Glu	Lys	Lys	Val	Leu	Arg	Val	Leu	Val	Thr	Ala	Gly	Asn	Lys	
			420					425					430			
GTC	CCG	CAT	CTA	GTG	TCG	GTG	CGT	CCT	GAT	CCT	GAA	ACA	GGT	GTT	AAT	1344
Val	Pro	His	Leu	Val	Ser	Val	Arg	Pro	Asp	Pro	Glu	Thr	Gly	Val	Asn	
			435				440					445				
ACT	GTC	TCT	GGA	TTC	TGC	GTA	GAG	GTT	TTC	AAG	ACT	TGC	ATT	GCT	CCT	1392
Thr	Val	Ser	Gly	Phe	Cys	Val	Glu	Val	Phe	Lys	Thr	Cys	Ile	Ala	Pro	
	450				455						460					
TTT	AAC	TAC	GAG	CTT	GAA	TTC	ATA	CCT	TAC	CGT	GGA	AAC	AAT	GAC	AAT	1440
Phe	Asn	Tyr	Glu	Leu	Glu	Phe	Ile	Pro	Tyr	Arg	Gly	Asn	Asn	Asp	Asn	
	465				470					475					480	

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ACC AAA CTT CAA AGC TTC TAT AAG TAA AAA GTG ATC CAT CGT TCA TAA 2448
 Thr Lys Leu Gln Ser Phe Tyr Lys * Lys Val Ile His Arg Ser *
 805 810 815

GCT CTA CTA TAG CAA TTG ACG GGA CAG GAC TCA TAA 2484
 Ala Leu Leu * Gln Leu Thr Gly Gln Asp Ser *
 820 825

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 33:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

(A) LENGTH: 808 amino acids

(B) TYPE: amino acid

(C) STRANDEDNESS: single

(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: protein

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 33:

Met Glu Ile Leu Phe Ser Ile Ser Ile Leu Ala Leu Leu Phe Ser Gly
 1 5 10 15
 Val Val Ala Ala Pro Ser Asp Asp Asp Val Phe Glu Glu Val Arg Val
 20 25 30
 Gly Leu Val Val Asp Leu Ser Ser Ile Gln Gly Lys Ile Leu Glu Thr
 35 40 45
 Ser Phe Asn Leu Ala Leu Ser Asp Phe Tyr Gly Ile Asn Asn Gly Tyr
 50 55 60
 Arg Thr Arg Val Ser Val Leu Val Arg Asp Ser Gln Gly Asp Pro Ile
 65 70 75 80
 Ile Ala Leu Ala Ala Thr Asp Leu Leu Lys Asn Ala Lys Ala Glu
 85 90 95
 Ala Ile Val Gly Ala Gln Ser Leu Gln Glu Ala Lys Leu Leu Ala Thr
 100 105 110
 Ile Ser Glu Lys Ala Lys Val Pro Val Ile Ser Thr Phe Leu Pro Asn
 115 120 125
 Thr Leu Ser Leu Lys Lys Tyr Asp Asn Phe Ile Gln Trp Thr His Asp
 130 135 140
 Thr Thr Ser Glu Ala Lys Gly Ile Thr Ser Leu Ile Gln Asp Phe Ser
 145 150 155 160
 Cys Lys Ser Val Val Val Ile Tyr Glu Asp Ala Asp Asp Trp Ser Glu
 165 170 175
 Ser Leu Gln Ile Leu Val Glu Asn Phe Gln Asp Lys Gly Ile Tyr Ile
 180 185 190
 Ala Arg Ser Ala Ser Phe Ala Val Ser Ser Ser Gly Glu Asn His Met
 195 200 205
 Met Asn Gln Leu Arg Lys Leu Lys Val Ser Arg Ala Ser Val Phe Val
 210 215 220
 Val His Met Ser Glu Ile Leu Val Ser Arg Leu Phe Gln Cys Val Glu
 225 230 235 240
 Lys Leu Gly Leu Met Glu Glu Ala Phe Ala Trp Ile Leu Thr Ala Arg
 245 250 255
 Thr Met Asn Tyr Leu Glu His Phe Ala Ile Thr Arg Ser Met Gln Gly
 260 265 270
 Val Ile Gly Phe Lys Ser Tyr Ile Pro Val Ser Glu Glu Val Lys Asn
 275 280 285
 Phe Thr Ser Arg Leu Arg Lys Arg Met Gly Asp Asp Thr Glu Thr Glu
 290 295 300

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His	Ser	Ser	Val	Ile	Ile	Gly	Leu	Arg	Ala	His	Asp	Ile	Ala	Cys	Ile
305					310					315					320
Leu	Ala	Asn	Ala	Val	Glu	Lys	Phe	Ser	Val	Ser	Gly	Lys	Val	Glu	Ala
				325					330					335	
Ser	Ser	Asn	Val	Ser	Ala	Asp	Leu	Leu	Asp	Thr	Ile	Arg	His	Ser	Arg
			340					345					350		
Phe	Lys	Gly	Leu	Ser	Gly	Asp	Ile	Gln	Ile	Ser	Asp	Asn	Lys	Phe	Ile
		355					360					365			
Ser	Glu	Thr	Phe	Glu	Ile	Val	Asn	Ile	Gly	Arg	Glu	Lys	Gln	Arg	Arg
	370					375					380				
Ile	Gly	Leu	Trp	Ser	Gly	Gly	Ser	Phe	Ser	Gln	Arg	Arg	Gln	Ile	Val
385					390					395					400
Trp	Pro	Gly	Arg	Ser	Arg	Lys	Ile	Pro	Arg	His	Arg	Val	Leu	Ala	Glu
				405					410					415	
Lys	Gly	Glu	Lys	Lys	Val	Leu	Arg	Val	Leu	Val	Thr	Ala	Gly	Asn	Lys
			420					425					430		
Val	Pro	His	Leu	Val	Ser	Val	Arg	Pro	Asp	Pro	Glu	Thr	Gly	Val	Asn
		435					440					445			
Thr	Val	Ser	Gly	Phe	Cys	Val	Glu	Val	Phe	Lys	Thr	Cys	Ile	Ala	Pro
	450					455					460				
Phe	Asn	Tyr	Glu	Leu	Glu	Phe	Ile	Pro	Tyr	Arg	Gly	Asn	Asn	Asp	Asn
465					470					475					480
Leu	Ala	Tyr	Leu	Leu	Ser	Thr	Gln	Arg	Asp	Lys	Tyr	Asp	Ala	Ala	Val
			485						490					495	
Gly	Asp	Ile	Thr	Ile	Thr	Ser	Asn	Arg	Ser	Leu	Tyr	Val	Asp	Phe	Thr
		500						505					510		
Leu	Pro	Tyr	Thr	Asp	Ile	Gly	Ile	Gly	Ile	Leu	Thr	Val	Lys	Lys	Lys
		515					520						525		
Ser	Gln	Gly	Met	Trp	Thr	Phe	Phe	Asp	Pro	Phe	Glu	Lys	Ser	Leu	Trp
	530					535					540				
Leu	Ala	Ser	Gly	Ala	Phe	Phe	Val	Leu	Thr	Gly	Ile	Val	Val	Trp	Leu
545					550					555					560
Val	Glu	Arg	Ser	Val	Asn	Pro	Glu	Phe	Gln	Gly	Ser	Trp	Gly	Gln	Gln
				565					570					575	
Leu	Ser	Met	Met	Leu	Trp	Phe	Gly	Phe	Ser	Thr	Ile	Val	Phe	Ala	His
			580					585					590		
Arg	Glu	Lys	Leu	Gln	Lys	Met	Ser	Ser	Arg	Phe	Leu	Val	Ile	Val	Trp
		595				600						605			
Val	Phe	Val	Val	Leu	Ile	Leu	Thr	Ser	Ser	Tyr	Ser	Ala	Asn	Leu	Thr
	610					615					620				
Ser	Thr	Lys	Thr	Ile	Ser	Arg	Met	Gln	Leu	Asn	His	Gln	Met	Val	Phe
625					630					635					640
Gly	Gly	Ser	Thr	Thr	Ser	Met	Thr	Ala	Lys	Leu	Gly	Ser	Ile	Asn	Ala
				645					650					655	
Val	Glu	Ala	Tyr	Ala	Gln	Leu	Leu	Arg	Asp	Gly	Thr	Leu	Asn	His	Val
			660					665					670		
Ile	Asn	Glu	Ile	Pro	Tyr	Leu	Ser	Ile	Leu	Ile	Gly	Asn	Tyr	Pro	Asn
	675						680					685			
Asp	Phe	Val	Met	Thr	Asp	Arg	Val	Thr	Asn	Thr	Asn	Gly	Phe	Gly	Phe
	690					695					700				
Met	Phe	Gln	Lys	Gly	Ser	Asp	Leu	Val	Pro	Lys	Val	Ser	Arg	Glu	Ile
705					710					715					720
Ala	Lys	Leu	Arg	Ser	Leu	Gly	Met	Leu	Lys	Asp	Met	Glu	Lys	Lys	Trp

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725	730	735
Phe Gln Lys Leu Asp Ser Leu Asn Val His Ser Asn Thr Glu Glu Val 740 745 750		
Ala Ser Thr Asn Asp Asp Asp Glu Ala Ser Lys Arg Phe Thr Phe Arg 755 760 765		
Glu Leu Arg Gly Leu Phe Ile Ile Ala Gly Ala Ala His Val Leu Val 770 775 780		
Leu Ala Leu His Leu Phe His Thr Arg Gln Glu Val Ser Arg Leu Cys 785 790 795 800		
Thr Lys Leu Gln Ser Phe Tyr Lys 805		

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 34:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 - (A) LENGTH: 6 amino acids
 - (B) TYPE: amino acid
 - (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
 - (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: protein

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 34:

Lys Val Ile His Arg Ser
1 5

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 35:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 - (A) LENGTH: 3 amino acids
 - (B) TYPE: amino acid
 - (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
 - (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: protein

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 35:

Ala Leu Leu
1

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 36:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 - (A) LENGTH: 7 amino acids
 - (B) TYPE: amino acid
 - (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
 - (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: peptide

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 36:

Gln Leu Thr Gly Gln Asp Ser
1 5

What is claimed is:

1. A method for identifying a compound that modulates the growth of a plant through a glutamate-related process, comprising:

- a) exposing a plant that expresses or over expresses a plant glutamate receptor to a test compound in the absence of glutamate, wherein the plant glutamate receptor has glutamate binding activity and comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the following:
 - i) an amino acid sequence encoded by a nucleic acid that hybridizes under highly stringent conditions to

the complement of the coding sequence of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 13, 14, or 15, wherein said highly stringent conditions include washing in 65° C. in 0.5xSSC;

- ii) the glutamate binding domain comprising SEQ ID NO: 1;
- iii) the amino acid sequence comprising SEQ ID NO: 33;
- iv) the glutamate binding domain comprising SEQ ID NO: 8; and

v) the glutamate binding domain comprising SEQ ID NO :12;

b) exposing a plant that expresses or over expresses the plant glutamate receptor described in step a) to the test compound in the presence of glutamate; and

c) measuring and comparing growth of the plant of step a) with that of the plant of step b);

in which a difference in growth indicates that the compound modulates plant growth through a glutamate-related process.

2. A method for identifying a compound that modulates the activity of a plant glutamate receptor, comprising:

a) exposing a genetically engineered host cell to a test compound in the absence of glutamate, wherein the host cell both expresses or over expresses a plant glutamate receptor and responds to the signal transduced by the receptor, and the plant glutamate receptor has glutamate binding activity and comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the following:

i) an amino acid sequence encoded by a nucleic acid that hybridizes under highly stringent conditions to the complement of the coding sequence of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 13, 14, or 15, wherein said highly stringent conditions include washing in 65° C. in 0.5×SSC;

ii) the glutamate binding domain comprising SEQ ID NO: 1;

iii) the amino acid sequence comprising SEQ ID NO: 33;

iv) the glutamate binding domain comprising SEQ ID NO: 8; and

v) the glutamate binding domain comprising SEQ ID NO:12;

b) exposing a genetically engineered host cell to the test compound in the presence of glutamate that expresses or over expresses the plant glutamate receptor described in step a); and

c) measuring and comparing the response of the host cell of step a) with that of the host cell of step b);

in which a difference in the response of the cells indicates that the compound modulates the activity of a plant glutamate receptor.

3. A method for identifying a compound that binds to a plant glutamate receptor, comprising:

a) exposing a genetically engineered host cell that expresses or over expresses the plant glutamate receptor to a test compound, wherein the plant glutamate receptor comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the following:

i) an amino acid sequence encoded by a nucleic acid that hybridizes under highly stringent conditions to the complement of the coding sequence of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 13, 14, or 15, wherein said highly stringent conditions include washing in 65° C. in 0.5×SSC;

ii) the glutamate binding domain of SEQ ID NO: 1;

iii) the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 33;

iv) the glutamate binding domain of SEQ ID NO: 8; and

v) the glutamate binding domain of SEQ ID NO:12; and

b) measuring the binding of the test compound to the glutamate receptor expressed or over expressed in the host cell, in which binding of the test compound to the plant glutamate receptor indicates that the test compound interacts with the plant glutamate receptor.

4. A method for identifying a compound that binds to a plant glutamate receptor, comprising:

a) exposing an isolated plant glutamate receptor to the test compound, wherein the plant glutamate receptor comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the following:

i) an amino acid sequence encoded by a nucleic acid that hybridizes under highly stringent conditions to the complement of the coding sequence of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 13, 14, or 15, wherein said highly stringent conditions include washing in 65° C. in 0.5×SSC;

ii) the glutamate binding domain of SEQ ID NO: 1;

iii) the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 33;

iv) the glutamate binding domain of SEQ ID NO: 8; and

v) the glutamate binding domain of SEQ ID NO:12; and

b) measuring the binding of the test compound to the isolated plant glutamate receptor.

5. A method for identifying a compound that modulates the growth of a plant through a glutamate-related process, comprising:

a) exposing a plant that expresses or over expresses a plant glutamate receptor to a test compound in the presence of glutamate, wherein the plant glutamate receptor has glutamate binding activity and comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the following:

i) an amino acid sequence encoded by a nucleic acid that hybridizes under highly stringent conditions to the complement of the coding sequence of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 13, 14, or 15, wherein said highly stringent conditions include washing in 65° C. in 0.5×SSC;

ii) the glutamate binding domain comprising SEQ ID NO: 1;

iii) the amino acid sequence comprising SEQ ID NO: 33;

iv) the glutamate binding domain comprising SEQ ID NO: 8; and

v) the glutamate binding domain comprising SEQ ID NO:12;

b) exposing a plant that expresses or over expresses the plant glutamate receptor described in step a) to the test compound in the presence of both glutamate and a glutamate-antagonist; and

c) measuring and comparing growth of the plant of step a) with that of the plant of step b);

in which a difference in growth indicates that the compound modulates plant growth through a glutamate-related process.

6. A method for identifying a compound that modulates the activity of a plant glutamate receptor, comprising:

a) exposing a genetically engineered host cell to a test compound in the presence of glutamate, wherein the host cell both expresses or over expresses a plant glutamate receptor and responds to the signal transduced by the receptor, and the plant glutamate receptor has glutamate binding activity and comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the following:

i) an amino acid sequence encoded by a nucleic acid that hybridizes under highly stringent conditions to the complement of the coding sequence of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 13, 14, or 15, wherein said highly stringent conditions include washing in 65° C. in 0.5×SSC;

ii) the glutamate binding domain comprising SEQ ID NO: 1;

iii) the amino acid sequence comprising SEQ ID NO: 33;

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- iv) the glutamate binding domain comprising SEQ ID NO: 8; and
- v) the glutamate binding domain comprising SEQ ID NO:12;
- b) exposing a genetically engineered host cell to the test compound in the presence of both glutamate and a glutamate-antagonist, wherein the host cell expresses or over expresses the plant glutamate receptor described in step a); and

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- c) measuring and comparing the response of the host cell of step a) with that of the host cell of step b); in which a difference in the response of the cells indicates that the compound modulates the activity of a plant glutamate receptor.

7. The method of claim 1 or 5 wherein the plant exposed in step a) and the plant exposed in step b) have been altered to effect the sensitivity of the plant to the test compound.

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