

# PLANT DIVERSITY

(植物多样性)

## CONTENTS

Volume 48 Issue 3 2026

### Review

- 439 Genomic insights into alpine plant adaptation  
Xu Zhang (张旭), Tao Deng (邓涛), Hengchang Wang (王恒昌), Hang Sun (孙航)

### Articles

- 451 ddRAD sequencing of 1076 *Camellia* accessions reveals the genetic diversity and population introgression of the tea plant in China  
Xiao-Yan Tong (童小燕), Jian-Bing Hu (胡健兵), Hui-Lin Wen (温辉林), Chun-Lin Chen (陈春林), Ling-Ling Tao (陶玲玲), Jun Wu (吴军), Yi-Ping Tian (田易萍), Hui-Ping Jiang (蒋会兵), Lin-Bo Chen (陈林波), Da-He Qiao (乔大河), Ming-Tao Shu (舒明涛), En-Hua Xia (夏恩华), Kun Dong (董坤), Yue Fei (费月), Sheng-Rui Liu (刘升锐), Chao-Ling Wei (韦朝领), Jun-Yan Zhu (朱俊彦)
- 460 Resequencing of 284 genomes reveals evolutionary history and hotspot of genetic diversity of the giant bamboos  
May Zin Win, Shuang-Xiu Xu, Shu-Yang Gao, Jing-Xia Liu, Zu-Chang Xu, Cen Guo, Yun-Long Liu, Peng-Fei Ma, De-Zhu Li
- 474 Decoding the genomic basis of adaptive capacity and vulnerability in the high-altitude *Saussurea obvallata* complex  
Hum Kala Rana, Santosh Kumar Rana, Jacob B. Landis, Hang Sun, Dong Luo
- 487 Chromosome-level genome and population resequencing reveal genetic diversity, demographic history, and climate risk in the East Asian relict tree *Perkinsiodendron macgregorii*  
Jiaxin Li, Lihua Yang, Danqi Li, Chen Feng, Ming Kang
- 501 A Palearctic divide, niche conservatism and host-fungal endophyte interactions shaped the phylogeography of the grass *Brachypodium sylvaticum*  
María de los Ángeles Decena, Miguel Campos-Cáceres, Diana Calderón-Pardo, Valeriia Shiposha, Marina Olonova, Ernesto Pérez-Collazos, Pilar Catalán
- 518 Insights into the phylogenetic, structural and functional evolution of *LHC* superfamily in photosynthetic organisms  
Kexin Cai, Runjie Diao, Zhihang Zhao, Yannan Liu, Zhenhua Zhang, Bojian Zhong
- 529 The mitochondrial DnaJA protein LMA1 regulates reactive oxygen species homeostasis and anthocyanin biosynthesis in *Medicago truncatula*  
Qing Wu (伍青), Ruoruo Wang (王若若), Yawen Mao (毛亚文), Liling Yang (杨丽玲), Weiyue Zhao (赵维月), Liangliang He (贺亮亮), Shaoli Zhou (周绍礼), Jia Luo (罗嘉), Hailong Zhang (张海龙), Hanyan Feng (冯喊燕), Yuqi Fang (方雨琪), Mingli Liu (刘明丽), Yu Liu (刘宇), Jianghua Chen (陈江华), Baolin Zhao (赵宝林)
- 544 Discovering of the transcriptional regulatory network involved in starch biosynthesis in sorghum grains  
Zhizhai Liu, Xiangling Gong, Jing Li, Hong Duan, Tingting Dai, Wei Wei, Min Yin, Yi Zheng, Hameed Gul, Jiuguang Wang, Chaoxian Liu, Qianlin Xiao
- 557 Genomic diversity at the *Glu-D1* locus in *Aegilops tauschii* reveals the origin of elite high-molecular-weight glutenin genes in bread wheat (*Triticum aestivum*)  
Wanxin Xu (徐婉欣), Shuaifeng Geng (耿帅锋), Shaoshuai Liu (刘少帅), Andrea González-Muñoz, Yifan Liu (刘一凡), Zhongyin Deng (邓中印), Yuqing Che (车育青), Dada Cui (崔达达), Xinyu Zou (邹新宇), Wang Ziying (王梓颖), Xiang Wang (王翔), Daowen Wang (王道文), Dongcheng Liu (刘冬成), Yun Zhou (周云), Dengcai Liu (刘登才), Maria Itria Ibba, Brande B.H. Wulff, Aili Li (李爱丽), Long Mao (毛龙)

- 567 Distinct intraspecific trait variations in two moss species: Insights from a latitudinal investigation across 66 coastal islands  
Zhe Wang (王喆), Sheng-Xuan Cai (蔡圣轩), Jing-Rou Yu (余静柔), Dan-Dan Li (李丹丹), Xue-Ping Lai (赖雪萍), Ling-Ao Yang (杨凌傲), Shui-Liang Guo (郭水良), Jing Yu (于晶)
- 576 We are not all the same: The role of intrapopulation trait variability in shaping functional strategy and performance of widespread species  
Wellington L. Sachetti Jr., Vitor de A. Kamimura, Juliana L.S. Mayer, Beatriz L. Arida, Thales M. de Lima, Diego S. Graciano, Fábio Pinheiro
- 586 Vegetation sensitivity to drought depends on bedrock type in a subtropical karst landscape in Southwest China  
Xiaona Li (李晓娜), Dingwu Zhang (张定雾), Yinxixue Pan (潘尹茜雪), Xiaogang You (尤小刚), Weijun Luo (罗维均), Hongyan Liu (刘鸿雁), Zihan Jiang (蒋子涵)
- 598 Stand structural attributes exert stronger and scale-dependent control on forest biomass than tree diversity across typical forest ecosystems in China  
Yonghong Zhang, Honglin He, Liang Shi, Josep Peñuelas, Jordi Sardans, Yijing Bai, Chenxi Li, Jiuying Pei
- 608 Responses of root exudates to phosphorus-rich patches in a subtropical evergreen broad-leaved forest and their module affiliation in the trait network  
Li-Qin Zhu (朱丽琴), Xiao-Dong Yao (姚晓东), Xiao-Hong Wang (王小红), David Robinson, Wei-Le Chen (陈伟乐), Ting-Ting Chen (陈廷廷), Qi Jiang (姜琦), Lin-Qiao Jia (贾林巧), Ai-Lian Fan (范爱连), Guang-Shui Chen (陈光水)
- 618 Seed dormancy cycling: A driver of germination timing in a facultative winter annual  
Jingshi Yang (杨静诗), Yan Luo (罗妍), Jerry M. Baskin, Carol C. Baskin, Andreas Prinzing, Luping Liu (刘璐萍), Chaohan Xu (徐朝晗), Keliang Zhang (张克亮)

### Short Communication

- 629 Is beta diversity higher in seed plants with larger body sizes?  
Hong Qian

### Case Report

- 635 Chromosome-level genome and population genomics reveal demographic history, incomplete divergence and coastal adaptation of *Rhododendron simsii* var. *putuoense* in East China  
Hong Zhu (朱弘), Haojie Gao (高浩杰), Hepeng Li (李贺鹏)

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**Cover Story:** Although the tea plant (*Camellia sinensis*) originated in southwest China, its evolutionary history and domestication process remain poorly understood due to its high level of heterozygosity. *Tong et al.* (p. 451) analyzed 1076 *Camellia* accessions from 16 Chinese provinces using SNPs, identifying six species-specific populations. Results showed divergent evolution in *C. taliensis*, frequent introgression between *C. sinensis* and wild relatives, and clear divergence between its two varieties. They further developed a core collection of 160 accessions, providing key insights for tea resource evolution, conservation, and utilization. The cover shows the landscape of tea gardens. (Image Credit: Jun-Yan Zhu)