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CHEMICAL GENETIC APPROACHES TO PLANT GROWTH REGULATION

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The use of both genetic and genomic analysis particularly in Arabidopsis has greatly improved the molecular understanding of mechanisms of plant growth regulation. For example, over the past ten years or so every major hormone receptor in Arabidopsis and rice has been identified. This may lead to the belief that genetic screens are no longer that useful for dissecting problems in plant growth regulation. We believe, however, that mutational analysis in combination other new tools such as chemical biology will allow new insights into how plant growth is regulated. Here, we will present a combined approach of chemical biology with genetic analysis to understand how abscisic acid may function and as a way to find new growth regulators.