

Specificity landscapes of 40 R2R3-MYBs reveal how paralogs target different *cis*-elements by homodimeric binding

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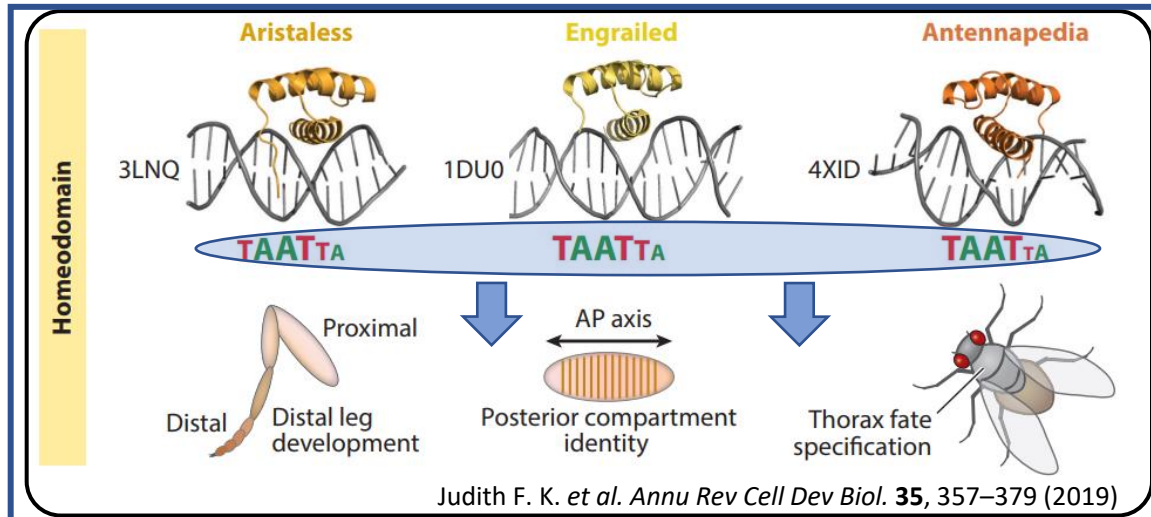
Tian Li, Hao Chen, Nana Ma, Dingkun Jiang, Jiacheng Wu, Xinfeng Zhang, et al. 2025. Specificity landscapes of 40 R2R3-MYBs reveal how paralogs target different *cis*-elements by homodimeric binding. *iMeta* 4: e70009.



<https://doi.org/10.1002/imt2.70009>

Introduction

➤ Specificity paradox of paralogous transcription factors



ARF4	TGTC	Clade A	
ARF29	TGTC		
ARF34	TGTC		
ARF16	TGTC		
ARF18	TGTC		
ARF27	TGTC		
ARF35	TGTC		
ARF7	TGTC		
ARF39	TGTCCCC		Clade B
ARF14	TGTCCCC		
ARF36	TGTCCCC		
ARF13	TGTCCCC		
ARF10	TGTCCCC		
ARF25	TGTC		

Galli, M. et al. *Nat. Commun.* **9**, 4526 (2018)

Leaf expansion

Treatment: None IAA NAA NPA

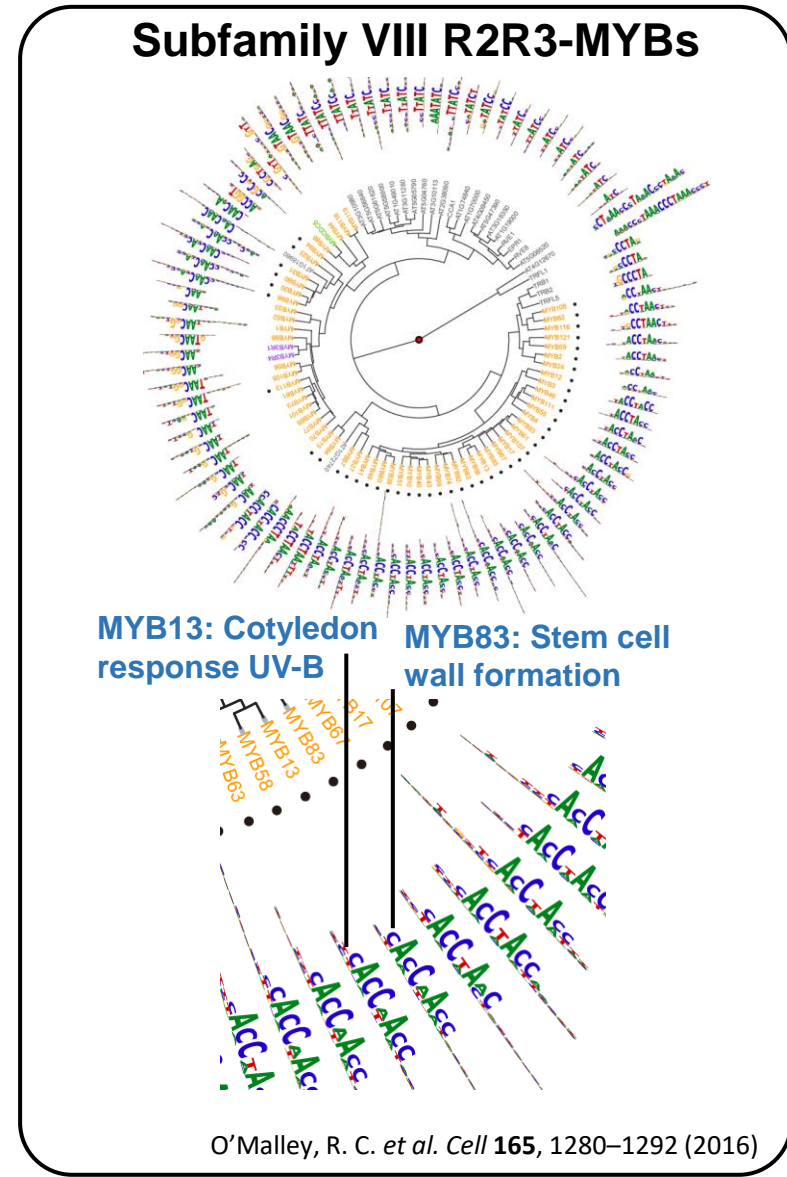
Wild type				
arf16				

Wilmoth, J. C. et al. *The Plant Journal* **43**, 118–130 (2005)

Root hair formation

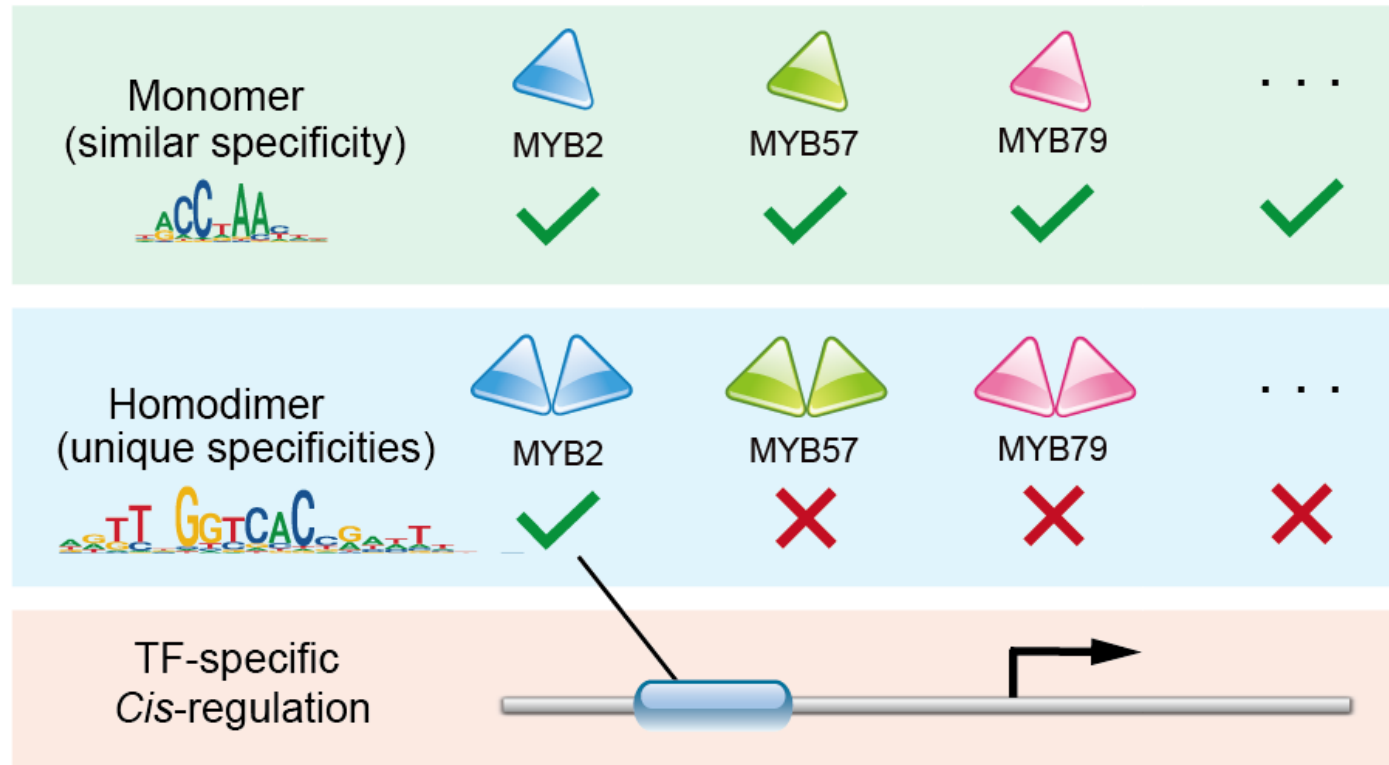
G	W22 + IAA	H	arf27-1 + IAA

Dash, L. et al. *bioRxiv* (2023)



Highlights

Specificity Landscape of 40 R2R3-MYBs



- A homodimerization-based mechanism enables eukaryotes to distinguish paralogous TFs.
- The largest plant SELEX dataset illustrates the sequence preferences of 40 VIII R2R3-MYBs.
- The high specificity AtMYBs were discovered and named CCWAA-box.



Specificity landscapes reveal a high selectivity of CCWAA-box MYBs

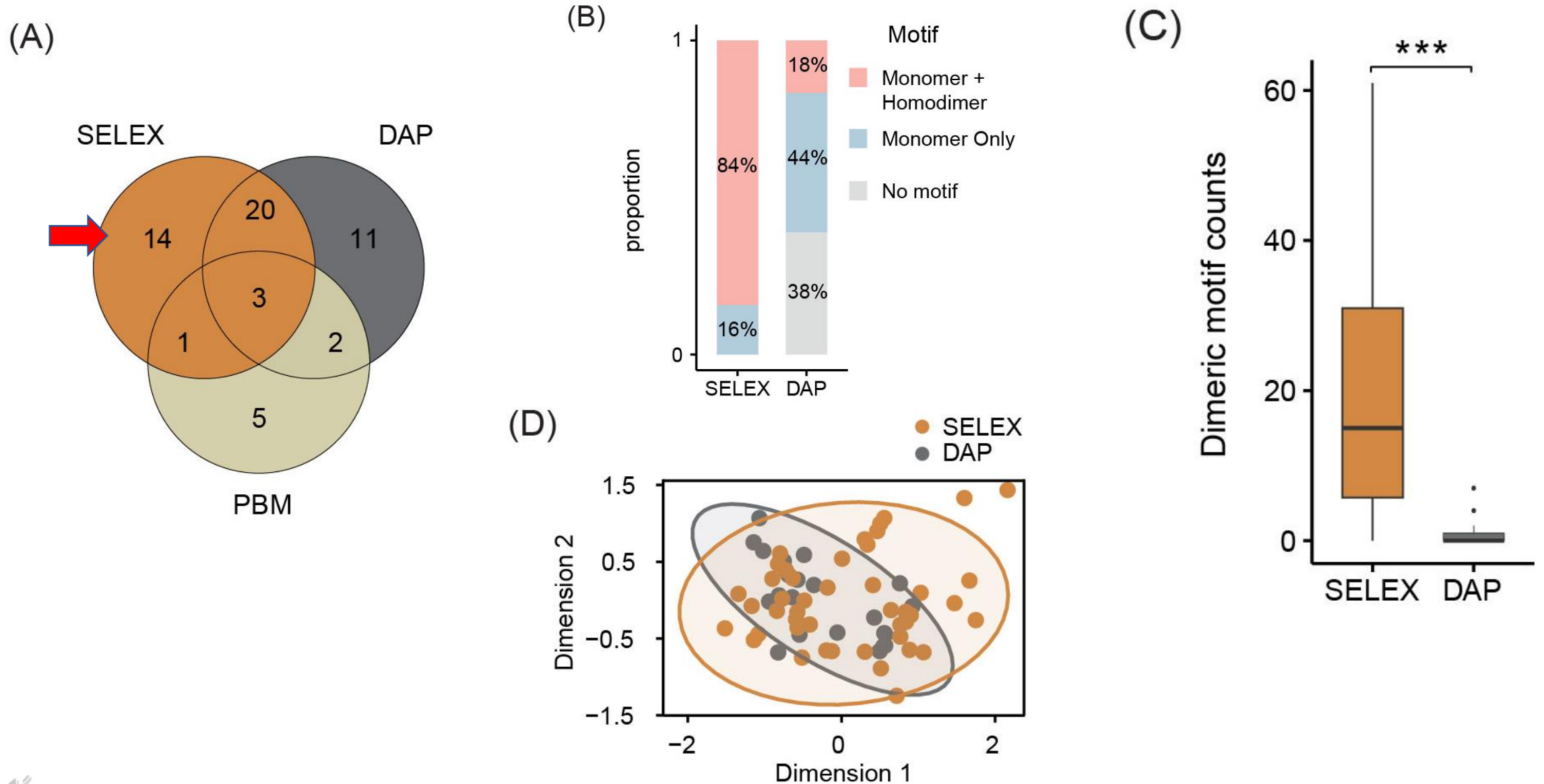


Figure 1. The landscape of binding specificity of VIII R2R3-MYBs



Specificity landscapes reveal a high selectivity of CCWAA-box MYBs

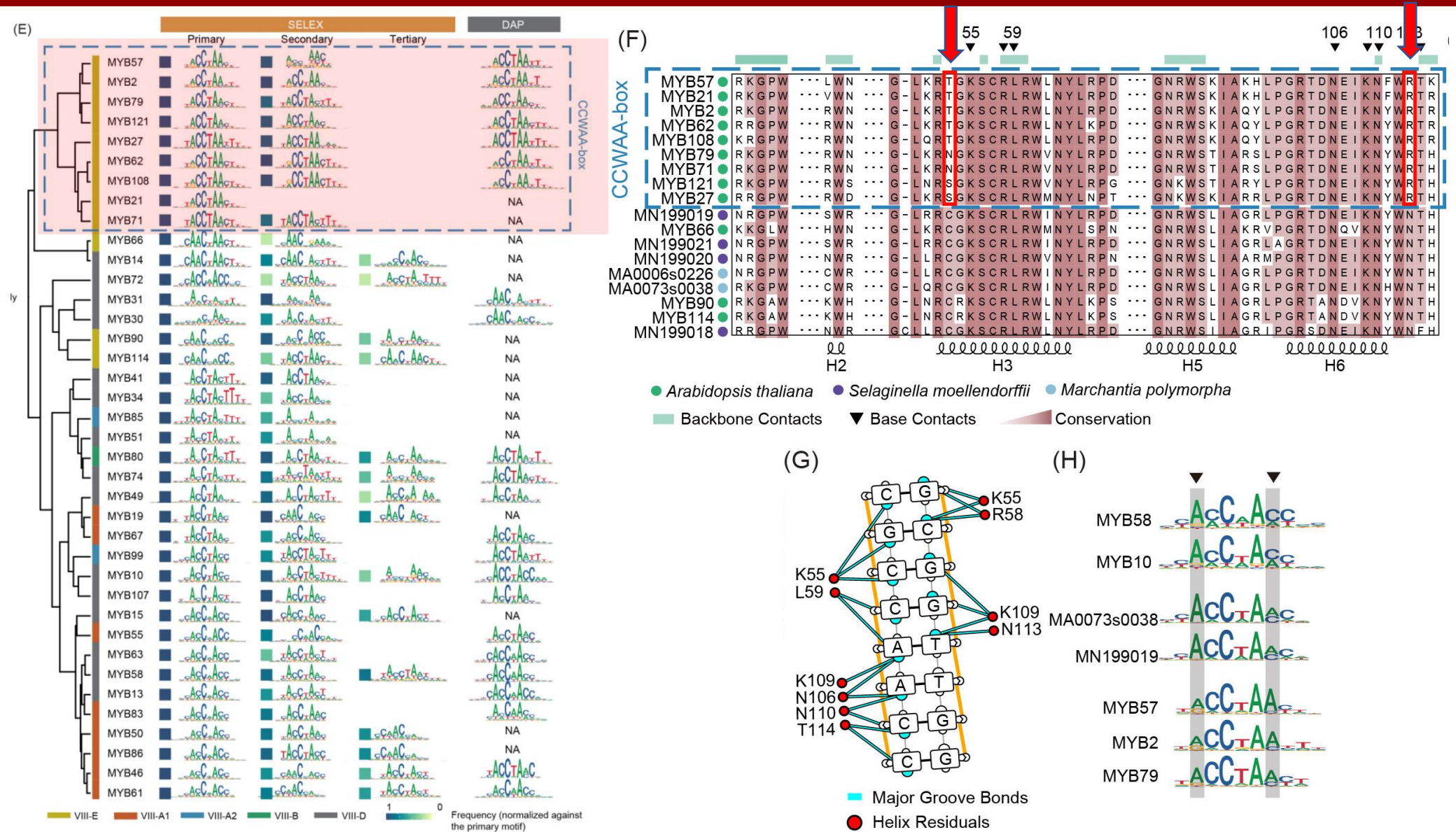


Figure 1. The landscape of binding specificity of VIII R2R3-MYBs



Modified specificity of closely spaced AtMYB2 homodimers



Figure 2. Modified specificities of closely spaced AtMYB2 homodimers



The modified specificities are unique to AtMYB2

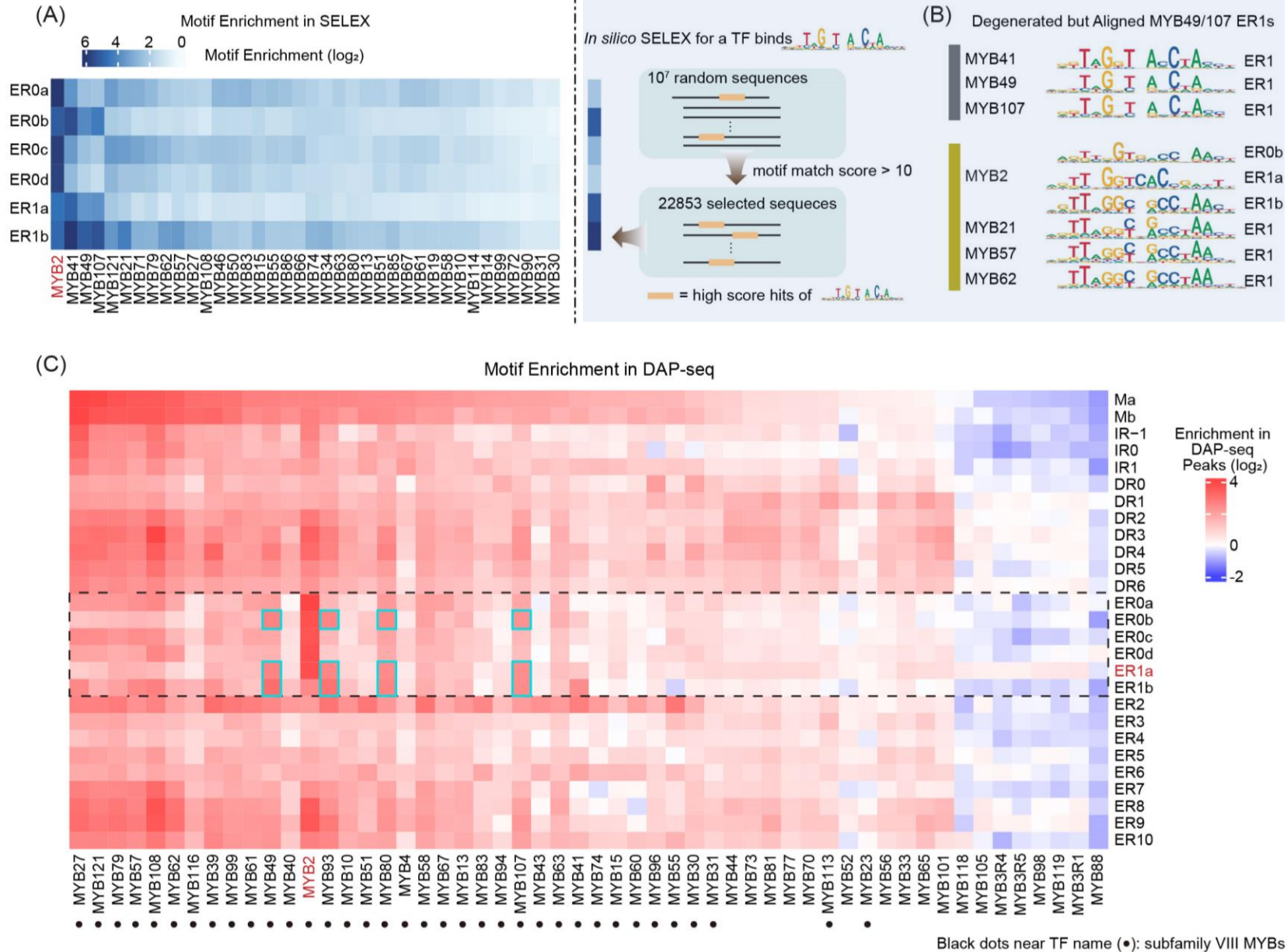


Figure 3. The modified specificities are unique to AtMYB2

The modified specificities allow AtMYB2 to recognize additional genomic sites

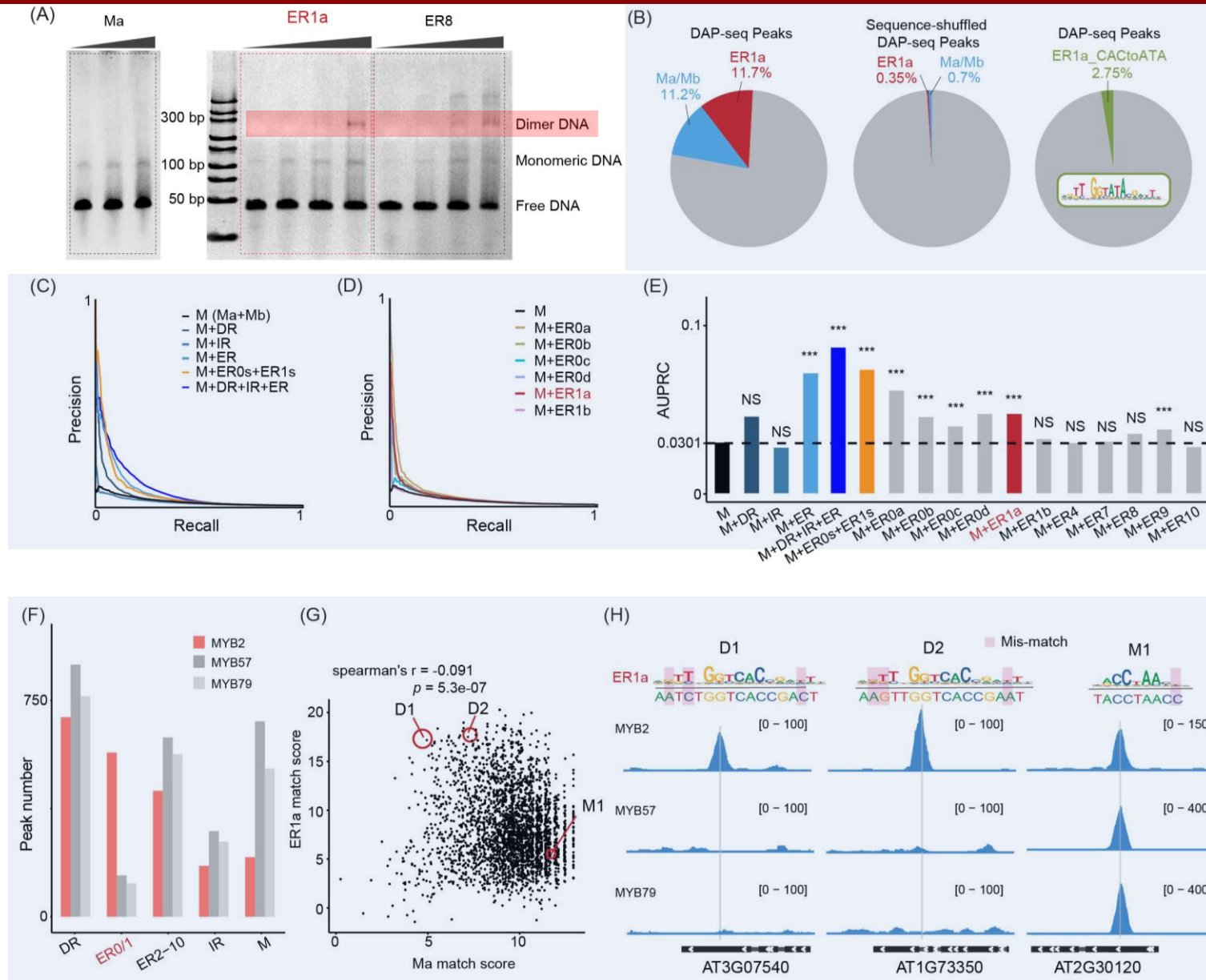


Figure 4. The modified specificities allow AtMYB2 to recognize additional genomic sites



The modified specificities of AtMYB2 are functional to activate transcription

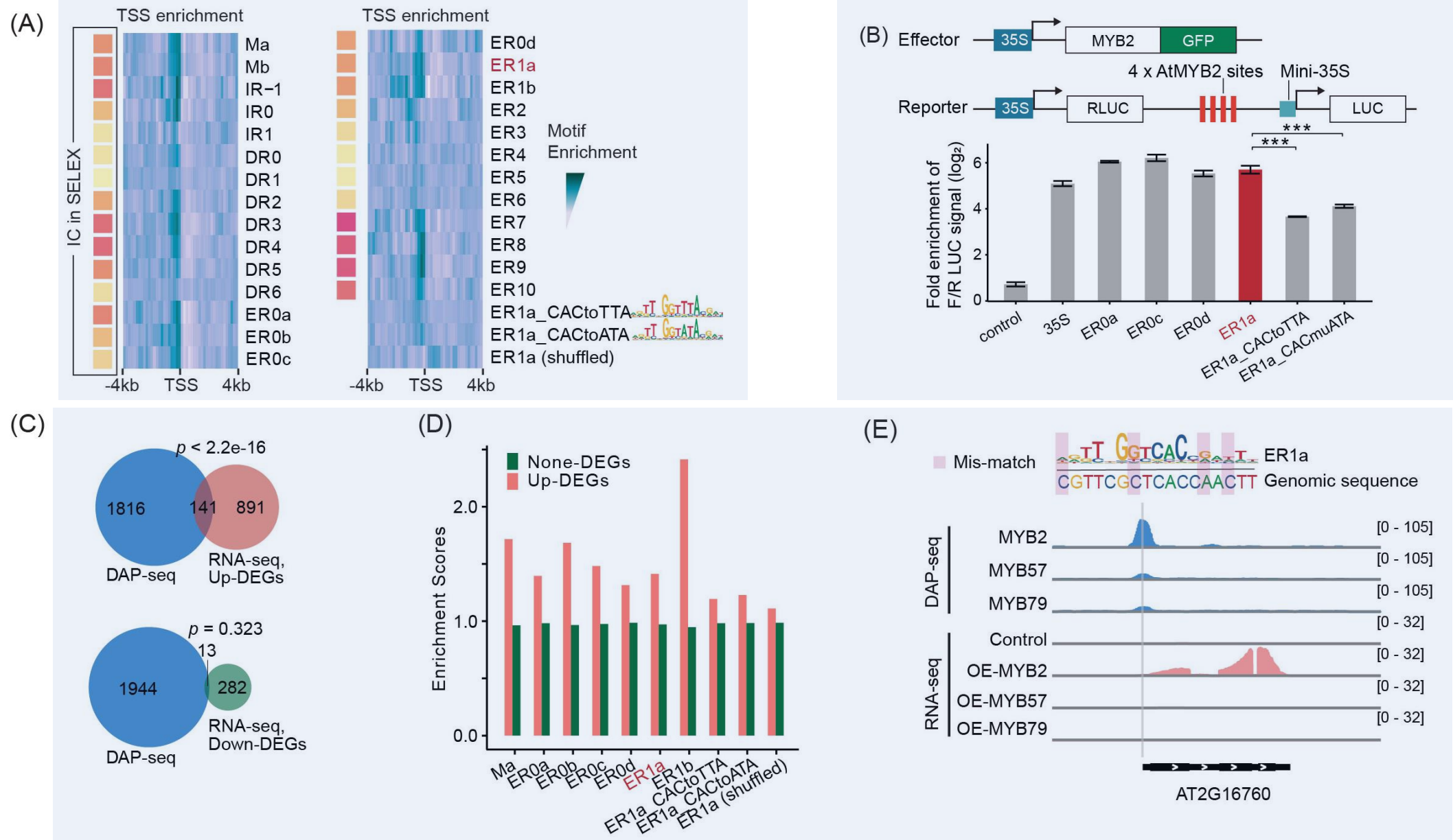


Figure 5. The modified specificities of AtMYB2 are functional to activate transcription

The modified specificities of AtMYB2 are functional to activate transcription

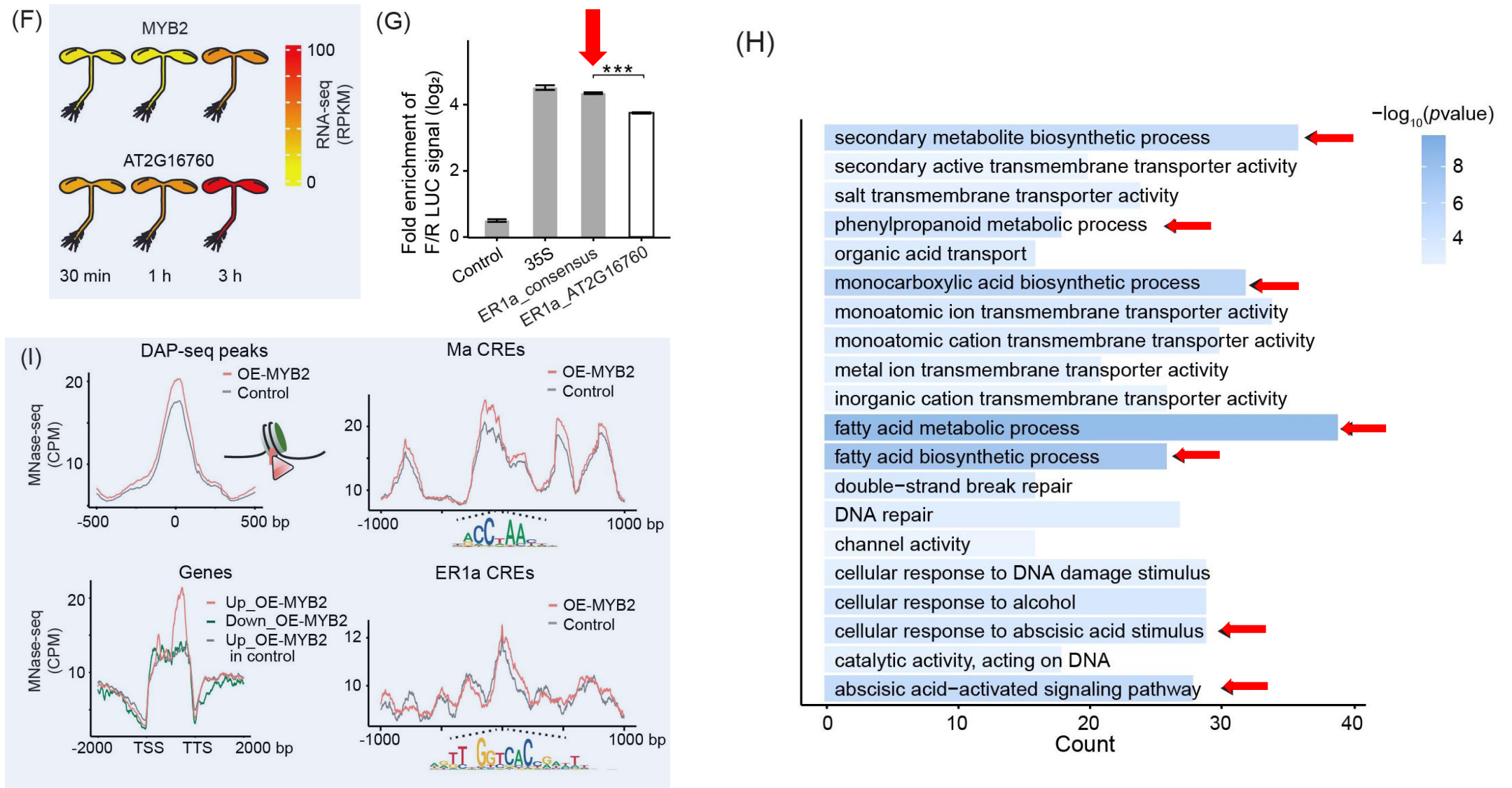


Figure 5. The modified specificities of AtMYB2 are functional to activate transcription



The modified specificities of AtMYB2 are conserved in evolution

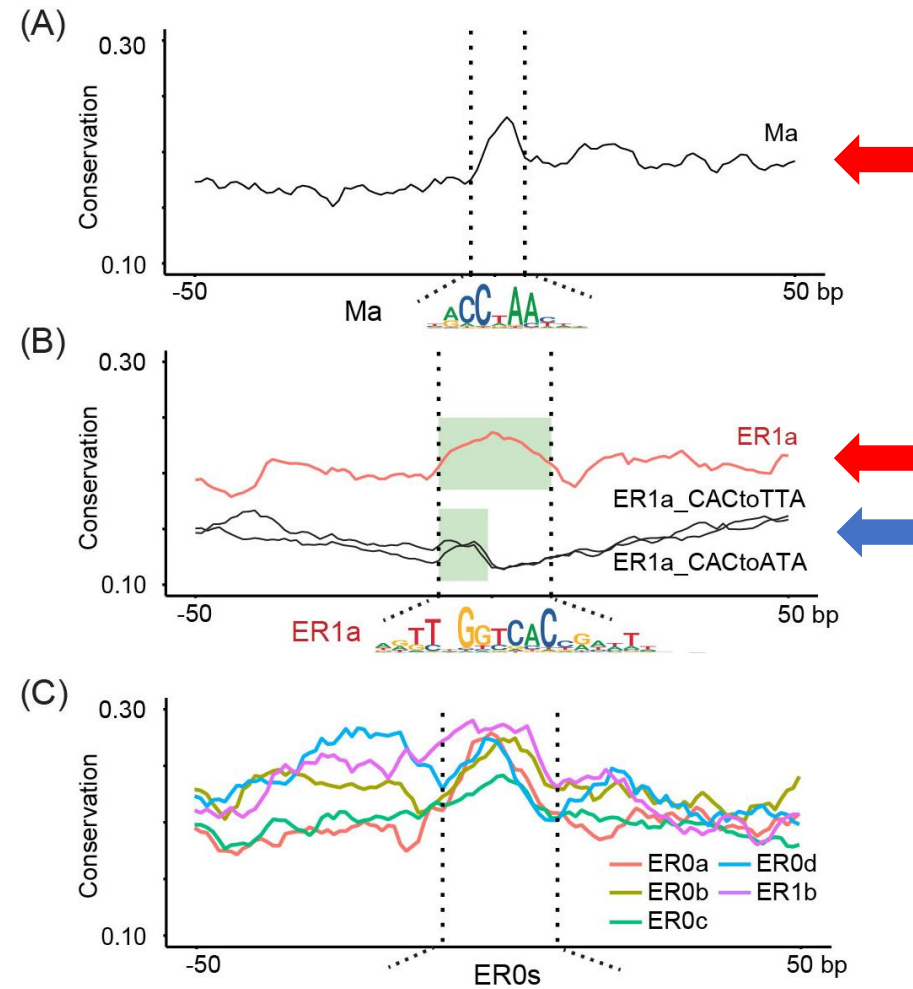
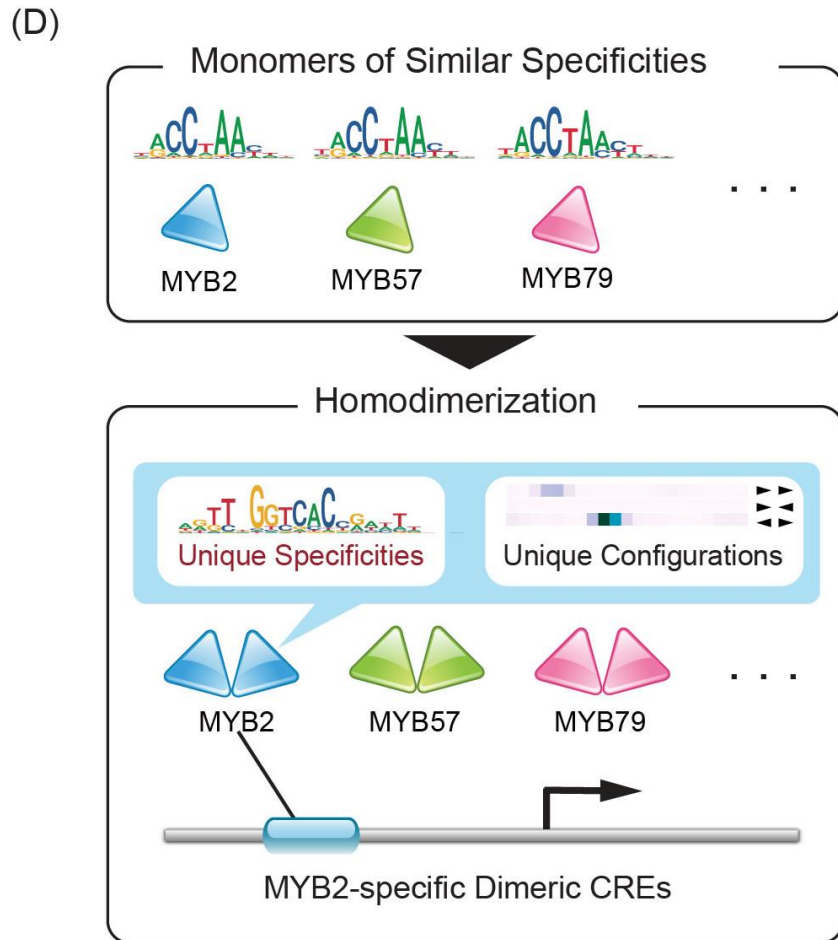


Figure 6. The modified specificities of AtMYB2 are conserved in evolution



Summary



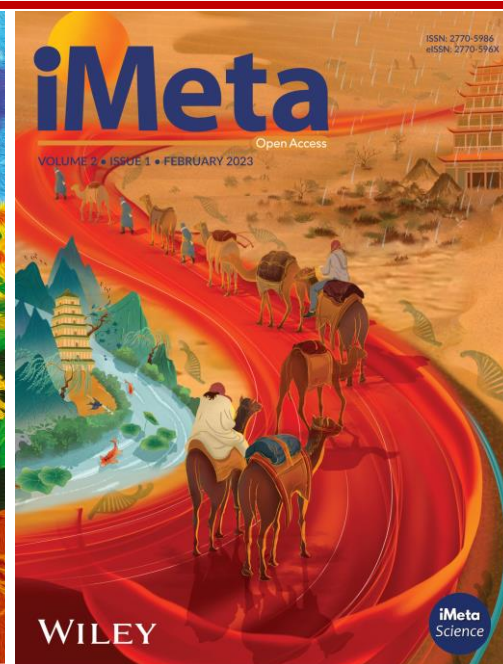
- ❑ A homodimerization-based mechanism enables eukaryotes to distinguish paralogous TFs.
- ❑ The largest plant SELEX dataset illustrates the sequence preferences of 40 VIII R2R3-MYBs.
- ❑ The high specificity AtMYBs were discovered and named CCWAA-box.

Figure 6. The modified specificities of AtMYB2 are conserved in evolution

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