

# Table of Contents

## Chapter 1: Evolutionary Developmental Biology.

|       |   |    |
|-------|---|----|
| 1.1   | Introduction to Development and its molecular basis.                            | 9  |
| 1.1.1 | Definition and history of Developmental Biology                                 | 10 |
| 1.1.2 | The new synthesis of Evo-Devo   | 10 |
| 1.1.3 | The Cis-Regulatory hypothesis and the predictability of morphological evolution | 15 |
| 1.1.4 | Gene duplication: exception or common start?                                    | 16 |
| 1.1.5 | The new horizons of Evo-Devo.   | 19 |
| 1.2   | Plant Developmental Biology.  | 19 |
| 1.2.1 | Introduction to Plant Developmental Biology.                                    | 19 |
| 1.2.2 | The shoot apical meristem: growth potential and regulation.                     | 20 |
| 1.2.3 | Leaf development: description, axes and variation.                              | 25 |
| 1.2.4 | Leaf shape determination.   | 28 |
| 1.2.5 | Hormonal control of leaf development.   | 31 |
| 1.2.6 | Molecular pathways controlling leaf growth.                                     | 33 |
| 1.2.7 | Comparative development studies.  | 39 |
| 1.3   | <i>HD-ZIP</i> gene class  | 40 |
| 1.3.1 | Structure, role and origin of the homeobox genes in development.                | 40 |
| 1.3.2 | <i>HD-ZIP</i> class: roles and activity.  | 41 |
| 1.4   | Ecological and selective pressures influencing leaf form.                       | 43 |
| 1.5   | Aims and objectives.  | 47 |

## Chapter 2: *LATE MERISTEM IDENTITY1 (LMII)*: a growth modulator of the leaf margin

|                     |  |    |
|---------------------|--|----|
| <u>and stipules</u> | 49   |    |
| 2.1                 | Introduction.  | 50 |
| 2.2                 | Results.   | 52 |
| 2.2.1               | Genetic interaction of <i>LMII</i> with known leaf development genes.  | 52 |
| 2.2.2               | The <i>lmi1</i> basal lobe is derived from the stipule.                | 53 |
| 2.2.3               | <i>LMII</i> represses cell division and tissue growth.                 | 53 |
| 2.2.4               | <i>LMII</i> induces differentiation and influences allometry.          | 56 |
| 2.2.5               | <i>LMII</i> balances the endoreduplication/mitosis ratios.             | 59 |
| 2.2.6               | <i>LMII</i> also controls stipule growth in <i>Cardamine hirsuta</i> . | 61 |
| 2.3                 | Discussion.  | 64 |
| 2.3.1               | <i>LMII</i> -induced endoreduplication sculpts leaf shape.             | 64 |
| 2.3.2               | Evolutionary significance of <i>LMII</i> function.                     | 66 |

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| 2.3.3 Common themes in organ shape determination.   | 66  |
| 2.4 Materials and Methods.  | 67  |
| <b><u>Chapter 3: Evolution of the <i>REDUCED COMPLEXITY (RCO)</i> gene and eco-physiological significance of leaf shape change in the Brassicaceae.</u></b> | 71  |
| 3.1 Introduction.   | 72  |
| 3.2 Results.  | 74  |
| 3.2.1 A 500 bp enhancer drives <i>RCO</i> proximal expression and underlies regulatory divergence.  | 74  |
| 3.2.2 The <i>LMII/RCO</i> cluster shows high synteny in the Brassicaceae family.  | 79  |
| 3.2.3 <i>RCO</i> function is conserved between Brassicaceae species.  | 80  |
| 3.2.4 Physiological benefits of <i>RCO</i> -controlled complex leaves.  | 83  |
| 3.3 Discussion.   | 88  |
| 3.3.1 The <i>RCO</i> as a key driver for morphological diversity.   | 88  |
| 3.3.2 Ecological significance of leaf shape variation.  | 89  |
| 3.4 Materials and Methods.  | 92  |
| <b><u>Chapter 4: Genetic interaction of <i>RCO</i> with known leaf developmental genes.</u></b>   | 95  |
| 4.1 Introduction  | 96  |
| 4.2 Results   | 97  |
| 4.2.1 <i>CUC2</i> and <i>RCO</i> genetic interaction.   | 97  |
| 4.2.2 Interaction between <i>RCO</i> and the <i>BP/ASI</i> network.   | 100 |
| 4.2.3 <i>TCP</i> -mediated differentiation inhibits <i>RCO</i> activity.  | 104 |
| 4.2.4 Concurrent leaf expression of <i>STM</i> and <i>RCO</i> in <i>A.thaliana</i> produces compound leaves.  | 108 |
| 4.3 Discussion  | 111 |
| 4.3.1 Genetic network analysis as a path to understanding trait diversity.  | 111 |
| 4.4 Materials and Methods.  | 114 |
| <b><u>Chapter 5: General discussion</u></b>   | 116 |
| 5.1 Cell and tissue interplay to regulate organ growth and shape.   | 117 |
| 5.2 Local growth repression, a key force for organ morphogenesis and evolution?   | 119 |
| 5.3 The <i>RCO</i> duplication as an iconic example of morphological evolution.   | 121 |
| 5.4 Ecological significance of different leaf morphologies.   | 123 |