International Education and Research Center for Food and Agricultural Immunology (CFAI)

Marco Incarbone 博士による CFAI 特別セミナーを実施しました

令和7年4月7日に、ドイツ マックスプランク研究所グループリーダーの Marco Incarbone 博士によるセミナーを開催しました。Marco Incarbone 博士は植物ウイルスが植物の茎頂分裂組織や種子といった特定の組織に感染しにくい現象について研究されています。今回のセミナーでは、博士らが植物の変異体や例外的に種子伝染しやすいウイルスを用いて得た最近の研究成果についてご講演いただきました。具体的には、植物の RNAサイレンシング機構の因子である Ago5 が茎頂分裂組織に侵入後のウイルス蓄積量の低下に寄与していること、Ago5 が雌雄を問わず生殖細胞でウイルスの蓄積を強く抑制していることなどが紹介されました。植物ウイルスの茎頂分裂組織や生殖細胞への侵入の制御は、植物ウイルスの防除のみならず遺伝子工学的利用にも寄与すると考えられ、大変興味深い内容でした。セミナー参加者とはウイルス・植物の共進化の観点から議論が行われたほか、学生の研究紹介にもお付き合いいただきました。今後の研究交流が期待されます。





Dr. Marco Incarbone

Research Group Leader, Max Planck Institute of Molecular Plant Physiology (MPIMP)

"AGO5 restricts virus vertical transmission in plant gametes"

Date: 10:30am-12:00am, 7 April, 2025
Venue: Lecture Room #1 @ Aobayama commons

Abstract

Viruses are intracellular parasites that rely on transmission to new hosts to ensure their continued existence. Vertical transmission—the passage of viral infection from parent to progeny—is a key mechanism for virus persistence across generations and geographical regions. This mode of transmission is especially significant in plants, where viruses spread both locally and globally via pollen and seeds. However, vertical transmission in plants is often inefficient or entirely absent, suggesting the existence of potent transgenerational antiviral barriers which remain unknown. It is believed that the ability of meristematic stem cells, which generate reproductive tissues and germline, to remain virus-free during many infections is linked to a plant preventing vertical transmission. We have recently described the role of RNA interference and the hormone salicylic acid in mediating antiviral immunity in stem cells. Here, we establish a model system to effectively investigate vertical transmission in Arabidopsis. We demonstrate that AGO5, an RNA interference factor specifically expressed in stem cells and gametes, plays a crucial role in restricting the vertical transmission of Turnip yellow mosaic virus (TYMV). We use a series of experiments involving different zygocity of the ago5 mutation along with gamete-specific expression of AGO5 and small RNA to pinpoint where and when AGO5 restricts vertical transmission. We find that AGO5 suppresses viral transmission through both male and female parents, post-meiosis and pre-fertilization during host reproduction, emphasizing its gamete-specific antiviral activity while excluding involvement in the zygote or embryo. Collectively, our findings unveil the first known antiviral mechanism restricting RNA virus transmission from parent to progeny through gametes, a significant advance that will increase our toolkit in the management of viral diseases.



