

Allelic Variations in 5' UTR of TaAFP-B Effecting the Seed Dormancy and Other Agronomic Traits in Transgenic Wheat

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1 **Allelic variations in 5' UTR of *TaAFP-B* effecting the seed dormancy and other**
2 **agronomic traits in transgenic wheat**

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23 **ABSTRACT:**

24 **Background:**

25 *TaAFP* (*Triticum aestivum* L. ABA insensitive five binding protein) is the homology
26 of *AFP* of *Arabidopsis thaliana* which was a negative regulator in ABA signaling and
27 regulated embryo germination and seed dormancy. *TaABI5* (*Triticum aestivum* L.
28 ABA insensitive five) gene was seed-specific, and accumulated during wheat grain
29 maturation and dormancy acquisition, which played an important role in seed
30 dormancy. In our previous study, two allelic variants of *TaAFP* were identified on
31 chromosome 2BS in common wheat, and designated as *TaAFP-B1a* and *TaAFP-B1b*.
32 Sequence analysis showed a 4-bp insertion in the 5' UTR region of *TaAFP-B1a*
33 compared with *TaAFP-B1b*, which affected the mRNA transcription level, mRNA
34 decay, translation levels of GUS and tdTomatoER, GUS activity, and was
35 significantly associated with seed dormancy in common wheat.

36

37 **Results:**

38 The results of transgenic wheats showed that: the genotypes of average GI values,
39 plant height, grain weight of hundred and rough of second and third stem node are all
40 significantly more in pUbi-TaAFP-BaS transformed wheat plants than in
41 pUbi-TaAFP-BbS transformed ones, but transcript expression level.

42 **Conclusion:** Above all dates indicated that the 4-bp insertion in the 5'UTR of
43 *TaAFP-B* decreased the transcript expression level of *TaAFP-B* and the PHS
44 resistance, and increased the plant height, grain weight of hundred and lodging

45 resistance in this system of over expression transgenic wheat.

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47 **Key words:** *TaAFP-B*, 5'UTR, Allelic variation, Transgenic wheat,

48 Agrobacterium-mediated Transformation

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67 **INTRODUCTION**

68 Pre-harvest (PHS) sprouting is a worldwide severe problem that leads to loss of grain
69 weight and reduction in the end-use quality of kernels in wheat (Groop et al. 2002;
70 Humphreys et al. 2002). Severely sprouted wheat becomes suitable only for animal
71 feed and cannot be used for flour production or any other application in the food
72 industry (Simsek et al. 2014). Therefore, understanding the genetic mechanism(s) of
73 seed dormancy in wheat became more and more important.

74 The mechanism of ABA sensitivity in seeds has been extensively studied in
75 *Arabidopsis*. Some genes associated with seed dormancy have been identified as
76 factors in the ABA signaling and ABA synthesis pathway (Jiang et al. 2003; Ye et al.
77 2016; Zhang et al. 2010; Hindson et al. 2011). *ABI3*, *ABI4*, and *ABI5* are positive
78 regulatory factors, which roles of *ABI3*, *ABI4*, and *ABI5* also was affecting seed
79 development and ABA sensitivity, but null mutation of *abi3* is more severe than that
80 of *abi4* or *abi5* (Parcy et al. 1994; Finkelstein et al. 1998; Finkelstein et al. 2000).
81 Negative regulators are *ABI1*, *ABI2*, and AIP2 E3 ligase for *ABI3* and RING E3 ligase
82 and ABA insensitive five binding protein (AFP) for *ABI5* (Gosti et al. 1999;
83 Lopez-Molina et al. 2003; Zhang et al. 2005; Stone et al. 2006). *ABI3* and *ABI5* act as
84 intermediates, regulating the maturation and germination of seeds and expression of
85 *ABI3* and *ABI5* facilitates desiccation tolerance of the seed in later stages of maturity
86 (Lopez-Molina et al. 2001; 2002; Carles et al. 2002). The *Arabidopsis ABI3* gene
87 which is required for appropriate *ABI5* expression (Cheng et al. 1997; Vaucheret et al.
88 1998; Finkelstein et al. 2010), encodes a transcription factor and acts together with
89 *ABI5* to direct embryonic gene expression and seed sensitivity to ABA (Ray et al.
90 2017; Lopez-Molina et al. 2003; Finkelstein et al. 2003). *ABI5* acts as a critical factor
91 in maturation, dormancy development of seeds, or the dehydration tolerance of young
92 seedlings of *Arabidopsis* (Jiang et al. 2003; Jones et al. 2005).

93 *ABI5* binding protein (AFP) was isolated by yeast two-hybrid assays, which played a
94 negative regulator of ABA signaling pathway by facilitating the degradation of *ABI5*.

95 The transcription and translation of *AFP* gene increased during seed development and
96 desiccation, ultimately reaching plateau values in mature seeds (Cheng et al. 1997).
97 Three homology *TaAFPs* in wheat were isolated, *TaAFP-A*, *TaAFP-B* and *TaAFP-D*,
98 located on the short arms of chromosomes 2A, 2B and 2D, respectively (Naruhito et
99 al. 2008). In our previous study, two allelic variants of *TaAFP-B* were identified and
100 designated as *TaAFP-Ba* and *TaAFP-Bb*, compared with *TaAFP-Ba*, a 4-bp deletion in
101 the 5'UTR region was detected in *TaAFP-Bb*, and this 4-bp deletion structure affected
102 the mRNA stability, mRNA transcription expression level, translation expression
103 level of tdTomatoER and GUS, and GUS activity. and the 4-bp insertion in the 5'UTR
104 of *TaAFP-B* increase the GUS activity in experiment of GUS activity of *PTaAFP-Ba*
105 (with 4-bp insertion)::GUS transgenic rice, decreased the transcript expression and
106 translation level of *TaAFP-B* in transgenic rice. So, *TaAFP-B* was significantly
107 associated with PHS tolerance in common wheat (Feng et al. 2019).
108 Therefore, in order to further clear the function of the differential structure in the
109 5'UTR of *TaAFP-Ba/b*, and contribution of the mechanisms underlying seed
110 dormancy or PHS tolerance in wheat, system of transgenic wheat would established to
111 study the affect of the differential sequence in 5'UTR of *TaAFP-B* on promotor
112 activity, transcription and phenotypes of over expression of *TaAFP-Ba/b* in transgenic
113 wheat.

114

115 **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

116 **Plasmid Constructions**

117 pCAMBIA1390-Ubi-GFP vector were kindly supplied by the professor Xia Lanqing
118 (Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, CAAS)). Then, Target genes fragment of
119 *TaAFP-Ba/bS* manipulation was performed and cloned into the vector by General
120 Biosystems (Anhui) Co. Ltd. Respectively, we successfully constructed the
121 recombination expression vector of Ubi-*TaAFP-Ba/bS* to determine the function of
122 5'UTR of the two allelic *TaAFP-Ba* and *TaAFP-Bb* in regulation mechanism of
123 resistant to pre-harvest sprouting.

124

125 **Transformation of Transgenic Wheat**

126 The recombination plasmids as described previously (Duan et al. 2012). Moreover,
127 Ubi- *TaAFP-Ba/bS* were transformed to the embryonic calli of wheat line K35, which
128 operated by Shandong Academy of Agricultural Sciences. The transformed calli were
129 screened and planted to regeneration under the selection pressure of hygromycin, and
130 seeds of T1 were acquired.

131 All of plant material used in this study were cultured in National Transgenic Safety
132 Centre (36°42'28"N, 117°05'19"E), identified by authors Yumei Feng and Yang Han,
133 and stored in Key Lab of Germplasm Innovation and Utilization of Triticeae Crop at
134 Universities of Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region. And a voucher specimen of
135 these material has not been yet deposited in a publicly available herbarium.

136

137 **Identification of Transgenic Positive Plants and Copy Number**

138 All of the lines seedling in transgenic wheat and 25 lines for each transgenic type in
139 transgenic wheat were cultivated discretionary in . And then, genomics DNA was
140 isolated from the young leaves of mixed plants of everyone lines (T1) according to the

141 method of DNA secure Plant Kit bought TIANGEN Biotech. PCR reaction were
 142 performed as described previously to identify the transgenic positive lines (Feng et al.
 143 2017). Amplified PCR fragments and primer were showed in Table 1. After then,
 144 quality of genomic DNA of transgenic positive lines measured by BioDrop
 145 spectrophotometer, and copy numbers were detected the using method of ddPCR
 146 described protocol of Ray Collier et.al by Shanghai Biotechnology Co. Ltd. A pair of
 147 primers and probes designed to detect a unique single-copy for target and endogenous
 148 reference gene, respectively, the targets and endogenous reference were *DD-TaAFP-B*
 149 and *TaPINb-D1b^d* in wheat (Table 2). The reference gene amplicons were detected
 150 using FAMTM-labeled probes, while the target genes amplification were detected with
 151 VICTM-labeled probes. The ddPCR reaction mixture consisted of 2ul DNA, 1X
 152 QX200 EvaGreen Supermix 10ul (Bio-Rad), 450nM of each primer pair and probe
 153 250nM of each probe. Thermal cycling conditions were 95°C for 10 min, followed by
 154 40 cycles of 94°C for 30s, 60°C for 30s, with 98°C for 10min and a final hold at 4°C.
 155 The detail experimental procedures were referenced from Per H (Per et al. 2016) and
 156 Ray Collier (Ray et al. 2017). Lastly, we planted and identified the transgenic positive
 157 individual plants at least three independent single-copy lines for each transgenic type
 158 under 25°C in the National Safety Experimental Base of GMO, Jinan City, Shandong
 159 province of transgenic wheat to further analysis.

160 Table 1 Primers used in this study

Primer	Upstream	Downstream	Primer Anneal	Fragment
Set	(5'-3')	(5'-3')	Temperature (°C)	Size (bp)

UB F/R	TTTGTTTCGCTTGGTT	AGCTCGACCACCTCGT	58	613
	GTGA	CG		
Taactin F/R	GTTTCCTGGAATTG	CATTATTTACATACAGCA	62	410
	CTGATCGCAT	GGCAAGC		
Q-TaAFP-B F/R	ACCTCCTCAAGCAT	ACTTGTTCTGGTTGCT	66	102
	GCCGG	GGCA		
Q-TaAFP-A F/R	CCCTCCTCAAGCAT	GCTGGCATTGTTATTAT	59	100
	GCCCG	TATCG		
Q-TaAFP-D F/R	GCTTCCTCAAGCAT	CGTCCACCTTGGAGGA	56	289
	GCCGGA	GA CT		
Q-TaABI5 F/R	GGAAGAAGTCACCT	GAGGCAAGGAGAA	62	310
	CRCACC	CGACT		

161

162 **Observation and analysis of transgenic plants for phenotype**

163 The single copy positive individual plant of each lines were selected to analyse the
 164 phenotypes after RT-qPCR avoiding the affection of copy number in transgenic wheat.

165 The T2 generations were observed and analysed for height, tillering, stem length, and
 166 the germination index, et. al until the plants reached the wax ripening stage.

167

168 **Expression Analysis**

169 Total RNA was extracted from 5g tissues with the TaKaRa MiniBEST Plant RNA
 170 Extraction Kit. The cDNA was synthesized and RT-qPCR reactions were tested by

171 LightCycler®480 System Real Time PCR as the described from Y.M Feng et al. 2019.
172 All primers of the target gene were listed as in table 1. Relative expression of target
173 genes were evaluated by the $2^{-\Delta\Delta Ct}$ method (Li et al. 2018). The average was
174 calculated from three biological replicates, and the error bars represent “± standard
175 deviation” (± SD).

176

177 **Germination assays and Stress treatments**

178 The seeds of T2 lines with single-copy were sterilized in ethyl alcohol of 75% to
179 ensure that all of the fresh seeds were similar maturity and the growth chamber under
180 normal conditions with 16/8 h light/dark cycles at 25°C in wheat. For germination
181 assays, the seeds of 100 were germinated for 7 days, the GI values of each
182 construction were calculated according to the number of germinated seeds every day.
183 For the stress treatment, the seeds were incubated with solid 0.5x MS medium plus
184 3uM ABA, 150 mM NaCl (for salt stress) and 300 mM Mannitol (for dehydration
185 stress), respectively, at the same conditions for 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 days. Transgenic seeds
186 of non-recombination were used as control and every one experiment has three
187 biological replicates. All samples were collected after each treatment in everyday,
188 frozen in liquid nitrogen, and stored at -80°C condition.

189

190 **RESULTS**

191 **Identification of Positive Plants and Analysis of the Copy Number**

192 Total 25 lines of *TaAFP-Ba/bS* transgenic wheat (T1) were selected under the

193 selection pressure of hygromycin. Then, using the specific primer set UBF/R, the
194 frequency of positive lines of *TaAFP-Ba/bS* transgenic wheat was 76% in transgenic
195 wheat (Table 1).

196 The copy numbers of transgenic positive lines were detected by method of droplet
197 digital PCR (ddPCR) (Table 2 and Fig. 1). Further analysis showed that the frequency
198 of single copy of *TaAFP-Ba/bS* was 46.67% in transgenic wheat (Table 3). Then, in
199 order for identification of phenotypes of these copy number transgenic plants, these
200 single-copy lines of transgenic wheat were planted, and further identified the positive
201 individual plant using special primers set (Table 1). The results showed that the
202 frequency of *TaAFP-Ba/bS* positive individual plants were 36.6% in transgenic wheat.
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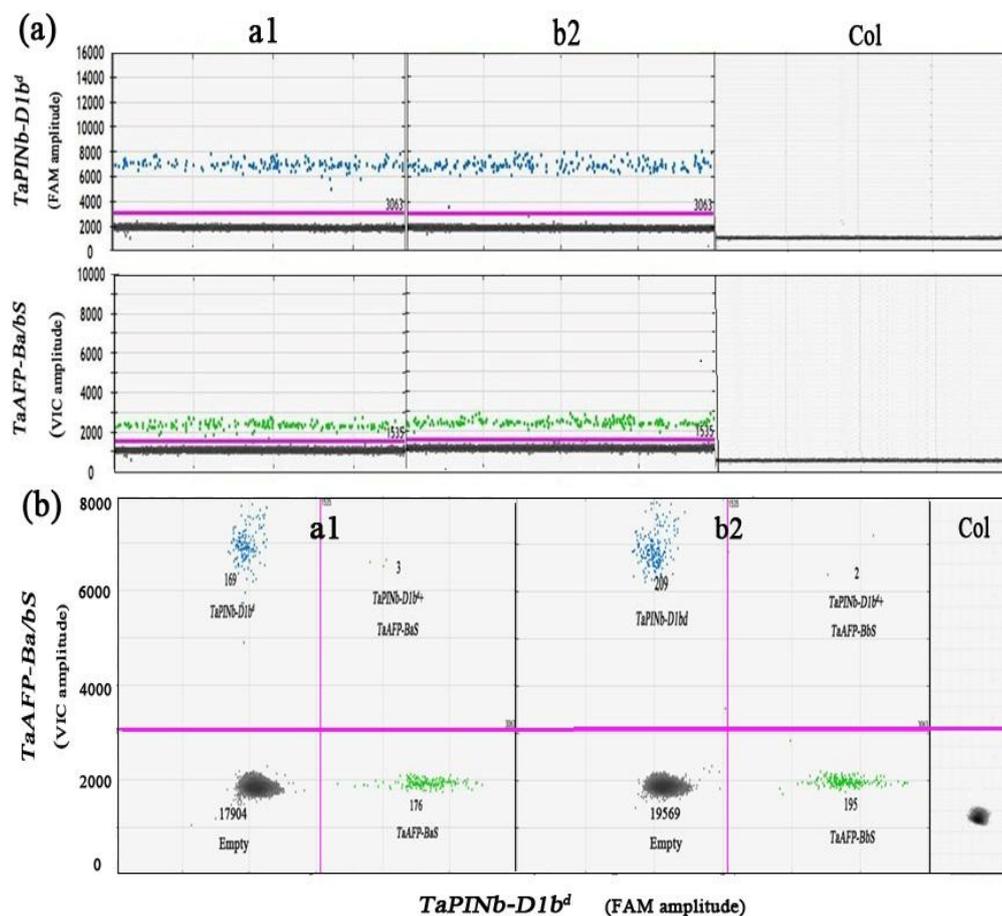
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Fig. 1 Droplet digital polymerase chain reaction (ddPCR) data output from QuantaSoft™

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Application illustrating measurements taken for the *TaAFP-Ba/bS* one copy number from transgenic wheat lines.

218

a1: transgenic wheat line by transforming *TaAFP-BaS* gene; **b2:**transgenic wheat line by transforming *TaAFP-BbS*

219

gene; **Col:** transgenic wheat by transforming non-recombination plasmid pCAMBIA1390. **(a)** One-dimensional

220

plot of droplets measured for fluorescence signal emitted from the endogenous reference gene

221

TaPINb-D1b^d(FAM™ labeled; positive droplets are blue) or the transgenic *TaAFP-Ba/bS* (VIC™ labeled; positive

222

droplets are green). Negative droplets are shown in black. **(b)** The droplets visualized in two dimensions for line a1,

223

b2 and col. The colors are as described in (a), except that droplets containing both fluorescent probes are orange.

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Table 2 The primer and probe sequences used in ddPCR

Transgene	Primer sequences (5'-3')	Probe sequences (5'-3')	Temp (°C)	Amplicon (bp)
TaPINb-D1b ^d	AGTTGGCGGCTGGTACAATG (F)	FAM -TCAACAATGTC	60	106
	ACATCGCTCCATCACGTAATCC (R)	CGCAGGAGCG- BHQ-X		
DD-TaAFP-B	TGCTCACCTGTTGTTTGG (F)	VIC -ACTAGGTACCCTTCC	57	99
	AAGCAGACGCCAATCCCT (R)	- BHQ-X		

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Expression of the *TaAFP-B* gene in single-copy transgenic plants

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Because the copy numbers was related to the expression quantity, so single-copy

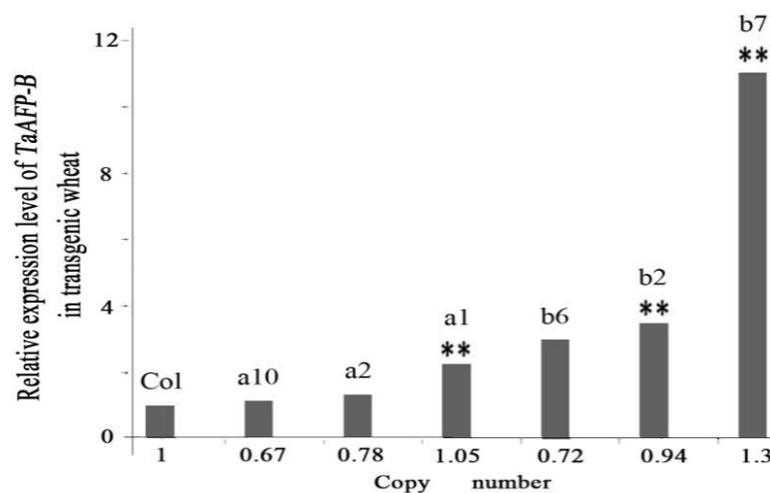
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TaAFP-Ba/bS transgenic wheat were selected, and transcript expression levels of

231

TaAFP-B in seeds was measured by RT-qPCR, and non-recombination vector was

232 transformed in wheat as control. The higher transcript expression levels of
 233 *TaAFP-BaS* were observed, the more copy number ratios in transgenic wheat have
 234 existed. Moreover, there was significantly different among the different copy numbers
 235 of *TaAFP-Ba/bS* in transgenic wheat (Table 3). So three lines closing to one copy
 236 number of *TaAFP-Ba/b* in transgenic wheat were selected to measured the transcript
 237 expression level. The results showed that the transcript expression levels of
 238 *TaAFP-BaS* were lower than that of *TaAFP-BbS* in transgenic wheat mature seeds
 239 (Fig.2).



248 Fig. 2 The expression levels of *TaAFP-B* in transgenic wheat mature seeds with single-copy of

249 *TaAFP-Ba/bS*

250

251 Table 3 The copy number and ratio of the genetically modified wheat

252 *TaAFP-Ba/bS/TaPINb-D1b^d* gene by ddPCR

sample	<i>TaPINb-D1b^d</i>	<i>TaAFP-Ba/bS</i>	Copy	sample	<i>TaPINb-D1b^d</i>	<i>TaAFP-Ba/bS</i>	Copy
--------	-------------------------------	--------------------	------	--------	-------------------------------	--------------------	------

	(copies/ul)	(copies/ul)	numbers of		(copies/ul)	(copies/ul)	numbers of
			target gene				target gene
a1	1110	1160	1 (1.05)	b4	1890	79	0 (0.04)
a2	1720	1350	1 (0.78)	b6	1620	1170	1 (0.72)
a3	1890	310	0 (0.16)	b7	1750	2270	1 (1.30)
a4	1660	15900	10 (9.58)	b9	700	1330	2 (1.9)
a10	1230	820	1 (0.67)	b11	1260	560	0 (0.44)
a11	1100	460	0 (0.42)	b12	890	510	1 (0.57)
b2	1250	1170	1 (0.936)	b13	1370	10600	8 (7.74)
b3	2080	5410	3 (2.6)	Col	1250	1072	1 (0.86)

253

254 In addition, the expression pattern and level of transgenic wheat in different tissues
255 (root, stem, leaves) of 30 DAG and mature seeds of T2 were detected by RT-qPCR
256 with Q-TaAFP-B-F/R primers (Table 1). The expression level tendency of *TaAFP-B*
257 was seeds > roots > stems > leaves and significantly increased in transgenic plants
258 compared with the control (Fig. 3).

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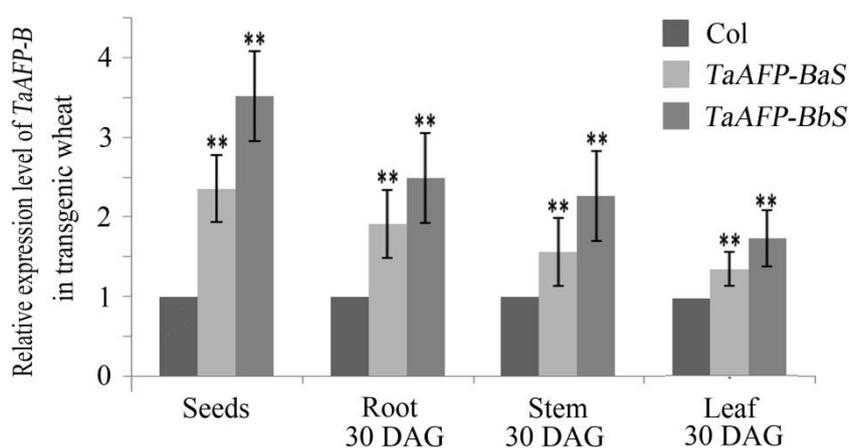
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266 Fig. 3 The expression levels of *TaAFP-B* in different tissues of transgenic wheat with single-copy of
267 *TaAFP-Ba/bS*

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269 In order to clear level and change of transcript expression level of *TaAFP-B*,
270 *TaAFP-A*, *TaAFP-D* and *TaABI5* in single-copy transgenic wheat, further experiment
271 of RT-qPCR was selected, the results showed that 1) the expression of *TaAFP-B* gene
272 transcript was always higher than *TaAFP-A* and *TaAFP-D* in seeds, which was
273 consistent with the expression trend of common wheat; 2) the transcript expression
274 levels of *TaAFP-BaS* are always lower than *TaAFP-BbS* in transgenic wheat, which
275 was contrary to the results of common wheat; 3) there were significant differences in
276 the expression levels of *TaAFP-BaS* and *TaAFP-BbS* in the seeds of single copy
277 wheat lines, and which both have higher levels than the control; 4) the expression
278 levels of *TaABI5* was not significantly different between the *TaAFP-BaS* and
279 *TaAFP-BbS* transgenic materials, indicating that the overexpression of *TaAFP-BaS*
280 and *TaAFP-BbS* did not cause the significantly change of *TaABI5* transcript
281 expression (Fig. 4).

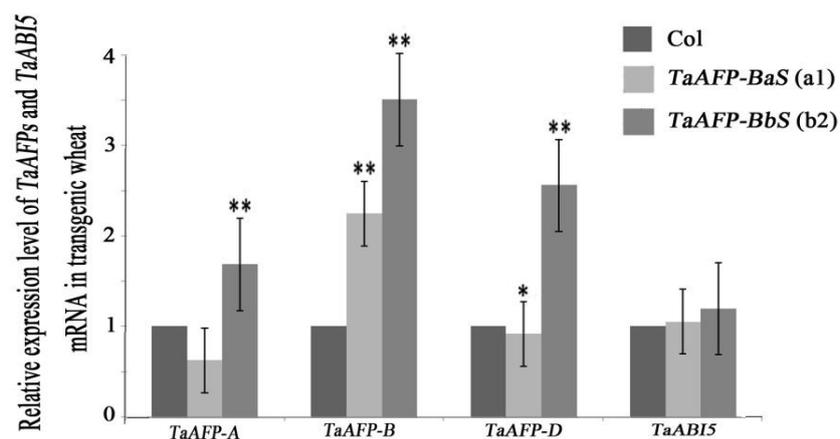
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287 Fig. 4 The expression levels of *TaAFPs* and *TaABI5* located on A, B, and D chromosome, respectively, in
288 transgenic wheat with single-copy of *TaAFP-Ba/bS*

289

290 **The transcript expression of *TaAFP-B* induced by abiotic stress**

291 In order to clear reflection of transgenic wheat under the abiotic stress respons
292 e, further transcript expression pattern and level of *TaAFP-B* in *TaAFP-Ba/bS*
293 with different stress were detected, and seeds of T2 were treated by ABA (3
294 mM), Salt (150 mM, NaCl) and dehydration (300 mM, Mannitol) for 1 to 5
295 days, respectively. In all treated material, the transcript expression levels of *Ta*
296 *AFP-B* in *TaAFP-BaS* transgenic wheat always was lower than *TaAFP-BbS*, an
297 d there both had significantly higher level in *TaAFP-BaS* and *TaAFP-BbS* trans
298 genic wheat, respectively, than in control (Fig. 5). In addition, there had more
299 obvious change of transcript expression levels of *TaAFP-B* in *TaAFP-BaS* and
300 *TaAFP-BbS* seeds treated by ABA and NaCl than treated by Mannitol, which
301 demonstrated that transgenic wheat of *TaAFP-BbS* and *TaAFP-BaS* were more
302 sensitive to ABA and NaCl than Mannitol; compared with control treated by w
303 ater for 1d, 2d, 3d and 4d, respectively, the transcript expression levels decreas
304 ed in *TaAFP-BaS* transgenic wheat and increased in *TaAFP-BbS* treated by AB
305 A, NaCl and Mannitol (Fig. 5). These dates indicated that different sensitive to
306 ABA and NaCl than Mannitol were existed in transcript expression level of tr
307 ansgenic wheat system of *TaAFP-BbS* and *TaAFP-BaS*.

308 The differences and correlation of the expression level between *TaAFP-B* an
309 d *TaABI5* under different stress treatments were detected in transgenic wheat, t
310 he dates showed that 1) the expression level of *TaABI5* in *TaAFP-BaS* was lo
311 wer than in *TaAFP-BbS*; 2) among them, highest transcript expression level of
312 *TaAFP-B* in *TaAFP-BaS* and *TaAFP-BbS* transgenic wheat seeds were detecte
313 d in treated by ABA, NaCl and Mannitol, respectively, for 4d; 3) the trend of
314 transcript expression level of *TaABI5* was same as *TaAFP-Ba* and *TaAFP-Bb*
315 in seeds of transgenic wheat treated by ABA, Salt, NaCl and dehydration, resp

316 ectively (Fig. 5).

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338 **The observation and statistics of Phenotype in transgenic wheat**

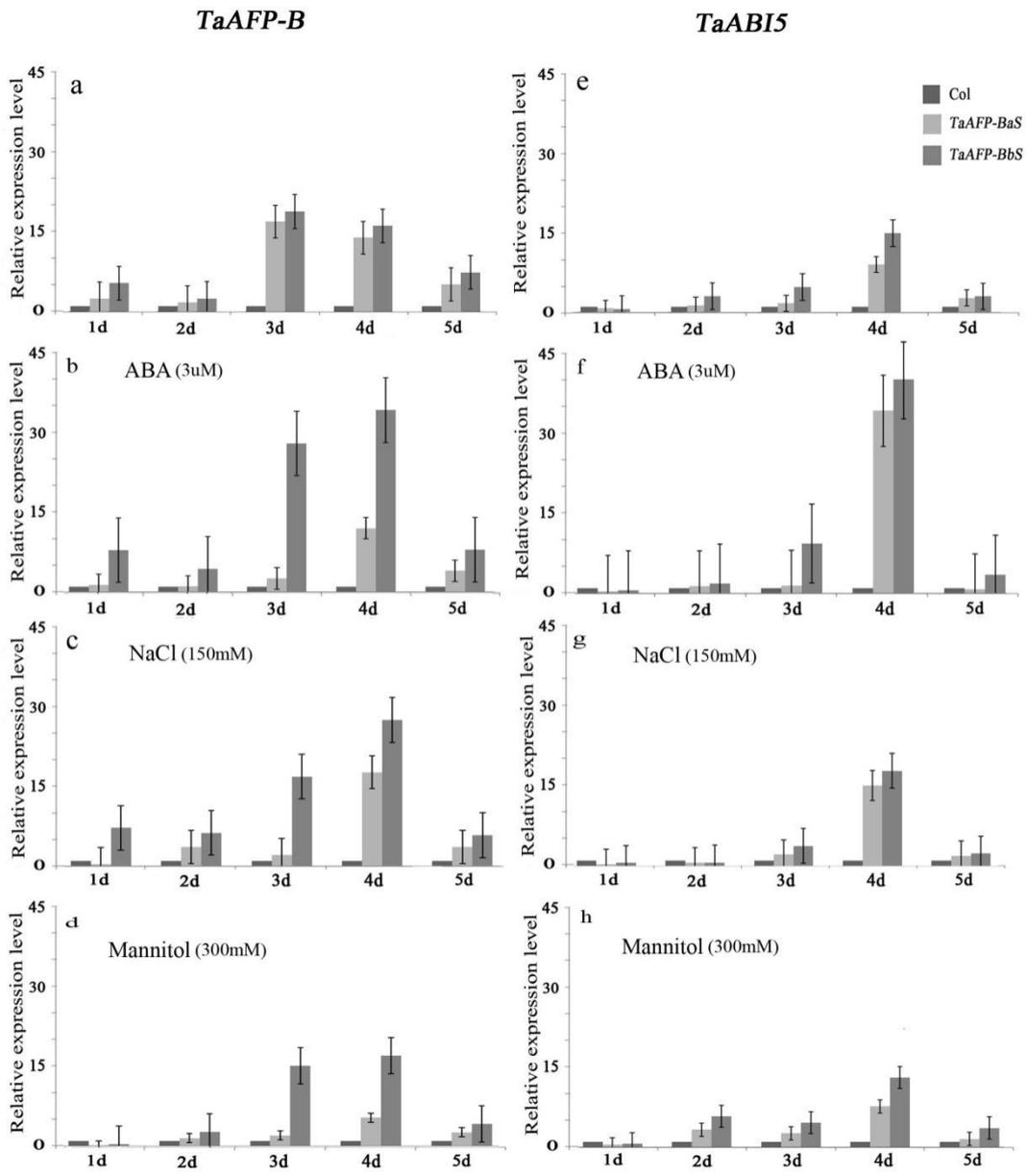
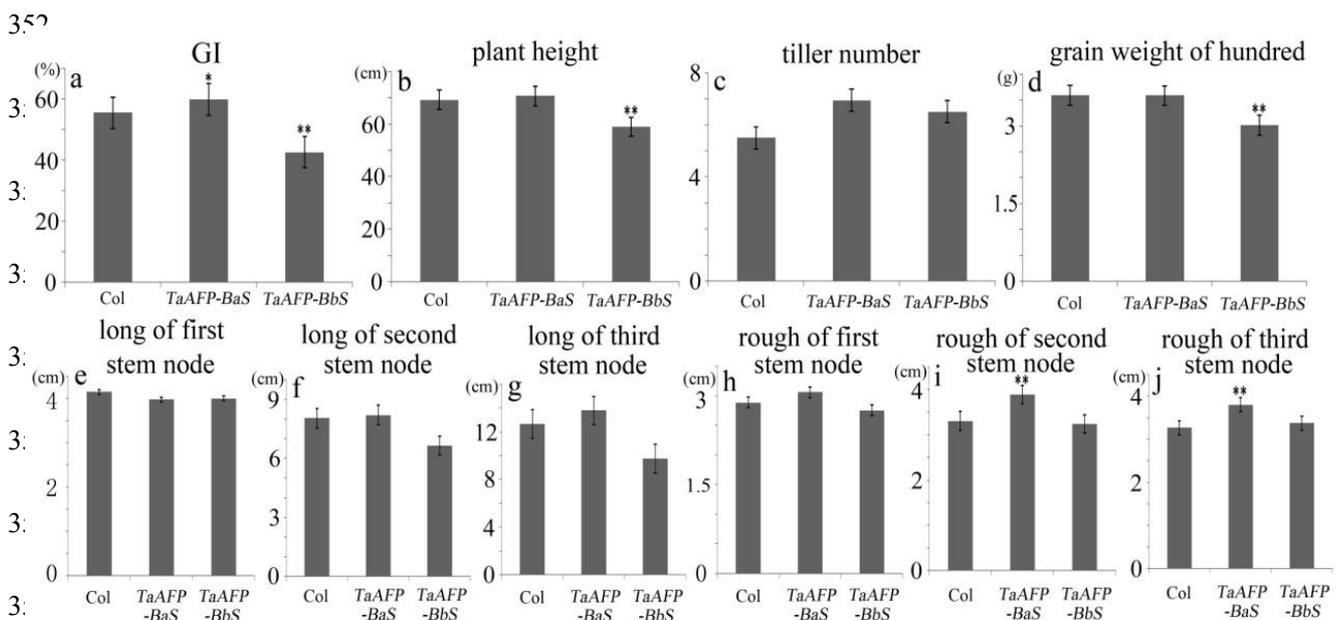


Fig. 5 Expression profiles of *TaAFP-B* and *TaABI5* by qRT-PCR

in different stress for 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5d, respectively, in transgenic wheat mature seeds

339 The phenotypes (such as plant height, tillering, stem length and the germination index)
 340 of single copy positive plant (T2) were observed and analysed (Fig. 6). In transgenic
 341 wheat, the average germination index (GI) values of *TaAFP-BaS* and that of
 342 *TaAFP-BbS* were 59.79% and 42.58% respectively, indicating a significant difference
 343 ($P<0.05$) compared with control group (55.44%). Compared with the control group,
 344 the plant height of *TaAFP-BaS* and *TaAFP-BbS* were 58.91cm and 69.09cm
 345 ($P=0.0089$), and the grain weight of hundred were 3.01kg and 3.59kg ($P=0.0002$), the
 346 rough of second and third stem node of *TaAFP-BaS* were significantly difference
 347 ($P<0.01$). The analysis of variance indicated that most of the phenotype had
 348 significant differences ($P=0.05$) between *TaAFP-BaS* and *TaAFP-BbS* (Fig. 6). These
 349 results showed that the 4-bp insertion in the 5'UTR of *TaAFP-B* had an affection on
 350 the transcription and translation, and especially affected the phenotype of GI values,
 351 obviously, in overexpression of transgenic wheat system.



360 Fig. 6 Analysis and statistic of phenotype in transgenic wheat with single-copy of *TaAFP-Ba/bS*

361 **DISCUSSION**

362 The previous study showed that the transcript expression levels of *TaAFP-B* in
363 common wheat with haplotype of *TaAFP-Ba* were markedly higher than those of
364 *TaAFP-Bb* in different tissues , and an interesting experiment date was that the GUS
365 activity of *PTaAFP-Ba::GUS* transgenic rice was more than *PTaAFP-Bb::GUS* in
366 different tissues (Feng et al. 2019). However, different results of transcript expression
367 levels of *TaAFP-B* in wheat lines had been showed that 1) in transgenic wheat, the
368 transcript expression levels of *TaAFP-B* in *TaAFP-BaS* was significantly lower than in
369 *TaAFP-BbS* (Fig 3), in different tissues; 2)but, the average GI values in *TaAFP-BaS*
370 lines of transgenic wheat were higher than in *TaAFP-BbS*. These above two results
371 showed that the more transcript expression level of *TaAFP-B* in transgenic wheat of
372 *TaAFP-Ba/bS* lead to the lower GI values.This result may due to that different
373 receptor with different genetic background effect the phenotypes of transgenic lines,
374 this also were founded by others that single-copy genes had epigenetic silencing in
375 newly synthesized allopolyploids (Comai et al. 2000; Qin et al. 2003). Therefore, the
376 results of this study may be due to the over expression of a single-copy gene of
377 *TaAFP-B* closely related to germination resistance in allohexaploid wheat, leading to
378 the epigenetic silencing. So, experiments of western blotting of *TaAFP-Ba/bS* in
379 transgenic wheat system and functional research of *TaAFP-Ba/bS* in transgenic
380 diploid species need to design for furthermore verification these hypothesisises.

381 During seed maturation and dormancy, ABA also plays an important role during
382 (Gubler et al. 2005; Nakashima et al. 2006), the accumulation and activity of *AFP*
383 were induced by ABA, drought stress, and so on, during seed development and
384 seedling growth, in *Arabidopsis* (Lopez-Molina et al. 2003; Garcia et al. 2008). There
385 had a negative correlation between the germination ability of embryos in different
386 cultivar and the sensitivity of embryos to ABA. Moreover, there is evidence that ABA
387 levels in mature wheat embryos are similar in both PHS-sensitive and -resistant
388 cultivars and that sprouting behaviour is related more to the extent of ABA
389 responsiveness of embryos than to ABA levels (Walker-Simmons et al.1990). In this
390 study, the transcript expression of *TaAFP-BbS* of transgenic wheat seeds treated by

391 ABA, which of more sensitive than one of *TaAFP-BaS* (Fig.5) Furthermore, there
392 have more higher average GI values in seeds of *TaAFP-BaS* of transgenic wheat than
393 in one of *TaAFP-BbS* (Fig.6). This result showed that 4-bp insertion in 5'UTR of
394 *TaAFP-B* is not only affected the mRNA transcription level, mRNA decay, translation
395 levels of GUS and tdTomatoER and GUS activity (Feng et al .2019), but also ABA
396 sensitive and phenotype of GI value in transgenic wheat. So, allelic variation of
397 *TaAFP-B* (4-bp insertion in 5'UTR) is markedly associated with seed dormancy and
398 plays a role of increasing the GI values and decreasing the pre-harvest sprouting
399 resistance in wheat.

400 The stable expression of exogenous genes is closely related to the insertion site,
401 copy number, integration efficiency and method of gene transformation in transgenic
402 technology, it is generally believed that multi-copy insertion will affect the stable
403 inheritance and expression of exogenous genes (Zhang et al .2010). So, the copy
404 number of exogenous genes inserted is identified in this study. And the result showed
405 that all of lines were single copy number lines (Fig.2, 3, 4, 5 and 6), which indicating
406 that the agrobacterium-mediated method in wheat transgenic technology lead to more
407 ratio of sigle copy number of exogenous genes inserted of transgenic progeny.

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420 **Footnotes:**

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425

426 **Author contributions**

427 YF and YH performed the experiments and wrote the manuscript. BH assisted in
428 performing experiments. YY and YX designed the experiments and assisted in writing
429 the manuscript. All of the authors have read and approved the final manuscript.

430

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438 Utilization of Triticeae Crop at Universities of Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region
439

440 **Availability of data and materials**

441 The data sets supporting the results of this article are included within the article and
442 its additional files. Sequence data used in this manuscript can be found in database of
443 NCBI (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/>) under the following accession numbers:

444 *TaAFP-A*(AB360911), *TaAFP-B*(AB360912), *TaAFP-D*(AB360913).

445

446 **Ethics approval and consent to participate**

447 We declare that these experiments comply with the ethical standards in China where
448 they were performed.

449

450 **Consent for publication**

451 Not applicable.

452

453 **Competing interests**

454 The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

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