The elements of CRISPR-Cas-like system in genome of Arabidopsis thaliana: possible origin and some evidence on their functionality

Ivan Petrushin Yuri Konstantinov, Igor Gorbenko

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Introduction

- CRISPR-Cas system wide spread in prokaryotes
- We've found elements of such system in nuclear and mt genomes of green plant
- No co-localization is detected between *cas* genes and CRISPR loci





Alignment of a set of found *A.thaliana* RT (positions 2-8) and Cas1/RT fusion protein from *Rhodobacter capsulatus* (pos. 1), colored according to types of amino acids

Results

- 101 CRISPR loci and 21 *cas* genes found in *A. thaliana* nuclear genome
- Total 331 spacers found, 12 have homology to plant viruses
- Some cas genes have homology to reverse transcriptase (RT)

CRISPR-Cas-like elements in A. thaliana nuclear genome may have endosymbiotic origin (imported from mitochondria)