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"***Amazing Biochemistry"***

Late embryogenesis abundant proteins: Structural characterisation and interaction with α-synuclein

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Ressurection plants are extraordinary because of their ability to withstand long periods without water, enter a state of anhydrobiosis, and fully recover upon water arrival. *Ramonda serbica* is a relic and endemic species that belong to a very small group of desiccation-tolerant plants in Europe. Underlying physiological, molecular and morphological mechanisms that enable these plants to survive harsh environmental conditions have been an appealing subject to many researchers. Most of the genes responsible for this amazing ability are present in other plants, and this path of research where those genes could be activated in crops is growing much more attention because of the imminent crisis regarding food supplies in the near future. Key components involved in the response to dehydration in *R. serbica* plants were analysed through a comprehensive transcriptomic, proteomic, metabolite and photosynthetic study. Late embryogenesis abundant proteins play a significant role in the complex defence processes involved in desiccation tolerance. Defining physicochemical characteristics and specific physiological functions of late embryogenesis abundant proteins – LEAPs may lead to their applicability in other areas of research.

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