Gossypium barbadense and Gossypium hirsutum genomes provide insights into the origin and evolution of allotetraploid cotton

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Allotetraploid cotton is an economically important natural-fiber-producing crop worldwide. After polyploidization, Gossypium hirsutum L. evolved to produce a higher fiber yield and to better survive harsh environments than Gossypium barbadense, which produces superior-quality fibers. The global genetic and molecular bases for these interspecies divergences were unknown. Here we report high-quality de novo-assembled genomes for these two cultivated allotetraploid species with pronounced improvement in repetitive-DNA-enriched centromeric regions. Whole-genome comparative analyses revealed that species-specific alterations in gene expression, structural variations and expanded gene families were responsible for speciation and the evolutionary history of these species. These findings help to elucidate the evolution of cotton genomes and their domestication history. The information generated not only should enable breeders to improve fiber quality and resilience to ever-changing environmental conditions but also can be translated to other crops for better understanding of their domestication history and use in improvement.

Each crop has its own unique origin and diversification and domestication histories that have altered its genetic composition, resulting in a variety of physiological and phenotypic differences in comparison to wild relatives. The genus Gossypium is an attractive model for studying the origin, evolution and domestication of polyploids. It contains two cultivated tetraploids, G. hirsutum L. (AD1) and G. barbadense L. (AD2), which originated in the New World from transpecific hybridization of an A-genome-like ancestral African species, Gossypium herbaceum or Gossypium arboreum, with a native D-genome-like species, Gossypium raimondii (D0), ~1–1.5 million years ago (MYA)2–4. The nascent allotetraploid diverged into five cotton species ~1 MYA (ref. 5). Of these, G. hirsutum and G. barbadense independently evolved and were domesticated in diverse geographic regions. Domesticated G. hirsutum has shown broader adaptability due to its high yield potential with moderate fiber quality and accounts for ~90% of annual world cotton output, whereas G. barbadense produces exceptionally high-quality fibers and confers a competitive advantage to specialty cotton textile producers.

The global genetic and molecular bases underlying the evolutionary dynamics associated with the origin, speciation and diversification of these two tetraploid species are not well understood. The cultivated tetraploid cottons2–4 and their corresponding diploid progenitors5–10 have been sequenced. However, intergenic DNA such as telomeres, centromeres and repeat-rich regions are often poorly represented in the published draft genomes2–4, leading to underestimation of many important genomic features found in these regions. Here we report two highly accurate, contiguous, chromosome-scale de novo assemblies of the G. hirsutum and G. barbadense genomes obtained by integrating non-PCR-based short-read sequencing, long-read-based gap closure, scaffolding, and orientation based on 3D proximity information derived from chromosome conformation capture (Hi-C) data and from optical and genetic maps. By using these two well-assembled genomes, we performed genome-wide comparative studies that unraveled the genomic components responsible for contrasting features between the species, demonstrating their origin in homeolog losses, genome restructuring in the postpolyploidization era and altered patterns of gene expression.

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### Table 1 | Summary of the final genome assemblies for TM-1 and Hai7124

|                | TM-1           | Hai7124         |
|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Sequenced genome size (Mb) | 2,295.26       | 2,224.98        |
| Contig N50 (kb)            | 113.02         | 77.66           |
| Scaffold N50 (Mb)          | 15.51          | 23.44           |
| Scaffold L50 (Mb)          | 48             | 29              |
| Longest scaffold (Mb)      | 41.92          | 101.65          |
| Gap size (Mb)              | 27.36          | 32.46           |
| Annotated protein-coding genes | 72,761         | 75,071          |
| TE proportion (%)          | 63.89          | 62.15           |
| Complete BUSCOs            | 97.50          | 97.29           |
| Fragmented (%)             | 0.42           | 0.35            |
| Missing (%)                | 2.29           | 2.15            |
| Duplicate copy (%)         | 93.61          | 93.82           |

Contig N50 or scaffold N50 is a weighted median statistic indicating that 50% of the entire assembly is contained in contigs or scaffolds equal to or larger than this value. Scaffold L50 is the number of scaffolds that comprise half the bases of the assembly. Complete BUSCOs are the BUSCO matches that scored within the expected range of scores and within the expected range of length alignments to the BUSCO profile.

### Results

**Assembly of high-quality genomes.** We adopted a hierarchical approach to perform chromosome-scale assembly (Supplementary Fig. 1). For *G. barbadense* L. cv. Hai7124, about 800 Gb of high-quality sequence (>330x genome coverage) generated from a series of PCR-free libraries, mate-paired libraries and a 10x Genomics library (Supplementary Table 1) was assembled by using the DeNovoMAGIC3 software package (NRGene), which has been used extensively to assemble the complex wheat (*Triticum* spp.)\(^{1-1,14}\), opium\(^{15}\) and maize\(^{16}\) genomes. For Hai7124, we initially generated an assembly that captured 2.23 Gb of sequence (Supplementary Table 2). The initial scaffolds were then corrected and merged by using optical map data (Bionano Genomics) (Supplementary Table 3). Finally, we used 3D proximity information from Hi-C (Supplementary Table 4) and our updated ultra-dense genetic map with 6,165,057 SNPs (Supplementary Table 5) to check, order and orient the resulting superscaffolds. A total of 115 erroneously assembled loci were detected and corrected (Supplementary Table 6). The final Hai7124 (v1.1) assembly captured 2.22 Gb of genome sequence, covering approximately 91.4% of the total genome size, which was estimated to be 2.43 Gb by k-mer analysis (Supplementary Fig. 2). The contiguity of the newly assembled genome was 47- and 90-fold greater than that of the two published draft genomes of *G. barbadense* (scaffold N50 = 23.44 Mb versus 0.50 Mb (ref. \(^{15}\)) and 0.26 Mb (ref. \(^{16}\)). Approximately 98.2% of the 2.22-Gb assembled genome was assigned to 26 chromosomes (Table 1 and Supplementary Table 7). The gap size (Ns) was substantially reduced to 32.46 Mb in Hai7124 (Supplementary Fig. 3).

We also generated an improved de novo-assembled genome for *G. hirsutum* L. acc. TM-1 (Supplementary Tables 8 and 9). The total assembly size was 2.30 Gb, with the longest scaffold 41.92 Mb in length. About 97.4% of the 2.30-Gb assembled genome was oriented and organized into 26 chromosomes (Table 1 and Supplementary Table 10). In comparison with two recently published genome assemblies for this accession, the updated TM-1 reference assembly (v2.1) showed higher contiguity, that is, ~10- to 20-fold longer scaffold N50 values (15.5 Mb versus 1.6 Mb (ref. \(^{15}\)) and 0.764 Mb (ref. \(^{16}\)). The total size of the oriented assembled genome without connective N sequences was dramatically increased (2,211 Mb for TM-1 (v2.1) versus 1,667 Mb for TM-1 (v1.1)) (Supplementary Fig. 4).

We validated the contiguity and accuracy of the new assembly by using the same 36 BAC sequences (Supplementary Fig. 5 and Supplementary Table 11) and integrated genetic and cytogenetic maps of the A12 and D12 homeologous chromosomes from FISH (Supplementary Fig. 6) as we reported previously\(^4\).

We successfully assembled and filled the gaps in the new genomes, and erroneous assemblies, especially those spanning centromeric regions, were corrected (Fig. 1a,b and Supplementary Figs. 7 and 8). The alignment between Hai7124 (v1.1) and *G. barbadense* accession 3-79 was largely incomplete (Fig. 1c and Supplementary Fig. 8), probably owing to the fragmented nature of the 3-79 assembly (scaffold N50 = 260 kb, scaffold number = 29,751).\(^1\) The highly consistent alignment of the genome sequences to the corresponding optical maps (88% mapping rate in TM-1 and 91% in Hai7124) (Fig. 1a,b and Supplementary Figs. 7 and 8) further validates the high contiguity and accuracy of our new genome assemblies.

**Notable improvement in the assembly of centromeres.** Fine-scale genetic and physical mapping of centromeres in multiple crop species remains a mammoth task. In total, 955, 1,012, 205, 284 and 100 CRG (centromere retroelement Gossypium)\(^{17}\) homologs were identified in the centromeric region of each chromosome for TM-1 (v2.1), Hai7124 (v1.1), TM-1 (v1.1), Xinhai 21 (ref. \(^{18}\)) and 3-79 (ref. \(^{19}\)), respectively, by using our previously described approach.\(^4\) The average length of the centromeric region predicted for each chromosome with a 95% confidence interval around the median was 270 kb in Hai7124 (v1.1) and 358 kb in TM-1 (v2.1), which is substantially less than the 9.23 Mb in TM-1 (v1.1),\(^4\) the 6.80 Mb in Xinhai 21 (ref. \(^{18}\)) and the 11.81 Mb in 3-79 (ref. \(^{19}\)) (Supplementary Fig. 9 and Supplementary Tables 12–16).

The centromeric DNA regions associated with centromere-specific H3 (CenH3)\(^{20}\) were further identified by ChIP-seq using an antibody to cotton CenH3. In total, 66.72 and 50.16 million reads (151 bp) were obtained from the TM-1 and Hai7124 ChIP-seq libraries, respectively. In FISH experiments, distinct and high-intensity signals were observed in the centromeric region of each chromosome, further confirming the CenH3 ChIP DNA enrichment (Supplementary Fig. 10). Approximately 22.10 and 17.04 million sequence reads were mapped to unique sites in the genomes for TM-1 (v2.1) and Hai7124 (v1.1), respectively. As a result, potential centromeric regions from all 26 chromosomes of the Hai7124 (v1.1) assembly and 24 chromosomes of the TM-1 (v2.1) assembly (with the exception of D02 and D08) were identified (Fig. 1a,b, Supplementary Figs. 7 and 8, and Supplementary Table 17). The CenH3 ChIP-seq data mapped to a sharp interval on each chromosome, ranging from 0.60 to 2.85 Mb in length, which was highly overlapped by the region identified by the CRGs (Supplementary Tables 12 and 13). However, the CenH3 ChIP-seq reads could not be mapped onto the TM-1 (v1.1) assembly (Fig. 1a and Supplementary Figs. 7 and 8), likely owing to the fragmented nature of its centromeric regions. Moreover, centromeres showed consistent localization along the same chromosome in the two cotton species (Supplementary Table 17), implying a high level of genome conservation and a relatively short time to divergence. In plants, extensive studies have been conducted to isolate and map the DNA corresponding to CenH3-associated centromeric chromat in by using ChIP-seq\(^{19,21}\). However, poorly assembled reference centromeres often hamper the deployment of ChIP-seq, which has resulted in poor characterization of the centromeres of the sequenced plants\(^{22,23}\). Until now, only five centromeres from *Brachypodium distachyon*, a small-genome grass, had been fully sequenced and assembled, which was possible because these centromeres have a relatively low percentage of highly repetitive DNA (~21.4%)\(^{24,25}\). These results demonstrate that our new genome assemblies have made substantial improvement in sequence contiguity in almost all regions, including repetitive-DNA-rich centromeric regions.
Fig. 1  | Syntenic characterization of the TM-1 and Hai7124 genomes. a, Collinearity on chromosome A01 for the TM-1 (v1.1) and TM-1 (v2.1) genomes. The red region in the blue bar indicates the centromeric region identified by alignment of CRGs. Gray lines indicate collinearity between the two genomes; each line represents a unique mapping alignment >5 kb in length. Yellow bars show the CenH3-binding regions in each genome; adjusted ChIP-seq reads were calculated for a 100-kb sliding window at 10-kb intervals. GC content, repeat distribution and gene density in a 1-Mb sliding window are shown at 100-kb intervals. A comparison of TM-1 Bionano optical maps (blue) and the TM-1 (v2.1) genome (green) is shown. Right, TM-1 Hi-C contact data mapped onto the TM-1 (v2.1) genome. The heat map represents the normalized contact matrix. b, Collinearity on chromosome A01 for the Hai7124 (v1.1) and 3-79 genomes. Data are presented as in a. c, Analysis of the synteny among multiple Gossypium genomes. Macrosynteny connecting blocks of >30 one-to-one gene pairs is shown. Blue links indicate translocation between the D subgenome of allotetraploid cotton and the D genome of diploid cotton; yellow links indicate translocation between the A genome and the D genome in diploid cotton; and green links indicate translocation between the A subgenome of allotetraploid cotton and the A genome of diploid cotton. d, MCScanX was performed to identify the collinearity between genes in the TM-1 (v2.1) and Hai7124 (v1.1) genomes. Each block includes >30 gene pairs.
Gene prediction and annotation. A total of 72,761 and 75,071 high-confidence protein-coding genes (PCGs) were predicted for TM-1 (v2.1) and Hai7124 (v1.1), respectively, of which >96% were supported by full-length transcript data (Supplementary Tables 18 and 19). For most of these genes (95%; n = 100), there was complete accuracy between the identified exon–intron boundaries and those determined by using mapped RNA-seq reads (Supplementary Fig. 11 and Supplementary Table 20). Benchmarking Universal Single-Copy Distribution of $K_s$:

- $K_s_{Ga:Gr}$
- $K_s_{GbAt:GbDt}$
- $K_s_{GhAt:GhDt}$
- $K_s_{GbDt:Gr}$
- $K_s_{GhDt:Gr}$

$P = 9.059 \times 10^{-5}$
$P < 2.2 \times 10^{-16}$
$P = 1.209 \times 10^{-12}$
$P = 7.002 \times 10^{-5}$
$P = 0.0005033$

Fig. 2 | Evolution of the allopolyploid cotton genome. a, Evolutionary analysis of the G. barbadense and G. hirsutum genomes. The $K_s$ distribution is shown for orthologs in the cotton genomes; data are grouped into $K_s$ units of 0.001. Species are represented by their initials; At, A subgenome; Dt, D subgenome. b, Comparison of the codon substitution rate distribution between the two subgenomes of TM-1 and Hai7124 and their progenitors. The central line for each box plot indicates the median, the top and bottom edges indicate the seventy-fifth and twenty-fifth percentiles, and the whiskers extend to 1.5 times the interquartile range. Asterisks indicate significant differences (Wilcoxon rank-sum test, $P < 0.05$). c, Distribution of SNPs, indels, PAVs, inversions and translocations across the TM-1 genome in comparison to the Hai7124 genome. Regions of >500 kb that showed lower than expected SNP frequencies are indicated by green blocks along the bottom track, and those with higher than expected SNP frequencies are indicated by red blocks.
Orthologs (BUSCO) analysis\(^{27}\) revealed full gene content for 97.5% of PCGs in TM-1 and for 97.3% of PCGs in Hai7124 (Table 1 and Supplementary Table 21); of these genes, the majority were retained in duplicate, largely owing to the allotetraploid nature of the genomes. In total, 5,558 and 5,606 genes in TM-1 and Hai7124, respectively, were putative transcription factors belonging to 58 families, representing 7.6% and 7.5% of the PCGs (Supplementary Table 22).

A total of 1,460.46 Mb and 1,374.61 Mb of transposable element (TE) sequence accounted for 62.2–63.9% of the total genome size for TM-1 and Hai7124, respectively (Supplementary Tables 23 and 24). The TE content in the A subgenome (979.05 Mb in TM-1 and 922.04 Mb in Hai7124) was twice that identified in the D subgenome (443.23 Mb in TM-1 and 420.66 Mb in Hai7124) (Supplementary Tables 23 and 24). The majority of TEs were Gypsy long terminal repeat (LTR) retroelements, including 41.4% of TEs in G. hirsutum and 39.5% of TEs in G. arboreum (Fig. 2a, Supplementary Fig. 15 and Supplementary Table 27). The divergence of the two tetraploids was estimated to be around 6.2–7.1 MYA, and the allotetraploid formed around 1.7–1.9 MYA, shortly after the divergence of G. hirsutum and G. arboreum (Fig. 2a and Supplementary Table 27). The divergence of G. barbadense and G. hirsutum occurred ~0.4–0.6 MYA (K\(s\) peaks at 0.002 and 0.003, respectively).

**Speciation and genome evolution.** We resequenced 17 accessions representing the D genome and wild AD genome (Supplementary Table 25), finding that G. raimondii (D\(_2\)) was the closest relative to the D subgenome for all five allotetraploids (Supplementary Fig. 14).

Furthermore, whole-genome sequence alignment of our current reference-quality assemblies to genomes for the diploid progenitors G. arboreum (A genome\(^3\)) and G. raimondii (D genome\(^{10}\)) demonstrated that the two tetraploids have highly collinear relationships with their diploid progenitors. However, some reciprocal translocations were observed along chromosomes 1–3, as well as along chromosomes 4 and 5 (Fig. 1c and Supplementary Table 26), in accordance with earlier reports\(^{28–31}\). A total of 2.2 Gb of sequence from Hai7124 (v1.1) could be mapped onto the TM-1 (v2.1) genome, suggesting that the collinearity and gene order for these species are largely conserved (Fig. 1d). These data support the idea that G. hirsutum and G. barbadense originated from a common allotetraploid ancestor.

The nonsynonymous (K\(a\)) and synonymous (K\(s\)) substitution rates for 22,054 orthologous gene sets were compared between G. arboreum\(^3\), G. raimondii\(^{10}\), and the A and D subgenomes of the tetraploid species. On the basis of this, the divergence time for the A and D progenitor genomes was estimated to be around 6.2–7.1 MYA, and the allotetraploid formed around 1.7–1.9 MYA (Fig. 2a and Supplementary Table 27). The divergence of G. barbadense and G. hirsutum occurred ~0.4–0.6 MYA (K\(s\) peaks at 0.002 and 0.003, respectively).

We identified 9,451 one-to-one orthologous gene sets among the genome assemblies for *Theobroma cacao*\(^{32}\), the A and D diploid progenitors, and the A and D subgenomes of our two currently assembled cultivated species, which suggests an accelerated evolution rate in allotetraploids in comparison to their diploid progenitors. A faster evolution rate was observed in allotetraploid cottons in comparison to their diploid progenitors; in the A subgenome in comparison to the D subgenome; and in G. barbadense in comparison to G. hirsutum (Fig. 2b, Supplementary Fig. 15 and Supplementary Table 28). In addition, greater numbers of lost, disrupted and
Fig. 4 | Model showing the molecular mechanism responsible for development of longer fibers in G. barbadense. a, Phenotypes of fiber-bearing seeds in Hai7124 and TM-1 plants. Numbers above the graphs are DPA. Scale bar, 10 mm. b, Fiber elongation patterns for TM-1 and Hai7124. Each value is the mean ± s.d. of fiber length for at least ten seeds from three individual plants at a given time point. c–e, Comparison of the content of the main osmotically active solutes soluble sugar (c), malate (d) and K⁺ (e) between TM-1 and Hai7124 fibers. Mean values and s.e.m. were calculated from three biological replicates for soluble sugar and from six biological replicates for K⁺ and malate. DW, dry weight. f, Transmission electron microscopy (TEM) analysis of epidermal cell structure in 5-DPA ovule, showing the large central vacuole in the fiber cell compared with fiber base and epidermal cell. Scale bars, 10 µm in the figure and 100 nm in the inset. PD, plasmodesmata; C, cytosol; V, vacuole; CW, cell wall. g, Model depicting the roles of open PD and the genes related to the main osmotically active solutes in fiber elongation. Suc, sucrose; M, malate; Fru, fructose; Glu, glucose. h–k, qRT–PCR analysis of TST1 (h), VIN1 (i), ALMT16 (j) and NHX1 (k) in fibers from TM-1 plants at 5–25 DPA and from Hai7124 plants at 5–30 DPA. Three biological replicates were assessed per reaction, each with two technical replicates (using the same sample). Each value represents the mean ± s.e.m. **P < 0.01, Student’s t-test. The expression of TST1, VIN1, NHX1 and ALMT16 in fibers from TM-1 plants at 30 DPA is not shown because RNA could not be extracted from fibers at this time point.
positively selected genes were found in the A subgenome (Supplementary Fig. 16), indicating that the A subgenome might have experienced strong selection pressures during evolution.

Deep sequencing data (average coverage of $60 \times$) from nine *G. barbadense* and ten *G. hirsutum* accessions (Supplementary Table 29) showed high divergence between *G. hirsutum* and *G. barbadense*, as well as between the wild *G. hirsutum* race yucatanense and the domesticated and/or improved accessions for *G. hirsutum* (Supplementary Fig. 17a). Furthermore, a long reciprocally introgressed region exhibiting extremely low levels of polymorphism, extending from 43.10 Mb to 92.00 Mb on chromosome A01, was found by comparing the *G. hirsutum* race with *G. barbadense* (Supplementary Fig. 17b), supporting the idea that hybridization occurred between domesticated species and their wild ancestors in the spread of domestication and/or diversification, as we reported previously\textsuperscript{33}. In addition, Xinhai 25 showed introgression from the *G. hirsutum* race at 48.70–57.90 Mb and 81.60–92.00 Mb. Junhai 1 showed introgression from the *G. hirsutum* race at 48.40–54.50 Mb.

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**Fig. 5 | Models depicting the molecular basis of heat and cold tolerance in TM-1.**

a, d. Phenotypic comparison of TM-1 and Hai7124 cotton seedlings in response to heat (a) and cold (d) stress. Photographs were taken under normal conditions or for seedlings subjected to heat treatment at 37 °C or cold treatment at 4 °C for 120 h followed by recovery for 24 h. Scale bars, 10 cm.

b, e. Heat maps showing differentially expressed genes involved in the ethylene signaling pathway for heat stress (b) and the ABA signaling pathway for cold stress (e) in TM-1 and Hai7124. Red, upregulation; yellow, downregulation; blue, no difference in expression; white, absence of an orthologous gene.

c. A proposed model showing that the ethylene and plasma membrane signaling pathways cooperatively enhance heat tolerance in *G. hirsutum*. These pathways work together to maintain high transcriptional activities under heat stress, whereas no difference in expression is observed in *G. barbadense*.

d, f. Diagram of the cold-responsive transcriptional network in cotton. The ABA and calcium signaling pathways were activated in *G. hirsutum*, whereas only a small portion of the differentially expressed genes were activated in *G. barbadense*. Upward- and downward-pointing arrows indicate up- and downregulated genes; red and blue numbers correspond to the number of differently expressed genes in TM-1 and Hai7124, respectively.
and 75.00–92.00 Mb (Supplementary Fig. 17b and Supplementary Table 30). The introgressed region from the long-lived, perennial G. barbadense accessions collected from Egyptian, American Pima and Central Asian ELS (extra-long-staple) cottons, but not in the Tanguis landrace, which produces coarse fibers with medium staple length, which is typical of current cottons from Peru. It was confirmed that G. barbadense originated in a region spanning northwestern Peru and southwestern Ecuador4. Introgression of wild and/or domesticated alleles from G. hirsutum may have induced changes in ‘morpho-physiological traits’, helping in the domestication of Sea Island cotton (G. barbadense). This analysis of introgressed regions further revealed that there were two genotypes among the Central Asian ELS cottons: one was the same as the Egyptian or American Pima type, represented by Hai7124 and Xinhai 21, and the other is a new type, represented by Junhai 1 and Xinhai 25, selected from cultivar 9122 from the former Soviet Union. Therefore, the spread and adaptation of domesticated cottons to different agro-ecological and cultural environments have led to phenotypic and genetic divergence among domesticated populations to produce two cultivated allotetraploid cotton types.

**Postpolyploidization genome restructuring.** Genetically, G. hirsutum and G. barbadense are cross-compatible, but their interspecific hybrids exhibit genetic breakdown during segregation, which needs to be investigated. Alignment of Hai7124 to the TM-1 genome identified 13,845,619 SNPs and 1,358,773 indels (Supplementary Table 31), with 5,98 SNPs and 0.39 indels per kilobase on average. We also detected 34 SNP-poor and 5 SNP-rich regions, covering 90.4 Mb and 6.2 Mb of the genome, respectively (Fig. 2c and Supplementary Table 32). Of these variations, 200,528–213,634 SNPs and 7,926–8,453 indels were found in coding regions. A total of 10,366 genes with sequence variations (GSVs) resulting in gain or loss of stop codons and frameshifts, among other changes, were identified (Supplementary Table 33). These GSVs were classified into three types: type I consisted of 3,029 GSVs identified in Hai7124 but annotated only in TM-1 and type III consisted of 3,556 GSVs identified in TM-1 but annotated only in Hai7124. The 3,781 type II GSVs were annotated in both species (Fig. 3a). 69.7% of the species-specific GSVs were completely validated in the 19 deep-sequenced accessions (Supplementary Tables 34 and 35). Gene Ontology (GO) enrichment analysis showed that the type I GSVs were enriched for genes involved in defense response and DNA integration, the type II GSVs were enriched for genes involved in stress response and oxida-
nation–reduction processes, and the type III GSVs were enriched for genes involved in DNA integration and cell recognition. The variations mapping to these GSVs may be among the causative mutations that have led to the phenotypic divergence between these two species. For instance, among the type II GSVs, a 2-bp (CA) deletion in WLIM1a was identified in Hai7124 (GB_D06G0243) that resulted in premature termination of translation. Thus, in comparison to the wild-type homolog in TM-1 (GH_D06G0228), there were 23 amino acids deleted from the encoded protein in Hai7124, including 5 in the second LIN-11, Is1 and MEC-3 (LIM) motif (Supplementary Fig. 18a). This species-specific indel was further confirmed in all 19 accessions (Supplementary Fig. 18b). The protein encoded by WLIM1a has a role in cotton fiber elongation as well as secondary cell wall (SCW) formation35.

By comparing TM-1 and Hai7124, we further identified 10,377 presence regions (101 bp to 99,272 bp) and 12,903 absence regions (101 bp to 96,795 bp) (Fig. 3b), 10 inversions (1,111 bp to 44,679 bp) and 32 translocations (2,530 bp to 11,439 bp) (Supplementary Table 36). Among these, 1,358 structural variations were in genes (Supplementary Table 37), and 70.1% of these were consistent with the classification of the 19 deep-sequenced accessions (Supplementary Table 38). The presence/absence variants (PAVs) were distributed unevenly across the genomes; the majority of these were Copia elements (LTR type) found in coding DNA sequence (Supplementary Fig. 19a,b). The expression level of genes with LTR insertions was lower than that of genes in which PAVs occurred in upstream or downstream sequences or in introns and that of all PCGs expressed in root, stem, leaf or fiber (Supplementary Fig. 19c), these genes showed much more differential expression between G. hirsutum and G. barbadense (Supplementary Fig. 19d). Of the three major PAV types, the first (74%; ~3 kb) and second (94%; ~11 kb) types were caused by Gypsy LTR retroelements, whereas the third type (68%; ~4.9 kb) was mostly caused by Copia LTR retroelements (Fig. 3c). These structural variations were found to be associated with loss of function of 820 and 791 genes in TM-1 and Hai7124, respectively (Supplementary Table 39). In G. barbadense, we detected a PAV in an α-expansin gene with fiber-specific expression (GB_A10G1730; deletion of 450 bp within exon 3), which resulted in a truncated protein lacking the C-terminal polysaccharide-binding domain as compared with the G. hirsutum homolog (GH_A10G1626, also known as GhEXP1). The protein encoded by this truncated ELS-fiber-related gene can significantly enhance fiber length, fineness and strength through cell wall restructuring in G. hirsutum36. This species-specific deletion in the expansin gene (GB_A10G1730 versus GH_A10G1626) was found in nine of the G. barbadense accessions examined. Furthermore, within the SCW-biosynthesis-related cellulose synthase CES7 clade (Supplementary Fig. 20a), a large TE insertion (9,427 bp) in GH_A07G0437 resulted in the absence of 53 amino acids from all ten G. hirsutum accessions but not the nine G. barbadense lines except for Pima S–4 (Supplementary Fig. 20b). The corresponding wild-type CES7 gene (GB_A07G0431) showed high expression at 20 days post anthesis (DPA) during the SCW biosynthesis stage in all three G. barbadense accessions examined, suggesting that it potentially has a role in the biosynthesis of more cellulose to develop ELS fibers (Supplementary Fig. 20c). These TE insertions might also have had a key role in cotton domestication and diversification.

Moreover, we identified 3,905 copy number variations (CNVs) of sequences that were either gained or lost in the 19 cotton accessions in comparison to TM-1 (Supplementary Table 40). The genes within CNVs were significantly enriched for genes involved in defense response (P=2.60×10−12, Fisher’s exact test), suggesting that they have a role in adaptation to various environments.

**Genomic insights into development of extra-long fibers in G. barbadense.** We measured dynamic changes in the elongating fibers of TM-1 and Hai7124 plants from 5 to 40 DPA and observed a nearly linear increase in fiber length at 5–15 DPA in TM-1 plants, whereas this increase occurred at 5–20 DPA in Hai7124 plants (Fig. 4a). The maximum elongation rate was achieved at 15–20 DPA; this rate suddenly decreased at 25 DPA in TM-1 fibers but was retained until 30 DPA in Hai7124 fibers (Fig. 4b). The extended elongation phase in Hai7124 plants (5–30 DPA) most likely leads to development of longer fibers in G. barbadense as compared to TM-1 plants (elongation from 5–25 DPA).

Fiber elongation is driven by cell turgor created by the influx of sucrose and potassium ions (K+) and local production of malate together with high expression of expansion-related genes encoding proteins that loosen the cell wall matrix7,39. The content of the osmotically active solutes in elongating fibers was substantially increased in Hai7124 plants from 10 to 15 DPA, and this high level was sustained from 15 DPA onward (Fig. 4c–e). A large central vacuole occupied 98% of the volume of quickly elongating fiber cells (Fig. 4f); such vacuoles store the main osmotically active solutes (Fig. 4f). We measured dynamic changes in the elongating fibers of TM-1 and Hai7124 plants from 5 to 40 DPA and observed a nearly linear increase in fiber length at 5–15 DPA in TM-1 plants, whereas this increase occurred at 5–20 DPA in Hai7124 plants (Fig. 4a). The maximum elongation rate was achieved at 15–20 DPA; this rate suddenly decreased at 25 DPA in TM-1 fibers but was retained until 30 DPA in Hai7124 fibers (Fig. 4b). The extended elongation phase in Hai7124 plants (5–30 DPA) most likely leads to development of longer fibers in G. barbadense as compared to TM-1 plants (elongation from 5–25 DPA).

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To the extent of our knowledge, the underlying molecular basis of ELS fiber production has not previously been investigated. Here we found 45,129 and 45,328 genes expressed (FPKM > 1) in developing...
single-celled fibers of TM-1 and Hai7124 plants, respectively. Kyoto Encyclopedia of Genes and Genomes (KEGG) annotation of these genes revealed that genes associated with membrane transport, transcription, and glycan biosynthesis and carbon metabolism were significantly enriched for expression in Hai7124 as compared to TM-1 fibers (Supplementary Fig. 21a), highlighting the species-specific role of these genes in fiber elongation. Furthermore, the sucrose transporter (GbTST1), Na+/H+ antiporter (GbNHX1) and aluminum-activated maltate transporter (GbALMT16) genes whose expression was detected in the tonoplast of Hai7124 fibers had a longer period of expression than the corresponding genes in TM-1 (Fig. 4g–k and Supplementary Table 41). These transporters pump more sucrose, K+ and malate into the vacuole46-48. Moreover, sucrose is further degraded into hexose by the vacuole-localized vacuolar invertase (VIN1) to enhance the osmotic potential required for fiber elongation46,47. Interestingly, GbVIN1 also showed prolonged expression in Hai7124 as compared to TM-1 fibers (Fig. 4i).

Unlike malate, which is synthesized in the cytosol of fibers, sucrose and K+ enter fiber cells through the plasma membrane or plasmodesmata (PD)49,50. In Hai7124 plants, the PD remained open for a longer time (5–15 DPA) to import sucrose into the cytosol of developing fiber cells from underlying seed coat cells than it did in TM-1 plants (5–10 DPA) (Supplementary Fig. 21b). Conversely, expression of the plasma membrane-localized SUTs and SWEETs responsible for sucrose transport is almost completely silenced during this stage50. All these findings demonstrate that expression of GbVIN1, GbTST1, GbNHX1 and GbALMT16 and PD opening for a relatively extended time period could be responsible for the accumulation of more soluble sugar, K+ and malate, thereby leading to the production of longer fibers in ELS cotton.

In total, there were 1,464 genes representing expansions in 446 gene families (Supplementary Table 42) in the Hai7124 genome, significantly more than the 696 genes found in the TM-1 genome (P=6.27×10−49, Fisher’s exact test) (Supplementary Table 43). For instance, the 12 genes in class I of the ADP-ribosylation factor (ARF) GTPase family, forming core components of vesicle transport machinery and determining epidermal cell polarity51,52, correspond to a specific expansion in Hai7124 (Supplementary Fig. 22a). These ARF GTPase genes were predominantly expressed during fiber elongation (10 DPA) and SCW thickening (20 and 25 DPA), indicating that they potentially have a role in the development of longer and stronger fibers in ELS cotton (Supplementary Fig. 22b).

**Divergent evolution of genes involved in abiotic stress tolerance.** No significant differences in response to salinity or drought stresses were observed between TM-1 and Hai7124 (Supplementary Fig. 23a,b). However, TM-1 seedlings were more tolerant to heat and cold stresses than Hai7124 seedlings (Fig. 5a–d), suggesting that selection after domestication was aimed at developing the high yield and adaptation abilities of *G. hirsutum*. We detected 16,029 versus 5,270 genes conferring resistance to heat stress (P=0, Fisher’s exact test) and 8,725 versus 12,475 genes conferring resistance to cold stress (P=5.079×10−49, Fisher’s exact test) in TM-1 and Hai7124, respectively (Supplementary Table 44). In total, 51 genes including *PIP*, *PKP* (plasma membrane–intrinsic protein), *CaM* genes and downstream transcriptional regulator (*HSF*) genes involved in the ability of plants to sense heat53 showed differential responses to heat stress between TM-1 and Hai7124 (Supplementary Tables 41 and 45). Most of these (39 genes), especially the *CaM* genes, were specifically up- or downregulated under heat stress in *G. hirsutum* (Fig. 5b). The ethylene signaling pathway was also activated under heat stress in TM-1, as nine each of the genes encoding ethylene receptors and ethylene response factors (ERFs) were dramatically upregulated in TM-1 (Fig. 5c, Supplementary Fig. 23c and Supplementary Tables 41 and 45), elucidating their role in regulating *EIN3* and *EIL1* activation under heat stress54,55.
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Methods

DNA extraction and sequencing. Genomic DNA from G. hirsutum L. acc. TM-1 (ref. 63) (genetic standard) and G. barbadense L. cv. Hai7124 (resistant to verticillium wilt) seedlings was isolated by a modified CTAB method38. Five size-selected DNA libraries (470 bp to 10 kb) and three mate-pair libraries (2.5–5, 5–7 and 10–15 kb) were constructed. To limit sequencing biases across genomic regions with varying GC content, libraries with insert sizes of ~470 and 800 bp were constructed by using TrueSeq DNA Sample Preparation Kit version 2 with no PCR amplification. The library with an insert size of ~470 bp was sequenced on a HiSeq 2500 v2 instrument in rapid mode as 2 x 265 bp reads, which produced ‘stitched’ reads of ~265–520 bp in length. The 800-bp shotgun library and the mate-pair libraries were sequenced on a HiSeq 4000 instrument as 2 x 150 bp reads. Construction and sequencing of paired-end and mate-pair libraries were carried out at the Roy J. Carver Biotechnology Center at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

DNA molecules longer than 50 kb prepared with the nucleo method39 were used to construct a 10x Genomics library that was sequenced on the Genomewide platform (10x Genomics, Pleasanton) at the Hudson Alpha Institute for Biotechnology. About 800 Gb of sequencing data was produced for both TM-1 and Hai7124, respectively (Supplementary Table 1).

Initial genome assembly by DeNovoMAGIC3. A flowchart of contig, scaffold and chromosome assembly in this study is shown in Supplementary Fig. 1. Initial genome assembly was performed by deploying the DeNovoMAGIC3 software platform (NRgene), a de Bruijn graph-based assembler. This task was accomplished by constructing read-based graphs in the genome and connecting consecutive contigs over local repeats to generate long scaffolds. An additional long-range barcoded DNA library (Chromosome system by 10x Genomics) was sequenced to support haplotyping of heterozygous genomes, scaffold validation and further longer-range extension of the scaffolds. The algorithm has been described in detail in wheat D-genome assembly3; de Bruijn graphs (k-mer = 127 bp) of contigs were built from all paired-end and mate-pair reads. Next, paired-end reads were used to find reliable paths in the graph between contigs to resolve repeats and extend contigs. The barcoded reads from the 10x Genomics library were mapped to the assembled scaffolds, and clusters of reads with the same barcode mapped to adjacent contigs in the scaffolds were identified as being part of a single long molecule. Each scaffold was scanned with a 20-kb window to ensure that the number of distinct clusters that covered the entire window (indicating support for this 20-kb connection by several long molecules) was statistically significant with respect to the number of clusters that spanned the left and right edges of the window. If a potential scaffold assembly error was detected, the scaffold was broken at the two edges of the suspicious 20-kb window. Finally, the barcodes mapping to the scaffold edges were compared (first and last 20-kb sequences) to generate a scaffold graph with a link connecting two scaffolds with more than two shared barcodes. Linear scaffold paths in the scaffold graph were composed into the final scaffold output of assembly. Initial genome assemblies are summarized in Supplementary Tables 2 and 8.

Integrating Bionano optical maps with the initial assembly. High-molecular-weight DNA was extracted from yellowish cotyledons with a Bionano Plant Tissue DNA isolation kit (Bionano Genomics) and digested with Nt.BsSI (New England Biolabs). After labeling and staining, DNA was loaded onto the Saphyr chip for sequencing. 457 and 449 Gb of data (>150 kb) for TM-1 and Hai7124, respectively, were collected and converted into a BNX file by AutoDetect software to obtain basic labeling and DNA length information. The filtered raw DNA molecules in BNX format were aligned, clustered and assembled into the BNG map by using the Bionano Genomics assembly pipeline. Alignment of sequence assemblies with the BNG map was computed with ReAligner, and visualization of alignment was performed with snapshot in IrysView. Combination of the genome maps with the initial assembly to produce a hybrid scaffold was performed sequentially with the two genome maps (Supplementary Table 3).

Construction of the updated POPSEQ genetic map. We constructed an augmented POPSEQ genetic map by sequencing 241 F2 individuals (approximately 5x genome coverage) derived from a cross between TM-1 and Hai7124, including 59 individuals used to construct the previous genetic map40. After SNP calling and genotyping of the 241 F2 individuals, simple SNPs from the parents and SNPs with the same genotype in the population were classified into a bin. Bins were assigned to linkage groups by JoinMap 3.041 with a minimum logarithm of odds (LOD) score of 13 and ordered by MSTmap42.

Hi-C library construction and data analysis. We created three Hi-C libraries for TM-1 and Hai7124 by using the method described previously43. Libraries were subjected to sequencing on the Illumina HiSeq X Ten platform. Information about raw data is given in Supplementary Table 4.

Ordering and orientation of the Bionano-assembled scaffolds by Hi-C and POPSEQ. BNG maps were ordered and oriented on the basis of the POPSEQ genetic map. Hi-C data were then used to correct the Bionano assemblies. Hi-C reads were mapped to the assembled scaffolds with BWA44 (version 0.7.15-r1140). PCR duplicates were removed with Nvsort v1.04.06 (http://www.novocraft.com/), and reads were excluded from subsequent analysis if they did not align within 500 bp of a restriction site or did not uniquely map. The initial ordered scaffolds were used to make the Hi-C map, and the scaffolds were then divided into bins of 500 kb in size and \(-\log_{10}(number\ of\ Hi-C\ links)\) was calculated for all bins. The initial order and orientation were corrected and verified manually by using the Hi-C linking information; heat maps of the Hi-C data were plotted with HiCPlotter45.

Assessment of TM-1 assembly using 36 completely sequenced BACs. The 36 full-length BAC sequences46 were split into 1-kb continuous windows and aligned to the TM-1 (v2.1) assembly by using BWA47 (version 0.7.15-r1140) with the MEM algorithm. Windows mapping in the same chromosome region were used for graphical display.

Identification of centromeric regions by CenH3 ChiP. An antibody to CenH3 that showed specific binding to the cotton CenH3 protein was used in ChiP48. ChiP experiments were undertaken by following a published protocol49. High-quality Illumina reads were mapped to our cotton genome assembly with Bowtie 2 (http://bowtie-bio.sourceforge.net/bowtie2/index.shtml) as previously described50. The genome was then divided into 10-kb non-overlapping windows and uniquely mapping reads (allowing 1-bp mismatch between each read and the reference genome) were counted. The read density was calculated by dividing the total number of uniquely mapped reads by the total number of mapped nucleotides in each genomic window. To remove the impact of non-specific binding by rabbit serum, the read density was adjusted for background signal by using mock control data. CenH3 domains were identified with SICER v1.1 (ref. 51). We used 200-bp windows, required fold change/control ≥ 2 and false-discovery rate (FDR) < 0.01, and allowed gaps of 400 bp when defining the CenH3 domains.

RNA-seq data generation. RNA was collected from the roots, stems, leaves and various reproductive organs of TM-1 and Hai7124 plants (details in Supplementary Table 47) and subjected to transcriptome sequencing, which yielded on average 25,530,623 reads for each replicate (three replicates for each sample). Supplementary Table 47. Illumina reads were aligned to the reference TM-1 genome (v2.1) using TopHat2.1.1.15, and quantification of gene expression was performed with Cufflinks version 2.2.1 (http://cole-trapnell-lab.github.io/cufflinks/) by using the GTF annotation file.

PacBio sequencing and data analysis. For TM-1 and Hai7124, total RNA was extracted from the roots, stems and leaves of 2-week-old plants; from whole mature flowers; from ovules and fibers at 0 and 20 DPA; from ovules at 10 and 20 DPA; and from fibers at 10 and 20 DPA. PacBio-seq library preparation was performed as previously described52. In total, data were generated from 33 SMRT cells. Sequence data were processed with SMRTlink 4.0 software. PacBio transcriptome reads (867,006 for TM-1 and 879,582 for Hai7124) were used in gene annotation.

Gene prediction and annotation. Gene prediction and annotation were conducted as previously53. Proteins from seven plant genomes (Arabidopsis thaliana, Carica papaya, Hibiscus syriacus, T. cacao, G. raimondii, G. arboreum and Vitis vinifera) were used as queries for these protein databases54,55. Protein sequences were aligned to the assembly using GenBlasta (version 1.0.4)56. GeneWise (version 2.4.15) was used to predict the exact gene structure of the corresponding genomic regions for each GenBlasta hit. Five ab initio gene prediction programs, Augustus (version 3.2.1)57, Genscan (version 1.0)58, GlimmerHMM (version 3.0.4)59, Geneid (version 1.4.4)60 and SNAP (version 2006-07-28)61, were used to predict coding regions in the repeat-masked genome. Finally, PacBio transcriptome reads were mapped to the assembly with BLAT (version 33) and RNA-seq data were mapped to the assembly with HISAT2 (version 2.0.1)62. StringTie (version 1.2.2) and TransDecoder (v1.1.0)63 were used to assemble the transcripts and convert candidate coding regions into gene models. All gene models predicted with the above three approaches were combined by EvidenceModeler (EVM)64 into a non-redundant set of gene structures. The gene models were further filtered on the basis of their Cscore, protein coverage and coding sequence overlapping TEas, where Cscore is the BLASTP score ratio to the MBH (mutual best hit) BLASTP score and protein coverage is the highest percentage of the protein aligned to the best homolog. Only transcripts with Cscore ≥0.5 and protein coverage ≥0.5 were retained and the coding sequence overlapping repeats should be less than 20%; for gene models where more than 20% of the coding sequence overlapped repeats, the Cscore was required to be at least 0.9 and the protein coverage at least 70% for the model to be selected. Finally, gene models where more than 30% of the encoded protein was annotated as Pfam65 or InterProScan66 domains were discarded. Functional annotation of the predicted gene models was achieved with BLASTP (version 2.2.26)67 (E value of 1 x 10^-10) against two integrated protein sequence databases: SwissProt and TrEMBL68. Protein domains were annotated with InterProScan (v5.19)69. The GO terms for each gene were retrieved with Blast2GO70 based on the nr protein database. The pathways in which the
To validate these variations, the following approaches were performed based on alignments of all available Illumina reads for TM-1 and Hai7124 to the TM-1 (v2.1) and Hai7124 (v1.1) genomes by BWA (version 0.7.15-r1140). In approach 1, all mapped Illumina reads supporting the gene variation were required to make us sufficiently confident of a candidate locus. In approach 2, Illumina reads were broken at the edge of the variation from the alignment results and variations with at least four supporting reads were defined as high-confidence variations. In approach 3, the single-end read/paired-end read ratio (S/P ratio) at the edge of the variation was computed and Fisher’s exact test was used to determine whether the variation was a supported candidate. SNPs were validated by approach 1. Indels (≤ 100 bp) were validated by approach 1 or 2. Structural variations (≥ 100 bp; PAVs, inversions and translocations) were validated by approach 2 or 3. The putative functional effects of SNPs and indels were annotated with the ANNOVAR package

Phylogenetic relationship and genomic variations between G. hirsutum and G. barbadense. Nineteen representative cotton accessions were subjected to deep resequencing on the Illumina HiSeq X Ten platform, producing 3.0 Tb of raw data, corresponding to a median of 60-fold coverage for each sample (Supplementary Table 17). Paired-end resequencing reads from these accessions were mapped to the newly assembled TM-1 or Hai7124 genome by BWA (version 0.7.15-r1140) with the MEM algorithm. After alignment, all mapped reads were sorted according to their aligned chromosomal position and potential PCR duplicates were removed with SAMtools (version 1.3.1). SNP calling was performed with the snpEff (version 3.7-g-gecg070 unifiedGenotyper v7) and SAMtools (version 1.3.1) method. To obtain high-quality SNPs, only variations detected with both software packages with a sequencing depth of at least 10 and Phred-scaled quality score of at least 30 were retained for further analysis. The evolutionary history of these accessions was inferred by using the neighbor-joining approach.

By using the indel and structural variation superset between TM-1 and Hai7124, the whole-genome sequence of the 19 accessions was identified with the above validation approach with Illumina reads. Indels (≤ 100 bp) were identified by approach 1 or 2. Structural variations (≥ 100 bp; PAVs, inversions and translocations) were identified by approach 2 or 3.

CNVs were identified by CNVKit with gene annotations as targets. The segments identified with a log-transformed copy number of at least 1.0 were considered to be copy number gain, and those with a log-transformed copy number of ≤ 2.0 or less constituted to be copy number loss.

Sampling and gene expression profiles under abiotic stresses. Four-week-old seedlings were grown in batches containing 15 seedlings each. Seedling batches were exposed to sodium chloride (0.4 M) and PEG (200 g/liter) as well as temperature regimes (Supplementary Table 47). Leaves were collected and used for transcriptome sequencing. Differentially expressed genes were identified using the DESeq2 package (http://www.bioconductor.org/packages/release/bioc/html/DESeq2.html), and raw P values from multiple tests were corrected by using FDR in identifying differentially expressed genes, we required at least a twofold change in expression and a P value of less than 0.05.

Quantitative RT–PCR analysis. Gene-specific primers were designed on the basis of the candidate genes with WebSNAPER (http://pga.mgh.harvard.edu/cgi-bin/bioinformatics/SNAPER3.cgi). qRT–PCR data were assessed by using SYBR Green Maxima (Vivace) on an ABI7500 instrument according to the manufacturer’s instructions. Gene expression was normalized against expression of the GhEF1 gene. Relative transcript levels were computed by using the 2^(-ΔΔCt) method on the basis of Ct values.

Statistical analysis. Comparison of codon substitution rate distributions between the two subgenomes of TM-1 and Hai7124 and their progenitors was carried out by using a two-sided Wilcoxon rank-sum test. Fisher’s exact test was employed to estimate whether a list of genes was enriched in a specific GO category when compared with background genes. P values were adjusted by FDR, and only GO terms with adjusted P < 0.05 were retained.

Reporing Summary. Further information on research design is available in the Nature Research Reporting Summary linked to this article.

Data availability. The TM-1 (v2.1) and Hai7124 (v1.1) assembly and annotation data are available at http://www.cotton.org/egs_project, respectively. The raw sequencing data used for de novo whole-genome assembly are available from the Sequence Read Archive under accession number PRJNA450479 and the China National GeneBank (CNGB) Nucleotide Sequence Archive (CNSA) under accession number CNP0000046. ChIP-seq data have been deposited in the Gene Expression Omnibus under accession number GSE119184. All raw data for the 19 deep-sequenced accessions including 10 G. hirsutum and 9 G. barbadense accessions are available under project number PRJNA450479, CNP0000046 and PRJNA375965. Illumina RNA-seq data are available at the Sequence Read Archive under accession number PRJNA490626. Hi-C data and Bionova data for...
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Reporting Summary

Nature Research wishes to improve the reproducibility of the work that we publish. This form provides structure for consistency and transparency in reporting. For further information on Nature Research policies, see Authors & Referees and the Editorial Policy Checklist.

Statistics

For all statistical analyses, confirm that the following items are present in the figure legend, table legend, main text, or Methods section.

- n/a
- Confirmed

- The exact sample size (n) for each experimental group/condition, given as a discrete number and unit of measurement
- A statement on whether measurements were taken from distinct samples or whether the same sample was measured repeatedly
- The statistical test(s) used AND whether they are one- or two-sided
- Only common tests should be described solely by name; describe more complex techniques in the Methods section.
- A description of all covariates tested
- A description of any assumptions or corrections, such as tests of normality and adjustment for multiple comparisons
- A full description of the statistical parameters including central tendency (e.g. means) or other basic estimates (e.g. regression coefficient) AND variation (e.g. standard deviation) or associated estimates of uncertainty (e.g. confidence intervals)
- For null hypothesis testing, the test statistic (e.g. F, t, r) with confidence intervals, effect sizes, degrees of freedom and P value noted
- Give P values as exact values whenever suitable.
- For Bayesian analysis, information on the choice of priors and Markov chain Monte Carlo settings
- For hierarchical and complex designs, identification of the appropriate level for tests and full reporting of outcomes
- Estimates of effect sizes (e.g. Cohen’s d, Pearson’s r), indicating how they were calculated

Our web collection on statistics for biologists contains articles on many of the points above.

Software and code

Policy information about availability of computer code

Data collection: PacBio RSII, PacBio SMRT-Analysis, IrysSolve

Data analysis: DenovoMagic3.0 for genome assembly, BWA (Version: 0.7.15-r1140) for reads alignment, Samtools (Version: 1.3.1) and GATK (version 3.7-O-gcfed67) for population SNP and INDEL detection. Annovar (version:2017June01) for SNP and INDEL annotation. TopHat2.1.1 and cufflinks version 2.2.1 for RNA-seq analysis. Other softwares have been well described in the method.

For manuscripts utilizing custom algorithms or software that are central to the research but not yet described in published literature, software must be made available to editors/reviewers. We strongly encourage code deposition in a community repository (e.g. GitHub). See the Nature Research guidelines for submitting code & software for further information.

Data

Policy information about availability of data

All manuscripts must include a data availability statement. This statement should provide the following information, where applicable:
- Accession codes, unique identifiers, or web links for publicly available datasets
- A list of figures that have associated raw data
- A description of any restrictions on data availability

The TM-1(V2.1) and Hai7124 (V1.1) assembly and annotation data are available at http://ibi.zju.edu.cn/cotton. The raw sequencing data used for de novo whole-genome assembly are available from the Sequence Read Archive under accession number PRJNA450479. ChIP-seq data have been deposited in GEO available under accession number GSE119184. All raw data for 19 deep-sequenced accessions including 10 G.hirsutum and 9 G.barbadense are available under project number PRJNA490626. Illumina RNA-seq data are available at SRA under accession numbers PRJNA490626. Hi-C data and Bionano data of TM-1 and Hai7124 are available at SRA under accession numbers PRJNA505106. Further details on data accessibility are outlined in the supplementary materials and methods.
Field-specific reporting

Please select the one below that is the best fit for your research. If you are not sure, read the appropriate sections before making your selection.

- Life sciences
- Behavioural & social sciences
- Ecological, evolutionary & environmental sciences

For a reference copy of the document with all sections, see nature.com/documents/nr-reporting-summary-flat.pdf

Life sciences study design

All studies must disclose on these points even when the disclosure is negative.

| Sample size | Stress analysis: a total of 260 seedlings were treated with salt, drought, high and low temperature, that is 5 seedlings each treat at each sampling point. Fiber elongation patterns between TM-1 and Hai7124: at least ten seeds from three individual plants. The comparison of the main osmotically active solute contents between TM-1 and Hai7124: three biological replicates for soluble sugar and six biological replicates for K+ and malate. Aniline blue staining for callose at the fiber of TM-1 and Hai7124 plants: three individual plants with a total of at least 15 optical sections. |
| Data exclusions | No data were excluded. |
| Replication | For qRT-PCR analysis, three biological replicates were performed per reaction, and each with two technologic replicates; three independent biological replicates for each samples were subjected to illumina RNA-seq; three biological replicates for soluble sugar and six biological replicates for K+ and malate analysis. |
| Randomization | Yes, the samples were selected randomly. |
| Blinding | Blinding was not relevant for this study. |

Behavioural & social sciences study design

All studies must disclose on these points even when the disclosure is negative.

| Study description | Briefly describe the study type including whether data are quantitative, qualitative, or mixed-methods (e.g. qualitative cross-sectional, quantitative experimental, mixed-methods case study). |
| Research sample | State the research sample (e.g. Harvard university undergraduates, villagers in rural India) and provide relevant demographic information (e.g. age, sex) and indicate whether the sample is representative. Provide a rationale for the study sample chosen. For studies involving existing datasets, please describe the dataset and source. |
| Sampling strategy | Describe the sampling procedure (e.g. random, snowball, stratified, convenience). Describe the statistical methods that were used to predetermine sample size OR if no sample-size calculation was performed, describe how sample sizes were chosen and provide a rationale for why these sample sizes are sufficient. For qualitative data, please indicate whether data saturation was considered, and what criteria were used to decide that no further sampling was needed. |
| Data collection | Provide details about the data collection procedure, including the instruments or devices used to record the data (e.g. pen and paper, computer, eye tracker, video or audio equipment) whether anyone was present besides the participant(s) and the researcher, and whether the researcher was blind to experimental condition and/or the study hypothesis during data collection. |
| Timing | Indicate the start and stop dates of data collection. If there is a gap between collection periods, state the dates for each sample cohort. |
| Data exclusions | If no data were excluded from the analyses, state so OR if data were excluded, provide the exact number of exclusions and the rationale behind them, indicating whether exclusion criteria were pre-established. |
| Non-participation | State how many participants dropped out/declined participation and the reason(s) given OR provide response rate OR state that no participants dropped out/declined participation. |
| Randomization | If participants were not allocated into experimental groups, state so OR describe how participants were allocated to groups, and if allocation was not random, describe how covariates were controlled. |

Ecological, evolutionary & environmental sciences study design

All studies must disclose on these points even when the disclosure is negative.

| Study description | Briefly describe the study. For quantitative data include treatment factors and interactions, design structure (e.g. factorial, nested, hierarchical), nature and number of experimental units and replicates. |
Reporting for specific materials, systems and methods

We require information from authors about some types of materials, experimental systems and methods used in many studies. Here, indicate whether each material, system or method listed is relevant to your study. If you are not sure if a list item applies to your research, read the appropriate section before selecting a response.

### Materials & experimental systems

| n/a | Involved in the study |
|-----|-----------------------|
| ☑️ | Antibodies            |
| ☑️ | Eukaryotic cell lines  |
| ☑️ | Palaeontology         |
| ☑️ | Animals and other organisms |
| ☑️ | Human research participants |
| ☑️ | Clinical data         |

### Methods

| n/a | Involved in the study |
|-----|-----------------------|
| ☑️ | ChIP-seq              |
| ☑️ | Flow cytometry        |
| ☑️ | MRI-based neuroimaging |

#### Antibodies

Antibodies used:
- antibody: CenH3
- provide supplier name: AbMax Biotechnology Co., Ltd.
- CenH3 used in our study is the customized antibody.
- catalog number: NA
- clone name: NA
- lot number: NA

Validation:
- by FISH test.
Eukaryotic cell lines

Policy information about cell lines

**Cell line source(s)**
State the source of each cell line used.

**Authentication**
Describe the authentication procedures for each cell line used OR declare that none of the cell lines used were authenticated.

**Mycoplasma contamination**
Confirm that all cell lines tested negative for mycoplasma contamination OR describe the results of the testing for mycoplasma contamination OR declare that the cell lines were not tested for mycoplasma contamination.

**Commonly misidentified lines**
None any commonly misidentified cell lines used in the study and provide a rationale for their use.

Palaeontology

**Specimen provenance**
Provide provenance information for specimens and describe permits that were obtained for the work (including the name of the issuing authority, the date of issue, and any identifying information).

**Specimen deposition**
Indicate where the specimens have been deposited to permit free access by other researchers.

**Dating methods**
If new dates are provided, describe how they were obtained (e.g. collection, storage, sample pretreatment and measurement), where they were obtained (i.e. lab name), the calibration program and the protocol for quality assurance OR state that no new dates are provided.

Tick this box to confirm that the raw and calibrated dates are available in the paper or in Supplementary Information.

Animals and other organisms

Policy information about studies involving animals; ARRIVE guidelines, recommended for reporting animal research

**Laboratory animals**
For laboratory animals, report species, strain, sex and age OR state that the study did not involve laboratory animals.

**Wild animals**
Provide details on animals observed in or captured in the field; report species, sex and age where possible. Describe how animals were caught and transported and what happened to captive animals after the study (if killed, explain why and describe method; if released, say where and when) OR state that the study did not involve wild animals.

**Field-collected samples**
For laboratory work with field-collected samples, describe all relevant parameters such as housing, maintenance, temperature, photoperiod and end-of-experiment protocol OR state that the study did not involve samples collected from the field.

**Ethics oversight**
Identify the organization(s) that approved or provided guidance on the study protocol, OR state that no ethical approval or guidance was required and explain why not.

Note that full information on the approval of the study protocol must also be provided in the manuscript.

Human research participants

Policy information about studies involving human research participants

**Population characteristics**
Describe the covariate-relevant population characteristics of the human research participants (e.g. age, gender, genotypic information, past and current diagnosis and treatment categories). If you filled out the behavioural & social sciences study design questions and have nothing to add here, write “See above.”

**Recruitment**
Describe how participants were recruited. Outline any potential self-selection bias or other biases that may be present and how these are likely to impact results.

**Ethics oversight**
Identify the organization(s) that approved the study protocol.

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Clinical data

Policy information about clinical studies

All manuscripts should comply with the ICMJE guidelines for publication of clinical research and a completed CONSORT checklist must be included with all submissions.

**Clinical trial registration**
Provide the trial registration number from ClinicalTrials.gov or an equivalent agency.

**Study protocol**
Note where the full trial protocol can be accessed OR if not available, explain why.

**Data collection**
Describe the settings and locales of data collection, noting the time periods of recruitment and data collection.
Outcomes
Describe how you pre-defined primary and secondary outcome measures and how you assessed these measures.

ChIP-seq

Data deposition
☑ Confirm that both raw and final processed data have been deposited in a public database such as GEO.
☐ Confirm that you have deposited or provided access to graph files (e.g. BED files) for the called peaks.

Data access links
ChIP-seq data have been deposited in GEO available under accession number GSE119184.

Files in database submission
- 7124_ChIp_GATCAG_L001_R1.fastq.gz
- 7124_ChIp_GATCAG_L001_R2.fastq.gz
- 7124_Input_TAGCTT_L001_R1.fastq.gz
- 7124_Input_TAGCTT_L001_R2.fastq.gz
- TM_1_ChIp_ACTTGA_L001_R1.fastq.gz
- TM_1_ChIp_ACTTGA_L001_R2.fastq.gz
- TM_1_Input_ATCACG_L001_R1.fastq.gz
- TM_1_Input_ATCACG_L001_R2.fastq.gz
- Hai7124_ChIp.uniq.sort-W200-G400-islands-summary-FDR0.01
- TM_1_ChIp.uniq.sort-W200-G400-islands-summary-FDR0.01

Genome browser session
NA

Methodology

Replicates
One replicate, Gossypium barbadense (ChIP-seq); One replicate, Gossypium barbadense (Control); One replicate, Gossypium hirsutum (ChIP-seq); One replicate, Gossypium hirsutum (Control)

Sequencing depth
- Gossypium barbadense (ChIP-seq): total number of reads, 50157862; uniquely mapped reads, 17043200; length of reads, 151; paired-end
- Gossypium barbadense (Control): total number of reads, 75214998; uniquely mapped reads, 26375156; length of reads, 151; paired-end
- Gossypium hirsutum (ChIP-seq): total number of reads, 66720446; uniquely mapped reads, 22104860; length of reads, 151; paired-end
- Gossypium hirsutum (Control): total number of reads, 74371086; uniquely mapped reads, 25333482; length of reads, 151; paired-end

Antibodies
antibody: CenH3
provide supplier name: AbMax Biotechnology Co., Ltd.
catalog number: NA
clon name: NA
lot number: NA

Peak calling parameters
read mapping: bowtie2 -p 5 -X 2000 -x genome.index -1 ChIP_data_R1.fq -2 ChIP_data_R2.fq -S ChIP_data_mapping.sam
bowtie2 -p 5 -X 2000 -x genome.index -1 Control_data_R1.fq -2 Control_data_R2.fq -S Control_data_mapping.sam
peak calling: sh SICER.sh ./ ChIP_data_mapping.bed Control_data_mapping.bed ./ Species 1 200 150 0.74 400 0.01

Data quality
Gossypium barbadense: The sequence reads from ChIP and input (control) samples were first treated using FastUniq and Trimmomatic with default parameter to remove PCR duplication and low quality reads. The genome assembly of Gossypium barbadense was used for read mapping by Bowtie2. Reads with mapping quality ≥ 30 and uniquely mapped locus were retained and used for further analysis. The CenH3 binding sites were identified using SICER. We used 200-bp windows, a required fold change/control ≥5, FDR<0.01, and allowed 400-bp gaps when defining the CenH3 binding sites. A total of 15574 peaks are at FDR 1% and above 5-fold enrichment.

Gossypium hirsutum: The sequence reads from ChIP and input (control) samples were first treated using FastUniq and Trimmomatic with default parameter to remove PCR duplication and low quality reads. The genome assembly of Gossypium hirsutum was used for read mapping by Bowtie2. Reads with mapping quality ≥ 30 and uniquely mapped locus were retained and used for further analysis. The CenH3 binding sites were identified using SICER. We used 200-bp windows, a required fold change/control ≥5, FDR<0.01, and allowed 400-bp gaps when defining the CenH3 binding sites. A total of 5275 peaks are at FDR 1% and above 5-fold enrichment.

Software
We used FastUniq software to remove PCR duplicates in the sequence reads. And we used Trimmomatic (version 0.33) to remove low quality reads. Sequence reads were mapped to the genome assembly with Bowtie2 (version 2.1.0). Reads with mapping quality ≥ 30 and unique genomic mapping locus were filtered out by Perl (version 5.10.1). Samtools (version 1.3.1) was used to convert the alignment format. The centromeric regions were estimated using SICER (version 1.1) software.
Flow Cytometry

Plots
- Confirm that:
  - The axis labels state the marker and fluorochrome used (e.g. CD4-FITC).
  - The axis scales are clearly visible. Include numbers along axes only for bottom left plot of group (a ‘group’ is an analysis of identical markers).
  - All plots are contour plots with outliers or pseudocolor plots.
  - A numerical value for number of cells or percentage (with statistics) is provided.

Methodology
- Sample preparation: Describe the sample preparation, detailing the biological source of the cells and any tissue processing steps used.
- Instrument: Identify the instrument used for data collection, specifying make and model number.
- Software: Describe the software used to collect and analyze the flow cytometry data. For custom code that has been deposited into a community repository, provide accession details.
- Cell population abundance: Describe the abundance of the relevant cell populations within post-sort fractions, providing details on the purity of the samples and how it was determined.
- Gating strategy: Describe the gating strategy used for all relevant experiments, specifying the preliminary FSC/SSC gates of the starting cell population, indicating where boundaries between “positive” and “negative” staining cell populations are defined.

Magnetic resonance imaging

Experimental design
- Design type: Indicate task or resting state; event-related or block design.
- Design specifications: Specify the number of blocks, trials or experimental units per session and/or subject, and specify the length of each trial or block (if trials are blocked) and interval between trials.
- Behavioral performance measures: State number and/or type of variables recorded (e.g. correct button press, response time) and what statistics were used to establish that the subjects were performing the task as expected (e.g. mean, range, and/or standard deviation across subjects).

Acquisition
- Imaging type(s): Specify: functional, structural, diffusion, perfusion.
- Field strength: Specify in Tesla
- Sequence & imaging parameters: Specify the pulse sequence type (gradient echo, spin echo, etc.), imaging type (EPI, spiral, etc.), field of view, matrix size, slice thickness, orientation and TE/TR/flip angle.
- Area of acquisition: State whether a whole brain scan was used OR define the area of acquisition, describing how the region was determined.
- Diffusion MRI: Used or Not used

Preprocessing
- Preprocessing software: Provide detail on software version and revision number and on specific parameters (model/functions, brain extraction, segmentation, smoothing kernel size, etc.).
- Normalization: If data were normalized/standardized, describe the approach(es); specify linear or non-linear and define image types used for transformation OR indicate that data were not normalized and explain rationale for lack of normalization.
- Normalization template: Describe the template used for normalization/transformation, specifying subject space or group standardized space (e.g. original Talairach, MNI305, ICBM152) OR indicate that the data were not normalized.
- Noise and artifact removal: Describe your procedure(s) for artifact and structured noise removal, specifying motion parameters, tissue signals and physiological signals (heart rate, respiration).
- Volume censoring: Define your software and/or method and criteria for volume censoring, and state the extent of such censoring.
**Statistical modeling & inference**

**Model type and settings**
Specify type (mass univariate, multivariate, RSA, predictive, etc.) and describe essential details of the model at the first and second levels (e.g. fixed, random or mixed effects; drift or auto-correlation).

**Effect(s) tested**
Define precise effect in terms of the task or stimulus conditions instead of psychological concepts and indicate whether ANOVA or factorial designs were used.

**Specify type of analysis:**
- Whole brain
- ROI-based
- Both

**Statistic type for inference**
(See Eklund et al. 2016)
Specify voxel-wise or cluster-wise and report all relevant parameters for cluster-wise methods.

**Correction**
Describe the type of correction and how it is obtained for multiple comparisons (e.g. FWE, FDR, permutation or Monte Carlo).

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**Models & analysis**

| n/a | Involved in the study |
|-----|-----------------------|
|     | Functional and/or effective connectivity |
|     | Graph analysis |
|     | Multivariate modeling or predictive analysis |

**Functional and/or effective connectivity**
Report the measures of dependence used and the model details (e.g. Pearson correlation, partial correlation, mutual information).

**Graph analysis**
Report the dependent variable and connectivity measure, specifying weighted graph or binarized graph, subject- or group-level, and the global and/or node summaries used (e.g. clustering coefficient, efficiency, etc.).

**Multivariate modeling and predictive analysis**
Specify independent variables, features extraction and dimension reduction, model, training and evaluation metrics.