**Title:** Anthranilic acid regulates subcellular localization of auxin transporters during root gravitropism

**Authors:** Siamsa M. Doyle1*, Adeline Rigal1*, Peter Grones1#, Michal Karady1#, Deepak K. Barange1,2, Mateusz Majda1, Barbora Pařízková3, Michael Karampelias4, Marta Zwiewka5, Aleš Pěnčík1, Fredrik Almqvist2, Karin Ljung1, Ondřej Novák1,3 and Stéphanie Robert1

1Umeå Plant Science Centre (UPSC), Department of Forest Genetics and Plant Physiology, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU), Umeå, Sweden.  
2Department of Chemistry, Umeå University, Umeå, Sweden.  
3Laboratory of Growth Regulators, Centre of the Region Haná for Biotechnological and Agricultural Research, Faculty of Science of Palacký University & Institute of Experimental Botany CAS, Šlechtitelů 27, Olomouc, Czech Republic.  
4Department of Plant Systems Biology, Vlaams Instituut voor Biotechnologie (VIB), and Department of Plant Biotechnology and Bioinformatics, Ghent University, Gent, Belgium.  
5Central European Institute of Technology (CEITEC), Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic.  
*These authors contributed equally to this work.  
#These authors contributed equally to this work.

**Present affiliations:** D. K. Barange’s present affiliation is Department of Chemistry, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado, USA. M. Majda’s present affiliation is Department of Comparative Development and Genetics, Max Planck Institute for Plant Breeding Research, Köln, Germany. M. Karampelias’s present affiliation is Centre for Research in Agricultural Genomics (CRAG) CSIC-IRTA-UAB-UB, Barcelona, Spain.

**Corresponding author:** Stéphanie Robert (stephanie.robert@slu.se)

**Abstract**

The distribution of the phytohormone auxin within plant tissues is of great importance for developmental plasticity, including root gravitropic growth. Auxin flow is directed by the subcellular polar distribution and dynamic relocalization of plasma membrane-localized auxin transporters such as the PIN-FORMED (PIN) efflux carriers, which are in turn regulated by complex endomembrane trafficking pathways. Anthranilic acid (AA) is an important early precursor of the main natural plant auxin indole-3-acetic acid (IAA). We took advantage of an AA-deficient, and consequently IAA-deficient, mutant displaying agravitropic root growth to show that AA rescues root gravitropic growth at
concentrations that do not rescue IAA levels. Treatments with, or deficiency in, AA result in defects in PIN polarity and gravistimulus-induced PIN relocation within root cells. Taken together, our results reveal a previously unknown role for AA in the regulation of PIN subcellular localization and dynamics involved in root gravitropism, which is independent of its better-known role in IAA biosynthesis.

**Introduction**

The distribution of the phytohormone auxin in controlled concentration gradients within certain tissues and organs plays an important role in regulating the dynamically plastic growth and development of plants (Vanneste and Friml, 2009). Over the past couple of decades, an intense research effort has revealed many of the complex mechanisms by which plasma membrane-localized auxin carrier proteins are polarly distributed in order to direct the flow of auxin in plant tissues and maintain these gradients (reviewed by Luschnig and Vert, 2014; and Naramoto, 2017). These proteins, including the well-studied PIN-FORMED (PIN) auxin efflux carriers, are remarkably dynamic in that they rapidly relocalize within the cell in response to signals, becoming more or less polar or shifting the direction of their polarity entirely. This dynamic responsiveness, which is facilitated by vesicular cycling and complex endomembrane trafficking pathways, is essential for altering the direction and strength of cell-to-cell auxin flow and redistributing auxin in response to external cues, thereby regulating cell and tissue growth and plasticity.

Root development in *Arabidopsis thaliana* has received particular attention as a model system demonstrating the importance of auxin gradients for plant growth and development (Clark et al., 2014). Mutations affecting auxin transporters often disturb root gravitropism and specific PIN proteins within the root tip have been shown to relocalize in response to changes in the gravity vector, leading to changes in auxin flow and consequently, organ growth adjustment (reviewed by Geisler et al., 2014). PIN2 in the root tip epidermis is particularly important for this response; being apically (shootward) polarized within epidermal cells (Müller et al., 1998), PIN2 transports auxin upwards in this tissue, contributing in a concerted manner together with other PIN proteins to the maintenance of the auxin maximum required in the root apical meristem for proper root development (Adamowski and Friml, 2015). However, in the case of a
reorientation of the root to a horizontal position, PIN2 is rapidly redistributed from the plasma membrane to the vacuole within epidermal cells at the upper organ side (Kleine-Vehn et al., 2008; Abas et al., 2006). This results in accumulation of auxin and consequent inhibition of cell elongation at the lower root side, leading to the root tip bending downwards towards the gravity vector. In the root columella, the cellular relocalization of PIN3 and PIN7 has also been shown to play an important role in root gravitropic growth responses. While these PIN proteins are generally apolar in columella cells, they redistribute towards the basal (rootward) plasma membranes upon reorientation of the root (Friml et al., 2002b; Kleine-Vehn et al., 2010), which is presumed to redirect the flow of auxin within the columella, thus further contributing to auxin accumulation at the lower root side.

Despite our knowledge on the mechanisms of PIN polarity and redistribution, a lot of information is still lacking regarding the regulation of PIN dynamics. In our previous work, we employed a chemical biology approach, whereby we isolated and characterized small synthetic molecules selectively altering the polarity of specific PIN proteins, to dissect the trafficking pathways involved in regulating their localization (Doyle et al., 2015a). This approach led us to identify a potential role for the endogenous compound anthranilic acid (AA) in PIN polarity regulation, which we investigate in the current study. AA is an important early precursor of the main natural plant auxin indole-3-acetic acid (IAA) (Maeda and Dudareva, 2012) and as auxin itself has been shown to regulate PIN polarity in a feedback mechanism to control its own flow (Paciorek et al., 2005), we hypothesized that AA may play a similar regulatory role. Herein, using Arabidopsis root gravitropism as a model system for auxin-regulated plastic growth, we provide strong evidence in favor of this hypothesis. Ultimately, we reveal a previously unknown role for the IAA precursor AA in the regulation of PIN polarity and relocalization required for root gravitropic responses and furthermore, we show that this role of AA is distinct from its well-known role in IAA biosynthesis.

Results

AA rescues root gravitropic growth and length differently in an AA-deficient mutant

Using a chemical biology approach, we previously isolated the small synthetic molecule Endosidin 8 (ES8), which disturbs the polarity of selective PIN proteins in the root of
*Arabidopsis thaliana*, leading to an altered root auxin distribution pattern and defective root growth (Doyle et al., 2015a). Intriguingly, the chemical structure of ES8 reveals that this molecule is an analog of the endogenous plant compound AA (Fig. 1 A), a precursor of tryptophan (Trp), the main precursor of the predominant plant auxin IAA (Ljung, 2013; Zhao, 2014). This prompted us to question whether endogenous AA might play a role in growth and development of the root. We therefore investigated the root phenotype of a loss-of-function *Arabidopsis* mutant in both the *ANTHRANILATE SYNTHASE SUBUNIT ALPHA1* gene (*ASA1*, also known as the *WEAK ETHYLENE INSENSITIVE2* gene, *WEI2*) and the *ANTHRANILATE SYNTHASE SUBUNIT BETA1* gene (*ASB1*, also known as *WEI7*). In the double mutant, *wei2wei7* (Ikeda et al., 2009; Stepanova et al., 2005), the AA level is presumed to be reduced, which is supported by the rescue of an ethylene sensitivity phenotype in the single *wei2-1* and *wei7-1* mutants by treatment with AA (Stepanova et al., 2005). To confirm this, we analyzed the levels of several IAA precursors/catabolites in the mutant and the wild type (WT) Columbia-0 (Col-0), revealing that AA content was indeed significantly reduced in *wei2wei7* compared to Col-0, as were the levels of the IAA precursors Trp, indole-3-acetonitrile (IAN) and indole-3-acetimide (IAM) (Fig. S1), most likely due to the decreased AA content. However, neither the IAA precursor tryptamine (Tra) nor catabolite 2-oxoindole-3-acetic acid (oxIAA) showed altered content in the mutant compared to the WT (Fig. S1).

We were interested in the strong agravitropic and short phenotypes of *wei2wei7* roots compared to WT Col-0 seedlings (Fig. 1 B and C), considering that ES8 treatment reduces both gravitropic root growth and root length in Col-0 (Doyle et al., 2015a). To investigate AA-mediated rescue of these root phenotypes in *wei2wei7*, we performed long-term AA treatments by growing WT and mutant seedlings on medium supplemented with a range of AA concentrations. In Col-0, none of the tested concentrations affected gravitropic root growth, while concentrations of 10 µM or more decreased root length in a dose-dependent manner (Fig. S2 A). As expected, in *wei2wei7* both root gravitropic growth and length were rescued by AA (Fig. 1 C and D), however we observed a striking difference between the AA rescue patterns of these two root phenotypes. While root gravitropic growth in the mutant was fully rescued to WT levels at all AA concentrations applied, root length rescue was concentration-dependent,
with maximal rescue at 5 µM (Fig. 1 D). Furthermore, root length in the mutant was only partially rescued at all AA concentrations applied (Fig. 1 D), compared to WT root length (Fig. S2 A). We hypothesized that the different rescue patterns of root gravitropic growth and length phenotypes by AA in wei2wei7 might reflect two different roles of AA, one known role in auxin biosynthesis and a distinct, as yet unknown role in regulating auxin distribution, considering that ES8 disturbs auxin distribution patterns in the root (Doyle et al., 2015a).

We next investigated whether ES8, as an analog of AA, could rescue either root gravitropic growth or length in wei2wei7. While long-term treatments with increasing concentrations of ES8 decreased both root gravitropic growth and length in a dose-dependent manner in Col-0 (Fig. S2 B), only the highest ES8 concentrations (15 and 20 µM) decreased root gravitropic growth and length in wei2wei7 (Fig. 1 E). Moreover, while root length was not rescued in the mutant at any ES8 concentration (Fig. 1 E), 5 µM ES8 partially rescued the root gravitropic phenotype of the mutant (Fig. 1 C and E). The partial root gravitropic rescue of wei2wei7 by ES8 without any effect on root length supported our hypothesis that the gravitropic rescue of wei2wei7 by AA may be due to a role of AA other than that in auxin biosynthesis.

To further test our hypothesis, we attempted to replicate these results using another analog of both ES8 and AA - ES8 analog no. 7 (ES8.7; Fig. S3 A; ES8 analogs ES8.1 to 6 were previously described by Doyle et al. (2015a)). We also tested the control compound ES8.7-Trp, in which the AA was exchanged for a Trp (Fig. S3 B). In Col-0, long-term ES8.7 treatment at a range of concentrations revealed a similar but weaker effect than ES8 on reduction of root gravitropic growth and length (Fig. S3 C). Strikingly, ES8.7 had a stronger effect than ES8 in rescuing root gravitropic growth in wei2wei7, significantly rescuing this phenotype at a range of concentrations from 1 to 15 µM, with almost no effects on root length (Fig. S3 A and D). Moreover, ES8.7-Trp had almost no effect on root gravitropic growth or length at any concentration in both Col-0 (Fig. S3 E) and wei2wei7 (Fig. S3 B and F). These results strongly suggest that it is the AA part of the ES8 compounds, and not any other part of the molecules, that rescues gravitropic growth of wei2wei7 roots.

To investigate the possibility that the ES8 compounds might be degraded or metabolized during our experiments to release AA or Trp, we performed both short-
term and long-term treatments of Col-0 and wei2wei7 seedlings with the ES8 compounds, followed by compound analysis (Fig. S4). We measured the concentrations of the relevant ES8 compound, AA or Trp and the non-AA or non-Trp part of the ES8 compound in planta as well as in ES8 compound-supplemented medium to which no seedlings were added. Our results showed that after short-term treatment (5 hours incubation in liquid treatment medium) with 5 µM ES8, high levels of ES8 were detectable in the seedlings and the seedling-free treatment medium remained at about 5 µM ES8 (Fig. S4 A). After long-term treatment (9 days of growth on solid treatment medium), the concentrations of ES8 in the seedlings and the seedling-free treatment medium had lowered considerably, suggesting degradation of ES8 over time. Compared to ES8, much lower levels of ES8.7 and ES8.7-Trp were present in the seedlings after short-term treatment (Fig. S4 B and C), suggesting that ES8 may be more efficiently taken up into seedling tissues or ES8.7 and ES8.7-Trp may be degraded or metabolized during the short-term treatment. Degradation of ES8.7-Trp was supported by our measurements of its concentration in the seedling-free treatment medium, which had already lowered to 3.3 µM after short-term incubation and to 0.5 µM after long-term incubation (Fig. S4 C). Moreover, the levels of ES8.7-Trp in the seedlings were considerably lower after long-term compared to short-term treatment. While these results suggest that ES8 and ES8.7-Trp are likely degraded over time, the levels of AA and Trp in the seedlings after ES8 compound treatment were not different to the levels after mock treatment and neither AA nor Trp were detected in the treatment medium samples (Fig. S4 D and E). Furthermore, we did not detect non-AA or non-Trp parts of the ES8 compounds at any time point, neither in the seedlings nor in the seedling-free treatment medium (Fig. S4 F). Therefore, the observed activities of the ES8 compounds are not due to the release of AA or Trp and are therefore unlikely to be due to increased IAA biosynthesis.

AA and ES8 can rescue root gravitropic growth in wei2wei7 without rescuing IAA level

As AA is a precursor of IAA, an essential regulator of root growth (Goh et al., 2014; Clark et al., 2014), we investigated the possibility that the rescue of root gravitropic growth by ES8 and AA might indirectly result from increased IAA biosynthesis. We
therefore investigated the effects of these compounds on levels of IAA. First, we measured IAA concentrations in Col-0 and *wei2wei7* seedlings after long-term treatments with different concentrations of AA. We found a significant reduction of IAA content in *wei2wei7* compared to Col-0 in control conditions (Fig. 2 A). In Col-0, only treatment with 10 µM AA significantly increased the IAA level (Fig. 2 A). Raised IAA concentrations are therefore the most likely reason why treatments of Col-0 with 10 µM and higher concentrations of AA resulted in significantly shorter roots (Fig. S2 A). While treatment of *wei2wei7* with 1 or 10 µM AA rescued the IAA level to that of mock-treated Col-0, treatment with 0.5 µM AA had no effect on IAA content (Fig. 2 A), despite this concentration having fully rescued root gravitropic growth and partially rescued root length in *wei2wei7* seedlings (Fig. 1 D). Next, we measured IAA content in Col-0 and *wei2wei7* seedlings treated long-term with 5 µM ES8, ES8.7 or ES8.7-Trp. While the IAA level was slightly but significantly reduced in mock-treated *wei2wei7* compared to Col-0, none of the ES8 compounds significantly affected IAA content compared to mock treatment in either genotype (Fig. 2 B). Taken together, these results suggest that AA might play a role in the regulation of root gravitropic growth independently from its function in IAA biosynthesis.

**Root gravitropic response is impaired by AA when its conversion to downstream IAA precursors is repressed**

To test our hypothesis that AA may regulate root gravitropic growth via a role independent of IAA biosynthesis, we aimed to generate transformed *Arabidopsis* lines in which the gene encoding ASA1 (Niyogi and Fink, 1992) is constitutively overexpressed and that encoding PHOSPHORIBOSYLANTHRANILATE TRANSFERASE 1 (PAT1), which converts AA to the next downstream IAA precursor (Rose et al., 1992), is subject to estradiol-induced silencing. Of several homozygously transformed 35S::ASA1 and XVE::amiRNA-PAT1 lines, we used qPCR analysis of ASA1 and PAT1 expression (Fig. S5 A and B) to select two lines for each construct displaying reproducible and strong constitutive ASA1 induction (35S::ASA1 lines 3B6 and 3B7) or inducible PAT1 silencing (XVE::amiRNA-PAT1 lines 2D4 and 4B10). We then crossed the selected lines and used qPCR to analyze ASA1 and PAT1 expression in the homozygous crosses, which we named AxP (ASA1 x PAT1) lines (Fig. S5 C and D).
While ASA1 was overexpressed in all AxP lines, there was a tendency for increased PAT1 expression in non-estradiol-induced conditions in those lines with highest ASA1 expression, suggesting positive regulation between ASA1 and PAT1 genes. We selected two AxP lines for further experiments; AxP1 (3B6x2D4 line no. 4) in which ASA1 was 5-fold overexpressed compared to the non-treated WT without affecting non-induced PAT1 expression and AxP2 (3B7x2D4 line no. 21), in which ASA1 was 10-fold overexpressed, resulting in 3-fold overexpression of PAT1 in non-induced conditions (Fig. S5 C and D). Additionally, an estradiol-inducible 5- and 3-fold reduction in PAT1 expression compared to non-treated Col-0 was shown for AxP1 and AxP2, respectively (Fig. S5 D).

To dissect the effects of ASA1 overexpression and simultaneous silencing of PAT1 on the IAA biosynthetic pathway, we analyzed the levels of IAA and several IAA precursors/conjugates/catabolites in WT and AxP lines treated long-term with estradiol (grown on supplemented medium). We found that while AA levels tended to be higher in both AxP lines than in the WT, the levels of the precursors Trp, IAN and IAM were more variable between the two AxP lines (Fig. S6 A). Importantly, the IAA content was not affected in the AxP lines compared to the WT, while the conjugates IAA-aspartate (IAAsp) and IAA-glutamate (IAGlu) and the catabolite oxIAA showed reduced levels in the transformed lines compared to the WT (Fig. S6 A). These results suggest that simultaneous overexpression of ASA1 and silencing of PAT1 result in increased AA levels, but do not alter IAA levels, perhaps due to a reduced conversion of IAA to IAA conjugates and catabolites.

We next investigated the root phenotypes of the AxP lines. In control conditions without estradiol treatment, both lines displayed similar root gravitropic growth to that of the WT (Fig. S6 B), while having slightly shorter roots than the WT (Fig. S6 C). After long-term estradiol treatment, the gravitropic growth of WT and AxP roots was slightly reduced, to a similar extent (Fig. S6 B). While long-term estradiol treatment significantly reduced the root length of all genotypes, the treatment affected the AxP lines more severely than the WT (Fig. S6 C). To analyze root gravitropic responses in the AxP lines, we turned the seedlings 90° and subsequently measured the gravistimulated root bending angles (Fig. S6 D). In control conditions, Col-0 and both AxP lines responded to the gravistimulus with a very similar range of root bending.
angles, with the majority of roots bending 75-105° (Fig. 3). Estradiol treatment inhibited the gravitropic response of Col-0 roots, reducing their bending angles, resulting in a reduction in the proportion of roots bending 75-105° and an increase in the proportion bending <75° (Fig. 3 A and B). The AxP lines, however, responded somewhat differently to estradiol than the WT. As for the WT, estradiol treatment resulted in both a reduction in the proportion of AxP roots bending 75-105° and an increase in the proportion bending >105° (Fig. 3 C-F). Therefore, while estradiol treatment specifically reduces root bending in response to a gravitropic stimulus in the WT, the same treatment results in both under- and over-bending of roots in response to a gravisstimulus in both AxP lines, strongly suggesting that increased AA levels in these lines interferes with root gravitropic responses.

**PIN polarity in the stele is altered in wei2wei7 and partially rescued by ES8**

ES8 has been shown to disturb auxin distribution patterns in the root by altering PIN polarity (Doyle et al., 2015a). Considering that IAA itself can influence its own transport by regulating PIN abundance at the plasma membrane (Paciorek et al., 2005; Robert et al., 2010), we reasoned that AA, as a precursor of IAA, might also play such a role. To investigate this possibility, we first studied the effects of long-term ES8 and AA treatments on the expression pattern of the auxin-responsive promoter DR5 in the root. To observe the effects of ES8 more easily, we used treatment at a high concentration of 15 µM, which led to a strong decrease in GFP signal in the stele of DR5::GFP WT roots (Fig. S7 A), in agreement with previously published work (Doyle et al., 2015a). Furthermore, DR5::GFP crossed into the wei2wei7 background showed a similarly low GFP signal in the stele in control conditions, which was reduced even further by 15 µM ES8 treatment (Fig. S7 A). While 10 µM AA treatment did not noticeably affect the GFP signal in the stele of the WT, the signal in the wei2wei7 stele was rescued by this treatment (Fig. S7 A). These results suggest that AA may play a role in auxin distribution in the stele.

Next, we focused on the GFP signal in the root tip, particularly around the quiescent center (QC) and in the columella (Fig. S7 B). This time, we treated with ES8 at both 5 and 15 µM concentrations. In agreement with previously published work
(Doyle et al., 2015a), ES8 treatment of \textit{DR5::GFP} WT led to an accumulation of GFP signal in cell file initials surrounding the QC, which were not labeled in control conditions (Fig. S7 B). A rather striking accumulation of \textit{DR5::GFP} signal in the WT, extending into lateral columella and root cap cells, was particularly apparent at the higher ES8 treatment concentration of 15 µM. As found for the stele, \textit{DR5::GFP} crossed into the \textit{wei2wei7} background showed a similar GFP signal pattern in the root tip in control conditions as that induced by ES8 in the WT, with an accumulation of signal in the file initials surrounding the QC (Fig. S7 B). This signal pattern was also apparent in the \textit{wei2wei7} background after 5 µM ES8 treatment and was enhanced after 15 µM ES8 treatment. While 0.5 µM and 10 µM AA treatment did not noticeably affect the GFP signal in the root tip of the WT, the signal pattern in the \textit{wei2wei7} root tip was slightly increased by 0.5 µM AA treatment and rescued to that of the control WT by 10 µM AA treatment (Fig. S7 B). Therefore, in our experiments we observed a negative correlation between the \textit{DR5::GFP} signal strength in the root stele and tip. Together, these results indicate that AA may play a role in auxin distribution in the root stele and tip, which likely affects gravitropic growth.

Our observations of \textit{DR5::GFP} signal in the stele prompted us to investigate the basal to lateral plasma membrane fluorescence ratio (hereafter referred to as basal polarity) of PIN1, PIN3 and PIN7 in the provascular cells of Col-0 and \textit{wei2wei7} root tips. We treated seedlings short-term (2 hours) with 15 µM ES8 or 10 µM AA, performed immunolabeling to observe endogenous PIN1 and PIN7 and used the \textit{PIN3::PIN3-GFP} line crossed into the \textit{wei2wei7} background due to poor labeling of antibodies against PIN3. The fluorescence signals for these PIN proteins were consistently weaker in the mutant than in the WT (Fig. 4 A-C), suggesting decreased abundance of the PIN proteins at the plasma membranes. As previously reported by Doyle et al. (2015a), short-term ES8 treatment significantly, albeit slightly, reduced immunolocalized PIN1 basal polarity in Col-0 and importantly, AA treatment produced a similar result (Fig. 4 D). In contrast, PIN1 basal polarity was significantly increased by about 20% in untreated \textit{wei2wei7} compared to Col-0, while ES8 treatment appeared to rescue this hyper-polarity of PIN1 in the mutant back to almost that of the WT (Fig. 4 D). Although PIN3-GFP basal polarity was not affected by ES8 or AA treatments in either the Col-0 or \textit{wei2wei7} backgrounds, it was increased by over 20% in the mutant
compared to the WT (Fig. 4 E). Finally, although PIN7 basal polarity was not affected by ES8 or AA treatment in Col-0, it was strongly increased in the mutant compared to the WT, and like PIN1, was rescued in the mutant back to the level of the WT by ES8 treatment (Fig. 4 F). These results suggest that AA may play a role in maintenance of PIN polarity in root provascular cells. One possible speculation on why treatment with AA, in contrast to ES8, did not rescue PIN1 or PIN7 polarity in the mutant may be a rapid conversion of AA to downstream IAA precursors within the seedlings.

As AA is a precursor of auxin, which is known to affect transcription of PIN genes (Vieten et al., 2005; Paponov et al., 2008), we were interested in the expression levels of these genes in Col-0 and wei2wei7. We first investigated gene expression levels for all the plasma membrane-localized PIN proteins (PIN1, PIN2, PIN3, PIN4 and PIN7) in WT and mutant seedlings at nine days old, the age at which we performed our root gravitropic growth and length studies. The expression levels of PIN1, PIN2 and PIN4 were strongly decreased in wei2wei7 compared to Col-0, while PIN3 and PIN7 expression were somewhat decreased, but not significantly (Fig. S8 A). We next investigated the expression levels of PIN1, PIN3 and PIN7 in the same conditions used for our PIN polarity studies in root provascular cells (five-day-old seedlings treated with ES8 and AA for 2 hours). At this stage, expression of PIN1, PIN3 and PIN7 were somewhat decreased in the mutant compared to the WT, but not significantly (Fig. S8 B). Furthermore, treatment with ES8 and AA did not significantly affect the expression of these genes (Fig. S8 B). These results imply that while transcription of PIN genes is decreased in wei2wei7, the effects of ES8 and AA on PIN polarity are not due to PIN gene transcriptional changes. Overall, our data suggest that endogenous AA may play a role in regulating the polarity of PIN1, PIN3 and PIN7 in root provascular cells via a mechanism unrelated to PIN gene expression levels.

**AA regulates root gravitropism via repolarization of PIN3 and PIN7 in the columella**

Our observations of DR5::GFP signal in the columella (Fig. S7 B) indicate that AA may also play a role in auxin distribution specifically in this particular root tissue. Additionally, previous studies of the expression patterns of ASA1 and ASB1 promoter-GUS fusions in dark-grown Arabidopsis roots revealed strong expression in the root meristem and columella (Stepanova et al., 2005). Plasma membrane-localized PIN3 and
PIN7 in the columella are thought to act in redistribution of auxin in response to gravistimulus (Friml et al., 2002b; Kleine-Vehn et al., 2010), potentially redundantly with PIN4, which is also localized in columella cells (Friml et al., 2002a; Vieten et al., 2005). We therefore reasoned that high expression of anthranilate synthase genes in the columella may reflect a role of AA in regulating gravity-responsive polarity of these PIN proteins. First, to confirm the expression patterns of the ASA1 and ASB1 promoters in light-grown roots, we performed GUS staining of ASA1::GUS and ASB1::GUS seedlings. We observed strong expression of the ASB1 promoter, but not the ASA1 promoter, in the stele of the upper root, while neither ABA1 nor ASB1 promoter expression was detected in the lower part of the root excluding the root tip (Fig. S9 A and B). Importantly, in agreement with previous studies (Stepanova et al., 2005), we observed strong ASA1 and ASB1 promoter expression in the tip of the root meristem and in the columella, with ASA1::GUS expressed throughout the columella, while ASB1::GUS expression was limited to the innermost columella cells (Fig. S9 C).

Next, we investigated the localization of endogenous PIN3, PIN4 and PIN7 in the columella of Col-0 and wei2wei7. Interestingly, we noticed that the fluorescence intensity of these proteins was consistently increased in the innermost cells of the columella in wei2wei7 compared to Col-0 (Fig. S9 D-F), suggesting that the abundance and/or localization of these proteins are altered in the mutant columella. The antibodies against these PIN proteins did not label the outermost columella cells, in agreement with previous studies using PIN3 and PIN4 antibodies (Friml et al., 2002b; Friml et al., 2002a). We therefore continued our studies of columella PIN proteins using PIN3::PIN3-GFP and PIN7::PIN7-GFP lines crossed into the wei2wei7 background (Fig. 5 A and B). We performed long-term treatments of these lines with ES8 and AA and investigated the apical-plus-basal to lateral-plus-lateral fluorescence ratio (hereafter referred to as apical-basal polarity) of the GFP-labeled PIN proteins. Our results revealed that while the apical-basal polarity of PIN3-GFP was similar in wei2wei7 and Col-0 backgrounds regardless of compound treatment (Fig. 5 C), PIN7-GFP was over 20% more apical-basal polarized in the mutant than in the WT (Fig. 5 D). Moreover, 10 μM AA treatment partially rescued PIN7-GFP polarity in the mutant towards the WT level (Fig. 5 D).
We next investigated gravity-induced relocalization of PIN3-GFP and PIN7-GFP in the columella. After a 90° gravi stimulus for 30 minutes, about 15% more PIN3-GFP and PIN7-GFP were present on the now basal (formerly lateral) plasma membranes of the columella cells in WT seedlings (Fig. 5 E and F). Long-term treatment of the WT with 5 µM ES8 or 10 µM AA strongly reduced PIN3-GFP relocalization to only about 5-10% (Fig. 5 E). Strikingly, gravi stimulus-induced relocalization of PIN3-GFP was completely absent in mock-treated wei2wei7, partially rescued by treatment with 5 µM ES8 and fully rescued by treatment with 10 µM AA (Fig. 5 E). Similar but less pronounced effects were observed for PIN7-GFP in the columella; relocalization was reduced by ES8 in the WT and almost absent in the mock-treated mutant (Fig. 5 F). However, 10 µM AA did not affect PIN7-GFP relocalization in the WT and neither did 5 µM ES8 rescue the relocalization defect in the mutant (Fig. 5 F). The almost total absence of gravi stimulus-induced PIN3- and PIN7-GFP relocalization in the wei2wei7 columella correlates with the mutant’s strong agravitropic root phenotype (Fig. 1 C). Moreover, the partial rescue of gravi stimulus-induced PIN3-GFP relocalization in wei2wei7 by long-term treatment with 5 µM ES8 (Fig. 5 F) appears to correlate with the partial rescue of root gravitropic growth by the same treatment (Fig. 1 E). These results imply that endogenous AA may play a role in regulating relocalization of PIN proteins in the columella, especially PIN3, in response to gravity.

To further investigate a potential role for PIN proteins in AA-regulated root gravitropism, we analyzed root gravitropic growth in a range of pin mutants and their crosses with wei2wei7. Interestingly, while the eir1-4 (pin2) mutant showed intermediate root gravitropic growth between wei2wei7 and Col-0, crossing these mutants caused an additive effect, with wei2wei7eir1-4 being more severely agravitropic than wei2wei7 (Fig. S10 A). Of the tested pin3, pin4 and pin7 alleles, none of the single mutants were affected in root gravitropic growth compared to the WT and introduction of the pin3-4 or pin7-2 mutations into the wei2wei7 background did not affect the gravitropic growth. Interestingly, in contrast to the eir1-4 mutation, introduction of the pin3-5 or pin4-3 mutations into wei2wei7 partially rescued the root gravitropic growth compared to wei2wei7 (Fig. S10 A). While both tested pin1 alleles showed increased root gravitropic growth compared to the WT, the pin1-501 mutation
also partially rescued the root gravitropic growth of *wei2wei7* but the *pin1-201* mutation had no effect (Fig. S10 A). The double and triple *pin* mutants tested showed little or no differences in gravitropic growth compared to the WT.

We next tested the effects of long-term treatments with high concentrations of ES8 and AA on root gravitropic growth in the mutants. Most of the tested *pin* mutants showed a similar sensitivity to ES8 as the WT in terms of reduction in root gravitropic growth, except for *eir1-4*, which was more sensitive to ES8 than the WT (Fig. S10 B). Interestingly, although statistically significant differences were not often determined due to large variation in gravitropic index values, introduction of *eir1-4* or either of the *pin1* alleles to the *wei2wei7* background tended to enhance the sensitivity of *wei2wei7* to ES8 (Fig. S10 B). Large variation of gravitropic index values occurred mainly for the most agravitropic samples, due to random directions of root growth. In contrast to *eir1-4* and *pin1*, addition of *pin3*, *pin4* or *pin7* alleles to *wei2wei7* had no effect on its ES8 sensitivity (Fig. S10 B). In the case of AA treatment, similarly to the WT, none of the *pin* mutants tested showed any sensitivity in terms of changes in root gravitropic growth (Fig. S10 C). While the introduction of *pin3-4* or *pin7-2* to *wei2wei7* did not alter its sensitivity to AA in terms of increase in gravitropic index, crossing *eir1-4* or *pin1-201* into *wei2wei7* significantly increased its sensitivity to AA (Fig. S10 C). In contrast, introduction of *pin3-5*, *pin4-3* or *pin1-501* to *wei2wei7* reduced its sensitivity to AA, resulting in decreased rescue of root gravitropic growth (Fig. S10 C).

In particular, the rescue of, as well as the reduction in AA-induced recovery of, *wei2wei7* root gravitropic growth by introducing *pin1*, *pin3* or *pin4* mutations, provide further evidence for the involvement of PIN1 and PIN3, as well as implicating involvement of PIN4, in AA-regulated root gravitropism. The well-known important role of PIN2 in root gravitropism (Abas et al., 2006; Kleine-Vehn et al., 2008), however, is most likely not related to AA-regulated root gravitropism, considering the strong additive effect of *eir1-4* and *wei2wei7* mutations in reducing root gravitropic growth and increasing sensitivity to both ES8 and AA.

Taken together, our results strongly support a new role for endogenous AA in root gravitropism *via* regulation of selective PIN protein polarity and thereby auxin distribution in both the stele and columella and that this role of AA is independent of its well-known function in IAA biosynthesis.
Discussion

Our work provides strong evidence in favor of a role for AA in root gravitropic growth through regulation of the subcellular localization of auxin transporter proteins, which likely influences the flow of auxin within the organ. The cellular distributions of these proteins are subject to regulation by dynamic and complex endomembrane trafficking. Following their synthesis at the ER, most plasma membrane-targeted proteins are sorted and packaged into selective secretory trafficking routes (Gendre et al., 2014). It has been shown, for instance, that the auxin importer AUXIN-RESISTANT1 (AUX1) and exporter PIN1, when targeted to apical or basal plasma membranes of root tip cells respectively, are transported in distinct endosomes, subject to control by different regulatory proteins (Kleine-Vehn et al., 2006). The trafficking routes of such proteins may be distinct even if targeted to the same plasma membrane. For example, plasma membrane-targeted trafficking pathways for AUX1 and PIN3 in epidermal hypocotyl cells of the apical hook are distinct and subject to different regulatory proteins (Boutté et al., 2013). Such a remarkably complex system of endomembrane trafficking pathways is thought to allow for a high level of control, suggesting the likely existence of an array of selective endogenous compounds and/or signals regulating these trafficking routes.

Once polar plasma membrane-targeted auxin carriers have reached their destination, they remain remarkably dynamic, being subject to constant vesicular cycling (Geldner et al., 2001) to either maintain their localization or rapidly retarget them in response to external stimuli (reviewed by Luschnig and Vert, 2014; and Naramoto, 2017). Auxin itself has been shown to promote its own flow by inhibiting clathrin-mediated endocytosis of PIN transporters, thus enhancing their presence at the plasma membrane (Paciorek et al., 2005). Our results suggest that AA, an important early precursor in the IAA biosynthetic pathways, may also act in a feedback mechanism on PIN plasma membrane localization to regulate the flow of auxin, through currently unknown mechanisms.

The use of pharmacological inhibitors, identified through chemical biology approaches, has proven a powerful strategy that has greatly assisted in unravelling the details of auxin transporter trafficking routes and mechanisms (reviewed by Doyle et al., 2015b; and Hayashi and Overvoorde, 2014). In our previous study, we employed such
a chemical biology strategy, revealing that the AA analog ES8 selectively inhibits an early ER-to-Golgi secretory pathway involved in basal targeting of PIN1 without affecting the polarity of apical plasma membrane proteins (Doyle et al., 2015a). We suggest that AA itself may act endogenously on trafficking regulation in a similar way to ES8 and it will be interesting to investigate this possibility in follow-up studies. As ES8 appears to mimic the effects of AA on PIN localization and root gravitropic growth, without releasing AA through degradation and without affecting IAA levels, this synthetic compound has proven extremely useful for dissecting this newly discovered role of AA from its better-known role in auxin biosynthesis.

Interestingly, the amino acid para-aminobenzoic acid, which has a similar structure to AA and is produced from the same precursor, has also recently been shown to play a role in root gravitropism, distinct from its better-known role in folate biosynthesis (Nziengui et al., 2018). However, unlike AA, para-aminobenzoic acid promotes gravitropic root growth in wild type plants as well as promoting gravistimulated root bending by enhancing the asymmetric auxin response between the two root sides (Nziengui et al., 2018). AA is an important endogenous compound in plants, functioning as an early precursor in the chloroplast-localized biosynthetic pathway producing the amino acid tryptophan (Maeda and Dudareva, 2012). Tryptophan is itself an essential amino acid, acting as a precursor for several indole-containing plant compounds, including IAA, the predominant auxin in plant tissues (Mano and Nemoto, 2012). Our strategy to simultaneously overexpress and silence ASA1 and PAT1, respectively, resulted in increased AA levels within the transformed plant tissues, without affecting the IAA content. While this proved to be very effective for separating the role of AA in auxin biosynthesis from root gravitropic responses, which we suggest are rather regulated by a role of AA in PIN localization, one might have expected that lowered levels of PAT1, an important enzyme for Trp biosynthesis, should lead to lowered downstream IAA content. However, our analysis of IAA conjugates and catabolites in these lines revealed dramatically reduced IAAsp content and somewhat reduced oxIAA content, highlighting the well-documented importance of IAA conversion to these compounds in maintaining the required balance of bioactive auxin within tissues (reviewed by Korasick et al., 2013). A family of GRETCHEH NAGEN 3 (GH3) IAA-amido synthetases conjugate IAA to several amino acids
(Staswick et al., 2005), while two DEOXYGENASE FOR AUXIN OXIDATION (DAO) enzymes have recently been identified in Arabidopsis (Porco et al., 2016), with DAO1 specifically demonstrated to catalyze oxIAA (Zhang et al., 2016). These enzymes are thought to be extremely important in regulating auxin homeostasis by converting IAA to inactive and storage forms (reviewed by Zhang and Peer, 2017).

The agravitropic growth of wei2wei7 roots may be due to a combination of decreased auxin content caused by reduced AA levels and the AA deficiency itself, as both auxin and AA affect the localization and polarity of PIN proteins. As was shown previously for ES8 (Doyle et al., 2015a), AA appears to act selectively depending on the PIN protein and the root tissue. PIN1, PIN3 and PIN7 all display increased basal polarity in provascular cells of wei2wei7 compared to Col-0, suggesting increased flow of auxin towards the root tip in the mutant. Correspondingly, we found decreased expression of the auxin-responsive promoter DR5 in the root stele and increased expression around the root tip QC in the mutant, a pattern that was also observed in WT roots upon ES8 treatment. PIN7, but not PIN3, is also abnormally polarized in columella cells of wei2wei7, while both these proteins appear to be completely unresponsive to gravitropic stimulus in the mutant columella. Furthermore, the high expression of ASA1 and ASB1 in the root columella of the WT suggests the importance of AA in this tissue in particular, which our results suggest is due to a role for this compound in gravity-regulated PIN distribution on the plasma membranes. The particular importance of PIN1 and PIN3 in AA-regulated root gravitropism was further supported by the rescue, as well as the reduction in AA-induced rescue, of wei2wei7 root gravitropic growth by introduction of pin1 or pin3 mutations.

Taken together, our results strongly suggest that the endogenous compound AA plays a role in root gravitropism by regulating the polarity and gravity-induced relocation of specific PIN proteins in the provascular and columella cells. Furthermore, this role of AA is distinct from its well-known function in auxin biosynthesis, which we suggest is more important for root elongation than gravitropic growth.
Materials and Methods

Plant material and growth conditions

For surface sterilization of Arabidopsis thaliana seeds, one tablet of Bayrocholor (Bayrol) was dissolved in 40 ml distilled water before diluting 1:10 in 95% ethanol. Seeds were then incubated in the Bayrocholor solution (active ingredient sodium dichloroisocyanurate) for 6 min followed by two rinses with 95% ethanol. Seeds were then allowed to dry in a sterile environment before sowing on plates of growth medium containing ½ strength Murashige and Skoog (MS) medium at pH 5.6 with 1% sucrose, 0.05% MES and 0.7% plant agar (Duchefa Biochemie). Two d after stratification at 4°C to synchronize germination, the plates were positioned vertically and the seedlings were grown for 5 or 9 d at 22 °C on a 16 h : 8 h light : dark photoperiod. The Columbia-0 (Col-0) accession was used as the WT except for growth of pin3-5pin4-3pin7-1 seedlings, for which the Landsberg erecta (Ler) accession was also used, being the background for the pin7-1 allele. See Table S1 for the previously published Arabidopsis lines used. All mutants and marker lines in the wei2wei7 background were generated in this study by crossing. For selection of homozygous lines at the F2 generation, seedlings displaying a wei2wei7 phenotype were initially selected and then genotyped for the third mutation for triple mutants (see Table S2 for primers used), or observed on a fluorescence stereomicroscope for GFP marker line crosses. Finally, selected lines were confirmed for homozygous wei2-1 and wei7-1 mutations by genotyping (see Table S2 for primers used). The heterozygous lines pin1-201 and pin1-501 (we added 01 to the name of this mutant to distinguish from another pin1-5 allele) and their crosses with wei2wei7 were transferred to soil after imaging on treatment plates and only those that later formed pin-like inflorescences were included in root measurements in the initial images. All root length and gravitropic index measurements were performed on 9-d-old seedlings, while microscopy studies were performed on 5-d-old seedlings due to cell collapse in a proportion of the tips of older wei2wei7 roots. ImageJ software (https://imagej.nih.gov/ij/) was used to measure root length and vertical gravitropic index, which was calculated for each root as a ratio of $L_y : L$, where $L_y$ is the vertical distance from root base to tip, or the real depth of root tip penetration, and $L$ is the root length, as described in Grabov et al. (2005). For gravistimulated root bending experiments, seedlings were grown vertically for 5 d in treatment-free conditions, then
transferred to mock or estradiol-supplemented medium for 24 h, and then gravistimulated by turning the plates 90° for 24 h before measuring the root bending angles. The angles were measured in the direction of root bending between two lines intersecting at the former root tip position before gravistimulus, one being horizontal and the other originating from the current root tip position (Fig. S6 D).

**Chemical treatments**

Stock solutions of ES8 (ID 6444878; Chembridge), AA (Sigma-Aldrich), ES8.7 (ID 6437223; Chembridge) and ES8.7-Trp (see *Chemical synthesis*) were made in DMSO. Chemicals were diluted in liquid medium for short-term treatments (2 h) or growth medium for long-term treatments (5 or 9 d), in which case seeds were directly sown and germinated on chemical-supplemented medium. Equal volumes of solvent were used as mock treatments for controls. For live imaging, seedlings were mounted in their treatment medium for microscopic observations.

**IAA metabolite analysis**

For quantification of endogenous IAA and its metabolites, 20-30 whole seedlings per sample were flash-frozen in liquid nitrogen and ground with plastic microtube pestles. Approximately 20 mg of ground tissue was collected per sample and stored at -80°C. Extraction and analysis were performed according to Novák et al. (2012). Briefly, frozen samples were homogenized using a MixerMill bead mill (Retsch GmbH) and extracted in 1 ml of 50 mM sodium phosphate buffer containing 1% sodium diethyldithiocarbamate and a mixture of $^{13}$C$_6$- or deuterium-labeled internal standards. After pH adjustment to 2.7 by 1 M HCl, a solid-phase extraction was performed using Oasis HLB columns (30 mg 1 cc; Waters). Mass spectrometry analysis and quantification were performed by a liquid chromatography–tandem mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS) system comprising of a 1290 Infinity Binary LC System coupled to a 6490 Triple Quad LC/MS System with Jet Stream and Dual Ion Funnel technologies (Agilent Technologies).
**Chemical synthesis**

The following procedure was used to synthesize (4-(N-(4-chlorobenzyl)methylsulfonamido)benzoyl)tryptophan (ES8.7-Trp). Methyl sulfonyl chloride (3.1 ml, 45.5 mmol, 1.2 equivalent) and pyridine (3 ml, 37.1 mmol, 1.1 equivalent) were added to a solution of 4-aminoethylbenzoate (5.1 g, 33.7 mmol) in acetonitrile (100 ml) at 0°C and then stirred overnight at room temperature. The reaction mixture was concentrated and the resulting residue was dissolved in ethyl acetate. The organic layer was washed with HCl (2 N, 100 ml), saturated NaHCO$_3$, H$_2$O and brine, dried over Na$_2$SO$_4$, and concentrated to give an off-white solid (7.1 g, 94%), ethyl 4-(methylsulfonamido)benzoic acid, which was used without further purification. Then 4-chlorobenzyl bromide (1.43 ml, 11 mmol, 1.2 equivalent) and K$_2$CO$_3$ (3.8 g, 27.4 mmol, 3 equivalent) were added to a solution of ethyl 4-(methylsulfonamido)benzoate (2.1 g, 9.15 mmol) in dimethylformamide (DMF) (14 ml). The reaction mixture was stirred overnight after which liquid chromatography-mass spectrometry indicated the reaction was complete, yielding 4-(N-(4-chlorobenzyl)methylsulfonamido)ethylbenzoate (2.8 g, 88%). Next, NaOH (2 N, 15 ml) and H$_2$O (10 ml) were added to 2 g of 4-(N-(4-chlorobenzyl)methylsulfonamido)ethylbenzoate, followed by overnight stirring. The reaction mixture was acidified to pH 5 with concentrated HCl and partitioned between ethyl acetate and H$_2$O. The organic layer was washed with brine, dried over Na$_2$SO$_4$, and concentrated to give 4-(N-(4-chlorobenzyl)methylsulfonamido)ethylbenzoate (1.7 g, 92%), which was used without further purification. Then 10 ml thionyl chloride was added to a solution of 1 mmol 4-(N-(4-chlorobenzyl)methylsulfonamido)ethylbenzoate and refluxed for 12 h under a nitrogen atmosphere. The thionyl chloride was removed under reduced pressure to give acid chloride. Then 1.2 mmol tryptophan was dissolved in 5 ml DMF and cooled to 0°C. At this temperature the acid chloride was added slowly by dissolving in 3 ml DMF. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature for 24 h. Ice cold water was added to the reaction mixture, which was then extracted with chloroform and washed with brine solution three times to afford the crude mixture. Finally, purification with column chromatography using methanol and chloroform as a solvent system resulted in a light yellow solid, (4-(N-(4-chlorobenzyl)methylsulfonamido)benzoyl)tryptophan (ES8.7-Trp) with 68% yield.
Compound degradation analysis

For short-term treatments with 5 µM ES8 compounds, 5-day-old Col-0 and wei2wei7 seedlings were incubated for 5 h in ES8, ES8.7 and ES8.7-Trp-supplemented liquid medium before harvesting in liquid nitrogen along with samples of liquid treatment medium incubated for 5 h without any seedlings. For long-term treatments with 5 µM ES8 compounds, Col-0 and wei2wei7 seedlings were grown for 9 days on ES8, ES8.7 and ES8.7-Trp-supplemented solid medium before harvesting in liquid nitrogen along with samples of solid treatment medium incubated for 9 days without any seedlings. Samples from two biological replicates were harvested and divided into two technical replicates each. The medium samples were diluted 1:100 with 30% v/v acetonitrile and 10 µl was injected onto a Kinetex 1.7 µm C18 100A reversed-phase column 50 x 2.1 mm (Phenomenex) followed by analysis by LC-MS/MS. The seedling samples (around 10 mg fresh weight) were extracted in 0.4 ml acetonitrile using a MixerMill MM 301 bead mill (Retsch GmbH) with 2 mm ceria-stabilized zirconium oxide beads at a frequency of 27 Hz for 3 min. The plant tissue extracts were then incubated at 4°C with continuous shaking for 30 min, centrifuged in a Beckman Coulter Avanti 30 at 4°C for 15 min at 36,670 g and purified by liquid-liquid extraction using acetonitrile:hexan:H₂O:formic acid (4:5:1:0.01) to remove impurities and the sample matrix. After 30 min incubation at 4°C, the acetonitrile fractions were removed, evaporated to dryness in vacuo and dissolved in 50 µl 30% v/v acetonitrile prior to LC-MS/MS analysis using an Acquity UPLC I-Class System (Waters) coupled to a Xevo TQ-S MS triple quadrupole mass spectrometer (Waters). After injection of 10 µl, the purified samples were eluted using an 11 min gradient comprised of 0.1% acetic acid in methanol (A) and 0.1% acetic acid in water (B) at a flow rate of 0.5 ml/min and column temperature of 40°C. The binary linear gradient of 0 min 2:98 A:B, 11 min 95:5 A:B was used, after which the column was washed with 100% methanol for 1 min and re-equilibrated to initial conditions for 2 min. The effluent was introduced into the MS system with the following optimal settings: source/desolvation temperature 150/600°C, cone/desolvation gas flow 150/1000 L/h, capillary voltage 1 kV, cone voltage 25-40 V, collision energy 15-30 eV and collision gas flow (argon) 0.21 ml/min. Quantification and confirmation of the ES8 compounds were obtained by the multiple reaction monitoring mode using the following mass transitions: 274>111/274>230,
The non-AA and non-Trp parts of the ES8 compounds were monitored by high resolution mass spectrometry (HRMS) using a Synapt G2-Si hybrid Q-TOF tandem mass spectrometer (Waters) equipped with electrospray ionization (ESI) interface (source temperature 150°C, desolvation temperature 550°C, capillary voltage 1 kV and cone voltage 25 V). Nitrogen was used as the cone gas (50 L/h) and the desolvation gas (1000 L/h). Data acquisition was performed in full-scan mode (50-1000 Da) with a scan time of 0.5 sec and collision energy of 4 eV; argon was used as the collision gas (optimized pressure of 5 x 10^{-3} mbar). The HRMS analyses were performed in positive (ESI⁺) and negative (ESI⁻) modes. Finally, analyses of AA and Trp were performed according to Novák et al. (2012) (see IAA metabolite analysis). All chromatograms were analyzed with MassLynx software (version 4.1; Waters) and the compounds were quantified according to their recovery.

Generation of 35S::ASA1 and XVE::amiRNA-PAT1 lines

See Table S2 for primers used. For constitutive overexpression of ASA1 (AT5G05730), the coding region of the gene was amplified from Arabidopsis thaliana Col-0 cDNA. Primers for artificial microRNA (amiRNA) to knock down the PAT1 (AT5G17990) gene were designed using the Web MicroRNA Designer tool (http://wmd3.weigelworld.org). The amiRNA was obtained using the pRS300 vector as a PCR template, as described previously (Ossowski et al., 2008). The fragments were introduced into the Gateway pENTR/D-TOPO cloning vector (Invitrogen) and verified by sequencing. The ASA1 coding sequence was then cloned into the DL-phosphinotricin-resistant vector pFAST-R02 (Shimada et al., 2010), while the amiRNA was cloned into the hygromycin-resistant vector pMDC7b containing the estradiol-inducible XVE system (Curtis and Grossniklaus, 2003), using the LR reaction (Invitrogen). Agrobacterium-mediated transformation of the constructs into Arabidopsis thaliana Col-0 was achieved by floral dipping (Clough and Bent, 1998). Transformed plants were selected via antibiotic resistance on agar plates supplied with the respective antibiotics, 50 µg ml⁻¹ hygromycin B or 25 µg ml⁻¹ DL-phosphinotricin. Four and six independent homozygous 35S::ASA1 and XVE::amiRNA-PAT1 lines were analyzed, respectively. Two lines per construct were then selected that displayed strong and
reproducible constitutive ASA1 induction or induced PAT1 silencing, as determined by performing qPCR (see Quantitative PCR) using RNA extracted from one-week-old whole seedlings (Fig. S6 A and B). To induce silencing in the XVE::amiRNA-PAT1 seedlings, the seedlings were germinated and grown on agar plates supplemented with 20 µM estradiol, with DMSO used as a mock treatment control. Each selected 35S::ASA1 line was crossed with each selected XVE::amiRNA-PAT1 line and homozygous F2 generation offspring, named AxP (ASA1 x PAT1) lines, were selected as before via antibiotic resistance. The homozygous lines were then tested for gene expression as before via qPCR (12 independent lines were analyzed) (Fig. S6 C and D). Finally, two lines displaying reproducible simultaneous constitutive ASA1 induction and induced PAT1 silencing were selected for use in further experiments.

Quantitative PCR
Total RNA was extracted from whole seedlings using the RNeasy Plant Mini Kit (Qiagen) according to the manufacturer’s instructions. Samples were harvested in liquid nitrogen and the frozen tissue ground directly in their microtubes using microtube pestles. RQ1 RNase-free DNase (Promega) was used for the on-column DNase digestion step. RNA concentration was measured with a NanoDrop 2000 spectrophotometer (Thermo Scientific). cDNA was prepared with 1 µg RNA using the iScript cDNA Synthesis Kit (Bio-Rad) according to the manufacturer’s instructions. Serial dilutions of pooled cDNA from all samples for a particular experiment were used to determine efficiencies for each primer pair. Quantitative real-time PCR was performed on a LightCycler 480 System (Roche Diagnostics) using LightCycler 480 SYBR Green I Master reagents (Roche Diagnostics), including 2 technical replicates per sample. For amplification of mRNA, the following protocol was applied: 95°C for 5 min, then 40 cycles of 95°C for 10 sec, 60°C for 15 sec and 72°C for 20 sec. For each experiment, transcriptional levels of the four reference genes AT5G25760, AT1G13440, AT4G34270 and AT1G13320 were analyzed alongside the target genes (see Table S2 for primers used). Expression levels of the target genes were normalized against the two most stably expressed reference genes, as determined using GeNorm (Biogazelle) (Vandesompele et al., 2002), using the formula below, where E = efficiency, R =
reference gene, Cq = quantification cycle mean, T = target gene. For each target gene, the normalized expression values were scaled relative to that of the WT control.

\[
\text{Normalized expression} = \sqrt{\frac{E_{R1}^{Cq_{R1}} + E_{R2}^{Cq_{R2}}}{E_{T}^{Cq_{T}}}}
\]

**Generation of PIN7 antibody**

For the generation of anti-PIN7, a region of 882 bp corresponding to the hydrophilic loop of PIN7 was amplified and attB1 and attB2 recombination sites were incorporated (see Table S2 for primer sequences). The amplicon was recombined into the pDONR221 vector (Invitrogen) and the resulting pDONR221::PIN7HL was recombined into the pDEST17 vector (Invitrogen) in order to express the PIN7HL (31.4 kDa) in BL21 DE Star A E. coli cells. Cell cultures (250 ml) were induced in the logarithmic stage (after approx. 3.5 h) with 0.5 mM isopropyl β-D-1-thiogalactopyranoside (IPTG) for 7 h. Cells were harvested by centrifugation and resuspended in 15 ml PBS at pH 8.0 with 8 M urea and 10 mM imidazole and incubated at 4°C for 2 d. The PIN7HL expressed peptide was purified according to the Ni-NTA Purification System (Qiagen). The purified protein was then diluted in PBS buffer at pH 8.0 and desalted using Thermo Scientific Pierce concentrators 9K MWCO. The concentrated peptide was once more diluted in PBS at pH 8.0 before antibody production in rabbit, which was performed by the Moravian Biotechnology company (http://www.moravian-biotech.com/). Finally, serum specificity tests were performed in Col-0, pin7 mutants and PIN7-GFP lines.

**Immunolocalization and confocal microscopy**

Immunolocalization in Arabidopsis roots was performed as described previously, using an Intavis InsituPro Vsi (Doyle et al., 2015a). Primary antibodies used were anti-PIN1 at 1:500 (NASC), anti-PIN3 at 1:150 (NASC), anti-PIN4 at 1:400 (NASC) and anti-PIN7 at 1:600. Secondary antibodies used were Cy3-conjugated anti-rabbit and anti-sheep at 1:400 and 1:250, respectively (Jackson ImmunoResearch). Confocal laser scanning microscopy on seedling root tips was performed using a Zeiss LSM 780 confocal microscope with 40X water-immersion objective lens and images were acquired with Zeiss ZEN software using identical acquisition parameters between mock and chemical treatments and between the WT and mutant in each experiment. For PIN
basal polarity index quantification in provascular cells, the ‘mean gray area’ tool in ImageJ was used to measure plasma membrane fluorescence intensity in confocal images and a basal (lower) to lateral fluorescence ratio was calculated for each cell measured. To monitor gravitropically induced PIN relocalization in root columella cells, confocal Z-scans were acquired before and 30 min after gravistimulation, during which the seedlings were rotated 90° to the horizontal position. Fluorescence intensity at the apical (upper), basal (lower) and lateral plasma membranes of the cells was measured on maximal intensity projections of the Z-scans using ImageJ. For PIN apical-basal polarity index measurements, the apical-plus-basal to lateral-plus-lateral fluorescence ratio was calculated. For PIN relocalization measurements, the signal intensity ratio between the outermost lateral plasma membranes on the periphery of the columella (left and right sides) was measured before and after gravistimulation and these ratios were compared.

**GUS staining**

Seedlings were fixed in 80% acetone at -20°C for 20 min, washed three times with distilled water and then incubated in 2 mM X-GlcA in GUS buffer (0.1% triton X100, 10 mM EDTA, 0.5 mM potassium ferrocyanide and 0.5 mM potassium ferricyanide in 0.1 M phosphate buffer (Na2HPO4 / NaH2PO4) at pH 7). The samples were then infiltrated for 10 min in a vacuum desiccator before incubation in the dark at 37°C. The GUS reaction was stopped by replacing the GUS buffer with 70% ethanol. Samples were then mounted in 50% glycerol and observed on a Zeiss Axioplan microscope.

**Statistical analyses**

For all experiments, at least 3 biological replicates were performed and always on different days. When more than 3 or 4 biological replicates were performed, this was due to poor growth of *wei2wei7* that occasionally resulted in a low number of seedlings or quantifiable roots in some of the replicates. Wilcoxon rank sum (Mann–Whitney U) tests or Student’s t-tests were performed on full, raw datasets of nonparametric or parametric data, respectively, to determine statistically significant differences. On all charts, the means and standard errors of the biological replicates are displayed.
Supplemental material
Ten supplementary figures and two supplementary tables accompany this article.

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Author contributions
Siamsa M. Doyle, Adeline Rigal and Stéphanie Robert conceived and designed the research; Siamsa M. Doyle, Adeline Rigal, Peter Grones, Michal Karady, Deepak K. Barange, Mateusz Majda, Barbora Pařížková, Aleš Pěnčík and Ondřej Novák performed the experiments; Michael Karampelias and Marta Zwiewka produced and tested the PIN7 antibody; Fredrik Almqvist, Karin Ljung, Ondřej Novák and Stéphanie Robert supervised the research; Siamsa M. Doyle wrote the article with feedback from all the authors.
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**Figure Legends**

**Figure 1.** AA rescues root gravitropic growth and length differently in an AA-deficient mutant. (A) Chemical structures of ES8 and AA. (B) Root gravitropic index and length in 9-day-old Col-0 and wei2wei7 seedlings. (C) Representative images of 9-day-old Col-0 and wei2wei7 seedlings grown on treatment-supplemented medium. Scale bar represents 1 cm. (D-E) Root gravitropic index and length in 9-day-old seedlings of wei2wei7 grown on medium supplemented with a range of concentrations of AA (D) or
ES8 (E). Asterisks indicate samples significantly different from Col-0 (B) or the mock-treated control (D-E) (***p<0.001, *p<0.05). Error bars indicate standard error of the mean of the biological replicates. Values in square brackets indicate treatment concentrations in µM. $n = 25$ seedlings per sample per each of 4 (B), 3 (D) or 6 (E) biological replicates.

**Figure 2. Treatment with AA, but not ES8, can rescue the IAA level in wei2wei7.** (A-B) IAA concentrations in 9-day-old seedlings of Col-0 and wei2wei7 grown on AA (A) or ES8 (B) -supplemented medium. Concentrations are presented as pg per mg fresh weight (FW). Asterisks indicate samples significantly different from the Col-0 mock-treated control unless indicated otherwise (***p<0.01, *p<0.05). Error bars indicate standard error of the mean of the biological replicates. Values in square brackets indicate treatment concentrations in µM. Tissue was sampled from a mixture of 20 ground seedlings per sample per each of 5 (A) or 4 (B) biological replicates.

**Figure 3. AA affects gravitropically stimulated root bending independently of IAA biosynthesis.** (A-F) Categories of root bending angles for gravistimulated control and 20 µM estradiol-treated seedlings of Col-0 (A-B), AxP1 (C-D) and AxP2 (E-F). Polygonal x-axis frequency graphs showing root bending angles in 15° categories (A, C, E) and percentages of roots under-bending at 0-75° angles, bending at approximate right angles of 75-105° and over-bending at 105-360° (B, D, F). Five-day-old seedlings were transferred vertically to mock- (control) or 20 µM estradiol-supplemented medium for 24 h and then gravistimulated by turning 90° clockwise for a further 24 h before measuring gravistimulated root bending angles (see Fig. S6 D). Frequencies/percentages were calculated based on the full dataset of all seedlings measured. $n = 20$ seedlings per sample per each of 3 biological replicates.

**Figure 4. AA treatment or deficiency affects basal polarity of PIN auxin transporters in root provascular cells.** (A-C) Representative images of immunolabeled PIN1 (A), GFP fluorescence in PIN3::PIN3-GFP (B) and immunolabeled PIN7 (C) in stele provascular cells of 5-day-old Col-0 and wei2wei7 seedling roots. Scale bars represent 10 µm. (D-F) Basal polarity index (expressed as a
percentage of the Col-0 mock-treated control) of fluorescence intensities of anti-PIN1 (D), GFP in PIN3::PIN3-GFP (E) and anti-PIN7 (F) in stele provascular cells of 5-day-old Col-0 and wei2wei7 seedling roots treated for 2 h in liquid treatment medium. Asterisks indicate samples significantly different from the Col-0 mock-treated control unless indicated otherwise (***p<0.001, **p<0.01). Error bars indicate standard error of the mean of the biological replicates. Values in square brackets indicate concentrations in µM. n = 50 cells per each of 15 seedlings per sample per each of 3 biological replicates.

Figure 5. AA regulates gravistimulated relocalization of PIN auxin transporters in root columella cells. (A-B) Representative images of GFP fluorescence in PIN3::PIN3-GFP (A) and PIN7::PIN7-GFP (B) in columella cells of 5-day-old Col-0 and wei2wei7 seedling roots. Scale bars represent 10 µm. (C-D) Apical-basal polarity index (expressed as a percentage of the Col-0 mock-treated control) of fluorescence intensities of GFP in PIN3::PIN3-GFP (C) and PIN7::PIN7-GFP (D) in columella cells of 5-day-old seedlings of Col-0 and wei2wei7 grown on solid treatment medium. (E-F) Fluorescence intensity relocalization (lateral plasma membrane fluorescence after gravistimulation expressed as a percentage of the same plasma membrane fluorescence before gravistimulation) of GFP in PIN3::PIN3-GFP (E) and PIN7::PIN7-GFP (F) in columella cells of 5-day-old seedlings of Col-0 and wei2wei7 grown on solid treatment medium and gravistimulated at 90° for 30 min. Lateral refers to the cellular position of the plasma membrane in vertically positioned roots. Asterisks indicate samples significantly different from the Col-0 mock-treated control unless indicated otherwise (***p<0.001, **p<0.01, *p<0.05). Error bars indicate standard error of the mean of the biological replicates. Values in square brackets indicate concentrations in µM. n = 5 cells per each of 20 seedlings per sample per each of 3 biological replicates.

Supplemental Figure Legends

Figure S1. AA and other IAA precursors are deficient in wei2wei7. Concentrations of anthranilic acid (AA), tryptophan (Trp), tryptamine (Tra), indole-3-acetonitrile (IAN), indole-3-acetamide (IAM) and 2-oxoindole-3-acetic acid (oxIAA) in 9-day-old seedlings of Col-0 and wei2wei7. Concentrations are presented as pg per mg fresh
weight (FW). Asterisks indicate significant differences from Col-0 (**p<0.01, *p<0.05). Error bars indicate standard error of the mean of the biological replicates. Tissue was sampled from a mixture of 20 ground seedlings per sample per each of 4 biological replicates.

**Figure S2. Effects of AA and ES8 on root gravitropic growth and length in WT seedlings.** (A-B) Root gravitropic index and length in 9-day-old seedlings of Col-0 grown on medium supplemented with a range of concentrations of AA (A) or ES8 (B). Asterisks indicate samples significantly different from the mock-treated control (Ctrl) (**p<0.01, *p<0.05). Error bars indicate standard error of the mean of the biological replicates. Values in square brackets indicate treatment concentrations in µM. n = 25 seedlings per sample per each of 3 (A) or 6 (B) biological replicates.

**Figure S3. AA but not Trp analogs rescue root gravitropic growth but not length in wei2wei7.** (A-B) Chemical structures of ES8.7 (A) and ES8.7-Trp (B) and representative images of 9-day-old wei2wei7 seedlings grown on ES8.7 (A) and ES8.7-Trp (B) -supplemented medium. Scale bar represents 1 cm. (C-F) Root gravitropic index and length in 9-day-old seedlings of Col-0 (C, E) and wei2wei7 (D, F) grown on medium supplemented with a range of concentrations of ES8.7 (C, D) or ES8.7-Trp (E, F). Asterisks indicate samples significantly different from the mock-treated control (Ctrl) (**p<0.01, *p<0.05). Error bars indicate standard error of the mean of the biological replicates. Values in square brackets indicate concentrations in µM. n = 25 seedlings per samples per each of 7 (C, D) or 3 (E, F) biological replicates.

**Figure S4. The ES8 compounds are not degraded/metabolized to release AA or Trp.** Samples of Col-0 and wei2wei7 seedlings after short-term (5-day-old seedlings incubated 5 h in liquid treatment medium) or long-term (9-day-old seedlings grown on solid treatment medium) treatments with ES8 compounds were analyzed for the presence of various compounds. Samples of the short-term and long-term treatment medium, which were incubated for the same length of time but without any seedlings added, were also analyzed. (A) ES8 analysis in ES8-treated samples. (B) ES8.7 analysis in ES8.7-treated samples. (C) ES8.7-Trp analysis in ES8.7-Trp-treated samples. (D) AA
analysis after mock treatment (control) or treatment with ES8 or ES8.7. AA was not detected (ND) in the treatment medium samples. (E) Trp analysis after mock treatment (control) or treatment with ES8.7-Trp. Trp was not detected (ND) in the treatment medium samples. (F) Analysis of the non-AA/Trp part of the relevant ES8 compound after treatment with that ES8 compound. The non-AA/Trp parts of the compounds were not detected (ND) in any sample. Concentrations are presented as nmol per g fresh weight (FW) for seedling samples and µM for medium samples. Asterisks indicate long-term-treated samples significantly different from the corresponding short-term-treated samples (A-C) (***, p<0.001, **, p<0.01, *, p<0.05). No significant differences were found between ES8/ES8.7/ES8.7-Trp-treated and the corresponding mock-treated control samples (D-E). Error bars indicate standard error of the mean of the biological replicates. Values in square brackets indicate concentrations in µM. n = 100 Col-0 or 250 wei2wei7 5-day-old seedlings or 50 Col-0 or 150 wei2wei7 9-day-old seedlings per sample per each of 2 biological replicates, with 2 technical replicates analyzed per biological replicate.

**Figure S5. Expression levels of **ASA1** and **PAT1** in **AxP** lines.** (A) Normalized expression levels of **ASA1** and **PAT1** in 7-day-old 35S::ASA1 seedlings. (B) Normalized expression levels of **ASA1** and **PAT1** in 7-day-old non-induced (-) and estradiol-induced (+) XVE::amiRNA-PAT1 seedlings. (C-D) Normalized expression levels of **ASA1** (C) and **PAT1** (D) in 7-day-old non-induced (-) and estradiol-induced (+) 35S::ASA1 x XVE::amiRNA-PAT1 (AxP) seedlings. The lines marked with squares were selected for further analysis (*AxP1*: 3B6x2D4 line no. 4; *AxP2*: 3B7x2D4 line no. 21). For estradiol induction of **PAT1** silencing, seedlings were grown on 20 µM estradiol-supplemented medium. Expression values relative to the Col-0 non-induced control are shown. Asterisks indicate samples significantly different from the Col-0 non-induced control (***, p<0.001, **, p<0.01, *, p<0.05). Error bars indicate standard error of the mean of the biological replicates. n = 20 seedlings per sample per each of 3 biological replicates.

**Figure S6. IAA metabolite levels and root phenotypes of **AxP** lines.** (A) Concentrations of anthranilic acid (AA), tryptophan (Trp), indole-3-acetonitrile (IAN), indole-3-acetamide (IAM), indole-3-acetic acid (IAA), IAA-Aspartate (IAAsp), IAA-
Glutamate (IAGlu) and 2-oxoindole-3-acetic acid (oxIAA) in 5-day-old seedlings of Col-0, AxP1 and AxP2 grown on 20 µM estradiol-supplemented medium. IAAsp levels were below the limit of detection (LOD) in the AxP lines. Concentrations are presented as pg per mg fresh weight (FW). (B-C) Root gravitropic index (B) and length (C) in 9-day-old Col-0, AxP1 and AxP2 seedlings grown on mock Asterisks indicate long-term-treated samples significantly different from the corresponding short-term-treated samples (Control) and 20 µM estradiol-supplemented medium. (D) Scheme representing root bending angle (α) measurements in Col-0 and AxP lines after a 90° gravistimulus (black arrow). Angles were measured at the pre-gravistimulus root tip position (red arrows). Different letters indicate significant differences (p<0.05). Error bars indicate standard error of the mean of the biological replicates. Tissue was sampled from a mixture of 20 ground seedlings per sample per each of 3 biological replicates (A). n = 20 seedlings per each of 3 biological replicates (B-C).

Figure S7. Expression pattern of the auxin-responsive promoter DR5 is altered in the root by ES8 treatment or AA deficiency. (A-B) Representative images of GFP fluorescence of DR5::GFP in full roots (A) and root tips (B) of 5-day-old Col-0 and wei2wei7 seedlings grown on mock (Control), ES8 or AA-supplemented medium. Scale bars represent 200 µm (A) and 20µm (B). Tiled compilations of images were used to visualize the full roots (A). Accumulations of GFP signal in cell file initials surrounding the QC are marked by white arrows (B). Values in square brackets indicate concentrations in µM. n = 3 (A) or 10 (B) seedlings imaged per sample per each of 4 (A) or 3 (B) biological replicates.

Figure S8. Expression levels of PIN genes in Col-0 and wei2wei7. (A) Normalized expression levels of PIN1, PIN2, PIN3, PIN4 and PIN7 in 9-day-old Col-0 and wei2wei7 seedlings. (B) Normalized expression levels of PIN1, PIN3 and PIN7 in 5-day-old Col-0 and wei2wei7 seedlings treated for 2 h in liquid treatment medium. Expression values relative to Col-0 (A) or the Col-0 mock-treated control (B) are shown. Graphs show mean of 4 biological replicates and standard error of the mean. Asterisks indicate significantly different from Col-0 (**p<0.01, *p<0.05). Error bars indicate standard error of the mean of the biological replicates. Values in square
brackets indicate concentrations in µM. \( n = 30 \) seedlings per sample per each of 4 biological replicates.

**Figure S9. Expression patterns of ASA1 and ASB1 in the root and immunolocalization of PIN3, PIN4 and PIN7 in the columella.** (A-C) Representative images of GUS-stained upper roots (A), lower roots (B) and root tips (C) of 9-day-old ASA1::GUS and ASB1::GUS seedlings. Scale bars represent 30 µm. (D-F) Representative images (merged transmission light and Cy3 channel images) of immunolabeled PIN3 (D), PIN4 (E) and PIN7 (F) in root tips of 5-day-old Col-0 or wei2wei7 seedlings. Scale bars represent 10 µm. \( n = 10 \) seedlings imaged per sample per each of 3 biological replicates.

**Figure S10. Root gravitropic growth in pin and wei2wei7pin mutants.** (A) Root gravitropic index in 5-day-old seedlings of pin mutants and pin mutants crossed into wei2wei7. (B-C) Root gravitropic index (expressed as a percentage of that in mock-treated samples of the same line) in 5-day-old seedlings of pin and wei2wei7pin mutants grown on 15 µM ES8 (B) and 20 µM AA (C) -supplemented medium. Asterisks and hash symbols indicate significant differences from Col-0 (**p<0.01, *p<0.05) or wei2wei7 (###p<0.001, #p<0.05), respectively. Error bars indicate standard error of the mean of the biological replicates. \( n = 30 \) seedlings per sample per each of 3 biological replicates.

**Supplemental Tables**

Table S1. *Arabidopsis* mutants and transformed lines used in this study.

Table S2. Genotyping, cloning and qPCR primers used in this study.
FIGURE 1

A Chemical structures

Endosidin 8 (ES8)

Anthranilic acid (AA)

B Root gravitropism

Root length

Col-0

wei2wei7

Col-0

wei2wei7

C Col-0 control

wei2wei7 control

wei2wei7 AA[10]

wei2wei7 ES8[5]

D wei2wei7 root gravitropism

wei2wei7 root length

E wei2wei7 root gravitropism

wei2wei7 root length
FIGURE 2

IAA analysis

A

B

Conc (pg/mg FW)

Treatment

Control AA[0.5] AA[1] AA[10] Col-0

wei2 wei7

Treatment

Control ES8[5] ES8.7[5] ES8.7-Trp[5]

wei2 wei7

Conc (pg/mg FW)
FIGURE 3

A. **Col-0**

- **Control**
  - 270°
  - 0°
  - 180°
  - 90°

- **Estradiol**
  - 270°
  - 0°
  - 180°
  - 90°

B. **Col-0**

- Bar graph showing:
  - Under-bend (0-75°)
  - ~90° bend (75-105°)
  - Over-bend (105-360°)

C. **AxP1**

- **Control**
  - 270°
  - 0°
  - 180°
  - 90°

- **Estradiol**
  - 270°
  - 0°
  - 180°
  - 90°

D. **AxP1**

- Bar graph showing:
  - Under-bend (0-75°)
  - ~90° bend (75-105°)
  - Over-bend (105-360°)

E. **AxP2**

- **Control**
  - 270°
  - 0°
  - 180°
  - 90°

- **Estradiol**
  - 270°
  - 0°
  - 180°
  - 90°

F. **AxP2**

- Bar graph showing:
  - Under-bend (0-75°)
  - ~90° bend (75-105°)
  - Over-bend (105-360°)
FIGURE 4

A. Stele PIN1

B. Stele PIN3-GFP

C. Stele PIN7

D. Stele PIN1 basal polarity

E. Stele PIN3-GFP basal polarity

F. Stele PIN7 basal polarity
FIGURE 5

A  Columella PIN3-GFP

B  Columella PIN7-GFP

C  Columella PIN3-GFP polarity

D  Columella PIN7-GFP polarity

E  Columella PIN3-GFP relocalization

F  Columella PIN7-GFP relocalization
FIGURE S1

IAA metabolite analysis

AA

0
5
10
15
Col-0
wei2
wei7
Conc (pg/mg FW)

Trp

0
200
400
600
800
1000
1200
Col-0
wei2
wei7
Conc (pg/mg FW)

Tra

0
0.5
1
1.5
2
Col-0
wei2
wei7
Conc (pg/mg FW)

IAN

0
2000
4000
6000
8000
Col-0
wei2
wei7
Conc (pg/mg FW)

IAM

0
1.5
2.0
Col-0
wei2
wei7
Conc (pg/mg FW)

oxIAA

0
10
20
30
40
50
Col-0
wei2
wei7
Conc (pg/mg FW)
FIGURE S5

A  35S::ASA1 lines

B  XVE::amiRNA-PAT1 lines

C  AxP lines ASA1 expression

D  AxP lines PAT1 expression
**FIGURE S6**

**A**

**IAA metabolite analysis in estradiol-induced AxP lines**

- **AA**
- **Tryptophan (Trp)**
- **Indole-3-lactic acid (IAN)**
- **Indole-3-malic acid (IAM)**
- **Indole-3-acetic acid (IAA)**
- **Indole-3-acetic acid amide (IAAsp)**
- **Indole-3-glycerol (IAGlu)**
- **Oxindole-3-acetic acid (oxIAA)**

**B**

**AxP root gravitropism**

- **Control**
- **Estradiol**

**C**

**AxP root length**

- **Control**
- **Estradiol**

**D**

Gravitropic angle markers:
- 0°
- 90°
- 180°
- 270°
FIGURE S7

A Root DR5::GFP auxin response pattern

B Root tip DR5::GFP auxin response pattern
FIGURE S8

A  PIN expression levels at 9 days old

B  PIN expression levels at 5 days old
A Mutant root gravitropism

Col-0
wei2wei7
eir1-4
wei2wei7 pin3-4
wei2wei7 pin3-5
wei2wei7 pin4-3
wei2wei7 pin7-2
wei2wei7

B Mutant root gravitropism sensitivity to ES8

Col-0
wei2wei7
eir1-4
wei2wei7 pin3-4
wei2wei7 pin3-5
wei2wei7 pin4-3
wei2wei7 pin7-2

C Mutant root gravitropism sensitivity to AA

Col-0
wei2wei7
Table S1. *Arabidopsis* mutants (A) and transformed lines (B) used in this study. SALK/SAIL T-DNA insertion lines (Alonso et al., 2003) were obtained from NASC. Arabidopsis Genome Initiative (AGI) codes are included for all genes. We renamed *pin1-5* SALK line 097144 to *pin1-501* to distinguish the mutant from another published *pin1-5* allele. *These crosses were kindly provided by Jiri Friml.

### A) Mutants

| Mutant name | ID / mutation type | Gene name(s) | AGI code(s) | Reference(s) |
|-------------|--------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| wei2-wei7-1 | point mutation, deletion | ASAI, ASB1 | AT5G05730, AT1G25220 | Stepanova et al. (2005) |
| pin1-201   | SALK_047613/047843 | PIN1         | AT1G73590   | Furutani et al. (2004) |
| pin1-501   | SALK_097144        | PIN1         | AT1G73590   | Xu et al. (2010), Zourelidou et al. (2009) |
| eir1-4     | SALK_091142/547613 | PIN2         | AT5G57090   | Abas et al. (2006) |
| pin3-4     | SALK_038609        | PIN3         | AT1G70940   | Friml et al. (2003) |
| pin3-5     | SALK_005544        | PIN3         | AT1G70940   | Friml et al. (2003) |
| pin4-3     | En-1 transposon insertion | PIN4 | AT2G01420 | Friml et al. (2002) |
| pin3-5pin4-3* | see above | see above | see above | Le et al. (2014) |
| pin7-2     | SALK_044687        | PIN7         | AT1G23080   | Friml et al. (2003) |
| pin3-3pin7-2* | see above | see above | see above | ---- |
| pin4-3pin7-2* | see above | see above | see above | ---- |
| pin3-5pin4-3pin7-1 | (pin7-1: transposable Ds element insertion) | (pin7-1: PIN7) | (pin7-1: AT1G23080) | Friml et al. (2003) |

### B) Transformed lines

| Line name | AGI code | Reference |
|-----------|----------|-----------|
| DR5rev::GFP | ---- | Friml et al. (2003) |
| PIN3::PIN3-GFP | PIN3: AT1G70940 | Žádníková et al. (2010) |
| PIN7::PIN7-GFP | PIN7: AT1G23080 | Blilou et al. (2005) |
| ASB1::GUS  | ASB1: AT5G05730 | Stepanova et al. (2005) |

Table S1 References

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Table S2. Genotyping (A), cloning (B) and qPCR (C) primers used in this study. Primers marked SALK or CSH were sourced from the SALK Institute Genomic Analysis Laboratory website (http://signal.salk.edu/) or the Cold Spring Harbor Arabidopsis Genetrap website (http://genetrap.cshl.org/), respectively. Primers with no indicated source have not been published previously (sequences designed in the present study or kindly provided by collaborators). Arabidopsis Genome Initiative (AGI) codes are included (for affected gene AGIs in mutants listed in (A) see Supplemental Table S1).

### A) Genotyping primers

| Mutation | Reactions/Digestion | Forward | Reverse | Source |
|----------|---------------------|---------|---------|--------|
| wei2-1   | F+R, digest with XbaI | GTGAATCCAAGTCCGTATATGGGTTATTTTCTAG | TGCACTCCCTCTAGGCTGAATAAACAG | Ikeda et al. (2009) |
| wei7-1   | F+R1, F+R2 | CTTCTCTTACCTCTATGACGTAGCGA | GCCATCGAAAACATGATTTGGGATTG | Ikeda et al. (2009) |
| pin1-201 | F+R, LBb1.3+R | CAAAGAACACAAAAAAATTTC | AATCATCAGCAAGGACTAGA | SALK |
| pin1-5   | F+R, LBb1.3+R | AACTGGCTTCACAGCAGAAAAG | ATTTATGGGGCAACGCGATCA | SALK |
| eir1-4   | F+R, LBa1+R | CACCGGACTTAAAGTTTCT | GAAAGGCCAAGAGACTAGA | ---- |
| pin3-4   | F+R, LBb1.3+R | TGCACCTTAAATCAAAGACAC | TGAATTCTTGAACCAAGGACTAGA | SALK |
| pin3-5   | F+R, LBb1.3+R | CCCATCCCCAAAAGTAGGTG | ATGATAACCTGAGCGACG | SALK |
| pin4-3   | F+R, En8130+R | AACCCTGACCTGTTTCACTA | GCCATTGCAAGGACACGATC | ---- |
| pin7-2   | F+R, LBb1.3+R | CTCTTTGCAAACACAAACCG | GGTAAGGGAAGTGGCCTAACC | SALK |
| pin7-1   | F+R, F+Ds5 | AAATCGGATCAAGCGGTTGTG | CGTGAAATTTCCGCAAGC | ---- |

| Gene | AGI code | Forward | Reverse | Remark |
|------|----------|---------|---------|--------|
| ASA1 | AT5G05730 | CACCATGTCTTTTCTATGAAAGTACGA | TCAATTTTCTCAATTGACGCAATTC | coding region |
| PAT1 | AT5G17990 | GATCTAATAAGCAAAGACCGCTTGTCTCTTGAGGAGAATGACG | GAAAGCTGCTTCTTTATTAGAGAAGAAAGAATGGAGAATGACG | amiRNA sequence |
| PIN7 | AT1G23080 | GAGACTGCTTGCTCCATTGTA | CCGAGCTCATACACACACAG | microRNA I, II |
|      |          | GAGACCCATTATTGTTTACAAAAAGACCGCTTCACACAG | GCACACACACACACACAG | microRNA* IV |
|      |          | GAGACCTTATTGTTTACAAAAAGACCGCTTCACACAG | GCACACACACACACACAG | oligo A, B |

### B) Cloning primers

| Gene | AGI code | Forward | Reverse | Remark |
|------|----------|---------|---------|--------|
| ASA1 | AT5G05730 | CACCATGTCTTTTCTATGAAAGTACGA | TCAATTTTCTCAATTGACGCAATTC | coding region |
| PAT1 | AT5G17990 | GATCTAATAAGCAAAGACCGCTTGTCTCTTGAGGAGAATGACG | GAAAGCTGCTTCTTTATTAGAGAAGAAAGAATGGAGAATGACG | amiRNA sequence |
| PIN7 | AT1G23080 | GAGACTGCTTGCTCCATTGTA | CCGAGCTCATACACACACAG | microRNA I, II |
|      |          | GAGACCCATTATTGTTTACAAAAAGACCGCTTCACACAG | GCACACACACACACACAG | microRNA* IV |
|      |          | GAGACCTTATTGTTTACAAAAAGACCGCTTCACACAG | GCACACACACACACACAG | oligo A, B |

| Gene | AGI code | Forward | Reverse | Remark |
|------|----------|---------|---------|--------|
| ASA1 | AT5G05730 | CACCATGTCTTTTCTATGAAAGTACGA | TCAATTTTCTCAATTGACGCAATTC | coding region |
| PAT1 | AT5G17990 | GATCTAATAAGCAAAGACCGCTTGTCTCTTGAGGAGAATGACG | GAAAGCTGCTTCTTTATTAGAGAAGAAAGAATGGAGAATGACG | amiRNA sequence |
| PIN7 | AT1G23080 | GAGACTGCTTGCTCCATTGTA | CCGAGCTCATACACACACAG | microRNA I, II |
|      |          | GAGACCCATTATTGTTTACAAAAAGACCGCTTCACACAG | GCACACACACACACACAG | microRNA* IV |
|      |          | GAGACCTTATTGTTTACAAAAAGACCGCTTCACACAG | GCACACACACACACACAG | oligo A, B |
### C) qPCR primers

| Gene  | AGI code | Forward | Reverse | Reference                  |
|-------|----------|---------|---------|---------------------------|
| PEX4  | AT5G25760| CTCACTGCGACTCAGGGAATCTTC | AGGCGTGTATACATTGGTGCCATT | Doyle et al. (2015)       |
| GADPH | AT1G13440| TAGTGCAACAGGTCAAGCA | AAACTTGTCGCTAATGCAATC | Doyle et al. (2015)       |
| TIP41-LIKE | AT4G34270 | GGTTCCTCTCTCTGCGATT | ACAGTTGGTGCTCATCTTT | Doyle et al. (2015)       |
| PP2A PDF2 | AT1G13320 | TAAATGGCCCAAATGATGC | GTTCTCCACACCGGCTTGGT | Doyle et al. (2015)       |
| PIN1  | AT1G73590| TACTCCGAGACCTCCAACCTACG | TCCACCGCCACCACCTTCC | Růžička et al. (2009)    |
| PIN2  | AT5G57090| CCTGCGCCGACTCTTCTCTTTGG | CCGTACATCGCCCTAAAGCAATGG | Růžička et al. (2009) |
| PIN3  | AT1G70940| CCCAGATCAATCTCAACG | CCGCGGAAACTAAATTGTTG | Lucas et al. (2011)      |
| PIN4  | AT2G01420| GTGCTCTCTGATCAACCTCGAA | ATCAAGACCGCGATATCAT | Lucas et al. (2011)      |
| PIN7  | AT1G23080| CCGCTGATATTTGATAATGGTG | GCAATGCAGCTTGAACAATGG | Růžička et al. (2009) |
| ASA1  | AT5G05730| ATGCATAAAGCTCCACGGTGAC | GTACGTCCCAGAACTCAAATCC | present study           |
| PAT1 (1) | AT5G17990 | ATCGATCTCTCTCTTTTAGTCGCAGCT | TCCACCGCTCAAACCGAGATTC | present study           |
| PAT1 (2) | AT5G17990 | GTGGTTAAAGCGCCTTTGCTT | GCCACCCGCAATAACCACGTCAC | present study           |

### Table S2 references

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