RADA-dependent branch migration has a predominant role in plant mitochondria and its defect leads to mtDNA instability and cell cycle arrest
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The RADA helicase has a predominant role in plant mitochondrial genome stability and its defect leads to cell cycle arrest, reduced plant growth and very low fertility
Arabidopsis plants deficient in the organellar helicase RADA are severely impaired in their development and fertility, correlating with increased mitochondrial genome recombination involving small repeats and accumulation of recombination-generated subgenomes. The picture is a scanning electron microscope image showing that no pollen attaches to the stigmatic papillae cells of the mutant, explaining its very low fertility.
Image credit: Nicolas Chevigny