

The following information applies to all parts.

1. Molecules known as dinucleoside polyphosphates, a type of nucleotide, are signaling molecules that accumulate in plant cells during dry or stressful conditions.

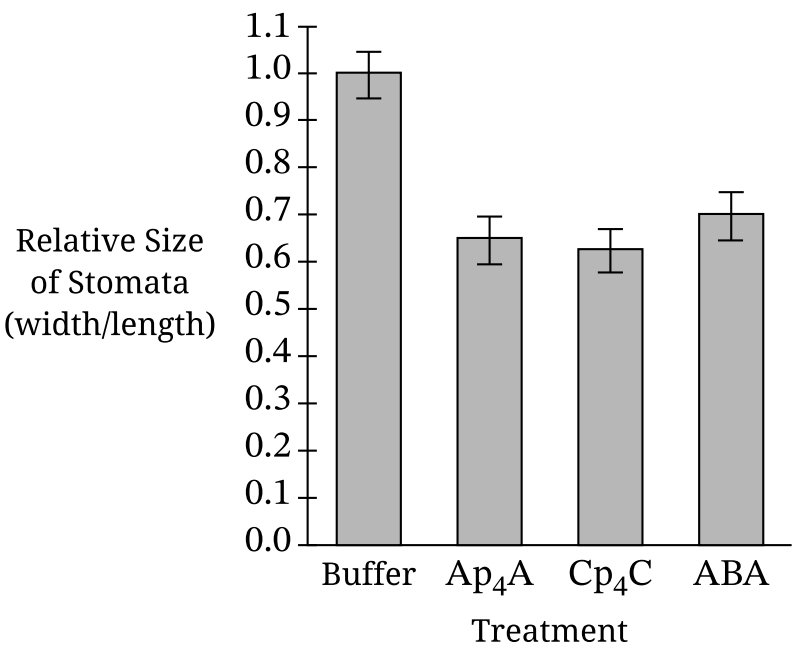
Part A

Describe the three structural components of a nucleotide.

The following information applies to parts B, C, and D.

Stomata are pores on the surface of leaves that open when exposed to light and regulate the flow of carbon dioxide, oxygen, and water vapor in and out of a plant. In response to dry environmental conditions, many plants close their stomata, which reduces water loss. Scientists hypothesized that the dinucleoside polyphosphates Ap_4A and Cp_4C bind to DORN1 receptors on the plasma membrane of plant cells and initiate signaling cascades that cause stomata to close. The scientists exposed plants to light to open the stomata and then placed samples of the leaves in buffer alone or in buffer containing one of three different compounds: Ap_4A , Cp_4C , or abscisic acid (ABA), a molecule that causes stomata to close. The scientists measured the size of the stomata in each sample and calculated their sizes relative to the size of the stomata in the sample kept in buffer alone, as shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1. Effect of Ap_4A , Cp_4C , and ABA on Relative Stomatal Size (Error Bars Represent $\pm \text{SE}_{\bar{x}}$)



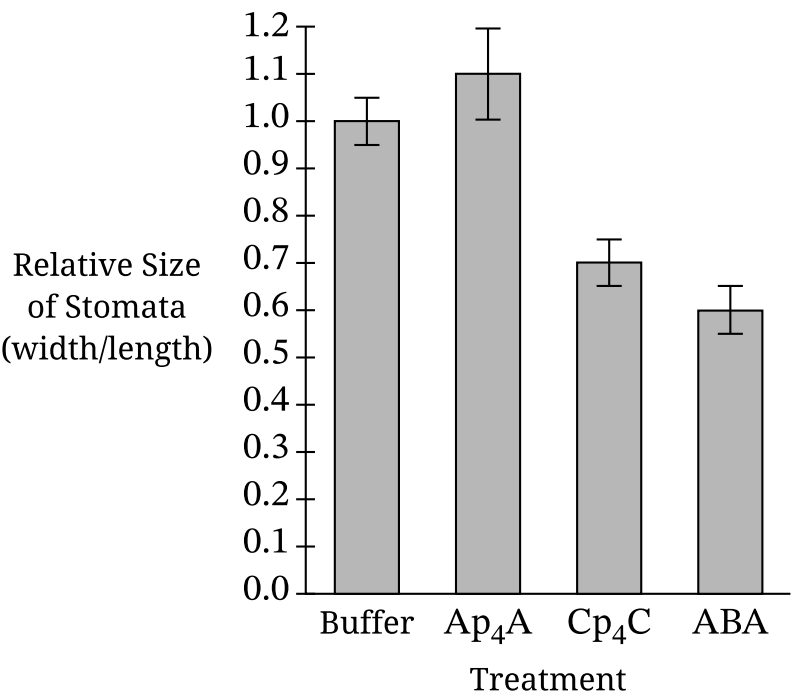
Part B

- Identify the dependent variable in the scientists' first experiment.
- Based on Figure 1, describe the relative size of the stomata in the Cp_4C treatment group as compared with the size of the stomata in the group treated with buffer alone.
- Justify the use of buffer alone as a control in the scientists' experiments.

Part C

In a second experiment, the scientists used plants that were identical to those in the first experiment except that the gene encoding the DORN1 receptor was mutated. The scientists repeated the procedure of the first experiment. Their results are shown in Figure 2.

Figure 2. Effect of Ap_4A , Cp_4C , and ABA on Relative Stomatal Size in DORN1 Mutants (Error Bars Represent $\pm \text{SE}_{\bar{x}}$)



- Justify the scientists' treating one sample of leaves with ABA in the experiments.
- Based on Figure 2, describe the difference between the effects of Ap_4A and Cp_4C treatments on the size of stomata in plants with mutated DORN1 receptors.
- Activation of DORN1 receptors induces plant cells to produce certain molecules that cause the stomata to close. Based on the data in Figures 1 and 2 for cells treated with Ap_4A , predict the relative production of the molecules by DORN1-mutated cells in comparison to the production by nonmutated cells.

Part D

The DORN1 receptor transmits signals that result in an increase in the transcription of genes involved in plant defenses. The scientists then developed DORN1-mutant plants in which the DORN1 receptor lacked most of its intracellular domain.

- In cells homozygous for this mutation, predict the effect of Ap_4A treatment on transcription of the genes involved in plant defenses relative to the effect of Ap_4A on nonmutated cells.
- Justify your prediction.