

1 **Title:**

2 **Selection of transformation efficient barley genotypes based on *TFA* (transformation**  
3 **amenability) haplotype and higher resolution mapping of the *TFA* loci**

4

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21

22 **Abstract**

23 Barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) cv. 'Golden Promise' is one of the most useful and well-studied cultivars  
24 for genetic manipulation. In a previous report, we identified several transformation amenability (*TFA*)  
25 loci responsible for *Agrobacterium*-mediated transformation by using the F<sub>2</sub> generation of immature  
26 embryos, derived from 'Haruna Nijo' × 'Golden Promise', as explants. In this report, we describe  
27 higher density mapping of these *TFA* regions with additional SNP markers using the same transgenic  
28 plants. To demonstrate the robustness of transformability alleles at the *TFA* loci, we genotyped 200  
29 doubled haploid progeny from the cross 'Golden Promise' × 'Full Pint'. Based on SNP genotype, we  
30 selected lines having 'Golden Promise' alleles at *TFA* loci and used them for transformation. Of the  
31 successfully transformed lines, DH120366 came the closest to achieving a level of transformation

32 efficiency comparable to ‘Golden Promise’. The results validate that the genetic substitution of *TFA*  
33 alleles from ‘Golden Promise’ can facilitate the development of transformation efficient lines from  
34 recalcitrant barley cultivars.

35

36 **Keywords** *Agrobacterium tumefaciens*, doubled haploid, *Hordeum vulgare* (barley), single nucleotide  
37 polymorphism, transformation

38

### 39 **Key message**

40 The genetic substitution of transformation amenability alleles from ‘Golden Promise’ can facilitate the  
41 development of transformation efficient lines from recalcitrant barley cultivars.

42

### 43 **Introduction**

44 The success of genetic transformation in plants is strongly genotype-dependent. For example, the  
45 Columbia ecotype in *Arabidopsis thaliana* and cvs. ‘Nipponbare’ or ‘Taichung 65’ (T-65) in rice  
46 (*Oryza sativa*) are the most capable genotypes at producing transgenic plants (Zhang et al. 2006;  
47 Nishimura et al. 2006). There is a genetic component to transformation efficiency in plants, including  
48 attributes such as the ratio of T-DNA/transgene integration, callus differentiation, and green shoot  
49 regeneration (Nam et al. 1997; Cogan et al. 2004; Sparrow et al. 2004). There may be interactions  
50 between genetic factors (cultivars) and experimental conditions, e.g. components of medium,  
51 temperature during tissue culture, and type of explants. If the genes responding to these conditions are  
52 isolated and manipulated, more cultivars and/or breeding lines would be amenable to genetic  
53 transformation. Recently, two transcription factors - *baby boom* (*BBM*) and *Wuschel2* (*WUS2*) - were  
54 identified as key players for transformation efficiency in monocot plants including maize, sorghum,  
55 sugarcane, and rice (Lowe et al. 2016).

56 Barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) transformation is currently possible with both biolistic and  
57 *Agrobacterium*-mediated methods (Lü et al. 2015). After Tingay et al. (1997) developed the  
58 *Agrobacterium*-mediated method for barley transformation, ‘Golden Promise’ has been used for the  
59 functional analysis of several genes of scientific and economic interests (reviewed in Mrízová et al.  
60 2014). Despite massive attempts at technical improvements, barley transformation is still performed  
61 with a limited number of cultivars e.g. ‘Golden Promise’ and ‘Igri’ (Kumlehn et al. 2006; Hensel et al.  
62 2008; Harwood 2012). These genotype-dependent transformation systems limit the opportunities for

63 complementation analysis when the transformed cultivar has a non-functional allele at the target gene.  
64 For example, Deng et al. (2015) studied the gene cascades related to a vernalization gene (*VRN1*)  
65 encoding a transcription factor using ‘Golden Promise’ as a model. However, ‘Golden Promise’ does  
66 not require vernalization and is photoperiod insensitive. Therefore, wild type ‘Golden Promise’ was  
67 unsuitable for the transcriptome sequencing (RNA-seq) and chromatin immunoprecipitation  
68 sequencing (ChIP-seq) to identify direct targets of *VRN1*. To produce a vernalization-requiring  
69 derivative of ‘Golden Promise’, full-length versions of *VRN1* and *VRN2*, plus a functional copy of  
70 *PHOTOPERIOD1* were introgressed into ‘Golden Promise’ through three rounds of recurrent crossing  
71 with marker assisted selection. As another example, Sato et al. (2016) developed a backcross-derived  
72 line in the cv. ‘Golden Promise’ background with substitutions of target segments carrying the *Qsdl*  
73 gene for seed dormancy and used this substitution line for transformation experiments including  
74 complementation and RNAi. In both examples, substantial time and resources were required to  
75 develop the necessary genetic stocks prior to transformation. It is not prudent to directly attempt  
76 transformation of target genotypes without knowing their degree of transformability.

77         We recently reported a significant technical advancement for *Agrobacterium*-mediated  
78 transformation efficiency in barley using progeny from the cross between cvs. ‘Haruna Nijo’, which  
79 is recalcitrant for transformation, and ‘Golden Promise’ (Hisano and Sato 2016). By isolating 3,013  
80 F<sub>2</sub> generation immature embryos and subsequent infection with *Agrobacterium*, we generated 60  
81 independently transformed plants and genotyped them using genome-wide SNP markers. By mapping  
82 regions distorted in favor of ‘Golden Promise’ alleles in these plants, we identified three major  
83 transformation amenability (*TFA*) loci. In the same report we describe the use of progeny from the  
84 cross of ‘Morex’ (recalcitrant) × ‘Golden Promise’. Based on these results we proposed that  
85 transformation could be used in any barley genotype into which favorable *TFA* alleles from ‘Golden  
86 Promise’ were introgressed. To validate this *TFA*-based pre-selection strategy for candidate line  
87 transformation, assessment of *TFA* alleles from ‘Golden Promise’ in other genetic backgrounds is  
88 necessary.

89         Here we report validation of the effects of ‘Golden Promise’ *TFA* alleles using 200 doubled  
90 haploid progeny from the cross of ‘Golden Promise’ × ‘Full Pint’ (the Oregon Promise mapping  
91 population). This population was developed with the principal goal of assessing the contributions of  
92 barley genotype to beer flavor. Those results will be reported elsewhere, as will QTLs and genes  
93 associated with agronomic and disease resistance traits. In addition these lines will be used for future

94 complementation or genome editing work. Of immediate applicability to *TFA* allele validation, ‘Full  
95 Pint’ is recalcitrant to *Agrobacterium*-mediated transformation, and the Oregon Promise population  
96 has been extensively genotyped for QTL mapping, allowing for the inspection of haplotypes and  
97 selection of target *TFA* alleles. In addition, we added markers to the ‘Haruna Nijo’ × ‘Golden Promise’  
98 map in order to better delimit the *TFA* QTLs and facilitate map alignment with anchor markers.

99

## 100 **Materials and Methods**

101

### 102 **Plant materials**

103 Sixty transgenic plants (tHN×GP) previously generated using F<sub>2</sub> immature embryos from the cross of  
104 ‘Haruna Nijo’ × ‘Golden Promise’ (Hisano and Sato 2016) were used for higher resolution mapping  
105 by genotyping with SNP markers. The 200 doubled haploids comprising the Oregon Promise doubled  
106 haploid population were developed using anther culture, following the protocols described by Cistué  
107 et al. (1994) and Echávarri et al. (2016). The Oregon Promise population was developed jointly by the  
108 Cistue lab at the Dept. Genética y Producción Vegetal, Estación Experimental de Aula Dei, Zaragoza,  
109 Spain and the Hayes lab in the Department of Crop and Soil Science, Oregon State University,  
110 Corvallis, Oregon, USA. The population was generated for the principal purpose of mapping genetic  
111 determinants of barley contributions to beer flavor. Those results will be reported elsewhere. For the  
112 purposes of this research, a doubled haploid population was needed that involved a transformation-  
113 recalcitrant genotype crossed with Golden Promise.

114

### 115 **Genotyping**

116 For increasing marker density in the tHN×GP population map, additional SNP markers were  
117 developed using a 10K Infinium HD assay (Illumina, USA) including oligo sets of BOPA1 (Close et  
118 al. 2009). Genotyping of the Oregon Promise population was performed using a custom Illumina  
119 BeadExpress 384-plex based on previously characterized SNPs with a high minor allele frequency  
120 (Close et al. 2009). A total of 171 BeadExpress SNP markers were polymorphic. KASP markers were  
121 developed from SNPs in the designs of the POPA/BOPA and OPA 9K to bridge fragmented linkage  
122 groups and ensure markers were present at distal positions of chromosome arms (Close et al. 2009;  
123 Comadran et al. 2012).

124

125 **Construction of linkage maps**

126 A genetic linkage map was constructed using genotyping data generated by SNP markers in tHN×GP  
127 population. Grouping and ordering of markers was performed using the default settings of AntMap  
128 (Iwata and Ninomiya, 2006) and the Kosambi mapping function. For the Oregon Promise population,  
129 a framework genetic map was initially developed with the BeadExpress SNP markers using JoinMap  
130 v4, which integrated 168 markers into nine linkage groups with chromosomes 1H and 6H fragmented  
131 into two linkage groups. Addition of KASP markers generated a final genetic map with 251 markers,  
132 of which 206 are non-redundant, with a genetic distance of 1,311 cM, using the Kosambi function,  
133 over eight linkage groups (Supplemental Table S1). The majority of intervals between markers are  
134 below 20 cM, with only four regions on chromosomes 3H, 6H, and 7H having regions above 20 cM.  
135 Despite substantial effort, markers could not be developed to bridge the two linkage groups of  
136 chromosome 1H. Collinearity was observed for all markers relative to the consensus genetic map of  
137 barley (Close et al. 2009).

138

139 ***In silico* selection of Oregon Promise doubled haploids for transformability, based on *TFA***  
140 **haplotype**

141 Based on markers in common between the tHN×GP and Oregon Promise populations, three Oregon  
142 Promise lines, DH120366, DH120536, and DH120543 were selected for the favorable allele haplotype  
143 at three major *TFA* loci: *TFA1*, *TFA2* and *TFA3*, reported by Hisano and Sato (2016). In DH120536  
144 there were ‘Full Pint’ alleles at some of the marker loci defining the target haplotypes at *TFA2* and  
145 *TFA3*.

146

147 **Construction of the binary vector pBUH3-EGFP carrying the *EGFP* gene**

148 The ORF fragment of the *enhanced green fluorescent protein (EGFP)* gene (Clontech laboratories,  
149 USA) was amplified by PCR using PrimeSTAR Max DNA Polymerase (Takara, Japan) with the  
150 specific primer pair (EGFP-F1-SacI, 5’-GAGCTCACCATGGTGAGCAAGGGCGAGGAG-3’ and  
151 EGFP-R1-BamHI, 5’-GGATCCTTACTTGTACAGCTCGTCCATGCC-3’). The program involved:  
152 an initial denaturation step at 98°C for 2 min, 30 cycles of denaturation step at 95°C for 10 sec,  
153 annealing step at 55°C for 20 sec and extension step at 72 °C for 1 min, and a final extension at 72°C  
154 for 10 min. The PCR fragment of *EGFP* gene and pBUH3 (Nigorikawa et al. 2012) was digested with

155 the restriction enzymes *SacI* and *BamHI* and ligated using the Quick ligation kit (New England Biolabs,  
156 USA).

157

### 158 ***Agrobacterium*-mediated transformation of selected Oregon Promise doubled haploids and** 159 **EGFP detection**

160 The procedure for *Agrobacterium*-mediated transformation method was identical to that reported by  
161 Hisano and Sato (2016). Briefly, the protocol was follows: barley immature embryos were infected  
162 with *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* strain AGL1 carrying pBUH3-EGFP and co-cultivated for 3 days.  
163 Surviving immature embryos were then (1) incubated on callus-induction medium without selection  
164 for a week and (2) selected on selection-medium containing hygromycin under dark condition for 4  
165 weeks. Calli resistant to hygromycin were transferred onto regeneration-medium and incubated under  
166 a 16 h light/8 h dark photoperiod regime. Regenerated shoots were transferred to rooting-medium. The  
167 expression of EGFP was detected using LED blue light and an Orange Filter for GFP (Optocode,  
168 Japan). For confirming transgene presence, touch down PCR was performed by the method described  
169 in Hisano and Sato (2016) with specific primers for the *hygromycin phosphotransferase (HPT)* and  
170 *EGFP* genes (EGFP-F1; 5'-gacgacggcaactacaagac-3' and EGFP-R2; 5'-gactgggtgctcaggtagtg-3').

171

### 172 **Identification and *in silico* mapping of the barley *BBM* and *WUS2* genes**

173 Barley *BBM* and *WUS2* genes were identified by searching the barley full-length cDNAs at the IPK  
174 Barley BLAST Server (<http://webblast.ipk-gatersleben.de/barley/>) using the maize homologues - *BBM*  
175 (CS155772) and *WUS2* (EA275154) - as query sequences. The linkage map positions of these genes,  
176 and the nearest SNP markers, were estimated using the barley genome sequence (IBSC 2012).

177

178

## 179 **Results**

180

### 181 **Genotyping of transgenic tHN×GP plants and reconfirmation of the *TFA* regions**

182 The 10K-SNP Illumina Infinium HD assay of the population of 60 transgenic HN×GP barley plants  
183 (tHN×GP) resulted in 1,131 SNP markers defining the haplotype of these plants. Among these SNP  
184 markers, 124 were previously used (Hisano and Sato 2016) and 1,007 were newly developed in the  
185 present study for tHN×GP. Using these genotype data, a genetic linkage map consisting of 1,131 SNPs

186 was constructed for the tHN×GP population. The Kosambi cM distances between these makers are  
187 shown in supplemental Table S2, along with the Chi-square values calculated for 1:2:1 and 3:1 ratios  
188 at each marker locus. The Chi-square values of each marker are plotted in linkage map order in  
189 Supplemental Figure S1. Significant (<0.01) levels of segregation distortion defined the same  
190 chromosomal positions for *TFA1*, *TFA2* and *TFA3* per our previous report (Hisano and Sato 2016). Fig.  
191 1 shows the linkage maps of chromosomes 2H and 3H and the regions showing significant distortion  
192 of marker segregation that define the *TFA1*, *TFA2* and *TFA3* loci. At *TFA1*, the markers between  
193 NIASHv1109O03\_00000798\_3H and 8984-579 showed significant (<0.01) distortion for 1:2:1 and  
194 1:3 (GP:[hetero+HN]) ratios. At *TFA2*, markers between FLOUbafl02i04\_00000319\_2H and  
195 FLOUbafl138j23\_00000441\_2H showed significant (<0.01) distortion for 1:2:1 and 1:3  
196 (GP:[hetero+HN]) ratios. At *TFA3*, markers between FLOUbafl138j23\_00000441\_2H and  
197 NIASHv3092H0900000823\_2H showed significant (<0.01) distortion for a 3:1 ([GP+hetero]:HN)  
198 ratio. For chromosome 2H and 3H, 143 and 164 new markers were developed respectively, in this  
199 study. The addition of new markers at the distal region of chromosome 2HL expanded the region of  
200 *TFA3*.

201

### 202 ***In silico* mapping of TFAs in the Oregon Promise population**

203 Based on allele type at the *TFA* loci reported in Hisano and Sato (2016) the map-ordered marker data  
204 for the Oregon Promise population were reviewed and lines DH120366, DH120536, and DH120543  
205 were selected as explant genotypes for the *Agrobacterium*-mediated transformation experiment  
206 (Supplemental Figure S1 and Figure S2). Selection of the Oregon Promise candidates for  
207 *Agrobacterium*-mediated transformation was based on markers in common between the two  
208 populations. The graphical genotypes of three selected lines and tentative positions of *TFA1*, *TFA2*,  
209 and *TFA3* are shown in Fig. 2. According to marker haplotype, DH120366 and DH120543 have  
210 complete ‘Golden Promise’ alleles in the *TFA* regions, but there are ‘Full Pint’ alleles at portions of  
211 *TFA2* and *TFA3* in DH120536 (Fig. 2).

212

### 213 ***In silico* mapping of the barley *BBM* and *WUS2* genes**

214 The candidate barley homologues of the *BBM* and *WUS2* genes (AK364030 and AK370947,  
215 respectively) were found from barley full-length cDNA sequences. The genomic sequences  
216 morex\_contig\_58483 and morex\_contig\_66485, harboring the barley *BBM* and *WUS2* genes,

217 respectively, were the highest BLAST hits. According to the barley consensus map and genome (IBSC  
218 2012), the barley *BBM* gene is at cM 67.35 on chromosome 2H, and the barley *WUS2* gene is at cM  
219 90.23 on chromosome 3H. The nearest SNP markers were 8889-842 (cM 50.06 on 2H in the tHN×GP  
220 linkage map; between 2580-1456 and 2809-271) for the barley *BBM* gene and 8020-87 (cM 83.16 on  
221 3H) for the barley *WUS2* gene (supplemental Table S2). The putative positions are plotted in Fig. 1.  
222 In DH120536, the *BBM* gene is located in the region lacking the GP-allele at *TFA2*.

223

#### 224 **Transformation of selected Oregon Promise DH lines**

225 Immature embryos of the three selected lines were used for infection by *Agrobacterium* carrying the  
226 pBUH3-EGFP vector (Supplemental Figure S2) with four to six replications. All the lines showed  
227 transient EGFP expression in co-cultivated immature embryos at 10 days after infection. The  
228 efficiency of transformation of these Oregon Promise selections and their parents is summarized in  
229 Table 1. During selection by hygromycin, EGFP expression was observed in the resistant callus of  
230 DH120366 and DH120543. However, only one tiny clump of resistant callus was observed for  
231 DH120536 and it did not show green fluorescence. EGFP expression in resistant callus of DH120543  
232 is shown in Fig 3. Regeneration of green shoots and development of roots were observed from resistant  
233 calli for both DH120366 and DH120543 (Fig. 3). ‘Full Pint’ did not show any resistant green shoots,  
234 nor did DH120536. From DH120366 and DH120543, respectively, 53 and 15 independent transgenic  
235 barley plants were generated from 252 and 193 immature embryos. Transformation efficiencies were  
236 23.7% (53/224) and 15.5% (15/97), respectively. For this calculation, we omitted the number of calli  
237 which died during *Agrobacterium* infection as we consider this a technical error caused by physical  
238 damage to explants. Transgenes were detected by PCR using specific primers for *HTP* and *EGFP*  
239 genes in all the regenerated plants and a representative result is shown in Fig. 4.

240

#### 241 **Discussion**

242

#### 243 **Validating *TFAs* using the tHN×GP and Oregon Promise populations**

244 Hisano and Sato (2016) identified three putative transformation amenability (*TFA*) loci, with large  
245 effects, in 60 transformed F<sub>2</sub> plants from the cross of ‘Haruna Nijo’ and ‘Golden Promise’ (tHN×GP)  
246 based on genotyping with 124 SNPs derived from a 384 barley oligonucleotide pooled assay (BOPA,  
247 Close et al. 2009). For this report, we performed an Infinium HD assay to develop additional markers



248 for the tHN×GP population with the goal of increasing marker density and the number of markers in  
249 common with the Oregon Promise population. The Oregon Promise population was genotyped with  
250 an array of markers, including BOPA-derived SNPs, allowing for direct map alignment with tHN×GP.  
251 We placed the *TFA* loci on the Oregon Promise linkage map using markers in common between the  
252 two populations and/or the position information of BOPA markers in the consensus barley map (IBGS  
253 2012). Higher marker density was achieved by the addition of new SNP markers to the tHN×GP  
254 population and this provided greater resolution of *TFA3*. In the near future, the *TFA* loci will be targets  
255 for map-based cloning, requiring even higher marker resolution. Maximum population size is required  
256 for high resolution mapping. However, because producing large numbers of transformed plants may  
257 not be feasible, identification of transformation-inefficient segments on a high resolution map may be  
258 an alternative strategy for narrowing down each *TFA* QTL to a candidate gene.

259

#### 260 **The identification of transformation-efficient lines in the Oregon Promise population**

261 In prior research, we developed only two transformed plants from a cross of ‘Morex’ × ‘Golden  
262 Promise’ (Hisano and Sato 2016). We also tried to select transformation amenable lines from BC<sub>3</sub>F<sub>8</sub>  
263 recombinant chromosome substitution lines derived from the cross of ‘Golden Promise’ × ‘Haruna  
264 Nijo’ (with ‘Haruna Nijo’ as the recurrent parent) but did not obtain any transgenic plants from 4,661  
265 immature embryos. In the present study, the Oregon Promise doubled haploids were useful in  
266 validating the effects of favorable alleles at the *TFA* loci and in showing that transformation-efficient  
267 lines can be developed in the transformation-recalcitrant background of cv. ‘Full Pint’. These findings  
268 may encourage barley researchers to introgress *TFA* alleles from ‘Golden Promise’ into any genotype  
269 to transform target genes. Cultivars that have low amenability for transformation could be used,  
270 provided optimization of the conditions required to improve efficiency. However for particularly  
271 recalcitrant cultivars, genetic approaches like those used in this study may be required for success.

272 According to the segregation in doubled haploid lines, the accumulation of favorable alleles  
273 at the three *TFA* loci would be expected at a frequency of 1/8 (12%). We selected only 3 lines (from  
274 202 lines) based on haplotypes at the three *TFA* loci (less than 1% of the population) and two of these  
275 were successfully transformed. These results suggest that screening by genotyping for *TFA* alleles was  
276 efficient in ensuring successful transformation in Oregon Promise lines. We reached efficiencies of  
277 transformation of 23.7% and 15.5% in DH120366 and DH120543, respectively, whereas efficiency  
278 was more than 30% in ‘Golden Promise’. In our previous research we reported 7 minor-effect *TFA*s

279 (*TFA4* to *TFA10*) in tHN×GP (Hisano and Sato 2016). Among them, 4 ‘Golden Promise’ alleles (*TFA5*,  
280 *TFA6*, *TFA8* and *TFA10*) might affect transformation efficiency. Currently, we cannot evaluate if both  
281 ‘Haruna Nijo’ and ‘Full Pint’ have the same alleles at these loci. DH120366 and DH120543 may lack  
282 favorable alleles at these minor-effect loci and as a result have lower transformation-amenability than  
283 ‘Golden Promise’. It would be possible to develop transformation-efficient near-isogenic lines by  
284 several rounds of backcrossing and marker-assisted selection using ‘Golden Promise’ and ‘Full Pint’.  
285 However this would require periodic phenotypic validation in order to assure introgression of the as  
286 yet uncharacterized *TFA* regions.

287

### 288 **The genetic factors for transformation amenability and related genes**

289 Oregon Promise lines DH120366 and DH120543 are transformation-amenable but DH120536 is not  
290 amenable. All three lines have the ‘Golden Promise’ allele at *TFA1*, but DH120536 has the ‘Full Pint’  
291 alleles at portions of the predicted *TFA2* and *TFA3* haplotypes. It is likely that DH120536 will be of  
292 assistance in delimiting the *TFA2* and *TFA3* critical regions in order to isolate the genes involved in  
293 transformation amenability. We suggest that introgression of the ‘Golden Promise’ allele at *TFA1* is  
294 necessary, but not sufficient, for transformation amenability in barley.

295 To obtain transgenic plants with *Agrobacterium*-mediated transformation, essential factors  
296 include (i) *Agrobacterium*-plant cell interaction including T-DNA integration, (ii) activity of  
297 propagation of callus during selection, and (iii) regeneration from callus (Cheng et al. 2004). Recently  
298 these factors were defined at the molecular levels in certain dicot plants. Anand et al. (2007) reported  
299 that a host gene, *VIP2*, was essential for *Agrobacterium*-mediated transformation and was involved in  
300 T-DNA integration into the host genome. Ikeuchi et al. (2013, 2016) reviewed the genes related to  
301 callus induction and regeneration in *Arabidopsis* and related species and reported that several  
302 hormone-related genes and/or their transcription factors - such as *baby boom* (*BBM*) and *Wuschel2*  
303 (*WUS2*) - were important for callus differentiation. More recently Lowe et al. (2016) reported that co-  
304 overexpression of the maize *BBM* and maize *WUS2* genes improved efficiency of transformation in  
305 monocot plants including maize, sorghum, sugarcane, and rice. These genes could stimulate  
306 proliferation of transgenic callus resulting also improving regeneration efficiency.

307 Focusing on the barley genome, we identified a homologue of the maize *BBM* gene near  
308 SNP marker 8889-842 at cM 50.06 on 2H of the tHN×GP linkage map and this is located in the region  
309 lacking the GP-allele at *TFA2* in DH120536. That could explain the lack of transformability in this

310 line. This chromosome region in barley is close to that which Yeo et al. (2014) found responsible for  
311 transformation efficiency in ‘Golden Promise’. We also found a barley homologue of *WUS2* in *TFA1*,  
312 with the closest marker being 8020-87 (cM 83.16) on 3H in the tHN×GP linkage map. It is notable  
313 that the homologues of *BBM* and *WUS2* genes are in *TFA2* and *TFA1*, respectively. However, the gene  
314 locations do not correspond with regions of maximum segregation distortion (cM 60.42 on 2H for  
315 *TFA2* and cM 73.93 on 3H for *TFA1*). No candidate gene homologue was found in *TFA3*.

316

### 317 **Conclusion**

318 Here we demonstrated the *TFA*-based selection method for transformation amenability using doubled  
319 haploid barley lines derived from a cross between cvs. ‘Golden Promise’ and ‘Full Pint’. Transgenic  
320 plants were generated from two selected lines that have complete ‘Golden Promise’ allele sets at *TFA1*,  
321 *TFA2*, and *TFA3*. No transgenic plants were generated from a line that had the ‘Golden Promise’ allele  
322 at *TFA1*, but a portion of ‘Full Pint’ alleles at *TFA2* and *TFA3*. These results suggested that our *TFA*-  
323 based method was efficient for selecting donor plants for transformation experiments, e.g.  
324 complementation test, and that *TFA2/TFA3* was necessary for successful transformation as well as the  
325 most major loci, *TFA1*.

326

327

328 **Author contribution statement** P.M.H. and K.S. designed research. H.H., B.M., M. M., L. C. and B.  
329 E. conducted experiments. H.H. and P.M.H. analyzed the data. H.H., K.S. and P.M.H. wrote the paper.  
330 All authors read and approved the manuscript.

331

332

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340

341

342 **Compliance with ethical standards**

343 **Conflict of interest:** The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest

344

345

346 **Reference**

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444  
445 **Tables**  
446

Table 1. Summary of transformation results in Oregon Promise DH lines and their parents

Lines	Replications	No. of		of		Efficiency of transformation
		No. of IE co-cultivation with <i>Agrobacterium</i>	IE forsurvived after cultivation with <i>Agrobacterium</i>	IENo. co-resistant callus hygromycin	No. of regenerated to green shoots	
		(A)			(B)	(B/A, %)
Golden Promise	1	55	52	-	4	7.7
	2	59	51	-	24	47.1
	3	57	54	-	24	44.4
	4	36	28	-	7	25.0
	5	65	23	-	12	52.2
	6	64	40	-	23	57.5
	<b>total</b>	<b>336</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>37.9</b>
Full Pint	1	31	18	0	0	0.0

	2	23	20	1	0	0.0
	<b>total</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
DH120366	1	16	16	2	0	0.0
	2	45	44	11	0	0.0
	3	30	24	7	3	12.5
	4	39	32	16	12	37.5
	5	95	93	54	38	40.9
	6	27	15	9	0	0.0
	<b>total</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>* 23.7</b>
DH120536	1	30	19	0	0	0.0
	2	8	5	0	0	0.0
	3	25	13	1	0	0.0
	4	41	26	0	0	0.0
	<b>total</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
DH120543	1	62	44	17	6	13.6
	2	24	4	1	0	0.0
	3	31	21	7	7	33.3
	4	27	22	12	1	4.5
	5	49	6	1	1	16.7
	<b>total</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>* 15.5</b>

IE; Immature embryo, n.a.; not available.

\* Checking by PCR, all the individuals were proved as positive transgenic plants.

447

448

449 **Figure legends**

450

451 **Fig. 1.** Genetic linkage maps of barley chromosomes 2H and 3H and position of the *TFA1*, *TFA2* and



452 *TFA3* loci, and putative positions of *BBM* and *WUS2* genes.  
453 The genetic linkage map was constructed using AntMap (Iwata and Ninomiya 2006) using SNP  
454 genotyping data of transgenic HN×GP barley plants. The regions showing significant segregation  
455 distortion are marked by color bars. Significant segregation distortion was identified using chi-square  
456 tests for GP:hetero:HN=1:2:1 (df=2, green), GP:[hetero+HN]=1:3 (df=1, orange) and  
457 [GP+hetero]:HN=3:1 (df=1, blue). Significance levels are represented by line thickness (thin, p<0.05;  
458 middle, p<0.01; thick, p<0.001). A red square shows the expanded region (between 8293-202 and  
459 FLOU<sub>baf102a14\_00001505\_2H</sub>) of *TFA*s found by the Infinium HD assay of HN×GP plants described  
460 in this report. The *BBM* and *WUS2* genes were plotted by *in silico* mapping.

461

462 **Fig. 2.** Graphical genotypes of Oregon Promise doubled haploid barley lines used in this study.

463 Three lines, DH120366, DH120536 and DH120543, were selected based on allele composition at the  
464 *Transformation amenability (TFA)* for evaluation of *Agrobacterium*-mediated transformation  
465 amenability. The green thin lines show the boundaries of the *TFA*s (as estimated by significant  
466 segregation distortion) and the thick green lines show the peaks of *TFA*s (as estimated by maximum  
467 segregation distortion).

468

469 **Fig. 3.** Stable expression of EGFP in doubled haploid barley lines.

470 (A)(B) Hygromycin-resistant callus of DH120543, regeneration from callus of (C) DH120543 and of  
471 (D) DH120366, (E)(F) magnified pictures of regeneration shoot from callus of DH120366, (G)(H)  
472 root-developed regeneration plants of DH120543 (left) and DH120366 (right). (A)(C)(D)(E)(G) were  
473 photographed under white light, and (B)(F)(H) were photographed under blue light with an orange-  
474 colored filter.

475

476 **Fig. 4.** PCR analysis of transgenic plants.

477 PCR was performed for detecting transgenes, i.e. *hygromycin phosphotransferase (HPT, 375 bp)* and  
478 *enhanced green fluorescent protein (EGFP, 311 bp)* genes in regenerated plants and non-transgenic  
479 plants (DH120366 and DH120543) as negative controls. TP-DH120366-EGFP and TP-DH120543-  
480 EGFP were representative transgenic plants derived from DH120366 and DH120543, respectively.  
481 Marker; 100 bp ladder marker, Plasmid; pBUH3-EGFP as a positive control template, TP-GP-EGFP;  
482 transgenic plant carrying pBUH3-EGFP derived from 'Golden Promise' for another positive control.

483

484

485 **Supplemental information**

486

487 **Figure S1.** Distortion analysis of markers in HN×GP transgenic barley.

488

489 **Figure S2.** A schematic map of pBUH3-EGFP.

490

491 **Table S1.** Information of markers used for constructing map of Oregon Promise

492

493 **Table S2.** Information of markers used for tHN×GP analysis