**Identification of a cluster of PR4-like genes involved in drought tolerance in rice**

Nili Wang, Benze Xiao, Lizhong Xiong\*(full name)

National Key Laboratory of Crop Genetic Improvement, Huazhong Agricultural University, Wuhan 430070, China

\*Corresponding author: lizhongx@mail.hzau.edu.cn

PR4-like genes constitute a plant specific protein family with a conserved Barwin domain at its C-terminus and a signal peptide at its N-terminus. In this study, besides the reported rice PR4-like genes, *OsPR4* and *OsPR4-b*, another three new putative PR4-like genes (including one pseudogene) were identified in rice genome (*Oryza sativa* L.) through comprehensive sequence analysis. Based on the phylogenetic analysis of PR4-like protein sequences from rice and other plant species, the plant PR4-like family was *OsPR4c*、*OsPR4d* and *OsPR4e* were strongly expressed in glumes、panicle、and leaf sheath and weakly expressed in stem and stamen; *OsPR4b………………………………………….*