

Preface

The Flower CRES-T project

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In 2005, we made the first ever attempt to create novel flowers by applying CRES-T to *torenia* using the chimeric repressors AGAMOUS (AG)-SRDX and TCP3-SRDX. Following this, we launched a project termed the Flower CRES-T project through collaboration among those research institutes deemed to have researchers with the necessary expertise and the facilities for production and analysis of transgenic flowers. It was really a leap in the dark for us (we Japanese often express such an attempt as “Jumping off the Kiyomizu Temple’s stage”) because at that time little information was available on the application of this method to other plant species, although the members of the project team were experienced specialists in this field.

This special issue provides an insight into recent progress in the Flower CRES-T project. While positive results against a background of lack of information might have been achieved solely by the professional endeavors of the team, we believe that the excitement felt through the creation of novel flower forms was a great motivating force that acted as a catalyst in setting the team wholeheartedly behind this project. We hope that you too will be inspired by the findings reported in this issue. Please refer to the following project review for more information on details of the concepts and research strategies used for the project and for an overview of the contents of this issue.

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