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(54) Title: DEHISCENCE GENE AND METHODS FOR REGULATING DEHISCENCE

(57) Abstract: The present invention is directed to the prevention of the dispersal of seeds through the process of dehiscence (pod shattering), which leads to significant seed loss during harvesting of crops. We have identified and characterized the *SGT10166* gene in *Arabidopsis thaliana* and mutations of the gene that prevent dehiscence of the mature fruit. The gene encodes a protein that was found to be similar to the basic Helix-loop-Helix class of transcription factors. The expression pattern of the gene and the phenotype of the mutant plants indicates its likely role in enabling silique dehiscence.