

Bose Institute Colloquium

Actin dynamics involving the Actin depolymerizing factor 3 and plant defense against insects that feed

from the phloem

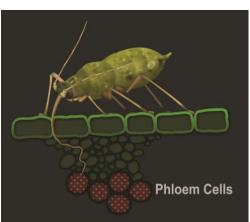
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by Dr. Jyoti Shah

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Abstract: Aphids constitute a large group of insects that have adapted to feeding from the sieve elements of plants. Nearly 250 aphid species are considered pests of a wide variety of plants. Damage to plants is the outcome of a combination of factors, including loss of phloem sap and reduction in flow of nutrients to primary growth zones resulting from alterations in source-sink patterns in aphid-infested plants. In addition,



aphids vector several economically important viruses. The long-term goal of my research is to understand the interaction between plants and aphids, in particular the processes that allow plants to limit infestation. The compatible interaction between *Arabidopsis thaliana* and the green peach aphid (GPA; *Myzus persicae* Sülzer) has provided a model system to uncover the molecular events and physiological processes that contribute to plant defense. I will discuss our recent discoveries on the involvement of actin cytoskeleton dynamics involving the Actin depolymerizing factor 3 in contribute mathematical processes.