1. Extended Data

Figure #	Figure title	Filename	Figure Legend
	One sentence only	This should be the name	If you are citing a reference for the first time in these legends, please include all new
		the file is saved as when	references in the Online Methods References section, and carry on the numbering
		it is uploaded to our	from the main References section of the paper.
		system. Please include	
		the file extension. i.e.:	
		Smith_ED_Fig1.jpg	
Extended Data Fig. 1	Alternative splicing site	Yang_ED_Fig1.jpg	a , RNA-Seq reads of Jingu21. <i>xiaomi</i> genome sequences were used as
	of the PHYC gene in		reference genome. The blue vertical line shows the G-T mutation site. b ,
	xiaomi		RNA-seq reads of <i>xiaomi</i> . The wrong splicing site was marked by a red
			arrow.

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Extended Data Fig. 2	Phenotypic	and	Yang_ED_Fig2.jpg	a , Forty-day-old plants of Jingu21 (wild type, left) and <i>xiaomi-2</i> (right)
	molecular			plants grown under natural long-day conditions. b , Heading date of
	characterization of	the		Jingu21and <i>xiaomi-2</i> under natural field conditions. The heading date of
	<i>xiaomi-2</i> mutant			\ge 20 plants was measured for each replicate (n = 3 biologically
				independent replicates, \geq 102 in total). The bottom and top of boxes
				represent the first and third quartile, respectively. The middle line is the
				median and the whiskers represent the maximum and minimum values.
				Statistical analysis was performed using two-tailed Wilcoxon rank-sum
				test. c , A mature small-sized <i>xiaomi-2</i> plant (right) compared to Jingu21
				(left), at the 68th day in field. d , Plant height of Jingu21 and <i>xiaomi-2</i>
				under natural field conditions. The plant height of \ge 23 plants was
				measured for each replicate (n = 3 biologically independent replicates, \geq
				83 in total). e, Molecular charicterization of <i>xiaomi-2</i> . Exons and introns

			are denoted by filled boxes and lines, respectively. P2F and P2R
			represent a pair of primers used to amplify the fragments harboring the
			mutation site from the segregating M_3 individuals (Primer sequences are
			listed in Supplementary Table 3). c , Structure of PHYC and its mutation
			version deduced according to mutations in <i>xiaomi-2</i> . Scale bars, 10 cm
			in a and c .
Extended Data Fig. 3	Sequence alignment of	Yang_ED_Fig3.jpg	Alignment was carried out using Clustal W method of the MegAlign
	the GAF domain of		software. Red box indicates the conserved residue Leu across all listed
	PHYC in foxtail millet		species that is substituted with His in <i>xiaomi-2</i> , demonstrating its
	and its homologs		functional importance for PHYC. Accession numbers for the aligned
			sequences: Arabidopsis thaliana NP_198433, Brachypodium distachyon
			XP_003559446, <i>Brassica napus</i> XP_013680236, <i>Ipomoea nil</i>

			XP_019162785, <i>Oryza sativa</i> AAF66603, <i>Panicum miliaceum</i> ,
			RLN42126, <i>Solanum lycopersicum</i> NP_001307446, <i>Sorghum bicolor</i>
			XP_002466441, Triticum aestivum AAU06208, Vitis vinifera ACC6096
			and <i>Zea mays</i> XP_008665426. PHYC protein in Jingu21 is presented as
			for <i>Setaria italica</i> (<i>Si9G09200</i>).
Extended Data Fig. 4	Hi-C interaction	Yang_ED_Fig4.jpg	The intensity of the dark color is proportional to the strength of the
	matrices show the		correlation.
	pairwise correlations		
	between ordered		
	scaffolds along the 9		
	pseudomolecules		
Extended Data Fig. 5	Transgene segregation	Yang_ED_Fig5.jpg	Dry mature seeds from transgenic lines representing single (a), two (b)

	in T_1 transgenic seeds		or multiple (c) T-DNA insertions were scanned with a dissection
	as visualized for GFP		microscope equipped with UV light. All experiments were performed
	expression		for eight independent biological repeats, and similar results were
			obtained. Scale bars, 2 mm.
Extended Data Fig. 6	PCR confirmation of the	Yang_ED_Fig6.jpg	a and b . An Integrative Genomics Viewer (IGV) display of genome sequencing reads from WT (a) or the transgenic line N2 (b) spanning the T-DNA insertion
	site-specific T-DNA		site 22812363 on chromosome 7. The break point caused by the insertion is marked by an arrow. c. PCR confirmation of the insertion site 33288299 on
	insertions identified by		chromosome 6 in line H2. d. PCR confirmation of the insertion site 22812363
	genome resequencing		39094661 on chromosome 5 in line N8. Note: The genomic DNA for
			sequencing and PCR was prepared from pooling approximate 50 T_1 transgenic seedlings, which explains the heterozygous nature of the T-DNA insertion seen
			in b-e. M, molecular marker; lane 1, no-transformed <i>xiaomi</i> plants; line 2,
			transgenic <i>xiaomi</i> plants; line 3, water control; F and R are primers for priming genomic regions flanking LB and BB ends of T-DNA, respectively; both the
			LB1 and LB2 primers are for T-DNA sequence close to the left border (LB).
			LB1 is 161 bp further apart from the border than LB2 for the vector
			pCAMBIA1305GFP, resulting in a band of bigger size in the F/LB1 pair in c .
			Similarly, LB1 and LB2 are distanced by 183 bp for the p8-GFP vector, thus
			resulting in different band size between F/LB1 and F/LB2 in d and e. All

	experiments were performed for three repeats, and similar results were obtained
	Primers used are listed in Supplementary Table 3.

2 2. Supplementary Information:

3 A. Flat Files

Item	Present?	Filename	A brief, numerical description of file
		This should be the name the file is saved as when it is uploaded to	contents.
		our system, and should include the file extension. The extension	i.e.: Supplementary Figures 1-4, Supplementary
		must be .pdf	Discussion, and Supplementary Tables 1-4.
Supplementary Information	Yes	yang_Supplementary_information.pdf	Supplementary Figures 1-7
Reporting Summary	Yes	Reporting_summary.pdf	

4 B. Additional Supplementary Files

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	Number		
	If there are multiple files	Filename	
	of the same type this	This should be the name the file is	
	should be the numerical	saved as when it is uploaded to our	
	indicator. i.e. "1" for	system, and should include the file	
	Video 1, "2" for Video 2,	extension. i.e.:	Legend or Descriptive Caption
Туре	etc.	Smith_Supplementary_Video_1.mov	Describe the contents of the file
			Supplementary Table 1-25 Supplementary Table 1 Comparison
			of agronomic traits between Jingu21 and <i>xiaomi</i>
			Supplementary Table 2 SNP and InDel between Jingu21 and
			xiaomi
Supplementary Table	1	Yang_Supplementary_Tables.xlsx	Supplementary Table 3 Primers used in this study

	Supplementary Table 4 Differential expressed photoperiodic
	pathway genes in <i>xiaomi</i>
	Supplementary Table 5 Statistic summary of PacBio sequencing
	data
	Supplementary Table 6 The length distribution of <i>xiaomi</i> PacBio
	subreads
	Supplementary Table 7 Details of xiaomi draft genome
	assembled with Canu, Falcon and Quickmerge
	Supplementary Table 8 Statistic summary of the xiaomi
	Hi-C-based PE reads
	Supplementary Table 9 Evaluation of completeness of the
	xiaomi genome assembly using BUSCOs
	Supplementary Table 10 Repetitive elements in <i>xiaomi</i> assembly

Supplementary Table 11 Summary of the predicted
protein-coding genes
Supplementary Table 12 Statistical summary of the xiaomi
genes distributed on chromosomes
Supplementary Table 13 Functional annotation of predicted
genes
Supplementary Table 14 Comparison of the xiaomi genome with
the previously published foxtail millet genomes
Supplementary Table 15 Present variations in xiaomi
Supplementary Table 16 Absent variations in xiaomi
Supplementary Table 17 xiaomi genes absent in Yugu1 gene
models
Supplementary Table 18 xiaomi genes absent in Zhanggu gene

			models
			Supplementary Table 19 Putative xiaomi-specific genes
			Supplementary Table 20 TPM expression value across 11
			different tissues in xiaomi
			Supplementary Table 21 Constitutive expressed genes in <i>xiaomi</i>
			Supplementary Table 22 Specific expressed genes in <i>xiaomi</i>
			Supplementary Table 23 Preferred expressed genes in <i>xiaomi</i>
			Supplementary Table 24 Transformation frequency of xiaomi
			with HPT and NPTII marker genes
			Supplementary Table 25 Putative T-DNA insertion sites of 14
			independent transgenic lines
Supplementary Data	1	Yang_Supplementary_Data_1.zip	Supplementary Data 1 SNPs and InDels between <i>xiaomi</i> and

		Yugu1

6 3. Source Data

Figure	Filename	Data description
	This should be the name the file is saved as when it is uploaded to our system,	i.e.: Unprocessed Western Blots and/or
	and should include the file extension. i.e.: Smith_SourceData_Fig1.xls, or	gels, Statistical Source Data, etc.
	Smith_Unmodified_Gels_Fig1.pdf	
Source Data Fig. 1	Yang_SourceData_Fig1.xlsx	Statistical Source Data
Source Data Fig. 2	Yang_SourceData_Fig2.pdf	Unprocessed gel
Source Data Fig. 5	Yang_SourceData_Fig5.pdf	Unprocessed gels
Source Data Extended Data Fig. 2	Yang_SourceData_ED_Fig2.xlsx	Statistical Source Data

Source Data Extended Data Fig. 6	Yang_SourceData_ED_Fig6.pdf	Unprocessed gels

- 7 Establishment of a mini-foxtail millet with an Arabidopsis-like life cycle as a C₄
- 8 model system
- 9 Running title: Development of a model system for C₄ plants
- 10
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31

32 Abstract

33 Foxtail millet (Setaria italica) is an important crop and an emerging model plant for 34 C_4 grasses. However, functional genomics research on foxtail millet is challenged by 35 its long generation time, relatively large stature and recalcitrance to genetic 36 transformation. Here, we report the development of a rapid cycling mini-foxtail millet 37 mutant, named xiaomi, as a C4 model system. xiaomi can be grown for 5-6 38 generations a year in growth chambers due to its short life cycle and small plant size 39 similar to Arabidopsis. A point mutation in *Phytochrome C (PHYC)* gene was found 40 to be causal, which encodes a light receptor essential for photoperiodic flowering. A 41 reference-grade xiaomi genome comprising 429.45 Megabases (Mb) of sequence was 42 assembled and a gene expression atlas from 11 different tissues was developed. These 43 resources, together with an established highly efficient transformation system and a 44 multi-omics database (http://sky.sxau.edu.cn/MDSi.htm), make xiaomi an ideal model 45 system for functional studies of C₄ plants. 46 Key words: Setaria italica; model plant; reference genome; gene expression atlas;

47 genetic transformation system; *PHYC* gene

48 Over the past few decades, several plant species, including Arabidopsis thaliana, 49 Brachypodium distachyon and rice (Oryza sativa), have been adopted as model plants for various aspects of research. These species, especially Arabidopsis, have played 50 vital roles in making fundamental discoveries and technological advances¹. However, 51 52 all these model plants use C_3 photosynthesis, and discoveries made in these species 53 are not always transferable to, or representative of, C_4 plants such as maize (Zea 54 mays), sorghum (Sorghum bicolor), and millets that can efficiently fix atmospheric CO_2 into biomass. Thus, it is critical to develop a new model system for studies in 55 these and many other C_4 plants². 56

57 Foxtail millet (Setaria italica) is a cereal crop domesticated from its wild ancestor - green foxtail (Setaria viridis). These two species are evolutionarily close to several 58 bioenergy crops including switchgrass (Panicum virgatum), napiergrass (Pennisetum 59 60 purpureum) and pearl millet (Pennisetum glaucum), and major cereals such as sorghum, maize and rice³. In addition, extensive genetic diversity exists in Setaria, 61 with approximately 30,000 accessions preserved in China, India, Japan and USA³, as 62 valuable resources for gene function dissection and elite allele mining⁴. In recent 63 64 years, the whole genome sequences of foxtail millet and green foxtail have been made available⁵⁻⁹, and both of them were proposed as C_4 model plant systems^{3, 6}. In terms of 65 66 these two species, foxtail millet is more suitable as a model plant due to the seed shattering and dormancy in green foxtail. Nevertheless, the relatively long-life cycle 67 68 (usually 4-5 months per generation) and large plant size (1-2 m in height) limit the use of foxtail millet as a model plant^{3, 10-12}. To overcome such limitations, we have 69

recently developed a large foxtail millet ethyl methane sulfonate (EMS) mutant
population using Jingu21 – a high-yield, high-grain-quality elite variety widely grown
in North China in the past few decades. From the mutant population, we identified an
extremely mini-mutant (dubbed *xiaomi*) with a life cycle similar to Arabidopsis.
Subsequently, we developed genomics and transcriptomics resources, and a protocol
for efficient transformation of *xiaomi*, as essential parts of the toolbox for the research
community.

77 **Results**

78 Creation and phenotypic characterization of *xiaomi*.

79 The *xiaomi* mutant was identified from an EMS-mutagenized M₂ population 80 comprised of ~20,000 mutant lines derived from Jingu21 (wild type, WT). Under field 81 conditions (37°25'13" N, 112°35'26" E), xiaomi exhibited an extremely early 82 flowering phenotype with a heading date of \sim 39 days after sowing (DAS) (Fig. 1a and 83 Supplementary Table 1). By contrast, WT plants showed an average heading date of 84 ~82 DAS (Supplementary Table 1). xiaomi completed its life cycle in 70 days, 85 whereas WT plants matured ~130 DAS (Fig. 1b,c and Supplementary Table 1). xiaomi 86 was much shorter than WT (Fig. 1b and Supplementary Table 1), but, interestingly, 87 the seed setting rate of *xiaomi* was 12.83% higher than that of WT (Supplementary 88 Table 1). Nevertheless, no significant difference was observed between *xiaomi* and 89 WT in seed size, as represented by the 1,000-grain weight (Fig.1d and Supplementary 90 Table 1).

91 The botanical features of *xiaomi* in growth chambers under different photoperiod 92 conditions were characterized. *xiaomi* headed about one month later under short day

93 (SD, 10 h light/ 14 h dark) conditions than under long day (LD, 16 h light/ 8 h dark) 94 conditions, indicating early heading of xiaomi was dependent on the LD conditions (Fig. 1e). Through extending the day-length and optimizing other conditions (See 95 96 Materials and Methods for details), we were able to reduce the life cycle of *xiaomi* to 97 62 days with plant height of \sim 29 cm (Fig. 1f and Supplementary Table 1). Thus, five to six generations of *xiaomi* per year can be completed in growth chambers. With such 98 99 a small size, a set of 1,296 xiaomi plants can be grown on two planting racks within a 100 three-dimensional space of 1.2 m \times 0.55 m \times 2.0 m, similar to that for growing an 101 equal number of Arabidopsis plants.

102 A mutation in the *PHYC* gene is causal for the characteristics of *xiaomi*

103 To identify the causative mutation(s) responsible for early heading of *xiaomi*, we 104 crossed it with G1 – a landrace with a heading date of \sim 75 DAS under the LD 105 conditions. All 9 F_1 plants exhibited the G1-like late-heading phenotype, and the 106 resulting F₂ populations comprised of 268 individual plants showed a segregation ratio of 3:1 ($\chi^2 = 0.318 < \chi^2_{0.05(1)} = 3.841$) for the G1-like late heading date to the 107 108 xiaomi-like early heading date, suggesting that the early heading date of xiaomi was 109 caused by recessive mutation at a single locus. Using 106 early flowering F_2 110 individuals, this locus was mapped to a 212-kb region on chromosome 9, which 111 harbors 27 genes according to the annotation of the *xiaomi* reference genome (Fig. 2a). 112 Comparison between the *xiaomi* genome sequence and the Jingu21 genome sequence, 113 with the latter generated by genome re-sequencing, revealed the presence of only a 114 single mutation in the mapped region -a transversion from 'G' to 'T' in the coding

115	region of the gene Si9g09200 in xiaomi, which encodes a putative PHYC protein (Fig.
116	2a, Supplementary Table 2). Of the 77 early heading F_2 individuals examined, all
117	were the T/T homozygous mutants. By contrast, of the 256 late heading individuals
118	examined, 92 were the G/G WT homozygotes and the other 164 were G/T
119	heterozygotes, reflecting a perfect association between the genotypes and phenotypes.
120	This mutation resulted in the formation of a stop codon to form a truncated protein
121	accounting for ~71% transcripts (transcript 1) of the gene (Fig. 2a-d and Extended
122	Data Fig. 1). Interestingly, this mutation also led to alternative splicing responsible for
123	a frame shift deletion of 113 bp that also formed a truncated protein accounting for
124	\sim 29% transcripts (transcript 2) of the gene (Fig. 2a-d and Extended Data Fig. 1).
125	Based on the prediction, the truncated proteins lack about two-third (peptide 1) or
126	one-third (peptide 2) of the second PAS domain, and the entire HK and HD domains ¹³
127	(Fig. 2d).

128 We sequenced another mutant, named xiaomi-2, which also derived from Jingu21. 129 The xiaomi-2 mutant showed an early heading phenotype similar to xiaomi (Extended 130 Data Fig. 2a-d). Sequence comparison of the PHYC locus revealed a single point 131 mutation (T674A) in the first exon of PHYC in xiaomi-2 resulting in a change from a 132 conserved leucine to histone (Extended Data Fig. 2e,f and Extended Data Fig. 3). This 133 SNP is perfectly associated with phenotypic segregation of 82 early heading (A/A 134 genotype) and 84 late heading (49 T/A genotype and 35 T/T genotype) M₃ plants 135 derived from an M₂ heterozygous mutant. Together, these observations confirm that 136 the early-heading phenotype was resulted from the mutation at the PHYC locus.

137	To understand how the mutation at the PHYC locus affects flowering time under
138	the LD conditions, we performed RNA-Seq analysis using the second leaves from
139	30-DAS plants (~10 days before xiaomi began heading), with the WT leaves collected
140	at 30-DAS as a control. We found that the expression of several genes orthologous to
141	the Arabidopsis oscillator genes, PSEUDO-RESPONSE REGULATORs (PRRs),
142	PHYTOCLOCK 1 (PCL1) and GIGANTEA (GI), respectively, which are critical for
143	photoperiodic flowering, was significantly affected in xiaomi (Supplementary Fig. 1
144	and Supplementary Table 4). As expected, a putative downstream photoperiod gene
145	orthologous to Ghd7 showed ~95-fold decrease in the level of expression, whereas the
146	putative flowering genes orthologous to EHD1, Hd3a/FT, APETALA1
147	(AP1)/FRUITFULL (FUL) and MADS, respectively, exhibited significant increases in
148	the level of expression in <i>xiaomi</i> (Supplementary Fig. 1 and Supplementary Table 4).
149	Overall, these observations suggested that the early heading phenotype of <i>xiaomi</i> was
150	caused by disruption of the photoperiodic pathways.

151 Assembly and annotation of *xiaomi* genome.

To facilitate the use of *xiaomi* as a model plant, a total of 41.54 Gb (94.78 × coverage) high quality single molecule real-time (SMRT) subread sequences were generated and assembled into 429.45 Mb of scaffold sequences, with a contig N50 of 19.85 Mb (Supplementary Table 5-7). Of these, 399.40 Mb of scaffold sequences were anchored to nine super-scaffolds (chromosomes) with 137.33 million Hi-C-based paired end reads (Extended Data Fig. 4, Supplementary Table 8). After removing scaffolds less than 1 kb in length, our final assembly, dubbed *xiaomi* genome v1.0, is 429.94 Mb,

159	which contains 366 scaffolds with an N50 length of 42.41 Mb and 48 gaps (Table 1).
160	K-mer analysis suggests that the draft assembly covers approximately 98.10% of the
161	entire genome (Supplementary Fig. 2). The error rate of the assembly is about 0.001%
162	(one error per 100 kb) as estimated by Illumina DNA short reads. Single-copy
163	ortholog analysis showed that 97.78% of the 1,440 benchmarking universal
164	single-copy orthologs (BUSCO) genes were completely covered by the xiaomi
165	genome, with only 0.90% incomplete and 1.32% not assembled or annotated
166	(Supplementary Table 9). Collectively, these results indicate that the <i>xiaomi</i> genome
167	v1.0 can be used as a gold standard reference by the research community.

168 By a combination of *de novo* prediction and homology-based comparison, a total 169 of 237.28 Mb (55.19%) of the xiaomi genome sequences were annotated as repetitive 170 elements (Table 1 and Supplementary Table 10). We annotated 34,436 protein-coding 171 genes using 671,853 full length non-chimeric (FLNC) Iso-reads produced by PacBio 172 RS II and ~1,054.5 M short RNA-Seq reads produced by the HiSeq X-ten platform, 173 and a combination of *ab initio* prediction and protein-homology-based searches (Table 174 1 and Supplementary Table 11), of which 32,743 (95.08%) were located in the nine 175 pseudochromosomes (Supplementary Table 12). These genes were searched against 176 GO, KEGG, KOG, TrEMBL, nr database and compared with the annotation of 177 Arabidopsis and rice to retrieve homologs with known functions and a total of 33,789 178 genes (98.12%) were annotated (Supplementary Table 13). In addition, we annotated 179 919 rRNA genes, 3,516 tRNA genes, 2,631 pseudogenes, 340 microRNA (miRNA) 180 precursors, 28,260 long non-coding RNA (lncRNA) precursors, and 1,318 circular 181 RNA (circRNA) precursors (Table 1).

200

182	All the genomic and transcriptomic data are now publicly accessible through our
183	user-friendly database (http://sky.sxau.edu.cn/MDSi.htm). In this database,
184	researchers can navigate the genome by chromosome coordinates, gene or transcript
185	symbols, or by BLAST search against the xiaomi genome, CDS or peptide sequences.
186	Comparison of genome sequences from <i>xiaomi</i> and other foxtail millet varieties.
187	Compared with the three previously released genome sequences from varieties
188	Yugu1 ⁵ , Zhanggu ⁸ and TT8 ⁹ , the <i>xiaomi</i> genome showed the highest quality in terms
189	of the genome coverage, contig N50 values, and contig and gap numbers
190	(Supplementary Table 14). Intergenomic comparison revealed that 414.58 Mb
191	(96.44%) of the xiaomi sequences correspond to 383.52 Mb (95.67%) of the Yugul
192	sequences, with 1,577,935 SNPs (Supplementary Data 1). The size difference in the
193	corresponding regions was mainly caused by 259,731 small Insertions/Deletions
194	(InDels, <100 bp), 2,804 (total 15.32 Mb) presence variations (>1,000 bp) and 2,722
195	(total 17.38 Mb) absence variations (>1,000 bp) between xiaomi and Yugu1 genomes
196	(Fig.3, Supplementary Data 1 and Supplementary Table 15,16).
197	Of the annotated 34,436 protein-coding genes in the <i>xiaomi</i> genome, 32,112 genes
198	(93.25%) are shared by the Yugu1 genome (v2.2), with 2,324 predicted genes in
199	xiaomi, of which 1,215 genes are supported by RNA-Seq data (the maximum

201 of 2,280 predicted genes in xiaomi were not found in the Zhanggu genome

transcripts per million, TPM >0), absent in Yugu1 (Supplementary Table 17). A total

202 (Supplementary Table 18). Only 1,030 genes in *xiaomi* were absent in both Yugu1 and

203 Zhanggu, and considered to be *xiaomi*-specific (Supplementary Table 19). A 204 remarkable phenotypic difference between *xiaomi* and Yugu1 is their 205 susceptibility/resistance to downy mildew (Supplementary Fig. 3), but it is unclear 206 whether such a difference is associated with any of the detected variety-specific 207 genes.

208 Construction of a dynamic gene expression atlas for *xiaomi*.

209 То develop for functional reference expression atlas а gene 210 interpretation/investigation of gene function, we measured transcript levels in eleven 211 diverse tissues representing the major organs over various developmental stages of 212 xiaomi (See materials and methods for details). A total of 1,054.51 M raw reads (~30 213 M reads per sample) were produced and analyzed. A total of 31,226 (90.68%) genes 214 were expressed in at least one of the eleven xiaomi tissues (Supplementary Fig. 4a and 215 Supplementary Table 20). The proportions of genes with expression detected in 216 individual tissues ranged from 74.26% in the top-second leaf (leaf 2) to 82.95% in the 217 panicle at the pollination stage (panicle 2). A total of 22,202 genes were expressed in 218 all the eleven xiaomi tissues. Of these genes, 85 (0.25%), including one transcription 219 initiation factor (Si3G07600) and two ubiquitin-conjugating enzyme coding genes 220 (Si1G37980 and Si2G05250), were constitutively expressed in all assayed tissues 221 (Supplementary Table 21). These genes would be useful for transcript normalization 222 prior to comparative gene expression analysis. Moreover, we identified 1,218 223 organ/tissue-specific genes and 1,226 organ/tissue preferentially expressed genes 224 (Supplementary Fig. 4b,c, Supplementary Fig. 5 and Supplementary Table 22,23).

225 To make these expression data more user-friendly, we developed a *xiaomi*

Electronic Fluorescent Pictograph (xEFP) browser (http://sky.sxau.edu.cn/MDSi.htm).
In the xEFP browser, gene expression data can be displayed with idealized images
(Fig. 4).

229 Establishment of an efficient *Agrobacterium*-mediated genetic transformation 230 system.

231 To pave the way for functional genomics studies, we tested various factors to develop 232 an Agrobacterium-mediated transformation protocol for xiaomi. We challenged 233 mature seeds as a starting material for callus induction to avoid the costly need for 234 growing plants if fresh tissues such as the young inflorescence or immature embryos are used for callus induction¹⁴. After a series of trials, we realized that primary calli 235 236 were not suitable for use in transformation mainly due to the soft texture. Following 237 three rounds of subculture on an improved callus induction medium (CIM), however, 238 compact embryogenic calli were obtained (Fig. 5a). We used the Green Fluorescent 239 Protein (GFP) reporter gene to monitor Agrobacterium infection efficiency as 240 indicated by multiple green spots (Fig. 5b,c) and effectiveness for selecting out the 241 transgenic callus (Fig. 5d,e). The regeneration ability of xiaomi was well maintained 242 on the CIM medium during subculture (Fig. 5f). Roots of transgenic plants expressing 243 *GFP* could be easily induced on the rooting medium and rooted plants survived well 244 after transplanting to soil (Fig. 5g-i). We compared two commonly used selectable 245 markers NPTII (Neomycin Phosphotransferase II) and HPT (Hygromycin 246 *Phosphotransferase*), and obtained transformation efficiency ranging from 8.05% to 247 38.75%, with an average of 23.28% for NPTII, and from 3.08% to 16.67%, with an

248	average of 8.72% for <i>HPT</i> (Supplementary Table 24). We then confirmed the presence
249	of transgenes in primary putative transgenic plants (T ₀) by PCR using primers
250	amplifying the GFP gene, UBI promoter, HPT or NPTII selectable marker gene,
251	respectively (Fig. 5j and Supplementary Fig. 6). We also observed GFP expression in
252	both dry and germinating seeds, indicating transmission of transgene to progeny (Fig.
253	5k,l and Extended Data Fig. 5). Insertions of transgenes into the xiaomi genome were
254	verified by genome sequencing of 13 independent transgenic lines produced with the
255	HPT or NPTII marker, and insertion sites of T-DNA were further confirmed by PCR
256	in three lines examined (Extended Data Fig. 6 and Supplementary Table 25). We grew
257	T ₁ plants representing eight transgenic events in pots and observed no obvious
258	phenotypic differences from non-transformed xiaomi plants (Supplementary Fig. 7).
259	Collectively, we demonstrated the transgenic nature of the plants generated by
260	Agrobacterium-mediated transformation. Thus, we have established an efficient
261	protocol that allows production of transgenic plants ready to transplant to soil in 2-3
262	months counting from Agrobacterium infection or 4-5 months counting from callus
263	initiation from mature seeds (Fig. 6).

264

265 Discussion

Foxtail millet is an emerging C_4 model plant suitable for investigation of various biological phenomena absent in other model plants such as Arabidopsis and rice. Through this study, we identified a mini-plant *xiaomi* with short generation time, created a reference genome and a gene expression atlas from various tissues, and developed a highly efficient transformation protocol. The results demonstrate the suitability of *xiaomi* as an ideal model system to investigate C_4 grass biology and other important molecular mechanisms including, but not limited to, higher nitrogen use efficiency, abiotic and biotic stress responses, downy mildew resistance, domestication and evolution.

275 Compared to C_3 species, C_4 plants usually show higher rates of photosynthesis as 276 well as higher nitrogen and water use efficiencies. The most productive crop species, 277 such as maize, sorghum and sugarcane, are C_4 plants and C_4 plants contribute to about 278 a quarter of primary biomass production on the planet despite comprising only 3% of all land plant species¹⁵. Due to such high productivity, introducing the C_4 pathway 279 280 genes into major C₃ crops such as rice, seems to be a promising strategy to meet the 281 growing demand for food production¹⁶. Towards implementation of such a strategy, it 282 is essential to elucidate genetic and molecular mechanisms underlining the 283 differentiation of C₃ and C₄ anatomical, physiological and biochemical features. 284 Among C_4 plants, maize and sorghum are the major contributors to world food 285 production, whereas sugarcane and switchgrass are major bioenergy plants. However, 286 all these plants possess relatively large statures, large genomes, long life cycles, and are difficult to transform. About ten years ago, Brutnell et al.⁶ proposed green foxtail 287 288 as a C₄ model plant considering its relatively short stature, simple growth 289 requirements, and rapid life cycle. Since then, great progresses have been made in 290 genome assembly, transformation technology improvement, germplasm generation as well as mutant isolation and characterization in green foxtail^{5, 17-20}. Compared to its 291 292 wild progenitor green foxtail, foxtail millet is more suitable as a model plant. Firstly,

the seeds of foxtail millet are generally non-shattering and non-dormant, easier to collect and germinate; secondly, foxtail millet has been widely cultivated for both human food and fodder in the arid and semi-arid regions of the world, particularly in China and India, and would be easier to deploy for grain production. These facts, together with the short life cycle and small plant size, makes *xiaomi* an ideal model plant to accelerate research in millet and many other C_4 plants.

299 We acknowledge that there remain limitations to the direct use of xiaomi plants 300 for certain studies. For example, it may not be suitable for directly evaluating grain 301 yield of foxtail millet cultivars in the field condition, although such traits may be 302 dissected into individual yield-related components such as grain size, 1,000-grain 303 weight, seed number per panicles etc. Nevertheless, some of the limitations may be at 304 least partially overcome by growing xiaomi under SD conditions or crossing xiaomi 305 plants with WT to produce progeny for use in subsequent investigations of the traits 306 of interest.

307 Other early flowering mutants, such as Xiaowei²¹ in rice and Micro-Tom²² in 308 tomato, have been used for conducting large-scale indoor research. Similar to that of 309 *xiaomi*, the phenotypic changes of Xiaowei were caused by the deficiency of a heme 310 oxygenase involved in the biosynthesis of a phytochrome chromophore²¹. Actually, 311 accelerated flowering under the noninductive photoperiods was also observed in the 312 *phyC* mutants in Arabidopsis²³ and rice²⁴. Thus, it is highly likely that *xiaomi*-like 313 mutants can be created using any millet variety through editing of the *PHYC* gene.

At present, $\sim 10\%$ of the *xiaomi* genes are not captured in the tissues used for

315 construction of the gene expression atlas; nevertheless, the majority of these 316 'unexpressed' genes have homologs/orthologs in Arabidopsis and rice, suggesting that 317 they would be expressed in other tissues, at other developmental stages, or under 318 specific growth conditions, and additional RNA-seq should enable to the construction 319 of a more comprehensive gene expression atlas in the future.

320 Transformability is an essential prerequisite for a plant to be a model. Arabidopsis 321 can be efficiently transformed by floral dipping, which has enabled its rapid adoption 322 for basic research in plant biology worldwide. Recently, a similar approach (spike dip transformation) has been explored in green foxtail with reported success^{19, 25}. 323 324 However, we were unable to recover any transgenic plant from *xiaomi* despite various 325 efforts made using this method. Transgenic plants were successfully produced using 326 calli induced from immature embryos/inflorescences in both foxtail millet and green foxtail, although at low efficiency^{26, 27}. The disadvantage of using fresh tissues is that 327 328 plants must be grown periodically to ensure a constant supply all year around, which 329 is obviously time-consuming and costly. Thus, we tried mature seeds as an explant 330 source for callus induction. After repeated trials, we realized that the primary calli 331 induced from mature embryos were not suitable for direct use in transformation most 332 likely due to their watery and soft nature. Then we focused our efforts on the 333 development of embryogenic calli by subculture and optimization of the infection and 334 selection steps by monitoring expression of the reporter gene GFP. We also compared 335 selectable markers and for the first time recognized NPTII as an efficient marker in 336 foxtail millet transformation. The transformation method established in this study has a 3.5-fold higher efficiency than that previously reported²⁶, and upon further improvement should encourage broad adoption of *xiaomi* as a model for basic and applied research, especially in C₄ plants.

340 Materials and Methods

341 Plant materials and growth conditions.

342 xiaomi was identified from an ethyl methanesulfonate (EMS) mutagenized M_2 343 population of Jingu21, an elite variety of foxtail millet widely cultivated in North 344 China for its good grain quality and high yield. The *xiaomi* mutant was maintained by 345 self-pollination in the laboratory for ten generations, leading to a very low level of 346 heterozygosity. Foxtail millets were grown in the experimental field in Taigu, Shanxi, China (37°25'13" N, 112°35'26" E). For indoor research, plants were grown in the 347 348 auto-controlled growth chamber/culture room equipped with full spectrum (420-730 349 nm) LED light sources, under 28 °C /22 °C day/night cycle with a 14 h photoperiod and 350-700 µmol·m⁻²·s⁻¹ light intensity unless otherwise specified. To shorten the 350 351 life cycle and reduce plant stature, we optimized growth conditions for *xiaomi*. Briefly, 352 *xiaomi* seeds were soaked in water overnight at room temperature and sown in a soil 353 mix of nutrient soil, sandy soil and vermiculite (3:2:1, V/V/V) watered with B5 354 solution (water content approximately 25%, W/W). Plants were grown under 16 h 355 photoperiod and watered to maintain 10%–15% water content.

For genome sequencing, the above ground tissues, including leaves, stem and young panicle were collected from a single healthy *xiaomi* plant at the pollination stage for PacBio SMRT DNA sequencing. Young leaves from a single healthy plant of *xiaomi* or WT were harvested for genome re-sequencing.

360 For the expression atlas sequencing, eleven diverse tissues representing the major 361 organ systems were collected, with three biological replications. These tissues were 362 3-day imbibed seeds (seed), 2-week-old whole seedling (seedling), root, stem, the top 363 first fully extended leaf of 2-week old seedling (leaf 1), the top second leaf of 364 30-day-old plants (leaf 2), flag leaf (leaf 3), the fourth leaf (leaf 4), immature panicle 365 (panicle 1), panicle at pollination stage (panicle 2) and panicle at grain filling stage 366 (panicle 3). For seed germination, the surface sterilized seeds were placed on 367 Whatman No. 1 filter paper soaked with distilled water and cultured for 3 days 368 allowing them to germinate. For the 2-week seedling stage, the seeds were sown in 369 soil and the whole seedlings (seedling) and the first immature leaves (leaf 1) were 370 sampled at 2 weeks after germination. Leaf 2 is the top second leaf of 30 days xiaomi 371 seedlings (10 days before heading). Samples of stem, leaf 3 (flag leaf), leaf 4 (the top 372 forth leaf) and panicle 3 were all harvested at the grain filling stage. Each biological 373 replicate included at least five healthy *xiaomi* plants randomly selected from the field 374 or auto-controlled growth chamber. All samples were immediately frozen in liquid 375 nitrogen and stored until use.

376 Map-based cloning.

We crossed *xiaomi* with the cultivar G1 to generate a F_2 mapping population. Using 45 recessive F_2 plants with the typical *xiaomi*-like early heading phenotype, we firstly mapped the *XIAOMI* locus to a 5.45 Mb interval between the two InDel markers, M3374 and M8819 on chromosome 9. We further developed 9 new markers within this interval and finally narrowed down the locus to a 212-kb region between two SNP markers, M5479 and M5690. A candidate gene was then identified by genome
re-sequencing of and comparison of this region between Jingu21 and *xiaomi*.
Sequences of all primers used in map-based cloning are listed in Supplementary Table
3.

386 **DNA and RNA isolation.**

387 For PacBio single-molecule sequencing, DNA was extracted from a single healthy 388 xiaomi plant as described in the 'Preparing Arabidopsis Genomic DNA for 389 Size-Selected $\sim 20 \text{ kb}$ SMRTbell Libraries' protocol 390 (http://www.pacb.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Shared-Protocol-Preparing-Arabi 391 dopsis-DNA-for-20-kb-SMRTbell-Libraries.pdf). For Illumina HiSeq sequencing, 392 DNA was isolated from leaf tissues using cetyltrimethylammonium bromide (CTAB) methods²⁸ with modifications. About 100 mg young leaf was ground to a fine powder 393 394 in liquid nitrogen. The powder was then placed in 2-mL microtubes containing 1 mL 395 preheated 2% CTAB extraction buffer (Adding 0.5% β-mercaptoethanol just before 396 use) and incubated at 65 °C for 30 min. The samples were then centrifuged and the 397 resultant supernatant was extracted with 800 µL chloroform: isoamyl alcohol (24:1, 398 v/v). The supernatant DNA was transferred to a new microtube containing 800 μ L 399 cold isopropanol and 80 μ L 3 mol/L NaAc to precipitate the DNA. The precipitate 400 was dissolved in 100 µL ddH₂O containing 10 ng/µL RNase and incubated at 37 °C 401 for 30 min. Finally, the DNA was isolated using magnetic beads. The quality and 402 integrity of extracted DNA was assessed with a Qubit Fluorometer (Life Technologies, 403 Carlsbad, USA) and separated in 0.8% agarose gels.

Beijing, China) or Plant RNA kit (OMEGA, USA) according to the manufacturer's
instructions. The integrity and quantity of extracted RNA were analyzed on the
Agilent 2100 bioanalyzer and agarose gel electrophoresis.

Total RNA was isolated with RNAprep Pure Plant Kit (Tiangen Biotech Co., Ltd.,

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408 Genome-sequencing library construction, PacBio SMRT and HiSeq sequencing.

409 The DNA libraries for PacBio SMRT sequencing were prepared following the PacBio 410 standard protocols and sequenced on a Sequel platform by Biomarker Technologies 411 Co., LTD (Beijing, China). Briefly, genomic DNA from a single xiaomi plant was 412 randomly sheared into an average size of 20 kb, using a g-Tube (Covaris Inc., 413 Woburn, MA, USA). The sheared gDNA was end-repaired using polishing enzymes. 414 After purification, a 20-kb insert SMRTbell library was constructed according to the 415 PacBio standard protocol with the BluePippin size selection system (Sage Science, 416 Beverly, USA) and sequences were generated on a PacBio Sequel (9 Cells) and 417 PacBio RSII (1 cell) platform by Biomarker Technologies Co., LTD (Beijing, China). 418 Illumina HiSeq DNA libraries were made following standard protocols provided 419 by Illumina. About 5 micrograms of extracted DNA was fragmented randomly and 420 DNA fragments of the desired length were gel purified. These DNA samples were 421 end-repaired and ligated to the adapter, and were then pooled, purified, and amplified 422 with primers compatible to the adapter sequences, and used to construct 270 bp 423 paired-end library. The library was sequenced on an Illumina HiSeq X Ten 424 sequencing platform by Biomarker Technologies Co., LTD (Beijing, China).

425 PacBio assembly, correction and validation.

426 The single-molecule sequencing data were assembled following a hierarchical approach, correction, assembly and polishing²⁹. Briefly, a subset of longer reads was 427 selected as seed data and corrected through Canu $(v1.5)^{30}$ and Falcon $(v0.3.0)^{31}$. The 428 429 error-corrected reads were assembled using Falcon and Canu. Since the Canu and the 430 Falcon assemblies both contained some regions that were missing from the other one, 431 the two initial assemblies were merged using Quickmerge (v0.2, 432 https://github.com/mahulchak/quickmerge) to produce a more contiguous assembly. 433 Finally, the draft assembly was polished to obtain the final assembly. The first-round 434 polishing adopted the quiver/arrow algorithm using SMS data with the 40 threads. 435 The second polishing adopted the pilon algorithm (v1.22, 436 https://github.com/broadinstitute/pilon) using Illumina HiSeq sequencing data.

437 Hi-C library preparation, sequencing, and raw read processing.

The Hi-C library was prepared as described previously³² with minor modifications. 438 439 Nuclear DNA was cross-linked in situ with formaldehyde, extracted, and then 440 digested with HindIII at 37 °C overnight. After digestion, the sticky ends were filled 441 in, biotinylated, and then ligated to each other randomly to form chimeric circles. 442 Biotinylated DNA fragments were reverse cross-linked by proteinase K and purified 443 by a phenol extraction, followed by a phenol/chloroform/isoamylalcohol extraction. 444 Then, the purified DNA was sheared to a size of 300–700 bp with a Covaris S220 445 instrument (Covaris, Woburn, MA, USA). The sheared DNA was end-repaired with 446 T4 DNA polymerase. The biotin tagged ligation products were isolated with MyOne Streptavidin C1 Dynabeads (Life Technologies). Bead-bound Hi-C DNA was 447

amplified and purified for preparing the sequencing library. Finally, the Hi-C librarywas paired-end sequenced on an Illumina HiSeq X Ten platform.

450 The Hi-C reads were aligned to the draft assembly using the 'BWA aln' 451 algorithm³³ with default parameters, and then the quality was assessed using HiC-Pro 452 (v2.8.0, http://github.com/nservant/HiC-Pro). The invalid interaction pairs, including 453 self-circle ligation, dangling ends, PCR duplicates and other potential assay-specific 454 artefacts were discarded. The unique valid interaction pairs (non-redundant, true 455 ligation products) were uniquely mapped onto the draft assembly contigs, which were grouped into 9 chromosome clusters, and scaffolded by Lachesis³² using the following 456 457 parameters: cluster min re sites=52, cluster max link density=2; cluster 458 noninformative ratio=2; order min n res in trun=46; order min n res in shreds=42.

459 **Repeat annotation, gene prediction and functional annotation.**

460 For the repeat annotation of the *xiaomi* genome, both structural predictions and *de* 461 novo approaches were adopted. Specifically, the primary repeat library of xiaomi was built from the *de novo* approach using LTR Finder $(v1.05)^{34}$, MITE-Hunter $(v1.0.0)^{35}$, 462 RepeatScout $(v1.0.5)^{36}$ and PILER-DF $(v2.4)^{37}$ with the default parameters. Secondly, 463 the primary repeat library was classified with PASTEClassifier $(v1.0)^{38}$ and then 464 combined with Repbase³⁹ to build the final repeat library of *xiaomi*. Finally, repeats 465 466 throughout the *xiaomi* genome were identified by RepeatMasker (v4.0.6) with the 467 parameters '-nolow -no is -norna -engine wublast -qq -frag 20000'.

468 For predicting genes, a combination of *ab initio*-based approaches,
469 homology-based methods and supporting PacBio Iso-Seq were used to conduct a

470	comprehensive search for consensus gene sets. For <i>ab initio</i> based gene prediction:
471	five gene finding program, Genscan (v3.1) ⁴⁰ , Augustus (v2.4) ⁴¹ , GlimmerHMM
472	$(v1.2)^{42}$, GeneID $(v1.4)^{43}$ and SNAP $(v2006-07-28)^{44}$ were used to detect genes in the
473	repeat masked xiaomi genome with the default parameters. For homology-based
474	prediction, proteins previously annotated in Arabidopsis thaliana, Setaria italica,
475	Oryza sativa, Sorghum bicolor and Zea mays were downloaded and mapped to the
476	xiaomi genome using BLAST and homologous genes were identified using GeMoMa
477	(v1.3.1) ⁴⁵ . Newly generated <i>xiaomi</i> PacBio Iso-Seq and RNA-Seq data were directly
478	mapped to the <i>xiaomi</i> genome and assembled by PASA $(v2.0.2)^{46}$. Finally, the
479	results obtained from the above approaches were integrated into a consensus gene set
480	of xiaomi using EVM (v1.1.1) with default parameters. These protein-coding genes
481	were named using the following gene model nomenclature: Si (for Setaria italica)
482	followed by the chromosome number and gene number on the chromosome going
483	from top to bottom in steps of 10, for example, the first and the second genes on
484	chromosome 1 were named Si1G00010 and Si1G00020, respectively.

For the functional annotation of gene models of *xiaomi*, the final protein-coding regions were aligned to sequences in public databases including nr (https://ftp.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/blast/db/FASTA/), KOG

(ftp://ftp.ncbi.nih.gov/pub/COG/KOG/), KEGG (https://www.kegg.jp/) and TrEMBL
(https://www.ebi.ac.uk/uniprot) using BLAST (v2.2.31, E-value ≤1.0e-05). The Gene
Ontology (GO)⁴⁷ terms for each gene were obtained using Blast2GO program⁴⁸
based on the above nr annotation.

492 The tRNA genes in the assembly were identified by tRNA scan-SE $(v1.3.1)^{49}$ with 493 eukaryote parameters. rRNA and miRNA were identified by searching the Rfam 494 $(v12.1)^{50}$ with an E-value threshold of 1.0e-05.

Pseudogene GeneWise (v2.4.1) was used to predict the candidate gene structure based on the homogenous alignments. We filtered GeneWise's results to retain only those with at least 95% coverage of the protein. The gene structures with frame shift mutations were considered to be candidate pseudogenes.

499 Genome quality evaluation.

500 The quality of the *xiaomi* assembly was assessed by examining the alignment ratio of 501 HiSeq short reads and the presence of well conserved core eukaryotic genes. The 502 short reads generated by Illumina HiSeq platform were aligned to the xiaomi 503 assembly using BWA (v0.7.10-r789). To further evaluate the completeness of the *xiaomi* gene models, BUSCO $(v2.0)^{51}$ analysis was undertaken with genome mode 504 505 and embryophyta odb9 dataset 506 (http://busco.ezlab.org/datasets/embryophyta_odb9.tar.gz) as a reference. The

600 (http://busco.eziab.org/datasets/entoryophyta_odd9.tat.g2) as a reference. The
607 embryophyte_db9 dataset contains 1,440 protein sequences and orthologous group
608 annotations for major clades. The proportion of complete and partial core eukaryotic
609 genes was assessed as a measure of the completeness of the *xiaomi* assembly.

510 RNA-sequencing library preparation, Isoform- and HiSeq-sequencing.

For Iso-sequencing, eight tissues, including seed, seedling, root, stem, young leaf (leaf
1), mature leaf (leaf 3), pollinated panicles (panicle 1) and panicles at the filling stage
(panicle 3), were harvested for RNA isolation. Equal amounts of total RNA from each

514 tissue were pooled together to identify as many isoforms as possible. SMRTbell 515 libraries were prepared according to the Iso-Seq protocol (Isoform Sequencing 516 (Iso-SeqTM) using the Clontech SMARTer PCR cDNA Synthesis Kit and the 517 BluePippin[™] Size Selection System). The first cDNA strand was synthesized using 518 SMARTer[™] PCR cDNA Synthesis Kit (Takara Biotechnology, Dalian, China). After 519 cycle optimization, large-scale PCR was performed to generate double-strand cDNA 520 for size selection on the BluePippin System (Sage Science, Inc., Beverly, MA, USA). 521 Then, another large-scale PCR was performed using the eluted DNA to generate more 522 double-stranded cDNA. Re-amplified cDNA was purified, repaired and ligated with 523 hairpin adapters. To minimize the bias that favors sequencing of shorter transcripts, 524 multiple size-fractionated libraries (0-1, 0.5-1, 1-2, 1-3, 2-3 and 2-8 kb) were 525 constructed according to the manufacture's instruction. Finally, a total of 15 SMRT 526 cells were sequenced on a PacBio RS II platform.

527 For transcriptome atlas sequencing with the Illumina HiSeq X-ten platform, RNA-Seq libraries were constructed using NEBNext Ultra RNA Library Prep Kit for 528 529 Illumina (E7770, New England BioLabs, USA) according to the manufacture's 530 instruction. Briefly, mRNA was purified from total RNA using NEBNext Poly (A) 531 mRNA Magnetic Isolation Module (E7490, New England BioLabs, USA) and 532 fragmented into approximately 200 nt RNA short fragments. The fragmented mRNAs 533 were then used as templates to synthesize the first-strand cDNA and the second-strand 534 cDNA. After end repair and adaptor ligation, the products were selected by Agencourt 535 AMPure XP beads (Beckman Coulter, Inc., CA, USA) and amplified to create a cDNA library by PCR. In total, 35 RNA-seq libraries were made from 11 different
tissues with five biological replicates for leaf 2 and three biological replicates for
others. All libraries were sequenced using an Illumina HiSeq X-ten platform by
Biomarker Technologies Co., LTD (Beijing, China).

540 RNA-seq read processing, clustering analyses, Z-score and coefficient of 541 variation expression analysis.

Illumina RNA-seq reads of *xiaomi* were cleaned using Trimmomatic (v0.38)⁵² with 542 543 parameters: ILLUMINACLIP:TruSeq3-PE.fa:2:30:10 LEADING:3 TRAILING:3 544 SLIDINGWINDOW:4:15 MINLEN:30 HEADCROP:10. The clean reads were mapped to the *xiaomi* genome using HISAT2 $(v2.04)^{53}$ with default parameters. 545 546 Genes expression analysis and quantile normalization were conducted using R with the transcripts per million $(TPM)^{54}$. The genes with TPM >0 in a given organ were 547 548 considered to be expressed in this organ. Tissue-preferential and -specific genes were 549 identified according to their TPM. Fold changes >10 between the tissues showing the 550 highest and the second highest expression levels were considered to be tissue specific 551 genes, while fold changes of at least 5 but no more than 10 were considered as tissue 552 preferentially expressed genes. Constitutively expressed genes were identified by 553 coefficient of variation (CV) analysis. CV values ranged from 10.30% to 331.66%, 554 representing the most stably expressed genes to the most differentially expressed 555 genes. A gene with CV < 20% and no more than a two-fold difference between the highest and lowest levels of a gene transcript in any organs was considered to be 556 557 constitutively expressed.

Hierarchical clustering analysis (HCA) was performed using pheatmap package
(v1.0.12) of R software. Distance analysis was calculated using pairwise Pearson
correlation.

561 Non-coding RNA isolation, library preparation, sequencing and sequence data
562 analysis.

563 The miRNAs were isolated using the EASYspin Plant microRNA Kit (RN4001, 564 Aidlab Biotechnologies Co., Ltd, Beijing, China) according to the manufacturer's 565 protocol. The miRNAs from the tissues for atlas analysis were mixed equally and 566 used for library construction. The sequencing library was prepared using NEB 567 Multiplex Small RNA Library Prep Kit for Illumina kit (New England Biolabs, USA) 568 following the manufacturer's recommendations. Briefly, the small RNAs were ligated 569 with 3' and 5' SR adapters, reverse-transcribed and amplified. Amplified cDNA 570 constructs between 140–160 bp were selected and sequenced using Illumina HiSeq 571 X-ten platform with single-end reads of 50 nucleotides. The raw reads were trimmed 572 by removing adapter sequences and low-quality reads containing ploy-N, with adapter 573 contaminants of less than 18 nt. Then, the high-quality clean reads of small RNA were 574 mapped to the *xiaomi* reference sequence, and miRNAs were identified using MiRDeep2⁵⁵. 575

Strand-specific RNA-seq libraries for lncRNA and circRNA identification were
generated using Ribo-Zero[™] Magnetic Kit (Illumina, CA, USA) and NEBNext Ultra
Directional RNA Library Prep Kit (E7420, New England BioLabs, USA) following
the manufacturer's recommendations. Briefly, total RNA was treated with the

580 Ribo-Zero[™] Magnetic Kit to remove ribosomal RNA. After fragmentation, the 581 rRNA-depleted RNA was reverse-transcribed using random primers, followed by the 582 second-strand synthesis. The resulting double-stranded DNA was ligated to adaptors 583 after purification, end-repair and ligation of a poly A tail. Subsequently, the cDNA 584 was digested with uracil-specific excision reagent (USER) enzyme to degrade the 585 cDNA strands containing U instead of T. The first-strand cDNA that preserved the 586 direction of the RNA was amplified and the products were purified. Finally, the 587 strand-specific cDNA library was sequenced using an Illumina HiSeq X-ten platform 588 with 150 bp pair-end reads. The resulting directional paired-end reads were filtered and trimmed using Trimmomatic $(v0.38)^{52}$. Then, the clean reads were mapped to the 589 590 *xiaomi* genome sequence using HISAT2. To construct transcripts, the mapped reads 591 were assembled *de novo* using Cufflinks (http://cole-trapnell-lab.github.io/cufflinks/). 592 The assembled transcripts were annotated using the *xiaomi* genome to identify 593 protein-coding transcripts. After filtering of the protein-coding genes, lncRNA was 594 identified using the following parameters: 1) FPKM 20.5; 2) The transcripts were 595 longer than 200 bp. CircRNAs were identified essentially according to the method 596 described by Memczak et al⁵⁶.

597 Identification of SNPs, small InDels and PAVs.

We identified SNPs and small InDels (length <100 bp) with MUMmer (v3.23)⁵⁷ (http://mummer.sourceforge.net/) between the *xiaomi* and Yugu1 genomes. Briefly, the *xiaomi* pseudochromosome sequence was mapped to its corresponding Yugu1 pseudochromosomes with MUMmer, and then SNPs and InDels were identified using 602 Show-SNPs. PAVs were extracted by scanPAV⁵⁸ with default parameters. The 603 resulting PAVs \leq 1000 bp were filtered out as noise.

604 Syntenic analysis and identification of *xiaomi*-specific genes.

All-versus-all BLASTP analysis of protein sequences was performed between *xiaomi*and Yugu1 using an E-value cutoff of 1e-10 and syntenic blocks were then identified
using MCscan (http://chibba.pgml.uga.edu/mcscan2/) based on the all-to-all BLASTP
results with the following parameters: MATCH_SCORE >50, MATCH_SIZE=10,
GAP_PENALTY=-1, OVERLAP_WINDOW=5, MAX GAPS=25. *xiaomi*-specific
genes were determined by BLASTP analysis of protein sequences using an E-value
cutoff of 1e-5.

612 Agrobacterium-mediated genetic transformation, GFP fluorescence observation 613 and molecular analysis.

614 This method was developed following mature seed-based transformation protocol in rice¹⁴, with improvement to make it suitable for foxtail millet. For callus induction, 615 616 palea and lemma of xiaomi mature seeds were mechanically removed to reduce 617 potential contamination. The dehusked seeds were surface-sterilized in 70% (v/v) 618 ethanol for 2 min, and then in 10% bleach containing 0.1% tween 20 for 20 minutes, 619 and finally rinsed five times with autoclaved water. The sterilized seeds were 620 transferred onto sterile paper towels to remove excess water. The seeds were placed 621 on the callus induction medium (CIM, 4 g/L CHU (N6) basal salt with vitamins, 30 622 g/L sucrose, 2 mg/L 2,4-D, 0.3 g/L casein acid hydrolysate, 2.8 g/L proline, 0.1 g/L 623 myo-inositol, 0.1 mg/L 6-benzylaminopurine, 8 g/L agar, pH 5.7). The seeds were incubated at 28 °C in the dark. After 8-10 weeks induction, the callus could be seen.
To obtain high-quality, regenerable calli, the initially formed callus was divided into
2–3 mm pieces and transferred onto fresh CIM. After 3 rounds of subculture, the calli
became yellowish and were ready for transformation.

628 The vectors pCAMBIA1305-GFP and p8-GFP, both harboring the GFP gene as a reporter, were used for protocol development and method optimization. The HPT 629 630 gene in pCAMBIA1305-GFP and NPT II gene in p8-GFP were tested for their 631 effectiveness in selection of transformants. Both vectors were introduced into the 632 Agrobacterium strain EHA105 by electroporation. The EHA105 cells were cultured in 633 the YEB medium (5 g/L beef extract, 5 g/L peptone, 1 g/L yeast extract, 5 g/L sucrose, 634 10 mM magnesium sulphate, pH 7.0) overnight until an $OD_{600nm} = 1.0$. For infection 635 and co-cultivation, the actively proliferating calli were infected with Agrobacterium 636 cells ($OD_{600nm} = 0.5$) in the infection medium (IM, 0.44 g/L MS salts, 1×B5 vitamins, 637 68 g/L sucrose, 36 g/L glucose, 1 g/L asparagine, 1 g/L casamino acids, 0.2 g/L 638 cysteine, 2 mg/L 2, 4-D, 200 µM acetosyringone, pH 5.2) for 5 min. The calli were 639 then blotted on sterile filter paper and transferred onto IM solidified with 8 g/L 640 agarose for 3-day co-cultivation at 22 °C in the dark.

After co-cultivation, the calli were sub-cultured on the CIM resting medium containing 250 mg/L carbenicillin at 28 °C in the dark for 3 days and then transferred to the CIM selection medium containing 100 mg/L paromomycin or 50 mg/L hygromycin B and 250 mg/L carbenicillin for another two weeks. Yellowish calli were sub-cultured on the same medium every two weeks until fast-growing resistant

646	calli were formed. The resistant calli were then transferred to the shoot induction
647	medium (SIM, 4.43 g/L MS basal salt with vitamins, 30 g/L sucrose, 1 g/L proline, 1
648	g/L aspartic acid, 0.5 g/L casein acid hydrolysate, 0.25 mg/L copper sulfate, 2 mg/L
649	6-benzylaminopurine, 0.2 mg/L NAA, 250 mg/L carbenicillin, 100 mg/L
650	paromomycin or 50 mg/L hygromycin B, 8 g/L agar, pH 5.7) and cultured at 28 $^{\circ}\mathrm{C}$
651	under 16 h light/8 h dark condition for 4-5 weeks. Regenerated shoots of 1-2 cm in
652	length were transferred to the root induction medium (RIM, half-strength MS basal
653	salt with vitamins, 30 g/L sucrose, 0.1 g/L myo-inositol, 2.6 g/L Gelzan, pH 5.6) for
654	root formation. Healthy roots were developed in 2-3 weeks. The rooted putative
655	transgenic plants were moved directly to pots or field.

Expression of GFP was monitored with a Leica M305FCA fluorescence stereo microscope equipped with a DMC6200 camera during co-cultivation, selection and shoot regeneration. Transgenic *GFP* plants were confirmed by PCR genotyping using the *GFP*, *UBI* and *HPT/NPTII* specific binding primers listed in Supplementary Table 3.

661 **T-DNA identification of the transgenic** *xiaomi* lines.

We identified the T-DNA insertion sites in 13 independently transgenic *xiaomi* plants, including seven pCAMBIA1305-GFP and six p8-GFP transgenic lines, by genome resequencing. Approximate 50 T₁ transgenic young seedlings of each line were used for DNA extraction and sequencing. Approximate 12 Gb data ($\sim 28 \times \text{coverage}$) was obtained for each line. T-DNA insertion site(s) were identified using TDNAScan⁵⁹. Primers used for PCR confirmation of insertion sites are listed in Supplementary 668 Table 3.

669 Data availability

670 The genome assembly, annotation and expression data can be easily accessed at our 671 Multi-omics Database for Setaria italica (http://sky.sxau.edu.cn/MDSi.htm). The 672 genome assembly and annotation of *xiaomi* are also available at Genome Warehouse 673 in the Beijing Institute of Genomics (BIG) Data Center (https://bigd.big.ac.cn/) under 674 accession number GWHAAZD00000000. The raw sequence data have been deposited 675 in BIG Data Center with the following accession numbers: CRA001973 (Genome 676 sequencing of xiaomi by PacBio), CRA001968 (Hi-C of xiaomi), CRA001972 677 (Iso-sequencing of xiaomi), CRA001967 (Genome re-sequencing of xiaomi and 678 Jingu21), CRA001953 (RNA-seq of 11 xiaomi tissues), CRA001954 (RNA-Seq of 679 the top second leaf of 30 day old Jingu21), CRA001974 (non-coding RNAs), 680 CRA002603 (genome re-sequencing of xiaomi-2) and CRA002604 (genome 681 re-sequencing of 13 transgenic lines). Yugu1 genome was downloaded from public 682 database Phytozome (https://phytozome.jgi.doe.gov/pz/portal.html). Zhanggu genome 683 was downloaded from ftp://ftp.genomics.org.cn/pub/Foxtail millet. Other data can be 684 obtained from the public databases: nr (https://ftp.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/blast/db/FASTA/), 685 KOG (ftp://ftp.ncbi.nih.gov/pub/COG/KOG/), KEGG (https://www.kegg.jp/), 686 TrEMBL (https://www.ebi.ac.uk/uniprot), GO (http://geneontology.org/) and BUSCO 687 embryophyta odb9 dataset (http://busco.ezlab.org/datasets/embryophyta odb9.tar.gz). 688 All data and materials are available from the corresponding author upon request. 689 References

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- 837 Author contributions

838 X. W., Y. H., Z. Y. and Y. S. designed and coordinated the study. Y. H., J. G., S. H.

and B. Z. constructed the Jingu21 EMS mutagenized library and identified the xiaomi

840 mutant. Z. Y., X. W. and H. S. characterized the *xiaomi* phenotype, cloned the *PHYC*

- gene and analyzed the sequence data. H. Z., Y. S. and C. W. established the
- 842 Agrobacterium-mediate genetic transformation system and wrote the relevant part of
- 843 the manuscript. X. W., Y. H., X. L., Z. Y., J. M., S. M. and M. B. performed
- downstream analysis of the sequence data. H. S., J. G., S. H. and B. Z. collected the
- 845 experimental materials. X. W. and J. M. wrote the manuscript. All authors edited and

846 approved the manuscript.

847 Competing Interests

- 848 The authors declare no competing interests.
- 849 Figure Legends and Tables

850 Fig. 1 | Phenotypic characterization of *xiaomi*. a, Forty DAS field-grown Jingu21 851 (left) and *xiaomi* (right) plants. **b**, An adult small-sized *xiaomi* plant (right) compared 852 to Jingu21 (left), at the 68th day in field. c, An enlarged view of the panicle from the 853 xiaomi plant shown in **b**. **d**, Seeds harvested from the field-grown Jingu21 (top, 310 854 seeds) and xiaomi (bottom, 310 seeds). e, Heading dates of xiaomi and Jingu21 under 855 the LD or the SD conditions. The heading dates of ≥ 25 plants were measured for 856 each replicate (n = 3 biologically independent replicates, \geq 89 in total). The bottom 857 and top of boxes represent the first and third quartile, respectively. The middle line is 858 the median and the whiskers represent the maximum and minimum values. Statistical 859 analysis was performed using two-tailed Wilcoxon rank-sum test. f, Image of seven 860 39-DAS individual *xiaomi* plants in a pot (dimeter 10 cm, height 10 cm) grown under 861 the optimized conditions. Scale bars, 10 cm (a and f), 20 cm (b), 5 cm (c) and 2 cm 862 (d), respectively.

863

Fig. 2 | Molecular characterization of *xiaomi*. a, Genetic mapping of *xiaomi*. Top: a
schematic diagram showing positions of the mutation at the *PHYC* locus. The
numbers (n) of recombinants used in mapping are given below the genetic maps.
Middle: Putative genes in the mapping region. Bottom: *PHYC* genomic structure as
deduced from its cDNA in Jingu21. Exons and introns are denoted by filled boxes and

869	lines, respectively. P1F and P1R represent a pair of primers used to amplify the
870	fragments harboring the mutation site from the segregating F_2 individuals (Primer
871	sequences are listed in Supplementary Table 3). b, Normal (xiaomi transcript 1) and
872	abnormal (xiaomi transcript 2) splicing sequences of xiaomi around the G-T mutation
873	site. c, Detection of the shortened transcripts in xiaomi by PCR. Lane 1, genomic
874	DNA from Jingu21; lane 2, genomic DNA from <i>xiaomi</i> ; lane 3, cDNA from Jingu21;
875	lane 4, cDNA from xiaomi; lane 5, water control; M, a 2 kb DNA ladders. Note the
876	presence of a 614-bp fragment in addition to the expected 727-bp fragment in <i>xiaomi</i> .
877	The alternative splicing of mRNA in the top second leaf at filling stage was presented
878	here and similar results were observed in two other detected tissues including stem
879	and seedling. d, Structure of PHYC and its truncated versions deduced according to
880	mutations in xiaomi. PAS, Per (period circadian protein) Arn (Ah receptor nuclear
881	translocator protein) and Sim (single-minded protein) domain; GAF, cGMP-specific
882	phosphodiesterase, adenylyl cyclase and FhIA domain; PHY, phytochrome domain;
883	HK, His kinase A (phospho-acceptor) domain; HD, histidine kinase, DNA gyrase B
884	and HSP90-like ATPase domain.

885

Fig. 3 | Circular plot of the *xiaomi* genome sequence compared with the Yugu1

genome. GC content (a), gene density (b), transposon element content (c), SNP
density (d), InDel density (e) and PAV distributions (f) in sliding windows of 100 kb.
g, Links display homologous genes in *xiaomi* and Yugu1.

890

891 Fig. 4 | Expression pattern of the Si9g04830 gene. The Si9g04830 gene encodes a 892 magnesium chelatase D subunit which catalyzes the insertion of magnesium into 893 protoporphyrin IX in chlorophyll biosynthesis. The strongest expression of Si9g04830 894 is seen in the leaves, consistent with its known biological role and with published data⁶⁰. The scale bar (in TPM) is displayed on the left. Note: The eleven tissues 895 896 described here were presented in color. The expression data of the gray tissues/organs 897 is being analyzed or is about to be analyzed, and will be presented in the MDSi 898 database in the near future.

899

900 Fig. 5 | Agrobacterium-mediated transformation of xiaomi. a, Embryogenic calli 901 suitable for transformation, 2 months after seed inoculation. b, Calli co-cultivated 902 with Agrobacterium for 3 days under bright light. c, UV visualization of infected calli 903 in **b**, showing transient expression of the *GFP* reporter. **d**, A transformed callus sector 904 with light yellow color proliferating on selection medium at the end of the 905 second-round selection. \mathbf{e} , The same callus as in \mathbf{d} but visualized under UV light. \mathbf{f} , 906 Shoot regeneration from transgenic calli. g, Root formation on root induction medium. 907 **h**, A healthy GFP-expressing plant imaged under white (left) and UV (right) light, 908 respectively. i, An adult primary transgenic plant. j, PCR confirmation of the 909 transgenic plantlets generated with the HPT selectable marker using GFP gene (top) 910 or UBI promoter (bottom) specific primers. M, molecular marker; lane 1, plasmid 911 DNA; lane 2, non-transformed xiaomi plant; lanes 3-16, independent T₀ 912 transformants; lane 17, water control. k and l, Segregation of GFP transgene in

913	germinated seeds under white (1) or UV light (m), confirming transmission of
914	transgene to progeny. All experiments were performed for eight independent
915	biological repeats and at least six samples were tested for each biological repeat
916	except for Panel j that were performed for three repeats. Scale bars, 2 mm (a-e , h , k
917	and l), 2 cm (f , g and i).

918

919 Fig. 6 | Flow chart for Agrobacterium-mediated transformation of xiaomi

920

Estimated genome size 438.26 Mb Assembled genome size 429.94 Mb GC content 45.96% Number of contigs 414 429,934,041 bp Total contig length Genome 49,165,788 bp Longest contig assembly Contig N50 18,838,472 bp Number of scaffolds 366 429,936,786 bp Total scaffold length 59,244,420 bp Longest scaffold Scaffold N50 42,406,388 bp Length Percentage Annotation Number (%) (bp) Transposable Retrotransposon 206,786 187,277,124 43.55 elements DNA transposons 132,533 71,648,350 16.67 Others 51,519 19,295,056 4 390,838 235,013,481 Total without overlaps 54.66 Protein coding genes 34,436 2,631 Pseudogenes rRNA 919 Predicted tRNA 3,516 genes miRNA 340 IncRNA 28,260

1,318

circRNA

921 Table 1 | Statistics for the *xiaomi* genome assembly and annotation

















Arabidopsis thaliana Brachypodium distachyon Brassica napus Ipomoea nil Oryza sativa Panicum miliaceum Setaria italica Solanum lycopersicum Sorghum bicolor Triticum aestivum Vitis vinifera Zea mays

214 -mlllcdalvkevseltgydrvmvykfhedghgeviaeccredmepylglhysatdipqasrflfmrnkvrmicdcsavpvkvvqdkslsqpislsgsti 312 219 - LSLLCDVIVREVSELTGYDRVMAYKFHEDEHGEVIAECRRSDLEPYLGLHYPATDIPQASRFIFMKNKVRMICDCAAVPVKIIQDDNISQPISLCGSTM 317 **218** -MSLLCDALVKEVSELTGYDRVMVYKFHGDGHGEVIAECCKADLEPYLGLHYSATDIPQASRFLFMRNKVRMICDCSAVPVKVVQDKSLSQPITLAGSTI 218 disllcdvivrevrdltgydrvmvykfhedehgevvaecrkpdlepylglhypatdipqasrflfMknkvrmicdclapsvkviqdktlaqplslcgsai 317 217 NLSLLCDVLVREVSELTGYDRVMAYKFHEDEHGEVIAECKRSDLEPYLGLHYPATDIPQASRFLFMKNKVRMICDCSATPVKIIQDDSLTQPISICGSTI 218 -LSLLCDVIVREVSELTGYDRVMAYKFHEDEHGEVIAECRRSDLEPYLGLHYPATDIPQASRFLFMKNKVRMICDCSATPVKIIQDDRLAQPLSLCGSTI 217 NLSLLCDVIVREVSELTGYDRVMAYKFHEDEHGEVIAECRRSDLEPYLGLHYPATDIPQASRFLFMKNKVRMICDYSAVPVKIIQDDSLAQPLSLCGSTL 218 DISLLCDVIVREVSHLTGYDRVMVYKFHEDEHGEVVAECRTPELEPYLGLHYPATDIPQASRFLFMKNKVRMICDCLAPPIRVIQDPRLAQSLSLGGSTI 317 217 - LSLLCDVLVREVSELTGYDRVMAYKFHEDEHGEVISECRRSDLEPYLGLHYPATDIPQASRFLFMKNKVRMICDCSATLVKIIQDDSLAQPLSLCGSTI 315 219 -LSLLCDVIVREVSELTGYDRVMAYKFHEDEHGEVIAECRRSDLEPYLGLHYPATDIPQASRFLFMKNKVRMICDCAASPVKLIQDDNLSQPISLCGSTM 317 220 -ISLLCDVIVKEASELTGYDRVMVYKFHEDEHGEVIAECRKPDLEPYLGLHYPATDIPQASRFLFMKNKVRMICDCLAPPVKVIQNKRLAQPLSLCGSTI 318 217 - LSLLCDVLVREVSELTGYDRVMAYKFYEDEHGEVISECRRSDLEPYLGLHYPATDIPQASRFLFMKNKVRMICDCCATPVKVIQDSLAQPLSLCGSTI 315

Arabidopsis thaliana Brachypodium distachyon Brassica napus Ipomoea nil Oryza sativa Panicum miliaceum Setaria italica Solanum lycopersicum Sorghum bicolor Triticum aestivum Vitis vinifera Zea mays

313 raphgchaqym<mark>s</mark>nmgsvaslvmsvtingsdsdemn---rdlqtgrhlwglvvchhasprfvpfplryacefltqvfgvqinke-392 318 raphgchaqymanmgsvaslvmsitinedee<mark>edg</mark>dtgsdqqpkgrklwglvvchh<mark>s</mark>sprfvpfplryacefllqvfgiqlnkev 401 317 RAPHGCHAQYMSNMGSVASLVMSVTINGSESDEMN---RDLQTGRTLWGLVVCHHASPRVVPFPLRYACEFLTQVFGVQINKE-396 **318** raphgchaqymanmgs<mark>iaslamsvtined</mark>demd----sdqqkgrklwglvvchh<mark>s</mark>sprfvpfplryaceflvqvfsvqinkev 397 317 RAPHGCHAQYMA<mark>S</mark>MGSVASLVMSVTINEDEDDDDGDTGSDQQPKGRKLWGLMVCHHTSPRFVPFPLRYACEFLLQVFGIQINKEV 400 317 RAPHGCHAQYMANMGSVASLVMSVTINEDEEDG-DTGSDQQPKGRKLWGLVVCHHSSPRFIPFPLRYACEFLLQVFGIQLNKEV 399 317 RAPHGCHAQYMANMGSVASLVMSVTINEDEEDE - DTGSDQQPKGRKLWGLVVCHHTSPRFVPFPLRYACEFLLQVFGIQLNKEV 399 318 raphgchaqymtnmgtvasmamsvmineqddeld---sdqqvgrklwglvvchhtcprflsfplryasefllqvfsvqvnkev 397 316 ra<mark>s</mark>hgchaqymanmgsvaslvmsvti<mark>sn</mark>dee<mark>edv</mark>dtgsdqqpkgrklwglvvchhtsprfvpfplryacefllqvfgiqlnkev 399 318 raphgchaqymanmgsiaslvmsitinedededgdtgsdqqpkgrklwglvvchhtsprfvpfplryacefllqvfgiqlnkev 401 319 RSPHGCHAQYMANMGSVASLVMSVTINEEDDDTE---SKQQKGRKLWGLVVCHNTSPRFVPFPLRYACEFLVQVFGVQISKE-397 316 RASHGCHAQYMANMGSVASLAMSVTINEDEEEDGDTGSDQQPKGRKLWGLVVCHHTSPRFVPFPLRYACEFLLQVFGIQLNKEV 399

log2 (N links) 4 3

White light

Multiple

а

b

С

UV light

