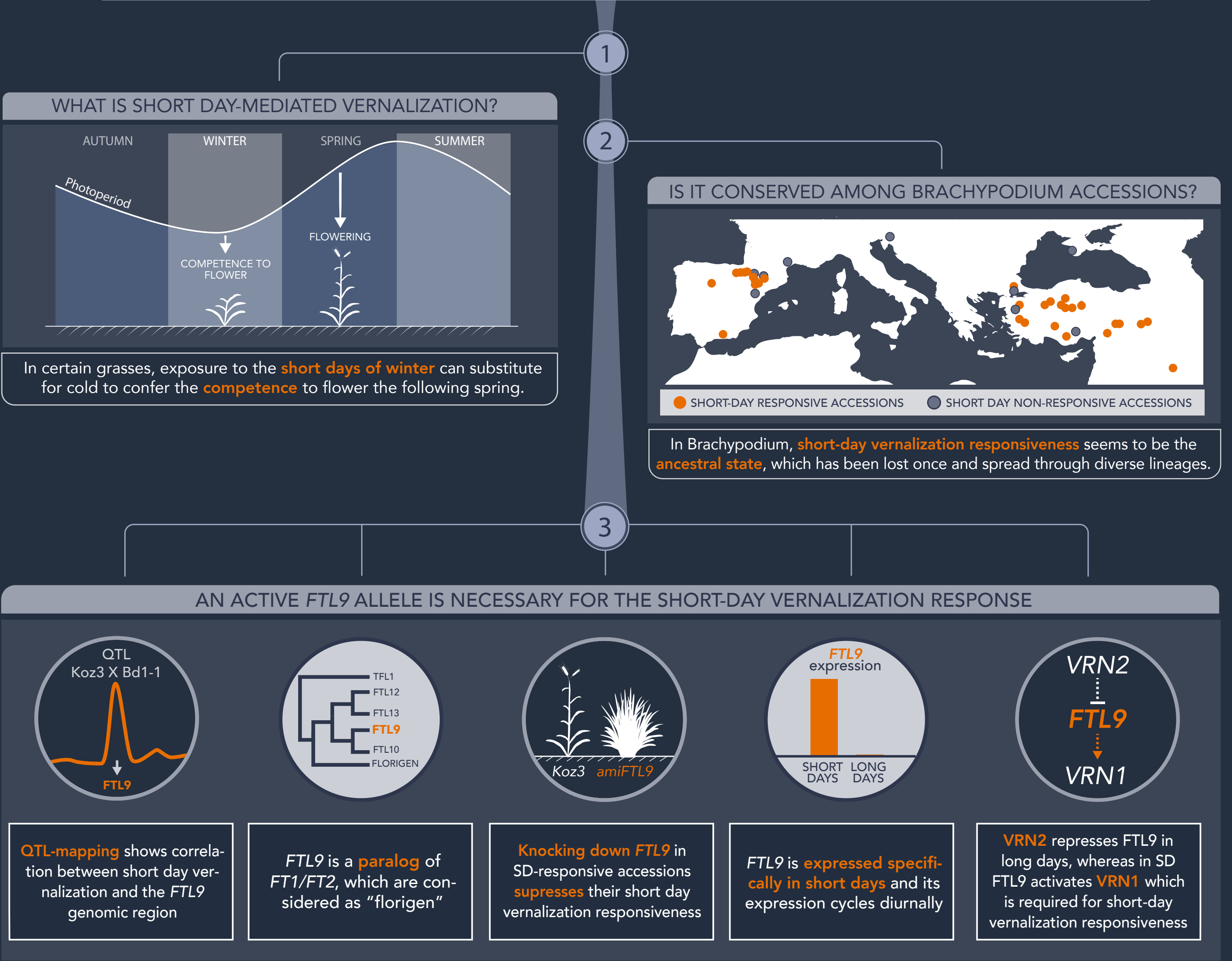


A FLORIGEN PARALOG IS REQUIRED FOR SHORT-DAY VERNALIZATION IN A POOID GRASS

Woods D.P., Dong Y. , Bouché F., Bednarek R., Rowe M., Ream T.S., and Amasino R.M.

eLIFE, January 2019 | DOI: 10.7554/eLife.42153

FTL9 is part of the florigen family of proteins. In photoperiodic maize and sorghum, *FTL9* orthologs (called CN12) are expressed in short-days and are direct activators of flowering. Our results show that *FTL9* plays **a distinct role in Brachypodium**: it is key to the acquisition of floral competence through a process known as **short day-mediated vernalization**.



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