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Maria Manuela R. Costa is an Assistant Professor at the Biology Department of the University of Minho, Portugal. She obtained her BSc in Biochemistry from the University of Lisbon. During her PhD in the lab of George Coupland (John Innes Centre, UK) she studied the function of a transcription factor involved in flowering time in *Arabidopsis*. She was a post-doctoral fellow in the labs of Robert Sablowsky and Enrico Coen at the JIC, and Andrew Hudson at the University of Edinburgh, where she was involved in different projects studying the regulation of floral organogenesis and morphology (symmetry, shape and size). In 2007, she returned to Portugal and her laboratory at the University of Minho has been investigating the molecular regulation of a network of genes that determine floral bilateral symmetry and how this network has changed during evolution in order to generate different flower morphologies. The lab has also been interested in understanding the different determinants that specify male and female flower morphology in dioecious and monoecious species (e.g. *Vitis vinifera*, *Quercus suber*, *Castanea sativa*).