And then there were leaves

All leaves, however different they look, belong to one of only two types. They are either single-veined or web-veined. Recent research suggests that all plants might use the same mechanism to control leaf formation. An interaction between two genes appears to govern leaf formation in both Arabidopsis and Antirrhinum, and a very similar interaction may influence leaf formation in the club moss Selaginella. Yet the fossil evidence and traditional plant classification suggest separate evolution of leaves for the club mosses and other plants.

Why do you think that Arabidopsis was one of the species used in this study?

What’s going on here? Could exactly the same genetic mechanism have evolved twice?

You are a research scientist, think about the process of science and describe the ways in which you could present your findings to other scientists and to the general public. Does there have to be a definite answer to the question of leaf evolution?