



Figure 7. Endogenous RNA silencing in plants. The difference between miRNAs and siRNAs: miRNAs are generated by DCL cleavage of a single RNA molecule in which there is a secondary structure. Mismatches in base-paired regions guide the DCL protein so that it releases a single miRNA from the long precursor. In contrast, the siRNAs are derived from a perfectly base-paired precursor molecule that is cleaved at several sites to release multiple siRNAs.