



Figure 3. *sit11* mutant decreases cell number and size in root tissue. Rice seeds of the *sit11* mutant and wild-type (WT) were germinated and grown in half-strength KimuraB solution for 1 week. One-week-old roots were detached and stained with propidium iodide (PI) solution for 10 min. Root images were captured via confocal laser-scanning microscopy and the epidermal cells were used to measure cell size and number. (a) Representative images of root meristems of the *sit11* mutant and WT. The root epidermal cells are outlined with solid lines. Green, red, and blue lines with double arrowheads represent the lengths of the apical meristem, the basal meristem and the elongation/differentiation zone, respectively (Hacham et al., 2011; Lim et al., 2018). QC indicates the quiescent center. Scale bar, 40 μm . Quantification of (b) average cell number in the apical meristem, (c) cell number in the basal meristem and (d) total cell number in the meristem zone ($n = 9$ with 3 replicates). Quantification of (e) apical meristem length, (f) basal meristem length and (g) total meristem length ($n = 9$ with 3 replicates). Quantification of (h) average cell length and (i) cell width in the apical and basal meristems ($n = 9$ with 3 replicates). (j) Representative images of cortical cells in mature root zone of the *sit11* mutant and WT. Quantification of average (k) cortical cell length, (l) cell width and (m) cell area in the mature root zone ($n = 9$ with 3 replicates). Value represent means \pm SD, ns = non-significant, * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.05$ and *** $p < 0.001$, Student's t -test (b, c, d, e, f, g, k, l, and m) and two-way ANOVA with Sidak's multiple comparison test (h and i).