



**Supplementary Fig. 1** **a** Effects of cutting maturity on the propagation of *Camellia sinensis* cuttings. **b** Survival rate of cuttings with different maturity levels. **c** Rooting rate of cuttings with different maturity levels. Note: bar=1 cm; Significant differences were found between different alphabets for different treatment groups,  $P \leq 0.05$ .