

Genetic Control of Sodium Exclusion in Tetraploid Wheat

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By

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List of Abbreviations

ACPGF	Australian Centre for Plant Functional Genomics
AFLP	Amplified fragment length polymorphism
AGRF	Australian Genome Research Facility
BLUE	best linear unbiased estimator
BLUP	best linear unbiased predictor
bp	base pair
CAPS	cleaved amplified polymorphic sequence
CHX	cation hydrogen exchanger
CIMMYT	International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre
cM	centi Morgan
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
DArT	Diversity Array Technology TM
DAT	days after transplantation
DH	doubled haploid
DLW	dry leaf weight
DNA	deoxyribonucleic acid
EC	electrical conductivity
EST	expressed sequence tag
FLW	fresh leaf weight
HKT	high affinity potassium Transporter
LKC	leaf K ⁺ concentration
LNC	leaf Na ⁺ concentration

List of Abbreviations (Continued)

LRS	likelihood ratio statistic
MRT	Multiplex Ready Technology TM
NIL	near- isogenic line
PCR	polymerase chain reaction
QTL	quantitative trait locus
RFLP	restriction fragment length polymorphism
rfu	relative fluorescence units
RIL	recombinant inbred lines
SNP	single nucleotide polymorphism
SOS	salt overly sensitive
SSR	simple sequence repeat

Table of Contents

List of Abbreviations	i
Table of Contents	iii
List of Tables	xi
List of Figures	xiii
Abstract	xvi
Declaration	xviii
Acknowledgements	xix
Chapter 1: General introduction and review of literature	1
1.1 Introduction	1
1.2 Durum wheat: importance, yield and problems in production	2
1.3 Soil salinity: definition and impact on crop production	2
1.4 Plants response to salinity stress	3
<i>Osmotic stress</i>	3
<i>Ion-specific stresses</i>	4
1.5 Sodium exclusion: the ionic stress tolerance mechanism	5
<i>Transport of Na⁺ from root to shoot and sodium exclusion process</i>	6
1.6 Improvement for salinity tolerance in tetraploid wheat	8
1.7 Genetic linkage map	9
<i>Mapping population</i>	9
<i>Molecular markers</i>	10
<i>Identification of polymorphism and genotyping</i>	11
<i>QTL analysis</i>	12
1.8 QTLs for sodium exclusion	13
1.9 Candidate genes for sodium exclusion	14

1.10 Conclusion and further direction	16
Chapter 2: Assessment of sodium exclusion in a durum wheat x cultivated emmer wheat mapping population	17
2.1 Introduction.....	17
2.2 Plant materials	18
2.3 Supported hydroponic system	21
2.4 Experiment 1: Evaluation of the spatial variation associated with the hydroponic system	24
2.4.1 Objectives	24
2.4.2 Methodology	24
<i>Experimental site and duration</i>	24
<i>Distribution of the plants and experimental design</i>	25
<i>Seed germination</i>	27
<i>Preparation of the hydroponic system and transplanting the seedlings</i>	27
<i>Salt application</i>	27
<i>Harvesting of the leaf samples</i>	28
<i>Digestion</i>	28
<i>Determination of leaf Na⁺ and K⁺ concentration using a flame photometer</i>	28
<i>Statistical analysis</i>	29
2.4.3 Results	30
<i>Sources of variation</i>	30
<i>Spatial variation</i>	30
<i>Genotypic variation for LNC and LKC</i>	32

2.4.4 Discussion	36
<i>Adjustment of the sources of variation</i>	36
<i>Spatial variation</i>	36
<i>Variation among control lines</i>	38
<i>Variation among parental and recombinant inbred lines</i>	38
<i>Residual variation</i>	38
2.4.5 Conclusion	39
2.5 Experiment 2: Determination of sodium exclusion in the mapping population.....	40
2.5.1 Methodology	40
<i>Distribution of the plants and experimental design</i>	40
<i>Determination of LNC and LKC</i>	40
<i>Determination of shoot dry matter (SDM)</i>	41
<i>Statistical analysis</i>	41
2.5.2 Results	42
<i>Flame photometer reading</i>	42
<i>Two units of measurement</i>	42
<i>Genetic variation for LNC, LKC and SDM</i>	45
<i>Relationship between LNC, LKC and SDM</i>	48
2.5.3 Discussion	50
<i>Comparison between the two methods of measurement</i>	50
<i>LNC, LKC and SDM segregate transgressively</i>	50
<i>Relationship between LNC and LKC</i>	51
<i>Relationship of leaf Na⁺ and K⁺ concentration with seedling shoot dry matter</i>	52

2.5.4 Conclusion	53
Chapter 3: Construction of a genetic linkage map of durum wheat x cultivated emmer wheat	54
3.1 Introduction	54
3.2 Materials and methods	57
3.2.1 Plant materials	57
3.2.2 SSR genotyping	57
3.2.2.1 Marker screening	57
<i>Selection of markers</i>	57
<i>Development of panels of markers and design of experiment</i>	58
<i>Marker assay</i>	58
<i>Pooling of PCR products</i>	59
<i>Desalting of PCR products</i>	60
<i>Electrophoresis on ABI3730 genetic analyser</i>	60
<i>Data analysis and scoring of markers</i>	61
3.2.2.2 Genetic analysis of markers	62
<i>Development of panels of markers</i>	62
<i>Marker assay</i>	62
<i>Data analysis and scoring of marker data</i>	63
3.2.3 Linkage map construction	63
3.3 Results	64
3.3.1 Overview of the genetic linkage map	66
3.3.2 Distribution of markers among homologous chromosome groups and sub-genomes	68

3.3.3	Frequency of RILs with parental (non-recombinant) chromosomes.....	68
3.3.4	Comparative mapping	70
	<i>Chromosomes 1A and 1B</i>	70
	<i>Chromosomes 2A and 2B</i>	71
	<i>Chromosomes 3A and 3B</i>	71
	<i>Chromosomes 4A and 4B</i>	72
	<i>Chromosomes 5A and 5B</i>	72
	<i>Chromosomes 6A and 6B</i>	73
	<i>Chromosomes 7A and 7B</i>	73
3.4	Discussion	74
3.4.1	Integration of DArT and SSR markers	74
3.4.2	Polymorphism between the parental lines	75
3.4.3	Non-recombinant chromosomes	76
3.4.4	Comparison with published tetraploid wheat maps	76
3.5	Conclusion	79
Chapter 4: QTL analysis of sodium exclusion in a tetraploid wheat mapping population		
	mapping population	80
4.1	Introduction	80
4.2	Analysis method	81
4.3	Results	82
	<i>QTLs for leaf Na⁺ concentration (LNC)</i>	82
	<i>QTLs for leaf K⁺ concentration (LKC)</i>	82
	<i>Effect of QTLs on phenotypic variation</i>	86

<i>QTL for shoot dry matter (SDM)</i>	89
4.4 Discussion	90
<i>QTLs for leaf Na⁺ concentration</i>	90
<i>Comparison with other published QTLs for sodium exclusion</i>	94
<i>QTLs for leaf K⁺ accumulation and relationship with Na⁺ QTLs</i>	95
<i>QTL for K⁺ /Na⁺</i>	96
<i>Relationship of Na⁺ and K⁺ with SDM and other agronomic traits</i>	96
<i>Physiological importance of high K⁺ over Na⁺ concentration in leaf blade</i>	98
<i>Candidate genes for sodium exclusion</i>	98
4.5 Conclusion	101
Chapter 5: General discussion	102
5.1 Introduction	102
5.2 Genotyping of the mapping population and construction of a linkage map	103
5.3 Phenotypic variation	104
5.4 QTLs for Na ⁺ and K ⁺ accumulation	104
<i>Uniqueness of the QTLs</i>	105
<i>Effect of the QTLs</i>	105
<i>Effects on other traits</i>	106
5.5 Future research direction	107
<i>Understanding the physiological and molecular mechanisms of the QTL</i>	107
<i>Identification of superior alleles conferring salinity tolerance</i>	109
<i>Other components of salinity tolerance</i>	110
<i>Combined stress factors</i>	111
5.6 Conclusion	112

Chapter 6: Conclusions	113
Chapter 7: Literature cited	115
Chapter 8: Appendix.	142
Appendix Table 2.1	142
<p>Best linear unbiased estimate (BLUE) values for leaf Na⁺ concentration (LNC), leaf K⁺ concentration (LKC) and shoot dry matter (SDM) content measured in 259 RILs (F_{4:7} lines derived from Atil x PI94628). LNC and LKC values were measured from the 4th leaves (after 10 days treatment with 100 mM NaCl). SDM contents were measured from 30-day-old seedlings (after 21 days treatment with 100 mM NaCl). ‘na’ denotes missing values</p>	
Appendix Table 3.1	151
<p>List of SSR markers used in marker screening experiment with type and optimal concentration (nM). The resultant polymorphic markers are denoted by ‘P’</p>	
Appendix Figure 3.1	167
<p>Genetic linkage map of 14 chromosomes of tetraploid wheat constructed from 259 F_{4:7} recombinant inbred lines derived from a cross between durum wheat cultivar Atil (<i>Triticum turgidum</i> L. ssp. <i>durum</i>) and cultivated emmer wheat (<i>Triticum turgidum</i> L. ssp. <i>dicoccum</i>) accession PI94628. The map comprised of 475 DArT (<i>black</i> color) and 95 SSR (<i>red</i> color) markers. The positions of the marker loci are shown to the <i>right</i> and map distance (cM, Haldane 1919) are shown along the <i>left</i> side of each linkage groups. Marker order and orientation of the current map (A x P) was compared with reference maps. The corresponding markers with reference maps are shown as <i>underlined</i> and <i>bold</i> fonts</p>	

- Appendix Figure 4.1** Investigation for the allelic variation at the promoter region of the vernalisation gene *Vrn-A1* between the parental lines Atil and PI94628. Both of the parental lines generated 500bp band which is indicative to the winter allele of *Vrn-A1* (Yan et al. 2004) 182
- Appendix Figure 4.2** CAPS-PCR assay for the identification of alternate winter allele for *Vrn-A1* gene. A. PCR amplification results 400 bp PCR products. B. Restriction digestion of the PCR product with the enzyme *DpnII* produced single band which is indicative to the winter allele (*Vrn-A1v*) of the gene. The reference line Festuga and Carnam carries alternate winter alleles *Vrn-A1w* and *Vrn-A1v* respectively (Eagles et al. 2011) 183

List of Tables

	Title	Page number
Table 2.1	Recombinant inbred lines (RILs) used in experiment 1. The lines were selected randomly from the Atil x PI94628 mapping population	20
Table 2.2	Control lines used in experiment 1 and 2	20
Table 2.3	Composition of nutrient solution used in the supported hydroponic system	23
Table 2.4	Effects (in percentage) of various sources of variation in determining leaf Na ⁺ (LNC) and K ⁺ concentration (LKC). LNC and LKC were measured from 4 th leaf blade after 10 days treatment with 100 mM NaCl	31
Table 2.5	Adjusted BLUP values for leaf Na ⁺ concentration (LNC) of 24 test RILs and their parental lines (Atil and PI94628) used in experiment 1	33
Table 2.6	Adjusted BLUP values for leaf K ⁺ concentration (LKC) of 24 test RILs and their parental lines (Atil and PI94628) used in experiment 1	34
Table 2.7	Summary of BLUE values for leaf Na ⁺ concentration (LNC), K ⁺ concentration (LKC) and shoot dry matter (SDM) of Atil x PI94628 mapping population (F _{4:7} , 259 RILs)	46
Table 3.1	SSR markers screened for polymorphism between durum wheat Atil and cultivated emmer wheat PI94628	65

List of Tables (Continued)

	Title	Page number
Table 3.2	Chromosome assignment of linkage groups, marker distribution, genetic length and marker density of the linkage maps constructed with the durum wheat Atil x cultivated emmer wheat, PI94628 recombinant inbred line population	67
Table 3.3	Number of durum wheat Atil x cultivated emmer wheat, PI94628 recombinant inbred lines (RILs) with parental (non-recombinant) chromosome	69
Table 3.4	Comparison of Atil x PI94628 genetic linkage map with published tetraploid wheat maps in terms of population size, map length (cM) and density of markers	78
Table 4.1	QTLs associated with leaf Na ⁺ (LNC), K ⁺ (LKC) concentration and seedlings shoot dry matter (SDM) content in Atil x PI94628 tetraploid wheat mapping population	85
Table 4.2	Mean BLUE values of 4 th leaf Na ⁺ and K ⁺ concentration (mM, leaf tissue basis) for subset of Atil x PI94628 mapping population carrying alternate alleles of the QTL intervals. Phenotypic values of the parental lines Atil and PI94628 are mentioned in the parenthesis	88

List of Figures

	Title	Page number
Figure 2.1	Supported hydroponic system used in experiment 1 and 2 A. Two hydroponic trolleys. The tanks are located at the bottom to supply the nutrient solution B. The bucket (tray) were fitted in a tub C. Space for individual plants were facilitated by a plastic grids and the plants were grown in polycarbonate pellets	22
Figure 2.2	A checkerboard experimental design was followed for the distribution of the plants in the trays of the hydroponic system	26
Figure 2.3	Variation for leaf Na ⁺ (LNC) and K ⁺ (LKC) concentration values (BLUPs) between test RILs, their parents and Tamaroi <i>Nax</i> isogenic control lines used in experiment 1	35
Figure 2.4	Box plot exhibiting variation for LNC and LKC in 24 test RILs, their parents and Tamaroi <i>Nax</i> isogenic control lines used in experiment 1. Out of 24 plants of <i>Nax2</i> accession-5004, data for 22 plants were discarded from the analysis as the plants did not grow well due to poor seed germination or injury during seedling transplantation	37
Figure 2.5	Comparison between replicated flame photometer reading for measuring LNC (A) and LKC (B)	43
Figure 2.6	Comparison between two methods of measurement for LNC (A) and LKC (B): in sap (tissue water based) and on a dry weight of the 4 th leaf	44

List of Figures (Continued)

	Title	Page number
Figure 2.7	Frequency distribution of leaf Na ⁺ concentration (A), K ⁺ concentration (B) and shoot dry matter (C) among 259 RILs grown at 100 mM NaCl. Leaf Na ⁺ and K ⁺ concentrations were measured in mM (tissue water basis) from the 4 th leaf after treating with salinity stress for 10 days. <i>Arrows</i> indicate the BLUE value for two parents. A and P indicate durum wheat Atil and cultivated emmer wheat PI94628 respectively	47
Figure 2.8	Relationship between leaf Na ⁺ and K ⁺ concentration measured in mM (tissue water basis) from the 4 th leaf after treating with 100 mM NaCl for 10 days	48
Figure 2.9	Relationship between the shoot dry matter production (SDM) and 4 th leaf Na ⁺ (A) and K ⁺ concentration (B). LNC and LKC were measured after 10 days treatment with 100 mM NaCl. SDM were measured from 30-day-old seedlings (21 days under saline condition)	49
Figure 4.1	Interval mapping for leaf sodium concentration on chromosome 5A (A) and 5B (B) in Atil x PI94628 RIL mapping population. The <i>black</i> line reflects the LRS score, the <i>red</i> line reflects additive effect and the vertical <i>green</i> line reflects level of significance as suggestive, significant and highly significant	83
Figure 4.2	Interval mapping for leaf potassium concentration on chromosome 5A (A) and 5B (B) in Atil x PI94628 RIL mapping population. The <i>black</i> line reflects the LRS score, the <i>red</i> line reflects additive effect and the vertical <i>green</i> line reflects level of significance as suggestive, significant and highly significant	84

List of Figures (Continued)

	Title	Page number
Figure 4.3	Frequency distribution for leaf sodium accumulation in Atil x PI94628 RILs carrying alternate homozygous alleles at interval <i>QLnc.wri-5A</i> (A) and <i>QLnc.wri-5B</i> (B)	87
Figure 4.4	Interval mapping for shoot dry matter on chromosome 5A in Atil x PI94628 RIL mapping population. The <i>black</i> line reflects the LRS score, the <i>red</i> line reflects additive effect and the vertical <i>green</i> line reflects level of significance as suggestive, significant and highly significant	89
Figure 4.5	Comparative mapping of chromosome 5A of Atil x PI94628 (A x P) with Somers's consensus map (Somers et al. 2004) and CIMMYT integrated map (Crossa et al. 2007). Lines connect common markers between the maps. Position of the QTLs are marked by colour bars, <i>green</i> for shoot dry matter, <i>red</i> for leaf Na ⁺ concentration and <i>blue</i> for leaf K ⁺ concentration QTL. <i>Nax2</i> located at the distal end of the chromosome 5AL (Byrt et al. 2007)	92
Figure 4.6	Comparative map of chromosome 5B of Atil x PI94628 (A x P) with Somers's consensus map (Somers et al. 2004). Lines connect common markers between the maps. Positions of the QTLs are marked by colour bars, <i>red</i> for leaf Na ⁺ concentration and <i>blue</i> for leaf K ⁺ concentration QTL	93

Abstract

Worldwide, soil salinity is one of the major abiotic stress factors limiting crop production. Durum wheat (*Triticum turgidum* L. ssp. *durum* [Desf.]) is a relatively salt sensitive species. Its sensitivity to salt is thought to be due to its poor ability in limiting accumulation of toxic Na⁺ in leaf tissues. The present research was undertaken to investigate the genetic control of sodium exclusion in a tetraploid wheat population of recombinant inbred lines developed from a durum wheat cultivar Atil and a cultivated emmer wheat (*Triticum turgidum* L. ssp. *dicoccum* [Schrank].Thell.) accession PI94628. In order to estimate the nature and extent of variation for sodium exclusion within the progeny, two experiments were carried out using a supported hydroponic system. In both cases, Na⁺ and K⁺ concentration were determined from the fourth leaf of plants which had imposed a 100 mM NaCl stress for 10 days. In the first experiment, screening of replicated parental lines and a subset of inbred lines (24 RILs) indicated the existence of significant genetic variation for sodium exclusion within the population. It was also found that the spatial variation within the experimental equipment contributed only 8-9% of the total observed phenotypic variation. In the second experiment, screening of the entire population indicated transgressive segregation for both of the Na⁺ and K⁺ accumulation traits, with the durum wheat line Atil found to be the better sodium excluder. A significant negative correlation ($r = -0.7$) was found between leaf Na⁺ and K⁺ concentration, however, neither of these traits was found to be correlated with the shoot biomass of 30-day-old seedlings (21 days under salt stress). To construct a genetic linkage map, 1057 markers (916 DArT and 141 SSRs) were used. Of these, 467 markers were eliminated from the linkage analysis due the segregation distortion. The remaining 495 DArTs and 95 SSR markers were used in map construction. They provided reasonable genome coverage (2136.5 cM),

with a marker density of 3.6 cM/marker. The markers were distributed on 34 linkage groups representing parts of 14 chromosomes, with gaps of greater than 15 cM still remaining in 12 of the chromosomes. The majority of these markers showed conserved locations and orientation when compared to those described in previous genetic linkage maps of tetraploid and hexaploid wheat. Marker polymorphisms in two regions on chromosome 5A and 5B were significantly associated phenotypic variation for both Na⁺ and K⁺ accumulation in the leaf tissues. In both of these QTL regions, the durum wheat parent was contributed the alleles for lower Na⁺ concentration and higher K⁺ concentration. The two QTLs explained 28% and 19% of total phenotypic variation for Na⁺ and K⁺ accumulation, respectively. Both QTLs were mapped in the centromeric regions of the chromosomes. No QTLs for these traits have previously been reported in these regions. A highly significant QTL for shoot biomass was also mapped on chromosome 5A; explaining 16% of the phenotypic variation but this was over 32.4 cM from the leaf Na⁺ or K⁺ concentration QTLs. Furthermore, the QTLs were not found to be associated with traits related to vigour and/or vernalisation requirement. The molecular markers in the QTL regions detected here could serve as starting points for further characterisation of these genomic regions to elucidate the physiological and molecular bases of these QTLs.

Declaration

This work contains no material which has been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma in any university or other tertiary institution to Muhammad Shefatur Rahman and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, contains no material previously published or written by another person, except where due reference has been made in the text.

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