SNP-Seek database of SNPs derived from 3000 rice genomes

Nickolai Alexandrov1,*, †, Shuaishuai Tai2, †, Wensheng Wang3, †, Locedie Mansueto1, Kevin Palis1, Roven Rommel Fuentes1, Victor Jun Ulat1, Dmytro Chebotarov1, Gengyun Zhang2,*, Zhikang Li3,*, Ramil Mauleon1, Ruairidh Sackville Hamilton1 and Kenneth L. McNally1

1T.T.Chang Genetic Resources Center, IRRI, Los Baños, Laguna 4031, Philippines, 2BGI, Shenzhen 518083, China and 3Institute of Crop Sciences/National Key Facility for Crop Gene Resources and Genetic Improvement, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Beijing, 100081

Received September 08, 2014; Revised October 10, 2014; Accepted October 10, 2014

ABSTRACT

We have identified about 20 million rice SNPs by aligning reads from the 3000 rice genomes project with the Nipponbare genome. The SNPs and allele information are organized into a SNP-Seek system (http://www.oryzasnp.org/iric-portal/), which consists of Oracle database having a total number of rows with SNP genotypes close to 60 billion (20 M SNPs × 3 K rice lines) and web interface for convenient querying. The database allows quick retrieving of SNP alleles for all varieties in a given genome region, finding different alleles from predefined varieties and querying basic passport and morphological phenotypic information about sequenced rice lines. SNPs can be visualized together with the gene structures in JBrowse genome browser. Evolutionary relationships between rice varieties can be explored using phylogenetic trees or multidimensional scaling plots.

INTRODUCTION

The current rate of increasing rice yield by traditional breeding is insufficient to feed the growing population in the near future (1). The observed trends in climate change and air pollution create even bigger threats to the global food supply (2). A promising solution to this problem can be the application of modern molecular breeding technologies to ongoing rice breeding programs. This approach has been utilized to increase disease resistance, drought tolerance and other agronomically important traits (3–5). Understanding the differences in genome structures, combined with phenotyping observations, gene expression and other information, is an important step toward establishing genotype-phenotype associations, building predictive models and applying these models in the breeding process. The 3000 rice genome project (6) produced millions of genomic reads for a diverse set of rice varieties. SNP-Seek database is designed to provide a user-friendly access to the single nucleotide polymorphisms, or SNPs, identified from this data. Short, 83 bp pair-ended Illumina reads were aligned using the BWA program (7) to the Nipponbare temperate japonica genome assembly (8), resulting in average of 14× coverage of rice genome among all the varieties. SNP calls were made using GATK pipeline (9) as described in (6).

SNP DATA

For the SNP-Seek database we have considered only SNPs, ignoring indels. A union of all SNPs extracted from 3000 vcf files consists of 23 M SNPs. To eliminate potentially false SNPs, we have collected only SNPs that have the minor allele in at least two different varieties. The number of such SNPs is 20 M. All the genotype calls at these positions were combined into one file of ~20 M × 3 K SNP calls, and the data were loaded into an Oracle schema using three main tables: STOCK, SNP and SNP_GENOTYPE (Figure 1). Some varieties lack reads mapping to the SNP position, and for them no SNP calls were recorded. Distribution of the SNP coverage is shown in Figure 2. About 90% of all SNP calls have a number of supporting reads greater than or equal to four. Out of them, 98% have a major allele frequency >90% and are considered to be homozygous, 1.1% have two alleles with frequencies between 40 and 60% and considered to be heterozygous, and the remaining 0.9% represent other cases when the SNP could not be classified as

*To whom correspondence should be addressed. Tel: +63 2 580-5600; Fax: +63 2 580-5699; Email: n.alexandrov@irri.org
Correspondence may also be addressed to Gengyun Zhang. Email: zhanggengyun@genomics.cn
Correspondence may also be addressed to Zhikang Li. Email: lizhikang@caas.cn
†The authors wish it to be known that, in their opinion, the first 3 authors should be regarded as joint First Authors.

© The Author(s) 2014. Published by Oxford University Press on behalf of Nucleic Acids Research.
This is an Open Access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/), which permits unrestricted reuse, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.
neither heterozygous nor homozygous. More than 98% of SNPs have exactly two different allelic variants in 3000 varieties, 1.7% of SNPs have three variants and 0.02% of SNPs have all four nucleotides in different genomes mapped to that SNP position. There are $2.3 \times$ more transitions than transversions in our database (Table 1).

Not all SNPs have been called in all varieties. Actually, the distribution of the called SNPs among varieties is bimodal, with one mode at about 18 M SNP calls corresponding to japonica varieties which are close to the reference genome, and the second peak at about 14 M corresponding to the other varieties (Figure 3).

Table 1. Types of allele variants and their frequencies in rice SNPs

| Allele variants | Frequency, % |
|-----------------|--------------|
| A/G + C/T       | 70           |
| A/C + G/T       | 15           |
| A/T             | 9            |
| C/G             | 6            |
GENOME ANNOTATION DATA

We used CHADO database schema (10) to store the Nipponbare reference genome and gene annotation, downloaded from the MSU rice website (http://rice.plantbiology.msu.edu/) (8). To browse and visualize genes and SNPs in the rice genome, we integrated the JBrowse genome browser (11) as a feature of our site.

PASSPORT AND MORPHOLOGICAL DATA

Most of the 3000 varieties (and eventually all) are conserved in the International Rice genebank housed at IRRI (12). Passport and basic morphological data from the source accession for the purified genetic stock are accessible via SNP-Seek.

INTERFACES

We deployed interfaces to facilitate the following major types of queries: (i) for two varieties find all SNPs from a gene or genomic region that differentiate them; (ii) for a gene or genome region, show all SNP calls for all varieties (Supplementary Figure S1); (iii) find all sequenced varieties from a certain country or a subpopulation, which can be viewed as a phylogenetic tree, built using TreeConstructor class from BioJava (13) and rendered using jsPhylotoolSVG JavaScript library (14) (Supplementary Figure S2) or as a multidimensional scaling plots (Figure 4). The results of SNP search can be viewed as a table exported to text files, or visualized in JBrowse.

USE CASE EXAMPLE FOR QUERYING A REGION OF INTEREST

We used Rice SNP-Seek database to quickly examine the diversity of the entire panel at a particular region of interest. We chose the sd-1 gene as test case due to its scientific importance in rice breeding. This semi-dwarf locus, causing a semi-dwarf stature of rice, was discovered by three different research groups to be a spontaneous mutation of GA20-oxidase (formally named sd-1 gene), originating from the Taiwanese indica variety Deo-woo-gen. Its incorporation into IR8 and other varieties by rice breeding programs spurred the First Green Revolution in rice production in the late 1960s (15). Sd-1 is annotated in the Nipponbare genome by Michigan State University’s Rice Genome Annotation Project as LOC_Os01g66100, on chromosome 1.
from position 38 382 382 to 38 385 504 base pairs. On
the home page of SNP-Seek, the <Genotype> module was
opened and the coordinates of sd-l were used to define the
region to retrieve all SNPs, with <All Varieties> checked
to select from all the varieties. Clicking on <Search> but-
ton resulted in the identification of 80 SNP positions (Sup-
plementary Figure S1). An overall view of the SNP posi-
tions in the polymorphic panel shows at least eight distinct
SNP blocks (Figure 5). In this particular panel group of
mostly temperate japonica, two distinct SNP blocks can be
seen as shared (Figure 5). Variety information can be ob-
tained by typing the name of the varieties you see on the
genome browser into the <Variety name> field of the Vari-
ey module. This use case is one of the examples detailed in
the <Help> module.

**CONCLUSION**

We have organized the largest collection of rice SNPs into
the database data structures for convenient querying and
provided user-friendly interfaces to find SNPs in certain
genome regions. We have demonstrated that about 60 bil-
lion data points can be loaded into an Oracle database and
queried with a reasonable (quick) response times. Most of
the varieties in SNP-Seek database have passport and ba-
sic phenotypic data inherited from their source accession
enabling genome-wide or gene-specific tests of association.
The database is quickly developing and will be expanding
in the near future to include short indels, larger structural
variations, SNPs calls using other rice reference genomes.

**SUPPLEMENTARY DATA**

Supplementary Data are available at NAR Online.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

We would like to thank the IRRI ITS team (especially Ro-
gelio Alvarez and Denis Diaz) and Rolando Santos Jr for
the support in operation and administration of the database
and web application servers, and Frances Borja for her help
in interface design.
FUNDING
The database is being supported by the Global Rice Science Partnership (GRiSP), the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (OPPGD1393), International S&T Cooperation Program of China (2012DFB32280) and the Peacock Team Award to ZLI from the Shenzhen Municipal government. Conflict of interest statement. None declared.

REFERENCES
1. Ray,D.K., Mueller,N.D., West,P.C. and Foley,J.A. (2013) Yield trends are insufficient to double global crop production by 2050. PloS One, 8, e66428.
2. Tai,A.P.K., Martin,M.V. and Heald,C.L. (2014) Threat to future global food security from climate change and ozone air pollution. Nat. Clim. Change, 4, 817–821.
3. Fahad,S., Nie,L., Khan,F.A., Chen,Y., Hussain,S., Wu,C., Xiong,D., Jing,W., Saud,S., Khan,F.A. et al. (2014) Disease resistance in rice and the role of molecular breeding in protecting rice crops against diseases. Biotechnol. Lett., 36, 1407–1420.
4. Hu,H. and Xiong,L. (2014) Genetic engineering and breeding of drought-resistant crops. Ann. Rev. Plant Biol., 65, 715–741.
5. Gao,Z.Y., Zhao,S.C., He,W.M., Guo,L.B., Peng,Y.L., Wang,J.J., Guo,X.S., Zhang,X.M., Rao,Y.C., Zhang,C. et al. (2013) Dissecting yield-associated loci in super hybrid rice by resequencing recombinant inbred lines and improving parental genome sequences. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A., 110, 14492–14497.
6. 3K R.G.P. (2014) The 3,000 rice genomes project. Gigascience, 3, 7.
7. Li,H. and Durbin,R. (2009) Fast and accurate short read alignment with Burrows-Wheeler transform. Bioinformatics, 25, 1754–1760.
8. Kawahara,Y. de la Bastide,M., Hamilton,J.P., Kanamori,H., McCombie,W.R., Ouyang,S., Schwartz,D.C., Tanaka,T., Wu,J., Zhou,S. et al. (2013) Improvement of the Oryza sativa Nipponbare reference genome using next generation sequence and optical map data. Rice, 6, 4.
9. McKenna,A., Hanna,M., Banks,E., Sivachenko,A., Cibulskis,K., Kernytsky,A., Garimella,K., Altshuler,D., Gabriel,S., Daly,M. et al. (2010) The Genome Analysis Toolkit: a MapReduce framework for analyzing next-generation DNA sequencing data. Genome Res., 20, 1297–1303.
10. Mungall,C.J., Emmert,D.B. and FlyBase,C. (2007) A Chado case study: an ontology-based modular schema for representing genome-associated biological information. Bioinformatics, 23, 1337–1346.
11. Skinner,M.E., Uzilov,A.V., Stein,L.D., Mungall,C.J. and Holmes,I.H. (2009) JBrowse: a next-generation genome browser. Genome Res., 19, 1630–1638.
12. Jackson,M.T. (1997) Conservation of rice genetic resources: the role of the International Rice Genebank at IRRI. Plant Mol. Biol., 35, 61–67.
13. Pricl,A., Yates,A., Bliven,S.E., Rose,P.W., Jacobsen,J., Troshin,P.V., Chapman,M., Gao,J., Koh,C.H., Foisy,S. et al. (2012) BioJava: an open-source framework for bioinformatics in 2012. Bioinformatics, 28, 2693–2695.
14. Smits,S.A. and Oouverney,C.C. (2010) jsPhyloSVG: a javascript library for visualizing interactive and vector-based phylogenetic trees on the web. PloS One, 5, e12267.
15. Hedden,P. (2003) The genes of the Green Revolution. Trends Genet., 19, 5–9.