Whole Genome Incorporation and Epigenetic Stability in a Newly Synthetic Allopolyploid of Gynogenetic Gibel Carp

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Accepted: August 1, 2018

Data deposition: This project has been deposited at NCBI GenBank under the accessions MH290789-MH290811, MH669348 and MH669349.

Abstract

Allopolyploidization plays an important role in speciation, and some natural or synthetic allopolyploid fishes have been extensively applied to aquaculture. Although genetic and epigenetic inheritance and variation associated with plant allopolyploids have been well documented, the relative research in allopolyploid animals is scarce. In this study, the genome constitution and DNA methylation inheritance in a newly synthetic allopolyploid of gynogenetic gibel carp were analyzed. The incorporation of a whole genome of paternal common carp sperm in the allopolyploid was confirmed by genomic in situ hybridization, chromosome localization of 45S rDNAs, and sequence comparison. Pooled sample-based methylation sensitive amplified polymorphism (MSAP) revealed that an overwhelming majority (98.82%) of cytosine methylation patterns in the allopolyploid were inherited from its parents of hexaploid gibel carp clone D and common carp. Compared to its parents, 11 DNA fragments in the allopolyploid were proved to be caused by interindividual variation, recombination, deletion, and mutation through individual sample-based MSAP and sequencing. Contrast to the rapid and remarkable epigenetic changes in most of analyzed neo-polyploids, no cytosine methylation variation was detected in the gynogenetic allopolyploid. Therefore, the newly synthetic allopolyploid of gynogenetic gibel carp combined genomes from its parents and maintained genetic and epigenetic stability after its formation and subsequently seven successive gynogenetic generations. Our current results provide a paradigm for recurrent polyplody consequences in the gynogenetic allopolyploid animals.

Key words: hybridization, synthetic allopolyploid, gibel carp, gynogenesis, epigenetics, cytosine methylation pattern.

Introduction

Allopolyploidization, via intergeneric or interspecific hybridization, has been recognized as a major evolution force in plant speciation and environmental adaptation (Comai 2000, 2005). Owing to chromosome imbalances and genome instability, the newly formed allopolyploids may undergo chaos known as “genomic shock” (Mcclintock 1984; Ng et al. 2012) and occur complicated and non-Mendelian genomic changes, including chromosomal rearrangements and chromatin remodeling (Xiong et al. 2011; He et al. 2017), gene conversion, loss or silencing of homeologs (Doyle et al. 2008; Pala et al. 2008; Jackson and Chen 2010; Salmon et al. 2010; Buggs et al. 2012; Lashermes et al. 2016; Page et al. 2016; Wang et al. 2017), dominant and biased expression of homeologs (Grover 2012; Koh et al. 2012; Yoo et al. 2013; Hu et al. 2015; Yang et al. 2016; Wang et al. 2017), transposon reactivation (Kashkush et al. 2003; Zou et al. 2011), and epigenetic modifications (Lukens et al. 2006; Madlung and Wendel 2013; Guan et al. 2014; Song and Chen 2015; Jackson 2017; Qiu et al. 2017; Shen et al. 2017; Song et al. 2017). Although many genomic changes result in the instability of neo-polyploids, some of these changes might be advantageous to help allopolyploids to pass through a bottleneck of sterility and hybrid incompatibility and subsequently become new diploids through diploidization (Comai 2005; Zhou and Gui 2017). The genomic changes or diploidization have been well documented in plant polyploids (Diez et al. 2014). However, the research on genome additive effect and variations,
especially epigenetic changes in polyploid animals, is scarce (Zhu and Gui 2007; Koroma et al. 2011; Arkhipova and Rodriguez 2013; Stöck and Lamatsch 2013; Xiao et al. 2013; Covelo-Soto and Leunda 2015; Jiang et al. 2016; Matos et al. 2016; Zhou et al. 2016).

Allopolyploids are less prevalent in animals, but many natural or synthetic allopolyploid fishes with excellent economic traits have been extensively applied to aquaculture, such as common carp (Cyprinus carpio), crucian carp (Carassius auratus), and gibel carp (Carassius gibelio) (Zhou and Gui 2017, 2018; Zhou et al. 2018). Gibel carp, previously nominated as a subspecies Ca. auratus gibelio of crucian carp (Jiang et al. 1983), has been recognized as a separate species Ca. gibelio owing to its polyploidization, special multiple reproduction modes and sex determination mechanisms (Gui and Zhou 2010; Rylkova et al. 2010; Kalous and Knytl 2011; Wang et al. 2011; Zhang et al. 2011; Li et al. 2017, 2018; Liu et al. 2017a, 2017b; Zhu et al. 2018). As an important aquaculture species in China, the annual production capacity of gibel carp with other crucian carps has exceeded 3 million tons. Gibel carp has been considered as evolutionary hexaploid with over 150 chromosomes (Zhou and Gui 2002; Liasko et al. 2010; Kalous and Knytl 2011). Besides unisexual gynogenesis (Jiang et al. 1983), gibel carp can reproduce through bisexual reproduction, hybrid-similar development, or even androgenesis in response to the sperm from different gibel carp clones (Gui and Zhou 2010; Wang et al. 2011; Zhang et al. 2015). Interestingly, the whole genome or chromosome fragments of heterologous sperm were found to be able to incorporate into gibel carp genome (Gui et al. 1993a, 1993b; Yi et al. 2003; Zhu and Gui 2007; Gui and Zhou 2010; Mei and Gui 2015; Li et al. 2016; Lu et al. 2018). The synthetic allopolyploids still maintain the gynogenesis ability (Gui et al. 1993a, 1993b; Li et al. 2016; Lu et al. 2018), and some of them have been applied in aquaculture practice owning to their growth superiority (Li et al. 2016; Lu et al. 2018). A novel stable allopolyploid (allo) was established from allogenetic hexaploid gibel carp clone D (hexa) activated by heterologous sperm from red common carp (C. carpio clone D, and common carp were collected. The serum transferrin was isolated according to the rivanol-treatment procedure described by Yang et al. (2001) and was applied to 10% polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis as described previously (Li and Gui 2008).

Analysis of Serum Transferrin

Blood samples from two individuals of allopolyploid, gibel carp clone D, and common carp were obtained from Guanqiao Experimental Station, Institute of Hydrobiology, Chinese Academy of Science, Wuhan, China. All fishes analyzed in this study were reared at the same ponds and randomly sampled. The animal procedures were approved by the Animal Care and Use Committee of the Institute of Hydrobiology, Chinese Academy of Sciences.

Sequence Analysis of Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) D-Loop and 45S rDNA

Three individuals of allopolyploid, gibel carp clone D, and common carp were sampled to analyze mtDNA D-loop and 45S rDNA. DNA was extracted according to the Genomic DNA purification Kit technical manual (Promega). DNA concentration was measured by spectrophotometer (Thermo Scientific). The quality was assessed by GelRed-stained 1% agarose gel electrophoresis. Primers CR1 and DH2, and 45S_rDNA=F and 45S_rDNA=R were used to amplify mtDNA D-loop and 45S rDNA (supplementary table S1, Supplementary Material online). DNA amplification and purification were performed as previously described (Zhu and Gui 2007; Li and Gui 2008). Multiple sequences were aligned by Dnaman 7.0.

GISH and fluorescent in situ hybridization (FISH) with 45S rDNAs Probe

GISH and FISH were performed on four individuals of each fish as previously described (Zhu et al. 2006; Zhu and Gui...
2007). Genomic DNA and 45S rDNAs from gibel carp clone D were labeled by DIG-Nick Translation Mix (Roche, Mannheim, Germany) and the spectrum signal was achieved with fluorescein isothiocyanate (FITC) conjugated-antidigoxigenin antibody (Roche, Mannheim, Germany). Genomic DNA from common carp was labeled by Biotin-Nick Translation Mix (Roche, Mannheim, Germany), and the spectrum signal was obtained by ExtrAvidin-CY3 antibody. For GISH, unlabeled sheared salmon sperm DNA was used as competitor DNA. The metaphase chromosomes were counterstained with 4.6-diamino-2-phenylindole (DAPI). The images were captured under confocal microscopy (NOL-LSM; Carl Zeiss, Thornwood, NY, USA) as described previously (Li et al. 2014; Li et al. 2016). About 60 and 40 metaphase spreads from four allopolyploid individuals were selected to count positive signals in GISH or FISH analysis, respectively.

Methylation Sensitive Amplified Polymorphism Detection

MSAP is a modified version of Amplified Fragment Length Polymorphism (AFLP) and has been proved to be an effective method to detect global genomic DNA methylation (Mcclelland et al. 1994; Reyna-López et al. 1997; Fulnecek and Kovarik 2014). In this study, MSAP was performed as described (Xiao et al. 2013) with modifications as follows: 1) Genomic DNA extracted from hypothalamus was digested by EcoRI/HpaII or EcoRI/MspI in a 20 μl reactive volume including: 1 μg of genomic DNA, 2 μl of cutsmart buffer, 40 U of EcoRI, and 40 U of HpaII or MspI. The reaction was incubated for 4 h at 37°C. 2) The adaptor ligation reaction was performed at 16°C overnight in a 20 μl solution containing 10 μl of enzyme cleavage product, 2 μl of 10× buffer, 3 pmol of EcoRI adapters, and 30 pmol of MspI–HpaII adapters. 3) The preamplification was conducted in a 40 μl solution containing 4 μl of primer E0 (10 μmol l⁻¹), 4 μl of primer M0 (10 μmol l⁻¹) (supplementary table S1, Supplementary Material online), 12.8 μl of 2×Es Taq MasterMix (Cwbio, China), 5 μl ligation products and 14.2 μl of water. The Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) conditions were as follows: 94°C for 5 min; 30 cycles of 94°C for 30 s, 56°C for 1 min and 72°C for 1 min; and a final extension at 72°C for 7 min. 4) The preamplification products were diluted 1:20 (v/v), and 5 μl was used for selective amplification in a final volume of 20 μl which contained 2 μl of each selective amplification primers (supplementary table S1, Supplementary Material online), 10 μl of 2×Es Taq MasterMix (Cwbio, China). The PCR conditions were as following: 94°C for 2 min; 12 cycles of 94°C for 30s, 65°C (reduce by 0.7°C each cycle) for 30s, 72°C for 1 min; 23 cycles of 94°C for 30s, 56°C for 30s and 72°C for 1 min; and extension at 72°C for 7 min. 5) The selective amplified products were denatured at 94°C for 5 min and then loaded onto 6% denaturing polyacrylamide gels. The gels were silver-stained and scanned for analysis after drying. The interpretation of MSAP profiles was listed in table 1 as described (Fulnecek and Kovarik 2014).

To exclude the variation caused by sampling error or parental heterozygosity (Zhao et al. 2007; Xu et al. 2014; Suo et al. 2015; Lauria et al. 2017), both pooled and individual DNA samples-based MSAP were performed at population level (Lauria et al. 2017). Firstly, Genomic DNA from 10 individuals of each fish was randomly divided into two groups (five individuals per group), and then genomic DNA within the same group was equally mixed to produce two bulked DNA samples of each fish (allo, hexa, and Cc). Then 35 selective primer combinations were used to perform pooled samples-based MSAP analysis. To further confirm variant bands, the primer combinations that produced the variant bands in pooled examples were performed MSAP analysis of other 10 allopolyploid, 10 gibel carp clone D, and 10 common carp individuals. Subsequently, the variant bands were eluted from the gel, reamplified, and sequenced as described previously (Xiao et al. 2013). By using the sequences of variant bands as the query, a BLAST search was performed in the draft genome of Cc (Xu et al. 2011) (Common Carp Genome Database, http://www.carpbase.org/ 2011, last accessed August 5, 2018), and the flanking sequences were obtained. According to the flanking sequences, specific primers were designed by Primer Premier 5.0 (supplementary table S1, Supplementary Material online) and amplified in allopolyploid, gibel carp clone D, and common carp. Then, the PCR products were purified and sequenced. Multiple sequences were aligned by Dnaman 7.0.

Table 1

| Types | Bands pattern | Status of CCGG     |
|-------|---------------|--------------------|
| H     | M             | CCGG               |
| I     | +             | +                  |
| II    | –             | +                  |
| III   | +             | +                  |
| IV    | –             | Nonexistence or mutation of CCGG or EcoRI site |

Note.—The types I–IV of MSAP HM profiles were interpreted as described previously (Fulnecek and Kovarik 2014). CmCGG indicates that the internal cytosine in CCGG is either hemi- or fully methylated. n represents the number of CmCGG, n ≥ 1.

Results

Whole Genome Incorporation of Common Carp Sperm in Allopolyploid Gibel Carp

The individuals of allopolyploid, gibel carp clone D, and common carp reared in same pond were discriminated by different morphological traits and transferrin (Tf) phenotype patterns (supplementary fig. S1, Supplementary Material online). Allopolyploid exhibits similar body color and morphological body type to its female parent gibel carp clone D.
Consistent with previous study, two denser transferrin bands were observed in gibel carp clone D. In the paternal common carp, only one transferrin band was detected. As expected, allopolyploids showed three transferrin bands, which might come from their parents, respectively (supplementary fig. S1B, Supplementary Material online).

To clearly trace the origin of chromosomes, we first performed GISH to discriminate the paternal and maternal chromosome sets in the metaphases of allopolyploid. The whole chromosomes of allopolyploid were stained into blue by DAPI, and the modal chromosome number was 208 (fig. 1A). When the digoxigenin-labeled genomic DNA of gibel carp clone D and biotin-labeled genomic DNA of common carp were cohybridized to allopolyploid metaphases, about 158 and 50 chromosomes were stained into green and red, respectively (figs. 1B–E). When the green and red fluorescent signals were synchronously overlapped with the blue chromosomes, about 158 cyan (blue plus green) and 50 pink (blue plus red) chromosomes were clearly observed (fig. 1F). The integrated signals confirmed the whole genome incorporation of common carp sperm in allopolyploid. Considering 162 chromosomes previously identified in gibel carp clone D (Zhou and Gui 2002), allopolyploid maintains overwhelming majority of maternal gibel carp clone D chromosomes and a whole chromosome set of paternal common carp.

Moreover, we compared the sequences and chromosome localization of 45S rDNAs among allopolyploid, gibel carp clone D, and common carp. A total of 1417 bp conservative partial sequences of 45S rDNA localized in 18S rRNA gene were amplified and compared. Two different 45S rDNA sequences (allo-45S1 and allo-45S2) were identified from allopolyploid, whereas only one sequence was amplified in gibel carp clone D and common carp, respectively (hexa-45S1 and Cc-45S1). Allo-45S1 and allo-45S2 possessed highly identity (99.8%) to each other, showing only three variable sites. Multiple alignments showed that allo-45S1 and allo-45S2 were completely identical to Cc-45S1 and hexa-45S1, respectively (fig. 2A).

Owing to the highly identities of 45S rDNA sequences between gibel carp clone D and common carp, the 1458 bp fragment amplified from gibel carp clone D was labeled by digoxigenin and used as a probe to detect the chromosome localization of 45S rDNAs through FISH analysis. A total of 2, 5, and 6 chromosomes displayed 45S rDNA green fluorescence signals in all analyzed metaphases from common carp, gibel carp clone D, and allopolyploid, respectively (fig. 2B–D). The 45S rDNA fluorescence signals are all localized to short arm terminals of the chromosomes in pairs. In order...
to track the origination of the added positive chromosome in allopolyploid, the digoxigenin-labeled 45S rDNA and biotin-labeled genomic.

DNA of common carp were cohybridized to allopolyploid metaphases. Only one 45S rDNA green fluorescence signal was colocalized in one chromosome of common carp with red fluorescence signal, indicating that the added 45S rDNA positive chromosome in allopolyploid originated from haploid genome of paternal common carp (fig. 2E). By comparing the positive chromosome size and fluorescence intensity, the other five chromosomes with green fluorescence were supposed to be from the maternal gibel carp clone D.

**FIG. 2.**—Sequence comparison and localizations of 45S rDNAs. (A) Sequence comparison of 45S rDNAs in allopolyploid (allo) (allo-45S1: MH290789; allo-45S2: MH290791), gibel carp clone D (hexa) (MH290792), and common carp (Cc) (MH290790). The primer sequences had been excluded. (B) Localizations of 45S rDNA in Cc (B), hex (C), and allo (D) by FISH with 45S rDNA probe. (E) Dual localizations of 45S rDNA labeled with digoxigenin and chromosomes from Cc labeled with biotin in a metaphase chromosome spread of allopolyploid. All metaphase chromosomes were counterstained with DAPI and the red fluorescence signals showed 50 chromosomes from common carp in allopolyploid. The white arrows pointing to the green fluorescence indicate the 45S rDNA loci, and the red arrow indicates colabeled loci by 45S rDNA probe and common carp genomic DNA probe.

**Stable Cytosine Methylation Inheritance of Allopolyploid and its Parents**

To investigate inheritance and variation of cytosine methylation of allopolyploid and its parents, pooled sample-based MSAP screening tests were firstly performed. Using 35 pairs of selective EcoRI + HpaII/MspI primer combinations, characteristics of cytosine methylation in two pooled DNA samples of each fish were explored. A total of 935 clear and reproducible MSAP bands scored in allopolyploid were grouped into five main patterns (class A–E) compared to those in its parents gibel carp clone D and Cc (fig. 4 and table 2). For inheritance, the monomorphic (class A) and additivity parental (class B and C) patterns were observed. About 10% (98/935) of total MSAP bands in allopolyploid belonged to class A which was subdivided into 3 subclasses (class A1–A3) of monomorphic patterns, exhibiting identical methylation status of same DNA fragments among allopolyploid, gibel carp clone D and common carp in either HpaII (H) or MspI (M) lane (fig. 4B and table 2). Additivity parental pattern represented the HM profile of a MSAP band in allopolyploid which was same to that in maternal gibel carp clone D (class B) or paternal common carp (class C). Class B and class C accounted for 66.10% (618/935) and 22.25% (208/935) of total MSAP bands in allopolyploid, and were subdivided into 7 and 4 subclasses, respectively. Thus, an overwhelming majority (98.82%) of cytosine methylation patterns in allopolyploid...
were inherited from its parents. Additionally, very few (1.18%, 11/935) variant bands were detected in allopolyploid compared to its parents. The variation patterns were categorized into two classes which might be caused by cytosine methylation changes (class D) or mutations in nucleotide sequence (class E), respectively. Only two MSAP bands (0.21%) in allopolyploid were identified as cytosine methylation change. These methylation changes might be caused by either hypermethylation at the internal CCGG sites (5'-GAATTC-CmCGG-CCGG-3' to 5'-GAATTC-CmCGG-CmCGG-3') or hypomethylation at the external CCGG site (5'-GAATT-CmCGG-CmCGG-3' to 5'-GAATTC-CmCGG-CCGG-3'). Class E consisted of two HM profiles based on the methylation status at CCGG site in the mutated sequence, in which three MSAP bands showed nonmethylated CCGG sites (class E1), while six MSAP bands showed methylated CmCGG sites.

To confirm and interpret the production of 11 variant bands in class D and E, the 10 individual DNA sample of each fish (allo, hexa, and Cc) were performed MSAP analysis.

**Fig. 3.** Alignments of mitochondrial D-loop sequences in allopolyploid (allo) (MH290793), gibel carp clone D (hexa) (MH290794), and common carp (Cc) (MH290795, MH669348 and MH669349). The D-loop sequences amplified from three individuals of allopolyploid or gibel carp clone D were identical. SNPs were detected in the three individuals of common carp.
to exclude interindividual variation. Two variant bands in class D appeared to be caused by interindvidual variation (fig. 5 and table 3). For MASP_E1M2_H_allo, 10, 10, and 7 individuals of gibel carp clone D, allopolyploid and common carp repeated the HM profiles (fig. 5B) as those in the pooled samples (fig. 5A). However, the other three individuals of common carp showed the same HM profiles as those in allopolyploid. The sequences amplified from individuals of allopolyploid and three individuals of common carp were identical (fig. 6A). So, the variant band MASP_E1M2_H_allo might be due to interindividual variation of common carp. Variant band MASP_E3M1_H_allo presented interindividual variation in the gynogenetic allopolyploid population, among which 5 individuals showed (+/−) HM profile while other individuals of allopolyploid and all individuals of gibel carp clone D and common carp exhibited (−/−) HM profile (fig. 5B).

The three nonmethylated variant bands in class E1 were also confirmed by individual sample-based MSAP and sequencing. The variant band MASP_E1M2_HM_allo was detected only in ten individuals of allopolyploid, not in gibel carp clone D and common carp (fig. 5B). Sequencing analysis showed that the 265 bp fragment MASP_E1M2_HM_allo was divided into 88 and 177 bp fragments which mapped to two different linkage groups of Cc reference genome (LG12 and LG13) (fig. 6B). Interestingly, the 177 bp fragment showed 97% identity with the same region of common carp Helitrons transposon, indicating the variant band MASP_E1M2_HM_allo.
might be produced by transposition recombination. Additionally, a 299 bp fragment MASP_E1M4_HM_allo was also observed only in ten individuals of allopolyploid, not in the individuals of gibel carp clone D and common carp. According to the flanking sequences of MASP_E1M4_HM_allo searched in common carp reference genome, 452 and 458 bp fragments (allo_E1M4_HM and Cc_E1M4_HM) were amplified from allopolyploid and common carp respectively, and no DNA fragment was amplified from gibel carp clone D. Multiple nucleotide alignment of 299, 452, and 458 bp fragments showed that the variant band MASP_E1M4_HM_allo might be produced by a 6-bp tandem repeat unit (TAAATG) deletion of common carp corresponding DNA fragment in allopolyploid (fig. 6C). The HM profile of MASP_E5M1_HM_allo is same to those of MASP_E1M2_HM_allo and MASP_E1M4_HM_allo (fig. 5). Unfortunately, different sequences were amplified from allopolyploid, gibel carp clone D, and common carp (data not shown) according to the flanking sequences of
MASP_E5M1_HM_allo searched in common carp reference genome. Thus, we cannot speculate the reason for MASP_E5M1_HM_allo production.

The reasons for the production of six variant bands in class E2 were also analyzed. For MASP_E3M6_M_allo, 10, 9, and 6 individuals of gibel carp clone D, allopolyploid, and common carp showed the identical HM profiles (fig. 5B) as those in the pooled samples (fig. 5A). The sequences amplified from individuals of allopolyploid and four individuals of common carp showed 99% identities (fig. 6D). Similar to MASP_E3M6_M_allo, MASP_E4M2_M_allo was also caused by parental heterozygosity. A total of 10, 10, and 9 individuals of gibel carp clone D, allopolyploid, and common carp repeated the HM profiles of those in the pooled sample, and the other one individual of common carp showed the same HM profiles as those in

**Table 3**

| Classes | Subclasses | Names of variant bands in allo | MSAP HM pattern (hexa, allo, and Cc) | Primer combinations | Formation mechanism |
|---------|------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Class D | D1         | MASP_E1M2_H_allo              | ++ + + + +                         | E1M2              | Interindividual variation in Cc |
|         |            | MASP_E3M1_H_allo              | + + + + + +                        | E3M1              | Interindividual variation in allo |
| Class E | E1         | MASP_E1M2_HM_allo             | ++ + + + +                         | E1M2              | Transposition recombination of Cc genetic materials in allo |
|         |            | MASP_E1M4_HM_allo             | + + + + + +                        | E1M4              | A 6-bp tandem repeat unit deletion of Cc corresponding DNA fragment in allo |
|         |            | MASP_E5M1_HM_allo             | + + + + + +                        | E5M1              | Not to be validated |
| E2      |            | MASP_E3M6_M_allo              | ++ + + + +                         | E3M6              | Interindividual variation in Cc |
|         |            | MASP_E4M2_M_allo              | ++ + + + +                         | E4M2              | Interindividual variation |
|         |            | MASP_E4M3_M_allo              | ++ + + + +                         | E4M3              | 8-bp deletion of Cc corresponding DNA fragment in allo |
|         |            | MASP_E4M4_M_allo              | ++ + + + +                         | E4M4              | Not to be validated |
|         |            | MASP_E4M5_M_allo              | + + + + + +                        | E4M5              | Mutation at EcoRI site (GAATTT to GAATTQ) |

**Fig. 6.**—Sequence alignments of variant bands amplified from allopolyploid (allo), gibel carp clone D (hexa), and common carp (Cc). (A) MASP_E1M2_H_allo (MH290796) and MASP_E1M2_H_Cc (MH290797). (B) MASP_E1M2_HM_allo (MH290798). (C) MASP_E1M4_HM_allo (MH290799), allo_E1M4_HM (MH290800), and Cc_E1M4_HM (MH290801). (D) MASP_E3M6_HM_allo (MH290802) and MASP_E3M6_HM_Cc (MH290803). (E) MASP_E4M2_H_allo (MH290804) and MASP_E4M2_H_Cc (MH290805). (F) MASP_E4M3_HM_allo (MH290806), allo_E4M3_HM (MH290807), and Cc_E4M3_HM (MH290808). (G) MASP_E4M5_HM_allo (MH290809), allo_E4M5_HM (MH290810), and Cc_E4M5_HM (MH290811).
alloployploid, which was confirmed by comparison of the sequences between alloployploid and common carp (fig. 6f). According to the flanking sequences of MASP_E4M3_M_allo searched in common carp reference genome, 219 and 227bp DNA fragments were amplified from alloployploid and common carp, respectively. Multiple nucleotide alignment of these sequences showed that the 219bp MASP_E4M3_M_allo in alloployploid might be produced by 8-bp deletion of common carp corresponding DNA fragment (fig. 6f). For MASP_E4M5_M_allo, 603 and 605 bp fragments were amplified from alloployploid and common carp, respectively. Sequencing analysis showed that the 86bp MASP_E4M5_M_allo possessed 100% identities to the DNA fragments amplified from alloployploid and common carp. Compared to the DNA fragment amplified from common carp (Cc_E4M5_M), a mutation at EcoRI site (GAATTTC) was detected in the DNA fragment amplified from alloployploid (allo_E4M5_M) (fig. 6g), which might result in the production of variant band MASP_E4M5_M_allo. As the variant bands mentioned above in class E2 all showed (−, +) HM profile, they were expected to possess methylated CmCGG sites. In addition, E4M4_M_allo_A and E4M4_M_allo_B failed to be validated because different sequences were amplified from alloployploid, gibel carp clone D, and common carp.

Discussion

Some gynogenetic fishes, including gibel carp (Gui et al. 1993a, 1993b; Yi et al. 2003; Zhu and Gui 2007; Knýtli et al. 2013; Li et al. 2016; Lu et al. 2018), Poeciliopsis (Quattro et al. 1992), Poecilia formosa (Schartl et al. 1995), and Squalius albunoides (Alves et al. 2001; Alves et al. 2004; Pala and Coelho 2005) possess the ability of integrating alien genome or subgenomic fragments into its genome (Gui et al. 1993a; Gui and Zhou 2010; Avisé 2015; Zhou and Gui 2017). For example, the individuals with 206 chromosomes were identified from the offspring of Ca. gibelio × Ca. carassius (Knýtli et al. 2013) or Ca. gibelio × C. carpio (Gui et al. 1993a; Lu et al. 2018), which might arise by the integration of Ca. gibelio whole chromosomes (156 chromosomes) and sperm genome (50 chromosomes). The novel synthetic alloployploid hybrids still maintain their unisexual gynogenesis ability (Gui et al. 1993b; Yi et al. 2003; Zhu and Gui 2007; Li et al. 2016; Lu et al. 2018). In this study, we also confirmed that a whole chromosome set of common carp (n = 50) was incorporated into the stable inherited alloployploid by GISH (fig. 1). Interestingly, we found that four chromosomes originating from gibel carp clone D were lost in alloployploid. The mechanism by which the chromosomes were lost still remains unknown. Nonexclusive homologous pairing, multivalent formation, and subsequent chromosome mis-segregation have been considered as a major cause for aneuploidy in many newly formed alloployploid plants (Zhang et al. 2013), and unequal distribution of genetic materials during meiosis was supposed as one of the potential mechanisms of origin of the triploid Carassius female (Knýtli et al. 2018). Moreover, the additive effects of alloployploid were revealed through the analyses of Tf phenotype pattern (supplementary fig. S1, Supplementary Material online), 45S rDNA sequence and chromosome localization (fig. 2), and MSAP (fig. 4 and table 2) among alloployploid, gibel carp clone D, and common carp. In addition, the same mitochondrial DNA sequences between alloployploid and gibel carp clone D indicate that alloployploid comes from gibel carp clone D.

DNA methylation, as one of the most important heritable epigenetic modifications, varies significantly in genomic distribution among protists, fungi, plants, and animals (Colot and Rossignol 1999; Su et al. 2011) and has been found to be involved in chromatin conformation, gene regulation, transposon activity, and genomic imprinting (Ishikawa and Kinoshita 2009). The association of DNA methylation with hybridization/polyploidization has been studied extensively in hybrid/alloployploid plant systems (Diez et al. 2014). Compared with their parents, the proportion of methylation variation appears to be variable: 3.27%–6.29% in an diploid F1-hybrid and three allotriploid population of Popoulus (Su et al. 2015), 8.3% in the experimentally resynthesized allotetraploid Arabidopsis suecica (Madlung et al. 2002), 11.3%–14.6% in the three allotriploid lines of Senecio (Hegarty et al. 2011), and as high as nearly 30% in Spartina (Salmon et al. 2005). Contrast to the rapid genomic changes in these neo-polyploids, no alterations were detected in nine newly synthesized allotetraploid or allohexaploid cotton (Gossypium) (Liu et al. 2001). Similarly, only very few variant MSAP bands (1.18%) were detected in alloployploid of gibel carp (table 2 and fig. 4) and were proved to be interindividual variations or DNA sequence variations (table 3 and fig. 5). Our results indicate that epigenetic changes in the newly synthetic gynogenetic alloployploid are minimal. The variation degrees of DNA methylation in teleost also show a species-dependent characteristic with a wide range. Compared with their parents or diploids, 38.31% of 355 randomly selected CCGG sites were observed methylation changes in allotetraploid hybrids of red crucian carp and common carp (Xiao et al. 2013). Only 12 loci (2.94%) displayed significant methylation difference between diploid and synthesized triploid brown trout (Salmo trutta L.) (Covel-Soto and Leunda 2015), while 73.05% and 68.17% of methylation patterns changed in naturally occurring triploid and tetraploid loach Misgurnus anguillicaudatus compared with diploid loach (Zhou et al. 2016).

So far, the molecular mechanism or evolutionary implications responsible for varied methylation changes in different polyploids are unknown. In our case, methylation change might not be dispensable during the formation and gynogenetic generation transmission of alloployploid. The disadvantages of polyploidy include difficulties in meiosis, hybrid incompatibility, and epigenetic instability (Comai 2005). The
unisexual gynogenesis ability could help the newly synthetic allopolyploid to overcome meiotic difficulties, which is reminiscent of the classical view about why polyploidy is much rarer in animals than in plants (Muller 1925; Mable 2004; Liu et al. 2016). By allowing self-fertilization or unssexual reproduction, polyploids might break through the bottleneck of sterility (Comai 2005). In fact, about 60% (106/179) of analyzed insect and vertebrate polyploids reproduce by unisexual reproduction in the absence of sexual mates (Otto 2007). Additionally, postzygotic hybrid incompatibility is caused by disrupted interaction of parental divergent genomes and is supposed to be associated with species specific genes (Brideau et al. 2006; Tang and Presgraves 2009). By analyzing Dmrt1 genes, we revealed that an early polyploid event occurred before 18.49 Ma might result in a common tetraploid ancestor of Ca. gibelio and Ca. auratus (Li et al. 2014). Postzygotic hybrid incompatibility might not be a serious problem in allopolyploid owing to the common ancestral diploid species of its parents. In allopolyploids, extensive evidences for epigenetic remodeling have been revealed (Madlung and Wendel 2013). In synthetic Arabidopsis allotetraploid lines, methylation alterations were immediately induced during the first or first few generations after allopolyploidization events (Wang et al. 2004). However, many instances of epigenetic instability induced by hybridization or polyploidization have been described (O’Neill et al. 1998; Josefsson et al. 2006; Kinoshita 2007; Ishikawa and Kinoshita 2009; Wang et al. 2009; Zhao et al. 2011; Kirkbride et al. 2015; Wu et al. 2015), which is supposed to be more often deleterious than advantageous (Comai 2005). Therefore, the minimal methylation changes in gynogenetic allopolyploid maintain its stability. Future researches on the expression regulation of homeologs in the new allopolyploid with minimal methylation changes will provide new insight into polyploidy and unisexual evolution mechanisms.

Hybridization usually companies changes of DNA sequence in respond to “genome shock” (Mcclintock 1984). For example, 9.67%–11.06% chimeric gene and 1.02%–1.16% mutation events were revealed in different generations of allopolyploids hybridized between goldfish and common carp (Liu et al. 2016). In this study, four variant MASP bands in gynogenetic allopolyploid were confirmed to be produced by changes of DNA sequences, including transposition recombination, deletion, and mutation at EcoRI site (table 3 and fig. 6). The genomic variations in allopolyploids might be caused by homologous recombination, transposon activation, compromise of mismatch repair system, and so on (Comai 2000; Belloch 2009; Arkhipova and Rodriguez 2013). Transposable elements (TEs), as mobile and rapidly evolving genetic units in eukaryotic genome, have significant impact on genome architecture and genetic innovations, such as generation of allelic diversity or novel genes, epigenetic effects on gene expression, and chromosomal rearrangements (Feschotte and Pritharn 2007; Jurka et al. 2007; Arkhipova and Rodriguez 2013). The 265 bp fragment MASP_E1M2_HM_allo might be produced by Helitrons-mediated recombination (fig. 6B). Similar to other transposons, Helitrons are present in diverse eukaryotic genomes (Kapitonov and Jurka 2001; Kapitonov and Jurka 2007) and can promote rearrangements, capture or disperse gene fragments to produce chimeric transcripts (Lai et al. 2005; Choi et al. 2007). The genome influence of Helitrons in gynogenetic allopolyploid awaits further investigation. Interestingly, a variant band MASP_E3M1_H_allo showed interindividual methylation variation in allopolyploid (fig. 5). It is assumed that a methylation change may occur at a CCGG site in partial gynogenetic individuals of allopolyploid during generation transmission. Additionally, the different triploid asexual dandelion lineages displayed different methylation changes (Salmon et al. 2010; Verhoeven et al. 2010). Owing to the population selection during the formation process of allopolyploid, the interindividual methylation variation in allopolyploid also might be produced in different lineages.

In summary, we confirmed the whole genome incorporation of common carp and additive effect in allopolyploid of gibel carp. Significantly, we revealed that an overwhelming majority of cytosine methylation patterns in gynogenetic allopolyploid were inherited from its parents and identified a few of DNA sequence changes in the stable newly synthetic allopolyploid. Therefore, our results provide a paradigm of recurrent polyploidy consequences in unisexual polyploid animals.

Supplementary Material

Supplementary data are available at Genome Biology and Evolution online.

Acknowledgments

This work was supported by the Key Program of Frontier Sciences of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (QYZDY-SSW-SMC025), the Strategic Priority Research Program of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (XDA08030201), the earmarked fund for Modern Agro-industry Technology Research System (NYCYTX-49), and the Autonomous Project of the State Key Laboratory of Freshwater Ecology and Biotechnology (2016FBZ01).

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Associate editor: Takashi Gojobori