Novel microsatellite markers for *Distylium lepidotum* (Hamamelidaceae) endemic to the Ogasawara Islands

Kyoko Sugai*1 and Suzuki Setsuko2

**Abstract**

**Background:** *Distylium lepidotum* is a small tree endemic to the Ogasawara Islands located in the northwestern Pacific Ocean. This species is a sole food for an endemic locust, *Boninoxya anijimensis*. Here, we developed microsatellite markers to investigate genetic diversity and genetic structure and to avoid a genetic disturbance after transplantation to restore the Ogasawara Islands ecosystem.

**Results:** Microsatellite markers with perfect dinucleotide repeats were developed using the next-generation sequencing Illumina MiSeq Desktop sequencer. Thirty-two primer pairs were characterized in two *D. lepidotum* populations on Chichijima and Hahajima Islands of the Ogasawara Islands. The number of alleles for the markers ranged from three to 23 per locus in the two populations. Expected heterozygosity per locus in each population ranged from 0.156 to 0.940 and 0.368 to 0.845, respectively.

**Conclusions:** These microsatellite markers will be useful for future population genetics studies of *D. lepidotum* and provide a basis for conservation management of the Ogasawara Islands.

**Keywords:** *Distylium lepidotum*, Next-generation sequencing, Ogasawara Islands, Population genetics, Simple sequence repeat

**Findings**

**Background**

Microsatellite markers, or simple sequence repeats, are widely applicable as DNA-based markers for population genetics studies. Moreover, their cost-effective development has been increasingly facilitated by applying next-generation sequencing (NGS) technologies [20].

*Distylium lepidotum* Nakai (Hamamelidaceae) is a small tree endemic to the oceanic Ogasawara Islands in the northwestern Pacific Ocean. The species is the dominant tree in the *Distylium–Pouteria* dry scrub [18], which is inhabited by *Boninoxya anijimensis* Ishikawa, a locust recorded as a new genus and species [8]. The locust utilizes *D. lepidotum* as the sole food, i.e., it is monophagous [8, 9]. Although it is only distributed on Anijima Island of the Ogasawara Islands, it has been exposed to alien predatory species such as *Anolis carolinensis*. Conservation/benign introduction measures of *B. anijimensis* are needed on the Ogasawara Islands, except Anijima Island, to protect the *B. anijimensis* populations. As *D. lepidotum* is an essential food source, it may be possible to transplant the species. Therefore, it is important to reveal the genetic structure of the species to minimize any genetic disturbance due to the transplant. Here, we developed microsatellite markers to investigate the genetic diversity and structure in *D. lepidotum*.

**Methods**

Microsatellite markers were developed for *D. lepidotum* using an Illumina MiSeq Desktop Sequencer (Illumina, San Diego, CA, USA). Total genomic DNA was extracted from one silica-gel dried *D. lepidotum* leaf sample collected from Chibusayama (26°39′17.4″N 142°10′03.6″E) on Hahajima Island of the Ogasawara Islands using a...
DNase Plant Mini Kit (QIAGEN, Hilden, Germany). A shotgun library was prepared using the Nextera DNA Sample Preparation Kit v2 (Illumina), and the raw de novo sequencing data were obtained using the MiSeq Reagent Kit v2 (500 cycles) (Illumina). The raw reads were divided into each index, extra sequences (adapters and indices) were trimmed, and FASTAQ files were generated using the MiSeq Reporter v2.25.1 (Illumina). The paired-end reads were merged using PEAR 0.9.6 [21] with default parameter settings. After the paired-end assembly, the low quality reads (<95 % with Phred quality score of 30) were removed using the script fastq_quality_filter included in the FASTX-Toolkit v.0.0.14 [7]. The resulting FASTQ files were converted to FASTA format using the ShortRead package [12]. A total of 1734,031 contigs with an average length of 241 bp were obtained.

The microsatellites were identified and the primer pairs were designed with QDD2.1 [11]. A total of 41,367 unique sequences containing pure/compound microsatellite regions (2–6 nucleotide motifs with >5 repeats) and primer-designable flanking regions were selected. The primer pairs were designed with Primer3 [17] and implemented in QDD2.1 using the following criteria: (1) polymeric chain reaction (PCR) product size of 90–500 bp and (2) primer lengths of 20–27 bp, melting temperature range of 57–63°C, and GC content of 20–80 %. Finally, 18,239 microsatellite primer pairs were designed using Primer3.

Amplification and polymorphism were confirmed in 48 selected primer pairs after considering the microsatellites (one single dinucleotide motif with more than ten repetitions), design type (“A” or “B” in QDD2.1), and PCR product size to apply multiplex amplification (Table 1). Four universal primers with different fluorescent tags designed by Blackett et al. [1] were prepared, and the 5′ end of each forward primer was attached to the same sequence as a tail. In addition, as the 5′ end sequences of each reverse primer became 5′-GT-3′, a PIG-tail (5′-GTT-3′, 5′-GTTT-3′, 5′-GT-3′, or 5′-G-3′) was added to reduce stuttering due to inconsistent addition of adenine by Taq DNA polymerase [2].

PCR amplification was performed using the QIAGEN Multiplex PCR Kit. Multiplex PCRs were performed for each of the four primer pair sets using the following thermal cycle conditions: initial denaturation for 15 min at 95°C, 35 cycles of denaturation for 30 s at 95°C, annealing for 1.5 min at 57°C, extension for 1 min at 72°C, and final extension for 30 min at 60°C. The PCR products were separated by capillary electrophoresis on an ABI3130 Genetic Analyzer (Life Technologies, Waltham, MA, USA) with the GeneScan 600 LIZ Size Standard (Life Technologies). The fragments were sized using GeneMapper 4.0 (Life Technologies).

We finally tested two populations from Chichijima and Hahajima Islands in the central part of the Ogasawara Islands to evaluate the allelic polymorphisms: 24 individuals from Asahiyama (27°05′40.7″N 142°12′35.6″E) on Chichijima Island and 20 individuals from Omotohama (26°37′28.9″N 142°10′41.7″E) on Hahajima Island. Voucher specimens of the representative individuals were deposited in the Makino Herbarium (MAK) of the Tokyo Metropolitan University, Japan (Asahiyama: no. MAK436933; Omotohama: no. MAK436934). The number of alleles per locus (N_a), observed heterozygosity (H_o), expected heterozygosity (H_e), and fixation index (F_is) were calculated to characterize each locus using GenAlEx 6.501 [13]. The Hardy–Weinberg equilibrium (HWE) at each locus of each population and linkage disequilibrium (LD) between each locus pair in each population were tested with Genepop 4.0 [16]. In addition, the null allele frequencies (F_null) were estimated with CERVUS 3.07 [10]. To examine genetic differentiation between the two populations, Weir and Cockerham’s [19] estimate of pairwise F_ST was calculated using FSTAT 2.9.3.2 [6]. The deviation of each pairwise F_ST from zero was tested based on 1000 randomizations. Genetic structure was also evaluated by a Bayesian clustering method implemented in STRUCTURE 2.3.4 [4, 5, 15]. Markov chain Monte Carlo methods consisted of 100,000 burn-in steps and followed by 100,000 iterations. Ten replicate runs were performed at each K value from one to five under an admixture model with correlated allele frequencies. The log-likelihood probability at each run and the rate of change in the log-likelihoods between adjacent K values, ΔK [3], were calculated and compared across a range of K values to determine the best fit for the data.

**Results and discussion**

Of the 48 tested microsatellite markers, 32 primer pairs were polymorphic among 44 individuals (Table 1). N_a ranged from three to 22 alleles in the Chichijima
Table 1  Characteristics of the 32 microsatellite markers developed for Distylium lepidotum

| Locus   | Repeat motif | Forward primer sequence (5′–3′)a | Reverse primer sequence (5′–3′)b | Ta (°C) | Size range (bp) | GeneBank accession no. |
|---------|--------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------|----------------|------------------------|
| Isu00524 | (CT)30       | [tail C] TTATACTTACACCTCGGTAAC   | gtttAAACCACCTATGCTTCTCTG        | 57     | 136–194        | LC085250               |
| Isu01062 | (TC)25       | [tail B] TACGATATGTCATGCAAGTAA   | gtttGCCTAAAAAGTCTGAAAGGTATT     | 57     | 228–270        | LC085251               |
| Isu01853 | (AG)19       | [tail D] CACTATTTAGGGATGCGGCTG   | gTTGTTGAAAGTCTGAAAGGTATT       | 57     | 274–302        | LC085252               |
| Isu03838 | (TC)24       | [tail D] TTCTTAACACCTCAGTAAATAG  | gTTGTTGAAAGTCTGAAAGGTATT       | 57     | 111–135        | LC085253               |
| Isu04069 | (GA)24       | [tail B] TTACATTTAGGGATGCGGCTG   | gTTGTTGAAAGTCTGAAAGGTATT       | 57     | 135–171        | LC085254               |
| Isu04385 | (TC)22       | [tail A] AATGACATGTTGAGATCGTCT   | gtttAAACCACCTATGCTTCTG          | 57     | 215–245        | LC085255               |
| Isu04423 | (AG)22       | [tail B] AAGCAGACCTATGGCATATCT   | gttTATTTTGCTTGACCTTATTGGA       | 57     | 260–308        | LC085256               |
| Isu04472 | (AG)26       | [tail D] ATTTGGTCTATGGCATATCT    | gtttAAACCACCTATGCTTCTG          | 57     | 214–266        | LC085257               |
| Isu04870 | (CT)16       | [tail B] TTAATGTTGTTGCTTTGACTT   | gtttAAACCACCTATGCTTCTG          | 57     | 285–299        | LC085258               |
| Isu04950 | (GA)22       | [tail A] AGACATTTAGGGATGCGGCTG   | gtttAAACCACCTATGCTTCTG          | 57     | 263–299        | LC085259               |
| Isu04954 | (TC)31       | [tail A] CTAATCTAATTCACCCATCT    | gtttAAACCACCTATGCTTCTG          | 57     | 128–156        | LC085260               |
| Isu05730 | (AT)11       | [tail A] ACATTTTGCTTTGACTCTT     | gtttAAACCACCTATGCTTCTG          | 57     | 346–366        | LC085261               |
| Isu06843 | (AG)27       | [tail B] GTGACACCTTACCTTGACTT    | gtttAAACCACCTATGCTTCTG          | 57     | 98–132         | LC085262               |
| Isu07049 | (CT)26       | [tail A] TCAATTTTGCTTTGACTCTT    | gtttAAACCACCTATGCTTCTG          | 57     | 90–134         | LC085263               |
| Isu07063 | (GA)24       | [tail C] AAGCAGACCTATGGCATATCT   | gtttAAACCACCTATGCTTCTG          | 57     | 109–143        | LC085264               |
| Isu09807 | (GA)23       | [tail D] AAGCAGACCTATGGCATATCT   | gtttAAACCACCTATGCTTCTG          | 57     | 213–239        | LC085265               |
| Isu09853 | (GA)22       | [tail D] CAATTTTGCTTTGACTCTT     | gtttAAACCACCTATGCTTCTG          | 57     | 304–326        | LC085266               |
| Isu10193 | (GA)24       | [tail B] ATTATTGCGCTGCTTACATAAG  | gtttAAACCACCTATGCTTCTG          | 57     | 214–236        | LC085267               |
| Isu11459 | (AG)19       | [tail D] TAAATGCGCTGCTGCTTACATA  | gtttAAACCACCTATGCTTCTG          | 57     | 265–291        | LC085268               |
| Isu12115 | (GA)11       | [tail A] CTTATTTTGCTTTGACTCTT    | gtttAAACCACCTATGCTTCTG          | 57     | 413–477        | LC085269               |
| Isu12238 | (CT)24       | [tail D] CCAATTTGCTGCTGCTTACATA  | gtttAAACCACCTATGCTTCTG          | 57     | 116–156        | LC085270               |
| Isu12265 | (CT)21       | [tail C] TAGACACCTTTGTGATAGCCA   | gtttAAACCACCTATGCTTCTG          | 57     | 85–121         | LC085271               |
| Isu12586 | (AT)11       | [tail C] TAGACACCTTTGTGATAGCCA   | gtttAAACCACCTATGCTTCTG          | 57     | 319–359        | LC085272               |
| Isu13849 | (CT)12       | [tail D] CAATTTTGCTTTGACTCTT     | gtttAAACCACCTATGCTTCTG          | 57     | 326–350        | LC085273               |
| Isu13965 | (GA)25       | [tail B] CTTATTTTGCTTTGACTCTT    | gtttAAACCACCTATGCTTCTG          | 57     | 155–183        | LC085274               |
| Isu15054 | (TC)24       | [tail A] CGGATTTGACATAGTTGCAA    | gtttAAACCACCTATGCTTCTG          | 57     | 219–273        | LC085275               |
| Isu16246 | (CT)26       | [tail C] AACATTTGCTTTGACTCTT     | gtttAAACCACCTATGCTTCTG          | 57     | 132–174        | LC085276               |
| Isu16408 | (TC)18       | [tail C] AGATTTTGCTTTGCTTACATA  | gtttAAACCACCTATGCTTCTG          | 57     | 285–307        | LC085277               |
| Isu16655 | (CT)16       | [tail C] GAAATTTTGCTTTGACTCTT   | gtttAAACCACCTATGCTTCTG          | 57     | 270–290        | LC085278               |
| Isu16805 | (GA)26       | [tail B] CGCTTTTAAACGATTTGCAAG   | gtttAAACCACCTATGCTTCTG          | 57     | 83–115         | LC085279               |
| Isu17435 | (GA)20       | [tail B] TAAATTTTGCTTTGACTCTT    | gtttAAACCACCTATGCTTCTG          | 57     | 82–114         | LC085280               |
| Isu17619 | (AG)13       | [tail A] CAATTTTGCTTTGACTCTT     | gtttAAACCACCTATGCTTCTG          | 57     | 317–329        | LC085281               |

Ta = annealing temperature

a Tails of the forward primers are indicated as follows: [Tail A] = 5′-GCCTCCCTGCACCGCC-3′; [Tail B] = 5′-GCCTTTGCGACCCGC-3′; [Tail C] = 5′-CAGGACACGGCTACCTTG-3′; and [Tail D] = 5′-CAGGACACGGCTACCTTG-3′

b Reverse primer sequences contained the PIG-tail sequence [2]. Tail sequences are shown in lower case letters

population and from one to nine alleles in the Hahajima population (Table 2). $H_e$ ranged from 0.156 to 0.940 in the Chichijima population and from 0.368 to 0.845 in the Hahajima population (Table 2). Locus Isu00524 in the Hahajima population was monomorphic; only one allele was found in six samples, and the remaining 14 samples were not successfully amplified, suggesting the existence of null alleles. In addition, $F_{null}$ was high (Table 2). The Isu00524 locus in both populations deviated significantly from HWE. Significant deviations from HWE in
the Chichijima or Hahajima populations were detected at several loci (Table 2; Isu04069, Isu07049, Isu10193, Isu12265, Isu15054, and Isu16805). These loci possibly involved null alleles, because null alleles are a common cause of apparent deviations from HWE [14]. Actually, $F_{\text{null}}$ values were high in most of these loci (Table 2). However, these HWE deviations may have been caused by inbreeding, which can often occur in small populations. In either case, these loci should be used cautiously in further analyses. No significant LD was observed between the markers in the two populations.

Of all the 397 alleles that were detected, the 193 alleles which were detected in the Chichijima population were not found in the Hahajima population. On the other hand, the 53 alleles which were detected in the Hahajima population were not found in the Chichijima population. In addition, the two populations were significantly differentiated ($F_{\text{ST}} = 0.0971$). The Bayesian clustering analysis represented the highest $\Delta K$ value at $K = 2$ ($\Delta K = 121.4$; Appendix). The Chichijima population was almost entirely composed of the cluster I (dark gray); the Hahajima population generally comprised the cluster II (light gray) (Fig. 1). However, because admixture was
observed in some individuals of the Hahajima population, the infrequent gene flow between islands might occur. These data indicated that these markers can be used to analyze population genetic structure in the future.

Conclusions
These 32 novel microsatellite markers will be valuable for elucidating the genetic diversity and structure of *D. lepidotum*, since they have enough polymorphisms and they can clearly distinguish the two populations. The genetic data would be useful to investigate the genetic diversity and structure of *D. lepidotum* which is necessary for a food source of the endangered locust species on the Ogasawara Islands.

Abbreviations

- $F_{IS}$: fixation index;
- $F_{null}$: null allele frequency;
- $H_E$: expected heterozygosity;
- $H_O$: observed heterozygosity;
- HWE: Hardy–Weinberg equilibrium;
- LD: linkage disequilibrium;
- $N_A$: number of alleles per locus;
- NGS: next-generation sequencing;
- PCR: polymerase chain reaction.

Authors’ contributions
KS performed field sampling, laboratory work, data analysis and marker validation, and drafted the manuscript. SS did the study design, performed field sampling and laboratory work. Both authors read and approved the final manuscript.

Author details
1 Laboratory of Wildlife Ecology, Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute, 1 Matsunosato, Tsukuba, Ibaraki 305-8687, Japan. 2 Laboratory of Ecological Genetics, Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute, 1 Matsunosato, Tsukuba, Ibaraki 305-8687, Japan.

Acknowledgements
The authors thank A. Hisamatsu, Y. Kawamata, and other members of the Laboratory of Ecological Genetics and Tree Genetics of the Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute for their technical support. We are grateful to T. Yasui, Y. Hoshi, and other members of the Ogasawara Wild Life Research Society for collecting the plant samples. This study was financially supported by the Environment Research and Technology Development Fund of the Ministry of the Environment, Japan (4-1402).

Competing interests
The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

Availability of the supporting data
The sequences containing microsatellite motifs are available through the DNA Data Bank of Japan (http://www.ddbj.nig.ac.jp/index-e.html); GenBank accession numbers see Table 1.

Appendix
See Fig. 2.

Fig. 1 Results of Bayesian clustering, STRUCTURE, at $K = 2$ of the two *Distylium lepidotum* populations. Vertical columns represent individual plants, and the heights of bars of each color are proportional to the posterior means of estimated admixture proportions. For population localities, see Table 1.

Fig. 2 Results of Bayesian clustering, STRUCTURE, of the two *Distylium lepidotum* populations. a Changes in the log-likelihood, b $\Delta K$ as the number of clusters ($K$ ranging from one to five).
Received: 14 April 2016   Accepted: 24 June 2016
Published online: 02 July 2016

References

1. Blacket MJ, Robin C, Good RT, Lee SF, Miller AD. Universal primers for fluorescent labelling of PCR fragments-an efficient and cost-effective approach to genotyping by fluorescence. Mol Ecol Res. 2012;12:456–63.
2. Brownstein MJ, Carpten JD, Smith JR. Modulation of non-templated nucleotide addition by taq DNA polymerase: primer modifications that facilitate genotyping. Biotechniques. 1996;20(1004–1006):1008–10.
3. Evanno G, Regnaut S, Goudet J. Detecting the number of clusters of individuals using the software STRUCTURE: a simulation study. Mol Ecol. 2005;14:2611–20.
4. Falush D, Stephens M, Pritchard JK. Inference of population structure using multilocus genotype data: linked loci and correlated allele frequencies. Genetics. 2003;164:1567–87.
5. Falush D, Stephens M, Pritchard JK. Inference of population structure using multilocus genotype data: dominant markers and null alleles. Mol Ecol Notes. 2007;7:574–8.
6. Goudet J. Fstat v2.9.3.2. University of Lausanne, Lausanne. 2002. http://www2.unil.ch/popgen/softwares/fstat.htm. Accessed 12 Apr 2016.
7. Hannon G. FASTX-Toolkit v0.0.14. Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Long Island. 2009. http://hannonlab.cshl.edu/fastx_toolkit/. Accessed 12 Apr 2016.
8. Ishikawa H. Occurrence of a New Grasshopper, Boninoxya anijimensis gen. et sp. nov. (Orthoptera, Acrididae, Oxyinae) in the Ogasawara Islands, Japan. Jpn J Syst Entomol. 2011;17:115–20.
9. Ishikawa H. Boninoxya anijimensis, In: Natural Environment Division, Bureau Of Environment, Tokyo Metropolitan Government, editors. Red Data Book Tokyo: Islands version. Natural Environment Division, Bureau of Environment, Tokyo Metropolitan Government, Tokyo; 2014. p. 400. (in Japanese)
10. Kalinowski ST, Taper ML, Marshall TC. Revising how the computer program CERVUS accommodates genotyping error increases success in paternity assignment. Mol Ecol. 2007;16:1099–106.
11. Meglecz E, Costedato C, Dubut V, Gilles A, Malausa T, Pech N, Martin J-F. QDD: a user-friendly program to select microsatellite markers and design primers from large sequencing projects. Bioinformatics. 2010;26:403–4.
12. Morgan M, Anders S, Lawrence M, Aboyoun P, Pages H, Gentleman R. ShortRead: a bioconductor package for input, quality assessment and exploration of high-throughput sequence data. Bioinformatics. 2009;25:2607–8.
13. Peakall R, Smouse PE. GENALEX 6: genetic analysis in excel. Population genetic software for teaching and research. Mol Ecol Notes. 2006;6:288–95.
14. Pemberton JM, Slate J, Bancroft DR, Barrett JA. Nonamplifying alleles at microsatellite loci—a caution for parentage and population studies. Mol Ecol. 1995;4:249–52.
15. Pritchard J, Stephens M, Donnelly P. Inference of population structure using multilocus genotype data. Genetics. 2000;155:945–59.
16. Rousset F. GENEPOP’007: a complete re-implementation of the GENEPOP software for Windows and Linux. Mol Ecol Res. 2008;8:103–6.
17. Rozen S, Skaletsky HJ. Primer3 on the WWW for general users and for biologist programmers. In: Misener S, Krawetz SA, editors. Bioinformatics methods and protocols. Totowa: Humana Press; 2000. p. 365–86.
18. Shimizu Y, Tabata H. Forest structures, composition, and distribution on a Pacific island, with reference to ecological release and speciation. Pac Sci. 1991;45:28–49.
19. Weir BS, Cockerham CC. Estimating F-statistics for the analysis of population-structure. Evolution. 1984;38:1358–70.
20. Zalapa JE, Cuevas H, Zhu H, Steffen S, Senaitk D, Zeldin E, McCown B, Harbut R, Simon P. Using next-generation sequencing approaches to isolate simple sequence repeat (SSR) loci in the plant sciences. Am J Bot. 2012;99:193–208.
21. Zhang J, Kobert K, Flouri T, Stamatakis A. PEAR: a fast and accurate Illumina Paired-End reAd mergeR. Bioinformatics. 2014;30:614–20.