Original Research Article

Screening and Estimation of Allelic Differentiation in Indian mustard Using SSR Markers for Background Selection

Subaran Singh¹,², Vijay Veer Singh¹*, Supriya Ambawat¹,², Monika Dubey¹ and Dhiraj Singh¹

¹ICAR-Directorate of Rapeseed-Mustard Research, Sewar, Bharatpur – 321 303, Rajasthan, India
²Department of Agriculture Sciences and Research, SGV University, Jaipur-302 017, Rajasthan, India

*Corresponding author

Abstract

In the present study, 15 genotypes of *Brassica juncea* including white rust resistant and double low quality were characterized and allelic differentiation was determined using 453 SSRs and 139 (30.7%) showed polymorphism with 308 alleles. Polymorphic information content ranged from 0.101 to 0.668, with the average value of 0.474, revealing that much variation was present among these genotypes. The cluster analysis gave three major groups where white rust resistant genotypes were grouped in one major cluster, double low quality genotypes in second cluster while the recipients were grouped in the third cluster indicating that grouping of genotypes based on SSRs corresponded well to their known pedigree data. These observations suggested that SSRs are proficient for evaluating genetic variation and relationships among different varieties of mustard. Further, findings of this study will be useful for DNA fingerprinting, varietal identification which could help during background selection for marker-assisted backcross breeding programs.

Keywords

*Brassica juncea*, Genetic diversity, Molecular characterization, SSR markers, Varietal identification.

Introduction

Genetic variation has enormous importance and its assessment and relationship in breeding material may have remarkable impact in the crop improvement programs (Chandra *et al.*, 2013). The estimation of genetic variation and genomic diversity among the varieties may be used to categorise them into diverse groups; to assess the evolutionary relationships with the wild relatives; to confirm pedigrees and remove the gaps in lineage or selection history, to detect differences in allelic frequencies within genotypes or populations and to explore new alleles at various loci of interest. Thus, genetic variation in *B. juncea* will be useful for plant breeders in understanding germplasm structure and finally judging the various combinations to generate the best progeny (Hu *et al.*, 2007) which will be ultimately helpful for selection of breeding material by widening the genetic base (Qi *et al.*, 2008). The genetic distances amongst the
parents may be due to differences in number of the genes and their functional behaviour with respect to the environment (Nei, 1976).

Various morphological, biochemical and molecular approaches have been used to estimate genetic diversity between individuals or populations (Mohammadi and Prasanna, 2003). Evaluation of genetic diversity and relatedness in *B. juncea* using phenotypic parameters has been previously done by many researchers (Singh *et al.*, 2010; Alie *et al.*, 2009). Isozyme loci have been used as markers in various genetic studies including genetic diversity in *B. juncea* (Kumar and Gupta, 1985). But, environmental factors and the developmental stage of the plant are the two limiting factors associated with these markers. Among various types of markers used for genetic diversity estimation in plants, molecular or DNA markers are more specific, proficient, precise and consistent in distinguishing closely related cultivars or species (Mishra *et al.*, 2011).

Genetic variation has been evaluated using RAPD markers in various crops such as maize (Zhang *et al.*, 1998), wheat (Liu *et al.*, 1999), Brassica (Divaret, Margale and Thomas 1999), barley (Hamza *et al.*, 2004) and sesame (Salazar *et al.*, 2006). Simple Sequence Repeats (SSRs) are the most perfect and preferred markers due to several advantages over other markers such as highly reproducible, co-dominant, easily scorable, abundance, wide distribution all the way through the genome and its multi-allelic variation (Powell *et al.*, 1996).

Moreover, they have several flanking regions which are considered as highly conserved regions in various related species thus making it convenient to use same markers in associated genomes. They have been successfully used for genetic diversity analysis in a variety of crops such as Indian bread wheat (Mir *et al.*, 2011), rice (Rahman *et al.*, 2012) and maize (Sivaranjini *et al.*, 2014).

The genetic diversity studies in *B. juncea* has been subsequently carried out using isozyme markers (Kumar and Gupta, 1985), morphological markers (Pradhan *et al.*, 1993) and molecular markers (Hopkins *et al.*, 2006). Among molecular markers, RFLP (Hallden *et al.*, 1994); RAPDs (Khan *et al.*, 2011), AFLP (Zhao *et al.*, 2005) and SSRs (Abbas *et al.*, 2009) have been used to study varietal identification, genome organization and genetic diversity estimation in Brassicas. But, due to narrow genetic base and lack of availability of proper genomic information in Indian mustard, SSRs has been used in a very limited manner in Brassica as compared to the other crops (Yadav *et al.*, 2009). Thus, keeping all these facts in view, this study was planned to characterize and assess the genetic variation and resolve the genetic relationship among these genotypes for breeding purposes using microsatellite markers.

**Materials and Methods**

**Plant material used**

The present study was conducted with 15 diverse genotypes of Indian mustard including white rust resistant and double low quality (Table 1). Among these genotypes Donskaja, Bio-YSR, BEC-144 were white rust resistant and PDZ-1, Heera, EC-597325, RLC-3 were double low.

**Genomic DNA isolation**

Fresh leaves from healthy plants at three leaf stage were collected from each mustard genotype and DNA was extracted by CTAB method (Murray and Thompson, 1980) and quantified on 0.8% agarose gel and diluted to 20 ng/μl.
SSR marker assay

A total of 453 SSR markers were used for evaluating genetic diversity among the 15 Indian mustard genotypes. PCR was performed in a 10 μl reaction having 1X buffer, 200 μM dNTPs, 0.4 μM of forward and reverse primer, 1U Taq polymerase and 1μl of template DNA (20ng/μl) in a 96-well Thermal Cycler (Eppendorf, Germany).

The PCR protocol comprised of the initial denaturation at 94°C for 5.0 min followed by 38 cycles of 30s at 94°C for denaturation, 41s at 55°C for annealing and 35s at 72°C for extension. The final extension was done at 72°C for 7 min and stored at 4°C. The PCR products were electrophoretically separated on 3.5% agarose gel and visualized under gel documentation system (Syngene, UK) (Fig. 1).

Data scoring and analysis

Gel photographs were used for scoring variations in the DNA banding patterns where presence of band was indicated ‘1’ and absence as ‘0’ in all the genotypes for further analysis. Variations in the bands were scored for each primer as polymorphism and the binomial data generated was further used for calculating, total alleles, total bands, number of monomorphic and polymorphic bands. In addition, the binomial data matrix was analyzed using SIMQUAL (Similarity for qualitative data) for calculation of Jaccard’s similarity coefficients through NTSYSpc-2.02e software.

Further, the dendrogram was constructed using the UPGMA method. PIC (Polymorphic information content) values were calculated using the formula suggested by Anderson et al., (1993): PIC=$1-\sum_{i=1}^{n}p_{i}^{2}$, where, i = the $i^{th}$ allele of the $j^{th}$ marker, n = the number of alleles at the $j^{th}$ marker and p = allele frequency.

Results and Discussion

Molecular characterization

In the present study, a good amount of polymorphic markers were detected that would be useful for genotype identification, germplasm management and genetic diversity assessment and further introgress the genes underlying them to desirable genetic backgrounds. Out of 453 SSRs, 335 (73.9%) primers gave amplified products of varying sizes in a range of 100-500 bp. Among these, 196 markers (43.2%) were found to be monomorphic while 139 SSRs were polymorphic exhibiting 30.7% polymorphism (Table 2). The polymorphism percentage obtained in this study is less as compared to (Salazar et al., 2006; Abdelmigid, 2012). In other studies, percentage of polymorphic primers in brassica genotypes ranged from 21.54 to 59.36 as reported by Ali et al., (2007). Similar kind of polymorphism percentage i.e. 21.54 to 59.36% was observed by Khan et al., (2011).

The allelic differentiation is measured in terms of PIC value. It ranged from 0.101 to 0.668 with an average of 0.47 indicating that the level of polymorphism, as assessed by the PIC values, was quite high and varied considerably among SSR loci. Twenty five SSR markers had PIC value > 0.5 indicating that these were the most useful markers for differentiating these genotypes. The details of such markers are shown in table 3. The PIC values in the present investigation are comparable to 0.37 PIC value reported by Salazar et al., (2006) and 0.5 reported by Russel et al., (1997). Marker BN6A3 gave the highest PIC value (0.668) followed by BRMS-09 (0.666), C09 (0.665) and Ni3-G07 (0.664) thus revealing that BN6A3 is the most informative and best marker for identification and diversity estimation of these mustard genotypes followed by BRMS-09, C09 and
Ni3-G07 markers while the lowest PIC value (0.101) was for marker BrgMS75 indicating it as the least powerful marker. High PIC values may be observed due to the use of more number of informative markers (Akkaya and Buyukunal-Bal, 2004).

**Number of alleles**

Overall 308 alleles were detected from 139 polymorphic SSR markers across all 15 genotypes. The number of alleles per primer pair (locus) varied from 2-3 with 2.21 as an average across 139 primers (2 alleles for 109 markers and 3 alleles for 30 markers). An average of 2.21 alleles is similar to an average of 2.0-5.5 alleles per primer pair for different classes of SSRs as suggested by Wong et al., (2009). The details of frequent alleles, rare alleles and unique alleles for different genotypes are shown in table 4.

**Frequent, rare, and unique alleles**

Out of 15 genotypes, frequent alleles were considered to be those occurring in more than 20% (3-5 genotypes) whereas those occurring in 2 genotypes (<20%) were classified as rare alleles. A similar criterion was followed by Alvarez et al., (2007). In this study, 26 frequent alleles were identified among 139 loci, with an average of 0.19 alleles per locus. Genotype BEC-144 shared a common frequent allele at any given locus with a maximum frequency of 16 followed by Bio-YSR (13), PDZ-1(9), EC-597325 (9) Donskaja (8) and Laxmi (8). A total of 8 rare alleles were identified among 139 microsatellite loci, with 0.06 alleles per locus as the average. These rare alleles were present in 10 genotypes namely Donskaja, Bio-YSR, BEC-144, EC-597325, RLC-3, Heera, PM-24, PM-30, RH0749 and RLC-1 (Table 4).

A total of 5 unique alleles were detected in 5 genotypes (BEC-144, EC-597325, RLC-2, PM-30 and Laxmi). Five SSR markers-MR33, BrgMS490, Ni2D10, BrgMS75 and cnu_m602a amplified these specific unique alleles (Table 4). Presence of such unique alleles will be helpful and can be useful further in DNA fingerprinting, detection of particular genotype and discover specific differentiating genes/alleles. They are very much consistent in the estimation of genetic relationships across the genotypes. In addition, the added advantage is that they can be converted to sequence tagged site markers (STS) and sequence characterized amplified regions (SCARs) thus giving high prospective for further use. Moreover, exclusive bands can be proved valuable to distinguish the genotypes at the molecular level without using field data. Similar kind of results was observed by Sahu et al., (2012) and Vinu et al., (2013) in various crops.

**Fig.1** Agarose gels showing amplification profiles of genotypes using the primer BrgMS334 and BrgMS399. Lane M- 50 bp ladder 1-Donskaja 2-BioYSR 3-BEC144 4-PDZ-1 5-EC597325 6-RLC-3 7-Heera 8-PM24 9-PM30 10-NRCDR02 11-DRMRIJ31 12-RH0749 13- Laxmi 14-RLC-1 15-RLC-2
Fig. 2 UPGMA dendrogram showing genetic relationships among 18 genotypes.

Table 1: Genotypes used for diversity analysis along with their pedigree

| S.No. | Genotype | Species | Pedigree | Country/Developing institute |
|-------|----------|---------|----------|-----------------------------|
| 1.    | Donskaja | Brassica juncea | Exotic collection from Russia | Russia |
| 2.    | BioYSR   | Brassica juncea | Clipper/BH75/BK0019 | NRCPB, IARI, New Delhi |
| 3.    | BEC-144  | Brassica juncea | Exotic collection from Poland | Poland |
| 4.    | PDZ-1    | Brassica juncea | LES-1-27/NUDHYJ-3 | IARI, New Delhi |
| 5.    | EC-597325 | Brassica juncea | Exotic collection from Australia | Australia |
| 6.    | RLC-3    | Brassica juncea | JM 06003/JM 06020 | PAU, Ludhiana |
| 7.    | HEERA    | Brassica juncea | ZYR-4/BJ-1088 | Nagpur University & Dhara |
|       |          |          |          | Veg. Oil & Food Co. Ltd., Vadodara |
| 8.    | PM-24    | Brassica juncea | (Pusa bold X LES 15) X LES 29 | IARI, New Delhi |
| 9.    | PM-30    | Brassica juncea | BIO 902/ZEM-1 | IARI, New Delhi |
| 10.   | NRCDR-02 | Brassica juncea | MDOC 43/NBPGR 36 | DRMR, Bharatpur |
| 11.   | DRMRJ-31 | Brassica juncea | HB 9908/GB 9916 | DRMR, Bharatpur |
| 12.   | RH-0749  | Brassica juncea | RH 781 X RH 9617 | CCS HAU, Hisar |
| 13.   | LAXMI    | Brassica juncea | PR15/RH 30A | CCS HAU, Hisar |
| 14.   | RLC-1    | Brassica juncea | QM 4/Pusa bold | PAU, Ludhiana |
| 15.   | RLC-2    | Brassica juncea | QM 4/Pusa bold | PAU, Ludhiana |

Table 2: Summary of SSR amplified products

|                                |          |
|--------------------------------|----------|
| Total number of markers used   | 453      |
| Number of polymorphic markers  | 139      |
| Number of monomorphic markers  | 196      |
| Number of not amplified markers| 118      |
| Size of amplified products (bp) | 100-500  |
| Percent polymorphism           | 30.7%    |
| Total number of alleles        | 308      |
Table 3: Details of most informative markers based on their high PIC values

| S. No. | Primer Name | Sequence | No. of Alleles | Range of Amplified Products | Tm (°C) | PIC value |
|--------|-------------|----------|----------------|-----------------------------|---------|-----------|
| 1      | BN6A3       | GCTACCCACTCATGTCTCTCTG CCAAGCTTATCCGAAATCTGCTCTA | 3 | 150-220 | 55 | 0.668 |
| 2      | BRMS-019    | CCAAAAACGGTTTTTGCAACAT GGCAAGTTATCCGACTGCTTTT | 3 | 200-250 | 55 | 0.666 |
| 3      | C09         | AGCATCAATCTTTTGGTGGCTGC TGCACACAAACTCCTTCTCC | 3 | 200-260 | 55 | 0.665 |
| 4      | Ni3-G07     | CACTCTTTGGGCTATTTTC TTTGGAAGGTAAAGG | 3 | 200-250 | 55 | 0.664 |
| 5      | nia_m026a   | AATGAGTAATGTCCACAGCA TGAAATGCGATTTTTTAC | 2 | 170-230 | 55 | 0.663 |
| 6      | cnu_m60a    | CTCTCTTATTTGATCTCG CTTGTAAGGTCTGAGGA | 3 | 150-220 | 55 | 0.661 |
| 7      | cnu_m62a    | GCAGAAGCTCGAGCTGCTGC AACAAAGCTGTAAGTC | 3 | 200-260 | 55 | 0.659 |
| 8      | BrgMS802    | TCCCCACCCTCAAAATATACAGC TGGCTGTGTTGAAAGGAGCCT | 3 | 350-400 | 54 | 0.657 |
| 9      | EJU1        | GGTGAAGAGGAAGATGCTT ACGAGATACATGTTGAAGGTGTC | 3 | 200-300 | 55 | 0.655 |
| 10     | O110B01     | CCTCTTCAGTCGAGTGTG AATTTGGAACAGAGTGACC | 3 | 200-250 | 55 | 0.653 |
| 11     | O110B11     | AAAATGTGAGGCTGTTTGAGATTCCGATG | 3 | 180-230 | 52 | 0.651 |
| 12     | E05         | CTCGTCGACCGATTGTGTCA CGAAGAGGATAGAGGAGGG | 3 | 130-200 | 54 | 0.646 |
| 13     | nia_m043a   | CCATTCGAGGTGGTGATTAA AGAAGCGAACCTCAGATCCA | 3 | 250-300 | 55 | 0.643 |
| 14     | cnu_m583a   | TTGTAGAGAGAGAGAGGGCA CCCTCACAAAGGAGGAGG | 3 | 200-250 | 55 | 0.642 |
| 15     | BrgMS787    | CCAATCTAGCTCTATCTACAAAAA TCAAAACCGGAGTAAACTGGA | 3 | 250-330 | 54 | 0.634 |
| 16     | BrgMS732    | GCGCGCGAGAACAATTA ATGCTCGTGCCACAAA | 3 | 300-350 | 50 | 0.632 |
| 17     | Ni3-B07     | GGAGAAGAGGAAAGAGAAGCC CGAATTCGAGGAAACCCC | 3 | 100-200 | 55 | 0.631 |
| 18     | Ni2A07      | GGACCAAAACAGTGATGCC AGAGCTTGAACACAATAACACC | 3 | 200-250 | 55 | 0.630 |
| 19     | Ra2-H10     | GCGCGTGTAGGGTACGTC CGGCGCGGCAACTG | 3 | 120-170 | 55 | 0.627 |
| 20     | E07         | GAGCGGATGCAGTACTCTTTTGCA GAATGGAATTTCGAGTATGGG | 3 | 120-200 | 55 | 0.626 |
| 21     | cnu_m625a   | AAGTTCGAGTAGCAGACACCG CTTTCCGGGCACCTTCTCAG | 3 | 200-260 | 55 | 0.625 |
| 22     | Ra2-H07     | ATACATCAATCTCCGAGGCG CCGGGCACACACACAC | 3 | 180-250 | 55 | 0.613 |
| 23     | Ni3C05      | TTTGCGTTTTGGTTGGAAG TCCCCAAAATCGAACCATAAG | 3 | 150-200 | 52 | 0.612 |
| 24     | G02         | TGGTTGCGAAGACACACGC ACACAGCGAGGATCTCCTGC | 3 | 200-260 | 55 | 0.599 |
| 25     | ENA17       | CAGTTATTTTGGCGCT CGTCT TATTTGCGTGTATTGGA | 3 | 250-320 | 55 | 0.598 |
| S. No. | Pattern of alleles | Locus name | Tm (°C) | No. of alleles | Size (bp) | PIC value |
|-------|-------------------|------------|---------|---------------|----------|-----------|
|       |                   |            |         |               |          | Brassica  |
|       |                   |            |         |               |          | Bio5SR    |
|       |                   |            |         |               |          | GEC-144   |
|       |                   |            |         |               |          | GEC-397225|
|       |                   |            |         |               |          | RLC-3     |
|       |                   |            |         |               |          | Becna   |
|       |                   |            |         |               |          | PM-24     |
|       |                   |            |         |               |          | PM-30     |
|       |                   |            |         |               |          | NRCDR-02  |
|       |                   |            |         |               |          | DRMRJ-31 |
|       |                   |            |         |               |          | RH-0749    |
|       |                   |            |         |               |          | LAXMI    |
|       |                   |            |         |               |          | RLC-1     |
|       |                   |            |         |               |          | RLC-2     |
| 1     |                   | MR33       | 49      | 2             | 180-230  | 0.244     |
| 2     | Unique            | BrgMS490   | 54      | 2             | 200-250  | 0.188     |
| 3     |                    | Ni2D10     | 52      | 2             | 170-200  | 0.117     |
| 4     |                    | BrgMS75    | 54      | 2             | 120-180  | 0.099     |
| 5     |                    | cnu_m602a  | 55      | 2             | 240-270  | 0.197     |
| 6     |                    | sORA43     | 55      | 2             | 120-150  | 0.218     |
| 7     |                    | BrgMS792   | 55      | 2             | 200-240  | 0.218     |
| 8     |                    | BrgMS344   | 53      | 2             | 220-250  | 0.197     |
| 9     | Rare              | BrgMS778   | 54      | 2             | 180-260  | 0.180     |
| 10    |                    | BRMS-027   | 50      | 2             | 200-240  | 0.336     |
| 11    |                    | BRMS-029   | 55      | 2             | 200-220  | 0.277     |
| 12    |                    | ENA4       | 55      | 2             | 150-200  | 0.459     |
| 13    |                    | H01        | 55      | 3             | 100-150  | 0.581     |
| 14    | Frequent           | BRMS-006   | 49      | 2             | 150-200  | 0.290     |
| 15    |                    | BrgMS783   | 54      | 2             | 310-340  | 0.320     |
| 16    |                    | BrgMS388   | 56      | 2             | 370-400  | 0.320     |
| 17    |                    | BrgMS794   | 53      | 2             | 250-270  | 0.345     |
| 18    |                    | NCA12      | 54      | 2             | 80-130   | 0.332     |
| 19    |                    | MR176      | 50      | 3             | 150-230  | 0.244     |
| 20    |                    | BRMS-005   | 50      | 2             | 200-250  | 0.362     |
| 21    |                    | cnu_m584a  | 55      | 2             | 200-250  | 0.408     |
| 22    |                    | cnu_m605a  | 55      | 2             | 200-230  | 0.426     |
| 23    |                    | cnu_m613a  | 55      | 2             | 160-210  | 0.375     |
| 24    |                    | cnu_m625a  | 55      | 3             | 200-270  | 0.625     |
| 25    |                    | Ra2-G08    | 55      | 2             | 300-350  | 0.415     |
| 26    |                    | Ra2-H07    | 55      | 3             | 180-250  | 0.613     |
| 27    | Frequent           | Ra2-H10    | 55      | 3             | 120-170  | 0.627     |
| 28    |                    | GOL3       | 55      | 2             | 120-150  | 0.359     |
| 29    |                    | ENA18      | 55      | 2             | 100-130  | 0.473     |
| 30    |                    | ENA20      | 55      | 2             | 140-160  | 0.375     |
| 31    |                    | A11        | 55      | 2             | 250-270  | 0.444     |
| 32    |                    | B03        | 55      | 2             | 200-230  | 0.480     |
| 33    |                    | E07        | 55      | 3             | 120-170  | 0.626     |
| 34    |                    | Ni3-F01    | 55      | 2             | 150-200  | 0.489     |
| 35    |                    | A09        | 55      | 2             | 100-170  | 0.473     |
| 36    |                    | G02        | 55      | 3             | 200-260  | 0.598     |
| 37    |                    | G09A       | 55      | 2             | 100-150  | 0.387     |
| 38    |                    | G10        | 55      | 3             | 175-250  | 0.580     |
| 39    |                    | G11        | 55      | 2             | 175-200  | 0.415     |

**Table 4** Details of frequent, rare and unique alleles

*Brassica juncea* varieties

2512
Cluster analysis based on SSRs

The UPGMA dendrogram was constructed using 15 genotypes based on SSR marker data and it gave three distinct groups (Fig. 2). The cluster analysis discriminated well between the 15 genotypes and the relationships detected between different genotypes were in agreement with their known pedigree relationships. The genetic relationships among the 15 genotypes exhibited variation. The similarity coefficients were found to vary from 0.447 to 0.767 revealing the presence of maximum diversity between these genotypes. Similar kind of genetic variation has also been observed by Alie et al., (2009) and Singh et al., (2010) in B. juncea. The highest value for genetic similarity (76.7%) was found between RLC-1 and RLC-2 followed by 73.8% between NRCDR-02 and DRMR IJ-31 and 71.5% between Bio-YSR and BEC-144. RLC-3 and BEC-144 were associated with each other with least similarity (44.7%).

Cluster I consisted of 3 donors for white rust resistance namely Donskaja, Bio-YSR, BEC-144 where Bio-YSR and BEC-144 exhibited highest similarity (71.5%) followed by Donskaja and BEC-144 (63.7%), Donskaja and Bio-YSR (63.3%). Cluster II comprised of three double low donors viz. PDZ-1, Heera, EC-597325. Here, PDZ-1 and Heera showed least similarity (58.1%) while PDZ-1 and EC-597325 were close to each other with 67.6% similarity while Heera and EC-597325 had 66.3% similarity. One donor RLC-3 and eight recipient genotypes were grouped together in Cluster III. In this cluster, RLC-1 and RLC-2 were grouped together at a highest similarity of 76.7% as they had a similar plant type, yield and grain characters and were developed from the same cross (QM4 x Pusa bold) while RLC-3 was grouped with PM-24 as it has different parental lineage than RLC-1 and RLC-2. Similarly, PM-24 and PM-30 were closely associated with each other and both are single zero and clustered together at a lower similarity of 68.9%. NRCDR-02 and DRMR-IJ-31 showed closer relationship with similarity of 73.8% while two genotypes RH0749 and Laxmi showed similarity of 66.3%.

This depicts the importance of SSR markers in estimating the close pedigree relationships in breeding material. They are highly polymorphic, reproducible, co-dominant, PCR-based markers and are the most preferred one and thus considered to be very potent in genotype discrimination. It has been reported previously that SSR is an important tool for germplasm characterization in a variety of crops, including oilseed Brassica (Saal et al., 2001). A similar result regarding effectiveness of SSR markers in monitoring genetic diversity have also been reported by Hopkins et al., (2006) and Fu and Gugel, (2010). Thus, in this study, the dendrogram constructed using the UPGMA method depicted that genotypes which were genetically similar were grouped together and explained the relationship between these genotypes. Genetic variation existing among selected genotypes of B. juncea will be further helpful in developing and planning breeding strategies by estimating genetic relationships among different genotypes and crop improvement programs will be implemented taking them into consideration.

This study confirmed that the tested genotypes possessed a good level of microsatellite variation. The markers used here were of value for characterizing the mustard genotypes and thus further can be used for background selection in breeding programs. It can be concluded that as SSR markers are free from environmental influences they are the stronger tools than quantitative trait data in distinguishing B. juncea genotypes based on pedigree and origin.
Acknowledgements

Director, ICAR- DRMR (Directorate of Rapeseed-Mustard Research), Bharatpur-321303, Rajasthan, India, is sincerely acknowledged for providing the necessary support to carry out this research work. Authors also acknowledge Dr. D.K. Yadav, Coordinator of the DBT funded project entitled “Development of white rust resistant mustard with high oil quality”, IARI, New Delhi for providing primer sequences and facilitating seed materials of the mustard genotypes for this study.

Funding

This work was funded by the DBT (Department of Biotechnology), Government of India, New Delhi, under the Development of white rust resistant mustard with high oil quality project (grant number BT/PR10929/AGII/106/955/2014).

Conflict of interest

We declare that no conflict of interest exits among authors in the submission of this manuscript.

References

Abbas, S.J., Marwat Farhatullah, K.B., Khan, I.A. and Munir, I. 2009. Molecular analysis of genetic diversity in Brassica species. Pak. J. Bot. 41: 167-176.
Abdelmigid, H.M., 2012. Efficiency of random amplified polymorphic DNA (RAPD) and Inter-simple sequence repeats (ISSR) markers for genotype fingerprinting and genetic diversity studies in canola (Brassica napus). Africán J. Biotech. 11: 6409-6419.
Akkaya, M.S., and Buyukunal-Bal, E.B. 2004. Assessment of genetic variation of bread wheat varieties using microsatellite markers. Euphytica 135:179-185.
Ali, W., Munir, I., Ahmad, M.A., Muhammad, W., Ahmed, N., Durrishahwar, A.S. and Swati, Z.A. 2007. Molecular characterization of some local and exotic Brassica juncea germplasm. African J. Biotech. 6: 1634-1638.
Alie, F.A., Singh, T., Tariq and Sharma, P.K. 2009. Genetic diversity analysis in Indian mustard [Brassica juncea (L.) czern & coss]. Progr. Agri. Internl. J. 9: 50-53.
Alvarez, A., Fuentes, J.L., Puldón, V., Gómez, P.J., Moral, L., Duque, M.C., Gallego, G. and Tohme, J.M. 2007. Genetic diversity analysis of Cuban traditional rice (Oryza sativa L.) varieties based on microsatellite markers. Genet. Mol. Bio. 30:1109-1117.
Anderson, J.A., Churchill, G.A., Autique, J.E., Tanksley, S.D. and Sorreils, M.E. 1993. Optimizing parental selection for genetic-linkage maps. Genome 36:181-186.
Chandra, V., Pant, U., Bhajan, R. and Singh, A.K. 2013. Studies on genetic diversity among Alternaria blight Tolerant Indian mustard genotypes using SSR markers. The Bioscan 8(4):1431-1435.
Divaret, I., Margale, E. and Thomas, G. 1999. RAPD markers on seed bulks efficiently assess the genetic diversity of a Brassica oleracea L. collection. Theor Appl. Genet. 98: 1029-1035.
Fu, Y.B., and Gugel, R.K. 2010. Genetic Diversity of Canadian elite summer rape (B. napus L.) Cultivars from the pre to post canola quality era. Can. J. Plant Sci. 90: 23-33.
Hallden, C., Nilsson, N.O., Rading, I.M. and Sall, T. 1994. Evaluation of RFLP and RAPD markers in a comparison of Brassica napus breeding lines. Theor
Appl. Genet. 88:123-128.
Hamza, S., Hamida, W.B., Rebai, A. and Harrabi, M. 2004. SSR based genetic diversity assessment among Tunisian winter barley and relationship with morphological traits. Euphytica 135: 107-118.
Hopkins, C., Mogg, R., Gororo, N., Salisbury, P., Burton, W., Love, C., Spangenberg, G., Edwards, D. and Batley, J. 2006. An assessment of genetic diversity within and between Brassica napus and Brassica juncea lines from International Germplasm Collections. Proc. Joint Meeting 14th Crucifer Genetics Workshop 115 & 4th ISHS Symposium on Brassicas. Acta Horti. 706: 115-119.
Hu, S., Yu, C., Zhao, H., Sun, G., Zhao, S., Vyvadilova, M. and Kucera, V. 2007. Genetic diversity of Brassica napus L. Germplasm from China and Europe assessed by some agronomically important characters. Euphytica 154: 9-16.
Khan, W.M., Munir, I., Farhatullah Arif, M., Iqbal, A., Ali, I., Ahmad, D., Ahmad, M., Mian, A., Bakht, J., Inamullah and Swati, Z. A. 2011. Assessment of genetic diversity of Brassica juncea germplasm from China and Europe assessed by some agronomically important characters. Euphytica 154: 9-16.
Mishra, M.K., Suresh, N., Bhat, A.M., Suryaprakash, N., Kumar, S.S., Kumar, A. and Jayarama. 2011. Genetic molecular analysis of Coffea arabica (Rubiaceae) hybrids using SRAP markers. Rev. Biol. Trop. 59:607-617.
Mohammadi, S.A., and Prasanna, B.M. 2003. Analysis of genetic diversity in crop plants salient statistical tools and considerations Review & Interpretation. Crop Sci. 43: 1235-1248.
Murray, H.G., and Thompson, W.F. 1980. Rapid isolation of high molecular weight DNA. Nucl. Acids Res. 8:4321-4325.
Nei, M., 1976. Analysis of gene diversity in subdivided populations. Pro Nat. Acad. Sci. USA 70: 3321-3323.
Powell, W., Machray, G.C. and Provan, J. 1996. Polymorphism revealed by simple sequence repeats. Trends Plant. Sci. 1:215–222.
Pradhan, A.K., Sodhi, Y.S., Mukhopadhyay, A. and Pental, D. 1993. Heterosis breeding in Indian mustard. Analysis of component characters contributing to heterosis for yield. Euphytica 69: 219-229.
Qi, X., Yang, J. and Zhang, M. 2008. AFLP-based genetic diversity assessment among Chinese vegetable mustards (Brassica juncea (L.) Czern.). Genet. Resour Crop Evol. 55: 705-711.
Rahman, M.M., Rasaul, M.G., Hossain, M.A., Iftekharuddaula, K.M. and Hasegawa, H. 2012. Molecular characterization and genetic diversity analysis of rice (Oryza sativa L.) using SSR markers. J. Crop Imp. 26: 244-257.
Russell, J., Fuller, J., Macaulay, M., Hatz, B., Jahoor, A., Powell, W. and Waugh, R. 1997. Direct comparison of levels of genetic variation among barley accessions detected by RFLPs, AFLPs, SSRs, and RAPDs. Theor. Appl. Genet. 95:714-722.
Saal, B.J., Plieske, J., Hu, C.F., Quiros and Struss, D. 2001. Microsatellite markers for genome analysis in Brassica. II. Assignment of rapeseed microsatellites to the A and C genomes and genetic mapping in *Brassica oleracea* L. *Theor. Appl. Genet.* 102: 695-699.

Sahu, P., Khare, D., Tripathi, N., Shrivastava, A.N. and Saini, N. 2012. Molecular screening for disease resistance in soybean. *J. Food Leg.* 25(3):200- 205.

Salazar, B., Laurentin, H., Davila, M. and Castillo, M.A. 2006. Reliability of the RAPD technique for germplasm analysis of sesame (*Sesamum indicum* L.) from Venezuela. *Interciencia* 31:456-460.

Singh, D., Arya, R.K., Chandra, N., Niwas, R. and Salisbury, P. 2010. Genetic diversity studies in relation to seed yield and its component traits in Indian mustard (*Brassica juncea* L. Czern & Coss.). *J. Oil. Brass.* 1:19-22.

Sivaranjani, R., Santha, I.M., Pandey, N., Vishwakarma, A.K., Nepolean, T. and Hossain, F. 2014. Microsatellite-based genetic diversity in selected exotic and indigenous maize (*Zea mays* L.) inbred lines differing in total kernel carotenoids. *Ind. J. Genet.* 74: 34-41.

Vinu, V., Singh, N., Vasudev, S., Yadava, D.K., Kumar, S., Naresh, S., Bhat, S.R. and Prabhu, K.V. 2013. Assessment of genetic diversity in *Brassica juncea* (Brassicaceae) genotypes using phenotypic differences and SSR markers. *Rev. Biol. Trop.* 61(4): 1919-1934.

Wong, S.C., Yiu, P.H., Bong, S.T.W., Lee, H.H., Neoh, P.N.P. and Rajan, A. 2009. Analysis of sarawak bario rice diversity using microsatellite markers. *Amer. J. Agril. Biol Sci.* 4:298-304.

Yadava, D.K., Parida, S.K., Dwivedi, V.K., Varshney, A., Ghazi, I.A., Sujata, V. and Mohapatra, T. 2009. Cross-transferability and polymorphic potential of genomic STMS markers of Brassica species. *J. Plant Biochem. Biotech.* 18:29-36.

Zhang, C., ShiMeng, S., DeMin, J., ZhiLiang, S., Tai, G.B., Bin, W., Zhang, C.L., Sun, S.M., Jin, D.M., Sun, Z.L., Guo, B.T. and Wang, B. 1998. Rapid identification of twelve elite maize inbred lines using RAPD markers. *Acta Agron. Sinica* 24: 118-722.

Zhao, J.J., Wang, X.W., Deng, B., Lou, P., Wu, L., Sun, R.F., Xu, Z.Y., Vromans, J., Koornneef, M. and Bonnema, G. 2005. Genetic relationships within *Brassica rapa* as inferred from AFLP fingerprints. *Theor. Appl. Genet.* 110:1301-1314.