Identification of genome-specific transcripts in wheat–rye translocation lines

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ABSTRACT

Studying gene expression in wheat–rye translocation lines is complicated due to the presence of homeolog in hexaploid wheat and high levels of synteny between wheat and rye genomes (Naranjo and Fernandez-Rueda, 1991 [1]; Devos et al., 1995 [2]; Lee et al., 2010 [3]; Lee et al., 2013 [4]). To overcome limitations of current gene expression studies on wheat–rye translocation lines and identify genome-specific transcripts, we developed a custom Roche NimbleGen Gene Expression microarray that contains probes derived from the sequence of hexaploid wheat, diploid rye and diploid progenitors of hexaploid wheat genome (Lee et al., 2014). Using the array developed, we identified genome-specific transcripts in a wheat–rye translocation line (Lee et al., 2014). Expression data are deposited in the NCBI Gene Expression Omnibus (GEO) under accession number GSE58678. Here we report the details of the methods used in the array workflow and data analysis.

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1. Direct link to deposited data

http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/geo/query/acc.cgi?acc = GSE58678.

2. Experimental design, materials and methods

2.1. Plant materials and a custom array design

We use the term wheat–rye translocation line(s) to designate hexaploid wheat (ABD genome; T. aestivum) that possesses part of the rye genome (R; S. cereale) in the form of chromosome translocations [6,7, 8]. Near-isolines (NILs) were developed by backcross introgression to form BC2F3,4 ('Coker 797' × 'Hamlet') [9] and differed in the presence or absence of the long arm of rye chromosome 2 (2RL) derived from the diploid rye ‘Chaupon’ [9,10]. We used a NIL carrying 2RL (hereafter, 2BS.2RL) as a material of wheat–rye translocation lines [5]. Details of the sequence preparation for probe design were described in Lee et al. [5]. Sequence data sets used for probe design were as follows: A genome sequence, T. monococcum (A genome progenitor of hexaploid wheat, which belongs to the A genome lineage); B, Ae. speltoides (B genome progenitor, which belongs to the B genome lineage); D, Ae. squarrosa & Ae. tauschii (close relative of subgenome D of hexaploid wheat and D genome progenitor, which belong to the D genome lineage); ABD, T. aestivum; R, S. cereale.

Fig. 1. Agarose gel electrophoresis of the RNA isolated from plant samples. Lanes 1, 2, 3 & 4 for T. urartu; 5, 6, 7 & 8 for Ae. speltoides; 9, 10, 11 & 12 for Ae. squarrosa; 13, 14, 15 & 16 for ‘Chinese Spring’; 17, 18, 19 & 20 for ‘Chaupon’; 21, 22, 23 & 24 for 2BS.2RL. C, control RNA (3 μg). M, 100 bp size marker.

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2.2. cDNA preparation

cDNAs from diploid progenitors (A, B or D genomes) of hexaploid wheat and diploid rye (R) were used to empirically identify probes that distinguish transcripts derived from distinct genomes in a 2BS.2RL wheat–rye translocation line [5]; T. urartu (A genome progenitor of hexaploid wheat, which belongs to the A genome lineage) for A genome cDNA, *Ae. speltoides* for B, *Ae. squarrosa* for D, hexaploid wheat cultivar 'Chinese Spring' for ABD, 'Chaupon' for R, 2BS.2RL for ABD and genome of 2RL rather than the long arm of wheat chromosome 2B. For the synthesis of double-stranded cDNA, the RevertAid H Minus First Strand cDNA Synthesis Kit (Life Technologies, USA) was used. A mixture of 1 μl of oligo dT primer (100 μM) and 10 μl of total RNA (10 μg; Fig. 1) was denatured at 70 °C for 5 min, then placed on ice. 4 μl of 5× First Strand Buffer, 1 μl Ribonuclease Inhibitor, 2 μl 10 mM dNTP mix and 1 μl RevertAid H Minus M-MuLV Reverse Transcriptase were added to the mixture to synthesize first-strand DNA. The mixture was incubated at 42 °C for 1 h followed by 70 °C to terminate the reaction. 66.7 μl nuclease-free water, 5 μl of 10× reaction buffer for DNA Polymerase I (Life Technologies, USA), 5 μl of 10× T4 DNA ligase buffer (Takara, Japan), 3 μl of 10 U/μl DNA Polymerase I (Life Technologies, USA), 0.2 μl of 5 U/μl RNase H (Life Technologies, USA) and 0.1 μl of 350 U/μl T4 DNA ligase (Takara, Japan) were added to the first-strand cDNA mixture for the second-strand synthesis, then the reaction was incubated at 15 °C for 2 h. After incubation, the double-stranded cDNA mixture was purified using the MinElute Reaction Cleanup Kit (Qiagen, USA). For the synthesis of Cy3-labeled DNA, 1 μg of double-stranded cDNA was mixed with 30 μl (1 O.D. value) of Cy3-9 mer primers (Sigma-Aldrich, USA), then denatured at 98 °C for 10 min. The reaction was further proceeded by adding 10 μl of 50×

### Table 1

| Image name | Signal range | Uniformity mean | Uniformity CV | Mean empty | Mean experimental | Mean random |
|------------|--------------|-----------------|---------------|------------|-------------------|-------------|
| A-rep1     | 0.324        | 3420.742        | 0.056         | 748.293    | 3112.410          | 299.421     |
| A-rep2     | 0.391        | 3786.480        | 0.073         | 806.584    | 3431.427          | 384.572     |
| B-rep1     | 0.253        | 3669.083        | 0.042         | 699.951    | 3323.705          | 388.067     |
| B-rep2     | 0.317        | 3906.683        | 0.065         | 664.536    | 3507.074          | 412.286     |
| D-rep1     | 0.322        | 3432.887        | 0.085         | 744.664    | 3157.820          | 307.147     |
| D-rep2     | 0.379        | 3612.947        | 0.079         | 651.326    | 3252.032          | 358.274     |
| ABD-rep1   | 0.340        | 3347.635        | 0.046         | 646.016    | 3057.003          | 330.758     |
| ABD-rep2   | 0.265        | 3868.671        | 0.059         | 703.033    | 3510.957          | 364.590     |
| 2BS.2RL-rep1| 0.174       | 4060.942        | 0.025         | 714.850    | 3647.586          | 393.915     |
| 2BS.2RL-rep2| 0.638       | 3743.406        | 0.096         | 744.796    | 3389.392          | 392.318     |
| R-rep1     | 0.202        | 3423.374        | 0.032         | 710.719    | 3129.917          | 323.823     |
| R-rep2     | 0.333        | 3579.254        | 0.063         | 800.672    | 3287.313          | 500.004     |

* The name of the analyzed image file. Image name is labelled according to the cDNA probe and replication (replicates 1 or 2) of the array.

Fig. 2. Scatter plots showing correlation of signal values between two biological replicates. (A) *T. urartu*, (B) *Ae. speltoides*, (C) *Ae. squarrosa*, (D) 'Chinese Spring', (E) 'Chaupon' & (F) 2BS.2RL. Gray dots represent the entire probes in arrays. Probes derived from diploid genome sequences were shown in red ((A) for A genome-derived probes, (B) for B, (C) for D & (E) for R). Pearson’s correlation coefficients were calculated using the log-transformed values for probes in both biological replicates. r values are indicated in the plots. x- and y-axes represent the 1st and 2nd biological replicates, respectively.
dNTP mix (10 mM each), 8 μl of deionized water and 2 μl of Klenow fragment (50 U/μl; Takara, Japan) to the mixture. After incubation at 37 °C for 2 h, 11.5 μl of 5 M NaCl and 110 μl of isopropanol were added to the mixture. DNA was collected by centrifugation at 12,000 g. The products of Cy3-labeled DNA were rehydrated. The concentration of sample was measured using spectrophotometer.

2.3. Hybridization

10 μg of DNA was used for array hybridization. The sample was mixed with 19.5 μl of 2× hybridization buffer (NimbleGen, USA) and finalized to 39 μl with deionized water. Hybridization was performed using the MAUI chamber (Bio micro, USA) at 42 °C for 16–18 h. After hybridization, the array was immediately immersed in 250 μl Wash I (NimbleGen, USA) at 42 °C for 10–15 s. After incubation, the array was transferred to Wash II followed by Wash III. The array was centrifuged at 500 g for 1 min.

2.4. Data analysis

The array was scanned using the Genepix 4000 B (Axon, USA) preset with a 5 μm resolution for Cy3 signal. Signals were analyzed by NimbleScan v2.5 (NimbleGen, USA). The grid was aligned to the image with a chip design file (.ndf). Expression analysis was performed: (1) pair reports files (.pair) were generated in which sequence, probe and signal intensity information for Cy3 channel were collected; (2) background subtraction using a local background estimator was performed to improve fold change estimates on arrays with high background signal; (3) the data was normalized and processed with cubic spline normalization using quantiles to adjust signal variations between ground signal; (4) the data was normalized and processed with cubic spline normalization using quantiles to adjust signal variations between ground signal; (5) the data was normalized and processed with cubic spline normalization using quantiles to adjust signal variations between ground signal.

2.5. Experimental metrics report obtained from NimbleScan was listed in Table 1. Probe-level summarization by Robust Multi-array Analysis (RMA) using a median polish algorithm implemented in NimbleScan was used to produce the call files (.calls). Multiple analyses were performed with LIMMA package in R software environment. A threshold of 0.05 (false discovery rate; FDR) was applied. RMA normalized data for each experiment were log_{10} transformed (Fig. 2) followed by standardization using Z score transformation [11]. The Z ratio was used for calculating differences in hybridization values of probes across different species. A Z ratio of ±1.96 was deduced as significant \( P < 0.05 \); e.g. we identified rye genome sequence-derived probes that hybridized better (Z ratio > 1.96) to cDNA from rye rather than to cDNAs from all other species as rye-specific transcripts [5].

3. Discussion

It’s been widely accepted that the hexaploid wheat subgenomes A, B and D were derived from the three diploid species. There is evidence that the sequences of genes were highly conserved between the hexaploid subgenomes and their respective diploid relatives [12,13]. The sequence identity of genes between species in the same diploid lineage is higher than that of between two different diploid lineages for homoeologous chromosomes. For both cases of probe sequence design and cDNA preparation, we have used the diploid species that belong to the subgenome lineage or close relatives of each subgenome of the hexaploid wheat [5]. Therefore, subgenome-specific expression profiles in hexaploid wheat are most likely to be detected by their respective genome-specific probes designed in this study. Using the cDNA from a wheat–rye translocation line, we further identified transcripts that showed preferential hybridization to rye chromatin [5]. Hence, our data address an original approach for probing genome-specific transcripts in wheat–rye translocation lines.

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