**Directional transfer of a multiple-allele male sterile line in Brassica campestris L. ssp. chinensis (L.) Makino var. rosalari**s Tsen et Lee

Qiu Shi Wang, Xi Zhang, Cheng Yu Li, Zhi Yong Liu and Hui Feng*

*Corresponding author (e-mail: fenghuiaaa@263.net)

Department of Horticulture, Shenyang Agricultural University, Shenyang, Liaoning, 110866, China

To produce hybrid seeds of Wutacai (Brassica campestris L. ssp. chinensis (L.) Makino var. rosalari) s Tsen et Lee), a “directional transfer program” was designed to breed the multiple-allele male sterile line of Wutacai. A multiple-allele male sterile line of Naibaicai (Brassica campestris L. ssp. chinensis L., S01) was used as the male sterile line, and an inbred line of Wutacai (WT01) was used as the target line. Recurrent backcrossing was employed to transfer the male sterility and other botanical traits simultaneously, while the genotype was identified through test crossing. The male sterility was successfully transferred from S01 to WT01. A new male sterile line, GMS-3, with similar botanical traits to WT01, was bred. Four hybrid combinations were generated with GMS-3 as the female parent. One hybrid (C1) that contained the most desirable traits was developed from the new male sterile line.

**Key Words:** Brassica campestris L. ssp. chinensis (L.) Makino var. rosalari Tsen et Lee, multiple-allele male sterile line, breeding.

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**Introduction**

Wutacai, a variant of the subspecies of Brassica campestris, originated in China and is widely distributed in the Yangtze River basin (Li 1990). Its glossy dark-green leaflets have many folds and its rosette leaves are arranged in wheel-like growth forms. It has been given the laudatory name “leaf peony” because of its beautiful shape. Wutacai tastes fresh and crisp, and is also called the “vitamin” vegetable (Li 2000b) due to its high ascorbic acid content and the presence of other trace nutrients, such as carotene, calcium, iron, phosphorus, and zinc (Shu and Zhou 2005).

Wutacai is an example of an allogamous plant with bisexual flowers and obvious heterosis (Feng et al. 2008). However, due to a lack of ideal hybrid seed production procedures, only conventional varieties are currently available. Male sterility is an important approach to exploiting heterosis (Havey 2004, Ke et al. 1992, Zhang et al. 1990). Through this approach, not only can a high level of purity be obtained in hybrid seeds, but the intellectual property of breeders can also be protected. As reported by Xu et al. (2007), Ogura cytoplasmic male sterility in Chinese cabbage can be successfully transferred to Wutacai. However, the disadvantages of this transfer include leaf etiolation, nectar degeneration, and a slowed growth rate, such that the method cannot be extensively utilized for hybrid seed production. Feng et al. (1995) found an incidence of multiple-allele male sterility in Chinese cabbage and proposed the “genetic hypothesis of multiple-allele male sterile gene in Chinese cabbage”. Based on this hypothesis, male sterility is dominated by a multiple-allele locus that includes Ms’, Ms, and ms. Among them, the Ms allele is a male sterile gene, the ms allele is a fertile gene, and the Ms’ allele is a fertility restoration gene. The dominant to recessive relationship of the alleles is Ms’ > Ms > ms. The male sterile AB line in this hypothesis is used to maintain male sterile plants. It contains two genotypes of Ms’Ms and MsMs, half of which is fertile and the other half is sterile. The AB line is maintained by sib mating between the male sterile and fertile plants (MsMs × Ms/Ms → 1/2 MsMs, 1/2 Ms/Ms) (Fig. 2). This male sterility is characterized by its stable and complete sterile performance without a negative cytoplasmic effect. Xu et al. (2011) reported that the multiple-allele male sterility of pak choi (Brassica campestris L. ssp. chinensis L.) was transferred to Wutacai through crossing and bred a male sterile line. However, this male sterile line was developed from two parents showing significant differences in their genetic backgrounds. Therefore, the F1 hybrids that developed from the male sterile line are not uniform.

The current research aimed to find an appropriate method for breeding the multiple-allele male sterile line of Wutacai. To achieve this objective, a new multiple-allele male sterile line of Naibaicai was adopted, and a “directional transfer program” was designed.

**Materials and Methods**

**Plant materials**

All materials used in this research were provided by the Liaoning Key Laboratory of Genetics and Breeding of
Cruciferous Vegetable Crops in China. Male sterility resources and tester cross materials were from S01, a male sterile line of Naibaicai (Fig. 1A, 1B). The target line WT01 is an excellent inbred line of Wutacai and was used as a recurrent parent (Fig. 1C, 1D). Hybrid varieties were made by crosses between a new male sterile line and four high-quality and stable genetic inbred lines (P1, P2, P3, and P4), and their performances were compared.

Conventional transformation methods

Our experiment was conducted at the Horticulture Research Laboratory of Shenyang Agricultural University from 2008 to 2011. Two sexual generations were grown each year. In spring, sowing and seedling growth were completed in a sunlight greenhouse. When the true leaves grew to 6–7 films, the seedlings were transplanted into 22-cm mud pots. At the end of May, inflorescences were covered with pollination bags, and pollination was carried out by hand when the plants were flowering. A second generation was added in autumn and winter. Seeds were vernalized after germination at 2°C in a refrigerator for 25 days. Without being transplanted, plant materials of test crosses were directly sowed in a tray with holes after vernalization, and fertility rates were determined when the plants bolted and flowered. Crossing, backcrossing, test crossing, and selfing were employed to transfer the male sterility.

The assessment of sterility

To assess “the degree of male sterility” in Wutacai (GMS-3), 1000 flowers from 100 plants (keeping 10 flowers per inflorescence per plant and removing the other flowers) were covered with pollination bags to prevent pollination, and their selfed seed fertility was examined. The number of flowers inside pollination bags that resulted in seedpods was recorded at maturity. To assess “the percentage of male sterile plants”, 100 GMS-3s were planted and the fertility of individual plants (the number of plants with pollen in flowers) was recorded at flowering.

Comparative experiment

Plots were arranged in the field in a randomized complete block design with three replicates. Each of the plots measured 3 m × 1.5 m. Plant and row spacing was 30 cm × 50 cm. With the newly bred GMS-3 as the female parent, four combinations were generated by crossing GMS-3 with the four inbred lines: P1, P2, P3, and P4. The ‘vitamin’ variety was used as a control (CK).

Chemical components analysis

Samples (leaves) of plants were collected at random from each plot (four plants per plot) during harvest and then mixed into composite samples to carry out the analysis. Several chemical measurements were taken from leaves: ascorbic acid content, soluble sugar content, protein content, organic acid content, crude fiber content, and the amount of six trace elements. The ascorbic acid component was measured by molybdenum blue colorimetry (Li 2000a). The anthrone colorimetry method was adopted to determine the content of soluble sugars (Shi et al. 2011). Coomassie brilliant blue G 250 staining was used for the detection of proteins (Liu and Lin 2008). Organic acid content was determined by acid-base titration, and the acid washing method was used for crude fiber content analysis (Xie and Qu 2006). Atomic absorption spectrometry was adopted to analyze for trace elements content (Deng 2003).
Results

Genotyping of the target line

Based on the “genetic hypothesis of multiple-allele male sterile gene in Chinese cabbage,” the special genetic model of this locus results in six genotypes, of which four genotypes, Ms/mS, Ms/ms, Ms/ms, and Ms/Ms, shared an identical fertile phenotype. The genotype Ms/Ms was eliminated in the breeding process because its selfing progenies displayed a 3:1 segregation ratio for fertility and sterility. The remaining three genotypes were distinguished by a test cross. Fig. 3 shows the model of identifying the genotypes. In this research, 45 fertile F1 plants were obtained from the cross between male sterile plants in the AB line of Naibaicai and WT01, indicating that the genotype of WT01 was Ms/mS.

The breeding model

The genetic model of directional transfer was designed in accordance with the results of genotype identification of the target line. The line S01 with the Ms/ms genotype was selected as a male sterility resource, and the target line WT01 with the Ms/mS genotype was used as the recurrent parent. The “AB line direction” represents the populations in backcross generations that were selected to screen the AB line, whereas the “temporary maintainer direction” indicates a population that was selected to screen for a temporary maintainer (Fig. 4).

The breeding results

According to the model shown in Fig. 3, F1 plants should have two genotypes (Ms/mS, Ms/ms) showing an identical fertile phenotype. Seven plants were selected and then self-pollinated to obtain the F2 generation. The genotypes of F1 plants could be identified according to the segregation ratio for fertility and sterility in the F2 population (Table 1). Simultaneously, a backcross was conducted between the seven F1 plants and the recurrent parent to construct a BC1 population. The BC1 plants used for the AB line direction (Ms/mS) and temporary maintainer direction (Ms/ms) were distinguished from each other according to the results of genotype identification of F1 plants (Table 2). In the next generation, seven plants were selected from each direction of BC1 to conduct a backcross with the recurrent parent and to obtain a BC2 generation. At the same time, these plants

### Table 1. Segregation ratio for fertility and sterility in the F2 generation

| Code | Fertile plants/Sterile plants | Theoretical ratio ($X^2_{0.05,1} = 3.84$) | Genotype of F1 plant | Genotypes of F2 population |
|------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| (S01 × WT01)-1⊗ | 50/0 | All fertile | Ms/mS | Ms/mS, Ms/mS, Ms/ms, Ms/mS |
| (S01 × WT01)-2⊗ | 35/13 | 3:1 (0.111) | Ms/mS | Ms/mS, Ms/mS, Ms/mS, Ms/mS |
| (S01 × WT01)-3⊗ | 36/12 | 3:1 (0.000) | Ms/mS | Ms/mS, Ms/mS, Ms/mS, Ms/mS |
| (S01 × WT01)-4⊗ | 39/14 | 3:1 (0.057) | Ms/mS | Ms/mS, Ms/mS, Ms/mS, Ms/mS |
| (S01 × WT01)-5⊗ | 46/0 | All fertile | Ms/mS | Ms/mS, Ms/mS, Ms/mS, Ms/mS |
| (S01 × WT01)-6⊗ | 49/0 | All fertile | Ms/mS | Ms/mS, Ms/mS, Ms/mS, Ms/mS |
| (S01 × WT01)-7⊗ | 39/16 | 3:1 (0.491) | Ms/mS | Ms/mS, Ms/mS, Ms/mS, Ms/mS |
were test crossed with S01. The backcross progenies of the BC1 plants were identified as Ms'Ms and Ms'ms, meaning that the AB line direction and the "temporary maintainer" direction of the BC1 line could be developed, while those of the Ms'Ms' plants were eliminated (Table 3). Fig. 5 shows the genetic model of the test crosses. By repeating this procedure, the AB line direction and the temporary maintainer direction of BC3 and BC4 could also be developed.

In Table 4, we present the results of genotype identification of selected plants in each backcross generation. Plants resulting from the test cross that were close to the theoretical segregation ratio and those with desired botanical traits were selected. After four generations of backcrossing, seven plants were selected from each direction and were both selfand test-crossed. According to the results from the test cross, the plants identified as Ms'Ms and Ms'ms were selected and their selfing progenies were selected as target groups to screen the AB line and the temporary maintainer. The selected groups are shown in Table 5.

In the AB line direction of the target groups, selfing of Ms'Ms resulted in a fertile and sterile plant segregation ratio of 3 : 1. Three genotypes (Ms'Ms', Ms'Ms and Ms'Ms) were observed in the selfing progenies of Ms'Ms. Sib mating was performed between the male sterile plants (MsMs) and five fertile plants (Ms'Ms' or Ms'Ms) that were randomly selected. The new AB line (Ms'Ms, MsMs) was obtained if the progeny shared a 1 : 1 segregation ratio (Table 6). In the temporary maintainer direction of the target groups, three genotypes (Ms'Ms', Ms'Ms and MsMs) also existed in the selfing progenies of the Ms'ms plants, and all of the plants were fertile. Sixteen fertile plants were selected to perform selfing and test crossing with the male sterile plant (MsMs) found in the selfing progeny of the Ms'Ms plants. In this manner, the temporary maintainer was obtained, and all test crossed progenies were sterile (Table 7).

Since the optimal male sterile plant in the AB line was chosen to cross with the temporary maintainer, a male sterile line was obtained, namely GMS-3 (Table 8) (Fig. 1E, 1F).

The assessment of sterility in the male sterile line

One thousand flowers were covered with pollination bags to prevent open pollination. Two types of results were obtained. One result was that the flowers inside the pollination

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**Table 2.** Identification of the AB line direction and temporary maintainer direction in BC1

| Code of BC1 | Transfer direction | Genotype of F1 plant | Genotype of BC1 plant |
|------------|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| (S01 × WT01)-1 × WT01 | TM direction | Ms'ms | Ms'ms × Ms'Ms' |
| (S01 × WT01)-2 × WT01 | AB line direction | Ms'Ms | Ms'Ms × Ms'Ms' |
| (S01 × WT01)-3 × WT01 | AB line direction | Ms'Ms | Ms'Ms × Ms'Ms' |
| (S01 × WT01)-4 × WT01 | AB line direction | Ms'Ms | Ms'Ms × Ms'Ms' |
| (S01 × WT01)-5 × WT01 | TM direction | Ms'ms | Ms'ms × Ms'Ms' |
| (S01 × WT01)-6 × WT01 | TM direction | Ms'ms | Ms'ms × Ms'Ms' |
| (S01 × WT01)-7 × WT01 | AB line direction | Ms'Ms | Ms'Ms × Ms'Ms' |

*S Temporary maintainer.

**Table 3.** Genotype identification results of Ms'Ms and Ms'ms in the BC2 generation

| Code | Fertile plants/ Sterile plants | Theoretical ratio (X20.05,1 = 3.84) | Genotype of plant |
|------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| S01 × (BC2-4 × WT01)-1 | 49/0 | All fertile | Ms'Ms' |
| S01 × (BC2-4 × WT01)-2 | 23/27 | 1 : 1 (0.320) | Ms'Ms |
| S01 × (BC2-4 × WT01)-3 | 46/0 | All fertile | Ms'Ms' |
| S01 × (BC2-4 × WT01)-4 | 42/0 | All fertile | Ms'Ms' |
| S01 × (BC2-4 × WT01)-5 | 20/27 | 1 : 1 (1.160) | Ms'Ms |
| S01 × (BC2-4 × WT01)-6 | 22/26 | 1 : 1 (0.400) | Ms'Ms |
| S01 × (BC2-4 × WT01)-7 | 49/0 | All fertile | Ms'Ms' |
| S01 × (BC2-5 × WT01)-1 | 48/0 | All fertile | Ms'Ms' |
| S01 × (BC2-5 × WT01)-2 | 45/0 | All fertile | Ms'Ms' |
| S01 × (BC2-5 × WT01)-3 | 43/0 | All fertile | Ms'Ms' |
| S01 × (BC2-5 × WT01)-4 | 48/0 | All fertile | Ms'Ms' |
| S01 × (BC2-5 × WT01)-5 | 40/17 | 3 : 1 (0.708) | Ms'ms |
| S01 × (BC2-5 × WT01)-6 | 38/14 | 3 : 1 (0.103) | Ms'ms |
| S01 × (BC2-5 × WT01)-7 | 46/0 | All fertile | Ms'Ms' |

**Table 4.** Genotype identification of selected plants in each backcross generation during transfer of the male sterile line

| Backcross generation | Code of plant | Fertile plants/ Sterile plants | Theoretical ratio (X20.05,1 = 3.84) | Genotype of plant |
|----------------------|--------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| BC1 | (F1 × WT01)-4 | 39/14 | 3 : 1 (0.057) | Ms'Ms |
| BC2 | (BC1 × WT01)-6 | 22/26 | 1 : 1 (0.040) | Ms'Ms |
| BC3 | (BC2 × WT01)-7 | 24/22 | 1 : 1 (0.087) | Ms'Ms |
| BC4 | (BC3 × WT01)-6 | 26/24 | 1 : 1 (0.021) | Ms'Ms |
| BC5 | (F1 × WT01)-5 | 46/0 | All fertile | Ms'ms |
| BC6 | (BC1 × WT01)-6 | 38/14 | 3 : 1 (0.103) | Ms'ms |
| BC7 | (BC2 × WT01)-1 | 39/14 | 3 : 1 (0.057) | Ms'ms |
| BC8 | (BC3 × WT01)-7 | 38/15 | 3 : 1 (0.308) | Ms'ms |

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Ms'ms × Ms'ms → Ms'Ms, Ms'ms, MsMs, Msms 1 : 1 (fertile: sterile)

Ms'Ms × Ms'ms → Ms'Ms, Ms'ms 100% fertile plants

Ms'ms × Ms'ms → Ms'Ms, Ms'ms, MsMs, Msms 3 : 1 (fertile: sterile)
Directional transfer of a male sterile line of Wutacai

Yield analysis of the hybrids developed from the male sterile line

Nine plants were collected per plot at random and the fresh weight of individuals was measured at harvest time. These results are listed in Table 10. The yields of C1 and C4 were significantly higher than CK (at the 1% level), and plot yields for C1 and C4 were 14.82 kg and 15.81 kg, respectively. C3 yielded significantly higher than CK at the 5% level. Concerning the yields, C2 was not significantly different from CK.

Analysis of chemical component in the hybrids developed from the male sterile line

Chemical components of the hybrids were measured three times. The results show an overall high content of chemical components in hybrid combinations of Wutacai lines; however, some indices were significantly lower than those of CK. Among the four combinations, C1 differed the most. C1’s protein and ascorbic acid (Vc) contents were significantly higher than those of CK at 1% level. C1’s soluble sugar content was also significantly higher than that of CK at the 5% level. The organic acid and crude fiber contents of C1 were significantly lower than those of CK. Moreover, the trace element contents were also higher in C1 (Table 11).

Discussion

Stable and complete sterility of the male sterile line is suitable for cruciferous vegetable breeding in cases when the potential for heterosis is already known (Ke et al. 1992). The multiple-allele male sterile line has the required characteristics. Many studies have been carried out for multiple-allele male sterile line breeding and have proven successful in almost all ecotypes of Chinese cabbage (Li et al. 2009, Wang et al. 2010, Yue and Feng 2005, Zhang et al. 2010). This male sterility was also applied to other vegetable crops in subspecies of Brassica campestris, which include pak choi (B. campestris L. ssp. chinensis L.; Feng et al. 2007, Wang et al. 2011, Xin et al. 2009, Yang et al. 2009), Chinese flowering cabbage (B. campestris L. ssp. parachinensis; Zhou et al. 2010a), and purple flowering stalk (B. campestris L. ssp. chinensis var. purpurea Hort.; Feng and Lou 2011). However, a multiple-allele male sterile line of Wutacai with similar traits as the target line and complete sterility has not yet been reported. In this research, the multiple-allele male sterility of Naibaicai was successfully transferred to Wutacai by utilizing a “directional transfer program.” We bred a new

| Table 5. Genotype identification of progenies from BC₄ selfing |
|-----------------------------------------------|
| Transfer direction | Selfing combinations | Test cross results | Theoretical ratio (X²₀.₀₅,₁ = 3.84) | Genotype of plant |
|---------------------|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|
| AB line direction   | BC₄-6⊗               | 25/23              | 1 : 1 (0.083) | Ms/Ms, Ms/Ms, Ms/Ms |
| Temporary maintainer| BC₄-7⊗               | 39/10              | 3 : 1 (0.551) | Ms/Ms', Ms/ms, Ms/ms |

| Table 6. Genotype identification of sib mating in the AB line direction |
|-----------------------------|
| Code | Fertile plants/ Sterile plants | Theoretical ratio (X²₀.₀₅,₁ = 3.84) | Genotype of fertile plant |
|-----------------------------|
| A-s⁻¹ × B-f⁻¹ | 25/24 | 1 : 1 (0.020) | Ms/Ms |
| A-s⁻¹ × B-f⁻₂ | 27/23 | 1 : 1 (0.320) | Ms/Ms |
| A-s⁻¹ × B-f⁻₃ | 49/0  | All fertile | Ms/Ms' |
| A-s⁻¹ × B-f⁻₄ | 50/0  | All fertile | Ms/Ms' |
| A-i⁻¹ × B-f⁻₅ | 22/26 | 1 : 1 (0.333) | Ms/Ms |

| Table 7. Genotype identification of the temporary maintainer line direction |
|-----------------------------|
| Code | Fertile plants/ Sterile plants | Theoretical ratio (X²₀.₀₅,₁ = 3.84) | Genotype of fertile plant |
|-----------------------------|
| A-s⁻² × (BC₄⁻⁷⊗)⁻₁ | 26/23 | 1 : 1 (0.184) | Ms/ms |
| A-s⁻² × (BC₄⁻⁷⊗)⁻₂ | 50/0  | All fertile | Ms/Ms' |
| A-s⁻² × (BC₄⁻⁷⊗)⁻₃ | 29/21 | 1 : 1 (1.280) | Ms/ms |
| A-s⁻² × (BC₄⁻⁷⊗)⁻₄ | 0/45  | All sterile | msms |
| A-s⁻² × (BC₄⁻⁷⊗)⁻₅ | 25/22 | 1 : 1 (0.191) | Ms/ms |
| A-s⁻² × (BC₄⁻⁷⊗)⁻₆ | 0/44  | All sterile | msms |
| A-s⁻³ × (BC₄⁻⁷⊗)⁻₇ | 27/26 | 1 : 1 (0.019) | Ms/ms |
| A-s⁻³ × (BC₄⁻⁷⊗)⁻₈ | 48/0  | All fertile | Ms/Ms' |
| A-s⁻³ × (BC₄⁻⁷⊗)⁻₉ | 20/26 | 1 : 1 (0.783) | Ms/ms |
| A-s⁻³ × (BC₄⁻⁷⊗)⁻₁₀| 22/27 | 1 : 1 (0.510) | Ms/ms |
| A-s⁻³ × (BC₄⁻⁷⊗)⁻₁₁| 22/26 | 1 : 1 (0.333) | Ms/ms |
| A-s⁻₄ × (BC₄⁻⁷⊗)⁻₁²| 0/44  | All sterile | msms |
| A-s⁻₄ × (BC₄⁻⁷⊗)⁻₁₃| 49/0  | All fertile | Ms/Ms' |
| A-s⁻₄ × (BC₄⁻⁷⊗)⁻₁₄| 42/0  | All fertile | Ms/Ms' |
| A-s⁻₄ × (BC₄⁻⁷⊗)⁻₁₅| 24/27 | 1 : 1 (0.176) | Ms/ms |
| A-s⁻₄ × (BC₄⁻⁷⊗)⁻₁₆| 25/23 | 1 : 1 (0.083) | Ms/ms |

| Table 8. Genotype identification of the male sterile line of Wutacai |
|-----------------------------|
| Code | Combination | Fertile plants/ Sterile plants | Theoretical ratio (X²₀.₀₅,₁ = 3.84) of plant |
|-----------------------------|
| GMS-3 | A-s⁻² × (BC₄⁻⁷⊗)⁻₄ | 0/45 | All sterile | Ms/ms |

Table 9. Fertility identification of GMS-3 in the Wutacai

| Male sterile line | Total flowers in bags | Number of seeds in pods | Sterility degree | Total plants | Number of fertility plants | Sterility rate |
|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------------------|---------------|
| GMS-3             | 1000                 | 0                       | 100%            | 100          | 0                        | 100%          |
male sterile line, GMS-3, with 100% sterile plants and showing complete male sterility.

Directional transfer is crucial in the breeding of a male sterile line. Because the male sterile line of Wutacai itself was equivalent to a hybrid, the hybrid seed was actually a three-way crossing seed with such a male sterile line as the female parent (Wang et al. 2006). Thus, we focused on the transfer of both male sterility and botanical traits. Following the directional transfer program, the AB line and its “temporary maintainer” could be considered as siblines that were similar to the target line in most traits after backcrossing. As a result of similar genetic backgrounds, the male sterile line developed using this system is very stable for the inheritance of traits. In addition, the hybrid seeds, which were developed from this male sterile line, were of excellent uniformity.

A male sterility source with high quality and similar botanical traits to the target line are preconditions for developing an excellent male sterile line. This study also selected a subspecies of B. campestris, Naibaicai, as the male sterility resource. This plant’s glossy dark green leaves have many folds. Naibaicai tastes fresh and crisp and has an abundance of nutritious components. Owing to many similarities between the male sterile resource and the target line, the breeding process was accelerated greatly.

The number of backcross generations is very important for the directional transfer effect. If the number of generations is too small, the effects of “directional” transfer cannot be achieved. However, if too many generations are involved, serious degeneration, such as self-incompatibility, petal deformity, or degeneration, may occur. Thus, during the directional transfer process, the number of backcross generations should be determined according to the degree of similarity in botanical traits between the backcross progeny and the recurrent parent. In this study, GMS-3, the male sterile line bred from the BC4 generation, is almost the same as WT01 in terms of botanical traits and it does not show any degeneration. Backcrossing for four generations is an optimal choice for the directional transfer of male sterile lines in Wutacai.

The hybrids generated from GMS-3 as the female parent displayed a significant heterosis for yield, and the quality of hybrids achieved levels that are suitable for commercial production. Significant heterosis for yield was found in some hybrids. The C4 showed the highest plot yield, followed by C1, C3, and lastly C2. Compared with CK, their yields increased by 54.9%, 45.3%, 32.8%, and 2.2%, respectively. Similar heterosis in yield has been reported previously for other Brassica crops (Akshay et al. 1993, Dhirendra and Kumar 2012, Valiollah 2012, Wan et al. 2008). Analysis showed that the contents of chemical components in hybrid combinations of Wutacai were higher than those of common conventional varieties (Zhou et al. 2010b, 2011). Component contents of C1 were higher than those of CK in most indexes. Organic acid and crude fiber contents of C1 were lower than those of CK, which indicated that C1 tastes better than CK. Thus, considering both yield and quality, we report here that a superior hybrid combination, C1, has been developed (Fig. 1G, 1H).

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Table 10. Plot yields of hybrid combinations in Wutacai

| Code | Combination  | Replication | Plot yield kg/4.5 m² |
|------|-------------|-------------|---------------------|
| CK   | vitamin     | I           | 10.80               |
| C1   | GMS-3 × P₁  | II          | 15.54               |
| C2   | GMS-3 × P₂  | III         | 10.16               |
| C3   | GMS-3 × P₃  |             | 11.94               |
| C4   | GMS-3 × P₄  |             | 16.86               |

* Significant at the 5% level. ** Significant at the 1% level.

Table 11. Components analysis of hybrid combinations in Wutacai

| Soluble sugar g/100 g | Protein mg/100 g | Vc⁶ mg/100 g | Organic acids % | Crude fiber % | K mg/100 g | P mg/100 g | Fe mg/100 g | Ca mg/100 g | Zn mg/100 g |
|-----------------------|------------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------|------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| CK                    | 1.756            | 3.493        | 201.373         | 0.328        | 4.798      | 21.251     | 5.316       | 0.542       | 10.612      |
| C1                    | 1.761*           | 3.666**      | 229.342**       | 0.194        | 4.096      | 20.920     | 6.231**     | 0.291       | 10.824**    |
| C2                    | 1.570            | 3.464        | 186.117         | 0.176        | 5.916**    | 18.828     | 5.446**     | 0.331       | 10.498      |
| C3                    | 1.750            | 3.591**      | 198.830         | 0.145        | 3.914      | 15.913     | 4.548       | 0.275       | 10.670**    |
| C4                    | 1.545            | 3.424        | 191.203         | 0.254        | 5.440**    | 13.409     | 6.510**     | 0.379       | 11.076**    |

* Ascorbic acid.

* Significant at the 5% level. ** Significant at the 1% level.
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