Promoter Variations Strongly Enhance the Transcription Level of the BoLMI1 Gene, Causing Lobed Leaves in Ornamental Kale (Brassica Oleracea L. Var. Acephala)

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Research Article

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Abstract

Background: Leaf shape is an important agronomic trait in ornamental kale (*Brassica oleracea* L. var. *acephala*). Although some leaf shape-related genes have been reported in ornamental kale, the detailed mechanism underlying leaf shape formation is still unclear. Here, we report a lobed-leaf trait in ornamental kale, aiming to analyze its inheritance and identify the strong candidate gene.

Results: Genetic analysis of $F_2$ and $BC_1$ populations demonstrate that the lobed-leaf trait in ornamental kale is controlled by a single dominant gene, termed *BoLl-1*. By performing whole-genome resequencing and linkage analyses, the *BoLl-1* gene was finely mapped to a 127-kb interval on chromosome C09 flanked by SNP markers SL4 and SL6, with genetic distances of 0.6 cM and 0.6 cM, respectively. Based on annotations of the genes within this interval, *Bo9g181710*, an orthologous gene of *LATE MERISTEM IDENTITY 1 (LMI1)* in *Arabidopsis*, was predicted as the candidate for *BoLl-1*, and was renamed *BoLMI1*. The expression level of *BoLMI1* in lobed-leaf parent 18Q2513 was significantly higher compared with unlobed-leaf parent 18Q2515. Sequence analysis of the parental alleles revealed no sequence variations in the coding sequence of *BoLMI1*, whereas a 1737-bp deletion, a 92-bp insertion and an SNP were identified within the *BoLMI1* promoter region of parent 18Q2513. Verification analyses with *BoLMI1*-specific markers corresponding to the promoter variations revealed that the variations were present only in the lobed-leaf ornamental kale inbred lines.

Conclusions: This study demonstrated that promoter variations strongly enhance the transcription level of *BoLMI1* and cause the leaf shape change from unlobed to lobed, providing new insight into the molecular mechanism underlying leaf shape formation in ornamental kale.

Background

Leaves are essential organs that play an important role in plants, including carbon assimilation, gas exchange, water transport and nutrient distribution [1]. Leaf shape can significantly affect both leaf function and plant architecture [2, 3]. A typical variation in leaf shape involves the leaf margin, which can be unlobed, serrated or lobed [4]. Lobed leaves can be easily visualized even in the primary leaf stage, which can be used as an indicator trait for hybrid production [5, 6]. Compared to unlobed- or serrated-leaf lines, plants with lobed leaves are better adapted to environmental stresses [7, 8]. With improved heat transfer and light energy absorption, lobed leaves are advantageous for high-density planting and mechanized production [9]. Additionally, lobed leaves are also a graceful decorative trait for ornamental plants such as kale [10].

Ornamental kale (*Brassica oleracea* L. var. *acephala*) is an attractive ornamental crop owing to its polymorphic, colorful leaves [11]. Lobed-leaf genes have been genetically analyzed and mapped in some *Brassica* species. For example, the lobed-leaf trait in *B. rapa* is controlled by major gene or polygenic effects [12–14]. In *B. napus*, the incomplete dominant lobed-leaf gene *BnLL1* was mapped to the distal end of chromosome A10 [15]. In ornamental kale, some studies have shown that the lobed-leaf trait
exhibits incomplete dominance over the unlobed-leaf trait [10, 16, 17]. Genetic analysis of an interspecific hybrid between *B. napus* and *Rorippa indica* (L.) Hiern revealed that the lobed-leaf trait is controlled by a dominant gene [9]. Moreover, Ren et al. mapped a quantitative trait locus (QTL) associated with lobed leaves to chromosome 9 of ornamental kale flanked by insertion-deletion (InDel) markers LYIn39 and LYIn40, with genetic distances of 0.17 cM and 0.11 cM, respectively [4].

With the development of high-throughput sequencing technology and the release of *B. oleracea* draft genomes [18, 19], a growing number of genes that govern important traits have been mapped in this species. Bulk segregant analysis (BSA) is a rapid and accurate gene mapping method that was first developed and performed in plants [20]. This method is characterized by bulk genotyping of a pool of segregants that share the same phenotype. InDel has been considered as an ideal source for marker design due to its high-density distribution and genotyping efficiency. Using InDel markers, many genes/QTLs have been mapped in *B. oleracea*, including the yellow-green leaf gene *ygl-1* [21], the purple leaf gene *BoPr* [22], QTLs associated with heading traits [23], male sterility genes [24, 25] and the petal color gene *BoCCD4* [26].

In the present study, we developed F$_1$, F$_2$ and BC$_1$ populations descended from the ornamental kale inbred line 18Q2513 (with lobed leaves) and 18Q2515 (with unlobed leaves). These populations were used for inheritance analysis, fine mapping and cloning of the leaf shape-related gene *BoLl-1*. The findings provide new insight into the molecular mechanism underlying leaf shape formation in ornamental kale.

### Results

**Genetic analysis of leaf shape in ornamental kale**

The leaf shape throughout all the F$_1$ plants (comprising 16 individuals) generated by crossing 18Q2513 with 18Q2515 was lobed; thus, the lobed-leaf trait is dominant over the unlobed-leaf trait in these two ornamental kale lines. The F$_2$ population comprised 120 individuals, with 92 displaying lobed leaves and 28 unlobed leaves. According to a chi-square test, the segregation ratio is 3:1. The BC$_1$P$_1$ population contained 850 individuals, with 429 lobed-leaf individuals and 421 unlobed-leaf individuals, and the segregation ratio was confirmed to be 1:1 by a chi-square test. The 200 BC$_1$P$_2$ individuals all had lobed leaves (Table 1). These results indicate that the lobed-leaf trait is controlled by a single dominant gene, which was named *BoLl-1*.

**Fine mapping of the *BoLl-1* gene by BSA-seq and linkage analyses**

To identify markers associated with lobed leaves, the SNP index and $\Delta$(SNP index) between the two bulks were calculated using high-quality SNPs. The average SNP-index and $\Delta$(SNP-index) of the two bulks across a 1-Mb genomic interval were measured using a 10-kb sliding window and plotted against the genome position. The highest peak region, which was considered to be the candidate interval associated
with *BoLI-1*, contains approximately 1.33 Mb (53.34–54.67 Mb) on chromosome 9 according to the ‘TO1000’ reference genome (Fig. 2a). For the candidate region of *BoLI-1*, 3280 SNPs between parental lines were identified, 410 of which are effective; 593 InDels were identified, 35 of which are effective (Table S1).

To further delineate the location of *BoLI-1*, 16 InDel and seven SNP markers (by comparing resequencing data of the parents with the sequence of the TO1000 reference genome) within the 1.33-Mb candidate region and its flanking regions (600 kb on each side) were designed. Ultimately, five InDel and three SNP markers showed polymorphisms between the two parents. A total of 429 recessive individuals of the BC$_1$P$_1$ population were subsequently used for *BoLI-1* fine mapping.

A linkage map consisting of five InDel and three SNP markers was constructed using MapDraw (Fig. 2b). The SNP markers SL4 and SL6 were found to be tightly linked to *BoLI-1*, with genetic distances of 0.6 cM and 0.6 cM, respectively. Based on the marker locations in the reference genome, *BoLI-1* was ultimately delimited to a 127-kb region (53680797-53808289 bp) on chromosome C09.

**Prediction and expression analysis of the candidate genes**

Based on the ‘TO1000’ reference genome [19], 21 genes were identified within the 127-kb interval (Table 2). According to annotations from the *Brassica oleracea* genome and BLASTX (best hit) to *A. thaliana*, only two genes *Bo9g181710* and *Bo9g181720* are related to the formation of leaf shape. These two genes are homologues of the *LATE MERISTEM IDENTITY 1* (*LMI1*) gene in *Arabidopsis*, which encode a homeodomain leucine zipper class I (HD-Zip I) meristem identity regulator that plays an important role in leaf morphogenesis and bract formation. Thus, we designated that *Bo9g181710* and *Bo9g181720* were candidate genes controlling lobed leaf shape in ornamental kale.

To analyze the expression patterns of *Bo9g181710* and *Bo9g181720*, qRT-PCR was performed using young leaves of the parents. The expression level of *Bo9g181710* in lobed-leaf 18Q2513 was significantly higher than that in unlobed-leaf 18Q2515, whereas no significant difference in *Bo9g181720* expression between the parental lines was detected (Fig. 3).

**Sequence analysis of the candidate genes**

To determine the causal relationship between the candidate genes and leaf shape formation, a comparative sequence analysis of the *Bo9g181710* and *Bo9g181720* genes body and ~3-kb promoter region was performed using genomic DNA from 18Q2513 and 18Q2515. No sequence variations (between the parental lines) in the coding sequences of *Bo9g181710* were detected, while a 1737-bp deletion (1466 bp upstream of the transcription start site), a 92-bp insertion (1466 bp upstream of the transcription start site) and an SNP (765 bp upstream of the transcription start site) were identified within the *Bo9g181710* promoter region of 18Q2513 (Fig. 4a). Conversely, no variation was detected in either the promoter or coding regions of *Bo9g181720* between the 18Q2513 and 18Q2515. Combined with
expression analysis, we speculated that the Bo9g181710 may control the formation of leaf shape in ornamental kale, and renamed it BoLMI1.

Sequence analysis further revealed that BoLMI1, which consists of three exons and two introns, encodes a putative 219-amino acid protein containing a homeobox domain and a leucine zipper domain (Fig. 4). Sequence alignment of the BoLMI1 protein and its seven homologues from other cruciferous species revealed that BoLMI1 shared a high degree of identity with its homologues in B. napus (98.17%) and B. rapa (91.32%) but a relatively lower degree of identity with Camelina sativa (54.92%) (Fig. 4b). Furthermore, a phylogenetic analysis of the BoLMI1 protein and its close homologues was carried out to evaluate their evolutionary relatedness. The results showed that BoLMI1 is closely related to B. napusATHB-51 and is located in the same clade as other cruciferous plants, indicating that they may be derived from the same ancestor gene (Fig. 5).

**Verification of BoLMI1-specific markers**

Using the co-dominant marker CMLMI1 and the dCAPS marker DMLMI1, we determined whether the variations the BoLMI1 promoter are also present in 118 different cabbage inbred lines (with unlobed leaves) and another ornamental kale inbred line 2523 (with lobed leaves). The results indicated that the insertion, deletion (detected by co-dominant marker CMLMI1) and the SNP (detected by dCAPS marker DMLMI1) were present only in the lobed-leaf ornamental kale inbred line 2523 (Fig. 6; Figure S1). These markers exhibited 100% accuracy which can be used for marker-assisted selection. Overall, the analyses strongly indicated that the variations in the promoter of BoLMI1 exist only in lobed-leaf ornamental kale inbred lines and are responsible for the change in leaf shape from unlobed to lobed.

**Discussion**

In previous studies, the lobed-leaf trait was reported to be controlled by an incomplete gene or a QTL in ornamental kale [4, 10, 16, 17, 28]. In the present study, we analyzed the inheritance of leaf shape using F₂ and BC populations derived from a cross of lobed-leaf ornamental kale with unlobed-leaf ornamental kale, showing that the lobed-leaf trait is controlled by a single dominant nuclear-encoded gene. These findings suggest that the molecular mechanism underlying leaf shape formation in ornamental kale is complex.

Ren et al. mapped the lobed-leaf gene BolLI to chromosome 9 of ornamental kale flanked by InDel markers LYIn39 and LYIn40, with genetic distances of 0.17 cM and 0.11 cM, respectively [4]. Two candidate genes, Bol010029/Bo9g181710 and Bol010030/Bo9g1181720, were revealed, but no sequence variations were found in their promoter and coding regions according to the B. oleracea ‘02–12’ (cabbage) [18] and ‘TO1000’ (Chinese kale like) genomes [19]. Therefore, the authors did not conclude which gene controlled the formation of leaf shape in ornamental kale. In our study, based on the ‘TO1000’ genome, the BolLI-1 gene was finely mapped to a 127-kb (53680797–53808289 bp) interval on chromosome 9. SNP markers SL4 and SL6 were tightly linked to BolLI-1, flanking the gene at genetic
distances of 0.6 cM and 0.6 cM, respectively. Sequence analysis of the parental alleles revealed no sequence variations in the coding sequence of *Bo9g181710*, whereas three variations were identified in the promoter region. In contrast, no sequence variations were detected in the promoter and coding regions of *Bo9g181720*. The expression level of *Bo9g181710* in lobed-leaf 18Q2513 was significantly higher compared with unlobed-leaf 18Q2515, though the expression level of *Bo9g181720* was similar between the parental lines. Thus, we further confirmed that the *Bo9g181710* may control the formation of leaf shape in ornamental kale.

In *B. napus*, Hu et al. reported that a 2624-bp insertion (317 bp upstream of the transcription start site) and three SNPs were identified in the *BnA10.LMI1* promoter sequence, along with 12 SNPs in the 3' flanking sequence, which were considered to be the cause of the lobed-leaf formation [29]. In ornamental kale, the genes that determine leaf shape are not fully understood. Ren et al. mapped the *BoLI* gene and found no sequence variations in the promoter and coding regions of candidate [4]. In our study, three variations, including an SNP, a 1737-bp deletion, and a 92-bp insertion (765 bp, 1466 bp, and 1466 bp upstream of the transcription start site, respectively) were identified in the *BoLMI1* promoter region compared with the ‘TO1000’ reference genome. Through verification analyses of *BoLMI1*-specific markers corresponding to the promoter variations revealed that the variations existed only in lobed-leaf ornamental kale inbred lines. These variations strongly enhance the transcription levels of *BoLMI1*, thus changing leaf shape from unlobed to lobed.

Leaf shape plays an important role in the reproduction and evolution of plants. Increasing evidence indicates that lobed leaves can improve photosynthesis efficiency and agronomic profitability [7, 30–33]. *LMI1*-like genes encoding an HD-Zip I transcription factor have been functionally identified in several plants, and they were reportedly involved in leaf shape formation [29, 34–37]. For example, Hu et al. (2018) identified the *BnA10.LMI1* gene, which was responsible for the lobed-leaf shape in *Brassica napus*. In addition, the *BnA10.LMI1* knockout mutations in the HY (with lobed leaves) background were sufficient to produce unlobed leaves. In this study, we identified an *LMI1*-like gene, *BoLMI1*, which was the causal gene underlying the lobed-leaf trait in ornamental kale. Thus, our findings further strengthened the potential for revealing the molecular mechanism underlying leaf shape formation, and we showed that *BoLMI1*-specific markers (CMLMI1 and DMLMI1) can be used for marker-assisted selection in ornamental kale breeding.

**Conclusions**

In this study, the lobed-leaf trait is shown to be controlled by a single dominant gene, *BoLI-1*, in ornamental kale. The *BoLI-1* gene was fine-mapped to a 127-kb fragment. A homologue of *Arabidopsis LMI1*, *BoLMI1* was identified as a strong candidate gene. Three variations were identified in the promoter region of *BoLMI1*. These variations strongly enhance the expression of *BoLMI1*, causing the leaf shape change from unlobed to lobed. This study lays a foundation for cloning *BoLMI1* and provides new insight into the formation of leaf shape in ornamental kale.
Methods

Plant materials

The 18Q2513 female parent (P₁) is an ornamental kale inbred line with lobed leaves (Fig. 1a); the 18Q2515 male parent (P₂) is an ornamental kale inbred line with unlobed leaves (Fig. 1b). 18Q2513 was crossed with 18Q2515 to generate an F₁ population. An F₂ population was generated from self-pollination of the F₁ plants; BC₁P₁ and BC₁P₂ were then generated by BCs of F₁ × 18Q2513, F₁ × 18Q2515, respectively.

Additionally, 118 different cabbage inbred lines (with unlobed leaves) and another ornamental kale inbred line 2523 (with lobed leaves), were screened for BoLl-1 promoter variations. All of the plant materials used in the present study were grown in a greenhouse under normal management. All the plant materials are from the Institute of Vegetables and Flowers, Chinese Academy of Agriculture Sciences (IVFCAAS, Beijing, China).

Genetic analysis and whole-genome resequencing

Leaf shape was investigated visually. Segregation ratios for the F₂ and BC₁ populations were analyzed by chi-square (χ²) tests using SAS software.

Fifty lobed-leaf BC₁ and fifty unlobed-leaf BC₁ individuals were selected to construct two bulks. The two bulks and two parental lines were then used to construct paired-end sequencing libraries, which were subsequently sequenced by the Beijing Genomics Institute (BGI) (Shenzhen, China). SNP-index and sliding-window analyses were performed as previously described [27].

Marker development and fine mapping of the BoLl-1 gene

InDel and SNP markers were designed based on candidate region resequencing data for the two parents. Markers were designed with amplicon lengths of 100-180 bp, GC contents of 40-50% and Tm values of 52-58°C. The markers that were polymorphic between the parents were then used to analyze unlobed-leaf individuals in the BC₁P₁ populations.

Genomic DNA was extracted from young leaves of the parents and BC₁P₁ individuals using a modified cetyltrimethylammonium bromide (CTAB) protocol [38]. The DNA concentration was subsequently determined using a spectrophotometer (BioDrop, UK) and adjusted to 40-50 ng/μL.

The 10-μL PCR reaction mixture consisted of 2 μL DNA template, 1 μL 10× PCR buffer (Mg²⁺ included), 0.8 μL dNTPs (2.5 mM each), 0.4 μL forward primer (10 μM), 0.4 μL reverse primer (10 μM), 0.2 μL Taq DNA polymerase (5 U/μL), and 5.2 μL ddH₂O. The reactions were performed in accordance with the follows: 94°C for 5 min, followed by 35 cycles of 94°C for 30 s, 56°C for 30 s and 72°C for 45 s; and then
72°C for 10 min. The amplicons were separated by 8% polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (160 V for 1.2 h), and the gel was stained with silver nitrate.

For each marker, individuals consistent with the 18Q2513 (lobed-leaf) allele, the 18Q2515 (unlobed-leaf) allele, and the F₁ allele were categorized as ‘a’, ‘b’, and ‘h’, respectively. Genetic distances between markers were calculated by the Kosambi map function [39], and a genetic map was constructed using MapDraw [40].

**Candidate gene analysis**

To identify the lobed-leaf gene *BoLI-1*, genes located within the candidate interval were analyzed based on annotations for the *B. oleracea* ‘TO1000’ reference genome (http://plants.ensembl.org/Brassica_oleracea/Info/Index) [19]. The expression patterns of candidate genes *Bo9g181710* and *Bo9g181720* were investigated using quantitative real-time PCR (qRT-PCR). Total RNA was extracted from young leaves of the parents using TRIzol reagent (Invitrogen, United States) according to the manufacturer’s protocol, and PrimeScript™ RT Reagent Kit (Takara, Japan) was used to reverse transcribe cDNA from the total RNA extracted. qRT-PCR was carried out using a CFX96 Real-Time System (Bio-Rad) with SYBR Premix Ex TaqⅡ Reagent Kit (Takara, Japan). The relative expression level of each gene was calculated using the $2^{-\Delta\Delta C_t}$ method [41]. The qRT-PCR primers used are listed in Table S2, and *B. oleraceaaactin* was employed as a control.

Gene-specific markers GL10 (primers GL10-F and GL10-R) and GL20 (primers GL20-F and GL20-R) (Table S2) were used to amplify the promoter and genomic sequences of *Bo9g181710* and *Bo9g181720*, respectively. The resulting PCR products were analyzed by electrophoresis on 1% agarose gels, followed by sequencing and alignment. The co-dominant marker CMLMI1 (primers CMLMI1-F1, CMLMI1-F2 and CMLMI1-R) and the derived cleaved amplified polymorphic sequence (dCAPS) marker DMLMI1 (primers DMLMI1-F and DMLMI1-R) (Table S2) were used to detect variations in the promoter of *BoLMI1* in 118 different cabbage and ornamental kale inbred lines.

BLASTP searches were conducted using the amino acid sequence of *BoLMI1* to search for homologues within the protein database of the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) and the *B. oleracea* reference genome ‘TO1000’. Protein sequence alignment was performed with MAFFT (v7.037) [42]. FastTree (LG + JTT model) was used to construct phylogenetic trees [43].

**Abbreviations**

BC: Backcross; SNP: Single Nucleotide Polymorphism; *LMI1*: *LATE MERISTEM IDENTITY 1*; QTL: Quantitative Trait Locus; InDel: Insertion/Deletion; BSA: Bulk Segregant Analysis; dCAPS: Derived Cleaved Amplified Polymorphic Sequences; NCBI: National Center for Biotechnology Information.

**Declarations**
Acknowledgments

Not applicable.

Authors’ contributions

Y. Zhang conceived and designed the experiments; B. Zhang, W. Chen and X. Li performed the experiments and analyzed the data; B. Zhang and Y. Zhang wrote and revised the paper; and W. Ren, L. Chen, F. Han, Z. Fang, L. Yang, M. Zhuang, H. Lv, and Y. Wang coordinated and designed the study. All authors have read and approved the final manuscript.

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Availability of data and materials

All data generated or analyzed during this study are included in this published article and its supplementary information files. The raw sequencing data used during this study are available in the NCBI SRA database (Accession number: PRJNA729727, https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sra/PRJNA729727). The B. oleracea reference genome ‘TO1000’ used in this study can be found at the link: http://plants.ensembl.org/Brassica_oleracea/Info/Index. The A. thaliana genome can be found at the link: https://www.arabidopsis.org/. The protein database of National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) can be found at the link: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/. All these databases are open to public access.

Ethics approval and consent to participate

All the plant materials are from the Institute of Vegetables and Flowers, Chinese Academy of Agriculture Sciences (IVFCAAS, Beijing, China). The utilization of these plant materials in this study complies with the guidelines and legislation of China.

Consent for publication

Not applicable.

Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.
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Tables

Table 1 The Chi-square ($\chi^2$) goodness-of-fit test ratios of leaf shape segregation in BC and $F_2$ populations

| Populations | Total plant number | Number of lobed-leaf individuals* | Number of unlobed-leaf individuals* | Expected ratio | $\chi^2$ |
|-------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|---------|
| $F_1$       | 16                 | 16                               | 0                                   | -              | -       |
| $F_2$       | 120                | 92                               | 28                                  | 3:1            | 0.18    |
| BC$_1$P$_1$ | 850                | 429                              | 421                                 | 1:1            | 0.08    |
| BC$_1$P$_2$ | 200                | 200                              | 0                                   | -              | -       |

*Lobed-leaf plants and unlobed-leaf plants were determined at the seedling stage by visual inspection

$a\chi^2 > \chi^2_{0.05} = 3.84$ was considered significant

Table 2 The 21 putative gene models in the target mapping region
| Gene ID    | Location                     | Homologous gene in *A. thaliana* | Annotation                                                                 |
|------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Bo9g181620 | C9: 53678143-53680993         | AT5G03900                        | iron-sulphur cluster biosynthesis family protein                           |
| Bo9g181630 | C9: 53681760-53682275         | AT5G03890                        | hypothetical protein                                                         |
| Bo9g181640 | C9: 53685355-53687538         | AT5G03880                        | thioredoxin family protein                                                  |
| Bo9g181650 | C9: 53697594-53698572         | AT5G03880                        |                                                                             |
| Bo9g181660 | C9: 53698893-53699987         | AT5G03850                        | nucleic acid-binding, OB-fold-like protein                                   |
| Bo9g181670 | C9: 53703655-53704734         | AT5G03840                        | protein TERMINAL FLOWER 1                                                   |
| Bo9g181680 | C9: 53711576-53712658         | AT5G03795                        | probable glycosyltransferase                                                |
| Bo9g181690 | C9: 53713320-53715156         | AT5G03795                        | probable glycosyltransferase                                                |
| Bo9g181700 | C9: 53717227-53718573         | AT5G03795                        | probable glycosyltransferase                                                |
| Bo9g181710 | C9: 53720142-53721856         | AT5G03790                        | encodes a homeodomain leucine zipper class I (HD-Zip I) meristem identity regulator |
| Bo9g181720 | C9: 53749509-53750894         | AT5G03790                        | encodes a homeodomain leucine zipper class I (HD-Zip I) meristem identity regulator |
| Bo9g181730 | C9: 53755444-53758253         | AT5G03770                        | probable 3-deoxy-D-manno-octulosonic acid transferase                       |
| Bo9g181740 | C9: 53760949-53762178         | AT5G03760                        | glucomannan 4-beta-mannosyltransferase 9                                   |
| Bo9g181750 | C9: 53765687-53769942         | AT5G03760                        |                                                                             |
### Supplementary

Additional file 1 not provided with this version

### Figures

**Figure 1**

Leaf phenotypes of the parental lines. a 18Q2513 with lobed leaves. b 18Q2515 with unlobed leaves

| Gene ID     | C9: Sequence          | Gene ID       | AT5G03740   | Description                                           |
|-------------|-----------------------|---------------|-------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| Bo9g181760  | 53771597-53773283     | AT5G03740     | histone deacetylase 2C                             |
| Bo9g181770  | 53777463-53782597     | AT5G03730     | serine/threonine-protein kinase CTR1              |
| Bo9g181780  | 53783895-53785735     | AT5G03720     | heat shock transcription factor A3                 |
| Bo9g181790  | 53793205-53794037     | -             | -                                                    |
| Bo9g181800  | 53801111-53802559     | AT5G03700     | D-mannose binding lectin protein with Apple-like carbohydrate-binding domain |
| Bo9g181810  | 53803210-53804612     | AT5G03690     | fructose-bisphosphate aldolase 4                   |
| Bo9g181820  | 53807596-53810446     | AT5G03680     | trihelix transcription factor PTL                   |
Fine mapping of the BoLI-1 gene in ornamental kale. 

**Figure 2**

a Plot of the Δ(SNP-index) value obtained from the two bulks. The top line indicates the threshold line. The x-axis represents the position of nine chromosomes and the y-axis represents the Δ(SNP-index).

b Linkage map of the BoLI-1. The left panel is a genetic map of BoLI-1 in the target region (units: cM). The right panel is the corresponding physical map of BoLI-1 (units: Mb).
Figure 3

Expression patterns of Bo9g181710 and Bo9g181720 as determined by qRT-PCR between 18Q2513 and 18Q2515. BoActin served as the equal loading control. The error bars represent standard errors of three biological replicates. Asterisks represent significant differences (p < 0.01)

Figure 4

[Annotation for Figure 4]
Gene structure and protein alignment of BoLMI1. a The BoLMI1 gene structure as well as promoter variations between 18Q2513 and 18Q2515 are shown; horizontal blue arrows represent specific primers for amplifying the promoter and genomic sequences and detecting the promoter variations of BoLMI1. b Sequence alignment of the BoLMI1 protein and its seven homologues from other cruciferous species. The homeobox domain as well as the leucine zipper domain are indicated.

Figure 5

Phylogenetic analysis of BoLMI1 and its 23 homologues from other species
Figure 6

Amplicons of the co-dominant marker CMLMI1 in parents and 118 different cabbage inbred lines and ornamental kale inbred lines 2523. M represents the DNA ladder, P1 is lobed-leaf inbred line 18Q2513, and P2 is unlobed-leaf inbred line 18Q2515. Lane 1 is ornamental kale inbred line 2523 with lobed leaves, Lanes 2–119 are 118 different cabbage inbred lines with unlobed leaves.

Supplementary Files

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