PRIMER NOTE

Isolation and characterization of microsatellite loci in Cylindrocladium parasiticum

LOUWRANCE P. WRIGHT,* BRENDA D. WINGFIELD,* PEDRO W. CROUS,† TIM BRENNEMAN‡ and MICHAEL J. WINGFIELD*

*Tree Protection Co-operative Programme, Forestry and Agricultural Biotechnology Institute (FABI), University of Pretoria, Pretoria, 0002, South Africa, †Centraalbureau voor Schimmelcultures (CBS), PO Box 85167, 3508 AD Utrecht, the Netherlands, ‡Department of Plant Pathology, University of Georgia, CPES, Tifton, GA 31794, USA

Abstract

Twelve polymorphic microsatellite markers were developed for Cylindrocladium parasiticum, a plant pathogen with a wide host range and the causal agent of the serious disease of peanuts (Arachis hypogaea) known as cylindrocladium black rot (CBR). Polymorphism was evaluated on 17 isolates from different hosts and regions. Each locus had between two and six alleles. Cross-species transferability tested for 20 other Cylindrocladium species found amplification only in Cylindrocladium pacificum, which is phylogenetically closely related to C. parasiticum.

Keywords: Cylindrocladium parasiticum, microsatellite, simple sequence repeat

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Cylindrocladium parasiticum Crous, M.J. Wingf. & Alfenas = Cylindrocladium crotalariae (Loos) D.K. Bell & Sobers with its teleomorph Calonectria ilicicola Boedijn and Reitsma = C. crotalariae (Loos) D.K. Bell & Sobers, is an important pathogen of peanuts (Arachis hypogaea) causing the disease known as cylindrocladium black rot (CBR). Cylindrocladium parasiticum is a soil-borne fungus that forms microsclerotia as its primary survival propagule. Under favourable conditions, the microsclerotia germinate to infect peanut roots, hypocotyls, pegs, pods and seed (Bell & Sobers 1966). An understanding of the population genetics of C. parasiticum would advance breeding strategies aimed at developing more resistant soybean and peanut cultivars.

The aim of this study was to develop polymorphic microsatellite markers for studies concerning the population genetic structure of C. parasiticum.

Seventeen isolates were used in this study to characterize the microsatellite markers. The isolates were from a wide range of hosts in Hawaii (CBS112209 from Medicago sativa, CBS112210 from Mandevilla sp., CBS112211 from Leea guineensis, CBS112216 from Hawoa forsteriana, CBS112218 from Caryota sp., CBS111805 from Acacia koa and CBS112223 from Carica papaya), Carolina, USA (CBS112212 from Cissus rhombifolia), Florida, USA (CBS111864 from Cissus rhombifolia), Georgia, USA (CMW9592 from Desmodium tortuosum, CMW9598 from Senna obtusifolia, CMW9638 and CMW9687 from peanuts), Brazil (CBS112217 from Euterpe edulis), New Zealand (CMW9118 from Vaccinium sp.) and two unknown localities in USA (CBS112215 and CBS112219 from peanuts).

Markers for the microsatellite loci were developed using the random amplified microsatellite (RAMs) approach (van der Nest et al. 2000). Total genomic DNA from isolate CMW9592 was extracted using the method of Möller et al. (1992). The DNA was then amplified using primers consisting of short tandem repeats [(CAG)₅ (CT)₈ (AT)₈ (GC)₈ (TG)₈ (CAC)₅ (GT)₈ (CAA)₅ (CCA)₅ (GACA)₄ (CAT)₅]. The RAM reactions were carried out in 25 µL final reaction volumes containing 100 ng DNA, 2.5 U Taq polymerase and 1x buffer (Roche) 10 mM Tris-HCl, 50 mM KCl, pH 8.3 at 20 °C, 1.5 mM MgCl₂, 0.25 mM dNTPs and 1.2 µM of each primer. The temperature profile for the polymerase chain reactions (PCRs) was 2 min at 95 °C followed by 40 cycles of 30 s at 95 °C, 45 s at an annealing temperature of 46 °C and 2 min at 72 °C and a final extension step for 10 min at 72 °C.

The PCRs were performed on an Eppendorf Mastercycler or a Bio-Rad iCycler version 3.021 thermocycler.

Only the primer combinations that gave clearly definable PCR bands were purified using the High Pure PCR Product.
Purification Kit (Roche Diagnostics Pty. Ltd.), and then cloned using the pGEM®-T Easy Vector System II (Promega Corp.) and transformed into competent Escherichia coli JM109 cells according to the manufacturer’s instructions. Recombinant colonies from each RAM reaction having different sized inserts ranging between 200 and 1000 bp, were selected and then sequenced with T7 and SP6 primers using an ABI PRISM® Big Dye Terminator version 3.1 Cycle Sequencing Kit (Applied Biosystems Inc.). The 276 clones sequenced were analysed on an ABI PRISM 3100 Genetic Analyser (Applied Biosystems) and the sequence electropherograms were analysed using SEQUENCE NAVIGATOR version 1.0.1 (Applied Biosystems).

Flanking primers were developed for 25 microsatellite regions and tested for polymorphisms on DNA from five isolates (CBS111864, CBS112212, CBS112216, CBS112217 and CBS112223) from different regions and hosts. Of these primer pairs, 12 showed polymorphisms for the isolates tested (Table 1). The forward primers were then labelled with 5′-fluorescent dye (Applied Biosystems) and used to amplify the microsatellite markers for all the C. parasiticum isolates used in this study (Table 1). GeneScan-500 LIZ Size Standard (Applied Biosystems) was added and the sizes of the PCR products were determined on an ABI PRISM 3100 Genetic Analyser (Applied Biosystems) and analysed using ABI PRISM GENEMAPPER version 3.0 analysis software.

Analysis of the 12 microsatellite markers showed that a total of 45 alleles were produced for the 17 isolates of C. parasiticum. Each locus produced between two and six alleles, which ranged from 87 to 466 bp in length. The genetic diversity (expected heterozygosity) ranged from 0.311 to 0.727 per locus (Table 1). The index of association (Iₐ) calculated using MULTILocus (Agapow & Burt 2001) showed significant multilocus linkage disequilibrium for the isolates analysed (Iₐ = 3.767, P ≤ 0.001). This observed nonrandom multilocus linkage disequilibrium for the isolates confirmed the homothallic sexual character of C. parasiticum (Alfieri et al. 1982). To verify that observed clonality was not due to marker linkage, amplified fragment length polymorphisms (AFLP) analyses were made on 40 isolates of C. parasiticum collected from peanuts in

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**Table 1** Core sequences and allelic properties of polymorphic primers designed for Cylindrocladium parasiticum

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Locus</th>
<th>Primer sequence</th>
<th>Core sequence*</th>
<th>Tₐ (°C)†</th>
<th>Size range (bp)</th>
<th>No. of alleles</th>
<th>Fluorescent label</th>
<th>h‡</th>
<th>GenBank Accession no.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CypaL4</td>
<td>F: 5′-TACGCTACGTAACGACAC</td>
<td>(AC)₁₀</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>278–285</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>VIC</td>
<td>0.464</td>
<td>DQ067901</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CypaL6</td>
<td>F: 5′-GCTGCTACGTAACGACAC</td>
<td>(CA)₂(CA)₃</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>197–203</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>NED</td>
<td>0.443</td>
<td>DQ067902</td>
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<tr>
<td>CypaL7</td>
<td>F: 5′-CGGCTGCTACGTAACGACAC</td>
<td>(CA)₃(CA)₄</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>350–355</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>PET</td>
<td>0.554</td>
<td>DQ067903</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CypaL8</td>
<td>F: 5′-ACGCTGCTACGTAACGACAC</td>
<td>(TC)₆(TC)₈</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>403–408</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>NED</td>
<td>0.311</td>
<td>DQ067904</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CypaL9</td>
<td>F: 5′-GGACTGCTACGTAACGACAC</td>
<td>(TC)₈</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>165–171</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>VIC</td>
<td>0.609</td>
<td>DQ067905</td>
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<tr>
<td>CypaL10</td>
<td>F: 5′-GATGCGCTACGTAACGACAC</td>
<td>(TC)₁₀</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>222–227</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>PET</td>
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<tr>
<td>CypaL11</td>
<td>F: 5′-CCATGCTACGTAACGACAC</td>
<td>(GAT)₃(GAT)₄</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>462–466</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>CypaL12</td>
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<td>(GAT)₃(GAT)₄</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>289–310</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>NED</td>
<td>0.311</td>
<td>DQ067908</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CypaL13</td>
<td>F: 5′-CCATGCTACGTAACGACAC</td>
<td>(GAT)₆</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>211–244</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5-FAM</td>
<td>0.727</td>
<td>DQ067909</td>
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<tr>
<td>CypaL14</td>
<td>F: 5′-CCATGCTACGTAACGACAC</td>
<td>(GAT)₆</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>398–400</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>VIC</td>
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<td>CypaL15</td>
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<td>60</td>
<td>366–369</td>
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<td>5-FAM</td>
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<td>87–112</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5-FAM</td>
<td>0.588</td>
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</table>

*The brackets surround a repeat motif with the subscript indicating the number of repeats.
†Starting annealing temperature which where reduced by 0.5 °C per cycle for the first 10 cycles.
‡Nei’s (1973) gene diversity (expected heterozygosity) was calculated using POPGENE (Yeh et al. 1999).
§Unspecified length of sequence.
Georgia. These isolates were shown to be clonal with both the microsatellite and AFLP data (results not shown).

The microsatellite markers developed in this study were tested for their ability to amplify single PCR products of the expected sizes, for isolates of other species of *Cylindrocladium*. Other species tested were *C. angustatum*, *C. candelabrum*, *C. colhounii*, *C. gracile*, *C. hurae*, *C. insulare*, *C. leucothoes*, *C. naviculatum*, *C. ovatum*, *C. pacificum*, *C. pauciramosum*, *C. peruviana*, *C. pseudonaviculatum*, *C. pseudospathiphylli*, *C. pteridis*, *C. reteaudii*, *C. scoparium*, *C. spathiphylli*, *C. spathulatum* and *C. variable*. Of the 20 species tested only *C. pacificum* amplified DNA of the expected size for all the markers other than *CypaL7*. This is consistent with the fact that *C. pacificum* is shown to be phylogenetically closely related to *C. parasiticum* (Crous *et al.* 2004).

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**References**


