

MICROSATELLITE MARKERS DEVELOPED FOR *CORALLODISCUS LANUGINOSUS* (GESNERIACEAE) AND THEIR CROSS-SPECIES TRANSFERABILITY¹

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- *Premise of the study:* *Corallodiscus* is widespread across China and in adjacent countries to the west and south, with *C. lanuginosus* covering the entire range of the genus. Microsatellite markers will be useful to address within-complex taxonomic and biogeographic structures of this species.
- *Methods and Results:* Fourteen markers were developed using the Fast Isolation by AFLP of Sequences COntaining repeats (FIASCO) protocol. Polymorphism was assessed in 12 individuals each from two populations from West Yunnan, China. Nine primers displayed polymorphisms. The number of alleles per locus ranged from one to six (mean: 2.7). The observed and expected heterozygosities ranged from 0 to 1 and from 0 to 0.772 (average: 0.487 and 0.448). Only one of the polymorphic loci deviated from Hardy–Weinberg equilibrium. Among the four congeneric species, cross-amplification success ranged from two to eight markers.
- *Conclusions:* The markers will be useful for population genetic and evolutionary history studies for *C. lanuginosus* and the allied species *C. bhutanicus*, *C. cooperi*, and *C. kingianus*.

Key words: *Corallodiscus lanuginosus*; Gesneriaceae; microsatellite marker; polymorphism; population genetics.

The genus *Corallodiscus* Batalin (Gesneriaceae) was first established in 1892 (Batalin, 1892), based on a specimen of '*C. conchifolius*' (*C. conchifolius* Batalin). Craib (1919a, b) described 16 further species, but described them as *Didissandra* C. B. Clarke. Burt (1947) transferred all of Craib's species to *Corallodiscus*, because Craib's placement in *Didissandra* conflicted with the work of Ridley (1905), who used the name *Didissandra* for another group of plants from the Malay Peninsula. Burt's (1947) taxonomic work resulted in 18 species in *Corallodiscus*. Of these, 16 species came from China, and *C. cooperi* (Craib) B. L. Burt and *C. bhutanicus* (Craib) B. L. Burt came from Bhutan. Further changes were made by Chinese taxonomists. For the *Flora of China*, Wang et al. (1990) revised *Corallodiscus* based on Craib and Burt's taxonomy and reduced the 16 Chinese species to nine. In the later English version of the *Flora of China*,

Wang et al. (1998) further reduced the species from 11 to five: *C. bhutanicus*, *C. conchifolius*, *C. cooperi*, and *C. kingianus* (Craib) B. L. Burt were all retained, and the remaining species were included in a fifth, representing the *C. lanuginosus* complex. The authors found morphological variation in the complex in vegetative and generative characters, and suggested that "the variation in all of these characters is continuous and is not correlated with the variation in other characters. For this reason it was impossible to clearly delimit previously recognized taxa. Thus, we recognize one, highly variable species, but further studies are needed to understand the variation."

With a background of such complex morphological variation and the taxonomic uncertainty of the *C. lanuginosus* complex, population genetics approaches such as microsatellite markers seem an appropriate method to investigate the *C. lanuginosus* complex. Consequently, we have developed and characterized 14 microsatellite markers for *C. lanuginosus* (Wall. ex DC.) B. L. Burt using the Fast Isolation by AFLP of Sequences COntaining repeats (FIASCO) protocol (Zane et al., 2002).

METHODS AND RESULTS

Total genomic DNA was isolated from silica gel-dried leaves of a single individual following the cetyltrimethylammonium bromide (CTAB) protocol (Doyle and Doyle, 1987) with minor modifications. The microsatellite loci were isolated using the FIASCO protocol. Approximately 500 ng of DNA was digested with *MseI* (New England Biolabs, Beverly, Massachusetts, USA), and the fragments ligated to the *MseI* AFLP adapter pair (5'-TACTCAGGACTCAT-3'/5'-GACGATGAGTCCTGAG-3') at 37°C for 2 h with T4 DNA ligase

¹Manuscript received 13 April 2012; revision accepted 28 June 2012.

Laboratory work was carried out at the Germplasm Bank of Wild Species in Southwest China, Kunming Institute of Botany, Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS). We are grateful to Jun-Bo Yang for his technical assistance. This study was supported by a CAS Visiting Professorship for Senior International Scientists (grant no. 2011T1S20) and the Talent Project of Yunnan Province (grant no. 2008YP064). The Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh is funded by the Rural and Environment Science and Analytical Services division in the Scottish Government.

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TABLE 1. Primer sequences and characteristics of 14 microsatellite loci successfully amplified in *Corallodiscus lanuginosus*.

Locus	Primer sequences (5'–3')	Repeat motif	Size range (bp)	T _a (°C)	GenBank accession no.
Cora011*	F: TATTCTATCACCCCTGGTCAT R: ATTGAAGAACACGACCCACA	(TC) ₂₅	232–250	50	JQ743036
Cora014	F: GGTGTGTCATGTGGCTTCCT R: CACAGACGAACACACAAACCA	(TG) ₉	131	58	JQ743037
Cora018*	F: TGTGTGGTGCTGAACTAAAGT R: ATAGCGTGCCATTGTATACAT	(TG) ₁₁	145–171	50	JQ743038
Cora029*	F: GGGAAACCAAGTTGATGAGGA R: GTTGTATTTTCACTTTTGC	(AC) ₇	211–229	50	JQ743039
Cora032*	F: AAGATTTCCTGATTATGCAAG R: CAAAGAATAAATGCGTCCT	(TG) ₁₂	312–320	48	JQ743040
Cora034*	F: TGCCCCAAAAAGAACAGTATG R: TTGGAAAGGGGACAGACGCTA	(AC) ₁₁ (ATAC) ₅	152–170	50	JQ743041
Cora042*	F: GTCCTTGTCTTTTCTTTCCA R: AGTAATGGACGCAGTAAAAA	(TG) ₈	173–177	48	JQ743042
Cora063*	F: ATTCTCGTTGCTTGATTGTA R: TGACATCATTTTCGCTATTGG	(TG) ₁₀ GG(TG) ₅	236–248	48	JQ743043
Cora065	F: CAGAATAGCAATAAATACG R: CTTGTATTTTTCGCTTGTTT	(AC) ₇	201	50	JQ743044
Cora066*	F: TTGTGGCTTTGAACCTTCCT R: ATTTTCAGGATGTTACAGGA	(AC) ₇	177–179	48	JQ743045
Cora067	F: GTTGAAGTGCGAGCGTATTA R: CAAAATGACATAAACAGTG	(AC) ₁₄	178	48	JQ743046
Cora075	F: GGTTCTGTGTAAGTGTTC R: CTTGCGTTTTCTCACTCAT	(TG) ₁₁	143	52	JQ743047
Cora091	F: GCCCAGCAATCAAAAATAA R: ATTACTTACTTCCATCTGTTAC	(AC) ₁₀	254	50	JQ743048
Cora093*	F: TTAGGTAGTGGAAATCTGAG R: AACAACTCAATAAATAAAGC	(TG) ₇	176–184	50	JQ743049

Note: T_a = PCR annealing temperature.

* Polymorphic loci.

(Fermentas, Burlington, Ontario, Canada). Five microliters of the diluted digestion-ligation mixture (1:10) were used for amplification reactions with the adapter-specific primers *Mse*I-N (5'-GATGAGTCTGAGTAAN-3') following the profile: 95°C for 3 min; 30 cycles of 94°C for 45 s, 52°C for 60 s, 72°C for 60 s; and a final extension step of 10 min at 72°C. The amplified fragments (200–800 bp) were enriched for microsatellite repeats by magnetic bead selection with 5'-biotinylated (AC)₁₅, (AG)₁₅, and (AAG)₁₀ probes. The captured fragments were reamplified with the *Mse*I-N primers. PCR products were purified using an E.Z.N.A. Gel Extraction Kit (Omega Bio-Tek, Guangzhou, China), ligated into the pGEM-T vector (Promega Corporation, Madison, Wisconsin, USA), and transformed into DH5 α cells (TaKaRa Biotechnology Co., Dalian, China). Identification of recombinant clones was carried out in a blue/white selection assay. Positive clones were tested for microsatellite inserts by PCR with (AC)₁₀/(AG)₁₀/(AAG)₇ and T7/Sp6 primers, and analyzed on an ABI PRISM 3730XL DNA sequencer (Applied Biosystems, Foster City, California, USA).

In total, 347 clones containing inserts were sequenced, of which 229 (66%) were found to contain simple sequence repeats (SSRs); 101 of the latter with sufficient flanking regions were selected to design locus-specific primers using the program Oligo 6.0 (Offerman and Rychlik, 2003). Polymorphism of all 101 microsatellite loci was assessed in 12 individuals each from two wild *C. lanuginosus* populations (XQ20: voucher no. MMO11-1767, Lanping, Yunnan, 26°55'42"N, 99°10'02"E [E, HITBC]; and JZL: voucher no. MMO11-1772, Yunlong, Yunnan, 25°54'37"N, 99°09'06"E [E, HITBC]) collected in West Yunnan, China. The two populations were selected to span the morphological diversity found in the complex.

PCR reactions were performed in a 20- μ L volume containing 30–50 ng genomic DNA, 0.6 μ M of each primer, and 7.5 μ L 2 \times *Taq* PCR MasterMix (containing 0.1 U *Taq* polymerase/ μ L, 0.5 mM dNTP each, 20 mM Tris-HCl [pH 8.3], 100 mM KCl, and 3 mM MgCl₂ [Tiagen, Beijing, China]). The PCR cycle profile was: 95°C for 3 min, followed by 30–35 cycles at 94°C for 30 s, at a primer-specific annealing temperature (Table 1) for 45 s, and 72°C for 60 s, and a final extension step at 72°C for 7 min. The amplified fragments were separated on 6% polyacrylamide denaturing gels with a 20-bp ladder molecular size standard (Fermentas) and visualized by silver staining.

Of the 101 primer pairs tested, 14 successfully amplified (Table 1), of which nine were polymorphic (Table 2). The potentially perceived low level of successful primers stems from our very strict criteria for the success rating of the loci. We regarded PCR amplification success only for primers with PCR products visible as clear single or double bands for all samples. Primers producing multiple bands or unclear bands with shadow bands (in repeated amplifications) were treated as failure. Also discarded were primer pairs where only a few individuals failed to amplify in repeated PCRs.

TABLE 2. Population genetic characteristics of nine polymorphic microsatellite loci tested on two populations of *Corallodiscus lanuginosus*.^a

Locus	XQ20 (N = 12)			JZL (N = 12)		
	A	H _o	H _e	A	H _o	H _e
Cora011	3	0.667	0.594	1	0.000	0.000
Cora018	6	0.583	0.714	4	0.583	0.736*
Cora029	3	0.917	0.554	2	0.500	0.391
Cora032	2	0.167	0.464	1	0.000	0.000
Cora034	5	0.917	0.750	3	0.750	0.540
Cora042	2	0.917	0.518	1	0.000	0.000
Cora063	4	0.583	0.772	4	1.000	0.736
Cora066	2	0.250	0.518	2	0.500	0.391
Cora093	2	0.333	0.290	2	0.083	0.083
Mean	3.2	0.593	0.575	2.2	0.380	0.320

Note: A = number of alleles revealed; H_e = expected heterozygosity; H_o = observed heterozygosity; N = population sample size.

^aVoucher/locality information for the studied populations: XQ20 = voucher no. MMO11-1767, Lanping, Yunnan, 26°55'42"N, 99°10'02"E (E, HITBC); and JZL = voucher no. MMO11-1772, Yunlong, Yunnan, 25°54'37"N, 99°09'06"E (E, HITBC).

* Significant deviation from Hardy–Weinberg equilibrium ($P = 0.01$).

Standard genetic diversity parameters for the polymorphic loci, i.e., the number of alleles (A) and expected (H_e) and observed (H_o) levels of heterozygosity, were calculated, and tests for deviations from Hardy–Weinberg equilibrium and genotypic linkage disequilibrium (LD) were performed in GENEPOP version 4.0.10 (Raymond and Rousset, 1995; <http://genepop.curtin.edu.au/>). For the nine polymorphic primers, the number of alleles per locus ranged from one to six (mean: 2.7). H_o and H_e ranged from 0 to 1 and from 0 to 0.772, with an average for all samples of 0.487 and 0.448, respectively. Only one of the nine polymorphic microsatellite loci (Cora018) deviated from Hardy–Weinberg equilibrium ($P < 0.01$) (Table 2). There was no significant LD between pairs of loci at $P < 0.001$, and only for three comparisons out of the 72 pairs at $P < 0.05$.

Cross-amplification was tested using the PCR method described above using the nine polymorphic primer pairs on individual samples of the four other species in *Corallodiscus*, *C. kingianus* (voucher no.: MMO 09-1585, Batang, Sichuan, 30°12'29"N, 99°17'10"E; E, HITBC), *C. cooperi* (voucher no.: F. Ludlow, G. Sherriff & J. H. Hicks 16939, Dhur valley, Bhutan, 27°38'00"N, 90°40'00"E; E), *C. bhutanicus* (voucher no.: A. J. C. Griesen & D. G. Long s.n., Thimphu, Bhutan, 27°40'00"N, 89°54'00"E; E), and *C. conchifolius* (voucher no.: ZP2010-006, Wenchuan, Sichuan, 31°31'09"N, 103°14'54"E; E, HITBC). In *C. kingianus*, eight primers amplified a PCR product, six in *C. cooperi*, four in *C. bhutanicus*, and only two in *C. conchifolius* (Table 3). Thus, some primers developed here for *C. lanuginosus* will also be useful for population genetic studies of its allied species.

CONCLUSIONS

Of the 14 microsatellite markers developed for *C. lanuginosus* in this study, nine showed polymorphisms, indicating that

TABLE 3. Result of cross-amplification tests for nine polymorphic microsatellite loci designed for *Corallodiscus lanuginosus*.

Locus	<i>C. kingianus</i>	<i>C. cooperi</i>	<i>C. bhutanicus</i>	<i>C. conchifolius</i>
Cora011	+	—	—	—
Cora018	+	+	+	—
Cora029	+	+	+	+
Cora032	+	—	—	—
Cora034	+	+	+	+
Cora042	+	+	—	—
Cora063	+	+	+	—
Cora066	—	—	—	—
Cora093	+	+	—	—

Note: + = successful amplification; — = no amplification.

these markers will be suitable for investigations of the genetic structure at the population level of this widespread and taxonomically difficult complex. Such studies will allow insight into its evolutionary history to understand the origin of the morphologically complicated pattern and perhaps suggest the presence of cryptic taxonomic units. These SSR markers developed for *C. lanuginosus* have a high potential for analyzing allied species in the genus, such as *C. kingianus* in China, because of their high cross-amplification rate.

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