ABSTRACT

The delay of pigment gland morphogenesis in the seed confers to several Australian wild diploid cottons the glandless-seed/glanded-plant trait. To introgress this trait from G. sturtianum Willis (2m = 2x = 26, 2C1 genome) into G. hirsutum L. (2n = 4x = 52, 2(AD)1 genome), we used bridge crosses to synthesize two trispecies hybrids, G. hirsutum-G. raimondii Ulbrich – G. sturtianum (HRS) and G. thurberi Torado – G. sturtianum – G. hirsutum (TSH). Recurrent backcrossing of these hybrids to G. hirsutum produced progenies expressing the desired trait at different levels. The objective of this study was to assess the genomic contribution of the parental species to their progenies with random amplification polymorphic DNA (RAPD) and restriction fragment length polymorphism (RFLP) probes. The use of 30 decamer primers yielded 375 bands of which 339 were polymorphic between parents. Among 49 bands specific to the donor G. sturtianum, 20 and 18 that segregated in backcrosses, were observed in HRS and TSH, respectively. The American wild diploid species used as bridge showed 12 and 13 specific bands for G. raimondii (2n = 2x = 26, 2D5 genome) and G. thurberi (2n = 2x = 26, 2D1 genome), respectively. Genetic distances between G. hirsutum and the wild species involved in the cross were determined from RAPD data. This study allowed choice within backcross progenies those that shared the highest similarity to the cultivated cotton. The parental origin of chromosomes in the trispecies hybrids and the backcrosses were then identified using RFLP probes specific to cotton chromosomes. The results are discussed in relation to the expression of the desired trait.

Materials and methods

Plant materials. Two trispecies hybrids [G. thurberi-G. sturtianum-G. hirsutum (TSH), and G. hirsutum - G. raimondii - G. sturtianum (HRS)] were involved in recurrent backcrosses with G. hirsutum to produce introgression of pigment gland morphogenesis delay into upland cotton: potential of DNA markers to monitor parental contribution to progenies.
BC1, BC2, BC3 and BC3sp (BC3 selfed progenies), thanks to in vitro culture of seed embryos, application of growth regulators after manual pollinations, and grafting of unbalanced progenies on vigorous G. hirsutum plantlets.

**DNA extraction.** An important step in DNA marker-assisted selection is the efficient isolation of plant DNA. We used activated charcoal in a modified CTAB method to obtain a simple but efficient DNA extraction procedure (Vroh Bi et al., 1996).

**Molecular analysis.** RAPD reactions and statistic analyses were performed according to Vroh Bi et al., 1997 and Mergetai et al., 1998. In addition, the robustness of similarity estimates was analyzed by the bootstrap technique (Felsenstein, 1985), using the genetic distance of Nei (Nei and Lei 1979). Restriction endonuclease digestion, southern blotting, labeling and hybridization of RFLP probes were performed as described in Reinisch et al. (1994), with slight modifications (7 µg of genomic DNA/reaction, 50 ng of PCR-amplified probe-DNA, 10 ml hybridisation mix, Kodak XOMAT AR film, one week-exposure minimum). Forty-nine RFLP markers of known map positions (Reinisch et al., 1994) were tested on genomic DNA digested with six restriction enzymes (BamH1, Cfo1, EcoR1, EcoR5, Hind3, Xba1). These clones were kindly provided as M13 inserts by Professor A.H. Paterson of Texas A&M University (USA).

**Results and discussion**

**RAPD analysis.** Seventy five decamer primers were screened on parental species, trispecies hybrids and 27 BC1 plants. Thirty primers showing consistently reproducible bands were used for further studies. The analysis of species-specific bands confirmed the triparental origin of both hybrids TSH and HRS. Owing to the dominant nature of RAPD markers, only markers specific to the wild parents (bands present in the wild parents and not in the cultivated cotton) could be used to detect introgression. An example of introgression and segregation of such specific RAPD bands in the trispecies hybrid HRS and its BC1 is summarized in Table 1. The thirty primers detected 12, 13, and 49 specific bands from G. raimondii, G. thurberi and G. sturtianum (the donor parent), respectively. Of the 49 G. sturtianum-specific bands, 22 were present in the trispecies hybrids and 17 segregated in the BC1 progenies (Mergetai et al., 1998). Markers that are not transmitted to progenies at each cycle of cross are either located on chromosomes that are not transmitted during meiosis, or constitute markers undergoing recombinations that can modify the primer binding sites. Few specific markers of G. sturtianum were systematically present in all the BC1 analyzed. Such bands should be located on C genome chromosomes that are preferentially transmitted to the BC1, due to their higher pairing affinity with the A and D chromosomes of the other parents, or represent repeated DNA dispersed throughout the genome of G. sturtianum.

The reliability of our RAPD data to establish genetic distances within cotton germplasm was checked by studying relationship between the parental species, using UPGMA (unweighted pair group method with arithmetical mean) and Jaccard’s distances (Figure 1). The pattern obtained is in agreement with the current phylogenetic classification of Gossypium species based on morphological and cytogenetical studies (Fryxell, 1979; Endrizzi et al., 1985). Taking the most remote species, G. sturtianum as outgroup, the robustness of the remaining nodes was assessed on 1000 bootstrap runs by the neighbour-joining method of PHYLIP (Felsenstein 1993). Results are shown on Figure 2. All the four varieties of G. hirsutum are tightly clustered together (bootstrap values of 840 to 992), showing that such studies can also reliably group cotton varieties. Analysis of similarity showed that both trispecies hybrids were closer to cultivated cotton than to wild diploids. This is certainly due to the tetraploid nature of the cultivated parent that contributed twice to the hybrids composition, compared to the contribution of each wild diploid species. We used these data to generate Jaccard’s coefficients of similarity between genotypes. Analysis of all crosses revealed 30.6 to 39.4% similarity between G. hirsutum and the wild species and 74.3 to 89.0% between the four cultivated varieties, while similarity between BC progenies and cultivated parent varied from 57.7 to 67.2%. This facilitated the choice of BC plants sharing the highest similarity with cultivated cotton.

**RFLP analysis.** Of the 49 RFLP markers amplified by PCR, 41 having specific amplification were labelled and used as probes. Twenty five probes distributed across chromosomes 1, 6, 10, 14, 15, 17, 20, 22, 23 and linkage groups A02, A07, D01, D03, D04, D07, U01, U07 hybridized successfully and generated 106 RFLPs of which, 54 (50.90%) were polymorphic. Analysis of introgression from the donor parent (G. sturtianum) showed the presence of 11 and 7 chromosomal segments in the trispecies hybrids HRS and TSH respectively. Introgression of these chromosomal segments was traced in subsequent backcross generations. In the BC1 expressing the “glandless-seed and glanded-plant” trait, the presence of segments from chromosomes 1, 10, and linkage groups A02 and U07 of G. sturtianum was evidenced. This plant contains also a segment of chromosome 1 of G. thurberi. Introgression from both bridge species G. raimondii and G. thurberi was also identified in hybrids and backcrosses, but introgression seemed to be most common from G. raimondii than from G. thurberi. Among all the linkage groups analyzed, the chromosome 1 is the most introgressed with four markers in one or another backcross. In addition to these four markers, the introgression of wild diploid specific markers located on chromosome 15 indicated...
probably introgression of chromosome 1 segments, since chromosome 15 is homoeologous to chromosome 1 (Reinisch et al., 1994). One of such chromosome 1 markers was introgressed from *G. sturtianum* and *G. thurberi* respectively.

The introgression from wild species was of two types. In the most common type, RFLP alleles characteristic of cultivated and wild cottons were present, and the plants were heterozygous at the introgressed locus. In the second type, one of the *G. hirsutum* RFLP allele was replaced by the corresponding *G. sturtianum* or *G. raimondii* allele. This last type, evidenced on chromosome 1 with the probes A1204 and A1593, is consistent with reciprocal recombinations due probably to multivalent configurations observed at metaphase I (Vroh Bi et al., 1998). Evidence of reciprocal recombinations also indicates that the crossing schemes developed in this study can lead to homoeologous chromosomes pairing and intergenomic exchanges.

**Conclusion**

The interest of molecular markers in breeding programs to tag introgression from parents has been demonstrated in many plants ( Tanksley and Hewitt 1988; Lee 1988). First, we have evaluated RAPD markers as tools for determining relationships between species, varieties, hybrids and backcross progenies of cotton. The results showed that RAPD can be used to differentiate cultivated genotypes of cotton, but also to estimate the genetic contribution of each parent to each member of a segregating population (i.e. backcross). Introgressed individuals whose genome composition most resembles the cultivated cotton genome can be selected for the next cross through genetic distance estimations. This could potentially accelerate the introgression of traits from genetically distant parents like those used in the present program. Second, using markers selected from the developing RFLP map of cotton (Reinisch et al., 1994), we have demonstrated the ability to follow introgression of specific chromosome regions from parents to descendants through multiple generations. The fact that cotton RFLP markers initially developed from the cross *G. hirsutum* x *G. barbadense* (Reinisch et al., 1994) works also in wide crosses involving other species shows that this map will prove to be useful in a wide range of cotton breeding programs assisted by DNA markers. Although the introgression of the "glandless-seed and glanded-plant" trait from Australian wild diploid cottons was previously attempted by cotton breeders (Dilday 1986; Shuijing and Biling 1993), chromosomes acting for the variable expression of this trait in introgressed genetic backgrounds remain unknown. Since the BC progenies analyzed here are segregating for both RFLP markers of known chromosomal positions and the desired trait, the present study is an important step towards the mapping of the "low-gossypol seed and high-gossypol plant" trait. Indeed, using more RFLP markers in large segregating populations could establish association between chromosomal segments or loci of *G. sturtianum* and the gland levels in different organs of the plants.

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**References**


Fryxell, P.A. (1979): The natural history of the cotton tribe. Texas A&M Univ. Press, College Station, TX, USA.


Table 1. Segregation of 15 RAPD markers specific to *G. sturtianum* in 12 BC derived from the trispecies hybrid *G.hirsutum-G.raimondii-G.sturtianum*.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specific RAPD markers</th>
<th>N° of BC1</th>
<th>Segregation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OPC04-1200</td>
<td>+ + + + + + + + + + + +</td>
<td>12 : 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPC08-760</td>
<td>+ + + + + + + - - + + + +</td>
<td>9 : 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPC13-1250</td>
<td>+ + + + - + + + - - - - +</td>
<td>8 : 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPC16-820</td>
<td>- - - + + + - + + + - - -</td>
<td>6 : 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPC19-872</td>
<td>+ + + + + + - - + - - - -</td>
<td>7 : 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPC19-500</td>
<td>- - - - - - - - - - - -</td>
<td>1 : 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPB01-1500</td>
<td>- - + + + + + + + + + +</td>
<td>3 : 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPB03-360</td>
<td>+ + + + - + + - - - - -</td>
<td>4 : 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPB03-180</td>
<td>+ + + + - + - - - - - -</td>
<td>8 : 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPB04-740</td>
<td>+ - - - - - - + - + + + +</td>
<td>3 : 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPB10-1078</td>
<td>+ + + + + + + - + + + + + +</td>
<td>12 : 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPD03-690</td>
<td>+ - - - + - - - - + - - -</td>
<td>5 : 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPD03-271</td>
<td>- - - + + - - - - - - + -</td>
<td>4 : 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPD-220</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPD13-310</td>
<td>- + + + - + - - + - + + +</td>
<td>6 : 6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total of introgressed bands: 9 8 9 11 6 10 4 7 6 7 6 8

Figure 1. Dendrogram of cultivated and wild species of cotton based on UPGMA cluster analysis.

Figure 2. Neighbour-joining tree based on genetic distances of Nei. The tree is rooted with data from *G. sturtianum* chosen as outgroup taxon. Numbers adjacent to nodes indicate percentage of bootstrap replicates supporting that node.