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Renaud Ioos, Benoît Barres, Axelle Andrieux, Pascal Frey. Characterization of microsatellite markers in the interspecific hybrid Phytophthora alni ssp. alni, and cross-amplification with related taxa. Molecular Ecology Notes, 2007, 7 (1), pp.133-137. 10.1111/j.1471-8286.2006.01554.x . hal-01136981

HAL Id: hal-01136981

https://hal.science/hal-01136981

Submitted on 30 Mar 2015

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PRIMER NOTE

Characterization of microsatellite markers in the interspecific hybrid *Phytophthora alni* ssp. *alni*, and cross-amplification with related taxa

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Abstract

Phytophthora alni ssp. alni is an interspecific hybrid oomycete causing a large-scale decay of alders throughout Europe. In this study we developed a set of 10 microsatellite markers that shows promise for population studies and for studying hybridization events between the parental species of the hybrid. Moreover, the genotype and the ploidy of the different subspecies of *P. alni* might be inferred from the quantitative ratio of amplified genome-specific alleles. Nine primer pairs cross amplified with the related species *Phytophthora cambivora* and *Phytophthora fragariae* and yielded distinct alleles.

Keywords: genotyping, oomycete, polyploidy Received 29 June 2006; revision 7 August 2006

Phytophthora alni ssp. alni (Paa) is a recently described interspecific hybrid oomycete causing a lethal disease of alder throughout Europe (Brasier et al. 2004). Two other taxa close to Paa are isolated from diseased alders or from soil beneath alders: Phytophthora alni ssp. uniformis (Pau) and Phytophthora alni ssp. multiformis (Pam). All three taxa are phylogenetically very close to Phytophthora cambivora (Pc) and Phytophthora fragariae (Pf) (Brasier et al. 1999). Previously hypothesized to originate from genetic breakdown of Paa (Brasier et al. 1999), Pam and Pau were actually suggested to represent distinct species and to have generated Paa through interspecific hybridization (Ioos et al. 2006). In addition, Brasier et al. (1999) reported that Paa was a near tetraploid species (4n + 2) in respect with the typical diploid (2n) status of the Phytophthora genus, and that Pam and Pau were aneuploid species with 2n + 4 to 2n + 7, and 2n + 2 chromosomes, respectively. However, Ioos et al. (2006) demonstrated that three divergent alleles for four unlinked single copy nuclear genes were observed within the Paa genome. Two of them matched the two alleles also found in Pam and the third one corresponded to the single allele found in Pau. As these results contrasted with the ploidy levels reported, and as little is known about the genetic polymorphism within Paa

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and the two other taxa, we isolated and characterized microsatellite loci in *Paa*. These codominant markers are especially useful to address questions relating to origin and genetic diversity of fungi (Weising *et al.* 1995).

Microsatellite markers were isolated from Paa using enrichment libraries. DNA was extracted from Paa isolate PAA130 using DNeasy Plant Mini Kit (QIAGEN). Approximately 500 ng μL^{-1} DNA were recovered and used for the construction of five enrichment libraries using biotinylated oligoprobes [(AC)₁₃, (AG)₁₃, (ACG)₆, (AAC)₆ and (AAG)₆] and streptavidin-coated magnetic beads, according to Dutech et al. (2000). The libraries were cloned using a TOPO TA Cloning kit (Invitrogen). For each of the five enrichments, 288 clones were screened by colony blot following a protocol developed by Estoup et al. (1993). A total of 172 positive clones were subsequently size-screened by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) using vector's primers and 43 clones with insert between 400 and 1000 bp were retained for sequencing. Eighteen primer pairs could be designed from the sequences, either manually or using PRIMER 3 software (Rozen & Skaletski 2000). The primer pairs were tested by PCR with a panel of 6 Paa, 4 Pam, 8 Pau, 2 Pc and 2 Pf isolates, from various geographical origins in Europe and displaying different mitotypes according to Ioos et al. (2006) (Table 1). PCR conditions were optimized for each primer pair. PCR was conducted in a 20-µL volume containing 15-20 ng of

Table 1 List of the isolates used in the study. Mitotypes of the isolates determined as described in Ioos et al. (2006)

Species	Isolate	Mitotype	Host	Geographical origin	Year isolated	
Phytophthora alni ssp. alni	PAA129	U	Alnus glutinosa	SW France	2003	
3 /	PAA130*	M	Alnus glutinosa	NE France	2003	
	PAA143	M''	Alnus glutinosa	Poland	2002	
	PAA151	U	Alnus glutinosa	NE France	2004	
	PAA162	U	Alnus glutinosa	Germany	2004	
	PAAa2′	U	Alnus glutinosa	NE France	2005	
	PAAe3	M	Alnus glutinosa	NE France	2005	
	PAA151	U	Alnus glutinosa	NE France	2004	
	PAA70	M	Alnus glutinosa	the Netherlands	Unknown	
	PAAa2	M	Alnus glutinosa	NE France	2005	
	PAA38	M	Alnus glutinosa	N France	2002	
	PAA74	U	Alnus glutinosa	Scotland	2000	
	PAA75	M	Alnus viridis	Scotland	2000	
	PAA81	U	Alnus glutinosa	England	1997	
	PAA82	M	Alnus glutinosa	England	1996	
	PAAe1	M	Alnus glutinosa	NE France	2005	
	PAA85	M	Alnus glutinosa	England	Unknown	
	PAA86	M	Alnus glutinosa	Belgium	1999	
	PAA88	M	Alnus glutinosa	Belgium	2001	
	PAA91	M'	Alnus glutinosa	Hungary	2001	
	PAA112	M	Alnus glutinosa	NW France	2003	
	PAA114	M	Alnus glutinosa	NE France	2002	
	PAA134	M	Alnus glutinosa	Germany	2000	
	PAA141	U'	Alnus glutinosa	Austria	Unknown	
	PAA144	M''	Alnus glutinosa	Poland	2003	
	PAA178	M''	Alnus glutinosa	Poland	2003	
	PAA185	M	Alnus glutinosa	NE France	2004	
	PAA194	M	Alnus glutinosa	NW France	2005	
	PAAd6'	U	Alnus glutinosa	NW France	2005	
	PAAa10	M	Alnus glutinosa	N France	2005	
	PAAc10	M	Alnus glutinosa	N France	2005	
	PAAd2'	M'	Alnus glutinosa	NE France	2005	
	PAAe2'	M	Alnus glutinosa	NE France	2005	
	PAAa11'	M	Alnus glutinosa	Germany	2005	
Phytophthora alni ssp. multiformis	PAM54	M	Alnus glutinosa	NW France	2000	
1 ngrophinoru umi 35p. manigermie	PAM71	M	Alnus glutinosa soil	the Netherlands	1995	
	PAM90	M	Alnus glutinosa soil	the Netherlands	1995	
	PAM186	M'	Alnus glutinosa	Belgium	2001	
	PAM73	nd	Alnus glutinosa	England	1996	
Phytophthora alni ssp. uniformis	PAU60	U"	Alnus glutinosa	NE France	1999	
1 rigiophinoru umi oop. umjormio	PAU84	U′	Alnus glutinosa	Sweden	1999	
	PAU87	U	Alnus glutinosa	Belgium	2001	
	PAU89	Ū	Alnus cordata	Italy	2000	
	PAU142	U	Alnus glutinosa	Slovenia	2000	
	PAU188	Ū	Alnus incana	Belgium	2001	
	PAUb3	U"	Alnus glutinosa	NE France	2005	
	PAUc6'	Ū	Alnus glutinosa	NE France	2005	
	PAU187	U	Alnus glutinosa	Belgium	2001	
	PAU96	U	Alnus glutinosa	Hungary	1999	
	PAU97	U	Alnus glutinosa soil	Hungary	1999	
	PAU98	U	Alnus glutinosa soil	Hungary	1999	
	PAUb3	U′	Alnus glutinosa son	NE France	2005	
Phytophthora cambivora	PCJC17	C2	Quercus sp. soil	NE France	1999	
1 ngrophinoin cumotootu	PC643	C2 C1	Castanea sativa soil	SW France	2000	
	PC463	C2	Castanea sativa	SW France	1994	
	1 CTOO	C2 C2	Custation sutton	NE France	エノノオ	

Table 1 Continued

Species	Isolate	Mitotype	Host	Geographical origin	Year isolated	
	PC99428	C2	Castanea sativa	France	1999	
	PCst3r1	C2	Quercus petraea	SW France	1999	
	PC627	C2	Castanea sativa	Italy	1999	
	PC1a21	C2	Quercus sp. soil	NW France	1999	
	PC4n444	C2	Castanea sativa	NW France	2004	
	PC4n1125	C2	Castanea sativa	NW France	2004	
	PC051422	C2	Castanea sativa	NW France	2005	
Phytophthora fragariae var. fragariae	PFF309	FF	Fragaria × ananassa	Great Britain	1962	
31 78 78	PFFCSL	FF	Fragaria × ananassa	Unknown	Unknown	
	PFF209	FF	Fragaria × ananassa	England	1946	
Phytophthora fragariae var. rubi	PFR109	FR	Rubus sp.	Great Britain	1991	
<i>J. J. J. S </i>	PFR163	FR	Rubus sp.	France	Unknown	
	PFR59	FR	Rubus sp.	Scotland	Unknown	
	PFRCSL	FR	Rubus sp.	England	Unknowr	
	PFR96795	FR	Rubus sp.	Scotland	1985	
Phytophthora cactorum	CAC4810	nd	Unknown	France	Unknowr	
Phytophthora cinnamomi	DSF970060	nd	Ouercus suber	France	1999	
Phytophthora citricola	AUL045	nd	Alnus glutinosa	France	1999	
Phytophthora citrophthora	2 N1021	nd	Rosa sp.	France	2002	
Phytophthora cryptogea	990675	nd	Actinidia sinensis	France	1999	
Phytophthora erythroseptica	960713	nd	Polygonum oberti	France	1999	
Phytophthora europaea	AL5	nd	Quercus sp. soil	France	1998	
Phytophthora gonapodyides	Gonap4	nd	Quercus sp. soil	France	1998	
Phytophthora humicola	3 N1245j	nd	Alnus glutinosa soil	France	2003	
Phytophthora inundata	9500802	nd	Alnus glutinosa soil	France	1998	
Phytophthora lateralis	98093–1 PV	nd	Chamaecyparis sp.	France	1998	
Phytophthora megasperma	BK1	nd	Quercus sp. soil	France	1998	
Phytophthora nicotianae	960579	nd	Nicotiana tabacum	France	1996	
Phytophthora taxon forest soil	8CARPPOC1	nd	Quercus sp. soil	France	1998	
Phytophthora palmivora	970423	nd	Hedera sp.	France	1997	
Phytophthora parasitica	970029	nd	Lycopersicon sp.	France	1997	
Phytophthora taxon Pgchlamydo	Haye,3,1	nd	Quercus sp. soil	France	1998	
Phytophthora pseudosyringae	EW5	nd	Quercus sp. soil	France	1998	
Phytophthora pseudosyringae EW5 Phytophthora psychrophila FF20 Phytophthora quercina FNA		nd	Quercus sp. soil	France	1998	
		nd	Quercus sp. soil	France	1999	
Phytophthora quercina FNA Phytophthora ramorum 2 N083		nd	Rhododendron sp.	France	2002	
Phytophthora sojae	443	nd	Glycine max	Unknown	Unknown	
Phytophthora syringae	2JZ2	nd	Quercus sp. soil	France	1999	

^{*,} isolate used for microsatellite isolation; nd, not determined.

template DNA, $2 \,\mu L$ of $10 \times$ polymerase buffer, $1.5 \, mm$ MgCl₂, $0.2 \, mm$ dNTP, $0.2 \, \mu m$ of each primer, $0.5 \, U$ of Taq polymerase (Sigma) and water was added to $20 \, \mu L$. Touchdown PCR conditions were first five cycles at $94 \,^{\circ} C$ for $30 \, s$, $66-62 \,^{\circ} C$ (see initial annealing temperatures, Table 2) for $30 \, s$ and $72 \,^{\circ} c$ for 1 min; followed by 8 cycles at $94 \,^{\circ} C$ for $30 \, s$, $66-55 \,^{\circ} C$ minus $0.5 \,^{\circ} C$ per cycle for $30 \, s$, and $72 \,^{\circ} C$ for 1 min; $22 \, cycles$ at $94 \,^{\circ} C$ for $30 \, s$, $62-51 \,^{\circ} C$ for $30 \, s$, and $72 \,^{\circ} C$ for 1 min; and a final elongation step at $65 \,^{\circ} C$ for $30 \, min$. All retained forward primers were labelled to allow size and dye multiplexing. Allele sizes were determined on a CEQ $8000 \, G$ enetic Analysis System (Beckman Coulter). Eight out of the $18 \, primer$ pairs tested yielded no polymorphism or

unclear pattern and were therefore discarded. The remaining 10 primer pairs were tested by PCR on a larger collection of *Paa, Pau, Pam, P. cambivora* and *P. fragariae* isolates as well as with 23 other *Phytophthora* spp. (Table 1).

Except PA12-F/R that were specific to *Paa* and *Pam* but gave no size polymorphism, all the primers retained yielded an amplicon with *Paa*, *Pau*, *Pam*, *Pc* and *Pf*, confirming their close kinship. In *Paa*, the number of alleles for the nine polymorphic loci ranged from two to five indicating a low level of allelic variation, consistent with this hybrid species being of recent origin (Brasier *et al.* 2004; Ioos *et al.* 2006). In addition, all the alleles observed in *Paa* were those encountered either in *Pam* or in *Pau* (Table 2), strengthening the

Table 2 Primer sequences and characteristics for the nine polymorphic microsatellite loci isolated from Phytophthora alni ssp. alni. All reverse PCR primers were fluorescently labelled

Locus	1	GenBank Accession no.	Primer sequence (5'–3')	Size (bp)	Annealing T°C*	Total number of different alleles/no. of alleles per individual (allele sizes)						
						P. alni ssp. alni	P. alni ssp. multiformis	P. alni ssp. uniformis	P. cambivora	P. fragariae var fragariae	P. fragariae var rubi	other species
PA3	(CAA)GA (CAA) ₅	DQ665899	F: CTTGGATAGAGCCGTCGTTC R: TCCTACTGTTGGGAGCAAGG	201	62 °C	3/2† (198, 212, 216)	2/1–2† (198, 216)	2/1–2 (198, 212)	4/3 (210, 211, 213, 215)	1/1 (217)	1/1 (217)	_
PA6	(CAA) ₁₁ TAA(CAA)	DQ665900	F: AACACCGCGTTGAAGACG R: GTAGCCACCGCACATGAATC	303	66 °C	3/3† (278, 284, 287)	1/1 (278)	3/3 (278, 284, 287)	2/2 (278, 281)	2/1–2 (275, 288)	2/2 (275, 288)	_
PA8	(ACA) ₅ T(ACA)	DQ665901	F: GGTCAGCCAAGAGCAAAGAG R: CTGTGAGCTGCAAGAAGCAG	376	66 °C	5/3–5† (356, 359, 361, 367, 368)	3/2–3† (356, 359, 368)	2/2 (361, 367)	2/1–2 (367, 369)	2/2 (364, 367)	1/1 (367)	P. europaea (368)
PA11	(CAA) ₅ CAG (CAA)	DQ665902	F: TGCAAACAGTGCGTCTCTTC R: CCTAGATCCAGCGACAGCTC	226	62 °C	2/2† (226, 232)	2/1–2† (226, 232)	1/1 (226)	2/1–2 (224, 225)	1/1 (226)	1/1 (225)	-
PA14	(CT) ₇ () (TTTC) ₄	DQ665904	F: TGGCAAACAGACACGAAGTC R: GAAACCCAGTCATCCGAGAG	173	62 °C	3/3† (173, 175, 177)	2/2† (173, 175)	1/1 (177)	4/2 (174, 177, 179, 181)	2/2 (168, 174)	2/2 (175, 177)	-
PA17	(GTC) ₄ ()	DQ665905	F: AGCGACAATGCAGGAAGC R: CTGTCTGGGCATTCATGTCG	317	62 °C	2/2 (313, 317)	2/2 (313, 317)	1/1 (313)	2/1–2 (309, 313)	2/2 (308, 312)	1/1 (315)	P. europaea (385)
PA23	**	DQ665906	F: GGAGATAGCCACGAGACACC R: CAAGCATCGCTGTAAACGAC	155	62 °C	2/2† (133, 148)	2/2 (133, 148)	1/1 (148)	1/1 (148)	1/1 (148)	1/1 (148)	
PA30	(AC) ₈	DQ665907	F: TAGGGGACTTAAACCCCA R: GTTGGCGGACTAGAGATTT	127	66 °C	4/4† (120, 122, 123, 124)	3/3† (120, 122, 124)	1/1 (123)	2/2 (118, 122)	2/2 (120, 122)	2/2 (120, 122)	-
PA31	$(CAA)_8$	DQ665908	F: GCTTCTCACTGCACAGCAAC R: AGGGTATTGGAGCCTGATGC	195	62 °C	2/1–2† (183, 192)	1/1 (192)	2/2 (183, 192)	4/3–4 (174, 180, 186, 192)	1/1 (150)	1/1 (150)	_

^{*,} initial annealing temperature for touchdown PCR; †, loci with alleles consistently showing different peak areas.

hypothesis that *Pau* and *Pam* may actually be the progenitors of *Paa*. Due to the uncertain nature of ploidy in these different taxa, expected heterozygosities and linkage disequilibria were not computed. However, depending on the locus, up to three or five different alleles were simultaneously observed in individual *Pam* and *Paa* isolates, respectively. In addition, genotyping of the PCR products obtained with the primer pairs PA3, PA6, PA8, PA11, PA14, PA23, PA30 and PA31 showed that for individual *Paa* and *Pam* isolates, the respective quantities of the different alleles (based on peak areas) were not always equal. The occurrence of unbalanced peak ratios suggests these species are polyploid (Christiansen 2006). The genotype amplification patterns for these loci will be particularly useful to unravel the genotypes of *Paa* and *Pam*.

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