

## New resources and approaches for gene cloning in cereals

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### Abstract

Wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L.) is one of the most important crops, but due to its size (17 Gb) and complexity (allohexaploid and over 80% repetitive elements), its genome represents a challenge for mapping, sequencing, gene cloning and marker assisted breeding. To facilitate wheat genomics, the genome of ‘Chinese Spring’ has been dissected to particular chromosomes and chromosomal arms by flow cytometric sorting. Flow sorted chromosomes found a large portfolio of applications, including physical mapping using PCR, cytogenetic mapping, protein immunolocalization, chromosome ultrastructure, development of DArT markers, linear DNA amplification suitable for DNA markers development, mapping on DNA arrays, and next generation sequencing. Out of variety of applications, the most important and most demanding application has been the construction of chromosome-specific BAC libraries. In the effort to sequence wheat genome, coordinated by the International Wheat Genome Sequencing Consortium (IWGSC, www.wheatgenome.org), this allowed sharing the job between laboratories around the world. Physical maps constructed from the chromosomal specific libraries already facilitate marker development and gene cloning. One example is the cloning of powdery resistance gene *QPm-tut-4A* introgressed to hexaploid wheat from tetraploid wheat *T. militinae* Zhuk & Migush. The gene was mapped to 4AL chromosomal arm. However, recombination suppression in the gene region was observed and marker order in the gene locus could not be resolved by traditional approaches. To overcome this difficulty, a combination of traditional approaches and recent advances in wheat genomics were used. For marker ordering, 4AL-specific

radiation hybrid panel and three additional recombination mapping populations were used. To facilitate marker development, 4AL-chromosome specific BAC library was constructed, fingerprinted and ordered to contigs. The assembly of 4AL shotgun sequence was used to construct GenomeZipper (virtual gene order along the chromosome) and all genes from the collinear regions were mapped to our mapping population. Marker development was facilitated using DNA amplified from flow-sorted chromosome arm 4AL of ‘Chinese Spring’ and the same arm carrying the *T. militinae* translocation. Using these resources, the *QPm-tut-4A* gene was delimited to 0.25 cM region flanked with markers *gpw356* and *Mag974*.

The flanking markers were used to anchor the region with contigs of the 4AL physical map. The anchoring was facilitated by sequencing 3D pools of MTP from whole 4A physical map. Any marker sequence can be anchored in this way to the 4AL physical map. Using sequences of the *QPm-tut-4A* flanking markers, three large contigs spanning the *QPm-tut-4A* gene region and the flanking regions were identified and the sequence of their MTP will be used to identify candidate *QPm-tut-4A* gene/genes. The physical map of 4AL and sequences of the MTP 3D pools are becoming very important genomic resource not only for the *QPm-tut-4A* gene cloning, but also for other agronomically important genes. We have provided complete physical map of gene loci for three additional genes affecting pre-harvest sprouting, gene affecting yield and resistance locus *Yr51*.

### Keywords

Chromosome translocation, DArT marker, physical map, *Triticum aestivum*, wheat genome

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