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# **A single nuclear locus phylogeny of soybean based on DNA sequence**

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Abstract Soybean *[Glycine max* (L.) Merr.] evolution was examined by sequencing portions of the restriction fragment length polymorphism (RFLP) locus A-199a of 21 taxa from the Glycininae and 1 from the Phaseoleae. Four hundred nucleotides were determined in each, aligned, and then compared for these taxa. Within the annual soybean subgenus *(Soja),* the four accessions differed at as many as 2.2% of the nucleotides. Among 13 perennial soybean species (subgenus *Glycine),* nucleotide variation ranged from 1.7% to 8.4%. The nucleotide difference between the two soybean subgenera was 3.0-7.0%. Nucleotide variation between the genus *Glycine* and the related genera of *Neonotonia, Amphicarpa, Teramnus,* and *PhaseoIus* ranged from 8.2% to 16.4%. In addition to nucleotide substitutions, insertions/deletions (indels) differences were also observed and were consistent with nucleotide-based analysis. Cladistic analysis of the A-199a sequences was performed using Wagner parsimony to construct a soybean phylogeny. Sixteen equally parsimonious trees were produced from these data. The trees were 246 steps in length with a consistency index of 0.78. Indels distribution upon the consensus topology revealed a pattern congruent with the nucleotide-based phylogeny. The current taxonomic status of the soybean subgenera and the related genera of *Neonotonia, Amphicarpa,* and *Teramnus*  were well-supported and appear monophyletic in this analysis. Homoplasy within the subgenus *Glycine* led to a lack of resolved topology for many of these 13 taxa. However, the *Glycine* clade topology was consistent with phylogenies proposed using crossing experiments and cpDNA RFLPs. These genera were arranged from ancestral to de-

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rived as: *Teramnus, Amphicarpa, Neonotonia,* and *Glycine*  when *Phaseolus vulgaris* was used as an outgroup.

**Key words** Glycininae  $\cdot$  Soybean  $\cdot$  Phylogeny  $\cdot$ DNA sequence · Genomic donors · Glycine · Phaseoleae

## **Introduction**

Polyploid species may have complex origins deriving from a single- or multiple-genomic donors. Identification of genomic donors provides information about the evolutionary origins and may also help in designing systematic programs for the introduction of foreign germ plasm into cultigens (Kenworthy 1989). Notable successes have been achieved in polyploids such as cotton (Wendel et al. 1989) and *Brassica* (Song et al. 1990) where probable genome donors have been identified. Soybean *[Glycine max* (L.) Merr.] represents a difficult taxonomic polyploid because it has significantly evolved towards diploidy (Hymowitz and Singh 1987; Zhu et al. 1994). The polyploid event may be sufficiently distant that the original genome donors are now extinct (Kumar and Hymowitz 1989). Distant evolutionary events are difficult to characterize, but molecular genetic data can be very powerful phylogenetic tools that may help in the understanding of soybean evolution.

In soybeans, phylogenetic studies have made considerable progress through the use of classical genetics, cytogenetics, and molecular genetics (Grant et al. 1984; Singh and Hymowitz 1985, 1988; Singh et al. 1988, 1992, 1993; Viviani et al. 1991; Kumar and Hymowitz 1989; Doyle et al. 1990; Doyle and Doyle 1993). Our current understanding of soybean taxonomy and phylogeny has been greatly improved in the decades since Hermann's 1962 revision (Hymowitz and Singh 1987; Doyle et al. 1990). Currently, the cultivated annual soybean *(G. max)* and its wild annual sister taxa, *G. soja* Sieb. & Zucc., are grouped in the subgenus *Soja,* while the 13 perennial soybean taxa represent the subgenus *Glycine* (see Table 1; Newell and Hymowitz 1980; Tindale 1984, 1986a, b; Tindale and Craven 1988).

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Table 1 Species and genotypes of *Glycine* and relative genera<sup>a</sup>



<sup>a</sup> Chromosome number included in this study was cited from Hymowitz (1970), Hymowitz and Singh (1987), Kumar et al. (1989)

Accession designations include herbarium vouchers (e.g., Doyle 988, CU), Australia CSIRO Division of Plant Industry accessions (G 2049), and cultivar names (e.g., 'B SR- **101')** 

Although these annual and perennial soybeans have different distributions and origins (Hymowitz 1970; Kumar and Hymowitz 1989; Table 1), they share the same number of chromosomes and can be interspecifically crossed with some success (Ahmad et al. 1984; Grant et al. 1984; Singh and Hymowitz 1985, 1988; Singh et al. 1988, 1992, 1993), which suggests a close relationship. The interspecific crossability and chloroplast DNA (cpDNA) restriction patterns suggest four to seven natural groups within the genus *Glycine* (Doyle et aI. 1990). Close *Glycine* relatives have also been identified, including *Neonotonia, Teramnus, Amphicarpa,* and *Dumasia* (Kumar and Hymowitz 1989; Viviani et al. 1991; Doyle and Doyle 1993). However, because these relatives have different chromosome numbers from the expectations for the soybean ancestors (Kumar and Hymowitz 1989), the genome donors of soybean are still unknown.

While DNA sequences are a promising source of characters for phylogenetic studies (Miyamoto and Cracraft 1991), they rarely have been used in legumes for phylogenetic comparisons (Doyle et al. 1992). Two strategies have been used in characterizing the evolution of soybean. First, cytological surveys have been performed to identify diploid relatives that might represent progenitor species with  $2n=2x=20$  or 22 chromosomes (Kumar and Hymowitz 1989). Secondly, studies of affinities have been conducted among those available diploid relatives by chemosystematic (Fuchman 1985; Keen et al. 1986) and restriction fragment length polymorphism (RFLP) analyses (Doyle et al. 1992). A further definition of taxonomic relationship might be obtained by the detailed DNA sequence analysis of selected genetic loci.

A-199a is one of the duplicated RFLP loci (A-199a and A-199b), that has been genetically mapped previously (Keim et aI. 1990a) and which fits a homoeologous model. The homoeology nature of these duplicated loci has been approved by T. Zhu et al. (personal communication). Unlike multigene families, homoeologous loci are generated by polyploidization, which results in two copies in tetraploid species, but only one in diploids. The characterization and comparison of homoeologous sequences will provide phylogenetic details of the genomic constitution, origin, and evolution of polyploidy species (Doyle et al. 1992), such as soybean.

In this study, annual and perennial species from the genus *Glycine* and several related diploid taxa with 2n=22 or 28 chromosomes within Glycininae were chosen as materials on which to examine potential diploid progenitors. The A-199a RFLP locus was used to represent a model for the soybean genome that has evolved from tetraploidy to a "diploidized tetraploidy" status due to its homoeologous nature. Here, we report results from the single-locus phylogenetic analysis of soybean and its relatives, with a focus on the diploid taxa that potentially donated genomic material for this polyploidy species.

## **Materials and methods**

#### Germ plasm

From the tribe Phaseoleae (Leguminosae), 22 representative species and cultivars of the subtribe Glycininae and 1 species of subtribe Phaseolinae were used in this study (Table 1). Annual soybean *(GIy-*  *cine* subgenus *Soja)* representatives from *G. max* include one unadapted plant introduction (PI437658), one cultivar ('BSR-101'), and one Iowa State University breeding line (A81-356022). One example of the wild annual soybean species *G. soja* (PI468916) was also included. Thirteen perennial soybean taxa (subgenus *Glycine)*  were included as the closest relatives of the annual soybeans. In addition, five soybean diploid relatives were included due to their chromosome number and cpDNA relationships (Doyle and Doyle 1993). *Neonotonia verdcourtii, N. wightii, Amphicarpa bracteata,* and *Teramnus labialis* were selected from Glycininae, and *Phaseolus vulgaris* was selected from Phaseoleae.

#### Genomic DNA preparations

Plants were grown in the Northern Arizona University and Cornell University greenhouses. Vouchers for these species were deposited in both of the Bailey hortorium of Cornell University and the Deaver herbarium of Northern Arizona University. Genomic DNA from each genotype and species used was extracted from leaf materials as described by Keim et al. (1988) or by Doyle and Doyle (1987). Purified genomic DNAs were then used as templates for polymerase chain reaction (PCR) amplification.

#### DNA clone sequencing and oligonucleotide design

The plasmid clone pA-199 (pBS<sup>+</sup> vector) contains a *PstI* fragment derived from hypomethylated DNA of A81-356022 (Keim and Shoemaker 1988). Two genomic regions will hybridize to the pA-199 probe and are located on linkage group  $\overline{K}$  (A-199a) and linkage group J (A-199b) of the ISU-USDA genetic map (Keim et al. 1990a; Shoemaker et al. 1992). Moreover, this clone has been approved to be homologous to the A-199a locus and homoeologous to the A- 199b locus (Keim et al. 1990a; T. Zhu et al. personal communication). The distal regions of the *PstI* insert fragment were sequenced by pUC/M13 sequencing primers according to Sanger et al. (1977). Two oligonucleotides were then designed using the 'Oligo' primer analysis software (National Biosciences) as primers for PCR amplifying the A-199a region in diverse taxa. These oligonucleotides are 5'-CGCACAACAAAACTGAGCTGCAAAGCCCG-3' (primer<br>A199L-2) and 5'-ATGCTTCAAAGACATCAGAGACAAT-5'-ATGCTTCAAAGACATCAGAGACAAT-CAAGTCTGATGAAAG-3' (primer A199R-2). Failure of the PCR amplification from soybean total genomic DNA using two sets of A-199b specific primers A199bL-4 and A199bL-5 with A199R-2 (T. Zhu et al. personal communication) suggests that the designed primer A199R-2 is specific to the A-199a locus (data not shown).

#### PCR fragment amplification

PCR was used to prepare A-199a fragments for DNA sequencing. Amplification reactions were conducted in a total volume of  $50 \mu$ l with a programmable thermal controller (MJ Research). The reaction mixture contained 50 mM KCl, 10 mM TRIS-HCl (pH 9.0), 1% Triton X-100, 1 mM  $MgCl<sub>2</sub>$ , 0.2 mM dNTP mix, 10 pmol of each of the primers (A199L-2 and A199R-2), 10 ng of genomic DNA, and 5 units of *Taq* DNA polymerase (Promega). The reactions were performed for 40 cycles of 1 min at  $94^{\circ}$ C, 30 s at  $60^{\circ}$ C, and 30 s at  $72^{\circ}$ C. Amplifications were assayed by agarose gel electrophoresis at 80 V in  $1 \times$  TAE buffer on 0.7% agarose. PCR-amplified fragments were purified by Magic PCR columns (Promega) prior to DNA sequencing.

#### Sequencing of PCR fragments

Purified PCR fragments from each genotype and species were sequenced by using the oligonucleotides A199L-2 and A199R-2 la-<br>belled with  $[P^{32}]$ . Greater than 200 nucleotides of data were obtained from each side of the A-199a region for each accession (a total of 1260 bp in BSR-101, T. Zhu et al. personal communication). Only 200 nucleotides from each side were used in phylogenetic analysis to avoid sequencing errors that are more common distant from the primer and to create equal data sets for all taxa. All sequencing was triplicated to ensure the accuracy.

Sequence alignment and phylogenetic analysis

DNA sequences were aligned manually by sequential pairwise comparison or aligned by multiple sequential comparison using PC/ GENE software (IntelliGenetics) with both open and unit gap cost at 10. Both methods generated the same alignment. Phylogenetic analyses were conducted using the computer program Phylogenetic Analysis Using Parsimony (PAUP 3.0s, Swofford 1991). In searching for the most parsimonious trees, a heuristic search was carried out with the following options: (1) the simple-addition sequence, (2) the closest-addition sequence, and (3) random-addition sequence, and then the tree bisection-reconnection (TBR) branch-swapping with MULPARS. Parsimony analysis was performed with and without insertion/deletion (indels) characters. When included, indels were treated as a single character with two states. The analysis presented in this study was performed on an unweighted data set. Different character weighting strategies were explored but did not alter their most parsimonious topologies and are not presented (see below). *PhaseoIus vulgaris* sequences were used as an outgroup to root the phylogenetic trees.

## **Results**

The PCR primers used in this study amplified only one fragment from each of the taxa used. In both annual and perennial soybeans, the amplified fragments represent only the A-199a locus since these primers can not PCR amplify the A-199b locus when it has been electrically separated from the A-199a locus. Subsequent experiments have shown that this is due to a lack of homology between the A199R-2 primer and the A-199b locus (T. Zhu et al. personal communication). Because there is only one A-199 locus in the soybean diploid relatives, the amplified fragments can only represent the single A-199 progenitor sequence presented in those taxa. Therefore, the sequences compared in this study were confirmed as the A-199a locus in soybeans, and the only A-199 locus in soybean's relatives.

## Sequence analysis

Two hundred nucleotide sequences from each of the two distal A-199a regions were included in the study. One region (primer A 199L-2) starts 110 nucleotides from the *PstI*  cloning site  $(110-310 \text{ bp})$ , while the second (primer A199R-2) begins 120 nucleotides from the opposite *PstI*  site (120-320 bp) and proceeds towards the middle of the cloned insert. The 400 nucleotides included in this study represent greater than 30% of the total A-199a 1260 bp insert (T. Zhu et al. personal communication). The G+C content of these sequences averaged 36.3% with a range of 35.2% to 37.5% for the different taxa. Alignment of the DNA sequences was easily accomplished even though 27.3% of all nucleotides were present as an indel in at least 1 taxon. Among nucleotides varying due to indels, 47.7%



were in indel 5, 19.3% in indel 3, while 17.4% were in indel 1 (Figs. 1 and 2). Within the 400 aligned positions, 129 (32.3%) sites were variable as nucleotide substitutions in 1 or more taxa. There were 31% transitions, 31% transversions, and 38% with both transitions and transversions. Sixty-six percent of the variable sites (79) are informative in the Wagner parsimony analysis (see below).

The pairwise nucleotide dissimilarities between taxa indicated that there was only 0.3% variation between the annual cultivated soybean genotypes BSR-101 and A81- 356022 (Table 2). However, there was a 2.2% nucleotide difference between the *G. max* cultivars (BSR-101 and A81-356022) and the unadapted *G. max* accession (PI437.654). This was the same observed dissimilarity between annual cultivars and wild annual soybean *G. soja.*  The nucleotide variation among the 13 perennial soybean species ranged from 1.7% to 8.4%. The observed dissimilarity between annual soybeans and perennial soybeans ranged from 3.0% to 7.0%. There was 12.6-15.3% nucleotide differences between annual soybeans and taxa from outside of the genus *Glycine,* while 8.2-16.4% nucleotide differences existed between perennial soybeans and those taxa.

## Phylogenetic analysis

*Phaseolus vulgaris* was used as the outgroup for rooting tree topology in these analyses because it is not considered to be a particularly close soybean relative based upon its morphology, anatomy, cytogenetics (Lackey 1981), and cpDNA phylogeny (Doyle and Doyle 1993). It is currently placed in a sister subtribe (Phaseolinae) to the other genera in this study. In addition, the A-199a nucleotide differences between annual soybean and P. *vulgaris* were among the highest observed in this study (Table 2). *Teramnus labialis* also was used as an outgroup in other analyses without changing the consensus tree topology (data not presented).

The heuristic analysis of unweighted nucleotide sequences without indels resulted in 16 equally parsimonious trees. The trees were 246 steps with a consistency index of 0.78 using all characters. Exclusion of autapomorphic characters reduced the consistency index to 0.69. A single representative topology from the 16 most parsimonious trees is presented in Fig. 2. A strict consensus tree was calculated from the 16 trees (Fig. 3). Examination of these figures reveals that five genera have been well re-



Fig. 2 One of the 16 most parsimonious trees derived from the equal weighted analysis by PAUP (length=246 steps, consistency index=0.78, consistency index for informative characters=0.69, retention index= $0.71$ ). Nodes that did not occur in all most parsimonious trees are marked by an *asterisk* (\*). Indels position is superimposed on the tree with *numbers* indicating the locations of the indels within the sequences (Fig. 1). Length of the branches are proportional to the number of substitutions inferred

solved by multiple synapomorphic nucleotide changes. *Neonotonia* is the closest genus to *Glycine,* followed by *Amphicarpa,* then *Teramnus.* These data support the monophyly of the genus *Glycine,* as well as that of the two individual *Glycine* subgenera. However, the four accessions from the subgenus *Soja are* resolved into two clades that do not represent the 2 recognized species. For example, the *G. max* (PI437.654) and *G. soja* (PI468916) accessions form a single, well-supported clade. This is not surprising given the high fertility and sympatry of these 2 species. Previous studies have observed only few fixed RFLP alleles between these taxa (Keim et al. 1989), which is consistent with the idea that they are conspecific.

This analysis separated only 8 of the 13 perennial soybean taxa into completely resolved clades (Figs. 2 and 3): Group A includes *G. albicans, G. arenaria, G. argyrea,*  and *G. canescens;* Group B includes *G. latifolia* and *G. microphylla;* and Group C includes *G. curvata,* and *G. cyrtoloba.* The taxa *G. clandestina, G. falceta, G. latrobeana, G. tabacina,* and *G. tomenteIla* were placed in unique positions in each of the 16 different trees and are part of the large polytomy present in the consensus tree for the subgenus *Glycine* (Fig. 3).

The use of indels as characters in parsimony is logical, but their weighting relative to nucleotide substitutions is problematic. We have only presented results from analyses where indels were coded as missing data. However,

Fig. 1 Aligned nucleotide sequences of A-199a locus from soybeans and relatives. *Vertical columns* represent nucleotide positions. *Dots* in the *lines* indicate sequence identity with *G. max* (BSR-101), and *dashes are* gaps required for alignment of the sequences. ? indicates nucleotides of unknown identity, and *blanks* represent sequence not determined. *Italic numbers above* sequences show the location of gaps corresponding to inferred deletions/insertions superimposed on the phylogenetic tree in Fig. 2. Nucleotides 1-200 were determined using the A199L-2 primer, while 201-400 represents the opposite side of the pA-199a region and was sequenced with the A199R-2 primer



**their inclusion in the analysis as single characters each did not change the topologies generated (data not presented). Their relationship with nucleotide characters is presented in Fig. 2, where the phylogenetic distribution of indels is mapped onto the nucleotide substitution based phylogeny. All eight indels represent synapomorphic or autapomorphic characters on this tree. Many of the indels are deeply rooted, but three (6, 7, and 8) are in terminal branches. The synapomorphic indel 8 supports the clade containing both annual soybean species. Indels 1 and 2 support the monophyly of the genus** *Glycine.* **The indel data are consistent with the proposed phylogeny and support the relevance of indels in understanding evolution at a molecular level.** 

## **Discussion**

**Although single-locus phylogenies and species trees may be incongruent due to lineage sorting or hybridization (Pamilo and Nei 1988; Doyle 1992), the phylogenetic analysis of DNA sequences can provide a large number of multistate characters. These types of data can be used to provide detailed and accurate phylogenies for the loci studied and important inferences for the species. In this report, we have demonstrated the potential of nuclear sequences for phylogeny construction in the Glycininae, and in the genus** *Glycine* **in particular. Our results correlate well with recent phylogenetic studies on subtribe Glycininae using crossing compatibility and cpDNA RFLP analyses (Kumar and Hymowitz 1989; Doyle and Doyle 1993). This congruence argues that for these taxa, this single-locus analysis is representative of the species phylogeny and provides detailed relationships among cultivated soybean, wild soybean, and related genera based upon nuclear DNA sequences.** 

**Some of the relationships among Glycininae genera included in this study were poorly understood prior to this study. According to Lackey (1981),** *Glycine* **and** *Teramnus*  **belong to the** *Glycine* **group, while** *Amphicarpa* **and** *Neonotonia* **belong to the** *Shuteria* **group. However, a recent cpDNA phylogenetic analysis positioned these four genera in a single Glycininae group without further resolution (Doyle and Doyle 1993). By using genomic DNA sequence data, we were able to resolve the relationships among the closely related genera to the soybeans. The genera most closely related to** *Glycine* **are** *Neonotonia,* **followed by** *Amphicarpa* **and** *Teramnus. Neonotonia* **was considered to be one of the** *Glycine* **members until two decades ago (Lackey 1977), mainly due to the differences in chromosome size, number, and morphology.** *Neonotonia* **has a chromosome number of 2n=22 or 44, while the** *Glycine* **species have 2n=38, 40, 78, or 80 (Kumar and Hymowitz 1989). Lackey (1980) proposed that the unique chromosome number of**  *Glycine* **maybe derived from diploid ancestors with a base number of X= 11, followed by aneuploid reduction to a base number of X=10.** *Glycine* **then arose in a subsequent tetraploid event. Our previous studies suggested that the soybean genome is 25% smaller than expected for a "full" tet-** 

c

o

r

Fig. 3 Strict consensus tree of the 16 most parsimonious trees derived from equally weighted analysis by PAUR *Phaseolus*  was designated as a co-outgroup. Comparison to crossing experiments and cpDNA restriction data within perennial soybeans was made following the taxa name. A represents taxa that belong to the genome type A or plastome type A, A" indicates those taxa with a loose relationship with genotype A or plastome type  $A, B$ represents the taxa of the genome type B or plastome type B. Taxa within the genome type C and plastome type C group is indicated by C. I represents the taxa that are independent to types A, B, and C. Data from crossing experiment and cpDNA restriction are cited from Doyle et al. 1990



raploid in terms of duplicated sequences, and that this 25% could account for 2 large chromosomes (Zhu et al. 1994). The evidence of 25% sequence reduction of the duplicated genome, along with the current study, suggests that *Neonotonia* may be the closest reasonable candidate for a soybean genomic donor. This model requires an autotetraploid intermediate. However, a second model involving an allotetraploid ancestor seems just as likely.

It has been proposed that soybean arose from an allotetraploid ancestor and is currently evolving towards diploidy through the progressive loss of genes (Hymowitz and Singh 1987; Zhu et al. 1994). Such evolution might have involved an initial hybridization of two different species (or even genera) with 11 haploid chromosomes, then chromosome doubling to ln=22 followed by the loss of 2 chromosomes. This invokes the well-documented model of allotetraploid evolution coupled with chromosome loss. Because the duplicated genomes of soybean are very different at the molecular level (T. Zhu et al. personal communication), we suggest the either the ploidy event was very ancient or that the taxa hybridizing were very distinct. We are currently studying the A-199a genomic duplicate sequence (A-199b) to construct phylogenies for both homoeologous genomes. The preliminary data from A-199b phylogenetic studies suggested that *Teramnus* may have close evolutionary relationships to the soybean secondary genome donors (T. Zhu et al. personal communication). Such data could be useful in resolving relationships within the Glycininae.

The genus *Glycine* appears as a monophyletic group in our study, supporting the current taxonomic relationships in this genus (Hymowitz and Singh 1987). The two subgenera, *Glycine* and *Soja,* are well-defined (Fig. 3) and consistent with results from previous studies (Hymowitz and Singh 1987). In the subgenus *GIycine,* the perennial soybeans are loosely united into three groups: Group A consists of *G. albicans, G. arenaria,* and *G. canescens.*  Group B includes *G. latifolia* and *G. microphylla.*  Group C includes *G. curvata* and *G. cyrtoloba.* This threegroup tree is congruent with the tree generated from cpDNA analysis, though less resolute. The subgenus *Glycine* topology is dominated by an unresolved polytomy (Fig. 3) that is due to homoplasious characters. Five species, *G. clandestina, G. falcata, G. latrobeana, G. tabacina* and *G. tomentella,* are not resolved in the consensus tree. Among these five species, *G. falcata, G. Iatrobeana,*  and *G. tomentella* are independent or loosely associated with 1 of the clades in previous genomic crossing studies (see Doyle et al. 1990). The lack of synapomorphic characters to resolve this group might be due to a recent radiation or slower evolutionary rates than observed in the annual soybean. Slower evolutionary rates have been observed in longer-lived species (e.g., Bousquet et al. 1992), and this may account for the lack of informative characters in this group. In contrast, synapomorphic characters, autapomorphic characters, and an indel resolved three of the four annual soybean accessions in this study (Fig. 2).

Although organellar genomes had low diversity between the wild and cultivated annual soybean (Sission et al. 1978; Shoemaker et al. 1986; Close et al. 1989; Keim et al. 1989), nuclear genome analysis indicated that the two species are almost identical in terms of number and size of chromosomes (Singh and Hymowitz 1988) and their 5S and 18-25S ribosomal genes (Doyle and Beachy 1985; Doyle 1988). Even the cDNA sequence analysis of glycinin only shows 0.4% nucleotide changes between these two species (Zakharova et al. 1989). Our study, again, suggests that differences between these two species is not greater than the difference between the cultivar and the wild accession within *G. max.* The morphological differences between these taxa are due primarily to human selection during domestication and may not always be detected at the molecular level because this may involve relatively few genetic loci (Keim et al. 1990a, b).

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