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Powdery mildew resistance gene *Pm22* in cultivar Virest is a member of the complex *Pm1* locus in common wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L. em Thell.)

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Abstract The powdery mildew resistance gene *Pm22*, identified in the Italian wheat cultivar Virest and originally assigned to wheat chromosome 1D, was mapped to chromosome 7A with the aid of molecular markers. Mapping of common AFLP and SSR markers in two wheat crosses segregating for *Pm22* and *Pm1c*, respectively, indicated that *Pm22* is a member of the complex *Pm1* locus. *Pm22* also showed a pattern of resistance reaction to a differential set of *Blumeria graminis* f. sp. *tritici* isolates that was distinguishable from those from other *Pm1* alleles in lines Axminster/8*Cc (*Pm1a*), MocZlatka (*Pm1b*), Weihestephan Stamm MIN (*Pm1c*) and *Triticum spelta* var. *duhamelianum* TRI 2258 (*Pm1d*). Based on these results, the gene symbol *Pm1e* is proposed for the powdery mildew resistance gene in cv. Virest.

Keywords Wheat · Powdery mildew resistance · *Pm22* · *Pm1* · AFLP

Introduction

Powdery mildew, caused by *Blumeria graminis* (DC.) E.O. Speer f. sp. *tritici* Em. Marchal DC, is a destructive foliar disease of common wheat in areas with cool or maritime climates. The deployment of resistant cultivars is the most economical and environmentally safe method for reducing the use of fungicides to control this disease. Thirty gene loci determining qualitative resistance to this

disease (*Pm1–Pm30*) have been reported so far (McIntosh et al. 2002). Most of these loci have been located on individual wheat chromosomes by means of monosomic analyses. Following assignment to chromosomes harbouring already known *Pm* genes, allelism tests were made to establish linkage relationships among the genes. This procedure has led to the discovery of several alleles at *Pm1* (Hsam et al. 1998), *Pm3* (Zeller et al. 1993; Zeller and Hsam 1998), *Pm4* (The et al. 1979), *Pm5* (Huang et al. 2000a; Hsam et al. 2001) and *Pm8/Pm17* (Hsam and Zeller 1997) loci.

Molecular markers have not only been successfully employed in determining the location of *Triticum aestivum*- and *T. dicoccoides*-derived powdery mildew resistance loci at the subchromosomal level (Hartl et al. 1995, 1999; Huang et al. 2000b; Rong et al. 2000; Tao et al. 2000; Liu et al. 2002; Neu et al. 2002), but they have also been instrumental in the genetical delimitation of alien translocation fragments harbouring powdery mildew resistance determinants: *Pm13* from *Aegilops longissima* was mapped to a translocated3S¹S segment distal to *Xcdo460-3B* (Cenci et al. 1999), and *Pm27* from *T. timopheevii* was pinpointed to a fragment with break-points between the marker loci *Xpsr8/Xpsr964* on 6BS and *Xpsr154/Xpsr546* on 6BL (Järve et al. 2000).

The present study describes the relocation of wheat powdery mildew resistance gene *Pm22*, originally allocated to chromosome 1D (Peusha et al. 1996), to chromosome 7AL, and its relationship to the complex *Pm1* locus by means of molecular markers.

Materials and methods

Plant materials

A total of 78 F₃ families, derived from a cross between powdery mildew-susceptible wheat cultivar Chinese Spring and resistant cultivar Virest, was used for analysis of linkage between molecular markers and *Pm22*. Wheat cultivar Virest was derived from the cross of Est 39-12 × Virgilio (Zeven and Zeven-Hissink 1976). Resistant and susceptible bulked segregants from *Pm1c* mapping population Khapli/8*Chancellor × Weihestephan Stamm MIN

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consisting of 92 F₄ families (Hartl et al. 1999) were used for evaluating molecular markers across genotypes. Lines Axminster/8*Cc (*Pm1a*), MocZlatka (*Pm1b*), Weihenstephan Stamm M1N (*Pm1c*) and *Triticum spelta* var. *duhamelianum* TRI 2258 (*Pm1d*) were used to compare resistance reactions in relation to cv. Virest.

Evaluation of resistance reactions

The *Blumeria graminis* (DC.) E.O. Speer f. sp. *tritici* (Bgt) isolates used for the differentiation of documented major resistance genes were collected from different parts of Europe and selected from single-spore progeny (Felsenstein et al. 1991). The Bgt isolates are classified under Weihenstephan accession numbers and maintained at the Chair of Agronomy and Plant Breeding, Technical University Munich. Powdery mildew resistance reactions were surveyed on agar-detached primary leaf segments. The methods of inoculation, conditions of incubation and disease assessment were according to Hsam and Zeller (1997). Three main classes of host reactions were distinguished: r = resistant (0–20% infection relative to cv. Kanzler), i = intermediate (30–50% infection), s = susceptible (>50% infection).

Molecular marker and mapping techniques

Wheat primary leaf tissue was used for DNA extraction following essentially the procedure of Huang et al. (2000c). For AFLP (amplified fragment length polymorphism), SSR (simple sequence repeat) and RFLP (restriction fragment length polymorphism) screening, two DNA bulks (Michelmore et al. 1991) were assembled by using equal amounts of DNA from ten susceptible and ten homozygous resistant segregants of the F₃ mapping population, respectively. *EcoRI* + *ANN/MseI* + *CNN* AFLPs were generated according to Schwarz et al. (2000). Protocols for amplification of wheat SSR loci *Xgwm33c-1DS*, *Xgwm106-1DS*, *Xgwm458-1DL*, *Xgwm642-1DL*, *Xgwm-232-1DL*, *Xgwm350-7AS*, *Xgwm573-7AS*, *Xgwm260-7AS*, *Xgwm63-7AL*, *Xgwm282-7AL*, *Xgwm332-7AL* and *Xgwm344-7AL* were as described in Röder et al. (1998). *Xgwm344* was allocated to 7AL in *Triticum dicoccoides* by Peng et al. (2000). Both molecular marker types were detected on an ABI PRISM 377 platform (Applied Biosystems). Fragment size-calling was performed with GeneScan analysis software version 3.0 (Applied Biosystems). *Sse8387I* + *NN/MseI* + *NN* AFLPs were produced and detected according to Hartl et al. (1999). RFLP analysis followed standard methods. DNA was digested with restriction endonucleases *Bam*HI, *Dra*I, *EcoRI*, *EcoRV*, *Hind*III, and *Xba*I. Partial linkage maps were constructed with the computer programme JOINMAP 3.0 (Stam 1993). Map distances were calculated using the Kosambi function (Kosambi 1944). Charts of genetic linkage maps were drawn with the computer programme MAPCHART 2.1 (Voorrips 2002).

Marker nomenclature

AFLP markers were designated according to the standard list for AFLP primer nomenclature made available at the GrainGenes database (<http://wheat.pw.usda.gov/>) by the Keygene company. Detected loci in wheat were marked with an 'X', the basic symbol for molecular marker loci of unknown function in wheat. AFLP markers from the partial 7AL map based on *Pm1c* mapping population Khapli/8*Chancellor × Weihenstephan Stamm M1N (Hartl et al. 1999) were renamed, with the former designations given in brackets: S14M20-137/138 (M1), S11M20-134 (M2), S11M23-139 (M3), S13M26-116 (M5), S19M18-280 (M6), S19M22-325/200 (M7), S22M25-200 (M8), S19M20-134 (M9). AFLPs M1 and M7 are codominant markers: M1 displays fragments with 137 bp in M1N and 138 bp in Khapli/8*Chancellor, M7 with 325 bp in M1N and 200 bp in Khapli/8*Chancellor.

Results

Selection of molecular markers linked to *Pm22*

The Italian cultivar Virest harbours the dominant powdery mildew resistance gene *Pm22* (Peusha et al. 1996). A subset of 80 F₂ plants from the cross Chinese Spring × Virest used in the present study was randomly chosen and selfed. The disease reactions of 78 F₃ families (20–25 progeny of individual F₂ plants) were assessed separately on detached primary leaves following inoculation with Bgt isolates nos. 2, 6 and 10, respectively. The segregation for resistance to powdery mildew within this random sample deviated from the expected 3:1 ratio (48 resistant:30 susceptible, $\chi^2 = 7.54$; $P = 0.006$). For gene mapping, this skewed segregation is not expected to affect the recombination values estimated between loci (Kjær et al. 1995).

Pm22 was found to be located on chromosome 1D by means of monosomic analysis (Peusha et al. 1996) and showed no allelism to *Pm24*, located near the centromere on 1DS (Huang et al. 2000b). Due to these observations, SSRs distributed along chromosome 1DL and from the distal segment of 1DS were assayed on the DNAs from susceptible and resistant bulked segregants from *Pm22* mapping population Chinese Spring × Virest. No polymorphic markers were revealed between the bulks, although the parental lines did display polymorphism for all of the SSR markers tested. Therefore, a total of 75 *EcoRI* + *ANN/MseI* + *CNN* AFLP primer combinations was added for a marker search. Out of 7,725 amplified marker loci, assuming each AFLP fragment to be one genetic locus and neglecting possible allelism between fragments, five AFLPs, namely *XE34M53-439*, *XE35M54-184*, *XE35M59-360*, *XE39M58-77* and *XE42M55-206*, were polymorphic between both the phenotypic bulks and the parental lines and, therefore, putatively linked to *Pm22*. Since the bulks were compiled from F₃ families, the screening procedure also allowed the detection of AFLP markers in *trans*, thereby increasing the number of scorable polymorphic fragments by 50%. *XE35M54-184* was linked to *Pm22* in coupling, while the remaining four AFLPs provided markers in repulsion. 'De-bulking analysis' – the DNA from individual plants of each bulk was used to confirm the polymorphism of putative markers – revealed that all five AFLP fragments displayed complete linkage to *Pm22* within individuals from each pool. The assignment of repulsion markers *XE34M53-439*, *XE35M59-360* and *XE39M58-77*, originating from the genome of Chinese Spring, to wheat chromosome 7A was simply achieved by using data collected from AFLP analysis of nulli-tetrasomics from cv. Chinese Spring (Huang et al. 2000c). An inspection of seven SSR markers that were evenly distributed along wheat chromosome 7A, revealed polymorphic fragments between both the bulks and the parental lines for *Xgwm282-7AL*, *Xgwm332-7AL* and *Xgwm344-7AL* (exhibiting a null allele in cv. Virest and an allele with 131 bp in Khapli/8*Chancellor) and, hence, these latter three

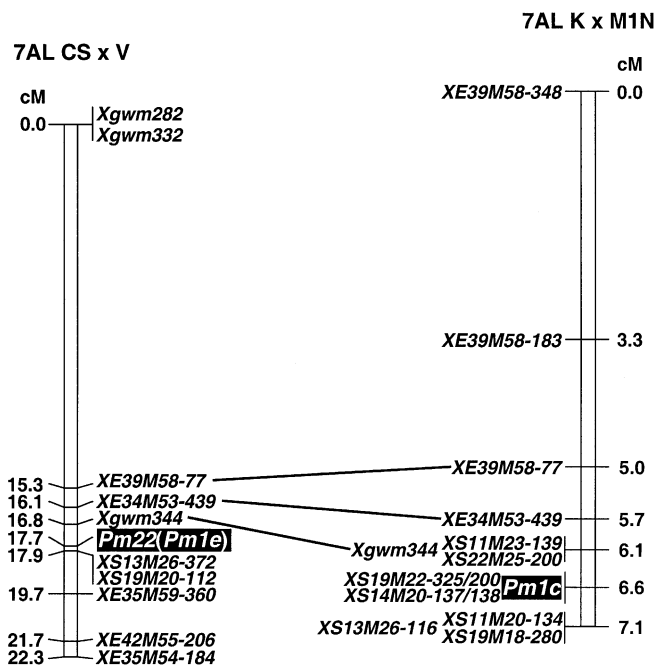


Fig. 1 Genetic maps of wheat chromosome arm 7AL surrounding the wheat powdery mildew resistance alleles *Pm22* (*Pm1e*) and *Pm1c*. Lines connect common AFLP and SSR marker loci between maps from Chinese Spring × Virest (CS × V) and Khapli/8*Chancellor × Weihenstephan Stamm M1N (K × M1N)

markers were applicable for integration in the genetic map around the *Pm22* locus.

Linkage mapping of *Pm22*

Mapping of the selected molecular markers in 78 F_3 families showed that *Xgwm344-7AL* was the closest marker to *Pm22*, with a map distance of 0.9 cM (Fig. 1). Proximal to the gene, *XE34M53-439* mapped at 1.6 cM, *XE39M58-77* at 2.4 cM, while SSR loci *Xgwm282-7AL* and *Xgwm332-7AL* linked at a distance of 17.7 cM. Distal to *Pm22*, the nearest marker locus was *XE35M59-360* with 2.0 cM, followed by *XE42M55-206* and *XE35M54-184* with 4.0 and 4.6 cM, respectively.

Cross-referencing with common AFLP and SSR markers revealed *Pm22* to be a member of the *Pm1* locus

Like *Pm22*, the complex *Pm1* locus is located on the long arm of chromosome 7A. In order to investigate the relationship of genes *Pm22* and *Pm1c*, we used AFLPs retrieved from screening of bulked segregants from *Pm1c* mapping population Khapli/8*Chancellor × Weihenstephan Stamm M1N (Hartl et al. 1999) to survey resistant and susceptible bulks from the *Pm22* mapping population. Of seven *Sse8387I* + *NN/MseI* + *NN* AFLPs, not one was common across genotypes. However, primer combinations S13M26 and S19M20 displayed new polymorphic fragments among the phenotypic pools with molecular weights of 372 bp and 112 bp, respectively, with both fragments amplified from resistant cultivar Virest. Segregation analysis across the population revealed these coupling phase markers to map 0.2 cM distant from *Pm22* (Fig. 1). Vice versa, primer pairs for markers found in this study were used to amplify bulked segregants from the *Pm1c* mapping population. Of five *EcoRI* + *ANN/MseI* + *CNN* AFLP markers, *XE39M58-77* and *XE34M53-439* differentiated the bulked segregants from the *Pm1c* mapping population, with the amplified fragments derived from the non-*Pm1c* wheat Khapli/8*Chancellor. These common AFLP markers showed comparable map distances between *Pm22* and *Pm1c* mapping populations (Fig. 1), suggesting that gene *Pm22* in cv. Virest belongs to the complex *Pm1* locus. Furthermore, new AFLPs E39M58-183 and E39M58-348 linked in coupling phase were detected that had map distances to *Pm1c* of 3.3 and 6.6 cM, respectively. Likewise, SSR marker locus *Xgwm344-7AL* was shown to be polymorphic in both mapping populations. An allelic variant of *Xgwm344-7AL* with 117 bp was present in bulked segregants carrying *Pm1c*. Susceptible bulked segregants carried a marker allele with 131 bp. Mapping of *Xgwm344-7AL* showed tight linkage with the *Pm1c* resistance gene (Fig. 1). An analysis of RFLP marker *Xwhs178*, known to be closely linked to the *Pm1* locus (Hartl et al. 1995, 1999), failed to detect polymorphism between the parental lines of the *Pm22* mapping population. Thus, this marker locus was not available for cross-referencing.

Table 1 Differential reactions of five wheat cultivars/lines carrying different powdery mildew resistance alleles at the *Pm1* locus after inoculation with 14 isolates of *Blumeria graminis* f. sp. *tritici*

Line/cultivar	<i>Blumeria graminis</i> f. sp. <i>tritici</i> isolate no.														<i>Pm</i> gene
	2	5	6	8	9	10	12	13	14	15	16	17	94	96	
Axminster/8*Cc ^a	r ^c	i	r	s	s	s	s	s	r	s	s	s	s	s	<i>Pm1a</i>
MocZlatka	r	r	r	r	r	i	i	r	r	r	s	s	r	i	<i>Pm1b</i>
Weihenstephan M1N	r	r	r	r	r	r	r	r	r	r	r	r	s	r	<i>Pm1c</i>
<i>Tsd</i> ^b TRI 2258	r	r	r	r	r	r	r	r	r	r	r	r	r	r	<i>Pm1d</i>
Virest	r	r	r	r	i	s	s	s	s	r	s	s	r	s	<i>Pm1e</i> (<i>Pm22</i>)

^a seven times backcrossed to Chancellor

^b *T. spelta* var. *duhamelianum*

^c r, Resistant; s, susceptible; i, intermediate

Molecular analysis of wheats possessing already known members of the *Pm1* locus with comigrating AFLPs XE39M58-77 and XE34M53-439 showed that both markers were absent in all *Pm1* genotypes, irrespective of allele configuration at this gene locus (data not shown).

Disease responses of wheats carrying different alleles at the *Pm1* locus

In addition to the 11 Bgt isolates of the standard set, three further isolates from the Weihestephan powdery mildew isolates collection were used to classify the disease response pattern of cv. Virest in comparison with cultivars/lines previously reported to carry different powdery mildew resistance alleles at the *Pm1* locus. All cultivars/lines were shown to exhibit patterns of disease response different one from another (Table 1). Based on this result, gene symbol *Pm1e* is proposed for powdery mildew resistance gene in cv. Virest.

Discussion

The investigation reported here identified powdery mildew resistance gene *Pm22* in the Italian cultivar Virest to be a member of the complex *Pm1* locus by cross-referencing with comigrating AFLP markers XE39M58-77 and XE34M53-439, and SSR marker locus Xgwm344-7AL, which are all tightly linked to the *Pm1* locus. Allele-specificity of comigrating AFLP markers has been used in potato (Roupe van der Voort 1997), barley (Waugh et al. 1997) and oat (Groh et al. 2001; Portyanko et al. 2001) to align genetic maps from different genotypes. In addition, since disease response studies using a differential set of 14 Bgt isolates clearly attributed a unique reaction pattern to the *Pm* resistance gene in cv. Virest, this gene is considered to be a new allele at the *Pm1* locus.

The allelic relationships of genes are conventionally determined in crosses with tester lines. In crosses between two powdery mildew resistant lines, a lack of appearance of susceptible plants in the offspring would indicate that the two lines being tested are carrying resistance genes that are either allelic or very closely linked. Analysis in the F₃ generation is then repeated with Bgt isolates possessing different virulences but simultaneously showing avirulence to both parents of the cross to clarify if the resistance genes, assumed to be at the same locus, share or produce a different disease resistance spectrum. In winter wheat, this effort takes at least 3 years. Molecular markers that can specifically detect disease resistance loci would help to speed up the process of allelism tests remarkably. The AFLP marker XE34M53-439 closely linked to the *Pm1* locus would fulfill the qualifications, if it were linked in coupling phase. A great number of molecular markers are now available for the *Pm1* locus (Hu et al. 1997; Hartl et al. 1999; Neu et al. 2002; this study). This collection should facilitate the selection of marker alleles that are common for all as well as specific

for individual *Pm1* alleles in order to register and categorize lines with potential members of the *Pm1* locus.

In order to avoid false chromosomal location by using monosomics, as has occurred for the *Pm* gene in cv. Virest (Peusha et al. 1996), we propose the concurrent molecular analysis of the progeny obtained from crossing the line having the new resistance gene with disomic Chinese Spring – if segregation of a single gene is expected. The use of experimental crosses involving Chinese Spring in bulked segregant analysis will normally provide repulsion phase markers to unequivocally anchor unknown linkage groups to wheat chromosomes by means of Chinese Spring aneuploid stocks. Thus, this procedure will serve as a validation of results from monosomic analysis and vice versa. However, monosomic analysis is the most appropriate tool to date when the test line harbours more than one qualitatively inherited resistance to a single pathogen.

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