

Trichome density of main stem is tightly linked to PepMoV resistance in chili pepper (*Capsicum annuum* L.)

Hyun Jung Kim · Jung-Heon Han · Seungill Kim · Heung Ryul Lee · Jun-Sung Shin · Jeong-Ho Kim · Juok Cho · Young Ho Kim · Hee Jae Lee · Byung-Dong Kim · Doil Choi

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Abstract A relationship between pepper trichome and pepper mottle virus (PepMoV) resistance was examined. In an intraspecific F₂ mapping population from the cross between *Capsicum annuum* CM334 (trichome-bearing and PepMoV resistant) and Chilsungcho (glabrous and PepMoV susceptible), major QTLs for both traits were identified by composite interval mapping in linkage group (LG) 24 corresponding a telomere region on pepper chromosome 10. *Ptel1* of putative trichome enhancing locus was a common major QTL for trichome density on the main stem and calyx. *Ptel1* apart from HpmsE031 at a 1.03 cM interval was specifically associated to the trichome density on the main stem, whereas *Ptel2* near m104 marker on LG2 was specific for the calyx trichome. Epistatic analysis indicated that *Ptel1* engaged in controlling the trichome density by mutual interactions with the organ-specific QTLs. For PepMoV resistance, two QTLs (*Pep1* and *Pep2*)

were identified on the LG 24. *Pep1* was located with *Ptel1* in the R-gene cluster (RGC) for potyvirus resistance including *Pvr4* with broad spectrum resistance to potyviruses. *Pep1* flanking TG420 marker seemed to be the major factors determining correlation with PepMoV resistance. These results indicate that the level of trichome density on pepper main stem can be used as a morphological marker for *Pvr4* in pepper breeding.

Introduction

Trichomes are hair-like structure on epidermal cells of many plant species, which can largely be classified into glandular or non-glandular forms. This organ has generally been regarded as a trait of little worth in agriculture due to its negative aspects such as a causing agent for allergy and the lower preference of farmers. However, the trichomes have been demonstrated to be directly or indirectly engaged in the plant protection from ultraviolet radiation, drought, high salinity (Espigares and Peco 1995; Skaltsa et al. 1994), heavy metals (Ager et al. 2003), herbivores, and pathogen attack (Elle et al. 1999; Johnson 1975; Levin 1973). Glandular trichomes in Solanaceae species give the high level of resistance against a number of phytophagous arthropods by producing exudate containing toxic acylsugars such as at the tips of tomato type VI trichomes (Kennedy 2003).

The most well-known non-glandular trichome is cotton fiber that is the complex of extremely elongated single cells (Wilkins et al. 2000). This type of trichome in willow inhibits grazing of adult leaf beetle (*Phratora vulgatissima*) by increasing trichome density on the new developing leaves (Dalin and Bjorkman 2003).

The high-dense trichomes can be frequently observed in a number of tomato, eggplant, and potato cultivars

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H. J. Kim · S. Kim · H. R. Lee · J.-H. Kim ·
H. J. Lee · B.-D. Kim · D. Choi (✉)
Department of Plant Sciences and Plant Genomics and Breeding
Institute, Seoul National University, Seoul 151-921, Korea
e-mail: doil@snu.ac.kr

J.-H. Han
Pepper and Breeding Institute, Business Incubator,
College of Agriculture and Life Sciences,
Seoul National University, Suwon 4414-853, Korea

J. Cho
Object Interaction Technologies, Inc., Hayoung Building
Samsung-dong 153-1, Gangnam-gu, Seoul 135-090, Korea

J.-S. Shin · Y. H. Kim
Department of Agricultural Biotechnology,
Seoul National University, Seoul 151-921, Korea

geared worldwide, while a few or no trichomes on the main stem of all pepper cultivars. Comparative study in the previous literatures showed that *Pt1* (Kim et al. 2010) may be located in the same region as the *H* (hair absence) locus in tomato and *ovh 10.1* (ovary hair) in eggplant (Tanksley et al. 1992). Those literatures may indicated that the genetic evidence on the conservation of trichome loci in Solanaceae family. The potyvirus resistance loci, has also been reported in *Capsicum annuum* Criollo de Morelos 334 (CM334) (Dogimont et al. 1996) and some of *C. chinense* accessions (Grube et al. 2000; Murphy et al. 1998). *Pvr4* from CM334 has broad spectrum resistance to *Potato virus Y* pathotypes including *Pepper mottle virus* (PepMoV), which has been known to closely linked to *Pvr7* on pepper chromosome 10 (Caranta et al. 1999; Grube et al. 2000). A recent study in our laboratory suggested that the resistance of PepMoV would be an obvious continuity with the trichome presence on the main stem of F_2 individuals from the cross of CM334 (high-dense trichomes) and Chilsungcho (glabrous) peppers (Kim et al. 2010). Since, many loci in this genomic region have been reported to be associated with resistance to various plant pathogens; it would be useful if we figure out the association of trichome-bearing with disease resistance traits for phenotypic selection of Potyvirus resistance in breeding program.

In this study, linkage relationships between trichomes on the main stem and PepMoV resistance were analyzed using composite interval mapping. Here, we report the close association of QTL for PepMoV resistance and trichome density in pepper clustering at a narrow region near TG420 marker on chromosome 10.

Materials and methods

Plant materials

Capsicum annuum CM334 is bearing trichomes and resistant to PepMoV. *C. annuum* Chilsungcho is a domestic, glabrous in the aerial parts, and susceptible to the virus. Both parents, their self-pollinated progenies, F_1 , BC_1F_1 , and F_2 were used for genetic analysis of trichome inheritance and PepMoV resistance. In addition, *C. annuum* ECW123R was used as a susceptible parent for further analysis of PepMoV resistance. An intraspecific mapping population consists of 100 F_2 individuals from the CM334 and Chilsungcho cross (Min et al. 2008), which used for QTL mapping of trichome and PepMoV resistance. Phenotype data were obtained from each F_2 (trichome) of the mapping population and their F_3 families (trichome and PepMoV resistance). All plants were grown in a greenhouse at Seoul National University, Korea.

Morphology observation and scoring of trichome density

Morphological characters of trichomes on the main stem were scanned with an electron microscope (JSM 5410LV, Jeol Ltd., Tokyo, Japan) at The National Instrumentation Center for Environmental Management at Seoul National University.

On the main stem, the presence or absence of trichomes was visually evaluated and the trichome density was indexed by a scale ranging from 1 (glabrous) to 5 (very high, the whole surface of the stem covered with trichomes) (Doganlar et al. 2002) at the stage having 10–11 fully expanded true leaves. The trichomes on the sepal located between the second and third calyx on the left side of flowers were directly counted under a dissecting microscope (S-700, Carl Zeiss Inc., Göttingen, Germany). For phenotyping, the trichome densities on the main stem and calyx, total 100 F_2 individuals in the mapping population, 20 flowers per each F_2 plant were randomly picked at full-blooming stage. Twenty flowers of each F_3 families in the mapping population were used for counting trichome number on the calyx. Forty progenies of each F_3 families were used for screening trichome density on the main stem. These experiments were triplicated and the mean values were taken for analysis.

Virus inoculation

PepMoV-SNU1 (Han et al. 2006) was propagated in *Nicotiana tabacum* Xanthi-nc. Infected leaves were harvested from ten individuals showing severe mosaic symptoms with stem necrosis at 14 days after inoculation and stored at -80°C prior to use. The virus infected leaves were macerated with a mortar and pestle in five times volume of 0.1 M phosphate buffer (pH 7.4) with 1% Na_2SO_3 . The homogenate was centrifuged at 8,000 rpm for 10 min. The resulting supernatant was used as an inoculum. Inoculation was performed at the fourth true leaf stage and again at 14 days after the first inoculation. Two leaves per each plant were dusted thoroughly with Caborundum (600 mesh), gently rubbed with the cotton wool wetted with the inoculum, and washed immediately with tap water. The inoculated plants were grown in a greenhouse at Seoul National University, Korea.

Resistance evaluation

Virus infection was checked by Double Antibody Sandwich (DAS)-ELISA for the genetic analysis of PepMoV resistance. DAS-ELISA was performed according to the manufacturer's protocol (Agdia Inc., Elkhart, IN, USA). For QTL mapping of PepMoV resistance, virus infection

was examined 30 days after the inoculation by ring-blot immunobinding assay (Han et al. 2007). The evaluations were triplicated on 40 F₃ progenies per each F₂ individual from the same mapping population for trichome density. Viral resistance was assessed by scoring percent infection. Each test was analyzed for Pearson correlation coefficient with the statistical analysis system (SAS) (Hanrahan et al. 1990). The mean value of the first and third tests that showing high correlation coefficient ($r = 0.93$) at $P < 0.05$ was used in QTL mapping.

QTL analysis and epistatic interactions

With a total of 389 markers including eight RAMP (randomly amplified microsatellite polymorphism) markers (Min et al. 2008) that developed from the candidate genes of *Arabidopsis* trichome initiation and those of the SNU5 map (Lee et al. 2009), linkage analysis was performed using the Kosambi function of the Carthagene program (De Givry et al. 2005) at the threshold value of logarithm of odds (LOD) 4.0 and maximum distance of 30 cM. QTL were analyzed using a composite interval mapping (CIM) function of QTL Cartographer V2.0 (Zeng 1994). At $P < 0.05$, the critical values for significance thresholds were determined by 1,000 permutation tests and the 951st value was taken for QTL analysis (Zeng 1994). Epistatic interactions between pairs of markers on the linkage map were detected using a fixed interaction model of two-factor analysis of variance (ANOVA) at a significance of $P < 5 \times 10^{-3}$ (Caranta et al. 2002). Chromosomes carrying QTL were visualized using the MapChart software (Voorrips 2002).

Results

Trichome morphology, distribution, and PepMoV resistance

Based on the observations using a dissecting microscope and a scanning electron microscope, CM334 plants had a number of non-glandular unbranched trichomes, while no trichomes (glabrous) were observed in the aerial parts of Chilsungcho plants (Fig. 1). For PepMoV-SNU1 resistance, CM334 was immune, showing in no symptom, whereas Chilsungcho was systemically infected and presented typical mottle symptom (Fig. 1e, j). The resistance in CM334 was dominantly inherited. However, the ratio of resistant to susceptible was 59:7 for F₂ and 21:9 for BC₁F₁ (Table 1). This result was not accordance with the previous reports describing one dominant gene for PepMoV resistance in an F₂ segregating population from Yolo Wonder and CM334 cross. To further confirm the mode of

resistance inheritance in CM334, a segregating population was newly generated by changing Chilsungcho to *C. annuum* ECW123R highly susceptible to PepMoV-SNU1. The resistance in the new population was also quantitatively inherited (Table 1). Furthermore, the ratio of resistant to susceptible in F₃ families from the first mapping population could not be classified as a single dominant gene model (Fig. 2e).

Trichome density on the main stem and calyx

Trichome density in the F₁ population was decreased by roughly half as compared with CM334. Frequency distribution of the trichome density on the main stem was considerably skewed to glabrous in 100 F₂ individuals of a mapping population. However, the frequency was normally distributed in 81 F₂ individuals when glabrous ones were excluded. To more precisely evaluate trichome density, stem, leaf, and calyx of segregating F₂ individuals were carefully observed. The calyx was selected for clearly differentiating of trichome density in different plants by direct counting. Since the whole region of the calyx had quite a number of trichomes in many F₂ individuals, one typical sepal from a calyx that had little variation in area among F₂ individuals was finally chosen as a representative organ for trichome density in the aerial parts of the whole plant. The average number of trichomes on the calyx of CM334 was 28 when 100 flowers were examined, while no trichomes were observed in the number of calyces from Chilsungcho. The F₁ hybrids had average 15 trichomes on the calyx (data not shown). The frequency distribution of trichome density on the calyx was higher than that of trichome-bearing (T) to glabrous (G) on the main stem in segregating crosses of CM334, Chilsungcho, and their progenies skewed toward glabrous in both F₂ and F₃ families. However, the distribution was normal when glabrous plants were excluded from F₂ and F₃ population tested (Fig. 2a–d). In addition, the absence of trichomes on a part of the calyx was occasionally observed at very low frequency in F₂ and F₃ population bearing trichomes on the main stem (data not shown).

QTL mapping of trichome density

Compared to IM, CIM is known to be more powerful due to a reduction in the bias of a QTL around markers tested and no treatment of the effects of other QTL as residual variance (Mei et al. 2004). Accordingly, CIM was employed to estimate and interpret QTL for trichome density on the main stem and calyx. For trichomes on the main stem, the empirical threshold values for F₂ and F₃ phenotype data were 14.62 and 2.51, respectively. A major QTL (*Pteli*) was detected on stem trichome density in the

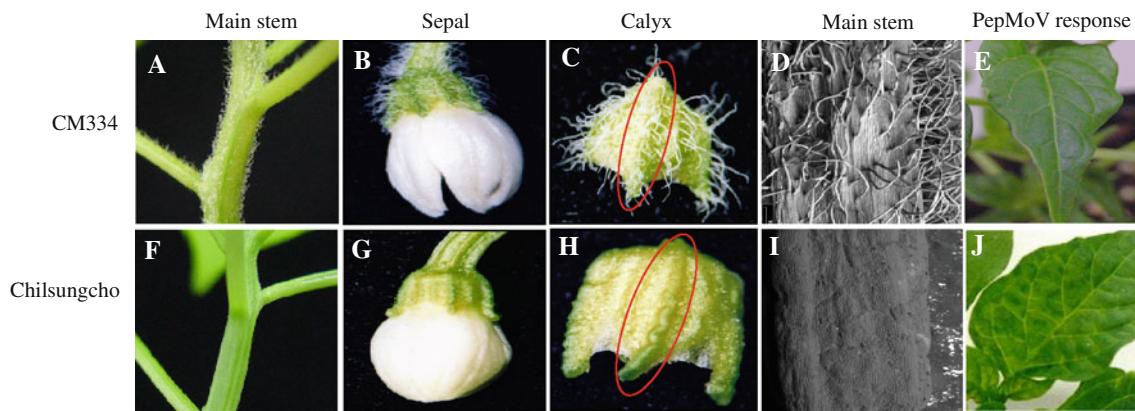


Fig. 1 Phenotype of trichome and pepper mottle virus (PepMoV) resistance in *C. annuum* CM334 and Chilsungcho. Photographs were taken using a digital camera (**a**, **b**, **c**, **d**, **f**, **g**, **h**) and a scanning electron microscope (**d**, **i**) at $\times 50$. The red ovals (**c**, **h**) on the calyx are the

areas for counting trichomes. At 14 days after inoculation with PepMoV-SNU1, CM334 was not infected (**e**) whereas Chilsungcho showed severe mottle symptom on upper leaves (**j**)

Table 1 Inheritance of the resistance to PepMoV-SNU1 in the cross combinations between CM334, Chilsungcho, and ECW123R

Plant material	Observed		Expected ratio		
	Resistant (R)	Susceptible (S)	R:S	χ^2	P
CM334 (CM)	20	0	1:0	—	—
Chilsungcho (CH)	0	30	0:1	—	—
F ₁ (CM × CH)	40	0	1:0	—	—
F ₂ (CM × CH) ^a	59	7	3:1	7.29	0.001–0.01
CH × F ₁ (CM × CH)	21	9	1:1	—	—
ECW123R (ER)	0	25	0:1	—	—
F ₁ (ER × CM)	15	0	1:0	—	—
F ₂ (ER × CM)	105	12	3:1	13.564	P < 0.001
ER × F ₁ (ER × CM)	20	11	1:1	2.612	0.10 < P < 0.20
F ₁ (ER × CM) × ER	10	5	1:1	1.290	0.20 < P < 0.30

The χ^2 and P values resulted from a Chi-square test of fit of the data to a single gene model. The critical value for virus infection in DAS-ELISA was determined by the mean of healthy leaf tissue plus two standard deviations

^a Different 66 F₂ from the same F₂ (CM × CH) for mapping population was used for genetic analysis

F₂ and F₃ populations. The QTL was on LGs corresponding to pepper chromosome 10 and accounted for 81% of the phenotypic variation for the trait. The mode of gene action of *Ptel1* was expected to be partially dominant. For trichomes in the calyx, the threshold values were 2.41 and 2.43 for the F₂ and F₃ populations, respectively. A total of 11 QTL were found on ten different LGs, among which LG15 included the two QTL each with phenotypic variations ranging from 5 to 81%. *Ptel1* was implicated in trichome density on both the main stem and calyx of the F₂ and F₃ populations. *Ptel2* on LG2 was specific to the trichomes on the calyx. The other QTL were specific to each experimental generation. Markers having the highest LOD score were located in LG24. m96 and EAMC192 markers located near *Ptel4* and *Ptel8* were originated from Chilsungcho. All the other QTL related with trichome, exclusive *Ptel4* and *Ptel8* were from CM334 (Table 2).

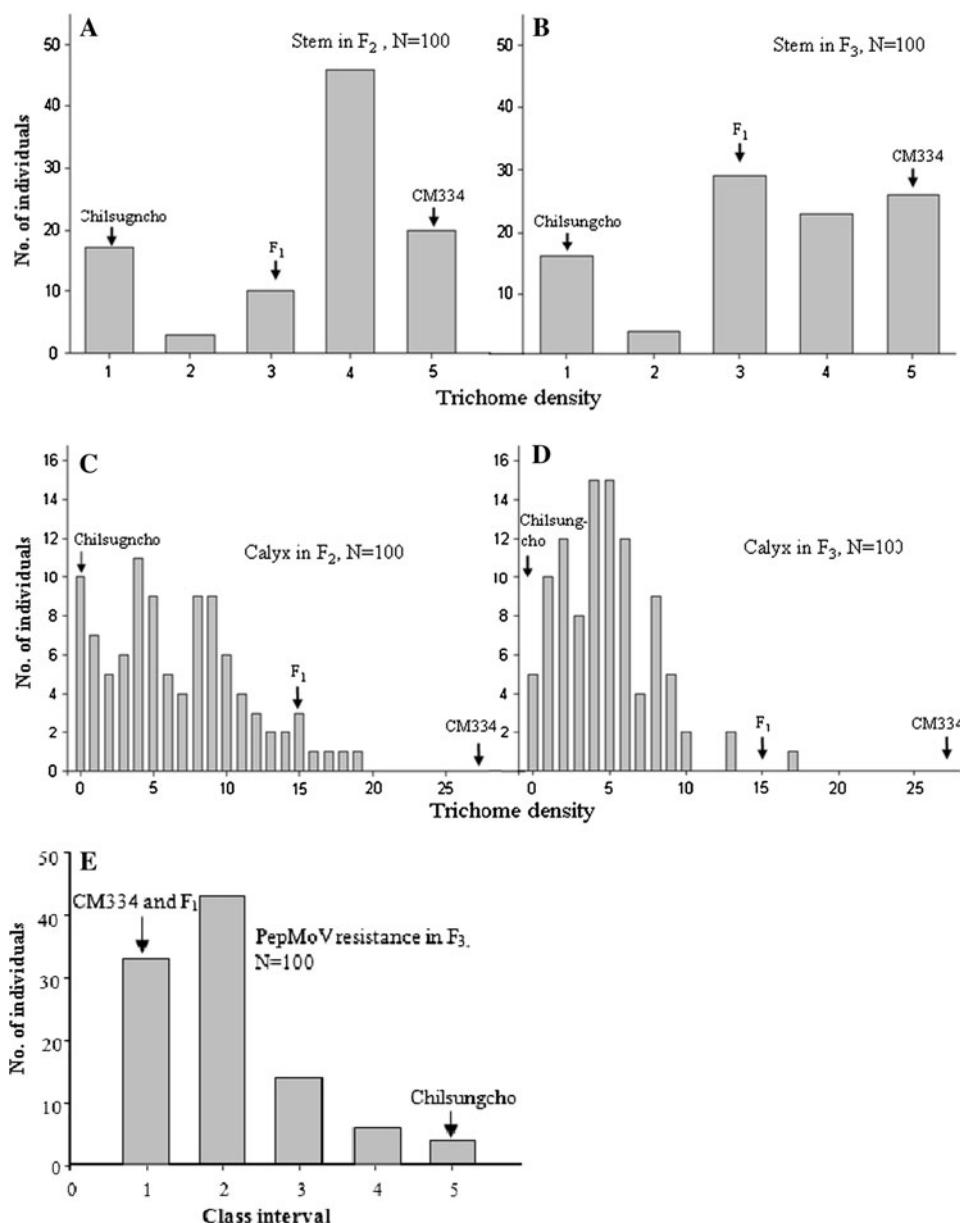
Identification of QTLs in PepMoV resistance

QTL for PepMoV-SNU1 resistance were preliminarily analyzed by one-way ANOVA. Two markers (TG420 and EAMC91) were significantly associated with the resistance. To verify the accurate number and position of resistance QTL in the pepper map, further analysis with CIM function was carried out in Windows QTL Cartographer 2.0 (Wang et al. 2004), resulting in two QTL (*Pep1* and *Pep2*) with 34 and 57% of total phenotypic variance for the resistance, respectively. These QTLs were located on linkage group (LG) 24 (Table 2).

Epistatic analysis for trichome and PepMoV resistance

Using SAS Proc GLM (Hanrahan et al. 1990) and type-III sums of squares, a probability of P < 0.0001 was used as a

Fig. 2 Frequency distribution of trichome density on the main stem (**a, b**) and calyx (**c, d**) in F_2 and F_3 populations from the cross between CM334 and Chilsungcho. Arrows indicated trichome density of CM334, Chilsungcho, and F_1 population. Frequency distribution of arcsine value for the resistance to pepper mottle virus-SNU1 (PepMoV-SNU1) in 100 F_3 families (**e**). F_3 families were from a cross between *Capicum annum* CM334 and *C. annum* Chilsungcho, which were used a mapping population in this study. The resistance level in F_2 was deduced by percent infection of 40 F_3 families per each F_2 individuals in which the value was transformed into arcsine value, resulting in 5 classes. Class is distinguished by resistance rate (Class 1 = 81–100% resistance, Class 2 = 61–80% resistance, Class 3 = 41–60% resistance, Class 4 = 21–40% resistance, Class 5 = 1–20% resistance)



threshold for claiming the presence of a putative QTL. Digenic interactions were analyzed using the two-way ANOVA in which the closest markers for QTL and remnant markers for the linkage map were used on factors 1 and 2, respectively. For trichomes on the main stem, HpmsE031 interacted with HpmsE123, EAMC138, and EAMG15. For trichomes on the calyx in F_2 population, there were two interactions. The m104 and HpmsE031 markers interacted with m96 and HpmsE123 markers, respectively.

For PepMoV resistance significant interactions were between TG420 and two background markers, HpmsE128 and EAMG80 (Table 3).

Relationship between PepMoV resistance and stem trichome formation

LG 24 corresponding to pepper chromosome 10 was newly constructed with 17 markers which included *Pt11*, *Tsca*, and *Tco* (Kim et al. 2010). The LG24 covered 125.3 cM, on which TG420B2 was co-localized with *Pst112* restriction fragment length polymorphism marker that was significant for PepMoV resistance in one-way ANOVA (data not shown). Using the phenotype data of the average percentage of PepMoV infection and trichome density in the main stem, CIM revealed a geometrical correlation among major QTL for both traits. All QTL originated from

Table 2 QTL for trichome density on the main stem and calyx and PepMoV resistance in population between CM334 and Chilsungcho

Trait	QTL code	LG	Closest marker	LOD	Additive effect	Dominant effect	R ^{2a}	Direction ^b	Gene action (d/a) ^c
Trichome in F ₂ stem	Ptel1	24	Hpmse031	39.83	1.72	1.32	0.81	CM	0.76
Trichome in F ₃ stem	Ptel1	24	Hpmse031	29.24	1.45	0.34	0.70	CM	0.24
Trichome in F ₂ calyx	Ptel2	2	m104	12.38	4.10	1.37	0.43	CM	-0.33
	Ptel3	6	w53	3.45	2.13	1.81	0.14	CM	-0.85
	Ptel4	11	m96	2.68	1.27	0.34	0.05	CH	-0.27
	Ptel5	16	EAMG66	3.10	2.43	3.22	0.18	CM	-1.32
	Ptel1	24	Hpmse031	13.83	3.50	1.98	0.28	CM	0.57
	Ptel6	31	CAN15	2.55	0.38	1.91	0.05	CM	-5.08
Trichome in F ₃ calyx	Ptel2	2	m104	5.66	1.89	0.67	0.21	CM	-0.35
	Ptel7	10	EAMG74	3.45	1.31	1.23	0.13	CM	-0.94
	Ptel8	13	EAMC192	2.48	1.10	0.13	0.06	CH	0.12
	Ptel9	14	m74	3.12	1.66	3.23	0.29	CM	-1.95
	Ptel10	15	EAMC167	2.44	1.84	0.81	0.12	CM	-0.44
	Ptel11	15	EAMG47	2.80	1.21	0.79	0.08	CM	-0.65
	Ptel1	24	Hpmse031	5.75	1.76	0.08	0.15	CM	0.05
PepMoV resistance	Pep1	24	TG420	27.2	3.03	0.22	0.57	CM	0.75
	Pep2	24	EAMC91	19.2	2.64	0.23	0.34	CH	0.86

^a Phenotype variation for each QTL^b The parent which contributes to the increase numeric value of trait. CM, CM334; CH, Chilsungcho^c The mode of gene action; additive ($-0.2 < d/a < 0.2$), partial dominance ($0.2 < d/dal < 0.8$), dominant ($0.8 < d/dal < 1.2$), and overdominant ($d/dal > 1.2$). LOD threshold values were 14.6, 2.5, 2.4, and 2.4 corresponding to the main stem in F₂ and F₃, and the calyx in F₂ and F₃, respectively**Table 3** Interactions between molecular markers associated with trichome density on the main stem, calyx and PepMoV resistance in an intraspecific mapping population from the cross between CM334 and Chilsungcho pepper plants

Trichome density	Marker 1	LG	R ² (%) ^a	Marker 2	LG	R ² (%)	Interaction R ² (%) ^b	F value ^c
Trichome in F ₂ Stem	Hpmse031	24	77.8	Hpmse123	2	2.1	82.6	221.0
				EAMC138	19	12.6	3.3	10.9
Trichome in F ₃ Stem	Hpmse031	24	20.0	EAMG15	22	2.2	78.0	113.8
Trichome in F ₂ Calyx	m104	2	22.5	M96	11	8.4	8.0	7.3
	Hpmse031	24	26.2	Hpmse123	2	20.7	55.6	27.3
Trichome in F ₃ Calyx	Hpmse031	24	20.0	Hpmse123	2	16.5	42.2	17.3
PepMoV resistance	TG420	24	61.2	Hpmse128	29	3.6	77.9	112.9
				EAMG80	17	22.0	2.2	9.3

^a Phenotype variation for each QTL^b Interaction between molecular markers associated with trichome and PepMoV resistance^c The values were calculated at the significance of $P < 5 \times 10^{-3}$

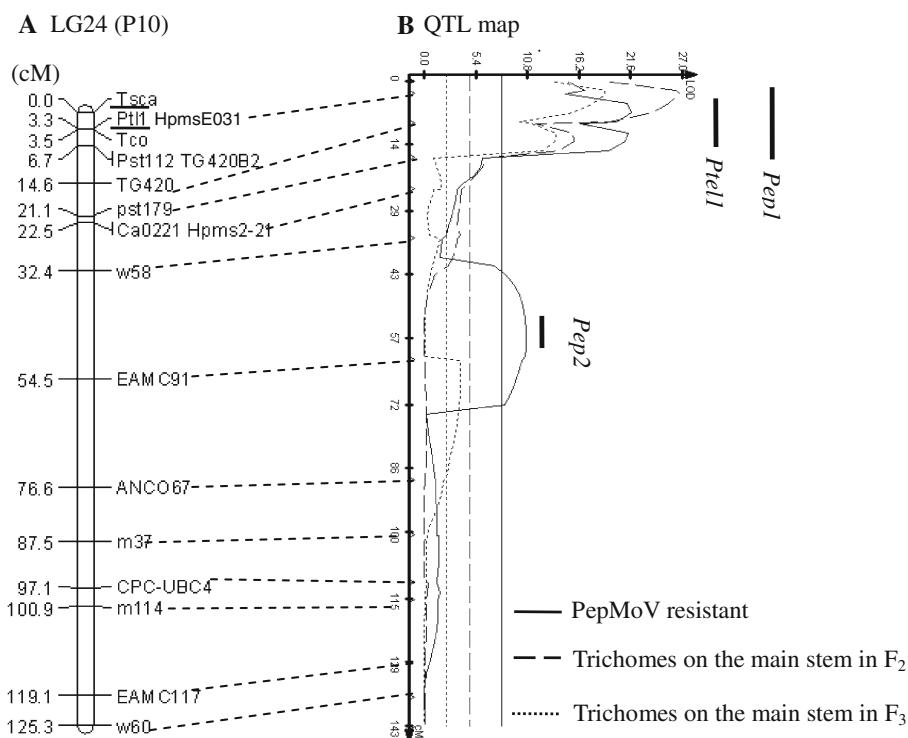
CM334 were located in 21 cM interval, in which Ptel1 and Pep1 were most closely linked (Fig. 3).

Discussion

Trichome density on the leaf and stem of *Arabidopsis thaliana* has been known to be modulated by combinations

between major genes common in diverse species and many minor genes specific to accessions of *Arabidopsis* plants. Especially, the interaction between GL1 and TTG1 influences glabrous phenotype (Marks 1997). In pepper, the presence or absence of trichome on main stem to be apparently controlled by single gene. However, protrusions of immature trichome were occasionally found in the glabrous category when more precise scale was adapted to

Fig. 3 Map location and LOD profiles of the QTLs for trichome density and PepMoV resistance on linkage group 24 using a recombinant population from the cross between CM334 and Chilsungcho. Genetic distance was calculated using the Kosambi function (Kosambi 1944). **a** Genetic map of pepper chromosome 10 constructed using 100 individuals of an F_2 population from CM334 × Chilsungcho. **b** CIM results from the integrated map. QTL intervals of trichome density and PepMoV resistance are presented as solid bars



distinguish glabrous one in F_2 individuals from CM334 and Chilsungcho cross. This means the glabrous without any protrusions may be controlled by at least two genes. In this study, there was just one QTL of *Ptel1* for the trichome density on pepper main stem. The cause may come from small size mapping population limiting the potential for QTL detection. CIM analysis deduced two peaks with the distance of 18.3 cM on LG24, which may be independent QTLs for trichome density on main stem although the population size is too small to convince. Therefore, a fine mapping needs for dissecting the doubtful region in the near future. The trichome density on the calyx is more complex compared to that of stem trichome. The QTLs in F_2 and F_3 mapping populations were quite difference in their map location, suggesting minor QTLs except for *Ptel1* and *Ptel2* may be false positive QTLs or undefined factors although these QTLs have significant value for CIM analysis. Indeed, the presence or absence of trichome on calyx in F_2 mapping individuals in this study occasionally did not coincide with those of trichome on the main stem. Thus, trichome density on the pepper main stem and calyx might be controlled by a QTL specifically to each organ in the presence of *Ptel1*.

PepMoV resistance has been known to be qualitatively controlled by *Pvr4* in CM334 (Caranta et al. 1999; Grube et al. 2000). However, in this study, the PepMoV resistance was quantitatively inherited in the cross combinations between CM334 and its paternal parents (Table 1). The segregating ratio of PepMoV resistance in F_2 families in

Table 1 was more accordance with 13:3 than 3:1 under two genes model being one dominant and one recessive. Furthermore, the PepMoV resistance in the F_3 families from F_2 mapping population could not be clearly dissected to two types of 75% resistance and 25% susceptible. The infection frequency was normally distributed with a little skewness toward resistance in CM334 and Chilsungcho F_3 population (Fig. 2e). CIM analysis for PepMoV resistance showed that two QTLs were located on chromosome 10, among which one QTL, *Pep1* may correspond to *Pvr4* which is reported early in CM334. This result indicated that PepMoV resistance was inherited with at least two genes including *Pvr4* in the CM334 and Chilsungcho mapping population.

Analysis for Pearson correlation with the phenotype data for PepMoV resistance displayed close relation with trichome bearing on the main stem ($r = 0.83$ in F_2 and $r = 0.68$ in F_3) (data not shown). These results indicate that trichome-bearing pepper plants have a high rate of PepMoV resistance. Some examples showing correlation between trichome and disease resistance can be found in pepper and rice. The presence of trichomes on stems and leaves related with resistance to *P. capsici* in pepper (Egea-Gilabert et al. 2008) and significant correlations were reported between tillering ability and rice *yellow mottle virus* resistance on chromosome 12 in rice (Albar et al. 1998). Consequently, this study suggests that trichomes could be used for enhanced selection marker for PepMoV resistance in pepper breeding program. Upcoming

positional cloning and complementation of *Ptell* and *Pvr4* using genome sequence of this region will provide an insight into the molecular association of trichome-bearing and Potyvirus resistance in pepper plants.

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