Isolation and characterization of microsatellite loci from the tapeworm

Schistocephalus solidus

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Keywords: cestode, hermaphrodite, microsatellite, paternity, Schistocephalus solidus, sex allocation

Received 8 May 2000; revision accepted 9 June 2000

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Schistocephalus solidus, a pseudophyllidean cestode parasite, is an outstanding model organism for studying the evolution of hermaphroditism, as it is a simultaneous hermaphrodite that appears to reproduce by self- and cross-fertilization. Learning more about, for example, sex allocation, selfing and out-crossing strategies or decisions in the hermaphrodit’s dilemma requires determination of selfing and out-crossing rates and the extent of sperm competition (Jarne & Charlesworth 1993). A necessary prerequisite for such studies is high-resolution, co-dominant molecular markers that allow assignment of paternity and the assessment of levels of heterozygosity. In this report, we describe the isolation of five microsatellite DNA loci in Schistocephalus solidus and the development of appropriate PCR primers. These are, to our knowledge, the first microsatellite primers for any cestode species.

Aliquots (75 µg) of genomic DNA from three individuals from Bochum (Germany) were isolated using the Genomic Tip Kit from Qiagen (Hilden, Germany). PCR and analysis were carried out on an ABI 377 DNA Sequencer (PE Biosystems). A commercial kit (Qiagen) was used to clean PCR products and the pure DNA was sequenced using the ABI BigDye Ready reaction kit (PE Biosystems) and the M13 universal forward (5'-TGTAAAACGACGGCCAGT-3') and reverse (5'-ACAGGAAACACGCTATGACC-3') primers. Sequencing reactions were resolved on urea-5% polyacrylamide gels and the gels were analysed on an ABI 377 DNA Sequencer (PE Biosystems). Primers for amplification of the microsatellite loci were designed with the help of primer 3 (Rozen & Skaletzky 1996–1997). Genomic DNA of two individuals each from various geographical locations including Loirston (near Aberdeen, UK), Belfast (UK), Perth (UK), Inverness (UK) and 15 individuals from Bochum (Germany) was isolated as follows: approximately 1 mg of tissue was suspended in 100 µL solution containing 10 mM Tris, 2 mM EDTA, 0.01% Triton X-100 and 20 µg Proteinase K (Sigma). The solution was incubated for 2 h and then heated at 95 °C for 10 min. PCR reactions were carried out in a 10 µL volume containing: 1 µL of extract, 10 mM TRIS- HCl (pH 8.8), 50 mM KCl, 0.5 U of AmpliTaq Gold DNA polymerase (PE Biosystems), 2.5 mM MgCl2, 200 µM dNTPs, 0.5 µM of locus-specific fluorescent-labelled forward primer (fluorescent dyes were 6-FAM and HEX) and non-labelled reverse primer. PCR cycling parameters were the following: 10 min at 94 °C, 30 cycles of 94 °C for 30 s, 57 °C for 30 s, 72 °C for 30 s, then heated at 95 °C for 10 min.

For the Bochum population (n = 15), to develop two enriched microsatellite genomic libraries, one containing inserts with (CT)14 repeats and the other containing (CA)10 repeats. The inserts (cut with HindIII) were cloned into dideoxy sequencing using the ABI BigDye ready reaction kit (PE Biosystems) and the M13 universal forward (5'-TGTAAAACGACGGCCAGT-3') and reverse (5'-ACAGGAAACACGCTATGACC-3') primers. Sequencing reactions were resolved on urea-5% polyacrylamide gels and the gels were analysed on an ABI 377 DNA Sequencer (PE Biosystems). Primers for amplification of the microsatellite loci were designed with the help of primer 3 (Rozen & Skaletzky 1996–1997). Genomic DNA of two individuals each from various geographical locations including Loirston (near Aberdeen, UK), Belfast (UK), Perth (UK), Inverness (UK) and 15 individuals from Bochum (Germany) was isolated as follows: approximately 1 mg of tissue was suspended in 100 µL solution containing 10 mM Tris, 2 mM EDTA, 0.01% Triton X-100 and 20 µg Proteinase K (Sigma). The solution was incubated for 2 h and then heated at 95 °C for 10 min. PCR reactions were carried out in a 10 µL volume containing: 1 µL of extract, 10 mM TRIS- HCl (pH 8.8), 50 mM KCl, 0.5 U of AmpliTaq Gold DNA polymerase (PE Biosystems), 2.5 mM MgCl2, 200 µM dNTPs, 0.5 µM of locus-specific fluorescent-labelled forward primer (fluorescent dyes were 6-FAM and HEX) and non-labelled reverse primer (see Table 1). PCR cycling parameters were the following: 10 min at 94 °C, 30 cycles of 94 °C for 30 s, 57 °C for 30 s, 72 °C for 30 s, then heated at 95 °C for 10 min.

Table 1 Characterization of five microsatellite loci in the tapeworm Schistocephalus solidus

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Locus</th>
<th>Primer (5’ to 3’)</th>
<th>PCR product size of the sequenced allele (bp)</th>
<th>Observed allele sizes (bp)</th>
<th>Observed allele numbers</th>
<th>Repeat structure</th>
<th>H_0*</th>
<th>GenBank accession no.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SsCTA22</td>
<td>F:GTACGCCAATTTGTCACCTCCAGG</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>146–160</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>(CT)14</td>
<td>0.73</td>
<td>AF247830</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SsCAB6</td>
<td>F:TCTGGTTGAGTCCTGCAAGAG</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>96–130</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>(CA)13</td>
<td>0.33</td>
<td>AF247829</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SsCTB24</td>
<td>F:GACGCGCTGTTAGCTTATCGC</td>
<td>188</td>
<td>162–196</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>(CT)12</td>
<td>0.33</td>
<td>AF247831</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SsCA25</td>
<td>F:CAAGTTGCGTACGTGACCTGC</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>132–194</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>(CA)13</td>
<td></td>
<td>AF247832</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SsCA58</td>
<td>F:GAAGTGGCTGACCTGCAAGG</td>
<td>169</td>
<td>143–179</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>(CA)13</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>AF247833</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Observed heterozygosity (H_0) is only given for the Bochum population (n = 15).
(n = 15), observed heterozygosity was low for three loci (ScCTAB6, ScCTB24 and ScCaS8). A significant excess of homozygotes, and hence a positive inbreeding coefficient (F = 0.30), was found in the 15 individuals of the Bochum population using the amova procedure implemented in Arlequin 3.1 (Schneider et al. 1997). This indicates that individuals of this hermaphroditic species exhibit selfing. However, due to the small sample size, it was not possible to test for the presence of null alleles (Van Treuren 1998). No significant linkage disequilibrium could be detected between any locus pair using the software Arlequin 3.1 (P > 0.04 in all six comparisons for the Bochum population, Bonferroni correction not applied). Ten individuals of the Bochum population (66%) exhibited three PCR fragments for the locus ScCa25, indicating the presence of a third allele, possibly due to gene duplication. Overall observed heterozygosity in the samples from the UK ranged between 0.88 and 0.62. A third gene copy at the locus ScCa25 was not observed in these worms. However, we also tested the identified primers in two other cestodes, Diphyllolothrium latum and Taenia solium. PCR amplification was not successful. The high polymorphism of our markers in S. solus suggests that they will be useful for paternity assessment, the estimation of selfing rates and the study of gene flow and population structure.

Acknowledgements

We thank Jean Maraux, Daniel Clark and Leslie R. Noble for providing samples. The technical assistance of S. Liedtke and S. Breholtz is gratefully acknowledged. Many thanks to M. Günther for support TB, M.M., L.S. and C.W. acknowledge support from the Swiss National Foundation (31-45733.95).

References


Polymerase chain reaction primers for polymorphic microsatellite loci in the invasive toad species Bufo marinus

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Keywords: Bufo, invasive species, microsatellite, nonequilibrium population genetics, sex-linked markers, toad

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Received 31 March 2000; revision accepted 10 June 2000

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Originally from South America, the cane toad (Bufo marinus) was deliberately introduced to various Atlantic and Pacific islands, and to Australia, early this century as a biological control (reviewed in Eastal 1981). Because of its well known introduction history and likelihood of strong founder events and demographic flushes, the cane toad provides a good empirical model for studying the population genetics of nonequilibrium systems. Surveys of enzyme variation in the introduced populations in Australia enabled an assessment of some of the genetic consequences of colonization processes (Eastal 1988). However, low level of polymorphism observed from enzyme markers limited resolution. Thus, the development of microsatellite markers in B. marinus represents a significant progression in the study of this invasive species.

Two libraries enriched for microsatellites were constructed and screened for (GT) repeats following the protocols of Armour et al. (1994) and Paetkau (1999). Following the former protocol, 8000 clones were probed, from which 21 positives were picked and sequenced. Eleven of those clones had flanking regions of at least 20 bp and a core sequence of at least 10 repeats, and hence selected for primer design. Following the latter protocol, 400 clones were obtained, 100 sequenced, and 18 selected for primer design. Of the 29 clones selected, preliminary genotyping tests indicated that 17 loci were not suitable as they produced dubious amplification patterns. Two B. marinus populations, British Guyana (source population) and Gordonvale (introduced population in Australia), were genotyped with the remaining 12 loci. The primer and core sequences of those loci are provided in Table 1.

Extractions of DNA from individuals (usually a toe section) were performed following Estoup et al. (1996). Polymerase chain reaction primers (PCRs) contained 1–2.5 mM MgCl2 (see Table 1), 0.17 mM of each dNTP, 1 × PCR buffer [100 mM Tris (pH 8.8)], 1% Triton X-100, 500 mM KCl, 160 μg/mL (IBA), 0.07–0.14 μM of fluorescent labelled primer (Table 1), 0.25 μM of unlabelled primer, and 0.2 units of DyNAzyme DNA polymerase (Finnzymes). PCRs were performed in a GeneAmp PCR System 9700 thermal cycler using the following programme: one cycle of 94 °C for 1 min 45 s; five ‘touchdown’ cycles: 94 °C for 15 s, 1 °C drop per cycle to a final annealing temperature of 52 °C or 52 °C (Table 1) for 20 s, 72 °C for 10 s; 27 cycles of 94 °C for 15 s, 57 °C or 52 °C for 20 s, 72 °C for 1 s; and a final hold of 72 °C for 2 min. Genotypes were scored using ABI PRISM GenoTyper 2.0 software (Perkin Elmer).

All 12 loci were polymorphic with an observed number of alleles per population ranging between one and 10, and heterozygosities between zero and 0.909 (Table 1). Exact tests performed using cavgor 3.1 (Raymond & Rouset 1995) with a correction for multiple comparisons (sequential Bonferroni procedure, Rice 1989), detected significant deviation from Hardy–Weinberg equilibrium and linkage disequilibrium for the loci BM102 and BM128. As the sex of the individuals was known for the Gordonvale (Australia) sample, we were able to detect that both these loci were sex linked. This finding

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