

RESEARCH

Open Access

Analysis on genetic diversification and heterosis in autotetraploid rice

Jin-Wen Wu[†], Chao-Yue Hu[†], Muhammad Qasim Shahid[†], Hai-Bin Guo, Yu-Xiang Zeng, Xiang-Dong Liu^{*} and Yong-Gen Lu^{*}

Abstract

Polyloidization has played an important role in plant evolution and is a pathway for plants to increase genetic diversification and to get higher heterosis comparing with that of diploid does. This study was undertaken to assess the genetic variation and relationships among 40 autotetraploid rice genotypes and their counterpart diploid cultivars with 99 SSR markers screened from published rice genome. The 99 SSR markers detected polymorphism among autotetraploid genotypes and revealed a total of 291 alleles with an average of 2.949 alleles per locus. Autotetraploid lines showed higher genetic diversity and significant variation in agronomic traits than diploid cultivars. Phylogenetic analysis revealed that most of autotetraploid lines were genetically different from their diploid parents, and inter-subspecific hybrids were prepared on the basis of genetic distance between parents. Inter-subspecific autotetraploid hybrids showed a higher and positive heterobeltiosis and competitive heterosis than diploid hybrids, especially for grain yield. Genetic distance appeared not to predict heterosis in diploid rice for all traits; however, it showed a significant correlation with grain yield, grain length and grain length to width ratio in autotetraploid rice. This extensive research on autotetraploid heterosis and genetic diversity will be useful for the development of autotetraploid rice hybrids.

Keywords: Genetic distance; Genetic variation; Heterobeltiosis; Inter-subspecific hybrids; Polyploidy

Introduction

Polyloidization has played an important role in plant evolution and is a pathway for plants to increase genetic diversification and to get higher heterosis comparing with that of diploid does (Doyle et al. 2008; Luan et al. 2008; Shahid et al. 2012). Over 70% of all angiosperm species have an increase in ploidy level somewhere during their evolutionary histories (Masterson 1994). Polyploid species with doubling genomes showed abundant advantages for various traits, such as greater variation, high biomass yield and resistance to insect pest and diseases (Bingham et al. 1994; Marhold and Lihová 2006).

Autotetraploid rice is a new germplasm developed from diploid rice through chromosome doubling with colchicine treatment and has the potential to increase rice production and nutrition (Song and Zhang 1992; Shahid et al. 2012). Autotetraploid lines showed significantly lower fertility

than diploid cultivars (Shahid et al. 2010), but autotetraploid hybrids produced significantly higher fertility than their diploid counterparts (Hu et al. 2009; Shahid et al. 2011). Autotetraploid rice showed higher genetic variation in various agronomic traits than their original diploid rice, such as varying seed set along with longer grains and awns (Li and Rutger 2007; Luan et al. 2008). Inter-subspecific (*indica* × *japonica*) autotetraploid rice hybrids showed more hybrid vigour and stability than diploid hybrids, although a lower seed set is a hindrance in heterosis utilization (Shahid et al. 2011). Autotetraploid rice germplasm for hybrid rice application, including genetic variation and diversity, has not been exploited. Therefore, it is of immense importance to study the genetic variation and to utilize the super heterosis of autotetraploid rice.

Heterosis or hybrid vigor is an important tool for improving the quality and increasing yield of crops since its success in maize. Hybrid breeding has been an important method of increasing grain yield of rice and inter-subspecific crosses, such as *indica* and *japonica*, showed a great potential to raise grain yield than other

* Correspondence: xdlu@scau.edu.cn; yglu@scau.edu.cn

[†]Equal contributors

State Key Laboratory for Conservation and Utilization of Subtropical Agro-bioresources, South China Agricultural University, Guangzhou 510642, China

crosses (Yuan 1987). Most of super rice breeding programs in China have used inter-subspecies heterosis (Cheng et al. 2007). However, the use of heterosis is extremely labour intensive, time consuming, tedious and required a large number of cross-combinations (Zha et al. 2008). The use of molecular markers for prediction of heterosis led into a new phase since its appearance in 1980 (Xiao et al. 1996). A number of studies have been made in various crop plants to predict the relationship between genetic diversity and heterosis, such as diploid rice (Xiao et al. 1995; Zhao et al. 1999; Wang et al. 2013), wheat (Martin et al. 1995), maize (Smith et al. 1990; Betran et al. 2003), barley (Schut et al. 1997) and rape seed (Liu et al. 2002; Yu et al. 2005). Unfortunately, these studies showed two different and contradictory results, some revealed that markers could be used for predicting heterosis, while some other proposed markers could not predict heterosis for complicated traits.

Molecular markers are a powerful tool for the assessment of genetic variability and genetic diversity among genotypes within land races, populations and species. Among PCR-based markers, SSR markers are the most favored in breeding and genetics because of their co-dominant nature, abundance, genome wide coverage and high reproducibility (McCouch et al. 2002). Molecular markers could be used to select parents for hybridization because of the association with different alleles and heterosis (Anand et al. 2012). A number of efforts have been made to investigate the genetic variation of the hybrid parents and heterosis in diploid rice. To the best of our knowledge, there is no report on the relationship of molecular markers genetic distance with hybrid performance in autotetraploid rice. However, there is relatively little known about the detection of genetic variation through SSR markers in autotetraploid rice, which limited the cognition of autotetraploid germplasm in the development of hybrid rice. The objectives of this study were (1) to analyze the genetic variation and genetic distance of autotetraploid and diploid rice using SSR markers, and its relation with heterosis prediction (2) to examine genetic relationship of autotetraploid and corresponding diploid rice cultivars, and (3) to investigate the heterosis of yield and important agronomic traits among autotetraploid and corresponding diploid rice cultivars.

Materials and methods

Plant materials

A total of forty autotetraploid rice lines were used to conduct the study about genetic variation, and their 40 diploid parents were used as control (CK) (Table 1). All materials were planted at the experimental farm of South China Agricultural University (SCAU). Row to row (R × R) and plant to plant (P × P) distances were kept as 20 cm and 16.6 cm, respectively. In addition,

four *japonica* and seven *indica* autotetraploid rice lines with high genetic diversity were selected based on the results of phylogenetic analysis (Table 2), and then crossed in an incomplete diallel design during 2010. A total of 54 inter-subspecific hybrids (*indica* × *japonica*) of autotetraploid and their counterpart diploid rice were prepared to determine the relationship between hybrid performance and genetic distance. Parents and F₁ hybrids were planted at the farm of SCAU to conduct the study for heterosis analysis. A Randomized Complete Block Design (RCBD) was used with three replications. R × R and P × P distances were kept as 20 and 16.6 cm, respectively. Seedlings at four-five leaf stage were planted in the paddy field. The F₁ seeds were harvested from all the crosses at the end of cropping season. All the cultural practices were done according to the recommendations of area.

Analysis of agronomic traits

A total of 14 agronomic traits were investigated to find the genetic variation in diploid and autotetraploid rice i. e., plant height (PH, cm), panicle length (PL, cm), effective panicles number (EPN), flag leave length (FLL, cm), flag leave width (FLW, cm), grain length (GL, cm), grain width (GW, cm), grain length to width ratio (L/W), grain density (GD), grain yield (GY), grains per panicle (GPP), total number of grains per plant (TGP), 1000-grain weight (GWT, g) and seed set ratio ((SS = number of filled grains/total number of grains) × 100). Autotetraploid and diploid rice hybrids were planted to examine eleven important agronomic traits: PH, PL, EPN, GL, GW, L/W, GPP, GD, GWT, GY and SS. These traits were selected from the Descriptors and Data Standard for Rice (*Oryza sativa* L.) to describe the genetic variation between autotetraploid and diploid rice cultivars (Han and Wei 2006).

DNA extraction and SSR analysis

Young leaves were collected from autotetraploid and diploid rice cultivars, and DNA was extracted using modified SDS method (Yang et al. 2009). SSR markers developed by Cornell University and selected from the Gramene database <http://www.gramene.org/> were used (Chen et al. 1997; Jaiswal et al. 2006). The volume of the PCR reaction system was 20 μL. The profile of PCR program was as follows: 94°C for 5 min; 30 cycles of 94°C for 1 min, 55°C for 1 min, 72°C for 1 min; and 5 min final extension at 72°C. All amplified products were separated by 6% polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis and detected by silver nitrate staining. Alleles were mainly detected by BIO Imagine System and software Genetools from SynGene and manually re-checked twice.

Table 1 Name of the cultivars with ploidy levels used in this study

Code	Cultivar	Ploidy	Origion/source	Code	Cultivar	Ploidy	Origion/source
1	Aijiaonante	2x	Guangdong	41	Bo'B	2x	Guangxi
2	Aijiaonante	4x	Lab ^a	42	Bo'B	4x	Lab
3	Guanglu'ai 4	2x	Guangdong	43	Taichung 65	2x	Taiwan
4	Guanglu'ai 4	4x	Lab	44	Taichung 65	4x	Lab
5	L-202	2x	IRRI ^b	45	E2	2x	Guangdong
6	L-202	4x	SCBG- CAS ^c	46	E2	4x	Lab
7	Jackson	2x	IRRI	47	E4	2x	Guangdong
8	Jackson	4x	SCBG- CAS	48	E4	4x	Lab
9	PEDR-2B	2x	Guangdong	49	E5	2x	Guangdong
10	PEDR-2B	4x	Lab	50	E5	4x	Lab
11	Liaojing 944	2x	Liaoning	51	E24	2x	Guangdong
12	Liaojing 944	4x	Lab	52	E24	4x	Lab
13	Yanjing 48	2x	Liaoning	53	E45	2x	Guangdong
14	Yanjing 48	4x	Lab	54	E45	4x	Lab
15	Bengal	2x	IRRI	55	E245	2x	Guangdong
16	Bengal	4x	Lab	56	E245	4x	Lab
17	Raopingsaozhou	2x	Guangdong	57	Lemont	2x	IRRI
18	Raopingsaozhou	4x	Lab	58	Lemont	4x	Lab
19	J455	2x	Guangdong	59	APIV	2x	Lab
20	J455	4x	Lab	60	APIV	4x	Lab
21	Nanhaizaoyinzhan	2x	Guangdong	61	8821	2x	Guangdong
22	Nanhaizaoyinzhan	4x	Lab	62	8821	4x	Lab
23	Yuhei 1	2x	Lab	63	M18	2x	Guangdong
24	Yuhei 1	4x	Lab	64	M18	4x	Lab
25	Xichuan	2x	Guangdong	65	02428	2x	Jiangsu
26	Xichuan	4x	Lab	66	02428	4x	Lab
27	Yuexiangzhan	2x	Guangdong	67	Dalinuo	2x	Guangdong
28	Yuexiangzhan	4x	Lab	68	Dalinuo	4x	Lab
29	Dayebai	2x	Guangdong	69	Huajingxian 74	2x	Guangdong
30	Dayebai	4x	Lab	70	Huajingxian 74	4x	Lab
31	Guinongzhan	2x	Guangdong	71	P11-6	2x	Lab
32	Guinongzhan	4x	Lab	72	P11-6	4x	Lab
33	Shennong 265	2x	Liaoning	73	Shuya	2x	Lab
34	Shennong 265	4x	Lab	74	Shuya	4x	Lab
35	Shennong 15	2x	Liaoning	75	Nanjing 11	2x	Jiangsu
36	Shennong 15	4x	Lab	76	Nanjing 11	4x	Beijing
37	Goulianzao	2x	Guangdong	77	Nantehao	2x	Guangdong
38	Goulianzao	4x	Lab	78	Nantehao	4x	Lab
39	Linglun	2x	Hunan	79	Huayinzhan	2x	Guangdong
40	Linglun	4x	Lab	80	Huayinzhan	4x	Lab

2x indicates diploid rice, 4x indicates autotetraploid rice.

^aState Key Laboratory for Conservation and Utilization of Subtropical Agro-bioresources, South China Agricultural University, Guangzhou 510642, China.

^bInternational Rice Research Institute.

^cSouth China Botanical Garden, Chinese Academy of Sciences.

Table 2 Name and types of the parents used to prepare inter-subspecific hybrids

Sr. #	Diploid parents		Sr. #	Autotetraploid parents	
	Name	Type		Name	Type
1	Liaojing 944-2x	<i>japonica</i>	1	Liaojing 944-4x	<i>japonica</i>
2	Yanjing 48-2x	<i>japonica</i>	2	Yanjing 48-4x	<i>japonica</i>
3	Shennong 15-2x	<i>japonica</i>	3	Shennong 15-4x	<i>japonica</i>
4	Taichung 65-2x	<i>japonica</i>	4	Taichung 65-4x	<i>japonica</i>
5	Aijiaonante-2x	<i>indica</i>	5	Aijiaonante-4x	<i>indica</i>
6	Guanglu'ai 4-2x	<i>indica</i>	6	Guanglu'ai 4-4x	<i>Indica</i>
7	PDER-2B-2x	<i>indica</i>	7	PDER-2B-4x	<i>Indica</i>
8	Raopingsaozhou-2x	<i>indica</i>	8	Raopingsaozhou-4x	<i>indica</i>
9	Nanhaizaoyinzhan-2x	<i>indica</i>	9	Nanhaizaoyinzhan-4x	<i>indica</i>
10	Xichuan-2x	<i>indica</i>	10	Xichuan-4x	<i>indica</i>
11	Dayebai-2x	<i>indica</i>	11	Dayebai-4x	<i>indica</i>

Statistical analysis

Agronomic traits data was analyzed using SPSS and the statistical significances were determined using Paired-*T* test by SPSS version 17.0. Levels of heterosis were measured as heterobeltiosis, which is the superiority of a hybrid over the better parent, and competitive heterosis, which is calculated by comparing autotetraploid rice hybrids with their corresponding diploid hybrids. Correlation analysis between the genetic distance and heterobeltiosis was performed with SPSS version 17.0.

Number of effective alleles per locus (*Ae*), expected heterozygosity (*He*) and Shannon's information index

(*I*) were calculated to measure the genetic variation in diploid and autotetraploid rice. Analyses of these computations were assessed using the program POP GENE version 1.32 (Yeh et al. 1997). Polymorphism information content (PIC) was calculated according to the formula: $PIC_i = 1 - \sum P_{ij}^2$ ($j = 1$) (Anderson et al. 1993) and genetic distance was estimated according to the method of Nei (1978). Neighbor-joining (NJ) tree was constructed by Software NTSYS version 2.10e (Exeter Software, Setauket, NY USA) on the basis of similarity measures (Rohlf 2002), and MEGA V4.0 was used to observe the NJ tree (Tamura et al. 2007).

Table 3 Genetic variation in agronomic traits of diploid and autotetraploid rice

Traits	Diploid			Autotetraploid			t	P
	Mean	Range	CV (%)	Mean	Range	CV (%)		
PH	99.51	66.67-152.00	20.60	90.63	70.83-137.67	15.61	-2.168	0.036*
PL	22.22	14.59-35.87	17.89	25.12	18.58-31.34	10.49	3.684	0.001**
EPN	7.10	4.33-11.00	23.35	5.09	2.33-8.33	31.58	-4.874	1.964E-5**
TGP	514.21	281.00-946.33	29.93	420.17	206.67-704.00	31.17	-3.136	0.003**
GPP	128.07	82.67-229.00	27.10	90.08	54.00-142.56	28.84	-5.279	1.340E-6**
FLL	33.93	18.63-46.90	20.00	37.06	26.33-48.23	14.56	1.763	0.086
FLW	1.68	1.17-2.23	14.19	1.75	1.30-2.27	14.52	1.221	0.230
GL	7.88	6.15-11.97	16.13	9.69	8.00-12.92	11.79	5.677	1.580E-6**
GW	2.84	2.00-3.53	16.40	3.17	2.20-4.10	13.60	4.044	2.478E-4**
L/W	2.89	1.74-5.07	28.98	3.13	2.14-4.83	20.81	1.309	0.198
GD	58.20	37.40-92.90	24.70	35.80	24.4-53.80	25.60	-8.321	4.347E-10**
GY	2.98	0.63-5.74	35.89	1.50	0.11-4.97	72.21	-6.357	1.843 E-7**
GWT	24.49	19.60-43.03	18.26	33.88	28.30-52.80	14.72	9.041	5.209 E-11**
SS (%)	79.29	25.68-96.76	19.36	33.05	2.54-67.57	52.43	-11.282	1.076E-13**

*** Significantly different from zero at $P < 0.05$ and $P < 0.01$, respectively. CV = coefficient of variation.

PH = plant height, PL = panicle length, EPN = effective panicles number, TGP = total number of grains per plant, GPP = grains per panicle, FLL = flag leave length, FLW = flag leave width, GL = grain length, GW = grain width, L/W = grain length to width, GD = grain density, GY = grain yield, GWT = 1000-grain weight and SS = seed set ratio.

Results

Analysis of agronomic traits

The mean values regarding the agronomic traits of diploid and autotetraploid rice were summarized in Table 3. There were greater differences in the agronomic traits of the diploid and autotetraploid rice. In comparison with the diploid rice, seven traits including GWT, FLL, FLW, PL, GL, GW and L/W showed better performance in autotetraploid than diploid rice. For instance, the mean value of GWT was 24.49 and ranged from 19.60 to 43.03 in diploid rice, while the mean value of GWT was 33.88 in autotetraploid rice and ranged from 28.30 to 52.80. However, EPN, PH, SS, TGP, GPP, GY and GD decreased in autotetraploid rice, such as EPN, the mean value was 7.10 and ranged from 4.33 to 11.00 in diploid rice, while in autotetraploid rice the mean value was 5.09 and ranged from 2.33 to 8.33.

In addition, Paired *T*-test was used to evaluate the variation of agronomic traits in different ploidy level. Among all the agronomic traits, we found that PL, TGP, EPN, GWT, GL, GW, GY, SS, GPP and GD showed highly significant ($P < 0.01$) variation, while PH, showed significant ($P < 0.05$) variation in ploidy level comparison (Table 3).

Detection of genetic variation in rice

To detect the genetic variation among the cultivars, 99 microsatellites or simple sequence repeats (SSRs) markers were selected from the rice genome and uniformly distributed on all chromosomes. The results showed a higher variation in autotetraploid rice compared with the diploid rice (Table 4).

A total of 285 alleles were detected in 40 diploid cultivars, the number of alleles per locus (*Ae*) ranged from 2 to 5, with a mean of 2.899. The expected heterozygosity (*He*) in the present study ranged from 0.049 to 0.788, with an average of 0.487 and Shannon's information index (*I*) ranged from 0.117 to 1.578, with an average of 0.819 in diploid rice. Polymorphism information content (PIC) values were ranged from 0.048 to 0.753, with an average of 0.421.

In autotetraploid rice, 291 alleles were detected and the number of alleles per locus ranged from 2 to 5, with a mean frequency of 2.949. The expected heterozygosity ranged from 0.049 to 0.792, with an average of 0.493 and *I* was ranged from 0.117 to 1.664, with an average of 0.822, and PIC were ranged from 0.043 to 0.787, with an average of 0.432. Autotetraploid lines showed a higher number of *Ae*, *He*, *I* and PIC than diploid cultivars.

In addition, we found that 10 SSR markers showed more variation in the number of alleles among 99 SSR markers. In comparison with the diploid rice, seven markers RM443, RM22, RM559, PSM383, RM13, RM340 and PSM410 showed high number of alleles in

Table 4 Genetic diversity and genetic variation detected by SSR markers in diploid and autotetraploid rice

SSR Primers	Chr ^a	Diploid				Autotetraploid			
		<i>Ae</i> ^b	<i>He</i> ^c	<i>I</i> ^d	PIC ^e	<i>Ae</i>	<i>He</i>	<i>I</i>	PIC
PSM41	1	5	0.735	1.471	0.699	5	0.729	1.451	0.691
RM23	1	3	0.599	0.978	0.513	3	0.647	1.067	0.571
RM443	1	2	0.555	0.882	0.456	3	0.561	0.942	0.493
RM104	1	2	0.469	0.662	0.349	2	0.375	0.562	0.305
RM237	1	2	0.302	0.479	0.256	2	0.332	0.515	0.277
RM262	2	4	0.705	1.303	0.656	4	0.669	1.215	0.613
RM341	2	3	0.599	0.980	0.505	3	0.515	0.824	0.424
RM109	2	3	0.477	0.831	0.428	3	0.453	0.801	0.409
PSM122	2	3	0.619	1.018	0.539	3	0.611	1.011	0.536
RM498	2	3	0.542	0.884	0.457	3	0.492	0.800	0.411
RM29	2	2	0.499	0.693	0.375	2	0.485	0.678	0.368
RM526	2	2	0.498	0.691	0.374	2	0.497	0.690	0.373
RM211	2	2	0.485	0.678	0.368	2	0.455	0.647	0.352
RM106	2	2	0.368	0.555	0.300	2	0.432	0.624	0.339
PSM379	3	5	0.788	1.578	0.753	5	0.681	1.256	0.622
RM168	3	4	0.572	1.062	0.525	4	0.469	0.887	0.431
RM22	3	3	0.559	0.899	0.466	4	0.639	1.162	0.579
RM232	3	3	0.401	0.679	0.345	3	0.384	0.703	0.351
RM156	3	3	0.444	0.780	0.398	3	0.494	0.849	0.438
PSM381	3	3	0.656	1.081	0.581	3	0.662	1.091	0.588
RM565	3	3	0.226	0.461	0.214	3	0.536	0.916	0.478
RM282	3	3	0.609	0.998	0.526	2	0.435	0.627	0.341
PSM429	3	2	0.455	0.647	0.352	2	0.420	0.611	0.332
RM175	3	2	0.049	0.117	0.048	2	0.051	0.122	0.050
RM468	3	2	0.245	0.410	0.215	2	0.307	0.485	0.260
RM416	3	2	0.400	0.589	0.320	2	0.353	0.538	0.291
RM60	3	2	0.051	0.122	0.050	2	0.512	0.613	0.043
RM307	4	5	0.668	1.268	0.608	5	0.498	0.845	0.436
RM241	4	4	0.479	0.879	0.427	4	0.704	1.477	0.647
RM559	4	2	0.129	0.624	0.422	3	0.451	0.722	0.514
PSM194	4	3	0.547	0.932	0.488	3	0.508	0.781	0.404
RM255	4	2	0.293	0.469	0.250	2	0.208	0.362	0.186
RM471	4	2	0.394	0.584	0.317	2	0.495	0.688	0.372
RM261	4	2	0.478	0.671	0.364	2	0.278	0.451	0.239
PSM196	4	2	0.368	0.555	0.300	2	0.496	0.690	0.373
PSM133	4	2	0.260	0.429	0.226	2	0.488	0.681	0.369
RM273	4	2	0.191	0.341	0.173	2	0.412	0.602	0.327
RM164	5	4	0.724	1.327	0.672	4	0.681	1.261	0.632
RM480	5	4	0.698	1.268	0.641	4	0.543	1.010	0.495
RM31	5	4	0.650	1.166	0.585	4	0.719	1.314	0.665
RM122	5	3	0.513	0.785	0.406	3	0.495	0.688	0.372
RM249	5	3	0.579	0.963	0.506	3	0.605	1.008	0.534

Table 4 Genetic diversity and genetic variation detected by SSR markers in diploid and autotetraploid rice (Continued)

PSM383	5	2	0.428	0.619	0.336	3	0.447	0.714	0.368
RM13	5	2	0.497	0.690	0.373	3	0.516	0.785	0.406
RM574	5	2	0.469	0.662	0.359	2	0.478	0.671	0.364
RM527	6	5	0.704	1.346	0.654	5	0.792	1.664	0.787
RM276	6	5	0.747	1.461	0.704	5	0.726	1.433	0.684
RM528	6	3	0.604	1.010	0.536	3	0.639	1.055	0.563
PSM138	6	3	0.566	0.919	0.477	3	0.573	0.922	0.479
RM510	6	3	0.529	0.808	0.418	3	0.570	0.947	0.496
RM340	6	3	0.474	0.807	0.414	4	0.575	1.063	0.526
RM275	6	2	0.149	0.281	0.138	2	0.284	0.458	0.244
RM103	6	2	0.334	0.517	0.278	2	0.368	0.555	0.300
PSM142	7	4	0.725	1.335	0.675	4	0.726	1.339	0.676
RM248	7	4	0.688	1.219	0.624	4	0.645	1.158	0.577
PSM147	7	3	0.528	0.805	0.416	3	0.355	0.540	0.244
RM234	7	2	0.467	0.660	0.358	2	0.415	0.606	0.329
RM560	7	2	0.157	0.293	0.144	2	0.165	0.305	0.496
RM455	7	2	0.450	0.642	0.349	2	0.478	0.671	0.526
RM44	8	4	0.397	0.761	0.363	4	0.260	0.429	0.226
RM210	8	3	0.526	0.836	0.431	3	0.542	0.884	0.684
RM152	8	3	0.539	0.851	0.439	3	0.571	0.918	0.676
RM458	8	2	0.255	0.423	0.223	2	0.420	0.611	0.300
RM408	8	2	0.432	0.624	0.339	2	0.367	0.554	0.329
PSM151	8	2	0.452	0.644	0.350	2	0.426	0.617	0.577
RM126	8	2	0.480	0.673	0.365	2	0.301	0.478	0.255
RM256	8	2	0.049	0.117	0.048	2	0.049	0.117	0.048
RM242	9	4	0.637	1.153	0.573	4	0.477	0.825	0.407
RM257	9	4	0.547	0.997	0.490	3	0.528	0.868	0.449
PSM399	9	3	0.535	0.878	0.454	3	0.374	0.688	0.343
PSM340	9	3	0.595	0.995	0.526	3	0.562	0.917	0.476
RM553	9	3	0.611	1.011	0.536	3	0.447	0.714	0.368
RM434	9	3	0.418	0.719	0.365	3	0.500	0.693	0.375
PSM160	9	2	0.486	0.679	0.368	2	0.482	0.675	0.366
RM591	10	5	0.785	1.572	0.751	5	0.744	1.472	0.704
PSM166	10	3	0.607	0.996	0.525	3	0.586	0.958	0.501
RM258	10	3	0.516	0.860	0.444	2	0.272	0.443	0.235
PSM163	10	2	0.266	0.436	0.231	2	0.420	0.611	0.332
PSM169	10	2	0.500	0.693	0.375	2	0.334	0.517	0.278
RM484	10	2	0.180	0.325	0.164	2	0.139	0.266	0.129
RM202	11	5	0.764	1.518	0.725	5	0.683	1.370	0.647
PSM365	11	5	0.749	1.477	0.708	5	0.727	1.405	0.682
RM224	11	5	0.740	1.467	0.700	5	0.718	1.362	0.666
PSM410	11	4	0.529	0.948	0.465	5	0.704	1.342	0.651
RM229	11	4	0.685	1.228	0.624	4	0.671	1.273	0.604

Table 4 Genetic diversity and genetic variation detected by SSR markers in diploid and autotetraploid rice (Continued)

PSM173	11	3	0.517	0.788	0.408	3	0.532	0.847	0.437	
RM167	11	3	0.528	0.805	0.416	3	0.610	1.018	0.541	
RM254	11	3	0.538	0.919	0.480	3	0.595	0.995	0.526	
PSM411	11	3	0.580	0.943	0.491	3	0.637	1.057	0.565	
PSM416	11	2	0.498	0.691	0.374	2	0.500	0.693	0.375	
PSM188	12	3	0.586	0.984	0.520	3	0.635	1.046	0.557	
RM19	12	3	0.541	0.856	0.432	3	0.553	0.896	0.464	
RM101	12	3	0.610	1.001	0.528	3	0.614	1.013	0.536	
PSM419	12	3	0.618	1.030	0.549	3	0.514	0.826	0.425	
PSM420	12	3	0.141	0.314	0.133	3	0.441	0.706	0.364	
PSM187	12	2	0.349	0.533	0.288	2	0.289	0.464	0.247	
RM463	12	2	0.293	0.469	0.250	2	0.307	0.485	0.260	
PSM191	12	2	0.202	0.355	0.182	3	0.245	0.472	0.226	
PSM190	12	2	0.497	0.690	0.374	2	0.498	0.691	0.374	
Mean			2.899	0.487	0.819	0.421	2.949	0.493	0.822	0.432
St. Dev			0.953	0.175	0.335	0.162	0.962	0.155	0.319	0.158

^achromosome number.

^bnumber of effective alleles per locus.

^cexpected heterozygosity.

^dShannon's information index.

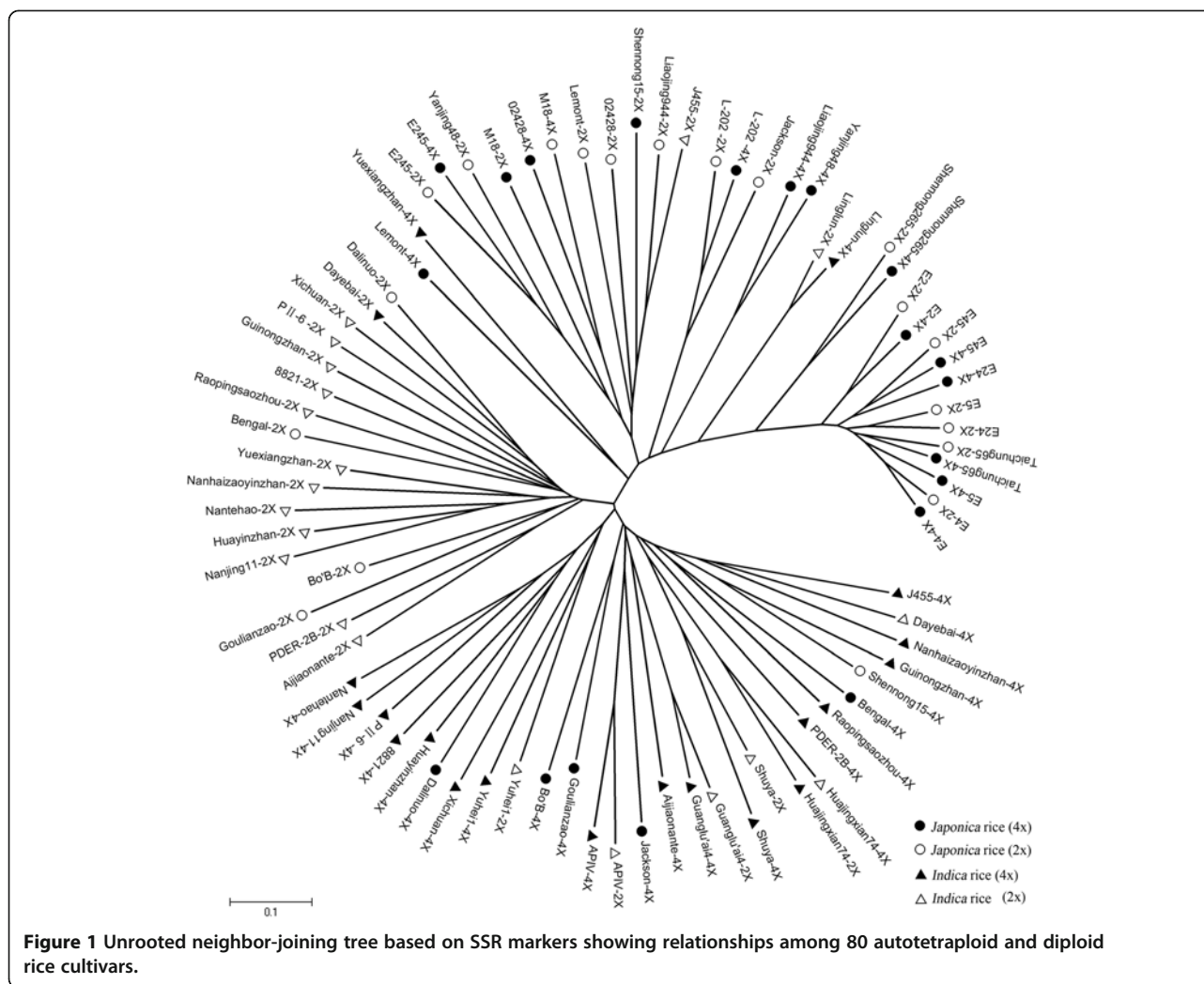
^epolymorphism information content.

autotetraploid rice, while RM282, RM257, RM258 showed more alleles in diploid rice. These results showed that there might be a genetic variation at DNA level, which leads to differentiation in the diploid and autotetraploid rice.

Phylogenetic analysis of diploid and autotetraploid rice

We constructed a phylogenetic tree based on the SSR markers to evaluate the genetic variation between diploid and autotetraploid rice because SSR markers have a higher resolution in separating the different rice cultivars. Thirteen pairs of diploid and autotetraploid rice showed high similarity and grouped into the same clade, while other 27 pairs of autotetraploid and corresponding diploid rice cultivars were phylogenetically distinct from other cultivars and clustered together on a distinct branch of phylogenetic tree (Figure 1).

All autotetraploid and diploid rice cultivars were distinguished very well and clustered into two main groups, which were subdivided into smaller groups. Group I consisted of 34 autotetraploid and diploid rice cultivars, mainly belong to *japonica* subspecies. We can clearly distinguished two subgroups in Group I: Subgroup I-A mainly included 32 autotetraploid and corresponding diploid rice cultivars. Taichung 65-2×/Taichung 65-4×, E2-2×/E2-4×, E4-2×/E4-4×, E45-2×/E45-4×, E245-2×/E245-4×, Shennong 265-2×/Shennong 265-4×, L-202-



2x/L-202-4x and Linglun-2x/Linglun-4x showed closest relationship between diploid and autotetraploid rice, while E5-2x/E5-4x, E24-2x/E24-4x, Liaojing 944-2x/Liaojing 944-4x, Yanjing 48-2x/Yanjing 48-4x had most distant relationship and showed more variation in autotetraploid and diploid rice cultivars. Subgroup I-B only had 2 autotetraploid rice lines, which were Yuexiangzhan-4x and Lemont-4x, both of them had a distant relationship from their original diploid rice.

Group II consisted of 46 cultivars of diploid and autotetraploid rice and most of them belong to *indica* subspecies. This group could be further subdivided into three subgroups: Subgroup II-A consisted of 20 cultivars, Subgroup II-B consisted of 9 cultivars and Subgroup II-C consisted of 17 cultivars. In the group II, only 5 pairs of corresponding diploid and autotetraploid rice such as Huajingxian 74-2x/Huajingxian 74-4x, Shuya-2x/Shuya-4x, Guanglu'ai 4-2x/Guanglu'ai 4-4x, APIV-2x/APIV-4x and Yuhei 1-2x/Yuhei 1-4x showed the closest relationship with each other and other rice

cultivars showed high variation and distant relationship between autotetraploid and their diploid counterparts.

Heterosis analysis of diploid and autotetraploid rice

To evaluate the heterosis level of inter-subspecific autotetraploid hybrids, eleven parents were selected based on the genetic distance of *indica* and *japonica* autotetraploid rice. A total of fifty four *indica-japonica* hybrids were developed by crossing four typical *japonica* rice cultivars with seven *indica* rice cultivars, and their corresponding diploid parents were used as control (Table 2).

Positive heterobeltiosis analysis revealed that most autotetraploid hybrids showed superior results than corresponding better parents for most of the agronomic traits and grain yield (Table 5). Twenty-five F₁ combinations showed significant and positive heterosis over the better parents in autotetraploid rice, and Shennong 15x Xichuan was identified as the best specific combination with the highest level of heterobeltiosis in autotetraploid hybrids (Figure 2). GY showed the highest heterosis

Table 5 Analysis of heterobeltiosis and competitive heterosis for important agronomic traits in autotetraploid and diploid rice

Traits	Heterobeltiosis (compared with better parent)								Competitive heterosis (compared with corresponding diploid hybrids)			
	Diploid				Autotetraploid				Minimum	Maximum	Mean	+ (-)
	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	+ (-) ^a	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	+ (-)				
%				%				%				
PH	-13.56	25.74	3.52	18 (9)	-17.94	60.36	15.26	23 (4)	-20.77	27.43	-0.38	14 (13)
EPN	-42.00	147.83	13.83	14 (13)	-82.84	11.76	10.17	11(16)	-79.45	11.22	-35.78	1 (26)
PL	-21.65	20.07	-0.96	12 (15)	-13.06	40.17	13.01	24 (3)	3.24	38.99	17.60	27 (0)
GPP	-22.36	142.45	34.03	20 (7)	-63.39	50.29	17.91	18(9)	-80.73	-5.57	-46.30	0 (27)
GD	-41.46	30.01	0.22	11 (16)	-49.44	13.74	-26.31	1 (26)	-62.92	-13.88	-40.83	0 (27)
GL	-25.92	3.39	-5.08	3 (24)	-16.96	7.10	2.77	9 (18)	10.64	57.23	24.43	27 (0)
GW	-26.90	4.44	-3.86	8 (19)	-10.63	9.89	0.64	14 (13)	-0.91	40.67	13.88	26 (1)
L/W	-42.41	-2.51	-14.98	0 (27)	-33.63	-3.46	-18.42	0 (27)	-3.55	39.73	10.51	25 (2)
GWT	-4.98	33.32	10.96	16 (11)	-25.28	34.53	11.22	22 (5)	-10.52	55.32	30.80	27 (0)
GY	-663.68	71.90	-28.95	18 (9)	-76.82	158.78	71.16	25(2)	-27.45	89.85	21.14	26(1)
SS	-676.40	-19.31	-160.43	0 (27)	-332.66	36.14	-22.33	17 (10)	-289.71	78.64	2.01	19(8)

^a indicates increased (+) or decreased (-) effects in 27 hybrids.

PH = plant height, PL = panicle length, EPN = effective panicles number, GL = grain length, GW = grain width, L/W = grain length to width ratio, GD = grain density, GPP = grains per panicle, GWT = 1000-grain weight, GY = grain yield and SS = seed set ratio.

among all the traits, followed by GPP, PH, PL, SS, GWT, GD, EPN, GW, GL and L/W in autotetraploid rice. However the heterobeltiosis levels varied considerably in diploid rice, Liaojing 944 × Xichuan exhibited the highest heterobeltiosis among diploid rice cultivars. EPN produced the highest heterosis among the all traits observed, followed by GPP, GY, GWT, GD, PH, PL, GW, GL, L/W and SS in diploid rice.

Competitive heterosis was used to further study the heterosis of autotetraploid and corresponding diploid rice hybrids (Table 5). For the competitive heterosis, most of agronomic traits such as PL (ranged from 3.24 to 38.99 with a mean of 17.60%), GL (ranged from 10.64 to 57.23 and 24.43%), GW (ranged from -0.91 to 40.67 with a mean of 13.88%), L/W (ranged from -3.55 to 39.73 with a mean of 10.51%), SS (ranged from -289.71 to 78.64 with a mean of 2.01%) and GWT (ranged from -10.52 to 55.32 with a mean of 30.8%) showed positive competitive heterosis or increased effects in autotetraploid rice hybrids among the agronomic traits. Yield also exhibited positive competitive heterosis and ranged from -27.45 to 89.85, with an average of 21.14%. However, PH (ranged from -20.77 to 27.43 with a mean of -0.38%), EPN (ranged from -79.45 to 11.22 with a mean of -35.78%), GPP (ranged from -80.73 to -5.57% with a mean of -46.30%) and GD (ranged from -62.92 to -13.88 with a mean of -40.83%) showed reduction in competitive heterosis in autotetraploid rice hybrids. Twenty two hybrids showed significant and positive heterosis over the diploid hybrids, whereas only five autotetraploid hybrids depicted reduction in competitive heterosis.

Correlation analysis of yield and genetic diversity with agronomic traits

Grain yield and genetic distances based on SSR markers were used for correlation with heterosis in diploid and autotetraploid rice (Table 6). The correlation between SSR marker distance and heterobeltiosis for all the agronomic traits was non-significant in diploid rice, indicating that prediction of hybrid performance using SSR markers in diploid rice is low. The relationship between genetic distance and heterobeltiosis for most of agronomic traits was also non-significant in autotetraploid rice. However, it was significantly and positively correlated for grain length ($P < 0.01$, 0.514) and grain length to width ratio ($P < 0.05$, 0.412) in autotetraploid hybrids. The linear regression analysis between genetic distance and yield heterobeltiosis was positive and non-significant with R^2 value of 0.1036 in diploid rice, while significant and positive relationship was found in autotetraploid rice (Figure 3, Table 6). The correlations of grain yield heterobeltiosis with agronomic traits markedly differed in diploid and autotetraploid rice. For yield, autotetraploid rice showed significant correlations with EPN, GW and GWT, while yield showed significant correlations with GD and L/W in diploid rice.

Discussion

Genetic variation in diploid and autotetraploid rice

The analysis of genetic variation among different genotypes provides basic information about the germplasm enhancement for breeding. Autotetraploid rice with doubling of chromosomes showed a higher variation in

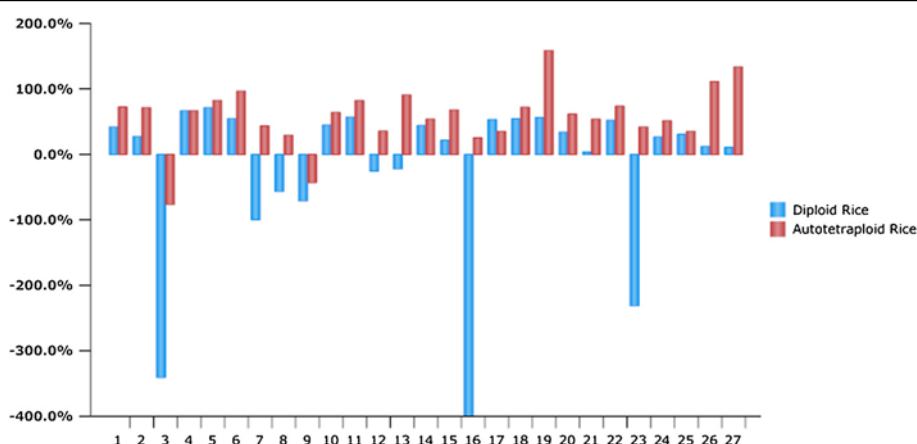


Figure 2 Graphical representation of heterobeltiosis for grain yield in F₁ hybrids of autotetraploid and diploid rice. Columns 1–27 indicate inter-subspecific hybrids of autotetraploid and their counterpart diploid genotypes: Liaojing 944 × Aijiaonante, Liaojing 944 × Guanglu'ai 4, Liaojing 944 × PDER-2B, Liaojing 944 × Raopingsaozhou, Liaojing 944 × Xichuan, Liaojing 944 × Dayebai, Yanjing 48 × Aijiaonante, Yanjing 48 × Guanglu'ai 4, Yanjing 48 × PDER-2B, Yanjing 48 × Raopingsaozhou, Yanjing 48 × Nanhaizaoyinzhan, Yanjing 48 × Xichuan, Yanjing 48 × Dayebai, Shennong 15 × Aijiaonante, Shennong 15 × Guanglu'ai 4, Shennong 15 × PDER-2B, Shennong 15 × Raopingsaozhou, Shennong 15 × Nanhaizaoyinzhan, Shennong 15 × Xichuan, Shennong 15 × Dayebai, Taichung 65 × Aijiaonante, Taichung 65 × Guanglu'ai 4, Taichung 65 × PDER-2B, Taichung 65 × Raopingsaozhou, Taichung 65 × Nanhaizaoyinzhan, Taichung 65 × Xichuan and Taichung 65 × Dayebai.

agronomic traits, cellular level, quality and molecular level (Song and Zhang 1992; Luan et al. 2008). In the present study, autotetraploid rice had higher 1000-grain weight, grain length and grain width, but lower effective spikelet number, number of total panicles per plant and seed set ratio. In comparison with the diploid rice, production-related agronomic traits mainly occurred in autotetraploid rice. Therefore, 14 production-related agronomic traits were used to evaluate the phenotypic variation, and the results showed that there was a significant difference in diploid and autotetraploid rice for all agronomic traits under study. These results are in agreement with other studies, that autotetraploid showed significant variation in agronomic traits than their diploid counterparts (Tu et al. 2007; Shahid et al. 2011).

SSR markers showed a high polymorphism in the rice genome, which can offer unique opportunity for studying rice genotypes, genetic variation and genetic relationship (McCouch et al. 2002; Shah et al. 2013). Therefore, we used the SSR markers to evaluate the genetic variation of diploid and autotetraploid rice. The SSR results indicated that alleles per locus, expected heterozygosity, Shannon's information index and polymorphism information contents were higher in autotetraploid than diploid rice. Moreover, phylogenetic tree was constructed based on SSR markers and it revealed that most of autotetraploid rice genotypes are genetically isolated from corresponding diploid cultivars, and only thirteen pairs of corresponding diploid and autotetraploid rice showed a high similarity phylogenetic

Table 6 Correlation coefficients of grain yield and genetic distance with important agronomic traits on the basis of heterobeltiosis in diploid and autotetraploid rice

Traits	Grain Yield		Genetic distance	
	Diploid	Autotetraploid	Diploid	Autotetraploid
PH	0.040	-0.051	-0.014	0.246
EPN	-0.151	0.541**	-0.253	-0.072
PL	0.005	0.114	-0.180	0.221
TGP	0.178	0.152	-0.256	0.102
GD	0.586**	0.186	0.292	-0.191
GL	-0.097	-0.057	0.064	0.514**
GW	-0.198	0.367*	-0.112	-0.181
L/W	-0.389*	-0.263	-0.009	0.412*
GWT	0.349	0.528**	0.088	0.076

**, * Significantly different from zero at P < 0.05 and P < 0.01, respectively. See Table 5 for traits abbreviations.

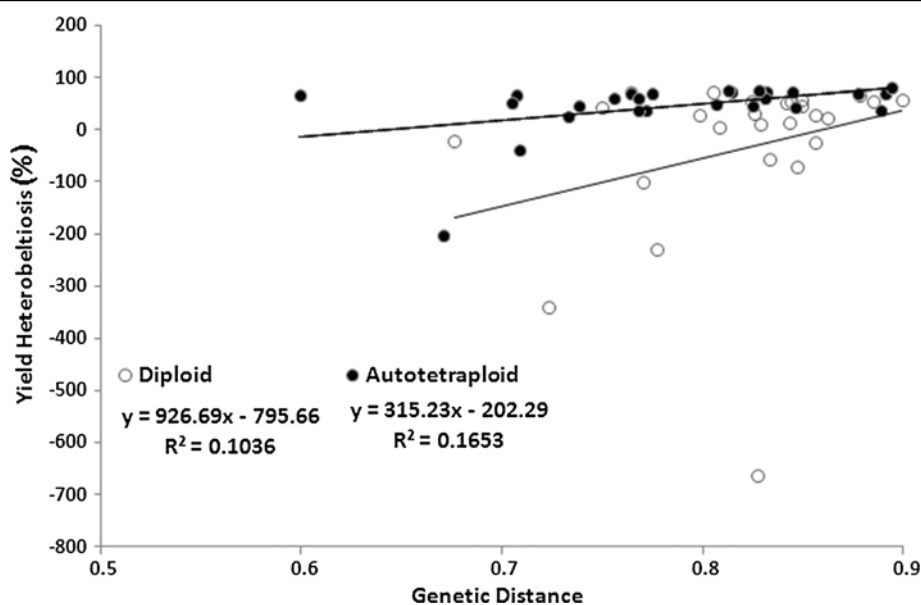


Figure 3 A regression correlation analysis between genetic distance and yield heterobeltiosis in inter-subspecific hybrids of diploid and autotetraploid rice.

relationship and grouped into the same clade. This finding is consistent with previous study that autotetraploid rice showed more genetic variation than diploid rice (Luan et al. 2008). Interestingly, both phenotypic and genotypic data showed a greater genetic variation in autotetraploid rice than diploid counterpart. These results suggested that there might be chromosome alteration or DNA sequence changes in autotetraploid rice that need further study, using functional molecular markers and SNP markers to analyze specific traits of autotetraploid rice.

Heterosis and genetic relationship in autotetraploid rice

Hybrid breeding is one of the best techniques to increase the crop yield and it is successfully being used for many crops in China. Asian cultivated rice, *indica* and *japonica*, showed high hybrid vigor and numerous studies have been done to utilize the heterosis of these subspecies in diploid rice. However, little is known about autotetraploid rice and one of the major aim is the development of F_1 hybrids to utilize the advantage of polyploidy and *indica-japonica* heterosis. Inter-subspecific autotetraploid rice hybrids had shown stronger yield potential and greater adaptability compared with diploid rice (Shahid et al. 2011). Previous studies demonstrated high heterosis for panicles, 1000-grain weight, grain length and grain width in autotetraploid rice (Shahid et al. 2011, 2012) and three-line hybrid system had been already established in autotetraploid rice (Tu et al. 2007). Therefore, we selected several typical *indica* and *japonica* autotetraploid and diploid rice cultivars based on genetic distance of *indica* and *japonica* rice varieties

to study the heterosis in autotetraploid rice. Higher competitive heterosis and heterobeltiosis was found in autotetraploid than diploid rice. Heterobeltiosis for most of the agronomic traits, including PH, PL, GL, SS, GW, GY and GWT, was positive and showed a higher proportion in autotetraploid hybrids than diploid hybrids. In general, the results of the present study were in agreement with earlier investigations for autotetraploid rice hybrids (Tu et al. 2007; Shahid et al. 2011). In addition, autotetraploid rice hybrids also showed positive competitive heterosis or increased effects among the agronomic traits than diploid rice hybrids. For example, all autotetraploid hybrids (except one) showed significant and positive heterosis over the corresponding diploid hybrids for grain yield. From these results, we speculated that higher genetic variation in autotetraploid rice might be the result of changes in DNA structure of autotetraploid rice.

To increase the hybrid breeding efficiency, DNA markers have been used to investigate the parental genetic distance and its relationship with heterosis (Caruso et al. 2010). Previous studies showed that heterosis mainly depends on the genetic variation and traits of the parent's interaction, the greater the genetic variation and genetic distance, the more obvious hybrid vigour (Zhang et al. 1994). Numerous studies are available for evaluating usefulness of DNA markers for predicting heterosis and hybrid performance in diploid rice and other crops. There are two contradicting theories about heterosis prediction, some scientists suggested that molecular markers could be used for predicting heterosis (Smith et al. 1990; Zhang et al. 1994; Zha et al. 2008; Jaikishan et al. 2010), while other suggested that

heterosis could not be predicted through molecular markers (Joshi et al. 2001). In the present study, SSR markers were employed to predict the heterosis in autotetraploid and diploid rice. The results from this study demonstrated non-significant correlation between genetic distance and heterosis for all agronomic traits and yield in diploid rice. This finding is consistent with other conclusions on the relationship between genetic distance and heterosis; especially in inter-subspecific hybrids of rice (Xiao et al. 1996; Zhang et al. 2007; Xangsayasane et al. 2010). SSR markers-based genetic distance might not be a reliable tool in hybrid breeding. Non-significant relationship between SSR markers diversity and heterosis could be because SSR diversity represented a genome-wide diversity, whereas heterozygous loci for each trait could be localized to a specific region (Jaikishan et al. 2010). In this study, correlation between molecular marker distance and yield heterobeltiosis was significant in autotetraploid rice. Grain length and grain length to width ratio also depicted significant relationship with genetic distance, while all other traits showed non-significant relationships. These results are in agreement with previous reports on some other polyploid crops such as wheat, cotton, sugarcane and Indian mustard, who also found significant correlation between markers diversity and some traits under study (Martin et al. 1995; Zhang et al. 2007). The maximum heterobeltiosis was recorded from genetically far distant autotetraploid and diploid parents. There had been no investigations to assess the relationship between genetic distance and hybrid performance in autotetraploid rice. In the present study, molecular markers were not suitable for prediction of hybrid performance for most of the traits, however, marker-based genetic distance showed a significant relation with yield heterosis, grain length and grain length to width ratio in autotetraploid parents. The information generated from this study will be useful for future autotetraploid rice breeding plans.

In summary, SSR markers are very useful to find genetic variation and phylogenetic analysis in different ploidy level, but they are not a reliable tool to predict heterosis for yield and other complex traits in diploid rice. Autotetraploid lines showed greater genetic differentiations which we can't find in diploid rice and both have a marked difference in their gene pool. Therefore, these results suggest that autotetraploid rice is an important germplasm for breeding and molecular studies. We could improve the rice cultivars through autotetraploid rice breeding for various important traits because autotetraploid rice had great stability across varying environments, resistant to lodging, greater grain length and width and resistant to insect pest and diseases. This may be an advantage to breed higher yield and better quality rice through autotetraploid rice breeding.

Abbreviations

Ae: Number of effective alleles per locus; EPN: Effective panicles number; FLL: Flag leave length; FLW: Flag leave width; GD: Grain density; GL: Grain length; GPP: Grains per panicle; GW: Grain width; GWT: 1000-grain weight; GY: Grain yield; He: Expected heterozygosity; L/W: Grain length to width ratio; PH: Plant height; PL: Panicle length; PIC: Polymorphism information content; TGP: Total number of grains per plant; *h*: Shannon's information index; SS: Seed set ratio.

Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

Authors' contributions

JWW, CYH, MQS, HBG, YXZ, XDL, YGL designed and carry out the experiments; JWW, MQS, XDL, YGL conducted the analysis of data and drafted the manuscript; also revised the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

Acknowledgments

The authors appreciated the supports from Prof. ZHANG Guiquan, DING Xiaohua and HAN Longzhi (China National Micro-core Rice Collection) for donating the near isogenic lines and some rice lines. We also thank Dr. CHEN Zhixiong, Dr. WANG Lan, Dr. FU Xuelin, Ms. ZHAO Xingjuan and YU Shuhong for technical assistance. This work was supported by the NSFC (30971756), the Doctoral Scientific Fund Project of the Ministry of Education of China and the Guangdong Provincial Key Science Foundation.

Received: 14 May 2013 Accepted: 2 September 2013

Published: 5 September 2013

References

- Anand D, Prabhu KV, Singh AK (2012) Analysis of molecular diversity and fingerprinting of commercially grown Indian rice hybrids. *J Plant Biochem Biotechnol* 21:173–179
- Anderson JA, Churchill GA, Autrique JE, Tanksley SD, Sorrells ME (1993) Optimizing parental selection for genetic linkage maps. *Genome* 36:181–186
- Betrán FJ, Ribaut JM, Beck D, Gonzalez de León D (2003) Genetic diversity, specific combining ability, and heterosis in tropical maize under stress and nonstress environments. *Crop Sci* 43:797–806
- Bingham ET, Groose RW, Woodfield DR, Kidwell KK (1994) Complementary gene interactions in alfalfa are greater in autotetraploids than diploids. *Crop Sci* 34:823–829
- Caruso M, Curro S, Las Casas G, La Malfa S, Gentile A (2010) Microsatellite markers help to assess genetic diversity among *Opuntia ficus indica* cultivated genotypes and their relation with related species. *Plant Syst Evol* 290:85–97
- Chen X, Temnykh S, Xu Y, Cho YG, McCouch SR (1997) Development of a microsatellite framework map providing genome-wide coverage in rice (*Oryza sativa* L.). *Theor Appl Genet* 9:553–567
- Cheng SH, Cao LY, Zhuang JY, Chen SG, Zhan XD, Fan YY, Zhu DF, Min SK (2007) Super hybrid rice breeding in China: achievements and prospects. *J Integr Plant Biol* 49:805–810
- Doyle JJ, Flagel LE, Paterson AH, Rapp RA, Soltis DE, Soltis PS, Wendel JF (2008) Evolutionary genetics of genome merger and doubling in plants. *Genetics* 178:443–461
- Han LZ, Wei XH (2006) Descriptors and data standard for rice (*Oryza sativa* L.). China Agricultural Press, Beijing
- Hu CY, Zeng YX, Lu YG, Li JQ, Liu XD (2009) High embryo sac fertility and diversity of abnormal embryo sacs detected in autotetraploid *indica/japonica* hybrids in rice by whole-mount eosin B-staining confocal laser scanning microscopy. *Plant Breed* 128:187–192
- Jaikishan I, Rajendrakumar P, Ramesha MS, Viraktamath BC, Balachandran SM, Neeraja CN, Sujatha K, Srinivasa RK, Natarajkumar P, Hari Y, Sakthivel K, Ramaprasad AS, Sundaram RM (2010) Prediction of heterosis for grain yield in rice using 'key' informative EST-SSR markers. *Plant Breed* 129:108–111
- Jaiswal P, Ni J, Yap I, Ware D, Spooner W, Youens CK, Ren L, Liang CZ, Zhao W, Ratnapu K, Faga B, Canaran P, Fogleman M, Hebbard C, Avraham S, Schmidt S, Casstevens TM, Buckler E, Stein L, McCouch SR (2006) Gramene: a bird's eye view of cereal genomes. *Nucleic Acids Res* 34:717–723
- Joshi SP, Bhawe SG, Chowdari KV, Apte GS, Dhonukshe BL, Lalitha K, Ranjekar PK, Gupta VS (2001) Use of DNA markers in prediction of hybrid performance and heterosis for a three-line hybrid system in rice. *Biochem Genet* 39:179–200

- Li YC, Rutger JN (2007) Registration of two tetraploid rice genetic stocks. *J Plant Regist* 1:173–174
- Liu R, Qian W, Meng J (2002) Association of RFLP markers and biomass heterosis in trigonemic hybrids of oilseed rape (*Brassica napus* × *B. campestris*). *Theor Appl Genet* 105:1050–1057
- Luan L, Wang X, Long WB, Liu YH, Tu SB, Zhao ZP, Kong FL, Yu MQ (2008) Microsatellite analysis of genetic variation and population genetic differentiation in autotetraploid and diploid rice. *Biochem Genet* 46:248–266
- Marhold K, Lihová J (2006) Polyploidy, hybridization and reticulate evolution: lessons from the Brassicaceae. *Plant Syst Evol* 259:143–174
- Martin JM, Talbert LE, Lanning SP, Blake NK (1995) Hybrid performance in wheat as related to parental diversity. *Crop Sci* 35:104–108
- Masterson J (1994) Stomatal size in fossil plants: Evidence for polyploidy in majority of angiosperms. *Science* 264:421–424
- McCouch SR, Teytelman L, Xu YB, Lobos KB, Clare K, Walton M, Fu BY, Maghirang R, Li ZK, Xing YZ, Zhang QF, Kono I, Yano M, Fjellstrom R, DeClerck G, Schneider D, Cartinhour S, Ware D, Stein L (2002) Development and mapping of 2240 new SSR markers for rice (*Oryza sativa* L.). *DNA Res* 9:199–207
- Nei M (1978) Estimation of average heterozygosity and genetic distance from a small number of individuals. *Genetics* 89:583–590
- Rohlf F (2002) NTSYS-pc. Numerical taxonomy and multivariate analysis system, Version 210th edn. Exeter Software, New York
- Schut JW, Qi X, Stam P (1997) Association between relationship measures based on AFLP markers, pedigree data and morphological traits in barley. *Theor Appl Genet* 95:1161–1168
- Shah SM, Naveed SA, Arif M (2013) Genetic diversity in basmati and non-basmati rice varieties based on microsatellite markers. *Pak J Bot* 45:423–431
- Shahid MQ, Sun JF, Wei CM, Zhang P, Liu XD (2010) Studies on the abnormality of embryo sac and pollen fertility in autotetraploid rice during different growing seasons. *Pak J Bot* 42:7–19
- Shahid MQ, Liu GF, Li JQ, Naeem M, Liu XD (2011) Heterosis and gene action study of agronomic traits in diploid and autotetraploid rice. *Acta Agr Scand B-S P* 61:23–32
- Shahid MQ, Xu HM, Lin SQ, Chen ZX, Naeem M, Li YJ, Liu XD (2012) Genetic analysis and hybrid vigor study of grain yield and other quantitative traits in autotetraploid rice. *Pak J Bot* 44:237–246
- Smith OS, Smith JSC, Bowen SL, Tenborg RA, Wall SJ (1990) Similarities among a group of elite maize inbreds as measured by pedigree, F₁ grain yield, grain yield, heterosis, and RFLPs. *Theor Appl Genet* 80:833–840
- Song WC, Zhang YH (1992) Rice tetraploidy and its effect on agronomic traits and nutritional constituents. *Acta Agron Sin* 2:137–144
- Tamura K, Dudley J, Nei M, Kumar S (2007) MEGA4: Molecular evolutionary genetics analysis (MEGA) software version 4.0. *Mol Biol Evol* 24:1596–1599
- Tu SB, Luan L, Liu YH, Long WB, Kong FL, He T, Xu QF, Yan WG, Yu MQ (2007) Production and heterosis analysis of rice autotetraploid hybrids. *Crop Sci* 47:2356–2363
- Wang MM, Zhu ZF, Tan LB, Liu FX, Fu YC, Sun CQ, Cai HW (2013) Complexity of *indica-japonica* varietal differentiation in Bangladesh rice landraces revealed by microsatellite markers. *Breed Sci* 63:227–232
- Xangsayasane P, Xie FM, Hernandez JE, Boirromeo TH (2010) Hybrid rice heterosis and genetic diversity of IRRI and Lao rice. *Field Crops Res* 117:18–23
- Xiao J, Li J, Yuan L, Tanksley SD (1995) Dominance is the major genetic basis of heterosis in rice as revealed by QTL analysis using molecular markers. *Genetics* 140:745–754
- Xiao J, Li J, Yuan L, McCouch SR, Tanksley SD (1996) Genetic diversity and its relationship to hybrid performance and heterosis in rice as revealed by PCR-based markers. *Theor Appl Genet* 92:637–643
- Yang YX, Wu JW, Chen ZX, Wang L, Li JQ, Liu XD, Lu YG (2009) Mining rice new germplasm containing *S₂* gene by functional molecular marker and sequencing. *Chinese Sci Bull* 54:2212–2218
- Yeh FC, Yang RC, Boyle TBJ, Ye ZH, Mao JX (1997) PopGene, the user-friendly shareware for population genetic analysis, molecular biology and biotechnology center. University of Alberta, Canada
- Yu CY, Hu SW, Zhao HX, Guo AG, Sun GL (2005) Genetic distances revealed by morphological characters, isozymes, proteins and RAPD markers and their relationships with hybrid performance in oilseed rape (*Brassica napus* L.). *Theor Appl Genet* 110:511–518
- Yuan LP (1987) Breeding strategies for hybrid rice breeding. *Hybrid Rice* 1:1–3
- Zha RM, Ling YH, Yang ZL, Zhao FM, Zhong BQ, Xie R, Sang XC, He GH (2008) Prediction of hybrid grain yield performances in Indica rice (*Oryza sativa* L.) with effect-increasing loci. *Mol Breed* 22:467–476
- Zhang QF, Gao YJ, Yang SH, Ragab RA, Saghai Maroof MA, Li ZB (1994) A diallel analysis of heterosis in elite hybrid rice based on RFLPs and microsatellites. *Theor Appl Genet* 89:185–192
- Zhang XQ, Wang XD, Jiang PD, Hua SJ, Zhang HP, Dutt Y (2007) Relationship between molecular marker heterozygosity and hybrid performance in intra- and interspecific hybrids of cotton. *Plant Breed* 126:385–391
- Zhao MF, Li XH, Yang JB, Xu CG, Hu RY, Liu DJ, Zhang QF (1999) Relationship between molecular marker heterozygosity and hybrid performance in intra- and inter-subspecific crosses of rice. *Plant Breed* 118:139–144

doi:10.1186/2193-1801-2-439

Cite this article as: Wu *et al.*: Analysis on genetic diversification and heterosis in autotetraploid rice. *SpringerPlus* 2013 2:439.

Submit your manuscript to a SpringerOpen® journal and benefit from:

- Convenient online submission
- Rigorous peer review
- Immediate publication on acceptance
- Open access: articles freely available online
- High visibility within the field
- Retaining the copyright to your article

Submit your next manuscript at ► springeropen.com