Sequencing of Camelina neglecta, a diploid progenitor of the hexaploid oilseed Camelina sativa

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Keywords: *Camelina*, progenitor, genome assembly, whole genome sequencing.

Summary

Camelina neglecta is a diploid species from the genus Camelina, which includes the versatile oilseed Camelina sativa. These species are closely related to Arabidopsis thaliana and the economically important Brassica crop species, making this genus a useful platform to dissect traits of agronomic importance while providing a tool to study the evolution of polyploids. A highly contiguous chromosome-level genome sequence of C. neglecta with an N50 size of 29.1 Mb was generated utilizing Pacific Biosciences (PacBio, Menlo Park, CA) long-read sequencing followed by chromosome conformation phasing. Comparison of the genome with that of C. sativa shows remarkable coincidence with subgenome 1 of the hexaploid, with only one major chromosomal rearrangement separating the two. Synonymous substitution rate analysis of the predicted 34 061 genes suggested subgenome 1 of C. sativa directly descended from C. neglecta around 1.2 mya. Higher functional divergence of genes in the hexaploid as evidenced by the greater number of unique orthogroups, and differential composition of resistant gene analogs, might suggest an immediate adaptation strategy after genome merger. The absence of genome bias in gene fractionation among the subgenomes of C. sativa in comparison with C. neglecta, and the complete lack of fractionation of meiosis-specific genes attests to the neopolyploid status of C. sativa. The assembled genome will provide a tool to further study genome evolution processes in the Camelina genus and potentially allow for the identification and exploitation of novel variation for Camelina crop improvement.

Introduction

Camelina is a genus of the Brassicaceae family, which contains a number of important vegetable and oilseed crops, and is closely related to the plant model Arabidopsis thaliana (Al-Shehbaz et al., 2006). Camelina sativa (L.) Crantz is an oilseed crop with a unique fatty acid composition compared with other vegetable oils that make it a desirable platform for multiple applications in the food, feed, and fuel markets (Zubr, 1997). Like most angiosperms, many Brassicaceae species have been identified as polyploids, ranging from paleopolyploids with remnants of older hybridization events to relatively young neopolyploids such as Camelina sativa, where the progenitor species have yet to be confirmed. The whole genome sequencing of C. sativa has confirmed the hexaploid nature of its genome (Kagale et al., 2014) and facilitated a number of studies deciphering the relationships among Camelina species (Brock et al., 2018); however, without knowledge of the progenitor genomes, our understanding of the formation and evolution of C. sativa is innately limited. There are several lower ploidy species of Camelina viz. C. neglecta (Brock et al., 2019), C. hispida (Boiss.) Hedge, C. laxa C.A. Mey., C. microcarpa Andrz. ex DC., and C. rumelica Velen., etc. (Martin et al., 2017). Camelina neglecta is a diploid six-chromosome species, recently re-classified from its

original taxonomic identity as *C. microcarpa* (Brock *et al.*, 2019), but notably recent work has shown that *C. neglecta*, has a higher affinity with the first subgenome (or SG1) of the hexaploid *C. sativa* (Chaudhary *et al.*, 2020; Mandáková *et al.*, 2019).

Allopolyploidy is an important source of variation in plant families, where the merger of two related genomes creates a novel genome structure with potentially greater fitness due to the inherent heterosis (Cheng et al., 2014). However, upon genome hybridization, genome fractionation and subgenome dominance have been reported in most young or neopolyploid species (Kagale et al., 2016; Schnable et al., 2011). These phenomena are thought to play a role in the adaptation of such species (Comai, 2005). Understanding the role and extent of these evolutionary processes is important to identify the changes that differentiate a fertile polyploid species from its progenitors. This knowledge can also facilitate the development of new synthetic lines and could be exploited to capture additional variation for traits of interest by diversification of individual subgenomes (Abel et al., 2005; Rosyara et al., 2019; Wei et al., 2016). All such analyses are predicated on the availability of the progenitor species, which allows the polyploid genome to be partitioned into subgenomes and facilitates the identification of fractionation and structural rearrangements that led to the adaptation of the new polyploid. Available C. sativa germplasm has very limited genetic

distribution and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited and is not used for commercial purposes

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diversity (Gehringer *et al.*, 2006; Luo *et al.*, 2019; Singh *et al.*, 2015; Vollmann *et al.*, 2005), which suggests a bottleneck created from a small number of hybridization events in its evolutionary trajectory, thus further knowledge of the progenitors for this crop may be exploited for genetic improvement.

Hybridization between C. neglecta and C. sativa has had limited success (Martin et al., 2019), which notwithstanding the chromosome imbalance indicated fundamental differences in the gene pool for these species; however, chromosome painting, syntenic analysis, and sequence alignment of short reads from C. neglecta with the reference C. sativa has shed some light on the relationship between these species (Chaudhary et al., 2020; Mandáková et al., 2019). Whole genome sequence-based comparative analysis remains the most conclusive and informative method to infer the homology between chromosomes of different species and to identify structural changes during the evolution of a polyploid. The development of single-molecule sequencing techniques such as Pacific Biosciences and scaffolding techniques such as chromosome conformation capture (Belton et al., 2012; Ghurye et al., 2017) have eased the assembly process for plant genomes, which tend to be highly recursive with large repetitive regions (Girollet et al., 2019; Song et al., 2020). Here, we report a high-quality genome of C. neglecta (Accession: PI650135), assembled to the chromosome level using long-read sequencing technology and chromosome conformation capture. This inferred progenitor of C. sativa was compared with the genome of its hexaploid relative, confirming the first subgenome of C. sativa has directly descended from C. neglecta, with minimal changes in the gene complement of the neopolyploid C. sativa post-polyploidization, whereby, a minor reshuffling of conserved genomic blocks was observed. Overall, the results will act as a repository for further genetic studies, tool development, and potential trait improvement in modern Camelina sativa.

Results

De novo assembly of the Camelina neglecta genome

Previous flow cytometry indicated the genome size of accession PI650135 was approximately one-third of that of the C. sativa reference genome (Martin et al., 2017), which was corroborated with k-mer-based genome size estimation (Marcais and Kingsford, 2011) that indicated a genome size of approximately 201.62 Mb (Figure S1). The de novo assembly was generated with ~2.4 M PacBio reads (72.9× coverage), which yielded 131 contigs with an N50 length of 7.9 Mb. The contigs were arranged into the expected six chromosomes with an N50 of 29.1 Mb using Chicago® in vitro proximity ligation followed by Dovetail[™] HiC phasing technology (Cairns et al., 2016; Figure S2; Table 1). The assembled genome sequence of C. neglecta covered 94.58% of the estimated genome size. Assembly quality was assessed by mapping 99.33% of available Illumina reads (>146 \times coverage) onto the final assembly using BWA version 0.7.17 (Li and Durbin, 2009). Qualimap v.2.2.1 (García-Alcalde et al., 2012) suggested a general error rate of 0.81% with the majority being homopolymer indels (66.33%; Figure 1, Table S1). The level of heterozygosity was also low (~0.2%), as shown by statistical analyses of the k-mer profile in GenomeScope v.2.0. Smudgeplot v0.2.3 (Ranallo-Benavidez et al., 2020) was further used to evaluate heterozygous k-mer pairs providing confirmation of the ploidy (Figure S3). Assessment of the expected gene content was carried out using the *brassicales_odb10* (n = 4596) Benchmarking Universal Single-Copy Orthogues (BUSCO) data set (Simão *et al.*, 2015), giving a 97.6% score, with 95.1% complete and single-copy BUSCO genes, and 2.5% duplicated genes (Figure S4). In concert, these results suggested the high quality of the genome with regard to contiguity and content, which was comparable with that of the *C. sativa* genome (Kagale *et al.*, 2014). Another assembly of *C. neglecta* was recently made available, along with additional *Camelina* diploid species, although no gene annotation was provided, nucmer comparison of the two assemblies indicated a strong correspondence, apart from one inversion on chromosome 2 of approximately 4 Mb (Martin *et al.*, 2021; Figure S5). The HiC data and subsequent synteny analyses presented here showed no apparent anomalies, so no changes were made to the assembly.

Repeat analysis and gene model prediction

Repeat analysis identified 42.22% repeat elements (REs) in the whole genome assembly, with a total of 1162 full-length long terminal repeat (LTR) retrotransposon elements (Figure 1, Table S2–S4). The Gypsy and Copia retrotransposons and the Helitron DNA transposons were most prevalent, accounting for more than 29% of the genome (Table S2). A re-analysis of the hexaploid C. sativa genome identified a lower level of REs across the whole genome (40.41%; Table S2). In total, 1700 full-length LTR elements could be identified in C. sativa (hexaploid; Table S5), this is comparatively less than for C. neglecta (diploid), yet expected due to the short-read sequencing approach used for the C. sativa assembly. The higher percentage of full-length LTR sequences and the associated LTR assembly index (LAI) of C. neglecta (21.3%; LAI of 21.8) over C. sativa (8.5%; LAI of 6.98) support the better assembly of repeats in the long-read based C. neglecta assembly (Ou et al., 2018, Figure S6). In both Camelina species, three classes dominated the composition of transposons, the DNA transposon Helitron (12.08%-14.27%), and two retrotransposons, Gypsy (10.10%-12.26%), and Copia (4.57%-4.68%). The amount and composition of REs were similar when comparing C. neglecta with each of the three subgenomes (SG) of C. sativa; although SG2 contained a lower percentage of REs (35.28%), while SG3 contained higher

Table 1 Genome assembly statistics of the C. neglecta genome

Assembly	Value
Estimated genome size ($k = 21$) (Mb)	201.6
Assembly size (Mb)	192.5
Genome coverage (%)	95.5
No. of chromosomes	6
No. of sequences	131
Longest scaffold (Mb)	47.8
Scaffold N50 (Mb)	29.06
BUSCO (percentage complete)	97.6
No. of protein-coding genes	34 061
Mean gene length (bp)	2007
Mean cds length (bp)	1091
Mean exon length (bp)	265
Repetitive elements	
Helitron	44 789 (12.08%)
Copia	7752 (4.68%)
Gypsy	18 154 (12.26%)
Others	38 332 (13.20%)
Total	109 027 (42.22%)



Figure 1 The genome of *Camelina neglecta*. Ideograms are shown for each chromosome with the ancestral karyotype genomic blocks (A–X) and probable centromeric locations (black block) indicated. Track A represents the density of normalized Illumina short reads mapped to the assembled genome (purple) and distribution of centromeric repeats (black). Track B is a heatmap showing the expression of genes in leaf tissue (log10[FPKM]). Track C shows the distribution of genes across the genome (blue). Track D shows the distribution of full-length long-terminal repeats across the assembled genome. Track E is the distribution of all repeat elements (purple), helitrons (orange), gypsy (magenta), and copia elements (brown) across the assembled genome.

amounts of REs (45.27%), largely contributed by the Gypsy (11.71%) and Helitron (16.41%) classes. The full-length LTR retrotransposons (FL-LTRs) were analysed to identify any clear

expansion peaks, one major event was aged at approximately 1.08 million years ago (mya) in *C. neglecta*, with about 90% (1045 FL-LTRs) of the elements aged at <2 mya (Figure S7), these

data coincide with the proliferation of LTR for other *Brassica* species (Song *et al.*, 2021). In addition, family-level analysis of FL-LTRs suggests that Copia-Ale and Gypsy-Athila families were present in high copies in both *C. neglecta* and *C. sativa* genomes (Figure 2, Table S3). Among the three subgenomes of *C. sativa* SG3 possessed the highest number of FL-LTRs with 766 copies followed by 511 in SG1 and 384 in SG2. Although the analysis is limited by the different sequencing technologies adopted for *C. neglecta* (PacBio long-read) and *C. sativa* (Illumina short-read), this proliferation appears to be recent in comparison to the major proliferation event for full-length LTR in the first and second subgenomes of *C. sativa* (Figure 2, Table S5) and would align with the dominant expression pattern of *C. sativa* SG3 (Kagale *et al.*, 2016).

Centromeric repeat analysis was performed using an LTR finder (Xu and Wang, 2007), TRF finder (Benson, 1999), and Repeat explorer (Novak et al., 2013), which identified a higher abundance of two types of centromeric tandem repeats in the C. neglecta genome, one specific to C. neglecta (CentCn) and one common with C. sativa (CentCs) (Figure S8). CentCs1 was found in both genomes, whereas a second sequence CentCs2 was unique to the C. sativa genome. A sequence homologous (~70% identity over 6156 bp of its length) to the centromeric associated retrotransposon in Brassica (CRB) was also identified and named Centromeric Retrotransposon of Camelina (CRC) (Lim et al., 2007; Figure S8B). The abundance of these centromeric tandem repeats enabled the position of centromeres in the C. neglecta genome to be provisionally located (Figure 1, Table S6). The centromere positions for most of the chromosomes were in accordance with the predictions of Mandáková et al. (2019), but in the case of chromosome 6, the result is more ambiguous and the centromere could lie between the ancestrally conserved genomic blocks S and V. Although it should be noted that the reduction in chromosome number of C. ne*glecta* compared with the ancestral progenitor would necessarily result in remnants of centromeric regions being found in the genome (Figure S8C).

Based on a combination of *ab initio* gene prediction, experimental evidence from RNAseg data, and gene models from A. thaliana (Cheng et al., 2017), A. lyrata (Hu et al., 2011), Thellungiella parvula (Dassanayake et al., 2011), and C. sativa (Kagale et al., 2014), the assembled genome of C. neglecta was predicted to contain 34 061 protein-coding gene models. Among these, 33 700 were annotated to the six chromosomes, which represented a higher gene content and gene density (177 genes/ Mb) in comparison to any of the subgenomes from the reference genome of C. sativa (141, 152, and 130 genes/Mb, respectively; Table 1, Table S7A). More than 98% of RNAseg data derived from seedling tissue could be mapped to the C. neglecta genome, with 94% of the reads mapping uniquely (Table S7B); 71% of the annotated genes showed expression of at least 0.1 FPKM (Figure 1, Table S7C). The subgenomes of C. sativa showed fractionation compared with C. neglecta, where the first, second, and third subgenomes retained 72.97%, 69.29%, and 70.47% of orthologues, respectively, with 7101 C. neglecta genes absent from the C. sativa genome (Figure S9). It was not unexpected to find syntenic genes present in C. neglecta yet absent from the first subgenome of C. sativa (Table S8), since orthologous copies were maintained on one of the other subgenomes. However, of these 1498 genes, 300 genes were not present in any of the subgenomes of C. sativa. There was no evidence of enrichment for any one biological function among the 1498 genes. Although, those 915 genes absent from *C. neglecta*, yet present in the first subgenome of *C. sativa* were found to be over-represented for genes related to defence responses (most significantly GO: 0031640: killing of cells of other organisms and GO: 0050832: defence response to fungus; Figure S10).

Synteny analysis and genome evolution trajectory

Collinearity of C. neglecta with C. sativa and A. thaliana was assessed with whole genome alignment using nucmer (Kurtz et al., 2004; Figure 3a,b). Triplication of the C. sativa genome compared with diploid C. neglecta is apparent, with C. neglecta sharing more similarity with the first subgenome of C. sativa (Figure 3a). In comparison with A. thaliana, although long stretches of chromosomes are conserved there is evidence of multiple large-scale rearrangements separating the two species (Figure 3b). However, synteny analysis with A. thaliana recovered all 24 ancestral karyotype Genomic Blocks (GB) of the Brassicaceae (Figure 3c) in the C. neglecta genome (Figure 3d; Table S8), and using these GBs a representative karyotype of C. neglecta was drawn to analyse rearrangements relative to the putative Brassicaceae progenitor genome. Camelina neglecta shared common chromosome structures with the ancestral karyotype for two chromosomes (AK1/CnChr1; AK3/CnChr3), while the remainder had undergone chromosome fusions and translocations to reduce the karyotype number (Figure 3c,d). The relationship between C. neglecta and SG1 of C. sativa genome was further visualized by SynVisio (Bandi and Gutwin, 2020; Figure 3e), which emphasized the conservation of syntenic genes between C. neglecta and the first subgenome of C. sativa. The chromosomal structure based on the GBs of the six C. neglecta chromosomes was markedly similarly to the first subgenome of C. sativa except for C. neglecta chromosome 5, which although aligning along much of its length with C. sativa chromosome 8, the two chromosomes were differentiated by a large pericentric inversion that led to GB R being split (Figure 3f, Figure S11). Assuming all three C. sativa subgenomes may have evolved from a species with a similar structure to C. neglecta a number of events, including inversions, translocations, and hybridization between chromosomes, could be inferred. However, a greater distance would be postulated between C. neglecta and the third subgenome resulting from the increased number of rearrangements invoked (Figure 3b, Figure S11).

Age of divergence of the subgenomes of *Camelina* sativa compared with *Camelina neglecta*

Using *A. thaliana* as a basal genome to define orthologues within and between the *Camelina* species, the distributions of synonymous substitutions per site rate (*K*s) were calculated for all possible duplicated syntenic gene pairs (Table S8) to identify and age any whole genome duplication events (Kagale *et al.*, 2014). *Ks* analysis among the genes with duplicate copies within the *C. neglecta* genome reflected the remnants of the alpha, beta, and gamma ancient whole genome duplication events found in *A. thaliana* (Figure 4a) and all angiosperms (Bowers *et al.*, 2003; Table S9). Independently studying orthologues from the three subgenomes of *C. sativa* against *C. neglecta* further corroborated the similarity of the *C. neglecta* genome with that of the first subgenome of *C. sativa*. The small peak observed at 0.02 *Ks* suggested the first subgenome of *C. sativa* diverged around 1.2 mya from *C. neglecta*, while peaks at 0.071 and 0.086 *Ks*, for



Figure 2 Full-length LTRs (FL-LTRs) of C. neglecta and C. sativa genome. Copy number of FL-LTRs families present in the C. neglecta and C. sativa subgenomes (a); age distribution of FL-LTRs families present in C. neglecta (b), subgenome 1 (c), subgenome 2 (d), and subgenome 3 of C. sativa (e).

the second and third subgenomes, respectively, corresponded to divergence dates of 4.3 and 5.2 mya. Comparing orthologues between *A. thaliana* and *C. neglecta* dated their divergence from

a common ancestor to 17.8 mya, which is comparable to that estimated for the three *C. sativa* subgenomes (Kagale *et al.*, 2014; Figure 4b).



Figure 3 Synteny analysis of *Camelina neglecta* genome. (a) Nucmer plot showing the relationship between *C. neglecta* (vertical) and *Arabidopsis thaliana* genomes (horizontal); (b) Nucmer plot showing the relationship between *C. neglecta* genome (vertical) and three *C. sativa* subgenomes (horizontal); (c) representation of genomic block organization in ancestral crucifer karyotype (ACK); (d) arrangement of 24 ancestral karyotype genomic blocks in the *C. neglecta* genome; (e) syntenic analysis of *C. neglecta* with *C. sativa* genome; and (f) comparison of chromosome 5 of *C. neglecta* with chromosome 8 of *C. sativa* showing terminally inverted region (red) in the chromosomes.

Assessing the role of recursive genome duplication in the hexaploid *C. sativa*

Duplicate genes in *C. neglecta* were analysed using *DupGen_finder* (Qiao *et al.*, 2019) which identified 1653 tandem duplicates, 1203 proximal duplicates, and 3549 transposed duplicated genes (Table S10). The tandem duplicated genes were mainly enriched with the gene ontology categories: defence response (GO:0006952); secondary metabolite biosynthesis process (GO:0044550); and toxin catabolic process (GO:009407) (Figure S12). The *K*s analysis among the gene pairs representing

tandem duplication, proximal duplication, and transposed duplication within the genome of *C. neglecta* showed some level of differentiation among paralogues (Figure S13). The same analysis of the subgenomes of *C. sativa* identified a lower number of tandem and proximal duplicate genes (Table S10), suggesting either gene duplication occurred in *C. neglecta* after the common progenitor contributed to the formation of hexaploid *C. sativa*, or additional gene copies were deleted post-hybridisation from the hexaploid.

OrthoFinder version 2.5.2 (Emms and Kelly, 2019) was used to identify species-specific orthologues in *C. neglecta* and *C. sativa*.



Figure 4 Evolutionary relationship between diploid *C. neglecta*, *A. thaliana*, and hexaploid *C. sativa* genome. (a) Distribution of synonymous substitution per synonymous site rate (*Ks*) among ancestral paralogs in *C. neglecta*; and (b) distribution of *Ks* values, the peaks show the age of divergence of *C. sativa* subgenomes (red, blue and purple, respectively) and the *A. thaliana* genome (orange) relative to *C. neglecta*.

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Around 93.8% of genes from *C. neglecta* were assigned to gene families or orthogroups, whereas only 64.7% genes from *C. sativa* were similarly assigned. The number of orthogroups specific to *C. neglecta* (544) was lower in comparison to *C. sativa* (6769) (Table S11). The unique orthogroups from *C. neglecta* were not enriched for biological function; however, each of the subgenomes *C. sativa* had multiple unique orthogroups or genes enriched for a variety of biological processes (Tables S12–S16).

In an attempt to understand the impact of genome duplication on functional genes, the copy number of genes known to be responsible for a range of physiological processes, and often studied in the context of genome adaptation, was assessed. Disease resistance gene analogs (RGAs) are defined primarily based on their homology to known R-genes, and the conserved domains and motifs of *R*-genes that confer roles in resistance to specific pathogens can be used to identify all such genes in any one genome using the pipeline RGAugury (Li et al., 2016). RGAugury identified a total of 935 and 2967 RGAs in C. neglecta and C. sativa, respectively (Table S17). Although the level of gene duplication within C. sativa (3.17 fold) reflected the hexaploid nature of the genome, the pattern of expansion in each RGA category varied. The transmembrane leucine-rich repeat (TM-LRR) RGA families were more extensively replicated (3.3-5 fold) while the nucleotide-binding site leucine-rich repeat RGA families were replicated on average 2.2 times in the C. sativa genome. Among the TM-LRRs the greatest expansion was seen for membraneassociated receptor-like proteins (RLPs), which increased fivefold (Table S17). Only 409 RGAs identified in C. neglecta were found to be conserved across all three subgenomes of C. sativa, and the fractionation level of the remaining RGAs was equivalent (28%) in each subgenome (Table S17D).

Likewise, the assembled C. neglecta genome possessed 376 orthologues of 405 flowering-related genes that have been identified in A. thaliana (Sasaki et al., 2015) (Table S18). Notably, C. neglecta does not appear to have an orthologue of FRIGIDA (FRI), an important gene responsible for the vernalization requirement in A. thaliana (Johanson et al., 2000). Similarly in hexaploid C. sativa although three genes share homology with FRI they are not found in a syntenic position, suggesting they are also not orthologous (Kagale et al., 2014). However, all the additional components of the FRI complex (FRL1, SUF4, FES1, and FLX) are found as expected in both the C. neglecta and C. sativa genomes. Flowering Locus C (Michaels and Amasino, 1999), which in Arabidopsis is upregulated by FRI, is present in three copies in C. sativa and could be a determinant of vernalization requirement in winter Camelina species (Anderson et al., 2018), including C. neglecta.

The genome of *C. neglecta* also contained a full complement of meiotic genes, which have previously been identified to have a role in faithful recombination in *A. thaliana*. In *C. sativa* the majority of these genes have been retained in triplicate (94.3%), indicating the recent formation of this allopolyploid, since such

genes have been shown to fractionate more rapidly in established polyploids (Table S19; Lloyd *et al.*, 2014).

Camelina neglecta has a unique fatty acid profile as compared to multiple accessions of C. sativa; although different C. sativa lines showed some variation in the shorter chain fatty acids, C. sativa consistently has a higher proportion of oleic acid (C18:1) and a significantly lower proportion of erucic acid (C22:1) compared with C. neglecta (Figure 5a; Table S20). These two long-chain fatty acids have economic importance for the food, feed, and industrial feedstock oil industries, and the manipulation of genes controlling fatty acid profiles could play an important role in these sectors. More than 83% of the genes identified as playing a role in acyl-lipid biosynthesis pathways in A. thaliana (http://aralip.plantbiology.msu.edu) have been retained in C. neglecta (Table S21). Studying the fractionation pattern of these genes in C. sativa did not identify an obvious pattern of gene loss or gain in the hexaploid; moreover, although some orthologues showed evidence of positive selection in C. sativa (Ka/Ks >1), no specific pathway appeared to be under selection (Table S21). Among these genes, the activity of Fatty Acid Desaturase 2 (FAD2), Fatty Acid Desaturase 3 (FAD3), and Fatty Acid Elongase 1 (FAE1) have been associated with variations in oleic and erucic acid levels (Okuley et al., 1994; Yang et al., 2012) and one ortholog of each were found in *C. neglecta*. The phylogenetic relationship among the orthologs of each of these genes in C. neglecta's closely related species: C. sativa (Kagale et al., 2014); A. thaliana (Kaul et al., 2000); Brassica rapa (Wang et al., 2011); Brassica oleracea (Parkin et al., 2014); Brassica napus (Chalhoub et al., 2014); and Brassica nigra (Perumal et al., 2020), suggested a fairly predictable pattern for FAD2 and FAD3, with a closer relationship among the species from Brassica lineage I (Figure 5b,c). However, orthologs of FAE1 have higher differentiation in the subgenomes of C. sativa with tandem duplication of FAE1 in subgenome 1 of C. sativa. The analyses were complicated by miss-annotation of the FAE genes in the C. sativa genome, with tandemly duplicated copies of FAE on subgenome 3 annotated as a single gene (Csa12g009060) and FAE showing apparent tandem duplication on subgenome 1, yet lying at the site of a scaffold boundary, which confounded confirming this gene organization (Csa11g007400; Figure 5d,e, Figure S14). The low level of erucic acid in C. sativa might suggest selection after whole genome duplication from the progenitor *C. neglecta*, but there is no evidence that gene fractionation plays a role. Additional tissue-specific gene expression analysis may help to elucidate the role of duplicated gene segments in causing variation in oil profile in hexaploid C. sativa in comparison to the diploid C. neglecta.

Discussion

Whole genome duplication is widespread in plant evolution and is often associated with increased fitness of the newly derived

Figure 5 A comparison of the seed fatty acid (FA) profile and pertinent genes in diploid *Camelina neglecta* and hexaploid *Camelina sativa*. A comparison of per cent content of different length carbon chain FAs in hexaploid *C. sativa* (CN113760, CN120013 and CN120019, and DH55) and diploid *C. neglecta* (PI650135) seed, error bars show standard deviation (a). Maximum likelihood phylogenetic relationship of *FAD2* (b), *FAD3* (c), and *FAE1* (d) orthologs from different *Brassica* species. Genes for each species are identified as AT: *A. thaliana*, Bna: *Brassica napus*, Bni: *Brassica nigra*, Bo: *Brassica oleracea*, Bra: *Brassica rapa*, Cne: *C. neglecta*, and Csa: *C. sativa*. The support value (1000 replications) is shown at each branch, and a scale bar indicating the branch length is provided for each tree. A schematic showing alignment of *FAE1*-related genes in *C. sativa* compared with *C. neglecta* (e), the links represents gene identity of more than 90%, and kb distance is indicated on the chromosomes.



polyploid plant; defining the constituent genomes of any polyploid provides not only insights into plant evolution but can form a repository for novel variation. *Camelina neglecta* is a relatively recent discovery among relatives of the crop C. sativa and has been suggested to be closely related to the progenitor of subgenome 1 of the hexaploid C. sativa (Chaudhary et al., 2020). The high-quality sequence of C. neglecta enforces this relationship, with only a single major chromosomal rearrangement separating C. neglecta from subgenome 1 of C. sativa. Sequencing of the C. neglecta genome has provided a valuable genomic resource with the potential for Camelina breeding, and also an opportunity to characterize and compare genomic features across the different ploidy levels found among related Camelina species. The C. neglecta genome along with those released for related Camelina species (Martin et al., 2021) should assist with efforts to elucidate all progenitor genomes of the hexaploid crop. A recent study has suggested tetraploid Camelina microcarpa (or C. intermedia), which based on chromosome painting and comparative analyses is an allopolyploid formed from the fusion of two C. neglecta-like genomes, as the maternal progenitor of C. sativa (Mandáková and Lysak, 2022). Together these studies lay the groundwork for the artificial resynthesis of C. sativa, which could aid in expanding the limited gene pool of the hexaploid species.

Comparative analysis of C. neglecta genome with C. sativa and A. thaliana genomes suggested that rearrangements of genomic blocks in C. sativa subgenome 1 likely occurred after genome duplication/hybridisation. The landscape of the genome largely matches that identified by chromosomal painting (Mandáková et al., 2019), although the presence of centromeric specific elements could suggest the centromere of chromosome six lies between ancestral GB S and V rather than S and T. The position between S and V also represents a potential site of chromosomal condensation compared with the ancestral karvotype, which means chromosome 6 would be expected to show evidence of an ancient centromere. Analyses of full-length LTR REs show a continuous expansion of the diploid genome in comparison to subgenomes of the hexaploid (Figure 2). The level of full-length repeat proliferation appears older in the submissive subgenome (subgenome 1) compared with the dominant (subgenome 3) and the progenitor C. neglecta, suggesting genome dominance impacts more than gene expression and fractionation levels. The amount of REs is similar in C. neglecta and subgenome 1 of C. sativa, but there was a higher abundance of helitrons elements in all subgenomes of C. sativa, indicating a recent expansion of these elements potentially triggered by the polyploidization event (s) (Table S2). Perhaps as an antithesis to the hexaploid state of C. sativa, the diploid showed a higher prevalence of tandemly duplicated genes, that could provide material for gene functional differentiation.

Although the third subgenome of *C. sativa* is dominant with regard to gene expression, there was no evidence of gene fractionation bias compared with the diploid, further emphasizing the neopolyploid nature of the hexaploid. Interestingly *C. sativa* retained over 900 genes in the first subgenome, which were presumably deleted from *C. neglecta* subsequent to the polyploidisation event, yet these genes appeared to be enriched for defence responses. The availability of a fully annotated genome allowed the study of genes involved in well-studied physiological processes in the two species, identifying a number of interesting features. Of particular note is the absence of an orthologue of the flowering time gene *FRIGIDA (FRI). Camelina neglecta* has a

winter habit compared with C. sativa, and vernalisation is essential to initiate the transition to flowering. Although FRI has an established role in controlling the vernalisation response in A. thaliana, such that a functional copy is required to maintain FLC expression, some ecotypes have been identified, which are late flowering despite carrying a mutation in FRI (Werner et al., 2005). It is possible that the Camelina species utilize an alternative pathway to control FLC expressions, such as through the interaction of ART1/HUA2 and FLC (Doyle et al., 2005), or they have evolved an independent mechanism. The availability of a progenitor genome for C. sativa allows for the potential of resynthesis to generate novel variation in the crop, a method that has proved effective in the breeding of Brassica napus (Gaeta et al., 2007). It is apparent that there are novel phenotypes available in C. neglecta, both flowering time and modified oil profiles have been indicated here, and the divergent pattern of RGA gene expansion could suggest novel sources of resistance. However, C. neglecta has only one accession in current germplasm collections though it has been suggested that the species could be common in southern France, possibly other regions of Europe, and even across the Eurasian steppe (Brock et al., 2022). As such, the collection of new material from these regions would be warranted to identify additional diversity within the diploid, and perhaps the derived tetraploid that represents subgenomes 1 and 2 of C. sativa. Notwithstanding this limitation, the genome of C. neglecta will prove a foundational resource for further evolutionary studies among the genus.

Methods

Plant material

Camelina neglecta accession PI650135 was selected for this study. Leaf samples were harvested from three 1-month-old individual plants and flash-frozen samples representing the same accession (10 g) were stored at -80 °C prior to sending to Dovetail Genomics (Scotts Valley, CA). High molecular weight DNA isolation, genome sequencing, and assembly were carried out by Dovetail Genomics.

PacBio library preparation and sequencing

For the whole genome sequencing of *C. neglecta*, PacBio SMRTbell libraries (~20 kb) for PacBio Sequel were constructed using SMRTbell Template Prep Kit 1.0 (PacBio, Menlo Park, CA) using standard manufacturer protocol. The pooled library was bound to polymerase using the Sequel Binding Kit 2.0 (PacBio) and loaded onto PacBio Sequel using the MagBead Kit V2 (PacBio). Sequencing was performed on 2 PacBio Sequel SMRT cells (Pacific BioSciences).

Genome assembly, polishing, scaffolding, and evaluation

Initial assemblies were performed using the FALCON 1.8.8 pipeline from Pacific Bioscience, where three stages of the FALCON pipeline using whole genome, single-molecule, real-time sequencing (SMRT) data resulted in a *C. neglecta* genome comprising 131 primary contigs containing 192.4 Mbp with an N50 contig length of 7.9 Mbp. Finally, the assembly was polished through PacBio's Arrow algorithm from SMRT Link 5.0.1, using the original raw reads.

Further, a Chicago library (Putnam *et al.*, 2016) and a Dovetail HiC library (Lieberman-Aiden *et al.*, 2009) were prepared where chromatin was fixed in place with formaldehyde in the nucleus

and then extracted fixed chromatin was digested with *Dpn*II; and the DNA was then sheared to ~350 bp mean fragment size, and sequencing libraries were generated using NEBNext Ultra enzymes and Illumina-compatible adapters. The libraries were sequenced on an Illumina HiSeqX, generating 251 M, and 174 M PE150 reads, respectively, for the Chicago library and Dovetail HiC library.

For scaffolding, the *de novo* assembly, Chicago library reads, and Dovetail HiC library reads were used as input data for HiRise Scaffolder (Putnam *et al.*, 2016). First, Chicago library sequences were aligned to the draft assembly using a modified SNAP read mapper (http://snap.cs.berkeley.edu). The separations of Chicago read pairs mapped within draft scaffolds were analysed by HiRise to produce a likelihood model for the genomic distance between read pairs, and the model was used to identify and break putative misjoins, score prospective joins, and make joins above a threshold. After aligning and scaffolding the Chicago data, Dovetail HiC library sequence was aligned and scaffolded following the same method. The HiC contact map was visualized using the software Juicebox (Durand *et al.*, 2016).

Illumina paired-end 125 bp reads were generated on an Illumina HiSeq 2500 platform for the same accession Pl650135. The reads obtained from Illumina were trimmed for poor quality reads, short reads (<55 bp), and adapter contamination by Trimmomatic v.0.39 (Bolger *et al.*, 2014). A total of 228 million clean raw reads were mapped to the assembled genome using BWA version 0.7.17 (Li and Durbin, 2009) with default parameters, and the assembly was evaluated for with Qualimap (García-Alcalde *et al.*, 2012). Further, the completeness of genes was assessed utilizing BUSCO v4.1.4 (Simão *et al.*, 2015) with *brassicales_odb10* (n = 4596) data set.

Genome size estimation

Jellyfish v.2.2.6 (Marçais and Kingsford, 2011) was used to estimate the genome size where 17-mer, 21-mer, 25-mer, and 31-mer were used to estimate genome size (Table S22). The histogram obtained from jellyfish was used to estimate the genome size using an online platform of GenomeScope (http:// qb.cshl.edu/genomescope/) (Vurture *et al.*, 2017; Figure S1). Smudgeplot (Ranallo-Benavidez *et al.*, 2020) was used to predict genome structure using heterozygous k-mers (*hetkmers* function with default parameters; Figure S3).

Gene annotation

BRAKER1 (Hoff *et al.*, 2019) was used to annotate the genes in the assembled genome of *C. neglecta* where GeneMark-ES (Lomsadze *et al.*, 2005) and AUGUSTUS version 3.4 (Stanke and Morgenstern, 2005) were used for prediction of gene models. Evidence from RNAseq data generated from the same accession at the early growth stage, protein homology of *C. sativa* genome (Kagale *et al.*, 2014), and gene models from *A. thaliana*, *A. lyrata*, *Thellungiella parvula*, and *C. sativa* were utilized for the prediction of gene models. Initially, BRAKER annotated 32 830 gene models, which was refined using PASA (Haas *et al.*, 2008) to yield a total of 34 061 gene models.

Repeat annotation

Repetitive elements (REs), including transposable elements (TEs) and tandem repeats (TRs), were characterized from *C. neglecta* genome using a combination of structural and homology-based approaches. EDTA tool v.1.9.9 (Ou *et al.*, 2019) was used to

predict the whole genome repeat content in the two *Camelina* genomes. LTR assembly quality in the *Camelina* genomes was estimated using the LTR assembly index (LAI) tool (Ou *et al.*, 2018). In addition, structure-based characterization including the age of full-length long terminal repeat retrotransposon (FL-LTR-RTs) was done using the LTR retriever program (Ou and Jiang, 2018), which used the inputs from LTR_finder (Xu and Wang, 2007) and LTRHarvest (Ellinghaus *et al.*, 2008). Repeat-Masker was implemented to identify and classify homologous repeat elements in the genome using Camelina-lib against the *C. neglecta* genome assembly. These repeat elements were plotted along the genome of *C. neglecta* using KaryotypeR (Gel and Serra, 2017) from R statistical software (Team, 2021).

Synteny analysis

Syntenic analysis of *C. neglecta* was performed as described by Kagale *et al.* (2014) where the protein models of *C. neglecta* and *A. thaliana* were compared using reciprocal BLASTP. Further, DAGChainer (Haas *et al.*, 2004) with default parameters was used to identify *C. neglecta–A. thaliana* gene pairs and construct a syntelog table. MCscanX (Wang *et al.*, 2012) with parameters of Match_score 50, Match_size 10, Gap_penalty -1, Overlap_window 10, E-value 1e-05, and Max gaps 5 was used to identify syntenic genes, which were visualized with SynVisio (Bandi and Gutwin, 2020).

From the synteny table, gene pairs between C. neglecta and subgenomes of C. sativa as well as A. thaliana were identified and used to calculate the rates of synonymous substitutions per synonymous site (Ks) using GenoDup pipeline (Mao, 2019). This pipeline utilized protein and nucleotide sequences of a gene pair to calculate (Ks). MAFFT (Katoh et al., 2002) was used for the alignment of protein sequences of each gene family. TranslatorX (Abascal et al., 2010) was used for the alignment of coding sequences based on the alignment of protein sequences, and codeml package in PAML (Yang, 2007) was used to calculate Ks value. The value of Ks was plotted using the Gaussian mixture model using mclust version 5.4.7 (Scrucca et al., 2016) in R statistical software (Team, 2021). Further, a comparison between the assembled genome of PI650135 and recently assembled genome of C. neglecta (Martin et al., 2021) was performed using MUMer v.3.23 (Kurtz et al., 2004).

Prediction of duplicate genes and orthogroups

From the annotated genes of C. neglecta, duplicated genes as a result of tandem duplication, proximate duplication, and transposed duplication were identified using pipeline DupGen_finder.pl (Qiao et al., 2019). In the case of C. neglecta, 'all-versus-all' BLASTP alignment (E-value <1e-10), as well as BLASTP alignment (E-value <1e-10) with A. thaliana as an outgroup, was performed to identify the duplication events; whereas in the case of C. sativa (Kagale et al., 2014), C. neglecta was considered as an outgroup to identify duplicated genes with the same parameters as used for C. neglecta duplicate gene prediction. For these analyses, the MCScanX (Wang et al., 2012) parameters were set as Match_score 50, Match_size 5, Gap_penalty -1, Overlap_window 5, E_value 1e-10, and Max gaps 25. Tandem duplicated genes, proximal duplicate genes, and transposed genes were visualized using circos v. 0.69-6 (Krzywinski et al., 2009). The protein sequences of annotated genes from C. neglecta and C. sativa genomes were implemented in OrthoFinder version 2.5.2 (Emms and Kelly, 2019) to identify orthogroups specific to each genome.

Identification of disease resistance genes analogs

Resistance gene analogs (RGAs) were identified in the *C. neglecta* genome using *RGAugury* pipeline (Li *et al.*, 2016). The protein sequences of annotated genes were used to identify disease resistance genes where four classes of RGAs were analysed such as NBS-encoding protein, receptor-like protein kinases, receptor-like proteins, and transmembrane-coiled coil proteins.

RNA sequencing and gene expression analysis

Five biological replicates of C. neglecta (PI650135) were taken for the transcriptome study, among these three samples were collected from 1-week-old seedling (leaf sample) grown in a CYG seed germination pouch (Mega International, Newport, MN), whereas two samples were collected from the plant (leaf sample) kept at vernalization conditions of 4 °C for 30 days. Total RNA was extracted using a standard RNeasy Plant Qiagen kit as described by the manufacturer with on-column DNA digestion. RNA was quantified using a Qubit (Invitrogen, Waltham, MA, USA), and the guality was determined using an RNA Nano lab chip on a Bioanalyzer (Agilent Technologies, Mississauga, ON, Canada). Paired-end RNAseg libraries were constructed using the TruSeq RNA preparation kit (Illumina, San Diego, CA, USA), with 100 ng of RNA used for cDNA synthesis followed by RNA library preparation. The final library guality was checked using a Bioanalyzer (Agilent Technologies). Sequencing was conducted on an Illumina HiSeg2000 platform at National Research Council Canada in Saskatoon (2 \times 125 bp).

Sequence data were filtered for low-quality reads (<40), short reads (<55 bp), and adapter contamination using Trimmomatic v.0.33 (Bolger *et al.*, 2014). High-quality reads were aligned with the annotated genome of PI650135 using STAR v. 2.7.6 (Dobin *et al.*, 2013). Utilization of *GeneCounts* features from STAR provided the number of transcripts per annotated gene. A maximum of four mismatches was allowed while mapping transcripts to the reference genome. Normalization of transcripts was done using Fragment Per Kilobase of transcripts per Million mapped reads (FPKM) method.

Gene ontology enrichment analysis

The corresponding orthologue in *A. thaliana* was identified based on the syntenic table for all the differentially expressed genes or the unique genes present in *C. neglecta* compared with the first subgenome of the *C. sativa* or vice versa. The significantly enriched Gene Ontology (GO) terms (false discovery rate <0.05) were identified for *C. neglecta* and *C. sativa* using agriGO v.2.0 online program (http://systemsbiology.cau.edu.cn/agriGOv2/; Tian *et al.*, 2017).

Fatty acid analysis and phylogenetic analysis of FAD2, FAD3, and FAE1

Fatty acid extraction was performed using around 30 mg seeds per sample digested with 1.5 mL of sulphuric acid in methanol (1.5% v/v) in a Pyrex screw-top methylation tube. Further, 0.4 mL of Toluene was added along with 50 μ L of internal standard (10 mg/mL triheptadecanoin) and incubated at 90 °C for 2 h for complete digestion. The digested solution was allowed to cool, and 1 mL of 0.9% NaCl and 1 mL of hexane were added, the solution was centrifuged at 1000 rpm at room temperature in the Thermo Legend XTR centrifuge for 1 min to separate the phases. 200 μ L of the top hexane phase was collected in a GC vial containing a glass insert. The prepared sample was analysed for

the fatty acid profile in a GC autosampler with the method $\ensuremath{\mathsf{MSFAMES1}}$

Identification of *FAD2*, *FAD3*, and *FAE1* orthologs in Brassica species was performed with nucleotide blast (Altschul *et al.*, 1990) search against the protein-coding genes from the genome of *C. sativa* (Kagale *et al.*, 2014), *C. neglecta*, *Brassica rapa* (Wang *et al.*, 2011), *Brassica oleracea* (Parkin *et al.*, 2014), *Brassica napus* (Chalhoub *et al.*, 2014), and *Brassica nigra* (Perumal *et al.*, 2020). All the identified orthologs have been listed in Table S23. Further, the sequences of these genes were aligned with MUSCLE (Edgar, 2004) in MEGA X (Stecher *et al.*, 2020) with default parameters. The maximum likelihood method and Tamura-Nei model (Tamura and Nei, 1993) were used to construct the phylogenetic trees with a bootstrap of 1000 replications in MEGA X.

Acknowledgements

The research was funded in part by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Crop Genomics Initiative with additional support from the Global Institute for Food Security, Saskatoon.

Conflicts of interest

The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

Author contributions

R.C. and E.E.H. performed the experiments, and R.C. wrote the draft manuscript. I.A.P.P. and A.G.S. conceived the project, secured the funding and finalized the manuscript. R.C., C.K., L.J., and S.P. performed the analysis, S.K. and M.S. provided expert advice and reviewed the manuscript.

Data availability statement

All associated data have been submitted to NCBI under the Bioproject ID: PRJNA869687.

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Supporting information

Additional supporting information may be found online in the Supporting Information section at the end of the article.

Figure S1 Genome size estimation of *C. neglecta* genome accession PI650135 using k-mer analysis with different k-mer lengths.

Figure S2 High-throughput chromosome confirmation capture (HiC) contact map of *C. neglecta* genome.

Figure S3 (A) Smudgeplot showing highly diploidized nature of *C. neglecta* genome. (B) Smudgeplot showing triplicated nature of *C. sativa* genome.

Figure S4 BUSCO assessment of the gene content of the *C. neglecta* genome.

Figure S5 Alignment of *C. neglecta* assembly (horizontal access) to one recently submitted (vertical access) (Martin *et al.*, 2021).

Figure S6 Boxplot showing distribution of long-terminal repeat assembly index (LAI) in *C. neglecta* and *C. sativa* genomes based on a window of 3 Mb and a sliding step of 300 Kb.

Figure S7 Age of proliferation of full length LTR in *C. neglecta* and subgenomes of *C. sativa*.

Figure **S8** Centromere associated retrotransposons in *C. neglecta.*

Figure S9 Number of *C. neglecta* genes sharing homology (E-value = 1^{e-10}) with genes in the subgenomes of *C. sativa*.

Figure S10 Gene Ontology analysis of genes absent in *C. neglecta* genome.

Figure S11 Possible rearrangements in the *C. neglecta* like genome during the formation of chromosomes of *C. sativa*.

Figure S12 Gene Ontology analysis of tandem duplicate genes present in *C. neglecta* genome.

Figure S13 The distribution of Ks value among the whole genome duplication (A), tandem (B), proximal (C) and transposed (D) duplicate genepairs in the *C. neglecta* genome.

Figure S14 Dot plot of protein sequences of FAE1 genes from *C. neglecta* (Cne06g006690.1CN.1), *C. sativa* (Csa11g007400.1, Csa10g007610.1 and Csa12g009060.1) and *A. thaliana* (AT4G34520.1).

 Table S1
 Summary statistics of mapping Illumina data to the assembled genome.

Table S2 Distribution of repeat elements in *Camelina neglecta* and *Camelina sativa* genomes.

Table S3 Summary of family-level distribution of full-length long terminal repeats retrotransposons in *C. neglecta* and *C. sativa* genomes.

 Table S4
 List of full-length long terminal repeats retrotransposons in *C. neglecta* genome.

 Table S5
 List of full-length long terminal repeats retrotransposons in C. sativa genome.

Table S7 (A) Total number of genes in *Camelina neglecta* and *C. sativa* genomes with average length of the gene. (B) Mapping of RNASeq reads to the genome of *C. neglecta* using STAR. (C) Gene expression (FPKM) in the leaf tissue of *C. neglecta*.

Table S8 Syntelog
 table for
 Arabidopsis
 thaliana,
 Camelina

 neglecta
 and
 subgenomes
 of
 Camelina
 sativa (Cs-SG).

Table S9 (A–C) Genepairs identified to participate in the alpha, beta and gamma genome duplication.

Table S10 Number of duplicate genes across *C. neglecta* and *C. sativa* genomes.

Table S11 Clustering analysis of gene families across *C. neglecta* and *C. sativa* genomes.

Table S12 List of unique orthogroups in *C. neglecta* identified through orthofinder.

Table S13 List of unique orthogroups in *C. sativa* identified through orthofinder.

Table S14 Gene Ontology of Camelina sativa subgenome 1 gene having unique orthogroups compared with Camelina neglecta.

Table S15 Gene Ontology of Camelina sativa subgenome 2genes having unique orthogroups compared with Camelinaneglecta.

Table S16 Gene Ontology of Camelina sativa subgenome 3genes having unique orthogroups compared with Camelinaneglecta.

Table S17 (A–D) Number and list of RGAs found in *C. neglecta* and *C. sativa* genomes.

Table S18 List of flowering-related genes present in the *C. neglecta* genome.

Table S19 List of meiosis-related genes present in the *Camelina neglecta* and *Camelina sativa* subgenomes.

 Table S20
 Seed oil content and fatty acid composition of different Camelina species.

Table S21 List of *Arabidopsis thaliana* genes responsible for acyllipid biosynthesis with orthologs in *Camelina neglecta* and *C. sativa* genomes.

Table S22 Genome size estimation using k-mer analysis.

Table S23 List of Brassica genes sharing similarity with FAD2, FAD3, and FAE1 identified through blastn.