MITOGENOME ANNOUNCEMENT

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Complete mitochondrial genome of Sri Lankan Junglefowl (Gallus lafayetti) and phylogenetic study

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ABSTRACT

The complete mitochondrial genomes of two Sri Lankan junglefowl (*Gallus lafayetti*: CJF) individuals were sequenced by using next-generation sequencing technique. Samples were collected from Rathnapura and Pelmadulla areas in Sri Lanka. The complete mitochondrial DNA is 16,839 bp in length, with a typical mitogenome structure composed of a non-coding control region, 22 tRNA, two rRNA, and 13 protein-coding genes. Overall base composition is 30% A, 23.9% T, 32.3% C, and 13.6% G indicating high content of 54.0% A + T for both individuals. Phylogenetic analysis reveals that CJF samples cluster with the clade of the green junglefowl (*Gallus varius*) and red junglefowl (*Gallus gallus*) than to grey junglefowl (*Gallus sonerattii*: GyJF). This result can be subsequently used to provide essential information for junglefowl evolution.

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Mitochondrial DNA; nextgeneration sequencing; phylogenetic analysis; Sri Lankan junglefowl

Introduction

The Sri Lankan junglefowl (Gallus lafayetti: CJF), also known as Ceylon junglefowl, is one of the species in genus Gallus among the four species (arey junglefowl (G. sonneratii; GyJF), green junglefowl (G. varius; GJF), red junglefowl (G. gallus; RJF) and CJF) (Delacour 1977; Sibley and Ahlquist 1990; Johnsgard 1999). It is endemic to Sri Lanka and considered as the national bird of Sri Lanka, distributed in Yala National Park in dry zone, Sinharaja rain forest and most of tea estates. Being geographically isolated in island from Indian subcontinent, very few genomic and evolutionary studies have been carried out on CJF to understand its phylogeny. The total genomic DNA of the two CJF individuals from Rathnapura and Pelmadulla areas in Sri Lanka was extracted from the whole blood with standard phenol/chloroform methods. The PCR, library construction, next-generation sequencing, and de novo assembly for mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) genomes followed the previous protocol (Chen et al. 2016). Caveats were followed for quality control in mtDNA data analyses (Shi et al. 2014). The variants were scored and checked manually relative to the reference sequence AP003321 (Nishibori et al. 2005) and the bam file was exported by Torrent Suite 5.0.2 to confirm the scored variants by using Integrative Genomics Viewer (Thorvaldsdóttir et al. 2013).

We obtained the complete mtDNA genomes of two CJF individuals (GSA No. PRJCA000289 and PRJCA000290) in our study. We described 16,839 bp of CJF mitochondrial genomic sequences, including a non-coding control region, 22 transfer RNA (tRNA) genes, two ribosomal RNA (rRNA) genes, and 13 protein-coding genes. On the average, overall base composition of the mitochondrial genomes is as follows: 30.1% A, 23.9% T, 32.3% C, and 13.6% G, showing high content of 54.0% A+T for both samples. Nucleotide composition was estimated by MEGA 7.0 (Kumar et al. 2016). The three CJF sequences (two de novo and one from previous study, Nishibori et al. 2005) had 100% bootstrap support from neighbour-joining (NJ), maximum likelihood (ML), and maximum parsimony (MP) analyses. Therefore, this provides further evidence for the validity of the sequences obtained in our study.

The phylogenetic position of CJF was estimated from complete mtDNA sequences. Neighbour-joining analyses were performed in MEGA 7.0, ML calculated in RaxML (Randomized A(x)ccelerated Maximum Likelihood) (Stamatakis et al. 2008; https://embnet.vital-it.ch/raxml-bb/), and MP estimated using PAUP* (V4.0) (Swofford 2003). The phylogenetic analysis results show that the *Gallus* four species clustered in three different clades. RJF and GJF grouped in closer clades while CJF is more distance from GyJF. This is in contrast with

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Figure 1. Phylogenetic tree of the relationships among Galliformes based on mtDNA genome sequences. *Pavo muticus* served as the outgroup. Numbers above each node indicates the NJ, ML, and MP bootstrap support values, respectively. All the species' accession numbers are listed as follows: *Gallus gallus* (RJF) AP003321, AP003323; *G. varius* (GJF) AP003324; *G. sonneratii* (GyJF) AP006741; *G. lafayettei* (CJF) AP003325, PRJCA000289–4880, PRJCA000290–4879; *Bambusicola thoracicus* (Bthoracica) EU165706; *B. fytchii* (Bfytchii) FJ752423; *Coturnix japonica* (Cjaponica) NC_003408; *Francolinus pintadeanus* (Fpintadeanus) EU165707; *Pavo muticus* (Pmuticus) EU417811.

Helm-Bychowski and Wilson (1986) and Fumihito et al. (1996), our findings showed that having a common ancestor CJF is more closely related to both GJF and RJF than to GyJF which is in accordance with Guan et al. (2009). This study will contribute to the phylogenetic analyses in Galliformes (Figure 1).

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Disclosure statement

The authors have declared that no competing interests exist and are solely responsible for this paper.

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