

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Sporophytic self-incompatibility in *Senecio squalidus* (Asteraceae): S allele dominance interactions and modifiers of cross-compatibility and selfing rates

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Understanding genetic mechanisms of self-incompatibility (SI) and how they evolve is central to understanding the mating behaviour of most outbreeding angiosperms. Sporophytic SI (SSI) is controlled by a single multi-allelic locus, *S*, which is expressed in the diploid (sporophyte) plant to determine the SI phenotype of its haploid (gametophyte) pollen. This allows complex patterns of independent *S* allele dominance interactions in male (pollen) and female (pistil) reproductive tissues. *Senecio squalidus* is a useful model for studying the genetic regulation and evolution of SSI because of its population history as an alien invasive species in the UK. *S. squalidus* maintains a small number of *S* alleles (7–11) with a high frequency of dominance interactions. Some *S. squalidus* individuals also show partial selfing and/or greater levels of cross-compatibility than expected

under SSI. We previously speculated that these might be adaptations to invasiveness. Here we describe a detailed characterization of the regulation of SSI in *S. squalidus*. Controlled crosses were used to determine the *S* allele dominance hierarchy of six *S* alleles and effects of modifiers on cross-compatibility and partial selfing. Complex dominance interactions among *S* alleles were found with at least three levels of dominance and tissue-specific codominance. Evidence for *S* gene modifiers that increase selfing and/or cross-compatibility was also found. These empirical findings are discussed in the context of theoretical predictions for maintenance of *S* allele dominance interactions, and the role of modifier loci in the evolution of SI.

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Introduction

Understanding mechanisms of self-incompatibility (SI), where self- or self-related pollen is recognized and specifically inhibited by the female pistil, is key to understanding the mating behaviour of many flowering plants (Hiscock and McInnis, 2003). Most SI systems typically have simple genetic control based on a single multi-allelic locus (*S*). The *S* locus usually consists of one pistil-expressed *S* gene (female determinant) and one pollen-expressed *S* gene (male determinant) that form a non-recombining *S* haplotype (hereafter referred to as an ‘*S* allele’). Pistil and pollen products from the same *S* allele recognize each other and interact specifically to initiate the pollen inhibition response that prevents fertilization (Hiscock and McInnis, 2003). Polymorphism at the *S* locus is maintained by strong negative frequency-dependent selection, which favours new or rare *S* alleles because they are compatible with a greater proportion of the potential mates in a population (Schierup, 1998).

Self-incompatibility systems fall into two major classes: gametophytic self-incompatibility (GSI), in

which the *S* phenotype of the pollen (male gametophyte) is determined by its own haploid *S* genotype, and sporophytic self-incompatibility (SSI), in which the pollen *S* phenotype is determined by the diploid *S* genotype of its parent plant (sporophyte) (Hiscock and McInnis, 2003). A major consequence of this difference in pollen expression is that GSI requires strict codominance between *S* alleles in the pistil to prevent heterozygous individuals being compatible with half their own (self) pollen. No such constraints apply to SSI in which complex *S* allele dominance interactions are possible in both pollen and pistil, thereby introducing an additional level of mating system complexity relative to GSI (Schierup *et al.*, 1997). Within SSI systems, different kind of dominance interactions are possible, including complete dominance and tissue-specific dominance, and *S* alleles can often be ranked into a dominance hierarchy consisting of dominance classes of *S* alleles with codominant interactions between alleles within the group and dominance interactions between alleles from different groups (for example, Ockendon, 1974; Koyama *et al.*, 1994; Mehlenbacher, 1997; Glemin *et al.*, 2005). *S* alleles that are frequently recessive in *S* allele interactions (hereafter referred to as recessive *S* alleles) are subject to less intense negative frequency-dependent selection than dominant or codominant *S* alleles leading to a ‘recessive effect’ whereby recessive *S* alleles are more frequent within populations than more dominant *S* alleles (Sampson, 1974; Schierup, 1998;

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Billiard *et al.*, 2007). There are many other subtle consequences of asymmetric negative frequency-dependent selection on *S* alleles with differing dominance interactions including: increased effective migration rate between populations, shorter long-term evolutionary persistence and greater linked genetic load for dominant alleles relative to more recessive alleles (Schierup *et al.*, 1997; Stone, 2004; Billiard *et al.*, 2007).

It appears that the different SSI systems for which *S* allele dominance interactions have been studied are subject to different functional constraints regarding possible *S* allele dominance interactions. For example, in the well-studied *Brassica* (Brassicaceae) SSI system, *S* allele dominance in the pistil appears to be limited to two or three dominance levels, whereas in pollen, there are multiple dominance levels (Ockendon, 1974; Glemin *et al.*, 2005). In contrast many largely coincident dominance levels have been observed for both pollen and pistil *S* alleles in other SSI systems within the Brassicaceae and other plant families such as the Convolvulaceae and Betulaceae (Kowyama *et al.*, 1994; Mehlenbacher, 1997; Prigoda *et al.*, 2005; Schierup *et al.*, 2006). These differences may be a consequence of different molecular mechanisms of SSI in these groups of plants (Hiscock and McInnis, 2003). The various *S* allele dominance characteristics of different SSI systems are important to consider because theoretical models reveal that *S* allele dominance has a large effect on mating dynamics and the evolution of SSI systems (Schierup *et al.*, 1997; Uyenoyama, 2000; Billiard *et al.*, 2007).

Recently, insights into the mechanism of *S* allele dominance have begun to emerge from studies in the Brassicaceae. Surprisingly, *S* allele dominance appears to be regulated differently in pistil and in pollen. In pollen, *S* allele dominance is controlled at the transcription (mRNA) level (Shiba *et al.*, 2002), whereas in the pistil it is controlled at the post-transcriptional (protein) level (Hatakeyama *et al.*, 2001). This goes some way to explaining the tissue-specific differences in dominance classes apparent for *Brassica* SSI and suggests that transcriptional regulation of pollen *S* allele dominance could facilitate switches between *S* allele dominance classes. Currently, little is known about the mechanism of control of *S* allele dominance in other independent SSI systems. It is possible that, where constraints permit, *S* allele dominance interactions can respond rapidly to selection so as to optimize SSI-mediated reproduction. For example, evolution towards increasing *S* allele dominance is predicted under certain conditions (Schierup *et al.*, 1997; Vekemans *et al.*, 1998; Pannell *et al.*, 2005) and a possible association has been noted between the frequency of *S* allele dominance interactions and total *S* allele number based on studies of SSI in wild populations (Brennan *et al.*, 2003).

Despite the deceptively simple genetics of SI systems, based on control by one or a few *S* loci, it is becoming increasingly apparent from studies of natural populations that multiple other loci contribute to the regulation and expression of SI, such that SI is perhaps better viewed as a quantitative rather than a qualitative trait (Levin, 1996; Vogler and Kalisz, 2001; Goodwillie *et al.*, 2005). In general, it seems that *S*-modifier loci are maintained as part of SI systems when they contribute to the regulation of outcrossing or compensate for

conditions where the reproductive costs of full SI are high (Vallejo-Marín and Uyenoyama, 2004; Harder *et al.*, 2007; Busch and Schoen, 2008).

For SI to persist, the overall reproductive benefits of enforcing outcrossing must outweigh the substantial cost of rejecting otherwise viable pollen, termed 'reproductive compensation' (Harder *et al.*, 2007). Avoidance of inbreeding depression in the presence of a considerable accumulated genetic load is considered to be a major force for the maintenance of SI (Vallejo-Marín and Uyenoyama, 2004; Porcher and Lande, 2005). However, the relationship is not a simple one because genetic load is also itself responsive to selection and co-evolves with mating system (Latta, 1994; Glemin *et al.*, 2001). Ecological factors such as pollination biology, dispersal and number of reproductive opportunities also affect reproductive assurance, and are extremely important for the maintenance and evolution of SI systems, because they influence the selective advantage of outcrossing versus selfing (Harder *et al.*, 2007; Busch and Schoen, 2008; Johnston *et al.*, 2009). Against this background of interacting factors that introduce shifting costs and benefits of outcrossing, it is perhaps no surprise that loci that influence SI expression and cause limited selfing (hereafter referred to as '*S* modifiers') appear to be an extremely common feature of SI systems (Levin, 1996).

A common quantitative feature of SI systems is pseudo-self-compatibility (PSC), in which genetic and environmental factors cause variation in the strength of SI leading to low levels of self-fertilization but with seed set levels typically less than fully compatible cross-pollinations (Levin, 1996). Loci responsible for PSC can have subtle and probably adaptive influences on SI expression, such as delayed acceptance of self-pollen in the absence of suitable cross-pollen—a form of intra-floral reproductive assurance (Vogler and Stephenson, 2001).

Modifiers of SI can also have distinct influences on SI expression in addition to relaxing the strength of the SI response and permitting some selfing. In particular, *S* modifiers that alter cross-compatibility interactions without altering the selfing rate are noteworthy. The *G* locus, observed to be acting subordinately to the *S* locus, as part of the SSI system of many Brassicaceae species is the best studied example of this class of *S* modifiers (Lewis *et al.*, 1988; Zuberi and Lewis, 1988; Lewis, 1994). Alleles at the *G* locus function to permit compatible crosses between individuals with the same *S* allele that should otherwise be incompatible. This effect is only detectable in a subset of cross-interactions because compatible crosses based on *S* genotypes take precedence over *G* genotypes. The overall effect of the *G* locus is to increase cross-compatibility over and above that expected for *S* locus interactions alone. The *G* locus, in contrast to the *S* locus, appears to be under gametophytic control in pollen, leading to the suggestion that it represents the remnants of an ancestral GSI system in Brassicaceae that has largely been replaced by SSI (Lewis, 1994). Based on phylogenetic analyses of the distribution of SI systems, this evolutionary trajectory from GSI to SSI is likely to have occurred on multiple occasions during the radiation of angiosperms (Igic and Kohn, 2001).

Senecio squalidus is an important model for the study of SSI in the Asteraceae and mating system evolution more generally because its recent population history has been

well documented and includes extreme population events that are likely to have had an impact on the behaviour of its SSI mating system. *S. squalidus* was introduced to Britain from Mount Etna (Sicily) about 300 years ago where it established itself in Oxford and eventually colonized most urban areas in Britain (James and Abbott, 2005). In contrast to predictions that an extreme population bottleneck and subsequent invasion should favour the breakdown of SI in favour of uniparental reproduction (Pannell and Barrett, 1998), *S. squalidus* shows a strong SSI system (Hiscock, 2000; Brennan *et al.*, 2005). Nevertheless, the SSI system of *S. squalidus* does show features consistent with a recent population bottleneck, such as relatively few *S* alleles compared with other wild SSI species, a high frequency of *S* allele dominance interactions and some selfing due to the presence of PSC (Hiscock, 2000; Brennan *et al.*, 2002, 2005, 2006). Both *S* allele dominance and PSC increase cross-compatibility for a given number of *S* alleles and have been proposed as a means by which the SSI system of invasive *S. squalidus* escapes the constraints of limited *S* allele number (Brennan *et al.*, 2002, 2003, 2006). Here we investigate the genetic regulation of the SSI system of *S. squalidus* in greater detail by characterizing *S* allele dominance interactions more completely and exploring the expression and inheritance of partial selfing (PSC). We show that regulation of the SSI system of *S. squalidus* is complex with *S* alleles showing at least three levels of dominance and tissue-specific codominance. We also find evidence for *S* modifiers that increase rates of selfing and cross-compatibility between individuals. We discuss these findings in the context of recent theoretical models of the patterns and maintenance of *S* allele dominance interactions and the role of *S*-modifier loci in SSI.

Materials and methods

Plant material

Progeny arrays were generated by performing controlled crosses between parental plants of known *S* phenotype (that is, with one dominant *S* allele identified) or known *S* genotype (that is, both *S* alleles identified) based on the results of previous controlled crossing experiments (Hiscock, 2000; Brennan *et al.*, 2002). Plants of known *S* phenotype included five individuals sampled directly from a wild Oxford population and assigned five different *S* phenotypes based on diallel crossing studies (Brennan *et al.*, 2002). These Ox individuals and their *S* phenotypes were Ox2 = S_2 ; Ox4 = S_3 ; Ox22 = S_4 ; Ox27 = S_4S_5 (*S* genotype = S_4S_5) and Ox19 = S_6 (here referred to as; O2, O4, O22, O27 and O19 respectively). Other individuals with known homozygous *S* genotype; OS-Bill-4, and A34-4-23 (here referred to as B4 and A23 respectively) were previously identified from controlled crossing studies of selfed progenies derived from individuals originally sampled from a different wild Oxford population (Hiscock, 2000). Crosses were therefore performed to cross-classify *S* alleles identified in the two studies and cross-classified *S* alleles then followed the nomenclature of Brennan *et al.* (2002). Thus the genotypes of B4 and A23 were identified as S_1S_1 and S_6S_6 , respectively. The first set of progenies was derived from controlled crosses between B4 and each of O2, O4,

O22, O27 and O19. A second set of controlled cross progenies was derived from backcrosses between B4 × O19 progeny and one or both of their B4 and O19 parents. For each cross, there were only two to three parental *S* alleles that produce a limited number of possible progeny *S* phenotypes from which to deduce parental *S* genotypes and dominance interactions. A third set of progeny arrays consisting entirely of S_1 or S_6 homozygous individuals were generated from controlled selfing of B4 and A23 individuals respectively. The *S* homozygous selfed progeny diallels contained only a single *S* allele and so permitted observation of the behaviour of *S*-modifier loci. Forced-selfing was performed according to Hiscock (2000) by applying selfing solution (1% salt, 0.1% Tween) to stigmas of bagged capitula with a fine brush, leaving to air-dry, then applying self-pollen from another capitulum from the same individual and re-bagging selfed capitula. Typically, 1–10 force-selfed fruits per capitulum are produced with this method so several capitula were force-selfed to obtain sufficient selfed fruits (Hiscock, 2000). Plants were grown from seed in a glasshouse in 10 cm or larger pots of loam-based compost with artificial lighting to achieve 16 h day length.

Controlled crossing experiments

Controlled self- and cross-pollinations, and classification of compatibility, based on fruit set, were performed as previously described in Hiscock (2000) and Brennan *et al.* (2002, 2006). Unless stated otherwise, crosses were progeny backcrosses to parents. In short, plants were prepared for crossing experiments by bagging branches bearing developing flower buds. The strength of SI was tested by counting the self-fruit set of at least six bagged flowering heads (capitula). Self-pollination was enhanced by occasional agitation of bagged capitula. SI was relied upon to prevent self-fruit set because emasculation of the many tiny florets of *S. squalidus* before crossing is impractical. A small number of individuals exhibited PSC producing a small number of self-fruits due to the presence of *S* modifiers but compatible crosses could often still be identified among these PSC individuals because of their typically higher fruit-set. For controlled reciprocal cross-pollinations, capitula with open florets were gently brushed together and then individually bagged to prevent contamination with rogue pollen and to collect any resultant fruits as they ripened. Compatibility of crosses was classified by mean fruit-set per capitulum (fruit-set values) according to Brennan *et al.* (2002), that is, incompatible for values 0–2, indeterminate for values >2–10 and compatible for values >10.

Incompatible backcrosses were interpreted as equivalent *S* phenotypes and compatible backcrosses as different *S* phenotypes. The compatibility and *S* phenotypes of sample individuals were determined independently for each individual behaving as maternal or paternal parent to identify tissue-specific *S* allele expression. Dominance interactions between *S* alleles were identified by comparing the observed *S* phenotypes with the limited number of expected *S* genotypes for each cross progeny array. These progenies consisted of two identified *S* alleles; S_1 from B4 and a dominant *S* allele (S_{dom}) from the Ox parent (O2, O4, O22, O27 or O19) and

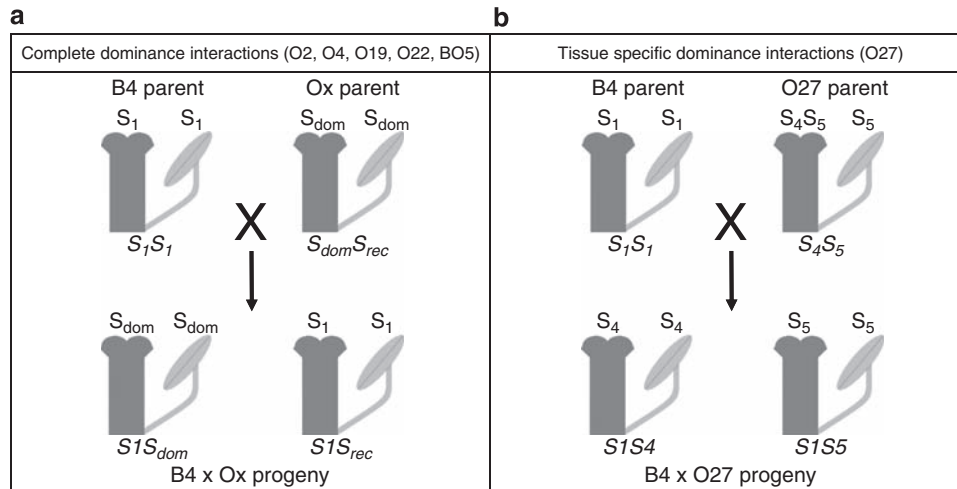


Figure 1 Parent–progeny crossing scheme used to test *S* allele dominance interactions in the B4 × Ox progeny lines. Individuals' *S* genotypes are placed below their respective 'flower' (pistil and stamen) images, whereas individuals' pistil and pollen *S* phenotypes are placed above their respective pistil and stamen images. The *S* phenotypes of each progeny were determined by testing compatibility of backcrosses with B4 and their respective O (Ox) parents; the majority of *S* phenotypes were explained by the *S* genotypes and dominance relationships described in the figure. Some progenies from the B4 × O19 cross were also either weakly self-compatible or compatible for both parental backcrosses. (a) Progenies where the first parent, B4, had an $S_1 S_1$ genotype (OS-Bill-4, Hiscock, 2000) and the other parent had an $S_{dom} S_{rec}$ genotype (O2, O4, O22 or O19; Brennan *et al.*, 2002), where the S_{dom} allele had previously been identified as S_2 , S_3 , S_4 or S_6 respectively. (b) A progeny where the first parent was B4 and the other parent had $S_4 S_5$ genotype where S_5 was dominant over S_4 in pollen only (O27, Brennan *et al.*, 2002).

one unidentified *S* allele from the Ox parent that could be either S_1 , S_{dom} or an unidentified recessive allele (S_{rec}) (Figure 1). In the case of three parental *S* alleles, dominance interactions were limited to one of $S_{dom} > S_{rec} > S_1$; $S_{dom} > S_1 > S_{rec}$; or $S_1 > S_{dom} > S_{rec}$ or $S_1 = S_{dom} > S_{rec}$, so there were a limited number of possible progeny *S* phenotypes from which to deduce parental *S* genotypes and dominance interactions (Figure 1). An overall dominance hierarchy between all *S* alleles was constructed by grouping *S* alleles into the minimum number of dominance levels necessary to explain the cross-incompatibility results from all backcross progenies. The dominance hierarchy was constructed independently for *S* allele dominance interactions identified in pistil or pollen so as to account for tissue-specific dominance interactions.

Cross-compatibility results for the B4 × O19 progeny array in particular were difficult to interpret under a single-locus model of *S* allele dominance interactions. Thus, the dominance relationships of the *S* alleles involved in this cross and the genetics of potential modifier loci were investigated further by growing up and performing parental and diallel crosses on progeny arrays consisting of second-generation B4O19 progeny back crossed with one or both B4 and O19 parents (Figure 2) and third-generation selfed B4 and A23 selfed lines.

Results

The majority of *S* phenotypes for four out of five progeny arrays derived from B4 × Ox crosses could be explained by simple models of *S* allele dominance interactions (Figures 1 and 3; Table 1). Progeny arrays derived from B4 × Ox crosses with *S* phenotypes of S_2 , S_3 and S_4 (B4 crossed with O2, O4, and O22 respectively) all consisted of S_1 and parental *S* phenotypes indicating that

the S_2 , S_3 and S_4 alleles interact dominantly with S_1 . Furthermore, novel *S* phenotypes were largely absent from these progeny arrays indicating that the Ox parents were either homozygous for their respective *S* alleles or were heterozygous for an additional recessive *S* allele that was either S_1 or recessive to S_1 (Figures 1 and 3; Table 1). The observed *S* phenotypes of the B4 × O27 progeny array could be explained by S_1 interacting recessively with S_4 and S_5 , a pistil-specific codominance interaction between S_4 and S_5 , and S_4 interacting recessively with S_5 in pollen (Figures 1b and 3; Table 1). A minority of progeny individuals from these crosses showed additional *S* phenotypes that could not be explained by these *S* allele dominance interactions (Table 1; Figure 3). These *S* phenotypes were probably the result of occasional cross failures in the case of incompatibility with both parents ($S_1 S_{dom}$ phenotypes, Table 1) as has been observed in previous *S. squalidus* crossing studies (for example, Brennan *et al.*, 2006). Other progeny *S* phenotypes that were compatible with both parents, particularly the *S* phenotypes of the B4 × O19 progeny array and B4O19 backcross arrays, were more difficult to interpret as part of a single-locus SSI model with fixed *S* allele dominance interactions (S_{rec} phenotypes, Tables 1 and 2; Figures 2 and 4). This was because all B4 × O19 progenies were either S_1 or a new unidentified *S* phenotype, whereas the S_6 phenotype class should be present in at least half of the progenies given the dominant S_6 phenotype of the O19 parent (Figure 3). Nonetheless, the subsequent re-appearance and frequent occurrence of S_6 phenotypes among the BO5 × O19, BO8 × O19 and BO8 × B4 backcross progenies suggested that S_6 interacts dominantly with S_1 (Table 2; Figures 2 and 4).

The resulting *S* allele dominance hierarchy constructed from the combined results from all progenies indicates that for the six *S* alleles identified in the Oxford

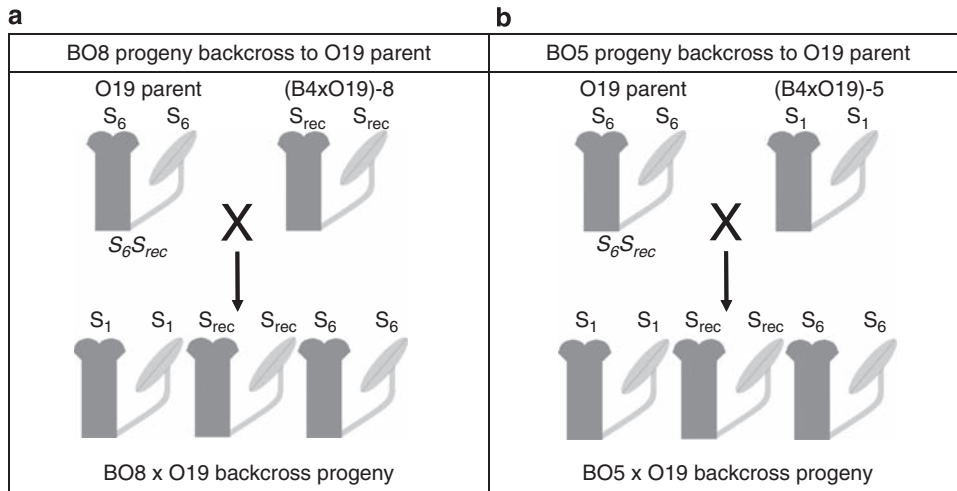


Figure 2 Parent–progeny backcrossing scheme to test S allele dominance interactions in the B4 × O19 backcrossed to O19 progeny lines. The S genotypes and S phenotype labels follow the same scheme as Figure 1. The S genotypes below the pistil and stamen images have been omitted where crossing results did not permit conclusive identification. (a) A progeny where the first parent was O19 with an S_6S_{rec} genotype and the second parent was a B4 × O19 progeny individual, (B4 × O19)-8, that was compatible with both parents. (b) A progeny where the first parent was O19 and the second parent was (B4 × O19)-5 that was compatible with the O19 parent but not the B4 parent.

Parent	O2	B4	O4	B4	O22	B4	O27	B4	O19	B4										
Geno.	S_2S_{rec}	S_1S_1	S_3S_{rec}	S_1S_1	S_4S_{rec}	S_1S_1	S_5S_4	S_1S_1	S_6S_{rec}	S_1S_1										
Prog. (mat)	Self	O2 (pat)	B4 (pat)	S	Self	O4 (pat)	B4 (pat)	S	Self	O22 (pat)	B4 (pat)	S	Self	O27 (pat)	B4 (pat)	S	Self	O19 (pat)	B4 (pat)	S
1	-	-	+	S_2	-	+	-	S_1	-	-	+	S_4	-	-	+	S_5	-	+	+/-	$S_{rec}?$
2	-	-	+	S_2	-	+	-	S_1	-	+	+/-	$S_1?$	-	+	+	S_{rec}	+/-	+	+	S_{rec}
3	-	-	+	S_2	-	+	-	S_1	-	+	-	S_1	-	-	+/-	$S_1S_5?$	-	+	-	S_1
4	-	+	-	S_1	-	+	+	S_{rec}	-	+	-	S_1	-	+	+/-	$S_{rec}?$	+/-	+/-	+	$S_{rec}?$
5	-	+	-	S_1	-	-	+	S_3	-	+	+	$S_1?$	-	+	+	S_{rec}	-	+	-	S_1
6	-	-	-	S_1S_2	-	+	-	S_1	-	+	-	S_1	-	+	+	S_{rec}	-	+	-	S_1
7	-	+	-	S_1	-	-	+	S_3	-	+	-	S_1	-	-	+	S_5	-	+	+	S_{rec}
8	-	-	+	S_2	-	-	+	S_3	-	-	+	S_4	-	-	+	S_5	-	+	+	S_{rec}
9	-	-	+	S_2	-	-	+	S_3	-	+	+	S_4	-	+	+	S_{rec}	-	+	+/-	$S_{rec}?$
10	-	+	+/-	$S_1?$	-	-	+	S_3	-	+	+	$S_4?$	-	+	+	S_5	+/-	+	+	S_{rec}
11	-	+	-	S_1	-	+	+/-	$S_1?$	-	-	+	S_4	-	+	+	$S_{rec}?$	-	+	+	S_1
12	-	+	+	S_{rec}	-	-	+	S_3	-	-	+	S_4	-	+	+	S_{rec}	-	+	+/-	$S_{rec}?$
Prog. (pat)	O2 (mat)	B4 (mat)	S	O4 (mat)	B4 (mat)	S	O22 (mat)	B4 (mat)	S	O27 (mat)	B4 (mat)	S	O19 (mat)	B4 (mat)	S					
1	-	+	S_2	+	+/-	$S_1?$	-	+	S_4	-	+	S_4S_5	+	+/-	$S_{rec}?$					
2	-	+	S_2	+/-	-	$S_1?$	+	-	S_1	+/-	+	$S_3S_5?$	+	+	S_{rec}					
3	-	+	S_2	+	-	S_1	+	-	S_1	+/-	-	$S_1S_5?$	+	-	S_1					
4	+	-	S_1	+	+	S_{rec}	+	-	S_1	-	+/-	$S_4S_5?$	+	+	S_{rec}					
5	+	-	S_1	-	+	S_3	+	-	S_1	-	+	S_4S_5	+	-	S_1					
6	-	-	S_1S_2	+	-	S_1	+	-	S_1	+	+	S_{rec}	+	-	S_1					
7	+	-	S_1	-	+	S_3	+	-	S_1	-	+	S_4S_5	-	-	S_1S_6					
8	-	+/-	$S_2?$	-	+	S_3	+/-	+	$S_4?$	-	+	S_4S_5	+	+	S_{rec}					
9	-	+	S_2	-	+	S_3	+/-	+	$S_4?$	-	+	S_4S_5	-	-	S_1S_6					
10	+	-	S_1	-	+	S_3	-	+	S_4	-	+	S_4S_5	+/-	+	$S_{rec}?$					
11	+	-	S_1	+	-	S_1	+/-	+	$S_4?$	+/-	+	$S_4S_5?$	+	+	S_1					
12	+	+	S_{rec}	-	+	S_3	-	+	S_4	+	+	S_{rec}	+	+	S_{rec}					

Figure 3 Self-incompatibility tests and backcross compatibility results for five *Senecio squalidus* progenies derived from a cross between an S_1S_1 genotype (B4) and individuals with S phenotypes representing five additional S alleles from an Oxford population (see legend to Figure 1). The top two rows list parental individuals and their genotypes for each cross. Genotypes marked ' S_{rec} ' indicate an unidentified S allele that is either recessive or equivalent to the other expressed allele in that individual. The boxed symbols are semi-diallels of cross results for backcrosses between progeny and parental individuals. Progenies are listed down the rows and selfings and parents are listed above their diallel cross results. Crosses with individuals acting as maternal and paternal are indicated by '(mat)' and '(pat)' respectively. Reciprocal cross results are placed in equivalent positions in the top and bottom rows of diallels for ease of comparison. Dark grey-shaded negatives indicate incompatible crosses with less than two fruits. Non-shaded pluses indicate compatible crosses with more than 10 fruits. Pale grey-shaded pluses and negatives indicate indeterminate crosses with 2–10 fruits. Observed progeny S phenotypes are listed to the right of the diallels in the columns labelled 'S'. Uncertain progeny S phenotypes that included indeterminate crosses are marked with '?'; the S phenotype decision for these progenies was made to coincide with the reciprocal maternal or paternal cross result or to minimize the number of different S phenotypes in the progeny array.

Table 1 Observed S phenotype frequencies for five *S. squalidus* progenies derived from a cross between an S_1S_1 genotype (B4) and individuals with S phenotypes representing five additional S alleles from an Oxford population

Progeny maternal S phenotype	Progeny paternal S phenotype	Parents, (genotypes), allele dominance				
		B4 O2 (S_1S_1) (S_2S_{rec}) dom = S_2	B4 O4 (S_1S_1) (S_3S_{rec}) dom = S_3	B4 O22 (S_1S_1) (S_4S_{rec}) dom = S_4	B4 O27 (S_1S_1) (S_5S_4) dom = S_5 rec = S_4	B4 O19 (S_1S_1) (S_6S_{rec}) dom = S_6
S1	S1	5	5	6	0	4
dom	dom	5	6	6	4	0
rec	rec	1	1	0	2	6
rec	dom	0	0	0	5	0
S1dom	S1dom	1	0	0	1	0
rec	S1dom	0	0	0	0	2

Except where stated otherwise, 'rec' indicates an S phenotype that is different from both parental S phenotypes and that has not been cross-classified against other S alleles. Pale grey shaded frequencies signify the most common pair of S phenotypes observed for each progeny array.

Table 2 Observed S phenotype frequencies for three *S. squalidus* progenies derived from backcrosses between a novel S phenotype B4 × O19 progeny (BO8) and its B4 and O19 parents and an S_1 phenotype B4 × O19 progeny (BO5) and its O19 parent

Progeny maternal S phenotype	Progeny paternal S phenotype	Parents, (genotypes), allele dominance		
		B4 BO8 (S_1S_1) (S_1S_6)	O19 BO8 (S_6S_{rec}) (S_1S_6)	O19 BO5 (S_6S_{rec}) (S_1S_{rec})
S1	S1	6	3	2
S6	S6	3	3	1
rec	rec	0	2	5
S1	rec	0	0	2
S6	rec	0	0	1
rec	S1	0	1	0
S1S6	S1S6	0	1	1
S6	S1S6	0	2	0

In each case, 'rec' indicates an unidentified S phenotype that is different from both parental S phenotypes and that has not been cross-classified against other S alleles. Pale grey shaded frequencies signify the most common two or three S phenotypes observed for each progeny array.

S. squalidus population, there are at least two dominance levels for alleles interacting in pistils and at least three dominance levels for alleles interacting in pollen (Figure 5). This dominance hierarchy represents a minimum estimate of the number of dominance classes for these S alleles, because some S alleles were conservatively grouped into the same dominance classes without having confirmed all S allele codominance interactions within that class and because additional recessive alleles that could form part of the S genotype of Ox parents that were not expressed in progeny were excluded (O2, O4, O22; Table 1; Figures 1 and 3). The pistil and pollen S allele dominance hierarchies were identical for most S alleles with the exception of an additional dominance level required to explain the pollen-specific dominance interaction observed between S_4 and S_5 . Most dominance levels were represented by a single S allele, with the exception of the most dominant S allele dominance class assuming that this dominance class would not be broken up further by testing additional S allele dominance interactions within the class.

In addition to elucidating S allele dominance interactions in the Oxford *S. squalidus* population, the progeny array crossing experiments generated multiple lines of evidence for unlinked S-modifier alleles in some progeny lines. First, three of the twelve B4 × O19 progenies and the BO5 × O19 backcross progeny showed intermediate self-fruit set levels compared with the strongly expressed

SI of all of test individuals. Second, the B4 × O19 progeny and the BO5 × O19 and BO8 × O19 backcross progenies consisted of compatible S phenotypes that could not be explained by a simple single-locus SSI model with S allele dominance interactions (Table 2; Figures 2 and 4). The B4 × O19 progeny consisted of S phenotypes compatible with both parental S phenotypes (S_{rec} in Table 1; Figure 1). This contradicts single-locus SSI model expectations because S_6 is dominant over the second recessive S allele (S_{rec}) in the O19 parent but is more recessive than S_1 relative to the S_{rec} allele in the B4 × O19 progeny. Furthermore, under a single-locus SSI model, the B4O19.8 individual that was compatible with both parents would have had an S_1S_{rec} genotype but the B4O19.8 × B4 backcross progeny nonetheless contained S_6 phenotypes (Table 2; Figures 2b and 4). The remaining two B4O19 backcross progenies also contained more than two S phenotypes that were poorly explained by a single-locus SSI model (Table 2; Figures 2 and 4). Finally, a crossing diallel between individuals from a forced-selfing of the A23 S_6 individual revealed frequent cross-compatibilities between progeny individuals when no cross-compatibility was expected among such individuals because all were homozygous for the S_6 allele (Figure 6). Compatibility phenotypes within this array were complex and could not be grouped effectively, suggesting multi-locus control of cross-compatibility and segregation of allelic variants at these loci despite the inbred origin of the individuals. In each crossing

Parent	BO8	B4				BO8	O19				BO5	O19			
Geno.	S_1S_6	S_1S_1				S_1S_6	S_6S_{rec}				S_1S_{rec}	S_6S_{rec}			
Prog. (mat)	Self	O19 (pat)	B4 (pat)	BO8 (pat)	S	Self	O19 (pat)	B4 (pat)	BO8 (pat)	S	Self	O19 (pat)	B4 (pat)	BO5 (pat)	S
1	-	+	-	+	S_1	-	+/-	+/-	-	$S_{rec?}$	-	+	-	-	S_1
2	-	+	-	+/-	$S_1?$	-	+	-	-	S_1	-	-	+	+	S_6
3	-	+	-	+	S_1	-	+/-	+	-	$S_6?$	-	+	+	+/-	$S_{rec?}$
4	-	+	-	+	S_1	-	-	+	-	S_6	-	+	-	-	S_1
5	-	+	-	+	S_1	-	+	-	+	S_1	-	+	+	+	S_{rec}
6	-	-	+	-	S_6	-	+	+	-	$S_{rec?}$	-	-	-	-	S_1S_6
7	-	-	+	-	S_6	-	+/-	-	+	$S_1?$	-	+/-	+	+	$S_{rec?}$
8	-	-	+	-	S_6	-	+/-	+	-	$S_6?$	-	+	-	-	S_1
9	-	+	-	-	$S_1?$	-	+/-	+	-	$S_6?$	-	-	+	+	S_6
10						-	+	+	+	S_{rec}	-	+	-	-	S_1
11						-	-	+	+/-	$S_6?$	+/-	+	+/-	+/-	$S_{rec?}$
12						-	-	-	-	S_1S_6	-	+/-	+	+	$S_{rec?}$
Prog. (pat)	O19 (mat)			S	OS _{1,9} (mat)			S	OS _{1,9} (mat)			S			
	B4 (mat)	BO8 (mat)			B4 (mat)	BO8 (mat)			B4 (mat)	BO5 (mat)					
1	+	-	+	S_1	+	+	-	$S_{rec?}$	+	-	-	S_1			
2	+	-	+	S_1	+	-	+	S_1	+/-	+	+	$S_6?$			
3	+	-	+	S_1	-	+	-	S_6	+	+	+	S_{rec}			
4	+	-	+	S_1	+/-	-	-	S_1S_6	+	+/-	+/-	$S_1?$			
5	+	-	+	S_1	+	-	+	S_1	+/-	+/-	+	$S_{rec?}$			
6	-	+	-	S_6	+	-	-	$S_1?$	-	-	+/-	S_1S_6			
7	-	+	-	S_6	+	-	+	S_1	+	+	+	S_{rec}			
8	+/-	+	-	$S_6?$	-	+	+/-	$S_6?$	+	+	+	S_{rec}			
9	+	-	+/-	$S_1?$	-	-	-	S_1S_6	+/-	+/-	+	$S_{rec?}$			
10					+	+	+/-	$S_{rec?}$	+	+	+/-	$S_{rec?}$			
11					-	+	+/-	$S_6?$	+	+	+	S_{rec}			
12					-	-	-	S_1S_6	+	+	+	S_{rec}			

Figure 4 Self-incompatibility tests and backcross compatibility results for three *Senecio squalidus* progenies derived from backcrosses between a recessive S phenotype B4 × O19 progeny (BO8) and its B4 and O19 parents and an S_1 phenotype B4 × O19 progeny (BO5) and its O19 parent. The S genotypes of BO8 and BO5 were subsequently identified as S_1S_6 and S_1S_{rec} , on the basis of these backcross results respectively. Labels and diallels follow the same scheme as Figure 3.

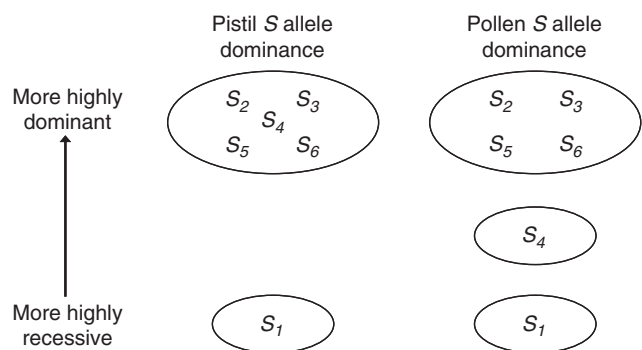


Figure 5 Dominance hierarchy of S alleles observed in *S. squalidus* progenies. S alleles have been placed into circled dominance classes on the basis of observed dominance interactions in progeny array crossing experiments. Different S alleles were placed within the same S allele class and assumed to be codominant when the S alleles showed equivalent dominance interactions with S alleles in other dominance classes.

experiment, the anomalous cross-compatibilities could not be simply attributed to a weakening in the strength of expression of SI because most of these individuals remained strongly SI.

Discussion

S allele dominance interactions

This analysis of S allele dominance interactions in *S. squalidus* revealed an SSI system of considerable complexity in terms of dominance interactions despite the small number of S alleles. Among the six S alleles present in the Oxford *S. squalidus* population, at least two S allele dominance classes were observed for S allele interactions in pistil and at least three dominance classes were observed for S alleles in pollen (Figure 5). Asymmetry in pollen–pistil S allele interactions was also confirmed to be a feature of this small set of S alleles, where S_4 and S_5 interact codominantly in pistil but S_5 is

a

B4	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	+/-	-	-	-	+/-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	+/-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+/-	-	-
6	+/-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	-	-	-	+/-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+/-	-	-
13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

b

A23	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	-
2	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	+/-	+/-	-	+/-	-	+
3	-	+/-	-	-	-	+/-	+	-	-	+/-	-	+/-	-
4	-	-	-	-	+	-	+/-	+	+	-	-	-	-
5	-	+/-	-	+/-	-	-	-	+/-	+	-	-	-	-
6	+/-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+/-	-	-	-	+/-	+/-
7	-	+	+	-	+/-	+/-	-	+/-	+	+	+/-	+	+/-
8	+	+/-	-	+/-	-	+	-	-	+/-	-	-	-	-
9	-	+/-	-	+/-	+/-	-	-	+/-	-	+	+	-	+/-
10	-	-	+/-	-	-	-	+/-	-	+	-	-	-	-
11	+/-	+/-	-	-	+/-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
12	-	-	+	-	-	+/-	+	+/-	-	-	-	-	-
13	-	+/-	-	+/-	-	-	-	+/-	+/-	-	-	+/-	-

Figure 6 Mating table diallels for two third-generation selfed progeny arrays derived from S_1S_1 genotype (B4, panel a) and an S_6S_6 genotype (A23; panel b) individuals with different genetic backgrounds and self-incompatibility (SI) modifier expression. Plants are identified on the first row and column of the diallels. Maternal individuals are listed down the rows whereas paternal individuals are listed along the columns. Missing cross results are shaded dark grey. Symbols and shading of all other cross results are as described in Figure 3.

dominant to S_4 in pollen (Table 1; Figures 1 and 3). Thus, the SSI system of invasive *S. squalidus* preserves important S allele features of multiple dominance classes and tissue-specific dominance interactions characteristic of SSI in other wild species.

The number of S allele dominance classes was conservatively evaluated by grouping some S alleles together into the most dominant class in the absence of direct genotype interaction data from progeny crosses. This method of grouping assumes that codominant interactions are the rule between S alleles sharing the same dominance class. There is some supporting evidence for codominant interactions between some pairs of S alleles in this dominance class. For instance, pistil-specific codominance has previously been observed between S_4 and S_6 based on diallel crosses of wild sampled individuals of an Oxford population (Brennan *et al.*, 2002). The tissue-specific dominance interaction between S_4 and S_6 is identical to that observed for S_4 and S_5 , which further supports the pollen-specific dominance class observed in this study. For another two S alleles in this dominance class, variable dominance interactions, ranging from tissue-specific codominance to full codominance, have been identified in cross diallels of samples from other populations (S_2 and S_3 , Brennan *et al.*, 2006) suggesting that dominance interactions between S alleles may not be fixed between populations and could evolve under certain selective scenarios (Billiard *et al.*, 2007). Such dominance ‘flexibility’ may be an important route to increasing mate availability when S allele diversity is low, as in small or colonizing populations (Brennan *et al.*, 2003).

Our grouping of S alleles into dominance classes indicated that the most dominant dominance class comprised the majority of S alleles, whereas the most recessive class consisted of a single S allele, S_1 , assuming no additional recessive S alleles are still to be identified (Figure 5). This observation of increasing numbers of S alleles with increasing dominance level is in accordance with both theoretical expectations (Schierup *et al.*,

1997; Schierup, 1998; Uyenoyama, 2000; Billiard *et al.*, 2007) and empirical observations (Kowiyama *et al.*, 1994; Glemin *et al.*, 2005; Prigoda *et al.*, 2005; Schierup *et al.*, 2006) for SSI systems with multiple S allele dominance classes. This difference in S allele diversity, dependant on the relative dominance level of individual S alleles, is due to stronger negative frequency-dependent selection acting upon more dominant S alleles because their S phenotypes are more frequently expressed and exposed to selection in different S genotype combinations than more recessive S alleles. In finite, subdivided populations, stronger negative frequency-dependent selection acting on the more dominant S alleles is more effective both at protecting S allele frequencies from loss through genetic drift and at promoting enhanced migration between populations because novel dominant S alleles are more likely to be expressed at low frequency than recessive S alleles (Schierup *et al.*, 1997; Schierup, 1998; Billiard *et al.*, 2007). Thus, over evolutionary time stronger negative frequency-dependent selection will lead to the accumulation and retention of more S alleles at more dominant classes relative to recessive S alleles. Under certain conditions, such as tissue-specific S allele dominance, these selective differences between S alleles at different dominance levels can lead towards the continual evolution of increasing S dominance (Schierup *et al.*, 1997).

In this study, a single S allele, S_1 , was observed to occupy the most recessive dominance class in *S. squalidus*, assuming no more recessive S alleles remain to be identified (Figure 5). Recessive S alleles are expected to reach higher equilibrium frequencies than S alleles from more dominant classes, because their presence is more often masked by dominant counterparts in different genotype combinations; a phenomenon known as the ‘recessive effect’ (Sampson, 1974). Furthermore, S alleles within a given dominance class are selectively equivalent and so reach equal frequencies within classes (isoplethy; Sampson, 1974). Therefore, in cases where more dominant classes comprise more S alleles, as observed here, the recessive effect is magnified and the difference in frequencies between

recessive and dominant *S* alleles is expected to be more extreme (Billiard *et al.*, 2007). Indeed, simulations by Billiard *et al.* (2007) predict that for a range of SSI systems approximating that found for *S. squalidus* (that is, 3–7 alleles and 2–3 dominance classes) the most recessive allele is expected to be present at high frequencies (0.41–0.67) and is often homozygous (0.15–0.41). At the level of *S* phenotypes, all *S* phenotypes are expected to be expressed equally frequently, but the most recessive *S* phenotype class will consist entirely of *S* homozygotes. Previous studies of *S* phenotype frequencies in wild samples of *S. squalidus* found that the frequencies of different *S* phenotype classes within populations tend to be largely similar (Brennan *et al.*, 2002, 2006). It would be of interest to confirm through progeny crossing experiments whether the *S*₁ phenotype class consists exclusively of *S*₁ homozygotes and whether *S*₁ is a highly frequent recessive allele present but unexpressed in other *S* phenotypes in wild *S. squalidus* populations.

Modifiers of SI expression

The crossing studies presented here also contribute to our understanding of the genetics and expression of modifiers of SI in *S. squalidus* previously described by Hiscock (2000) and Brennan *et al.* (2005). In particular, these data provide evidence for inherited *S* modifiers in the O19 and A23 progeny lines (Figures 2, 4, and 6; Tables 1 and 2). These modifiers have two distinct influences on SI expression: increased self-compatibility (B4 × O19 progeny and BO5 × O19 backcross progeny; Figure 4), and increased cross-compatibility between related individuals (B4 × O19 progeny, BO5 × O19, BO8 × O19 and BO8 × B4 backcross progenies, and A23 self progeny; Tables 1 and 2; Figures 2, 4, and 6). The interpretation of *S* allele genotypes and interactions was difficult for those progenies that expressed SI modifiers and detailed inferences about the genetics of these SI modifier phenotypes would require extensive further crossing experiments. For example, it would be interesting to investigate the *S* phenotypes of additional larger BO × O19 and BO × B4 backcross progenies to compare with the three backcross progenies presented here. Despite that the two progeny lines (O19 and A23) with *S* modifiers share the same *S* allele (*S*₆), the *S* modifier or modifiers are probably not linked to the *S*₆ allele because progeny *S* phenotypes indicate complex inheritance patterns and segregation independent of the *S* locus (Table 2; Figures 4 and 6). However, it is interesting to speculate that the absence of *S* modifiers in the B4 line that expresses the recessive *S*₁ allele could be due to reduced selection pressure to increase cross-compatibility relative to more dominant and frequently expressed *S* alleles. The complex patterns of cross-compatibility indicate that *S* modifiers confer considerable variability in SI expression, as has been observed previously for *S. squalidus*, and also frequently for other species that show a degree of mixed mating (Levin, 1996; Brennan *et al.*, 2005). However, there is clearly also a genetic component to *S* modifier expression, because anomalous compatible crossing behaviour was restricted to the O19 and A23 progeny lines, even when crosses within other progeny arrays were performed concurrently in the glasshouse.

A low frequency of selfing is frequently observed in otherwise SI and outcrossing species (reviewed by Levin, 1996; Vogler and Kalisz, 2001; Goodwillie *et al.*, 2005), and for some model SI systems, a variety of loci and mechanisms responsible for selfing have been identified (reviewed by McClure *et al.*, 2000). Although direct suppression of *S* locus genes is sometimes the causal factor of SI breakdown, empirical evidence suggests that unlinked *S*-modifier loci that generate quantitative variation in SI expression are more often the rule (McClure *et al.*, 2000). A theoretical understanding is emerging of the range of conditions under which mixed mating systems that combine SI and intermediate selfing rates are evolutionary stable (Vallejo-Marín and Uyenoyama, 2004; Porcher and Lande, 2005; Harder *et al.*, 2007; Johnston *et al.*, 2009). These conditions are the result of interplay between several factors including inbreeding depression and reproductive assurance. High levels of inbreeding depression have been observed in comparisons of fitness among cross- and self-progenies of *S. squalidus*: mean inbreeding depression coefficients ranging from 0.18 to 0.25 for different life history stages (Brennan *et al.*, 2005). Such high levels of inbreeding depression probably limit the spread of *S* modifiers that increase selfing rates. However, evidence suggests that reproductive assurance, which promotes the maintenance and spread of SI modifiers, is also an important factor affecting wild *S. squalidus* populations. Mate limitation is a feature of the SSI system of *S. squalidus* caused by the relatively few *S* alleles present in this invasive species (7–11 *S* alleles) that limits cross-compatibility (60.2–77.7%) within sample diallels (Brennan *et al.*, 2006). Mate limitation is further exacerbated by the presence of substantial pollen limitation in wild *S. squalidus* populations as measured from pollen addition experiments, which showed greater fruit-set in hand-pollinated capitula compared with open-pollinated capitula (Ludwig, Ortiz, Brennan and Hiscock, in preparation). Thus, the presence of *S* modifiers that increase self- and cross-compatibility in the presence of an otherwise strongly expressed SSI system in *S. squalidus* is probably the result of a balance between selective forces that both favour and oppose reproduction through outcrossing.

Some of the *S*-modifier behaviour identified in this study increased cross-compatibility without increasing self-compatibility. In this regard, these *S* modifiers behaved as a complementary SI system. Speculatively, this could be equivalent to the *G* locus observed to be acting subordinately to the *S* locus to increase cross-compatibility in some Brassicaceae and Asteraceae species (reviewed in Lewis, 1994). In these studies, the diallelic *G* locus was hypothesized to be the remnant of an ancestral GSI system, which had been largely replaced by the SSI system conferring more effective control of matings between relatives (Lewis *et al.*, 1988; Zuberi and Lewis, 1988; Lewis, 1994). It is also conceivable that in *S. squalidus* an SI modifier or modifiers that enhance cross-compatibility relative to single *S* locus control are currently favoured as a component of a mating system that has undergone considerable perturbations subsequent to introduction and rapid spread within the UK. The *S* and *Z* loci that control SI in the Poaceae interact in a complementary manner to increase cross-compatibility levels greatly relative to that afforded by a single *S* locus,

thereby highlighting the advantages of a two-locus system if mates are limiting (Fearon *et al.*, 1994). Phylogenetic analyses show that SI systems have evolved on numerous independent occasions (Igic and Kohn, 2001) and it also appears that SI systems can evolve at evolutionarily contemporary timescales, as indicated by the apparently recent transition from GSI to SSI within the genus *Linanthus* (Polemoniaceae; Goodwillie, 1999). The great diversity of documented SI systems indicates that selective pressure to promote outcrossing has clearly led to repeated, independent origins of SI systems and the co-option to SI of genes with different original functions (Hiscock and McInnis, 2003). From this point of view, it is important not to dismiss modifiers as simply the result of imperfect regulation of SI expression and to view regulation of selfing and outcrossing as a quantitative multi-locus trait rather than a purely qualitative single-locus trait.

Conflict of interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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