Note

A maternally inherited DNA marker, descended from Solanum demissum $(2n = 6x = 72)$ to *S. tuberosum* $(2n = 4x = 48)$

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A Mexican hexaploid wild potato species, Solanum demissum (dms), was only used as a female in previous breeding programs. The resulting clones with *dms* cytoplasm produced abundant, but non-functional pollen. A 170 bp DNA fragment, named Band 1, was originally detected in the F_1 hybrid between *dms* and S. tuberosum. In this study, the sequenced region was extended to 1,032 bp; nevertheless, it did not show any homology to known sequences. This extended region harboring Band 1 was, without introns, all transcribed to mRNA and was maternally inherited from *dms* to *S. tuberosum* through backcrosses. Three *dms* accessions, 168 accessions of 38 cultivated and closely related wild species, and 158 varieties and breeding lines were surveyed, which demonstrated that Band 1 was specific to *dms* and varieties and breeding lines with *dms* cytoplasm. Thus, Band 1 is a useful marker to distinguish *dms* cytoplasm, which enables us to design efficient mating combinations in breeding programs.

Key Words: backcrossing, cytoplasmic male sterility, DNA marker, Solanum demissum, transcribed region, unknown sequence, W/α cytoplasm.

Introduction

Solanum demissum Lindl. $(2n = 6x = 72)$ is a hexaploid wild potato species distributed in Mexico (Hawkes 1990); this species could be one of the oldest wild species used in the history of modern breeding. As early as 1906, Salaman recognized resistance to late blight in this species (Salaman 1941). Since then, S. demissum has been extensively used as a resistance source to late blight (Plaisted and Hoopes 1989, Ross 1986, Rudorf 1950). So far, 11 hypersensitive-type resistance genes have been identified and incorporated into cultivars (Ross 1986). S. demissum is highly self-fertile, yet it shows unilateral incompatibility with the common potato (S. tuberosum L., $2n = 4x = 48$). S. demissum can be easily crossed with the pollen of S. tuberosum and produces pentaploid hybrids which, as well as backcross progenies, are only crossable as female parents (Black 1943, Dionne 1961, Irikura 1968). Thus, the S. demissum cytoplasm was preferentially transmitted to the bred varieties.

Such unilateral incompatibility, or cytoplasmic male sterility, is common in potato. The common potato shares at least seven different cytoplasmic sterility factors ([ASF^s],

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[Fm^s], [In^s], [SM^s], [Sp^s], [TA^s] and [VSA^s]) that condition sterility in the presence of dominant chromosomal genes $(ASF, Fm, In, SM, Sp, TA and VSA)$ (Grun et al. 1977). The cytoplasmic genome of potato is characterized by possessing T-type chloroplast DNA (Hosaka 1986) and β-type mitochondrial DNA (Lössl et al. 1999). Although the cytoplasmic sterility factors likely reside on mitochondrial DNA (Hosaka et al. 1988, Lössl et al. 2000), β-type mitochondrial DNA so far shows complete association with T-type chloroplast DNA (hereinafter, T/β cytoplasm) (Lössl et al. 2000). The T/β cytoplasm is predominant in the common potato (Bryan et al. 1999, Hosaka and Hanneman 1988, Lössl et al. 2000, Powell et al. 1993, Provan et al. 1999, Waugh et al. 1990), so sterility problems are unavoidable when T/β cytoplasm is present. In addition to such intrinsic sterility, specific male sterility associated with cytoplasmic genome is known. Varieties carrying Ry_{sto} (a resistance gene to Potato virus Y), released mainly in Germany (Ross 1986), show male sterility caused by the association with the characteristic mitochondrial DNA derived from S. stoloniferum Schlechtd. et Bché. (W/γ cytoplasm) (Lössl et al. 2000). In these cases of T/ β and W/ γ cytoplasm, sterility is always characterized by visible abnormalities, such as no pollen, no or poor pollen-shedding, or various deformities of anthers (Grun 1979). In contrast, F_1 and backcrossed progenies carrying S. demissum cytoplasm (W/ α) produce abundant and

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normal-looking pollen, but this pollen is non-functional on S. tuberosum (Dionne 1961). According to Lössl et al. (2000), the W/ α cytoplasm occupied 40% of German varieties.

We reconfirmed the unilateral incompatibility between S. demissum and S. tuberosum; 395 berries were obtained from 488 pollinations in S. demissum $(4) \times S$. tuberosum $(\hat{\zeta})$, while in the reciprocal cross, 45 berries from 232 pollinations (Sanetomo et al. 2011). Further, we found that the hybrid from a cross S. tuberosum $(2) \times S$. demissum (3) showed higher crossability than the reciprocal hybrid: for example, the former hybrid when crossed as a male to S. demissum resulted in a significantly higher berry setting rate (64.9%) than the latter hybrid (24.2%) (Sanetomo et al. 2011). To elucidate this differential crossability, pollen DNA samples from reciprocal hybrids were compared using methylation-sensitive amplified polymorphism (MSAP) analysis. Six distinct DNA sequences were found to be different between the reciprocal hybrids (Sanetomo and Hosaka 2011).

We noticed that one of the six bands, named Band 1 in Sanetomo and Hosaka (2011), was very interesting and worthy of further investigation. We report here that the extended DNA sequence harboring Band 1 was strictly specific to S. demissum and maternally inherited to S. tuberosum, so it was a useful indicator of S. demissum cytoplasm. Although this sequence was transcribed to mRNA without an intron, it did not show any significant homology with known sequences, and the intra-cellular origin remains unknown.

Materials and Methods

Plant materials

Saikai 35 (a S. tuberosum breeding line) and 5H109-5 (S. demissum PI 186551) (referred to as T and D, respectively) were reciprocally crossed, deriving DT (D as female) and TD (T as female) F_1 populations (6H37 and 6H38 families, respectively). One TD plant (6H38-19) and one DT plant (6H37-6) were backcrossed with the pollen of Saikai 35, deriving (TD)T and (DT)T BC_1 populations (7H1 and 7H2 families), respectively. Since S. demissum is highly selfpollinated in nature and homozygous, we assumed that all seedlings derived by selfing were genetically identical to each other and to the parental clone 5H109-5, and were used as D. Saikai 35 has S/ε cytoplasm, while 5H109-5 has W/α cytoplasm.

The presence/absence of Band 1 was examined for three S. demissum accessions and 168 accessions of 38 species (Table 1), which covered all 164 different cytoplasms previously distinguished among cultivated species and wild species closely related to cultivated species, except distantly related S. pinnatisectum Dun. and S. stoloniferum (Hosaka and Sanetomo 2010). A further survey was conducted for 158 varieties and breeding lines.

Extending Band 1 sequence

The sequenced region was extended from both ends of

Band 1 using an LA PCR™ in vitro Cloning Kit (Takara Bio Inc., Japan) by the manufacturer's protocol briefly described below. Total DNA of D was extracted from fresh leaves by the method of Hosaka and Hanneman (1998), digested separately with various restriction enzymes, and ligated with appropriate adapters to the end of restriction digests. Using a pair of primers (one assigned to internal sequence of Band 1 and the other to the adapter sequence), polymerase chain reaction (PCR) was performed. If a single band was obtained, it was directly sequenced.

PCR detection of Band 1

The extended Band 1 sequence was divided into three overlapped regions, Region 1, 2 and 3, and the three primer sets were designed to amplify these regions (Table 2). PCR reaction was performed using a volume of 5 μl consisting of 1 μl template DNA (approximately $5 \text{ ng/}\mu$ l), 2.5μ l Ampdirect Plus (Shimadzu Co., Japan), 0.125 units of Taq DNA polymerase (BIOTAQ HS DNA Polymerase; Bioline Ltd., UK) and 0.3 μM primers (Table 2). Thermal cycling was performed using a Veriti 96-well thermal cycler (Applied Biosystems) (one cycle of 10 min at 95°C, followed by 35 cycles of 30 sec at 94°C, 30 sec at 60°C and 1 min at 72°C, and then terminated with one cycle of 5 min at 72°C). PCR products were separated by electrophoresis on a 1.4% agarose gel in 1× TAE buffer (40 mM Tris-acetate and 1 mM EDTA pH 8.0), stained in 2.5 μl Midori Green DNA Stain (Nippon Genetics Europe GmbH, Germany) per 100 ml of $1 \times$ TAE buffer for 30 min with gentle shaking, followed by de-staining using $1 \times$ TAE buffer for 30 min with gentle shaking. Photographic images were captured using a UV lamp.

For a wide survey of wild and cultivated potatoes, Region 2 of the extended Band 1 was amplified by the same protocol described above except that the granule-bound starch synthase I gene (GBSS) marker (Table 2) was included at 0.3μ M concentration in the reaction as a positive control to check whether the PCR was performed correctly.

Southern hybridization

Approximately 15 μg total DNA of T and D were digested with a restriction enzyme MspI, HindIII or EcoRI, and Southern-hybridized with a PCR product of Band 1 (primers shown in Table 2) as probe DNA by the method described by Hosaka and Hanneman (1998).

Transcription analysis

Fresh leaves were sampled from each of T, D, TD and DT plants, quick-frozen in liquid nitrogen and ground to powder with a mortar and a pestle. Total RNA was extracted using the RNeasy Plant Mini Kit (QIAGEN, ME, USA). To eliminate possibly contaminated genomic DNA, all RNA samples were treated for 20 min at 37°C with DNase (TURBO DNAfree; Ambion, TX, USA). RNA concentration was measured by a fluorometer (QuantiFluor-P; Promega, WI, USA) using the Quanti-iT RiboGreen RNA Assay Kit (Invitrogen).

 α Accessions having W/ α cytoplasm are shown by asterisks.

Reverse transcription was performed using 1 μg total RNA primed with an oligo $(dT)_{21}$ primer using SuperScript III First-Strand Synthesis SuperMix (Invitrogen). The synthesized cDNA was diluted to 1/10 and subjected to PCR amplification for the three regions. PCR reactions were as described above. The following thermal profile was used: 10 min at 95°C, 30 cycles of 30 sec at 95°C, 30 sec at 60°C and 1 min at 72°C, followed by a final extension step of 5 min at 72°C. To confirm the absence of genomic DNA contaminations in cDNA samples, PCR was carried out under the same condition with primers Tubf and Tubr (Table 2), which amplified a 525 bp β-tubulin gene fragment from cDNA instead of an approximately 1,600 bp fragment from genomic DNA containing an intron in potato (Turra et al. 2009).

Determination of chloroplast and mitochondrial DNA types

Chloroplast DNA types were determined by restriction fragment length polymorphism (RFLP) analysis of chloroplast DNA as described earlier (Sukhotu et al. 2004). Mitochondrial DNA type was determined by PCR using primers ALM 4 and ALM 5, which amplified a 2.4 kb, 1.6 kb or no band from α -, β - or γ-type mitochondrial DNA, respectively (Lössl et al. 2000); however, if a 1.6 kb band was associated with S or A-type chloroplast DNA, the mitochondrial DNA type was deduced to be ε type, based on circumstantial information from Lössl et al. (1999).

Results

Extended Band 1 sequence

Band 1 has been detected as a 170 bp EcoRI and MspI (or HpaII) double-digested DNA fragment (NCBI Genbank Accession No. HR505437), specifically found in D and DT Table2. Primers used in this study

^a Primer sequences for amplification of GBSS and β-tubulin were obtained from Takeuchi et al. (2009) and Turra et al. (2009), respectively.

 b cDNA size (Turra *et al.* 2009).</sup>

(Sanetomo and Hosaka 2011). This sequence was extended to 1,032 bp containing the 170 bp Band 1 (Fig. 1A). Homology search was carried out for the extended Band 1 sequence using the BLASTN program; however, it did not show high homology to any known sequences, even to those of the latest potato genome database including chloroplast and mitochondrial genome sequences (The Potato Genome Sequencing Consortium 2011).

Inheritance and specificity of Band 1

Using three primer sets for amplification of Region 1 to 3, or a primer set that specifically amplified Band 1 (Table 2), D, T, 5 DT, 5 TD, 90 (DT)T and 38 (TD)T plants were examined for the presence/absence of Band 1. As shown in

 (A) CGGGAGGTGGTGTACTTTCTTCCTAACAAAGCCATAAGGATAAGGCAAGGAAGTGAAGCTAAAGGCCCGCCATTTGAGTAGCCAACTTCCTAACGAAATC ACAGTTTGATGCTAACTACTGCAGCCCCTGCTTCTTCGGGTGGAACTCCTTGCTTTCACCTCAATCCCCCTCGTCAGGAGCTTGACAGAAGGCTACATCA AAGAGGTAGTTCTCCCTTAGGCTAAGAGAAAGGTACGAAATGAGTTGAACATAGTGAGACTAAGGAACTATGAACTTCAATTGGAACTGCAACCGACGA TA PER ACTE PARTE PROVIDED A PROVIDED A CONTRACTOR CONTRACTOR CONTRACTOR PROVIDING A PROVIDING A PROVIDING A P CAGTTTTTAAGGTGGGTGTATCAACCTCATCGATGATTGGACTGGCTCTCGTCGGTCTCCCTTCTCCATCTGGAGGAGTTAAAGGGCCTACTTGGACA ₯
ПОРОДО СОСТАВЛЯ ОСТАВЛЯ В ДОДО СОДО ВЛИВНО В ДОДО В ДАТОТ ДОТОВЛЯ ДЕТА ОТДЕТА ОТ СЕВЕДОТО СОСТОВНОСТНО ОТ СОДОТАВЛЯ ОТ САГА CGTGGATAGAGGAACGAAGTCGCTCGAAGAGGTACGAAGTAGCTTTGAAGAAAGGTACGAAGTGGCTAGAGATTCGTTTCACTATGTGAAACTCATTCGG TTTCCTTACTTTAAATAGTGGGAAACGGGAGC

Fig. 1. A DNA fragment of 1,032 bp harboring Band 1 (underlined in A). Three pairs of primer sequences for amplification of Region 1, 2 and 3 are shown in (A) and the schematic representation in (B).

Fig. 2. Amplification of Region 1 (A), Region 2 (B) and Region 3 (C) from T, D, 5 reciprocal F_1 plants of TD and DT, and 5 BC₁ plants of (TD)T and (DT)T. M denotes λDNA HindIII digests.

Fig. 3. Southern hybridization of MspI (A), HindIII (B) and EcoRI (C) digests of T and D probed with Band 1. Arrows indicate hybridization signals. M denotes λDNA HindIII digests.

Fig. 2, DNA fragments of expected sizes were present in D, all DT and (DT)T plants, but not in T, all TD and (TD)T plants. By Southern hybridization analysis, hybridization signals were obtained as single bands from all three restriction digests of D, whereas no signal was obtained from T, indicating the lack of the homologous sequence to Band 1 in T (Fig. 3).

Fig. 4. Leaf cDNA and genomic DNA of T, TD, DT and D were amplified for Region 1 (B), Region 2 (C) and Region 3 (D). A β-tubulin gene amplified from leaf cDNA samples exhibited only 525 bp band (A), demonstrating no contamination with genomic DNA. M denotes λDNA HindIII digests.

Transcription of Band 1

Leaf mRNA was extracted and cDNA was amplified for the Band 1 region (Fig. 4). Compared with a band of βtubulin amplified from genomic DNA, only a smaller band (525 bp) was amplified from cDNA, indicating that an intron was removed and no genomic DNA was contaminated in cDNA samples (Fig. 4A). As shown in Fig. 4B–4D, three regions were all transcribed to mRNA in leaves of D and DT plants, but not in those of T and TD plants. The sizes of amplified bands from cDNA were similar to those from genomic DNA for all three regions. Furthermore, Region 1 PCR products from cDNA were sequenced, and showed similar sequences to those of genomic DNA. This indicates that the entire sequence of extended Band 1 is transcribed to mRNA and contains no intron.

Screening Band 1 against various cytoplasms

Band 1 was surveyed in three S. demissum accessions and 168 accessions of 38 species with various cytoplasms (Table 1). Although 43 accessions had W/α cytoplasm, none except the three accessions of S. demissum (all had W/α cytoplasm) had Band 1.

Characterization of varieties and breeding lines

Cytoplasm types were determined for 158 varieties and breeding lines. One hundred and eight (68.4%) had T/β cytoplasm typical of S. tuberosum (Table 3). The W/ α cytoplasm was found in 21 varieties and 12 breeding lines (20.9%) (Table 4). One of the landraces, Nemuromurasaki, and two others had A/ε cytoplasm derived possibly from S. tuberosum L. ssp. andigena Hawkes. The S/ε cytoplasm, derived from S. phureja Juz. et Buk., and W/γ cytoplasm, derived from S. stoloniferum, were found in 12 and 2 varieties or breeding lines, respectively (Table 3). As exemplified in Fig. 5, Band 1 was exclusively detected in varieties or breeding lines that had W/α cytoplasm (Table 4).

Band 1 was detected in Tunika and its three haploid clones (Table 4) and Band 1 was inherited maternally from S. demissum even after 10 times backcrossing (see Saikai 39 in Table 4).

Homology between Band 1 sequences of different origins

PCR products amplified from Band 1 of Rishiri (the cytoplasm originally derived from S. demissum T-2), Hanashibetsu (from W553-4) and Kitamurasaki (from Nemuromurasaki), and those from Region 1 of Rishiri, Tunika (from W-race) and Astarte (from MPI 19268), were sequenced, which perfectly fit the corresponding sequences of D (Fig. 1A).

Table3. Varieties and breeding lines not possessing Band 1

Variety or breeding line⁴

1. Japanese variety

2. Japanese landrace

Ginzan-murasaki, Iya-imo (white), Kintoki-imo, Nagasaki-zairai B, Nemuromurasaki^A, Seinaiji-ki-imo

3. Japanese breeding line

529-1, 10H15^S, 10H16^S, 10H17^S, Chokei 129^S, Chokei 131^S, Hokkai 50, Hokkai 56^W, Hokkai 82, Hokkai 87, Hoku-iku 11, Hoku-iku 14, Kitakei 31, Kon-iku 35, KW85091-21, KW85093-33, Saikai 30, Saikai 31, Saikai 34, Saikai 35^S, Saikai 37^S, Saikai 38, Shimakei 569, T05003-1^A, T03097-19, T09073-88, WB77025-3, WB88055-8, WB902209-1^S

4. Foreign variety or breeding line

Agasize, Alowa, Alwara^w, Andover, Atlantic, Cherie, Chipeta, Cimbal's Pheonix, Corolle, Cynthia, Daisy, Desiree, Early Rose, Irish Cobbler, Jenny, Juliette, Kanona, Kennebec, Kexin No. 1, Matilda, May Queen, ND860-2^S, Norking Russet, Pike, Prevalent, Russet Burbank, Salem, Shepody, Snowden, Sylvia, V2^A, Vermont Gold Coin, Yankee Chipper

^a Cytoplasm type: $A = A/\varepsilon$, $S = S/\varepsilon$, $W = W/\gamma$, no symbol = T/ β .

Discussion

Band 1 is a useful DNA marker distinguishing the S. demissum cytoplasm

Previously, a set of PCR primers flanking a 241 bp deletion that defined T-type chloroplast DNA (Hosaka et al. 1988, Kawagoe and Kikuta 1991) was developed (Hosaka 2002, Lössl et al. 2000), and has been used frequently worldwide for various purposes (Ames and Spooner 2008, Chimote et al. 2008, Gavrilenko et al. 2007, Spooner et al. 2007). Such a DNA marker distinguishing S. demissum cytoplasm has not been available until now. Genotypes producing abundant pollen tend to be used as pollen parents. Even if a desirable genotype produces abundant pollen, it should not be used as a pollen parent when it has S. demissumderived cytoplasm to avoid the difficulty of obtaining hybrid seeds; thus, it is very important to identify S. demissumderived cytoplasm in breeding programs.

According to Lössl *et al.* (2000), W/ α cytoplasm is specific to S. demissum-derived varieties. This was confirmed, as indicated in Table 4, because the W/α cytoplasm found in varieties and breeding lines was likely all descended from S. demissum alone; however, W-type chloroplast DNA was defined by RFLP analysis of chloroplast DNA and found in many wild species (Hosaka 1986, Hosaka and Sanetomo 2010, Sukhotu et al. 2004). According to the raw data used in Hosaka and Sanetomo (2010), among 164 different cytoplasms distinguished in Andean cultivated potatoes and closely related species, 73 cytoplasms had W-type chloroplast DNA, while 49 cytoplasms had $α$ -type mitochondrial DNA. Consequently, 40 cytoplasms were disclosed to be W/α type, which is found in many wild species including *S. demissum* (shown by asterisks in Table 1). Thus, W/α cytoplasm is not specific to S. demissum. Alternatively, as discussed later, Band 1 was always associated with S. demissum cytoplasm, so it is a useful DNA marker for identifying S. demissum

Aino-aka, Aiyutaka, Beni-akari, Benimaru, Bifukabeni, Bihoro, Chitose, Dejima, Early Starch, Eniwa, Fugenmaru, Haru-akari, Haruka, Hatsufubuki, Hinomaru 1, Hokkai-aka, Hokkaikogane, Inka Gold^s, Inka-no-hitomi^s, Inka-no-mezame^s, Inka Purple, Inka Red, Kannanjiro, Kita-akari, Kitahime, Konafubuki, Konayuki, Myojo, Neodelicious, Nishiyutaka, Norin 1, Norin 2, North Chip, Ohotsuku-chip, Oojiro, Ranran-chip, Red Moon, Sakurafubuki, Saya-akane, Sayaka, Shimabara, Snow March, Star Ruby, Star Queen, Tachibana, Tarumae, Tokachikogane, Tokachi Pirika, Touya, Toyoshiro, Unzen, Waseshiro, White Flyer, Yellow Shark, Yukijiro, Yukirasha, Yukitsubura

cytoplasm. Precise identification of S. demissum-derived cytoplasm enables the design of efficient mating combinations in breeding programs.

Cytoplasmic origin of varieties and breeding lines

Varieties and breeding lines that had W/α cytoplasm had exclusively Band 1. Their cytoplasm was descended from at least eight parents: S. demissum T-2, W-race and MPI 19268 (both are famous backcross progenies from S. demissum, Ross 1986), Nemuromurasaki, HLT-4 (from USDA), W553-4, W217H.2 and B4494-3 (Table 4). The cytoplasm of W-race was incorporated into Japanese varieties via Tunika (introduced from the former East Germany in 1981), from which a potato cyst nematode resistance gene (HI) was introduced into several Japanese varieties (Mori et al. 2007).

Shimakei 571, Kitamurasaki, Northern Ruby and Shadow Queen had Band 1. According to their pedigree, they were maternally descended from Shimakei 284, which was developed from seedlings of an open-pollinated berry set on Nemuromurasaki (Table 4); however, the parent of Shimakei 284 was apparently misreported, because Nemuromurasaki is the oldest variety with A-type chloroplast DNA (Table 3), typical of S. tuberosum ssp. andigena, and was thought to be a relic of the early European potato (Hosaka 1993).

Although W553-4 was recorded as S. tuberosum ssp. andigena by Dr. Y. Irikura, who collected this clone in Colombia in 1977, now it has been recognized as an interspecific hybrid of unknown origin because of the extremely wide segregation observed in the progeny. As W553-4 shows a high level of late blight resistance, it might be a backcross progeny from S. demissum.

Furthermore, the pedigrees of other maternal parents that conferred W/α cytoplasm could not be traced. In conclusion, the W/ α cytoplasm associated with Band 1 in varieties and

Fig. 5. Amplification of Region 2 together with GBSS as a positive control from randomly chosen varieties. Chloroplast DNA types are shown below. 1. Early Rose, 2. Irish Cobbler, 3. May Queen, 4. Desiree, 5. Russet Burbank, 6. Kennebec, 7. Atlantic, 8. Shepody, 9. Snowden, 10. Norking Russet, 11. Tunika, 12. Astarte, 13. Norin 1, 14. Rishiri, 15. Chijiwa, 16. Toyoshiro, 17. Nishiyutaka, 18. Hokkaikogane, 19. Konafubuki, 20. Kita-akari, 21. Touya, 22. Incano-mezame. M denotes λDNA HindIII digests.

breeding lines were all derived likely from S. demissum.

Intra-cellular origin of Band 1

We demonstrated that Band 1 is a S. demissum-specific DNA fragment maternally inherited from S. *demissum* to S. tuberosum through backcrossing; however, Band 1 did not show high homology to any known sequences, including complete sequences of potato chloroplast DNA (Chung et al. 2006) and mitochondrial DNA of the related genus Nicotiana (Sugiyama et al. 2005). It is generally known that plant chloroplast DNA evolves very slowly and is highly conservative in size, structure, gene content, and the linear order of genes (Palmer 1992, Palmer et al. 1988). Band 1 or Region 1 sequences, maternally inherited through many generations from different source accessions of S. demissum, were all similar to those of S. *demissum* used in this study, demonstrating the highly conservative nature of Band 1; however, S. demissum-specific insertion over 1 kbp was not detected in chloroplast DNA (Hosaka 1986), so that it is less likely that Band 1 is a part of chloroplast DNA.

 By comparing several completely sequenced angiosperm mitochondrial DNAs, it is known that, although identified genes and introns are rather well conserved, intergenic regions are highly variable in sequence, even between two close relatives (Alverson et al. 2010, Handa 2003, Kubo and Mikami 2007); therefore, it is highly probable that Band 1 is part of the mitochondrial DNA of S. demissum.

However, mRNAs with poly(A) tails from chloroplast and mitochondrial genes are generally found only in degradation and are thus expected to occur in only a minor fraction of the steady state pool (del Campo 2009, Forner et al. 2007). Thus, alternative possibilities are that Band 1 is 1) located on one of the S. demissum chromosomes and exclusively transmitted maternally, or 2) something else, such as plasmid-like DNA, is maternally inherited. Linear or circular plasmids have been frequently reported in mitochondria in higher plants (Allen et al. 2007, Handa et al. 2002, Turpen et al. 1987). Further investigation of the intra-cellular origin of Band 1 is ongoing.

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