MOLECULAR FINGERPRINTING AND ASSESSMENT OF GENETIC PURITY OF SUNFLOWER (HELIANTHUS ANNUUS L.) HYBRIDS BY USING RAPD AND SSR MARKERS

The investigation pertaining to the hybrid identification in sunflower (Helianthus annuus L.) through RAPD and

SSR analysis was conducted on six genotypes and their hybrids. Among fifty three primers comprising 25 RAPD

and 18 SSR primers, 2 primers for LSFH-10128 (ORS5 and OPA11), 3 for LSFH-1706 (ORS662, OPC16, OPE16)

and 2 for LSFH-7345 (ORS5 and OPA03) were showing both female and male parent specific markers and

identified as co-dominant marker for hybrid identification. The genetic relationship study among hybrid and their

parental lines revealed their close relationship with 92.0 % to 78.7 % similarity. The parental line CMS-17A was found out grouped at 42 % dissimilarity from members of other clusters in RAPD data. And male parent J/6 was found genetically more divergent and showed 21 % dissimilarity with cluster I and II in SSR data. Thus data

analysis could indicate the close similarity of hybrid individual/offspring with their respective parent is the

indicative of confirmation of hybrids. This study suggested that molecular marker analysis can be utilized for both

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ABSTRACT

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reliable and less time consuming identification of hybrids.

KEYWORDS

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INTRODUCTION

Sunflower (*Helianthus annuus* L.), a member of compositae family, is a significant staple oilseed crop of special economic importance in an oilseed industry worldwide. The oilseed revolution was mainly attributed to the development and adoption of high yielding varieties and hybrids. The success of this hybrid seed technology depends on the timely production and adequate supply of genetically pure hybrid seeds to the farmers. Conventionally, genetic purity of hybrids is ensured by grow-out test (GOT), The GOT is an expensive, time consuming procedure, influenced by environmental factors and results are skewed. Hence it is essential to develop a more rapid, accurate and cost-effective method for the identification of sunflower hybrids.

DNA marker technology offer an efficient alternative to this approach which provide powerful tools for cultivar identification and seed quality control in various crops with advantages of time-saving, less labour consumption and more efficiency (Liu et al., 2007; Garg et al., 2006). Genetic purity of hybrid is an essential requirement for its commercial success, conventionally genetic purity testing was done through GOT, which requires one full season and expenditure in storage and hence increased hybrid seed cost. Considering the disadvantages of conventional method of hybrid identification methods, molecular marker based method could be a better alternative. The RAPD and SSR marker system has been previously utilized as simple, safe and cost effective method for molecular analysis (Bellester and de Vicente, 1998). RAPD and SSR markers are widely used in genetic diversity which useful in selection diverse parental combination to acquire better heterosis pattern in hybrids (Bahurupe et al., 2013, Chandra et al., 2013, Joshi et al., 2013, Zala et al., 2014). Hybrid identification in crop species through DNA fingerprinting is an effective tool to increase the speed and quality of backcrossing conversion, thus reducing time taken to produce crop varieties with desirable characteristics (Ali et al., 2008). RAPD and SSR, molecular markers based hybrid purity tests have been developed and are in routine use in many species such as Rice (Yashitola et al., 2002; Sundaram et al., 2008), Sorghum (Arya et al., 2014), Sunflower (Pallavi et al., 2011), Tomato (Liu et al., 2007), Maize (Asif et al., 2006; Hipi et al., 2013), Cotton (Dongre and Pakhi 2005; Ali et al., 2008; Dongre et al., 2011), Safflower (Naresh et al., 2009), Pigeonpea (Saxena et al., 2010), Watermelon (Kwon et al., 2013) and Cassava (Mohan et al., 2013). Being locus specific, PCR based co-dominant markers, SSR are the most suitable marker for hybrid identification as the hetrozygosity of the hybrids can be easily determined by the presence of both the parental alleles. Hence these marker systems could be effectively used for seed genetic purity testing and cultivar identification. Nevertheless, EST-SSR data have been successfully developed in sunflower (Pashley et al., 2006) and being exploited in development of SSR markers towards their application in genetic diversity analysis, marker assisted selection and hybrid confirmation studies. SSR marker technology has utilized for hybrid identification and assessment of genetic diversity in sunflower (Pallavi et al., 2011. Keeping in view of these facts, present study was conducted to assess hybrid purity of three sunflower hybrids and their genetic relationship between hybrid and their parental lines by using molecular markers.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Plant materials and genomic DNA extraction

The present investigation was carried out at Department of Plant Biotechnology, Vilasrao Deshmukh College of Agricultural Biotechnology, Latur, India. The plant material for this study comprised, three sunflower hybrids and their parents *viz.*, LSFH-10128 (CMS-343A X J/6), LSFH-1706 (CMS-17A X NDLR-06) and LSFH-7345 (CMS-7-1A X AK-345) developed at Oilseed Research Station (ORS), Latur, Marathwada Krishi Vidyapeeth, Parbhani. Features of the both parents and their hybrids has given in Table no. 1, 2 and 3 respectively.

Genomic DNA was extracted from the tender leaves of *in vitro* germinated seedlings using CTAB method (Doyle and Doyle 1987). The isolated DNA was assessed qualitatively and quantitatively using agarose gel electrophoresis and spectrophotometeric analysis, respectively. Further this DNA samples were used for setup RAPD and SSR reactions for identification and confirmation of hybrids.

RAPD analysis

A total of 25 RAPD primers were obtained from Operon Technologies (Eurofins MWG Operon Inc., USA). RAPD PCR was performed in thermocycler (Eppendorf). The PCR procedure followed the method of Yang and Park (1998) with slight modification. The reaction mixture consisted template genomic DNA of 25 ng in 25μ l reaction volume containing 1X PCR buffer, 1.5 mM MgCl, 0.2 mM dNTPs, 0.2µM primers and 1.0 U of Tag DNA polymerase in 25μ l reaction. Thermal profile followed was 94°C for 7 min (initial denaturation), followed by 45 cycles of denaturation at 94°C for 45 s, annealing at 36°C for 1 min, extension at 72°C for 1 min, and final extension was set at 72°C for 10 min. The RAPD amplified products were separated on 1.5% agarose gel, stained with ethidium bromide $(0.5\mu g/ml)$ and images were captured using alpha imager gel documentation system (Sambrook et al., 1989). The size of amplification products were determined by comparing with 1 kb DNA ladder (Fermentas).

SSR analysis

Eighteen oligonucleotide primers for SSR analysis were synthesized by Imperial Life Science (ILS) as per microsatellite

sequences reported (Liu *et al.*, 2004; Antonova *et al.*, 2006). The polymerase chain reaction (PCR) was carried out in 25μ l volume consisting 20 ug template DNA, 1X PCR buffer, 1.5 mM MgCl₂, 0.2 mM dNTPs, 0.2 μ M primers and 0.5 U Taq DNA polymerase as given by Yang and Park 1998). Amplification was performed by using Eppendorf mastercycler gradient PCR programmed for initial denaturation at 94°C for 5 min followed by 35 cycles consisting of denaturation at 94°C for 1 min and final extension was set at 72°C for 10 min. The amplified products were separated on 3 % agarose gel and visualized.

Grow out trials

Conventionally genetic purity of hybrids is ensured by grow out test (GOT), which involves growing plants to the maturity and assessing several morphological and floral characteristics that distinguish the hybrids.

Three different hybrids and their respective male and female parent were grown in the greenhouse. Regular irrigation, fertilization and crop protection measures were adopted and purity through visual evaluation was conducted on the main important morphological characters throughout the growth period.

Cluster analysis

The microsatellite and RAPD amplified fragments were scored as present or absent of a binary character when 1 = present and 0 = absent. The Numerical Taxonomy Multivariate Analysis System (NTSYS-pc) Version 2.02 (Rohlf 1990) was used to determine Jaccard's similarity coefficient (Jaccard 1908), Principal Co-ordinate analysis, also used for dendrogram preparation based on RAPD, SSR and RAPD + SSR data.

RESULTS

Hybrid identification

RAPD analysis

The polymorphic data obtained in RAPD fingerprint pattern were utilized as marker for hybrid identification. The RAPD profile of parents and their hybrids were correlated to find out direct introduction of character/genes in to the hybrids through male or female parent by possessing male and female parent specific bands among RAPD profiles of three hybrids. Nevertheless, it was exploited to document polymorphism and relationship between three hybrids and their parents. In hybrid LSFH-10128, four primers could identify this hybrid by amplifying a common fragment between hybrid and female parent while 3 primers produced male parent specific amplicons. The primer OPA11 produced a female parent specific (MPS) marker of OPA11₆₀₀ (600bp) simultaneously (Fig. 1). While in hybrid LSFH-1706 three primers produced

Table 1: Details of CMS lin

Sr.No.	CMS Lines	Feature	Source
1	7-1A & B	Susceptible to downy mildew and necrosis, high seed yield, big head diameter	DOR, Hyderabad
2	17 A & B	High seed yield, susceptible to downy mildew and necrosis, low oil content	AICRP, Bangalore
3	234 A & B	Early, high oil content, susceptible to downy mildew, necrosis and <i>alternaria</i> .	AICRP, Bangalore

Table 2: Details of Restorer lines (R lines)

Sr.No.	Restorer	Feature	Source
1	AK- 345	Multihead, high seed yield potential	ORS, Latur
2	NDLR-06	Monohead.	ORS, Latur
3	J-6	Monohead, downy mildew, necrosis and alternaria resistant	ORS, Latur
		(multiple resistance), High seed yield and high oil content	

Table 3: Hybrids with their parents

Sr.No	Name of hybrid	Parents	source	Features
H6	LSFH-10128	343A X J/6	ORS, Latur	high seed yield
H9	LSFH-1706	17A X NDLR-06	ORS, Latur	seed yield
H10	LSFH-7345	7-1A X AK-345	ORS, Latur	seed yield

Table 4: Six types of SSR markers observed in hybrids and their parents

Type of markers	Male(M)	Hybrid(H)	Female(F)	No of polymorphic bands	Polymorphism(%)	Remark
1	+	+	-	9	500	* Hybrid confirm
2	+	-	+	0	00	Polymorphic parent
3	-	+	+	5	2777	* Hybrid confirm
4	+	-	-	2	1111	Polymorphic parent
5	-	+	-	1	555	Polymorphic parent
6	-	-	+	1	555	Polymorphic parent
Total	18					

Table 5: Similarity matrix based on Jaccard's similarity coefficient value obtained from RAPD analysis

Hybrid/Parent	CMS-343A	H1	J/6	CMS-17A	H 2	NDLR-06	CMS-7-1A	H 3	AK345
CMS-343A	100								
H1	085	100							
J/6	085	079	100						
CMS-17A	058	064	060	100					
H2	071	073	073	058	100				
NDLR-06	069	071	071	052	069	100			
CMS-7-1A	071	073	069	058	075	093	100		
H3	067	069	065	054	075	085	087	100	
AK345	075	081	073	054	075	077	079	079	100

female parent specific (FPS) bands, 6 primers produced MPS bands while two primers produced both FPS and MPS bands. The primer OPC16 could generate one FPS marker of OPC16₁₀₀₀ (1000 bp) and 3 MPS marker of OPC16₈₅₀ (850 bp), OPC16₁₅₀₀ (1500 bp) and OPC 16₂₀₀₀ (2000 bp) simultaneously (Fig.2 a). The primer OPE16 also could generate a FPS marker of OPE16₁₀₀₀ (1000 bp) and 3 MPS marker of OPE16₂₅₀ (250 bp), OPE16₃₀₀ (300 bp) and OPE16₁₁₀₀ (1100 bp) simultaneously (Fig.2 b). In hybrid LSFH-7345, four primers produced FPS bands, 5 primers produced MPS bands and one primer OPA03 could produce 1 FPS marker of OPA03₇₀₀ (700 bp) and 1 MPS marker of OPA03₅₀₀ (500 bp) (Fig.3).

SSR analysis

In present investigation among 18 SSR primers exploited for assessment of purity of three sunflower hybrids, seven primers were found polymorphic while six primers have generated monomorphic amplicons and remaining seven have shown non-specific amplification. Among microsatellite primers six different types of SSR polymorphic marker pattern had been identified which could help to identify purity of hybrids (Table 4)

Out of six polymorphic SSR primers three primers produced

co-dominant markers pattern for three hybrids. LSFH-10128 produced polymorphic bands with two primers ORS5 is shown the presence of both female and male parent specific markers in hybrid individuals. The hybrid LSFH-10128 was identified by primer ORS5 through generating both FPS marker ORS5₃₀₀ (300 bp) and a MPS marker of ORS5₃₁₀ (330 bp) (Fig. 4).

However in hybrid LSFH-1706, a primer ORS662 could generate a FPS marker of $ORS662_{220}$ (220 bp) and a MPS marker of ORS662₃₂₀ (320 bp) simultaneously (Fig.5) and confirmed the identity of this hybrid individual. ORS5 was identified polymorphic marker in hybrid LSFH-7345 also, as it has shown different FPS and MPS marker compare to LSFH-10128. ORS5 amplified a FPS marker of ORS5₃₃₀ (330 bp) and a MPS marker of ORS5₃₁₀ (310 bp) (Fig.6). While microsatellite marker Ha1327 could produce only FPS marker of Ha1327 200 (200 bp) in hybrid LSFH-7345. On an average considering percent polymorphic pattern, the male and female parent specific banding pattern was found 50% and 27.77% sequentially between parent and offspring. Present study shows that the higher degree of similarity between male parent and offspring/hybrid compared to female parent and offspring along with male specific bands of Type I markers is an indication of successful cross and true hybrids (Table 4).

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Hybrid/Parent	CMS-343A	H1	J/6	CMS-17A	H 2	NDLR-06	CMS-7-1A	H 3	AK345
CMS-343A	100								
H1	085	100							
J/6	081	081	100						
CMS-17A	069	085	073	100					
H 2	085	085	081	085	100				
NDLR-06	085	085	081	077	092	100			
CMS-7-1A	088	081	069	073	088	088	100		
H3	067	069	065	054	075	085	087	100	
AK345	088	088	085	081	081	073	077	088	100

M

Н

Table 6: Similarity matrix based on laccard's similarity coefficient value obtained from SSR analysis

(a)

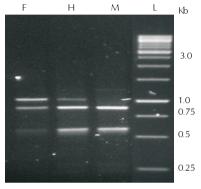


Figure 1: RAPD analysis of LSFH-10128 with identified primer OPA11 Lane F- Female parent, M- Male parent, H-Hybrid and L-1 kb ladder. The arrow indicates male and female parent specific markers

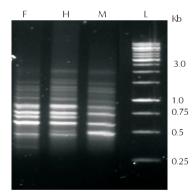
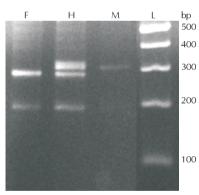


Figure 3: RAPD analysis of LSFH-7345 with identified primer OPA03 and Lane F- Female parent, M- Male parent, H- Hybrid and L- 1 kb ladder. The arrow indicates male and female parent specific markers

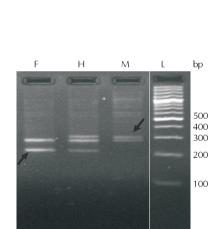
Hybrid Authentication by genetic similarity coefficients and cluster analysis

The 25 random primers and 18 SSR primer generated DNA fingerprint pattern of three sunflower hybrid and their parents were assessed for genetic similarity analysis and hybrid identification. By using 25 random primers a total of 322 RAPD amplicons were generated. The RAPD fingerprint data were used to estimate genetic similarity on the basis of number of shared amplification products which were denoted by cluster dendrogram (Fig. 7) and coefficient of similarity matrix (Table 5). Based on cluster dendrogram generated through similarity matrix obtained with unweighted pair group method (UPGMA), three hybrids and their parents were categorized into three major clusters (Fig. 7). Cluster I comprised hybrid LSFH-10128 and their parents (CMS-343A and J/6) together showing more than 83% similarity with each other. The hybrid



female parent specific markers

Figure 4: SSR analysis of LSFH-10128 with identified primer ORS5



Н

F

(b)

Figure 2: RAPD analysis of LSFH-1706 with identified primers OPC16 (a) and OPE 16 (b) Lane

F- Female parent, M- Male parent, H- Hybrid and L- 1 kb ladder. The arrow indicates male and

Кb

3.0

1.0

0.75

0.5

0.25

Μ

Кb

3.0

1.0

0.75

0.5

0.25

Figure 5: SSR analysis of LSFH-1706 with identified primer ORS662



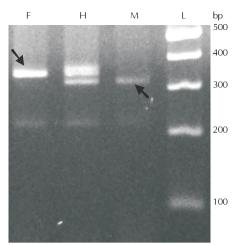


Figure 6: SSR analysis of LSFH-7345 with identified primer ORS5 Lane F- Female parent, M- Male parent, H- Hybrid and L- 50 bp ladder. The arrow indicates male and female parent specific markers

LSFH-10128 showed 85 % similar pattern with female parent CMS-343A. While group II comprised Hybrid LSFH-7345 and their parents (CMS-7-1A and AK-345) together with 78.7% similarity. However, the hybrid LSFH-1706 had shown 75 % similarity with hybrid LSFH-7345 and categorized into the same cluster. The parental line CMS-17A was found more divergent and has been isolated into separate cluster III showing 58 % similarity with members of other clusters.

Similarly 18 SSR primers could generate 181 amplicons and based on SSR fingerprint data analysis sunflower hybrids and their respective parents were categorized into three major clusters (Fig. 8). Cluster I comprised hybrid LSFH-1706 (H2 and parental line NDLR06, CMS-7-1A and CMS-343A in one group showing genetic similarity in the range of 88.6% to 92.0%. The hybrid LSFH-1706 (H2 has showed 92% similarity with its male parent NDLR06). Cluster II pertained hybrid LSFH-10128, LSFH-7345 and parental line AK-345 and CMS-17A together showing 83.6% similarity. The genetic similarity

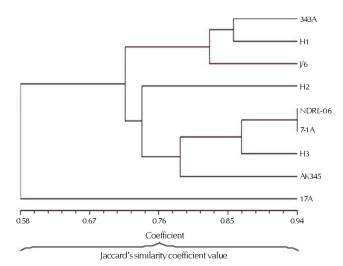


Figure 7: Dendrogram constructed using UPGMA based on 25 RAPD markers demonstrating relationship among three hybrids with their parents based on Jaccard's similarity coefficient value

between hybrids LSFH-10128, LSFH-7345 was 92.0 %. However male parent J/6 was found genetically more divergent and showed 79% similarity with members of cluster I and II. Thus data analysis could indicate the close similarity of hybrid individual/offspring with their respective parent is the indicative of confirmation of hybrids.

Grow out test of the sunflower hybrids

In the grow out trials, purity assessment was conducted on morphological traits including shoot length, plant height, leaf shape, number of whorl of achene per head, anthocyanin pigmentation etc. the characters of LSFH-10128 such as anthocyanin pigmentation, indeterminate growth, heart shaped leaves were much similar to those of male parental line and which was also supported by molecular marker assessment.

Hybrid LSFH-1706 and LSFH-7345 were assessed on field based observation. The plant of these hybrids individuals showed characters like pigmentation, erect shoot rounded, heart shaped leaves with serrate margin except large leaves in case of LSFH-7345. These characteristic features was much similar to their respective male and female parents which shown consonance with molecular testing of purity.

DISCUSSION

In the present study, DNA molecular marker systems viz., RAPD and SSR were employed for sunflower hybrid identification and genetic relationship among hybrids and their respective parents. To the exploitation of full potential of heterosis and enhancement of hybrid development it is essential to characterize parental lines at genetic as well as morphological level. The genetic divergence study helps breeder to concentrate on possible promising parent combinations. To obtain high yield, exploitation of heterosis is a good way (Makani et al., 2013). In RAPD and SSR fingerprinting, parental line CMS-17A was found more divergent showed 58 % similarity with members of other clusters in RAPD data and male parent J/6 was found genetically more divergent and

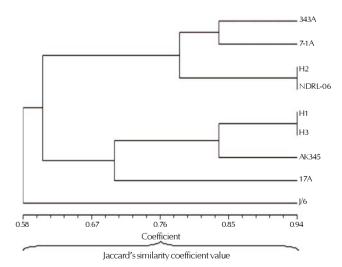


Figure 8: Dendrogram constructed using UPGMA based on 18 SSR primers demonstrating relationship among three hybrids with their parents based on Jaccard's similarity coefficient value

showed 79 % similarity with cluster I and II in SSR data. Therefore adequate genetic diversity information in parental lines should be useful for selecting crossing parental genotypes that may enhance the hybrid vigour.

Among 25 RAPD and 18 SSR primers used, 2 primers for LSFH-10128, 3 for LSFH-1706 and 2 for LSFH-7345 were identified as codominant marker for hybrid identification. The hybrid nature of progeny from cross between *H. rigidus* and *H. annuus was* confirmed by RAPD markers, which also revealed considerable variability between F_1 and BC_1F_1 plants (Pankovic, 2007)

Considering the residual hetrozygosity in parental line and overall purity it can be concluded that dominant RAPD marker was found an optimal method for the purity testing of three sunflower hybrids. Similarly RAPD marker was significantly utilized in purity assessment of hybrids in various crops (Bellester and de Vicente 1998, Liu *et al.*, 2007, Hashizume *et al.*, 1993, Ali *et al.*, 2008, Ilbi 2003 and Akhare *et al.*, 2008). As for purity testing in many crops whose genome were not well studied RAPD marker with universal primers could be of good choice.

SSR marker was another good tool for hybrid identification test. In present study two SSR markers (ORS5 and ORS662 could successfully identified three sunflower hybrids by producing both male and female parent specific markers. Some of SSR markers (Ha1327, Ha1442, ORS13, ORS5, ORS536, ORS243, and ORS662 could produce either of female or male parent specific bands. It is due to of residual hetrozygosity could accounts for the occasional occurrence that some true hybrids exhibited the absence of female or male parent specific markers (Liu et al., 2007). Similarly, the hetrozygosity of hybrids can be easily determined by the presence of both parental alleles (Naresh et al., 2009). A few SSR primers were developed in sunflower and readily used for purity testing of hybrids (Antonova et al., 2006, Kumar et al., 2009 and Pallavi et al., 2011. The use of SSR markers for assessing seed purity of hybrids is almost routine for several crops example Rice (Yashitola et al., 2002, and Nandakumar et al., 2004), Safflower (Naresh et al., 2009), Cotton (Ali et al., 2008, Dongre et al., 2011 and horticultural crops like Tomato (Smith and Register 1998 and Paran et al., 1995), Cabbage (Liu et al., 2004), and Melon (Kwon et al., 2013, Jianli et al., 2006 and Hashizume et al., 1993). Although some studies reported the suitability of even single marker for hybrid purity assessment tests (Yashitola et al., 2002 and Nandakumar et al., 2004). The present study reports suitability of SSR markers for hybrid identification test of sunflower. Also the co dominant SSR marker system was found more informative and effective over RAPD marker system.

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