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The application of wheat microsatellites to identify disomic *Triticum aestivum-Aegilops markgrafii* addition lines

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Abstract We describe the use of wheat microsatellites for the discrimination of Aegilops markgrafii chromosomes. Twenty out of eighty eight wheat microsatellites (WMS) tested were able to distinguish Triticum aestivum-Ae. markgrafii addition lines. Six, three, three, one and six of 18 WMS can be used as markers for single Ae. markgrafii chromosomes B, C, D, F and G, respectively. Addition line A is not available but additional bands, appearing only in Ae. markgrafii and the T. aestivum-Ae. markgrafii amphiploid and not in any of the available addition lines, indicate that three WMS detect markers for Ae. markgrafii chromosomes A. Addition line E could not be detected by any of the WMS markers applied, although the 20 WMS represented all the homologous groups of wheat. All three WMS located on the short arm of group-2 chromosomes were located on Ae. markgrafii chromosome B; three of four WMS, located on the long arm of wheat group-2 chromosomes, were specific to Ae. markgrafii chromosome G and three of four WMS, specific to group-5 chromosomes, were markers for Ae. markgrafii chromosome C, indicating the homoeology of these wheat chromosome arms with the respective Ae. markgrafii chromosomes.

V. Korzun · M. S. Röder Institut für Pflanzengenetik und Kulturpflanzenforschung, Corrensstrasse 3, D-06466 Gatersleben, Germany **Key words** Aegilops markgrafii • Triticum aestivum • Addition lines • Chromosome markers • Homoeology • Wheat • Wheat microsatellites

Introduction

Aegilops markgrafii (genome CC) is one of the wild wheat species which can serve as a genetic resource for resistance against powdery mildew and rust (Schubert et al. 1995). To use Ae. markgrafii efficiently in breeding programmes, detailed knowledge of the homoeology between hexaploid wheat and Ae. markgrafii would be helpful. Molecular markers for Ae. markgrafii chromosomes have been developed using random amplified polymorphic DNAs (RAPDs) (Peil et al. 1997). In spite of their rapid development, ease of use and low costs, RAPDs have the disadvantage of limited reproducibility. RFLPs are an alternative, but non-radioactive methods are difficult to use in wheat and their application is very time-consuming. As a second alternative we tried to use microsatellites (MS) as molecular markers for Ae. markgrafii chromosomes. MS have been described for several plant species, for example: Arabidopsis thaliana (Bell and Ecker 1994), barley (Saghai Maroof et al. 1994; Becker and Heun 1995), Brassica napus (Kresovich et al. 1995), maize (Senior and Heun 1993), rice (Zhao and Kochert 1993), soybean (Maughan et al. 1995; Rongwen et al. 1995), tomato (Smulders et al. 1997) and wheat (Plaschke et al. 1995; Röder et al. 1995). In wheat, MS are more convenient than RFLPs because they detect higher levels of polymorphism (Röder et al. 1995). Closely related bread-wheat cultivars and lines can be differentiated (Plaschke et al. 1995). Röder et al. (1995) showed that some WMS can be used for the detection of polymorphisms in rye or barley. In the present study, we describe the application of WMS to the wild species Ae. markgrafii, their use for identifying Ae. markgrafii chromosomes and for detecting polymorphisms between two Ae. markgrafii accessions.

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Materials and methods

Plant material and DNA extraction

The wheat cultivar 'Alcedo'; *Ae. markgrafii* (Greuter) Hammer var. *markgrafii* accessions 'S740-69' and 'AE110'; the amphiploid *Triticum aestivum* cv 'Alcedo'-*Ae. markgrafii* acc. 'S740-69'; six derived disomic addition lines carrying the *Ae. markgrafii* chromosomes B, C, D, E, F and G, respectively; a disomic addition line containing a chromosome pair F with a deletion (F_{del}) and a (1D)1C substitution line were used. So far, no addition line with *Ae. markgrafii* chromosome A has been developed. The disomic addition lines and the amphiploid *T. aestivum* cv 'Alcedo'-*Ae. markgrafii* acc. 'S740-69' were developed at the Institute of Plant Breeding and Plant Protection of the Martin-Luther-University Halle-Wittenberg (Schubert and Blüthner 1992, 1995).

The addition line F_{del} containing a pair of deleted F chromosomes was identified on the basis of C-banding analysis (Friebe et al. 1992, unpublished data) and evidence of the morphological trait 'brittle rachis' (Schubert and Blüthner 1995).

The (1D)1C *T. aestivum-Ae. markgrafii* substitution line produced by Kihara (1958) was supplied by F. Zeller (Technical University Munich-Weihenstephan, Germany). The 1C chromosome of this line is claimed to be homologous to chromosome A of accession 'S740-69'. Extraction of total genomic DNA was modified from the CTAB procedure outlined by Saghai Maroof et al. (1984).

Microsatellites, primers and PCR-amplification

Microsatellites (dinucleotide repeats) for application to *T. aestivumAe. markgrafii* addition lines were selected from a pool of WMS established for wheat at the IPK Gatersleben (Plaschke et al. 1995; 1996; Röder et al. 1995; Korzun et al. 1997; unpublished data).

PCR reactions were performed mainly as described in Plaschke et al. (1996) and Röder et al. (1995). One primer of each primer pair was 5' labelled with fluorescein to allow the detection of PCR-amplified fragments on an automated laser fluorescence (A.L.F.) sequencer (Pharmacia, Uppsala, Sweden). From each PCR reaction, 0.5–1.5µl were separated on denaturing polyacrylamide gels (0.35-mm thick) for 60–120 min. Running conditions were 600 V, 40 mA and 50 W with a sampling interval of 0.84 s and 2 mW laser power. The running buffer was 1 × TBE. Gels were re-used up to five times. Fragment sizes were calculated using the computer program 'Fragment Manager 1.1' (Pharmacia, Uppsala, Sweden) in relation to internal size standards, which were added to each lane in the loading buffer.

Screening for polymorphisms

In the first screening, 88 WMS were applied to 'Alcedo' and 'S740-69' to detect polymorphisms between 'Alcedo' and 'S740-69'. 'Chinese Spring' was also tested to check the PCR for the expected fragments. Sixty five out of the eighty eight WMS were additionally analyzed with the amphiploid *T. aestivum* cv 'Alcedo'-*Ae. markgrafii* acc. 'S740-69' to verify the polymorphic fragment generated by *Ae. markgrafii* acc. 'S740-69'. To determine whether polymorphism exists between the two *Ae. markgrafii* accessions, 'S740-69' and 'AE110' 39 of the WMS were applied to 'AE110'.

Those WMS which appeared to be useful as markers were analyzed on 'Alcedo', 'S740-69', and two plants of the amphiploid, each addition line, and the substitution line (1D)IC. A WMS was considered as a marker for an *Ae. markgrafii* chromosome if the WMS produced a specific polymorphic PCR product in *Ae. markgrafii* acc. 'S740-69', the *T. aestivum* cv 'Alcedo'-*Ae. markgrafii* acc. 'S740-69' amphiploid, and in both plants of one *T. aestivum-Ae. markgrafii* addition line. If a WMS generated a polymorphic fragment in 'S740-69' and the amphiploid, but not in any of the six addition lines (i.e. added chromosomes B, C, D, E, F, G), the respective WMS is a possible marker for *Ae. markgrafii* chromosome A, for which no addition line exists.

Results

Eighty eight WMS were tested. Thirty eight of them showed polymorphisms between 'Alcedo' and 'S740-69' and were therefore applied to the whole set of plants. The number of WMS specific to the respective homologous wheat group is given in Table 1. Only 20 of these 38 WMS, i.e. 23% of the 88 WMS tested, were useful for distinguishing *Ae. markgrafii* chromosomes. The other 18 WMS did not amplify the polymorphic fragments obtained with 'S740-69' in the amphiploid or in any of the addition lines. The results shown in Table 2 were used for information about the homoelogy between the C-genome of *Ae. markgrafii* and the wheat genome.

Figure 1 shows the pattern created by WMS 135 which amplifies a MS located on the long arm of wheat chromosome 1A. It generated a distinct PCR product in *Ae. markgrafii* and the two amphiploid plants but not in any of the six addition lines, indicating that it might be a marker for *Ae. markgrafii* chromosome A, the unavailable addition line. The specific product was also absent in substitution line (1D)1C.

All three WMS specific to the short arm of group-2 chromosomes were markers for *Ae. markgrafii* chromosome B, whereas three of four WMS specific to the long arm of that group resulted in distinct fragments with *Ae. markgrafii* chromosome G. The fourth WMS, located on wheat chromosome 2DL, amplified a product from addition line D and the same-sized product from substitution line (1D)1C.

Three out of four WSM specific to group-5 chromosomes were markers for *Ae. markgrafii* chromosome C,

Table 1 Number of WMS tested in the first screening to 'Alcedo', 'S740-69' and 'Chinese Spring', and tested in the second screening to 'Alcedo', 'S740-69', the amphiploid, the addition lines B–G and substitution line (1D)1C, and their specificity to the seven homoeologous wheat groups (Plaschke et al. 1995, 1996; Röder et al. 1995; Korzun et al. 1997, unpublished data)

Wheat	WMS	WMS
homoeologous	1 st screening	2 nd screening
group	C	C
1	7	2
2	21	11
3	20	2
4	8	3
5	7	7
6	13	6
7	12	7

Table 2 WMS applied to T. aestivum cv 'Alcedo', Ae. markgrafii acc. 'S740-69', the amphiploid, T. aestivum-Ae. markgrafii addition lines and substitution line (1D)1C. x, y, z: fragments specific for an Ae. markarafii chromosome: - no chromosome-specific fragment

SMW	Group	Sequence $5' \rightarrow 3'$	Ann.	Alcedo	S740-69	Amphiploid	Addec	l Ae. n	arkara	fii chroi	nosome			(1D)1C
	4		°C			-	\mathbf{A}^{a}	в	c ,	D	۲ س	U	Fde	~
135	1AL	TGT CAA CAT CGT TTT GAA AAG G	55	I	Х	x	х ^b	I	I		1	I	I	I
512	2AS	AGC CAC CAT CAG CAA AAA TT AGC CAC CAT CAG CAA AAA TT	09	I	х	х	I	x	I			Ι	Ι	Ι
210	2AS/DS	TGC ATC AAG AAT AGT GTG GAA G	09	I	х	х	I	x	I		I	I	I	I
319	2BS	TGA GAG CAA GGC TCA CAC CT CGT TGC TGT ACA AGT GTT CAC G	55	I	х	х	Ι	X	I	1	I	I	I	I
382	2AL/DL		60	I	x	х	I	I	I	1	1	Х	I	I
30	2DL	TIA TGI GCA TGA CCA LIT IG ATC TTA GCA TGA AGA GGA GTG GG TTT TGA ACC TTA CCT CAT	09	I	х	х	I	Ι	I	'	1	X	I	Ι
301	2DL	THE THE ACCURACE OF THE CONTRACT OF THE CONTRACT.	55	I	х	Х	I	I	I			х	Ι	Ι
349	2DL	GGC TTC CAG AAA ACA GG	55	I	х	х	I	I	I	×	1	I	I	х
3	3DL	ALC GGI GCG TAC CAL CCI AC GCA GCG GCA CTG GTA CAT TT ATT ATT ACAT ATT ATT ATT	55	I	x	х	I	I	I	1		X	I	I
314	3DL	AAI AIC UCA ICA UIA ICC CA AGG AGC TCC TCT GTG CCA C TTTC COT LOT TTTC TTTC COT	55	I	x	х	I	I	I		x	I	х	I
165	4AS/BL/D	LTCCAGT GGT CAG ATG TTT CC CTT TTC TTT CAG ATT GCG CC	09	I	Х	х	Ι	x	Ι	1	1	Ι	Ι	I
205	5AS/DS	CGI TIC TIL CAO ATT CAO CGI CCC GGT TCA CTT CAG AGT CGC CGT TGT ATA GTG CC	09	I	х	х	I	I	х			I	I	I
179	5AL	AGE TTG AGE TGA TGC GGG AG	55	I	x	х	I	x	I	1	1	I	I	I
186	5AL	CCA TUA CCA GCA TCC ACL C CCA GAG CCT GGT TCA AAA AG CGC CTC TAG CGA GAG CTA TG	09	I	х	х	I	I	х	I	1	I	I	I
335	SBL	CGT ACT CATC CAC ACG G	55	I	х	х	I	I	х	1	1	I	I	I
508	6BS	GTT ATA GTA GCA TAT AAT GGC C GTT ATA GTA GCA TAT AAT GGC C	50	I	х	Х	I	I	I	×		I	I	I
219	6BL	GAT GAG CGA CAT TA LU GAT GAG CGA CAT CTC TC	09	I	х	х	x ^b	I	I		 	Ι	Ι	I
260	7AS	GGG GTC CGA GTC CAU AAC GCC CCC TTG CAC AAA TC CGC AGC TAC AGG CC	55	I	Х	X	I	I	I	I	I	х	I	I
46	7BS	GCA CGT GAA TGG ATT GGA C TGA CCC AAT AGT GGT GGT CA	09	I	xyz	xyz	x ^b	у	I	1	1	z	I	I
332	7AL	AGC CAG CAA GTC ACC AAA AC AGT GCT GGA AAG AGT AGT GAA GC	60	I	X	Х	I	I	I	×	1	I	I	I
^a Additi ^b Fragm	on line A is n ents evident i	ot available n 'S740-69' and the amphiploid. but not in any of tl	he availab	le addition	lines. indica	e that this WA	AS is n	amusa	d to he	a mark	er for 4.	o marka	wafii ch	A emosomor

Fig. 1 WMS applied to 'Alcedo' (1), Ae. markgrafii (2), amphiploid (3, 4) addition lines B (5, 6), C(7, 6)8), D(9, 10), E (11, 12), F (13, 14), G (15, 16), F_{del} (17, 18) and substitution line (1D) 1C (19, 20). Number of lanes in brackets (). The peaks at 73 bp and 234 bp in all lanes represent the internal size standards which were used for the calculation of fragment sizes. WMS135 produced a specific fragment (116 bp) with Ae. markgrafii and the amphiploids only, indicating it to be a marker for chromosome A. and additional fragments with addition line D (132 bp) and substitution line (1D)1C (128 bp)



as shown for WMS205 in Fig. 2. The fourth, WMS179, located on the distal part of the long arm of wheat chromosome 5A, which carries the 4AL/5AL translocation (Devos et al. 1995; Nelson et al. 1995), is evident in addition line B. WMS165, a marker for wheat group-4 chromosomes, is also evident in addition line B.

These results suggest the homoeology of the short arm of group-2 chromosomes and the long arm of group-4 chromosomes with *Ae. markgrafii* chromosome B, of group-5 chromosomes with *Ae. markgrafii* chromosome C, and the long arm of group-2 chromosomes with *Ae. markgrafii* chromosome G. The results for other groups/arms are not sufficient to give indications about homoeology. *Ae. markgrafii* chromosome E did not show any specific fragment with the WMS tested.

WMS46 was the only MS which produced polymorphic bands for more than one *Ae. markgrafii* chromosome (Fig. 3), i.e. chromosomes B, G and probably A; the fragment sizes are 216 bp, 129 bp and 80 bp, respectively.

An interesting peak pattern was generated by WMS350 (wheat chromosome 7AS): a polymorphic peak 129 bp in size appeared with *Ae. markgrafii* but not in one of the two amphiploids, in both plants of the line with an added deleted chromosome pair F_{del} and in only one plant of addition line B, whereas line F,

Fig. 2 WMS205, produced a specific fragment (119 bp) with *Ae. markgrafii*, the amphiploids and addition line C, and fragments of different size with addition line F_{del} and substitution line (1D)1C. Other data as in Fig. 1



with the complete chromosome F added, did not exhibit this peak; an additional peak of 153 bp was identified only from the one plant of addition line B exhibiting the 129-bp fragment and both plants of addition line F_{del} .

A general problem is the lower amplification of *Ae.* markgrafii-specifc fragments in both the amphiploids and the addition lines compared with the parent *Ae.* markgrafii acc. 'S740-69' (Figs. 1, 2 and 3). This was often the reason for the rejection of a WMS producing good polymorphisms in the first screening. For example, WMS46 (Fig. 3) shows two large peaks (80 and 129 bp in size) and three weaker peaks (216, 243 and 255 pb in size) in 'S740-69', whereas the amphiploids and the respective addition line show smaller peaks (80, 129 and 216 bp fragments) or no peaks at all (243- and 255-bp fragments). Interestingly, some lines showed peak losses, additional peaks or polymorphic peaks when compared with the parents. This was expected for substitution line (1D)1C, generated from another background for both *T. aestivum* and *Ae. markgrafii*. Changes in band pattern were also observed for all *T. aestivum*-*Ae. markgrafii* addition lines. The only exception was addition line C. Addition lines F and F_{del}, in particular, produced different band patterns for 8 out of 38 WMS tested. WMS135 shows additional peaks with addition line D (132 bp) and the substitution line Fig. 3 WMS46, produced a specific fragment (80 bp) with *Ae. markgrafii* and the amphiploids only, indicating it to be a marker for chromosome A, specific fragment (129 bp) with *Ae. markgrafii*, the amphiploids and addition line G, and another specific fragment (216 bp) with *Ae. markgrafii*, the amphiploids and addition line B. Addition line F_{del} and substitution line (1D) 1C showed fragments of different size. Other data as in Fig. 1



(1D)1C (128 bp) (Fig. 1). WMS205 showed a slightly different peak pattern for line (1D)1C (Fig. 2) and WMS46 shows changed patterns for addition line F_{del} and substitution line (1D)1C (Fig. 3) as well. Polymorphisms between the two *Ae. markgrafii* accessions 'S740-69' and 'AE110' were produced by 14 out of 39 WMS tested, i.e. 36%.

Discussion

MS as molecular markers have been employed for the differentiation of cultivars such as grapevine (Thomas

and Scott 1993), barley (Saghai Maroof et al. 1994) or wheat (Plaschke et al. 1995) and can supplement genetic maps (Becker and Heun 1995; Grandillo and Tanksley 1996). MS generated for cereals such as wheat or barley were successfully applied to other *Gramineae*. Röder et al. (1995) found that 7 and 6 out of 15 WMS produced polymorphisms in different barley and rye accessions, respectively. However, in only one case, respectively, did the polymorphic fragments in barley and rye contain a microsatellite sequence. Saghai Maroof et al. (1994) applied four barley MS to six disomic wheat-barley addition lines, but only one of them produced additional fragments in the wheat background. We applied 88 WMS to *Ae. markgrafii*, 69 of them produced fragments and 38 of these WMS showed polymorphism to wheat.

Only 20 out of the 88 WMS tested yielded useful polymorphisms and could be employed as molecular markers for *Ae. markgrafii* chromosomes. A possible reason why only 20 out of the 38 WMS were useful as markers may be a competition effect for primers between hexaploid wheat and *Ae. markgrafii*. Presumably, the sequences in hexaploid wheat may be better matched to the primer sequences than are the equivalent loci in *Ae. markgrafii* and, due to the competition effect, *Ae. markgrafii*-specific fragments were not detected as well in the amphiploid and addition lines as in the *Ae. markgrafii* parent.

The effectiveness of RAPDs was much lower in this respect (Peil et al. 1997). Only 18 of 238 primers were useful as molecular markers for Ae. markgrafii chromosomes, but it should be borne in mind that only those MS have been used which were successfully applied to wheat. The Ae. markgrafii chromosomes B, C, D, F and G were detected by six, three, three, one and six WMS, including the WMS which marked at least two different Ae. markgrafii chromosomes (B, G) and probably chromosome A, the unavailable addition line. Although WMS for all wheat chromosome arms were tested, no WMS was detected which was specific for chromosome E. Chromosome A was probably recognized by two additional WMS. We assume that the amplification of specific Ae. markgrafii fragments in the amphiploids, but not in one of the available addition lines, i.e. chromosomes B to G, is a sufficient indication that a WMS is a marker for chromosome A, as described previously for RAPDs (Peil et al. 1997). Another point of interest is the lack of the assumed chromosome A peaks in the substitution line (1D)1C, thought to be an *Ae. markgrafii* line containing chromosome A. It should be noted that for both T. aestivum and Ae. markgrafii the genetic background of that substitution line differs from our lines. Thirty six per cent of the WMS tested to two different Ae. markgrafii accessions 'S740-69' and 'AE110' showed polymorphisms between these two lines. This is comparable to results from RAPDs (Peil et al. 1997): 41% of 180 primers tested to these accessions showed polymorphisms. Peil et al. (1997) reported that one of two presumed RAPD markers for chromosome A generated the specific band with substitution line (1D)1C. Nevertheless, WMS349 produced the specific Ae. markgrafii fragment when applied to the line (1D)1C, but WMS349 generated this fragment with addition line D. This may be due to chromosomal rearrangements existing between these different Ae. markgrafii accessions or occurring during the development of the substitution line.

Senior and Heun (1993) reported the amplification of MS fragments longer than expected for barley and they showed that these fragments did not contain the targeted repeat. The amplification of fragments on

non-homoeologous chromosomes in wheat with MS primer pairs was shown by Plascke et al. (1996). For the use of WMS as markers for Ae. markgrafii chromosomes, it is not necessary that the specific WMS peak is located on a homoeologous chromosome. However, the phenomenon of amplified fragments located on non-homoeologous chromosomes for WMS raises difficulties in assessing the homoeology of genome C and the wheat genome. Nevertheless, from the results of isozyme tests (Schmidt et al. 1993) and chromosome structure we have obtained at least some information about the homoeology for some chromosomes. Wheat homoeologous groups 1, 5 and 6 contain nucleolus organizer regions (McIntosh 1988) visible as secondary constrictions on chromosomes 1B and 6B. Ae. markgrafii chromosomes A and C also contain secondary constrictions (Schubert et al. 1987). Additionally, peroxidase and glutenin genes, located on wheat homoeologous group 1 (Hart 1983; Schubert and Blüthner 1992), seem to be located on chromosome A because they were found only in 'S740-69' and the amphiploid but in none of the available addition lines (Schubert and Blüthner 1992; Schmidt et al. 1993). WMS135, located on group 1 in wheat, is probably a marker for chromosome A. These results indicate the homoeology of wheat group-1 chromosomes with Ae. markgrafii chromosome A. The aromatic alcohol dehydrogenase (NADP-AADH) gene, located on Ae. markgrafii chromosome C (Schmidt et al. 1993), is located on the long arm of group-5 chromosomes. Also, three out of four WMS (group-5) are located on chromosome C whereas the fourth WMS in located on chromosome B, but in wheat it is located on the 4AL/5AL translocation. These data, taken together, provide strong evidence that chromosome C is homoeologous to homoeologous group-5, Ae. markgrafii chromosome B seems to be homoeologous to the short arm of homoeologous group-2 and the long arm of homoeologous group-4. Three WMS specific to the short arm of homoeologous group-2 are located on chromosome B. WMS165 (4AS/BL/DL) is located on chromosome B and WMS179 is located on the 4AL/5AL translocation of 5A. This agrees with the presence of the β -amylase gene on wheat chromosome 4DL (Hart 1983) and chromosome B in Ae. markgrafii (Schmidt et al. 1993) as well as the location of RFLP-clone BCD1709, located on 2S in wheat, on chromosome B (unpublished data). The location of three out of four WMS, on the long arm of homoeologous group-2 on chromosome G, indicates their homoeology. Aspartate aminotransferase (3AL/ BL/DL; Hart 1983) is on chromosome F (Schmidt et al. 1993) and WMS314 (3D), a marker for chromosome F, indicates the homoeology of Ae. markgrafii chromosome F with wheat homoeologous group-3. Nevertheless, Schmidt et al. (1993) located an esterase (3AL/BL/DL; Hart 1983) on chromosome G; and WMS3, specific to chromosome G, is located on the long arm of homoeologous group-3, but more distal

than WMS314 (unpublished data). Leucine aminopeptidase (6 AS/BS/DS; Hart 1983) is present on chromosome D (Schmidt et al. 1993) and WMS508 (6BS), too, but WMS219 is found on chromosome A. The correspondence of most WMS with the results of isozyme analysis and chromosome morphology traits with regard to homoeology indicate that they detect homoeologous loci, although some results did not fit with these homoeologies. WMS349 (2DL), WMS219 (6BL) and WMS332 (7AL) are present on chromosomes D, A and D, respectively. This may be due to the amplification of non-homoeologous loci or to chromosomal rearrangements. The data observed indicate that there are rearrangements between the wheat genomes (A, B, D) and the *Ae. markgrafii* genome (C).

Some WMS showed additional bands, band losses, and band changes in some addition lines and the amphiploids, compared with the fragment pattern of parents, 'Alcedo' and 'S740-69'. A different peak pattern was expected for the substitution line, because of its different background for both parents. Changes in peak pattern for the addition lines or the amphiploid may be due to the observed chromosomal instability of the amphiploid and the spontaneous alien introgression into the euploid segregants (Blüthner et al. 1988). These chromosomal instabilities could also be caused by the gametocidal action of alien chromosomes from different Aegilops species introduced into wheat. The C genomes of Ae. markgrafii, Ae. triuncialis and Ae. cylindrica, in particular, are known to induce chromosomal rearrangements in backcrossing and selfing progenies from crosses with common wheat (Endo and Katayama 1978; Endo 1988; Tsujimoto and Noda 1988). Peak pattern changes could also be caused by changes in the wheat background over the several generations needed to produce the addition lines. It should be noted that this work was carried out to find robust markers for Ae. markgrafii chromosomes. Polymorphic WMS can only give hints of the homoeologous relationships between the A, B, D and C genomes.

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