Metagenomics of distant hybrids in the genus Ribes (Grossulariaceae)

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Abstract: Metagenomics of distant hybrids in the genus Ribes (Grossulariaceae)

The genus Ribes consists of several subgenera and approximately 150 species. Some authors divide the genus into two genera - currants and gooseberries. Within the genus, the level of hybridization is higher into gooseberries than in intersectional currants, currant-gooseberry and intersectional currants hybrids were created artificially using polyploidy method. By morphological, palynomorphological, karyological and other characteristics, currant-gooseberry hybrids are contrasting. Tetraploid currant-gooseberry hybrids Josta and Kroma have pollen grains with an intermediate morphological type, and pollen of the triploid Dlinnokistnaya CGL is not typical for the family. We performed a comparative metagenomic analysis of these three hybrids of known origin and their parental forms (R. niveum, R. reclinatum, R. divaricatum and R. nigrum) in order to assess changes in their genomes for the ITS1 of 35S rRNA gene. Intragenomic polymorphism was studied by locus-specific NGS sequencing on the Illumina MiSeq platform using primers ITS-1P and ITS-2. It was shown that the ribotypes of the hybrids correspond to those of the parental forms. Ribotypes of unknown origin, highly homologous to other currants, were found. It has been shown that most of the pseudogenes are not conserved in hybrids. Comparative plant metagenomics is an informative method for studying hybridization and hybrids of unknown origin.

Keywords: distant hybrids; intragenomic polymorphism; 35S rRNA
Distant hybrids

**Kroma, к-32609.** 4n=32. Sweden (Alnarpe).  
(R. nigrum × Grossularia) × (R. nigrum × G. nivea).

**Jošta, к-34031.** 4n=32, Germany, Max Planck Institute.  

**Dlinnokistnaya CGL, к-14550.** 3n=24. Russia, Michurin institute.  
Kyzirgan (R. altissimum) × Davison's eighth form (R. nigrum).

Parental forms

**Ribes niveum, k-28706**

**Ribes reclinatum, k-8196**

**Ribes divaricatum, k-8187**

**Ribes nigrum ssp. europeum**

**Ribes nigrum Davison's eighth form.**

**Ribes altissimum** Turcz. Lost.
Typical morphological and biological characteristics of hybrids and their parental forms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characters</th>
<th>R. reclinatum</th>
<th>R. divaricatum</th>
<th>R. niveum</th>
<th>Josta</th>
<th>Kroma</th>
<th>R. nigrum</th>
<th>R. altissimum</th>
<th>R. rubrum</th>
<th>DCGL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pollen type</td>
<td>Gooseberry</td>
<td>Intermediate</td>
<td>Currant</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Atypical</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brush type</td>
<td>Gooseberry</td>
<td>Black currant</td>
<td>Red currant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leaf type</td>
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<tr>
<td>Raceme</td>
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<tr>
<td>Raceme length</td>
<td>Short</td>
<td>Polymorphic</td>
<td>Long</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Flowers</td>
<td>1 - 3</td>
<td>2 - 4</td>
<td>3 - 15</td>
<td>20 - 40</td>
<td>11 - 16</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Thorns</td>
<td>+</td>
<td></td>
<td>-</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fruits</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Small</td>
<td>Big</td>
<td>Small</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Resistance (powdery mildew)</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>Polymorphic</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resistance (antracnoise)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
<td>Polymorphic</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resistance (gall mite)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Polyploidy method
Palynomorphology
NGS Methods

- **DNA extraction:**
  Doyle&Doyle [1]

- **Primers:**
  ITS-1P [2], ITS-2 [3]

- **Thermal Cycler:**
  C-1000 Bio-Rad

- **Phire Hot Start II DNA Polymerase:**
  Thermo Scientific Phire Plant Direct PCR Master Mix (#F-160)

- **Cycling protocol:**
  Initial denaturation: 98°C 5 min.
  30 cycles: denaturation 98°C 5 s, annealing 56°C 5 s, extension 72°C 15 s.
  Final extension: 72°C 1 min.

- **Sequencing:**
  Illumina MiSeq

- **Data processing:**
  Trimmomatic [4], Fastq-join [5], Vsearch [6], Mega [7], BLAST, Excel.
Results

[Diagram showing genetic distribution of different ribotypes in various species and crosses, with labels for Ribotype ZOTU 1, Sample specific ribotype ZOTU 15, and Pseudogene ribotype ZOTU 37.]

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Pseudogenes with long deletions

<table>
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<th>Deletion</th>
<th>Length</th>
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<th>End</th>
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<td>289</td>
<td>292</td>
<td>425</td>
<td>22 29</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>1123</td>
<td>8 27 37 46</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>364</td>
<td>23 35</td>
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<td>153</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>245</td>
<td>354</td>
<td>32 40</td>
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</table>

- The pseudogene is a highly homologous currant ribotype with a long (4-57 bp) deletion.
- The position and length of the deletions are not random.
- The same deletions are found in many ribotypes.
- Pseudogenes of parental forms were not found in hybrids.
- Probably, pseudogenes are formed during hybridization and are eliminated.
- Possibly, the mechanism of elimination of ribotypes of parental forms is associated with rapid multiple mutations, long deletions, changes in the secondary structure of ITS1, and splicing.
Conclusion

• Distant hybridization leads to mixing of morphological characters and genome rearrangement.
• Both morphological characters and ribotypes are inherited asymmetrically.
• In Kroma and Josta, the morphological characters correspond to gooseberry type, although in terms of ribotypes these hybrids are closer to R. nigrum.
• The pollen of Kroma and Josta is highly fertile and viable, it has the characteristics of currants and gooseberries.
• The distant hybrid of black and red currants D CGL has sterile and atypical pollen.
• The distribution of ribotypes of parental forms in hybrids is rather complex.
• The ribotypes of the parental forms are retained in hybrids.
• Some ribotypes are eliminated after several hybridization steps.
• The number of different ribotypes-pseudogenes in hybrids is at least 3 times higher as compared with studied parental forms.
References


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