Powdery Mildew Resistance Genes in Wheat: Identification and Genetic Analysis

Md. Ashraful Alam

College of Agronomy, Northwest A & F University, China

&

Scientific Officer, Wheat Research Centre, BARI, Dinajpur, Bangladesh E-mail: ashrafulw@yahoo.com

Fei Xue

College of Agronomy, Northwest A & F University, China

Changyou Wang College of Agronomy, Northwest A & F University, China

Wanquan Ji (Corresponding author) College of Agronomy, Northwest A & F University, China E-mail: jiwanquan2003@126.com

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Abstract

Wheat powdery mildew, caused by *Blumeria graminis* f. sp. *Tritici* is one of the most devastating diseases of common wheat worldwide. To date, 41 loci (*Pm1 to Pm45, Pm18=Pm1c, Pm22=Pm1e, Pm23=Pm4c, Pm31=Pm21*) with more than 60 genes/alleles for resistance to powdery mildew have been identified and located on 18 different chromosomes in bread wheat. 29 resistance genes/alleles have been tagged with molecular markers such as restriction fragment length polymorphisms (RFLPs), random amplified polymorphic DNAs (RAPDs), amplified fragment length polymorphisms (AFLPs), sequence tagged sites (STS) and simple sequence repeats (SSRs), by using F_2 , back-cross populations, near-isogenic lines (NILs), doubled haploids (DH), recombinant inbred lines (RILs) or bulked segregant analysis (BSA). The detail information on chromosomal location, molecular markers linked to powdery mildew, mapping population and molecular mapping of powdery mildew resistance genes have been reviewed.

Keywords: *Blumeria graminis* f.sp. *tritici*, Molecular markers, Mapping population, Molecular mapping, Powdery mildew resistance gene, *Triticum aestivum*

1. Introduction

Wheat powdery mildew, caused by *Blumeria graminis* (DC.) E.O. Speer f. sp. *Tritici* Em. Marchal (*Bgt*) = *Erysiphe graminis* DC. *Ex Merat* f. sp. *Tritici* Em. Marchal, is one of the most devastating diseases of common wheat occurs in many areas, including China, Germany, Japan, Russia, United Kingdom, South and West Asia, North and East Africa, and the Southeastern United States (Bennett, 1984). Yield losses ranging from 13 to 34% due to this disease (Griffey *et al.*, 1993; Leath & Bowen, 1989). Growing of resistant cultivars offer effective, economically sound and environmentally safe approach to eliminate the use of fungicides and reducing crop losses caused by powdery mildew. There are two types of resistance to powdery mildew. One is called monogenic (vertical) or race specific resistance, which is effective for some isolates of powdery mildew, but ineffective for others. Race specific resistance is mainly via a hypersensitive foliar reaction directly involving single major R genes, designated as *Pm* (powdery mildew) genes, in a gene-for-gene interaction (Bennett, 1984;

Chen and Chelkowski, 1999; Hsam and Zeller, 2002). Race-specific resistance genes are expressed in seedlings and throughout the vegetative cycle of wheat. Though race-specific resistance have been extensively used in wheat breeding programs, selection pressure exerted by cultivars with race-specific resistance genes results in the rapid build-up of isolates with matching virulence genes. Afterward, race-specific resistance breaks down when confronted by pathogen isolates with matching virulence genes and, therefore, is ephemeral.

Another type of resistance to powdery mildew is called adult plant resistance (APR), which retards infection, growth and reproduction of the pathogen in adult plants but not in seedlings. It is also called "slow mildewing" (Shaner, 1973) and "partial resistance" (Hautea *et al.*, 1987). This type of resistance can be identified in cultivars with defeated race-specific genes or lacking known race-specific resistance genes. APR to powdery mildew is more durable than race-specific resistance. For example, APR in wheat cultivar Knox and its derivatives remained effective against powdery mildew infection during the 20 years in which these cultivars were grown commercially (Shaner, 1973). Massey, a derivative of Knox62, was released from Virginia Tech in 1981 (Starling *et al.* 1984), and still has effective powdery mildew resistance in adult plants. Up to now, 41 loci (*Pm1 to Pm45, Pm18=Pm1c, Pm22=Pm1e, Pm23=Pm4c, Pm31=Pm21*) with more than 60 genes/alleles for resistance to powdery mildew have been identified and located on various chromosomes in bread wheat and its relatives (Ma *et al.*, 2011; McIntosh *et al.*, 2008; Luo *et al.*, 2009; Li *et al.*, 2009; Hua *et al.*, 2009; He *et al.*, 2009). However, resistances of genes are frequently overcome by new *Bgt* isolates, because the presence and frequency of virulence genes in the pathogen population changes continuously (Leath & Murphy, 1985; Menzies & MacNeil, 1986; Limpert *et al.* 1987; Namuco *et al.* 1987). The effective management strategy has been to replace cultivars when their resistance is no longer effective (Wolf, 1984; Leath & Heun, 1990).

Molecular markers are now widely used for gene tagging, gene mapping, and other genetics research because they are not influenced by environmental conditions and growth stage. The use of PCR based molecular markers to tag genomic regions are more efficient for marker assisted selection (MAS), due to the small amount of DNA template required and easy to handling of large population sizes. The identification of molecular markers of flanking disease resistance genes, simplifies breeding activities such as cultivar development (Bonnett *et al.*, 2005), near isogenic line development (Zhou *et al.*, 2005), and pyramiding resistance genes into single genotypes by marker assisted selection (MAS). Many of the recently reported of *Pm* genes have associated markers (Miranda *et al.*, 2006, 2007; Perugini *et al.*, 2008). Recently, molecular markers such as restriction fragment length polymorphisms (RFLPs), random amplified polymorphic DNAs (RAPDs), amplified fragment length polymorphisms (AFLPs), sequence tagged sites (STS) and microsatellites, also termed simple sequence repeats (SSRs), have been widely used to tag and identify powdery mildew resistance genes in wheat by using F₂ and back-cross populations, near-isogenic lines (NILs), doubled haploids (DH), recombinant inbred lines (RILs) or bulked segregant analysis (BSA, Michelmore *et al.*, 1991).

2. Chromosomal Location of Identified Pm Genes

In recent years, wheat genomics research has increased the use of genetic maps to position a gene of interest between close flanking markers (Haley & Knott, 1992). The application of molecular markers in plant systems increases the efficiency of conventional plant breeding by carrying out indirect selection through molecular markers linked to the traits of interest (Gupta *et al.*, 1999). A linkage map gives information on the position of markers within a linkage group. The map positions are inferred from estimates of recombination frequencies between markers. The distance between these markers is expressed in centimorgan (cM) which represents the recombination rates between them (Jones *et al.*, 1997). Chromosomal positions of several mapped powdery mildew resistance gene loci are presented in Figure 1.

The presence of Pm resistant genes is vital not only for monogenic resistance but also the defeated Pm genes often confer oligogenic and quantitative type resistance when combined together (Royer *et al.*, 1984; Pedersen & Leath, 1988; Paillard *et al.*, 2000). Chromosomal locations, cultivars/lines, sources and references for the 64 known powdery mildew resistance genes/alleles have been identified as major genes for vertical resistance to powdery mildew in wheat (Ma *et al.*, 2011; McIntosh *et al.*, 2008; Luo *et al.*, 2009; Li *et al.*, 2009; Hua *et al.*, 2009; He *et al.*, 2009) (Table 1). Thirty Pm alleles at 25 loci have been nominated for wheat powdery mildew resistance (McIntosh *et al.* 1955). Twenty-five alleles at 19 loci from Pm1 to Pm19, their locations at chromosomes, and their sources have been reviewed (McIntosh *et al.* 1995). Other Pm alleles such as Pm20, Pm21, and Pm22 have been reported by Friebe *et al.*, 1994, Qi *et al.*, 1995, and Peusha *et al.*, 1996 and Pm25 has been identified by Shi *et al.* 1998. Host-pathogen interactions analysis, chromosomal (cytogenesis) analysis and molecular marker techniques have been utilized for determining chromosomal locations of Pm genes. These powdery mildew resistance genes are non-randomly distributed in the genome (Table 3), but form clusters in gene-rich regions (Gill *et al.*, 1996a, b). The highest numbers of Pm loci are contained by each 6B and 7B chromosome with 5 known Pm loci. Chromosomes

without known Pm genes are 3A (Pm44), 4D, and 5A (according to Hsam & Zeller, 2002). Gene loci that contain more than one resistance allele are Pm1 with 4 alleles, Pm3 with 9 alleles, Pm4 with 3 alleles, Pm5 with 4 alleles (Chen & Chelkowski, 1999; Hsam & Zeller, 2002). Hsam and Zeller (2002) stated that loci Pm10, Pm11, Pm14, and Pm15 contain individual genes for resistance to *Erysiphe graminis* f.sp. *agropyri* and are not effective against *Blumeria graminis* f. sp. *Tritici*. Eight gene loci were identified in homoeologous group 1, whereas only one gene (Pm16) was found in homoeologous group 4 (i.e. chromosome 4A; Reader & Miller, 1991).

Xue *et al.* (2009) reported that the Chinese landraces wheat line Xiaobaidong contained a new recessive gene, *mlxbd* which was located on chromosome 7BL and near the locus *Pm5*. Powdery mildew resistance gene *Mld* was located on chromosome 4B in the wheat lines, Halle 13471, H8810/47 and Maris Dove. It was transferred from *T. durum* (McIntosh *et al.*, 1995). Zeller *et al.* (1993b) reported that three wheat cultivars, Abo, Aristide and Courtot, contained a major gene, *Mlar*, for resistance to the German *Bgt* isolate no.2. Robe and Doussinault (1995) reported that the line RF714 contained a new recessive gene, *mlre*, for wheat powdery mildew resistance, which was derived from a cross between *Aegilops squarrosa* 33 and *Triticum dicoccum* 119. They postulated that *mlre* was derived from *T. dicoccum*. A new recessive gene, *pmTD1*, was identified in the wheat line NC92-8562 transferred from *Ae. Tauschii* ssp. *Tauschii* (Shi *et al.*, 1998). Liu *et al.* (1989) reported that the variety Kenguia 1 contained a new gene, *KG*, for powdery mildew resistance, which was located on chromosome 6A.

3. Sources and Distribution of Resistance Genes

Common sources of *Pm* genes are different species within the primary, secondary and tertiary gene pools. Bread wheat is an allohexaploid species (2n=6x=42), with three distinct genomes (AABBDD). Many of the resistance genes were introduced from ancestral and other wild species related to common wheat such as Triticum monococcum, close relative of the A genome progenitor Triticum uratu, the B genome progenitor Aegilops speltoides, and the D genome progenitor Ae. Tauschii (Hsam & Zeller, 2002; Jiang et al., 1994). Chen and Chelkowski (1999) and Hsam and Zeller (2002) reported a total of 22 resistance alleles at 10 loci including Pm1, Pm2, Pm3 (3a, 3b, 3c, 3d, 3e, and 3f), Pm9, Pm18, Pm22 and Pm45 in T. aestivum indicating that Pm genes may still be found in cultivated wheat. Although Bennett (1984) reported that just a small number of Pm genes have been identified which originated in the cultivars T. aestivum. Mains (1933) identified that the wild wheat relatives T. monococcum (AA genomes), T. dicoccum (AABB), and T. timopheevi (AAGG) are the sources of resistance genes to powdery mildew as early as 1933. Screening of old wheat cultivars, land-races and related species for resistance to powdery mildew started in the 1930's (Hsam & Zeller, 2002). Pm genes were identified in many different, widely distributed wheat cultivars and landraces. Pm5a and Pm5b, followed by Pm2, Pm6, and Pm8 are the most common in Europe, Asia and Mediterranean cultivars. Pm3a is commonly found in wheat cultivars grown in diverse geographical locations including the Balkans, Japan, china and the US. Pm3c was identified in Germany, while Pm3d was found in several European countries and China. *Pm4a* has been used in commercial wheat cultivars in Germany and China. A number of commercially grown cultivars have been found to have Pm gene combinations (Heun & Fischbeck, 1987). The best known cultivars are Normandie with Pm1, Pm2, and Pm9, Maris Huntsman with Pm2 and Pm6, Kronjuvel with Pm4b and Pm8, and 623/65 with Pm4b and Pm8 (Liu et al., 1999). Gene transfer from species within the primary gene pool of *Triticum* that homologous chromosomes to wheat can be done directly by hybridization, recombination and backcrossing.

Diploid *Aegilops tauschii* Coss (2n=2x=14, DD) has proved to be a valuable relative for wheat breeding and diversifying disease resistance (Gill *et al.* 1986, Cox *et al.* 1992). For wheat powdery mildew resistance, Gill *et al.* (1986) reported on the reactions of 60 accessions of *A. tauschii* to four *Bgt* isolates. Among the 60 accessions, four showed an immune reaction, seven were highly resistant, and 20 were moderately resistant. Two resistance alleles, *Pm2* and *pm19*, were transferred into common wheat from *A. tauschii* (Hsam & Zeller, 2002). Although *Pm10* and *Pm15* are not effective against *Bgt*, they can be traced from *A. tauschii* (McIntosh *et al.*, 1995). Four new germplasm lines, NC96BGTD1, NC96BGTD2, were released with wheat powdery mildew resistance alleles, which were transferred from *A. tauschii* and two germplasm line NC96BGTD3 and NC97BGTD7 contain *Pm34* and *Pm35* (Murphy *et al.*, 1998; Mirinda *et al.*, 2006, 2007). Shi *et al.*, (1998) identified new allele(s) for powdery mildew resistance transferred from *A.e. Tauschii* sp. *Tauschii* in NC92-8562 and NC109-2-1-G1-1; diploid einkorn wheat (*T. monococcum*) (2n=2x=14, AA genome) derivative common wheat germplasm NC96BGTA5 contain *Pm25* (Shi *et al.*, 1998; Murphy *et al.*, 1998).

Tetraploid wild emmer wheat (*T. dicoccoides*) (2n=4x=28, AABB), the progenitor of common tetraploid and hexaploid wheats (Liu *et al.*, 2002); and the source of *Pm16*, *Pm26*, *Pm3*, *Pm31*, *Pm36*, *Pm41* and *pm42* (Rong *et al.*, 2000; Liu *et al.*, 2002; Hsam & Zeller, 2002; Hua *et al.*, 2009). Krivchenko *et al.*, (1979) determined the reactions of 29 *T. dicoccoides* samples to wheat powdery mildew. Twenty-eight were resistant in the field, and fifteen were resistant in the seedling stage. Wang *et al.* (2007) reported that the temporary design powdery mildew resistance gene

PmAS846 derived from wild emmer (*T. dicoccoides*) accession As846. Moseman *et al.* (1984) reported on the reactions to powdery mildew of 233 *T. dicoccoides* nti-infla. Resistance to at least one isolate was found in 149 accessions, and 137 expressed intermediate to complete resistance to four *Bgt* isolates; tetraploid *T. dicoccum* (2n=4x=28, AABB), a source of genes for resistance to powdery mildew (Bennett, 1984; Navarro *et al.*, 2000; Hsam and Zeller, 2002) including *Pm4a* and *Pm5a*; tetraploid *T. durum* (2n=4x=28, AABB), a somewhat less valuable source of resistance to powdery mildew (Mains, 1934; Hsam & Zeller, 2002), although it contributed *Pm3h* (Zeller and Hsam, 1998); This species is highly regarded as a source for *Pm* and other resistance genes (Mains, 1934; Grechter-Amitai and Van Silfhout, 1984; Hsam & Zeller, 2002); tetraploid *T. carthlicum* (2n=4x=28, AABB genomes) was a donor of *Pm4b* and *Pm33* (Hsam & Zeller, 2002; Zhu *et al.*, 2005).

Polyploid Triticum and Aegilops genotypes sharing at least one common genome with T. aestivum belong to the secondary gene pool. If genes are on the homologous chromosomes, gene transfer may be by direct hybridization, or may require special cytogenetic techniques such as embryo rescue (Jiang et al., 1994). Some diploid and tetraploid species belong to this group and some species have been used as sources of resistance genes such as; tetraploid cultivated T. timopheevii and it's wild form, T. araraticum, (2n=4x=28, AAGG), contributed Pm6, Pm27, Pm37 and contain at least one more Pm gene (Mains, 1934; Järve et al., 2000; Hsam & Zeller, 2002; Murphy et al., 2002; Perugini et al., 2008); Ae. Speltoides (2n=2x=14, SS) was the donor of Pm1d, Pm12 and Pm32 (Hsam and Zeller, 2002; Hsam et al., 2003); and Ae. Longissima (2n=2x=14, SS), was the donor of Pm13 (Cenci et al., 1999). Ae. Speltoides and Ae. Longissima are both diploid species with the S genome, which is closely related to the B genome of wheat and show co-linearity with at least five chromosomes with the wheat D genome (Zhang et al., 2001; Hsam & Zeller, 2002). Other species such as Dasypyrum (Hylandia) (2n=2x=14, VV), cultivated rve (Secale nti-i) (2n=2x=14, RR), and some Aegilops species which do not share with common wheat genomes belong to the tertiary gene pool. A homologous recombination with such donor parents cannot be used for gene transfer. Genetic techniques such as induction of chromosome translocations radiated or induced mutation at Ph1 locus on chromosome 5BL or lack of 5B chromosomal pair can be used to facilitate gene transfer (Jiang et al., 1994). The products of these methods are wheat/alien chromosome translocation, or recombination lines. Four Pm (Pm7, Pm8, Pm17, and Pm20) genes were transferred from rye (Secale nti-i, 2n=14, RR) into cultivated wheat (Hsam and Zeller, 2002). The 1RS chromosome arm from rye is the most widely incorporated alien chromatin in present wheat genomes (Hsam et al., 2000). Wheat germplasm Transec contain Pm7 as a 4BS.4BL-5RL translocation (Table 1). Pm8 derived from rye cultivar Petkus (Ren et al., 1997) and Pm17 are both located on the short arm of the 1R chromosome in rye. Pm8 and Pm17 segregated independently from each other in Amigo wheat which indicated two distinct translocations, $Pm\delta$ is located in T1BL.1RS, and Pm17 is located in T1AL.1RS wheat-rye translocation lines (Heun et al., 1990; Friebe et al., 1994). Pm20 was transferred from the 6RL rye chromosome into common wheat. Aegilops nti- (2n=4X=28, UUMM) was the donor of Pm29 and the wild diploid Hyanaldia vilosa (2n=2x=14, VV) was the donor of *Pm21* (Zeller et al., 2002). Other species with potentially useful powdery mildew resistance genes are Ae. nti-in, Ae. Markgrafii, Ae. Umbelluata, Ae. Variabilis, Ae. Triuncalis, and Ae. Mutica, as well as the perennial subspecies of Triticae, such as Elymus, Leymus, Elytrigia and Thinopyrum, (Jiang et al., 1994; Eser, 1998; Hsam & Zeller, 2002; Luo et al., 2009).

4. Molecular Markers Linked to Powdery Mildew Resistance Gene

Molecular markers are tools that help to locate and identify parts of DNA that are located near a gene or genes of interest. DNA markers identify locations where the sequences differ among varieties. These can be located within genes or in the DNA between genes, so long as they are unique sequences and differ between the plants of interest. Differences of this type are called polymorphisms, and there are a variety of ways to detect and use these signposts within the chromosomes (Suslow et al. 2002). Different molecular techniques have been used to characterize and manipulate resistance genes and to dissect different types of resistance. Molecular markers were used for mapping monogenic resistance, characterization of quantitative resistance in germplasms and marker-aided selection (Michelmore, 1995). Molecular identification of specific DNA sequences can be used to identify the presence or absence of Pm genes in a cultivar, their chromosomal location, the number of genes and the way in which they are transmitted to progeny (Chen & Chelkowski, 1999). With the help of molecular markers, more than 20 powdery mildew resistance genes, such as Pm30 (Liu et al., 2002), Pm31 (Xie et al., 2003), Pm33 (Zhu et al., 2005), Pm34 (Miranda et al., 2006), Pm35 (Miranda et al., 2007), PmY39 (Zhu et al., 2006), PmY201 and PmY212 (Sun et al., 2006), PmU (Qiu et al., 2005), MlZec1 (Mohler et al., 2005), Mlm2033, Mlm80 and pm2026 (Yao et al., 2007; Xu et al., 2008), PmLK906 (Niu et al., 2008) Pm43 (He et al., 2009) and Pm45 (Ma et al., 2011), have been discovered and mapped. Molecular marker techniques commonly used for identification and confirmation of Pm genes to powdery mildew are:

4.1 Restriction Fragment Length Polymorphisms (RFLP)

RFLPs were the first molecular markers that developed and used in genetic analysis, initially in humans (Botstein *et al.*, 1980), and later applied to plants (Weber & Helentjaris, 1989). Even though these markers were extensively used for mapping approaches in various plant species, they didn't fulfill the initial expectations as universal genotyping assays, since they require large amounts of DNA, are expensive and time consuming. Devos & Gale (1993) considered the RFLP technology too slow and too expensive to use for routine screening of the mapping populations. Thus, RFLPs have limited application in wheat breeding programs that require large-scale screening of progenies from intra-specific crosses in a short time period. A large number of identified powdery mildew resistance genes have been tagged with RFLP markers in wheat, such as: *Pm1, Pm2, Pm3b, Pm4a* (Ma *et al.*, 1994), *Pm1, Pm2*, and *Pm18* (Hartl *et al.*, 1995), *Pm1c* (Hartl *et al.*, 1999), *Pm2* (Mohler & Jahoor, 1996), *Pm2, Pm4a, Pm21* (Liu *et al.*, 2000), *Pm3a, Pm3b*, and *Pm3c* (Hartl *et al.*, 1993b), *Pm3g* (Sourdille *et al.*, 1999), *Pm6* (Tao *et al.*, 2000), *Pm12* (Jia *et al.*, 1996), *Pm13* (Cenci *et al.*, 1999), *Pm17* (Hsam *et al.*, 2000), *Pm21* (Liu *et al.*, 1999), *Pm26* (Rong *et al.*, 2000), *Pm27* (Järve *et al.*, 2000) and *Pm29* (Zeller *et al.*, 2002).

4.2 Random Amplified Polymorphisms (RAPD)

RAPD is based on the amplification of random DNA segments using a single primer of arbitrary nucleotide sequence. Sequence information and radioactivity are not required for RAPD analysis. It is economical and easy to use. Several powdery mildew resistance genes tagged with RAPD markers, such as: *Pm1* (Hu *et al.*, 1997), *Pm1, Pm2, Pm3, Pm3a, Pm3b, Pm3c, Pm4a, Pm12* (Shi, 1997), *Pm13* (Cenci *et al.*, 1999), *Pm18* (Hartl *et al.*, 1995), *Pm21* (Qi *et al.*, 1996; Liu *et al.*, 1999), and *Pm25* (Shi *et al.*, 1998). More than forty RAPD markers and two RFLP markers have been identified to be associated with *Pm1, Pm2, Pm3a, Pm3b, Pm3c, Pm4a*, and *Pm21* (Hartl *et al.*, 1993b, Ma *et al.*, 1994, Qi *et al.*, 1996). However, most RAPD markers are dominant, and sometimes the results are difficult to reproduce. Fortunately, RAPD markers can be converted to more reliable markers, such as SCARs (sequence characterized amplified regions). For example, the RAPD marker linked to the wheat powdery mildew resistance gene *Pm21* was converted to a SCAR marker (Liu *et al.*, 1996).

4.3 Amplified Fragment Length Polymorphisms (AFLP)

The AFLP technique is based on selectively amplifying a subset of restriction fragments from a complex mixture of DNA fragments obtained after digestion of genomic DNA with restriction endonucleases (Vos *et al.*, 1995). AFLP analysis is a reliable and efficient method and a powerful technique to generate large numbers of markers for the construction of high-density genetic maps (Becker *et al.*, 1995; Keim *et al.*, 1997), identifying specific genes (Kasuga *et al.*, 1997; Schwarz *et al.*, 1999) and map-based cloning of resistance genes (Buschges *et al.*, 1997; Wei *et al.*, 1999). Linked AFLP markers have already been found for *Pm1c* and *Pm4a* (Hartl *et al.*, 1999), *Pm17* (Hsam *et al.*, 2000), *Pm24* (Huang *et al.*, 2000b), *Pm29* (Zeller *et al.*, 2002) and *pm42* (Hua *et al.*, 2009).

4.4 Microsatellites (Simple Sequence Repeat, SSR)

Microsatellites or simple sequence repeats (SSRs) are an alternative type of codominant marker more suitable for screening large populations than RFLPs. They are simple sequence repeats of only a few base pairs (1-6) that are commonly found in eukaryotic genomes (Gupta *et al.*, 1999). Most of microsatellite markers are chromosome specific, thereby simplifying the assignment of linkage groups (Röder *et al.*, 1998; Gupta *et al.*, 1999). The genome specificity of microsatellite markers can also be used to recognize the arm and sub-arm localization of disease resistance genes using Chinese Spring ditelosomic and deletion stocks (Endo & Gill 1996). Gene-flanking microsatellite markers can be assigned to chromosome arms and interval breakpoints by examining their presence or absence in ditelosomic and deletion lines (Plaschke *et al.*, 1996; Sourdille *et al.*, 2004). Over 1000 microsatellites from wheat are currently available (Gupta *et al.*, 2002 ; Guyomarc'h *et al.*, 2002 ; Huang *et al.*, 2003b ; Röder *et al.*, 2004 ; Song *et al.*, 2002 ; Stephenson *et al.*, 1998). Recently, using SSR markers, there are several powdery mildew resistance genes identified and mapped such as : *Pm24* (Huang *et al.*, 2000b), *Pm27* (Järve *et al.*, 2000), *Pm30* (Liu *et al.*, 2002), *Pm33* (Zhu *et al.*, 2005), *Pm34* (Miranda *et al.*, 2006), *Pm35* (Miranda *et al.*, 2007), *Pm36* (Blanco *et al.*, 2008) *Pm40* (Luo *et al.*, 2009), *Pm41* (Li *et al.*, 2009) *pm42* (Hua *et al.*, 2009), *Pm43* (He *et al.*, 2009) and *Pm45*(Ma *et al.*, 2011).

4.5 Sequence Tagged Site (STS)

STS markers are single copy sequence amplified using specific primers that match the nucleotide sequences at the ends of a DNA fragment of an RFLP probe (Olson *et al.*, 1989). This approach is extremely useful for studying the relationship between various species and linked to some specific traits (Bustos *et al.*, 1999; Hartl *et al.*, 1993a). RFLP probes specifically linked to a desired trait can be converted into PCR-based STS markers, based on nucleotide sequence of the probe giving polymorphic band pattern, to obtain specific amplification. Tedious hybridization

procedures involved in RFLP analysis can be overcome using this technique. Tagged STS markers have been identified for *Pm1* (Hu *et al.*, 1997), *Pm2* (Mohler & Jahoor, 1996), *Pm13* (Cenci *et al.*, 1999), *Pm41* (Li *et al.*, 2009) and *pm42* (Hua *et al.*, 2009).

5. Mapping Population

Both F_2 and backcross populations are easy to construct and can be produced within short time. F_2 is more powerful for detecting QTLs with additive effects, and can also be used to estimate the degree of dominance for detected QTLs. When dominance is present, backcrosses give biased estimates of the effects because additive and dominant effects are completely irritating in this design (Carbonell *et al.*, 1993). Many markers require to be analyzed for a large number of plants when F_2 or backcross populations are used for gene mapping. Besides, some traits are difficult to score on an individual plant basis. So, alternative strategies have been used to improve the efficiency of genetic mapping such as NILs (near-isogenic lines), BSA (bulked segregant analysis) and RILs (recombinant inbred Lines) lines or DH (double haploid, Michelmore *et al.*, 1991).

NILs that differ by the presence or absence of the target gene and flanking a small region of DNA, are useful to identify markers linked with the target gene (Young *et al.*, 1988). Genetic markers are polymorphic between the NIL and its recurrent parent that are putatively linked to the target gene (Muehlbauer *et al.*, 1988). Many disease resistance genes have been mapped using NILs, including powdery mildew resistance in wheat and barley (Hinze *et al.*, 1991; Schuller *et al.*, 1992). *Pm2*, *Pm3*, *Pm4a* and *Pm6* have been mapped using NILs (Hartl *et al.*, 1995; Tao *et al.*, 2000).

Although NILs are helpful to construct gene map, often they are unavailable, and the development of NILs is time-consuming and laborious. To overcome the problems of NILs, Michelmore *et al.*, (1991) successfully used bulked segregant analysis (BSA) to identify RAPD markers tightly linked to genes for resistance to lettuce downy mildew. Many powdery mildew resistance gene/allele such as Pm1, Pm4a, Pm8, Pm24, Pm25, Pm29, Pm30 and Pm31 have been identified using BSA (Shi *et al.*, 1998). This strategy involves comparing two DNA samples pool of individuals from a segregating population. Within each pool, or bulk, the individuals are identical for the trait or gene of interest but are uninformed for all the other genes. All polymorphic markers between two DNA pools are putatively linked with the target gene.

Recombinant inbred lines or double haploid populations are permanent populations that can be used indefinitely for mapping. They can also be readily disseminated among labs and new data can be continuously added to a pre-existing map. Furthermore, RI lines or DH populations can be evaluated in many different environments. Since each genotype is represented by an inbred line, rather than by an individual plant, a more accurate assessment of the genetic component of variance can be made in studying quantitative traits (Burr *et al.*, 1988). Therefore, RI lines or DH populations are more useful for analysis of quantitative traits or traits that are difficult to characterize on an individual plant basis. DH lines have been used to screen molecular markers associated with genes, *Pm3a*, *Pm3g* and *Pm8* for powdery mildew resistance in wheat (Hartle *et al.*, 1993b; Sourdille *et al.*, 1999; Wricke *et al.*, 1996). *Pm13* has been mapped using RI lines (Donini *et al.*, 1995)

6. Mapping of Powdery Mildew Resistance Genes

The development of genetic maps of wheat is now adding a new dimension for identification of molecular markers associated with powdery mildew resistance genes. Screening markers can be conducted in the two parents, by selecting several markers on each chromosome of the genetic map, and then linkage between the allele for resistance and the polymorphic markers in the two parents can be estimated by use of OTL statistical analysis based on the data from a segregating population. In plants, molecular mapping and cloning of disease resistance genes will facilitate the study of molecular mechanisms underlying and evolution of resistance and will permit marker-assisted selection in breeding programs. Several powdery mildew resistance genes have been tagged with molecular markers (Table 2). Using cultivar Chancellor as the recurrent parent, Briggle (1969) developed NILs for powdery mildew resistance genes Pm1, Pm2, Pm3 and Pm4a, respectively. Hartl et al. (1995) found that RFLP marker Whs178 was 3 cM away from gene Pm1. Hu et al. (1997) used RAPD markers to tag gene Pm1. RAPD markers UBC320420 and UBC638550 cosegregated with gene Pm1 among 244 F₂ plants. Another RAPD marker OPF12650 was 5.4 cM away from gene Pm1. Recently, Hartl et al. (1999) have used AFLP markers to map gene Pm1c. Among 96 primer combinations, 31 polymorphic AFLP fragments between the resistant and susceptible pools were in accordance with the patterns of the parents. The eight most reliable polymorphic markers were analyzed in a segregating population for the gene Pmlc. Two of them cosegregated with the gene Pmlc and the other six markers were tightly linked with the gene. One AFLP marker, 18M2, was found to be highly specific for the Pm1c gene in diverse genetic backgrounds. RFLP analysis of NILs possessing the gene Pm2 and the recurrent parent indicated that: 1) RFLP marker BCD1871 was 3.5 cM away from gene Pm2 (Ma et al., 1994); 2) RFLP marker Whs295 mapped 2.7 cM away from the gene Pm2 (Hartl et al., 1995); and 3) the gene Pm2 was also linked with RFLP marker Whs350 (Hartl et al., 1995). Ma et al., (2011) found that Pm45 on chromosome 5DS which was flanked by Xgwm205 and Xmag6176, with a genetic distance of 8.3 cM and 2.8 cM, respectively. This gene was 3.3 cM from a locus mapped by the STS marker MAG6137, converted from the RFLP marker BCD1871, which was 3.5 cM from Pm2. Using RFLP analysis of NILs possessing the gene Pm3 and the recurrent parent, Hartl et al. (1993b) found that RFLP marker Whs179 revealed polymorphism not only between the NILs with and without gene Pm3, but also among NILs possessing different alleles of the Pm3 locus. The genetic distance between probe Whs179 and Pm3 was 3.3±1.9 cM. Ma et al. (1994) reported that RFLP marker BCD1434 was 1.3 cM away from Pm3a or Pm3b. Ma et al. (1994) also reported that Pm4a cosegregated with RFLP markers BCD1231-2A(2) and CDO678-2A, and was closely flanked by BCD1231-2A(1) and BCD292-2A. Xue et al. (2009) reported that SSR marker Xgwm577 was linked to powdery mildew resistance gene mlxbd with a distance of 3.5cM. Blanco et al., (2008) found that Pm36 linked on chromosome 5BL with five AFLP markers XP43M32 (250), XP46M31(410), XP41M37(100), XP41M39(250) and XP39M32(120), three genomic SSR markers (Xcfd07, Xwmc75, Xgwm408) and one EST-derived SSR marker (BJ261635). Using F₂ population Zhang et al. (2010) also found that the temporary design powdery mildew resistance gene Ml3D232 on chromosome 5BL which was flanked by Xgwm415 and Xwmc75. Zhang et al. (2009) also found temporary Pm design gene MIW29 on 5BL chromosome and also flanked by Xgwm415 and Xwmc75, with a genetic distance of 2.5 cM and 17.6 cM, respectively.

7. Conclusion

Molecular markers tightly linked to economically important monogenic or oligogenic trait have potential for immediate utility in plant improvement. Efficient application of molecular markers in plant breeding will depend on the development cost-effective and automated diagnostic technologies. A major problem is when the linked marker used for selection is at a distance away from the gene of interest, leading to crossover between the marker and the gene. In future, the success of marker assisted selection may depend on the possibility of tagging the favorable alleles themselves.

Valuable lessons learnt from past research are likely to encourage more researchers to develop reliable markers and plant breeders to adopt MAS. PCR-based markers are more attractive for MAS, due to the small amount of template required and more efficient handling of large population sizes. PCR-based molecular markers are suitable for marker assisted selection (MAS), due to small amount of DNA require, more efficient managing of large population sizes and possible to map and tag almost any trait. DNA markers have facilitated the dissection of the genetic basis of complex traits and have helped in understanding their mode of action and how their functioning is modulated by the environment. AFLP, RAPD and STS markers can not be applied for differentiation of homozygous and heterozygous individuals in segregating population. Among the DNA marker systems of wheat, microsatellites are recently the optimal marker for MAS, because of their co-dominant inheritance, chromosome-specific and evenly distributed along chromosomes. A large numbers of microsatellite makers are available that offer identification and molecular mapping of powdery mildew resistance gene in wheat (Gupta *et al.*, 2002; Guyomarc'h *et al.*, 2002; Huang *et al.*, 2001; Roder *et al.*, 2004; Song *et al.*, 2002; Stephenson *et al.*, 1998). Already some *Pm* genes have been identified and mapped by specific nti-inflammat markers.

We believe that several other factors will greatly affect the efficiency and effectiveness of linkage mapping and MAS research in the future: new developments and improvements in marker technology, the integration of functional genomics with linkage mapping, and the availability of more high-density maps.

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genes				
Gene	Location	Cultivar/line	Source	Reference
Pmla	7AL	Axminister	T. aestivum	Hsam et al., 1998
Pmlb	7AL	MocZlatka	Т. топососсит	Hsam et al., 1998
Pmlc(Pm18)	7AL	Weihestephan M1N	T. aestivum	Hsam et al., 1998
Pm1d	7AL	T. spelta var. duhamelianum	T. spelta	Hsam <i>et al.</i> , 1998
Pm1e (Pm22)	7AL	Virest	T. aestivum	Singrun et al., 2003
Pm2	5DS	Ulka/XX 194	T. aestivum/Ae. Tauschii	McIntosh & Baker, 1970 and Lutz <i>et</i> <i>al.</i> ,1995
Pm3a	1AS	Asosan		Briggle & Sears, 1966
Pm3b	1AS	Chul	T. aestivum	Briggle,1966
Pm3c	1AS	Sonora	T. aestivum	Briggle, 1966
Pm3d	1AS	Kolibri	T. aestivum	Zeller et al.,1993a
Pm3e	1AS	W150	T. aestivum	Zeller et al.,1993a
Pm3f	1AS	Michigan Amber	T. aestivum	Zeller et al.,1993a
Pm3g	1AS	Aristide	T. aestivum	Zeller & Hsam, 1998
Pm3h	1AS	Abessi	T. durum	Zeller & Hsam, 1998
Pm3i	1AS	N324	T. aestivum	Zeller & Hsam, 1998
Pm3j	1AS	GUS 122	T. aestivum	Zeller & Hsam, 1998
Pm4a	2AL	Khapli	T. dicoccum	The et al., 1979
Pm4b	2AL	Armada	T. carthlicum	The et al., 1979
Pm4d	2AL	Tm27d2	Т. топососсит	Schmolke et al., 2011
Pm5a	7BL	Норе	T. dicoccum	Law & Wolfe, 1966
Pm5b	7BL	Ibis	T. aestivum	Hsam et al., 2001
Pm5c	7BL	Kolandi	T. aestivum ssp. Sphaerococcum	Hsam <i>et al.</i> , 2001
Pm5d	7BL	IGV 1-455	T. aestivum	Hsam et al., 2001
Pm5e	7BL	Fuzhuang 30	T. aestivum	Huang et al. 2003a
mlxbd(Pm5)	7BL	Xiaobaidong	T. aestivum	Huang et al., 2000a
Pm6	2BL	TP 114	T. timopheevii	Jørgensen,1973
Pm7	4BS.4BL-2RL	Transec	S.cereale	Friebe et al., 1994
Pm8	1RS.1BL	Disponent	S.cereale	Hsam & Zeller, 1997
Pm9	7AL	N14	T. aestivum	Hsam et al., 1998
Pm10	1D	Norin 26	T. aestivum	Tosa et al., 1987
Pm11	6BS	Chinese Spring	T. aestivum	Tosa et al., 1988
<i>Pm12</i>	6BS-6SS.6SL	Trans.line 31	Ae.speltoides	Jia <i>et al.</i> , 1996
Pm13	3BL.3SS-3S 3DL.3SS-3S	Cstrans.line	Ae.longissima	Ceoloni et al., 1992

Table 1. Chromosomal location, cultivar/line, source and Reference of identified powdery mildew resistance genes

Gene	Location	Cultivar/line	Source	Reference
<i>Pm14</i>	6BS	Norin 10	T. aestivum	Tosa & Sakai, 1990
<i>Pm15</i>	7DS	Norin 26	T. aestivum	Tosa & Sakai, 1990
<i>Pm16</i>	4A	Norman rec. line	T. dicoccoides	Reader & Miller, 1991
<i>Pm17</i>	1RS.1AL	Amigo	S.cereale	Heun et al., 1990
Pm19	7D	XX 186	Ae.tauschii	Lutz et al., 1995
<i>Pm20</i>	6BS.6RL	KS93WGRC28	S.cereale	Friebe et al., 1994
<i>Pm21</i>	6VS.6AL	Yangmai 5 line	Haynaldia villosa	Chen et al., 1995
Pm23(Pm4c)	2AL	82-7241	T. aestivum	McIntosh et al., 1998
<i>Pm24</i>	1DS	Chiyacao	T. aestivum	Huang et al., 2000b
Pm25	1A	NC96BGTA5	T. boeoticum	Shi et al., 1998
<i>Pm26</i>	2BS	TTD140	T. dicoccoides	Rong et al., 2000
<i>Pm27</i>	6B-6G	146-155-T	T. timopheevii	Jarve et al., 2000
Pm28	1B	Meri	T. aestivum	Peusha et al., 2000
Pm29	7DL	Pova	A. ovata	Zeller et al., 2002
Pm30	5BS	C20	T. dicoccoides	Liu et al., 2002
Pm31(MIG) cancel	6AL	G-305-M/781//Jing411*3	T. dicoccoides	Xie et al., 2003
Pm32	1BL.1SS	L501	Ae. Speltoides	Hsam <i>et al.</i> , 2003
<i>Pm33</i>	2BL	PS5	T. carthlicum	Zhu et al., 2005
<i>Pm34</i>	5DL	NC97BGTD7	Ae. Tauschii	Miranda et al., 2006
<i>Pm35</i>	5DL	NC96BGTD3	Ae. Tauschii	Miranda <i>et al.</i> , 2007
Pm36	5BL	MG29896	T. dicoccoides	Blanco et al., 2008
<i>Pm37</i>	7AL	NC99BGTAG11	T. timopheevii	Perugini et al., 2008
Pm38	7DS	RL6058	T. aestivum	Spielmeyer <i>et al.</i> , 2005
Pm39	1BL	Saar	T. aestivum	Lillemo et al., 2008
Pm40	7BS	GRY19	Elytrigia intermedium	Luo et al., 2009
Pm41	3BL	IW2	T. dicoccoides	Li et al., 2009
pm42	2BS	G-303-1M	T. dicoccoides	Hua et al., 2009
Pm43	2DL	CH5025	Thinopyrum intermedium	He et al., 2009
Pm44	3AS	Hombar	T. aestivum	Chen et al., 2011
<i>Pm45</i>	6DS	D57	T. aestivum	Ma et al., 2011

Gene	Location	Type of markers	Closest/flanking marker	Linkage distance/ contribution	Mapping population	Reference
Pmla	7AL	RAPD, STS	UBC320420, UBC638550	Both co-segregate	F ₅ , F ₂ lines, BSA	Hu et al., 1997
		RFLP	WHS178-9.4kb-EcoRI	2.8 ± 2.7 cM	F ₂ lines,NILs	Hartl et al., 1995
		RFLP	CDO347	Co-segregate	F ₂ lines, NILs	Ma et al., 1994
		RFLP, STS	mwg2062, cdo347, psr121, psr148, psr680, psr687, wir148, C607, STS638542, ksuh9	All Co-segregate	F ₂ lines	Neu <i>et al.</i> , 2002
Pmlc	7AL	RFLP, RAPD	WHS178-15kb-EcoRI, OPH-111900	4.4 ± 3.6 cM, 13 cM	F ₂ lines, BSA	Hartl et al., 1995
		AFLP	S19M22-325/200	Co-segregate	$F_3 + F_4$ lines, BSA	Hartl et al., 1999
			S14M20-137/138	Co-segregate		
Pmle	7AL	SSR, AFLP	GWM344-null-S13M26-372	0.9cM,0.2 cM	F _{2:3} lines, BSA	Singrun <i>et al.</i> , 2003
Pm2	5DS	RFLP	WHS350-6.5kb-EcoRV,WHS2 95	3.8cM,2.7±2.6 cM	F ₂ lines, NILs	Hartl et al., 1995
		RFLP	BCD1871	3.5cM	F ₂ lines, NILs	Ma et al., 1994
		STS	STSwhs350	-	F ₂ lines, NILs	Mohler & Jahoor,1996
Pm3a	1AS	RFLP	WHS179	3.3 ± 1.9 cM	DH, NILs	Hartl et al., 1993b
Pm3b	1AS	RFLP	BCD1434	1.3cM	F ₂ lines, NILs	Ma et al., 1994
Pm3g	1AS	RFLP	Gli-A5	5.2cM	DH	Sourdille <i>et al.,</i> 1999
Pm4a	2AL	RFLP	BCD1231, CDO678	Co-segregate,	F ₂ lines, NILs	Ma et al., 1994
		AFLP	4aM1	3.5cM	$F_3 + F_4$ lines, BSA	Hartl et al., 1999
		STS	STSbcd1231-1.7kb	Co-segregate	NILs	Liu et al., 1998
Pm5e	7BL	SSR	GWM1267-136	6.6cM	F _{2:3} lines, BSA	Huang <i>et al.,</i> 2003a
Ртб	2BL	RFLP	BCD135-9kb-EcoRV	1.6 ± 1.5 cM	F ₂ lines, NILs	Tao <i>et al.</i> , 2000
Pm8	1RS.1BL	RFLP	IAG95	Tightly linkage	F ₂ lines, BSA	Wricke <i>et al.</i> , 1996
		RAPD	OPJ07-1200, OPR19-1350	-	Translocation lines	Iqbal & Rayburn, 1995
		STS	SEC-1b-412bp	-	Translocation lines	deFroidmont, 1998
		STS	STSiag95-1050	Co-segregate	DH, F _{2:3} lines	Mohler <i>et al.</i> , 2001
Pm12	6BS-6SS .6SL	RFLP	psr10, psr106, Nor-2, psr141, psr113, psr142, psr149, psr2	Co-segregate	F ₂ lines	Jia et al., 1996
Pm13	3BL.3SS	RFLP	psr305, psr1196	-	Recombinant	Donini et al., 1995

Table 2. Molecular markers	linked to m	najor powdery	mildew resistance genes

Gene	Location	Type of markers	Closest/flanking marker	Linkage distance/ contribution	Mapping population	Reference	
	-3S 3DL.3SS -3S				lines		
		RFLP, RAPD, STS	cdo460, utv135, OPV13800, UTV13, OPX12570, UTV14	_	Recombinant lines	Cenci et al., 1999	
Pm17	1RS.1A L	RFLP, AFLP	IAG95-CA/CT-355	1.5cM	$F_{2:3}$ lines	Hsam <i>et al.</i> , 2000	
Pm21	6VS.6A L	RAPD	OPH171900	Co-segregate	F ₂ lines	Qi et al., 1996	
		RAPD, SCAR	OPH171400, SCAR1265, SCAR1400	All co-segregate	F ₂ lines	Liu et al., 1999	
Pm24	1DS	AFLP, SSR	E34/M51-407, Xgwm337-204	Co-segregate, 2.4 ± 1.2 cM	F _{2:3} lines, BSA	Huang <i>et al.,</i> 2000b	
		SSR	Xgwm1291	Co-segregate	F _{2:3} lines	Huang & Roder, 2003	
Pm25	1A	RAPD	OPA04950	12.8cM	BC ₁ F ₁ lines, BSA	Shi et al., 1998	
<i>Pm26</i>	2BS	RFLP	wg516	Co-segregate	RSLs	Rong et al., 2000	
<i>Pm27</i>	6B-6G	RFLP, SSR	psp3131	Co-segregate	F ₂ lines	Jarve et al., 2000	
Pm29	7DL	RFLP, AFLP	S24M13-233, S19M23-240, S22M26-192, S25M15-145, S13M23-442, S22M21-217, S17M25-226	5, Allco-segregat Ealines BSA		Zeller et al., 2002	
Pm30	5BS	SSR	Xgwm159-460, Xgwm159-500	5–6cM	BC ₂ F ₂ lines, BSA	Liu <i>et al.</i> , 2002	
Pm31	6AL	SSR	Xpsp3029	0.6cM	BC ₂ F ₂ lines, BSA	Xie et al., 2003	
Pm36	5BL	SSR	BJ261635	Co-segregate	$BC_5F_5 \qquad \begin{array}{c} Blanco \ et \ a \\ 2008 \end{array}$		
<i>Pm40</i>	7BS	SSR	Xgwm297	0.4cM	F ₂ lines	Luo et al., 2009	
Pm41	3BL	SSR, ISBP, STS	BE489472	Co-segregate	F ₂ lines	Li et al. (2009)	
Pm42	2BS	SSR, FLP-SCAR, EST-STS, RFLP-STS	BF146221	3F146221 Co-segregate F ₂ lines		Hua <i>et al.</i> , 2009	
Pm43	2DL	SSR	Xwmc41	2.3cM	F ₃ and BC ₁ lines	He et al., 2009	
<i>Pm45</i>	6DS	SSR, STS	Xmag6176	2.8cM	F ₂ lines	Ma et al., 2011	

Homoelogous group	А	В	D	R
1	Pm3, Pm25	Pm28, Pm32	Pm10, Pm24	Pm8, Pm17
2	<i>Pm4</i> , <i>Pm23</i>	Pm6, Pm26, Pm33, pm42	<i>Pm43</i>	Pm7
3	<i>Pm44</i>	Pm13, Pm38, Pm41		
4	<i>Pm16</i>			
5		Pm36, Pm16,Pm30	Pm2, Pm34, Pm35	
6	Pm21, Pm31	Pm11, Pm12, Pm14, Pm27	Pm45	Pm20
7	Pm1, Pm9, Pm18, Pm37	Pm5, Pm40	Pm15, Pm19, Pm29, Pm39	

Table 3. Distribution of powder	v mildew resistance genes	among homoelogous chromo	somes in wheat and Rve
) Be		

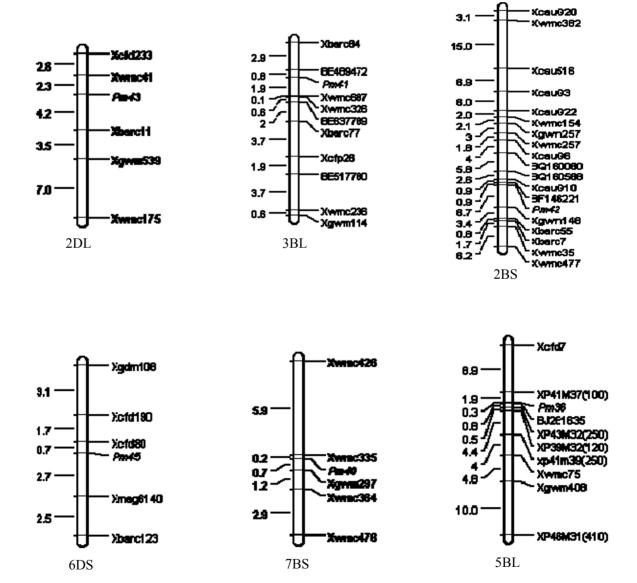


Figure 1. Genetic linkage maps of powdery mildew resistance gene- *Pm43* (He *et al.*, 2009), *Pm41* (Li *et al.* 2009), *pm42* (Hua *et al.*, 2009), *Pm45* (Ma *et al.*, 2011), *Pm40* (Luo *et al.*, 2009) and *Pm36* (Blanco *et al.*, 2008)