Genetic relationships between 4 Parkia spp. and variation in Parkia speciosa Hassk. based on random amplified polymorphic DNA (RAPD) markers

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Received 24 May 2007; Accepted 15 July 2008

Abstract

A study was undertaken by RAPD to investigate genetic relationships among the following 4 Parkia species, Sator (Parkia speciosa Hassk.), Riang (P. timoriana Merr.), Khonkhong (P. leiophylla Kurz) and Lukding (P. sumatrana Miq.) and two plants of Parkia spp., namely Tong and Tien were also included. DNA from the leaf samples was isolated using CTAB. Of total 180 primers first screened, 8 primers were chosen to analyse genetic variation of 103 individual plants. A total of 125 amplified fragments was obtained from 8 primers with an average of 15.63 fragments per primer, of which 101 fragments (80.80%) were polymorphic. Some species-specific fragments were also obtained. With P. speciosa Hassk., 77 polymorphic fragments (68.75%) were obtained with an average of 14 fragments per primer, but no specific fragment could differentiate Sator khao from Sator dan. Results from the dendrogram revealed 5 groups of Parkia with similarity coefficients ranging from 0.437-1.000. Tien was found to be in the same group as Riang while Tong could be separated from other Parkia with a close relationship to Khonkhong at a similarity value 0.725.

Keywords: Parkia spp., RAPD, genetic relationship, similarity coefficient

1. Introduction

The genus Parkia belongs to the family Leguminosae, sub-family Mimosaceae, and is distributed through both the New and Old World tropical zones. The genus is taxonomically most diverse in the rainforests of the Amazon Basin, but ten species are found in the Indo-Pacific region (Luckow and Hopkins, 1995). In Thailand only four species have been reported: Sator (P. speciosa Hassk.), Riang (P. timoriana Merr.), Khonkhong (P. leiophylla Kurz) and Lukding (P. sumatrana Miq.) (Smitinand, 1980). Parkia seeds have been eaten raw, fried or pickled in Thailand. Among Parkia, Sator (P. speciosa Hassk.) is preferred for eating compared to the others species, and is considered to be of high nutritional value. The protein content is approximately 8-9% fresh weight (Suvachittanont and Pothivakit, 1988). Sator seeds also have a distinctive aroma suggesting the presence of sulphur-containing compounds. The sulphur-containing compounds in the seeds could be cystein and its derivatives such as glutathione, djenkolic acid and thiazolidine-4-carboxylic acid (Suvachittanont et al., 1996). Based on their pod and eating quality, Sator is divided into 2 types: Sator khao and Sator dan. However, cross pollination among these is widespread and has caused considerable genetic variation (Luckow and Hopkins, 1995), resulting in the current situation where variations in pod, seed size and flavor are found in Sator. Besides 4 species of Parkia, 2 other, Parkia namely Tong and Tien, were found in Southern Thailand, but there is no information about which of the 2 groups they belonged to. Information on the genetic diversity and relationships among the various Parkia spp. is valuable for an improve-
ment and breeding program.

Morphology is frequently used to characterize different types of crop diversity; however, environmental factors may influence in morphological expression and identical species may have different morphologies. At present, DNA markers have proven to be valuable tools and are widely used for assessment of genetic diversity at the level of species and intra-specific categories. The molecular analysis technique of RAPD has been used for cultivar identification, and to probe genetic relationships and genetic variation in various tree species such as *Lansium* (Nualsri *et al.*, 2001) *Citrus reticulata* Blanco (Toolapong *et al.*, 2003), olives (Belaj *et al.*, 2003a), *Elaeis guineensis* Jacq. (Junmag, 2003), coconuts (Upadhyay *et al.*, 2004), *Calliandra* Benth (Mattagajasingh *et al.*, 2006), cycads (Viljioen and Staden, 2006) and palmyra palm (Promkaew and Nualsri, 2007). The objectives of the present study were i) to evaluate the genetic and relationship among 4 species of *Parkia* include Tong and Tien ii) to analyze the genetic diversity of the single species *P. speciosa* Hassk.

2. Materials and Methods

Leaf samples of 103 plants of *Parkia* species, including Tong and Tien were collected from the Trang Horticultural Research Center in Trang province, private plantations in Songkhla, Surat Thani, Patthalung and Loei provinces, and the Sakaret Environmental Research Center, Nakhon Ratchasima province (Table 1). Some morphological characters of each species were also recorded.

The total genomic DNA of each plant was extracted from young leaves using the cetyltrimethylammonium bromide (CTAB) method introduced by Doyle and Doyle (1990). Random amplified polymorphic DNA (RAPD) analysis was performed according to the methodology of Williams *et al.*, (1990). Each amplification mixture of 25 µl contained 25 mM MgCl₂, 10x *Taq* buffer, 100 µM of each dNTP, 0.3 mM of primer, 1.5 units of *Taq* polymerase and 60 ng of template DNA. The thermal profile for RAPD-PCR followed the pattern of 41 cycles of 94°C for 2 min 37°C for 1 min and 72°C for 2 min., followed by 1 cycle of 94°C for 30 sec 35°C for 1 min and finally 72°C for 7 min. The PCR products were then electrophoresed in 1.5% (w/v) agarose gels in 0.5X TBE buffer at 100 V. The gels were stained with ethidium bromide for 15 min and viewed under ultraviolet light with gel documentation. One hundred and eighty primers were first screened with individual of 4 samples of Sator and 2 samples of Riang. Primers with reproducible patterns and clear cut polymorphisms were chosen to use for analysis of 103 DNA samples. RAPD profiles were manually scored as 1 for presence or 0 for absence of a band. The scores were entered into a database program (NTedit) and compiled in a binary matrix for statistical analysis. Jaccard s (1908) similarity coefficient values for each pairwise comparison between plants were calculated and a similarity coefficient matrix was constructed. The unweighted pair-group method using arithmetic averages (UPGMA) cluster analysis was performed on genetic similarity matrices, and relationships among species were visualized as a dendrogram using the NTSYS-pc Exeter Software version 2.1 (Rohlf, 2002).

3. Results

3.1 Morphological characters

Morphological characters of the collected *Parkia* spp. such as leaf and leaflet shape and size, inflorescences, pods and seeds were recorded. On the basis of leaf apex, 2 different forms were observed. The leaf apex of Sator, Lukding, Tong and Tien was rounded while Riang and Khonkhong had an acutely forward-bent leaf apex. (Figure 1 ai and aii).

The leaflet size of Lukding was the largest when compared

### Table 1. List of samples with abbreviation and place of collection

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Place of collection</th>
<th>No. of samples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sator</td>
<td>St</td>
<td>Trang province</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Surat Thani province</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Songkhla province</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riang</td>
<td>Ri</td>
<td>Trang province</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Surat Thani province</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Songkhla province</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Khonkhong</td>
<td>Kg</td>
<td>Trang province</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Loei province</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lukding</td>
<td>Ld</td>
<td>Trang province</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Nakhon Ratchasima province</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tong</td>
<td>Tg</td>
<td>Trang province</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Patthalung province</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tien</td>
<td>Ti</td>
<td>Surat Thani province</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: 103
to Khonkhong, Riang and Sator (Figure 1 a.iii). The flowers of all Parkia species were characterized by a compound inflorescence, consisting of a capitular. It was found that the staminodial flower color and seed arrangement of Lukding were different from those of the other Parkia species. The Lukding staminodial flowers had a dark yellow color while the flower color of the other Parkia species was white (Figure 1 b.i-iv). The seed arrangement of Lukding was clearly different from the other species. The seeds of 3 Parkia spp., plus Tong and Tien, were transversely arranged while the seed arrangement of Lukding was vertical along the pod (Figure c). The pod shape of Riang and Tong was straight, strap-shaped and flat, while the other Parkia spp. exhibited a slightly twisted strap-shape (Figure 1 c.iii-iv).

3.2 RAPD analysis

One hundred and eighty primers were first screened with Sator khao, Sator dan and Riang, 8 primers were chosen for the study on genetic diversity evaluation in 103 individuals of 4 Parkia spp. including Tong and Tien (Table 2). From the 8 primers, a total of 125 fragments were obtained, of which 101 fragments (80.80%), showed polymorphism. The highest number of polymorphic fragments was found in primer OPT-01 and the lowest in primer OPR-02 and OPB-18. Two DNA fragments, 450 bp amplified by primer OPAB-03 (Figure 2a) and 880 bp of primer OPR-02 (Figure 2b), were found specific to Lukding. A specific fragments was also found in Khonkhong, 425 bp of primer OPR-02 (Figure 2b). Within P. speciosa Hassk., 112 fragments were generated by the 8 primers with an average of 14 fragments per primer, of which 77 fragments (68.75%) were polymorphic fragments (Table 2). The results of DNA pattern in P. speciosa Hassk. (Sator khao and Sator dan), found that no specific fragment could be used to distinguish between Sator khao and Sator dan. However, 2000 bp and 350 bp fragments generated by primer OPB-17 and OPR-02 were noted to be found in particular samples collected from Songkhla province while 2125 bp and 600 bp fragments generated by primer OPB-17 and OPR-01 were found only in samples from Trang and Surat Thani provinces (data not shown).

3.3 Genetic similarity and cluster analysis

From all samples analyzed, the genetic similarity matrix showed an average range from 0.437 to 1.000. Frequency distribution analysis showed that 75% of similarity measures fell between 0.494 and 0.719 (Figure 3). The highest similarity value (1.000) was observed between the Khonkhong samples (85 and 86) and Lukding samples (87-89) and the lowest similarity value (0.437) was obtained between the Sator and Lukding. Within the Sator groups, genetic similarity ranged from 0.533-0.946. Cluster analysis of the genetic similarity values was performed to generate a dendrogram illustrating the overall genetic relationships among the Parkia spp. studied. From the dendrogram, all of 103 plants could be separated into five clusters: I Sator, II Riang and Tien, III Tong, IV Khonkhong and V Lukding (Figure 4). In P. speciosa Hassk., the results from a dendrogram generated by 8 primers indicated that Sator khao and Sator dan cannot be clearly separated (Figure 5), as no
specific fragment was found between those two types of Sator.

4. Discussion

Accurate characterization of plants requires an understanding of the degree of polymorphism as revealed by different techniques. On the basis of morphological characters and agronomic traits such as leaf, leaf apex, inflorescence, pod and seed arrangement etc., *Parkia* spp. are taxonomically diverse (Hopkins, 1986). Smitinand (1980) and Suree and Anan (1997) reported that 4 species of *Parkia* were found in Thailand: Sator (*P. speciosa* Hassk.), Riang (*P. timoriana* Merr.), Khonkhong (*P. leiophylla* Kurz) and Lukding (*P. sumatrana* Miq.). There are a few reports of genetic diversity of this genus at DNA level. One such is on the genetic diversity of *P. timoriana* based on RAPD markers studied by Thangjam et al. (2003) in India.

The objective of the present study was to investigate
the relationships between 4 species of Parkia, and genetic variation in P. speciosa Hassk. specifically using RAPD markers. Genetic discrimination among 103 genotypes of Parkia was assessed with 8 RAPD primers to estimate genetic diversity. A high level of polymorphisms was observed in this study. About 80.80% of the polymorphic fragments found in Parkia spp. and 68.75% of the polymorphic fragments in P. speciosa Hassk. were obtained using the 8 primers. The results indicated a high degree of diversity in Parkia spp. Three specific RAPD markers were identified. The fragments of 880 bp of primer OPR-02 and 450 bp generated by primer OPAB-03 were found only in Lukding. There was one fragment which specific to Khonkhong: 425 bp of primer OPR-02. The knowledge of a specific marker is very useful for certification of plant material as true-to-type (Chowdhury et al., 2002) and can be used for Marker-Assisted Selection (MAS) in a plant breeding program. Among P. speciosa Hassk., no specific fragment was found which could differentiate Sator khao from Sator dan. This may be because crossing between these two types is very

Figure 4. Dendrogram generated by using 101 RAPD markers analysis showing relationship between 103 plants of Parkia, Tong and Tien. The scale portrays a similarity index based on Jaccard’s coefficient, and the dendrogram was developed using UPGMA clustering procedure.
common, and probably causes heterozygosity in the genetic background, resulting in no specific fragment to be observed. However, some fragments were observed to be associated with the location of sample collection, for example 2000 bp and 325 bp fragments of primer OPB-17 and OPR-02 were only found in *P. speciosa* Hassk. collected from Songkhla province. This finding of location-specific fragments supports the hypothesis of an authoetonal original as well as the limited diffusion of *P. speciosa* Hassk. from its original zone. A similar finding was reported by Belaj et al. (2003b), who studied olives. In this study, the similarity coefficients between species varied from 0.437-1.000, indicating a high level of genetic diversity, and approximately 75% of the populations studied revealed similarity value 0.494-0.719 (Figure 3). Among *P. speciosa* Hassk., the similarity values ranged from 0.533 to 0.946. Identical DNA patterns were found in 1 pair of Lukding and 3 samples of Khonkhong, indicating that each pair derived vegetatively from one original clone (data not shown). Propagation in Parkia spp. can be done by seed and top grafting (Bumrungruk, 1994), but currently grafting is preferred because it produces true-to-type.

As shown by the dendrogram in Figure 5, the 103 genotypes found in this study of 4 Parkia spp., including Tong and Tien can be clustered into 5 groups, which corresponds well with the morphological identification of the

Figure 5. UPGMA dendrogram obtained in different 69 genotypes of *P. speciosa* Hassk. from Trang (T), Songkhla (S) and Surat Thani (Su) provinces based on similarity values.
same species by Smitinand (1980). In the natural environment, the flowers of each Parkia spp. bloom at a different period so crossing between species is unusual, and there are no reports of crossing ability among these 4 Parkia spp. Tien was found in the same group as Riang, but unfortunately we had only 1 sample of this plant with no flowers or pods. Leaf morphology shows that Tien has a rounded apex which differentiates it from Riang, but leaving open the possibility that Tien mutated from Riang. Tong can be separated into another group somewhere between Riang and Khonkhong, but closer to Khonkhong with a similarity value 0.775. In P. speciosa Hassk., clusters from the dendrogram revealed some mixing between Sator khao and Sator dan, but it was noted that the clusters were related to the area of collection, a finding further supported by the location-specific fragments found in this study. Thangjam et al. (2003) also reported that discrimination in 8 genotypes of P. timoriana Merr. could be related to collection in different areas.

The results of this study indicate that RAPD can be efficiently used for genetic diversity analysis in Parkia. However, several factors may affect the estimates of genetic relationships among plant species such as the number of markers used, distribution of the markers in the genome, the working samples and the nature of the volutionary mechanisms underlying the variation measured (Chowdhury et al., 2005).

Acknowledgements

The authors wish to thank the Plant Conservation Project under the Royal Initiation of Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn and the Graduate School of Prince of Songkla University for financial support.

References


