

### QTL-Based Analysis of Heterosis for Grain Shape Traits in Rice (*Oryza sativa* L.)

### Rieko Shishido\* • Mayumi Ishidaira • Kazunari Nomura • Hiroshi Ikehashi

Laboratory of Genetics and Plant Breeding, College of Bioresource Sciences, Nihon University, 1866 Kameino, Fujisawa, Kanagawa 252-8510, Japan *Corresponding author*: \* shishido@brs.nihon-u.ac.jp

#### ABSTRACT

To analyze the genetic basis for an enhanced level of heterosis in an intersubspecific rice hybrid, the heterozygotes and homozygotes at each locus should be compared. A set of  $BC_1F_1$ , i.e., *indica/japonica/japonica and indica/japonica//indica*, were produced and analyzed with simple sequence repeat (SSR) markers to specifically compare the effect of heterozygotes and homozygotes at each QTL locus for grain shape. Rice grain shape traits have shown an extremely wide diversity. In this review, we discuss QTL-based analysis of heterosis for grain shape traits. In the comparison of marker genotypes of AA, Aa and aa, QTLs were detected either between AA and Aa or between Aa and aa, and there is no case in which Aa was superior to AA and aa. In both analyses, each positive effect was contributed from either one of the parents. We concluded that the high level of heterosis in the current *indica/japonica* hybrids was manifested by a cumulative partial dominance effect of the heterozygotes at many loci and not by overdominance. Then, the set of QTL data for positive effects are considered to be systematically utilized in breeding of parental lines by using molecular markers.

Keywords: grain, heterosis, *indica/japonica* hybrid, QTL, rice Abbreviations: QTL, quantitative trait locus; SSR, simple sequence repeat; WCG, wide compatibility gene

#### CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	
EXPLANATION FOR GENETIC BASIS OF HETEROSIS	
EXPLOITATION OF HETEROSIS IN RICE	
GRAIN SHAPE TRAITS IN RICE	
GENES INVOLVED IN REGULATION OF GRAIN SHAPE TRAITS IN RICE	
ANALYSIS OF HETEROSIS FOR GRAIN SHAPE TRAITS BY SINGLE LOCUS COMPARISON	
CONCLUDING REMARKS	
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	
REFERENCES	
JAPANESE ABSTRACT	

#### INTRODUCTION

The term "heterosis" can be defined as the biological phenomenon in which an  $F_1$  hybrid of two genetically different parents shows increased vigor which is greater than the average of both parents.

In rice, Jones (1926) first reported heterosis in which some  $F_1$  hybrids had more culms and higher yield than their parents. In the last decade the high level of heterosis in intersubspecific hybrids has been utilized in hybrid rice breeding (Yuan 1998; Peng *et al.* 1999).

Yield-contributing traits such as grain weight, number of panicles per plant and number of grain per panicle are considerably important traits for rice breeding. Their phenotypic variations are usually continuous instead of discrete and conditioned by allelic variation at several genetic loci. Such characters have been referred to as quantitative traits, and the individual loci controlling a quantitative trait as quantitative trait locus (QTL) (Tanksley 1993).

Advance in molecular markers has greatly facilitated the investigation of the genetic basis of complex quantitative traits. Recently, microsatellites or SSRs have become useful markers for genome analysis, because they are codominant with a high level of allelic diversity, and easily and economically assayed by PCR (McCouch *et al.* 1997). Many QTLs associated with rice grain shape traits were identified until now.

In this article, we briefly review the current status of our knowledge of heterosis especially for grain shape traits in rice, and discuss the prospects of using this information obtained from QTL-based analysis for rice breeding.

# EXPLANATION FOR GENETIC BASIS OF HETEROSIS

The genetic basis of heterosis has been explained by two leading hypotheses, namely the dominance hypothesis (Davenport 1908) and the overdominance hypothesis (East 1908; Shull 1908). The dominance hypothesis states that dominant alleles from either parent complement deleterious recessive alleles from the other parent in the heterozygous  $F_1$ . The overdominance hypothesis asserts that the heterozygote for a gene is superior to the two homozygotes for the same gene. In addition to the two hypotheses, less widely embraced hypothesis suggests that heterosis may be caused by epistasis between alleles at different loci. The genetic basis of heterosis has been debated for many years and is still not resolved.

#### **EXPLOITATION OF HETEROSIS IN RICE**

Cultivated rice (Oryza sativa L.) is classified into three varietal groups, indica, japonica, and javanica. The degree of heterosis in different hybrid rice varieties depends greatly on genetic distance between parents, and has the following general trend: indica/japonica > indica/javanica > japonica/javanica > indica/indica > japonica/japonica. Indica/ *japonica* hybrids possess the highest yield potential in both sink and source (Yuan 1994). Accordingly, exploitation of pronounced heterosis in indica/japonica hybrids is greatly promising, however, it has been limited by their hybrid sterility. Now, it is widely confirmed that the sterility of indica/japonica hybrids is due to gamete abortion caused by an allelic interaction at a particular locus (S-locus), where *indica* and *japonica* have  $\overline{S}^{\prime}$  and  $S^{\prime}$  allele, respectively, and some *javanicas* have a neutral allele,  $S^n$  (wide compatibility gene (WCG)). The  $S^i/S^j$  genotype shows gamete abortion, but  $S^n/S^i$  and  $S^n/S^j$  do not (Ikehashi *et al.* 1994). Practically, incorporating WCG into parental lines made it possible to develop fertile *indica/japonica* hybrids.

#### **GRAIN SHAPE TRAITS IN RICE**

Domestication has greatly increased the diversity of grain shape traits accompanied by many other changes, as consequences of physiologic response and adaptation to various environments and human needs. Large seeds tended to be selected by human during the early domestication, as evidenced by the fact that most cultivated species have larger seeds than their wild relatives (Harlan 1992). It was reported that a recessive mutation leading to larger grain size may have been part of the domestication syndrome in rice (Li *et al.* 2004). The information of grain shape traits is meaningful for us not only as a component of grain yield, but also evidence on crop evolution studies.

Rice grain shape traits have shown an extremely wide diversity. Hulled and dehulled grains of rice have greater variations in size and shape than those of other cereals. For example, among 80,000 varieties preserved by the IRRI (1986) the variation in length, width and weight of hulled grains ranges as follows: grain length 4.1-13.7 mm, grain width 1.9-4.1 mm, and 1000-grain weight 8-57 mg, with maximum/minimum ratios of 2-7 (Sato 1997).

## GENES INVOLVED IN REGULATION OF GRAIN SHAPE TRAITS IN RICE

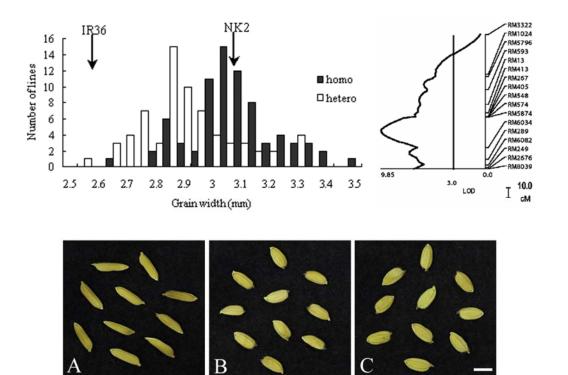
To understand molecular mechanism of the control of seed length, dwarf mutant, *dwarf11* (*d11*), that bears seeds of reduced length, was analyzed. The *D11* gene was isolated by a map-based cloning method, and found to encode a novel cytochrome P450 (CYP724B1), which showed homology to enzymes involved in brassinosteroid biosynthesis (Tanabe *et al.* 2005).

The GS3 locus, a QTL with major effect on grain size was consistently detected around the centromeric region of chromosome 3 in many studies across different genetic backgrounds and environments. The GS3 gene encoded a putative transmembrane protein (Fan *et al.* 2006).

The cloning and characterization of a QTL for grain width and weight, GW2, on the short arm of chromosome 2, was reported. GW2 encoded a RING protein with E3 ubiquitin ligase activity. Reduction or loss of function of GW2 increased cell numbers, resulting in a larger spikelet hull, and it accelerated the grain milk filling rate, resulting in enhanced grain width and weight (Song *et al.* 2007).

#### ANALYSIS OF HETEROSIS FOR GRAIN SHAPE TRAITS BY SINGLE LOCUS COMPARISON

We will take an example to specifically compare the effect of heterozygotes and homozygotes at each QTL locus for grain shape trait in an *indica/japonica* hybrid in rice. A set of BC<sub>1</sub>F<sub>1</sub>, i.e., *indica/japonica/japonica* and *indica/japonica//indica*, were produced, using IR36 as the *indica* parent and Nekken 2 (NK2) as the *japonica* parent. The two parents, IR36 and NK2, showed highly significant differences in grain shape traits (**Fig. 1A, 1B**). NK2 has the WCG to show normal spikelet fertility in crosses to *indica* cultivars (Abdelkhalik *et al.* 2005). A common set of SSR markers was applied for both populations for single locus com-



**Fig. 1 Frequency distribution of grain width at** *qWIJ-5* **on chromosome 5.** Top right linkage map of chromosome 5 shows location of a QTL for grain width. The marker (RM5874) genotype in IR36/NK2//NK2 shows that NK2-homozygous genotype (shaded bars) is of higher value than the heterozygous genotype (unshaded bars). In another population, IR36/NK2//IR36, the QTL for grain width was not detected. The two parents, IR36 (A) and NK2 (B) showed highly significant differences in grain shape traits. **(C)** Largest grain in IR36/NK2//NK2. Bar = 5 mm.

parison. As a result, a total of ten QTLs were found: two QTLs for grain weight in IR36/NK2//IR36, five QTLs for grain width in IR36/NK2//IR36 and IR36/NK2//NK2, and three QTLs for grain thickness in IR36/NK2//NK2. Here we could estimate the relative effect of heterozygotes and homozygotes, because QTLs were based on the difference between heterozygotes (Aa) and homozygotes (AA or aa). When a heterozygote (Aa) was superior to homozygotes (AA or aa) in one of the backcross populations, it was necessary to compare the effect in another population to see whether the Aa was also superior to the other homozygote in the same QTL. If a heterozygote is superior to the corresponding homozygotes in the two populations, this will be an evidence for overdominance. Although the heterozygotes showed superiority to one of homozygotes (AA or aa), in no case the heterozygotes simultaneously showed a higher level of phenotypic value than both of homozygotes. Thus, there was no evidence for overdominance. One case of comparative distributions of homozygotes and heterozygotes is shown in Fig. 1. At the QTL of grain width qWIJ-5 (neighboring marker RM5874), the *japonica*-homozygote was superior to the heterozygote in IR36/NK2//NK2, whereas no difference between the two genotypes was detected in IR36/NK2//IR36.

The examination of genotypic effect at each QTL in our study revealed that positive effects were contributed either by *indica* or *japonica* parents. In the  $F_1$  genotype, the cumulative partial dominance effects of such heterozygotes are considered to give better performance than the parents.

#### **CONCLUDING REMARKS**

QTL analysis is based on statistical verification of the relationship between maker genotype and the traits evaluated. The parents showing large differences for the traits are employed to detect QTLs. Furthermore, wild species have been utilized to exploit potentially novel useful alleles. In spite of the overall undesirable characteristics of the wild phenotype, progenitor of Asian cultivated rice, *O. rufipogon*-derived allele made a contribution to desirable agronomic effect including grain shape traits (Thomson *et al.* 2003; Lee *et al.* 2005). Several QTLs which had not been detected in the QTL studies between *Oryza* cultivars were reported, indicating their great worth as potentially useful breeding materials.

In the course of differential development of *indica* and *japonica* groups of rice, one set of genes for positive effects may largely be possessed in a group, while another set of positive genes in another group. Thus, hybrids within a same group may not show clear superiority over the parents as commonly shown in *japonica/japonica* hybrids. On the other hand, if the numbers of contrasting alleles are large in a pair of distantly related parents, then the sum of positive contributions from such parents is considered to be larger. The progeny testing from a cross between *japonica* and *indica* often showed tremendous variation in the traits evaluated, despite small differences in the traits between the parents (Li *et al.* 1997; Redoña and Mackill 1998; Abdelkha-lik *et al.* 2005; Wan *et al.* 2006).

Let us now attempt to extend such an understanding into the idea of practical use for rice breeding. Many QTLs associated with rice grain shape traits were identified until now. **Tables 1-4** summarize previous QTL studies of grain shape traits, length, width, thickness and weight respectively, between *Oryza* cultivars. Effects of some QTLs were unstable and seem to depend on the materials and the experimental designs employed. However, a great number of universal QTLs were detected, for example, a major QTL

 Table 1 OTLs for grain length detected using Orvza cultivars.

Chr	QTL	Interval marker	LOD	PVE	$\mathbf{R}^2$	Parents		Population
	GL	G031003-F16916	2.54	-	11.9	Reiho / Yamadanishiki	japonica / japonica	DHL <sup>a)</sup>
	gl2	RM438-RM341	3.71	12.7	-	Domsephid / Gerdeh	indica / indica	$F_2^{(b)}$
	-	R1843-RMD1	3.1	6.5	-	Zhenshan 97 / Minghui 63	indica / indica	F <sub>2:3</sub> c)
	qGL-2	C777-R1989	7.73	5.8	-	Asominori / IR24	japonica / indica	RIL <sup>d)</sup>
	-	CDO1091-RG520	3.42	-	8.0	Labelle / Black Gora	japonica <sup>*</sup> / indica	$F_2^{e}$
	qGL-2a	C560-C1408	4.0	11.7	-	Nipponbare / Kasalath	japonica / indica	BIL <sup>f)</sup>
	qGL-2b	G1327-C421	2.9	6.2	-	Nipponbare / Kasalath	japonica / indica	BIL <sup>f)</sup>
	gl3	RM251-RM554	6.32	19.3	-	Domsephid / Gerdeh	indica / indica	$F_2^{(b)}$
	_	RG393-C1087	41.0	63.8	-	Zhenshan 97 / Minghui 63	indica / indica	F <sub>2:3</sub> c)
	-	RG393-C1087	33.8	57.6	-	Zhenshan 97 / Minghui 63	indica / indica	RIL <sup>c)</sup>
	qGL-3a	C80-C1677	27.79	32.2	-	Asominori / IR24	japonica / indica	RIL <sup>d)</sup>
	qGL-3b	XNpb249-C1468	7.3	11.6	-	Asominori / IR24	japonica / indica	RIL <sup>d)</sup>
	_	CDO457-RZ142	4.63	-	10.4	Labelle / Black Gora	japonica <sup>*</sup> / indica	F <sub>2</sub> <sup>e)</sup>
	-	RZ452-RZ284	9.95	-	20.9	Labelle / Black Gora	japonica <sup>*</sup> / indica	$F_2^{e}$
	GS3	GS09-MRG5881	129.2	95.6	-	Minghui 63 / Chuan 7	indica / indica	$BC_3F_2^{g)}$
	-	RZ656-RG449	5.71	-	12.7	Labelle / Black Gora	japonica <sup>*</sup> / indica	F <sub>2</sub> <sup>e)</sup>
	-	RG476-RG620	3.77	-	8.6	Labelle / Black Gora	japonica <sup>*</sup> / indica	$F_2^{e}$
	GL	RM255-RM131	3.47	-	16.4	Reiho / Yamadanishiki	japonica / japonica	DHL <sup>a)</sup>
	gl5	RM437-RM289	3.61	13.5	-	Domsephid / Gerdeh	indica / indica	F2 b)
	qGL-5	Y1060L-R569	7.85	10.3	-	Asominori / IR24	japonica / indica	RIL <sup>d)</sup>
	qGL-5	R1436-R2289	3.2	8.6	-	Nipponbare / Kasalath	japonica / indica	BIL <sup>f)</sup>
	qGL-6	R674-R2549	5.1	15.0	-	Nipponbare / Kasalath	japonica / indica	BIL <sup>f)</sup>
	GL	RM204-RM276	2.48	13.0	-	Reiho / Yamadanishiki	japonica / japonica	DHL <sup>a)</sup>
	gl7	RM481-RM125	3.53	12.4	-	Domsephid / Gerdeh	indica / indica	F2 b)
	-	RG128-C1023	3.9	15.4	-	Zhenshan 97 / Minghui 63	indica / indica	F <sub>2:3</sub> c)
	qGL-7	XNpb379-XNpb268	15.97	19.1	-	Asominori / IR24	japonica / indica	RIL <sup>d)</sup>
	-	RG711-RG650	8.0	-	17.2	Labelle / Black Gora	japonica* / indica	F2 e)
	g18	RM72-RM515	4.58	15.8	-	Domsephid / Gerdeh	indica / indica	$F_2^{\ b)}$
	qGL-9	XNpb339-C796C	12.16	10.7	-	Asominori / IR24	japonica / indica	RIL <sup>d)</sup>
	-	RZ625-RZ337	3.66	-	8.4	Labelle / Black Gora	japonica* / indica	F2 e)
	-	G44-G257	3.1	7.2	-	Zhenshan 97 / Minghui 63	indica / indica	RIL <sup>c)</sup>
	GL	B01482- RM332	5.31	-	23.4	Reiho / Yamadanishiki	japonica / japonica	DHL <sup>a)</sup>
	qGL-12	C443-R617	2.4	6.6	-	Nipponbare / Kasalath	japonica / indica	BIL <sup>f)</sup>

PVE, Percentage of phenotypic variance explained

R<sup>2</sup>, coefficient of determination

\* tropical japonica

a) Yoshida et al. 2002; b) Rabiei et al. 2004; c) Tan et al. 2000; d) Wan et al. 2006; e) Redoña and Mackill 1998; f) Li et al. 2003; g) Fan et al. 2006

Table 2 QTLs for grain width detected using Oryza cultivars.
--

Chr	QTL	Interval marker	LOD	PVE	$\mathbf{R}^2$	Parents		Population
l	qWIJ-1	RM84-RM259	2.52	7.6	-	IR36 / Nekken 2	indica / japonica	$BC_1F_1^{(d)}$
	-	C161-R753	3.8	13.7	-	Zhenshan 97 / Minghui 63	indica / indica	F <sub>2:3</sub> c)
2	gb2	RM279-RM555	7.08	16.2	-	Domsephid / Gerdeh	indica / indica	$F_2^{(b)}$
	qWII-2	RM213-RM166	3.43	10.7	-	IR36 / Nekken 2	indica / japonica	$BC_1F_1^{d}$
	qWIJ-2	RM233A-RM8	3.69	11.0	-	IR36 / Nekken 2	indica / japonica	$BC_1F_1^{(d)}$
	-	RG139-CDO686	4.01	-	9.1	Labelle / Black Gora	japonica <sup>*</sup> / indica	F <sub>2</sub> <sup>e)</sup>
	qGW-2	G275-C560	6.2	15.4	-	Nipponbare / Kasalath	japonica / indica	BIL <sup>f)</sup>
3	gb3	RM7-RM251	15.02	34.1	-	Domsephid / Gerdeh	indica / indica	$F_2^{(b)}$
	-	RZ448-RZ403	3.5	-	7.9	Labelle / Black Gora	japonica <sup>*</sup> / indica	F <sub>2</sub> <sup>e)</sup>
	qGW-3	G332-C80	5.0	12.7	-	Nipponbare / Kasalath	japonica / indica	BIL <sup>f)</sup>
	GS3	GS09-MRG5881	8.9	19.8	-	Minghui 63 / Chuan 7	indica / indica	$BC_3F_2^{g)}$
ł	GWh	T082023-RM241	3.49	-	16.0	Reiho / Yamadanishiki	japonica / japonica	DHL <sup>a)</sup>
;	gb5	RM437-RM289	6.2	14.9	-	Domsephid / Gerdeh	indica / indica	$F_2^{(b)}$
	qWIJ-5	RM13-RM289	9.47	26.1	-	IR36 / Nekken 2	indica / japonica	$BC_1F_1^{(d)}$
	-	RG360-C734a	20.6	55.2	-	Zhenshan 97 / Minghui 63	indica / indica	F <sub>2:3</sub> c)
	-	RG360-C734a	16.5	44.0	-	Zhenshan 97 / Minghui 63	indica / indica	RIL <sup>c)</sup>
	qGW-5a	R830-R3166	11.0	32.5	-	Nipponbare / Kasalath	japonica / indica	BIL <sup>f)</sup>
	GWh	RM31-M031078	6.31	-	27.1	Reiho / Yamadanishiki	japonica / japonica	DHL <sup>a)</sup>
5	gb6	RM527-RM3	4.43	10.5	-	Domsephid / Gerdeh	indica / indica	$F_2^{(b)}$
	_	RG424-C962	2.6	10.4	-	Zhenshan 97 / Minghui 63	indica / indica	F <sub>2:3</sub> c)
	-	RZ667-RG424	2.5	4.6	-	Zhenshan 97 / Minghui 63	indica / indica	RIL <sup>c)</sup>
7	gb7	RM481-RM125	4.21	10.1	-	Domsephid / Gerdeh	indica / indica	$F_2^{(b)}$
	qWIJ-7	RM125-RM11	2.57	8.0	-	IR36 / Nekken 2	indica / japonica	$BC_1F_1^{d}$
	-	RG711-RG650	10.54	-	22.0	Labelle / Black Gora	japonica <sup>*</sup> / indica	$F_2^{e}$
3	gb8	RM256-RM230	8.48	20.0	-	Domsephid / Gerdeh	indica / indica	$F_2^{(b)}$
	-	RZ143-RG333	3.24	-	7.5	Labelle / Black Gora	japonica <sup>*</sup> / indica	$F_2^{(e)}$
)	gb9	RM434-RM201	3.79	9.5	-	Domsephid / Gerdeh	indica / indica	$F_2^{(b)}$

PVE, Percentage of phenotypic variance explained

 $R^2$ , coefficient of determination

\* tropical japonica

a) Yoshida et al. 2002; b) Rabiei et al. 2004; c) Tan et al. 2000; d) Abdelkhalik et al. 2005; e) Redoña and Mackill 1998; f) Li et al. 2003; g) Fan et al. 2006

 Table 3 QTLs for grain thickness detected using Oryza cultivars.

Chr	QTL	Interval marker	LOD	PVE	$\mathbf{R}^2$	Parents		Population
2	qTHJ-2	RM233A-RM145	4.08	12.0	-	IR36 / Nekken 2	indica / japonica	$BC_1F_1^{b)}$
	qTHJ-2-2	RM324-RM452	3.70	11.1	-	IR36 / Nekken 2	indica / japonica	$BC_1F_1^{(b)}$
	GT	W131132-RM109	2.04	-	9.9	Reiho / Yamadanishiki	japonica / japonica	DHL <sup>a)</sup>
3	GS3	GS09-MRG5881	5.3	12.1	-	Minghui 63 / Chuan 7	indica / indica	$BC_3F_2^{c)}$
ł	GT	T082023-RM241	2.03	-	9.7	Reiho / Yamadanishiki	japonica / japonica	DHL <sup>a)</sup>
5	qTHJ-5	RM289-RM249	4.96	14.7	-	IR36 / Nekken 2	indica / japonica	$BC_1F_1^{(b)}$
	GT	RM31-M031078	4.36	-	19.6	Reiho / Yamadanishiki	japonica / japonica	DHL <sup>a)</sup>

PVE, Percentage of phenotypic variance explained

R<sup>2</sup>, coefficient of determination \* tropical *japonica* 

a) Yoshida et al. 2002; b) Abdelkhalik et al. 2005; c) Fan et al. 2006

for grain length on the centromeric region of chromosome 3 (Redoña and Mackill 1998; Tan et al. 2000; Rabiei et al. 2004; Fan et al. 2006; Wan et al. 2006), a QTL for grain width on chromosome 5 (Tan et al. 2000; Li et al. 2003; Rabiei et al. 2004; Abdelkhalik et al. 2005), a QTL for grain thickness on chromosome 2 (Yoshida et al. 2002; Abdelkhalik et al. 2005), and a QTL for grain weight on chromosome 5 (Lin et al. 1996; Li et al. 1997; Ishimaru 2003; Abdelkhalik et al. 2005). These universal QTLs had a relatively large effect on the phenotype and are supposed to be useful for rice improvement (Tables 1-4). In addition to exploitation of genetic potential in wild relatives, reclassification of known QTLs into those positive from the indica group or from *japonica* group will be useful for breeding parental lines in hybrid rice breeding. A positively contributing allele at each QTL may be tagged by a marker allele at each locus in such a classification. It is possible to possess advantageous combinations of QTLs in a single plant by crossing and maker-assisted selection. Further studies using many superior hybrids are expected to enhance wellorganized utilizations of heterosis.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report was supported in part by Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research (Nos. 15580008(C) and 18405017(B)) from the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science.

#### REFERENCES

Abdelkhalik AF, Shishido R, Nomura K, Ikehashi H (2005) QTL-based analysis of heterosis for grain shape traits and seedling characteristics in an *indica-iaponica* hybrid in rice (*Orvza sativa* L.). Breeding Science 55, 41-48

**Davenport CB** (1908) Degeneration, albinism and inbreeding. *Science* 28, 454-455

- East EM (1908) Inbreeding in corn. Reports of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station for Years 1907-1908, Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, New Haven, pp 419-428
- Fan C, Xing Y, Mao H, Lu T, Han B, Xu C, Li X, Zhang Q (2006) GS3, a major QTL for grain length and weight and minor QTL for grain width and thickness in rice, encodes a putative transmembrane protein. *Theoretical and Applied Genetics* 112, 1164-1171
- Harlan J (1992) Crop and Man, America Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of American, Madison, 284 pp
- Ikehashi H, Zou JS, Huhn PM, Maruyama K (1994) Wide compatibility gene(s) and *indica-japonica* heterosis in rice for temperate countries. In: Virmani SS (Ed) *Hybrid Rice Technology: New Developments and Future Prospects*, International Rice Research Institute, Los Baños, Philippines, pp 21-31
- Ishimaru K (2003) Identification of a locus increasing rice yield and physiological analysis of its function. *Plant Physiology* 133, 1083-1090
- Jones JW (1926) Hybrid vigor in rice. Journal of the American Society of Agronomy 18, 424-428
- Lee S-J, Oh C-S, Suh J-P, McCouch SR, Ahn S-N (2005) Identification of QTLs for domestication-related and agronomic traits in an *Oryza sativa* x *O. rufipogon* BC<sub>1</sub>F<sub>7</sub> population. *Plant Breeding* **124**, 209-219
- Li Z, Pinson SRM, Park WD, Paterson AH, Stansel JW (1997) Epistasis for three grain yield components in rice (*Oryza sativa* L.). Genetics 145, 453-465

	Table 4 (	QTLs for	grain	weight	detected	using	Oryza cultivars
--	-----------	----------	-------	--------	----------	-------	-----------------

Chr	QTL	Interval marker	LOD	PVE	$\mathbf{R}^2$	Parents		Population
l	QKw1	RG236-RG381	3.46	-	8.1	Lemont / Teqing	japonica / indica	$F_4^{b)}$
	tgwt1	RG173-RG532	3.01	12.6	-	Tesanai 2 / CB	indica / indica	F <sub>2</sub> <sup>c)</sup>
2	QKw2a	RG598b-RG139	3.33	-	6.6	Lemont / Teqing	japonica / indica	F4 b)
	QKw2b	RG83-RG634	2.59	-	4.1	Lemont / Teqing	japonica / indica	F4 b)
	tgwt2	RG171-RG437	4.23	14.8	-	Waiyin 2 / CB	indica / indica	F <sub>2</sub> <sup>c)</sup>
	GWt	RM145-RM109	3.92	-	18.0	Reiho / Yamadanishiki	japonica / japonica	DHL <sup>a)</sup>
	-	C560-G275	3.99	-	16.5	Nipponbare / Kasalath	japonica / indica	BIL <sup>f)</sup>
	QKw3a	RG104-RG348	2.88	-	5.1	Lemont / Teqing	japonica / indica	F4 b)
	QKw3b	RG445a-CDO109a	6.82	-	11.7	Lemont / Teqing	japonica / indica	F4 b)
	QKw3c	RG910a-RG418	3.57	-	7.2	Lemont / Teqing	japonica / indica	$F_4^{(b)}$
	GWt	X03617-RM168	2.23	-	10.6	Reiho / Yamadanishiki	japonica / japonica	DHL <sup>a)</sup>
	GS3	GS09-MRG5881	72.8	83.4	-	Minghui 63 / Chuan 7	indica / indica	$BC_3F_2^{(g)}$
	tgwt4	RG143-RG214	2.74	8.5	-	Tesanai 2 / CB	indica / indica	$F_{2}^{c)}$
	qWEI-4	RM348-RM280	2.77	9.0	-	IR36 / Nekken 2	indica / japonica	$BC_1F_1^{(d)}$
	-	Pericarp-RG476	4.52	-	10.2	Labelle / Black Gora	japonica <sup>*</sup> / indica	$F_2^{e}$
	GWt	RM255-RM131	2.24	-	11.0	Reiho / Yamadanishiki	japonica / japonica	DHL <sup>a)</sup>
	GWt	T082023-RM241	2.19	-	10.4	Reiho / Yamadanishiki	japonica / japonica	DHL <sup>a)</sup>
	QKw5	RG182-RG13	5.10	-	16.3	Lemont / Teqing	japonica / indica	$F_4^{b)}$
	tgwt5	RG182-RG13	2.73	14.8	-	Tesanai 2 / CB	indica / indica	$F_{2}^{c)}$
	qWEI-5	RM249-RM163	2.76	9.0	-	IR36 / Nekken 2	indica / japonica	$BC_1F_1^{d}$
	GWt	RM31-M031078	2.99	-	13.9	Reiho / Yamadanishiki	japonica / japonica	DHL <sup>a)</sup>
	-	R3166-R1838	2.22	-	10.2	Nipponbare / Kasalath	japonica / indica	BIL <sup>f)</sup>
	QKw6	RG424-RG179	3.09	-	6.0	Lemont / Teqing	japonica / indica	$F_4^{b)}$
	tgw6	C358-C556	3.71	-	14.0	Nipponbare / Kasalath	japonica / indica	BIL <sup>f)</sup>
	-	RG333-RZ562	3.35	-	7.7	Labelle / Black Gora	japonica <sup>*</sup> / indica	$F_2^{e}$
0	QKw10	CDO98-RG752	3.77	-	10.3	Lemont / Teqing	japonica / indica	F4 <sup>b)</sup>
	tgwt10	RG241-RG561	3.52	22.8	-	Waiyin 2 / CB	indica / indica	$F_2^{(c)}$
	-	R1629-R2447	2.02	-	10.1	Nipponbare / Kasalath	japonica / indica	BIL <sup>f)</sup>
1	GWt	RM332-A071162	2.27	-	10.7	Reiho / Yamadanishiki	japonica / japonica	DHL <sup>a)</sup>
	-	G257-S2260	3.56	-	12.1	Nipponbare / Kasalath	japonica / indica	BIL <sup>f)</sup>

 $R^2$ , coefficient of determination

\* tropical *japonica* 

a) Yoshida et al. 2002; b) Li et al. 1997; c) Lin et al. 1996; d) Abdelkhalik et al. 2005; e) Redoña and Mackill 1998; f) Ishimaru 2003; g) Fan et al. 2006

- Li J, Thomson M, McCouch SR (2004) Fine mapping of a grain-weight quantitative trait locus in the pericentromeric region of rice chromosome3. *Genetics* 168, 2187-2195
- Li ZF, Wan JM, Xia JF, Zhai HQ (2003) Mapping quantitative trait loci underlying appearance quality of rice grains (*Oryza sativa* L.). Acta Genetica Sinica 30, 251-259
- Lin H-X, Qian H-R, Zhuang J-Y, Lu J, Min S-K, Xiong Z-M, Huang N, Zheng K-L (1996) RFLP mapping of QTLs for yield and related characters in rice (*Oryza sativa* L.). *Theoretical and Applied Genetics* **92**, 920-927
- McCouch SR, Chen X, Panaud O, Temnykh S, Xu Y, Cho YG, Huang N, Ishii T, Blair M (1997) Microsatellite marker development, mapping and applications in rice genetics and breeding. *Plant Molecular Biology* 35, 89-99
- Peng S, Cassman KG, Virmani SS, Sheehy J, Khush GS (1999) Yield potential trends of tropical rice since release of IR8 and the challenge of increasing rice yield potential. *Crop Science* 39, 1552-1559
- Rabiei B, Valizadeh M, Ghareyazie B, Moghaddam M, Ali AJ (2004) Identification of QTLs for rice grain size and shape of Iranian cultivars using SSR markers. *Euphytica* 137, 325-332
- Redoña ED, Mackill DJ (1998) Quantitative trait locus analysis for rice panicle and grain characteristics. *Theoretical and Applied Genetics* **96**, 957-963
- Sato YI (1997) Rice cultivars with long, medium and short grains. In: Matsuo T, Futsuhara Y, Kikuchi F, Yamaguchi H (Eds) *Science of the Rice Plant: Genetics* (Vol 3), Food and Agriculture Policy Research Center, Tokyo, Japan, pp 153-160
- Shull GH (1908) The composition of a field of maize. Report of the American Breeders Association 4, 296-301
- Song XJ, Huang W, Shi M, Zhu MZ, Lin HX (2007) A QTL for rice grain width and weight encodes a previously unknown RING-type E3 ubiquitin ligase. *Nature Genetics* 39, 623-630
- Tan YF, Xing YZ, Li JX, Yu SB, Xu CG (2000) Genetic bases of appearance quality of rice grains in Shanyou 63, an elite rice hybrid. *Theoretical and Applied Genetics* 101, 823-829
- Tanabe S, Ashikari M, Fujioka S, Takatsuto S, Yoshida S, Yano M, Yoshimura A, Kitano H, Matsuoka M, Fujisawa Y, Kato H, Iwasaki Y (2005) A novel cytochrome P450 is implicated in brassinosteroid biosynthesis via the characterization of a rice dwarf mutant, *dwarf11*, with reduced seed length. *The Plant Cell* 17, 776-790
- Tanksley SD (1993) Mapping polygenes. Annual Review of Genetics 27, 205-233
- Thomson MJ, Tai TH, McClung AM, Lai X-H, Hinga ME, Lobos KB, Xu Y, Martinez CP, McCouch SR (2003) Mapping quantitative trait loci for yield,

yield components and morphological traits in an advanced backcross population between *Oryza rufipogon* and the *Oryza sativa* cultivar Jefferson. *Theoretical and Applied Genetics* **107**, 479-493

- Wan XY, Wan JM, Jiang L, Wang JK, Zhai HQ, Weng JF, Wang HL, Lei CL, Wang JL, Zhang X, Cheng ZJ, Guo XP (2006) QTL analysis for rice grain length and fine mapping of an identified QTL with stable and major effects. *Theoretical and Applied Genetics* 112, 1258-1270
- Yoshida S, Ikegami S, Kuze J, Sawada K, Hashimoto Z, Ishii T, Nakamura C, Kamijima O (2002) QTL Analysis for plant and grain characters of *Sake* brewing rice using a doubled haploid population. *Breeding Science* 52, 309-317
- Yuan LP (1994) Increasing yield potential in rice by exploitation of heterosis. In: Virmani SS (Ed) *Hybrid Rice Technology: New Developments and Future Prospects*, International Rice Research Institute, Los Baños, Philippines, pp 1-6
- Yuan LP (1998) Hybrid rice breeding in China. In: Virmani SS, Siddiq EA, Muralidharan K (Eds) Advances in Hybrid Rice Technology, International Rice Research Institute, Los Baños, Philippines, pp 27-33

#### JAPANESE ABSTRACT

広親和性遺伝子の利用によりイネ日印交雑における雑種不 稔が解決され、高度のヘテロシスがハイブリッド育種に利 用されている。強いヘテロシスが現れる日印交雑後代を用 いた研究結果から、我々は日印雑種の高度のヘテロシスは、 対立遺伝子の相互作用による超優性効果(Aa>AA)ではなく、 多くの座でヘテロの遺伝子型の部分優性の効果が累積され ることによって現れると結論した。一方、栽培イネの種子 は用途により様々な大きさや形が選抜されてきた為、非常 に変異に富んでいる。更に、粒形は収量に密接に関連する とから、育種上重要な形質でもある。ヘテロシス利用の 観点から粒形に関与する QTL について、日本型親とインド 型親のどちらが正の効果を示す対立遺伝子をもっているの かという情報を整理すれば、分子マーカーの利用による親 系統の育成に有用であると考えられる。この総説では、イ ネにおけるヘテロシスの利用および粒形質を制御する遺伝 的メカニズムについて概説し、イネ育種への利用の可能性 について議論する。