Inheritance of a five leaflet character arising from wild soybean (Glycine soja Sieb. et Zucc.) in soybeans (G. max (L.) Merr.)

Wang Ke-Jing wangkejing@ihw.com.cn, Li Fu-Shan, Zhou Tao and Xu Zhan-You
Institute of Crop Germplasm Resources (ICGR) Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS) Beijing 100081

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Abstract

The inheritance of a five leaflet mutation of soybeans originally inherited from the wild was studied using cross analysis. Six crosses were made between "Five Leaf Bean" with the five leaflet trait and other 6 lines of normal leaves. F2 plants of 5 crosses produced major three five leaflet leaves and also some minor four six and seven multifoliolate leaves. There were two kinds of segregation ratios for major five leaflet (including other multifoliolate leaves) and trifoliolate characters in the F2 progeny plants. Five crosses showed a goodness of fit to a 3 : 1 ratio and one cross showed a satisfactory 63 : 1 ratio. The cross analysis indicated that besides the Lf1 gene controlling the five leaflet trait other two newly found genes could also control this trait. These three genes were independently genetic incompletely dominant and effect-duplicated. The results also suggested that the "Five Leaf Bean" a donor of five leaflet genes acquired by random selection to a cross progenies ((cultivar1 x wild soybean) x cultivar2) had heterogeneous genotypes at the three loci among individuals.

Introduction

Commonly soybeans (G. max) have trifoliolate leaves most rarely with five leaflet or other multifoliolate leaves (Takahashi and Fukuyama 1919; Woodworth 1932; Fehr 1972; Fu 1984). Takahashi and Fukuyama indicated that a single major gene controls a multifoliolate character. Fehr (1972) observed a spontaneous mutational plant with multifoliolate leaves (major seven leaflets) and reported that this multifoliolate leaflet character was

controlled by a dominant Lf2 gene and a five-leaflet mutation was caused by a incompletely dominant Lf1 gene. Fu (1984) presented a mutation with respect to multifoliolate leaves (4 to 7 leaflet) that derived from the seeds treated by Î³-60 Co rays whose genetic studies indicated that a pair of recessive alleles (lf3lf3) at a single locus lead to this mutation and the dominant allele (Lf3) was charged with the normal trifoliolate leaves. Obviously their results were different.

Thus for in soybeans few reports with respect to the genetic control of leaflet number mutation inherited from wild soybean have been issued. In a early research work of ours we occasionally obtained plants with five leaflet leaves from a cross of F1 (cultivar 1 x wild soybean) x cultivar 2. Carefully checking the parents found that the original wild parent had mere a few of five leaflet leaves. We thought this could be the source of the five leaflet character inherited to the five leaflet progeny plants that we obtained. The variant plants with this five-leaflet trait were later grown over ten times and basically their genetic backgrounds became homozygous. The objective of this paper was to analyze the inheritance of the five-leaflet variation derived from the wild compare the genetic behavior of leaflet number to the results previously published by other researchers and discuss the genetic effect of the genes for control of leaflet number in soybeans.

Materials and Methods

The strains used were normal trifoliolate "94-6" "94-12" "94-20" line 1 line 2 and line 3 with red flowers and a five-leaflet Five Leaf Bean with flowers in the genetic collection of the ICGR Wild Soybean. All materials contained the wild genetic background in varying degrees because in their parental progenitors the wild had ever been included. Six crosses were made between Five Leaf Bean and the other six lines in 1997. The Five Leaf Bean was used as maternal parent which has a pair of recessive alleles for white flower color and could be served as the indicator of the true and false F1 seeds. The F1 seeds of all crosses were planted in the experimental fields and F1 plants were harvested and maintained for next F2 progeny populations in 1998. Every F1 plant produced more F2 seeds. The F2 seeds from F1 plans of 6 cross combinations were grown and formed 6 F2 segregation populations. For F2 plants fully expanded leaves on the main stem were studied when terminal growth of the main stem had ceased. A leaflet was counted as long as it had a distinct joint of attachment to the

petiole or rachis. In the F2 segregation populations the counts of the number of plants with different multifoliolate leaves were recorded as long as plants had one multifoliolate leaf. The plants with mixed kinds of leaflet leaves were counted independently.

Results

Variation in leaflet number within F2 populations

Five Leaf Bean has five leaflet leaves sometimes with occasional normal trifoliolate leaves. The other paternal parents have normal trifoliolate leaves. The F2 progenies produced major three five leaflets and also an extremely small number of newly occurred four five six and seven leaflet leaves. Two cross combinations brought forth six and seven leaflets; four crosses brought forth four leaflet leaves; and one cross had only parental three and five leaflet leaves (Table).

The number of five leaflet leaves per plant on which five leaflets emerged differed between the individuals by varying from 1 up to nearly all the leaves. An extremely small number of F2 plants had five leaflet leaves on the whole plants except the basal trifoliolate leaves but most F2 plants had a varied number. The new four leaflet leaves appeared with a lower frequency and the number of four leaflet leaves per plant on which four leaflets emerged ranged approximately from 1 to 5 sometimes together with five leaflet leaves on the same individual.

Comparatively the frequency of plants with four leaflet leaves was higher than that of plants with other kinds of leaves (six or mixed four five and seven leaflets) in the F2 populations. Only 4 plants were found with mere 1-2 leaves of six leaflets. Only two leaves with seven leaflets appeared on two plants with five leaflet leaves separately. A major single gene behavior for the five leaflet leaves in some crosses Six crosses were made for analysis of the inheritance of the five leaflet character. The cross combinations were Five Leaf Bean x "94-12" x "94-6" x "94-20" x line 1 x line 2 and x line 3. All F1 plants presented five leaflet trait. In F2 progeny populations of all the crosses two patterns of phenotype segregation for leaflet character were observed (Table).

In the Five Leaf Beanx"94-12" cross we obtained one F1 plant and it had

sufficient F2 seeds. The F1 had only trifoliolate leaves and its selfed F2 population had three five and six leaflet leaves and of which two plants had mixed leaves of five and four or seven leaflets. The 86 multifoliolate F2 plants with major five leaflet leaves and 34 F2 plants with trifoliolate leaves satisfactorily fitted a 3 : 1 ratio ($p > 0.50$). This data indicated that the five leaflet character was controlled by a major single gene dominant to the recessive alleles controlling trifoliolate leaves. This allelic gene was not complete dominance over trifoliolate leaves which expressed major five leaflets and also sometimes a minor other multifoliolates in different genetic backgrounds of some crosses (Table).

A similar result repeated in F2 plants of the other four crosses. In the Five Leaf Bean x "94-6" cross 143 multifoliolate plants including 137 five 3 four 2 six leaflet plants and 1 plant with five and seven leaflets to 18 trifoliolate plants fitted a good 3 : 1 ratio ($P > 0.10$). In the Five Leaf Bean x "94-20" cross 106 five leaflet and 8 four leaflet plants to 39 trifoliolate plants gave a very satisfactory fit of a 3 : 1 ratio ($p > 0.90$). The F2 plants derived from the Five Leaf Bean x line 1 cross had a segregation of 196 plants with five leaflets 12 plants with four leaflets 1 mixed plant by five and four leaflets and 87 trifoliolate where multifoliolate and trifoliolate plants was a 3 : 1 ratio ($p > 0.05$). In the 311 F2 plants of Five Leaf Bean x line 1 there was a segregation of a 3 : 1 ratio for major five leaflet and trifoliolate plants ($p > 0.90$).

Three independent genes for the five leaflets in a cross

A genetically new behavior for the five leaflet character different from the results of 3 : 1 ratio above was found in the cross between Five Leaf Bean×“x"94-20". The F1 plant had five leaflet leaves and the F2 plants brought forth only normal trifoliolate and variant five leaflet leaves. There were a obvious deviation from the above 3 : 1 ratio for the five leaflets and trifoliolates in the F2 population where 138 plants were for five leaflets and only 4 plants for trifoliolate leaves having a goodness of fit to a 63 : 1 ratio ($P > 0.90$). This result suggested that there were three genes were involved in five leaflet inheritance in this cross combination and the three genes had a dominantly duplicated effect which when only one of them existed would be able to express five leaflet leaves (Table).

Discussion

The genetic analysis of five leaflets by crossing here showed that this five leaflet character inherited from wild soybean (G. soja) could be controlled by three major genes independently genetic incompletely dominant and effect-duplicated in the genetic backgrounds evaluated. Five leaflet character was dominant to trifoliolate character. Fehr (1972) reported a spontaneous mutation to five leaflet leaves and revealed that the five leaflet trait is controlled by a single major gene (Lf1) partially dominant to recessive alleles controlling trifoliolate leaves. In this point our data acquired in this study were identical to Fehr's results; there was the Lf1 gene in the "Five Leaf Bean".

What our results were different from Fehr's results was that besides been controlling by the Lf1 gene the five leaflet trait was also conditioned by other two independently genetic genes newly found else in the Five Leaf Bean. The two new genes were tentatively designated as Lf4 and Lf5 respectively. The three genes were incompletely dominant to recessive alleles controlling trifoliolate leaves and they had a duplicated effect. When any two pairs of alleles were recessive F2 plants would show a segregation of a 3 : 1 ratio; when three pairs of alleles in F1 were heterozygous F2 plants would become a 63 : 1 segregation ratio (27Lf1-Lf4-Lf5- 9Lf1-Lf4-lf5 lf5 9Lf1-lf4 lf4 Lf5- 9lf1 lf1Lf4-Lf5- 3 Lf1-lf4 lf4 lf5 lf5 3 lf1 lf1 Lf4- lf5 lf5 3 lf1 lf1 lf4 lf4 Lf5- 1 lf1 lf1 lf4 lf4 lf5 lf5). Only the three pairs of alleles are recessive lf1 lf1 lf4 lf4 lf5 lf5 plants are able to produce trifoliolate leaves.

The genes controlling five leaflets were incompletely dominant and sometimes they would produce 4~7 multifoliolate leaves in some crossing genetic backgrounds. In the Five Leaf Bean x line 3 cross the F2 population had only trifoliolate and five leaflet leaves which could be influenced by the existence of three dominant effect-duplicated genes to decrease the frequency of the appearance of leaves with other multifoliolates.

Cross analysis indicated that the Five Leaf Bean had heterogeneous genotypes at the three loci related to five leaflets among individuals. This reason could arise from the random selection according as phenotype in the progeny treatment by which way the fixed genotypes were indefinite. A white flower sister line with five leaflet leaves was obtained along with the acquisition of the Five Leaf Bean.

In domestication of soybeans from the wild into the cultivars the gene

frequencies of may dominant traits or wild types have become low such as peroxidase activity and root fluorescence (Wang et al. 1990) Kunitz trypsin inhibitor (Kaizuma et al. 1980). The existing soybeans could be almost recessive at the loci controlling common trifoliolates and a spontaneous leaflet mutation in fields is easy to be expressed as a single gene locus. Wild soybean is the progenitor of the cultivated soybeans and would contain more original and useful characters or genes on which genetic study and breeding depends.

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