

Microsatellite Markers for Raspberry and Blackberry

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ABSTRACT. Twelve microsatellites were isolated from simple sequence repeat (SSR)-enriched genomic libraries of ‘Meeker’ red raspberry (*Rubus idaeus*) and ‘Marion’ blackberry (*Rubus* hybrid). These primer pairs plus one developed from a GenBank red raspberry sequence were evaluated in 48 raspberry and 48 blackberry genotypes. Only RhM031 did not generate a product in raspberry, whereas RiG001 failed to amplify in blackberry and hybrid accessions. The number of polymerase chain reaction products per primer pair in the 12 SSRs that successfully amplified was higher in blackberry genotypes and their hybrids than in raspberry, ranging from three to 29 in blackberry (average, 14.4) and from one to 15 in red raspberry (average, 7.5). Diversity estimates were determined for 10 of 12 SSRs that amplified up to two products in 44 red raspberry genotypes. The best SSR loci based on high observed and expected heterozygosities, high polymorphism information content, and low inbreeding coefficient were RiM019, RhM003, and RhM011. They mapped to three different linkage groups (5, 2, and 7, respectively) in red raspberry and differentiated the unique genotypes identified with the 12 SSRs in each crop type.

Most of the cultivated fruit species in *Rubus* belong to two subgenera: *Idaeobatus* (raspberry) and *Rubus* (formerly *Eubatus*) (blackberry). *Idaeobatus* contains european red raspberry (*R. idaeus*), north american red raspberry (*R. strigosus*), black raspberry (*R. occidentalis*), and purple raspberry (*R. xneglectus*). In Pacific Northwestern North America, raspberry and blackberry are important fruit crops where they are sold as fresh fruit and in a number of processed items like juice, yogurt, and desserts. The gross value of caneberries tops \$45 million annually in Oregon [U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), 2006].

The USDA–Agricultural Research Service National Clonal Germplasm Repository (NCGR) in Corvallis maintains greater than 2000 *Rubus* accessions, including ≈190 species from 64 countries. This collection is an asset to breeders and researchers interested in conserving genotypes and increasing genetic diversity in cultivated raspberry and blackberry. Efficient germplasm management requires tools for identity verification, species characterization, and genetic diversity assessment.

Because the accurate characterization of *Rubus* germplasm using morphological markers is difficult, molecular markers provide more reliable means for cultivar identification and to

assess genetic relatedness and diversity in these collections. Microsatellite markers were only recently developed from an expressed sequence tag library of ‘Merton Thornless’ (Lewers et al., 2008). A limited number of simple sequence repeats (SSRs) are reported for *Rubus*, which include the invasive weed *R. alceifolius* (Amsellem et al., 2001), an Azorean island endemic species *R. hochstetterorum* (Lopes et al., 2006), and red raspberry (Graham et al., 2002, 2004, 2006; Woodhead et al., 2008). In this study, we developed four microsatellite markers from a genomic library of ‘Meeker’ raspberry, eight from a library of ‘Marion’ blackberry, and one from a *R. idaeus* GenBank sequence. These 13 SSRs were evaluated in 48 accessions of red raspberry and 48 cultivars of blackberry and mapped in two red raspberry mapping populations.

Materials and Methods

MICROSATELLITE MARKER DEVELOPMENT. Two DNA libraries were constructed for SSR development: ‘Meeker’ raspberry and ‘Marion’ blackberry. A phenol:chloroform step was added to the modified PUREGENE DNA extraction protocol routinely used at the NCGR (Bassil et al., 2008). Microsatellite enrichment followed the protocol of Glenn and Schable (2005). Sequences from the genomic library were screened for the presence of microsatellites with SSRIT software (Temnykh et al., 2001) and aligned using CAP 3 software (Huang and Madan, 1999). Primer 3 software (Rozen and Skaletsky, 2000) was used for primer design. Four primer pairs from the ‘Meeker’ library (prefix RiM for *R. idaeus* ‘Meeker’), eight primer pairs from the ‘Marion’ library (prefix RhM for *Rubus* hybrid ‘Marion’), and one pair developed from a *R. idaeus*

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Genbank sequence (prefix RiG for *R. idaeus* GenBank) (Table 1) generated polymorphic DNA fragments of the expected size in 12 raspberry and blackberry test sets (Table 2). These 13 primer pairs were further used to fingerprint 48 raspberry and 48 blackberry accessions (Table 2).

SIMPLE SEQUENCE REPEAT GENOTYPING. DNA was extracted from young expanding leaves in the spring using a modified PUREGENE protocol routinely used at the NCGR (Bassil et al., 2008). The optimum annealing temperature for each primer pair was determined by gradient polymerase chain reaction (PCR) from 55 to 65 °C using an equimolar mix of the DNA templates used for library construction. Success of the PCR was determined by 3% agarose gel electrophoresis. For genotyping, PCR was performed separately for each primer pair using a fluorescently labeled forward primer and an unlabeled reverse primer. Reactions were performed in 15-μL volumes containing 1× reaction buffer, 2 mM MgCl₂, 0.2 mM dNTPs, 0.15 μM of each primer, 0.025 U of Biolase Taq DNA polymerase (Bioline USA, Taunton, MA), and 3 ng genomic DNA. If a primer pair failed three times to amplify template DNA that amplified with other primers, then it was scored as a null genotype. Fragment analysis followed separation on a genetic analyzer (CEQ 8000; Beckman Coulter, Fullerton, CA). Allele sizing and visualization were performed using the fragment analysis module of the CEQ 8000 software. Alleles were scored by fitting the peaks into bins less than 1 nucleotide.

DATA ANALYSES. PowerMarker Version 3.25 (Liu and Muse, 2004) was used to calculate allele frequencies, deviations from Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium (HWE), observed (H_o) and expected heterozygosities (H_e), and polymorphism information content (PIC) of the 10 SSR primer pairs that amplified up to two products in 44 of the 48 red raspberry genotypes (Table 3). Inbreeding coefficient (F) was calculated in an Excel spreadsheet (Microsoft, Redmond, WA) as [$F = 1 - (H_o/H_e)$]. For neighbor joining (NJ) cluster analysis of the 96 genotypes, individuals were scored for the presence or absence of each allele and each allele was treated as a separate locus. Genetic distance matrices were computed using PowerMarker with the proportion of shared alleles distance, D_{sa} (Chakraborty and Jin, 1993):

$$D_{sa} = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{j=1}^m \sum_{i=1}^{a_j} \min(p_{ij}, q_{ij})$$

where p_{ij} and q_{ij} are the frequencies of the i th allele at the j th locus, m is the number of loci examined, and a_j is the number of alleles at the j th locus. MEGA Version 3.1 (Kumar et al., 2004) was used to create the dendrograms.

LINKAGE MAPPING. For mapping in the ‘Glen Moy’ × ‘Latham’ (GM × L) population, primers were initially tested on the parents and 10 selected progeny. For polymorphic loci, one primer was fluorescently end-labeled with FAM or HEX

Table 1. List of 13 simple sequence repeat (SSR) primer pairs evaluated in 48 raspberry and 48 blackberry genotypes.^z

Locus	GenBank		Primer sequences (5'-3') ^y	Expected size (bp)	T _a (°C)	Products (no.)		Product range (bp)	
	accession no.	Motif				Raspberry	Blackberry	Raspberry	Blackberry
RiM015	FJ194452	(ATC) ₅	Fwd: CGACACCGATCAGAGCTAATTC Rev: ATAGTTGCATTGGCAGGCTTAT	350	62	4	9	349–361	344–364
RiM017	FJ194453	(TG) ₆	Fwd: GAAACAGGTGAAAGAAACCTG Rev: CATTGTGCTTATGATGGTTTCG	194	59	7	12	185–205	181–201
RiM019	FJ194454	(AG) ₁₂	Fwd: ATTCAAGAGCTTAACTGTGGGC Rev: CAATATGCCATCCACAGAGAAA	176	52	14	18	167–219	146–196
RiM036	FJ194455	(TG) ₇	Fwd: AGCAACCACCACCTCAACTAAT Rev: CTAGCAGAATCACCTGAGGCTT	315	51	15	16	202–339	227–335
RhM001	FJ194444	(CA) ₇	Fwd: GGTTCCGATAGTTAATCCTCCC Rev: CCAACTGTTGTAATGCAGGAA	232	51	6	18	233–245	229–282
RhM003	FJ194445	(TG) ₁₀	Fwd: CCATCTCCAATTCAGTTCTTCC Rev: AGCAGAATCGGTTCTTACAAGC	200	50	10	15	191–216	173–264
RhM011	FJ194446	(TC) ₁₈	Fwd: AAAGACAAGGCGTCCACAAC Rev: GGTTATGCTTTGATTAGGCTGG	280	56	12	29	270–319	252–346
RhM018	FJ194447	(CTT) ₆	Fwd: CACCAATTGTACACCCAACAAC Rev: GATTGTGAGCTGGTGTACCAA	379	54	1	3	381	363–381
RhM021	FJ194448	(TC) ₆	Fwd: CAGTCCCTTATAGGATCCAACG Rev: GAACTCCACCATCTCCTCGTAG	282	50	8	19	278–294	252–315
RhM023	FJ194449	(CAT) ₅	Fwd: CGACAACGACAATTCTCACATT Rev: GTTATCAAGCGATCCTGCAGTT	196	53	2	5	116–195	116–206
RhM031	FJ194450	(CT) ₉	Fwd: CAACCTAATGACCAATGCAAGA Rev: GCAGAATCCATTCTTGTGTA	396	50	—	10	—	0, 391–433
RhM043	FJ194451	(AC) ₆	Fwd: GGACACGGTTCTAACTATGGCT Rev: ATTGTCGCTCCAACGAAGATT	373	56	7	19	344–380	332–386
RiG001	AF292369	(AT) ₆	Fwd: TGTCCGATCCTTTTCTTTGG Rev: CGCTTCTTGATCCTTGACTTGT	345	55	4	—	338–349	—
Mean						7.5	14.4		

^zGenBank accession numbers, SSR motif, forward and reverse primer sequences, expected product size, optimum annealing temperature (T_a), and the number of polymerase chain reaction products and size ranges obtained in the 48 accessions of each crop type are included.

^yFwd = forward; Rev = reverse.

Table 2. List of 48 raspberry and 48 blackberry genotypes evaluated with the 13 simple sequence repeats (SSRs) developed in this study.^z

Cultivar name	PI no.	Pedigree	Ploidy
Raspberry			
Amber	PI 553495	'Taylor' × 'Cuthbert'	2x
Amity	PI 553487	OSC 1839 × OSC 1835	2x
Anne	PI 653103	'Amity' × 'Glenn Garry'	2x
Autumn Bliss	PI 553325	Complex of <i>R. idaeus</i> , <i>R. strigosus</i> , <i>R. arcticus</i> , and <i>R. occidentalis</i>	2x
Caroline	PI 653101	'GEO-1' × 'Heritage'	2x
Centennial	PI 618456	'Meeker' × 'Skeena'	2x
Chief	PI 553508	'Latham' × 'Newburgh'	2x
Chilcotin	PI 553537	'Sumner' × 'Newburgh'	2x
Chilliwack	PI 553503	BC 64-10-198 × 'Skeena'	2x
Coho	PI 618392	'Lewis' × ORUS 520-48	2x
Comox	PI 553504	BC 64-9-81 × 'Skeena'	2x
Cuthbert	PI 553363	Chance seedling of <i>R. idaeus</i> var. <i>strigosus</i>	2x
Dormanred	PI 553425	<i>R. parvifolius</i> × 'Dorsett'	2x
Glen Moy	PI 618582	Complex of several cultivars	2x
Glen Prosen	PI 553511	Complex of several cultivars	2x
Goldenwest	PI 553457	'Cuthbert' × 'Lloyd George'	2x
Heritage ^y	PI 553382	('Milton' × 'Cuthbert') × 'Durham'	2x
Josephine	PI 653108	'Amity' × 'Glenn Garry'	2x
Killarney	PI 553479	'Chief' × 'Indian Summer'	2x
Kitsilano	PI 618311	'Comox' × EM 3909/4	2x
Latham	PI 553564	'King' × 'Loudon'	2x
Lloyd George ^y	PI 643942	Selection from wild red raspberry in Dorset, England	2x
Malahat	PI 638206	'Meeker' × BC/SCRI7853/116	2x
Malling Enterprise	PI 553515	'Preussen' × ('Pyne's Royal' selfed × 'Lloyd George' selfed)	2x
Mandarin	PI 553493	(<i>R. parvifolius</i> × 'Taylor') × 'Newburgh'	2x
Meeker ^y	PI 553384	'Willamette' × 'Cuthbert'	2x
Newburgh	PI 553369	'Newman' × 'Herbert'	2x
Newman	PI 553448	Chance seedling from a mix of several cultivars	2x
Nova	PI 553480	'Southland' × 'Boyne'	2x
Preussen	PI 553525	Possibly from 'Superlative' × 'Marlboro'	2x
Reveille ^y	PI 553385	'VPI 1' × 'September'	2x
Rubin Bulgarski	PI 553468	'Lloyd George' × 'Preussen'	2x
<i>R. strigosus</i>	PI 553408	<i>R. idaeus</i> var. <i>strigosus</i> from Anaconda, ID	2x
September	PI 553377	'Marcy' × 'Ranere'	2x
St. Regis ^y	PI 553366	Selection of red raspberry	2x
Summit	PI 553502	OSC 1838 × OSC 1842	2x
Sumner	PI 553451	'Washington' × 'Tahoma'	2x
Tahoma ^y	PI 553470	'Latham' × 'Lloyd George'	2x
Trailblazer	PI 554015	'Augustred' × 'Cheyenne 63-16'	2x
Tulameen	PI 618441	'Nootka' × 'Glen Prosen'	2x
Veten	PI 553471	'Asker' × 'Lloyd George'	2x
Viking	PI 553368	'Cuthbert' × 'Marlboro'	2x
Washington	PI 553380	'Cuthbert' × 'Lloyd George'	2x
Wawi	PI 553640	'Washington' × 'Willamette'	2x
Willamette ^y	PI 553362	'Newburgh' × 'Lloyd George'	2x
WYO US 68-21	PI 553520	Presumed selection of <i>R. strigosus</i>	2x
Zeva Herbsternte ^y	PI 553428	('Indian Summer' × 'Romy') × 'Romy'	2x
Zzopska Alena	PI 553473	Selection from Kostinbrod, Bulgaria	2x
Blackberry			
Anderson	PI 553300	Unknown eastern U.S. erect type	4x
Ashton Cross	PI 553278	Selection of wild European blackberry	4x
Aurora	PI 553260	OSC 616 × OSC 73	8x + 2
Austin Thornless ^y	PI 553292	'Mayes' open-pollinated seedling selection	8x
Bailey ^y	PI 553243	<i>R. allegheniensis</i> hybrid	4x
Bedford Giant	PI 553277	Self of veitchberry	6x
Benenden	PI 553318	<i>R. trilobus</i> × <i>R. deliciosus</i>	2x

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Table 2. Continued.

Cultivar name	PI no.	Pedigree	Ploidy
Black Diamond	PI 638257	'Kotata' × NZ 8610L-163	4x
Black Pearl	PI 638260	ORUS 1117-11 × ORUS 1122-1	9x
Black Satin	PI 553272	SIUS 47 × 'Thornfree'	4x
Boysen	PI 553336	Presumed <i>R. ursinus</i> × <i>R. idaeus</i>	7x
Boysen 43	PI 553341	Clonal selection of 'Boysen'	7x
Brazos	PI 553244	F ₂ of ('Lawton' × 'Nessberry')	4x
Brison	PI 553245	F ₂ of ('Brainerd' × 'Brazos') × 'Brazos'	4x
Carolina	PI 553261	'Austin Thornless' × 'Lucretia'	9x
Cascade	PI 553246	'Zielinski' × 'Logan'	9x
Chehalem	PI 553273	'Santiam' × 'Himalaya'	6x
Cherokee ^y	PI 553247	'Darrow' × 'Brazos'	4x
Chester Thornless ^y	PI 553322	SIUS 47 × 'Thornfree'	4x
Darrow	PI 553250	NY 15826 × 'Hedrick'	4x
Dirksen Thornless	PI 553251	SIUS 47 × 'Thornfree'	4x
Ebano	PI 553319	F ₂ of 'Comanche' × ('Thornfree' × 'Brazos')	4x
Eldorado	PI 618384	Unknown (<i>R. allegheniensis</i> × <i>R. argutus</i>)	4x
Flordagrand	PI 553312	F ₂ from 'Regal Ness' × <i>R. trivialis</i>	2x
Illini Hardy	PI 553348	NY 95 × 'Chester Thornless'	4x
Kiowa ^y	PI 638183	Ark. 791 × Ark. 1058	4x
Kotata ^y	PI 553293	OSC 743 × OSC 877	7x
Lincoln Logan	PI 553314	Histogenic manipulation of thornless loganberry	6x
Loch Ness	PI 638182	Complex hybrid derived from 'Comanche', 'Chehalem'	4x
Logan Thornless	PI 553258	Thornless mutation of 'Logan'	6x
Lucretia	PI 553253	Selection of southern dewberry (<i>R. trivialis</i>)	7x
Marion ^y	PI 553254	'Chehalem' × 'Olallie'	6x
Merton Thornless	PI 553276	'John Innes' selfed	4x
Metolius	PI 638262	'Douglass' × 'Kotata'	6x
Navaho ^y	PI 553343	Ark. 583 × Ark. 631	4x
Nightfall	PI 638263	'Marion' × 'Waldo'	6x
Obsidian	PI 638259	ORUS 828-43 × ORUS 1122-1	6x
Olallie ^y	PI 553255	'Black Logan' × 'Young' from Mt. Hebo, OR	6x
ORUS 1843-3	PI 638265	GP 9-24 × 'Waldo'	6x
Raven	PI 553256	'Dewblack' × 'Eldorado'	4x
Rosborough	PI 618393	F ₂ of ('Brainerd' × 'Brazos') × 'Brazos'	4x
Shawnee	PI 553321	'Cherokee' × Ark. 583	4x
Sunberry ^y	PI 553324	<i>R. ursinus</i> × self tetraploid mutant of 'Malling Jewel'	6x
Tayberry ^y	PI 553351	'Aurora' × SHRI 626/67	4x
Tillamook	PI 553354	Selected from the wild in Oregon	10x
Waldo	PI 553334	OSC 1122 × OSC 1367	6x
Watlab ^y	PI 271519	Selection made in Washington State from seed collected wild in India	2x

^zPlant identification (PI) number used by USDA-ARS Plant Germplasm system, genotype, fruit crop type, pedigree, and ploidy levels are given.

^yGenotypes used to initially screen SSR primer pairs for amplification and polymorphism. Additional red raspberry cultivars included Malling Joy, Krupna Dvorodna, Pathfinder, and Rose de Cote d'Or.

and used to genotype 188 individuals of (Graham et al., 2004) using a 3730 DNA Analyzer with ROX350 (Applied Biosystems, Carlsbad, CA) used as an internal size standard. Allele sizes were determined using GENEMAPPER (Applied Biosystems). JoinMap Version 2.0 (Stam and Vanooijen, 1995) was used to construct the linkage map for population type CP (cross-pollinated). Linkage groups were separated at logarithm of odds (LOD) scores between 7.0 and 10.0 and map distances were calculated using the Kosambi mapping function as described previously (Graham et al., 2004, 2006, 2009).

In the 'Autumn Bliss' × 'Malling Jewel' (AB × MJ) population, PCRs were performed on genomic DNA of the parents following the methods of Fukatsu et al. (2005) with the minor modifications of Sargent et al. (2009). Reactions were then carried out following the touchdown protocol of

Fernández-Fernández et al. (2008) between 55 and 50 °C. Products were sized by electrophoresis using an ABI 3100 Genetic Analyzer with an internal size standard (500 LIZ™) using GENESCAN® 3.7 and GENOTYPER® 3.7 software (Applied Biosystems). Primer pairs amplifying a common single allele in both parents were tested on a subset of eight seedlings for evidence of polymorphism. All primers revealing polymorphisms were subsequently used to score 94 individuals of the AB × MJ progeny. These data were analyzed jointly with unpublished SSR and random amplified polymorphism DNA data for this progeny to determine map positions. Chi square tests of goodness-of-fit to single locus Mendelian segregation were carried out, and cosegregations were analyzed for evidence of linkage using JoinMap Version 4.0 (Van Ooijen, 2006). Linkage groups were separated at LOD scores between

Table 3. Diversity estimates and map locations for 10 simple sequence repeats using 44 red raspberry cultivars that amplified up to two products per primer pair.^z

Locus	H _o	H _e	PIC	F	HWE (<i>P</i> value)	Linkage group	
						GM × L	AB × MJ
RiM015	0.60	0.66	0.52	0.09	0.72	3	Unlinked
RiM017	0.53	0.41	0.47	-0.29	0.06	7	7
RiM019	0.84	0.89	0.82	0.06	0.34	5	5
RiM036 ^y	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
RhM001	0.33	0.29	0.29	-0.14	0.02*	2	2
RhM003	0.84	0.93	0.81	0.10	0.63	2	2
RhM011	0.80	0.84	0.78	0.05	0.37	7	7
RhM021	0.45	0.39	0.43	-0.15	0.003*	5	NS ^x
RhM023	0.50	0.98	0.37	0.49	0*	—	NS
RhM043	0.55	0.43	0.52	-0.28	0.008*	—	4 ^w
RiG001	0.53	0.20	0.46	-1.65	0*	—	NS
Mean	0.60	0.61	0.55				

^zObserved (H_o) and expected heterozygosities (H_e), polymorphism information content (PIC), inbreeding coefficient (F), deviations from Hardy-Weinberg equilibrium (HWE), and linkage group assignments in the ‘Glen Moy’ × ‘Latham’ (GM × L) and ‘Autumn Bliss’ × ‘Malling Jewel’ (AB × MJ) populations.

^yExcluded from diversity analysis as a result of amplification of multiple loci in some genotypes; however, only one locus amplified in the AB × MJ progeny.

^xNo segregation observed in this progeny.

^wMain locus shows no segregation in the AB × MJ; however, a secondary locus (279 bp) segregated and could be mapped.

*Significant deviation from HWE (*P* < 0.05).

2 and 10. Genetic distances were calculated using the Kosambi mapping function.

Results and Discussion

POLYMORPHISM AND ESTIMATION OF GENETIC DIVERSITY. Eleven of the 13 SSR primer pairs amplified and were polymorphic in raspberry but RhM031 did not amplify a product and RhM018 was monomorphic. In blackberry, 12 of the 13 SSR primer pairs amplified a product but RiG001 from red raspberry did not. As expected, the number of products per primer pair at the 12 SSRs that successfully amplified was higher in blackberry than in raspberry (Table 1). The range was one to 15 alleles in the 48 red raspberries (average, 7.5) and three to 29 in the 48 blackberries (average, 14.4) (Table 1).

RhM31 generated nine products in blackberry but failed to amplify ‘Benenden’, ‘Ebano’, ‘Tayberry’, and ‘Watlab’ and all red raspberry accessions (Table 1). In four red raspberry accessions, more than two amplicons were observed with one to three of the SSR primer pairs and were excluded from diversity calculations. These accessions included: ‘Trailblazer’ at RhM001, RhM011, and RhM021; ‘Amity’ at RhM003; ‘Zeva Herbsternte’ at RiM19 and RhM001; and ‘Dormanred’ at RiM017. Diversity estimates were calculated for 10 of the 12 SSRs that amplified in red raspberry (Table 3). RiM036 was difficult to score and amplified more than two DNA fragments in diploid accessions of red raspberry, indicating its possible multilocus nature and thus it was not included in diversity analysis. RhM018 amplified in each of the accessions tested but was monomorphic (381 bp) in red raspberry. It generated two unique products in blackberry (363 bp in ‘Flordagrind’, 366 bp in ‘Eldorado’) in addition to the 381-bp most-frequent PCR

product (96%). H_o and H_e and PIC of the remaining 10 SSRs were 0.60, 0.61, and 0.55, on average, respectively (Table 3). Five (RiM015, RiM019, RhM003, RhM011, RhM043) of the 10 SSRs evaluated can be considered highly polymorphic [PIC greater than 0.5 according to Botstein et al. (1980)]. These sequences were dinucleotide repeats, which have been reported to be more polymorphic than trinucleotide repeats. In fact, the lowest PIC (0.52) was for the trinucleotide-containing RiM015. Five SSRs (RhM001, RhM021, RhM023, RhM043, RiG001) were not in HWE (*P* ≤ 0.05; Table 3), an indication of the presence of null alleles. *F* ranged from -1.65 to 0.49 with a mean of 0.17. A high *F* value, which allows the identification of putative null alleles, was observed at RhM023. The presence of null alleles in genomic SSRs, thought to be the result of polymorphisms in the primer binding sites, is well documented. Population subdivision among the 44 samples could also be a reason for these results. The best SSR loci, based on high H_o, H_e, and PIC and low *F*, were RiM019, RhM003, and RhM011. Furthermore, these three loci were easy to score and were sufficient to identify each of the raspberry and blackberry genotypes as unique.

MAPPING. Five SSR markers (RiM017, RiM019, RhM001, RhM003, RhM011) showed segregation in both mapping populations and were assigned to the same linkage groups in both (Table 3) indicating good colinearity between AB × MJ currently being developed (Fernández-Fernández, unpublished data) and the more saturated GM × L map (Graham et al., 2004, 2006, 2009; Woodhead et al., 2008). RiM015 segregated in both progenies and was mapped in GM × L but remained unlinked in the less saturated AB × MJ progeny (Table 3). RhM021 only showed segregation in the GM × L and was mapped to LG5. Conversely, RiM036 amplified multiple loci in several accessions and could not be mapped in GM × L but amplified a single segregating locus in AB × MJ and was assigned to LG6 (Woodhead et al., 2008). Two markers (RhM023, RhM043) showed no segregation in either cross. Finally, the RhM043 main locus showed no segregation in either progeny; however, a weaker secondary locus could be reliably amplified in AB × MJ and was mapped to LG4 (Woodhead et al., 2008).

ALLELE FREQUENCY IN RASPBERRY AND BLACKBERRY. At RhM23, 97% of the red raspberry accessions displayed a single genotype (116 of 195) whose alleles were also most frequent in blackberry. At RhM043, the 376-bp allele was most frequent in both crops. In the remaining eight primer pairs (RiM019, RiM015, RiM017, RhM001, RhM003, RhM011, RhM021, RhM043), the most frequent allele in red raspberry was different from in blackberry.

NEIGHBOR JOINING CLUSTER ANALYSIS. Microsatellite marker-based NJ cluster analysis is used to illustrate genotype relationships. Despite the small number of SSRs used in this study for accurate determination of genotype relationships, NJ clustering separated accessions according to crop type and mostly based on ancestry and breeding program and is discussed further. *Rubus* cultivars were separated from each other except for clonal variants (‘Logan Thornless’ and ‘Lincoln Logan’, ‘Boysen’ and ‘Boysen 43’) and two pairs of cultivars (‘Tillamook’ and ‘Cascade’, ‘Comox and ‘Chilliwick’). Inability to distinguish clonal variants by SSR analysis agrees with previous reports in other clonally propagated plants such as pear [*Pyrus* (Yamamoto et al., 2001)] and apple [*Malus* (Hokanson et al., 1998)]. The inability to differentiate between ‘Tillamook’ and ‘Cascade’ may not be surprising (C. Finn, personal

communication). 'Cascade' was released in 1940 by the USDA-ARS blackberry breeding program in Corvallis. This old trailing blackberry cultivar could have escaped into the wild and then later been identified as a superior, hermaphroditic selection of the native *R. ursinus*. It was named 'Tillamook' after the coastal Oregon community where it was found. 'Comox' and 'Chilliwick' were adjacent on the screenhouse bench and could have been misidentified. New sources of true-to-name 'Comox' and 'Chilliwick' have been requested. A heterogeneous group of cultivars containing uncommon species in their background did not cluster in either crop type (Figs. 1 and 2). This heterogeneous group contained raspberry ('Dormanred', 'Trailblazer', and 'Zeva Herbsternte'), blackberry ('Flordagrand', 'Benenden', and 'Bedford Giant'), and the "hybridberry" (blackberry × raspberry) 'Sunberry'. In each of

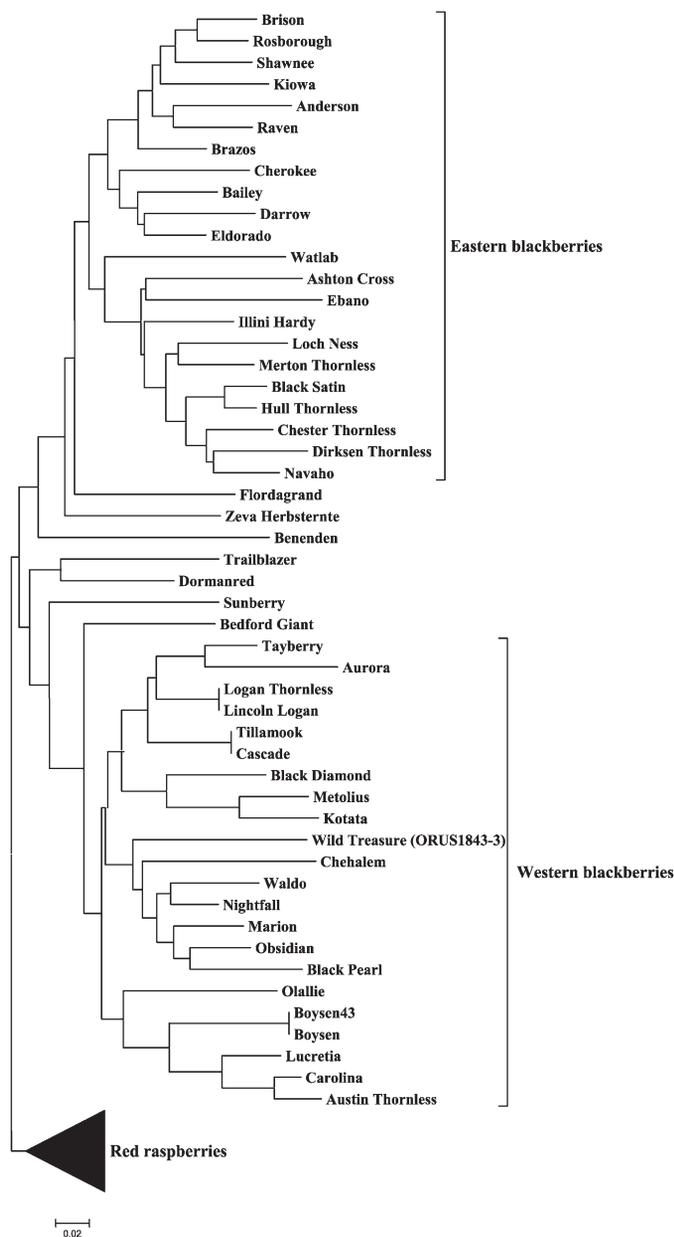


Fig. 1. Neighbor joining cluster analysis of 48 blackberries based on 12 microsatellite primer pairs (groups containing red raspberry were collapsed).

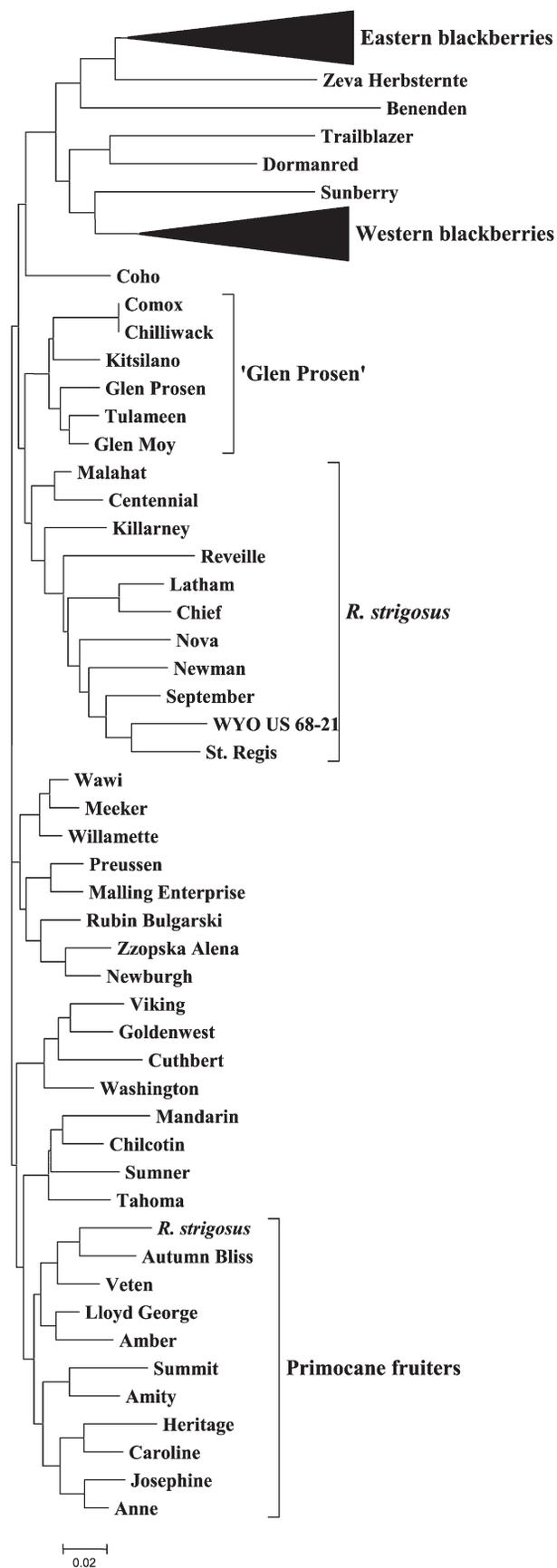


Fig. 2. Neighbor joining cluster analysis of 48 red raspberries based on 12 microsatellite (groups containing blackberries were collapsed).

these accessions, we observed a minimum of two unique alleles ('Flordagrand'). The largest number of unique alleles was obtained in 'Benenden' (eight) and in 'Zeva Herbsternte' (six).

Blackberry genotypes are subdivided into two primary clades: the "eastern" tetraploid cultivars and "western" cultivars with higher ploidy levels. The eastern North American blackberry can further be classified by cane architecture (semi-erect or erect) (Clark, 2005) and by thornlessness. In the NJ dendrogram, they were separated accordingly into two groups: erect thorny and semitrailing thornless. Cultivars in the erect subgroup have mostly *R. allegheniensis* as a founder (Stafne et al., 2003). According to Stafne and Clark (2004), *R. allegheniensis* had the highest mean genetic contribution (18.93%) indicating that it comprised a large portion of the total genetic makeup in the 13 blackberry cultivars in the study. *R. frondosus* and *R. argutus* were next with contributions of 17% and 12%, respectively. The genetic contribution of these founding clones to the cultivars is through the intermediate parents 'Brazos' and 'Darrow', which were used extensively as parents in breeding programs because they produced exceptional offspring (Stafne et al., 2005). 'Anderson', an erect cane type, has an unknown pedigree but grouped with the eastern blackberries possibly as a result of that trait.

The second eastern North American blackberry cluster contained thornless cultivars that are either semi-erect or trailing. Thornlessness is a desirable trait in blackberry. *R. ulmifolius* var. *inermis* is used to transmit the recessive thornless gene to modern blackberry cultivars through the intermediate parents 'John Innes' and 'Thornfree' (Stafne et al., 2003). 'Ashton Cross', a thorny, wild selection from Europe, was placed in this group. This cultivar was successful in northern Britain because it flowers late. Scottish breeders combined the rapid fruit maturation of 'Ashton Cross', spinelessness of 'Thornfree', and erectness and early flowering of 'Darrow', resulting in 'Loch Ness' after several generations of breeding (Jennings, 1988).

The second clade of blackberry accessions is composed of the trailing high ploidy (Table 2) blackberry or dewberry of North America. *Rubus ursinus* was widely used in breeding western blackberry, whereas *R. laciniatus* [e.g., 'Oregon Evergreen' and *R. armeniacus* plants (synonym = 'Himalaya', 'Himalaya Giant')] were also imported from Europe as potential crops for the region. *Rubus ursinus* made a genetic contribution through the intermediates 'Aughinbaugh', 'Santiam', and 'Zielinski'. A thornless selection of 'Austin Mayes', a hybrid of *R. baileyanus* × *R. argutus*, was released as 'Austin Thornless' in 1924. This clone has been used extensively for breeding almost-thornless seedlings (Finn et al., 2005).

Raspberry accessions grouped mostly along expected lines based on pedigree. Most raspberry cultivars are derived from the European raspberry, *R. idaeus*, and a few from the American raspberry, *R. strigosus*. A three-step plan was used in raspberry breeding: 1) many cultivars were selected within *R. idaeus* and *R. strigosus* either from chance discoveries or from families of open-pollinated seedlings; 2) some selections were used to produce *R. idaeus* × *R. strigosus* hybrids; and 3) hybrid cultivars and some of the earlier chance discoveries were crossed to produce modern cultivars (Jennings, 1988). The grouping of raspberries based on the contribution of *R. idaeus*, *R. strigosus*, and crosses of *R. idaeus* and *R. strigosus* in their genetic makeup was suggested in the dendrogram. In the NJ dendrogram, the 'Glen Prosen' subcluster consisted of cultivars

that had 'Glen Prosen' or 'Comox' as immediate parents. The *R. strigosus* group contained cultivars derived from this species through 'Newman' or 'Ranere' (synonym = 'St. Regis'). The next three subclusters consist of cultivars from the *R. idaeus* background separated into subgroups based on the founding clones 'Lloyd George', 'Hudson River Antwerp', and 'Creston'. In a study by Dale et al. (1993), four founding clones occurred in more than 90 raspberry pedigrees: 'Lloyd George', 'Hudson River Antwerp', 'English Globe', and 'Highland Hardy'. The latter three are found in the intermediate parents 'Cuthbert' and 'Marlboro'. The raspberry breeding strategy used resulted in the development of cultivars based on few parents. 'Lloyd George', 'Preussen', and 'Newburgh' are in the pedigrees of a number of cultivars in this group. The final cluster consisted of primocane fruiting (fall fruiting) cultivars that were developed from a relatively small genetic pool.

Conclusion

Of 13 SSRs evaluated in 48 genotypes of raspberries and 48 accessions of blackberries, three loci (RiM019, RhM003, RhM011) were highly polymorphic in each crop type, easy to score, and were mapped to single loci. These three SSRs should be evaluated across laboratories and platforms for their potential as a universal red raspberry and blackberry fingerprinting set. SSR-based analysis cannot be used to infer phylogenetic relationships. However, despite the small number of SSRs used, we observed that NJ clustering grouped each of the crop types together, mostly based on pedigrees and the originating breeding program. Blackberries were also divided into the eastern types of lower ploidy and the western cultivars of higher ploidy.

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