

SHORT REPORT

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Single-feature polymorphism mapping of isogenic rice lines identifies the influence of terpene synthase on brown planthopper feeding preferences

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Abstract

Background: *Bph3*, a major brown planthopper (BPH) resistance locus derived from the rice cultivar Rathu Heenati (RH), has been used as a stable donor of traits that improve highly susceptible aromatic rice varieties in Thailand. Map-based cloning was initiated using a set of isogenic lines (ILs) harboring the major *Bph3* locus on chromosome 6. IL genomes were scanned with a 57 K Affymetrix Rice GeneChip to identify the gene responsible for *Bph3*.

Findings: Single-feature polymorphism (SFP) mapping was used to localize 84 candidate genes. An expression analysis of 15 selected candidate genes in the aromatic rice cultivar KDML105 (KD) and the ILs under normal conditions revealed two differentially expressed sequences. Following hopper feeding, only one candidate gene, Os04g27430, was differentially expressed. Os04g27430 encodes a putative *sesquiterpene synthase* (*STPS*) gene that was induced by BPH feeding in ILs. An antixenosis test in three selected ILs revealed a major role for *STPS* in insect preference during the first 120 hours of the rice-insect interaction. Functional SNPs in exon 5 that resulted in the deletion of seven amino acids in the susceptible rice line were identified. Moreover, three additional SNPs associated with three transcription binding sites were also identified, which might explain the differential response of Os04g27430 during the anti-feeding test.

Conclusion: Os04g27430 is the second known rice *STPS* induced by BPH. The gene may involve an antixenosis BPH resistance mechanism. The combination of the *STPS* and the *Bph3* locus was more effective than *Bph3* alone in the tested ILs.

Keywords: Brown planthopper, Single-feature polymorphism (SFP), Sesquiterpene synthase (*STPS*), Antixenosis on feeding preference (AFP)

Findings

Microarray-based genome mapping identification of additional genes correlated with brown planthopper (BPH) resistance in rice

The stability of brown planthopper (BPH) resistance in Rathu Heenati (RH), a traditional Sri Lankan rice cultivar containing *BPH 3*, has made this strain one of the

most popular hopper resistance donors in the Mekong subregion, where rice production is highly intensive. The Thai jasmine rice KDML105 (KD) is one of the most sensitive cultivars to BPH, and its BPH resistance has recently been improved by backcross introgression of the critical *Bph3* region linked to RM589 on chromosome 6 from RH (Jairin et al. 2009). BC₃F₅ isogenic lines (ILs), differing primarily in the introgressed region, were developed. The Affymetrix Rice GeneChip array was used to scrutinize the critical map region on chromosome 6 to simplify the map-based cloning of *BPH 3*. The pool of genomic DNA from four ILs with commonly inherited BPH resistance from RH – UBN3078-101-342-4-162

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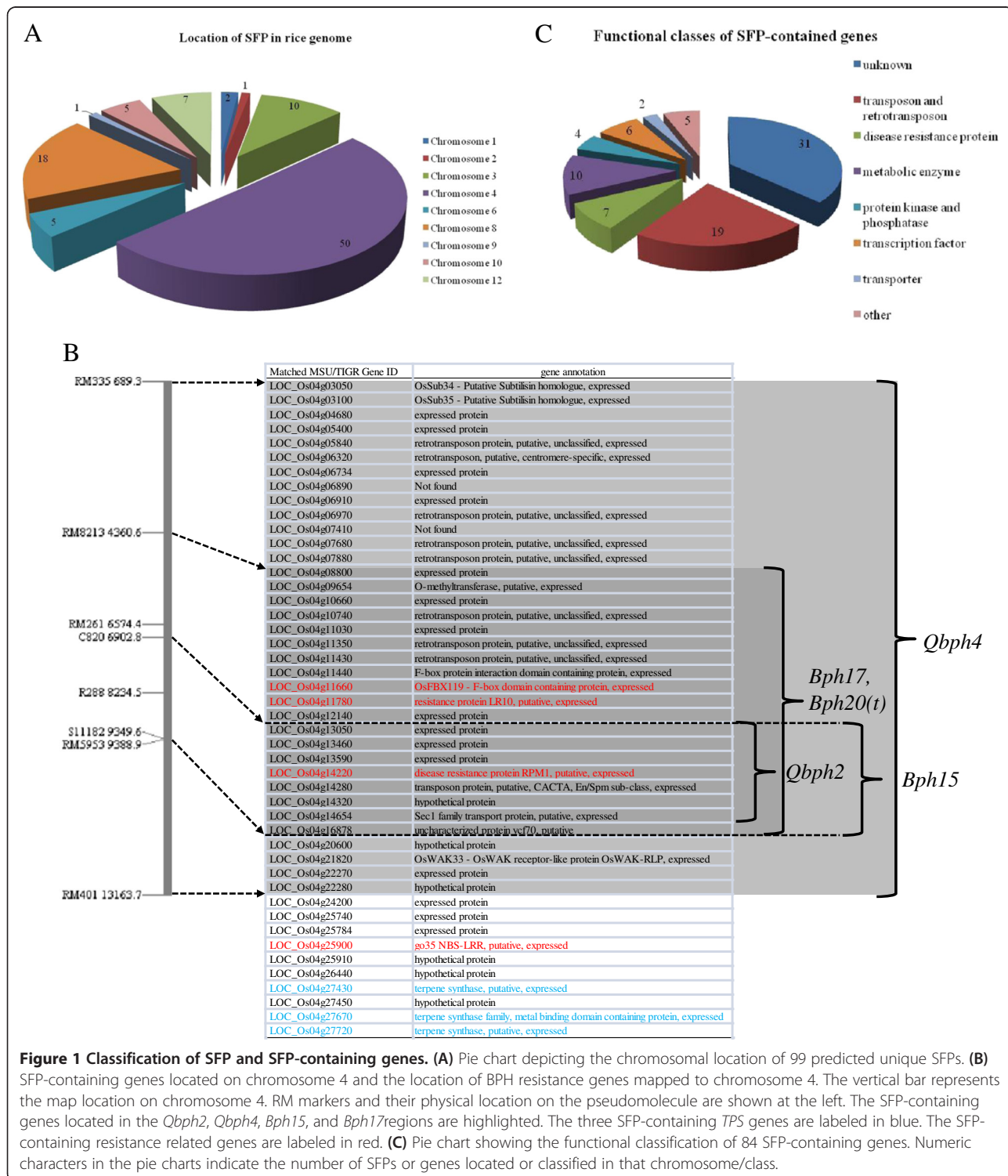
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(IL162), UBN3078-101-342-4-283 (IL283), UBN3078-101-342-6-302 (IL302), and UBN3078-101-432-6-308 (IL308) – was used for single-feature polymorphism (SFP) mapping comparing the genomic DNA of KD. SFP mapping was performed following the protocol developed by Kumar et al. 2007. No significant variation

between samples or replicates was observed. A statistical analysis of the microarrays was performed, and SFPs were predicted by determining the hybridization differences at each perfect match (PM) probe in the array (Thongjuea et al. 2009). At a false-discovery rate of 30%, 157 PM probes were selected for further investigation

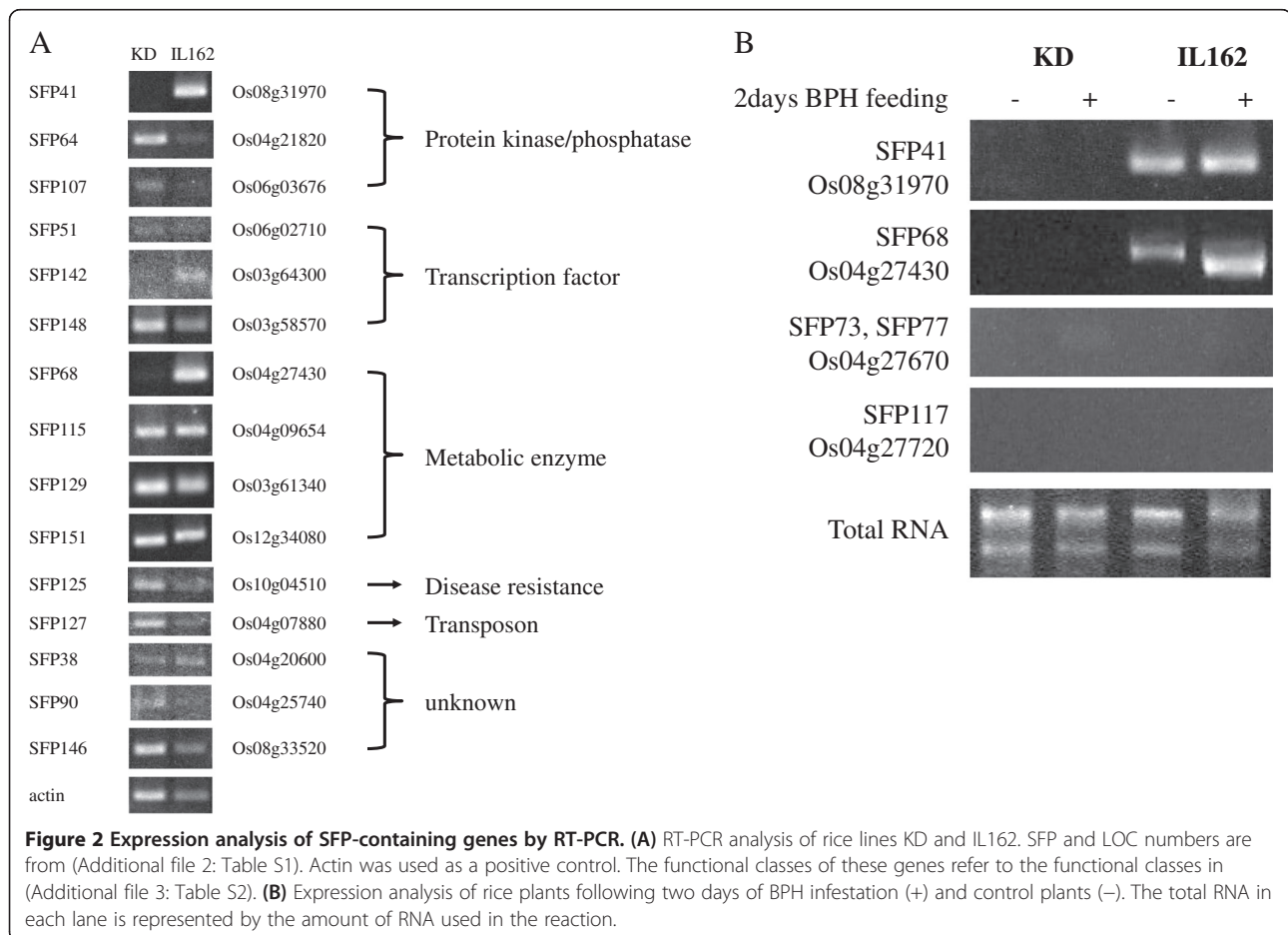


(Additional file 1). Only 99 SFPs had unique locations in the rice nuclear genome; the remaining 58 SFPs were located in multiple locations, no locations, or in organellar genomes. The 99 SFPs were located on 84 annotated genes throughout the rice genome. Five SFPs were located on chromosome 6 and were all outside the critically mapped location (Figure 1A) (Jairin et al. 2007). This observation was consistent with the expression analysis of BPH-infested RH conducted by another research group that did not identify any gene in the *Bph3* candidate region (Wang et al. 2012). By contrast, half of the SFPs were located on chromosome 4 (Additional file 2: Table S1), where another BPH resistance gene from RH (*Bph17*) as well as other BPH resistance genes (*Bph12(t)*, *Bph15*, *Bph20(t)*, *Qbph2*, and *Qbph4*) have been previously mapped (Sun et al. 2005, Yang et al. 2002, 2004, Rahman et al. 2009, Huang et al. 2001, Liu et al. 2009).

Qbph4, *Bph17*, and *Bph20(t)* were mapped to the intervals RM335 – RM401 and RM8213 – RM5953 and with the linked marker RM5953, respectively. The *Qbph4* region encompassed a position from 689,354 to 13,163,724 bp, and *Bph17* encompassed 4,360,621 to 9,388,937 bp on pseudomolecule 4 (*Os-Nipponbare-*

Reference-IRGSP-1.0). A total of 36 SFP-containing genes (*Os04g03050* – *Os04g22280*) were located in the *Qbph4* region (Figure 1B). Nineteen of these genes (*Os04g08800* – *Os04g16878*) were also specifically associated with the *Bph17* region. The *Qbph2* and *Bph15* genes were mapped in the same region by the RFLP markers C820-R288 and C820-S11182. The region located between 6,902,846 and 9,349,627 bp on pseudomolecule 4 contained eight SFP-containing genes (*Os04g13050* – *Os04g16878*). The linked marker of *Bph12(t)*, RM261, was adjacent to *Os04g11780*, the resistance protein LR10, with a physical distance of 130.5 kb. Moreover, another NBS-LRR resistance-related protein, *Os04g25900*, also contained an SFP.

Compared to the expression analysis of BPH-infested RH studied by Wang et al. (2012), three BPH resistance-related genes, two putative resistance proteins, *Os04g11780* (LR10) and *Os04g14220* (RPM1), and an F-box-containing protein, *Os04g11660*, were found to contain SFP (Figure 1B and Additional file 2: Table S1) in the present study. In contrast, no candidate BPH resistance gene on chromosome 3, 6, and 10 identified in the study by Wang et al. (2012) was found to contain an

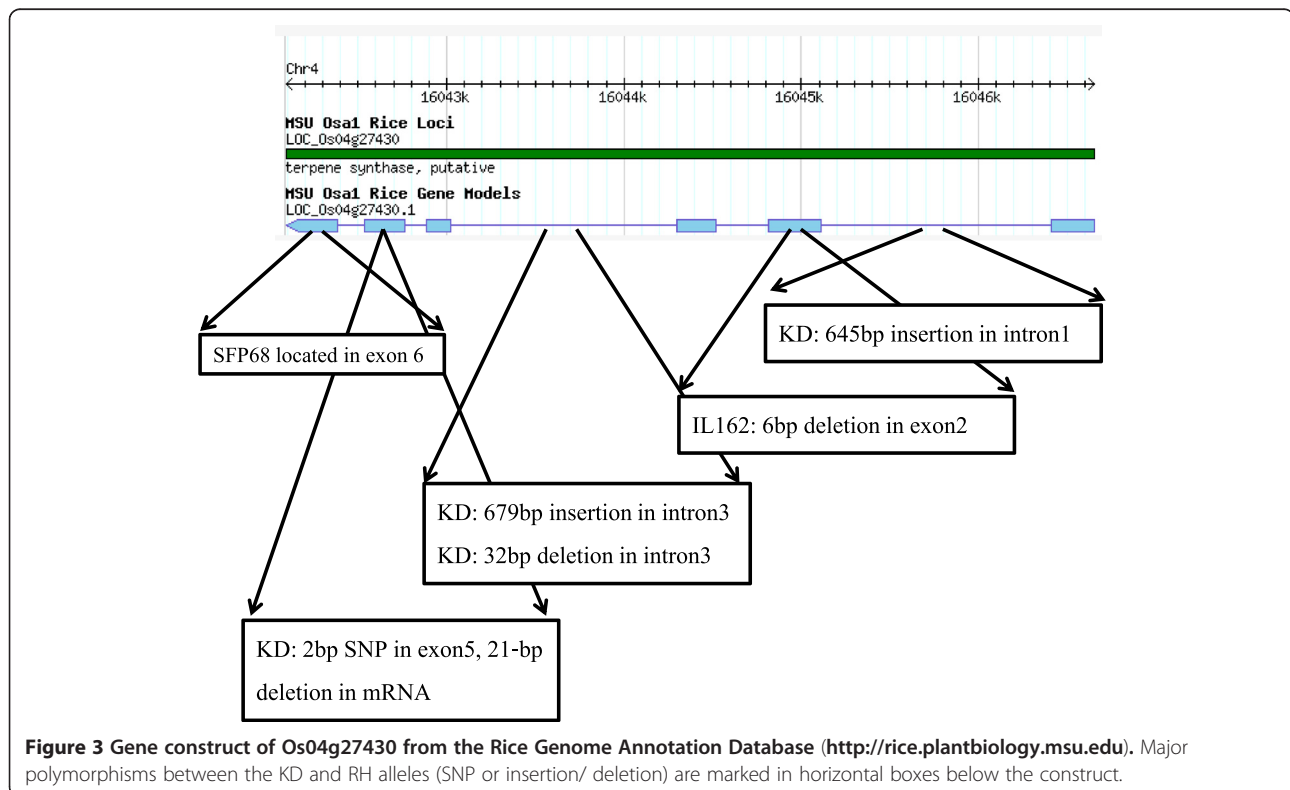


SFP in our study. This difference may be due to the different BPH-susceptible rice cultivars, KD and Taichung native 1 (TN1), used for the RH comparison in the two studies.

The SFP-containing genes were classified into various functional groups, as shown in Figure 1C. The largest group contained genes with unknown functions such as expressed proteins, hypothetical proteins, and uncharacterized proteins (Additional file 3: Table S2). Transposons and retrotransposons formed the second largest group. The most significant finding was the identification of 10 genes that encode metabolic enzymes in the third most abundant group, which included three genes encoding terpene synthases (TPS). These enzymes are involved in the biosynthesis of secondary metabolites known as terpenoids, a large group of volatile compounds involved in defense mechanisms against plant herbivores (Schnee et al. 2006, Yuan et al. 2008). The fourth most abundant group included seven R gene-like sequences on chromosomes 3, 4, 8, and 10. These findings suggest that several minor quantitative trait loci (QTLs) may strengthen *BPH 3* in terms of stable BPH resistance in RH and ILs. The last three groups contained genes involved in protein phosphorylation processes, transcription factors, and transporters.

Expression analysis of SFP-containing genes

A total of 87 predicted SFPs were validated by comparing the hybridization intensity of each probe with the results of sequence comparisons and PCR amplifications (Additional file 4). A total of 15 genes were chosen from 24 validated SFP-containing genes in which an SNP or a small insertion/deletion between KD and RH was identified (Additional file 5: Table S3). Reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) expression analyses and the functional ontologies of 15 pre-candidate genes are shown (Figure 2A). The Os08g31970 and Os04g27430 genes clearly exhibited differential expression under normal conditions, with no expression in the susceptible KD jasmine rice. In contrast, several pre-candidate genes were differentially expressed in the susceptible parent; however, the remaining genes exhibited constitutive expression. The differential expression of Os08g31970 and Os04g27430, an NHL repeat-containing protein that plays a role in signal transduction and a TPS responsible for the biosynthesis of volatile compounds, respectively, was further verified. Os04g27670 and Os04g27720 (two SFP-containing TPS genes, Figure 1B) were also selected for a total of four genes that were evaluated in a two-day BPH feeding test using two-week-old seedlings and the Ubon Ratchathani biotype of the BPH population (UBN-BPH) (Jairin et al. 2009). Interestingly, only Os04g27430 exhibited differential expression



between the control and the BPH feeding condition in IL162; however, no change in expression levels was observed for Os08g31970 in IL162 (Figure 2B). No expression was detected for the remaining two *TPS* genes in the rice plants, perhaps because the genes were not functional during the seedling stage or because they may be pseudogenes. We investigated the role of Os04g27430 in response to BPH attack in greater detail.

Genomic characterization of Os04g27430

The genomic region of Os04g27430 in RH, KD, and IL162 was sequenced and compared (accession nos. KC511049 – KC511051), and major polymorphisms were identified (Figure 3). Three indels were found to be

located in intron 1 (645 bp) and intron 3 (679 and 32 bp, respectively). In the coding sequence, an in-frame 6-bp deletion was present in exon 2 in RH and IL162. More significantly, a 2-bp SNP was present in KD exon 5 with a strong correlation to a 21-bp deletion in its cDNA. Comparisons between the genomic DNA, cDNA, and predicted amino acid sequences (accession nos. KC511027 – KC511029) revealed a 21-bp deletion in exon 5 of the KD cDNA allele that resulted in the deletion of seven residues from the amino acid sequence in KD. The deduced amino acid sequences of the KD and RH alleles were translated, yielding protein sequences containing 500 and 505 residues, respectively. The conserved DDXD motif that functions as a substrate

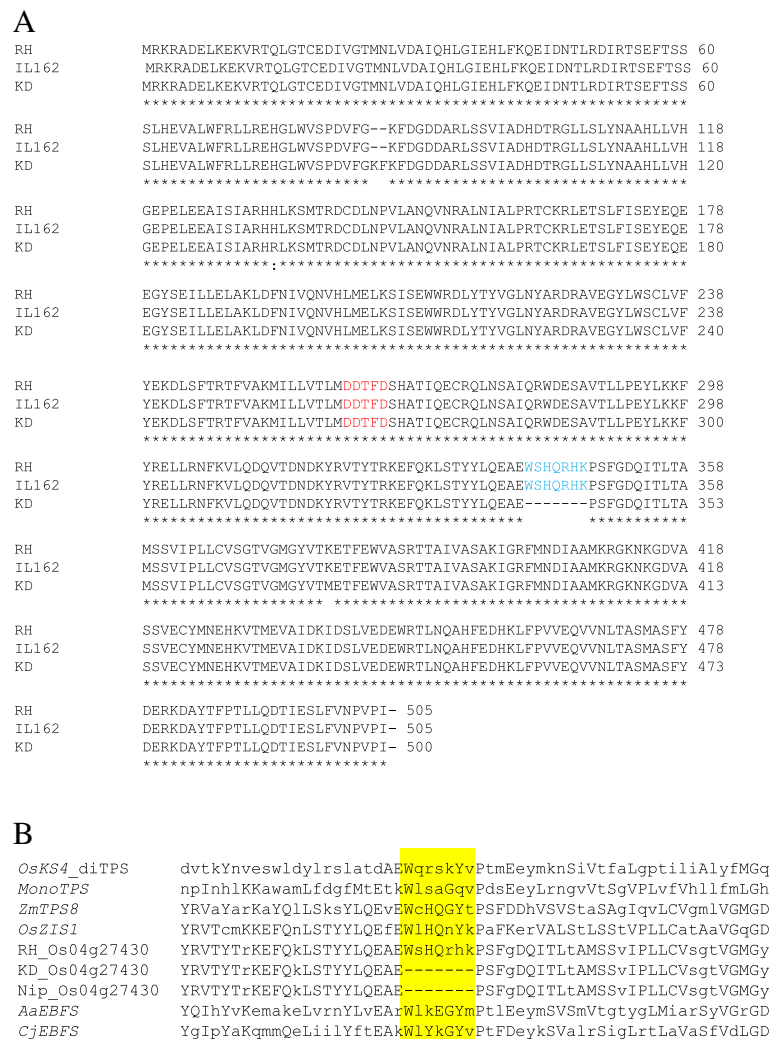


Figure 4 Amino acid sequence analysis. (A) Amino acid sequence alignment of the KD, RH, and IL162 alleles of Os04g27430. The conserved DDXD domain found in the plant *TPS* genes is labeled in red, and the seven-amino-acid deletion in the KD allele is labeled in blue. **(B)** Consensus sequence detected in Os04g27430 and the *TPS* genes of rice and other plant species. *OsKS4* and *monoTPS* are rice *TPS*s, *ZmTPS8* is a terpene synthase from *Zea mays* (NP_001105912), *OsZIS1* is a rice putative *zingiberene synthase 1* (ACM41835), *AaEBFS* is the (*E*)- β -farnesene synthase from *Artemisia annua* (AAx39387), and *CjEBFS* is the (*E*)- β -farnesene synthase from *Citrus junos* (AAK54279).

binding site was present in both the KD and RH alleles (Figure 4A). The seven-amino-acid deletion was WxHQxxx, a signature motif in several plant *TPS* genes (Figure 4B). Based on the presence of this important deletion in KD, Os04g27430 mRNA may be subjected to post-transcriptional degradation, and the absence of this mRNA may responsible for the BPH susceptibility observed in the KD parent.

The 5' upstream region of Os04g27430 in RH, KD, and IL162 was sequenced (accession nos. KC511031, KC527594, KC511035), and searches for transcription factor (TF) binding sites were performed (<http://www.cbrc.jp/research/db/TFSEARCH.html>). Three consensus elements for the transcription factors *ATHB-1* (*Arabidopsis thaliana* homeobox protein 1), *SBF-1* (silencer-binding factor 1), and *P* (maize activator P) were identified in this promoter region. Interestingly, the KD allele contained one SNP in each element. These SNPs led to the non-recognition of the *ATHB-1* element (score = 0) and a decreased TF search score for the *SBF-1* and *P* elements (scores = 92.5 and 86.5) (Figure 5). These three SNPs, particularly the SNP in the *ATHB-1* element, may be responsible for the low expression levels of this gene in KD because the transcription factor cannot bind at the target site to enhance gene expression. Therefore, a sequence comparison of other BPH-resistant rice varieties is needed to further explore the understanding of how this gene is controlled.

The amino acid sequences of 10 rice *TPS*s (Cheng et al. 2007, Prisic et al. 2004, Sakamoto et al. 2004, Xu

et al. 2004, Yuan et al. 2008) and *TPS*s from other plant species were included in the phylogenetic analysis of the RH allele of Os04g27430, which revealed that Os04g27430 clustered with the *sesquiterpene synthase* (*STPS*) group (Figure 6). Os04g27430 was most similar to *OsZIS1*, *OsZIS2*, and *OsTPS13*. *OsZIS1* and 2 are putative *zingiberene synthase* genes whose function has not been confirmed experimentally.

OsTPS13 is an *STPS* that catalyzes the formation of the sesquiterpene alcohol (E, E) farnesol (Cheng et al. 2007). The gene was identified from methyl jasmonate (MeJA)-treated rice seedlings. However, this gene was constitutively expressed in two-week-old KD and IL308 seedlings under both control and BPH feeding conditions for 1, 2, 3, 4, and 8 days (Figure 7A). In addition to BPH feeding, 24 and 72 hr of MeJA and wound stress also induced Os04g27430 expression (Figure 7B). This discovery suggests that *OsTPS13* is not a BPH feeding-inducible *STPS* and that Os04g27430 expression is induced by both BPH feeding and other stresses, such as MeJA and wounding.

Another *STPS* gene (Os08g07100) that is reportedly induced by BPH (Cho et al. 2005) was not polymorphic between KD and IL308 at the expression level in the present study (Figure 7A). This gene was induced by BPH feeding in both rice strains. Moreover, the gene was induced by BPH feeding and by the fall army worm (Yuan et al. 2008), suggesting that the gene plays a common role in the response to herbivore attacks on rice plants.

RH	TTTCAGCAATTCATATATCTTTTATAATGTAGGTAGGGTACGTATATCATAGTTTATTAT	60	
IL162	TTTCAGCAATTCATATATCTTTTATAATGTAGGTAGGGTACGTATATCATAGTTTATTAT	60	
KD	TTTCAGCAATTCATATATCTTTTATAATGTAGGTAGGGTACGTATATCATAGTTTATTAT	60	

RH	TTGCGTAGCCTAAATATTTGATGGACTTCCTACGTGATGAGATGATCACAAAAATTAACA	120	
IL162	TTGCGTAGCCTAAATATTTGATGGACTTCCTACGTGATGAGATGATCACAAAAATTAACA	120	
KD	TTGCGTAGCCTAAATATTTGATGGACTTCCTACGTGATGAGATGATCACAAAAATTAACA	120	

RH	ATCAACATGTTTCAGATTGAATAAGCGCTTATATTCAGCAGAAATTAATGTGACATATA	180	
IL162	ATCAACATGTTTCAGATTGAATAAGCGCTTATATTCAGCAGAAATTAATGTGACATATA	180	
KD	ATCAACATGTTTCAGATTGAATAAGCGCTTATATTCAGCAGAAATTAATGTGACATATA	180	

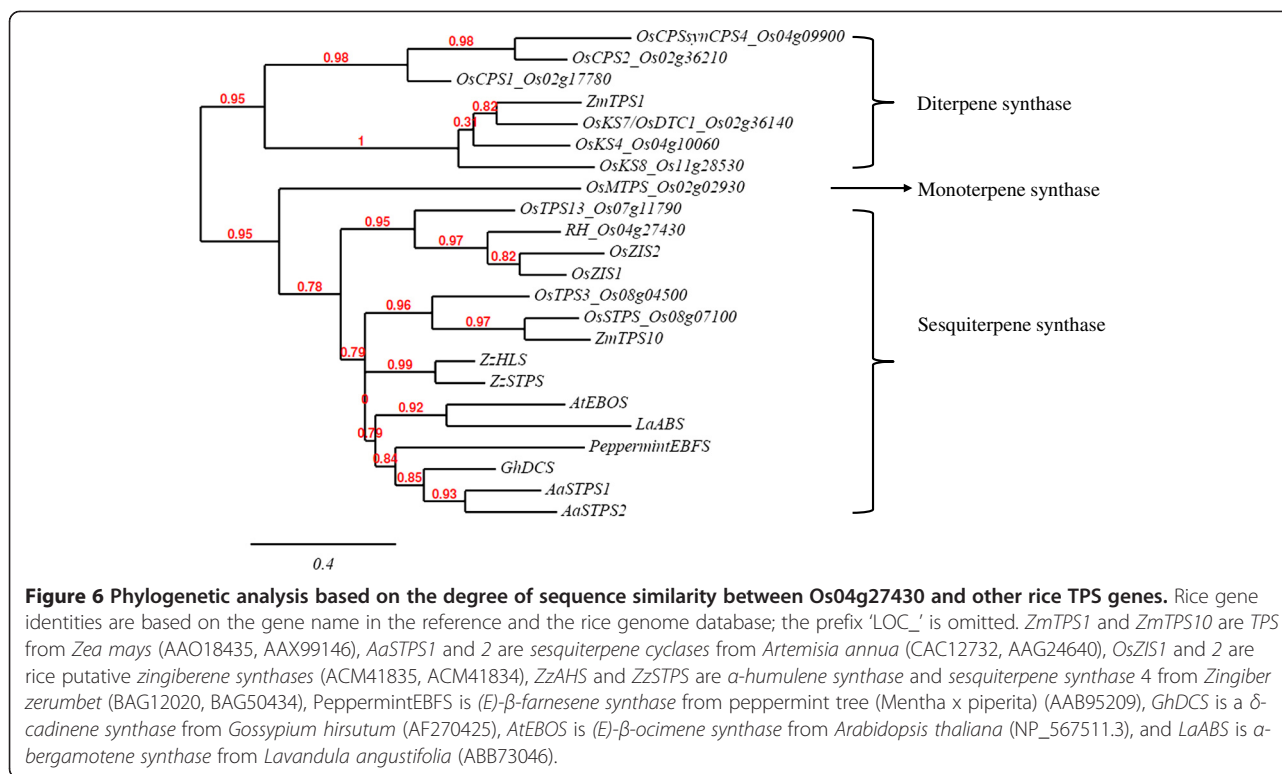
RH	TTTCTGATGTTTTCTTGACATGGTATTAGTTCATGTAAGATTATCTTTCCTTTTTTTT	240	
IL162	TTTCTGATGTTTTCTTGACATGGTATTAGTTCATGTAAGATTATCTTTCCTTTTTTTT	240	
KD	TTTCTGATGTTTTCTTGACATGGTATTAGTTCATGTAAGATTATCTTTCCTTTTTTTT	240	

			<u>TF search score</u>
ATHB-1			
RH	CATAATTTCTGCATGCTACTACTTTTGACA AAATTAAT TTGCTAGAACTGTTTCATGAAT	300	87.2
IL162	CATAATTTCTGCATGCTACTACTTTTGACA AAATTAAT TTGCTAGAACTGTTTCATGAAT	300	87.2
KD	CATAATTTCTGCATGCTACTACTTTTGACA AAATCA TTGCTAGAACTGTTTCATGAAT	300	0

SBF-1			
RH	ATTGTAATGTTATTTCCACAAAGCTTT GTGTGGTTAATAAT CTCTTTTTGATAACTATAAT	360	98.1
IL162	ATTGTAATGTTATTTCCACAAAGCTTT GTGTGGTTAATAAT CTCTTTTTGATAACTATAAT	360	98.1
KD	ATTGTAATGTTATTTCCACAAAGCTTT GCATGGTTAATAAT CTCTTTTTGATAACTATAAT	360	92.5

P			
RH	AAATCAAACCTCGTGAATCCA ACC AACCCAGAGATCGGAAGAATGG	404	98.2
IL162	AAATCAAACCTCGTGAATCCA ACC AACCCAGAGATCGGAAGAATGG	404	98.2
KD	AAATCAAACCTCGTGAATCCA ACT AACCCAGAGATCGGAAGAATGG	404	86.5

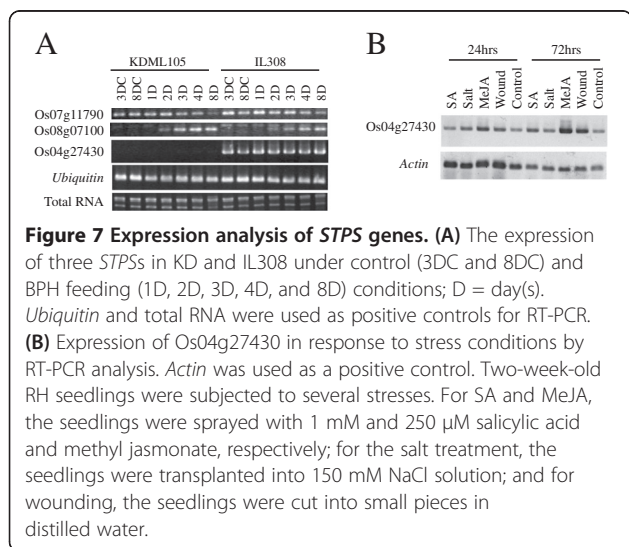
Figure 5 Genomic sequence alignment of the 5' region of Os04g27430. The 3 TF elements are marked in red, and the SNPs of the KD allele are marked in blue. The TF search score for each allele is indicated at the far right of the alignment.



Os04g27430 is likely the *STPS* that functions as *zingiberene synthase*, which catalyzes the formation of a number of sesquiterpene products (Iijima et al. 2004). Sesquiterpene volatile compounds are the potential products of this gene and may play a role in BPH resistance mechanisms in RH and ILs.

Allelic variation in *TPS* genes leading to a volatile compound composition difference has been reported in maize (Köllner et al. 2004). In rice, several rice varieties have been shown to release different volatile blends (Lou

et al. 2006); however, the gene(s) that controls these differences has not yet been identified. In our preliminary study, a total of 25 sesquiterpenes were identified by GC-MS in the mixture of volatile compounds emitted by KD and RH rice plants infested by BPH. The major sesquiterpene product that KD emitted at a significantly lower level than RH is *E*- β -farnesene (data not shown), the common constituent of the aphid alarm pheromone (Bowers et al. 1972, Edwards et al. 1973, Pickett and Griffiths. 1980) and the aphid repellent of wild potato (Gibson and Pickett. 1983). This variation may be due to a defect in the KD allele of Os04g27430 at both the genomic and the protein sequence levels.

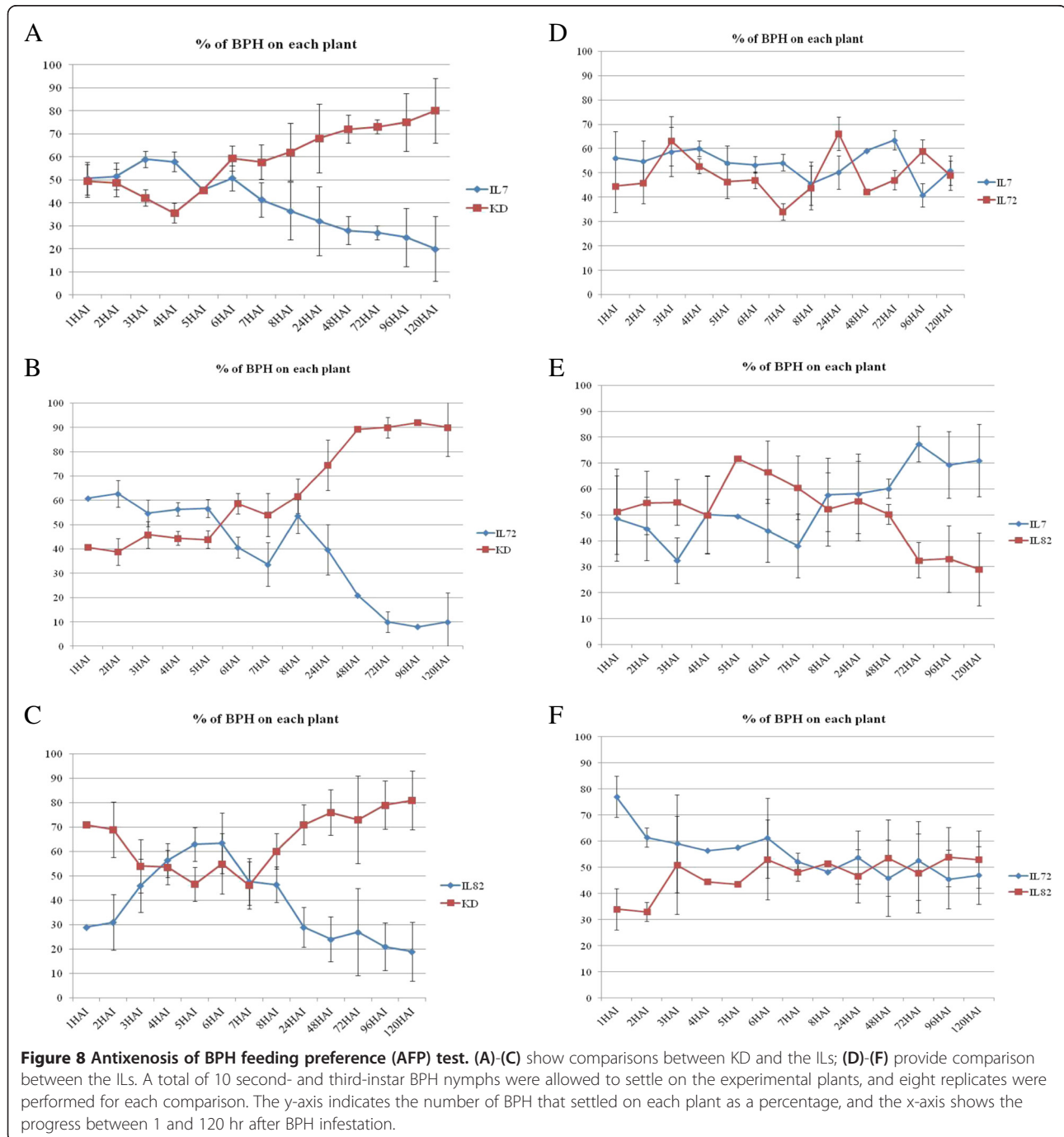


Os04g27430 may play a more important role than *Bph3* in the antixenosis mechanism

Three ILs were selected to elucidate the epistasis of Os04g27430 and the *BPH 3* major gene within the BPH resistance mechanism. UBN03078-101-342-4-7 (IL7), UBN03078-101-342-4-72 (IL72), and UBN03078-101-342-6-82 (IL82) contain a *Bph3* critical region, Os04g27430, and both, respectively. The antixenosis of the BPH feeding preference (AFP) was compared between each IL with KD. Within the first 8 hr, UNB-BPHs randomly landed on each tested plant and consistently moved to KD. At 120 hr, the majority of the UNB-BPH population (> 80%) had settled on KD instead of the IL plants (Figure 8A-8C). This result as well as an

AFP test between IL7 and IL72 suggest that either *Bph3* or Os04g27430 is sufficient to confer protection against BPH landing within the first 120 hr of attack (Figure 8D). In a comparison between IL82, which contains both *Bph3* and Os04g27430, with IL7 and IL72 (Figure 8E-8F), UBN-BPH was found to prefer IL7 over both IL72 and IL82. This result suggests that Os04g27430 is more important than *Bph3* in determining BPH landing preference.

This study clearly demonstrates that the *Bph3* critical region and at least 84 other genes have been transferred to ILs. This unexpected finding may be a consequence of the phenotypic selection process used in the breeding program before the implementation of marker-assisted selection. These genes may play a complementary role to *BPH 3* in the BPH resistance mechanisms of IL rice plants. In this study, Os04g27430 was identified as a BPH feeding-inducible *STPS* that may be involved in the BPH resistance



mechanism of RH. This gene may contribute in the antixenosis mechanism by interfering with BPH settling.

Additional files

Additional file 1: Data 1A: Predicted SFP called at different threshold (delta) between KDML105 and the pool of 4 introgression lines. Data 1B: 157 predicted SFP choose in this study.

Additional file 2: Table S1. SFP-containing genes.

Additional file 3: Table S2. Functional classification of SFP-containing genes.

Additional file 4: SFP validation by comparison of hybridization fold change and polymorphism detected in the probe region between KD and RH.

Additional file 5: Table S3. Sequence polymorphisms between KD and RH in predicted SFP.

Abbreviations

BPH: Brown planthopper; IL: Isogenic line; KDML105: KD, Khao Dowk Mali 105; RH: Rathu Heenati; STPS: Sesquiterpene synthase; SFP: Single feature polymorphism; SNP: Single nucleotide polymorphism; TPS: Terpene synthase.

Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

Authors' contributions

WK and WS performed the BPH infestation experiments and antixenosis tests. WK and VR performed the SFP mapping. TT provided all plant materials used in this study. WK planned and conducted all other experiments. The entire study was designed and coordinated by AV and TT. WK drafted the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final version of the manuscript.

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