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Use of Chloroplast DNA Rearrangements in Reconstructing Plant Phylogeny

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Reconstructing phylogenies among genera and at higher taxonomic levels always has been fraught with difficulties. Conventional plant classifications employ a diverse array of approaches (phytochemical, anatomical, morphologic, etc.) and often offer a synthesis of these data sets. Many of these traditional characters are susceptible to convergent evolution by natural selection; the ensuing homoplasy largely precludes robust phylogenies. Only recently have we been able to examine the genetic material itself to investigate phylogenetic relationships. Chloroplast DNA (cpDNA) variation has proven to be immensely valuable in reconstructing phylogenies at the species level, and the application of cpDNA comparisons at higher taxonomic levels is now being pursued actively.

One approach to extracting phylogenetic information from cpDNA is by analyzing the distribution of major structural rearrangements. Because of their infrequent occurrence, rearrangements usually can provide strong evidence of monophyly. In this chapter, we demonstrate the utility and significance of cpDNA rearrangements in reconstructing plant phylogeny. After an introduction to the salient features of the chloroplast chromosome, we briefly review the approaches used to detect and analyze rearrangements and discuss our current survey to detect and circumscribe cpDNA rearrangements among angiosperms. We will then examine the different classes of rearrangements and for each provide examples of their use in phylogenetic reconstruction. This chapter will deal exclusively with land plants. Algal genomes may have different structural dynamics than land plant genomes and are too poorly characterized to warrant discussion of their phylogenetic utility at the present time.

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The Chloroplast Chromosome

The chloroplast genomes of photosynthetic land plants are circular DNA molecules ranging in size from 120 to 217 kilobase pairs (Kb) (Table 2.1). A list of land plants for which complete restriction endonuclease cleavage site maps of plastid genomes have become available since 1985 is presented in Table 2.1. This tabulation updates the previous compilation by Crouse et al. (1985). The chloroplast genome contains, with few exceptions, two duplicate regions in reverse orientation, known as the inverted repeat (IR). These repeated regions separate the remainder of the molecule into large single-copy (LSC) and small single-copy (SSC) regions (Fig. 2.1). The expansion or contraction of the IR into, or out of, adjacent single-copy regions, and changes in sequence complexity due to insertions or deletions of unique sequences are largely responsible for variation in size of the molecule. Several reviews of cpDNA structure, function, and evolution have been published recently (Whitfield and Bottomley, 1983; Palmer, 1985a, 1985b, 1991; Zurawski and Clegg, 1987; Sugita, 1989).

Recent studies of chloroplast genome evolution have revealed a high degree of conservation in size, structure, gene content, and linear order of genes among major lineages of land plants (Palmer, 1985b, 1991; Palmer and Stein, 1986). This conservative mode of cpDNA evolution suggests that any change in structure, arrangement, or content of the chloroplast genome may have significant phylogenetic implications.

Mutations in cpDNA are of two kinds: nucleotide substitutions (point mutations) and rearrangements. The detection of nucleotide substitutions through restriction site analysis or direct comparisons of homologous sequences currently is used widely in phylogenetic reconstruction (e.g., Palmer et al., 1988a, and other chapters in this volume). Major rearrangements of the chloroplast molecule include inversions, the insertion or deletion of genes and introns, and loss of one copy of the IR. Minor rearrangements consist of small insertions and deletions (1–1,000 bp). These events are much more common than major rearrangements and occur principally in noncoding intergenic spacer regions and introns (Palmer, 1985b). Because small length mutations have a tendency to cluster in "hot spot" regions (Kung et al., 1982; Palmer et al., 1988a), the assignment of exact homology for each mutation may be difficult. Owing to their homoplasious nature, they are difficult to use for systematic purposes, and are sometimes not included in phylogenetic analyses (Sytina and Gottlieb, 1986; Palmer et al., 1988a), although in studies of closely related taxa they may provide useful information (Doebley et al., 1987a; Solits et al., 1989, 1990).

Detection and Analysis of Rearrangements

Chloroplast DNA rearrangements most often are revealed using a heterologous filter hybridization approach in which cloned restriction fragments from one chloro-

Table 2.1. Land plant species for which plastid genome size (in kb) and complete restriction endonuclease maps are available. *

Taxon	Size	Reference
Angiosperms*		
Asteridae		
Apocynaceae	150	Palmer (unpublished)
<i>Vinca minor</i>		
Asteraceae	148-151	Jansen et al. (this volume)
16 tribes, 267 genera	148-151	Jansen et al. (1990)
Helianthaceae (6 genera, 57 spp.)	151	Schilling and Jansen (1989)
Mutisiaceae (13 genera, 13 spp.)	151	Jansen and Palmer (1988)
Madiaceae (5 genera, 26 spp.)	151	Baldwin et al. (1990)
<i>Barnadesia caryophylla</i>	151	Jansen and Palmer (1987a)
<i>Carthamus tinctorius</i>	151	Ma and Smith (1985)
<i>Helianthus</i> (7 spp.)	152	Heyraud et al. (1987)
<i>Lactuca sativa</i>	151	Jansen and Palmer (1987a)
Dipsacaceae	154	Palmer (unpublished)
<i>Scabiosa</i> sp.		
Orobanchaceae	71	dePamphilis and Palmer (1989)
<i>Epifagus virginiana</i> ^b		
Plantaginaceae	144	Palmer (unpublished)
<i>Plantago</i> sp.		
Solanales ^c	143	Gounaris et al. (1986)
<i>Capsicum annuum</i>	155	Heinhorst et al. (1988)
<i>Solanum tuberosum</i>		
Caryophyllidae	147	Palmer (unpublished)
Caryophyllaceae		
<i>Cerastium arvense</i>	148	Kishina et al. (1987)
Chenopodiaceae	153	Palmer (unpublished)
<i>Beta</i> (11 spp.)		
Phytolaccaceae	158	Palmer (unpublished)
<i>Physolacca heteropetala</i>		
Polygonoideae	160	Hudson and Gardner (1988)
<i>Rumex</i> sp.		
Dilleniidae	170	Palmer (unpublished)
Actinidiaceae	140	Palmer (unpublished)
<i>Actinidia deliciosa</i>	150	Perf-Treyes and Galun (1985)
Begoniaceae	148	Palmer (unpublished)
<i>Begonia</i> sp.	149	Palmer (unpublished)
Chusciaceae	155	Smith and Sysma (1990)
<i>Hypericum</i> sp.		
Cucurbitaceae	150	Palmer (unpublished)
<i>Cucumis</i> (21 spp.)		
Primulaceae	148	Palmer (unpublished)
<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>	149	Palmer (unpublished)
<i>Primula</i> sp.		
Salicaceae	150	Palmer (unpublished)
<i>Populus</i> (10 spp.),		
<i>Salix exigua</i>		
Hamamelidaceae	150	Palmer (unpublished)
<i>Hamamelis</i>		
Urticaceae		
<i>Pilea microphylla</i>		

(continued)

Table 2.1. (Continued)

Taxon	Size	Reference
Liliidae		
Alliaceae	145	Chase and Palmer (1989)
<i>Allium cepa</i>		
Asparagaceae	149	Chase and Palmer (1989)
<i>Asparagus sprengeri</i>		
Amaryllidaceae	157	Chase and Palmer (1989)
<i>Narcissus X hybridus</i>	161	Hansmann (1987)
<i>Narcissus pseudonarcissus</i>		
Dioscoreaceae	152	Terachi et al. (1989)
<i>Dioscorea bulbifera</i>		
Orchidaceae	143	Chase and Palmer (1989)
<i>Oncidium</i> (9 spp.),		
<i>Psychopsis sanderae</i> ,		
<i>Rosstoglossum schleperianum</i> ,		
<i>Trichocentrum</i> (2 spp.)		
Commelinidae		
Poaceae	135	Ogihara and Tsunewaki (1988)
<i>Aegilops</i> (10 spp.)	135	Murai and Tsunewaki (1987)
<i>Avena</i> (5 spp.)	135	Hiratsuka et al. (1989)
<i>Oryza sativa</i>	136	Murai et al. (1989)
Secale (5 spp.)	138	Dang and Ping (1986)
<i>Sorghum bicolor</i>	135	Ogihara and Tsunewaki (1988)
Triticum (10 spp.)	135	Doehley et al. (1987b)
<i>Zea</i> (4 spp.),		
<i>Tripsacum dactyloides</i>		
Magnoliidae		
Aristolochiaceae	158	Palmer (unpublished)
<i>Aristolochia durior</i>		
Papaveraceae	158	Palmer (unpublished)
<i>Eschscholzia californica</i>		
Ranunculaceae	151	Palmer (unpublished)
<i>Aquilegia</i> sp.	149	Palmer (unpublished)
<i>Delphinium</i> sp.	157	Palmer (unpublished)
<i>Ranunculus californica</i>		
Rosidae		
Aceraceae	142	Ngetpratsitsiri and Kobayashi (1990)
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>		
Apiaceae	148	Palmer (unpublished)
<i>Coriandrum sativum</i>		
Balsaminaceae	156	Palmer (unpublished)
<i>Impatiens</i> sp.		
Crassulaceae	146	Sundberg et al. (1990)
<i>Sedum oreganum</i>		
Fabaceae	147	Palmer et al. (1987b)
<i>Lupinus polyphyllus</i>	126	Palmer et al. (1987b)
<i>Medicago sativa</i>	142	Milligan et al. (1989)
<i>Trifolium subterraneum</i>	130	Palmer et al. (1987b)
<i>Wisteria floribunda</i>		
Geraniaceae	217	Palmer et al. (1987a)
<i>Pelargonium X hortorum</i>		

(continued)

Table 2.1.
(Continued)

Taxon	Size	Reference
Hippocastanaceae		
<i>Aesculus californica</i>	153	Palmer (unpublished)
Linaceae		
<i>Linum grandiflorum</i>	154	Palmer (unpublished)
<i>Linum</i> (8 spp.)	160, 173	Coates and Cullis (1987)
Onagraceae		
<i>Clarkia</i> (14 spp.)	170	Sysma et al. (1990)
<i>Fuchsia</i> sp.	151	Palmer (unpublished)
<i>Fuchsia</i> (6 spp.)	150	Sysma et al. (in press)
Oxalidaceae		
<i>Oxalis oregana</i>	152	Palmer (unpublished)
Rutaceae		
<i>Citrus</i> (7 spp.), <i>Poncirus trifoliata</i> ,	166	Green et al. (1986)
<i>Microcitrus</i> sp.		
Saxifragaceae		
10 genera, 40 spp.	151	Soltis et al. (1990; unpublished)
Gymnosperms		
Ginkgoaceae		
<i>Ginkgo biloba</i>	158	Palmer and Stein (1986)
Pinaceae		
<i>Pinus monitcola</i>	120	White (1990)
<i>Pinus radiata</i>	120	Strauss et al. (1988)
<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>	120	Strauss et al. (1988)
Psittacophytes		
<i>Adiantum capillus-veneris</i>	153	Hasebe and Iwatsuki (1990)
<i>Ornuda</i> (3 spp.)	144	Stein et al. (1986)
Bryophytes		
<i>Marchantia polymorpha</i>	121	Ohyama et al. (1986)
<i>Physcomitrella patens</i>	122	Calle and Hughes (1987)

*Information not previously compiled by Crouse et al. (1985), who listed mapped genomes for 16 families, 29 genera, and 32 species of land plants, is presented. Unless otherwise stated (see text and other tables presented herein) all maps are collinear with that of *Nicotiana tabacum*.

*Restriction mapping data are currently being analyzed for 99 families (211 spp.) of angiosperms including 36 families from the Asteridae (Downie and Palmer, unpublished data). To date, 40 families (71 spp.) have been found whose cpDNA genomes are collinear with that of *Nicotiana tabacum*. Those taxa whose cpDNA genomes possess rearrangements are listed in Tables 2.2 and 2.3.

**Epifagus virginiana* is nonphotosynthetic.

*A comprehensive comparative restriction mapping analysis of the Solanaceae (55 genera, 132 species) is currently underway (Olmstead and Palmer, unpublished data).

plast genome are hybridized to filter-bound fragments of a second. Defined segments of cloned restriction fragments obtained from mapped reference genomes, such as that of *Nicotiana tabacum*, are used as hybridization probes. Heterologous probes can be used effectively across widely divergent lineages of angiosperms because most cpDNAs are highly conserved in sequence and arrangement.

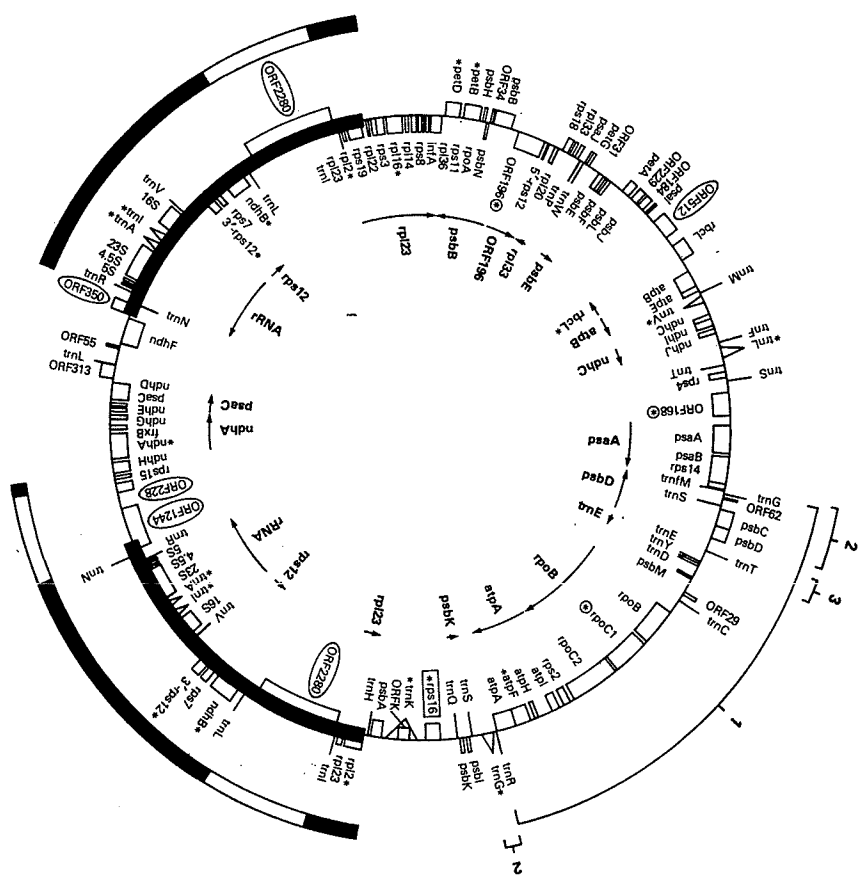


Figure 2.1. Physical and gene map of the 156-kb *Nicotiana tabacum* chloroplast genome, showing selected rearrangements found in *Oryza sativa* and *Marchantia polymorpha*. Genes transcribed clockwise are shown on the inside of the circle; those transcribed counterclockwise are on the outside. Arrows on the inside of the circle indicate sets of genes thought to constitute operons. The operon names are indicated in boldface. Circled gene names indicate genes present in *N. tabacum* and *M. polymorpha* but absent from *O. sativa*. The boxed gene name indicates a gene present in *N. tabacum* and *O. sativa* but absent in *M. polymorpha*. Asterisks denote genes that have the same intron(s) in all three sequenced genomes; circled asterisks denote genes that are split in the three genomes with two exceptions (ORF196 and rpoC1 are not split in *O. sativa*, see Table 2.3). The thickened parts of the circle represent the 25.3-kb IR of *N. tabacum*. The thick lines outside of the *N. tabacum* IR represent the extent of the *O. sativa* IR (20.8 kb), with regions deleted from *O. sativa* left open. The numbered brackets outside the circle indicate three overlapping inversions in *O. sativa* relative to *N. tabacum*. Gene nomenclature follows Hallick and Bottomley (1983), Hallick (1989), and Palmer (1991). *Nicotiana tabacum* cpDNA map is based on Shinozaki et al. (1986); *O. sativa* and *M. polymorpha* data are based on Hiratsuka et al. (1989) and Ohyama et al. (1986), respectively.

Currently, we are investigating chloroplast genome structure in angiosperms with emphasis on the subclass Asteridae. Our survey for major structural rearrangements encompasses 88 species, representing 36 families of Asteridae (see Cronquist, 1981), and an additional 123 species comprising representatives from all subclasses of monocotyledons and dicotyledons. From an initial set of large, cloned restriction fragments (Sugiyura et al., 1986), we have subcloned small fragments specific for many of the genes and introns found in the cpDNA of *N. tabacum*. To date we have used over 120 hybridization probes, ranging in size from 0.2 to 3.5 kb, which together comprise the entire *N. tabacum* chloroplast genome. These probes are smaller than the 5- to 15-kb probes commonly used in restriction site mapping studies. The use of small probes permits the detection of small rearrangement events that often are undetected when larger fragments are used as probes. Our methods are adapted primarily to survey, as rapidly and as economically as possible, large numbers of taxa for rearrangements. Once a mutation is detected and characterized at the molecular level it can, depending upon the availability of material, be circumscribed in related taxa.

Our survey for rearrangements employs a modification of the approach outlined in Palmer et al. (1988a) to accommodate both increased numbers of taxa and probes. To minimize the number of hybridization cycles, each cpDNA sample is run in triplicate. To accomplish this, triple-size restriction enzyme digests are prepared initially, then one-third of each digest is loaded on each gel. Double-sided blotting yields six identical filters, which greatly reduces the amount of time necessary to complete the required number of hybridizations. To lessen the size and cost of such an undertaking, care is taken so that the bromophenol blue dye marker in each of the gels migrates no more than 6 cm. In this way, four 20-cm-wide filters can be placed on a single sheet of standard 20 × 25-cm x-ray film. Resolution is sufficient to detect gene and intron losses, inversions, and changes in size of the IR, but often it is difficult to map inversions precisely and to measure fragment sizes accurately. When this becomes necessary, follow-up gels can be run in which the dye marker migration is 12–20 cm.

Rearrangements can be detected by arranging the autoradiograms according to the order in the chloroplast genome of the hybridization probes and by observing both fragment number and size as one "walks" along the chloroplast chromosome from one hybridization probe to the next. Any anomaly in the number of fragments detected, their size, or the intensity of hybridization may be indicative of a mutation. The construction of restriction site maps aids in diagnosing certain types of rearrangements. The detection of specific rearrangements is described in the appropriate sections below.

DNA sequence analysis is necessary when filter hybridization data are ambiguous; it can be used to corroborate the results of the hybridization experiments. In some instances, extreme base sequence divergence or shuffling of sequences by rearrangement may preclude a significant level of cross-hybridization. The putative absence of genes or introns, or portions thereof, can be confirmed by sequence

ing the region of the suspected absence. DNA sequence analysis may also be necessary to ascertain homologous mutations via correct sequence alignment and can be used to determine the presence and extent of length mutations within coding sequences.

The use of the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) in systematic studies is rapidly gaining in popularity (Arnheim et al., 1990). Although comparative DNA sequence data are often routinely obtained using PCR, the use of PCR in surveying for structural rearrangements has been limited. Once a rearrangement has been found by filter hybridizations, PCR is well suited for rapid screens of large numbers of DNAs. The use of PCR to diagnose inversions and the presence or absence of genes and introns is described in the appropriate sections below.

The Phylogenetic Utility of Chloroplast DNA Rearrangements

Compared to the large amount of phylogenetic data now available from the analysis of restriction site variation, relatively little effort has been made to survey and identify major rearrangements among land-plant cpDNAs, even though several identified rearrangements have been quite useful in phylogenetic reconstruction. To illustrate the phylogenetic utility of cpDNA rearrangements and the value of searches to find them, examples of each of the major classes of structural rearrangements are given below. Other rearrangements that will be discussed include the expansion or contraction of the IR, and the occurrence of small length mutations within evolutionarily constrained regions. We elaborate on how we can exploit this variation as phylogenetic information and offer insight into how these structural rearrangements are detected.

Inversions

An inversion occurs when any segment of the chloroplast chromosome has been rotated 180° relative to the regions on either side. The gene order exemplified by *N. tabacum* (Fig. 2.1) is similar to the ancestral vascular plant gene order, because it is found, with few exceptions, in all other examined angiosperms, ferns, and *Ginkgo biloba* (Palmer, 1985a, 1985b; Palmer and Stein, 1986; Palmer et al., 1988a). In most altered genomes, the order of genes can be derived from the ancestral form by one to a few inversions. For example, three inversions characterize the chloroplast genome of the monocot *Oryza sativa* relative to *N. tabacum* (Hiratsuka et al., 1989; Sugiyura, 1989). Similar gene arrangements have been documented in *Triticum aestivum* (Quigley and Weil, 1985; Howe et al., 1988) and *Zea mays* (Palmer and Thompson, 1982), suggesting that these rearrangements predate the divergence of the grasses from other monocots. All other monocots examined exhibit the consensus gene order found in *N. tabacum* (de Heij et al., 1982; Palmer et al., 1988a; Chase and Palmer, 1989; Downie and

Palmer, unpublished data). The chloroplast genomes of the liverwort *Marchantia polymorpha* and the moss *Physcomitrella patens* differ from that of *N. tabacum* by only one 30-kb inversion (Calle and Hughes, 1987; Ohyama et al., 1988), despite over 400 million years of evolutionary divergence (Stewart, 1983). The polarity of this 30-kb inversion is unknown. A summary of known inversions in land plants is presented in Table 2.2. Relatively few taxa, most notably in the conifers, Geraniaceae, Fabaceae, Campanulaceae, and Lobeliaceae, contain multiple rearrangements.

An example of the utility of a cpDNA inversion in phylogenetic reconstruction has been documented recently. Chloroplast DNAs from subtribe Barnadesiinae (tribe Mutisieae) of the Asteraceae have the typical gene order found in most land plants, whereas all other Asteraceae share a derived 22-kb inversion (Jansen and Palmer, 1987a, 1987b). This finding and congruent results obtained through a phylogenetic analysis of restriction site mutations (Jansen and Palmer, 1988) and nucleotide substitutions (Jansen et al., Chapter 11, this volume) demonstrate that the Mutisieae is not monophyletic (because its three other subtribes possess the inversion) and that the Barnadesiinae should be considered the sister group to the remainder of the family (see also Jansen et al., Chapter 11, this volume). Consequently, it is now possible to root unambiguously phylogenetic trees using Barnadesiinae as the outgroup in cladistic analyses of the family.

Inversions can be detected in the following ways. The hybridization of two nonadjacent restriction fragments from a genome lacking an inversion to the same two fragments in another genome indicates that an inversion has occurred (see Figs. 2 and 3 in Jansen and Palmer, 1987a). Conversely, two adjacent fragments in an uninverted genome that have become separated by an inversion will hybridize to different fragments in the inverted genome. The hybridization of small probes to those fragments containing the presumed inversion endpoints can provide a more precise localization of both the endpoints and size of the inverted segment. Once restriction maps are constructed, gene mapping and sequencing studies can confirm the difference in gene order and the direction of transcription (via the differential hybridization of 5' and 3' gene probes). Additional taxa can be surveyed for the inversion by performing filter hybridization using cloned restriction fragments that contain the inversion endpoints. The PCR technique can also be used to detect inversions. Primers synthesized for two conserved sequences closely flanking a known inversion endpoint will yield a small PCR product after amplification when applied to a species possessing the same inversion. However, if an inversion is not present, the size of the PCR product will be much larger, if a product is produced at all.

Gene/Intron Loss

The complete sequences of the chloroplast genomes of *N. tabacum* (Shinozaki et al., 1986), *M. polymorpha* (Ohyama et al., 1986), and *O. sativa* (Hiratsuka

et al., 1989) provide invaluable information on chloroplast gene content and organization. Comparisons of homologous sequences between *N. tabacum* and the liverwort *M. polymorpha* (Wolfe and Sharp, 1988) and between *N. tabacum* and *O. sativa* (Sugiyama, 1989) reveal a high degree of conservatism in gene content. Of the 20 distinct introns previously demonstrated or tentatively identified in *N. tabacum* cpDNA (Shinozaki et al., 1986), 18 are present also in *M. polymorpha* (Ohyama et al., 1986) and 17 in *O. sativa* (Hiratsuka et al., 1989). Among these three sequenced chloroplast genomes, there are no known examples of gene or intron gains. Moreover, our observations and those of many other laboratories indicate that genes and introns have been gained rarely, if at all, during land-plant evolution. Consequently, our discussion will deal only with the loss of these sequences.

Any disruption in gene integrity will result in a loss of function. In some instances, gene losses are viewed more appropriately as gene transfers because some genes lost from the chloroplast genome have been found in the nucleus (Baldauf and Palmer, 1990; Gant and Palmer, unpublished data). Nucleotide substitutions and length mutations occur readily in intron sequences (Ritland and Clegg, 1987; Zurawski and Clegg, 1987) and are of little systematic value. However, the loss of entire intron sequences is a relatively rare event and therefore phylogenetically informative. Palmer (1991) reviews the evolutionary processes and mechanisms responsible for the loss/gain of genes and introns in cpDNA.

The stability in gene/intron content among land-plant cpDNAs can make their absence valuable as a systematic marker at a number of taxonomic levels. For example, the genes *tpoA*, *trnD2*, and *trnA* are absent from the chloroplast genomes of *P. laryngium*, the Fabaceae, and land plants, respectively (Table 2.3). The intron in the gene *trnD2* is absent from all members examined of the Caryophyllales (Zurawski et al., 1984; Downie et al., 1991). Furthermore, filter hybridization surveys of more than 300 chloroplast genomes show that this intron is absent also from members of the Convolvulaceae, *Cuscuta*, *Menyanthaceae*, two genera within the Geraniaceae (*Sarcocaulon* and *Monsonia*), Saxifragaceae *s.s.*, and *Drosera filiformis* (Table 2.3; Downie et al., 1991). This intron loss can be considered to have occurred independently in at least six different lineages of dicots.

The presence or absence of a particular gene or intron may be assayed by hybridization using a probe specific to that gene or intron. Subsequent sequencing of the region in question can confirm its presence or absence, its fragmentation, or its change in position. Currently, in our laboratory, we are using the PCR technique to survey for the presence or absence of introns in some tRNA genes (Kuhnel et al., 1990). Primers are synthesized for conserved sequences flanking the region of interest and the intervening sequence is amplified by PCR. Comparing the size of the resultant PCR product to a sequence of known length on an agarose or polyacrylamide gel can indicate the presence or absence of a specific gene or intron (Brudzinski and Gelehrter, 1989). In general, deletions or inser-

Table 2.2. Summary of known inversions in land plant cpDNA (relative to vascular plant consensus gene order, as exemplified by *Nicotiana tabacum*).

Taxon	Size (or number) ^a	Reference
Angiosperms		
Asteraceae		
(all subtribes except Barnadesiinae)	22	Jansen and Palmer (1987a)
<i>Lactuca sativa</i>	4	Downie, Knox, Jansen, and Palmer (unpublished)
Cactaceae		
<i>Pereskia saccarosa</i>	(1)	Wallace (unpublished)
Campanulaceae (4 spp.)	(several)	Downie and Palmer (unpublished)
Chenopodiaceae		
<i>Atriplex</i> (60 spp.)	(1)	Palmer (unpublished)
Fabaceae		
Fabaceae	50	Palmer and Thompson (1982)
Phaseolinae	78	Palmer et al. (1988b) Brunneau et al. (1990)
Robinieae (except <i>Sebania</i>)	30	Lavin (unpublished)
<i>Trifolium subterraneum</i>	(ca. 8)	Milligan et al. (1989)
<i>Vicia faba</i>	(2 or 3)	Palmer et al. (1987b)
<i>Pisum</i> (4 spp.)	(ca. 8)	Palmer et al. (1988b)
<i>Pisum humile</i>	4	Palmer et al. (1985)
Medicago lupulina	11	Johnson and Palmer (unpublished)
Medicago (3 spp.)	62	Johnson and Palmer (unpublished)
Medicago arabica	(1)	Johnson and Palmer (unpublished)
Medicago torrata	(1)	Johnson and Palmer (unpublished)
Geraniaceae		
<i>Erodium chamaedryoides</i>	(1 or 2)	Calle and Palmer (unpublished)
<i>Geranium grandiflorum</i>	(several)	Calle and Palmer (unpublished)
<i>Pelargonium X hortorum</i>	(ca. 6)	Palmer et al. (1987a)
<i>Sarcocaulon vanderietiae</i>	(several)	Calle and Palmer (unpublished)
Lobeliaceae		
<i>Lobelia</i> (27 spp.), <i>Sclerotheca javorum</i>	(2)	Knox, Downie, and Palmer (unpublished)
<i>Lobelia erinus</i> , <i>L. fervens</i>	(5)	Knox, Downie, and Palmer (unpublished)
<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i> , <i>L. holstii</i> , <i>Monopsis lutea</i>	(3)	Knox, Downie, and Palmer (unpublished)
Oleaceae		
<i>Jasminum</i> (2 spp.)	(2)	Downie and Palmer (unpublished)
Onagraceae		
<i>Oenothera</i> spp.	50	Herrmann et al. (1983) Sysma (unpublished)
Orobanchaceae		
<i>Onopholis americana</i>	(1)	Downie and Palmer (unpublished)
Poaceae		
<i>Triticum</i> , <i>Oryza</i> , <i>Zea</i>	(3) ^b	Howe et al. (1988) Quigley and Weil (1985) Palmer and Thompson (1982) Hirasaka et al. (1989)

(continued)

Table 2.2.
(Continued)

Taxon	Size (or number) ^a	Reference
Ranunculaceae		
<i>Adonis aestivalis</i>	(1)	Hoot and Palmer (unpublished)
<i>Anemone</i> (40 spp.), <i>Hepatica</i> , <i>Knowltonia</i> , <i>Pulsatilla</i>	(4)	Hoot and Palmer (unpublished)
<i>Anemone</i> (3 spp.), <i>Clematis</i> (2 spp.)	(6)	Hoot and Palmer (unpublished)
Scrophulariaceae		
<i>Sruga asiatica</i>	(3)	Downie and Palmer (unpublished)
Gymnosperms		
Conifers	(several)	Strauss et al. (1988) Raubeson and Jansen (unpublished)
<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>	45	Strauss et al. (1988)
Peridophytes		
<i>Adiantum capillus-veneris</i>	(2)	Hasebe and Iwatsuki (1990)
Bryophytes		
<i>Marchantia polymorpha</i>	30	Ohyama et al. (1988)
<i>Physcomitrella patens</i>	30	Calle and Hughes (1987)

^aEstimated sizes in kb provided. If more than one inversion is present, or if inversion is not well characterized, the number of postulated inversions is presented in parentheses.

^bThese three inversions are 28 kb, 10 kb, and approximately 1 kb (see Fig. 1).

tions of moderate size (less than 2 kb) can be detected in this way. Furthermore, amplified intron or gene-sequence products can be readily isolated and subsequently cloned and/or sequenced.

A summary of genes and introns known (by DNA sequencing) or suspected (by filter hybridization) to be lost from the cpDNAs of various land plants is presented in Table 2.3. Our results suggest that the unidentified open reading frames (ORFs) are most amenable to loss. In several situations it appears that similar losses have occurred in parallel. The ribosomal protein genes and introns are also sometimes lost, whereas no photosynthetic gene is known to have been lost from any cpDNA of a photosynthetic land plant.

Loss of the Inverted Repeat

One of the most intriguing rearrangements is the loss of one copy of the IR. Although the presence of the IR may confer a certain stability upon the cpDNA molecule, making it less prone to rearrangement (Palmer and Thompson, 1982; Strauss et al., 1988), the absence of one copy suggests that it is not fundamental to genome function. With few exceptions, all angiosperm cpDNAs possess a large IR, usually approximately 20 to 30 kb in size, that encodes a duplicate set of ribosomal RNA genes (Fig. 2.1). The deletion of one entire segment of this duplicated sequence is a significant mutation, which, when considered in a phylogenetic context, can define monophyletic groups. This rare deletion has

Table 2.3. Summary of known cpDNA gene and intron losses in land plants.

Gene/Intron ^a	Taxon ^b	Reference
many*	<i>Epigaeus virginiana</i> <i>Conopholis americana</i> land plants	dePaamphilis and Palmer (1989) Downie and Palmer (unpublished) Baldauf and Palmer (1990)
<i>trfA*</i>	<i>Pelargonium</i> (40 spp.)	Callie and Palmer (unpublished)
<i>trpA*</i>	<i>Sarcocaulon</i> (2 spp.)	Downie and Palmer (unpublished)
<i>trp20</i>	Fabaceae (3 subfamilies)	Palmer and Doyle (unpublished)
<i>trp22*</i>		Spielmann et al. (1988)
<i>trp57</i>	<i>Podophyllum peltatum</i>	Downie and Palmer (unpublished)
<i>trp16</i>	Fabaceae (5/9), <i>Linum grandiflorum</i> , <i>Mabighia coccigera</i> , <i>Passiflora</i> sp., <i>Polygala lindheimeri</i> , <i>Populus deltoides</i> , <i>Salix amygdaloides</i> , <i>Securidaca diversifolia</i> , <i>Turnera ulmifolia</i> , <i>Viola</i> (2 spp.)	Downie and Palmer (unpublished)
<i>clpP</i>	<i>Geranium</i> (2 spp.), <i>Jasminum</i> (2 spp.), <i>Linum grandiflorum</i> , <i>Lobelia holstii</i> , <i>Lonicera subsestifis</i> , <i>Monopsis lutea</i> , <i>Monsonia</i> (2 spp.), <i>Oenothera missouriensis</i> , <i>Sarcocaulon</i> (2 spp.)	Downie and Palmer (unpublished)
<i>ndhF</i>	<i>Hebestigma cubense</i>	Downie and Palmer (unpublished)
<i>zfpA*</i>	<i>Oryza sativa</i>	Hiratsuka et al. (1989)
(orf512)	<i>Bambusa</i> sp., <i>Zea mays</i> , Campanulaceae (3/4), Geraniaceae (4/8), Lobeliaceae (4/5), Oleaceae (2/3)	Downie and Palmer (unpublished)
orf184*	<i>Pisum sativum</i> Fabaceae (11/16)	Sasaki et al. (1989)
orf228*	<i>Oryza sativa</i>	Downie and Wolfe (unpublished)
orf1244*	<i>Oryza sativa</i> <i>Bambusa</i> sp., <i>Zea mays</i> , Campanulaceae (3/4), Convolvulaceae (3/4), Lobeliaceae (4/5), Cuscuta sp., <i>Linum grandiflorum</i> , <i>Pisum sativum</i>	Hiratsuka et al. (1989) Downie and Palmer (unpublished)
orf2280*	<i>Oryza sativa</i> <i>Bambusa</i> sp., <i>Zea mays</i> , Campanulaceae (2/2), Geraniaceae (3/6)	Hiratsuka et al. (1989) Downie and Palmer (unpublished)

(continued)

Table 2.3.
(Continued)

Gene/Intron ^a	Taxon ^b	Reference
<i>trpC1</i> intron*	<i>Oryza sativa</i>	Hiratsuka et al. (1989)
<i>trp2</i> intron*	Caryophyllales	Zurawski et al. (1984)
	Convolvulaceae (4/5), Menyanthaceae (4/5), Saxifragaceae (24/50), <i>Cuscuta</i> sp., <i>Drosera filiformis</i> , <i>Monsonia</i> (2 spp.), <i>Sarcocaulon</i> (2 spp.)	Downie et al. (1991) Downie et al. (1991)
<i>trp116</i> intron*	Geraniaceae (5/44), <i>Limonium gmelinii</i>	Downie et al. (unpublished)
<i>trnI</i> intron	<i>Campanula garganica</i>	Downie and Palmer (unpublished)
orf196 introns	<i>Oryza sativa</i>	Hiratsuka et al. (1989)
1 and 2*	<i>Zea mays</i> , <i>Bambusa</i> sp.	Downie and Palmer (unpublished)

^aGene/intron absence postulated only on the basis of filter hybridizations. Asterisks denote those genes/introns whose absence has been confirmed by DNA sequencing in at least one of the taxa.

^bNumbers in parentheses indicate # of general # of species exhibiting loss.

^c*Epigaeus virginiana* and *Conopholis americana* are nonphotosynthetic, parasitic plants. Most photosynthetic genes, NADH dehydrogenase genes, and ORFs are missing.

now been found in four independent lineages of vascular plants (Table 2.4). Particularly notable from a phylogenetic standpoint is the absence of one copy of this repeat from six tribes and the putatively allied genus *Wisteria* within the subfamily Papilionoideae (Lavin et al., 1990; Doyle et al., Chapter 10, this volume), and from the conifers, including Taxaceae (Lidholm et al., 1988; Strauss et al., 1988; Raubeson and Jansen, unpublished data). The strategy used to detect the presence or absence of the IR involves hybridization assays using small probes homologous with the conserved ends of the IR and single-copy regions (Palmer et al., 1988a; Lavin et al., 1990).

Expansion/Contraction of the Inverted Repeat

The expansion or contraction of the IR into, or out of, the two single-copy regions significantly influences the variability in size of the chloroplast genome. At one extreme is the 217-kb *Pelargonium X hortorum* cpDNA possessing a greatly enlarged IR of 76 kb, almost three times the size found in most angiosperms (Palmer et al., 1987a). Consequently, many protein genes that are present only once in most other plants are duplicated in *P. X hortorum*. At the other extreme in angiosperms with the IR is *Coriandrum sativum* with an IR less than half the normal size (Palmer, 1985b; Downie, unpublished data). In *C. sativum*, the gene *trp12*, which normally is located near the terminus of the IR (Fig. 2.1), is a single-copy gene some 10 kb away from the end of the repeat. In *Oryza sativa* the IR segments have expanded into single-copy regions; however, a series

Table 2.4. Land plant cpDNAs possessing only one inverted repeat segment.

Taxon	Reference
Comifers	Strauss et al. (1988) Lidholm et al. (1988)
Fabaceae	Lavin et al. (1990)
Papilionoideae (6 tribes and <i>Wisteria</i>)	Palmer et al. (1987b)
Geraniaceae	Calle and Palmer (unpublished)
<i>Erodium</i> and <i>Sarcocaulon</i>	
Orobanchaceae	Downie and Palmer (unpublished)
<i>Conophtis americana</i>	

of deletions within the repeat makes the IR smaller than that found in *N. tabacum* (Hirasaka et al., 1989). Variation in IR size is common but has not yet been used in phylogenetic analyses. Any length mutation that occurs within the IR undoubtedly will affect its size, thus making homologous size variants difficult to assess.

Length Mutation in Constrained Regions

Although small length mutations occur predominantly in noncoding DNA, they are also occasionally found within genes and other evolutionarily constrained portions of the genome. In order not to disrupt the reading frame in protein-coding genes, only insertions or deletions of just 3 bp, or in multiples of three, are permitted (e.g., Blasko et al., 1988). Small insertions or deletions within coding regions that are conserved evolutionarily may be considered as phylogenetic characters independent of nucleotide substitutions (Meyer et al., 1986; Morden and Golden, 1989).

Use of Rearrangements in Phylogenetic Reconstruction

The paucity of major structural rearrangements found to date within the chloroplast genomes of vascular plants suggests that they occur rarely during cpDNA evolution. However, once a rearrangement is found, characterized, and its distribution circumscribed in related taxa, its presence can make a profound phylogenetic statement. These unique characters are prominent and powerful systematic markers that offer the following advantages to phylogenetic reconstruction: (1) assessing the homology of the rearrangement usually is straightforward; (2) the polarity of each structural mutation is ascertained readily when it is compared to an outgroup; and (3) once a particular rearrangement is identified, it can be surveyed rapidly in other taxa through simple filter hybridization or PCR assays. Although shared structural mutations can provide strong evidence of common

ancestry, it is apparent now that similar rearrangements can occur independently, such as the loss of the *rpl2* intron. However, because the intron is absent in otherwise distantly related clades and present in their immediate, respective outgroups, the assessment of homology can be made confidently, and the loss can be considered to have occurred independently in at least six different lineages of dicots.

As in any systematic endeavor, the selection of representative specimens is critical to the outcome of the analysis. Because of the conservative nature of cpDNA evolution, specifically as it relates to its generally invariant order and content of genes, relatively few species are necessary to represent most taxa at the generic level and above. However, as previous studies attest, rearrangements can identify major dichotomies within clades at any level, so unless the group in question is well represented, some rearrangements may go undetected. Incorporating additional specimens into the analysis also is necessary when doubts arise concerning monophyly.

Extensively rearranged genomes are encountered rarely in land plants, and have so far been well characterized only in *Pisum* (Palmer et al., 1988b), *Trifolium subterraneum* (Palmer et al., 1987b; Milligan et al., 1989), *Pelargonium X hortorum* (Palmer et al., 1987a), and conifers (Strauss et al., 1988). The processes that contributed to the formation of these rearranged chloroplast genomes are not clear (Palmer, 1991) but may have involved either some major alteration of the IR (its loss or manyfold expansion) (Palmer 1985a, 1985b; Palmer et al., 1987a; Strauss et al., 1988) or the occurrence of dispersed, recombinogenic repeat elements (Howe, 1985; Palmer et al., 1987a; Blasko et al., 1988; Bowman et al., 1988; Milligan et al., 1989). Extensive genome rearrangement makes it almost impossible to align restriction fragment maps and largely precludes phylogenetic analyses of comparative restriction site variation. Furthermore, determining the nature and polarity for each mutation, providing they can be delimited, would be an arduous task. Fortunately, most altered genomes can be explained by a few discrete inversions (Palmer, 1985b; Downie and Palmer, unpublished data).

The analysis of major structural rearrangements is a complementary approach to comparative sequencing for studying the higher-level relationships among angiosperms. As phylogenetic distance increases among taxa, comparative restriction site mapping is plagued by excessive homoplasy and length mutation. Since many genes are conserved more than the genome as a whole, the direct comparison of homologous coding sequences (such as *rbcL*) is more appropriate for studying higher levels of plant phylogeny. Accordingly, in collaboration with others from our laboratory, we are in the process of sequencing *rbcL* from representatives of the Asteridae and outgroups from the Rosidae to acquire complementary information to that obtained from the rearrangement study described herein. Sequencing provides a large number of phylogenetically informative characters, whereas fewer cpDNA rearrangements are expected simply due to the rarity of these events. However, once found, these mutations should be

considered to be more powerful characters than individual nucleotide substitutions, as data sets constituting the latter are inevitably afflicted with certain levels of homoplasy. Moreover, comparative sequence data may not resolve relatively ancient and compressed evolutionary radiations, whereas each rearrangement has the potential to resolve with confidence a particular branching point in a phylogeny (Palmer et al., 1988a). The integration of rearrangement data with other cpDNA-derived data (such as restriction site mutations and nucleotide substitutions) in phylogenetic analyses is an issue that has not yet been seriously explored.

Conclusions

The distribution of major structural rearrangements has the potential to illuminate the deeper branches of plant evolution and in doing so to define monophyletic groups. We have initiated a large-scale survey to detect and circumscribe major structural rearrangements in the chloroplast genomes of angiosperms, with special reference to the subclass Asteridae. Even though rearrangements alone are unlikely to provide a comprehensive framework of plant relationships, simply because of the small number of phylogenetically informative characters they represent, when used in conjunction with other molecular and traditional approaches, they have the power to help resolve many questions of plant phylogeny.

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