Genotyping-by-sequencing facilitates whole genome visualization of Canadian oat cultivars

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Introduction
Neutral genetic variation can remain as residual heterogeneity within a cultivar. Multiple marker technologies have detected such variation within different crop species. Variation within a cultivar may also indicate an error in seed handling. Thorough assessment of seed purity requires the testing of large samples with a large number of markers. Genotyping-by-sequencing (GBS) produces an ample amount of data with significant genome coverage at low cost, providing an opportunity for seed purity evaluation. Graphical genotyping of GBS data would allow for efficient data interpretation.

Materials & Methods
Plant material and DNA preparation: Seeds of 'AC Morgan', 'Jordan', 'Leggett', and 'Ronald' were acquired from multiple sources so that the following were represented: breeder seed, certified seed, seed harvested from an internal cultivar increase, and seed harvested from a registration or PBR trial. Ten seeds from each of these sources (together referred to as CDOC-160) were grown for at least ten days. Young leaf tissue was harvested from single plants and dried separately. DNA was extracted from each plant's leaf tissue using a DNAeasy Plant Mini kit according to the manufacturer's protocol. Extracts were quantified using Quant-iT Picogreen assays. Extracts were diluted to 1 ng/μl working volumes with sterile distilled water.

Genotyping-by-sequencing (GBS): was performed on libraries containing CDOC-160 DNA and one partial 95-plex which were constructed using the P384 adapter set. Genomic DNA was digested simultaneously with PstI and MspI. Barcoded adapters were ligated to each individual sample following digestion. Samples from each plate were pooled into a single library and PCR-amplified. Each 95-plex library was sequenced on a single lane of Illumina HiSeq 2000 at the National Research Council (Saskatoon, SK) by the DNA Technologies core facility. The universal network enabled analysis kit (UENAEK non-reference pipeline) was used for SNP discovery and genotyping. The primary GBS analysis was done using the full CDOC-160 set as the reference sample. Reads containing a barcode sequence followed by the expected PstI (CTGCAC) -MspI (CCGG) cut sites were retained and trimmed to 64 bp. Identical reads present in more than five samples were discarded and collapsed into tags. Pairwise alignment was implemented with the retained tags to find tag pairs with a 1 bp mismatch, considered afterward as candidate SNPs. In order to reduce false positive SNP calls, a network filter was employed to identify only reciprocal tag pairs. An error tolerance rate of 0.03 was applied to filter out possible paralogs and sequencing errors. Initial quality and genetic filtering in the UENAEK pipeline was performed with default parameters for minor allele frequency (MAF: 0.05-0.5) and call rate (0-1). Additional genetic filtering was performed using CobyT to retain only those SNPs showing maximum 5% heterozygosity, minimum MAF of 10%, and maximum 5% missing scores with CDOC-160 as the reference sample. Principal component analysis (PCA): was performed with the R statistical package using the pcorrel function. Graphical genotypes (GGs): were generated using GGT 2.0 and the map locations of 1344 GBS SNPs.

Results & Discussion
A total of 2212 SNPs were called using UENAEK. Of these, 1344 (60.8%) were mapped on an oat consensus framework. Only 21.8% of all GBS loci (20.5% of mapped loci) showed substantial variation (defined as PiC>0.30) within one or more oat cultivars. PCA (Fig.1) revealed that all seeds clustered by cultivar, but that all cultivars contained some allelic variation. Jordan, AC Morgan, and Ronald formed tight clusters, while Leggett formed two noticeably separate clusters. One Ronald trial seed (R17) clustered tightly with seeds of Leggett, suggesting it is a contaminant.

To further investigate the genetic heterogeneity of each cultivar, PCAs were performed for each cultivar using only polymorphic SNPs (Fig.2). Jordan seeds appear to be the most heterogeneous, followed by Ronald, Leggett, and AC Morgan, based on cluster tightness observed in individual PCA plots. Jordan separated into four clusters, none of which reflected seed source. Leggett seeds segregated into two clusters, mirroring the results of the first PCA. Ronald and AC Morgan both appeared as tight clusters with a few seeds distinctly different. Cluster patterns suggest that variation did not appear to be limited to a specific seed source.

Whole genome GGs allowed for localization of this variation. Most of the observed variation fell within distinct map regions and showed allele frequencies between 40% and 65% in the cultivar in which polymorphism was observed (data not shown). For example, the 20-23 cM region on chromosome 9D was observed to be extremely variable in the 40 Leggett seed samples (Fig. 3A). This region divided the Leggett seeds into two groups that reflected the clusters observed in the PCA score plot (Fig.1). This result is consistent with the expectation that most cultivars contain residual heterogeneity in distinct chromosomal regions that were heterozygous in the last generation from which seed was bulked from a single plant.

GBS also allowed for physical contamination to be distinguished from this genetic heterogeneity. Contamination was characterized by consistent, non-localized variation. R17 differed from Ronald seeds at every chromosome in this manner, as shown in Fig. 3B. There is no conclusive way of determining if R17 was introduced into the Ronald seed stock by seed handling errors in the field or during sampling for this study.

Conclusion
GBS offers breeders and researchers a whole genome perspective of current cultivars. This method of data interpretation would be suitable for breeders as an efficient tool for selection, and for inspectors as a method of discovering possible seed contaminants.

References

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