

Mapping and QTL analysis of the barley population Sloop × Halcyon

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Abstract. A genetic linkage map of *Hordeum vulgare* L. 1280 cM in length, composed of 257 AFLP, RFLP, SNP, and microsatellite markers, has been constructed. The map was based on a doubled haploid population made from the cross Sloop (spring type) × Halcyon (winter type). The genetic map was used to identify qualitative major genes and quantitative trait loci (QTLs) affecting traits related to growth and flowering, grain colour, and disease resistance. Nine QTLs associated with grain colour (brightness, redness, yellowness, blue aleurone colour), plant height, ‘intrinsic lateness’, awn emergence, response to photoperiod, and spring or winter habit were located on 1H, 2H, 3H, 4H, and 5H. Eight QTLs associated with resistance to scald, net form of net blotch, leaf rust and powdery mildew were identified on chromosomes 1H, 2H, 3H, 4H, 5H, and 7H. The estimated magnitude of the QTL effects ranged from 9 to 85% of the total phenotypic variance. Resistances to leaf scald, net blotch, and leaf rust, and photoperiod and grain colour, were each controlled by at least one major gene.

Additional keywords: linkage map, molecular markers, disease resistance, phenology, grain colour, validation.

Introduction

Malting quality is the primary objective of various barley breeding programs around the world, as there is a premium for malting quality in many markets. Improvement of barley using classical breeding methods, particularly for malting quality traits, has been slow due to multigenic control of these traits and the modification of their expression with environment. Phenotypic selection for malting quality using laboratory-scale malting of grain samples is expensive and the data on malt quality from one harvest are generally not available before selection for sowing the next season’s yield trials. Furthermore, micro-malting is also not feasible for early generation selection of single plants. Although selection using near infrared reflectance calibrations of whole grain for some malting quality attributes, such as

extract, has been successful, molecular markers for extract and other quality traits could allow more rapid and early generation selection for malt quality. Molecular markers have recently been associated with various quantitative trait loci (QTLs) for malting quality characteristics (Collins *et al.* 2003, this issue), phenological traits (Boyd *et al.* 2003, this issue), and disease resistances (Graner *et al.* 2000; Williams 2003, this issue). These molecular ‘tags’ have been further used to select various QTLs in breeding programs. Allelic variations may exist at the loci controlling traits of economic importance and this may allow us to introgress ‘novel’ alleles or ‘linkage blocks’ containing several desirable alleles to develop superior barley cultivars.

Under southern New South Wales conditions, there is often an opportunity for early autumn sowing of cereals, and

Table 1. Locations of sites, and aim of experiment from the Sloop × Halcyon mapping population

Year	Type	Locations	State	Latitude	Longitude	Aim of experiment
1998	Field	Wagga	NSW	−35	147	Seed multiplication
1999	Field	Wagga	NSW	−35	147	Scald
2000	Field	Turretfield	SA	−34	139	Scald
2000	Field	Wagga	NSW	−35	147	Scald
2001	Field	Turretfield	SA	−34	139	Scald
2001	Glasshouse	Canberra	ACT	−35	149	Scald
2001	Glasshouse	Hermitage	Qld	−28	152	Net blotch, leaf rust
2001	Field	Wagga	NSW	−35	147	Yield, height, maturity
2001	Field	Mt. Barker	WA	−34	117	Yield
2001	Field	Perth	WA	−31	116	Phenology
2002	Laboratory	Horsham	Vic	−36	142	Malting
2002	Field	Kendenup	WA	−34	118	Powdery mildew
2002	Field	Wagga	NSW	−35	147	Powdery mildew
2002	Glasshouse	Cobbitty	NSW	−34	151	Leaf rust

winter wheats with a vernalisation requirement are favoured because of their flexibility in planting times. Early-maturing barleys having a similar vernalisation requirement, good malting quality, and resistance to multiple diseases, especially to scald (*Rhynchosporium secalis*), net form of net blotch (NFNB—*Pyrenophora teres* f. *teres*), leaf rust (*Puccinia hordei*), and powdery mildew—(*Erysiphe graminis* f. sp. *hordei*), would give a cropping option for early sowings. Halcyon has been an accepted malting variety on the UK recommended list from 1985 until 2000, when it was still 4% of receivals by maltsters in the UK. Although European winter barleys have increased in popularity because of their high yields, they have generally been inferior in malting quality to contemporary European spring barleys. Halcyon's features include winter growth habit, 'intrinsic lateness', and resistance to foliar diseases, particularly durable resistance to leaf scald. This variety was bred by the Plant Breeding Institute, Cambridge, England from the cross Warboys × Maris Otter. Sloop is an Australian malting variety, bred by R. C. M Lance, D. H. B. Sparrow, and A. R. Barr in South Australia and released in 1995 for commercial cultivation (Barr 1998). To exploit the novel alleles associated with various components of phenology, malting quality, and resistance to foliar diseases, a cross between Sloop (spring type) and Halcyon (winter type) was made. This paper reports the construction of a linkage map and identification of major and quantitative trait loci associated with traits of interest especially to Australian barley breeding programs.

Materials and methods

Population development

The cross between Sloop and Halcyon was made at the Wagga Wagga Agricultural Institute by B. J. Read in 1996. The doubled haploid population (DH) comprising 166 lines was developed in 1997 from F₁ plants using the microspore culture method (P. A. Davies, pers. comm.) at Wagga Wagga.

SNP marker analysis

PCR primers were designed around a single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) site in a P450 gene. The product contained an AflIII restriction site in Sloop but not in Halcyon. The AflIII site spanned the SNP. PCR was followed by AflIII digest and products were visualised on ethidium bromide stained agarose gel.

Linkage map construction

The linkage map was constructed using AFLP (Vos *et al.* 1995), RFLP, microsatellite (Saghai-Marooft *et al.* 1994; Liu *et al.* 1996; Struss and Plieske 1998; Ramsay *et al.* 2000; Holton *et al.* 2002), and SNP based markers as described by Barr *et al.* (2003, this issue). AFLP markers were visualised using 2 methods. These were radio-labelling with [³²P] ATP, and fluorescent tagging of the oligonucleotide primers. AFLPs visualised by radio-labelling have names ending in numerals below 12, indicating the locus number, whereas fluorescently visualised AFLPs have standard KeyGene nomenclature.

Phenotypic data collection

The DH population was screened for various traits under field and glasshouse conditions for identification of QTLs associated with these attributes (Table 1). Field observations were made on basic vegetative phase (BVP), awn emergence, response to extended photoperiod, spring or winter habit, and the level of leaf disease infection by pathogens: *Rhynchosporium secalis*, *Pyrenophora teres* f. *teres*, *Puccinia hordei*, and *Erysiphe graminis* f. sp. *hordei*, causing leaf scald, net blotch, leaf rust and powdery mildew diseases respectively. Mean plant height to the base of the head (cm) was measured at maturity. Various phenology components (basic vegetative phase, response to extended photoperiod, and ear or awn emergence) were measured as described by Boyd *et al.* (2003). Due to the large variation in awn emergence observed among DH lines derived from Sloop × Halcyon cross, the lines showing 'erect seedling growth habit' and awn emergence like Sloop (spring-type parent) were scored as spring-type and the rest, showing prostrate seedling growth, were scored as winter-type, including those that did not flower under summer sowing in Western Australia. At Wagga Wagga, awn appearance (days) was measured as duration from sowing to awn emergence (50% of lines showing heads). Grain colour [MinL (brightness), MinA (redness), and MinB (yellowness)] were measured with a Minolta colour meter as described (Li *et al.* 2003, this issue). Blue aleurone colour of grains of the DH population grown under

agro-climatic conditions in New South Wales and Western Australia was scored visually [blue (1) and white (0)].

QTL analysis

An integrated linkage map based upon AFLP, RFLP, SNP, and microsatellite loci, generated with the segregation data using MapManager QTX17 (Manly *et al.* 2001), was used to establish associations between marker loci and QTL. Thirty-three of the 257 markers were redundant and were excluded from simple and composite interval regression analysis. The likelihood ratio statistic (LRS) was calculated using the interval mapping function by a regression procedure (Haley and Knott 1992) in MapManager QTX17. Permutation tests (Doerge and Churchill 1996) were carried out on associations that identified the QTLs for 10 cM and 1000 iterations, and an association between the marker and trait was identified at $P = 0.001$. Composite interval and di-genic analysis was carried out to determine any QTL and QTL × environment interactions as described (Raman *et al.* 2003, this issue).

Results and discussion

Linkage map

The Sloop × Halcyon linkage map of 1280 cM includes 151 AFLPs, 78 RFLPs, 27 SSRs, and 1 SNP marker with 7 linkage groups (Fig. 1; 246 markers shown). Average marker density was 5 cM, with the highest densities on chromosomes 2H, 5H, and 7H and the lowest on chromosome 4H. Average length of this map was similar to previous maps (Graner *et al.* 1991; Kleinhofs *et al.* 1993; Ramsay *et al.* 2000).

QTL mapping for phenology components in the DH population from Sloop × Halcyon

Significant trait-marker associations established in the DH population of Sloop × Halcyon are indicated in Table 2. Major QTLs for plant height, BVP (earliness *per se* or minimum duration to heading, as in Boyd *et al.* 2003), days to awn or ear emergence, photoperiod response, and spring habit were mapped on the short arm of chromosome 2H. Data showed that the genomic region associated with the *Ppd-H1* locus for photoperiod response had a significant effect on plant height, accounting for 39% of the genetic variation. Laurie *et al.* (1994) also reported the gene for plant height to be located on the short arm of chromosome 2H in the Igri (winter) × Triumph (spring) DH population and found a strong effect of the *Ppd-H1* region on plant height. This was ascribed to a pleiotropic effect of the variation in flowering time. Another QTL mapped on the long arm of 5H was found to be associated with plant height (Table 2).

Simple interval analysis revealed that the genomic region located near the centromeric region of 2H and flanked with XP14/M50-4 and XABC454 had significant association with BVP. The marker KSUA3a detected the maximum variation ($r^2 = 44\%$) for BVP (Table 2).

Two genomic regions associated with response to photoperiod were located on 2HS and 5HL. A major QTL with marker interval XP14/M50-4–XABG14, located near

the centromere of 2H, was associated with response to photoperiod and had the largest effect, explaining 33% of total variation (Table 2). Another locus, XP13/M58-1, also exhibited association (significant at $P = 0.05$) with photoperiod response on 5H and explained 10% of phenotypic variance. On the short arm of chromosome 2H, a gene for photoperiod responsiveness, *Ppd-H1* (Lundqvist *et al.* 1997), has been reported previously (Laurie *et al.* 1995; Boyd *et al.* 2003). For photoperiod sensitivity in barley, the *Ppd* locus on chromosome 2 is activated at longer photoperiod, whereas the earliness *per se* loci, *easp*, *eac*, and *eak*, are activated by shorter photoperiod (Yasuda 1977; Gallagher and Soliman 1988). Several yield-related QTLs have also been mapped to the QTL-2S, including flowering time (Laurie *et al.* 1994), plant height (Karsai *et al.* 1997), kernel weight, number of seeds per spike, and fertile tiller number (Powell *et al.* 1985; Kjaer *et al.* 1991). In wheat, *Ppd-A1*, *Ppd-B1*, and *Ppd-D1* (synonyms *Ppd3*, *Ppd2*, and *Ppd1*, respectively) photoperiod response genes have been reported on chromosomes 2A, 2B, and 2D, homeologous to barley chromosome 2H. Comparative mapping of wheat, rye, and barley using RFLP markers showed that homeologous group 2 chromosomes are conserved (Devos *et al.* 1993) and, hence, provide a valuable opportunity for establishing trait-marker associations (Ahn *et al.* 1993).

Besides chromosome regions on 2H and 5H influencing various components of plant development and flowering in the Sloop × Halcyon population, another genomic region flanked by Ebmac501 and BCD304a–X7SGLOB markers on 1HL exhibited significant association (LRS 50.1) with awn emergence (Table 2). The SNP marker SOUISC4 and microsatellite Bmag382 explained the greatest phenotypic variance ($r^2 = 28\%$). The QTL identified in this population further confirmed that awn emergence is the final result of several interacting traits e.g. vernalisation requirement, photoperiod sensitivity, and earliness *per se*. Previously, *Sh₃*, *eam8*, conferring photoperiod insensitivity and extreme earliness under short days, and *Ppd-H2* genes for flowering under short days have been described on chromosome 1H (Gallagher *et al.* 1987; Laurie *et al.* 1995; Boyd *et al.* 2003). It was found that the photoperiod gene *Ppd-H1* may also be associated with awn emergence in the Sloop × Halcyon DH population, as one detected QTL was located on 2H and explained 24% of total variation for awn emergence (Table 2). In wheat, Sourdille *et al.* (2000) reported 2 QTLs that affect heading time, one on 2BS that cosegregates with *Ppd-B1* (photoperiod response) and another on 7BS, which is homeologous to barley chromosome 7H.

Besides *Ppd-H1*, genes for early maturity, *Eam1*, and ‘earliness *per se*’, *eps2S*, have been reported on chromosome 2H (Laurie *et al.* 1995; Boyd *et al.* 2003). Pan *et al.* (1994) also reported a large effect QTL for heading date on the short arm of chromosome 2H and hypothesised that this QTL was due to the effects of alleles at the *ea* locus described by Nilan

Table 2. Chromosomal regions associated with agronomic traits measured on the Sloop × Halcyon mapping population
LRS, Likelihood ratio statistics; R^2 : coefficient explaining percentage of phenotypic variance

Traits	Chromosome	LRS	R^2	Marker with greatest effect	Increasing allele effect (parent)
Height (cm)	2H	45.5**	0.39	P14/M55-1	6.67 (Sloop)
	5H	34.0**	0.31	pA1	5.94 (Sloop)
Basic vegetative period ^A	2H	45.4**	0.44	KSUA3a	6.16 (Sloop)
Photoperiod response ^A	2H	53.1**	0.33	KSUA3a	6.28 (Halcyon)
	5H	14.0*	0.10	P13/M58-1	4.54 (Sloop)
Days to ear emergence (Perth) ^A	1H	50.1**	0.28	SOUISC4	4.54 (Sloop)
	2H	41.2**	0.24	P14/M55-1	4.25 (Sloop)
	5H	24.9**	0.15	P13/M58-1	3.39 (Sloop)
Days to ear emergence (Wagga)	2H	46.1**	0.43	ABC454	6.05 (Sloop)
	5H	39.3**	0.38	pA1	5.41 (Sloop)
Spring habit ^A	2H	16.0*	0.11	P11/M51-2	0.17 (Sloop)
	4H	13.2*	0.09	P13/M52-2	0.15 (Sloop)
	5H	56.5**	0.32	P13/M58-1	0.29 (Sloop)
Min L—grain brightness ^B	2H	20.4**	0.20	CDO474	0.54 (Sloop)
	3H	13.7*	0.14	P13/M57-3	0.45 (Halcyon)
	4H	10.9n.s.	0.11	P13/M50-4	0.40 (Halcyon)
	4H ^C	13.8*	0.12	P13/M50-4	0.41 (Halcyon)
Min A—grain redness ^B	4H	78.9**	0.57	Bmag353	0.56 (Halcyon)
Min B—grain yellowness ^B	3H ^C	20.8**	0.14	WG178	0.40 (Halcyon)
	4H	39.0**	0.34	Bmag353	0.61 (Halcyon)
Blue aleurone colour (Wagga Wagga)	4H	77.9**	0.58	Bmag353	0.38 (Halcyon)
Blue aleurone colour (Perth) ^B	4H	36.9**	0.33	Bmag353	0.28 (Halcyon)

* $P < 0.05$; ** $P < 0.01$; n.s., not significant ($P > 0.05$).

^ASee Boyd *et al.* (2003).

^BSee Li *et al.* (2003).

^CRegression analysis conducted with composite interval mapping.

(1964). The authors further reported a large QTL effect for heading date on the long arm of chromosome 5H and that the QTL associated with awn emergence on 5H may be attributed to the segregation of alleles at the *Sh2* gene. Under NSW conditions, only 2 QTLs linked with awn emergence were identified on chromosomes 2H and 5H (Table 2). Karsai *et al.* (1997) found a possible interaction for heading date between the *Ppd* locus on chromosome 2H and *Sh2* in a Dicktoo × Morex DH population, and both loci explained >90% of phenotypic variation for heading date. The photoperiod-insensitive allele of *Ppd-H1* from Sloop favoured early flowering (ear emergence). Photoperiod-insensitive, dominant alleles of wheat *Ppd* genes have been reported to confer early flowering under both short and long day length (Worland 1996). An *ea_k* gene for determining 'earliness' under short day length is located on 1H (Stracke and Borner 1998). Takahashi and Yasuda (1971) reported that at least 3 physiological factors (vernalisation response, photoperiod response, and earliness) are responsible for heading date in barley. Vernalisation response has been shown to be strongly influenced by photoperiod (Roberts *et al.* 1988). Epistatic interactions among major loci of vernalisation response, photoperiod reaction, and earliness *per se*, and the effect of additional quantitative minor loci,

may be responsible for the fact that a large number of genomic regions have been identified as determinants of heading date (Karsai *et al.* 2001).

For spring v. winter habit, 3 chromosomal regions located on 2HS, the distal end of 4HL, and 5HL exhibited significant association in the Sloop × Halcyon DH population. Three genes, *Sh₁*, *Sh₂*, and *Sh₃*, located on 4HL, 5HL, and 1HL, respectively, have been reported to influence spring v. winter habit in barley (Takahashi and Yasuda 1971; Yasuda 1981). It is likely that QTLs located at 4HL and 5HL may be the same as the *Sh₁* and *Sh₂* genes associated with spring growth habit. The genes *Sh₂* and *eps5L* for spring habit and 'earliness *per se*' have been located on 5H (Laurie *et al.* 1994; Boyd *et al.* 2003). The vernalisation requirement gene (*Vrn1*) has also been mapped on chromosome 5A of wheat, which is homeologous to the spring habit gene (*Sh₂*) on chromosome 5H of barley (Galiba *et al.* 1995) and the *Sp1* locus (De Vries and Sybenga 1984; Plaschke *et al.* 1993) on chromosome 5R of rye. Since a large variation in growth habit was recorded in the Sloop × Halcyon DH population, it is possible that several genes may influence this trait. A multiple allele series at the *Sh₂* locus and complex epistatic interactions among loci were postulated to explain the range of growth habits existing in barley germplasm (Nilan 1964;

Takahashi and Yasuda 1971). QTL controlling traits (field survival, LT50, growth habit and crown fructan content) associated with winter hardiness in barley have also mapped to 5H (Hayes *et al.* 1993). Our results are consistent with the previous findings made. It was found that alleles from Sloop favoured early awn emergence, short BVP, and spring habit, whereas the alleles of Halcyon advanced the response to extended photoperiod.

In summary, several QTLs governing flowering time, measured as awn emergence, and plant height were located near the centromeric region of chromosome 2H and on 5H; hence, these genomic regions were 'hot spots' controlling various traits associated with plant development and awn emergence (flowering). These 'hot spots' may control various associated genes or may have pleiotropic effects. Coventry *et al.* (2003, this issue) found associations of *Ppd-H1* (2HS), *eps2* (2H centromeric), *Sh₁* (4HL), *Sh₂* (5HL), and *eps7HS* (7HS) loci with grain weight and size QTLs in barley.

QTL mapping for grain colour in DH population from Sloop × Halcyon

Two QTLs located on 2H and 3H exhibited significant associations with grain brightness (Table 2). Of these, the QTL located on chromosome 2H contributed the largest variation (20%). Alleles from both Sloop and Halcyon favoured the brightness of grain. Similar chromosomal regions on 2H and 3H have been associated with grain brightness in Alexis × Sloop populations (Li *et al.* 2003). The *ant-28* gene associated with the proanthocyanidin-free trait has also been mapped on 3H in barley (Garvin *et al.* 1998). A third QTL located on chromosome 4H near locus XP13/M50-4 (LRS 10.9, $r^2 = 11\%$), detected with simple regression analysis, was not significantly associated with grain brightness, although it has attained LRS close to the level of significance ($P = 0.05$). Composite interval analysis revealed that the loci on chromosome 3H (XP13/M57-3) and on 4H (XP13/M50-4) had (epistatic) gene interactions. By controlling this interaction, a significant QTL flanked with markers KSUA3c and P13/M50-4 on 4H was detected (Table 2).

Simple and composite interval mapping revealed a major QTL having main effects associated with grain redness (Min-A) on chromosome 4H. The marker Bmag353 detected a maximum 57% of phenotypic variance. The allele from Halcyon favoured this trait in the DH population of Sloop × Halcyon (Table 2). Halcyon and Sloop exhibited a distinct difference of 1.6 units in grain colour. No significant interactions were observed for grain redness.

For MinB (yellowness of grain), a major QTL with marker interval between P11/M48-105 and ABG472 on 4H exhibited main effects, accounting for 34% of phenotypic variation. Regression analysis also indicated that a QTL close to the end of 7HL near P13/M55-3 marker (LRS 11.2,

$r^2 = 12\%$) was close to significance to establish association with yellowness of grains. Composite analysis indicated that locus XP13/M50-4, which was associated with yellow grain colour on 4H, exhibited epistatic interactions with 3H. Controlling associated marker loci allowed detection of a new QTL flanked by BCD22 and P13/M58-2 markers on chromosome 3H. The locus XWG178 detected the maximum variability (14%) for this trait and had an LRS of 20.8, which was highly significant ($P < 0.0001$). Both alleles of Halcyon increased the yellowness of grain.

A major QTL associated with blue aleurone colour (scored visually) was located on chromosomes 4H and accounted for 58% of phenotypic variation (Table 3). The Halcyon allele gave blue aleurone colour in the DH population from Sloop × Halcyon. Our results showed that the major QTL identified for blue aleurone colour on 4H was the same as mapped for the loci controlling grain brightness, redness and yellowness (Table 2).

Mapping of QTLs for disease resistance in DH population from Sloop × Halcyon

Favourable alleles from Halcyon increased resistance to scald, NFNB, leaf rust, and powdery mildew in the DH population derived from Sloop × Halcyon (Table 3). A major gene for scald resistance was mapped on chromosome 3H and explained 24–59% of phenotypic variation under different seasons/conditions (Table 3).

For the NFNB resistance, a major QTL flanked with P11/M48-105 and ABG472 markers on chromosome 4H exhibited significant association. The XP13/M50-108 revealed maximum LRS and accounted for the 64% of total variation of net blotch resistance (Raman *et al.* 2003). Steffenson *et al.* (1996) also reported 2 genomic regions, one flanked with marker pairs ABG3 and ABG484 (LOD 11.1, $r^2 = 31\%$) on 4H and the second on the long arm of 6H flanked by KsuD17 and KsuA3D (LOD 4.5, $r^2 = 14\%$) associated with NFNB resistance. In the present investigation, the QTL located on 6H was not significant, but was very close to significance. The QTL identified on 4H for seedling resistance to NFNB may be allelic with the previously identified major locus (Steffenson *et al.* 1996). It may be possible to combine different QTL and major genes to develop broad-spectrum and high level resistance to *P. teres f. teres* (Raman *et al.* 2003). The Halcyon alleles for blue aleurone colour and NFNB resistance are close to the centromere on 4H.

On the basis of infection response to leaf rust pathotype 200P–, 2 significant QTLs were identified: one located near the centromere of chromosome 5H, and another on the long arm of chromosome 7H (Park *et al.* 2003, this issue). Alleles from Halcyon on 5H and from Sloop on chromosome 7H were in the direction of increasing leaf rust resistance to pathotype 200P– (Table 3). Significant interaction was observed between Xbmac96 on chromosome 5H and

Table 3. Chromosomal (Chr) regions associated with disease traits measured on the Sloop × Halcyon population
LRS, Likelihood ratio statistics; R^2 : regression coefficient explaining percentage of phenotypic variance

Traits	Chr	LRS	R^2	Marker with greatest effect	Favourable allele effect
Scald resistance (natural infection, 1999) ^A	3H	36.9**	0.52	Wg178	1.45 (Halcyon)
Scald resistance (straw infection, 1999) ^A	3H	50.6**	0.57	P13/M57-3	2.09 (Halcyon)
Scald resistance (straw infection, 2000) ^A	3H	31.3**	0.24	Bcd22	1.10 (Halcyon)
Scald resistance (glasshouse, 2001) ^A	3H	130.2**	0.59	P13/M57-3	1.09 (Halcyon)
Scald resistance (natural infection, 2001) ^A	3H	60.4**	0.48	P13/M57-3	2.67 (Halcyon)
Net form of net blotch (isolate NB50) ^B	4H	94.4**	0.64	P13/M50-108	2.03 (Halcyon)
Leaf rust (pathotype 200P-) ^C	5H	24.3**	0.23	Cdo795a, Bmac96, P14/M62-3, P13/M58-3	0.16 (Halcyon)
	7H	16.2*	0.16	Bmac755	0.13 (Sloop)
Leaf rust (pathotype 210P+) ^C	5H	156.9**	0.85	Bcd276	0.46 (Halcyon)
Leaf rust (pathotype 210P+) ^D	2H	12.6*	0.13	Bmac684	0.34 (Halcyon)
	5H	39.5**	0.35	P14/M62-3	0.58 (Halcyon)
	7H	12.1 n.s.	0.12	P11/M52-7, AWBMA15	0.37 (Halcyon)
Powdery mildew (Wagga Wagga) ^E	2H	20.6*	0.19	ABC454	0.22 (Halcyon)
	5H	17.6*	0.16	P14/M48-5	0.22 (Halcyon)
Powdery mildew (Kendenu) ^F	1H	15.1*	0.15	P13/M50-5	0.76 (Halcyon)
	2H	12.9*	0.13	Bmac684	0.72 (Halcyon)
	5H	13.5*	0.14	Cs1E1(b)	0.78 (Halcyon)

* $P < 0.05$; ** $P < 0.01$; n.s., not significant ($P > 0.05$).

^ALeaf scald screening under glasshouse and field conditions (see Genger *et al.* 2003).

^BNet form of net blotch seedling severity after inoculation with isolate NB50 (1 = clean, 10 = severe necrosis; see Raman *et al.* 2003).

^CLeaf rust seedling reaction to pathotype 200P- and 210P+ (see Park *et al.* 2003).

^DLeaf rust seedling reaction (isolate S2773; pathotype 210P+) at Hermitage Research Station, Qld.

^EPowdery mildew severity (1 = clean, 9 = severe infection) in field screening nursery at Wagga Wagga Agricultural Institute, NSW.

^FPowdery mildew severity (1 = clean, 9 = severe infection) in field screening at Kendenu, W. Aust.

Xbmac755 on 7H, associated with resistance to pathotype 200P- at a level of significance of $P = 10^{-6}$ (Park *et al.* 2003). Only one major QTL, explaining 85% of phenotypic variation was associated with resistance to pathotype 210P+ and this was located on chromosome 5H (Park *et al.* 2003). On the basis of infection response to *Puccinia hordei* isolate (210P+) scored at Hermitage Research Station, 3 QTLs were identified on chromosomes 2H, 5H, and 7H. Two QTLs mapped on 2H and 5H were significant, whereas the QTL on 7H was not significant but was very close to significance (LRS 12.1, LOD 2.6, Table 3).

For powdery mildew resistance, 3 genomic regions were identified that exhibited significant association with resistance to *Erysiphe graminis* f. sp. *hordei*. Two genomic regions mapped on 2H and 5H were detected in both experiments conducted at Wagga Wagga and Kendenu. However, another QTL, explaining 15% of phenotypic variance at Kendenu only, was located on 1H (Table 3). This difference between locations may be due to a different pathogen population, or to the small population size and stringent conditions used to declare the putative QTLs.

Validation

To validate the markers linked with resistance to NFNB under a different background, an experiment was conducted

at Hermitage Research Station, Warwick. The results confirm that the microsatellite marker EBmac906 can be used to predict the resistance for net blotch from F_2 individuals of the Ant29 × Halcyon population (Raman *et al.* 2003).

In summary, the Sloop × Halcyon DH population has been a valuable source of identification of marker loci associated with resistance to scald, net blotch, leaf rust, and powdery mildew, as well as blue aleurone colour and various components of phenology. This population has also been very useful for verification of QTL alleles from Sloop, especially for grain colour and leaf rust that have recently been identified in the Alexis × Sloop population (Barr *et al.* 2003). Phenotyping for various components of malting quality is in progress and identification of the associated QTLs may allow us to determine 'novel' alleles, if any. The Halcyon region on 4H near Bmag353 is associated with NFNB resistance and grain colour traits. However, it is uncertain whether this is due to linkage or due to pleiotropy. The marker linked to NFNB has been validated and would be very useful to monitor gene introgression for NFNB resistance and to increase the proportion of different favourable alleles while pyramiding genes conferring multiple disease resistance from diverse sources in the barley germplasm.

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