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**ISOLATION, CHARACTERISATION AND QUALITY TESTING
OF 1DS/1RS WHEAT-RYE RECOMBINANTS**

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>PREFACE</i>	<i>vi</i>
<i>ABSTRACT</i>	<i>vii</i>
<i>Declaration</i>	<i>ix</i>
<i>Acknowledgement</i>	<i>x</i>
CHAPTER 1: GENERAL INTRODUCTION	1
CHAPTER 2: REVIEW OF LITERATURE	6
2.1. INTRODUCTION	6
2.2. TRANSFER OF ALIEN GENETIC MATERIAL INTO WHEAT	7
2.2.1. Transfer between homologous chromosomes	7
2.2.2. Transfer between homoeologous chromosomes	11
2.2.2.1. Transfer of whole chromosomes: Amphiploids, Addition and Substitution lines	12
2.2.2.2. Transfer of a chromosome arm or chromosome segment	14
2.3. UTILISATION OF GENETIC MARKERS IN ALIEN GENE TRANSFER	21
2.4. SEED STORAGE PROTEINS AND THEIR ASSOCIATION WITH PHYSICAL DOUGH PROPERTIES	23
2.4.1. Protein quantity	24
2.4.2. Protein composition	24
2.4.3. Other characteristics related to the quality of wheat flour	26
2.4.4. Measurement of physical properties of wheat flour and dough	28
2.5. TRANSFERS OF RYE CHROMOSOMES TO WHEAT AND THEIR CHARACTERISTICS	29
2.5.1. Origin of translocation lines involving 1RS chromosome arm	30
2.5.2. Characteristics of 1RS-containing wheats	32
2.5.2.1. Disease resistance	32
2.5.2.2. Yield	32
2.5.2.3. Quality	33
2.5.3. Attempts to overcome the quality problems associated with 1RS	35
2.5.3.1. Utilisation of 1AL.1RS	36
2.5.3.2. Change of genetic background	36
2.5.3.3. Homoeologous recombination	39
CHAPTER 3: GENERAL METHODS	43
3.1. PROTEIN MARKERS	43
3.1.1. Extraction of endosperm protein	43
3.1.2. Electrophoresis	43

3.2. DNA-BASED MARKERS	44
3.2.1. Restriction Fragment Length Polymorphism	44
3.2.1.1. Small scale DNA isolation	44
3.2.1.2. Restriction Enzyme Digestion	45
3.2.1.3. Gel Electrophoresis	46
3.2.1.4. Southern Transfer	46
3.2.1.5. Hybridization and Stringency Washing of Membranes	47
3.2.1.6. Autoradiography	48
3.2.2. Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)	48
3.2.3. Squash Blot	49
3.3. QUALITY ASSESSMENT	49
3.3.1. Extensograph	50
3.3.2. Size Exclusion High Performance Liquid Chromatography (SE-HPLC)	50
3.4. CYTOLOGY	51
3.5. STEM RUST INOCULATION	51
CHAPTER 4: ISOLATION AND CHARACTERISATION OF NEW 1DS.1RS RECOMBINANTS	53
A. ISOLATION OF ADDITIONAL RECOMBINANTS	53
4A.1. INTRODUCTION	53
4A.2. MATERIAL AND METHODS	54
4A.2.1. Plant material and crossing procedure	54
4A.2.2. Marker loci used in the isolation of recombinant lines	56
4A.3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	57
4A.3.1. Criterion for detection of wheat-rye recombinants	57
4A.3.2. Isolation of recombinants showing dissociation of protein markers	57
4A.3.3. Confirmation of suspected recombinants from families 1, 2 and 3	60
4A.3.4. Origin of dissociation phenotypes in Family 4	63
4A.3.5. Further progeny test of dissociation phenotypes from Family 4	66
4A.3.6. A model to explain this phenomenon	69
4A.4. CONCLUSION	71
B. REDUCING THE LENGTH OF RYE CHROMATIN IN THE INTERSTITIAL 1DS.1RS RECOMBINANT (DRA-1)	72
4B.1. INTRODUCTION	72
4B.2. MATERIALS AND METHODS	74
4B.2.1. Plant material	74
4B.2.2. Crossing procedure	76
4B.2.3. Marker loci used for the isolation of recombinants	76
4B.2.4. Identification of backcross plants heterozygous for 1D and homozygous for ph1b	78
4B.2.5. Screening for new wheat-rye recombinants	79
4B.2.6. Further analysis of non-parental phenotypes through progeny test	79

4B.3. RESULTS	81
4B.3.1. Identification of Plants Heterozygous for Chromosome 1D and Homozygous ph1b	81
4B.3.2. Isolation of Recombinants	82
4B.3.3. Confirmation of Recombinants	86
4B.3.3.1. Putative recombinants T34-6 and T25-5	86
4B.3.3.2. Putative recombinant T6-1	87
4B.3.3.3. Putative recombinant T49-7	89
4B.3.4. Further analysis of putative recombinants T6-1 and T49-7	91
4B.3.4.1. Squash blot test for rye chromatin	91
4B.3.4.2. Restriction Fragment Length Polymorphism (RFLP)	92
4B.3.4.3. Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)	92
4B.4. DISCUSSION	96
CHAPTER 5: YIELD AND QUALITY TESTING OF RECOMBINANT LINES	99
5.1. INTRODUCTION	99
5.2. MATERIALS AND METHODS	102
5.2.1. Seed Materials	102
5.2.2. Backcrossing and production of homozygous lines	105
5.2.3. Field Experiments	106
5.2.3.1. Yield and quality characteristics of primary recombinants (Experiment 91/1)	110
5.2.3.2. Comparison of the yield and quality characteristics of primary recombinants with their normal 1D sister lines (Experiment 91/2)	110
5.2.3.3. Comparison of the yield and quality characteristics of derived recombinants and their normal 1D sister lines (Experiment 93/1)	111
5.2.3.4. Yield and quality characteristics of primary versus derived recombinants (Experiment 93/2)	111
5.2.4. Quality assessment	112
5.2.5. Statistical analysis	115
5.3. RESULTS	116
5.3.1. Experiment 91/1. Yield and quality parameters of primary recombinants and one derived recombinant	116
5.3.1.1. Analysis of variance from individual sites	116
5.3.1.2. Analysis of variance combined over sites	116
5.3.1.3. Comparison of individual lines for yield and extensograph parameters	118
5.3.1.4. Variation in SE-HPLC fractions	121
5.3.2. Experiment 91/2. Yield and quality parameters of primary recombinants versus their normal 1D sister lines and controls	126
5.3.2.1. Comparison of individual lines for yield and extensograph parameters	126
5.3.2.2. Variation in SE-HPLC fractions	130

5.3.3.	Experiment 93/1. Yield and quality parameters of derived recombinants, their normal 1D sister lines, the recurrent parent Gabo and the translocation 1DL.1RS	133
5.3.3.1.	Comparison of individual lines for yield and extensograph parameters	133
5.3.3.2.	Variation in SE-HPLC fractions	137
5.3.4.	Experiment 93/2. Yield and quality parameters of five primary recombinants, five derived recombinants and controls	140
5.3.4.1.	Comparison of individual lines for yield and extensograph parameters	140
5.3.4.2.	Variation in SE-HPLC fractions	144
5.4	DISCUSSION	147
5.4.1.	Comparison involving primary recombinants	147
5.4.2.	Comparison involving derived recombinant lines	149
5.4.3.	Extensograph vs HPLC parameters as measures of flour quality	150
CHAPTER 6:	GENERAL DISCUSSION	153
	The role of secalin in quality	159
	The critical test for the role of secalins in dough quality	159
	A new line for wheat breeding programs	161
REFERENCES		162

ABSTRACT

The incorporation of agriculturally useful genes into wheat from distantly related and uncultivated relatives has attracted much interest among wheat breeders over recent decades. Cereal rye, especially the short arm of rye chromosome 1R, is known as a useful source of genes for disease resistance and enhanced agronomic performances.

However, despite the numerous beneficial effects associated with these wheat-rye translocation lines, their inferior bread making quality has severely limited the use of this breeding material in some countries, including Australia. Several approaches have been used to eliminate or reduce these deleterious effects on the quality of wheat-rye translocation lines whilst still retaining the disease resistance character.

This research project had two overall objectives. The first study was to investigate the production of new wheat-rye recombinant lines carrying different lengths of rye chromosome in 1DL.1RS translocation lines. Secondly, this study attempted to elucidate the cause of the quality defect in 1DL.1RS wheat-rye recombinant lines by assessing the quality of each recombinant which carried different lengths of the rye 1RS chromosome segments.

The main objective was to produce recombinant lines with a smaller interstitial rye segment carrying the rye stem rust resistance gene and lacking as much other rye chromatin as possible. Following a previously published procedure, an experiment was carried out to select for recombination between the *Sec-1* and closely linked *SrR* loci by inducing a second round of homoeologous recombination in the derived

recombinant DRA-1 which already possessed all the known wheat storage proteins on chromosome arm 1DS.

The number of confirmed wheat-rye recombinants detected was low giving a frequency of 0.1%. Two new recombinants found from this study carry the least amount of rye chromatin resulted from splitting the rye segment of the derived recombinant DRA-1. Recombinant T6-1 ($Sec-I^-SrR^+$) will be the most critical recombinant, since it only carries the target gene for stem rust resistance without secalins. On the other hand, R49-7 ($Sec-I^+SrR^-$) is not expected to be of direct value in wheat breeding since it contains secalins and does not possess the stem rust resistance gene. However these recombinants are valuable sources for determining whether the secalin gene is a contributing factor towards the quality defect in translocation lines involving 1RS chromosome.

The availability of different types of 1DL.1RS wheat-rye recombinants with different lengths of rye segment has provided a valuable resource to elucidate the factors involved in the low quality, especially the low dough strength, in these wheat-rye recombinants. However, it has not given a simple answer as to the role of *Sec-I* gene in this problem.

In general, the dough quality parameters, especially dough strength of recombinant lines, were significantly better than the original translocation 1DL.1RS, but still less than the normal wheat cultivar Gabo.

In summary, many factors contribute to the bread-making quality of wheat-rye recombinants. The recombinant, which has all the wheat storage proteins with the shortest rye chromatin containing stem rust resistance gene without the inclusion of rye secalins will be the most useful, as has been produced in this study.