

**An investigation of bread wheat meiosis  
via proteomics and gene-targeted  
approaches: the isolation and  
characterisation of four meiotic proteins**

by

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A thesis submitted for the degree of  
Doctor of Philosophy

at

The University of Adelaide

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August 2011



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**Kelvin H.P. Khoo, Amanda J. Able & Jason A. Able (2011)** Poor homologous synapsis 1 (*PHS1*) interacts with chromatin but does not co-localise with *ASYN*apsis 1 (*ASY1*) during early meiosis in bread wheat. *BMC Plant Biology* (submitted).

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## **Abstract**

During the early stages of meiosis, three key processes occur: chromosome pairing, synapsis and DNA recombination. Chromosomes are first replicated during interphase, after which they are aligned together in a non-random fashion to enable the installation of the synaptonemal complex (SC) along the chromosome axes leading to synapsis. Recombination machinery then enables strand invasion to occur, which then leads to the formation of chiasmata and ultimately, genetic recombination. Meiosis is further complicated in organisms with multiple genomes such as allohexaploid bread wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L.) which has three genomes (inherited from similar yet distinct progenitors), each with seven chromosomes. Thus a large number of proteins are likely to be required for the successful execution of this biological process.

The first approach in this study used proteomics to identify proteins that have possible roles during the early stages of wheat meiosis. Total protein samples isolated from staged meiocytes (specifically from pooled stages of pre-meiotic interphase to pachytene and from telophase I to telophase II) of wild-type Chinese Spring and the *Pairing homoeologous* deletion mutants, *ph1b* and *ph2a*, were analysed by 2-dimensional gel electrophoresis (2DGE). This resulted in identifying six differentially expressed protein spots (designated KK01 to KK06); from which three full-length coding sequences and one partial coding sequence of the candidate genes encoding these proteins were isolated (a putative speckle-type POZ protein, a pollen-specific SF21-like protein, a putative HSP70-like protein, as well as a partial hexose transporter peptide). Southern blot analysis revealed that these genes were spread across four different chromosome groups (2, 7, 5 and

1 respectively) with a copy on each of the three genomes (A, B and D). Q-PCR analysis of these four genes across the two pooled meiotic stages and various genotypes suggests that both *KK01* and *KK06* have roles during the early stages of meiosis and that they may be directly/indirectly regulated by a combination of elements within the *Ph1* and *Ph2* loci. The high level of *KK03* mRNA transcript detected in the later stages of meiosis is consistent with its role as a pollen-specific protein-encoding gene. In contrast, *KK04* expression suggests that it is post-transcriptionally regulated resulting in *KK04* being translated in the *ph2a* mutant. Both the speckle-type POZ protein and putative dnaK/HSP70 protein were also shown to interact with DNA *in vitro*.

The second approach of this study focused on isolating and characterising wheat homologues of two known meiotic proteins, namely *PHS1* and *ZYP1*. In the maize *PHS1* mutant *Zmphs1-0*, homologous chromosome pairing and synapsis are significantly affected, with homoeologous chromosome interactions occurring between multiple partners. More recently, co-immunolocalisation assays using anti-PHS1 and anti-RAD50 antibodies showed that both proteins had similar localisation patterns in the wild-type maize plants and that RAD50 localisation into the nucleus was affected by the absence of PHS1 thus implicating PHS1 as a regulator of RAD50 nuclear transport. In this study, the full-length coding transcript of wheat *PHS1* (*TaPHS1*) was isolated, sequenced and characterised. *TaPHS1* is located on chromosome group 7 with copies on the A, B and D genomes. Expression profiling of *TaPHS1* in both wild-type and the *ph1b* mutant during and post-meiosis show elevated levels of *TaPHS1* expression in the *ph1b* background. The *TaPHS1* protein has sequence similarity to other plant PHS1/PHS1-like proteins but also possesses a unique region of oligopeptide

repeat units. DNA-binding assays using both full-length and partial peptides of *TaPHS1* show conclusively that *TaPHS1* is able to interact with both single- and double-stranded DNA *in vitro*, even though no known conserved DNA-binding domain was identified within the *TaPHS1* sequence, indicating *TaPHS1* possesses a novel uncharacterised DNA-binding domain. Immunolocalisation data from assays conducted using an antibody raised against *TaPHS1* demonstrates that *TaPHS1* associates with chromatin during early meiosis, with the signal persisting beyond chromosome synapsis. Furthermore, *TaPHS1* does not appear to co-localise with the asynapsis protein – *TaASY1* – possibly suggesting that these proteins are independently coordinated. Combined, these results provide new insight into the potential functions of PHS1 during early meiosis in bread wheat.

Similar to PHS1, Arabidopsis knock-down mutants of ZYP1 also display non-homologous chromosome interactions. ZYP1 has previously been characterised as a SC protein required for holding homologous chromosomes together in other species. In this study, the full-length coding sequence of the wheat *ZYP1* (*TaZYP1*) homologue was isolated, sequenced and characterised. Expression of *TaZYP1* analysed by Q-PCR across wild-type, *ph1b* and multiple *Taasy1* mutants during meiosis showed an approximate 1.3-fold increase in the *ph1b* mutant. In addition, DNA-binding assays demonstrate that *TaZYP1* interacts with dsDNA under *in vitro* conditions while immunolocalisation (using an anti-*TaZYP1* antibody) across wild-type, *ph1b* and *Taasy1* revealed the spatial and temporal localisation pattern of *TaZYP1*. Taken together, these results show that *TaZYP1* plays an identical role to its homologues in other species as a SC protein and is affected by reduced levels of *TaASY1* in wheat.

This body of work utilised a two-pronged approach to investigate meiosis in wheat with the overall outcome of identifying new meiotic proteins as well as characterising the wheat equivalents of two known meiotic proteins previously reported in other organisms. To this end, two previously uncharacterised wheat proteins with possible roles (involving interactions with chromatin) during meiosis have been successfully identified using the proteomics approach while both *TaPHS1* and *TaZYP1* have been characterised with antibodies raised against both these proteins. The characterisation of *TaPHS1* and its DNA-binding capabilities, both *in vitro* and *in planta*, has shed light on a previously unknown function of the PHS1 protein while the localisation profile of *TaZYP1* in *Taasyl* mutant lines has contributed to our understanding of how ASY1 levels can affect chromosome pairing in wheat.

## **Declaration**

I declare that the work presented in this thesis contains no material which has been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma in any university or other tertiary institution to Kelvin Khoo Han Ping, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, this thesis does not contain any material previously written or published by another person, except where due reference is made in the text.

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\* **Kelvin H.P. Khoo, Amanda J. Able & Jason A. Able** (2011) Poor Homologous Synapsis 1 (PHS1) interacts with chromatin but does not co-localise with ASYNapsis 1 (ASY1) during early meiosis in bread wheat. *BMC Plant Biology*, (submitted).

Kelvin Khoo Han Ping  
May 2011



## **Acknowledgements**

What a rollercoaster ride these past three and a half years have been. There are so many people I need to thank for helping me conquer this proverbial Everest.

First and foremost: Dr Jason Able – my principle supervisor. Thank you for your constant guidance and support throughout this project. Thank you for pushing me to be the best that I can be and for believing in my abilities. My achievements are a reflection of your commitment and dedication to this project. I am grateful for the passion for science that you have instilled in me and I hope to keep that the rest of my scientific career. I am sure that in the years to come, I will look back fondly on my years spent in the Able Meiosis Lab.

I would also like to acknowledge my co-supervisors and all of the other people that have guided me or provided a service: Dr Amanda Able, Dr Tim Chataway, Miss Margie Pallotta, Dr Neil Shirley, and Mr Jelle Lahnstein. Amanda, thank you for your supervision, guidance, and assistance throughout my project. Tim, thank you for your proteomics expertise and the use of your proteomics equipment. Margie, thank you for the use of your unbelievable nulli-tetra membranes. Neil, indeed you are the guru of all things Q-PCR. Thank you for your help and guidance in all things Q-PCR related. Jelle, thank you for the use of your proteomics equipment and for your useful experimental advice.

I would also like to acknowledge all of the members of the Able Lab over the years: Dr Scott Boden, Dr Wayne Crismani, Dr William Bovill, Dr Hayley Jolly, and Dr Damien Lightfoot. Thank you all for your guidance in experimental procedures, for taking the time to answer all my questions, for nuggets of wisdom and advice – in both science and life, and also for all the laughs we have had as a

group. It has been a pleasure working with all of you and I will always cherish these early years of my scientific career that I have spent with you all.

Thank you also to all the funding bodies that have made this research possible: The Australian Government, the University of Adelaide, the Farrer Memorial Trust, and the Grains Research and Development Corporation.

On a personal note, I would like to acknowledge my dear parents - Mum and Dad, for their ever-present love, support, guidance and prayers in my life. I thank you with utmost gratitude and sincerity for all the sacrifices that you have both made for my education, life and future. Though I know that I will never be able to repay my debt to you both, I hope that this achievement has made it worthwhile and that I have made you proud. To Alex and Adriana, thank you both for giving me a safe haven to rest in and for all the good times we have had together. To the whole Khoo family, I could never wish for a family better than ours - I love each and every one of you with all my heart.

I would also like to thank my close friends here in Adelaide that have made this path a little easier to walk. Indeed, it is not only in Liverpool that you never walk alone. Thank you to the whole Tan family, Hong Yau, Jingwen and Wan Chin for the bonds of friendship that we share. Last but not least, thank you Hong Pin, for being the loving, caring and patient person that you are. Thank you for turning good times into great times and bad ones into good ones. Thank you for always making me smile and for your unwavering support through these last few months.

## Glossary of abbreviations

<b>Abbreviation</b>	<b>Full term</b>
2DGE	2-dimensional gel electrophoresis
3'	three prime
5'	five prime
9mer	9 base pair nucleotide
$\alpha$ -dCTP	alpha-deoxycytidine triphosphate
°C	degrees Celsius
<i>AFD1</i>	<i>Absence of <u>F</u>irst <u>D</u>ivision <u>1</u></i>
Amp	ampicillin
<i>At</i>	<i>Arabidopsis thaliana</i>
<i>ASY1</i>	<i><u>AS</u>Ynapsis <u>1</u></i>
BCIP/NBT	5-bromo-4-chloro-3-indolyl phosphate/nitro blue tetrazolium
BLAST	Basic Local Alignment and Search Tool
<i>Bo</i>	<i>Brassica oleracea</i>
bp	base pair
BSA	Bovine Serum Albumin
BTB	<u>B</u> ric-a- <u>B</u> rac, <u>T</u> ramtrack, <u>B</u> road domain
BW26	Bob White 26 cultivar of bread wheat
<i>CDK</i>	<i><u>C</u>yclin <u>D</u>ependent <u>K</u>inase</i>
cDNA	complimentary deoxyribonucleic acid
<i>Ce</i>	<i>Caenorhabdatis elegans</i>
CHAPS	3-[(3-Cholanidopropyl)Dimethylammonio]-1

CL	cell lysate
CT	cycle threshold
cv.	cultivar
D-A	diplojene to anaphase I pooled stage
Da	Dalton
DABCO	diazabicyclo-[2,2,2] octane
DAPI	4',6-diamidino-2-phenylindole
DIGE	2-dimensional fluorescence difference gel electrophoresis
<i>DMC1</i>	<i>Disrupted Meiotic cDNA 1</i>
DNA	deoxyribonucleic acid
dNTP	deoxynucleotide triphosphate
ds	double-stranded
DSB	double-stranded break
DTT	dithiothreitol
<i>E</i>	Expect value
EBT	eriochrome black T
EDTA	ethylene diamine tetra-acetic acid
<i>ELP1</i>	<i>Elongator Complex Protein 1</i>
EST	expressed sequence tag
FISH	fluorescent <i>in situ</i> hybridisation
FT	flow-through
g	gram
<i>GAPDH</i>	<i>GlycerAldehyde-3-Phosphate DeHydrogenase</i>
<i>Ha</i>	<i>Helianthus annuus</i>

His	histidine
hr	hour(s)
<i>Hs</i>	<i>Homo sapiens</i>
HSP70/70-2	Heat Shock Protein 70/70-2
<i>Hv</i>	<i>Hordeum vulgare</i>
<i>HYP6</i>	<u><i>Hypothetical 6</i></u>
IgG	immunoglobulin G
IEF	isoelectric focusing
IPTG	isopropyl-1-thio-P-D-galactoside
kb	kilobase
KCl	potassium chloride
kD	kilo Dalton
L	ladder/molecular weight marker
LB	Luria Bertani
μL	microlitre
μg	microgram
μM	micromolar
M	molar
MATH	<u>M</u> ephrin <u>a</u> nd <u>T</u> RAF <u>h</u> omology domain
MALDI-TOF/TOF	Matrix-Assisted Laser Desorption Ionisation Time-of-Flight tandem mass-spectrometry
Mb	megabase
MCS	maleimidocaproyl-N-hydroxysuccinimide
MES	2-(N-morpholino)-ethane sulphonic acid
MFS	Major Facilitator Superfamily

mg	milligram
<i>Mm</i>	<i>Mus musculus</i>
mM	millimolar
min	minute(s)
<i>MLH3</i>	<u><i>Mut L Homologue 3</i></u>
<i>MND1</i>	<u><i>Meiotic Nuclear Divisions 1</i></u>
mRNA	messenger ribonucleic acid
<i>MRE11</i>	<u><i>Meiotic REcombination 11</i></u>
MRN	MND1-RAD50-NBS1 protein complex
<i>MSH4/5</i>	<u><i>MutS Homologue 4/5</i></u>
MS/MS	tandem mass spectrometry
MW	molecular weight
NaCl	sodium chloride
<i>NBS1</i>	<u><i>Nijmegen Break Syndrome 1</i></u>
NCBI	National Center of Biotechnology Information
ng	nanogram
Ni-NTA	nickel-nitrilotriacetic acid
nm	nanometre
NMR	nuclear magnetic resonance
NT	nullisomic-tetrasomic
ORF	open reading frame
<i>Os</i>	<i>Oryza sativa</i>
P	probability
PBS	phosphate buffered saline
PCR	polymerase chain reaction

<i>Ph1/2</i>	<u>Pairing homeologous 1/2</u>
<i>PHS1</i>	<u>Poor Homologous Synapsis 1</u>
pI	isoelectric potential
PM-LP	pre-meiotic interphase to pachytene pooled stage
PVP	polyvinyl pyrrolidone
PVPP	polyvinyl polypyrrolidone
Q-PCR	quantitative real-time PCR
r	correlation coefficient
R40	40 $\mu\text{g } \mu\text{L}^{-1}$ RNase in $1 \times \text{TE}$
<i>RAD50/51</i>	<u>RADIation sensitive 50/51</u>
<i>Rc</i>	<i>Ricinus communis</i>
RNA	ribonucleic acid
RNAi	RNA interference
RNase	ribonuclease
<i>Rr</i>	<i>Rattus rattus</i>
rpm	revolutions per minute
s	second(s)
<i>Sb</i>	<i>Sorghum bicolor</i>
<i>Sc</i>	<i>Saccharomyces cerevisiae</i>
SC	synaptonemal complex
SDS	sodium dodecyl sulphate
SDS-PAGE	SDS - polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis
<i>SF21/21C1</i>	<u>Sunflower 21/21 variant C1</u>
SMC	Structural Maintenance of Chromosomes domain
ss	single-stranded

SSC	standard saline citrate
<i>SPO11</i>	<i>SPO</i> rulation-deficient <u>11</u>
TI-TII	telophase I to telophase II pooled stage
<i>Ta</i>	<i>Triticum aestivum</i>
<i>Taq</i>	<i>Thermus aquaticus</i>
TCA	trichloroacetic acid
T-DNA	transfer DNA
TE	Tris EDTA solution
T-IP	tetrad to immature pollen pooled stage
T <sub>m</sub>	melting temperature
Tris	tris(hydroxymethyl)aminomethane
TUC	thiourea-urea-CHAPS
U	units
UV	ultra-violet
V	volts
Vhr	volt hours
<i>Vv</i>	<i>Vitis vinifera</i>
v/v	volume per volume
w/v	weight per volume
X-gal	5-bromo-4-chloro-3-indolyl-P-D-galactopyranoside
Y2H	yeast-2-hybrid
<i>Zm</i>	<i>Zea mays</i>
<i>ZIP1/ZYP1/ZEP1</i>	<i>Molecular Zipper 1</i>