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Development of Single Nucleotide Polymorphism Markers for the Wheat Curl Mite Resistance Gene Cmc4

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RESEARCH

Development of Single Nucleotide Polymorphism Markers for the Wheat Curl Mite Resistance Gene *Cmc4*

Jixin Zhao, Nader R. Abdelsalam, Luaay Khalaf, Wen-Po Chuang, Lanfei Zhao, C. Michael Smith, Brett Carver, and Guihua Bai*

ABSTRACT

Wheat curl mite (*Aceria tosichella* Keifer) is an important wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L. em. Thell.) pest in many wheat-growing regions worldwide. Mite feeding damage not only directly affects wheat yield, but *A. tosichella* also transmits *Wheat streak mosaic virus* (WSMV). Wheat resistance to *A. tosichella*, therefore, helps control WSMV. OK05312 (PI 670019) is an advanced breeding line released from Oklahoma that shows a high level of *A. tosichella* resistance. To map the gene(s) conditioning wheat resistance to *A. tosichella* in OK05312, a genetic linkage map was constructed using single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) markers derived from genotyping-by-sequencing (GBS) and a population of 186 recombinant inbred lines (RILs) from the cross 'Jerry' (PI 632433)/OK05312. Seedlings of both parents and the RIL population were infested by *A. tosichella* Biotype 1 in greenhouse experiments. One major quantitative trait locus was identified on the short arm of chromosome 6D, which corresponds to the previously reported gene *Cmc4* for *A. tosichella* resistance. This gene explained up to 71% of the phenotypic variation and was delimited in a 1.7-Mb (\sim 3.3-cM) region by SNPs 370SNP7523 and 370SNP1639. We successfully converted 12 GBS-SNPs into Kompetitive allele specific polymerase chain reaction (KASP) markers. Two of them tightly linked to *Cmc4* were validated to be highly diagnostic in a US winter wheat population and can be used for marker-assisted breeding for incorporation of *Cmc4* into new wheat cultivars.

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Abbreviations: BLAST, Basic Local Alignment Search Tool; ELISA, enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay; GBS, genotyping-by-sequencing; KASP, Kompetitive allele specific polymerase chain reaction; LRR, leucine-rich repeat; MAS, marker-assisted selection; NBS, nucleotide binding site; PCR, polymerase chain reaction; QTL, quantitative trait locus; RFLP, restriction fragment length polymorphism; RIL, recombinant inbred line; SNP, single nucleotide polymorphism; SSR, simple sequence repeats; TIR, Toll interleukin-1 receptor; UNEAK, Universal Network-Enabled Analysis Kit; WSMV, *Wheat streak mosaic virus*.

THE WHEAT CURL MITE (*Aceria tosichella* Keifer) is a micro-
scopic (70 \times 250 µm), soft-bodied, yellow-white, elongated arthropod of the order Acari and family Eriophyidae. *Aceria tosichella* was first described from tulip bulbs (Liliaceae) by Keifer in 1938 and later reported from onion (*Allium cepa* L.), garlic (*Allium sativum* L.), and several grass species (Poaceae), including common wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L. em. Thell.) (Slykhuis, 1955; Connin, 1956). A single female can produce more than three million eggs in 60 d under ideal conditions (Navia et al., 2013). *Aceria tosichella* may cause complete leaf trapping when infestation occurs

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in young plants and cause mild rolling of leaf edges when infestations occur in older plants during spring (Staples and Allington, 1956).

More importantly, *A. tosichella* transmits *Wheat streak mosaic virus* (WSMV) (Slykhuis 1955), *Wheat mosaic virus* (WMoV), formerly known as *High Plains virus* (HPV) (Seifers et al., 1997; Skare et al., 2006; Hadi et al., 2011), *Brome streak mosaic virus* (BrSMV) (Götz and Maiss, 1995), and *Triticum mosaic virus* (TriMV) (Seifers et al., 2008, 2009). Virus symptoms include yellowing and rosette leaves and stunted plants, which usually can be observed on winter wheat as it undergoes stem elongation after winter dormancy. Outbreaks of WSMV are more severe if *A. tosichella* infestation occurs earlier during vegetative growth stages under warm temperatures (Wegulo et al., 2008). Therefore, *A. tosichella* is one of the most important wheat pests in the Great Plains of the United States and Canada, as well as in many other wheat-producing countries of Asia, Australia, Europe, and South America (Slykhuis, 1955; Keifer, 1969; Shevchenko et al., 1970; Martin et al., 1984; Harvey et al., 1990, 2002; Conner et al., 1991; Navia et al., 2013).

Given that no single effective measure exists for control of *A. tosichella*, genetic resistance in wheat has proven to be the most economical and environmentally safe strategy for reducing yield losses due to the combined effects of resistance to *A. tosichella* and associated viruses (Smith, 1999). To date, several genes conferring *A. tosichella* resistance have been reported. Thomas and Conner (1986) reported the first *A. tosichella* resistance gene (*Cmc1*) to be transferred from *Aegilops tauschii* (Coss.) Schmal. [syn. *Ae. squarrosa* L.; *Triticum tauschii* (Coss.) Schmal.] to wheat chromosome 6D (Thomas and Conner, 1986; Whelan and Thomas, 1989). *Cmc2* resides on a translocation from *Agropyron elongatum* (Host) P. Beauv. in the same wheat 6DL chromosome (Martin et al., 1976; Whelan and Hart, 1988). *Cmc3* is a gene on the 1AL.1RS translocation of rye (*Secale cereale* L.) in the wheat cultivar 'TAM 107' (PI 495594) and the breeding line KS96WGRC40 (PI 604225) (Malik et al., 2003b). KS96WGRC40 also carries an *Ae. tauschii-*derived *A. tosichella* resistance gene, *Cmc4*, on the short arm of chromosome 6D (Malik et al., 2003a). Although *Cmc1*, *Cmc2*, and *Cmc4* are all on the chromosome 6D, they are independent loci (Malik et al., 2003a). In addition, several other unnamed genes have been reported: one from *Haynaldia villosa* (L.) Schur in a T6AL·6VS translocation line (Chen et al., 1996), one from wheat–*Thinopyrum intermedium* (Podp.) Barkworth & DR Dewey partial amphiploids (Chen et al., 1998, 2003), and one in a wheat–*Thinopyrum ponticum* 6Ae/6DL Robertsonian translocation line (Thomas et al., 1998). More recently, a new gene, *Cmc_{TAM112}*, has been mapped on 6DS from a Texas cultivar 'TAM 112' (PI 643143) (Dhakal et al., 2018). However, its relationship with other genes on chromosome 6D is unknown.

In a previous study, Malik et al. (2003a) used a $F_{2,3}$ population derived from the cross KS96WGRC40 (*Cmc4*)/'Wichita' (Cltr 11952, *A. tosichella* susceptible) to locate *Cmc4* on the distal end of 6DS at a \sim 10.5-cM interval between markers *Xgdm141* and *XksuG8*. However, those two markers are still too far from *Cmc4* and are not useful for marker-assisted selection (MAS). Another marker *Xwms904* was reported to be closely linked to *Cmc4*, but its primer sequence has been patented and is not publicly available for breeding selection (Malik et al., 2003a). In addition, they have not been validated in diverse genetic backgrounds. In the present study, we confirmed that the *A. tosichella* resistance gene in OK05312 is *Cmc4*, fine mapped *Cmc4* using genotyping-by-sequencing (GBS)-based single nucleotide polymorphism (GBS-SNP) markers, and further converted a set of closely linked GBS-SNPs into high-throughput Kompetitive allele specific polymerase chain reaction (KASP) markers (Semagn et al., 2013) for efficient incorporation of *Cmc4* into new wheat cultivars in breeding programs.

MATERIALS AND METHODS Plant Materials

A population of 186 $F_{5.6}$ recombinant inbred lines (RILs) was developed from the cross of 'Jerry'/OK05312 using single-seed descent. Jerry, developed by North Dakota State University, is a hard winter hexaploid wheat derived from the cross 'Roughrider'/ND7571//'Arapahoe' and is susceptible to *A. tosichella* (Peel et al., 2004). OK05312 is an advanced hexaploid hard winter wheat breeding line with the pedigree TX93V5919/ KS96WGRC40//OK94P549/KS96WGRC34 (PI 604219) and was developed by Oklahoma State University in cooperation with the USDA-ARS (Cox et al., 1999; Carver et al., 2016). It has better agronomic traits than KS96WGRC40 and was thus released as an agronomically improved source of *Cmc4* for *A. tosichella* resistance. The wheat cultivar 'Jagger' (PI 593688) was used as an *A. tosichella*-susceptible check and TAM 107, which contains *Cmc3*, as an *A. tosichella* Type 1 resistant check (Harvey and Martin, 1992; Harvey et al., 1997; Sears et al., 1997, Dhakal et al., 2017). Validation with KASP markers was conducted using a natural US winter wheat population included elite breeding lines from regional performance nurseries and newly released cultivars. OK05312 was included in the population as the positive control.

Wheat Curl Mite Maintenance and Infestation

Greenhouse experiments were started on 10 Mar. 2014 (Exp. I) and 25 Apr. 2014 (Exp. II) at Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS. Biotype 1 of *A. tosichella* was used for infestation because it is predominant in Kansas and used in several previous studies (Malik et al., 2003a, 2003b). The Biotype 1 colony originated from Tripp County, South Dakota, and was collected and supplied courtesy of Dr. Ada Szczepaniec, South Dakota State University, maintained on the wheat curl mite-susceptible wheat cultivar Jagger, and periodically verified by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) using the ITS1 marker (Malik, 2001). Wheat curl mite eggs are periodically

transferred to healthy plants to provide viruliferous wheat curl mites. For mite infestation, plants of the RIL population were grown in 72-cell germination trays containing Pro-Mix 'Bx' potting mix (Premier ProMix). Five plants per genotype were grown in each experiment without replication. A total of five plants per parent and control were planted in the first experiment, and 10 plants per parent and control were planted in the second experiment. To phenotype plant reaction to *A. tosichella*, the leaf whorls of five test plants of each RIL and control were infested with 10 viruliferous *A. tosichella* adult mites at the two-leaf stage, and plants were covered by a mite-proof cage made of $36-\mu m$ mesh and left undisturbed for 21 d at 24/20°C day/night, and a photoperiod of 14/10 h light/dark for development of mite and virus symptoms. Plants were scored individually for resistance or susceptibility at 21 d after mite infestation based on the degree of symptom expression in the susceptible control plants. Plants with normal leaves were rated as resistant, and plants with curled or trapped leaves were scored as susceptible. In addition, leaves of the five seedlings per genotype from the 10 March experiment were pooled and subjected to enzyme-linked immunosorbent assays (ELISAs) for WSMV, using a protocol described previously (Chuang et al., 2017).

DNA Extraction

Leaf tissue from each genotype was sampled at the two-leaf stage into 1.1-mL-deep well plates with each well containing a 3.2-mm stainless steel bead. The plates with tissue were freeze dried for 48 h in a freeze dryer (Thermo Fisher) and shaken in a mixer mill (Retsch) at 25 cycles s−1 for 5 min. Genomic DNA was extracted using a modified cetyltrimethyl ammonium bromide method (Bai et al., 1999).

Genotyping-by-Sequencing Library Construction and SNP Identification

A GBS library was constructed for 186 RILs and two parents in two 96-well plates following Poland et al. (2012). Parental samples had three replications each. In brief, DNA samples were digested with the *PstI*-HF (high fidelity) and *MspI* restriction enzymes (New England BioLabs), and ligated to barcoded adapters and a Y common adaptor using T4 DNA ligase (New England BioLabs). All ligation products in the two 96-well plates were pooled and cleaned up using the QIAquick PCR Purification Kit (Qiagen). Primers complementary to both adapters were used for PCR. The PCR products were then cleaned up again using the QIAquick PCR Purification Kit and size selected for a range of 250 to 300 bp in an E-gel system (Life Technologies). The DNA concentration was estimated in the Qubit 2.0 fluorometer using a Qubit dsDNA HS Assay Kit (Life Technologies). The size-selected library was sequenced for three runs on an Ion Proton system (Life Technologies).

Single nucleotide polymorphisms were called using a reference-free Universal Network-Enabled Analysis Kit (UNEAK) pipeline implemented in the TASSEL (Bradbury et al., 2007) because the wheat reference genome was not available in 2014 when the GBS was analyzed, and also because the UNEAK pipeline directly provided GBS sequences that carry target SNPs from the parents and are therefore more accurate for KASP marker design than the sequences from the Chinese Spring reference in the reference-based pipeline. Raw sequence

reads were parsed and assigned to samples according to barcodes and trimmed to 64 bp in length. To identify SNPs in the population, all pairs of tags were evaluated first for 1- or 2-bp differences. Biallelic SNPs were determined by querying the filtered tags for pairs of sequences (Poland et al., 2012) if they differed in only one or two SNPs. Only the SNPs that were present between parents and in at least 80% genotypes of the population were used for further map construction. Because RILs were used for library construction, SNPs with heterozygotes >10% of the total number of RILs were discarded to reduce the false positive results.

Analysis of SSR Markers

Three simple sequence repeat **(**SSR) markers, *Xgdm141* and *Xwms904* closely linked to *Cmc4* (Malik et al., 2003a) and *Xscm9* on rye chromosome arm 1RS, were analyzed to verify presence of *Cmc4* and absence of *Cmc3* in the RIL population. The PCR amplifications were performed in a Tetrad Peltier DNA engine (Bio-Rad Laboratories) following Malik et al. (2003a). The PCR products were separated on an ABI PRISM 3730 DNA analyzer (Applied Biosystems). The data were scored using GeneMarker (SoftGenetics, 2014).

Linkage Map Construction and QTL Mapping

A linkage map was initially constructed using SNPs generated from GBS using the 'Regression' function in JoinMap version 4.0 (Van Ooijen, 2006). Recombination fractions were converted to centimorgans using the Kosambi function (Kosambi, 1944). The linkage groups were assigned to chromosomes based on the previously published Chinese Spring reference genome RefSeq v1.0 by The International Wheat Genome Sequencing Consortium (IWGSC, 2018). Phenotypic data from the two experiments were separately analyzed for quantitative trait locus (QTL) detection, and mean infestation rates from the two experiments were also calculated for QTL detection. Quantitative trait locus mapping was conducted using composite interval mapping modules in QTL Cartographer version 2.5 (Wang et al., 2012). Significant LOD threshold of three was selected for all datasets based on 1000 permutations (Doerge and Churchill, 1996) with a Type I error rate of <0.05.

Conversion of GBS-SNPs into KASP Markers

Initially, a map of GBS-SNPs was used to identify QTL location. To fill in missing GBS data in detected QTL region, GBS-SNPs mapped around the QTL region were selected for conversion of KASP markers. The KASP primers were designed using the Polymarker pipeline [\(http://polymarker.](http://polymarker.tgac.ac.uk/) [tgac.ac.uk/\)](http://polymarker.tgac.ac.uk/) that designs homoeologue-specific KASP assays for the polyploid wheat genome. The KASP assay was performed following manufacturer's instruction ([http://www.lgcgroup.](http://www.lgcgroup.com/LGCGroup/media/PDFs/Products/Genotyping/KASP-genotyping-chemistry-User-guide.pdf) [com/LGCGroup/media/PDFs/Products/Genotyping/KASP](http://www.lgcgroup.com/LGCGroup/media/PDFs/Products/Genotyping/KASP-genotyping-chemistry-User-guide.pdf)[genotyping-chemistry-User-guide.pdf\)](http://www.lgcgroup.com/LGCGroup/media/PDFs/Products/Genotyping/KASP-genotyping-chemistry-User-guide.pdf). The newly designed KASP primers were then tested for parental polymorphisms, and the polymorphic SNPs were genotyped in the mapping population. The new linkage map was reconstructed for final QTL analysis after the newly developed polymorphic KASP-SNPs replaced their corresponding GBS-SNPs.

The KASP assay was performed in a $6-\mu L$ PCR mix that consisted of 2.9 μ L of reaction mix (LGC Genomics), 0.1 μ L of

primer assay mix, and 3μ L of DNA at a concentration of 15 ng µL⁻¹. Polymerase chain reaction was assayed following manufacturer's instruction (LGC Genomics) using an ABI 7900HT real-time PCR system (Life Technology).

RESULTS Wheat Curl Mite Resistance in the Jerry/OK05312 RIL Population

All parents and controls were infested with *A. tosichella* US Biotype 1. However, the percentage of infested plants differed between the susceptible genotypes (the susceptible control Jagger and the susceptible parent Jerry) and the resistant genotypes (the resistant parent OK05312 and the resistant control TAM 107). Jagger showed the highest mean infestation rate with 87% susceptible plants, Jerry the second with 67% susceptible plants, and OK05312 and TAM 107 the lowest with only 7% infested plants over the two experiments. The difference between the resistant and susceptible parents was significant ($p < 0.01$). The frequency distribution of percentage of infested plants in the RIL population was continuous with \sim 50% of the RILs being the resistant genotypes that had at least 90% resistant plants per RIL (Fig. 1), suggesting that one major gene may confer *A. tosichella* resistance in OK05312. In addition, transgressive segregation was also observed for resistance.

Construction of a Linkage Map with GBS-SNPs for QTL Mapping

Genotyping-by-sequencing generated a total of 13,730 SNPs. Among them, 2048 SNPs had <20% missing data, and 1526 of them were mapped into

46 linkage groups that were anchored to 21 chromosomes. The linkage map has a total length of 2369 cM with an average marker density of 1.55 cM per marker and 5 to 130 markers per linkage group.

One major QTL associated with *A. tosichella* resistance and low value of ELISA was identified in each experiment and for mean from the two experiments. The QTL was located on the short arm of chromosome 6D, with OK05312 providing the allele for *A. tosichella* resistance (Fig. 2).

Conversion of GBS-SNPs to Enabling KASP Markers

To verify the SNP data generated by GBS and fill in missing data for the markers in the QTL region, 20 sequences carrying GBS-SNPs mapped in the distal end of 6DS, where the *A. tosichella* resistance QTL was located, were used to design KASP assays to screen two parents for polymorphisms. Twelve KASP-SNPs were polymorphic between the parents (Table 1) and showed similar segregation patterns to their corresponding GBS-SNPs in the RIL population with zero to three mismatches between KASP and GBS data per marker in 186 lines analyzed. Among those KASP-SNP markers, four markers had a mismatch in one RIL; four had two mismatches in two different RILs; one (370SNP2013) had three mismatches in three different RILs; and three had perfect matches. The 12 KASP-SNPs were remapped to (or close to) the original positions in the map because of a low average mismatch rate (0.68%) between GBS-SNPs and KASP-SNPs. The 15 mismatched SNP calls between KASP and

Fig. 1. Frequency distribution for the percentage of wheat curl mite resistant lines in the recombinant inbred line (RIL) population of Jerry/ OK05312 evaluated in two experiments. Mean refers to average from the two experiments (Exp. I and Exp. II).

Fig. 2. A partial linkage map for wheat curl mite resistance quantitative trait loci (QTLs) identified on the distal end of chromosome arm 6DS. Genetic distances in centimorgans are shown on the left side linkage map and marker names are shown on the right. The QTL data from Exp. I, Exp. II, mean, and enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) are plotted by red, black, blue, and green lines, respectively. Bars for the QTL positions from left to right are calculated using data from Exp. I, Exp. II, mean, and ELISA, respectively. The numbers on the top of the QTL plot are logarithm of the odds (LOD) values.

Table 1. List of primers for polymorphic Kompetitive allele specific polymerase chain reaction (KASP)-single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) markers developed in this study and their estimated physical distances in the Chinese Spring wheat reference genome (IWGSC, 2018) and the *A. tauschii* reference genome (Luo et al., 2018).

† Last two letters separated by a backslash indicate the polymorphic nucleotides in Jerry (the letter before the slash) and OK05312 (after the back slash).

GBS were present in six RILs, including five in RIL179, four in RIL141, three in RIL147 and one each in RILs 78, 155, and 178.

After the map was updated with the KASP markers, the major QTL for *A. tosichella* resistance was delimited to a 3.3-cM interval between KASP markers 370SNP7523 and 370SNP1639 and explained 71.31 and 30.58% of the phenotypic variation in the two experiments, respectively, and 49.94% of the phenotypic variation for the mean of the two experiments (Table 2, Fig. 2). A QTL from ELISA data was also located in this region and explained 35.72% of the phenotypic variation. Therefore, the 3.3-cM chromosome region between markers 370SNP7523 and 370SNP1639 is the critical region for curl mite resistance in OK05312.

To validate the usefulness of the two KASP markers (370SNP7523 and 370SNP1639) in MAS, they were analyzed for allele distribution in a wheat population. This population include both hard and soft US winter wheat cultivars and breeding lines. Both markers amplified the positive alleles in accessions NW03666 and OK05312, not in the other accessions, except that 370SNP1639 has the positive allele in HV9W96-1271R-1 (Supplemental Table S1). Those results suggest a high level of polymorphism of the two markers between OK05312 and other US winter wheat cultivars and elite breeding lines.

Annotated Putative Genes in the *Cmc4* Flanking Region

A Basic Local Alignment Search Tool (BLAST) search using the sequences of the two flanking markers for the mite resistance QTL located a physical distance of 1672 kb between the flanking markers 370SNP7523 (2241 kb) and 370SNP1639 (3913 kb, Table 1). A total of 55 putative genes were predicted in this region using Chinese Spring RefSeq v1.0 (IWGSC, 2018). Six were annotated as disease resistance genes, including an nucleotide binding site (NBS)-leucine-rich repeat (LRR)-like resistance protein, three LRR receptor-like protein kinase family proteins, a protein-enhanced disease resistance 2-like

protein, and a Toll interleukin-1 receptor (TIR)-NBS-LRR class disease resistance protein. Using the *Aegilops tauschii* reference (Luo et al., 2018), at least 34 genes were annotated with a high confidence in the syntenic region (Supplemental Table S2), and two of them are putative disease resistance genes (a protein-enhanced disease resistance 2-like protein and a TIR-NBS-LRR class disease resistance protein). Those two putative resistance genes were also found in the syntenic region of the hexaploid wheat Chinese Spring reference (IWGSC, 2018).

Analysis of DNA Markers Linked to *Cmc4* in the RIL Population

Blast search of these SNP sequences presented in Table 2 against the Chinese Spring wheat reference sequence indicated that the newly identified QTL is on the distal end of short arm of chromosome 6D. To verify if the QTL was *Cmc4*, two previously reported DNA markers were genotyped in the RIL population: *Xwms904* was the closest marker to *Cmc4*, and *Xgdm141* was one of the flanking markers (Malik et al., 2003a). *Xwms904* amplified a target fragment of 115 bp in Jerry and did not amplify any PCR product in OK05312. *Xgdm141* amplified a target band of 147 bp in OK05312 and 127 bp in the Jerry. When these markers were analyzed together with GBS-SNP data, *Xwms904* was 1.3 cM from 370SNP1639, one of the flanking markers for the QTL mapped in Jerry \times OK05312 population, confirming that the QTL in OK05312 is *Cmc4. Xgdm141* was mapped at 42.4 cM to 370SNP1639; therefore, the newly developed flanking markers for *Cmc4*, 370SNP7523 and 370SNP1639, are closer to *Cmc4* than *Xwms904* and *Xgdm141*.

DISCUSSION

To date, only four named (*Cmc1*, *Cmc2*, *Cmc3*, and *Cmc4*) and two unnamed *A. tosichella* resistance genes have been reported and transferred into wheat from wheat relative species (Thomas and Whelan, 1991; Chen et al., 1996, 1998, 2003; Malik et al., 2003a; Dhakal et al., 2018), and KS96WGRC40 carries two of them, *Cmc4* and *Cmc3*

Table 2. Chromosome peak positions, marker intervals, and effects of the quantitative trait locus (QTL), detected for wheat curl mite resistance in a Jerry/OK05312 recombinant inbred line population

† LOD, logarithm of odds value

‡ PVE, phenotypic variation explained.

§ ADD, additive effect, where a positive value implies that the OK05312 allele for resistance to wheat curl mite.

¶ 370M0054, a genotyping-by-sequencing (GBS)-single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) marker that was not converted to a Kompetitive allele specific polymerase chain reaction (KASP)-SNP.

ELISA, enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay.

(Malik et al., 2003a, 2003b). *Cmc3* is on a 1AL.1RS translocation of rye chromosome arm 1R to chromosome arm 1AL of 'Amigo' wheat (Dhakal et al., 2018). KS96WGRC40 is the only parent that carries curl mite resistance genes (Carver et al., 2016); therefore, the resistance gene(s) in OK05312 is (are) from KS96WGRC40.

Previous studies indicated that OK05312 was resistant to both *A. tosichella* biotypes in the US Great Plains, whereas TAM 107 carrying *Cmc3* showed resistance to only Biotype 1 (a less virulent biotype), not Biotype 2 (Carver et al., 2016; Dhakal et al., 2017). Therefore, we selected *A. tosichella* Biotype 1 for phenotyping of the mapping population to determine if both *Cmc3* and *Cmc4* genes are present in OK05312. Using the newly developed high-density SNP map, only one QTL for *A. tosichella* resistance was identified on chromosome arm 6DS, and a QTL on chromosome arm 1AS was not found. Analysis of 1RS specific marker *Xscm9* also confirmed absence of 1R chromosome arm in OK05312, excluding *Cmc3* from OK05312. Therefore, *Cmc4* is the only gene for *A. tosichella* resistance in OK05312, which was also confirmed by mapping *Xwms904*, the closest marker to *Cmc4* (Malik et al., 2003a), in the QTL region of OK05312.

To our knowledge, only one study reported gene mapping of *Cmc4* in wheat (Malik et al., 2003a). In that study, only eight markers were mapped in the linkage group harboring *Cmc4*, and those markers covered \sim 90 cM of chromosome 6D at a low marker density of 11 cM per marker. Two markers, *Xgdm141* and *XksuG8*, were reported to flank $Cmc4$ in a \sim 10-cM interval (Malik et al., 2003a). More recently, Dhakal et al. (2018) reported a gene, *Cmc_{TAM112}*, on the chromosome arm 6DS of TAM 112 (PI 643143) that effectively reduced symptom severity when plants were infested with either biotypes of *A. tosichella* from Texas, but its relationship with *Cmc4* was not determined in that study. However, the physical location of Cmc_{TAM112} (1.4–2.2 Mb) is tightly close to or overlapped with that of *Cmc₄* (2.2–3.9 Mb) as detected in this study, suggesting that these two genes are likely the same locus, but further research is needed to confirm this.

The current study generated thousands of SNP markers for the RIL population using GBS and constructed a highdensity map with 1526 SNPs for QTL scan. Among these mapped SNPs, 77 were mapped in a linkage group that harbors *Cmc4* and cover a total length of 65 cM on 6DS. In this region, we identified a small interval of \sim 3.3 cM for *Cmc4*. *Xwms904*, the closest marker to *Cmc4* (Malik et al., 2003a), was located at 1.2 cM proximal to *370SNP1639*, one of the two flanking markers to *Cmc4* identified in current study; *Xgdm141*, one of the previously reported flanking marker, was located at \sim 41.2 cM proximal to *370SNP1739*, indicating that the gene region defined in this study is much smaller than that reported previously (Malik et al., 2003a).

Four KASP-SNPs were identified within the *Cmc4* interval. Identification of these closely linked SNPs to *Cmc4* provides useful markers for further fine mapping or cloning the gene. Previous deletion mapping of the linked markers to the gene showed that the *Ae. tauschii*-derived fragment carrying *Cmc4* is in the distal end of chromosome arm 6DS within the bin interval 0.99 to 1.00 (Malik et al., 2003a). Physical mapping of *Cmc4* using Chinese Spring reference delimited the gene to a 1.7-Mb interval between 2.2 and 3.9 Mb, suggesting that the fragment carrying *Cmc4* is short, is on the distal end of 6DS, and can therefore be easily transferred from OK05312 into new wheat cultivars. OK05312 is a commercial-ready genetic stock, shows resistance to both curl mite biotypes in the US Great Plains, and could be directly released as a variety. However, commercially wide-scale deployment of *Cmc4* as a unilateral defense to WSMV may not be a good example of responsible gene stewardship (Carver et al., 2016); thus, pyramiding *Cmc4* with other resistance genes in new cultivars may provide durable resistance to WSMV.

Previously available markers linked to *Cmc4* were mainly SSR and restriction fragment length polymorphism (RFLP) markers (Malik et al., 2003a). An RFLP marker is not suitable for practical breeding application due to its low throughput and technical complexity. For two previously reported SSR markers, *Xgdm141*, one of the flanking marker of *Cmc4*, is too far from *Cmc4* (>42 cM) in the current study, whereas other SSR marker, *Xwms904* (Malik et al., 2003a), has been patented and is not publicly available. To effectively use *Cmc4* in breeding, tightly linked and high-throughput markers are needed. In this study, many GBS-SNPs were mapped in the gene region, which significantly shortened the region and more precisely pinpointed the gene interval to 1.7 Mb. However, GBS-SNPs are still not suitable for screening a large number of breeding samples due to high technical demand and relatively high cost per sample. The KASP marker has the advantages of easy assaying and low cost per sample and is also suitable for high-throughput screening. To develop enabling markers for breeding applications, we successfully converted 12 SNPs that segregated in the RIL population. Among them, 370SNP7523 and 370SNP1639 flank *Cmc4* and were analyzed in a natural population of US winter wheat cultivars and breeding lines. In this population, *Cmc4* is not expected according to their known pedigrees (Supplemental Table S1). The two markers identified only one line as positive except the OK05312 control; therefore, those markers are nearly diagnostic and should be very useful for MAS to select for *Cmc4* in breeding programs.

Candidate gene analysis using both Chinese Spring and *A*. *touschii* reference sequences identified 55 and 34 annotated high confidence genes in the putative *Cmc4* region. Among them, two putative resistance genes, a protein-enhanced disease resistance 2-like protein, and a TIR-NBS-LRR class disease resistance protein were identified in both genomes. They can be considered as important candidates for further map-based cloning of *Cmc4.*

Supplemental Material Available

Supplemental material is available online for this article.

Conflict of Interest

On behalf of all authors, the corresponding author states that there is no conflict of interest.

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	Accession name	Pedigree	370SNP7523 [#]	370SNP1639#
	Atlas66	Frondoso//Redhart 3/Noll 28	A	A
$\sqrt{2}$	OK04505	OK91724/2*Jagger	A	A
\mathfrak{Z}	KS05HW136-3	KS98HW518(93HW91/93HW255)//KS98H245(IKE/TA2460//*3T200)/Trego	A	A
$\overline{4}$	T158	KS93U206/2*T81	A	A
5	KS980554-12-~9	2180*K/2163//?/3/W1062A*HVA114/W3416	A	A
6	KS980512-2-2	T67/X84W063-9-45//K92/3/SNF/4/X86509-1-1/X84W063-9-39-2//K92	A	A
$\overline{7}$	TX04M410211	Mason/Jagger//Ogallala	Α	A
$\,8\,$	N98L20040-44	CS/PI467024//CS/3/SXLD/4/TAM 202/5/SXLD	Α	A
9	NI04420	NE96644(=Odesskaya P/Cody)//Pavon/3*Scout 66/3/Wahoo SIB)	A	A
10	Duster	W0405D/NE78488//W7469C/TX81V6187	A	A
11	OK02522W	Unknown	A	A
$\overline{12}$	Scout 66	Composite of 85 selections from Scout	A	A
$\overline{13}$	AP04T8211	W98-232/KS96WGRC38	A	\mathbf{A}
$\overline{14}$	HV9W96-1271R-1	HV9W00-1551WP/KS94U326	A	B
$\overline{15}$	NE04424	KS92H363-2/Cougar Sib(=NE85707/TBird)	A	\mathbf{A}
16	CO02W237	98HW519(93HW91/93HW255)/96HW94	A	A
$\overline{17}$	OK03825-5403-6	$(Custer*3/94M81)=STARS 0601W$	A	A
18	TX04V075080	Jagger/TX93V5722//TX95D8905	A	A
19	SD06165	Wesley/SD97049	A	A
$\overline{20}$	NX03Y2489	Bai Huo/Kanto107//Ike/3/KS91H184/3*RBL//N87V106	A	A
$\overline{21}$	NI04427	KS98HW22//W95-615W/N94L189	A	A
22	Endurance	HBY756A/Siouxland//2180	\overline{A}	A
23	TAM 107	TAM 105*4/Amigo	A	A
24	AP05T2413	(KS95U522/TX95VA0011)F1/Jagger	A	A
$\overline{25}$	HV9W03-539R	KS94U275/1878//JAGGER	A	\mathbf{A}
$\overline{26}$	CO03064	CO970547/Prowers 99	A	\mathbf{A}
27	TX02A0252	TX90V6313//TX94V3724(TAM 200 BC41254-1-8-1-1/TX86V1405	A	A
28	Kharkof	Unknown	A	\mathbf{A}
29	SD06173	Bulk02R2B	A	\mathbf{A}
30	NX04Y2107	NW98S081/99Y1442	A	\overline{A}
$\overline{31}$	NE05548	NE97426 (=Brigantina.2*Arapahoe)/NE98574 (=CO850267/Rawhide)	A	A
32	Deliver	Yantar/2*Chisholm//Karl	A	\overline{A}
33	Trego	KS87H325/Rio Blanco	A	A
$\overline{34}$	HV9W03-696R-1	N94L027/TBOLT//KS89180B	A	A
35	NE05426	W95-091 (=KS85-663-8-9//WI81-133/Thunderbird)/Akron	A	A

Supplemental Table S1 Wheat accessions used for validation of two KASP-SNP markers tightly linked to *Cmc4*.

 $* A$ refers to the allele same as Jerry and B refers to the allele same as OK05312

Supplemental Table S2 Putative gene annotated between two flanking markers 370SNP7523 and 370SNP1639 in *A. Tauschii* genome reference

and their corresponding locations in Chinese Spring wheat reference

