

# Physical locations of 5S and 18S-25S rDNA in Asian and American diploid *Hordeum* species with the I genome

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The physical locations of 5S and 18S-25S rDNA sequences in 15 diploid *Hordeum* species with the I genome were examined by double-target *in situ* hybridization with pTa71 (18S-25S rDNA) and pTa794 (5S rDNA) clones as probes. All the three Asian species had a species-specific rDNA pattern. In 12 American species studied, eight different rDNA types were found. The type reported previously in *H. chilense* (the ‘chilense’ type) was observed in eight American species. The chilense type had double 5S rDNA sites — two sites on one chromosome arm separated by a short distance — and two pairs of major 18S-25S rDNA sites on two pairs of satellite chromosomes. The other seven types found in American species were similar to the chilense type and could be derived from the chilense type through deletion, reduction or addition of a rDNA site. Intraspecific polymorphisms were observed in three American species. The overall similarity in rDNA patterns among American species indicates the close relationships between North and South American species and their derivation from a single ancestral source. The differences in the distribution patterns of 5S and 18S-25S rDNA between Asian and American species suggest differentiation between the I genomes of Asian and American species. The 5S and 18S-25S rDNA sites are useful chromosome markers for delimiting Asian species, but have limited value as a taxonomic character in American species. On the basis of rDNA patterns, karyotype evolution and phylogeny of the I-genome diploid species are discussed.

**Keywords:** barley, *Hordeum*, *in situ* hybridization, karyotype evolution, phylogeny, rDNA.

## Introduction

The genus *Hordeum* (Triticeae) is classified into 31 species (in total 45 taxa) and 51 cytotypes at the diploid, tetraploid, and hexaploid levels with a basic chromosome number of  $x = 7$  (Baden & von Bothmer, 1994; von Bothmer *et al.*, 1995). Based on the metaphase I (MI) chromosome pairing in hybrids (von Bothmer *et al.*, 1986, 1995) the genus has been divided into four genome groups (H, I, X and Y). *H. vulgare* and *H. bulbosum* both carry the H genome, *H. marinum* carries the X genome, *H. murinum* has the Y genome, and the remaining species share variants of the I genome (genome designation according to Linde-Laursen *et al.*, 1997). Recently, using genomic *in situ* hybridization, Taketa *et al.* (1999b) revealed that three polyploid species/cytotypes, *H. secalinum*, *H. capense* and

*H. brachyantherum* 6x, were allopolyploids having a combination of the X and I genomes. Thus, the genus is divided into at least five groups according to their genome constitutions.

The I-genome group is the largest in the genus and includes 25 species. Fourteen species are diploid, five are tetraploid and four are hexaploid; the remaining two species include diploid, tetraploid and hexaploid cytotypes. The I-genome species are distributed from Central Asia to the Americas (von Bothmer *et al.*, 1995). As a part of phylogenetic studies on the genus *Hordeum*, many I-genome species have been examined for C-banding patterns (Linde-Laursen *et al.*, 1995), chloroplast DNA restriction patterns (Doebley *et al.*, 1992), isoenzyme patterns (Jørgensen, 1986), rDNA restriction patterns (Molnar *et al.*, 1989), repetitive DNA sequences (Svitahev *et al.*, 1994), and RAPD marker profiles (Marillia & Scoles, 1996). Although these studies have confirmed the distinction of the four basic genomes in the genus, details

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on the relationships among the I-genome species are still largely unclear. Information on the phylogenetic relationship of the I-genome species is also indispensable for elucidating the phylogeny of the genus *Elymus*, the largest genus in Triticeae, because I is a component genome of *Elymus* (Dewey, 1984; Löve, 1984; Lu, 1993).

The 18S-5.8S-25S rRNA genes and intergenic spacer regions (18S-25S rDNA) exist as tandem repeats at the nucleolus organizer regions (NORs) in satellite (SAT) chromosomes and at other chromosomal sites where they may not be associated with a NOR (Mukai *et al.*, 1991; Leitch & Heslop-Harrison, 1992; Pedersen & Linde-Laursen, 1994). The 5S rRNA genes and the intergenic spacers (5S rDNA) make up an independent multigene family and are not associated with a NOR (Mukai *et al.*, 1990; Leitch & Heslop-Harrison, 1993). The physical mapping of these two multigene families by *in situ* hybridization has revealed species relationships in several genera (*Aegilops*: Bedaeva *et al.*, 1996; *Arachis*: Raina & Mukai, 1999; *Trifolium*: Ansari *et al.*, 1999). In the genus *Hordeum*, several species or cytotypes representing the four basic genomes were analysed and the usefulness of both rDNAs as phylogenetic markers was suggested (de Bustos *et al.*, 1996; Taketa *et al.*, 1999a). However, in the I-genome group, only one diploid species (*H. chilense*) and tetraploid cytotypes of two species (*H. brevisubulatum* and *H. brachyantherum*) were analysed (de Bustos *et al.*, 1996; Taketa *et al.*, 1999a) and most I-genome species remain to be tested. The physical mapping of both rDNAs would allow more precise estimation about the phylogenetic relationships of the I-genome species and may complement the estimation of karyotype evolution of the genus *Hordeum* by Linde-Laursen *et al.* (1995) using the SAT chromosome alone as an evolutionary marker. In the present study, we determined the physical locations of both 5S and 18S-25S rDNA in 15 diploid *Hordeum* species with the I genome by double-target fluorescence *in situ* hybridization. This molecular cytogenetic study provides new information on the karyotype evolution of I-genome diploid species of the genus *Hordeum*.

## Materials and methods

Fifteen diploid species (20 taxa) of the I-genome group represented by 32 accessions were analysed in this study (Table 1). Actively growing root tips from germinating seeds or potted plants were treated in ice water at 0°C for 24 h to accumulate metaphases before fixation in 3:1 (v/v) 100% ethanol:acetic acid. The root tips were digested with an enzyme mixture containing cellulase and pectolyase (Fukui & Kakeda, 1990) and squashed in a drop of 45% acetic acid. Two DNA clones, pTa794 and pTa71 were used as probes. Clone pTa794 is a

*Bam*HI fragment of the 5S rDNA, that has a 120-bp coding sequence for the 5S rRNA gene and the intergenic spacers isolated from common wheat, *Triticum aestivum* L. (Gerlach & Dyer, 1980). Clone pTa71, the 18S-25S rDNA, is a 9-kb *Eco*RI fragment from common wheat, containing the coding sequences for the 18S, 5.8S, and 25S rRNA genes and the intergenic spacer sequences (Gerlach & Bedbrook, 1979). The *in situ* hybridization procedure described by Taketa *et al.* (1999a) was adopted. Slides were examined using an Olympus BX-50 epifluorescence microscope with appropriate filter sets (U-MWU for UV, U-MWIB for FITC, U-DM-Cy3 for Cy3, and U-DM-DA/FI/TX for simultaneous visualization of all fluorochromes). Photographs were taken on Fujicolor Super HG400 colour print film. Negatives were scanned to PhotoCD and printed from Adobe Photoshop using only cropping and processing functions that affect all pixels in the image equally. Idiograms of the chromosomes with hybridization sites were prepared on the basis of measurements of 10 homologous chromosomes.

## Results

Figure 1(a–j) shows the somatic metaphase chromosomes of 10 representative species after *in situ* hybridization with 5S and 18S-25S rDNA probes and counterstaining with 4',6-diamidino-2-phenylindole (DAPI). Idiograms of the chromosomes with rDNA sites are shown in Fig. 2. The present *in situ* hybridization experiment detected 5S and minor 18S-25S rDNA sites in addition to major 18S-25S rDNA sites. The number of major 18S-25S rDNA sites detected by *in situ* hybridization agrees with the number of SAT chromosomes reported for the respective species (Linde-Laursen *et al.*, 1995). Here, we define SAT chromosomes as nucleolus organizing chromosomes with a secondary constriction. Depending on the species, either one or two pairs of major 18S-25S rDNA sites and up to two pairs of minor 18S-25S rDNA sites were observed on two to four pairs of chromosomes. The number of 5S rDNA sites varied from one to three pairs per species.

### Asian species

The distribution patterns of 5S and 18S-25S rDNA sites in *H. brevisubulatum* and *H. roshevitzii* were similar except that *H. brevisubulatum* had a pair of additional metacentric SAT chromosomes with a major 18S-25S rDNA site (Fig. 1a,b). *H. bogdanii* had a unique metacentric chromosome pair with a proximal 5S rDNA site and a distal minor 18S-25S rDNA site on one chromosome arm (Fig. 1c). A submetacentric chromosome pair

**Table 1** Diploid I-genome species of the genus *Hordeum* analysed in this study

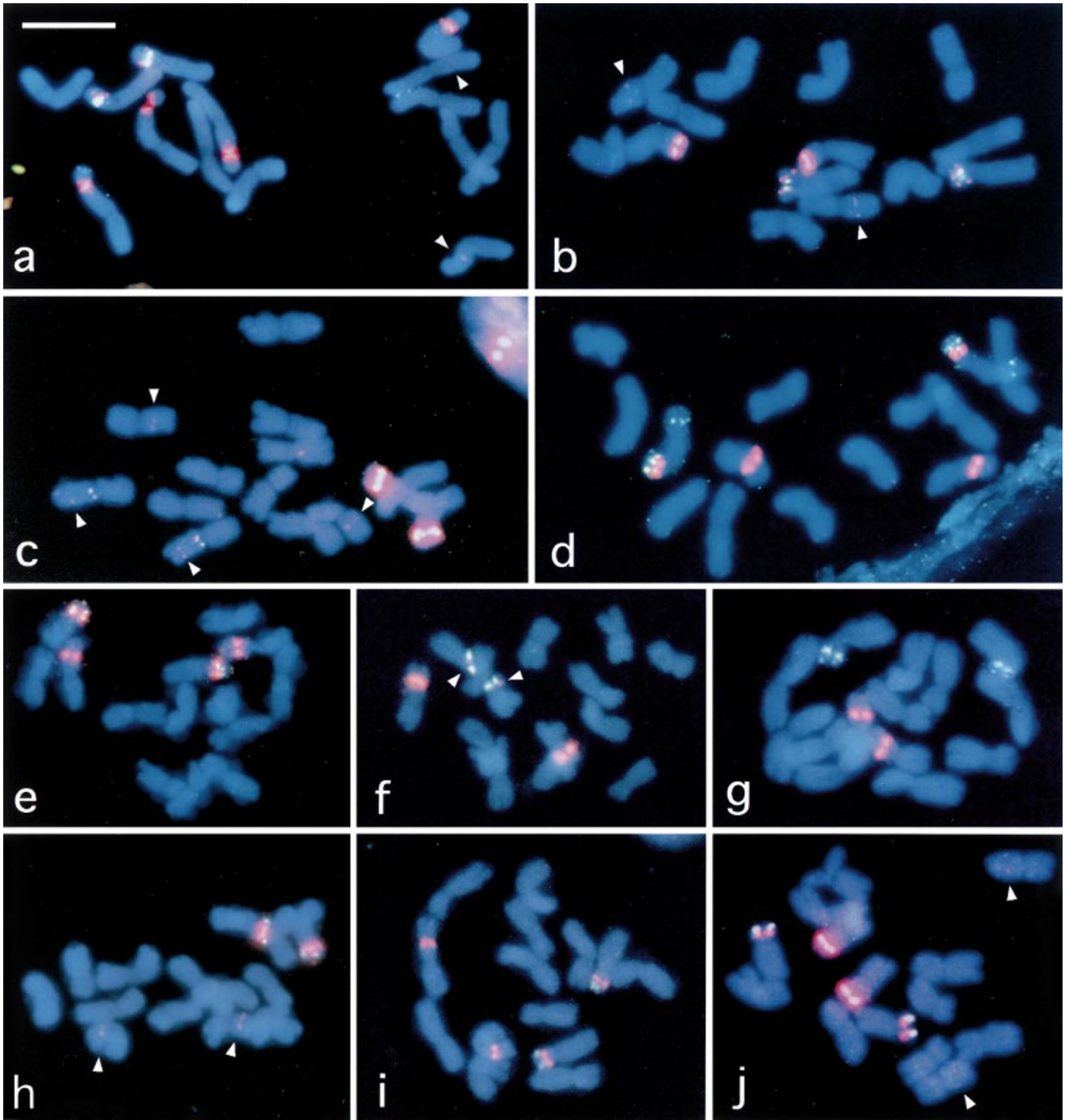
Species	Accession	Origin
<b>Asia</b>		
<i>H. brevisubulatum</i> (Trin.) Link		
ssp. <i>violaceum</i> (Boiss. & Hohen.) Tzvel.	H 315	Iran: prov. Mazanderan
	H 316	Iran: prov. Mazanderan
<i>H. bogdanii</i> Wil.	H 4014	Pakistan: Gilgit, Nagar valley
	H 240	Afganistan: Paktia
	H 7421b	China: Xinjiang, Hejing co
<i>H. roshevitzii</i> Bowden	H 9152	China: Gansu
	H 7046	China: Quinghai, Wulan co
	H10070	Mongolia: Altai,
<b>North America</b>		
<i>H. brachyantherum</i> Nevski		
ssp. <i>californicum</i> (Cov. & Steb.) Both. & al.	H 3317	USA: California, Ventura co
	H 1954	USA: California, Carmel vy
	H 2401	USA: California, San Diego co
<i>H. intercedens</i> Nevski	H 2310	USA: California, Ventura co
<i>H. pusillum</i> Nutt.	H 2038	USA: New Mexico
	H 722	USA: Texas, Childress co
	H 1901	USA: Nebraska
<b>South America</b>		
<i>H. chilense</i> Roem. & Schult.	MH 241*	Chile: La Dormida
	MH 247*	Chile: Ancud
<i>H. cordobense</i> Both. & al.	H 6429	Argentina: prov. Mendoza
<i>H. erectifolium</i> Both. & al.	H 1150	Argentina: prov. Buenos Aires
<i>H. euclaston</i> Steud.	H 6036	Argentina: prov. Rio Negro
<i>H. flexuosum</i> Steud.	H 1116	Argentina: prov. Buenos Aires
<i>H. muticum</i> Presl	H 6479	Argentina: prov. Jujuy
<i>H. patagonicum</i> (Haum.) Cov.		
ssp. <i>magellanicum</i> (Paro. & Nico.) Both. & al.	H 1342	Argentina: prov. Santa Cruz
ssp. <i>mustersii</i> (Nico.) Both. & al.	H 1358	Argentina: prov. Santa Cruz
ssp. <i>patagonicum</i>	H 6052	Argentina: prov. Santa Cruz
ssp. <i>santacruzense</i> (Paro. & Nico.) Both. & al.	H 1353	Argentina: prov. Santa Cruz
ssp. <i>setifolium</i> (Paro. & Nico.) Both. & al.	H 1366	Argentina: prov. Santa Cruz
<i>H. pubiflorum</i> Hook. f.		
ssp. <i>halophilum</i> Grise.	H 1348	Argentina: prov. Santa Cruz
ssp. <i>pubiflorum</i> Hook. f.	H 1296	Argentina: prov. Santa Cruz
	H 6046	Argentina: prov. Santa Cruz
	H 6360	Argentina: Neuquen
<i>H. stenostachys</i> Godr.	H 1108	Argentina: prov. Buenos Aires

\* Accessions provided by Dr A. Martin, Cordoba, Spain.

with 5S and 18S-25S rDNA sites and a metacentric chromosome pair with a minor 18S-25S rDNA site were common to all three Asian species. In *H. bogdanii*, the 18S-25S rDNA locus on the submetacentric chromosome pair was a major site with NOR-forming ability. In the other two species the locus consisted of a few blocks of weak 18S-25S rDNA signals that surrounded the 5S rDNA site without a visible secondary constriction. In *H. brevisubulatum* and *H. roshevitzii*, the major 18S-25S rDNA sites with NOR-forming ability were located on metacentric chromosome pair(s).

#### North and South American species

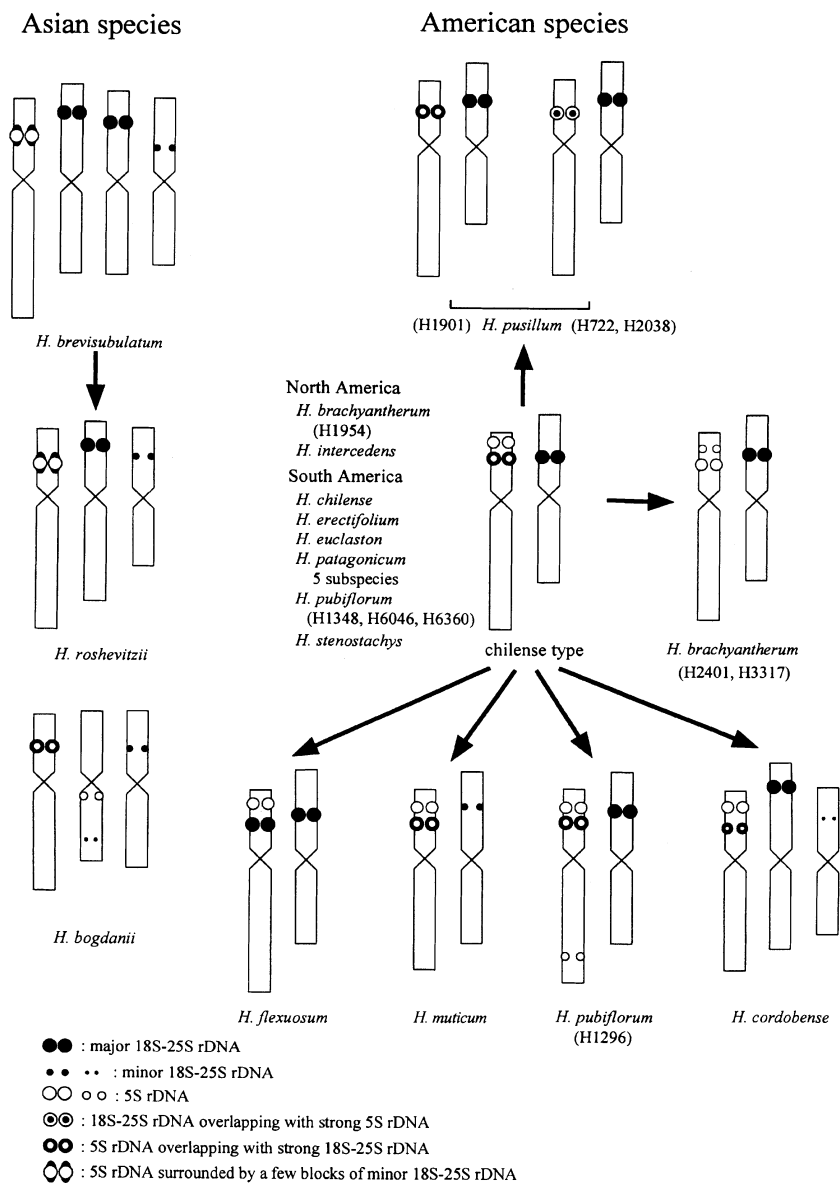
A total of eight rDNA types were found among the 12 American species (17 taxa) studied (Fig. 2). Eight species (13 taxa), namely the North American species *H. brachyantherum* (accession H1945) and *H. intercedens*, and the South American species *H. chilense*, *H. erectifolium*, *H. euclaston* (Fig. 1e), *H. patagonicum* (5 subspecies), *H. pubiflorum* (accessions H1348, H6046 and H6360) and *H. stenostachys*, shared the same rDNA pattern as that previously reported for a different



**Fig. 1** Double-target *in situ* hybridization to root tip metaphase cells from 10 representative diploid *Hordeum* species with the I genome. The micrographs were taken with a triple band filter allowing the simultaneous visualization of the DAPI-stained chromosomes (blue), the hybridization sites of the 18S-25S rDNA (red) and the 5S rDNA (green). Arrowheads indicate minor 18S-25S rDNA sites. Scale bar represents 10  $\mu\text{m}$  in all figures. (a) *H. brevisubulatum* ssp. *violaceum* H315, (b) *H. roshevitzii* H7046, (c) *H. bogdani* H240, (d) *H. pubiflorum* ssp. *pubiflorum* H1296, (e) *H. euclaston* H6036, (f) *H. pusillum* H2083, (g) *H. brachyantherum* ssp. *californicum* H3317, (h) *H. muticum* H6479, (i) *H. flexuosum* H1116, (j) *H. cordobense* H6429.

accession of *H. chilense* (Taketa *et al.*, 1999a). This rDNA pattern, named the chilense type, carried a submetacentric SAT-chromosome pair with double 5S

rDNA sites — two sites on one chromosome arm separated by a short distance — plus a major and overlapping 18S-25S rDNA site, and a metacentric



**Fig. 2** Idiograms of the morphology of the chromosome pairs carrying 5S and 18S-25S rDNA in 15 diploid *Hordeum* species with the I genome investigated here. Arrows indicate proposed karyotype evolution and species relationships.

SAT-chromosome pair with a major 18S-25S rDNA site. On the basis of the studies using wheat — *H. chilense* chromosome addition lines (Miller *et al.*, 1982; Cabrera *et al.*, 1995), the submetacentric pair and the metacentric pair with rDNA sites are considered as wheat homoeologous group-5 and group-6 chromosomes, respectively. The remaining seven types were similar to the chilense type and are described briefly here. Two *H. brachyantherum* accessions (H2401 and H3317) had double 5S rDNA sites but no 18S-25S rDNA site on the submetacentric chromosome pair (Fig. 1g). One *H. pubiflorum* accession (H1296) had an additional 5S rDNA site in the long arm of the submetacentric SAT-chromosome pair (Fig. 1d). In *H. pusillum*, the submetacentric chromosome pair had only one 5S rDNA

site overlapping with the 18S-25S rDNA site and the intensity of the 18S-25S rDNA signal varied among accessions; one accession (H1901) had a strong signal and two accessions (H722 and H2038) had a weaker signal (Fig. 1f). *H. muticum* (Fig. 1h) had a weaker 18S-25S rDNA signal on the metacentric chromosome pair. *H. flexuosum* (Fig. 1i) had only one 5S rDNA site distal to the major 18S-25S rDNA site on the submetacentric SAT-chromosome pair. *H. cordobense* (Fig. 1j) had a third chromosome pair with a minor 18S-25S rDNA site. Also in *H. cordobense*, the major 18S-25S rDNA site on the metacentric chromosome pair occupied a more distal location.

As summarized in Fig. 2, intraspecific polymorphism in rDNA pattern was observed in *H. brachyantherum*,

*H. pusillum* and *H. pubiflorum*. Linde-Laursen *et al.* (1986) reported that *H. brachyantherum* and *H. pusillum* included populations with one and two pair(s) of SAT chromosomes. The present study revealed that accessions of these species with the metacentric SAT chromosome pair only had deletion or reduction of the major 18S-25S rDNA site on the submetacentric chromosome pair.

## Discussion

### Variation in rDNA pattern

The distribution patterns of 5S and 18S-25S rDNA sites differ somewhat between Asian species and American species. The number of rDNA-carrying chromosomes was higher in Asian species (three or four pairs) than in American species (usually two pairs). Asian species had species-specific rDNA patterns, while the American species shared the chilense type or its variants. Double 5S rDNA sites overlapping with a major 18S-25S rDNA site were observed in 10 of the 12 American species studied, but not in any Asian species. Thus, the present results suggest differentiation between the I genomes of Asian and American species.

The rDNA patterns in the I-genome species differ from those in the other three genomes (H, X and Y) of *Hordeum* (Leitch & Heslop-Harrison, 1993; Pedersen & Linde-Laursen, 1994; de Bustos *et al.*, 1996; Taketa *et al.*, 1999a), supporting the distinction of the I genome from the other genomes. In the I-genome species, 5S and 18S-25S rDNA sites on the short arm of the submetacentric chromosome pair occur in close proximity and their relative order cannot be resolved. Such close proximity of 5S and 18S-25S rDNA sites has not been reported in other *Hordeum* (de Bustos *et al.*, 1996; Taketa *et al.*, 1999a) and *Aegilops* (Bedaeva *et al.*, 1996) species. Future studies employing prometaphase chromosomes or pachytene nuclei may reveal the relative order and organization of 5S and 18S-25S rDNA sites in the I-genome species.

### Karyotype evolution of I-genome species

On the basis of the morphology of SAT chromosomes and other information, Linde-Laursen *et al.* (1995) proposed a hypothesis on karyotype evolution of I-genome species. The present *in situ* hybridization experiment detected minor 18S-25S rDNA sites and 5S rDNA sites in addition to the well-known major 18S-25S rDNA sites (Fig. 2). Taking advantage of such additional chromosome landmarks, we can critically evaluate the hypothesis on karyotype evolution of the I-genome species proposed by Linde-Laursen *et al.* (1995).

Linde-Laursen *et al.* (1995) estimated that an Asian outbreeding species, *H. brevisubulatum* was the most original form of I-genome diploid species and that two Asian inbreeding species, *H. roshevitzii* and *H. bogdanii* were derived from it, with a concomitant loss of two NOR loci. The present rDNA data support the view that *H. roshevitzii* was derived from *H. brevisubulatum* because of the close similarity in rDNA pattern. However, the marked differences in rDNA pattern between *H. bogdanii* and the other two Asian species do not support the direct derivation of *H. bogdanii* from *H. brevisubulatum*. Our rDNA data indicate that *H. bogdanii* occupies a unique position among the Asian species, which is also supported by, for example, morphological data (von Bothmer, 1979).

According to Rajhathy *et al.* (1964), I-genome species migrated from Asia to North America. Linde-Laursen *et al.* (1986, 1989) reported that most American species had a uniform karyotype with two SAT-chromosome pairs, one submetacentric pair with short and one metacentric pair with longer satellites (named 'the common American diploid karyotype'). Linde-Laursen *et al.* (1995) hypothesized that the common American diploid karyotype was derived from an Asian species, *H. brevisubulatum*, with a concomitant loss of one NOR locus. However, in the rDNA pattern there are substantial differences between *H. brevisubulatum* and the American species. The detection of a minor 18S-25S rDNA site on a metacentric chromosome pair in *H. roshevitzii* also raises the possibility that the common American diploid karyotype could be derived from *H. roshevitzii*. In this case, we need to assume that the loss of the major 18S-25S rDNA site on the metacentric SAT-chromosome pair of *H. roshevitzii* resulted in amplification and activation of the other minor 18S-25S rDNA sites. From the present rDNA data, it is impossible to deduce which Asian species was the direct ancestor of American diploid species. Complete identification of the homoeology of the chromosomes of Asian species should help resolve the connection between Asian and American species.

Linde-Laursen *et al.* (1995) assumed that the common American diploid karyotype was the ancestral karyotype of American species and that other karyotypes found in American species were derived from it through deletion of one of the two NOR loci or a paracentric inversion. The minor 18S-25S rDNA sites detected in the present study have provided cytological evidence that deletions or reductions of major 18S-25S rDNA sites played an important role in the karyotype evolution of the I-genome species. The present data on 5S rDNA sites also revealed that the common American diploid karyotype includes four rDNA patterns (Fig. 2). Because the chilense type predominates in American

species with the common American diploid karyotype, we propose that the ancestral rDNA pattern was the chilense type. Other explanations are more complicated and need more evolutionary steps. Of North American diploid species, *H. brachyantherum* ssp. *californicum*, with two SAT-chromosome pairs, is the best candidate for the chilense-type ancestor because this species has a perennial growth habit like most other American species. Other North American diploid species, *H. pusillum* and *H. intercedens* have an annual growth habit and are therefore unlikely to be the common ancestor of American species, which predominantly have a perennial growth habit.

A South American species, *H. cordobense*, has a unique karyotype with a smaller satellite on the metacentric SAT-chromosome pair than the species with the common American diploid karyotype (Linde-Laursen *et al.*, 1989). However, the double 5S sites on the submetacentric SAT-chromosome pair in *H. cordobense* suggest its close relationship with other American species. Linde-Laursen *et al.* (1989) explained the smaller satellites of *H. cordobense* by assuming a paracentric inversion. However, a more likely explanation may be a transposition of the rDNA site because in Triticeae rDNA sites can change positions within a chromosome arm without disturbing the linkage groups (Dubcovsky & Dvořák, 1995). It is unknown how the minor 18S-25S rDNA sites in *H. cordobense* were originated.

From the present rDNA data, we infer that when the chilense type spread to the American Continents, variants of this type were derived, as shown in Fig. 2. This model suggests a monophyletic origin for American diploid species.

The phylogenetic relationships of I-genome species were estimated from other marker systems, such as chloroplast DNA restriction patterns (Doebley *et al.*, 1992), isoenzyme patterns (Jørgensen, 1986), rDNA restriction patterns (Molnar *et al.*, 1989), repetitive DNA sequences (Svitashev *et al.*, 1994), and RAPD markers (Marillia & Scoles, 1996). Because each study differs in the kind and number of species analysed, comparisons with the present study are difficult. The present study did not test a South American species *H. comosum*. The study on chloroplast DNA restriction pattern by Doebley *et al.* (1992) showed differentiation of the two Asian species *H. bogdanii* and *H. roshevitzii* from other American I-genome species, but the study did not include *H. brevisubulatum*. Other studies did not clearly show differentiation between Asian and American I-genome species. For example, Southern hybridization using repetitive DNA sequences showed an association of two South American species, *H. comosum* and *H. pubiflorum* to the three Asian species (Svitashev *et al.*, 1994), while *H. chilense*, a South American species

and *H. bogdanii*, an Asian species, had an identical rDNA restriction pattern in separation from the other I-genome species (Molnar *et al.*, 1989). Such associations between Asian and American species do not agree with the species relationships inferred from the present rDNA data.

In conclusion, the present study has shown that rDNA sites are useful chromosome markers for an investigation of karyotype evolution and phylogeny in the I-genome species of the genus *Hordeum*. Minor 18S-25S and 5S rDNA sites, which were undetectable in previous studies by Linde-Laursen *et al.* (1995), provided especially clear cytological evidence for modifications of SAT chromosomes that occurred during speciation. The present results are generally compatible with the hypothesis on karyotype evolution proposed by Linde-Laursen *et al.* (1995), but we also proposed a more likely model on karyotype evolution for several species. The distribution patterns of 5S and 18S-25S rDNA sites can be used for delimitation of the Asian I-genome species, but have a limited value as taxonomic characters in American I-genome species. The rDNA patterns of American I-genome species are characterized by the predominant occurrence of the chilense type and general lack of species-specificity. The low level of polymorphism in rDNA patterns among South American species contrasts sharply with the distinct morphological differences among species (von Bothmer *et al.*, 1995). Such low levels of variations were also found in C-banding karyotypes (Linde-Laursen *et al.*, 1989) and in rDNA restriction patterns (Molnar *et al.*, 1989). Sequence analysis of the intergenic spacer and the internal transcribed sequences of rDNA (Rogers & Bendich, 1987; Baldwin, 1992) may reveal polymorphisms among South American species. The present rDNA data on I-genome diploid species would be useful for estimating not only the diploid ancestors of polyploid *Hordeum* species but also the I-genome donors of polyploid *Elymus* species.

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