

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Mapping of two suppressors of *OVATE* (*sov*) loci in tomatoGR Rodríguez¹, HJ Kim and E van der Knaap

Tomato fruit shape varies significantly in the cultivated germplasm. To a large extent, this variation can be explained by four genes including *OVATE*. While most varieties with the *OVATE* mutation bear elongated fruits, some accessions carry round fruit, suggesting the existence of suppressors of *OVATE* in the germplasm. We developed three intraspecific F₂ populations with parents that carried the *OVATE* mutation but differed in fruit shape. We used a bulk segregant analysis approach and genotyped the extreme classes using a high-throughput genotyping platform, the SolCAP Infinium Assay. The analyses revealed segregation at two quantitative trait loci (QTLs), *sov1* and *sov2*. These loci were confirmed by genotyping and QTL analyses of the entire population. More precise location of those loci using progeny testing confirmed that *sov1* on chromosome 10 controlled obovoid and elongated shape, whereas *sov2* on chromosome 11 controlled mainly elongated fruit shape. Both loci were located in intervals of <2.4 Mb on their respective chromosomes.

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INTRODUCTION

As a result of domestication and extensive selection for fruit characters, morphological variation in fruit shape and size is abundant in cultivated tomato (Paran and van der Knaap, 2007; Rodríguez *et al.*, 2011). Unravelling the underlying molecular basis of this variation will lead to insights into the developmental regulation of fruit shape and size while also yielding insights into the domestication of this important crop. In particular, genes that control fruit elongation may underlie critical components of the proximal distal patterning process. Moreover, the relevance of the shape of vegetables is that it characterizes the culinary use and general purpose of the produce. For example, the elongated and blocky tomatoes are preferred in the processing industry because these types of fruit stay on conveyer belts during mechanical harvest and are a better fit in cans compared with round tomatoes. Large and flat tomatoes are preferred for slicing onto sandwiches and hamburgers.

Despite the tremendous diversity in tomato fruit morphology, the diversity is explained to a large extent by mutations in just four genes: *SUN*, *OVATE*, *LC* and/or *FAS* genes (Rodríguez *et al.*, 2011). *SUN* (Xiao *et al.*, 2008) and *OVATE* (Liu *et al.*, 2002) control fruit elongation and encode a member of the IQ Domain and Ovate Family Protein (OFP) families, respectively. *FASCIATED* (*FAS*) (Cong *et al.*, 2008) and *LOCULE NUMBER* (*LC*) (Muñoz *et al.*, 2011) control locule number and flat fruit shape, and encode a member of the YABBY and WOX family, respectively (Mayer *et al.*, 1998; Siegfried *et al.*, 1999; Bowman, 2000; Goldshmidt *et al.*, 2008; van der Graaff *et al.*, 2009). *OVATE* was the first fruit shape gene to be identified by positional cloning (Ku *et al.*, 1999; Liu *et al.*, 2002). The changes in fruit shape as a result of the mutation in *OVATE* occur well before flower opening, as ovary shape is already clearly different from wild-type at anthesis (van der Knaap and Tanksley, 2001; Liu *et al.*, 2002). *OVATE* encodes a member of the OFP family

and its members are characterized to function as transcriptional repressors, including the expression of GA20 oxidase 1 (Liu *et al.*, 2002; Hackbusch *et al.*, 2005; Wang *et al.*, 2007, 2011). However, details of the role of OFP members in diverse processes in plant growth and development are unclear as loss of function mutations in the *Arabidopsis* OFP genes have no or very subtle phenotypes (Wang *et al.*, 2010; Li *et al.*, 2011). By contrast, a loss-of-function mutation in *OVATE* in tomato is the basis for an elongated fruit shape (Liu *et al.*, 2002). Transient downregulation of an *OVATE*-like gene (*CaOvate*) in pepper also showed increased fruit elongation (Tsaballa *et al.*, 2011). Therefore, *OVATE* and *OVATE*-like genes have loss-of-function phenotypes in some vegetables and are likely to control fruit elongation in other plants.

Depending on the genetic background, the effect of the *OVATE* mutation is variable, suggesting that the gene interacts with others to exert its effect on shape (Gonzalo and van der Knaap, 2008). Also, while most accessions with the *OVATE* mutation carry fruit that is elongated, a few in our collection, namely Gold Ball Livingston (GBL) and T1693, carry round fruit, which suppresses the effects of the *OVATE* mutation (Rodríguez *et al.*, 2011). The identification of genes and loci that suppress the *OVATE* mutation has been a challenge because of the low level of nucleotide polymorphisms within the cultivated germplasm pool. Populations derived from interspecific crosses (for example, wild relative × cultivated tomato) are typically used since they have a sufficient number of polymorphic markers (Grandillo *et al.*, 1999; Frary *et al.*, 2004; Gonzalo and van der Knaap, 2008). In these wide crosses, the effect of the major loci is often clearly detected, whereas minor loci may not be reproducible from experiment to experiment. Using interspecific populations that included the mapping of *ovate*, additional minor shape quantitative trait loci (QTLs) on chromosomes 1, 2, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 were identified, although none of these were evaluated in follow-up studies

Department of Horticulture and Crop Science, The Ohio State University/OARDC, Wooster, OH, USA

Correspondence: Dr E van der Knaap, Department of Horticulture and Crop Science, The Ohio State University/OARDC, 1680 Madison Avenue, Wooster, OH 44691, USA.
E-mail: vanderknaap.1@osu.edu

¹Present address: CONICET, Cátedra de Genética, Facultad de Ciencias Agrarias, Universidad Nacional de Rosario, Zavalla, Santa Fe, Argentina.

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(Ku *et al.*, 1999; Gonzalo and van der Knaap, 2008). More efficient detection of minor QTL may be possible when the major QTL, such as *SUN* or *OVATE*, are not segregating in the populations and when the parents are more genetically similar to one another. In parents that are closely related, a minor QTL may become a major QTL when that QTL is one of the very few loci segregating for the trait. Therefore, populations derived from more closely related parents where major QTLs are fixed are useful to detect new or previously reported minor QTLs behaving as major loci. As has been demonstrated in rice (Abe *et al.*, 2012), crosses between genetically similar genotypes allowed the unequivocal segregation of markers closely linked to the trait and eventually the cloning of the underlying gene. Thus, to discover the complete set of genes that underlies fruit shape variation in cultivated tomato, phenotypic and molecular genetic analysis of intraspecific populations will be required.

Recently, using transcriptome data from six tomato accessions that included cultivated and wild genotypes, 62 576 non-redundant single-nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) were identified (Hamilton *et al.*, 2012), permitting molecular genetic analysis of intraspecific tomato populations. From this set of SNPs, a genotyping assay was developed using the Illumina Infinium platform (Illumina, San Diego, CA, USA) containing 7720 high-quality SNPs for tomato (hereafter called SolCAP Illumina Infinium Assay; data available at <http://solcap.msu.edu/>). The markers on the SolCAP Illumina Infinium Assay showed that their genetic and physical position on the maps were mostly consistent with published maps and high recombination rates in the euchromatin portions of the genome (Sim *et al.*, 2012a). The SolCAP Illumina Infinium Assay was also used to genotype accessions that represented seven subpopulations, including processing, large-fruited fresh market, large-fruited vintage, cultivated cherry, landrace, wild cherry and *S. pimpinellifolium*. The grouping revealed a pattern of genetic variation owing to breeding history (Sim *et al.*, 2012b). Thus, this technology is a highly valuable tool for high-throughput, cost-effective genotyping and mapping in tomato intraspecific populations.

The aims of this research were to map suppressors of *OVATE* (*sov*) in F_2 populations generated from crosses derived from cultivated varieties that carry the mutation but display a range of fruit shape from long and obovoid to round. The identification of the genes that suppress the *OVATE* mutation would lead to significant insights into how fruit shape is controlled by this gene, and in general the role of OFP in plant growth and development. To identify candidate regions, bulked segregant analysis (BSA) as well as genotyping of the extreme classes was conducted using the SolCAP Illumina Infinium Assay. After initial mapping experiments and progeny testing of the critical recombinants, the results demonstrate the presence of two loci *sov1* and *sov2* that suppress the *OVATE* mutation. Therefore, the results confirm the existence of modifier loci for *OVATE* and that minor QTLs have a large effect in populations derived from crosses between closely related parents.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Plant materials and population development

Three F_2 populations were generated from crosses between *S. lycopersicum* varieties carrying *OVATE* mutation and displaying diverse fruit shape. The parental genotypes were the round fruited GBL, the obovoid variety Yellow Pear (YP), the rectangular variety San Marzano (SM) and the round Italian accession T1693 (Figure 1). The T1693 × YP F_2 population ($N=97$) (09S95), the GBL × YP F_2 population ($N=100$) (09S96) and the SM × GBL F_2 population ($N=99$) (09S97), and five plants of each parental genotype as well as five plants of each F_1 cross were grown in summer 2009 in the field in

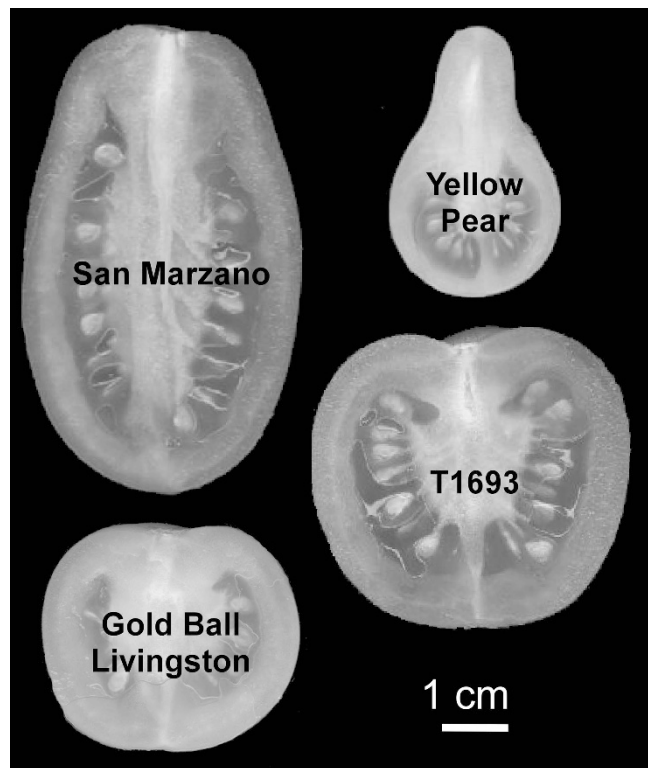


Figure 1 Fruit images of parental cvs. of *S. lycopersicum* that carry the *OVATE* mutation and display different fruit morphology. Size bar represents 1 cm.

Wooster, OH, USA. The seed of each individual plant was saved for further experiments.

Evaluation of the phenotype of fruit shape in the F_2 populations and F_2 – F_3 families

Eight fruits from each plant were longitudinally cut through the center, placed cut side-down on a scanner and scanned at 300 dots per inch (dpi). The fruit images were saved as jpeg files and imported into Tomato Analyzer 3.0 for automated phenotypic measurements. The software is available at <http://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/vanderknaap/>. The analyzed attributes were fruit shape index I (defined as the ratio between the maximum height and maximum width), obovoid (degree of pear shape) and the width at the widest position (position along a vertical axis of the widest width (Brewer *et al.*, 2006). For obovoid attribute estimation, the Tomato Analyzer 3.0 calculates it as follows: if the area of the fruit is greater below mid-height than above it, then obovoid is calculated from the maximum width (W), the height at which the maximum width occurs (y), the average width above that height (w_1) and the average width below that height (w_2), and a scaling function $scale_ob$ as: $obovoid = 1/2 \times scale_ob(y) \times (1 - w_1/W + w_2/W)$. If $obovoid > 0$, subtract 0.4. Otherwise, obovoid is 0. Also, from each plant 20 fruits were harvested for fruit mass evaluation. For the phenotypic analysis, mean values and standard deviations were estimated in the parental lines, the F_1 and the F_2 generations, for every attribute in each cross. Frequency histograms were obtained for every fruit morphological attribute in each F_2 generation.

Genetic analysis and heritability estimates

The broad sense heritability (H^2) of each attribute was calculated by components of variance from parental, F_1 and F_2 generations according to Kearsey and Pooni (1996). The variance of the F_2 (V_{F_2}) represented both genetic (V_G) and environmental (V_E) variances. V_E was estimated as $1/3(V_{P_1} + V_{P_2} + V_{F_1})$, V_G was calculated as $V_{F_2} - V_E$ and H^2 as V_G/V_{F_2} . In each

F₂–F₃ family, association between each marker and fruit morphological attribute was analyzed by *t*-test.

DNA extraction, sample preparation for the SolCAP Illumina Infinium Assay and pooling using the extreme phenotypes

Total genomic DNA was isolated from young leaves in all genotypes (parents, F₁ and each individual F₂ plant) as described by Bernatzky and Tanksley (1986) and Fulton *et al.* (1995). We selected the 30 individuals showing the most extreme values for fruit shape index based on the phenotypic distribution in each F₂ population (that is, the 15 roundest individuals and the 15 most elongated individuals). The DNA of these 90 genotypes as well as the parental genotypes was quantified using the Quanti-ITPicoGreen dsDNA Assay Kit (Life Technology Corp., Grand Island, NY, USA). Each sample was diluted to achieve a final concentration of 50 ng µl and the DNA pool was made with 5 µl of each sample. The DNA extraction for the progeny selection of recombinant plants was carried out by the Geno/Grinder method as described in Zhang *et al.* (2012).

Genotyping using the SolCAP Illumina Infinium Assay

We set up a BSA approach in the three F₂ populations (Michelmore *et al.*, 1991). Two bulks per population were evaluated using the SolCAP Illumina Infinium Assay (Sim *et al.*, 2012a). To validate the results of the BSA, 30 progeny on the extreme end exhibiting very round (15) or elongated (15) shapes from the GBL × YP F₂ were individually genotyped using the Infinium Assay. Genotyping with the Infinium Assay was performed according to the manufacturer's instructions at the Research Technology Support Center at Michigan State, University (MI, East Lansing, USA).

SolCAP Illumina Infinium Assay data analysis

Three files were generated with the SolCAP Illumina Infinium Assay: (1) the sample sheet, which contains the samples ID information; (2) the data repository, which is a folder that contains the intensity (*.idat) files; and (3) the manifest file, which contains the description of the SNPs in the array. All files were imported into Genome Studio Genotyping Module Illumina Software (Illumina) for downstream analysis. To obtain higher overall call rates of the genotypes, we used the SolCAP_ClusterFile_v1.egt file developed by the SOLCAP Project to adjust for call rates of the different alleles of the SNPs (Sim *et al.*, 2012a). After SNP quality adjustment, the genotyping results were exported in different formats through the Final Report Wizard tool for downstream analysis. We generated genotype data in three formats: AB matrix format, forward strand matrix format and the standard format option, in which data were obtained as θ and R values for each allele and each SNP. The missing data were removed from the genotype data files and logical functions in Excel were used to detect monomorphic and polymorphic SNPs among the parental lines of the crosses.

The Genome Studio Genotyping Module displays the genotypes in a genplot with data points that are colour-coded for the call (red = homozygous AA; purple = heterozygous AB; and blue = homozygous BB). For each sample (point in the graph), the genotypes are called by their signal intensity (norm R value) and the allele frequency (norm θ) relative to canonical cluster position for a given SNP marker. Thus, the θ values of each created bulk (round vs elongated) were used to estimate difference in the genetic composition of each bulk for each SNP and correlated with the phenotype.

Statistical analysis of the Infinium Assay and identification of suppressors of *OVATE* loci (*sov*)

Using one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA), the scores of each polymorphic marker were evaluated for the significance of an allele belonging to the round or elongated bulks. The most significant markers in the fruit shape bulks were called *sov*-QTL (suppressor of *OVATE* QTL). The results from the bulks were confirmed using the genotype data obtained from individual plants at the extreme ends of the fruit shape index.

SNP marker development

To confirm the presence of these QTLs identified using the SolCAP Illumina Infinium Assay, dCAPS markers were developed from SNPs that appeared associated with fruit shape (Neff *et al.*, 1998). The flanking sequence of each SNP is available in 'Tomato Infinium SNP Annotation' at the Sol CAP website (http://solcap.msu.edu/tomato_genotype_data.shtml). This sequence was also used to confirm the physical location in the tomato genome SL2.40 (<http://solgenomics.net/tools/bblast/index.pl>). The amplification was conducted using standard polymerase chain reaction protocols and the products were separated on 3% agarose gels.

Linkage map construction

Linkage analysis of markers on chromosomes 10 and 11 were performed using the software package MAPMAKER V.3.0b (Lander *et al.*, 1987) at a logarithm of odds value of 3.5 and 30 cM of maximum distance. The effects of each *sov*-QTL on all shape and size traits were performed by both a single-point one-way ANOVA and by interval analysis using the QGene software version 4.3.10 (Joehanes and Nelson, 2008). A probability of $P < 0.001$ was used to declare that a *sov*-QTL was segregating in the F₂ population. The degree of dominance of the alleles at a specific locus was estimated through D/A ratio, where $D = Aa - (AA + aa)/2$ and $A = AA - (AA - aa)/2$, where AA is the phenotypic value for homozygous parent 1, aa is the phenotypic value for homozygous parent 2 and Aa the phenotypic value for the heterozygote. Two-way ANOVAs were used to detect epistatic interactions between the *sov*-QTLs located on the two chromosomes.

Fine mapping of *sov1* and *sov2*

To determine more precisely the interval for each *sov*, F₃ progeny tests were conducted from F₂ plants that showed a recombination in the target region. Ten F₂–F₃ families were selected from the 09S95 population; 12 from the 09S96 population; and 4 from the 09S97 population. For progeny test, a selfed recombinant F₂ plant for the target region (*sov*) segregates at the heterozygous locus by producing 1:2:1 ratio (1 homozygous as parental genotype 1:2 heterozygous:1 homozygous as parental genotype 2). From each F₃ family, approximately six homozygous recombinants and six non-recombinants were identified by molecular marker-assisted selection and transplanted in the field.

RESULTS

Fruit shape variation in the segregating populations

Depending on the genetic background, the *OVATE* mutation either results in an elongated/rectangular fruit (SM); an obovoid fruit (YP); or round fruit (GBL and T1693 varieties) (Figure 1). The F₂ populations derived from the crosses between these accessions showed that fruit shape index, obovoid, width at widest position and fruit weight displayed continuous variation that is typical of a quantitative trait (Figure 2). The phenotypic variation showed a strong genetic component for most of the shape attributes, indicating that the trait was controlled by genes and less by the environment (Table 1). The highest heritability value (H^2) for fruit shape index was found in the GBL × YP F₂ population (78%). For fruit weight, H^2 was high (0.69) in the T1693 × YP F₂ population, whereas the genetic component for this trait was moderate to unnoticeable in the other F₂ populations (Table 1).

BSA to identify the *sov* loci

The genotyping of the parents demonstrated that many SNPs, 558–691, distinguish the varieties from one another (Table 2). The SNPs were distributed evenly across the genome, although some chromosomes were covered with more markers than others (Table 2). The high level of genome-wide nucleotide polymorphisms found in the parents made it feasible to genetically map the suppressors of *OVATE* loci onto the tomato genome. The DNA from the 15 most round and 15 most elongated genotypes in each F₂ was pooled to

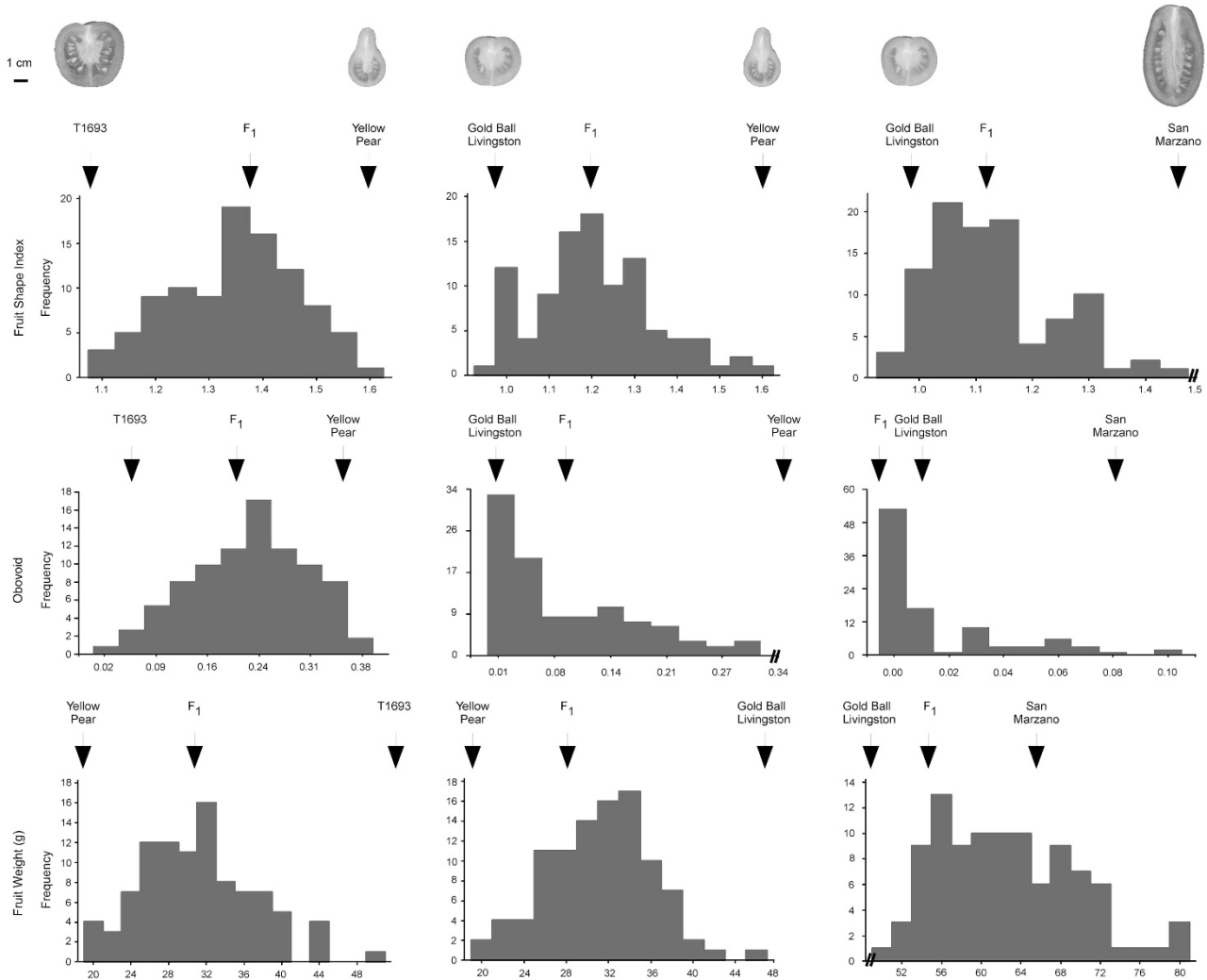


Figure 2 Phenotype distribution for fruit shape index, obovoid and fruit weight in three F_2 analyzed populations. The mean values of the parental genotypes and their F_1 are indicated by arrows.

Table 1 Mean fruit weight and shape attribute values in the parental genotypes

Attributes	GBL	SM	T1693	YP	$T1693 \times YP F_2 H^2$	$GBL \times YP F_2 H^2$	$SM \times GBL F_2 H^2$
Fruit shape index.1	0.93 ± 0.05	1.78 ± 0.09	1.01 ± 0.04	1.61 ± 0.10	0.57	0.78	0.57
WWP	0.46 ± 0.03	0.51 ± 0.04	0.47 ± 0.02	0.66 ± 0.02	0.84	0.75	0.00
Obovoid	0.01 ± 0.02	0.08 ± 0.04	0.05 ± 0.04	0.36 ± 0.04	0.83	0.75	0.00
Fruit weight	46.96 ± 6.08	65.60 ± 9.15	58.2 ± 3.17	14.36 ± 1.52	0.69	0.29	0.00

Abbreviations: GBL, Gold Ball Livingston; SM, San Marzano; WWP, width at the widest position; YP, Yellow Pear. Values are given as the mean (\pm s.d.). Broad sense heritability values (H^2) for the attributes in each F_2 population are given.

generate two separated bulks for each population. After genotyping using the Infinium Assay, we applied quantitative analyses to evaluate the allele frequencies in the bulks by using the θ value for each SNP and estimated the absolute difference between bulks (round vs elongated) in each population. The 20 SNPs with the highest absolute differences in θ values showed that the $T1693 \times YP$ and the $GBL \times YP$ F_2 populations carry two putative *sov* QTLs on chromosomes 10 and 11 (Supplementary Table S1). The most significantly different θ values in the $SM \times GBL$ population were found only for markers located on chromosome 11.

To confirm the putative QTL on chromosomes 10 and 11, we genotyped 30 plants individually with the Infinium Assay that belonged to the most round or the most elongated category in the $GBL \times YP$ F_2 population. Again, several markers that were clustered on chromosome 11 (*sov2*) and one locus on chromosome 10 (*sov1*) were significantly associated with fruit shape index ($P < 0.0001$), thus confirming the validity of the findings from the bulked DNA analysis (Supplementary Table S2). While additional putative *sov* loci were found on chromosomes 2, 3, 8 and 12, further analysis did not reveal convincing associations with fruit shape ($P > 0.01$) (Supplementary

Table 2 Number of polymorphic SNPs among the parental lines of the analyzed crosses discriminated by chromosome

Chromosome	T1693 vs YP	GBL vs YP	SM vs GBL
1	56	84	85
2	57	38	36
3	172	80	109
4	67	53	24
5	32	20	22
6	42	44	28
7	21	34	35
8	46	61	44
9	68	60	37
10	34	17	35
11	46	45	40
12	47	83	59
NN	3	7	4
Total	691	626	558

Abbreviations: GBL, Gold Ball Livingston; NN, unknown; SM, San Marzano; SNP, single-nucleotide polymorphism; YP, Yellow Pear.

Table S3). Therefore, these potential minor loci were not pursued further.

Defining the interval of *sov1* and *sov2*

The SNPs associated with fruit shape loci were converted to dCAPS markers and genotyped in all the individuals from the three F_2 populations (Supplementary Table S4). The markers showed normal Mendelian segregation indicating a lack of segregation distortion for the markers that were tested. With the dCAPS markers on chromosomes 10 and 11, a QTL map was constructed (Figure 3). For *sov1*, the QTL maps showed a clear effect for obovoid and width at the widest position overlapping with the QTL for fruit shape index in two of the three F_2 populations (Figure 3). This result indicated that a major effect of *sov1* is on the degree of pear shape originating from the YP allele. On the other hand, the major effect of *sov2* on chromosome 11 is on fruit elongation, as the QTL for width at the widest position is less significant than the QTL for fruit shape index. Also, *sov2* segregated in all three populations.

sov1 was highly associated with the markers 11EP11 and 11EP16 explaining approximately 30% of the fruit shape variation in two F_2 populations (Table 3). The locus was barely associated with fruit weight variation ($P > 0.01$). The most significant markers associated with *sov2* were 12EP178 and 11EP186 and the percent phenotypic variation explained ranged from 26 to 37%. Also, this locus explained 20 and 50% of the variation in fruit weight in two of the three populations, respectively (Table 3).

Epistatic interaction between *sov1* and *sov2* on tomato fruit shape

The two-way ANOVA in both T1693 \times YP F_2 and GBL \times YP F_2 populations demonstrated that *sov1* and *sov2* act largely independently in the control of tomato fruit shape ($P > 0.05$). In both populations, those individuals carrying the YP alleles for *sov1* and *sov2* displayed the highest values for fruit shape index (Table 4). In the two populations that segregate for *sov1* and *sov2*, the combined R^2 of the loci was 50% and 64%, respectively. The genetic component estimates (H^2) of the phenotypic variance for fruit shape index were 57% and 78% in the T1693 \times YP and GBL \times YP population, respectively (Table 1). These results suggest that it is highly unlikely that another QTL for fruit shape is segregating in the T1693 \times YP and the GBL \times YP populations. On the other hand, the percent

phenotypic variation explained by *sov2* in the SM \times GBL population (34%) is below what was expected from the H^2 estimates (57%). Thus, it is possible that another shape QTL is segregating in that population and was not detected from the BSA because of the possible small effect of the locus on fruit shape.

Progeny test from F_2 plants with crossovers in the interval containing the *sov* loci

Progeny tests were performed to confirm the location of *sov1* and *sov2* and better understand their effect on fruit shape. A total of 26 recombinant plants from the 09S95, 09S96 and 09S97 populations were selected. Recombinant individuals between 11EP16 and 11EP176 on chromosome 10, and between 11EP21 and 11EP186 on chromosome 11 were progeny tested. Twenty recombinants were selected to evaluate the *sov1* region: one recombinant located between 11EP16 and 12EP153; four between 12EP153 and 12EP5; nine between 11EP16 and 12EP5 and six between 12EP5 and 11EP176. Fruit shape index and obovoid attributes were statistically significant ($P < 0.01$) between recombinant and non-recombinant progeny for family 12S50, 12S65, 12S66, 12S117, 12S121 and 12S123 (Table 5). Therefore, the results from the progeny test indicated that *sov1* was delimited between the marker 12EP153 and 12EP5 in a 10.7 cM interval in 09S95 population. The physical distance between the flanking markers was approximately 1.2 Mb.

For the *sov2* region, six recombinants were evaluated: two between 11EP21 and 12EP178, one between 12EP175 and 12EP178, two between 11EP386 and 12EP181 and one between 12EP184 and 11EP186 (Table 5). Significant differences ($P < 0.05$) were found for the attribute fruit shape index in the 12S45, 12S47 and 12S136 families. Family 12S132 and 12S135 did not show segregation for fruit shape index. These findings implied that *sov2* was located between 12EP175 and 12EP181, representing 12.7 cM in genetic map distance in family 09S95 and about 2.4 Mb for physical distance. Family 12S137, however, should have segregated for fruit shape, so the position of *sov2* is less certain than *sov1*.

DISCUSSION

Tomato fruit is morphologically diverse. Even though the majority of shape diversity can be explained by just four genes (Rodríguez *et al.*, 2011), those cultivars that carry the *OVATE* mutation do not exhibit the same shape of the fruit, varying from elongated and pear to round. In this study, we demonstrated the existence of two regions located within ~ 2 Mb interval in the tomato genome that suppressed the effect of the *OVATE* mutation, an important gene underlying fruit morphological diversity in the tomato germplasm (Rodríguez *et al.*, 2011). These loci were mapped in intraspecific populations of genetically closely related parents that carried the same *OVATE* allele. One locus, *sov1*, controlled obovoid shape in addition to fruit elongation. The other locus, *sov2*, controlled mainly fruit elongation. Further fine mapping and cloning of the underlying genes will be an important step forward towards our understanding of the regulation of elongated fruit shape and the role of OFP in plant growth and development.

Ku *et al.* (1999) found a minor QTL for fruit shape variation on chromosome 10 in a population derived from a cross between YP and the wild relative LA1589. Therefore, *sov1* may have been detected previously; however, the logarithm of odds score reported in that study was of low significance (Ku *et al.*, 1999). For *sov2*, the story is more complex. Several QTLs that control fruit morphology have been mapped in this genomic region, including *FAS* (Cong *et al.*, 2008; Huang and van der Knaap, 2011). The *FAS* mutation though was not

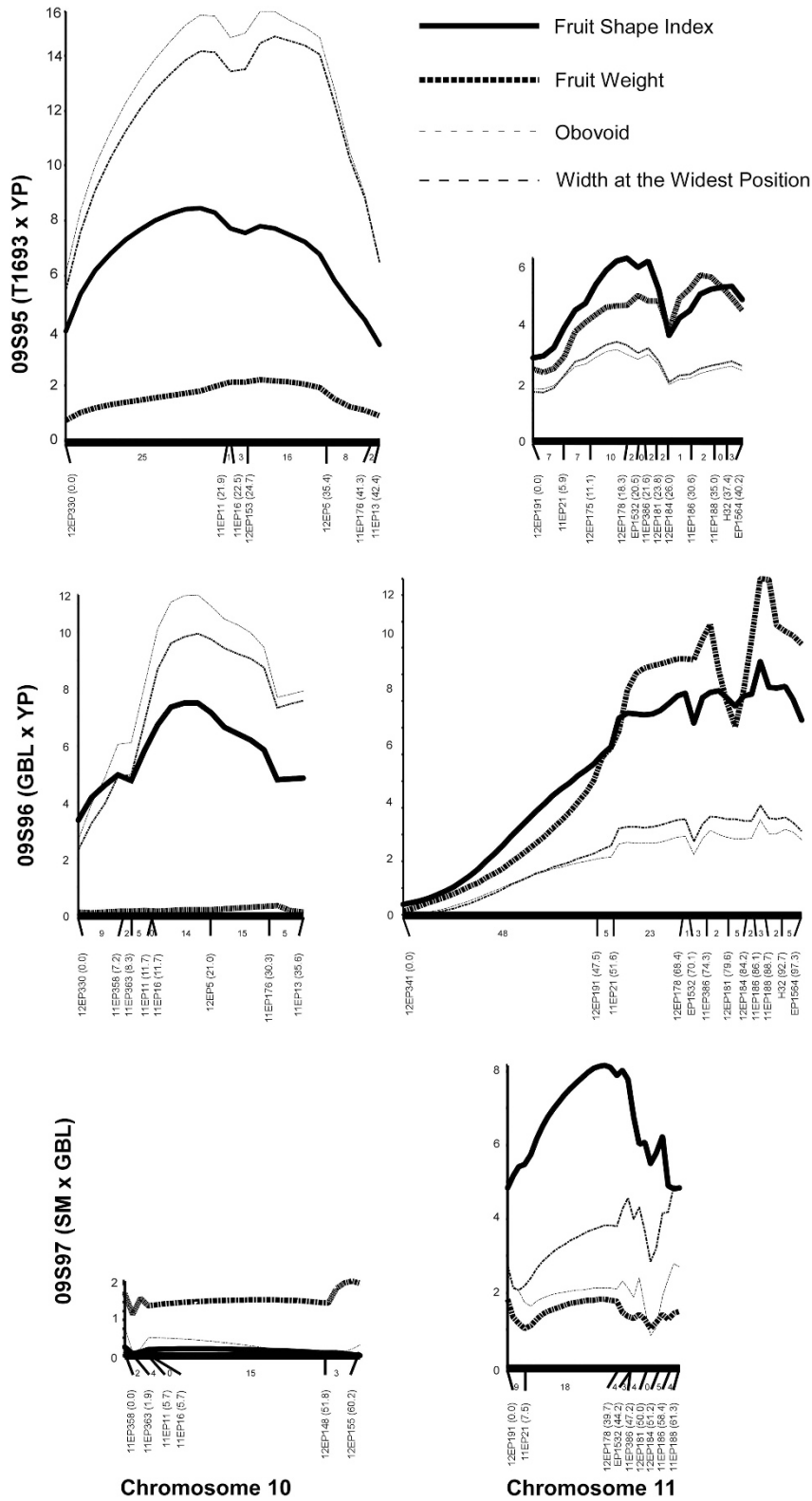


Figure 3 Interval mapping analysis on the tomato chromosomes 10 and 11. On the X axis are the markers with the genetic distances within the paranthesis; the Y axis indicates the logarithm of odds score. The logarithm of odds curve was derived from F_2 analysis. The number between markers indicates the number of recombinants in the interval.

Table 3 Most significant markers associated with fruit shape index in each F₂ population and their effect on other fruit morphological attributes

Population	Marker	Ch.	Attribute	P-value	% R ²	F value	YP	N	Het	N	T1693	N	D/A
F ₂ T1693 × YP	11EP11	10	Fruit shape index.1	<0.0001	32	20.84	1.42	27	1.34	46	1.24	20	0.11
			Obovoid	<0.0001	51	47.26	0.30		0.21		0.14		-0.13
			Width widest position	<0.0001	48	41.70	0.62		0.57		0.53		-0.11
	12EP178	11	Fruit weight	0.0087	10	5.01	29.09		30.77		34.42		0.37
			Fruit shape index.1	<0.0001	26	15.84	1.42	20	1.36	46	1.27	27	0.20
			Width widest position	0.0010	14	7.49	0.60		0.58		0.55		0.20
	Fruit weight	<0.0001	20	11.42	26.60		31.18		34.11		-0.22		
						GBL		Het		YP			
F ₂ GBL × YP	11EP16	10	Fruit shape index.1	<0.0001	28	17.13	1.12	21	1.20	55	1.35	17	0.30
			Obovoid	<0.0001	38	28.07	0.03		0.08		0.17		0.29
			Width widest position	<0.0001	35	23.17	0.49		0.50		0.56		0.71
	12EP186	11	Fruit weight	0.6487	1	0.43	31.31		31.43		30.21		NC
			Fruit shape index.1	<0.0001	37	25.37	1.07	23	1.24	50	1.30	18	-0.48
			Width widest position	0.0001	18	9.90	0.48		0.52		0.53		-0.60
	Fruit weight	<0.0001	50	44.26	34.93		31.70		24.94		0.35		
						SM		Het		GBL			
F ₂ SM × GBL	12EP178	11	Fruit shape index.1	<0.0001	34	22.31	1.20	24	1.13	43	1.04	22	0.12
			Width widest position	0.0001	19	10.14	0.48		0.47		0.46		0.00
			Fruit weight	0.0253	8	3.84	65.14		61.20		59.95		-0.52

Abbreviations: ANOVA, analysis of variance; Ch, chromosome; D/A, degree of dominance; GBL, mean value for the homozygous Gold Ball Livingston allele; Het, mean value for the heterozygous; N, number of plants per genotypic class; NC, no calculated; % of R², variance explained by the associated marker; SM, mean value for the homozygous San Marzano allele; T1693, mean value for the homozygous T1693 allele; YP, mean value for the homozygous Yellow Pear allele. Data were analyzed by a single-point one-way ANOVA.

Table 4 Fruit shape index mean values (\pm s.d.) for the allele combinations at *sov1* and *sov2* in two F₂ populations

sov1 (Ch. 10)	sov2 (Ch. 11)	T1693 × YP F ₂	GBL × YP F ₂
1	1	1.19 ± 0.09 a	1.04 ± 0.08 a
1	2	1.27 ± 0.08 ab	1.11 ± 0.08 a
1	3	1.34 ± 0.15 bc	1.25 ± 0.11 c
2	1	1.29 ± 0.08 b	1.08 ± 0.07 a
2	2	1.36 ± 0.07 bc	1.23 ± 0.10 bc
2	3	1.40 ± 0.09 cd	1.27 ± 0.07 c
3	1	1.33 ± 0.09 bc	1.12 ± 0.00 ab
3	2	1.42 ± 0.07 cd	1.35 ± 0.10 c
3	3	1.47 ± 0.12 d	1.51 ± 0.08 d

Abbreviations: Ch, chromosome; GBL, Gold Ball Livingston cultivar; YP, Yellow Pear cultivar; 1, homozygous genotype for the T1693 or GBL alleles; 2, heterozygous; 3, homozygous for the YP alleles. Different letters indicate significant differences at 5% between mean values according to *t*-test.

present in the parents used in the study. *Sov2* overlapped with a fruit weight QTL *fw11.3* reported by Huang and van der Knaap (2011). However, the fruit weight and shape loci were not allelic since *sov2* segregated in all three populations and fruit weight only in two populations. It is possible though that *sov2* was the same QTL controlling fruit shape index in Long John cultivar (van der Knaap *et al.*, 2002).

The *sov1* and *sov2* alleles from GBL and T1693 suppress *OVATE*, and provide two rare examples of accessions with the *OVATE* mutation but a round fruit phenotype. On the other hand, the presence of the SM and YP alleles of *sov1* and *sov2* produce more elongated fruit. Therefore, it is also possible to consider that the *sov*

loci enhance the *OVATE* mutation. Regardless, the effect of *sov* loci is to modify *OVATE* as these loci was not mapped as major QTL in populations segregating for the *ovate* locus on chromosome 2 (Ku *et al.*, 1999; Gonzalo and van der Knaap, 2008).

Sov1 mapped to a 1.2-Mb interval and *sov2* in a 2.4-Mb interval. Only one auxin-related gene was found in the *sov1* region, namely an *AUX1* gene (Solyc10g076790) and not PIN1. For *sov2*, the region contains several viable candidate genes: a Hira-like protein (Solyc11g067200) known to interact with AS1, an NAC domain transcription factor (Solyc11g068620) functioning to activate KNOX expression and a class III homeodomain leucine zipper (Solyc11g069470) involved in organ polarity (McConnell *et al.*, 2001; Otsuga *et al.*, 2001; Hay and Tsiantis, 2010; Byrne, 2012). In addition, the region contains two auxin response factor genes (Solyc11g069190 and Solyc11g069500) and two BELL transcription factors (Solyc11g068950 and Solyc11g069890). BEL1-like homeodomain proteins have been found to interact with OFP and KNOX, and therefore are also viable candidate genes for *sov2* (Hackbusch *et al.*, 2005).

The mapping of the *sov* loci was greatly facilitated by the genome-wide SNP markers that were developed by the tomato research community. In this study, we demonstrated that the SolCAP Illumina Infinium Assay is also useful in initial mapping experiments that aim to clone genes underlying important QTLs. Traditional molecular markers such as RFLP, AFLP, RAPD, transposon-based markers and SSR (Sim *et al.*, 2012a, b) are sufficient to characterize and distinguish tomato cultivars but they are not sufficient to map QTLs in intraspecific populations (van der Knaap *et al.*, 2013). The number and distribution of the SNP in the genome show that marker coverage is quite robust. Accordingly, the quantitative BSA approach results

Table 5 Progeny test of *sov1* (A) and *sov2* (B) recombinant plants

Parent	Progeny	Genotype of parent						Fruit shape progeny test													
		Ch. 10 ^a	Ch. 11 ^b	Ave. 1 ^c	S.d.	N ^d	Ave. 3 ^e	S.d.	N	Ave. 3 ^e	S.d.	N	P-value ^f (FSI/obovoid)								
(A) <i>sov1</i>		52872133 ^g	57330887	57997266	59255104	60348137	51606380														
		11EP11	11EP16	12EP153	12EP5	11EP176	12EP178														
	09S95-4	12S46	2	2	3	3	1	1.26	0.09	6	1.41	0.08	4	1.41	0.08	4	*/****				
	09S95-29	12S50	3	3	2	2	3	1.35	0.10	5	1.50	0.09	6	1.50	0.09	6	*/****				
	09S95-49	12S59	1	1	2	2	1	1.24	0.05	6	1.23	0.08	6	1.23	0.08	6	0.91/0.19				
	09S95-53	12S60 ^h	2	2	2	3	3	1.42	0.10	5	1.58	0.13	5	1.58	0.13	5	0.08/*				
	09S95-82	12S65	2	2	1	1	3	1.23	0.10	6	1.42	0.10	6	1.42	0.10	6	****/****				
	09S95-84	12S66	3	3	3	2	1	1.17	0.07	6	1.32	0.08	6	1.32	0.08	6	****/****				
	09S95-87	12S88	3	3	3	3	3	1.49	0.09	6	1.57	0.09	5	1.57	0.09	5	0.13/0.92				
	09S95-93	12S89	1	1	1	2	1	1.10	0.07	6	1.06	0.07	6	1.06	0.07	6	0.32/0.73				
	09S96-9	12S91	2	2	—	1	1	1.09	0.05	6	1.27	0.10	6	1.27	0.10	6	****/*				
	09S96-35	12S95	1	1	2	2	3	1.28	0.08	6	1.54	0.09	5	1.54	0.09	5	****/*				
	09S96-39	12S96	2	2	—	1	1	1.27	0.08	6	1.30	0.07	6	1.30	0.07	6	0.53/**				
	09S96-45	12S117	2	2	—	2	3	1.24	0.09	6	1.43	0.08	4	1.43	0.08	4	****/*				
	09S96-53	12S118	1	1	—	1	2	1.10	0.05	4	1.04	0.04	5	1.04	0.04	5	0.09/0.36				
	09S96-62	12S119	2	2	—	1	1	1.03	0.05	6	1.05	0.04	2	1.05	0.04	2	0.13/0.51				
	09S96-66	12S120	2	2	—	3	1	1.05	0.06	6	1.24	0.07	5	1.24	0.07	5	****/*				
	09S96-70	12S121	2	2	—	2	1	1.22	0.07	6	1.43	0.09	6	1.43	0.09	6	0.21/0.27				
	09S96-75	12S122	3	3	—	2	2	1.36	0.08	6	1.49	0.08	6	1.49	0.08	6	****/****				
	09S96-76	12S123	1	1	—	2	3	1.19	0.06	6	1.40	0.09	5	1.40	0.09	5	****/****				
09S96-79	12S124	2	2	—	1	3	1.41	0.10	5	1.62	0.13	6	1.62	0.13	6	****/*					
09S96-84	12S125	3	3	—	2	2	1.02	0.05	2	1.19	0.05	6	1.19	0.05	6	0.10/0.07					
(B) <i>sov2</i>																					
		48827390	49625802	51606380	51876227	51937520	52053483	52053561	52126950	57997266	57997266	57997266	57997266	57997266	57997266	57997266	57997266	57997266	57997266	57997266	
		11EP21	12EP175	12EP178	EP1532	11EP386	12EP181	12EP184	11EP186	12EP153	12EP153	12EP153	12EP153	12EP153	12EP153	12EP153	12EP153	12EP153	12EP153	12EP153	
09S95-2	12S45	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1.22	0.07	4	1.36	0.09	6	*/0.47				
09S95-7	12S47	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	3	1.37	0.10	6	1.56	0.10	4	*/0.03				
09S97-16	12S132	2	—	1	1	1	1	1	1	ND	1.08	0.06	5	1.05	0.06	5	0.44/0.95				
09S97-36	12S135	2	—	1	1	1	1	1	1	ND	1.22	0.07	5	1.23	0.08	6	0.99/0.39				
09S97-47	12S136	2	—	2	2	2	3	3	3	ND	1.22	0.09	5	1.10	0.07	6	*/0.04				
09S97-59	12S137 ^h	2	—	2	2	2	2	2	1	ND	1.18	0.10	6	1.16	0.10	6	0.87/0.07				

Abbreviations: Ave., average; Ch, chromosome; FSI, fruit shape index; GBL, Gold Ball Livingston cultivar; ND, not determined; YP, Yellow Pear cultivar.
^a*sov1* locus.
^b*sov2* locus.
^cAverage fruit shape index for parental genotype 1 (T11693 in 09S95, GBL in 09S96 and San Marzano in 09S97).
^dThe number of tomato plants.
^eAverage fruit shape index for parental genotype 3 (YP in 09S95 and 09S96 and is GBL in 09S97).
^fP-value about FSI and obovoid. **P*<0.05; ***P*<0.01; ****P*<0.001; *****P*<0.0001.
^gChromosome positions of markers. The unit is bp.
^hFamily showed strange segregation in field test. This family needs re-progeny testing.

were efficient at detecting major QTLs controlling size and morphological fruit attributes in intraspecific crosses (Supplementary Table S3). In the future, with the decreasing cost of whole genome sequencing, both major and minor QTLs will be easily detected if genotyping is carried out with a larger number of individuals per population.

In conclusion, we demonstrated that a quantitative BSA approach was highly successful at mapping two QTLs underlying fruit morphology of tomato. *Sov1* and *sov2* were efficiently mapped using the newly developed SolCAP Infinium Assay. The results of this study will contribute to the identification of the genes underlying these major QTLs and contribute to the understanding of the molecular basis of fruit shape variation in the cultivated germplasm of tomato. Additional experiments with *sov1* and *sov2* will confirm whether single or more than one gene underlies the phenotype effect of each locus on fruit morphology and provides general insights into the role of OFP in plant growth and development.

DATA ARCHIVING

Genotype and Phenotype data deposited in the Dryad repository: doi:10.5061/dryad.st020.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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