

ABSTRACT

PARKS, WESLEY RYAN. Structure of the Eastern U.S. Wheat Powdery Mildew Population. (Under the direction of Christina Cowger.)

In the eastern U. S. and other wheat growing areas of the world, powdery mildew is a major constraint to the production of wheat. Currently, the most effective and economical means of control is to use resistant cultivars. Unfortunately, the diversity of the pathogen population enables the pathogen to overcome new resistance genes, often within several seasons of commercial deployment. Surveys to determine the virulence of the population to a set of resistance genes have been performed in many areas of the world. Often, differential frequencies of virulence in varying geographic areas are used to infer a putative population structure. However, due to the effects of selection, virulence frequencies are poorly suited to high-resolution analysis of population structure, and results may reflect regional cultivar choices rather than underlying population processes. A collection of 206 single-ascospore derived powdery mildew isolates were utilized to determine virulence frequencies at varying locations in the eastern U. S. Primers were developed to amplify coding sequences in order to assess single nucleotide polymorphisms within this population, which allowed analyses of the distribution of presumably neutral genetic variation. Dendograms based on Nei's standard genetic distance (Gst) indicated clustering of virulence frequencies into northern and southern subpopulations, with North Carolina as the putative boundary between groups. DNA sequence based AMOVA analysis using groups derived from Hudson's sequence based subdivision test (Snn) supported this conclusion. Tests for population richness indicated greater haplotype diversity in Virginia and Delaware; a result consistent with several possible explanations based on the history of North American wheat cultivation.

Structure of the Eastern U.S. Wheat Powdery
Mildew Population

by

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CHAPTER ONE -- VIRULENCE STRUCTURE OF THE EASTERN U.S.

WHEAT POWDERY MILDEW POPULATION

INTRODUCTION

Blumeria graminis (DC.) E. O. Speer f. sp. *tritici* (Em. Marchal) causes powdery mildew of wheat (*Triticum aestivum*), a disease that may cause significant damage in many wheat-growing areas of the world, with yield losses up to 34% on susceptible cultivars (27). In fall-sown cereals, primary *B. graminis* inoculum is thought to originate mainly from cleistothecia (chasmothecia, or sexual fruiting bodies) produced at the end of the previous growing season by compatible mating types (5,15). With annual sexual reproduction, virulence gene combinations may be frequently shuffled (36). When environmental conditions are favorable, the pathogen undergoes multiple cycles of asexual reproduction (via conidia), selecting for effective virulence combinations in fit backgrounds prior to leaf senescence and cleistothelial production (35).

Current methods of wheat powdery mildew control are chemical fungicides and resistant cultivars, with the majority of resistance being conferred by single genes (17,18,27). There are currently 49 identified alleles at 33 loci conferring resistance to wheat powdery mildew (23). Intensive agricultural production of wheat cultivars with one or a few resistance genes and wind-aided dispersal of conidia lead to rapid adaptation and spread of the pathogen population (33) and low durability of resistance.

Numerous surveys of *B. graminis* f. sp. *tritici* population virulence have been

performed (9,13,19,21,25,27,28,30). Wheat breeders use virulence frequencies to determine the usefulness of incorporating particular powdery mildew resistance genes (*Pm* genes) into their breeding materials (9). In the southeastern United States soft red winter wheat production area, the most recent survey of virulence was from the 1993 and 1994 growing seasons (27). Cultivars used by growers have changed since 1994, and changing selective pressures of *Pm* genes are likely evident in population virulence shifts. Currently, wheat breeders rely on collaborative observations of field plots with experimental lines and breeding stocks to determine the effectiveness of *Pm* genes, but epidemics often do not occur in breeding nurseries with adequate frequency or intensity for germplasm evaluation. Current information about U.S. powdery mildew population virulence can assist resistance breeding.

Past virulence studies have indicated that the eastern U.S. mildew population is subdivided between the northeastern and southeastern states, such that individual *Pm* genes may be effective in some areas and not in others (16). It is unknown whether such differences result mainly from recent appearances of resistance-breaking isolates, restricted gene flow, or disparities in use of *Pm* genes among wheat-growing regions.

Our objectives were to determine virulence frequencies in locations representative of the eastern U.S. wheat powdery mildew population and analyze geographic virulence differences. In order to make these assessments, a collection of *B. graminis* f. sp. *tritici* isolates was randomly derived from single ascospores released from field-sampled cleistothecia and the isolates were tested on a set of *Pm* differential wheat lines in the laboratory.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Sample collection and isolation preparation. Samples of cleistothecia on senescent wheat leaves from the eastern U.S. (Fig.1.1) were collected by collaborators in 2003 and 2005 (Table 1.1). Leaves from susceptible cultivars were sampled to avoid selection of the mildew population. The method of Niewoehner and Leath (27) was modified to more rapidly obtain isolates derived from single ascospores. Several leaves bearing abundant cleistothecia were selected from each location. Ascospore release was induced by placing leaves bearing cleistothecia on moist filter paper in the lid of a Petri plate, and placing the plate in a growth chamber at 17°C with 12 hours of light. After four days, detached leaves of the susceptible cultivars Jagalene (PVP 200200160) or Chancellor (CI 12333) were placed on 50 mg/L benzimidazole-amended 0.5% water agar under the maturing cleistothecia. After 24 hours, the detached leaves were removed from beneath the cleistothecia and placed in a 17°C growth chamber with 12 hours of light, and fresh detached leaves were placed under the maturing ascospores for 24 more hours. This process was repeated for at least seven days to ensure that an adequate number of ascospores was allowed to germinate on susceptible tissue.

Seven days after removal from beneath the maturing cleistothecia, detached leaves were examined for mildew colonies. Under a dissecting microscope, individual colonies were subcultured using a dissecting needle to transfer conidia to fresh leaf tissue. When possible, two or three isolates were recovered from each cleistothecia-bearing leaf. Subcultured single-ascospore isolates were placed in a 17°C growth chamber with 12 hours of light. After eight days, each isolate was increased on six detached-leaf Petri plates. If

enough conidia were not available to inoculate at least six Petri plates, two or three plates were inoculated, and after eight days, increases were repeated.

Inoculation and rating. Once sufficient conidia were present, each isolate was inoculated onto separate Petri plates containing detached leaves of a set of wheat resistance gene differentials, with each differential line bearing one *Pm* gene, in order to postulate a virulence profile (Table 1.2). Samples from 2003 were inoculated on differential lines containing 14 different alleles, and isolates from 2005 were inoculated on these 14 lines plus two more, for a total of 16 resistance alleles tested. Chancellor was used as a susceptible control in all trials. Experimental units for inoculation were individual Petri plates containing all differential lines and susceptible controls. For replication, each of the differential plates contained two detached leaves from each differential line, and each isolate was inoculated on two plates of the differentials.

Disease severity on each leaf segment was rated eight and nine days post-inoculation using the following scale: 0 - no symptoms, 1 - faint chlorotic speck, 2 - chlorotic lesion, 3 - necrotic lesion, 4 - first sign of mycelium, 5 - one or two healthy colonies with conidia, 6 - <20% coverage with healthy pustules, 7 - 20-50% coverage with healthy pustules, 8 - >50% coverage with medium to large pustules, 9 - ~100% coverage with large pustules (22). Ratings of 0 to 3 were designated as resistant (R), 4 to 6 as intermediate (I), and 7 to 9 as susceptible (S).

Data analysis. Data were summarized in three categories (R, I, and S) to determine the frequencies of reaction types at each location. All other analyses were performed with intermediate reactions recoded as susceptible for ease of analysis and continuity with

previous virulence surveys (27).

Possible associations of alleles at pairs of avirulence loci were investigated by conducting Fisher's exact tests on clone-corrected isolates from both years. Clone correction was performed to prevent biasing the association tests by inadvertent over-sampling of particular genotypes. Clone correction was carried out by counting multiple isolates from the same field plot with the same multilocus virulence haplotype as a single isolate. Both linkage and independent assortment have been found among avirulence loci in cereal powdery mildews (2,12). Linkage of host resistance loci could also account for associations of avirulence alleles at the corresponding pathogen loci; in this case, a pyramid of defeated resistance genes would select for multiply virulent pathogen isolates. Assuming an absence of linkage in either host or pathogen, isolates virulent at a given locus should on average assort 1:1 virulent:avirulent at any other virulence locus. Significant deviations from 1:1 thus suggest linkage of loci. Fisher's exact tests were also used to determine significant differences in virulence frequencies among geographic locations by comparing the actual and expected frequencies of virulence in tests of all locations together, as well as testing each possible pair of locations.

Multilocus virulence haplotypes were analyzed using Map (1) within SNAP workbench version 1.0 (1,29). Isolate virulence haplotypes, with *Pm* gene reactions coded as either R or S, were manually converted to standard FASTA format. Isolates that had ambiguous results were excluded from the analysis. FASTA was then converted to standard Phylogeny Inference Package (PHYLIP) format (4), and was input into Map to determine the frequencies of multilocus virulence haplotypes. These results were also utilized to determine

the effectiveness of the sampling scheme and address questions of possible isolate clonality and population diversity among replicate plots in a field.

Nei's (26) standard genetic distance computes a matrix of genetic distance (G_{ST}) from gene frequencies. To automate this calculation, frequencies of virulence summed over locations were input into GENDIST (4). Rooted trees were inferred from distance matrices using NEIGHBOR with the Unweighted Pair Group Method with Arithmetic Mean (UPGMA) and random number seed options from PHYLIP (4). All missing data were excluded from this analysis. It was hypothesized that as the geographic distance between locations increased, the genetic distance between the corresponding isolate populations would increase. To test whether the data were consistent with an isolation by distance model, G_{ST} was plotted against geographic distance, and a regression analysis was performed.

RESULTS

One hundred isolates from 2003 and 107 isolates from 2005 were recovered from cleistothelial samples (Table 1.1). Isolates were collected from four states and five locations in 2003, and five states and seven locations in 2005. From the samples collected west of the Appalachian Mountains, only four viable isolates could be derived in 2003 (those from Princeton, KY), and none in 2005, despite repeated efforts. As few as one and as many as 12 leaves produced viable isolates from each location and year. A few isolates reproducibly provoked both resistant and susceptible interactions on the same differential line, a phenomenon reported by previous researchers (27). These isolates were treated as missing data, or the affected loci were left out of the analysis, as appropriate.

Proportions of isolates virulent to each *Pm* gene are given in Tables 1.3 and 1.4 for the years 2003 and 2005, respectively. The following percentages apply only to fully virulent isolates, not to those that provoked intermediate reactions. Averaging across locations and years, in 2003 and in 2005, over 90% of isolates were virulent to *Pm3a*, *Pm3c*, *Pm3f*, *Pm5a*, and *Pm7*; virulence to *Pm2* was present in over 50% of isolates; and fewer than 10% of all isolates were virulent to *Pm1a*, *Pm16*, *Pm17*, and *Pm25*. Although it must be kept in mind that sample locations differed between years, mean increases in virulence were observed from 2003 to 2005 as follows: *Pm8* virulence increased from 7% of isolates in 2003 to 21% in 2005; *Pm3b* virulence from 48% to 66%; and *Pm4b* virulence from 42% to 65%. Complete virulence to *Pm17* was rare in both 2003 and 2005, with no virulent isolates in 2003 and only one virulent isolate in 2005. However, levels of intermediate *Pm17* virulence increased from 9% in 2003 to 20% in 2005.

In total, there were 30 unique multilocus virulence haplotypes in 2003 and 42 in 2005; Tables 1.5 and 1.6 indicate the most frequent haplotypes in the two years, respectively. In 2003, 15 of 30 virulence haplotypes were each found in more than one isolate (Table 1.5), with 84% of sampled isolates possessing shared haplotypes and the remaining 16% having unique multilocus virulence haplotypes. In 2005, 14 of 42 virulence haplotypes were found in more than one isolate (Table 1.6) with 71% of isolates possessing shared haplotypes, and the remaining 29% of isolates having unique haplotypes. Combining data from 2003 and 2005 and excluding *Pm* genes only tested in 2005, 53% of isolates had one of four virulence profiles (Table 1.7). Of the 14 *Pm* genes screened in 2003, each mildew isolate was virulent to a minimum of five genes and a maximum of 11 (Fig. 1.2). In 2005, isolates were virulent

to a minimum of seven and a maximum of 13 of the 16 resistance genes screened (Fig 1.2).

Possession of the same multilocus virulence haplotype, especially among isolates from the same field plot, suggests but does not prove isolate clonality. The haplotype data suggest that our isolate population may contain a modest percentage of clones (Fig. 1.3). The lowest haplotype diversity was in Felton, with only four unique haplotypes among 10 isolates from a single plot in 2005. Diversity in Warsaw, Kinston, and Plains was highest, with over 80% of sampled isolates having multilocus virulence haplotypes unique to their plot. Overall, 67% of isolates had unique haplotypes in their plots.

In 2003, there were significant differences among locations in the frequencies of virulence to seven *Pm* genes (Table 1.3). Results of pairwise virulence comparisons of locations in 2003 appear in Table 1.8. In 2003, isolates from Kinston and Warsaw had the lowest number of significant virulence frequency differences (zero), and isolates from Warsaw and Salisbury had the largest number (five). In 2005, there were significant differences among locations in the frequencies of virulence to 10 *Pm* genes (Table 1.4). Felton virulence frequencies did not differ significantly from those of three other locations in 2005 (Table 1.9), perhaps owing in part to the small Felton sample size. Plains had the largest number of virulence frequency differences (seven each with Kinston and Painter).

Phylogenograms for each year based on Nei's genetic distance (G_{ST}) matrices for frequencies at each virulence locus appear in Figs. 1.4 and 1.5. These provide a graphical representation of mildew population phenotypic similarities among locations, and as such reflect the results of the pairwise Fisher's exact tests. Locations with greater similarity of virulence frequencies at all loci are clustered. For the two years combined, regression

analysis of geographic distance between locations versus genetic distance between locations indicated a significant linear relationship (Fig. 1.6, $R^2 = 0.40$, $P < 0.001$) suggesting isolation by distance.

Associations between alleles at pairs of virulence loci were detected by chi-squared tests (Table 1.10). Significant interactions between pairs of loci were categorized as positive or negative associations. In a positive association, virulence at one locus was associated with virulence at the second locus, or conversely avirulence was associated with avirulence. In a negative association, virulence at one locus was associated with avirulence at the other.

DISCUSSION

This is the first survey of eastern U.S. wheat powdery mildew virulence frequencies since Niewoehner and Leath's report (27) on the 1993-94 mildew population. Few changes are evident since the previous survey. Of the *Pm* genes used in our study, only *Pm1a*, *Pm8*, *Pm12*, *Pm17*, and *Pm25* appear to remain effective in the field (authors' personal observations). Most of the *Pm* genes in our differential set have long been deployed in commercial U.S. production. Commercial cultivars with *Pm2*, *Pm3a*, *Pm5a*, and *Pm8* have been in field use for at least 10 years in the eastern U.S. (27). Cultivars with *Pm17* (7,8) were released in 2002 and were widely planted starting in 2003 in the eastern U.S., although *Pm17* was deployed in the U.S. Great Plains in the early 1980's. *Pm1a* has been available in adapted germplasm, and is currently utilized in NC-Neuse (PI 633037) (24), and *Pm25* (31) has not yet been deployed in commercial production. Our surveys indicate that virulence to *Pm1a*, *Pm8*, and *Pm17* has not increased substantially since 1993-94 except for the high

frequency of *Pm8* and *Pm17* virulent isolates detected at Plains, GA in 2005. The low detected levels of *Pm25* virulence were as expected.

Commonly used alleles at the *Pm3* and *Pm4* loci are largely defeated in the U.S. The frequency of virulence to *Pm3b* and *Pm4a* has increased since 1994 in North Carolina, where mildew epidemics are relatively common, but not in Georgia, where epidemics are less common. No clear trend in virulence to *Pm4b* was evident since 1994, when Niewoehner and Leath (27) found that 62% of Georgia isolates and 81% of North Carolina isolates were virulent to *Pm4b* (sample sizes not given). In our survey, 41% of North Carolina isolates were virulent to *Pm4b* in 2003, and 100% in 2005, while no *Pm4b*-virulent isolates were found in Georgia either year. Given the infrequent occurrence of mildew epidemics in Georgia, genetic drift due to a population bottleneck may account for the absence of *Pm4b* virulence detected in this survey as compared to the high frequency found in the 1994 Georgia sample.

In the 1993-94 survey, virulence to *Pm7* was at high levels in the mildew population. The original source of *Pm7* was the breeding line ‘Transec’ (CI14189), which was derived from a wheat-rye chromosome translocation and was used in many U.S. wheat breeding programs beginning in the last 1960’s (3). However, few if any cultivars have been released and grown from Transec-containing germplasm. With a single exception, all isolates surveyed in 2003 and 2005 were virulent to *Pm7*. The high levels of virulence to *Pm7* may be due to reduced expression of genes transferred from related species (11).

It is puzzling that almost all cleistothecia from west of the Appalachian Mountains

failed to mature and release ascospores under controlled conditions conducive to obtaining ascospores from more easterly samples, especially as the 1993-94 study did not have similar difficulties (27). Perhaps *B. graminis* does not reproduce sexually every year in the Midwest and Plains states. Host maturity and moisture have an important effect on whether cleistothecia become “ripe to spore” (32,34), and our western samples were likely collected from less mature plants than the eastern samples, as collection dates were similar. Also, nutritional deficits during early developmental stages of the “generative” (cleistothecium-forming) mycelia could prevent cleistothecia from maturing ascospores later (6). In any case, viable conidial samples from west of the Appalachians have been obtained and will be included in future population genetic and virulence studies.

Screening with 16 differential lines, we found that the majority of isolates were virulent to 8-10 resistance genes, with a maximum of 13 virulences. Niewoehner and Leath (27) found most isolates virulent to seven of the 15 screened *Pm* genes and a maximum of 12 virulence genes in a single isolate in 1994. Due to differences between the surveys in the number and identity of resistance genes used, the results cannot be directly compared to determine if the U.S. mildew population complexity has increased in the last decade.

In a similar vein, the most frequent multilocus virulence genotype comprised 7% of all survey isolates in 1993-94, with the top four genotypes accounting for 20% of the total sample (27). In our study, the top four virulence genotypes accounted for 53% of the sample. If this is a real trend, it could be explained by increasing frequencies of virulence to the most commonly deployed *Pm* genes. However, comparisons between the two studies should be treated with caution due to the differences in sampling methodologies and *Pm* genes

employed.

The chi-squared and Nei's distance analyses reported in Tables 1.8 and 1.9 and Figs. 1.4 and 1.5 address whether differences in virulence among U.S. wheat powdery mildew populations increase with geographic separation. We found an increase in virulence frequency dissimilarity with increasing geographic distance (Fig. 1.6), although the relationship was stronger in 2005 than in 2003, likely due to the larger number of sampled locations. There are at least two possible reasons for this association: 1) differences in frequencies of commercially deployed *Pm* genes increase with geographic distance, and/or 2) mildew populations are subdivided geographically, with restricted gene flow among locations. To investigate the second possibility, research is currently underway using markers that are not directly under selective virulence pressure.

Similar but not identical results were obtained by assessing differences in virulence frequencies across locations using Nei's genetic distance and Fisher's exact tests. For 2003, the phylogram based on Nei's genetic distance indicates that the Griffin population is the outgroup (Fig. 1.4), while chi-squared analysis indicated the Salisbury population was the most different (Table 1.8). Fisher's exact test examines each locus independently, while Nei's genetic distance accounts for gene frequencies at all loci in a cumulative, single estimator of genetic distance. As such, Nei's genetic distance is more accurate if the underlying assumptions are correct (constant effective population size, differences between populations arise from drift and mutation, all loci have same mutation rate) (26).

Genetic linkage of avirulence loci is of interest because it can influence strategies for mildew resistance breeding. Pyramids of currently effective *Pm* genes for which the

corresponding avirulence loci are linked (most of the *Pm* gene pairs with “+” association type in Table 1.10) should be the most durable because recombination between linked pathogen loci would be uncommon, especially if virulence to each pyramided gene was at a relatively low level. To overcome such a pyramid, an isolate would have to acquire inactivating mutations at each avirulence locus. However, once multiple virulence genes were combined in the same background, they would likely stay linked in the population.

Virulences to *Pm8* and *Pm12* were positively associated, with about 60% of isolates avirulent at both loci and about 30% virulent at both loci (Table 1.10). *Pm12* was introgressed from *Aegilops speltoides* into the UK spring wheat cultivar Wembley (14). As this gene is not known to be present in U.S. wheat cultivars, the association of *Pm8* virulence and *Pm12* virulence is not due to the selective effects of a resistance gene pyramid. Rather, it may be the result of pathogen genetic linkage or of pleiotropy (the same pathogen effector recognized by both *Pm* genes). Positive but weaker associations were observed between virulence to *Pm8* and *Pm17*, and also *Pm12* and *Pm25*, suggesting that these loci may be loosely linked in the pathogen. *Pm8* and *Pm17* are allelic in U.S. wheat cultivars, which possess the T1BL-1RS rye (*Secale cereal* L.) translocation (10), so the two alleles could be combined only if a plant were heterozygous and the alleles were codominant.

Limited knowledge of the *Pm* genes present in commercial cultivars and breeding lines, combined with the lack of information on U.S. wheat mildew population structure, constricts interpretation of the virulence frequencies detected. Efforts are underway to postulate genes by molecular marker as well as by challenge with differential mildew isolates. However, we believe that few *Pm* genes other than those investigated in this study

are present in commercial cultivars grown in the eastern U.S. This underscores the need to broaden the base of powdery mildew resistance through introgression and deployment of new sources of mildew resistance. The isolates included in this study are also being analyzed with selectively neutral markers to expand our understanding of the evolutionary forces shaping the population. These analyses should shed light on population subdivision and gene flow, allowing for more complete explanations of virulence data.

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Table 1.1 Origin of wheat powdery mildew isolates recovered in 2003 and 2005 from leaves collected in the field

Year	State	Location	Wheat cultivar or breeding line	Number of isolates recovered	Field replicates (sampled separately)
2003	NC	Kinston	Coker 9663	29	3
2003	NC	Salisbury	Coker 9663	30	3
2003	GA	Griffin	Coker 9663	17	2
2003	VA	Warsaw	Coker 9663	20	2
2003	KY	Princeton	Jagalene	4	1
2005	NC	Kinston	Roane	29	3
2005	NC	Chocowinity	Roane	10	1
2005	VA	Warsaw	unknown	9	1
2005	VA	Painter	unknown	19	2
2005	DE	Felton	Roane	10	1
2005	GA	Plains	P26R61	20	2
2005	AL	Headland	GA951216-2E26	10	2

Table 1.2 Pedigree of powdery mildew (*Pm*) differential wheat lines used in virulence screening of wheat powdery mildew isolates from 2003 and 2005^a.

Accession number ^b / Cultivar name	<i>Pm</i> gene	Pedigree
CI12333 - Chancellor	none	Dietz/Carina//Carina/Mediterranean/3/Kanred"S"/Purplestraw
CI14114	1a	Axminster/8*Chancellor
CI14118	2	Ulka/8*Chancellor
CI14120	3a	Asosan/8*Chancellor
CI14121	3b	Chul/8*Chancellor
CI14122	3c	Sonora/8*Chancellor
CI15888	3f	Michigan Amber/8*Chancellor
CI14123	4a	Khapli/8*Chancellor
NIC ^c - Ronos	4b	Graf/Kormoran//Krojuwel
CI14125	5a	Hope/8*Chancellor
NIC	7	Transec/8*Chancellor
PI361879 - Kavkaz	8	Lutescens 314H147/Bezostaja 1 (=Bezostaja II) (=PI367723)
PI520591 - Wembley	12	Hobbit/Sona 227//Sicco
NIC - Pm16	16	Norman/ <i>T. dicoccoides</i> line
PI578213 - Amigo	17	Teewon"S"/6/Gaucho/4/Tascosa/3/Wichita/Teewon/5/2*Teewon
CI17452 - TAM-W-104	20	Male sterile Sturdy/PI252003
PI599035 - NC96BGTA5	25	Saluda/PI427662//Saluda/3/Saluda (=NC94-3778)

^a*Pm12* and *Pm20* only used with 2005 isolates.

^bAccession numbers from USDA-ARS Germplasm Resource Information Network.

^cNIC = Not in Collection.

Table 1.3 Proportion of isolates virulent to wheat powdery mildew (*Pm*) resistance genes collected from three states in 2003^a

	North Carolina		Griffin, GA n=17	Warsaw, VA n=20	Fisher's exact test <i>P</i> -value ^b
	Kinston n=29	Salisbury n=30			
<i>Pm1a</i>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.208
<i>Pm2</i>	0.45	0.80	0.47	0.50	0.000
<i>Pm3a</i>	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	-
<i>Pm3b</i>	0.55	0.40	0.76	0.35	0.000
<i>Pm3c</i>	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	-
<i>Pm3f</i>	0.97	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.302
<i>Pm4a</i>	0.79	1.00	0.82	0.80	0.000
<i>Pm4b</i>	0.41	0.73	0.00	0.45	0.000
<i>Pm5a</i>	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	-
<i>Pm7</i>	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	-
<i>Pm8</i>	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.25	0.000
<i>Pm16</i>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.208
<i>Pm17</i>	0.14	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.008
<i>Pm25</i>	0.10	0.00	0.12	0.20	0.002

^a“n” = number of single-ascospored isolates tested from that site.

^b*P*-values ≤ 0.05 indicate at least one population has significantly different virulence frequencies; missing values indicate identical populations where tests could not be performed.

Table 1.4 Proportion of isolates virulent to wheat powdery mildew (*Pm*) resistance genes collected from five states in 2005^a

	North Carolina		Felton, <u>DE</u> n=10	Virginia		Plains, <u>GA</u> n=19	Headland, <u>AL</u> n=10	Fisher's exact test <i>P</i> - value
	<u>Kinston</u> n=29	<u>Chocowinity</u> n=10		<u>Painter</u> n=19	<u>Warsaw</u> n=9			
<i>Pm1a</i>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-
<i>Pm2</i>	0.55	0.60	0.50	0.74	0.56	0.63	0.30	0.000
<i>Pm3a</i>	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	-
<i>Pm3b</i>	0.62	0.30	0.70	0.89	0.78	0.42	1.00	0.000
<i>Pm3c</i>	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	-
<i>Pm3f</i>	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	-
<i>Pm4a</i>	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.89	1.00	0.53	0.50	0.000
<i>Pm4b</i>	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.84	0.33	0.00	0.00	0.000
<i>Pm5a</i>	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	-
<i>Pm7</i>	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.95	0.89	1.00	1.00	0.015
<i>Pm8</i>	0.10	0.20	0.00	0.05	0.22	0.89	0.00	0.000
<i>Pm12</i>	0.10	0.30	0.00	0.32	0.56	1.00	0.00	0.000
<i>Pm16</i>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-
<i>Pm17</i>	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.63	0.80	0.000
<i>Pm20</i>	0.66	1.00	0.90	0.84	0.56	0.95	0.70	0.000
<i>Pm25</i>	0.07	0.00	0.00	0.16	0.22	0.42	0.00	0.000

^a"n" = number of single-ascospore isolates tested from that site

^b*P* -values = 0.05 indicate at least one population has significantly different virulence frequencies; missing values indicate identical populations where tests could not be performed.

Table 1.5 Most frequent multilocus virulence haplotypes of wheat powdery mildew isolates collected from four states in 2003^a

Number of isolates	Effective haplotypes	/ ineffective resistance genes	Frequency (%)
12	<i>1a,3b,8,16,17,25</i>	/ 2,3a,3c,3f,4a,4b,5a,7	12.5
12	<i>1a,2,4b,8,16,17,25</i>	/ 3a,3b,3c,3f,4a,5a,7	12.5
10	<i>1a,8,16,17,25</i>	/ 2,3a,3b,3c,3f,4a,4b,5a,7	10.4
8	<i>1a,4b,8,16,17,26</i>	/ 2,3a,3b,3c,3f,4a,5a,7	8.3
8	<i>1a,3b,4b,8,16,17,25</i>	/ 2,3a,3c,3f,4a,5a,7	8.3
6	<i>1a,2,3b,8,16,17,25</i>	/ 3a,3c,3f,4a,4b,5a,7	6.3
5	<i>1a,2,8,16,17,25</i>	/ 3a,3b,3c,3f,4a,4b,5a,7	5.2
5	<i>1a,2,3b,4a,4b,8,16,17,25</i>	/ 3a,3c,3f,5a,7	5.2
3	<i>1a,2,8,16,25</i>	/ 3a,3b,3c,3f,4a,4b,5a,7,17	3.1
3	<i>1a,2,3b,4b,8,16,17,25</i>	/ 3a,3c,3f,4a,5a,7	3.1
3	<i>1a,3b,8,16,25</i>	/ 2,3a,3c,3f,4a,4b,5a,7,17	3.1
2	<i>1a,2,4a,4b,8,16,17,25</i>	/ 3a,3b,3c,3f,5a,7	2.1
2	<i>1a,4a,4b,8,16,17,25</i>	/ 2,3a,3b,3c,3f,5a,7	2.1
2	<i>1a,3b,4b,8,16,17</i>	/ 2,3a,3c,3f,4a,5a,7,25	2.1
2	<i>1a,3b,4b,16,17,25</i>	/ 2,3a,3c,3f,4a,5a,7,8	2.1

^aThe 15 highest-frequency multilocus virulence haplotypes out of a total of 30 are displayed; total sample from 2003 was 96 isolates.

Table 1.6 Most frequent multilocus virulence genotypes of wheat powdery mildew isolates collected from five states in 2005^a

Number of isolates	Effective	/ ineffective resistance genes	Frequency (%)
19	<i>1a,8,12,16,17,25</i>	/ <i>2,3a,3b,3c,3f,4a,4b,5a,7,20</i>	19.8
8	<i>1a,2,8,12,16,17,25</i>	/ <i>3a,3b,3c,3f,4a,4b,5a,7,20</i>	8.3
7	<i>1a,2,3b,8,12,16,17,25</i>	/ <i>3a,3c,3f,4a,4b,5a,7,20</i>	7.3
7	<i>1a,3b,8,12,16,17,25</i>	/ <i>2,3a,3c,3f,4a,4b,5a,7,20</i>	7.3
6	<i>1a,8,12,16,17,20,25</i>	/ <i>2,3a,3b,3c,3f,4a,4b,5a,7</i>	6.3
3	<i>1a,2,4b,8,12,16,25</i>	/ <i>3a,3b,3c,3f,4a,5a,7,17,20</i>	3.1
3	<i>1a,2,8,12,16,17,20,25</i>	/ <i>3a,3b,3c,3f,4a,4b,5a,7</i>	3.1
3	<i>1a,4b,16</i>	/ <i>2,3a,3b,3c,3f,4a,5a,7,8,12,17,20,25</i>	3.1
2	<i>1a,2,3b,8,16,17,25</i>	/ <i>3a,3c,3f,4a,4b,5a,7,12,20</i>	2.1
2	<i>1a,2,3b,8,12,16,17,20,25</i>	/ <i>3a,3c,3f,4a,4b,5a,7</i>	2.1
2	<i>1a,2,4b,8,12,16,20,25</i>	/ <i>3a,3b,3c,3f,4a,5a,7,17</i>	2.1
2	<i>1a,3b,4a,4b,16,25</i>	/ <i>2,3a,3c,3f,5a,7,8,12,17,20</i>	2.1
2	<i>1a,3b,16,17,25</i>	/ <i>2,3a,3c,3f,4a,4b,5a,7,8,12,20</i>	2.1
2	<i>1a,4a,4b,16,17,25</i>	/ <i>2,3a,3b,3c,3f,5a,7,8,12,20</i>	2.1

^aThe 14 highest-frequency multilocus virulence haplotypes out of a total of 42 are displayed; total sample from 2005 was 96 isolates.

Table 1.7 Most frequent multilocus virulence haplotypes of wheat powdery mildew from six states in 2003 and 2005

Number of isolates in 2003	Number of isolates in 2005	Effective	/ ineffective resistance genes	Frequency (%)
10	25	<i>1a,8,16,17,25</i>	/ 2,3a,3b,3c,3f,4a,4b,5a,7	18.2
5	11	<i>1a,2,8,16,17,25</i>	/ 3a,3b,3c,3f,4a,4b,5a,7	15.7
12	7	<i>1a,3b,8,16,17,25</i>	/ 2,3a,3c,3f,4a,4b,5a,7	9.9
6	11	<i>1a,2,3b,8,16,17,25</i>	/ 3a,3c,3f,4a,4b,5a,7	8.9

Table 1.8 *P*-values from pairwise location comparisons by Fisher's exact test of virulence frequencies of wheat powdery mildew isolates collected in 2003^a

	Kinston/ Salisbury	Kinston/ Griffin	Kinston/ Warsaw	Griffin/ Salisbury	Griffin/ Warsaw	Salisbury/ Warsaw
<i>Pm1a</i>	-	-	0.408	-	0.541	0.400
<i>Pm2</i>	0.005	0.238	0.215	0.019	0.254	0.022
<i>Pm3a</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Pm3b</i>	0.106	0.092	0.090	0.014	0.012	0.221
<i>Pm3c</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Pm3f</i>	0.492	0.630	0.592	-	-	-
<i>Pm4a</i>	0.011	0.293	0.280	0.042	0.320	0.021
<i>Pm4b</i>	0.010	0.001	0.223	0.000	0.001	0.032
<i>Pm5a</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Pm7</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Pm8</i>	0.112	0.241	0.126	-	0.036	0.007
<i>Pm16</i>	-	-	0.408	-	0.541	0.400
<i>Pm17</i>	0.283	0.146	0.112	0.250	-	0.207
<i>Pm25</i>	0.112	0.363	0.206	0.126	0.283	0.021

^a*P*-values ≤ 0.05 indicate significant differences in virulence proportions among or between sites. Missing values indicate populations with identical virulence proportions where no test was possible.

Table 1.9 *P*-values from pairwise location comparisons by Fisher's exact tests of virulence frequencies of wheat powdery mildew isolates collected in 2005^a

	P-values from pairwise site comparisons									
	Kinston/ Delaware	Kinston/ Chocowinity	Kinston Painter	Kinston/ Warsaw	Chocowinity/ Painter	Chocowinity/ Warsaw	Chocowinity/ Delaware	Delaware/ Warsaw	Delaware/ Painter	Painter/ Warsaw
<i>Pm1a</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Pm2</i>	0.274	0.279	0.108	0.297	0.244	0.350	0.315	0.344	0.146	0.212
<i>Pm3a</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Pm3b</i>	0.275	0.067	0.031	0.230	0.002	0.047	0.078	0.372	0.173	0.301
<i>Pm3c</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Pm3f</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Pm4a</i>	-	-	0.152	-	0.421	-	-	-	0.421	0.452
<i>Pm4b</i>	-	-	0.056	0.000	0.265	0.003	-	0.003	0.265	0.008
<i>Pm5a</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Pm7</i>	-	-	0.396	0.237	0.655	0.474	-	0.474	-	0.226
<i>Pm8</i>	0.111	0.286	0.058	0.056	0.110	0.195	0.132	0.108	0.306	0.097
<i>Pm12</i>	0.400	0.134	0.059	0.009	0.325	0.200	0.105	0.011	0.057	0.159
<i>Pm16</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Pm17</i>	0.744	0.744	0.191	0.763	0.421	-	-	-	0.421	0.452
<i>Pm20</i>	0.120	0.032	0.101	0.261	0.265	0.033	0.500	0.108	0.408	0.103
<i>Pm25</i>	0.548	0.548	0.031	0.198	0.098	0.211	-	0.211	0.098	0.168

^a *P*-values ≤ 0.05 indicate significant differences in virulence proportions among or between sites. Missing values indicate populations with identical virulence proportions where no test was possible.

Table 1.9 continued

	P-values from pairwise site comparisons										
	Kinston/ Alabama	Chocowinity/ Alabama	Delaware/ Alabama	Painter/ Alabama	Warsaw/ Alabama	Georgia/ Alabama	Kinston/ Georgia	Chocowinity/ Georgia	Delaware/ Georgia	Painter/ Georgia	Warsaw/ Georgia
<i>Pm1a</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Pm2</i>	0.118	0.150	0.240	0.027	0.200	0.078	0.204	0.306	0.245	0.216	0.296
<i>Pm3a</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Pm3b</i>	0.021	0.002	0.105	0.421	0.211	0.002	0.096	0.262	0.117	0.002	0.073
<i>Pm3c</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Pm3f</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Pm4a</i>	0.000	0.016	0.016	0.028	0.022	0.300	0.000	0.009	0.009	0.013	0.013
<i>Pm4b</i>	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.033	0.655	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.010
<i>Pm5a</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Pm7</i>	-	-	-	-	0.474	-	-	-	-	-	0.321
<i>Pm8</i>	0.400	0.238	0.500	0.265	0.087	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.001
<i>Pm12</i>	0.400	0.105	-	0.057	0.011	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.006
<i>Pm16</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Pm17</i>	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.001	0.226	0.000	0.001	0.001	0.000	0.002
<i>Pm20</i>	0.296	0.105	0.248	0.245	0.300	0.096	0.017	0.655	0.468	0.249	0.024
<i>Pm25</i>	0.548	-	-	0.098	0.211	0.018	0.007	0.018	0.018	0.021	0.207

^a P-values < 0.05 indicate significant differences in virulence proportions among or between sites. Missing values indicate populations with identical virulence proportions where no test was possible.

Table 1.10 Linkage between pairs of wheat powdery mildew virulence/avirulence loci in clone-corrected sample of 2003 and 2005 isolates from 10 southeastern U.S. locations

<i>Pm</i> gene pair	Pathogen alleles A A ^a	Pathogen alleles A V	Pathogen alleles V A	Pathogen alleles V V	Sum	Association type ^b	Fisher's exact test <i>P</i> -value
3b 8	44	19	62	10	135	-	0.012
3b 12	14	16	29	11	70	-	0.019
3b 20	4	26	14	26	70	+/-	0.027
4a 4b	26	0	42	67	135	+	<0.001
4a 12	5	9	38	18	70	-	0.023
4b 8	47	21	59	8	135	-	0.005
4b 12	8	20	35	7	70	-	<0.001
8 12	42	7	1	20	70	+	<0.001
8 17	95	11	17	12	135	+	<0.001
8 20	16	33	2	19	70	+/-	0.303
8 25	96	10	19	10	135	+	0.002
17 12	37	16	6	11	70	+	0.010
17 25	100	12	15	8	135	+	0.006
25 12	42	17	1	10	70	+	<0.001

^a Number of isolates virulent (V) / avirulent (A) at respective *Pm* loci; e.g., “44” in first cell signifies 44 isolates avirulent to *Pm3b* and avirulent to *Pm8*.

^b “+” indicate significant association is primarily AA or VV; “-“ indicates association is primarily AV or VA.



Fig. 1.1 Locations where wheat leaves infected with powdery mildew were collected in 2003 and 2005. Ch = Chocowinity, NC; Fe = Felton, DE; Gr = Griffin, GA; He = Headland AL; Ki = Kinston, NC; Pa= Painter, Va; Pl = Plains, GA; Pr = Princeton, KY; Sa = Salisbury, NC; and Wa = Warsaw, VA.

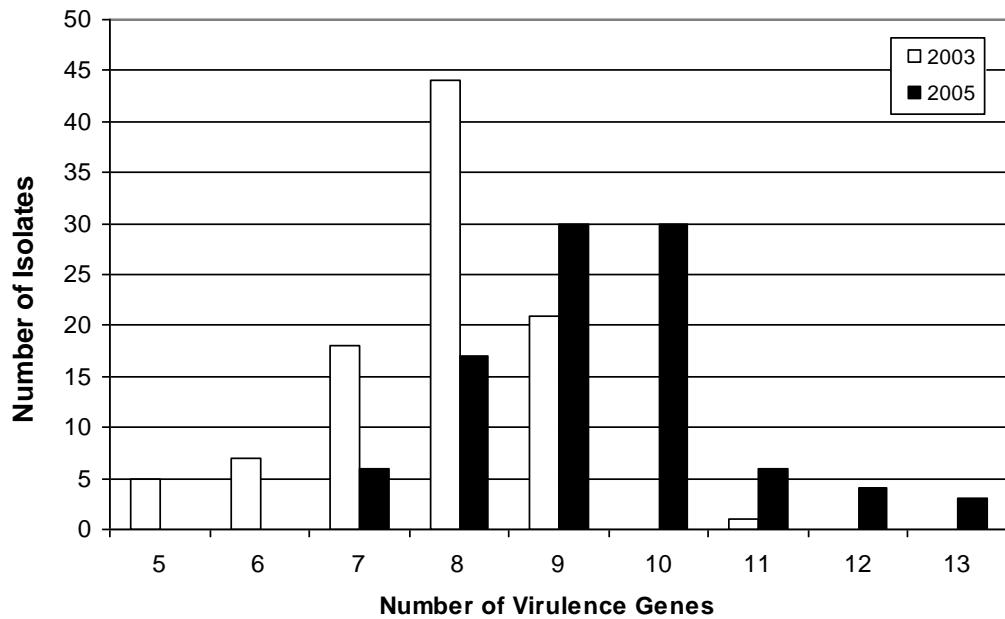


Fig. 1.2 Complexity (number of virulence genes detected) in wheat powdery mildew isolates sampled in 2003 (n=100, 14 *Pm* genes screened) and 2005 (n=106, 16 *Pm* genes screened) from 10 locations in the southeastern U.S.

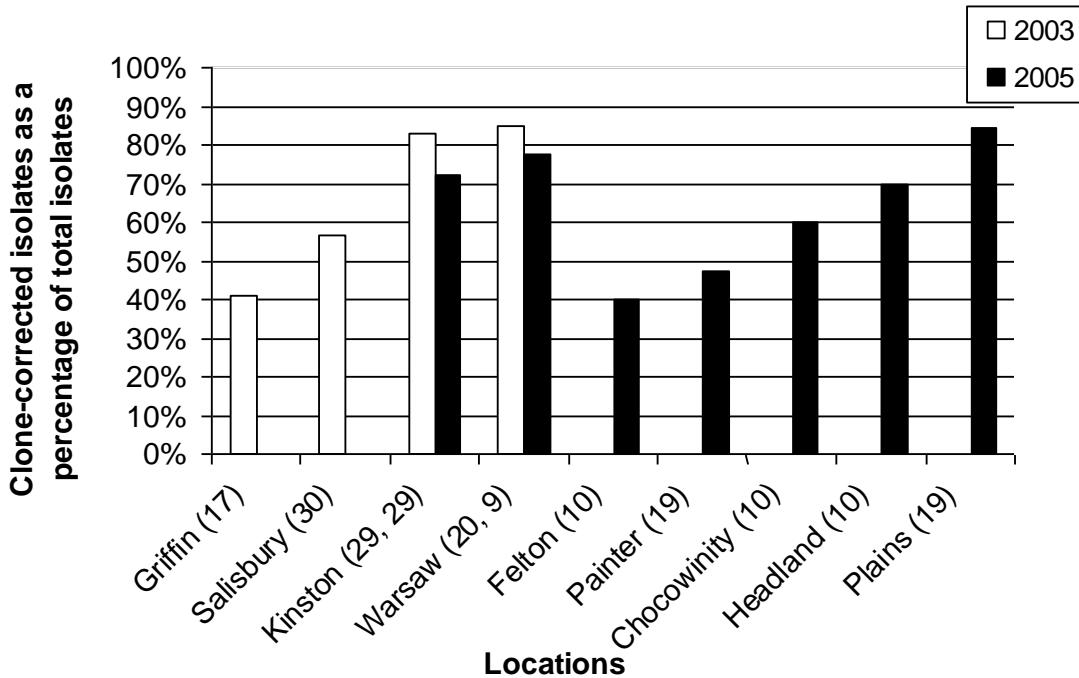


Fig. 1.3 Clone-corrected isolates as a percentage of total isolates derived from wheat powdery mildew samples from the southeastern U.S. in 2003 and 2005. Numbers in parentheses after location names are sample sizes in 2003 and 2005, respectively. Clone correction was carried out by counting multilocus virulence haplotypes that occurred more than once in a single field plot as a single isolate.

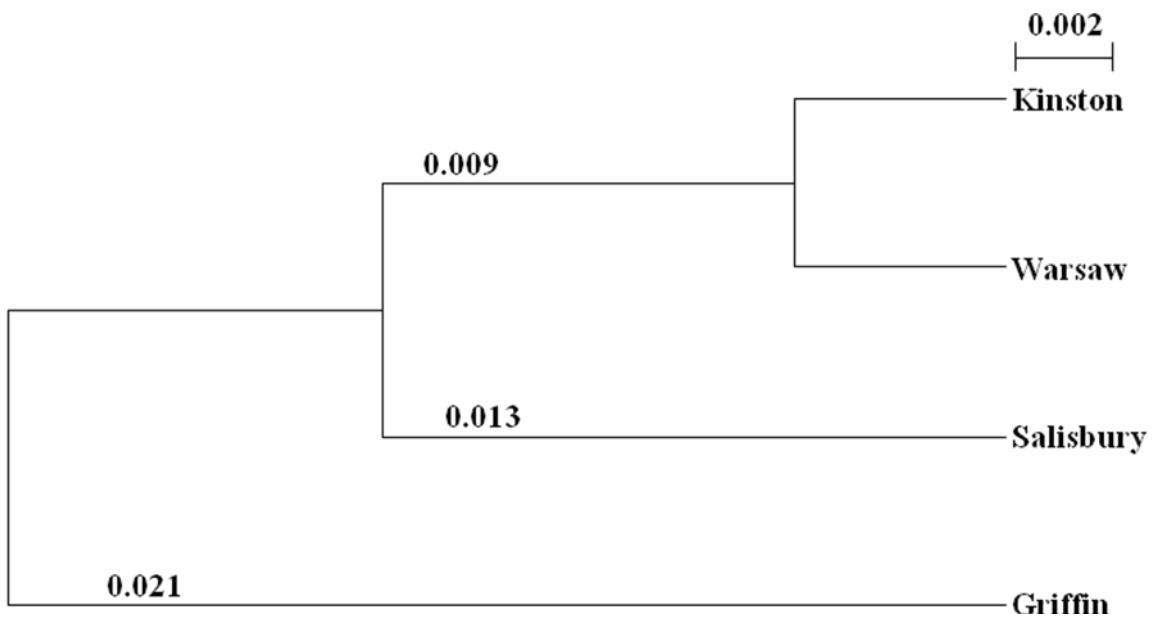


Fig. 1.4 Nei's standard genetic distance (unitless) among isolates of wheat powdery mildew sampled from four locations in 2003, based on frequencies of virulence to *Pm* resistance genes. Clustering of locations indicates greater similarity of virulence frequencies among those mildew populations.

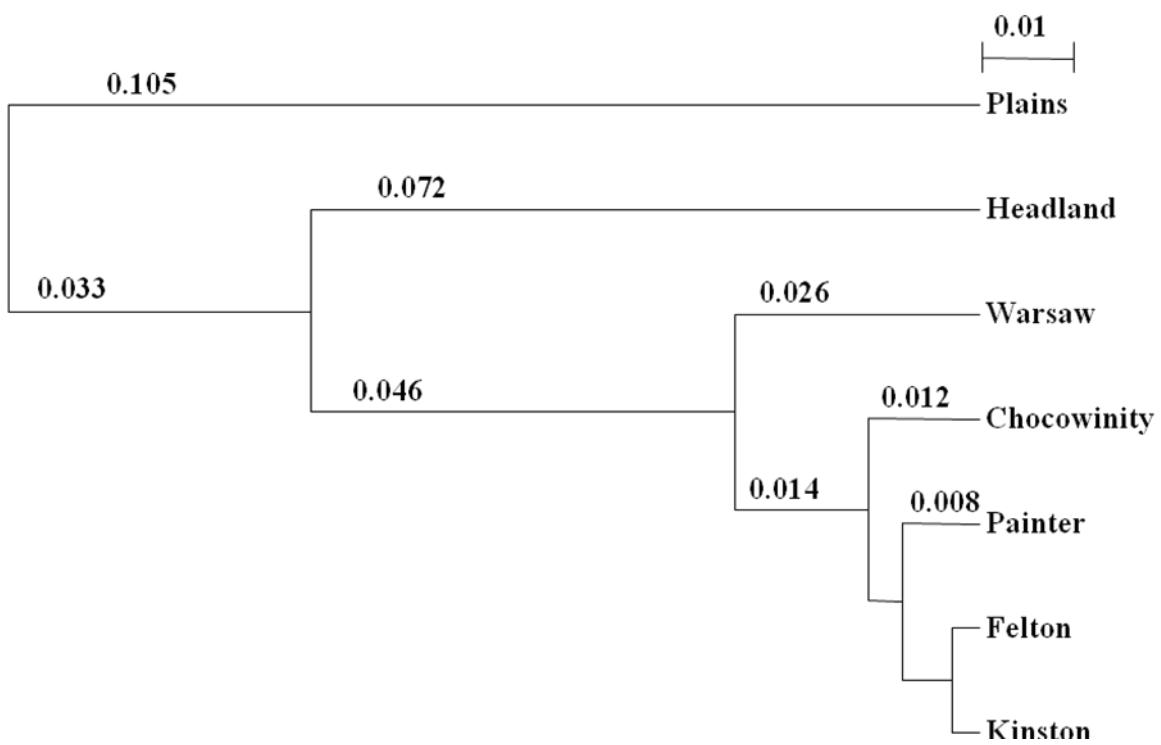


Fig. 1.5 Nei's standard genetic distance (unitless) among isolates of wheat powdery mildew sampled from seven locations in 2005, based on frequencies of virulence to *Pm* resistance genes. Clustering of locations indicates greater similarity of virulence frequencies among those mildew populations.

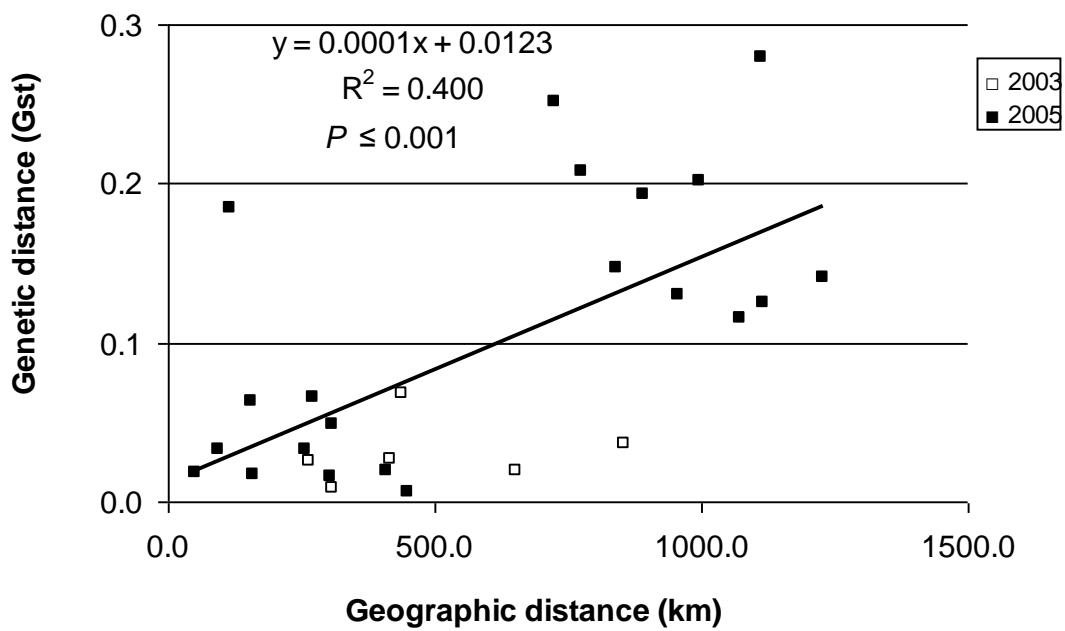


Fig. 1.6 Pairwise plot of geographic distance vs. Nei's genetic distance for 206 wheat powdery mildew isolates sampled from 10 locations in the southeastern U.S. in 2003 and 2005.

CHAPTER 2 – SINGLE NUCLEOTIDE POLYMORPHISM

ANALYSIS OF EASTERN U.S. WHEAT POWDERY MILDEW

POPULATION STRUCTURE

INTRODUCTION

Native to the Middle East, wheat is among the world's oldest cultivated plants and was widely spread by humans (61). Wheat was first grown in the United States in 1602 off the southern coast of Massachusetts (17) and was first cultivated in Virginia in 1611 (15). Around the same time, Spanish settlers introduced wheat to Mexico (15).

The biotrophic filamentous ascomycete *Blumeria graminis* (DC.) E. O. Speer f. sp. *tritici* (Em. Marchal) causes powdery mildew of wheat (23,24,29,38,40-42,53,55,64,65,68,69,71,77-80). Due to the specialized nature of the host-pathogen relationship, mildews parasitic to one host species generally cannot grow on another (35,48,49,57,63,80) and *B. graminis* is divided into eight *formae specialis* (32). Given what is known about the arrival of wheat in North America, it is likely that wheat powdery mildew was first introduced to the continent less than 500 years ago. At least in recent history, the U.S. region most consistently favorable for wheat powdery mildew development encompasses Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina. While the origins and history of modern hexaploid wheat in the United States are generally understood (11,15,81), the population structure of wheat powdery mildew and constraints or lack thereof on gene flow

within the population, remain largely unstudied.

Previous studies of wheat powdery mildew population structure have been virulence surveys (34,40,42,45,52-55,68,71,77,79). Due to the effects of host selection on virulence and to geographic variability in deployment of host resistance genes, powdery mildew virulence gene frequencies are of limited use in inferences about population structure on a continental scale, and offer no insights into historical structuring processes such as gene flow, range expansion, or fragmentation.

In population analysis, electrophoretically derived markers such as AFLPs (80) are useful for identification of strains or races, but these markers are limited because bands present in two isolates may not derive from a common ancestor (46). Single-nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) in DNA sequences can be utilized in powerful mathematical models to draw statistical inferences about historical processes structuring modern populations (37,58,74). These data also allow for a phylogeographic, or tree-based, approach to investigating population structure (4,5,8,75,76). Using a combination of methods, more accurate inferences can be made concerning contemporary and historical processes structuring the wheat powdery mildew population (2,9).

Wheat powdery mildew undergoes multiple cycles of asexual conidial reproduction each growing season (79). At the end of the growing season as temperatures rise, compatible mating types form chasmothecia (cleistothecia, or sexual fruiting bodies) (24,38,79). Both ascospores and conidia are wind dispersed (79). Long-distance dispersal (LDD) is known for biotrophic pathogens that produce copious secondary inoculum, and is believed to have

transmitted novel barley powdery mildew virulences from continental Europe to Britain (10).

Transport of viable cereal mildew spores across the North Sea from Britain to Denmark, a distance of approximately 800 km, has been demonstrated (28). However, gene flow due to LDD does not preclude the possibility of regional differentiation. Large-scale spore dispersal with unknown rates of gene flow suggests a need for sampling wheat mildew at varying geographic scales (3,20,71). Previous studies based on virulence frequencies indicated regional clustering of virulence phenotypes (40,54), but such clustering may result from regional differences in wheat cultivars grown and not from actual restricted gene flow.

In order to investigate the eastern United States *B. g. tritici* population structure, we undertook two types of analysis: a survey of frequencies of virulence to commonly deployed wheat powdery mildew resistance (*Pm*) genes (in press), and analysis of selectively neutral pathogen DNA sequences within a phylogenetic and coalescent framework. To carry out both studies, a collection of 206 single-ascospore derived isolates from the 2003 and 2005 wheat growing seasons was derived from samples collected in 10 different locations. Collecting both data types from the same samples allowed a comparisons of inferences from neutral DNA sequences and virulence frequencies. In spite of the difficulty inherent in working with protein coding regions in biotrophs (32), SNPs in presumably conserved *B. g. tritici* “housekeeping” genes were utilized because of the enhanced phylogenetic resolution in DNA sequences.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Population Sampling. Wheat leaves bearing mildew cleistothecia were sampled from highly susceptible cultivars in several eastern U.S. areas of powdery mildew importance (Fig. 2.1). Single-ascospore isolates were derived on detached leaves floating on benzimidazole agar as previously described (54).

DNA Extraction. Conidia were collected by dipping five to ten detached leaves with large colonies of mildew into a microfuge tube with 1.5 mL of 95% ethanol to disrupt hydrophobic interactions and allow conidia to enter solution. Micro-centrifuge tubes were centrifuged for ~20 seconds at maximum speed and the ethanol was decanted, leaving a pellet of conidia which was air-dried and then frozen at -80°C until DNA extraction.

DNA was extracted using a Qiagen DNeasy Blood and Tissue kit and followed the spin column protocol for animal tissue with slight modifications. Modifications included adding ~25mg of sand to the micro-centrifuge tubes and grinding at high speeds (~12,000 rpm) for approximately 30 seconds in the presence of liquid nitrogen with a pellet pestle inserted into an electric drill. Once conidia were sufficiently ground, the Qiagen protocol was begun at step 1 with the addition of buffer ATL. After the addition of proteinase K, samples were incubated at 65°C for 20 minutes. Prior to addition of cell lysate to columns, 30µl of 3M sodium acetate pH 5 was added to ensure sample binding. DNA yields ranged from 1,000-10,000 ng.

Primer Design, DNA Amplification and Sequencing. Candidate regions to be screened as population markers were identified in GenBank by searching for *B. g. tritici* and

B. g. hordei accessions coding for housekeeping genes. Protein coding genes were chosen because of the greater rate of evolution when compared to rDNA (32). Available sequences were input into Primer3 (60) for primer design. When coding regions were known, Primer3 was instructed to select regions spanning at least one intron in order to increase the likelihood of detecting polymorphisms (12).

PCR was carried out in 20 μ l volumes, and all primers amplified under identical cycling conditions and reagent concentrations, except the primers for protein phosphatase type 2A (PPA) which ran at an annealing temperature of 61°C. Each reaction contained 2 μ l Bioline 10X Buffer (160 mM (NH₄)₂SO₄, 670 mM Tris-HCl, 0.1% Tween-20), 3.0 mM MgCl₂, 0.3125mM dNTPs, 0.8 μ M each primer, 1.5 units Bioline Taq polymerase, and ~20 ng genomic DNA. Cycling conditions were was follows: one cycle of 96°C for 5 minutes, then 34 cycles of 96°C for 25s, 55°C for 25s and 72°C for 45s, followed by a final extension step of 72°C for 5 minutes. Prior to sequencing, unincorporated dNTPs, salts, and primers were removed using either the QIAquick PCR purification kit (Qiagen, Valencia, CA) or the QuickStep 2 96-well PCR purification kit (Edge BioSystems, Gaithersburg, MD). Sequencing was carried out at the Iowa State University DNA Facility. In total, 12 protein-coding regions were amplified and sequenced (Table 2.1). Sequence alignment and manual editing of base calls were carried out with Sequencher 4.7 (Gene Codes Corporation, Ann Arbor, MI).

Population structure analysis. All population analyses except analysis of molecular variance (AMOVA), rarefaction, and linkage disequilibrium tests were carried out using

SNAP Workbench 2.0, an application combining multiple evolutionary analysis methods under a single interface (56). Within the Workbench, analysis followed the flowchart outlined by Carbone et al (13). Sequences were collapsed into haplotypes using SNAP MAP (6). Recombination analysis within the Workbench was carried out for each locus by RecMin (51) and beagle (47). Both methods assume a contiguous linked DNA strand for analysis. Our data combined multiple sequences into a single sequence, violating this assumption. To ensure correct inferences, each locus was tested separately. Relative ages of mutations were determined on each locus using Genetree version 9.01 (7,25) as implemented in SNAP Workbench.

Tests for neutrality are tests of whether the observed genetic variation is consistent with the hypothesis that the majority of polymorphisms contributing to a population's genetic variability are selectively neutral (36). Tajima's D (73), Fu and Li's D, F, Ds, and Fs (22), and Fu's Fs (21) neutrality statistics were computed using NeutralityTest (44). Neutrality statistics were tested for an excess of recent mutations or rare alleles (left-side test) and excess of ancient mutations (right-side test). Tests for linkage disequilibrium (LD) detect the non-random association of alleles at different loci (43,66). LD tests were carried out using MultiLocus (1), with each set of polymorphic sites sampled from a single contiguous DNA sequence (one gene) considered as linkage groups.

Genetic diversity at each sampling location was estimated by manually calculating Stoddard and Taylor's G (70) as well as using DnaSP version 4.0 (59) to calculate the haplotype diversity (Hd). Diversity estimates are comprised of both richness, which

estimates the number of genotypes in a population, and evenness, which measures the distribution of genotypes. Most diversity estimates combine richness and evenness, which is appropriate as long as sample sizes are similar. To correct for unequal sample sizes, rarefaction curves have been employed to estimate the number of genotypes that would be sampled in a population of n samples (26,27,39). Tests of richness estimated by rarefaction curves were performed using rarefac.C (27). For a given population, rarefac.C estimates the expected number of sampled genotypes for samples of size 1 to n . This estimator is $E(g_n)$ and the curve obtained from the population with the largest size can be used to predict the number of genotypes expected to be found in a smaller sample (62). The slope of the rarefaction curve can be used to explain the rate of genotype accumulation, with steeper slopes indicating greater richness (33).

Tests for population subdivision were applied hierarchically using Snn, a permutation-based nearest-neighbor statistic (31). First, sequences from all 10 sampling locations were tested in pairwise comparisons. Each pair of two locations with no significant sequence differences between them was collapsed into a single population for subsequent tests, and then another round of pairwise comparisons was conducted. This process continued until only significantly different population groups remained.

Analysis of molecular variance (AMOVA) was carried out using Arlequin (18). AMOVA is a method of partitioning genetic diversity into within-population and among-population components for detecting population differences (19). In Arlequin, populations represented locations where individuals were sampled; i.e., 10 individuals sampled from a

single field was one population. AMOVA requires *a priori* hypotheses about population structure that can be tested by aggregating multiple populations into groups. Results included variance components of each source of variation (among groups, within populations, and among populations within groups), percentage of total variation explained by each variance source, and Φ -statistics with associated P -values. Φ -statistics are haplotype correlation coefficients with Φ_{CT} representing correlation within predefined groups relative to other groups, Φ_{ST} representing correlation within populations across all sampled populations, and Φ_{SC} representing correlations of populations within each predefined group (19). All Φ -statistics are analogous to Wright-Fisher's Fst (19). The final population divisions found with Snn were input as groups in Arlequin and tested via AMOVA to confirm. P -values computed for Φ_{SC} , Φ_{ST} , Φ_{CT} were based on 1,023 permutations of the null distribution for each variance component and indicate the probability of obtaining a more extreme result than the observed value.

RESULTS

Out of 12 *B. g. tritici* regions sequenced, moderate levels of nucleotide sequence polymorphism were found in portions of four genes: those coding for β -tubulin (TUB), alternative oxidase (AOX), protein kinase A (PKA), and protein phosphatase type 2A (PPA) (Table 2.1). The other eight genomic regions were found to be non-polymorphic after they were sequenced in at least 70 isolates from diverse locations within our population sample. Of the four sequences with variation, a total of eight positions had SNPs, six of which were phylogenetically informative (Table 2.2). When compared to reference sequences with

known coding regions, all polymorphisms were present within the coding regions except positions one and two in PPA.

Amplification and sequencing of all four polymorphic regions of interest was successful with 141 of the 206 available *B. g. tritici* isolates. In total, there were 15 unique DNA sequence haplotypes (Table 2.2). Out of the 141 total isolates sequenced, 60 isolates were of haplotype 1 (H1) and 40 were of H12, leaving 41 isolates of the remaining 13 haplotypes. No insertions or deletions were detected, and all data were consistent with an infinite sites model, where each variable position has only a single mutation. All right-side neutrality tests were non-significant and only Fu's Fs left-side test was significant ($F_s = -8.273, P = 0.004$) indicating an excess of recent mutation or rare alleles. Tests for LD in MultiLocus were all non-significant. Relative ages of mutations for each site as calculated in Genetree matched expectations, with frequent mutations rooting deeper in the genealogy and low-frequency mutations at tips. Estimates of diversity indices are in Table 2.2. Rarefaction curves estimating haplotype richness at each geographic area with sufficient sampling (3 sites from N, 4 sites from S) appear in Fig. 2.2.

The overall test with Snn (31) divided the population into five groups. Kinston, Warsaw, Felton, Salisbury, and Chocowinity formed a single undifferentiated group (group 1). Plains and Headland formed group 2; Painter and Griffin were groups 3 and 4, respectively; and the three isolates from Princeton provided too little information to be placed into any other group and thus were group 5. A further Snn test was then performed on the new larger groups, each created by pooling groups not significantly different. In this test,

Painter was not significantly different from group 1 and Griffin was not significantly different from group 2. Princeton was significantly different from group 2, but was not different from any other group or location. The result was a putative population structure of three groups designated North (N), South (S), and Princeton (KY).

When the three groups defined by Snn were subjected to AMOVA in Arlequin, the largest percentage of population variance (76.7%) was within populations. Only 3.2% of total variance was among populations within groups, leaving 20.1% of variance among groups. All *P*-values were significant (Table 2.3).

Alternative parsimony heuristic search via PAUP* (72) with 1,000 replications resulted in 1,717 equally parsimonious trees. The strict consensus of the trees clustered haplotypes 6, 13, and 14 into a monophyletic clade; all other haplotypes had no discernible structure. Maximum likelihood heuristic search within PAUP* inferred two phylogenetic trees differing only in the placement of H7 (Fig. 2.3) and improved upon the population resolution inferred with parsimony. H6, H13, and H14 were also monophyletic with maximum likelihood. Recombination analysis by RecMin and beagle found no recombination events in the history of the sampled data.

DISCUSSION

This population survey is the first to use DNA sequence polymorphisms as markers for studying the population history of cereal powdery mildew in the eastern United States. Low levels of nucleotide variation and high levels of haplotype diversity detected by our survey support the inference that the proliferation of rare haplotypes in the eastern U.S. is

recent (67), consistent with the hypothesis of a young population. These results are also consistent with a recent population bottleneck and subsequent range and population size expansion (2), as would be expected following introduction by European colonists.

Historical records indicate that wheat was introduced into the U. S. at least twice (15,17). Due to the ephemeral nature of mildew conidia (14,16), it does not seem likely that conidia were the means of introduction. Rather, the transatlantic crossing was likely made by cleistothecia embedded in wheat straw that was used as animal bedding or for some other purpose. Unfortunately, this survey did not include the region around Texas, which might increase power to infer multiple introductions. Also, there may have been more introductions of wheat mildew following the initial ones, further confounding the analysis. However, the overall detected trend of north-south population subdivision with a zone of demarcation approximately at North Carolina, supported by both AMOVA and Hudson's Snn results, could reflect roughly contemporaneous initial introductions in Texas and Virginia, and subsequent population expansions into common regions. Alternatively, the north-south differences we detected might be the result of isolation by distance (50) from the Virginia source alone.

A very small percent (3.2%) of the total population variance was present among populations within the groups, indicating support for the north-south differentiation by Snn. However, the largest source of variance was not among groups, which accounted for 20% of the total, but rather within populations (77%). These results indicate that the north-south population division is based on relative frequencies or presence/absence of only a few

haplotypes. If there are actual barriers to gene flow, over time the percentage of total variance among groups would increase, while the within-population variance would decrease.

Further support for recent population introduction is the significant result for Fu's Fs left side test. Fu's Fs provides a test based on the model of no population growth; significant deviations from the model indicate an expanding population. These results must be considered carefully because the validity of Fu's Fs has not been tested in the presence of recombination (21) and powdery mildew regularly undergoes sexual reproduction.

The rarefaction results are interesting in light of what is known about European colonization of North America. The three northernmost locations in our sampling area (Warsaw, Painter, and Felton) all have similar, steeper rarefaction slopes, indicating similar levels of haplotype richness, while every location south of Virginia has a shallower slope and therefore less richness (Fig. 2.3). Lower haplotype diversity in the southernmost sampling locations (Headland, Plains, and Griffin) is logical given the infrequence of mildew epidemics there, but lower diversity in North Carolina is surprising given the consistency of epidemics in that state. Several hypotheses are consistent with the haplotype diversity data. First, the disease may have originally arrived in the northeastern U.S., and only spread south later, with genetic bottlenecks occurring during the range expansion. Second, there may have been later introductions of new haplotypes in the Delaware/Maryland/Virginia area. Third, there may have been contemporaneous introductions in the northeastern U.S. and in Texas, with higher and lower levels of genotype richness respectively, and subsequent converging

range expansion. Below, we discuss efforts to expand our knowledge of continental *B. g tritici* population history and its Old World antecedents.

It is believed that each year the main source of primary inoculum for wheat mildew epidemics is of ascospores, but the relative contributions of sexual and asexual reproduction to the structure of the eastern U.S. wheat mildew population have not been previously investigated. Most recombination events are undetectable because they occur between non-polymorphic sites; therefore, it is common to calculate the minimum number of recombination events (Rm) required to explain the sampled data and the actual number is often much higher (30). In our samples, most loci were monomorphic, so no detectable recombination is not unexpected. However, due to the sexual stage of the pathogen, many haplotypes resulted from recombination or independent assortment between the most frequent haplotypes combined with a more recent mutation to form a third haplotype, which helps explain the large number of haplotypes detected.

It would be desirable to estimate migration rates of mildew in the eastern U. S., in order to assess the risk of rapid spread of novel virulences. For example, as of this writing, *Pm17* apparently remains effective throughout the sampling area, but several *Pm17*-virulent isolates were detected in the S group in 2005 (54). There is concern about whether and how soon this virulence might migrate to North Carolina and Virginia where a considerable part of the wheat production area is planted to cultivars bearing *Pm17*. Unfortunately, levels of polymorphism in the current dataset are too low to permit inferences on rates and directions of migration between the populations, so it is not possible to estimate whether and how fast

these resistance-breaking isolates may migrate to the N group. Nevertheless, the broad geographic distribution of our most frequent haplotypes (H1 and H12) is certainly consistent with the hypothesis of a random-mating population with gene flow throughout the sampling region. Based on research in the United Kingdom, spores of *B. graminis* remain viable after traveling up to 800 km in a single trip (28), so it appears that *Pm17*-virulent spores could rapidly move north if wind patterns were ideal and conditions were favorable for spore survival. Given the low levels of variation detected in *B. g. tritici* genomic regions, the only way to directly estimate migration rates and directions is to sample more loci, preferably those with higher mutation rates such as microsatellites.

We have recently acquired isolates from several Great Plains states, including Texas, as well as Israel and the United Kingdom. The Great Plains isolates will be useful to test the hypothesis of introduction from Texas and possibly also for determination of migration rates over various geographic terrains such as the Appalachian Mountains. The European and Israeli isolates will be useful for analysis of global migration patterns of wheat mildew from the suspected center of origin in the Middle East, through Europe, and to the U.S.

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Table 2.1 Primers used as markers for the detection of SNPs in the eastern U.S. *B. g. tritici* population.

Locus	Definition	Source accession number	Host	Primer	Primer Sequence 5'--3'	Product size (BP)	Variability in eastern U.S. wheat mildew
AOX	alternative oxidase	AF327336	Barley	AOX361F	TACGTCCGTTTCATCGACA	220	Polymorphic
				AOX589R	GGGCTATGCGATCTGAGAAG		
AQU	aquaporin	AJ544064	Barley	AQU870F	GACATCCGTGAAGCAAGGTT	320	Monomorphic
				AQU1189R	TAAGACTGCACCTGCGATTG		
BEK	mitogen activated protein kinase kinase	AJ304830	Unknown	BEK180F	GGATTGAAAGCAGGGAAAGAC	975	Monomorphic
				BEK1154R	TGAGACCTCACAGCCCCATTCC		
CAT	catalase	AF327335	Barley	CAT433F	AGACCAATTCAAGGTGAGA	700	Monomorphic
				CAT1129R	TGAAGAGTGGATGGCTGTTG		
CHD	chitin deacetylase	AY039008	Unknown	CHD2044F	CTCCGGATTGTCAATTCTGT	340	Monomorphic
				CHD2383R	CCATGGAAGATTAGCCGTGT		
CPX	catalase/peroxidase	AF329396	Barley	CPX56F	CGCACAACTTGGTGTATTA	1150	Monomorphic
				CPX1205R	TCCCAATCGTATTGAAAGAG		
PKA	protein kinase A	AF283106	Barley	PKA510F	TTTCGGTAGGGTTCATCTGG	958	Polymorphic
				PKA1467R	TACCGTCCGTCTCTTCAGG		
PKC	protein kinase C	AF247001	Barley	PKC201F	AAGAGCTTCAGATGCGTAAG	793	Monomorphic
				PKC993R	CGACCCCTTATGGTTACAAA		
PPA	protein phosphatase type 2A	AF462042	Unknown	PPA252F	TAGATGGGTGGATTGAGAAC	759	Polymorphic
				PPA1010R	ATCGTCAGGATCAGACCATA		
PTH	integral membrane protein	AF329397	Barley	PTH671F	GCTATTCTCTGCGGGTCTA	809	Monomorphic
				PTH1479R	GCTGTCAATGAAACAGATGG		
RHO	GTPase rho1	AF395859	Unknown	RHO36F	AGTTATCGTTGGTGTGGAG	650	Monomorphic
				RHO685R	TGAAGCTCTCAAGTGTCTT		
TUB	β-tubulin	AJ313150	Wheat	TUB210F	CAGGGCAAACAATTCTGGT	1099	Polymorphic
				TUB1308R	GCTGAACATTCGCATCTGA		

Table 2.2 Diversity indexes, sampling scheme, and distribution of 15 *B. g. tritici* haplotypes across 10 sampling locations in the eastern U.S.

	AOX	TUB	PKA	PPA	Sampling location and haplotype frequency										
Consensus	C	T C	A T	C T C	Felton	Painter	Warsaw	Chocowinity	Kinston	Salisbury	Griffin	Plains	Headland	Princeton	Totals
Site Type ^a	t	t v	v v	t t v											
Character Type ^b	u	i i	i i	i i u											
H1	.	.	.	.	5	3	7	7	19	14	2	0	1	2	60
H2	T	.	.	.	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
H3	.	C .	T .	.	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
H4	.	C .	.	T .	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
H5	.	C .	.	A .	0	0	1	0	2	2	0	4	0	0	9
H6	.	C .	.	A T C A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
H7	.	C .	.	.	0	2	1	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	8
H8	.	G .	A .	.	0	0	0	0	2	3	0	0	0	0	5
H9	.	G .	.	.	1	0	1	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	7
H10	.	G .	.	T .	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
H11	.	.	T .	.	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
H12	.	.	.	A .	0	3	1	0	8	6	8	9	4	1	40
H13	.	.	.	A T C .	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
H14	.	.	.	T C .	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
H15	.	.	.	T .	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
				Totals	7	8	14	8	42	28	12	14	5	3	141
Haplotype Diversity (Hd) ^c					0.524	0.750	0.769	0.250	0.756	0.706	0.545	0.538	0.400	0.667	0.732
Stoddart & Taylor's G (genotypic diversity)					1.81	2.91	3.50	1.28	3.82	3.14	2.00	2.00	1.47	1.80	
# plots ^d					1	2	3	1	6	3	2	2	1	1	22
# leaves ^e					3	6	7	3	22	12	3	6	3	1	66

^a t = transition; v = transversion

^b u = phylogenetically uninformative; i = phylogenetically informative

^c Nei 1987 Equ 8.4

^d number of plots from which isolates were successfully obtained

^e number of separate wheat leaves used to obtain isolates

Table 2.3 Total population variance and percent contribution of each variance component from AMOVA conducted on 141 *B. g. tritici* isolates from 10 eastern U.S. locations.

Source of Variance	Variance	% total variance	P-value ^a	Φ-Statistic
Among groups	0.132	20.1	< 0.005	$\Phi_{CT} = 0.201$
Among populations within groups	0.021	3.2	< 0.001	$\Phi_{SC} = 0.040$
Within populations	0.504	76.7	< 0.001	$\Phi_{ST} = 0.233$

^a P-values based on 1023 random permutations



Fig. 2.1 Locations where wheat leaves infected with powdery mildew were collected in 2003 and 2005. Ch = Chocowinity, NC; Fe = Felton, DE; Gr = Griffin, GA; He = Headland, AL; Ki = Kinston, NC; Pa = Painter, VA; Pl = Plains, GA; Pr = Princeton, KY; Sa = Salisbury, NC; and Wa = Warsaw, VA.

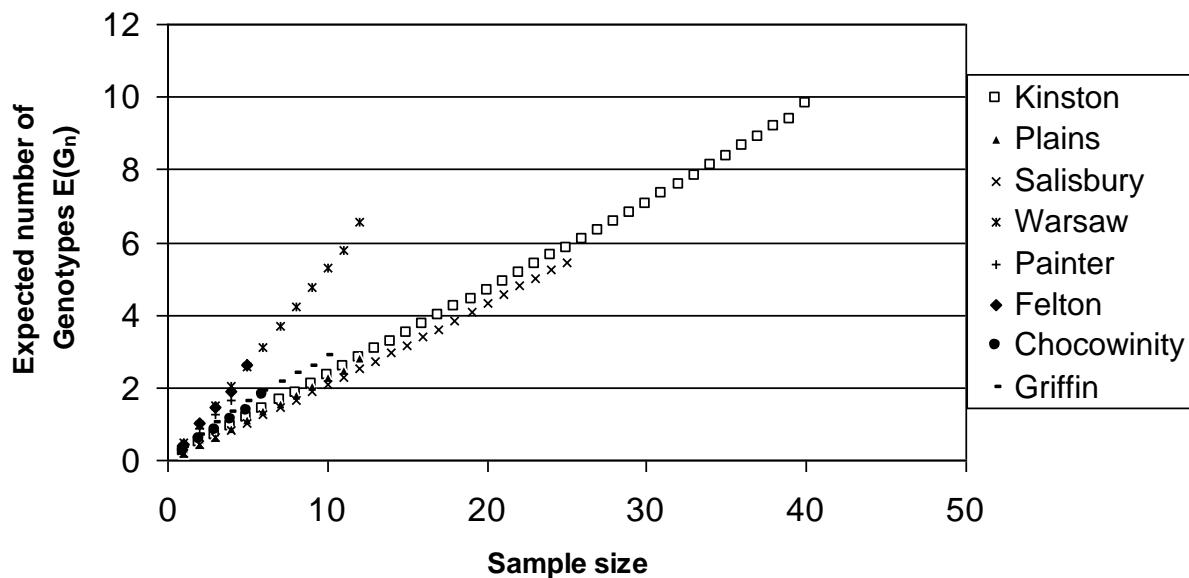


Fig. 2.2 Plot of rarefaction-derived estimates of the expected number of genotypes $E(G_n)$ found in a population of n individuals from each sampling site based on haplotype diversity found for 141 isolates from 10 sites in the eastern U.S. The slope of the rarefaction curve indicates the rate of genotype accumulation as sampling number increases with steeper slopes indicating increased population richness.

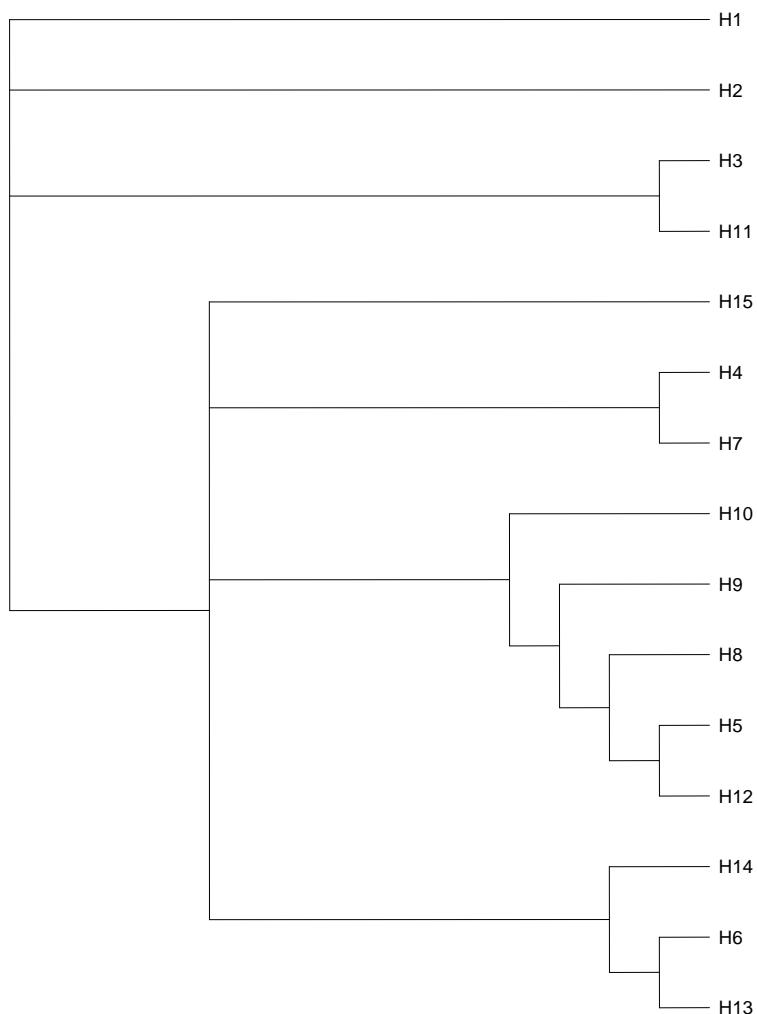


Fig. 2.3 Maximum-likelihood DNA sequence phylogram of 141 powdery mildew isolates obtained in 2003 and 2005 from 10 locations in the eastern U.S.