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## Construction of a transformation-competent artificial chromosome (TAC) library of *Leymus multicaulis*

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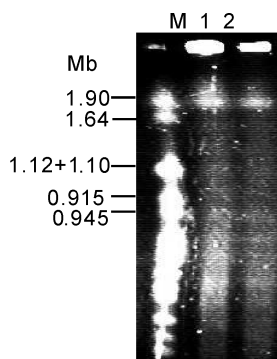
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**Key words:** *Leymus multicaulis*, transformation-competent artificial chromosome (tac), genomic library, high molecular weight dna, insert size

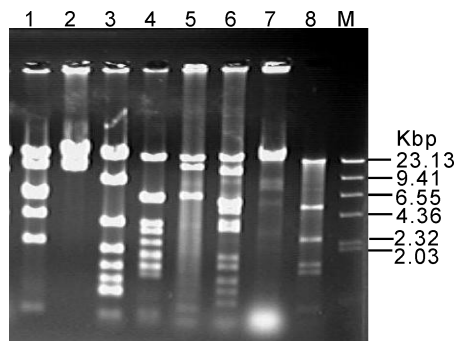
**Introduction** *Leymus multicaulis* ( $2n = 4x = 28 = 14II$ , XmNs) is an important forage of *Leymus Hochst* of Triticeae of Gramineae plant (Wang Shijin and LI Jianhua, 1993), which possesses resistance characteristics to dry, salt, barley yellow dwarf virus, budworm, barren conditions and pollution. For utilizing the resistance characteristics of *Leymus multicaulis*, we constructed a transformation-competent artificial chromosome (TAC) genomic library of *Leymus multicaulis* in the pYL747H vector. Such genomic libraries should be useful for gene cloning in *Leymus multicaulis* and other crops.

**Materials and methods** High molecular weight (HMW) DNA was prepared from tender leaves of *Leymus multicaulis* etiolated seedlings using the nuclei-based method as described (Y.L. Zhou et al., 2007). TAC vector DNA preparation, and purity, partial digestion, size selection of *Leymus multicaulis* HMW DNA, and the ligation and transformation of vector DNA with HMW DNA used the method as described (Y.G. Liu et al., 2002).

**Results** We successfully isolated very pure HMW nuclear DNA which was over 2Mb in size (Figure 1). A TAC genomic library was constructed from nuclear DNA of *Leymus multicaulis*. The library consisted of  $2.4 \times 10^5$  clones which were collected as bulked pools each containing 500 clones and stored in  $5 \times 96$ -well plates. The library has insert sizes of genomic DNA of approximately 5Kb~200Kb and average insert size of 50Kb (Figure 2), representing approximately 2~4 haploid genome equivalents.



**Figure 1** Size determination of *Leymus multicaulis* HMW DNA by pulsed-field gel electrophoresis. M: Yeast Chromosome PFG Marker (NEB), 1.5  $\mu$ g; 1: 1 plug; 2: 1/2 plug.



**Figure 2** Recombinant TAC clones digested with restriction enzyme *HindIII*. Lane 1-8: clones with TAC747H vector; M:  $\lambda$ DNA-*HindIII* molecular marker.

**Conclusions** Most isolated *Leymus multicaulis* DNA was greater than 2 Mb, and was suitable for constructing a TAC library. Vector pYL747H, which is 18,900 bp, was used to construct the TAC library. Constructing a large-insert genomic DNA library is essential for gene map-based cloning. Such libraries will be used to clone many genes. With its high stability and good genomic coverage, the TAC library provides an efficient platform for gene cloning and functional complementation of target genes in *Leymus multicaulis*.

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