



Brief Report

New ND-FISH-Positive Oligo Probes for Identifying *Thinopyrum* Chromosomes in Wheat Backgrounds

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Abstract: *Thinopyrum* has been widely used to improve wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L.) cultivars. Non-denaturing fluorescence in situ hybridization (ND-FISH) technology using oligonucleotides (oligo) as probes provides a convenient and efficient way to identify alien chromosomes in wheat backgrounds. However, suitable ND-FISH-positive oligo probes for distinguishing *Thinopyrum* chromosomes from wheat are lacking. Two oligo probes, Oligo-B11 and Oligo-pThp3.93, were designed according to the published *Thinopyrum ponticum* (*Th. ponticum*)-specific repetitive sequences. Both Oligo-B11 and Oligo-pThp3.93 can be used for ND-FISH analysis and can replace conventional GISH and FISH to discriminate some chromosomes of *Th. elongatum*, *Th. intermedium*, and *Th. ponticum* in wheat backgrounds. The two oligo probes provide a convenient way for the utilization of *Thinopyrum* germplasms in future wheat breeding programs.

Keywords: wheat; *Thinopyrum*; chromosome; ND-FISH; oligo probe

1. Introduction

Thinopyrum intermedium (*Th. intermedium*), *Thinopyrum ponticum* (*Th. ponticum*) and *Thinopyrum elongatum* (*Th. elongatum*) are important reservoirs of elite genes for wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L.) breeding programs. Genomic in situ hybridization (GISH) and fluorescence in situ hybridization (FISH) technologies can be used to differentiate and localize *Th. intermedium*, *Th. ponticum* and *Th. elongatum* chromosomes in wheat backgrounds [1–8]. However, GISH and FISH are time-consuming because of the preparation and labeling of probe sequences, and denaturing of the probes and chromosomes [9,10]. Oligonucleotide (oligo) probes combined with non-denaturing fluorescence in situ hybridization (ND-FISH) can be used to discriminate alien chromosomes in wheat backgrounds conveniently [10,11]. Suitable ND-FISH-positive oligo probes for distinguishing *Thinopyrum* chromosomes from wheat are lacking. In this study, *Thinopyrum* chromosome-specific oligo probes were developed.

2. Results

2.1. Production of *Thinopyrum* Chromosome-Specific Oligo Probes

Th. ponticum species-specific repetitive sequences B11 [3] and pThp3.93 [6] were aligned using the DNAMAN (Ver. 4.0, Lynnon Corp., Quebec, QC, Canada). The sequence of pThp3.93 has a 59.78% similarity with the 1138–1622 bp segment of the reverse_complement B11 sequence. The 1304–1348 bp

segment of the reverse_complement B11 sequence and the 158–216 bp segment of the pThp3.93 sequence were used as oligo probes, and were named as Oligo-B11 and Oligo-pThp3.93, respectively. The two oligo probes are listed in Table 1.

Table 1. Oligonucleotide sequences of new oligo probes developed in this study.

Probe	Amount for Each Slide (ng/slide)	Oligonucleotide Sequence (5'-3')
Oligo-B11	72.5–96.6	TCCGCTCACCTTGATGACAACATCAGGTGGAATTC CGTTCGAGGG
Oligo-pThp3.93	69.5–92.6	GGACTCCCCTAGATGTATCCGTCAAGGTGAATCCA GAGGAATCACCTTCGATGGCATT

2.2. ND-FISH Analysis Using Oligo-B11 and Oligo-pThp3.93

The Oligo-B11, Oligo-pThp3.93, Oligo-pSc119.2-1, and Oligo-pTa535-1 probes combined with the ND-FISH assay could distinguish *Thinopyrum* chromosomes from wheat in Xiaoyan 68, 8802, Xiaoyan 7430, and Zhong 3. Both Oligo-B11 and Oligo-pThp3.93 probes produced dispersed signal patterns on 12 and 14 chromosomes in Xiaoyan 68 and 8802, respectively (Figures 1 and 2). A pair of wheat-*Th. ponticum* translocation chromosomes TTh-4DS·4DL in Xiaoyan 68 could also be detected by Oligo-B11, Oligo-pThp3.93, Oligo-pSc119.2-1, and Oligo-pTa535-1 (Figure 1).

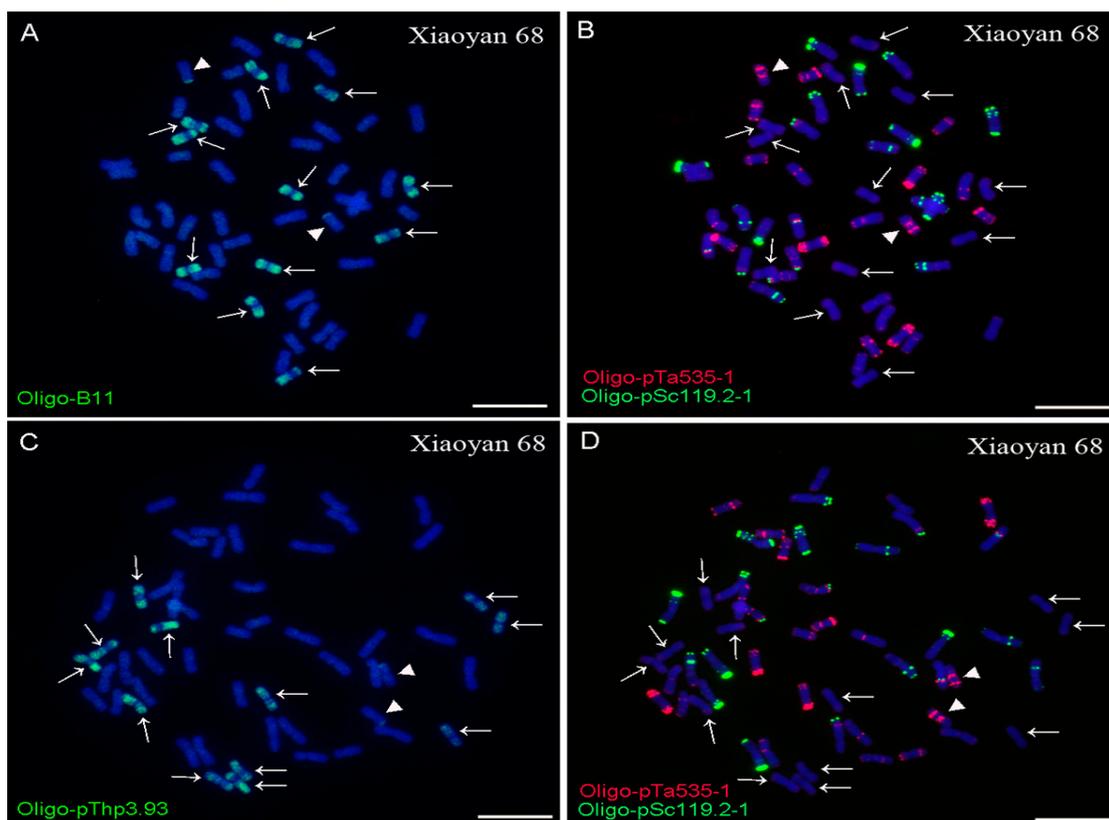


Figure 1. ND-FISH analysis of root tip metaphase chromosomes of Xiaoyan 68 using the Oligo-B11 (green), Oligo-pThp3.93 (green), Oligo-pTa535-1 (red), and Oligo-pSc119.2-1 (green) as probes. (A) and (B) are the same cell, and (C) and (D) are the same cell. Arrows indicate the *Th. ponticum* chromosomes that carry signals of Oligo-B11 (A) and Oligo-pThp3.93 (C). Triangles indicate the wheat-*Th. ponticum* translocation chromosomes TTh-4DS·4DL. Chromosomes were counterstained with DAPI (blue). Scale bar: 10 μm .

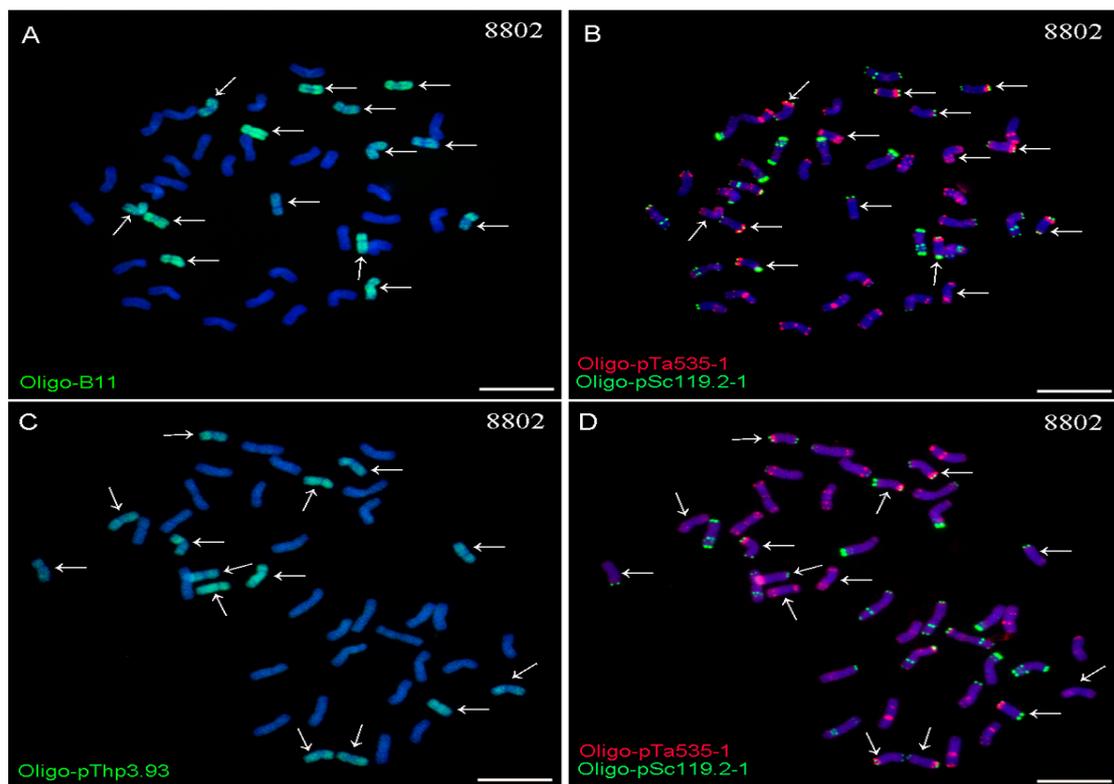


Figure 2. ND-FISH analysis of the root tip metaphase chromosomes of 8802 using the Oligo-B11 (green), Oligo-pThp3.93 (green), Oligo-pTa535-1 (red) and Oligo-pSc119.2-1 (green) as probes. (A) and (B) are the same cell, and (C) and (D) are the same cell. Arrows indicate the *Th. elongatum* chromosomes that carry signals of Oligo-B11 (A) and Oligo-pThp3.93 (C). Chromosomes were counterstained with DAPI (blue). Scale bar: 10 μm .

The Oligo-B11 and Oligo-pThp3.93 probes also produced whole-chromosome signal patterns on 12 and 14 chromosomes in Xiaoyan 7430 and Zhong 3, respectively (Figures 3 and 4). Therefore, both of the ND-FISH-positive Oligo-B11 and Oligo-pThp3.93 probes produced whole-chromosome signal patterns on 12, 14, 12, and 14 chromosomes in Xiaoyan 68, 8802, Xiaoyan 7430, and Zhong 3, respectively. Additionally, no obvious signals of Oligo-B11 and Oligo-pThp3.93 were observed on wheat chromosomes in the materials used in this study (Figures 1–4).

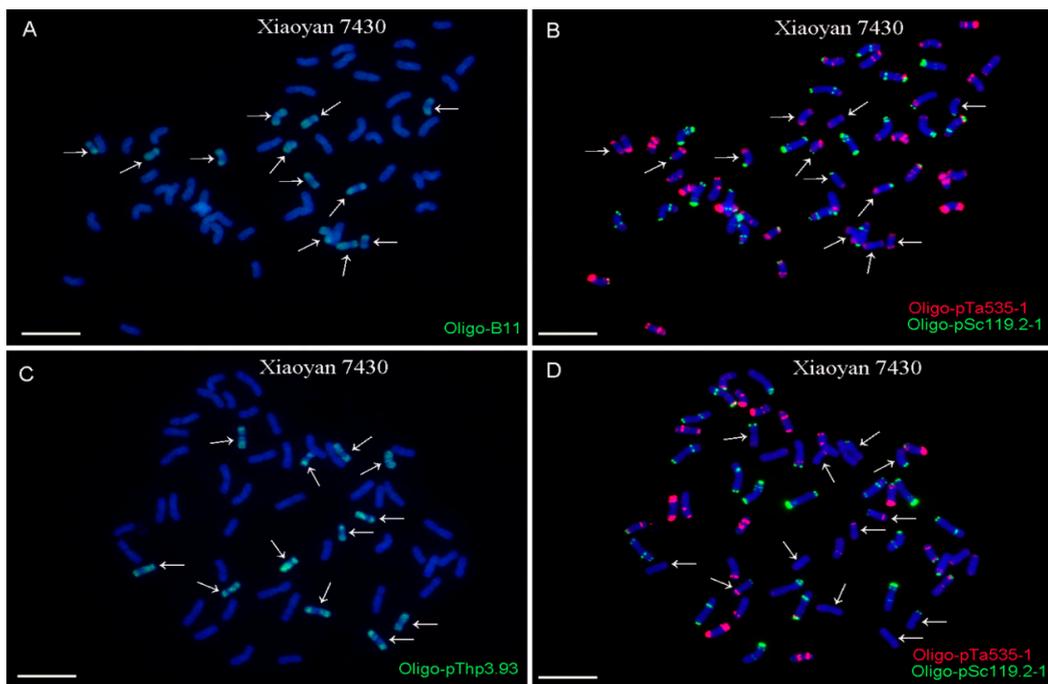


Figure 3. ND-FISH analysis of the root tip metaphase chromosomes of Xiaoyan 7430 using the Oligo-B11 (green), Oligo-pThp3.93 (green), Oligo-pTa535-1 (red) and Oligo-pSc119.2-1 (green) as probes. (A) and (B) are the same cell, and (C) and (D) are the same cell. Arrows indicate the *Th. ponticum* chromosomes that carry signals of Oligo-B11 (A) and Oligo-pThp3.93 (C). Chromosomes were counterstained with DAPI (blue). Scale bar: 10 μm .

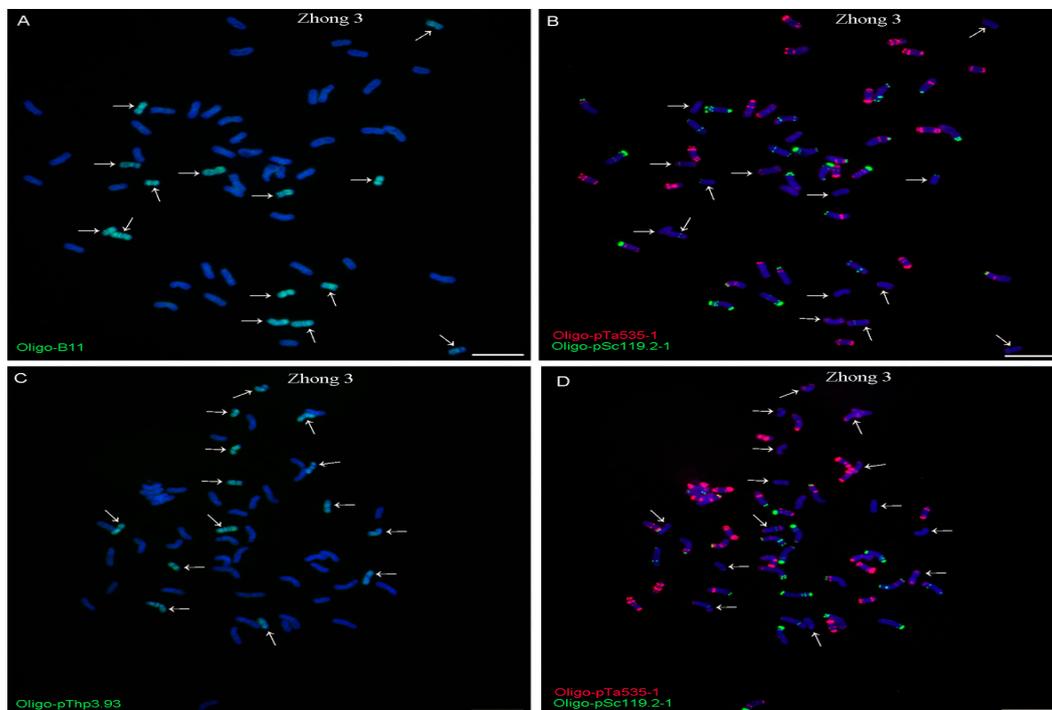


Figure 4. ND-FISH analysis of the root tip metaphase chromosomes of Zhong 3 using the Oligo-B11 (green), Oligo-pThp3.93 (green), Oligo-pTa535-1 (red) and Oligo-pSc119.2-1 (green) as probes. (A) and (B) are the same cell, and (C) and (D) are the same cell. Arrows indicate the *Th. intermedium* chromosomes that carry signals of Oligo-B11 (A) and Oligo-pThp3.93 (C). Chromosomes were counterstained with DAPI (blue). Scale bar: 10 μm .

3. Discussion

3.1. Using Oligo Probes and ND-FISH Assay to Identify Alien Chromosomes

Since Cuadrado et al. used the ND-FISH assay to detect plant telomeres [12], this technology has been widely used to analyze chromosomes of Triticeae species because of its convenience and high efficiency [4,10,11,13–26]. Using oligo probes combined with the ND-FISH assay, rye (*S. cereale*) and *Dasypyrum villosum* chromosomes can be effectively and accurately distinguished from common wheat chromosomes [4,10,11]. In addition, two ND-FISH-positive oligo probes, Oligo-B and Oligo-D, can replace multicolor GISH to identify wheat A-, B-, and D-genome chromosomes [23]. During the ND-FISH procedure, oligo probes can be commercially synthesized and the denaturing of probes and chromosomes is not necessary [4,10,11,23]. Therefore, compared with GISH and FISH, ND-FISH analysis with suitable oligo probes can efficiently distinguish the chromosomes between two distant genera and within the same genus of the Triticeae tribe.

3.2. ND-FISH-Positive Oligo Probes for Identifying *Thinopyrum* Chromosomes

For a successful ND-FISH assay, finding suitable oligo probes is the key initial step. However, the necessary ND-FISH-positive oligo probes for distinguishing *Thinopyrum* chromosomes in wheat backgrounds are still lacking. Some disease-resistance and stress-resistance genes from *Thinopyrum* have been introduced into wheat backgrounds [1–8,18,27]. Now, conventional GISH and FISH are the main methods to distinguish and localize *Thinopyrum* chromosomal segments in wheat backgrounds [1–8,18,27]. In this study, two suitable ND-FISH-positive oligo probes, Oligo-B11 and Oligo-pThp3.93, were designed based on *Th. ponticum* species-specific repetitive sequences [3,6]. Both of these oligo probes produced whole-chromosome signal patterns on 12, 14, 12, and 14 chromosomes in Xiaoyan 68, 8802, Xiaoyan 7430m and Zhong 3, respectively (Figures 1–4). The numbers of the *Thinopyrum* chromosomes identified by Oligo-B11 and Oligo-pThp3.93 in each of these materials were consistent with those previously reported [1,6,28,29].

In addition, the Oligo-B11, Oligo-pThp3.93, and Oligo-pTa535-1 probes could also identify the TTh-4DS-4DL translocation chromosomes in Xiaoyan 68 (Figure 1). In the materials used in this study, the *Thinopyrum* chromosomes came from *Th. ponticum*, *Th. elongatum*, and *Th. intermedium* [1,6,28,29]. Therefore, Oligo-B11 and Oligo-pThp3.93 combined with the ND-FISH assay can replace conventional GISH and FISH to conveniently discriminate the *Th. elongatum*, *Th. intermedium*, and *Th. ponticum* chromosomes in Xiaoyan 68, 8802, Xiaoyan 7430, and Zhong 3 from wheat chromosomes.

4. Materials and Methods

4.1. Plant Materials

Wheat-*Th. ponticum* partial amphiploids Xiaoyan 68 and Xiaoyan 7430, hexaploid *Triticum aestivum* 8802, and wheat-*Th. intermedium* partial amphiploid Zhong 3 were kindly provided by Professor Fangpu Han, Institute of Genetics and Developmental Biology, Chinese Academy of Science, Beijing, China. The 8802 contains chromosomes of *Th. elongatum* [28].

4.2. Cytological Analysis

Root-tip metaphase chromosomes were prepared following the methods described by Han et al. [30]. Oligo-pSc119.2-1 and Oligo-pTa535-1 were also used in this study [31]. Oligo-B11, Oligo-pThp3.93, Oligo-pSc119.2-1, and Oligo-pTa535-1 probes were synthesized by Tsingke Biological Technology Co. Ltd. (Beijing, China). Both the Oligo-B11 and Oligo-pThp3.93 probes were 5'-end-labelled with 6-carboxyfluorescein (6-FAM), the Oligo-pTa535-1 probe was 5'-end-labeled with 6-carboxytetramethylrhodamine (TAMRA), and the Oligo-pSc119.2-1 probe was 5'-end-labeled with Cyanine Dye 5 (Cy5). The synthesized oligo probes were diluted by 1 × TE solution (pH 7.0). For Oligo-pSc119.2-1 and Oligo-pTa535-1, probe dilution and the probe amounts per slide were carried

out according to the methods described by Tang et al. [31]. For Oligo-B11 and Oligo-pThp3.93, 100 μ L 1 \times TE was used to dissolve each 1OD probe. Then, the original solution was diluted five times and were used as the working solutions. Two \times SSC and 1 \times TE buffers (pH 7.0) were mixed as a 1:1 (volume) ratio. The target probes were added into the 2 \times SSC + 1 \times TE buffer and uniformly mixed. For each slide, 10 μ L of probe mixture was used. When the probe mixture was dropped onto the cell spreads, the room temperature around the slide were kept at above 28 $^{\circ}$ C, then the slides were covered with glass coverslips and immediately put in a moist box that was incubated at 42 $^{\circ}$ C in advance, and then stored in the moist box at 42 $^{\circ}$ C for 1–2 h. After incubation, the slides were washed for 15–20 s in 2 \times SSC at 42 $^{\circ}$ C. When the slide washing was completed, the slides were dried with a rubber suction bulb, and the slides were mounted with Vectashield mounting medium (Vector Laboratories, Burlingame, CA, USA) with DAPI (4',6-diamidino-2-phenylindole). An epifluorescence microscope (BX51, Olympus Corporation, Tokyo, Japan) equipped with a cooled charge-coupled device camera operated with HCIMAGE Live software (Hamamatsu Corporation, Sewickley, PA, USA) was used to take images.

5. Conclusions

In conclusion, the Oligo-B11 and Oligo-pThp3.93 probes combined with the ND-FISH assay can replace GISH and FISH to conveniently discriminate the *Th. elongatum*, *Th. Intermedium*, and *Th. ponticum* chromosomes in Xiaoyan 68, 8802, Xiaoyan 7430, and Zhong 3 from wheat chromosomes. Therefore, the two oligo probes provide a convenient way for the utilization of *Thinopyrum* germplasms in Xiaoyan 68, 8802, Xiaoyan 7430, and Zhong 3 in future wheat breeding programs.

Author Contributions: S.F. and Z.T. designed the study and the oligo probes, analyzed the data, and wrote the manuscript. W.X., S.T., and J.L. performed the experiments. Z.Y. analyzed the data.

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