



Genetics of Resistance to Leaf Rust in Wheat: An Overview in a Genome-Wide Level

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Abstract: Due to the global warming and dynamic changes in pathogenic virulence, leaf rust caused by *Puccinia triticina* has greatly expanded its epidermic region and become a severe threat to global wheat production. Genetic bases of wheat resistance to leaf rust mainly rely on the leaf rust resistance (Lr) gene or quantitative trait locus (QLr). Although these genetic loci have been insensitively studied during the last two decades, an updated overview of Lr/QLr in a genome-wide level is urgently needed. This review summarized recent progresses of genetic studies of wheat resistance to leaf rust. Wheat germplasms with great potentials for genetic loci carrying Lr/QLr was summarized. A genome-wide chromosome distribution map for all of the Lr/QLr was generated based on the released wheat reference genome. In conclusion, this review has provided valuable sources for both wheat breeders and researchers to understand the genetics of resistance to leaf rust in wheat.

Keywords: Puccinia triticina; Lr genes; genetic loci; resistant germplasms; chromosome distribution

1. Introduction

Leaf rust, caused by biotrophic fungal pathogen *Puccinia triticina* Erikss., is one of the most wide-spread and severe diseases in wheat all over the world [1]. The yield loss caused by leaf rust ranges from 5% to 20%, and reaches about 50% during epidemics [2]. Compared with other rust diseases such as stripe rust and stem rust, leaf rust adapts to a more moderate temperature (10–25 °C). However, due to the global warming, leaf rust has greatly expanded its epidermic region and advanced its occurrence period [3]. Generally, seedling plants of wheat are more vulnerable to rust diseases, and all of these changes have made leaf rust become a new threat to global wheat productions.

Rational application of genetic loci controlling wheat resistance to leaf rust in breeding practice is still the best choice for the disease control. In this review, pathogenic profile of *P. triticina* will be briefly introduced to demonstrate the life cycle of this fungal pathogen on wheat and alternative hosts. Types of wheat resistance to leaf rust will be classified based on plant stage, disease symptom, and the cloned resistance gene. Recent progress with regards to genetic studies of wheat resistance to leaf rust will be summarized on a genome-wide level. Resistant germplasms and genetic loci conferring leaf rust resistance will be highlighted.

2. Pathogenic Profile

Leaf rust has a complicated life cycle including asexual stage on wheat and sexual stage on alternative hosts (Figure 1a,b) [1]. At the asexual stage, leaf rust infects wheat plant



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Copyright: © 2023 by the authors. Licensee MDPI, Basel, Switzerland. This article is an open access article distributed under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) license (https:// creativecommons.org/licenses/by/ 4.0/). via its urediospores (Figure 1a). Urediospores can spread over long distances with air flow and re-infect wheat plants multiple times. Since leaf rust has a broad host range including wheat, barley, and their wild relatives, it can easily over-summer on grasses and volunteer crops. On the other hand, it normally over-winter on wheat as latent hypha or urediospores. At the sexual stage, leaf rust produces telia on wheat leaves in the late growing season (Figure 1a); teliospores from telia further infects alternative hosts including *Thalictrum* spp. or *Leptopyrum fumarioides*; pycnia/pycniospores and aecium/aeciospores can be formed on the alternative hosts; fertilization occur between pycniospores and receptive hyphae with opposite mating type combinations; aeciospores infect back to the host plants of wheat and produce uredium/urediospores to complete the life cycle (Figure 1b).



Figure 1. Pathogenic profile of *Puccinia triticina.* (a) Leaf rust infects wheat leaves via its urediospores at the asexual stage. Telia is produced on wheat leaves in the late growing season. (b) Life cycle of *P. triticina* can be divided into asexual stage on wheat and sexual stage on alternative hosts. Teliospores infect alternative hosts *Thalictrum* spp. and later produces pycnia and aecium. Aeciospores infect back to wheat plants to complete the life cycle.

3. Types of Wheat Resistance to Leaf Rust

Based on the physiological features, genetic determinations, and molecular mechanisms, wheat resistance to leaf rust can be classified into two types (Table 1): race-specific resistance and slow rusting resistance. The race-specific resistance follows the gene-forgene theory. Currently, most of the cloned Lr genes controlling this type of resistance, including Lr1, Lr10, Lr13, Lr21, Lr22a, and Lr42, encode nucleotide binding site leucine-rich repeat (NBS-LRR) proteins [4-9]. As modeled in Arabidopsis, upon directly or indirectly recognition of avirulence (Avr) proteins secreted by phytopathogens, NBS-LRR proteins form a homo-pentamer called resistosome, which penetrates the cell membrane of the responsive cells and eventually results in the observed hypersensitive responses (HR) or necrosis on wheat leaves [10]. A recent protein crystallization study on wheat stem rust resistance protein Sr35 and its corresponding avirulent protein AvrSr35 revealed a similar resistosome structure [11]. Besides these NBS-LRR proteins, another race-specific resistance gene, Lr14a, encodes a membrane-localized protein containing multiple ankyrin repeats and Ca^{2+} channels [12]. The other recently cloned high-resistant gene Lr9/Lr58 encodes a tandem kinase fusion protein [13]. Notably, certain race-specific resistance genes are functioning only at seedling stage but lost their resistance against multiple Pt pathotypes in the field at the adult plant stage. Others may keep their high resistance to leaf rust at the adult plant stage as hypersensitive adult plant resistance (APR) or all-stage (AS) race-specific resistance.

Type of Resistance	Resistance Stage	Resistant Features	Cloned Resistance Genes	
	Seedling stage	Seedling resistance. Immune or hypersensitive response (cell death/necrosis) observed on the leaf surface. May be lost at adult plant stage against multiple <i>Pt</i> pathotypes in the field.	Lr1, Lr10, Lr13, Lr21, Lr22a, Lr42 (NBS-LRR) [4–9]	
Kace-specific resistance	Adult plant stage	Hypersensitive adult plant resistance (APR)/All-stage (AS) race-specific resistance. Immune or hypersensitive response (cell death/necrosis) observed on the leaf surface.	Lr14a (Ankyrin repeats and Ca ²⁺ channels) [12] Lr9/Lr58 (Tandem kinase) [13]	
Slow rusting	Adult plant stage	Non-race-specific resistance. A lower level but more durable resistance. Rust infection and sporulation can be accomplished in a much delayed and reduced manner.	Lr34 (ATP-binding cassette transporter) [14] Lr67 (Hexose transporter) [15]	

Table 1. Types of wheat resistance to leaf rust.

Slow rusting resistance, also considered as APR in most cases, provides a lower level but more durable resistance in a non-race-specific manner only at the adult plant stage. Compare with the mentioned hypersensitive APR, rust infection and sporulation can be accomplished in a much delayed and reduced manner. It is normally controlled by quantitative trait loci (QTL) and provides broad-spectrum resistance to multiple pathogens. For instance, the first cloned leaf rust APR gene *Lr34* encoding an ATP-binding cassette (ABC) transporter controls resistance to stripe rust, stem rust, powdery mildew, and spot blotch [14]. The other cloned leaf rust APR gene *Lr67* encodes a hexose transporter that forms hetero dimer with other functional transporters to reduce the uptake of glucose [15].

With advances in techniques of genomic sequencing and molecular biology, cloning of Lr genes or leaf rust resistance QTL (QLr) has become a more feasible task. It can be accomplished following multiple strategies such as classical map-based positional cloning, or rapid gene-cloning approaches including MutChromSeq, MutRenSeq, AgRenSeq and MutIsoSeq, or even whole genome sequencing [16]. In this review, we have mainly focused on the research progresses of genetic determinations of wheat resistance to leaf rust during the last two decades. Genetic loci carrying Lr/QLr are summarized and introduced following a sub-genome and chromosome order to provide an overview on a genome-wide level.

4. Genetic Loci Carrying Lr/QLr in A Sub-Genome

4.1. Lr/QLr on Chromosome 1A

A tall Indian bread wheat cultivar 'Sujata' displayed high resistance to leaf rust at adult plant stage in the field. Two novel significant resistance loci on chromosomes 1AS (*QLr.cim-1AS*) and 7BL (*QLr.cim-7BL*), in combination with *Lr46* and *Lr67*, were identified using simple sequence repeat (SSR) markers [17]. A major QTL, *QLr.cau-1AS*, for slow rusting in wheat cultivar 'Luke' was mapped to chromosome 1AS using SSR markers [18]. A genome-wide association study (GWAS) on a panel of 483 spring wheat genotypes revealed major QTLs for APR against leaf rust on chromosome 1A (*QLr.ramp-1A.2*), 1B (*QLr.ramp-1B.3*), and 6A (*QLr.ramp-6A.1*) [19]. Seedling/all-stage leaf rust resistance (AS) gene *Lr10* was also located on the chromosome 1AS [5]. *Lr10* was successfully cloned and encoded a typical NBS-LRR protein. Interestingly, two different CC-NBS-LRR proteins were discovered to be essential for the *Lr10*-mediated resistance [20].

A collection of 331 diverse wheat genotypes was inoculated with 4 prevalent *Pt* pathotypes at the seedling stage and a further GWAS revealed novel QTLs on chromosomes 1AL (*QLr.uga-1AL*), 4AS (*QLr.uga-4AS*), 5AS (*QLr.uga-5AS*), 5AL (*QLr.uga-5AL*), and 7AS (*QLr.uga-7AS*) [21]. Another GWAS was performed on a diverse germplasm of 385 accessions, including 27 different *Triticum* and *Aegilops* species at both seedling and adult plant stages. For the APR phenotype, significant associations were detected on chromosomes 1A (*QLr.fiz-1AL*), 2D (*QLr.fiz-2D*), and 5B (*QLr.fiz-5B*) [22]. Leaf rust resistance of another 338 spring wheat breeding lines developed in the Americas was evaluated at the seedling stage and in the field. A further GWAS revealed two potentially novel QTLs (*QLr.umn-1AL* and *QLr.umn-4AS*) for variations in the APR phenotype [23]. A haplotype-based GWAS was conducted on 133 wheat genotypes and 1574 their hybrids to reveal the associations between high-quality single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) and APR phenotypes. Five major QTLs on chromosomes 1A (*QLr.liu-1AL*), 3D (*QLr.liu-3D*), 4A (*QLr.liu-4A*), 6B (*QLr.liu-6B*), and 7A (*QLr.liu-7A*) were detected [24]. A novel APR QTL *Lr2K38* (*QLr.ags-1AL*) from soft red winter wheat cultivar 'AGS 2038' was mapped on chromosome 1AL [25].

4.2. Lr/QLr on Chromosome 2A

Great number of genetic loci carrying *Lr/QLr* was enriched on chromosome 2A. *Lr65* originated from spelt wheat (*Triticum spelta*) was recently fine mapped within a 0.8 cM interval on chromosome 2AS, corresponding to a 60.11 Kb region in the Chinese Spring (CS) wheat reference genome [26]. *Lr37* introgressed from *Aegilops ventricosa* was initially mapped on the chromosome 2AS using restriction fragment length polymorphism (RFLP) and cleaved amplified polymorphic sequence (CAPS) markers [27]. The chromosome 2AS-located *Lr17a* gene was widely presented in wheat varieties adapted to North America and its resistance has been overcome by newly merged *Pt* pathotypes [28]. Seedling resistance gene *Lr81* was identified from a Croatian breeding line 'PI 470121' and mapped to an approximately 100 Kb genomic region on chromosome 2AS using Kompetitive allele-specific PCR (KASP) markers [29]. A novel leaf rust resistance gene *LrM* introgressed from *Ae. markgrafii* provides high degree of resistance against multiple *Pt* pathotypes. *LrM* was mapped on chromosome 2AS using SSR- and SNP-based PCR markers [30]. Seedling resistance gene *Lr45* was derived from *Secale cereale* and introgressed into chromosome 2AS [31].

A GWAS on 496 accessions of worldwide durum wheat collection revealed significantly associated SNPs on chromosomes 2AL (*Lr.locus-2AL*) and 2BL (*Lr.locus-2B5*) [32]. Several APR QTLs on chromosomes 2AL (*QLr.ifa-2AL*), 2BL (*QLr.ifa-2BL*), and 3BS (*QLr.ifa-3BS*) were identified from an Australian winter wheat cultivar 'Capo' using bi-parental mapping populations [33]. A Chinese wheat cultivar 'Zhou 8425B' showed relative high resistance to leaf rust at both seedling and adult plant stages. A genetic study using constructed mapping population identified novel QTLs on chromosomes 2AL (*QLr.hebau-2AL*), and 4AL (*QLr.hebau-4AL*) [34]. Two Canadian wheat cultivars 'AC Cadillac' and 'Carberry' showed relatively high resistance to leaf rust in the field. A further genetic study identified an APR QTL on chromosome 2A (*QLr.spa-2A*) from 'AC Cadillac' and two APR QTLs on chromosomes 2B (*QLr.spa-2B*) and 4B (*QLr.spa-4B*) from 'Carberry' [35].

4.3. Lr/QLr on Chromosome 3A

Seedling resistance gene *Lr63* derived from *T. monococcum* was mapped to chromosome 3AS using SSR markers [36]. A Uruguayan wheat landrace 'Americano 44' exhibited long lasting resistance to leaf rust. Three major QTLs including *QLr.cdl-3A*, *QLr.cdl-3D*, and *QLr.cdl-6D* were identified to be interactively responsible for the variation of APR phenotype [37]. Another AS gene on chromosome 3AS, *Lr66*, was introgressed from *Ae. speltoides* and initially mapped using microsatellite and diversity array technology (DArT) markers [38]. A constant major QTL *QLr.sfrs-3AL* inherited from 'Forno' was detected on chromosome 3AS [39]. A major QTL *QLr.fcu-3AL* from a synthetic hexaploid wheat line TA4152-60 (×*Aegilotriticum* spp.) was associated with APR to leaf rust [40].

4.4. Lr/QLr on Chromosome 4A

A novel seedling resistance gene *Lr.ace-4A* for multiple *Pt* isolates was initially detected on chromosome 4A from a Portuguese durum landrace 'PI 192051' [41]. A diversity panel of 268 wheat lines was evaluated for leaf rust resistance at both seedling

and adult plant stages. A GWAS using 90K SNP array revealed novel QTLs for APR on chromosomes 4AL (QLr.zha-4AL) and 1DL (QLr.zha-1DL) [42]. Seedling resistance gene Lr28 derived from Ae. speltoides was mapped to chromosome 4AL, and a microsatellite marker was validated to be closely linked to this gene [43]. Moreover, the possible molecular mechanism of Lr28 has been intensively investigated during the last decade with emphasis on its transcriptional responses [44,45].

4.5. Lr/QLr on Chromosome 5A

A major QTL for APR to leaf rust from the European winter wheat cultivar 'Beaver', *QLr.pbi-5AS*, was mapped to chromosome 5AS using multiple molecular markers [46]. A collection of 100 Russian varieties of spring wheat was phenotyped for leaf rust resistance in the field and subsequent GWAS using 15K SNP assay identified two new APR QTLs on chromosomes 5AS (*QLr.leo-5AS*) and 1BL (*QLr.leo-1BL*) [47]. A total of 676 pre-Green Revolution common wheat landraces was evaluated for their APR responses to leaf rust in the field. Associations with SNPs on chromosomes 5A (*QLr.aus-5A*) and 1B (*Lr33*) were detected and further validated using a recombinant inbred line (RIL) population of 'Aus28230 × Yitpi' [48]. The APR of a Brazilian wheat cultivar variant 'Toropi-6.4' was investigated and several major QTLs were identified using 90K SNP array, including *QLr.crc-1BL/Lr46* on chromosome 1BL and *QLr.crc-5AL* on chromosome 5AL [49]. Two novel APR QTLs on chromosomes 5AL (*QLr.hebau-5AL*) and 3BL (*QLr.hebau-3BL*) were identified from a wheat cultivar 'SW 8588' using 55K SNP array and SSR markers [50].

4.6. Lr/QLr on Chromosome 6A

Seedling resistance gene *Lr62* was transferred from *Ae. neglecta* and mapped to chromosome 6AS using microsatellite markers [51]. The *Ae. sharonensis*-derived seedling resistance gene *Lr56* was translocated to the telomeric region of chromosome 6AL [52]. Another AS gene *Lr64* initially introgressed from *T. dicoccoides* was also mapped to chromosome 6AL with SNP and KASP markers [53].

4.7. Lr/QLr on Chromosome 7A

Seedling resistance gene Lr47 was introgressed from *Ae. speltoides* to chromosome 7AS [54]. Grain yields and flour quality were negatively influenced by the introgression of chromosome segment carrying Lr47 [55]. Nevertheless, this gene still showed high resistance to most of the collected *Pt* pathotypes in China and its transcriptional regulatory network was profiled [56]. A recent study developed new KASP markers for the Lr47 gene [57]. A large scale association studies using 1032 spring wheat accessions and 9K SNP array revealed QTLs on chromosome 7AS (*QLr.tur-7AS*) and 2DL (*QLr.tur-2DL*) contributed to both seedling resistance and APR to leaf rust [58]. Seedling resistance gene Lr20 was localized in the distal region of chromosome 7AL [59]. Recombination of the genetic locus carrying Lr20 was significantly suppressed, indicating this chromosome segment may be introgressed from unidentified wild relative species.

Information about all of the genetic loci carrying Lr and major QLr in A sub-genome was summarized in Table 2. Chromosome distributions of these genetic loci in A sub-genome were estimated based on the positions of associated molecular markers in the common wheat Chinese Spring reference genome v1.1 (Figure 2).

Chromosome	Lr Gene/Major QTL	Resistance Type	Donor	Associated Markers or SNPs ^a	Reference
1AS	QLr.cim-1AS	APR	T. aestivum: Sujata	wPt-9752 , Xgdm33, Xcfd15	[17]
1AS	QLr.cau-1AS	APR	T. aestivum: Luke	Xgpw2246	[18]
1AS	QLr.ramp-1A.2	APR	T. aestivum: spring wheat collection (GWAS)	AX-95080736	[19]
1AS	Lr10	AS	T. aestivum: TcLr10	Lrk10D1, Xgwm136, Xpsr596	[5]
1AL	QLr.uga-1AL	AS	T. aestivum: wheat genotypes collection (GWAS)	IWA1952	[21]
1AL	QLr.fiz-1AL	APR	Triticum and Aegilops species collection (GWAS)	Excalibur_c33567_363	[22]
1AL	QLr.umn-1AL	APR	T. aestivum: spring wheat breeding lines (GWAS)	IWB48030	[23]
1AL	QLr.liu-1AL	APR	<i>T. aestivum</i> : wheat collections and their hybrids (GWAS)	SNP532737351chr1A	[24]
1AL	Lr2K38/QLr.ags-1AL	APR	T. aestivum: AGS 2038	IWB20487 , IWA4022	[25]
2AS	Lr65	AS	T. spelta: Altgold Rotkorn	Xbarc124, Xbarc212 , Xgwm614	[26]
2AS	Lr37	AS	Ae. ventricosa: Madsen	Xcmwg682, Xbcd348, Xpsr933	[27]
2AS	Lr17a	AS	<i>T. aestivum</i> : Klein Lucero (CI 14047) <i>T. aestivum</i> : Maria Escobar (PI 150604)	Xgwm614 , Xgwm614, Xwmc407	[28]
2AS	Lr81	AS	<i>T. aestivum</i> : PI 470121	Xstar-KASP320, Xstar-KASP323	[29]
2AS	LrM	AS	Ae. markgrafii: ER9-700	Xgwm512, Xcfd36	[30]
2A	Lr45	AS	S. cereale: TcLr45	Xcfd168 , Xgwm372	[31]
2AL	Lr.locus-2AL	AS	T. turgidum: durum wheat collection (GWAS)	Xgwm1045	[32]
2AL	QLr.ifa-2AL	APR	T. aestivum: Capo	Xgwm312	[33]
2AL	QLr.hebau-2AL	APR	T. aestivum: Zhou 8425B	wmc181, BS00057060_51	[34]
2AL	QLr.spa-2AL	APR	T. aestivum: AC Cadillac	rPt-9611	[35]
3AS	Lr63	AS	T. monococcum: RL6137	Xbarc321, Xbarc57	[36]
3AS	QLr.cdl-3AS	APR	T. aestivum: Americano 44d	Xbarc321	[37]
3AS	Lr66	AS	Ae. speltoides	Xgwm674, Xbarc57	[38]
3AL	QLr.sfrs-3AL	APR	T. aestivum: Forno	Xpsr570 , Xpsr543	[39]
3AL	QLr.fcu-3AL	APR	Synthetic hexaploid wheat: TA4152-60	Xcfa2183, Xgwm666, Xfcp586	[40]

Table 2. Genetic loci carrying *Lr/QLr* in A sub-genome.

Table 2. Cont.

Chromosome	Lr Gene/Major QTL	Resistance Type	Donor	Associated Markers or SNPs ^a	Reference
4AS	QLr.uga-4AS	AS	T. aestivum: wheat genotypes collection (GWAS)	IWA1766	[21]
4AS	QLr.umn-4AS	APR	T. aestivum: spring wheat breeding lines (GWAS)	IWB59410	[23]
4AS	Lr.ace-4A	AS	T. turgidum: PI 192051	IWA232, IWA603, IWA4657	[41]
4AL	QLr.hebau-4AL	APR	T. aestivum: Zhou 8425B	<i>Xwmc</i> 617, BobWhite_c15697_675	[34]
4AL	QLr.zha-4AL	APR	T. aestivum: wheat lines collection (GWAS)	Tdurum_con-tig93100_149	[42]
4AL	QLr.liu-4AL	APR	<i>T. aestivum</i> : wheat collections and their hybrids (GWAS)	SNP713087672chr4A	[24]
4AL	Lr28	AS	Ae. speltoides	Xwmc313, SCS421	[43]
5AS	QLr.pbi-5AS	APR	T. aestivum: Beaver	wPt-1931 , wPt-8756	[46]
5AS	QLr.uga-5AS	APR	T. aestivum: wheat genotypes collection (GWAS)	IWA2143, Xwmc47, Xbarc122	[21]
5AS	QLr.leo-5AS	APR	T. aestivum: Spring wheat collection (GWAS)	GENE-3321_201	[47]
5AL	QLr.aus-5AL	APR	<i>T. aestivum</i> : wheat landrace collection (GWAS)	IWB23955, IWB34703	[48]
5AL	QLr.crc-5AL	APR	T. aestivum: Toropi-6.4	Excalibur_rep_c111129_125	[49]
5AL	QLr.hebau-5AL	APR	T. aestivum: SW 8588	AX-110679506 , AX-110996595	[50]
5AL	QLr.uga-5AL	AS	T. aestivum: wheat genotypes collection (GWAS)	IWA5929 , Xgpw2273	[21]
6AS	Lr62	AS	Ae. neglecta: 03M119-71A	Xgwm334 , Xcfd190, Xcfa2173	[51]
6AL	Lr56	AS	Ae. sharonensis	Xgwm427 , Xwmc59	[52]
6AL	Lr64	AS	T. dicoccoides: RL6149	K-IWB59855	[53]
6AL	QLr.ramp-6A.1	APR	T. aestivum: spring wheat collection (GWAS)	AX-94653398	[19]
7AS	Lr47	AS	Ae. speltoides: Pavon	Xgwm60 , PS10	[54]
7AS	QLr.tur-7AS	AS/APR	<i>T. aestivum</i> : spring wheat collection (GWAS)	IWA1277	[58]
7AS	QLr.uga-7AS	AS	T. aestivum: wheat genotypes collection (GWAS)	IWA7201	[21]
7AS	QLr.liu-7AS	APR	<i>T. aestivum</i> : wheat collections and their hybrids (GWAS)	SNP126914404chr7A	[24]
7AL	Lr20	AS	<i>T. aestivum</i> : Thew	Xpsr148 , Xcdo347, STS638	[59]

^a Bold labeled molecular markers were used for generating the distribution map of *Lr/QLr*.



Figure 2. Genome-wide distribution of genetic loci carrying *Lr/QLr* in A sub-genome of wheat (Chromosomes 1A–7A). Molecular markers, SNPs, and genes associated with *Lr/QLr* were collected from previous publications and searched against the reference genome of common wheat 'Chinese Spring' v1.1. Corresponding physical position of each *Lr/QLr* was estimated, and a distribution map was generated using MapChart software v2.32 (raw data in Table S1). Numbers on the left side of each chromosome indicated physical locations in units of 10,000,000 bp. Formally designated *Lr* genes are highlighted in red, and stable QTLs with large effect are in green.

5. Genetic Loci Carrying Lr/QLr in B Sub-Genome

5.1. Lr/QLr on Chromosome 1B

Genetic loci carrying *Lr/QLr* were intensively distributed on chromosome 1B. Seedling resistance gene *Lr55* derived from *Elymus trachycaulus* was mapped to chromosome 1BS using microsatellite and DArT-based markers [60]. A recent study revealed that *Lr33* on chromosome 1BL conferred resistance to leaf rust at both seedling and adult plant stages [61]. Interestingly, *Lr44* originated from spelt wheat 'Accession 7831' was reported as recessive or partially dominant to *Lr33* [62]. Seedling resistance gene *Lr71* was identified from spelt wheat cultivar 'Altgold Rotkorn'. It was initially mapped close to the centromere of chromosome 1B using SSR markers and deletion lines [63]. A major QTL *QLr.sfr-1BS*

was discovered in winter wheat cultivar 'Forno' for APR to leaf rust in a series of genetic studies and eventually designated as *Lr75* [64,65]. Interestingly, a consistently detected QTL *QLr.pser-1BL* controlling phenotype of lesion mimics in wheat cultivar 'Ning7840' was also responsible for seedling resistance and APR to leaf rust [66]. A seedling resistance gene *LrZH84* was identified from a widely planted wheat cultivar 'Zhou 8425B' in China and mapped to chromosome 1BL using multiple molecular markers [67,68].

Lr46 was another slow rusting gene that conferred broad-spectrum resistance to multiple fungal diseases, including stripe rust (*Yr29*), stem rust (*Sr58*), powdery mildew (*Pm39*), and spot blotch (*Qsb*). Various molecular markers have been developed to map this genetic locus or utilize it in breeding programs [69,70]. Major QTLs for slow rusting detected in wheat cultivars 'Bainong 64' and 'Attila' were both initially mapped to chromosome 1BL and further predicted as *Lr46* [71,72]. Seedling resistance gene *Lr51* introgressed from *Ae. speltoides* was mapped to chromosome 1BL and its associated CAPS marker was designed [73]. Seedling resistance gene *Lr26* was derived from rye (*S. cereale*) and located on the 1BL/1RS translocation in wheat [74]. The recent released high-quality genome assembly of rye may greatly facilitate the cloning of *Lr26* in the coming future [75]. A multiple-year stable major QTL *QLr.pbi-1B* for APR of wheat cultivar 'Beaver' was mapped to chromosome 1BL and estimated to be associated with the 1BL/1RS translocation [46].

5.2. Lr/QLr on Chromosome 2B

Chromosome 2BS is a hot zone enriched with large number of Lr/QLr loci. Three wheat cultivars from different regions, including 'Saragolla' from Italy, 'Gaza' from the Middle East, and 'Arnacoris' from France, expressed high levels of resistance to Mexican races of P. triticina. Further genetic investigation revealed major APR QTLs on chromosomes 2BS (QLr.usw-2BS), 6BS (QLr.usw-6BS), 6BL (QLr.usw-6BL), and 7BL (QLr.usw-7BL) [76]. Lr16 was a seedling resistance gene previously mapped to the telomeric region of chromosome 2BS [77]. A recent genetic study using four mapping populations developed resistance gene analog (RGA)-based SNP markers associated with Lr16 to facilitate the marker-assisted selection (MAS) [78]. A major QTL QLr.csiro-2BS on chromosome 2BS for slow rusting was discovered in wheat cultivar 'Attila' [72]. Lr48 was designated as a hypersensitive APR gene and mapped to chromosome 2BS using SSR markers [79]. An International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) spring wheat line 'Shanghai 3/Catbird' showed a high level of APR to Chinese P. triticina pathotypes in the field. A major QTL QLr.hebau-2BS was detected on chromosome 2BS using SSR markers [80]. Seedling resistance gene Lr23 on chromosome 2BS was initially identified from a synthetic hexaploid wheat 'W-7984' produced from the cross between durum wheat cultivar 'Altar 84' and Ae. tauschii [81]. A further investigation discovered a major QTL QLr.ksu-2BS for APR in 'W-7984' close to Lr23 [82].

The chromosome 2BS-located Lr13 was sufficient to provide seedling resistance at relatively high temperature around 25 °C and APR in the field. This gene encoding a typical NBS-LRR protein also controlled hybrid necrosis as a specific allele of *Necrosis 2 (Ne2)* [6,83]. An Argentinean wheat cultivar 'Klein Proteo' showed broad-spectrum resistance to most of the Chinese *P. triticina* pathotypes at seedling stage. A single-dominant gene *LrKP* was mapped near the *Lr13* region on chromosome 2BS. Its relationship to *Lr13* remained to be explored [84]. The APR gene *Lr35* was introgressed from *Ae. speltoides* and showed broad resistance to different *Pt* pathotypes. The *Lr35* gene was mapped to chromosome 2BS using RFLP and STS markers [85]. Several pathogenesis-related protein (*PR*) genes including *PR1*, *PR2*, and *PR5* were reported to be involved in the *Lr35*-mediated APR response [86–88]. A chromosome 2BS-located major QTL *QLr.osu-2B* for slow rusting was consistently detected from wheat line 'CI 13227' in multiple environments [89].

A diverse panel of 196 spring wheat genotypes was phenotyped for the leaf rust resistance in the field. A GWAS using 90K SNP array revealed significant associations with multiple SNPs on chromosomes 2B (*QLr.dms-2B.2*) and 2D (*QLr.dms-2D*) [90]. An AS gene *LrNJ97* was identified from a Chines wheat line 'Neijiang 977671' and linked with SSR markers on chromosome 2BL [91]. Seedling resistance gene *Lr50* was introgressed

from *T. timopheevii* subsp. *armeniacum* and initially mapped on chromosome 2BL using SSR markers [92].

5.3. Lr/QLr on Chromosome 3B

An APR gene Lr74 from soft red winter wheat cultivar 'Caldwell' was mapped to chromosome 3BS using 90K SNP array and SSR markers [93]. A genetic study using the 'Ning7840 × Clark' RIL population revealed major APR QTL Lr74/QLr.hwwg-3BS.1 on chromosome 3BS from 'Clark' and Lr34 on chromosome 7DS from 'Ning7840' [94]. Several slow rusting QTLs were identified from wheat cultivar 'Francolin#1', including Lr46/QLr-*cim-1BL* on chromosome 1BL and *QLr-cim-3BS.1* on chromosome 3BS [95]. A race-specific APR gene LrSV2 on chromosome 3BS was isolated from a durable resistant Argentinean wheat variety 'Sinvalocho MA' using SSR markers [96].

A major QTL *QLr.fcu-3BL* for seedling resistance to *Pt* pathotype MFPS was discovered in the synthetic hexaploid wheat line 'TA4152-60' (\times *Aegilotriticum* spp.) and was mapped to chromosome 3BL [40]. A panel of 96 wheat cultivars was evaluated for their APR response to leaf rust in the field and genotyped with DArT markers. Novel associations were detected against markers on chromosomes 3BL (*QLr.wpt-3BL*), 6B (*QLr.wpt-6BS.1*), 1DS (*QLr.wpt-1DS*) and 7DS (*QLr.wpt-7DS*) [97]. The seedling resistance gene *Lr79* was identified from a durum wheat landrace 'Aus26582' and initially mapped to chromosome 3BL using DArT markers [98].

5.4. Lr/QLr on Chromosome 4B

A major QTL *QLr.sfrs-4B* for APR in wheat cultivar 'Forno' was detected on chromosome 4B [39]. *Lr12* on chromosome 4BL provides adult-plant race-specific resistance to leaf rust. It is completely linked or identical to *Lr31*, whose seedling resistance is associated with another complementary gene *Lr27* [99]. A recent study detected a major QTL *QLr.hebau-4B* on chromosome 4BL for APR in wheat cultivar 'Chinese Spring' and its relationship to *Lr12* remained to be tested [34]. The seedling resistance gene *Lr25* was originally transferred from *Secale cereale* and linked with SSR markers on chromosome 4BL [100]. The APR gene *Lr49* was discovered in wheat recombinant inbred line 'VL404' and also mapped to chromosome 4BL using SSR markers [79].

5.5. Lr/QLr on Chromosome 5B

The AS gene *Lr52* provides broad-spectrum resistance to multiple *Pt* pathotypes. It was mapped to chromosome 5BS using cytogenetic method [101]. Two durum wheat lines 'Heller#1' and 'Dunkler' from CIMMYT exhibited moderate and stable APR to leaf rust in the field. Multiple QTLs were detected on chromosomes 1BL (*Lr46*), 5BL (*QLr.cim-5BL*) and 6BL (*QLr.cim-6BL*) from these resistant lines [102]. The AS gene *Lr18* was transferred from *T. timopheevii* to hexaploidy wheat chromosome 5BL [103].

5.6. Lr/QLr on Chromosome 6B

The seedling resistance gene *Lr53* was transferred from *T. dicoccoides* to common wheat chromosome 6BS [104]. A major QTL *QLr.caas-6BS.1* for APR was identified from wheat cultivar 'Bainong 64' and mapped to the chromosome 6BS using bulk segregant analysis (BSA) [71]. Also in the distal region of chromosome 6BS, another AS gene *Lr61* was identified from *T. turgidum* subsp. *durum* cultivar 'Guayacan INIA' [105]. The AS gene *Lr59* derived from wheat wild relative *Ae. peregrina* was recently mapped to chromosome 6BS using microsatellite markers [106]. The seedling resistance gene *Lr36* was derived from *Ae. speltoides* and mapped between SSR markers *Xgwm88* and *Xcfd13* on chromosome 6BS [107].

The *Ae. umbellulata*-derived gene *Lr9* was introgressed to chromosome 6BL and recently cloned using mutagenesis and transcriptome sequencing. It encoded an unusual tandem kinase fusion protein, and the coding sequence was identical to gene *Lr58* introgressed from *Ae. triuncialis* on chromosome 2BL [13,108]. Two consistent major QTLs for APR were detected in wheat cultivar 'Pastor' on chromosomes 6BL (*QLr.cimmyt-6BL.1*) and 7BL (*QLr.cimmyt-7BL*) [109]. The chromosome 6BL-located *Lr3* had three alleles as *Lr3a*, *Lr3bg*, and *Lr3ka*. Since this gene has not been cloned yet, it was difficult to distinguish different alleles [110].

5.7. Lr/QLr on Chromosome 7B

The seedling resistance gene Lr72 was discovered in durum wheat cultivar 'Atil C2000' and mapped to chromosome 7BS using SSR markers [111]. A consistently detected QTL QLr.sfrs-7B.2 was discovered to confer APR in wheat cultivar 'Forno' [39]. A major QTL QLr.cimmyt-7BL.1 for slow rusting in wheat cultivar 'Parula' was detected on chromosome 7BL as a possible homoallele to Lr34 [112]. Wheat line 'CI 13227' showed a high leveled slow rusting resistance. A stable QTL *QLr.osu-7BL/QLrlp.osu-7BL* on the chromosome 7BL was consistently detected in a series of studies [89,113]. The chromosome 7BL-located AS gene *Lr14a* has been cloned recently using the sequenced genome of wheat line 'Arina*LrFor*'. It encoded a membrane-localized protein containing twelve ankyrin repeats and Ca^{2+} permeable non-selective cation channels-like structures. Its unique mechanism controlling race-specific disease resistance remained to be explored [12]. The slow rusting gene Lr68 was isolated from wheat cultivar 'Parula' and mapped to the distal region of chromosome 7BL [114]. QLr.ubo-7B.2 was a major QTL on chromosome 7BL responsible for both seedling resistance and APR in durum wheat cultivar 'Colosseo' [115]. A postulated novel seedling resistance gene LrFun from wheat cultivar 'Fundulea 900' was also mapped to the distal region of chromosome 7BL [116]. A cluster of defense response genes including catalase, chitinase, thaumatin, and ion channel regulator on chromosome 7BL was associated with APR of wheat cultivar 'Opata 85' to leaf rust as a major QTL QLr.ksu-7BL [82].

Information about all of the genetic loci carrying *Lr* and major *QLr* in B sub-genome was summarized in Table 3. Chromosome distributions of these genetic loci in B sub-genome were estimated based on the positions of associated molecular markers in the common wheat Chinese Spring reference genome v1.1 (Figure 3).

Chromosome	Gene/QTL	Resistance Type	Donor	Associated Markers or SNPs ^a	Reference
1BS	Lr55	AS/APR	E. trachycaulis: KS04WGRC45	Xgwm374, Xwmc406	[60]
1BL	Lr33	AS/APR	T. aestivum: PI 58548, KU168-2	Xgwm413	[61]
1BL	Lr44	AS	T. spelta: Accession 7831	Linked with Lr33	[62]
1B	Lr71	AS	T. spelta: Altgold Rotkorn	Xgwm18 , Xbarc187	[63]
1BS	Lr75/QLr.sfr-1BS	APR	T. aestivum: Forno	Xgwm18 ,Xpsr949, Xgwm604	[64,65]
1BL	QLr.pser-1BL	AS/APR	T. aestivum: Ning7840	Xscm9, Xwmc85.1	[66]
1BL	LrZH84	AS	T. aestivum: Zhou 8425B	Xgwm582, barc8, BF474863, BE497107	[67,68]
1BL	QLr.leo-1BL	APR	T. aestivum: spring wheat collection (GWAS)	tplb0023b14_704 , wsnp_Ra_c8484_14372815, BobWhite_c1456_615	[47]
1BL	QLr.wpt-1BL	APR	T. aestivum	wPt-9809	[97]
1BL	Lr46/QLr.caas-1BL/QLr.csiro- 1BL/QLr.cim-1BL	Slow rusting	T. aestivum: Pavon 76, Bainong 64, Attila, Toropi-6.4, Francolin#1	Xwmc719, Xgwm140, Xwms259 Xgwm153.2, Xwmc44 Excalibur_c35888_208, csLV46, wPt-9028, wPt-1770	[49,69–72,95]
1BL	Lr51	AS	Ae. speltoides: F-7-3	Xcdo393	[73]
1BL	Lr26	AS	S. cereale: Petkus	1BL/1RS translocation	[74]
1BL	QLr.pbi-1B	APR	T. aestivum: Beaver	1BL/1RS translocation	[46]
1B	QLr.ramp-1B.3	APR	T. aestivum: spring wheat collection	AX-94517050	[19]
2BS	QLr.usw-2BS	APR	T. turgidum: Saragolla	Tdurum_contig76118_145 , wsnp_Ex_c18354_27181086	[76]
2BS	Lr16	AS	T. aestivum: BW278, AC Majestic, AC Domain, Kenyon	Xwmc764 , Xgwm210, Xwmc661, kwm677, kwm744	[77,78]
2B	QLr.spa-2B	APR	T. aestivum: Carberry	wPt-732018, wPt-7883	[35]
2BS	QLr.csiro-2BS	APR	T. aestivum: Attila	Xwmc154, Xgwm682, XP32/M62	[72]
2BS	Lr48	APR	T. aestivum: CSP44	Xgwm429b, Xbarc07	[79]
2BS	QLr.hebau-2BS	APR	T. aestivum: Shanghai 3/Catbird	wPt-8548, wPt-2314	[80]
2BS	Lr23/QLr.ksu-2BS	AS/APR	Synthetic hexaploid wheat: W-7984	Xtam72, Per2, Xcdo405	[81,82]
2BS	Lr13	HTAS/APR	T. aestivum: TcLr13	TraesCS2B02G182800	[6,83]
2BS	LrKP	AS	T. aestivum: Klein Proteo	Lrkp2B114, LrkpF299R300	[84]

Table 3. Genetic loci carrying *Lr/QLr* in B sub-genome.

Table 3. Cont.

Chromosome	Gene/QTL	Resistance Type	Donor	Associated Markers or SNPs ^a	Reference
2BS	Lr35	APR	T. aestivum: TcLr35	Xwg996, Xpsr540, Xbcd260	[85]
2BL	QLr.osu-2B	Slow rusting	T. aestivum: CI 13227	Xbarc167, Xagc.tgc135, Xcatg.atgc60	[89]
2BS	QLr.ifa-2BS	APR	T. aestivum: Capo	Xgwm120	[33]
2BL	Lr.locus-2B5	AS	T. turgidum: durum wheat collection (GWAS)	IWA1765, wmc332	[32]
2B	QLr.dms-2B.2	APR	T. aestivum: spring wheat collection (GWAS)	Excalibur_c62234_105	[90]
2BL	LrNJ97	AS	T. aestivum: Neijiang 977671	Xwmc317 , Xbarc159	[91]
2BL	Lr50	AS	T. timopheevii: TA 870, TA 874, KS96WGRC36	Xgwm382, Xgdm87	[92]
3BS	QLr.ifa-3BS	APR	T. aestivum: Capo	Xgwm389	[33]
3BS	Lr74/QLr.hwwg-3BS.1	APR	T. aestivum: Caldwell, Clark	gwm533, cfb5006, barc75 , IWA4654, IWA1702, Xgwm389	[93,94]
3BS	QLr.cim-3BS.1	APR	T. aestivum: Francolin#1	wPt-6945 , wPt-664393, wPt-5390	[95]
3BS	LrSV2	APR	T. aestivum: Sinvalocho MA	Xpsr598 , swm13, gwm533	[96]
3BL	QLr.fcu-3BL	AS	Synthetic hexaploid wheat: TA4152-60	Xbarc164 , Xfcp544	[40]
3BL	QLr.wpt-3BL	APR	<i>T. aestivum</i> : wheat cultivar collection (GWAS)	wPt-7502	[97]
3BL	QLr.hebau-3BL	APR	T. aestivum: SW 8588	AX-111014259, AX-111534420	[50]
3BL	Lr79	APR	T. turgidum: Aus26582	sun770, sun786	[98]
4B	QLr.sfrs-4B	APR	T. aestivum: Forno	Xpsr921 , Xpsr953b	[39]
4BL	Lr12/Lr31/QLr.hebau-4B	APR	T. aestivum: Chinese Spring	gwm149, BS00109813_51	[34,99]
4BL	Lr25	AS	S. cereale: TcLr25	Xgwm251 , Xgwm538, Xgwm6	[100]
4BL	Lr49	APR	T. aestivum: VL404	Xbarc163 , Xwmc349	[79]
4BL	QLr.spa-4B	APR	T. aestivum: Carberry	wPt-5303 , wPt-1849	[35]
5BS	Lr52	AS	T. aestivum: RL6107	Xwmc149, Xtxw200, Xgwm234	[101,117]
5BL	QLr.cim-5BL	APR	T. aestivum: Heller#1, Dunkler	AX-94480675f, AX-94394039f, AX-94962653	[102]
5BL	QLr.fiz-5B	APR	Triticum and Aegilops species collection (GWAS)	wsnp_Ex_c6548_11355524	[22]
5BL	Lr18	AS	T. timopheevii	Xwmc75 , Xgpw7425	[103]
6BS	QLr.usw-6BS	APR	T. turgidum ssp. durum: Gaza	CAP7_c10772_156	[76]

Table 3. Cont.

Chromosome	Gene/QTL	Resistance Type	Donor	Associated Markers or SNPs ^a	Reference
6BS	QLr.wpt-6BS.1	APR	T. aestivum: wheat cultivar collection (GWAS)	wPt-3116	[97]
6BS	Lr53	AS	T. dicoccoides: 98M71	Xwmc487 , Xcfd1, Xgwm508	[104]
6BS	QLr.caas-6BS.1	APR	T. aestivum: Bainong 64	Xwmc487 , Xcfd13	[71]
6BS	Lr61	AS	T. turgidum ssp. durum: Guayacan INIA	Xwmc487, Xwmc104, Xwmc398	[105]
6BS	Lr59	AS	Ae. peregrina	Xgwm518 , Xdupw217	[106]
6BS	Lr36	AS	Ae. speltoides: ER84018	Xgwm88, Xcfd13	[107]
6B	QLr.liu-6B	APR	<i>T. aestivum</i> : wheat collections and their hybrids (GWAS)	SNP459220281chr6B	[24]
6BL	Lr9/Lr58-2BL	AS	Ae. umbellulate Ae. triuncialis: TA10438	Xpsr546	[13,108]
6BL	QLr.cimmyt-6BL.1	APR	T. aestivum: Pastor	wPT6329, wPt-5176, Xgwm219	[109]
6BL	Lr3	AS	T. aestivum: RL6062	wPt-6878	[110]
6BL	QLr.usw-6BL	APR	T. turgidum: Gaza	wsnp_Ex_c45713_51429315, GENE-3689_293	[76]
6BL	QLr.cim-6BL	APR	T. aestivum: Heller#1, Dunkler	AX-95155193 , AX-94469158	[102]
7BS	Lr72	AS	T. durum: Atil C2000	barc279 , wmc606	[111]
7BL	QLr.sfrs-7B.2	APR	T. aestivum: Forno	Xpsr593c, Xpsr129c	[39]
7BL	QLr.cimmyt-7BL	APR	T. aestivum: Pastor	wPt-4342 , wPt-8921	[109]
7BL	QLr.osu-7BL/QLrlp.osu-7BL	Slow rusting	T. aestivum: CI 13227	Xaca.cacg126, Xbarc50 , Xbarc182, Xcatg.atgc125	[89,113]
7BL	QLr.cim-7BL	AS	T. aestivum: Sujata	Xcfa2040, Xwmc526	[17]
7BL	Lr14a	AS	<i>T. aestivum</i> : Selkirk <i>T. aestivum</i> : Arina <i>LrFor</i>	Xgwm146 , gwm344	[12]
7BL	Lr68	Slow rusting	T. aestivum: Parula	Xgwm146, csGS, cs7BLNLRR, Psy1-1	[114]
7BL	QLr.ubo-7B.2	APR	T. durum: Colosseo	Xbarc340.2, Xgwm146 , Xgwm344.2	[115]
7BL	LrFun	AS	T. aestivum: Fundulea 900	Xgwm344, Xwmc70	[116]
7BL	QLr.ksu-7BL	APR	T. aestivum: Opata 85	Cht1b, Tha1, Cat, Xfbb189	[82]
7BL	QLr.cimmyt-7BL.1	Slow rusting	T. aestivum: Parula	Xcmtg05-500, Xcmti16-1500	[112]
7BL	QLr.usw-7BL	APR	T. turgidum: Arnacoris	Tdurum_contig30545_715, Bobwhite_c42202_158	[76]

^a Bold labeled molecular markers were used for generating the distribution map of *Lr/QLr*.



Figure 3. Genome-wide distribution of genetic loci carrying *Lr/QLr* in B sub-genome of wheat (Chromosomes 1B–7B). Molecular markers, SNPs, and genes associated with *Lr/QLr* were collected from previous publications and searched against the reference genome of common wheat 'Chinese Spring' v1.1. Corresponding physical position of each *Lr/QLr* was estimated, and a distribution map was generated using MapChart software v2.32 (raw data in Table S1). Numbers on the left side of each chromosome indicated physical locations in units of 10,000,000 bp. Formally designated *Lr* genes are highlighted in red, and stable QTLs with large effect are in green.

6. Genetic Loci Carrying Lr/QLr in D Sub-Genome

6.1. Lr/QLr on Chromosome 1D

There were several seedling resistance *Lr* genes in the distal region of chromosome 1DS. Both *Lr21* and *Lr40* were introgressed from *Ae. tauschii*, and later they were proved to be allelic to each other [118]. *Lr21* was then successfully cloned and encoded a typical NBS-LRR protein [7]. By developing a virus-induced gene-silencing (VIGS) system, a protein complex of RAR1-SGT1-HSP90 was proved to be essential for the full function of *Lr21* [119]. *Lr60*, also known as *LrW2*, was mapped to a nearby region of *Lr21* on chromosome 1DS using microsatellite markers [120]. Seedling resistance gene *LrTs*₂₇₆₋₂ was derived from *T. spelta* and initially mapped to chromosome 1DS using BSA [121]. Another *Ae. tauschii*-derived seedling resistance gene *Lr42* located in this region was recently cloned using BSR-seq on constructed *Ae. tauschii* mapping populations [9]. The *Lr42* gene also encoded a typical NBS-LRR protein and was widely employed in wheat breading practice.

6.2. Lr/QLr on Chromosome 2D

A large number of genetic loci carrying Lr/QLr was distributed on chromosome 2D, particularly in the distal region of the short arm. The AS gene Lr11 in common wheat cultivar 'Buck Poncho' was recently re-mapped to chromosome 2DS using BSR-seq and multiple molecular markers [122]. Two major QTLs, QLrlp.osu-2DS and QLrid.osu-2DS, for slow rusting in the recombinant inbred line 'CI 13227' were mapped to the distal region of chromosome 2DS [89,113]. The AS gene Lr80 showed widely effective resistance to multiple Pt pathotypes and was initially mapped to the chromosome 2DS using SSR and 90K SNP markers [123]. Both seedling resistance genes Lr39 and Lr41 were transferred from Ae. tauschii and reported later as the same or closely linked genes on chromosome 2DS [124,125]. Another study predicted that Lr39, although introgressed to a different chromosome, was an allelic gene to Lr21 [118]. An APR locus QLr.cim-2DS contributed by an adapted common wheat line 'UC1110' was genetically mapped to chromosome 2DS using a segregation population [126]. Lr2a located on chromosome 2DS was reported to be involved in both seedling resistance and APR (QLr.mna-2DS). A major QTL QLr.inra-2D on chromosome 2DS was responsible for the APR in wheat cultivar 'Balance' [127]. The seedling resistance gene Lr22a derived from Ae. tauschii was successfully cloned using the 'targeted chromosomebased cloning via long-range assembly (TACCA)' approach [8]. The Lr22a gene encoded an intercellular immune receptor with an NBS-LRR structure. Seedling resistance gene Lr15 was also mapped to chromosome 2DS using SSR markers [128]. A major QTL QLr.hwwg-2DS responsible for slow rusting was detected in the U.S. winter wheat line 'CI13227' using 90K SNP and SSR markers [129]. The AS gene Lr54 was introgressed from Aegilop kotschyi to chromosome 2DL. A dominant sequence characterized amplified region (SCAR) marker and three microsatellite markers were developed to detect Lr54 [130].

6.3. Lr/QLr on Chromosome 3D

AS gene *Lr32* introgressed from *Ae. tauschii* was mapped to the short arm of chromosome 3D [131]. A Chinese wheat cultivar 'Pingyuan 50' showed APR to multiple fungal diseases including stripe rust, powdery mildew, and leaf rust. A major QTL *QLr.hebau-3DS* was stably detected in six experimental environments using 55K SNP array and additional SSR markers [132]. In wheat cultivar 'UC1110', besides *QLr.cim-2DS*, there was a co-located APR locus *QLr.cim-3DC/QYr.cim-3DC* on centromere region of chromosome 3D to both leaf rust and stripe rust [126]. Moreover, *QLr.cim-3DC* and *QLr.cim-2DS* showed marginally significant interaction for APR in 'UC1110'. AS gene *Lr24* derived from *Agropyron elongatum* was mapped in the distal region of chromosome 3DL [133]. A further study developed SCAR markers co-segregating with the *Lr24* gene [134], and this gene was widely used in breeding practice.

6.4. Lr/QLr on Chromosome 4D

The *Lr67* gene on chromosome 4DL provided slow rusting resistance to leaf rust and was successfully cloned recently [15]. It encodes a hexose transporter to block the uptake of glucose by rust fungus. A major QTL *QLr.sfrs-4DL* for APR in wheat cultivar 'Forno' was constantly detected on chromosome 4DL in different environments [39].

6.5. Lr/QLr on Chromosome 5D

Several AS genes were mapped to chromosome 5D. Seedling resistance gene *Lr70* was discovered in common wheat accession 'KU3198' and mapped to chromosome 5DS using BSA [135]. An *Ae. umbellulate*-derived AS gene *Lr76* was transferred to the telomeric region of chromosome 5DS [136]. The *Lr78* gene was identified as an APR gene controlling slow rusting in wheat cultivar 'Toropi'. It was also mapped to chromosome 5DS using SSR and KASP markers [137]. The *Lr57* gene derived from *Aegilops geniculata* conferred both seedling resistance and APR to leaf rust. It was introgressed to chromosome 5D and co-segregated RFLP markers were developed for this gene [138]. The chromosome 5DL-located *Lr1* has been successfully cloned using classical map-based positional cloning

strategy [4]. The seedling resistance *Lr1* gene also encoded a typical NBS-LRR protein, and its function was validated using a VIGS assay.

6.6. Lr/QLr on Chromosome 6D

The Chinese wheat landrace 'Bai Qimai' showed a slow rusting phenotype at the adult plant stage, and a major QTL *QLr.cau-6DL* on chromosome 6DL was recently identified using 90K SNP chip and SSR markers [139]. The *A. intermedium*-derived *Lr38* on chromosome 6DL provided a stable seedling and APR to multiple *Pt* pathotypes [140].

6.7. Lr/QLr on Chromosome 7D

A multiparent advanced generation intercross (MAGIC) wheat population was generated comprising 394 $F_{6:8}$ RILs and a total of 19 QTLs were detected on 11 distinct chromosomal regions. Among these QTLs, a major QTL *QLr.jki-7D.1* on chromosome 7D explained 28% of the phenotypic variance with 'BAYP4535' as the most resistant founder [141]. There were three designated *Lr* genes on chromosome 7D. The slow rusting gene *Lr34* located on chromosome 7DS was successfully cloned and widely used in wheat breeding all over the world [14]. It encoded an ABC transporter and was associated with leaf tip necrosis. The phytohormone abscisic acid (ABA) was recently revealed as a substrate of the ABC transporter encoded by *Lr34*, and the re-distribution of ABA in the *Lr34*-expressing plant greatly influenced the transcriptional response [142]. Moreover, *Lr34* also showed excellent potentials for genetic improvement in disease resistance of several other crops, including maize to common rust and northern corn leaf blight [143], sorghum to anthracnose and rust [144], and rice to blast disease [145].

Both seedling resistance genes *Lr29* and *Lr19* were transferred from *A. elongatum* to chromosome 7D. *Lr29* was mapped to chromosome 7DS using random amplified polymorphic DNA (RAPD) and SCAR markers [146]. *Lr19* located on chromosome 7DL still provided high resistance to major *Pt* pathotypes in worldwide, and various molecular markers were developed for this gene to facilitate its usage in breeding practice [147,148]. Notably, the same *A. elongatum*-derived chromosome segment carrying *Fusarium* head blight resistance gene 7 (*Fhb7*) was successfully decoded recently, which might greatly facilitate the cloning of *Lr19* in the future [149].

Information about all of the genetic loci carrying Lr/QLr in D sub-genome was summarized in Table 4. Chromosome distributions of these genetic loci in D sub-genome were estimated based on the positions of associated molecular markers in the common wheat Chinese Spring reference genome v1.1 (Figure 4).

Chromosome	Gene/QTL	Resistance Type	Donor	Associated Markers or SNPs ^a	Reference
1DS	Lr21/40	AS	<i>Ae. tauschii</i> : TA1649 <i>Ae. tauschii</i> : KS89WGRC7	Xksud14, Xksu936, Xksu937, Xksu027, Gli-D1, Xbcd1434	[7,118]
1DS	Lr60	AS	T. aestivum: RL6172	barc149, WMC432, CFD61	[120]
1DS	LrTs ₂₇₆₋₂	AS	T. Spelta: TSD276-2	Xcfd15	[121]
1DS	Lr42	AS	Ae. tauschii: TA2450	Xwmc432, Xgdm33, Xcfd15	[9]
1DS	QLr.wpt-1DS	APR	<i>T. aestivum</i> : wheat cultivar collection (GWAS)	wPt-0413	[97]
1D	QLr.zha-1D	APR	<i>T. aestivum</i> : wheat lines collection (GWAS)	BS00014671_51	[42]
2DS	Lr11	AS	T. aestivum: Buck Poncho	Xscar32/35, wmc574 , wms1099	[122]
2DS	QLrlp.osu-2DS	Slow rusting	T. aestivum: CI 13227	Xactg.gtg185, Xbarc124	[113]
2DS	Lr80	AS	T. aestivum: Hango-2	Cau96, gwm210 , barc124	[123]
2DS	Lr39/41	AS	<i>Ae. tauschii</i> : TA4186 <i>Ae. tauschii</i> : TA2460	Xgwm210 , Xgwm296, Xgwm455 , Xbarc124, Xgdm35, Xcfd36	[124,125]
2DS	QLr.cim-2DS	APR	T. aestivum: UC1110	cfd51 , cfd36	[126]
2DS	Lr2a/QLr.mna-2DS	AS/APR	T. aestivum: MN98550-5/MN99394-1	wmc453, wPt-0330, barc95	[150]
2DS	QLr.inra-2D	APR	T. aestivum: Balance	gpw3320, cfd36	[127]
2DS	Lr22a	AS	Ae. tauschii: RL6044	gwm455, gwm296 , gwm261	[8]
2DS	QLrid.osu-2DS	Slow rusting	T. aestivum: CI 13227	Xgwm261	[89]
2DS	Lr15	AS	<i>T. aestivum</i> : TcLr15	Xgwm4562, Xgwm102	[128]
2DL	Lr54	AS	Ae. kotschyi: CS-Lr54/Yr37	Xcfd50, Xgdm6	[130]
2DS	QLr.hwwg-2DS	APR	T. aestivum: CI13227	IWB8545	[129]
2DL	QLr.tur-2DL	AS/APR	T. aestivum: spring wheat collection (GWAS)	IWA5637	[58]
2D	QLr.fiz-2D	APR	Triticum and Aegilops species collection (GWAS)	Kukri_c59403_339	[22]
2D	QLr.dms-2D	APR	T. aestivum: spring wheat collection (GWAS)	RAC875_c52856_250	[90]
3DS	Lr32	AS	Ae. tauschii: RL5497-1	barc135	[131]
3DS	QLr.hebau-3DS	APR	T. aestivum: Pingyuan 50	AX-109395143	[132]
3DC	QLr.cim-3DC	APR	T. aestivum: UC1110	gwm341 , barc1119	[126]

Table 4. Genetic loci carrying *Lr/QLr* in D sub-genome.

Table 4. Cont.

Chromosome	Gene/QTL	Resistance Type	Donor	Associated Markers or SNPs ^a	Reference
3DL	Lr24	AS	A. elongatum: Agent	Xpsr904, Xpsr931 , Xpsr1205	[133,134]
3D	QLr.liu-3D	APR	<i>T. aestivum</i> : wheat collections and their hybrids (GWAS)	SNP597179288chr3D	[24]
3D	QLr.cdl-3D	APR	T. aestivum: Americano 44d	wPt-741949	[37]
4DL	Lr67	Slow rusting	T. aestivum: RL6077	csSNP856, gwm4670, cfd71	[15]
4DL	QLr.sfrs-4DL	APR	T. aestivum: Forno	Xglk302b, Xpsr1101a	[39]
5DS	Lr70	AS	T. aestivum: KU3198	wmc233 , gwm190	[135]
5DS	Lr76	AS	Ae. umbellulate: IL 393-4	Xcfd18, Xwmc233, Xgwm190	[136]
5DS	Lr78	Slow rusting	T. aestivum: Toropi (PI 344200)	IWA6289, cfd189 , wmc233	[137]
5D	Lr57	AS/APR	Ae. geniculata: TA6675	Xbcd1087, Xabg705, Xpsr128	[138]
5DL	Lr1	AS	T. aestivum: 87E03-S2B1	Xgwm272 , Xgwm65	[4]
6D	QLr.cdl-6D	APR	T. aestivum: Americano 44d	wPt-664670	[37]
6DL	QLr.cau-6DL	APR	T. aestivum: Bai Qimai	Cfd188	[139]
6DL	Lr38	AS/APR	A. intermedium: RL6079	Xwmc773, Xbarc273	[140]
7DS	QLr.jki-7D.1	APR	T. aestivum: MAGIC population	AX-94930280	[141]
7DS	Lr34	Slow rusting	T. aestivum: SAAR	Xgwm37, XcsLV34, Xgwm295	[14]
7DS	Lr29	AS	A. elongatum: RL6080	<i>OPY10₉₅₀, UBC219₁₀₀₀</i>	[146]
7DS	QLr.wpt-7DS	APR	<i>T. aestivum</i> : wheat cultivar collection (GWAS)	wPt-2565	[97]
7DL	Lr19	AS	A. elongatum: TcLr19	Xwmc221, Xgdm46, Xgdm67	[147,148]

^a Bold labeled molecular markers were used for generating the distribution map of *Lr/QLr*.



Figure 4. Genome-wide distribution of genetic loci carrying *Lr/QLr* in D sub-genome of wheat (Chromosomes 1D–7D). Molecular markers, SNPs, and genes associated with *Lr/QLr* were collected from previous publications and searched against the reference genome of common wheat 'Chinese Spring' v1.1. Corresponding physical position of each *Lr/QLr* was estimated, and a distribution map was generated using MapChart software v2.32 (raw data in Table S1). Numbers on the left side of each chromosome indicated physical locations in units of 10,000,000 bp. Formally designated *Lr* genes are highlighted in red, and stable QTLs with large effect are in green.

7. Discussion

Future application of wheat leaf rust resistance genes requires more efficient cooperations between wheat researchers and breeders. In recent years, many Lr/QLr have been identified and linked molecular markers have been developed. Knowledge regarding the sources and distribution of leaf rust resistance genes are important for developing new wheat cultivars with resistance. Wild wheat relatives are still valuable sources of novel genetic loci carrying Lr/QLr. Resistant germplasms including introgression lines generated from wheat relatives remain to be explored. With recent progresses of sequenced genomes of wheat relatives/progenitors, more resistance genes are expected to be cloned from these sources [151]. Previous issues such as long breeding periods and drawback from unwanted chromosome introgression will be solved by potential linkage drag with advanced techniques in speed breeding [152]. As indicated on the genome-wide scale map in this study (Figures 2–4), we have overviewed Lr/QLr on a genome-wide level and found several hot zones enriched with Lr/QLr such as chromosomes 2AS, 2BS, 7BL, and 2DS. Pyramids of race-specific resistance and slow rusting resistance are expected to be an effective strategy for breeding durable resistance. Rational pyramiding of these leaf rust resistance loci with balanced seedling resistance and slow rusting resistance relies on further development of high-throughput SNP-based molecular markers. With advanced techniques in genome sequencing and molecular biology, more Lr genes or dominant genes in QLr loci are expected to be cloned in the coming future. Seedling resistance genes may even be modified based on their molecular interactions with corresponding Avr proteins from *P. triticina*. On the other hand, the general durability of all of the APR genes should not be complacent [153]. Transgenic expression of clustered *R* gene cassette is another strategy to provide broad-spectrum resistance to multiple rust pathotypes [154]. Gene-editing on susceptible genes or negative regulatory genes of plant defense responses shows great potentials in improvement of wheat resistance to fungal diseases [155].

8. Conclusions

In conclusion, this review summarized recent progresses of genetics of wheat resistance to leaf rust on a genome-wide perspective. It will serve as a valuable resource for both researchers and breeders to follow-up studies on various genetic loci controlling resistance of wheat to leaf rust.

Supplementary Materials: The following supporting information can be downloaded at: https://www.mdpi.com/article/10.3390/su15043247/s1, Table S1: Estimated physical positions for all of the identified *Lr/QLr* loci.

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