

A NEW SCAR MARKER OF HIGH SUGAR GENE IN SWEET SORGHUM [*SORGHUM BICOLOR* (L.) MOENCH]

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Abstract. This experiment used molecular marker technology to analyse high sugar genes, clone the target bands and the Random amplified polymorphic DNA (RAPD) molecular markers were converted into Sequence characterized amplified regions (SCAR) molecular markers, and additionally 120 RAPD primers were used to analyse female 3228B (sweet sorghum), paternal 3201B (ordinary sorghum) and their hybrids F₅. The results showed that 95 of 120 pairs amplified products, 25 of them did not amplify products, so the amplification rate reached 79%. The recombination rate of S512 and high sugar genes was 7% in F₅ populations. S512 amplified polymorphic bands were recovered, cloned and sequenced, its band length was 441bp. According to the sequence, we transferred the RAPD to SCAR molecular markers and designed SCAR primer. We got the same amplification results with the RAPD in specific amplification progress of sweet sorghum F₅ populations, thus the RAPD transferred to SCAR successfully, we called this SCAR_{S512-441}.

Keywords: *Random amplified polymorphic DNA (RAPD), Sequence characterized amplified regions (SCAR), amplification, molecular marker, coseparation analysis*

Introduction

Sweet sorghum (*Sorghum bicolor* (L.) Moench) is a variation of common sorghum (Vermerris, 2011), it has a strong resistance, high sugar content, high photosynthesis rates, high productivity, is one of the most important energy plants in the world (Wang et al., 2013; Lu et al., 2013). Sweet sorghum can applied in animal feed and brew as an energy plant, and produce syrup, making sugar. Research shows that the brix of sweet sorghum stems have high heritability, showing great effects on breeding variety (Zhang et al., 2011). We take Liao Tian 6 as a benchmark, the sugar brix of Liao Tian 6 is 18, the sugar brix higher than 18 are regarded as high sugar content. Studies show sugar brix traits of culms of sweet sorghum, is controlled by two major genes and polygenes (Lu et al., 2012). And sugar contents characters were not a single gene, but have unbalanced multigenes besides a major gene (Wang et al., 2010). As biological research gradually entered the molecular level, molecular marker are more widely used, including germplasm resource research and breeding (Yang et al., 2016). Base on the application of DNA sequence polymorphism, Molecular Marker can mainly divided into three categories: (1) Includes restriction fragment length polymorphism marker and chromosome in situ hybridization marker with molecular hybridization at core. (2) Includes amplified fragment length polymorphism marker and sequence point marker with PCR reaction at core. (3) New molecular marking technique, includes single nucleotide polymorphism marker and expressed sequence tag. It has more advantages which sequence characterization amplified region marker based on RAPD of new molecular technology (Wu et al., 2016). It can overcome the shortcomings of high false

negative and lacks of repetition that translate the specificity band generated by RAPD marker into SCAR marker (Luo et al., 2013; Wang et al., 2016).

At present, SCAR is used a lot in breeding. In resistance gene marker research, anoectochilus roxburghii polymorphic RAPD marker have been developed based on 20 anoectochilus roxburghii germplasm resource, and transforming specific band into SCAR marker, identify its specificity. Use SCAR marker gene to identify the resistance effect of Soybean anthracnose resistance gene (Gu et al., 2011). Transfer RAPD marker which closely-linked with aphid resistance gene to SCAR marker, and make SCAR determinations to F₃ and some resistant varieties (Li et al., 2003), specific bands of F₃ resistant individual obtained. This experiment aimed to make a RAPD molecular marker analysis to experimental populations, find a RAPD primer related to sweet sorghum's high sugar gene, and give target band cloning and sequencing, then translated into stable SCAR marker, reduce the complexity of field farming, establish the theoretical foundation for choosing fine sweet sorghum variety (Tan et al., 2013; Li et al., 2016).

Materials and Methods

Plant material

Sweet sorghum 3228B (as the female parent in this study) and common grain sorghum 3201B (as the male parent) were supplied by Liaoning Academy of Agricultural Sciences. We created F₅ plants from the cross of 3228B × 3201B, and get total of 100 lines. We get the first leave under the fag leaf of the F₅ plants as plant materials. These sorghums have the same genetic background, and the marker which identify the sugar content.

Experiment methods

DNA extraction of seedling stage

Methods apply modified cetyltrimethylammonium bromide (CTAB) (Li et al., 2009; Lan et al., 2015) to extract DNA of male parent, female parent and F₅ plants.

DNA determination

① Concentration measurement: absorbance of the diluted DNA were measured in different detecting waves which are 230nm, 260nm and 280nm.

② Electrophoresis detection: 0.7% Agarose gel's preparation in ready: point sample, electrophoresis.

Build near isogenic pool

We use Bulk Segregation Analysis (BSA) (Yao et al., 2010) to analyze high sugar population and low sugar population. High sugar bulk: Take 1 µl of DNA of 62 varieties of high sugar content sorghum. Low sugar bulk: Take 1 µl of DNA of 38 varieties of low sugar content sorghum.

Build RAPD-PCR reaction system and condition

25 µl reaction system: which established by 25 mmol/L MgCl₂ 2.0 µl, 10 × Buffer 2.0 µl, 10 mmol/L dNTPs 1.5 µl, 10 µmol/µl primer 1.0 µl, 5 U/µl Taq enzyme 2.5 µl,

DNA template (100 ng) 2 μ l, and add ddwater to 25 μ l. Reaction conditions: 94°C Initial denaturation 5 min \rightarrow (94°C denature 20 s \rightarrow 50°C Primer annealing 30 s \rightarrow 72°C Primer extension 70 s) 35 cycles \rightarrow 72°C extension 10 min \rightarrow 4°C storage.

Build SCAR-PCR reaction system

Reaction system: which established by 10 \times Buffer 2.5 μ l, 10 mmol/L dNTPs 1.0 μ l, 25 mmol/L MgCl₂ 2.5 μ l, 5 U/ μ l Taq enzyme 0.25 μ l, 10 μ mol/ μ l S512F 0.5 μ l, 10 μ mol/ μ l S512R 0.5 μ l, DNA template 1.0 μ l (100 ng), and add ddwater to 25 μ l. Reaction conditions: 96°C Initial denaturation 5min \rightarrow (94°C denature 1 min \rightarrow 50°C Primer annealing 50 s \rightarrow 72°C Primer extension 1 min) 35 cycles \rightarrow 72°C extension 10 min \rightarrow 4°C storage.

Detection of PCR reaction products

- ① 1.4% Agarose gel's preparation.
- ② Electrophoresis of PCR product.

Recovery of target band

We sterilize the needle and cut a few times at the polymorphism bands, then put the needle into RAPD-PCR reaction system, repeat this procedure several times and recovery the amplified different bands.

Co-segregated Analysis

Recombination rate (r) = Commutative number/ (High sugar population number + Low sugar population number) \times 100% (Wang, 2004).

Genetic distances (cM) = $[1/4 \cdot \ln(1+2r)/(1-2r)] \cdot 100$.

Marker map (Figure 1)

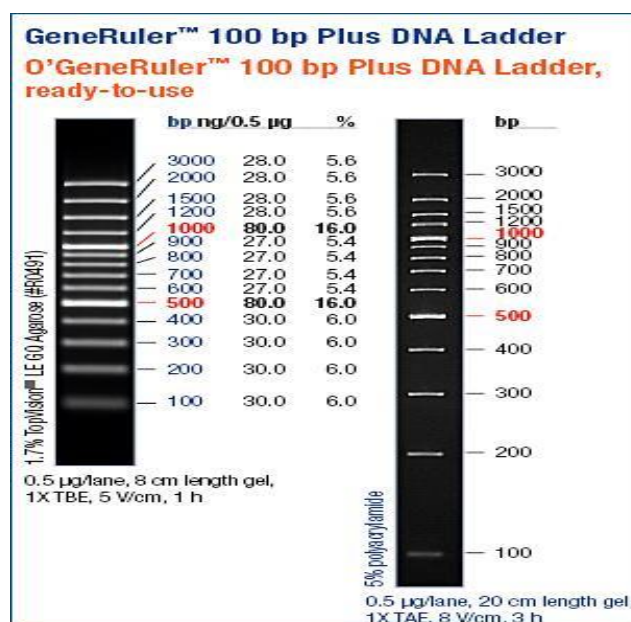


Figure 1. 100bp ladder marker

Results and Analysis

Purity analysis of DNA

The electrophoretic pattern as shown in *Fig. 2* is total DNA extracted by improved CTAB method. As seen in *Fig. 2*, these bands are clear and without degrade. Purity and concentration of the DNA which was measured with ultraviolet spectrophotometer show that $OD_{260}/OD_{230} \geq 2.0$, $OD_{260}/OD_{280} \geq 1.7-1.8$, further explain, extracted DNA under these conditions can be used in subsequent RAPD- PCR experiment analysis.

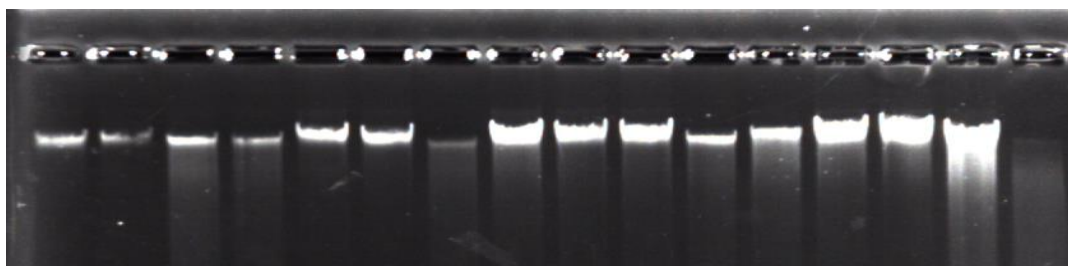


Figure 2. DNA electrophoresis gel results. Female parent (1) Male parent (2) High sugar individual (3-9) Low sugar individual (10-16)

RAPD-PCR analysis of sweet sorghum high sugar gene

In this study, with a random selected 120 RAPD primer, the RAPD molecular markers were used to analyze the Sweet sorghum (as the female parent in this study), common grain sorghum (as the male parent), high sugar gene bulk and low sugar gene bulk. The results show that the amplification rate is 79%, 95 primers were amplified bands and 25 primers can not amplify bands. Most of the primers can amplify more than 6 bands, primer S504 amplify the largest bands, but with low quality images. There was no obvious difference among high sugar gene bulk, low sugar gene bulk and the parents. Primer S506 amplify 7 bands which are the clearest, and there are also with no obvious difference among high sugar gene bulk, low sugar gene bulk and the parents. Primers S507 have differences between parents and high sugar gene bulk or low sugar gene bulk. Primer S509 amplify the least bands and the bands haven't differences. The amplification results see in *Fig. 3*.

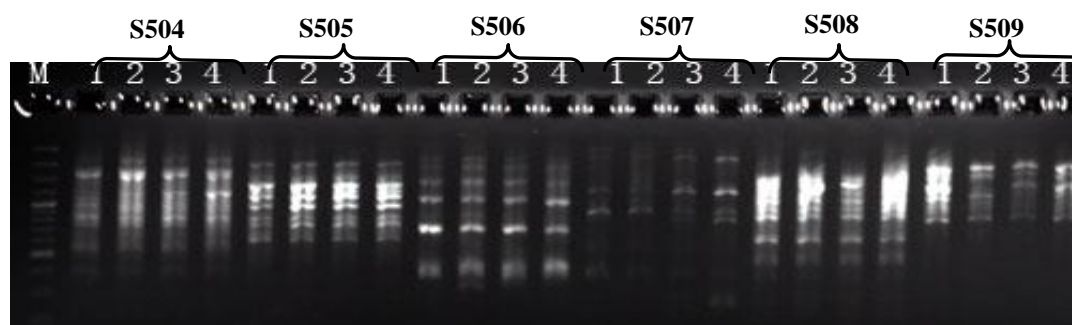


Figure 3. The PCR-RAPD amplification results of primer S504, S505, S506, S507, S508, S509. Female parent (1) Male parent (2) High sugar gene pool (3) Low sugar gene pool (4) Marker (M)

Amplification result of primer S510-S513 showed that bands are amplified by 4 primers. The bands amplified by primer S510 showed high polymorphisms between female parent (1) and male parent (2) and have high definition, but there is no polymorphism between high sugar gene bulk (3) and low sugar gene bulk (4) Only one band amplified by primer S511 and unclear. The bands amplified by primer S513 are clear but there are no polymorphism different bands among parents, high sugar gene bulk and low sugar gene bulk. The bands amplified by primer S512 is clearest, and have different bands between the female parent (sweet sorghum) and high sugar gene bulk, but there are haven't different bands between the male parent (common grain sorghum) and low sugar gene bulk, this different bands located at 450bp (*Fig. 4*), Therefore, our study will continue PCR detection and cosegregation analysis of the primer S512 which is the clearest.

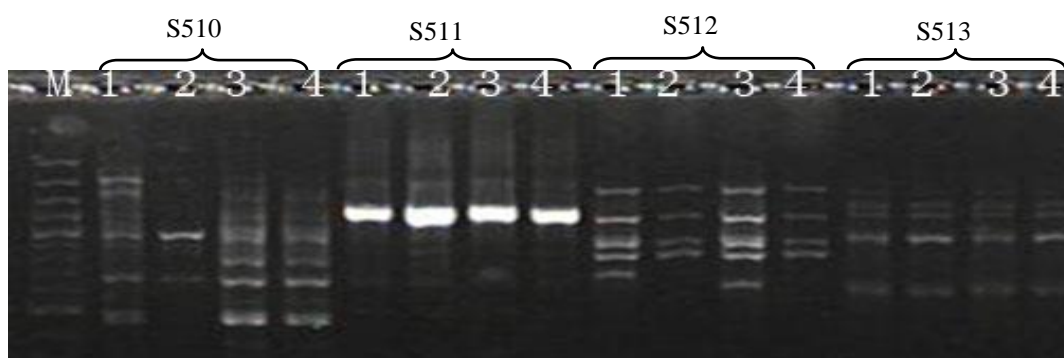


Figure 4. Amplification results of primer S510, S511, S512, S513. Female parent (1) Male parent (2) High sugar gene pool (3) Low sugar gene pool (4) Marker (M)

RAPD polymorphism's cosegregation analysis of high sugar gene of sweet sorghum

RAPD-PCR amplification results of the primer S512 in individual

By comparing the individual plant amplification results of parents, high sugar group and low sugar group, we reach that the bands amplified between female parent (sweet sorghum) and high sugar individual by primer S512 are more than the bands between male (common grain sorghum) and low sugar individual (*Fig. 5*).

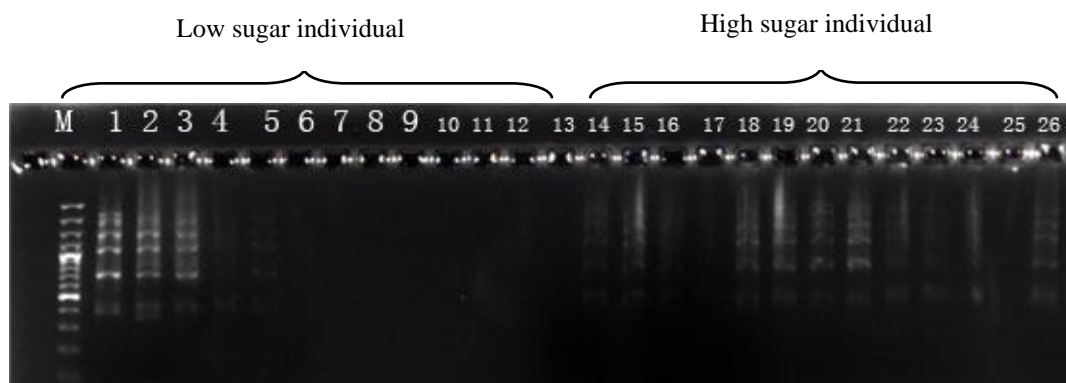


Figure 5. The single plant amplification results of primer S512. Low sugar individual (1-13), High sugar individual (14-26), Marker (M)

Recombination rates analysis

To observe the amplification results of high sugar individual and low sugar individual by primer S512, we get 58 individuals were amplified polymorphism bands and 4 individuals not be amplified in high sugar bulk, and 3 individuals amplified polymorphism, 35 individuals not be amplified, the recombination rate is 7% (Table 1). Recover the amplified fragment in the end.

Table 1. Co-segregation of the S512-441 amplified polymorphic fragment in F_5

F_5	Total plants tested	Polymorphic fragment		Percentage of recombination %
		Present	Absent	
High sugar	62	58	4	7%
Low sugar	38	3	35	

Recover and clone sequencing of polymorphism marker

Recover target bands

Recover the difference bands amplified by primer S512, the results of recovery showed that the bands is the same as the target band, both are 450bp (Figure 6).

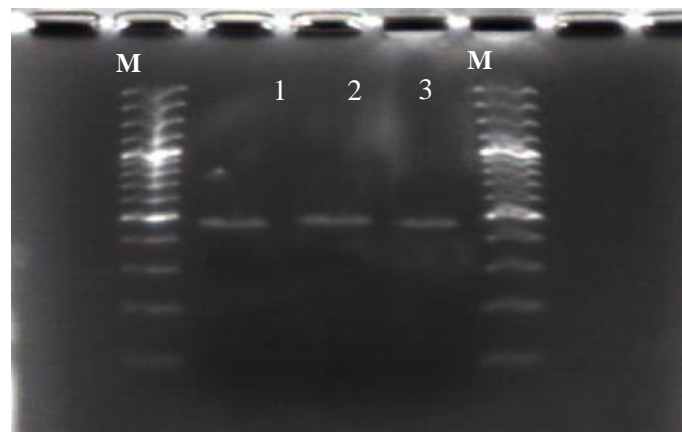


Figure 6. Recovered fragment of primer S512 (1-3)

Cloning and sequencing

Cloning and sequencing were given to the recovery difference bands, and results showed the fragment is 441bp.

Transform RAPD molecular marker to SCAR marker

RAPD primer design

Basic sequence and primer design principles of specific primer S512, adding G+C base pairs and designed as follows specific primers sequence ends while avoiding hairpin.

S512F: 5'-ACAGGTGCGTACATCGAATG-3'

S512R: 5'-TTACAGGTGCGTTAATTGCC-3'

SCAR-PCR response analysis

Above designed specific primer S512 were used to amplify the parents and two sets of individuals in SCAR-PCR. Results show that SCAR marker the same as RAPD marker of high sugar gene's chain reaction of sweet sorghum F₅. Both female parent (sweet sorghum) and high sugar individuals are amplify a specific band at 450bp (Fig. 8), but male parent (common grain sorghum) and low sugar individuals haven't this specific band. It shows that SCAR marker is easy to distinguish and has strong specificity, so we can transform RAPD marker to stable SCAR marker successfully, named this marker SCAR_{S512-441} depending on the sequence results.

1	GACTTAGGTT	TAAGTAAATA	TGGTCCATAT	GGTGTGGGT	TATCCTATTT
51	CTTAATAGAA	ATTCAGCATA	GTGCAGAGTG	TCATTTCACT	ATATTTTGTG
101	ACAACAGGTG	CGTAGTATTC	AAGAGTAGCA	TTCAACTTAT	TCTACCCTAT
151	TTAAGTCAAA	TTAGACATGG	TGTCTAGGTT	GATTTTTGAG	CCAATAGTAT
201	AAACAACCAC	TCCATGGAAG	AGGGTGAACA	AATCACCACC	AGGCCCTTC
251	TTAGAAAGCT	TTTCTCGATC	TTGGTATGCA	CATAAATGAA	GAACCAAACA
301	CAGAAGTCAC	AAACTGGGAA	GTCCTGAGAT	GAACTCAGAT	GGAGAAAGAA
351	GAGATACATG	AACTTCAACA	ACCTCGCATA	AGGAGAACAT	AGCTTATGGA
401	GAGCCCATGC	AGTTGATCTT	TGCCTTGTCT	TTATGAGCAG	GACACACTTT
451	ATCCAGCAGC	TAGGGATAGC	AGGAGAGGCC	ATGCTGACTG	GTGGATGCCA
501	GATCCGCTGC	TCCGCAGTTG	GGCTCGCTGG	ATCCAGCCTG	TCCACGCA GT
551	CCGGTAGGAG	CACGGATCCA	CTGCTCTCCA	GATCTACTGC	GACTAGTGCG
601	TGGGCTGGGG	CTCACCAGAT	CTGCTGCTGC	CAGTTGTCTA	CTTGTGATGG
651	GAAGC				

Figure 7. The recovered fragment sequencing results of S512

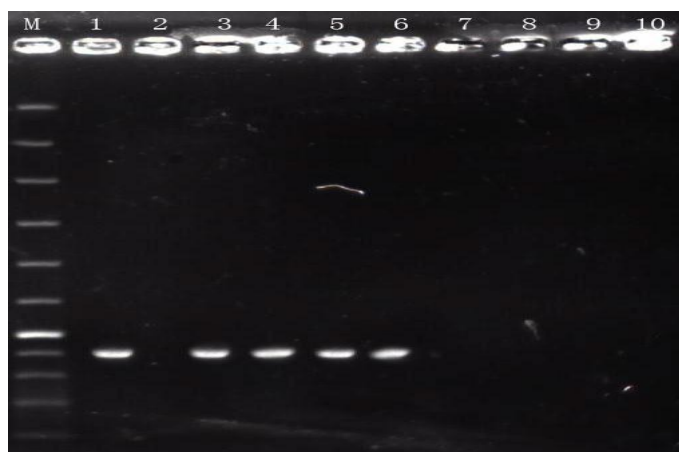


Figure 8. Part of individuals test results of primer S512's SCAR marker. Female parent (1) Male parent (2) High sugar individual (3-6) Low sugar individual (7-11) Marker (M)

Conclusion

In this experiment, 120 RAPD primers selected at random, the RAPD techniques were used for molecular marker of experimental population to find the RAPD primer related to high sugar gene of sweet sorghum. In recent years, there are great achievements in fruit varieties identification, hybrid identification and mutant detection, construction of molecular genetic maps, gene map, gene diversity and pedigree analysis

through RAPD technology (Li et al., 2018). Because of RAPD marker's poor stability and repeatability, it's difficult to use in crop genetic breeding and assistant selection. We clone and sequence target band, to get good stability and high reproduction SCAR marker. The primer used by SCAR marker is longer than RAPD marker and the primer sequence completely complement with template DNA. To get good stability and high reproduction results, we should better amplify in rigorous conditions (Xiong et al., 2010).

Random selecting 120 RAPD primers, analyzing sweet sorghum (female parent), common grain sorghum (male parent), high sugar gene bulk and low sugar gene bulk by the RAPD marker. The result showed that 95 primers could produce bands, 25 primers could not produce bands, amplification rate is 79%. Because of the bands amplified by primer S512 is the clearest, we observe the results of high sugar individual and low sugar individual amplified by primer S512. In high sugar population, 58 plants amplified polymorphic bands, 4 plants haven't amplified, but in low sugar population, 3 plants amplified polymorphic bands, 35 plants haven't amplified, amplification rate is 7%, genetic distances is 7.5CM. Recovering polymorphic bands of PCR production amplified by specific primer S512 and cloning and sequencing. SCAR specific primers were designed.

S512F: 5'-ACAGGTGCGTACATCGAATG-3'.

S512R: 5'-TTACAGGTGCGTTAATTGCC-3'.

Transfer RAPD marker to SCAR marker, named SCAR_{S512-441}. Be compared with SCAR_{S336-1119}, it is a new SCAR marker which fragment length is shorter, and optimize the SCAR marker's reaction system.

Discussion

We can see that it is low efficiency that transfer RAPD marker to SCAR marker. The cause may be: (1) When designing primers, often contain corresponding 10 base RAPD primer. Because of the original polymorphism can be detected. Even as the increases of amplification's stability and success rate, the transformation of RAPD primers was still affected. (2) Transform specific fragment of RAPD to SCAR attention must be paid to primer design length and PCR reaction condition (for instance, when the anneal temperature is constant, the anneal time and extend time should not be too long). (3) Take many factors into consideration, for instance, base sequencing of sequence's head and tail is instability, annealing temperature of specific transform RAPD to SCAR marker primer, the design of primer in SCAR transformation is closer to the medium of sequence, instead of start at both ends of sequence. However, in practical operations, because of these factors, in alone or in combination, the transformation efficiency of transform RAPD marker to SCAR is reduced. These errors should be minimized (Kula, 2012; Li et al., 2014; Liu et al., 2016).

Using identified high sugar population and low sugar population to test SCAR marker closely linked sweet sorghum's high sugar gene. It has great significance to apply it in practice, and use this marker in high sugar gene variety test.

This experiment optimized optimal reaction system and reaction conditions of RAPD molecular markers and optimal reaction system of SCAR marker, recovery polymorphic bands of PCR product amplified by specific primer S512, and cloning and sequencing. Polymorphic bands linked to sorghum F₅ high sugar gene length of 441bp. The RAPD

marker were converted into SCAR marker, which named SCAR_{S512-441}. Hope to find out more SCAR marker to identify sorghum with high sugar content in the future.

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