

Identification of salt and drought inducible glutathione *S*-transferase genes of hybrid poplar

Soon-Ho Kwon · Hye-Kyoung Kwon · Wook Kim · Eun Woon Noh · Mi Kwon* · Young Im Choi*

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Abstract Recent genome annotation revealed that *Populus trichocarpa* contains 81 glutathione *S*-transferase (GST) genes. GST genes play important and varying roles in plants, including conferring tolerance to various abiotic stresses. Little information is available on the relationship – if any – between drought/salt stresses and GSTs in woody plants. In this study, we screened the *PatgGST* genes in hybrid poplar (*Populus alba* × *Populus tremula* var. *glandulosa*) that were predicted to confer drought tolerance based on our expression analysis of all members of the poplar GST superfamily following exposure to salt (NaCl) and drought (PEG) stresses, respectively. Exposure to the salt stress resulted in the induction of eight *PatgGST* genes and down-regulation of one *PatgGST* gene, and the level of induction/repression was different in leaf and stem tissues. In contrast, 16 *PatgGST* genes were induced following exposure to the drought (PEG) stress, and two were down-regulated. Taken together, we identified seven *PatgGSTs* (*PatgGSTU15*, *PatgGSTU18*, *PatgGSTU22*, *PatgGSTU27*, *PatgGSTU46*, *PatgGSTU51* and *PatgGSTU52*) as putative drought tolerance genes based on their induction by both salt and drought stresses.

Keywords Glutathione *S*-transferases, salt stress, drought stress, *Populus alba* × *Populus tremula* var. *glandulosa*

S. H. Kwon · W. Kim · M. Kwon (✉)
College of Life Science and Biotechnology, Korea University,
Seoul 136-701, Korea
e-mail: mikwon@korea.ac.kr

H. K. Kwon
Institute of Life Science and Natural Resources, College of Life
Science and Biotechnology, Korea University, Seoul 136-701,
Korea

S. H. Kwon · E. W. Noh · Y. I. Choi (✉)
Division of Forest Biotechnology, Korea Forest Research
Institute, Suwon 441-350, Korea
e-mail: yichoi99@forest.go.kr

*Co-Corresponding author : M. Kwon · Y. I. Choi

Introduction

Gene/genomic duplication events have been very common occurrences during the evolution of eukaryotes. Some of these duplicated genes/genomic sequences would have been prone to mutation and may have acquired novel functions in addition to their original function(s), or they may have changed their original function(s) completely. In extreme cases, they might have become pseudogenes (Hughes 1994; Force et al. 1999; Moore and Purugganan 2005). Thus, it is not at all uncommon to identify duplicated genes in eukaryotes, especially in plants (Tuskan et al. 2006). These duplicated copies of the genes form a unique gene family and it is a commonly accepted assumption that all of those genes have evolved and diversified after repeated duplication events, as exemplified by the glutathione *S*-transferase (GST) gene family in plants. GSTs (EC 2.5.1.18) are multi-functional proteins that can be found in all organisms (Smith et al. 2004). They protect cells from both biotic and abiotic stresses, including xenobiotics, heavy metals, pathogens, and oxidative bursts (Kampranis et al. 2000; Mueller et al. 2000; Agrawal et al. 2002).

Plant GSTs are subdivided into eight distinct classes. These are Phi, Tau, Theta, Zeta, Lambda, glutathione-dependent dehydroascorbate reductases (DHARs), tetrachlorohydroquinone dehalogenase (TCHQD) (Basantani and Srivastava 2007) and γ -subunit of the eukaryotic translation elongation factor 1B (EF1By) with last subfamily only being included as a member of the GST family based on structural similarities to GSTs (Jeppesen et al. 2003; Oakley 2005; Lan et al. 2009). Among these, Phi and Tau are plant specific whereas the Theta and Zeta classes are found in mammals, fungi, and insects (Sheehan et al. 2001; Smith et al. 2004). In plants, each GST family has a large number of members. For example, the GST gene family in *Arabidopsis thaliana* has 53 members (Dixon et al. 2002; Wagner et al. 2002), 79 members in *Oryza sativa* (Soranzo et al. 2004) and 81

members in *Populus trichocarpa* (Lan et al. 2009). In *Populus trichocarpa*, the Tau and Phi GSTs were the most numerous, being represented by 58 and 9 members, respectively (Lan et al. 2009). The Lambda, DHAR, and EF1B γ GST classes were each represented by three members, both the Zeta and Theta classes by two members, and the TCHQD class by just one member (Lan et al. 2009).

GST genes play very important and varying roles in plants. Some of the roles reported to date include conferring tolerance to oxidative stress and UV-radiation, protecting cells from biotic and abiotic stress, and providing defense against cadmium toxicity (Kampranis et al. 2000; Loyall et al. 2000; Agrawal et al. 2002; Bianchia et al. 2002). Tau- and Phi class GSTs, the two largest classes and the most abundant GSTs in plants, participate in endogenous cellular metabolism by functioning as glutathione peroxidases that counteract oxidative stress, as flavonoid-binding proteins and as stress signaling proteins (Dixon et al. 2002; Mueller et al. 2000; Loyall et al. 2000; Basantani and Srivastava 2007). Although detailed knowledge of the physiological and molecular mechanisms of tolerance to stress in plants is not yet available, considerable evidence has been accumulated to indicate that GSTs play a protective role in mitigating the effects of drought and salinity stresses in plants (George et al. 2010; Ji et al. 2010; Wei et al. 2010; Jha et al. 2011; Chen et al. 2012). For example, Ji et al. (2010) observed that the overexpression of *Glycine soja* GST gene in tobacco enhanced the drought and salt stress tolerance of the transgenic tobacco plants. In another study, transgenic tobacco plants overexpressing the *Salicornia brachiata* GST gene were more tolerant of the salt stress condition than wild-type tobacco plants (Jha et al. 2011).

Poplar species are fast-growing temperate woody plants with high potential for biomass production. The recent sequencing of the entire genome of *P. trichocarpa* has led to an abundance of gene expression data becoming available. Based on poplar genome annotation, Lan et al. (2009) showed that *Populus* spp. have the largest GST family known to date. Thus, this plant would appear to be an ideal model species to study the function of GSTs in plants. GSTs are a particularly interesting research topic since the functions of some GST genes might be fully or partially overlapping in terms of salt and drought stress tolerance.

In this study, our aim was to screen the members of the poplar GST family that respond to salt and drought stresses by semi-quantitative reverse transcriptase (RT)-PCR analysis. Seven members of the Tau class of the GST family were screened based on transcript levels in the hybrid poplar (*Populus alba* \times *P. tremula* var. *glandulosa*) under conditions

of salt (NaCl) and drought [polyethylene glycol (PEG)] stresses.

Materials and methods

Plant culture and stress treatments

A hybrid aspen clone BH1 [*Populus alba* \times *P. tremula* var. *glandulosa* (Patg)] was vegetatively propagated via shoot-tip culture on solid rooting medium [half-strength MS medium (Murashige and Skoog 1962) supplemented with 3% sucrose, 0.2 mg/L indole-3-butyric acid, and 0.8% agar; pH 5.8]. The cultures were maintained at 22°C and 40% humidity under white-fluorescent lighting provided at an intensity of 200 $\mu\text{mol}/\text{m}^2\text{s}$ for 16 h per day. The plants were subcultured at 4-week intervals until being transferred into liquid medium prior to the stress treatments. For the stress treatments, plants were removed from the solid medium, washed with sterile distilled water, and placed in test tubes containing liquid medium with the same composition as the rooting medium (except for a higher concentration of agar) supplemented with 150 mM NaCl or 10% PEG 6000. Plants were harvested after 0 (Control), 30 min, or 2 h exposure to the stress (Fig. 1).

RNA extraction and cDNA library construction

Fresh tissues (leaves and stems) were ground into a fine powder in liquid nitrogen using a mortar and pestle. After homogenization, total RNA was purified using the RNeasy Plant Mini kit (Qiagen, Venlo, The Netherlands). The quality and quantity of purified total RNA were confirmed by spectrophotometric analysis and gel electrophoresis. Total RNA (5 μg) was used to synthesize first-strand cDNAs by the PrimeScriptTM RT Reagent kit (TaKaRa, Otsu, Japan).

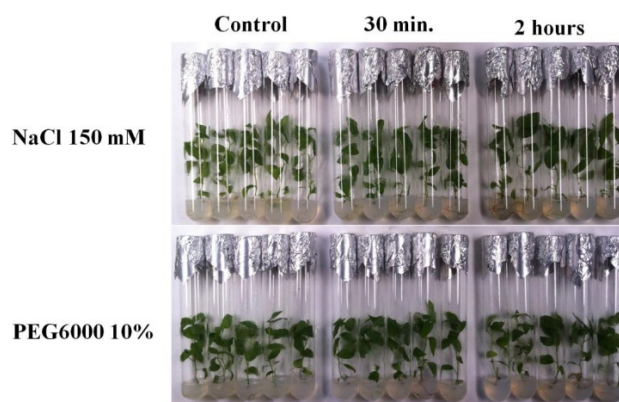


Fig. 1 Shoot-tip cultures of the hybrid poplar [*Populus alba* \times *P. tremula* var. *glandulosa* (Patg)] for stress treatments

Transcript analysis by semi-quantitative RT-PCR

The expression of GST genes under our drought or salt treatment conditions was analyzed with five replicates. The poplar β -actin gene was used as a control gene. The actin forward primer sequence was 5'-GCCATCTCTCATCGGAATGGAA-3', and the reverse primer sequence was 5'-AGGGCAGIGATTTCCTTGCTCA-3'. RT-PCR assays were performed with the PCR PreMix 20 Reaction kit (Bioneer, Daejeon, Korea) on a thermocycler (model T3000; Biometra GmbH, Göttingen Germany). Some of the GST primers for the semi-quantitative RT-PCR assays were designed according to the previously reported primer sequences for *P. trichocarpa* GST genes (Lan et al. 2009), and the remaining ten pairs were designed in our study (Table 1). The cycling conditions of the semi-quantitative RT-PCR assays consisted of 30 cycles of an initial denaturation at 95°C for 5 m, denaturation at 95°C for 30 s, and annealing at 54 ~ 63°C, and extension at 72°C for 40 s. The amplified products were run on a 1 % agarose gel and visualized by UV-light.

Table 1. Primers for reverse transcription (RT)-PCR that were newly designed based on the sequence information of *Populus trichocarpa* in the Phytozome database (<http://www.phytozome.net>)

Gene	Primer name	Sequence (5' to 3')
PatgGSTU6	GSTU6-F	TTGGAAGGAGAGCTTGGAGA
	GSTU6-R	CTTCCTCAGCATCACAACGA
PatgGSTU41	GSTU41-F	GAAGGGACATGGAAGCAAAA
	GSTU41-R	TCCACAATTCCGATCCTCTC
PatgGSTU43	GSTU43-F	CCAGTGCTTGTTTATGATGG
	GSTU43-R	TTGCTTTTCCCTGTTGCTCT
PatgGSTU44	GSTU44-F	AGGGACAAGAGAAAGCAACA
	GSTU44-R	GATGCAAACGAGGGAAGCTA
PatgGSTU45	GSTU45-F	CGAGAAGTGATGCCTGCAA
	GSTU45-R	CCCAACCAGAAGCCTATGAA
PatgGSTU55	GSTU55-F	TTTTGGGGATGAGAGCTTTG
	GSTU55-R	AAACCTCCTTCTGGCCACTT
PatgDHAR3	DHAR3-F	GAAAGGTCCCAGTGGTGAAA
	DHAR3-R	TCCAATGCCTTCAATTCCTC
PatgGSTT2	GSTT2-F	TTTGGTCGACCTCTGAA TCC
	GSTT2-R	TGCGA TCCGTTT CATCTGTA
PatgGSTZ1	GSTZ1-F	AACCTTGCAAAAAGGAGAGCA
	GSTZ1-R	CACCAAAGCCAGCATATGAA
PatgEF1B γ 3	EF1B γ 3-F	CTGAACAAGGTCGGTGGATT
	EF1B γ 3-R	TGTCAACCTTGGTCCATTCA

Results

Design of RT-PCR primers for hybrid poplar transcript analysis

Prior to the semi-quantitative RT-PCR assays, primers designed on the basis of the genome of *P. trichocarpa* (Lan et al. 2009) were tested using cDNA synthesized from our hybrid poplar grown in the normal growth media. We detected 43 putative *PatgGST* transcripts among the 81 *PatgGSTs* identified in our hybrid poplar (data not shown), of which only ten *PatgGST* transcripts were detected using the newly designed primers listed in Table 1. The transcripts of the remaining 38 *PatgGST* genes were not detected by RT-PCR. Possible explanations for this failure to obtain amplification products include sequence differences at the priming sites between the two poplar species, development- and/or tissue type-specific expression, and/or inducible expression under specific environmental conditions.

Isolation of salt stress response genes in hybrid poplar

Semi-quantitative analysis of the expression of the 81 *PatgGST* genes of hybrid poplar (*P. alba* \times *P. tremula* var. *glandulosa*) was performed following exposure of the plants to 150 mM NaCl treatment for 30 m and 2 h (Fig. 1). Eight of the 43 *PatgGST* genes amplified under the salt stress condition were up-regulated. Of these, five (*PatgGSTU15*, *PatgGSTU18*, *PatgGSTU27*, *PatgGSTU45* and *PatgGSTU46*) were up-regulated in either the leaves (*PatgGSTU27* and *PatgGSTU46*) or the stem (*PatgGSTU15*, *PatgGSTU18* and *PatgGSTU45*), and three (*PatgGSTU22*, *PatgGSTU51* and *PatgGSTU52*) were induced in both the leaves and stems (Fig. 2). In contrast, *PatgGSTU9* expression was down-regulated by the NaCl treatment (Fig. 2). Almost all of the other *PatgGST* genes amplified under this specific stress condition did not show any visible change in the expression level when compared with untreated control tissues (data not shown).

Isolation of PEG response genes in hybrid poplar

Drought-associated oxidative stress was induced in our study by adding 10% PEG 6000 to the growth media and sampling the plants at 30 m and 2 h. Of the 43 *PatgGST* genes amplified, 16 were up-regulated at the transcription level following the 10% PEG 6000 treatment (Fig. 3). Most of them were up-regulated in both the leaf and stem tissues, but *PatgGSTF8* was induced only in the stem (Fig. 3). Among the 16 *PatgGST* genes that were up-regulated in the presence of 10% PEG were seven *PatgGST* genes that were induced

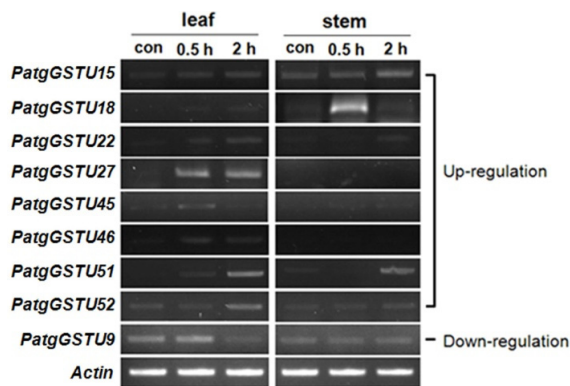


Fig. 2 Transcript analysis of *Patg* glutathione S-transferases (*PatgGSTs*) with NaCl treatment by semi-quantitative reverse transcriptase (RT)-PCR. *con* ; Control (baseline)

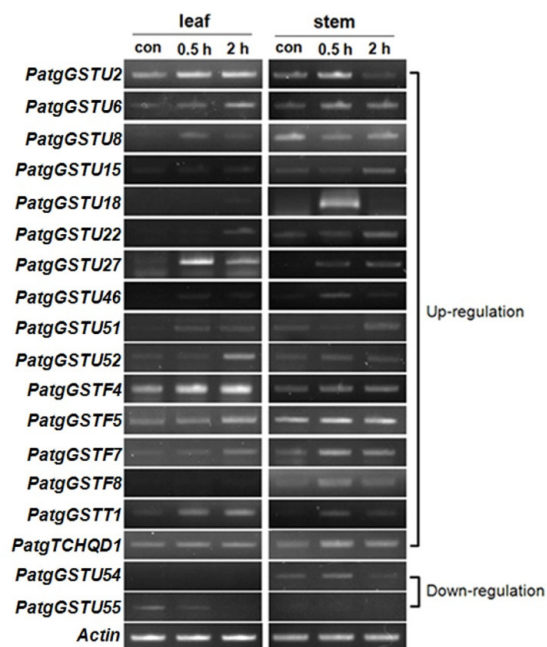


Fig. 3 Transcript analysis of *PatgGSTs* with 10% PEG 6000 treatment by semi-quantitative RT-PCR. *TCHQD* ; Tetrachloro-hydroquinone dehalogenase, *con* ; Control (baseline)

in the NaCl treatment: *PatgGSTU15*, *PatgGSTU18*, *PatgGSTU22*, *PatgGSTU27*, *PatgGSTU46*, *PatgGSTU51*, and *PatgGSTU52* (Figs. 2 and 3). In contrast, *PatgGSTU54* and *PatgGSTU55* were down-regulated following exposure to PEG 6000 (Fig. 3).

Discussion

Glutathione S-transferases of many plant species, including *Arabidopsis* (Bianchi et al. 2002), wild soybean (Wei et al. 2010), *Amaranthaceae* (Jha et al. 2011), and wheat (Gallé et al. 2009), have been implicated in salt stress and

drought tolerance. However, poplar GSTs have not been characterized in terms of tolerance against abiotic stress, including salt and drought. Consequently, our aim was to isolate putative candidate genes as first step toward understanding the mechanism of salt and drought tolerance in woody plants.

Based on our semi-quantitative RT-PCR results, we were able to identify 17 poplar *PatgGST* genes that responded to either salt- or oxidative stress-mediated drought: *PatgGSTU2*, *PatgGSTU6*, *PatgGSTU8*, *PatgGSTU15*, *PatgGSTU18*, *PatgGSTU22*, *PatgGSTU27*, *PatgGSTU45*, *PatgGSTU46*, *PatgGSTU51*, *PatgGSTU52*, *PatgGSTU58*, *PatgGSTF4*, *PatgGSTF5*, *PatgGSTF7*, *PatgGSTF8*, *PatgGSTT1*, and *PatgTCHQD1*. These genes were subjected to real-time RT-PCR to confirm their induction at the transcription level under the specific stress condition tested (data not shown). Among the eight subclasses of the poplar GST gene family, several GST genes belonging to the Tau subclass were identified as inducible under both the salt and PEG stress (Figs. 2 and 3). Members of the Tau class of GST (GSTU) genes are plant specific and well-known for their role in herbicide detoxification (Axarli et al. 2009). Recently, extensive analysis of 81 GST family members in *Populus* were conducted by Lan et al. (2009), which includes phylogenetic relationships among them, their chromosomal locations, gene expression patterns in the different tissue types, and protein structural features. However, their physiological roles regarding to the stress tolerance have not been reported yet. In our study, analysis of the transcriptional levels of *Populus* GSTs by semi-quantitative RT-PCR led to the identification of candidate genes for salt and drought tolerance. These include *PatgGSTU15*, *PatgGSTU18*, *PatgGSTU22*, *PatgGSTU27*, *PatgGSTU46*, *PatgGSTU51* and *PatgGSTU52*. These genes can be used in future investigations to study the mechanism(s) of abiotic stress tolerance as well as in genetic engineering attempts to improve the tolerance of woody plants to various stresses.

Acknowledgments

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Supplementary Table 1. Primers designed by Lan et al. (2009) were initially used for RT-PCR in this experiment

Gene	Primer name	Sequence (5'-3')	Gene	Primer name	Sequence (5'-3')
<i>GSTU1</i>	PtGSTU1RT1	TGTTGACAACAGGTGTATTTTCCT	<i>GSTU42</i>	PtGSTU42RT1	ACTTGAGCAACGGAAAGAGTIGAT
	PtGSTU1RT2	GCCTCTATGCTAAAGTTACCAAATG		PtGSTU42RT2	TCCATATCTTCCTAGAAAAGTATATACC
<i>GSTU2</i>	PtGSTU2RT1	ATTTTGTGACAAAAAGATGATGACT	<i>GSTU43</i>	PtGSTU43EX1	AGATATCATGGTAGGTGTGAACCTCTTCG
	PtGSTU2RT2	ACATCTTCCTCAGCATCAACA		PtGSTU43EX2	TGAATTCITACTAATGGTGTGGTGGCAAG
<i>GSTU3</i>	PtGSTU3RT3	CTGGGCAGATTTGTGTATAGA	<i>GSTU44</i>	PtGSTU44EX1	AGATATCATGGAAGAAGTGAAGCTACTAGG
	PtGSTU3RT4	ACATCAACGTAGCCGAGAGTCTT		PtGSTU44EX2	TAAGCTTTATCATCTCTGGTGGAAAAATAC
<i>GSTU4</i>	PtGSTU4RT3	GTCATGATGGAAACCTATTTT	<i>GSTU45</i>	PtGSTU45-EX1	AGATATCATGGCTGAAGTGAAGTGTCT
	PtGSTU4RT4	CCTCCCAAGGTCAATACCTTCTTA		PtGSTU45-EX2	TGAATTCITACTAATACTTCCAAGAGGAAGC
<i>GSTU5</i>	PtGSTU5RT1	ATTTGTGGAACAAAGGTGCTTTATA	<i>GSTU46</i>	PtGSTU46RT3	AATTTACTGAGGAGAAGTGTCTGATG
	PtGSTU5RT2	CATATCTTCTTCCAAAATAATTTACC		PtGSTU46RT4	CAGCCCATGCTAGATCTAAATAA
<i>GSTU6</i>	PtGSTU6RT1	GATTTGTGGAACAAAGGTGATTTACT	<i>GSTU47</i>	PtGSTU47RT1	AACTCAAGGACGAGCCCATAA
	PtGSTU6EX2	TCTCGAGTTACTACTCAAGCCCAAACCT		PtGSTU47RT2	ACGGTATGCCCTTCAGTTTCAG
<i>GSTU7</i>	PtGSTU7RT3	GAATCCGTGTTCACTCGAAAATCCT	<i>GSTU48</i>	PtGSTU48RT1	AACTCAAGGACGAGCCCATAA
	PtGSTU7RT4	CGAGGTCATATATCTTTTGTCAACA		PtGSTU48RT2	ACGGTATGCCCTTCAGTTTCAG
<i>GSTU8</i>	PtGSTU8RT3	TGTCGACAAAAAGATATATGACTTTG	<i>GSTU49</i>	PtGSTU49RT1	TGACAAGAAGGCGTACCCTTC
	PtGSTU8RT4	GAAAGGAAGTAGTCTACATCAACAT		PtGSTU49RT2	GCAATCAACTTCGGGCACCTC
<i>GSTU9</i>	PtGSTU9RT3	GTCATGATGGAAAACCTATTTG	<i>GSTU50</i>	PtGSTU50RT1	CATGGCTAGTCTTTTCAGTTATA
	PtGSTU9RT4	CCAAGGTCAATAACTTTTGTCAA		PtGSTU50RT2	GAGGAAATTCGCGGGTTCA
<i>GSTU10</i>	PtGSTU10RT1	TGTTGACAAAAAGATATATGCCCTC	<i>GSTU51</i>	PtGSTU51RT2	CACTCCATTCATCTTCTCTATGGC
	PtGSTU10RT2	TCATAGGCATAAAACCAGCAAAG		PtGSTU51EX3	AGAATGCGCCCTTAATATTAATCTGC
<i>GSTU11</i>	PtGSTU11RT1	TGTTAAAGAGGGAAGAGCTTGAGATG	<i>GSTU52</i>	PtGSTU52RT1	TGTTATCTTGTAGTATTATCGATGAG
	PtGSTU11RT2	AAGCTATATCTCCATCCCTAC		PtGSTU52RT2	GCTTCAACGGCCAGTTTAT
<i>GSTU12</i>	PtGSTU12RT3	GGTGGAGACAGTATTGGGATAGC	<i>GSTU53</i>	PtGSTU53RT1	TTAAGCTGCTAGGAACATGGC
	PtGSTU12RT4	CTTAAAGAAGGTAAACCGACCAGC		PtGSTU53RT2	CGAGGAAATTTCTGAGGTTCC
<i>GSTU13</i>	PtGSTU13RT1	TTGCGAGTCCATGATCATTGIG	<i>GSTU54</i>	PtGSTU54RT3	CTGGGCAGATTTTGTGTGATAAGA
	PtGSTU13RT2	CCTTTAGCATGAAACATCTCCG		PtGSTU54RT4	CATCAACGTAAACCGAGGGTGTG
<i>GSTU14</i>	PtGSTU14RT1	CATAAGAAGGTCCCGTACTGTGTC	<i>GSTU55</i>	PtGSTU55RT1	CATCGACAAGAAGATGTATCCTACTG
	PtGSTU14RT2	TTCCTTCTTCAGTCGCTCGG		PtGSTU55RT2	AACTCGCAACCATGCTCC
<i>GSTU15</i>	PtGSTU15RT3	TGACAAGAAGATATATAACAATGCC	<i>GSTU56</i>	PtGSTU56RT1	TCAGATGTTCCAGGAGAGAACTCGA
	PtGSTU15RT4	TCCATGCGAGTATCTTTGGAC		PtGSTU56RT2	GTATGGGTACAGTGGTCTTTGG
<i>GSTU16</i>	PtGSTU16RT1	ATTGAGCTGAGTGTCCAAGGT	<i>GSTU57</i>	PtGSTU57RT1	CCCTCTGCTGATGATCCTT
	PtGSTU16RT2	TTCCTCTGAGCACAACACGT		PtGSTU57RT2	CTGAGACTCCATTGGGCAAAAAG
<i>GSTU17</i>	PtGSTU17RT3	CAITGACAAGAAGATATATAACAATCC	<i>GSTU58</i>	PtGSTU58RT1	TGAAACGTCGAAGCAGTCTCC
	PtGSTU17RT4	CATGCACCGATCATTGGAA		PtGSTU58RT2	GCAATAAAAAGGACTAAGGCAAC
<i>GSTU18</i>	PtGSTU18RT1	TGATGACAAGGTCTCCAGTCA	<i>GSTF1</i>	PtGSTF1RT1	TAGTGTCCAGTAGACGAAGCCT
	PtGSTU18RT2	CAAGGTCTCTAGTCCAATGTC		PtGSTF1RT2	AGTCCACCACCTGTTTACATCTT
<i>GSTU19</i>	PtGSTU19RT1	TGACATCTCATATGGACTATTCGTTA	<i>GSTF2</i>	PtGSTF2RT1	TTCGACCAAGAATGAATATCC
	PtGSTU19RT2	GCAACTATCATTTGTCGGATG		PtGSTF2RT2	AAAGATGTCCCTGTCCGTAGC
<i>GSTU21</i>	PtGSTU21RT1	GCTCGGTTTTGGATTCAATATG	<i>GSTF3</i>	PtGSTF3RT1	ACCTCTCGTGTCTGACTGTCTCG
	PtGSTU21RT2	AAGCCAACAAGTGAAGAGTCCAA		PtGSTF3RT2	CGTAGCCAGTTTCTTGAATCTT
<i>GSTU22</i>	PtGSTU22RT3	TGGGGTGGTGTGAAACCAC	<i>GSTF4</i>	PtGSTF4RT1	TAAAGTCCACGGAAGCACC
	PtGSTU22RT4	TAGGAGTTCGAGCTGGCTGC		PtGSTF4RT2	CCGTGGCAATGTATTGAGTG
<i>GSTU23</i>	PtGSTU23RT1	GAGCCATGATACCCTTTTGGA	<i>GSTF5</i>	PtGSTF5RT1	TGAAACTCCATCGAAGCGTIT
	PtGSTU23RT2	TATCTTTTCTATGACGTCAACGGTT		PtGSTF5RT2	CCAGTGTAGTCCCTTGTCTG
<i>GSTU24</i>	PtGSTU24RT1	ACTCTTGCAATACAATCCTATCCAC	<i>GSTF6</i>	PtGSTF6RT1	TTGAAACTCCATGGAACCCCTA
	PtGSTU24RT2	TTGATTGCAAAACCTTATCAACAC		PtGSTF6RT2	CCCAGTGTAGTCCCTTGTCTA
<i>GSTU25</i>	PtGSTU25EX1	AGATATCATGGCAGAAGTGAAGCTACATG	<i>GSTF7</i>	PtGSTF7RT1	CTCTCGGTCTGACATGC
	PtGSTU25EX2	TGAATCTTACTAGTCTTGCCTAACTTCTCC		PtGSTF7RT2	GTAGCCAGTCCCTTGAACCTC

Supplementary Table 1. Primers designed by Lan et al. (2009) were initially used for RT-PCR in this experiment (continued)

Gene	Primer name	Sequence (5'-3')	Gene	Primer name	Sequence (5'-3')
<i>GSTU26</i>	PiGSTU26RT1	TTTGTGAAGAGAAGGTTTGATG	<i>GSTF8</i>	PiGSTF8RT1	TGAAGACCGTGGACCGAATC
	PiGSTU26RT2	CAGCTTCTTCCATAACATTCAGC		PiGSTF8RT2	TTTTCTCTCGTAAGTCCIGACCAG
<i>GSTU27</i>	PiGSTU27RT1	CTACTGGATTTTGAGATGAGTCCC	<i>GSTF9</i>	PiGSTF9RT1	CCCGTGTATTGCTTTGCTTATCT
	PiGSTU27RT2	CAATAGGATAAACTTCTTGTCGATG		PiGSTF9RT2	TTGCTCGTGATCTGACAATAGTG
<i>GSTU28</i>	PiGSTU28RT1	TGGATAAACATAATTTCCCAAACG	<i>DHAR1</i>	PiGsth1RT1	AAGGGTATTGCTTACTTTGGAGG
	PiGSTU28RT2	TAGAAAAAGTGAAGAAGGGAATAAGT		PiGsth1RT2	AGGTGGAATTGCCAATGGTG
<i>GSTU29</i>	PiGSTU29RT1	TGGATAAACATAATTTCCCAAACG	<i>DHAR2</i>	PiGsth2RT1	TCATCTTAAAGCACACGGTCCA
	PiGSTU29RT2	AATCGGCTTTCCTTCATGGA		PiGsth2RT2	ATGATATGTTCCTTAGCACCTTG
<i>GSTU30</i>	PiGSTU30RT1	TTGATGAGGFGTGAAGGATAGC	<i>DHAR3</i>	PiGsth3RT1	GGCATCTCAAGGTCCTTCAT
	PiGSTU30RT2	AGTGTATATCAACGTACCCGATG		PiGsth3RT2	ACATGTTCCTCGGCAGCTCTT
<i>GSTU31</i>	PiGSTU31RT1	GGACTGAGGGACAAGAGTGCA	<i>GSTL1</i>	PiGSTL1RT1	CACAATAACGAAGTGAAAGGAGAGTC
	PiGSTU31RT2	GAAGGTAGCAAAGGAGTCTTGCC		PiGSTL1RT2	TTTGAATGTCGAATTATTGGCTTT
<i>GSTU32</i>	PiGSTU32RT1	CGAGGGACGAGATCACAAAAT	<i>GSTL2</i>	PiGSTL2RT1	CCTCTACACTGATACATTCACCGT
	PiGSTU32RT3	ATCTCAAATACCTTCTTGCAATAAAA		PiGSTL2RT2	AACACTCTGACAGGAAGATGCAG
<i>GSTU33</i>	PiGSTU33RT1	GAACTGAGGGACAAGAGTGCAT	<i>GSTL3</i>	PiGSTL3RT1	AATTCAACGGCACAGTATACTG
	PiGSTU33RT3	TCTCGAATACCTTCTTGTCAATAAAA		PiGSTL3RT2	CCAAGAAGATATTGAGTCTTCAACA
<i>GSTU34</i>	PiGSTU34RT1	TGACAAGAAGGTTTIGATCCAAC	<i>GST1</i>	PiGST1RT1	CATGGTGCAGCTGAATATGICA
	PiGSTU34RT2	CCACTATATCGACAAACCCAAAGG		PiGST1RT2	CCTGCAATCCCTTTCATCCAA
<i>GSTU35</i>	PiGSTU35RT1	TGACAAGAAGGTTTIGATCCAAC	<i>GST2</i>	PiGST2RT1	TCGCGGTCAGTTGAATTTAT
	PiGSTU35RT2	CCACTATATCGACAAACCCAAAGG		PiGST2RT2	CCATATGGATGGTTCGCTACTGC
<i>GSTU36</i>	PiGSTU36RT3	GAGTTATCAAGGGTCTTCCCTT	<i>GSTZ1</i>	PiGSTZ1RT1	AAATCTCCAAGITCCAGTATCG
	PiGSTU36RT4	CTTTCACCGCCGAAAAACTT		PiGSTZ1RT2	GTAGCAATCTGTGGGCCCAA
<i>GSTU37</i>	PiGSTU37RT1	AAGGGTGTGCCTTTAGTGC	<i>GSTZ2</i>	PiGSTZ2RT1	TGGTCCAGATGAGGTGATCC
	PiGSTU37RT2	AGTCTTTCATGGAGCCAGTCAC		PiGSTZ2RT2	CCTTGATAGAAGAGGGAACAGTGC
<i>GSTU38</i>	PiGSTU38RT1	CAAGGGTGTCTCCTTAGGGA	<i>EFIBγ1</i>	PiGSTG1RT1	ATTTTGGCTGGTTCATACCA
	PiGSTU38RT2	CGAGGCAAAGTGGCTGGTTC		PiGSTG1RT2	AAATCCCAAAGTACAGGTACAGG
<i>GSTU39</i>	PiGSTU39RT1	GACTTGTGAACGGAAAGAGTGAT	<i>EFIBγ2</i>	PiGSTG2RT1	CGTATTGTATGCCGGTAAGACG
	PiGSTU39RT3	CCTAGAAAGATCATTTATCTTTTATCAA		PiGSTG2RT2	CAATTGCATTGCTCTCGAAGATA
<i>GSTU40</i>	PiGSTU40RT3	ACTACATCGACAAGAAGATTTATCTAT	<i>EFIBγ3</i>	PiGSTG3RT1	ACTCCIGAAGGTCCTGTGTT
	PiGSTU40RT4	GGTGTAAAAGAAGCTGTAGAACGG		PiGSTG3RT2	CTGGAGGAAGGTACGGTTGAT
<i>GSTU41</i>	PiGSTU41EX1	AGATATCATGGAAGGGAGTGAACCTTTTAA	<i>TCHQD1</i>	PiTCHQ1RT1	TGGCTCCCTTAGTCTCTTGAA
	PiGSTU41EX2	TGAATTCCTATCAGGCATGAGGCTCTGC		PiTCHQ1RT2	ACTTCTGAAACGAACAAGACC