Inheritance of Bulb Dormancy and Early Flowering Ability in F_1 Progenies of Intraand Interspecific Crosses of Lilium formosanum and L. longiflorum

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Inheritance of Bulb Dormancy and Early Flowering Ability in F₁ Progenies of Intra- and Interspecific Crosses of *Lilium formosanum* and *L. longiflorum*

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One–year–old seedlings of the northern populations of $Lilium\ longiflorum$ in the Ryukyu Archipelago have deep dormancy in summer, whereas those of the southern populations of $L.\ longiflorum$ and $L.\ formosanum\ show\ lack$ or reduction of dormancy. Dormancy status of the F_1 progenies of intraspecific hybrids among $L.\ longiflorum$ with different degrees of dormancy and interspecific hybrids between $L.\ formosanum\ and\ L.\ longiflorum\ was\ studied in an open field condition. Three populations of <math>L.\ longiflorum\ show\ and\ two\ populations\ of\ L.\ longiflorum\ show\ and\ two\ populations\ of\ L.\ formosanum\ show\ show\ and\ Fulliand\ populations\ of\ L.\ formosanum\ show\ show\$

Key words: dormancy, inheritance, *Lilium formosanum*, *Lilium longiflorum*

INTRODUCTION

Lilium longiflorum and its derivative, L. formosanum (Hiramatsu et al., 2001) are among Liliaceae endemic to the subtropical Ryukyu Archipelago, Japan and Taiwan (Wilson, 1925; McRae, 1998). We previously confirmed that temperature is the important factor for differentiation in degree of dormancy in the one year old seedlings of L. longiflorum populations through the geographic gradient of the Ryukyu Archipelago (Mojtahedi et al., 2011, 2012). In those experiments, dormancy in the one year old seedlings of northern populations of L. longiflorum was induced by high summer temperature wherein those populations stopped leaf development when the temperature reached to 25°C in the middle of June and showed deep dormant status till the end of following January without producing any leaf and flower, while those of L. formosanum and L. longiflorum populations growing in the southern part of the Archipelago showed no or weak dormancy even in high temperature (25 and 30°C) in July and August, and can produce flowers in the first year (Mojtahedi et al., 2011, 2012).

Inheritance of dormancy and/or bulb formation has been reported only in a few species (Tashiro, 1984; Tashiro *et al.*, 1995; Xiao *et al.*, 2010), due to the difficulties of obtaining dormant and non-dormant phenotypes in the same species or fertile progenies between them. Induction of early-flowering traits has been

achieved in many horticultural crops. In Lilium breeding, early flowering cultivars have been developed by the crosses of L. formosanum with L. longiflorum (= L. \times formolongi).

In this study, inheritance of dormancy and early flowering traits of F_1 progenies of intraspecific hybrids between dormant and non-dormant types of L. longiflorum and interspecific hybrids between L. formosanum and L. longiflorum populations were investigated.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Plant materials and culture

Three populations of *L. longiflorum*, Yakushima (LYA) and Kikai Jima (LKI) in the Ryukyu Archipelago, Japan and Pitouchiao (LPI), Taiwan and two populations of *L. formosanum*, a Wulai (FWU) population in Taiwan and a domesticated population in Fukuoka (FFU), Japan were used.

All the seeds were sown in November 2009 or 2010 in cell trays containing the mixture of sohagnum peat moss: vermiculite (Redi– Earth Sun Gro Horticulture Distribution Inc., U.S.A.), and grown in incubators (16/8 h photoperiod, 70% humidity, 15°C) for 5 months. They were transplanted in the following May to the plastic pots containing red loam: commercial soil (4:1) to grow in an open field. Nitrogen was used as a fertilizer in the soil mixture with the ratio of (15 g/10000 cm²) and leaf mold was used after transplantation to prevent the soil evaporation.

Hybridization method and culture of F1 progenies

The inter– and intra–specific cross hybridization started immediately after flowering. Flowers of female plants (FFU, FWU, LPI and LKI) were emasculated 2

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days before anthesis. Anthers were kept in dry condition at room temperature to produce mature pollen grains after harvest and used during 7 days after emasculation to conduct intraspecific cross hybridization from end of May to end of June. Mature pollen grains were kept in -20°C to carry out interspecific cross hybridization from middle of July to mid-October. Pollination was carried out 2 days after anthesis and mature capsules were harvested 2 months after pollination. Seeds were dried for one month at 25°C.

The seeds of the F_1 progenies were cultured in November 2010 and 2011 using the same mentioned methods. Scaly leaf morphology was checked to confirm seedlings hybridity. Weekly leaf number and early flowering ability in the first year of at least 10 individuals were measured for all populations.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Total leaf numbers of the parents were larger in FFW, FFU and LPI (non-dormant populations) than in

LKI and LYA (dormant populations), and the former three populations showed an early flowering ability (Table 1) in accordance with our previous reports (Mojtahedi *et al.*, 2011, 2012). Hybrids of FFU × FWU, FFU × LPI and FWU × LPI continued leaf development in the summer, while the other hybrids did not (Fig. 1). FFU × FWU, FFU × LPI and FWU × LPI developed 24–25 leaves and some of them flowered in less than 300 days after seed sowing, while the other hybrids produced only 3–5 leaves and did not flower in a year (Table 2). It is clearly shown that the F_1 progenies of dormant × non–dormant type and its reciprocal non–dormant × dormant type populations are dormant type. It can be concluded that dormancy is dominant over non–dormancy in *L. longiflorum* and *L. formosanum*.

 $Allium \times wakegi$, a natural interspecific hybrid between Welsh onion (*A. fistulosum*, non-bulbous species) as a maternal plant and shallot (*A. cepa* aggregetum group, bulbous species) as a paternal plant, forms bulbs and has dormancy (Tashiro, 1984; Hizume, 1994; Tashiro *et al.*, 1995). The hybrids of the reciprocal

Table 1. Total leaf number and flowering performance of *L. formosanum* and *L. longiflorum* in different populations in the first year growth

Population ^z	Total leaf number ^v	% of first year flowering ^x	Days to first flowering after	
			seed sowing (min–max)	transplantation (min-max)
FFW	37.6 ± 4.0	65	280 (265–295)	110 (95–125)
FFU	54.1 ± 2.4	90	332 (300–365)	162 (130–195)
LPI	24.5 ± 3.3	19.7	260 (240-280)	90 (70–110)
LKI	5.5 ± 0.3	0	452 (445–460)	282 (275–290)
LYA	4.1 ± 0.1	0	450 (440–460)	282 (270–295)

^z FFW, FFU, LPI, LKI and LYA; see text

Table 2. Total leaf number and flowering performance of F₁ progenies in the first year growth

	Total leaf number ^y	% of first year flowering ^x	Days to first flowering after	
Cross combination ^z			seed sowing (min-max)	transplantation (min-max)
FFU×FWU	25.2 ± 3.5	20	292 (285–300)	122 (115–130)
$FFU\times LPI$	25.3 ± 3.4	14	297 (285–310)	162 (150–175)
FFU×LKI	4.1 ± 0.1	0	_w	_
FFU×LYA	3.3 ± 0.1	0	-	-
FWU×LPI	24.0 ± 2.4	55	282 (255–310)	147 (120–175)
FWU×LKI	3.9 ± 0.2	0	-	-
FWU×LYA	4.6 ± 0.1	0	-	-
LPI×LKI	3.1 ± 0.1	0	-	-
LPI×LYA	3.0 ± 0.0	0	-	_
LKI×LPI	3.4 ± 0.1	0	-	_

^z FFW, FFU, LPI, LKI and LYA; see text

y Total leaf number in the first year growth±SE

x (Number of flowered plants/Number of total plants)×100

y Total leaf number in the first year growth±SE

x (Number of flowered plants/Number of total plants)×100

W Not flowered until now

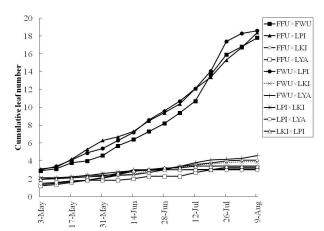


Fig. 1. Growth patterns of F₁ hybrids of interspecific cross hybridization between L. formosanum (FFU, FWU) and L. longiflorum or intraspecific cross hybridization between dormant (LKI, LYA) and non-dormant (LPI) type of L. longiflorum populations. FFW, FFU, LPI, LKI and LYA; see text.

crossings also form bulbs (Arifin et al., 2000) in agreement with our results. On the other hand, bulb formation in the F_1 progenies of non–dormant type chives (Allium schoenoprasum) × dormant type A. schoenoprasum var. foliosum was not observed, indicating the trait is recessive (Xiao et al., 2010). Dormancy trait in bulbous plants may be species dependent.

Early flowering ability was not inherited in the progenies when at least one parent is a dormant type in our study. It is in contradiction to the fact that the cultivars of $Lilium \times formologi$ with early flowering ability were developed by the crosses of L. $formosanum \times L.$ longiflorum (Beattie and White, 1993; Shimizu, 1971), although it is unknown whether L. longiflorum with early flowering ability was used in their breeding. It was also reported that the early flowering ability of L. formosanum as female parent in its hybrids with L. auratum, L. speciosum, L. regale as male parents is dominant (Saruwatari, 2009). Hai $et \ al$. (2012) introduced the hybrids of L. formolongi with L. brownii var. colchestri that flowered within their first year growth.

It is reported that threshold plant size (Hiramatsu et al., 2012) and development of adequate scaly leaves during the first six months of their vegetative growth is one of the obligatory requirements to move into reproductive phase in L. longiflorum and L. formosanum (Mojtahedi et al., 2012). The leaf number of all the F, progenies did not reach to the minimum threshold number of leaves to start the reproductive phase. Low degrees of flowering rate and little net production during spring to summer in the first year in northern L. longiflorum populations (Hiramatsu et al., 2002) associated with quiescence in leaf development during summer set off the theory that the early flowering ability is adaptive strategy to grow without dormancy throughout the year (Mojtahedi et al., 2012). Whenever the dormancy trait is expressed, it causes less leaf development that makes little net production and the early flowering ability would be suppressed. Our results proved this theory in the F_1 progenies. In conclusion, deep bulb dormancy in the F_1 progenies of the *Lilium* populations studied is dominant, while early flowering ability is recessive.

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