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## Evaluation of Resistance in Rice Plants to Myanmar Isolates of *Xanthomonas oryzae* pv. *oryzae*

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To obtain genetic resources of resistance to bacterial leaf blight of rice caused by *Xanthomonas oryzae* pv. *oryzae* in Myanmar, 40 Myanmar rice varieties, 10 international differentials of near isogenic lines and 17 varieties of pyramided lines were tested for the resistance to three different pathotypes isolated in Myanmar. The bacterial isolate used were MKM13 (belonging to predominant race in Myanmar and showing wide range of pathogenicity), M 3–1 (showing intermediate range of pathogenicity) and MKM39 (belonging to rare race in Myanmar and showing narrow range of pathogenicity). The fully developed leaves at maximum tillering stage were used for inoculation of each isolate. Three weeks after the inoculation scoring was made according to the lesion length. The reaction was considered as S (susceptible) when the lesion length was more than 5 cm, while considered as R (resistant) when it was 5 cm below. In the inoculation test using international differentials of near isogenic lines, the resistance genes, *Xa21* and *Xa3*, would be effective resistant resources to the bacterial blight diseases in Myanmar. Although bacterial isolate MKM39 was avirulent to IR24, some Myanmar varieties were susceptible to this isolate. Rice varieties cultivated in Myanmar were classified into four groups based on their reactions to three Myanmar bacterial isolates. Group I contained one variety was resistant to all the three isolates of pv. *oryzae* and group II contained 14 varieties was susceptible. Group III contained 23 varieties resistant to bacterial isolate MKM39 but susceptible to MKM13 and M3–1. Group IV contained two varieties was susceptible to bacterial isolate MKM13 but resistant to M3–1 and MKM39. Furthermore, gene combinations *Xa3* + *Xa7*, *Xa3* + *Xa10*, *Xa4* + *xa5* and *Xa4* + *xa5* + *Xa13* + *Xa21* conferred a broad spectrum of resistance to all three Myanmar isolates evaluated, supporting the strategy of pyramiding appropriate resistance genes.

### INTRODUCTION

Bacterial blight of rice caused by *Xanthomonas oryzae* pv. *oryzae* is a widespread and destructive disease in irrigated and rain fed environments of Asia (Mew, 1987; Ou, 1985). Yield losses due to bacterial blight disease are thought to be higher in tropical Asian countries containing Myanmar than in temperate area countries (Mizukami and Wakimoto, 1969; Ou, 1985) because virulent populations of this pathogen become to the prevalent in the tropical area (Buddenhagen and Reddy, 1972; Wakimoto, 1967). Moreover, the local and improved varieties are highly susceptible to the disease. High yielding cultivars introduced from China are particularly susceptible to the disease. Thus, the development of resistant rice varieties is urgent subject in order to control this disease (Ezuka and Sakaguchi, 1978; Mew and Khush, 1981) because effective and economical bactericides against this disease have not been developed. Host resistance is an important component of an integrated disease management program for bacterial disease. So far, 24 resistance genes have been identified

and utilized in rice breeding programs (Ogawa *et al.*, 1991; McCouch *et al.*, 1991; Ronald *et al.*, 1992; Yoshimura *et al.*, 1992 and 1995; Borines *et al.*, 2000). Although many sources of resistance to bacterial blight have been identified in rice-growing countries in Asia (Khush, 1989; Ogawa, 1991), breeding rice for resistance to *X. oryzae* pv. *oryzae* in Myanmar is still in an early developmental stage. In Myanmar, five races of *X. oryzae* pv. *oryzae* were identified and rice varieties were classified into 8 groups (Lwin *et al.*, 1992). The purpose of this study is to identify resistance sources for controlling the rice bacterial blight in Myanmar.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

**Rice varieties and preparation of plants:** Forty native rice cultivars from different locations of Myanmar indicated in Fig. 1, more over 10 international differentials of near-isogenic lines, and 17 varieties of pyramided lines were also used. Myanmar rice varieties were collected by Central Agriculture Research Centre, Yezin, Myanmar. IR24 was used as a susceptible check. Seeds were sown in plastic seedboxes using drybed method and then transplanted individually to pots at 4–5 leaf stage and were grown in the greenhouse. Fertilizer and insecticides were applied according to the standard method of managing rice plants.

**Bacterial isolates:** Three Myanmar bacterial isolates were used for inoculation tests and described their characteristics as follows (Kaku *et al.*, 2004). Bacterial isolate MKM 13 is a predominant race in Myanmar and

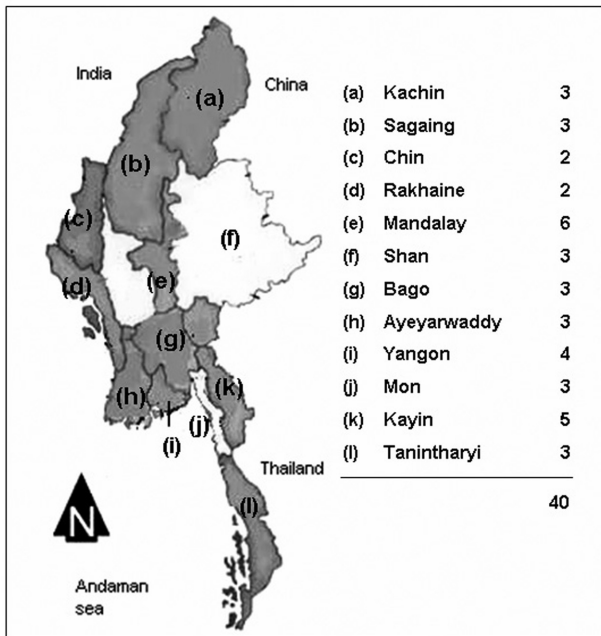
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**Fig. 1.** Distribution of Myanmar cultivars used in this experiment

shows the wide range of pathogenicity. M 3-1 is a intermediate range of pathogenicity. MKM 39 is a rare race in Myanmar and expresses a very narrow range of pathogenicity. Each isolate was maintained in 15% glycerol at  $-80^{\circ}\text{C}$  until use.

**Inoculum preparation and inoculation:** Three Myanmar isolates of *X. oryzae* pv. *oryzae* that were maintained at  $-80^{\circ}\text{C}$  were revived on potato semi-synthetic agar medium (PSA) (Wakimoto, 1955) plates at  $28^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 72 hr. Each isolate was transferred to PSA slants and incubated an additional 48 hr at  $28^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Inoculum of each isolate was prepared by suspending the bacterial cells in 10 ml of sterilized distilled water and adjusted to approximately  $10^9$  cfu/ml. Plant materials for inoculation were used at maximum tillering stage. Plants in a pot were bundled with three groups by bounding with different colored-ties in order to dis-

tinguish the inoculated isolates. Inoculation was done according to the clipping method with scissors described by Kauffman *et al.* (1973). The inoculated plants were then grown in greenhouse at  $25-30^{\circ}\text{C}$  for three weeks. Disease reaction was assessed with the lesion length from the position of inoculation site. Lesion length was measured at 21 days after inoculation and data for one variety was decided to the average of 4 or 5 inoculated leaves. Disease reaction was categorized according to the lesion length, in which 0 to 5 cm was classified as resistant (R) and more than 5 cm was classified as susceptible (S).

## RESULTS

### Reactions of near-isogenic lines

Interactions between near-isogenic lines and three isolates are shown in Table 1. The degree of disease reaction in this experiment showed different relationship between combinations of rice varieties and bacterial isolates. Bacterial isolate MKM 13 showed an broad range of pathogenicity and M 3-1 expressed moderate range of pathogenicity. Cultivar IR 24, which has no major functional gene for resistance to the Philippine isolates, was used as susceptible check. However, MKM 39 was avirulent to all the varieties of near isogenic lines. IRBB3 (*Xa3*) and IRBB21 (*Xa21*) were resistant to all three bacterial isolates.

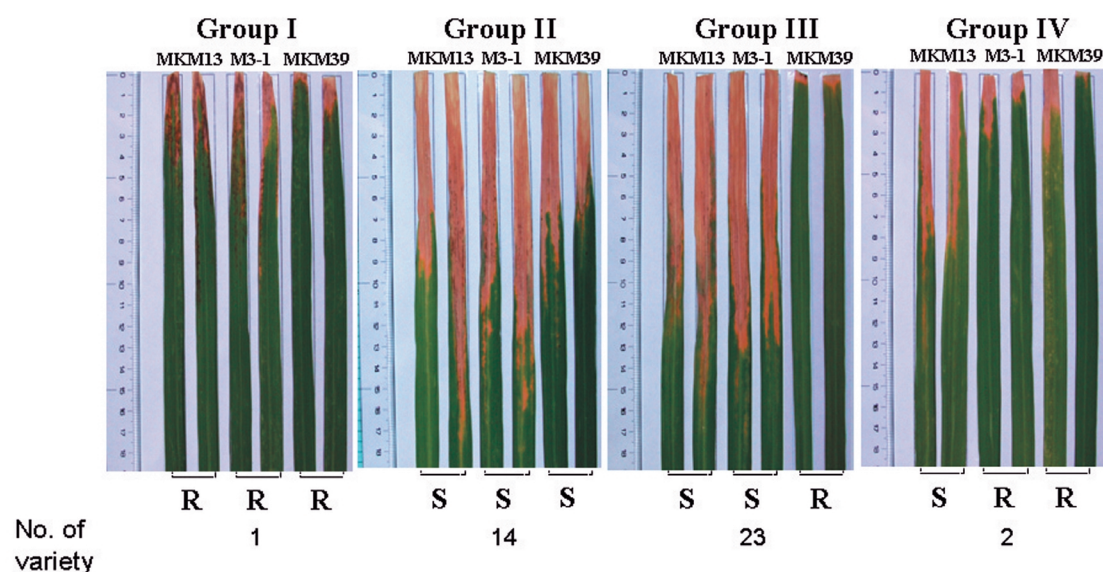
### Evaluation of Myanmar rice cultivars

Forty Myanmar cultivars were tested for their resistance to the three isolates. As shown in Fig. 2, Myanmar rice cultivars could be divided into four groups (group I-IV) according to reaction pattern to the three Myanmar isolates. Thirty-seven Myanmar cultivars belonged to type II and III were susceptible to bacterial isolates M13 and M3-1. One Myanmar variety belonged to type I, Nga Yar Pauk, was expressed resistant reaction to the three isolates (Table 2). Although bacteria isolate MKM39 was avirulent to IR 24, fourteen Myanmar cultivars were susceptible to the isolate.

**Table 1.** Reaction <sup>a)</sup> of near isogenic lines to Myanmar isolates of *X. oryzae* pv. *oryzae*

Name of lines	Genes involved	Disease reaction and lesion length (cm) to bacterial isolate		
		MKM 13	M3-1	MKM39
IR 24	—	S (17.1)	S (12.6)	R (0.5)
IRBB 1	<i>Xa1</i>	S (10.8)	S (7.8)	R (0.5)
IRBB2	<i>Xa1</i> , <i>Xa2</i>	S (11.3)	S (7.6)	R (0.5)
IRBB 3	<i>Xa3</i>	R (3.2)	R (1.4)	R (0.5)
IRBB 4	<i>Xa4</i>	S (11.9)	R (1.8)	R (0.5)
IRBB 5	<i>xa5</i>	S (9.6)	R (0.9)	R (0.5)
IRBB 7	<i>Xa7</i>	S (9.0)	R (0.5)	R (0.5)
IRBB 10	<i>Xa10</i>	S (13.7)	S (9.0)	R (0.5)
IRBB 11	<i>Xa11</i>	S (11.4)	S (8.8)	R (0.5)
IRBB 14	<i>Xa14</i>	S (10.6)	S (7.6)	R (0.5)
IRBB 21	<i>Xa21</i>	R (0.9)	R (2.3)	R (0.5)

<sup>a)</sup> Reaction at tillering stage, R: resistant, S: susceptible



**Fig. 2.** Disease reaction patterns to Myanmar bacterial isolates

**Table 2.** Reaction of Myanmar rice varieties to the Myanmar bacterial isolates of *X. oryzae* pv. *oryzae*

Local varieties name	Region	Disease reaction groups	Disease reaction and Lesion length (cm) to bacterial isolate		
			MKM 13	M3-1	MKM39
ho Kaw Gyi	Yangon Division	III	S (6.8)	S (11.8)	R (5.0)
Pho Kaw Lay	Yangon Division	II	S (12.3)	S (11.2)	S (7.6)
Na Kywe	Yangon Division	II	S (6.8)	S (10.0)	R (5.0)
Thone Hnan Pwa	Yangon Division	III	S (10.3)	S (10.8)	R (4.3)
Sein Kamakyi	Bago Division	III	S (8.7)	S (9.8)	R (1.4)
Kywet Thwa	Bago Division	III	S (11.8)	S (14.3)	R (2.3)
Shwe Dinga	Bago Division	II	S (11.7)	S (13.7)	S (7.6)
Let Yone Gyi	Ayeyarwady Division	III	S (14.3)	S (17.4)	R (3.7)
Nga Kywe Phyu	Ayeyarwady Division	III	S (12.1)	S (12.4)	R (0.3)
Hnan Kar	Ayeyarwady Division	III	S (13.1)	S (13.5)	R (2.6)
Law Thaw Phin Me	Mandalay Division	II	S (14.5)	S (17.0)	S (8.9)
Shwe Bo Taing Hteik Pan	Mandalay Division	III	S (9.6)	S (10.9)	R (3.8)
Ok Shit Phyu	Mandalay Division	II	S (12.0)	S (14.0)	S (6.8)
Pin Shwe War	Mandalay Division	III	S (15.6)	S (18.2)	R (0.2)
Kalar Htun	Mandalay Division	II	S (16.8)	S (17.8)	S (10.3)
Thone Hnan Latt	Mandalay Division	II	S (13.0)	S (13.3)	S (7.7)
Yin Ka Lay	Tanintharyi Division	III	S (16.3)	S (17.9)	R (0.2)
Wun Htauk	Tanintharyi Division	II	S (14.5)	S (12.4)	S (6.3)
Kyauk Htu	Tanintharyi Division	III	S (12.5)	S (12.0)	R (4.4)
A Pyo Chaw	Sagaing Division	III	S (12.9)	S (12.5)	R (3.4)
Kyauk Latt Phyu	Sagaing Division	II	S (15.5)	S (14.1)	R (0.2)
Tay Lay	Sagaing Division	IV	S (10.6)	R (1.6)	R (0.8)
Khao Mu Si	Shan State	III	S (16.0)	S (17.8)	R (0.2)
Khai Man Mu	Shan State	II	S (15.8)	S (15.1)	S (5.1)
Khao Sa Lwe	Shan State	II	S (19.9)	S (18.1)	S (5.9)
Aung Ze Ya	Mon State	III	S (10.3)	S (14.5)	R (0.2)
Ekariin Kwa	Mon State	III	S (11.6)	S (13.7)	R (0.2)
Kari Let Yone	Mon State	III	S (20.7)	S (18.4)	R (0.2)
Khun Naya Po	Kachin State	III	S (6.5)	S (16.6)	R (4.9)
Moe Thay	Kachin State	II	S (18.7)	S (17.3)	S (11.1)
Chin Pa ahee	Kachin State	II	S (9.7)	S (12.5)	S (6.7)
Daw Tit	Chin State	II	S (19.8)	S (17.5)	S (5.2)
In Gar	Chin State	III	S (16.5)	S (15.3)	R (0.6)
Ekayin Kwa	Kayin State	III	S (10.2)	S (14.1)	R (3.8)
Ekayin Saw	Kayin State	IV	S (9.8)	R (0.6)	R (0.8)
Lala Gyi	Kayin State	III	S (12.6)	S (16.1)	R (0.5)
Gaung To	Kayah State	II	S (12.7)	S (16.1)	S (8.6)
Nga Yar Pauk	Kayah State	I	R (4.8)	R (5.0)	R (1.5)
Ohn Ni Ma	Rakhine State	III	S (10.1)	S (13.0)	R (1.8)
Sa O MeP	Rakhine State	II	S (16.7)	S (15.6)	S (8.9)

R: resistant S: susceptible

### Reaction of Pyramiding lines to Myanmar isolates

As can be seen in Table 3, gene pyramiding with four gene combinations *Xa3* + *Xa4*, *Xa3* + *Xa10*, *Xa4* + *xa5* and *Xa4* + *xa5* + *xa13* + *Xa21* were resistant to all the isolates. Lesion lengths on gene pyramids were significantly shorter than single-gene near-isogenic lines even though the gene pyramids were inoculated with isolates that were virulent to individual *Xa* genes. The pyramids were significantly more resistant to all isolates than their respective individual *Xa* gene. For example, complimentary gene action was observed in *Xa4* (11.9 cm) or *xa5* (9.6 cm) where both single genes are susceptible to bacterial isolate MKM13, but the gene pyramid (*Xa4* + *xa5*) show significantly shorter lesion.

### DISCUSSION

The identification of useful resistance genes through virulence analysis will support a gene deployment approach to managing the disease using resistant cultivars. On the basis of host-pathogen interaction, Myanmar rice varieties were classified into four groups. Almost of Myanmar cultivars were belonged to type II and III which were susceptible to bacterial isolates M13 and M3-1. Among 40 Myanmar varieties, cv. Nga Yar Pauk from Kayah division was resistant to the three Myanmar bacterial isolates. This variety will be useful for rice breeding resource.

Although bacterial isolate MKM39 was avirulent to IR24 which carries no major resistance gene except *Xa16* and *Xa18*, fourteen Myanmar cultivars belonging to type II were susceptible to this isolate. The results indicated that IR24 may harbor an additional resistance gene or genes to MKM39. Similar results were observed by Endo and Ogawa (2004), and Noda *et al.* (1996).

In this study, we evaluated a set of lines with gene

combinations in IR24 background, along with their individual genes, for their reaction to all the isolates. Interestingly, the line with *Xa4* + *xa5* were resistance to MKM13 that were virulent to single genes (*Xa4* and *xa5*), presumably due to the complementary action of the resistance genes.

As a result, IRBB 3 (*Xa3*), IRBB 21 (*Xa21*), IRBB3/7 (*Xa3* + *Xa7*), IRBB3/10 (*Xa3* + *Xa10*), IRBB4/5 (*Xa4* + *xa5*), IRBB4/5/13/21 (*Xa4* + *xa5* + *xa13* + *Xa21*) and Nga Yar Pauk were resistant to all the isolates tested. Therefore, a breeding program should be initiated to transfer these resistance genes from the differential varieties to high quality Myanmar rice varieties to control the disease effectively.

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**Table 3.** Reaction of pyramiding lines to Myanmar isolates to the Myanmar isolates of *X. oryzae* pv. *oryzae*

Name of lines	Genes involved	Disease reaction and Lesion length (cm) to bacterial isolate		
		MKM 13	M3-1	MKM39
IR 24		S (17.1)	S (12.6)	R (0.5)
IRBB 1/4	<i>Xa1</i> , <i>Xa4</i>	S (9.3)	R (1.5)	R (0.5)
IRBB 1/5	<i>Xa1</i> , <i>xa5</i>	S (6.7)	R (0.9)	R (0.5)
IRBB 1/7	<i>Xa1</i> , <i>Xa7</i>	S (11.6)	R (0.5)	R (0.5)
IRBB 1/10	<i>Xa1</i> , <i>Xa10</i>	S (9.6)	S (9.5)	R (0.5)
IRBB 1/11	<i>Xa1</i> , <i>Xa11</i>	S (5.7)	R (5.0)	R (0.5)
IRBB 3/7	<i>Xa3</i> , <i>Xa7</i>	R (0.9)	R (0.5)	R (0.5)
IRBB 3/10	<i>Xa3</i> , <i>Xa10</i>	R (2.7)	R (0.5)	R (0.5)
IRBB 4/5	<i>Xa4</i> , <i>xa5</i>	R (3.9)	R (0.5)	R (0.5)
IRBB 4/7	<i>Xa4</i> , <i>Xa7</i>	S (5.3)	R (0.5)	R (0.5)
IRBB 4/10	<i>Xa4</i> , <i>Xa10</i>	S (6.1)	R (0.5)	R (0.5)
IRBB 4/11	<i>Xa4</i> , <i>Xa11</i>	S (5.1)	R (0.5)	R (0.5)
IRBB 5/7	<i>xa5</i> , <i>Xa7</i>	S (8.8)	R (0.5)	R (0.5)
IRBB 5/10	<i>xa5</i> , <i>Xa10</i>	S (12.4)	R (0.5)	R (0.5)
IRBB 5/11	<i>xa5</i> , <i>Xa11</i>	S (13.8)	R (0.5)	R (0.5)
IRBB 7/10	<i>Xa7</i> , <i>Xa10</i>	S (13.3)	R (0.5)	R (0.5)
IRBB 10/11	<i>Xa10</i> , <i>Xa11</i>	S (10.5)	S (11.1)	R (0.5)
IRBB 4/5/13/21	<i>Xa-4/xa-5/xa13/21</i>	R (0.5)	R (0.5)	R (0.5)

R: resistant S: susceptible



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