

## REVIEW

# Thermo-sensitivity and Photoperiod Sensitivity Genes Controlling Heading Time and Flower Bud Initiation in Sorghum, *Sorghum bicolor* Moench

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### Abstract

The timing of heading and flower bud initiation is critical for reproductive success. In sorghum (*Sorghum bicolor* Moench), which is a facultative short-day plant, we propose that the thermo-sensitivity and photoperiod sensitivity genes account for the relationship between heading time and the environment. In experiments in fields and growth cabinets, the heading time of cultivars such as cv.Hiromidori accelerated with reduction in total leaf number by exposure to temperatures lower than 20°C (i.e., the opposite phenomenon occurs at over 20°C); these cultivars were designated as B-type cultivars. The flower bud initiation of cultivars such as cv.Tentakata was induced by critical daylength below 12.25 hours; these cultivars were designated as C-type cultivars. In the inheritance study using populations derived from hybrids of B-type cultivars, thermo-sensitivity for heading response was controlled by a monogenic dominant gene (*T*) of late over early heading. The existence of two photoperiod sensitivity genes, *D*<sub>1</sub> and *D*<sub>2</sub>, which show complementary dominant effects, was found in populations derived from hybrids of C type cultivars, and the heading response of C type cultivars was expressed by the interaction both of a dominant thermo-sensitive gene (*T*) and complementary dominant photoperiod sensitivity genes (*D*<sub>1</sub>, *D*<sub>2</sub>). AFLP and RFLP analysis suggested that *T* was located at a genetic distance of 4.0 cM from the AFLP16 marker locus on chromosome 6.

**Discipline:** Plant breeding / Genetic resources

**Additional key words:** AFLP, complementary gene effect, daylength, heading response, inheritance

## Introduction

Flower bud initiation is the developmental turning point from the vegetative to the reproductive phase in plants. The timing of heading and flowering is critical for reproductive success, and the relationship between the developmental stage of plants and environmental factors such as photoperiod and temperature has been studied<sup>5,10,11,25</sup>.

Sorghum is a facultative short-day plant originating in tropical Africa<sup>5,10,11</sup>. The differentiation of sorghum cultivars associated with sorghum's adaptation to temperate environments and/or from low to high altitudes has involved changes in heading response for successful reproduction and grain production<sup>10</sup>. In sorghum, the natural mutations from photoperiod-sensitive to insensitive types and/or from thermo-sensitive to thermo-neutral types are considered to

be genetic factors for changing heading response<sup>14,15</sup>.

Sorghum cultivars adapted to temperate/sub-tropical climates in the United States exhibited a flowering time of 45 to 100 days, and four maturity genes, *Ma*<sub>1</sub> to *Ma*<sub>4</sub>, were used to explain the varietal differences of flowering time<sup>10</sup>. Miller et al.<sup>6</sup> reported that the dominant genes of *Ma*<sub>1</sub> and *Ma*<sub>2</sub> expressed photoperiod sensitivity in a critical photoperiod of 13 h. Almost all sorghums cultivated in Japan are F<sub>1</sub> hybrids produced by crosses between male-sterile grain sorghum strains and other strains such as hegari, sudangrass and sorgo, all of which have temperate adaptation<sup>14</sup>. The heading response of these F<sub>1</sub> hybrids has been explained on the basis of maturity genes as described by Major et al.<sup>5</sup>, Miller et al.<sup>6</sup>, and Quinby<sup>10</sup>, although there was variation. The heading time of the F<sub>1</sub> hybrids was between those of cross parents<sup>14</sup> and were less than that of 100-day Milo, which exhibited the latest flowering time with the genotype

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*Ma<sub>1</sub>Ma<sub>1</sub>Ma<sub>2</sub>Ma<sub>2</sub>Ma<sub>3</sub>Ma<sub>3</sub>Ma<sub>4</sub>Ma<sub>4</sub>*.

Two exceptions, however, were observed. One was observed in hybrids such as cv.Hiromidori (Norin ko-2: Tx390 x Regs.Hegari)<sup>13</sup>. The heading response of cv.Hiromidori was similar to that of Combine hegari<sup>11</sup>, but no clear genetic explanation was made in Quinby *et al.*<sup>11</sup> or Tarumoto<sup>13,14</sup> using Quinby's maturity genes<sup>10</sup>. The other is in new hybrids<sup>3</sup>, cv.Tentakata and cv.Kazetachi, developed by hybridization between grain sorghum lines with very early maturity and photoperiod insensitivity. The heading response of cv.Tentakata and cv.Kazetachi, which exhibited strong photoperiod sensitivity and very late heading time<sup>3,15</sup>, cannot be explained by Quinby's maturity genes<sup>10</sup>. To account for the observed heading response of the above two kinds of hybrid cultivars, Tarumoto *et al.*<sup>16</sup> proposed a thermo-sensitivity gene (*T*) and a photoperiod sensitivity gene (*D*). In order to prove the hypothesis, physiological and genetic studies of thermo-sensitivity and photoperiod sensitivity in sorghum were conducted<sup>13,16-22</sup>. This report deals with the heading response and/or flower bud initiation of sorghum cultivars related to temperature and daylength, and the inheritance of thermo-sensitivity and photoperiod sensitivity in hybrid sorghum.

### Genetic variation and the effect of the environment on the heading time of sorghum

Quinby<sup>10</sup> and Quinby *et al.*<sup>11</sup> characterized four maturity gene loci, *Ma<sub>1</sub>*, *Ma<sub>2</sub>*, *Ma<sub>3</sub>* and *Ma<sub>4</sub>*, for heading/flowering variation in sorghum cultivars adapted to temperate/sub-tropical climates in the United States, and the loci have

accounted for much of the heading variation in sorghum. However, heading variation that cannot be explained by the four maturity loci<sup>5,10-11</sup> was observed in cv.Hiromidori<sup>14</sup>, and cv.Tentakata and cv.Kazetachi<sup>3</sup>. Therefore, I studied the heading response in sorghum cultivars<sup>16</sup> and showed the effect of the environment on heading time and flower bud initiation in F<sub>1</sub> hybrids such as cv.Hiromidori, cv.Tentakata and cv.Kazetachi<sup>20-21</sup>.

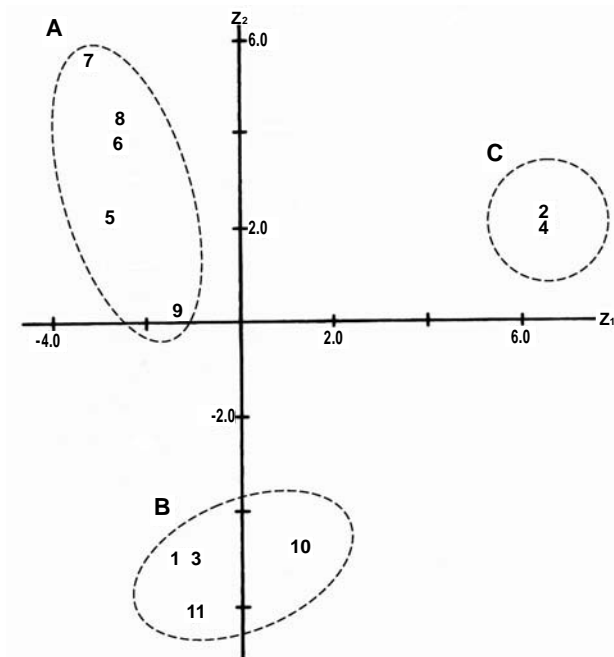
To examine genetic variation in heading response, four F<sub>1</sub> hybrids (cv.Suzuho, cv.Hiromidori, cv.Tentakata and cv.Kazetachi) and their cross parents shown in Table 1 were grown at three locations (Shioziri, Nagano, latitude 36°10' N; Sakai, Osaka, latitude 34°33' N; Ohsumi, Kagoshima, latitude 31°23' N) using four planting dates at 20-day intervals (20 May, 10 June, 1 July, and 20 July) in 1996<sup>16</sup>. In all cases, the daylength during the period of 40 days after planting was more than 13 h. Under these long daylength, the cultivars were classified into the following three types according to their heading response<sup>16</sup>: A-type (Chohin232, Tx3048, cv.Suzuho, Chohin1682 and Tx390): heading response was neutral to temperature and daylength; B-type (MS138, MS79, Regs.Hegari and cv.Hiromidori): heading time was accelerated by a minimum temperature below 20°C after the seventh leaf stage; and C-type (cv.Kazetachi and cv.Tentakata): flower bud initiation was induced by less than 12.5 h daylength after the seventh leaf stage. In a principal component analysis on days to heading resulted in 12 experiments (3 locations x 4 plantings), the cultivars were clearly classified into A, B and C types as shown in Fig. 1. From the result, it was assumed that a thermo-sensitivity gene (*t*) and a photoperiod sensitivity gene (*D*) were present

**Table 1. Sorghum cultivars used in this study**

Cultivar	Origin	Breeding (Introduction) organization	Genotype for maturity <sup>a)</sup>
Tx3048	Redbine sel.3048	(Texas A&M Univ., U.S.A.)	<i>ma<sub>1</sub>Ma<sub>2</sub>ma<sub>3</sub>Ma<sub>4</sub></i>
Chohin1684 (1) <sup>b)</sup>	Senkinshiro	(Nagano Animal Ind. Exp. Sta., Japan)	--
Suzuho	F <sub>1</sub> (Tx3048 x 1)	Nagano Animal Ind. Exp. Sta., Japan	--
Tx390	Texas Blackhull Kafir	(Texas A&M Univ., U.S.A.)	<i>ma<sub>1</sub>Ma<sub>2</sub>Ma<sub>3</sub>Ma<sub>4</sub></i>
Regs.Hegari (2) <sup>b)</sup>	Hegari	(Texas A&M Univ., U.S.A.)	<i>Ma<sub>1</sub>Ma<sub>2</sub>Ma<sub>3</sub>ma<sub>4</sub></i>
Hiromidori	F <sub>1</sub> (Tx390 x 2)	Hiroshima Agr. Exp. Sta., Japan	--
MS175	932233	Purdue Univ., U.S.A.	--
Chohin 237 (3) <sup>b)</sup>	Daikoukaku	(Nagano Animal Ind. Exp. Sta., Japan)	--
Natsuibuki	F <sub>1</sub> (MS175 x 3)	Nagano Animal Ind. Exp. Sta., Japan	--
MS79	IS2930	Purdue Univ., U.S.A.	--
Chohin232 (4) <sup>b)</sup>	74LH3213	CIMMYT, Mexico	--
Tentakata	F <sub>1</sub> (MS79 x 4)	Nagano Animal Ind. Exp. Sta., Japan	--
MS138	932233	Purdue Univ., U.S.A.	--
Kazetachi	F <sub>1</sub> (MS138 x 4)	Nagano Animal Ind. Exp. Sta., Japan	--

<sup>a)</sup> After Quinby (1967)

<sup>b)</sup> Figures in parentheses following variety show the number of corresponding male parents



**Fig. 1. Scatter diagram of 11 sorghum cultivars according to the first ( $Z_1$ ) and second ( $Z_2$ ) principal component scores extracted by a principal component analysis on day to heading (3 experimental places x 4 planting dates)**

- Note: 1) 3 experimental places: Shiogiri, Nagano; Sakai, Osaka; Kanoya, Kagoshima.  
 2) 4 planting dates: May 20, June 10, July 1, and July 20 in 1996.  
 3) Figures in the diagram show the entry number of cultivars.  
 A-type: 5.Chohin232, 6.Tx3048, 7.Suzuho, 8.Chohin1684, 9.Tx390  
 B-type: 1.MS138, 3.MS79, 10.Hiromidori, 11.Regsg.Hegari.  
 C-type: 2.Kazetachi, 4.Tentakata

and that  $tt$  displayed recessive epistasis to  $D$ .

In order to show the relationship between heading type and the environment, four B-type cultivars (MS138, MS79, Regsg.Hegari, and cv.Hiromidori) and two A-type cultivars (Tx390 and Senkinshiro) were studied at various daylengths and temperatures in growth cabinets<sup>2,4,20</sup>. At a continuous high temperature of 25°C/25°C (day/night), the days to flower bud initiation (DFBI) of all six cultivars were noticeably shortened in 12.0 h daylength, compared to 12.5 h and 14.0 h daylength, and the DFBI in 12.5 h and 14.0 h daylength were almost the same. In daylength longer than 12.5 h, the DFBI of B-type were accelerated 10 to 26 days in 30°C/20°C(day/night) temperature compared to a continuous temperature of 25°C/25°C(day/night). The acceleration in flower bud initiation at low night temperature (minimum temperature) in long daylength increased with the reduction in night temperature from 20°C to 15°C, and this was linked with the reduction of total leaf number until flower bud initiation and heading<sup>20</sup>. In other words, reduction in total leaf

number by exposure to minimum temperatures lower than 20°C induced earlier flower bud initiation in B-type cultivars such as cv.Hiromidori (i.e., the opposite phenomenon occurs at over 20°C). As for the heading response of B-type cultivars, Uozumi<sup>26</sup> and Uozumi et al.<sup>23,24,25</sup> obtained the same results and noted that the effect of minimum temperatures lower than 20°C became apparent after the eighth leaf stage. The heading response of B-type cultivars is summarized in Table 2.

To find the critical daylength and its effective timing for C-type cultivars, cv.Kazetachi and their cross parents were tested for flower bud initiation in five different daylengths and two different temperature conditions in growth cabinets<sup>4,21</sup>. From the results, the threshold daylength for flower bud initiation of cv.Kazetachi was found to be 12.25 h, and the 12.25 h daylength was effective 10 to 30 days after emergence of seedling (third to fifth leaf stage)<sup>21</sup>. The heading response of C-type cultivars such as cv.Kazetachi is summarized in Table 2. Also, as shown in Table 2, the optimum daylength of A, B and C-type cultivars to flower bud initiation was 12.0 h<sup>21</sup>.

### Inheritance of thermo-sensitivity and photoperiod sensitivity in B- and C-type hybrid sorghum

In the previous section, the unique heading response of B- and C-type cultivars were considered to be genetic ones and their response to the environmental effects were revealed<sup>20-21</sup>. However, there had been no inheritance studies of thermo-sensitivity and photoperiod sensitivity<sup>16</sup>, so I studied the inheritance mode of thermo-sensitivity and photoperiod sensitivity genes<sup>16-19</sup> in field conditions in long daylength (>13 h) and at temperatures over 20°C for at least 40 days after sowing<sup>1</sup>, and identified the chromosomal location of the thermo-sensitivity gene using AFLP markers<sup>8,9</sup>.

### 1. Inheritance of a thermo-sensitivity gene controlling the heading response of B-type cultivars

A thermo-sensitivity gene in sorghum accounts for the acceleration of heading response when plants are exposed to temperatures lower than 20°C in long daylength<sup>15,16</sup>. In order to identify the inheritance mode of the thermo-sensitivity gene, the  $F_1$ ,  $F_2$ ,  $F_3$  and  $BC_1F_1$  populations of cv. Hiromidori and cv.Natsuibuki (Norin Ko-9) in Table 3 were evaluated for the days to emergence of flag leaf (DEFL) in field conditions in long daylength (>13 h) and at temperatures over 20°C for 51 days after sowing in 1999 and 2000<sup>17</sup>. The  $F_1$  hybrids, cv.Hiromidori : Tx390 (early) x Regsg. Hegari (late), and cv.Natsuibuki : MS175 (late) x Daikoukaku (early), showed the same heading response as B-type cultivars such as Regsg.Hegari and MS175, which showed a delay in DEFL at temperatures over 20°C, sug-

**Table 2. Types of heading response and/or flower bud initiation (FBI), their relationship with minimum temperature (Min-T) and daylength (DL), and the genotypes predicted by the heading response to environmental condition**

	DL > 12.5 h	DL < 12.25 h	DL ≤ 12.0 h
Min-T > 20°C	A-type ( <i>tdd</i> , <i>ttD</i> -) <sup>1)</sup> : Heading emergence (HE) of almost cultivars including Suzuho, MS79, Tx3048, Chohin1684, Tx3048, Tx-390 & Chouhin 237 is accelerated, but HE of B-type cultivars like Hiromidori is delayed	(not yet observed)	In all cultivars of (A + B + C) type, FBI is induced when the vegetative growth is attained, and earlier HE is observed
Min-T ≤ 20°C	B-type ( <i>T-dd</i> ) <sup>1)</sup> : HE of Hiromidori, Natsuibuki, Reg.Hegari, MS138 & MS175 is accelerated	C-type ( <i>T-D</i> -) <sup>1)</sup> : FBI of Kazetachi & Tentaka is induced	Ditto in the above

1) In genotypes tentatively predicted by the heading response, A-type : *tdd*, *ttD*-, B-type : *T-dd*, C-type : *T-D*-.

Note) Relationship between thermo-sensitivity gene (*T*- > *tt*) and photoperiod sensitivity gene (*D*- > *dd*): (a.) *tt* shows recessive epistasis over *DD* and *Dd*, and the genotype with *ttD*- is neutral to long daylength, (b.) *T*- and *D*- act complementarily, and flower bud initiation of the genotype *T-D*- is induced only under a short daylength less than 12.25 h.

**Table 3. DEFL(days to emergence of flag leaf) in parental varieties included Hiromidori and Natsuibuki, and segregation pattern for DEFL in F<sub>2</sub> and backcross populations of Hiromidori and Natsuibuki during the summer of 2000**

Variety and/or population	Total number	No. of plants segregated into		Expected ratio (early : late)	χ <sup>2</sup>	P
		Early	Late			
		(early < 60) <sup>b)</sup>	(late > 60)			
Tx390	19	19(45) <sup>b)</sup>	0			
Regs.Hegari (RH)	16	0	16(75)			
Hiromidori	22	0	22(78)			
F <sub>2</sub>	266	56	210	1 : 3	2.210	0.10-0.25
BC <sub>1</sub> F <sub>1</sub> (Tx390 x F <sub>1</sub> ) <sup>a)</sup>	185	84	101	1 : 1	1.560	0.30-0.10
BC <sub>1</sub> F <sub>1</sub> (F <sub>1</sub> x RH) <sup>a)</sup>	146	0	146	no segregation		
		(early < 46) <sup>b)</sup>	(late > 46)			
MS175	30	0	30(62) <sup>b)</sup>			
Daikoukaku (DK)	23	23(34)	0			
Natsuibuki	25	0	25(64)			
F <sub>2</sub>	209	58	151	1 : 3	0.834	0.50-0.30
BC <sub>1</sub> F <sub>1</sub> (MS175 x F <sub>1</sub> ) <sup>a)</sup>	96	0	96	no segregation		
BC <sub>1</sub> F <sub>1</sub> (F <sub>1</sub> x DK) <sup>a)</sup>	173	80	93	1 : 1	0.977	0.50-0.30

<sup>a)</sup> BC<sub>1</sub> F<sub>1</sub> (Tx390 x F<sub>1</sub>) were derived from a cross between Tx390 and Hiromidori. BC<sub>1</sub> F<sub>1</sub> (F<sub>1</sub> x RH) were derived from a cross between hand-emasculated Hiromidori and Regs.Hegari.

BC<sub>1</sub> F<sub>1</sub> (MS175 x F<sub>1</sub>) were derived from a cross between MS175A and Natsuibuki. BC<sub>1</sub> F<sub>1</sub> (F<sub>1</sub> x DK) were derived from a cross between hand-emasculated Natsuibuki and Daikoukaku.

<sup>b)</sup> Figures in parentheses show DEFL.

gesting the presence of a dominant thermo-sensitivity gene. In two different F<sub>2</sub> populations, the segregation of early and late plants for DEFL fitted the expected 1 : 3 ratio (Table 3)<sup>17</sup>, indicating that a single dominant gene induced late heading. The inheritance mode was confirmed in two dif-

ferent BC<sub>1</sub>F<sub>1</sub> populations (Table 3)<sup>17</sup>, where the expected 1 : 1 (early : late) ratio was observed in the segregation of the BC<sub>1</sub>F<sub>1</sub> of (Tx390 x F<sub>1</sub>) and (F<sub>1</sub> x Daikoukaku). As expected, no segregation was observed in BC<sub>1</sub>F<sub>1</sub> populations of (F<sub>1</sub> x Regs.Hegari) and (MS175 x F<sub>1</sub>). These results suggest that

**Table 4. Response for DEFL of parental varieties included Tentaka and Kazetachi, and segregation pattern for DEFL in F<sub>2</sub> and backcross populations of Tentaka and Kazetachi during the summer of 2000 at Sakai, Osaka Prefecture University**

Varieties and/or population	Total number	No. of plants segregated into			Expected ratio (early : middle : late)	$\chi^2$	P
		early ( $< 51$ ) <sup>b)</sup>	middle (51 - 99)	late ( $> 99$ )			
MS79	14	0	14 (56) <sup>b)</sup>	0			
Chohin232	15	15 (38)	0	0			
Tentaka	10	0	0	10 (105)			
F <sub>2</sub>	265	27	132	106	7 : 30 : 27	1.91	0.50-0.25
BC <sub>1</sub> F <sub>1</sub> <sup>a)</sup>	286	92	126	68	1 : 2 : 1	5.33	0.10-0.05
<hr/>							
		( $< 51$ ) <sup>b)</sup>	(51 - 99)	( $> 99$ )			
MS138	13	0	13 (57) <sup>b)</sup>	0			
Chohin232	16	10 (38)	0	0			
Kazetachi	10	0	0	10 (105)			
F <sub>2</sub>	353	45	166	142	7 : 30 : 27	1.38	0.75-0.50
BC <sub>1</sub> F <sub>1</sub> <sup>a)</sup>	103	22	60	21	1 : 2 : 1	0.24	0.90-0.75

<sup>a)</sup> BC<sub>1</sub> F<sub>1</sub> were derived from crossing hand-emasculated Kazetachi and Tentaka by Chohin232.

<sup>b)</sup> Figures in parentheses show DEFL

the thermo-sensitivity inducing late heading in B-type cultivars is controlled by a monogenic dominant gene of late over early heading, and the symbol *TT* is assigned to the genotype in which flower bud initiation is accelerated by exposure to temperatures lower than 20°C in long daylength<sup>17</sup>.

## 2. Inheritance of photoperiod sensitivity and thermo-sensitivity genes controlling the heading response in C-type cultivars

The photoperiod sensitivity gene in sorghum postpones flower bud initiation in C-type cultivars until the cultivars meet in a short daylength below 12.5 h after the seventh leaf stage<sup>15</sup>. To identify the inheritance mode in C-type cultivars, the F<sub>1</sub>, F<sub>2</sub>, BC<sub>1</sub>F<sub>1</sub> and BC<sub>1</sub>F<sub>2</sub> populations of cv.Tentaka and cv.Kazetachi in Table 4 were evaluated for days to emergence of flag leaf (DEFL) in field conditions in long daylength ( $>13$  h) and at minimum temperatures over 20°C for 51 days after sowing in 1999 and 2000<sup>18</sup>. The F<sub>1</sub> hybrids, cv.Tentaka (MS79 x Chohin232), and cv.Kazetachi (MS138 x Chohin232), exhibited strong photoperiod sensitivity and very late DEFL, although their parental cultivars were photoperiod insensitive (Table 2 and 4)<sup>18</sup>. In two different F<sub>2</sub> populations, the segregation of plants for DEFL fitted the expected 7 : 30 : 27 (early : middle : late) ratio under the three genes hypothesis of photoperiod sensitivity and thermo-sensitivity (Table 4)<sup>18</sup>, designating *TtD<sub>1</sub>d<sub>1</sub>D<sub>2</sub>d<sub>2</sub>* for cv.Tentaka and cv.Kazetachi (Table 5)<sup>18</sup>. In addition, the expected ratio of (early : middle : late = 1 : 2 : 1) was observed in the segregation of BC<sub>1</sub>F<sub>1</sub> of (cv.Tentaka x Chohin232) and (cv.Kazetachi x Chohin232)<sup>18</sup>. These

results suggested that two photoperiod sensitivity genes, *D<sub>1</sub>* and *D<sub>2</sub>*, which showed a complementary dominant effect, were effective, and the heading response of C-type hybrids, cv.Tentaka and cv.Kazetachi, were expressed by the interactive regulation both of a dominant thermo-sensitivity gene (*T*) and complementary dominant photoperiod sensitivity genes (*D<sub>1</sub>*, *D<sub>2</sub>*)<sup>18</sup>, that is the genotype *TtD<sub>1</sub>d<sub>1</sub>D<sub>2</sub>d<sub>2</sub>*.

Rooney and Aydin<sup>12</sup> identified other maturity genes (*Ma<sub>5</sub>* and *Ma<sub>6</sub>*), and noted that F<sub>1</sub> hybrids crossed between sorghum cultivars carrying *Ma<sub>5</sub>ma<sub>6</sub>* and the special inbred line carrying *ma<sub>5</sub>Ma<sub>6</sub>* had a critical daylength of 12.33 h. C-type cultivars with genotype *TtD<sub>1</sub>d<sub>1</sub>D<sub>2</sub>d<sub>2</sub>*<sup>18-19,21</sup> and hybrids<sup>12</sup> carrying *Ma<sub>5</sub>Ma<sub>6</sub>* genes exhibited almost the same photoperiod sensitivity. However, the hybrid with a *tTtD<sub>1</sub>d<sub>1</sub>D<sub>2</sub>d<sub>2</sub>* genotype exhibited a critical daylength of 13.0 h<sup>18,19</sup>, and C-type cultivars with a *TtD<sub>1</sub>d<sub>1</sub>D<sub>2</sub>d<sub>2</sub>* genotype exhibited a critical daylength of 12.25 h with the interaction between *D<sub>1</sub>D<sub>2</sub>* and *T* genes<sup>18,19,21</sup>. Therefore, the photoperiod sensitivity, *D<sub>1</sub>* and *D<sub>2</sub>*, were considered to differ from the maturity genes, *Ma<sub>5</sub>* and *Ma<sub>6</sub>*, in their genetic regulation and critical daylength.

The heading types of cultivars used in this experiment and their genotypes for thermo-sensitivity and photoperiod sensitivity are listed in Table 5<sup>18</sup>.

## 3. Identification of the chromosomal location of the thermo-sensitivity gene using AFLP markers

In order to identify the thermo-sensitivity gene (*T*) in B-type sorghum cultivars using AFLP markers, DNA markers linked to the *T* gene were screened by bulk analysis with amplified fragment-length polymorphism (AFLP). Fourteen dominant markers and one co-dominant marker were

**Table 5. Types of heading response in Table 2 and genotypes estimated from Table 3 and 4**

Cross	Cultivar	Type of heading response	Genotype
Female	Tx390	A	<i>ttd<sub>1</sub>d<sub>1</sub>d<sub>2</sub>d<sub>2</sub></i> or <i>ttd<sub>1</sub>d<sub>1</sub>D<sub>2</sub>D<sub>2</sub></i>
Male	Regs.Hegari	B	<i>TTd<sub>1</sub>d<sub>1</sub>D<sub>2</sub>D<sub>2</sub></i>
F <sub>1</sub>	Hiromidori	B	<i>Ttd<sub>1</sub>d<sub>1</sub>D<sub>2</sub>d<sub>2</sub></i> .
Female	MS175	B	<i>TTd<sub>1</sub>d<sub>1</sub>D<sub>2</sub>D<sub>2</sub></i>
Male	Chouhin 237	A	<i>ttd<sub>1</sub>d<sub>1</sub>d<sub>2</sub>d<sub>2</sub></i> or <i>ttd<sub>1</sub>d<sub>1</sub>D<sub>2</sub>D<sub>2</sub></i>
F <sub>1</sub>	Natsuibuki	B	<i>Ttd<sub>1</sub>d<sub>1</sub>D<sub>2</sub>d<sub>2</sub></i> .
Female	MS79	B	<i>TTd<sub>1</sub>d<sub>1</sub>D<sub>2</sub>D<sub>2</sub></i>
Male	Chohin232	A	<i>ttD<sub>1</sub>D<sub>1</sub>d<sub>2</sub>d<sub>2</sub></i>
F <sub>1</sub>	Tentakata	C	<i>TtD<sub>1</sub>d<sub>1</sub>D<sub>2</sub>d<sub>2</sub></i> .
Female	MS138	B	<i>TTd<sub>1</sub>d<sub>1</sub>D<sub>2</sub>D<sub>2</sub></i>
Male	Chohin232	A	<i>ttD<sub>1</sub>D<sub>1</sub>d<sub>2</sub>d<sub>2</sub></i>
F <sub>1</sub>	Kazetachi	C	<i>TtD<sub>1</sub>d<sub>1</sub>D<sub>2</sub>d<sub>2</sub></i> .

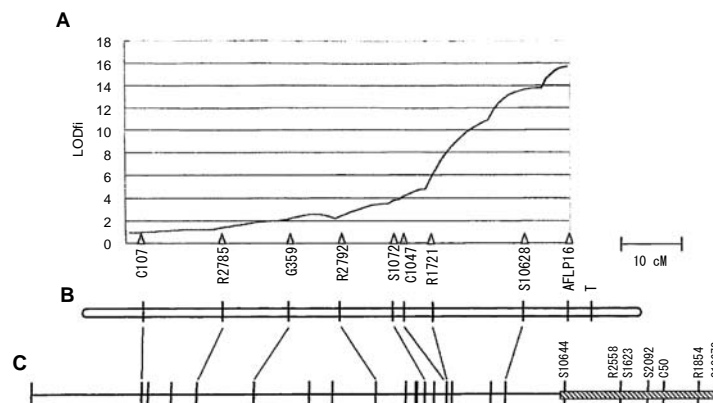
screened from 1024 AFLP markers and seven of them could be assigned to a linkage map. Linkage analysis using 33 individuals from the BC<sub>1</sub>F<sub>2</sub> population, which were clearly classified as *tt* or *T-*, showed that the *T* locus for thermo-sensitivity was located at 3.2cM distance from the marker AFLP16<sup>8</sup>. Restriction fragment length polymorphism (RFLP) analysis was carried out to find the more critical region of AFLP16 by comparison with 145 RFLP markers already mapped on the authentic sorghum genetic map<sup>7</sup>. As shown in Fig. 2, the locus for thermo-sensitivity was estimated to be located on chromosome 6 at a distance of 4.0 cM from the AFLP 16 marker<sup>9</sup>.

## Conclusion

This report deals with the heading response and/or flower bud initiation in two kinds of hybrid cultivars (B and

C types), which were not accounted for by the maturity genes of Quinby<sup>10</sup> and Quinby et al.<sup>11</sup> The heading response of B-type cultivars such as cv.Hiromidori accelerated with a reduction in total leaf number at minimum temperatures lower than 20°C (i.e., the opposite phenomenon occurs at over 20°C). C-type cultivars such as cv.Tentakata and cv.Kazetachi had a critical daylength of 12.25 h and flower bud initiation was induced in a daylength below 12.25 h at minimum temperatures lower than 20°C. Effective timing in 12.25 h daylength was 10 to 30 days after emergence of seedling (third to fifth leaf stage). These results provided useful information for improving the yield potential and cultivation of sorghum<sup>24-27</sup>.

In the inheritance study, thermo-sensitivity for heading response was controlled by a monogenic dominant gene (*T*) of late over early heading. The heading response of C-type cultivars was expressed by the interaction of a dominant thermo-sensitive gene (*T*) and complementary dominant



**Fig. 2. The relationship between QTL analysis of DEFL and linkage analysis of thermo-sensitivity: A: QTL analysis of DEFL on chromosome 6, B: Linkage analysis of thermo-sensitivity as a single gene, C: Known Sorghum linkage map (Nagamura, Y. et al. 1998)**

Note: Hatched region was fixed by the segments of Daikoukaku.

photoperiod sensitivity genes ( $D_1$ ,  $D_2$ ). The locus for  $T$  was estimated to be on chromosome 6 at 4.0 cM from AFLP16 marker. These results will be useful for genetic and breeding studies in sorghum.

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