Strain selection in the edible brown seaweed Alaria esculenta: Genetic fingerprinting and hybridization studies under laboratory conditions

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Strain selection in the edible brown seaweed *Alaria esculenta:* Genetic fingerprinting and hybridization studies under laboratory conditions

Contract No. IR.9S.MR.Oll

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1. INTRODUCTION

The genus *Alaria* presently includes 12 species, 11 of which are located in the cold temperate North Pacific and only one is found in the North Atlantic (Widdowson, 1971). The North Atlantic species *Alaria esculenta* has two northern forms, A. *esculenta* forma *grandifolia* and *formapylaii* (LUning, 1990). The study presented here will concentrate on *Alaria esculenta,* the most common North Atlantic species.

1.1 Biogeography

Alaria esculenta was used in the past in both Scotland and Ireland for human consumption and fodder. It was also gathered and spread on infertile land and used as fertiliser (Newton, 1931; Guiry and Hession, 1996; Guiry, 1997). It is rich in sugars, proteins, vitamins and other trace metals and contains up to 42% alginic acid (Levring *etal.,* 1969; Indergaard & Minsaas, 1991; Lewallen & Lewallen, 1996). The species can be used for a variety of purposes from human consumption and alginate production to fodder and bodycare products (Guiry & B1unden, 1991; Guiry, 1997). Especially in North America *Alaria esculenta* and *Alaria marginata* are rapidly gaining popularity in the natural foods market (Lewallen & Lewallen, 1996). It also has potential as a foodstuff in aquaculture for herbivorous molluscs, e.g., abalone (Mai *et al.,* 1996).

Young *Alaria esculenta* (the only native species in Ireland) can be used as a substitute for *Undaria pinnatijida* (Wakame), a very popular seaweed in Asian countries with numerous applications and a yield over 300,000 t fresh weight per annum (Nisizawa *et al.* 1987; Indergaard & Minsaas, 1991; Druehl, 1988; Yamanaka & Akiyama, 1993; Lewallen & Lewallen, 1996).

The brown alga *Alaria esculenta,* which literally means 'edible wings', is a large brown seaweed belonging to the family *Alariaceae* of the order Laminariales (Kelp), and can reach a length up to 6 m (Guiry, 1997). Its short stipe gives rise to a long blade with a well-defined rib (Fig. 1). This seaweed forms the main canopy in exposed areas near or below the low-water mark to a depth of 35 m (LUning, 1990). *Alaria esculenta* is present in the North Pacific and North Atlantic, where it is located North as far as the winter sea ice and as far south as the 16° C summer isotherm, in the European North Atlantic represented by the French coast of Brittany (Lüning, 1990); Fig. 2. Its absence in the southern North Sea and English Channel is due to high summer water temperatures of over 16° C, which it cannot survive (Munda & Lüning, 1977). The species is found all around the hish coast, where rocky shores as a substratum are available (Sundene, 1962; Widdowson, 1971).

1.2 Utilisation

Experiments have shown that within 3 months a harvest of 9 t per hectare is possible (Kain & Dawes, 1987). *Alaria esculenta* is a fast-growing seaweed and can grow at up to 10 cm a day. Commercial potential for *Alaria esculenta* is considerable (Kain & Dawes, 1987; Kain, Holt & Dawes, 1990).

FIG. 1. HABIT OF *ALARIA ESCULENTA* SHOWING SOME MORPHOLOGICAL CHARACTERS.

1.3 Life history

Only during spring and in lesser amount during autumn two rows of ligulate sporophylls form in the upper parts of the stipe, the rachis (Widdowson, 1971). The sporophylls produce haploid spores by meiosis that germinate to form the haploid or gametophytic phase (male and female). Gametophytes produce the gametes (sperm and eggs) which fuse after fertilization to form a zygote. The zygote germinates to form diploid plantlets, the sporophytic phase. Thus the life history is that the large seaweed alternates with a microscopic filamentic phase (van den Hoek, 1996; Fig 3). *Alaria esculenta* is dioecious and has a heteromorphic diplohaplontic life history.

FIG. 2. THE DISTRIBUTION OF *ALARIA ESCULENTA* IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC AND THE NORTH PACIFIC OCEAN (AFTER LÜNING, 1990).

1.4 Hybridization experiments

Members of the Laminariaceae are able to cross inter- and intraspecific (tom Dieck, 1992; Egan *et al.,* 1990), and even intergeneric (Migita, 1984). Bolton *et al. (1983)*

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Lewis *et al.* (1986) produced interspecific hybrids of three *Macrocystis* species. They showed significantly different growth rates in different genetic groups. One of the selfcrossed individuals showed the lowest growth rate. They suggested that the observed differences in growth rate between genetic groups was due to genetic adaptation to the conditions of the locality of growth of the parental plants.

produced hybrids between Atlantic and Pacific *Larninaria* species with different growth rates and morphological characteristics. They concluded that the ability to produce these characters appeared to be genetically determined. Lüning *et al.* (1978) also produced crosses between *Larninaria* species from both sides of the Atlantic. They suggested that blade width in hybrid offspring could be sex linked to the male gametophytes, which is in agreement with the results of a study by Egan *et al. (1990).*

The temperature at which hybridization experiments are carried out plays an important role in the success of the crosses, as temperature will determine the production and release of gametes as well as the healthy growth of the sporophytes (tom Dieck, 1992). It can make a vast difference from which species the female gametophyte is provided as a successful cross may depend on this. Therefore it is important in hybridization studies to perform crosses and reciprocal crosses from every species (Egan *et al., 1990).*

Crossing experiments within the Laminariales are plagued with uncertainty because of the ability of female gametophytes to produce parthenogenic sporophytes. Parthenogenesis is a common feature of the members of the Laminariales (Nakahara & Nakamura, 1973; Lüning *et al.*, 1978; tom Dieck, 1992). Although most parthenogeneic sporophytes have an abnormal morphology, become stunted or irregular and do not survive more than a few mm in length (Bolton *et al., 1983).*

FIG. 3. LIFE CYCLE OF *ALARIA ESCULENTA.* THE SPOROPHYTE (A) PRODUCES SORI ON THE SPOROPHYLLS (B). SPORES *(D)* ARE PRODUCED IN THE SORI AFTER MEIOSIS IN UNILOCULAR SPORANGIA (C). SPORES (D) CONSISTING OF 50% MALE AND 50% FEMALE SETTLE AND GROW INTO MALE (E) AND FEMALE *(F)* GAMETOPHYTES RESPECTIVELY. MALE GAMETOPHYTES FORM SPERMS AND FERTILISE THE EGG FORMED ON THE OOGONIUM OF THE FEMALE GAMETOPHYTE. THE FERTILIZED EGG DEVELOPS INTO A ZYGOTE. WHICH DEVELOPS INTO YOUNG SPOROPHYTES (SPI). AFTER VAN DEN HOEK *ETAL., (1996).*

Increased incompatibility is often associated with greater geographical separation (Rueness, 1973; Guiry and West, 1983) but there are numerous examples where genetic differentiation occurs among populations separated by only short distances (Lewis *et al.,* 1986; Coyer *et al.,* 1997). Hybridization experiments may add valuable information to hypotheses of phylogenetic relationships (Lüning, 1990).

Hybridization experiments offer a means of assesing differentiation when correlated to specific environmental differences. However, interpretation of such experiments is not straightforward. Genetic differentiation may evolve without affecting compatibility and intersterility does not neccesarily indicate accumulation of a large number of genetic differences (Innes, 1984).

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In China, extensive studies on hybridization and inbreeding has led to stable and improved strains of *Laminaria japonica* with higher production and iodine contents. Large-scale production experiments showed that the new varieties yield up to 40% more biomass and iodine contents of 20-58% higher than the control plants. These new varieties are introduced to *Laminaria* farms and grown in large quantities in North China (Chaoyuan & Guangheng, 1987).

1.5 Population genetics

Morphology of lamina and stipe in *Alaria esculenta* can vary widely between specimens mainly, it seems, due to wave exposure, with broader lamina and longer stipes in more sheltered areas (Sundene, 1962; Widdowson, 1971; pers. observ.). Phenotypic plasticity is a common feature of members of the Laminariales (Norton *et al.,* 1982). Chapman (1974) found significant genetic differentiation between populations of *Laminaria* for stipe morphology. By contrast, in a study on the Pacific kelp *Costaria costata* no genetic differences were found between two morphologically distinct populations using restriction fragment length polymormhisms (RFLP) (Bhattacharya & Druehl, 1989). However, it is not known for the kelp *A. esculenta* if there is one variety in the Atlantic ocean (gene flow between populations, no founder effects) or more different varieties (no gene flow between popUlations). More varieties might indicate varieties with different optimal characteristics suitable for aquaculture.

RFLP is a common applied molecular tool to distinguish morphological similar popUlations (Hillis *et aI.,* 1996). It has been used in numerous algal studies (e.g., Rice & Bird, 1990; Bhattacharya & Druehl, 1989; Bhattacharya *etal.,* 1991; Lehman and Manhart, 1997). To demonstrate possible genetic differences in *Alaria* species with the RFLP technique two non-coding regions in the DNA were amplified. These are the Rubisco spacer which seperates the large and small subunits of the ribulose-l,5 biphosphate carboxylase/oxygenase genes and the nuclear ribosomal DNA (rDNA) internal transcribed spacer regions (ITS 1 and ITS2). These non-coding spacers are considered to be more variable than coding genes, because they are under the least degree of functional constraint (Saunders and Druehl, 1993). These spacers have been shown to provide good resolution in examining relationships among and within popUlations of green algae (Kooistra, 1992; Bakker, 1992) and red algae (van Oppen *et al., 1995).*

1.6 Kelp evolution **and** divergence

The outward morphological diversity of kelps suggests that kelps are an ancient assemblage, however, recent evidence suggest that kelp divergence started in the late

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OBJECTIVES

Miocene about (10-15 Ma) or even as late as late Pliocene (3-5 Ma) ago from a common ancestor (Estes & Steinberg, 1988; Saunders & Druehl, 1992). Starn *et al. (1988)* calculated that five *Laminaria* species diverged from a common ancestor 15-19 Ma ago most probably originating in the North Pacific and then invaded the North Atlantic after inundation of the Bering Land Bridge 3.5 Ma ago. This recent divergence event implies that North Atlantic *Laminaria* species probably have close relatives in the Pacific Ocean. Hybridisation experiments have shown this close relationship between Pacific and Atlantic *Laminaria* species (Bolton *et al.* 1983; tom Dieck, 1992). Stam *et al.* (1988) identified five Pacific *Laminaria* sister species for five Atlantic *Laminaria* species. Relationships between Pacific and Atlantic *Aiaria* species are unknown.

There were three main objectives for this study:

- I) To isolate, hybridize and grow strains of *Alaria esculenta* and other *Alaria* species from the Atlantic and Pacific to develop varieties with optimal characteristics for aquaculture in Ireland.
- 2) To identify genetic variation among *A. esculenta* strains from the Atlantic Ocean using the Restriction Fragment Length Polymorphism (RFLP) technique.
- 3) To obtain phylogenetic information about the relationships between North Atlantic and North Pacific species of the genus *Alaria* by hybridization experiments and fingerprinting

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

2.1 Cultivation and hybridization techniques

Five individual plants with mature sori at the sporophylls were sampled from the geographical locations given in Table I. Male and female gametophyte cultures from locations marked with an asterisk were send by the author mentioned.

 \triangleright By gently grinding the male and female gametophytes of the cross of interest in a mortar to produce a suspension of male and female filaments of 1-10 cells long. The fragments were then poured in Replidishes or small 20 ml Petri-dishes.

The crosses were incubated at 10, 15, 20, and 25 \degree C, long-day conditions (16:8 h) and 30 μ mol photons.m⁻².s⁻¹ white light to initiate the formation of eggs and sperm (Lüning 1990). As soon as sporophytes appeared they were measured with an binocular. After two months viable healthy sporophytes with a length of 2 cm were transferred to 20 ml universal containers on a shaker. Daylength conditions were changed to longday 13: II h to mimic spring or autumn conditions and initiate fast growth of the developing sporophytes. The medium was changed weekly or fortnightly. Sporophytes outgrowing the containers were transfered to small tanks with an aeration system under the same conditions.

Zoospores from mature sori were released using techniques described by South (1970) and Nakahara & Nakamura (1973). Seawater with zoospores was divided in sterile replidishes and kept under long-day conditions at 10° C and 20 µmol photons. m⁻² $s⁻¹$. After about 10 d zoospores germinated into gametophytes and were visible under a microscope. After 2 - 3 weeks the gametophytes were separated in male and female gametophytes. Within 2 - 3 months full male and female cultures were obtained from the geographical locations listed in Table 1. The gametophytes had been maintained in the vegetative state in red fluorescent light at an irradiance of 10 µmol photons. $m^2.s^{-1}$ in glass dishes containing sterile enriched seawater (Von Stoch 0.25 strength; Guiry & Cunningham, 1984) which was changed every month. Gametophyte cultures were grown

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under red light as this prevents the gametophytes from maturing and hence forming eggs and sperm. This was necessary to allow for conducting cross experiments (Bolton *et al.* 1983).

Crosses were made using individual male and female gametophytes previously isolated from spores released by parent sporophytes collected in the sites listed in Table 1. Cross experiments were carried out in two different ways:

>- By placing a female gametophyte (about 10 cells long) of a species of *Aiaria* with one male gametophyte from another species of *Aiaria* and vice-versa in

- Replidishes.
-

In addition, self crosses and isolated male and female gametophytes were incubated parallel to each crossing experiment to observe possible parthenogenesis or apogamy (Nakahara & Nakamura, 1973). The plants were examined and measured in length and width weekly in the raply dishes, forthnightly in the sterile containers and once or twice a month in the tank.

2.2 Relative Growth Rates

The relative growth rate of the self crosses and hybrid sporophytes of the different crosses was calculated using the formula for relative growth rate (RGR)

Where L2 is the length at time t2 and Ll the length at time tl in increaments per day. The final length and width of the crosses were determined with image analysing equipment.

2.3 Detection of genetic variation

DNA extraction and purification

Plants from the sites listed in Table 1 were transported to the laboratory in a coolbox wrapped in plastics bags on cooling elements or sent in a similair way by mail. On

arrival. plants were cleaned and directly processed for DNA extraction or quick-frozen in liquid nitrogen and stored at -70° C.

TABLE 1. ORIGIN OF ALARIA GAMETOPHYTE CULTURES USED IN THE PRESENT INVESTIGATION.

 20° C) isopropanol, mix gently, and leave to settle for at least 1 h at 4° C. To precipitate the crude DNA ,centrifuge as before for 30 min. Rinse pellet 3 times in 70% Ethanol, air dry and dissolve in 100 μ L 0.1 x TE buffer. Add 10 units Dnase-free Rnase (Boehringer Mannheim) and incubate at 37° C for 30 min. Precipitate DNA as described above. Redissolve in 100 μ L 0.1 x TE buffer. Average yields were 10-100 μ g of high molecular weight DNA.

DNA was extracted from ca. 1 g of blotted wet weight of healthy plant material or ca. 0.5 g of -70°C stored blade material. Extraction as follows: Grind material in liquid nitrogen, add powder to a 2 mL eppendorf tube with $2 \mu L \beta$ -mercapto-ethanol and 900 μ L extraction buffer (2% CTAB (v/v), 4M NaCL, 0.5 M EDTA pH 8 and 1M TRIS-HCL pH 8). Incubate for 1 h under slow agitation, add 900 μ L CIA (chloroform:isoamylacohol, 24:1 v/v) and mix gently for 3 min. Centrifuge at 14.000 g at 10° C. Transfer upper aqueous phase to sterile new tube, repeat CIA extraction until the interphase has dissappeared. Transfer upper phase to fresh sterile tube, precipitate polysaccharides by adding 0.1 vol 5M K-acetate, mix, 0.25 vol 96% Ethanol, mix, 1 vol CIA, mix, centrifuge as before and collect upper phase in a new tube. Add 1 vol cold (-

Amplifications were checked for correct length, purity and yield on 1.5% agarose TAE gels stained with EtBr according the methods of Sambrook et al. (1989). Excess primers, salts and nucleotides were removed from PCR products using the PCR purification kit according the manufacturer's instructions (Boeringer Mannheim). One restriction enzyme reaction could be performed with $15 \mu L$ of purified product.

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PCR Amplification

Fifteen μ L of the PCR amplified Rubisco spacer or rDNA spacers of all isolates listed in table I were completely digested with 2-4 units of restriction endonuclease for 4 h as follows: Fil 1.5 ml Eppendorf tube with $15 \mu L$ PCR product (cleaned), $3 \mu L$ 10x incubation buffer and $2 \mu L$ restriction enzyme (Boeringer Mannheim). Mix this 20 μ L and spin down for 10 sec. The 8 enzymes used were RSA1. HindIII, CFO1, DRA1, XBA, Dpn1, PST1 and SMA Restriction fragments were run on 3% TAE agarose gels (1 % agarose/ 2% MS agarose, Boeringer Mannheim) at 20 V for 20 h and stained afterwards with EtBr. The stained restriction fragments were visualized by UV -fluorescence, captured with a video camera and printed with a thermic printer. Fragment seize was determined according standard methods (Hillis *et al.* 1996) All digestions were performed twice so accurate calculation of the seize of the fragments was possible.

Double stranded amplifications were performed in a Hybaid Omn-E thermal cycler with an initial denaturation step of 95° C for 3 min followed by 35 cycles with the following temperature profile: I min 95° C, 2 min 55°C and 2 min 74° C and ended with one extension step of 72° C for 5 min. The reaction volume was 100 μ L comprised of 10-100 ng genomic DNA, 50 μ M of each dATP, dNTP, dCTP and dGTP, ca. 0.5 μ M of each primer, 10 μ L of 10x reaction buffer (Sigma), 6 μ L 25 mM MgCL₂ (Sigma) and 2.5 units of Taq (Sigma). Primer pair PI and G4 were used to amplify the region in the ribosomal cistron from position 1542 in the 18S across the ITSl, the 5.8S, ITS2 and to position 42 in the 26S (Saunders and Druehl, 1993). Primer pair s 1 30s and 11105f were used to amplify a small part of the Large subunit across the Rubisco spacer into the small subunit, starting at position 1105 in the Large subunit to position 172 in the small subunit (Valetin and Zetche, 1990).

Restriction endonuclease digestion of PCR fragments

2.4 Data analysis

The data sets of relative growth rates, width, length and biomass showed a departure of a normal distribution and heteroscedasticity was pronounced. Therefore we applied the Kruskal-Wallis non-parametric analysis of variance (with tied ranks and unequal sample

seize) to examine the null hypothesis: similarity between RGR of Atlantic crosses = similarity in RGR between Atlantic with Pacific crosses = similarity between pacific crosses. Multiple comparisons were made as aposteriori testing using Dunn's test if the null hypothesis was rejected (Zar, 1996).

Presence and absence of restriction fragments were scored manually from the thermic prints and a presence/absence matrix was constructed for all individuals. Pairwise similarities were calculated using Dice (Jacquard) coefficient (Sd) = two times the number of bands shared by two individuals, devided by the number of bands displayed by each individual. Sd does not allow for negetive matches which might cause false similarities among those taxa sharing many negetative matches (Coyer *et al., 1997).* From the bandsharing data a pairwise distance matrix was generated where in the number 1 correspondens to two individuals being indentical and the value 0 corresponds to two individuals that are entirely dissimilar. No further statistical analysis was performed on the restriction fragments because of the low amount of fragments generated.

3. RESULTS

3.1 Hybridization experiments

The control cultures with female or male gametophytes alone produced in some cases parthenogenetically or apogamous derived sporophytes. These sporophytes showed a high mortality rate and never grew > 1 cm. It was therefore very easy to recognize healthy

All successful crosses between Atlantic x Atlantic, Atlantic x Pacific and Pacific x Pacific *Alaria* species are listed in table 2 and 3. Successful crosses were produced at 10° C only. All the (self) crosses and reciprocal crosses between *Alaria esculenta* strains of Atlantic populations proved to be successful except for the Male Iceland x Female Halifax cross. This cross did not produce any viable healthy sporophytes. Although the products of some crosses were small, like the Iceland and Halifax crosses, they looked like perfect healthy sporophytes and were not parthenogenetic. Parthenogenetic sporophytes in the female parallel cultures were easily identified because of their round cell clump-like appearance without haptera. The Irish self cross, Irish x Norway crosses and female Irish x male Halifax cross produced reproductive structures (sporophylls) in culture.

Between crosses of Atlantic A. *esculenta* with other species of the Pacific only the *A. praelonga* x *A. esculenta* and reciprocal cross produced viable healthy sporophytes which formed sporophylls in culture. From *A. crassifolia* only male gametophytes hybridized with A. *esculenta*. The reciprocal cross produced small $(\pm 1 \text{ cm long})$ stunted sporophytes which resembled the pathenogenic sporophytes from the control. From *A. tenuifolia* only female gametophytes hybridized with male A. *esculenta* and produced sporophylls. The reciprocal cross was not tested because no male A. *tenuifolia* gameto-phytes were available. Crosses and reciprocal crosses between *A. nana* and A. *marginata* did not produce any sporophytes.

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and viable hybrids from parthenogenic or apogamous sporophytes. In some experiments the parthe-nogenic or apogamous sporophytes survived up to a year without growth development.

TABLE 2. HYBRIDIZATION WITHIN 4 NORTH ATLANTIC STRAINS OF *ALARJA ESCULENTA* AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE HYBRIDS INDICATED AS AGE. MORPHOLOGY AND MAXIMUM LENGTH THAT WAS ACHIEVED DURING CULTIVATION AT 10° C, 30 μ mol photons.m⁻².s⁻¹ and LD (13:11). (-) = no DEVELOPMENT OF SPOROPHYTES. HAPTERA + = WELL DEVELOPED, +/- = HAPTERA OF HALF THE SPOROPHYTES IS WELL DEVELOPED, $-$ = POOR HAPTERA DEVELOPMENT. SP = SPOROPHYLLS FORMED, NT = CROSSING NOT TESTED. FOR ORIGIN CODES SEE TABLE I

TABLE 3. HYBRIDIZATION OF NORTH ATLANTIC *ALARIA ESCULENTA* WITH PACIFIC *ALARIA* SPECIES AND WITHIN PACIFIC SPECIES AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE HYBRIDS INDICATED AS MORPHOLOGY AND MAXIMUM LENGTH THAT WAS ACHIEVED DURING CULTIVATION AT $10\,^{\rm o}\textrm{C}$, $30\,\mu$ MoL photons.M⁻².s⁻¹ and LD $(13:11)$, $(-)$ = NO DEVELOPMENT OF SPOROPHYTES. HAPTERA $+$ = WELL DEVELOPED, $+/-$ = HAPTERA OF HALF THE SPOROPHYTES IS WELL DEVELOPED, - = POOR HAPTERA DEVELOPMENT. SP = SPOROPHYLLS FORMED, NT = CROSSING NOT TESTED. FOR ORIGIN CODES SEE TABLE I

FIG. 4. AVERAGE SETTLEMENT RELATIVE GROWTH RATES FOR PLANT LENGTH (p^{-1} WITH 95% CONFIDENCE LIMITS) WITHIN NORTH *ATLANTlcALARIA ESCULENTA* CROSSES (STRIPED) WITHIN PACIFIC *ALARIA* CROSSES (GREY) AND BETWEEN PACIFIC AND ATLANTIC *ALARIA* CROSSES (BLACK). FOR ORIGINAL CODES SEE TABLE!.

Within the Pacific crosses *A. praelonga* male gametophytes hybridized with all other Pacific *Alaria* species. *Alaria tenuifolia* female gametophytes hybridized with A. *praelonga* and A. *marginata* male gametophytes, the latter also producing sporophylls.

3.2 Relative growth rates

All hybrids and selfcrosses showed a similar growth pattern of rapid growth during the first 4 to 5 weeks and a slower growth during the rest of the period. In this report, these growth rates will be called "settlement relative growth rate" (RGRset) and "Relative growth rate" (RGR) respectively. The mean RGRset and RGR for length and width increments per day are presented in figure 4 to 7.

For Fig. 4 the Kruskal-Wallis test showed significant differences between crosses (H= 38.96535, X^2 0.05,25=37.652). The null hypothesis was rejected; the settlement relative growth rates for length are different between crosses. Multiple comparisons are given in Appendix 1. Significant differences in Appendix I are marked with patterns, vertical striped for Atlantic, black for Atlantic x Pacific and grey for Pacific.

The Irish self crosses and Irish x Norway crosses are in most cases significantly different from other crosses in length elongation.

For Fig. 5 the Kruskal-Wallis test showed significant differences between crosses (H= 82.47678, X^2 0.05,25=37.652). The null hypothesis was again rejected. The relative growth rates for length are different between crosses. Multiple comparisons are presented in Appendix II. Significant differences in Appendix II are marked with patterns, horizontal striped for Atlantic, black for Atlantic x Pacific and grey for Pacific. The Irish x *tenuifolia,* Irish x Norway and *A. marginata* self cross are in most cases significantly different from the other crosses.

FIG. 5. AVERAGE RELATIVE GROWTH RATES FOR PLANT LENGTH $(D^{-1}$ WITH 95% CONFIDENCE LIMITS) WITHIN NORTH ATLANTIC *ALARIA ESCULENTA* CROSSES (STRIPED) WITHIN PACIFIC *ALARIA* CROSSES (GREY) AND BETWEEN PACIFIC AND ATLANTIC *ALARIA* CROSSES (BLACK). FOR ORIGINAL CODES SEE TABLE 1.

FIG. 6. AVERAGE SETTLEMENT RELATIVE GROWTH RATES FOR PLANT WIDTH $(D^{-1}$ WITH 95% CONFIDENCE LIMITS) WITHIN NORTH ATLANTIC *ALARIA ESCULENTA* CROSSES (STRIPED) WITHIN *PACIFICALARIA* CROSSES (GREY) AND BETWEEN PACIFIC AND ATLANTIC *ALARIA* CROSSES (BLACK).FoR ORIGINAL CODES SEE TABLE 1.

FIG. 7. AVERAGE RELATIVE GROWTH RATES FOR PLANT WIDTH (D⁻¹ WITH 95% CONFIDENCE LIMITS) WITHIN NORTH ATLANTIC *ALARIA ESCULENTA* CROSSES (STRIPED) WITHIN PACIFIC *ALARIA* CROSSES (GREY) AND BETWEEN PACIFIC AND *ATLANTICALARIA* CROSSES (BLACK). FOR ORIGINAL CODES SEE TABLE I.

For Fig. 6 the Kruskal-Wallis test showed significant differences between crosses (H= 90.85175, X^2 0.05,25=37.652). The null hypothesis was again rejected. The settlement relative growth rates for width are different between crosses. Multiple comparisons are presented in Appendix III. Significant differences in Appendix III are marked with patterns, striped for Atlantic, black for Atlantic x Pacific and grey for Pacific. Almost all

Irish self-crosses from lnis Ofrr formed a lot of sporophytes with very long thin elongated stipes which resulted in the large ratio figure. Irish crosses between Slea Head and Corbet Head, Halifax x Ireland, Norway x Ireland, *tunefolia* x Ireland and A. *marginata* self cross produced the longest sporophytes with broad leaves. Most Pacific crosses produced small sporophytes, Crosses of Iceland with other strains did not perform well resulting in small/broad sporophytes.

For Fig. 7 the Kruskal-Wallis test showed significant differences between crosses (H= 50.97903, X^2 0.05,25=37.652). The null hypothesis was again rejected. The relative growth rates for width are significant different between crosses. Multiple comparisons are presented in Appendix *N.* Significant differences in Appendix IV are marked with patterns, striped for Atlantic, black for Atlantic x Pacific and grey for Pacific. The female Irish x male Norway, female Irish x male Halifax and female *tenuifolia* x male Irish crosses are in most cases significantly different from all other crosses.

3.3 Length, width and length:width ratio

For reasons of equal comparisons all length and width measurements were taken after 120 (+/- 5) d. The results are presented in Figs. 8 and 9, The ratio length:width presented in Figure 10 reveals the shape of the sporophytes, where a high number indicates long and thin sporophytes and a small number broad and small sporophytes.

FIG. 8. AVERAGE PLANT LENGTHS (IN MM WITH 95% CONFIDENCE LIMITS) WITHIN NORTH ATLANTIC *ALARIA ESCULENTA* CROSSES (STRIPED) WITHIN PACIFICALARIA CROSSES (GREY) *AND* BETWEEN PACIFIC AND ATLANTIC *ALARIA* CROSSES (BLACK). FOR ORIGINAL *CODES* SEE TABLE 1.

For Fig. 8 the Kruskal-Wallis test showed significant differences between crosses $(H =$ 100.6577, X^2 0.05,25=37.652). The null hypothesis was rejected. The average plant lengths after 120 d are different between crosses. Multiple comparisons are presented in Appendix V. Significant differences in Appendix V are marked as patterns, striped for

FIG. 9. AVERAGE PLANT WIDTHS (IN MM WITH 95% CONFIDENCE LIMITS) WITHIN NORTH *ATLANTICALARIA ESCULENTA* CROSSES (STRIPED) WITHIN PACIFIC *ALARIA* CROSSES (GREY) *AND* BETWEEN PACIFIC *AND* ATLANTIC *ALARIA* CROSSES (BLACK). FOR ORIGINAL CODES SEE TABLE I.

Atlantic, black for Atlantic x Pacific and grey for Pacific. The Irish x *tenuifolia, marginata* x *tenuijolia* Irish x Norway and the Irish self crosses are significantly different from the other crosses but do not differ significantly amongst each other.

Restriction fragment length polymorphisms on the ITS1, 5.8S and ITS2 and the RuBisCo spacer revealed 123 scorable bands of which 23 were variable. The absence and presence of bands are presented in a matrix in Appendix VII. Genetic distances are calculated with the Dice(Jaquard) coefficientindex (Sj) and are presented in Table 4. Fromt Table 4 it is clear that *Alaria esculenta* from Ireland, Scotland, Halifax, France and *A. marginata* from Canada are identical in genetic composition at the spacer level. *Alaria esculenta* from Iceland and Norway are less identical with the above described species because of absence or presence of restriction sites, i.e., the restriction enzyme PST1 recognized a unique restriction site in the ITS spacers of Norway and Iceland not shared with one of

For Fig. 9 the Kruskal-Wallis test showed significant differences between crosses (H= 90.85175, X^2 0.05,25=37.652). The null hypothesis was again rejected. The average plant widths after 120 d are different between crosses. Multiple comparisons are presented in Appendix VI. Significant differences in Appendix VI are marked with patterns, striped for Atlantic, black for Atlantic x Pacific and grey for Pacific. Most Atlantic and Atlantic xPacific crosses differ significantly from Pacific crosses in width. Almost no differences where found between Atlantic and Atlantic x Pacific crosses.

FIG. 10. RATIO LENGTH:WIDTH OF THE EXPERIMENTAL SPOROPHYTES (WITH 95% CONFIDENCE LIMITS)

WITHIN NORTH ATLANTIC *ALARIA ESCULENTA* CROSSES (STRIPED) WITHIN PACIFIC *ALARIA* CROSSES (GREY) *AND* BETWEEN PACIFIC *AND* ATLANTIC *ALARIA* CROSSES (BLACK). FOR ORIGINAL CODES SEE TABLE I.

3.4 Genetic variation

the other species. Enzyme XBA revealed a unique site for *A. crassifolia* and enzym DRA showed one site only present in *A. praelonga.* All *Alaria* species are least related to *Undaria pinnatifida,* a member of the family Alariaceae but not belonging to the genus *Alaria* and chosen as an outgroup here.

TABLE 4. DISTANCE MATRIX FOR PAIRWISE COMPARISONS OF RDNA SPACERS AND RUBISCO SPACER RESTRICTION FRAGMENTS OF *ALARIA* SPECIES BASED ON DIGESTIONS WITH 8 RESTRICTION ENZYMES. PAm WISE SIMILARITIES WERE CALCULATED ACCORDING THE DICE (JACQUARD) COEFFICIENT. PAm WISE DISTANCES BETWEEN SPECIES ARE LISTED ABOVE THE DIAGONAL. THE TOTAL NUMBER OF RESTRICTION FRAGMENTS GENERATED IN A SPECIES IS LISTED BETWEEN PARENTHESES ON THE DIAGONAL. THE NUMBER OF RESTRICTION FRAGMENTS SHARED BETWEEN SPECIES IS LISTED BELOW THE DIAGONAL. SCL=SCOTLAND, FRC=FRANCE. FOR OTHER CODES SEE TABLE I.

The significant morphological best and fastest growing crosses where produced by the female Iceland x male Norway, female Ireland x male Norway, female Ireland x male Halifax and the Irish selfcross. All except the female Ireland x male Norway cross produced well developed haptera and sporophylls and are therefore most suitable for rope cultivation in Atlantic Irish waters. Slower growing but morphological healthy crosses were produced between female Halifax x male Iceland, female Norway x male Halifax and female Norway x male Ireland. Similar results were found in crosses *of Laminaria digitata* from Halifax and Helgoland (tom Dieck, 1993).

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I I

4. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Atlantic cross experiments

Intraspecific hybridization

The results presented in this study for crosses between *A. esculenta* from different geographical locations in the North Atlantic show that the four strains are interfertile except for the male Halifax x female Iceland cross. Müller (1979) demonstrated in Ectocmpus siliculosus that sterility baniers do occur within species from different geographical locations.

The winter isotherms are the same for Iceland, Halifax and Norway $(0 - 5^{\circ}C)$. Only the summer isotherm is different for Iceland $(5 - 10^{\circ}$ C v.s. 10 -15^oC for Ireland, Norway and Halifax (Lüning 1990). Fertilisation, zygote and young sporophyte development in all crosses was induced at 10° C, which is the upper summer isotherm boundary for Iceland. This relatively high temperature for crosses with Iceland gametophytes might prove unfavourable resulting in the observed poor results in Iceland crosses. Tom Dieck & de Oliveira (1992) showed differences in fertility of female gametophytes of five species of *Laminaria* at three different temperatures.

Lüning $&$ Freshwater (1988) showed that little or no variation exists in the upper temperature tolerance of *Chondrus crispus* and *Scytosiphon lomentaria* ranging from Iceland to Spain and of isolates of *Laminaria saccharina* and *Laminaria longicruris* from various locations, although only a few detailed studies are available. There is however a possibility that local and genetically fixed temperature ecotypes have evolved in *Alaria esculenta.*

All female Iceland crosses produced poor or no results. Female Halifax crosses produced hybrids that did not develop midribs. The poor hybridization results from Icelandic plants might be caused by ecotypic variation, i.e., different temperature tolerance of the gametophyte and/or sporophyte and temperature responses of growth (Breeman, 1988). However, these results are laboratory results under controlled conditions and do not reflect field conditions.

Genetic analysis

The calculated pairwise distances from the restriction fragment analysis between *Alaria esculenta* isolates from Ireland, Scotland, Halifax and France (Table 4) showed that they were genetically identical. Norway and Iceland showed differences at the DNA level resulting in more or less restriction fragments.

The differences encountered in restriction fragments in respect of the DNA spacers examined suggest that the Icelandic and Norwegian *A. esculenta* populations are more isolated than the other Atlantic *Alaria* species. Probably little or no gene flow occurs between the Icelandic and Norwegian populations and between other populations. The different genotype and therefore genetic make-up of the Icelandic strain might account for the existing fertility barrier and the poor cross results in the Icelandic crosses. However, these genetic results are only preliminary results and serve to illustrate possible existing genetic variation between A *esculenta* populations rather than to establish conclusive facts regarding the nuclear genome of A, *esculenta*.

Coyer *et al.* (1997) showed distinguishable biogeographic populations along the northeast Pacific coast of the kelp *Postelsia palmaeformis.* They showed decreasing genetic relatedness with increasing distance between populations assessed with M13 Fingerprinting and RAPDs.Bhattacharya et al. (1990) showed with RFLPs 8 distinct populations of the kelp *Costa ria costata* over a range of 400 km. Theses populations appeared to be discreet breeding groups.

4.2 Pacific x Atlantic and Pacific Cross experiments

Interspecific hybridization

From the results presented in Table 3 it is clear that *A. esculenta* from the Atlantic does hybridize with other Pacific *Alaria* species, showing a close relationship between *Alaria* species throughout the northern hemisphere. In fact, the best cross produced was that between Atlantic *A. esculenta* and Pacific A *tenuifolia,* giving rise to the largest and best-developed plants. This cross would be most suitable to be used in closed-tank cultivation.

Crosses between A *esculenta* and A *praelonga* produced healthy and well developed sporophytes. Crosses between female *A. esculenta* and male *A. crassifolia* produced slow-growing offspring, whereas the reciprocal cross did not. Crosses and reciprocal crosses of A *esculenta* with A *marginata* and *A. nana* where not succesfull, resulting in a few elongated stipes, indicating that various fertility barriers are active. Similar close relationships and fertility barriers have been found in other Atlantic and Pacific kelp species (Bolton *et al.,* 1983; Lewis *et al.,* 1986; tom Dieck & de Oliveira, 1993; tom Dieck, 1993).

(Müller *et al.,* 1985), but incompatibility was expressed between several species of the genus *Alaria.* In three crosses (two inter-specific and one intra-specifIc) no microscopic sporophytes were formed. This in contrast with Laminariales from the North Atlantic and Pacific where microscopic sporophytes were procuced in all crosses but became irregular and stunted during later development (tom Dieck, 1992). Yarish *et al.* (1990) postulated that the sharing of a common sex pheromone is sufficient reason to expect interfertility. This is not true for the genus *Alaria.* Reproductive isolation develops gradually by different processes that might lead to fertility barriers. There are several examples in the Laminariales of gradual reproductive isolation. In several *Undaria* species the succesful formation of hybrids was expressed differently in reciprocal crosses (tom Dieck, 1992). The same results were encountered in the crosses between A *crassifolia* and A *esculenta* during the present investigation.

Crosses among Pacific species showed that they hybridize in many cases, producing the largest plants in *A. tenuifolia* x A *marginata* crosses. Only A *nana* x A *marginata* crosses did not produce any sporophytes which is in contrast with the observations of Widdowson (1971). He found plants that appear to be hybrids between A. *nana* and A. *marginata* in the wild. Widdowson (1971) considered that A. *marginata* and *A. tenuifolia* intergrade with each other through a series of populations that appear to be ecotypes. The different cross results shown in Table 3 however, support the hypothesis that A *marginata* and *Atenuifolia* are two gentically different species.

Fertilisation in *Alaria* species is facilitated by the sex pheromone lamoxirene, which can be found in all species of the Alariaceae, Laminariaceae and Lessionaceae

If we compare chromosome numbers (n) in the genus *Alaria* we can distiguish two groups. One group with n=14 viz., A. *nana*, A. *marginata*, A. *tenuifolia* A. *fistulosa*, A.

Species belonging to the order Laminariales are able to produce sporophytes from unfertilized eggs (parthenogenic sporophytes), although most parthenogenic sporophytes have an abnormal morphology (Nakahara & Nakamura, 1973; tom Dieck, 1992). In the present study parthenogenic sporophytes did not survive or were clearly recognized as cell clumps without haptera or half-bleached stunted sporophytes up to 1 cm long, resembling the parthenogenic sporophytes in female control cultures. **Genetic analysis**

Druehl (1990) found that environmental factors caused distinctieve species morphotypes small subunit rDNA and intergeneric spacers he found three restriction map variants consistent relationship between morphological and rDNA variation in *Alaria.* After sequencing of the entire 18S ribosomal gene for *Anana* and *A. marginata* they found a Druehl & Saunders (1990) probably is caused due to the use of the 18S slow-evolving ribosomal gene instead of the fast-evolving spacer regions applied in this study. Cross experiments showed that *A. nana* and A *marginata* do not hybridise, showing a fertility barrier which is an indication of a large gentic distance between the two species. In this study *Alaria marginata* is identical to four *A. esculenta* isolates in its restriction patterns. Remarkably A. *marginata* did not hybridize with A. *esculenta* in this study despite of the simalarities in genotype of the ITS 1 and ITS 2. In Table 4, *A. nana* and A *praelonga* share the same distances, *whereas* A *crassifolia* is more closely related to A *esculenta.* This is also inconsistent with the hybridisation experiments. These results show clearly that eight restriction enzymes, of which five are informative, are not sufficient to solve genetic relationships in the genus *Alaria.* Clearly more enzymes have to be applied to generate a reliable data set as only 2.56% of the entire ITS 1 and ITS2 is

in A *nana, A. marginata* and A *tenuifolia.* Using restriction enzyme digestion of the indicating distinctive breeding populations of the three species which is in contrast with the findings of Widdowson (1971). Druehl & Saunders (1990) concluded that there is no nucleotide divergence of only 0.05%, indicating almost negligible genetic divergence. In this study *A. marginata* and *A. nana* showed different restriction fragment patterns at the intertranscribed spacer level. The differences in results compared with the study of sampled with the five informative restriction enzymes.

Chromosomes

taeniata and one group with 22-28 viz., *A. praelonga,* A *crassifolia,* A *grandifolia* (subspecies of A *esculenta* according to LUning, 1990) and A *esculenta* (Robinson and Cole, 1971; Lewis, 1996).

Lewis (1996) suggested that the evolution of most taxa of brown algae was accompanied by polyploidy. Nakahara & Nakamura (1973) obtained diploid gametophytes in several members of the Laminariales. When these were crossed with haploid or diploid gametophytes, triploid and tetraploid sporophytes were obtained respectively. They even managed to cross diploid with triploid gametophytes of *A. crassifolia* resulting in pentaploid sporophytes. These laboratory investigations illustrate hypothetical mechanisms by which polyploidy could have arisen in the genus *Alaria.* The existence of polyploids suggests one mechanism by which speciation has probably occured (Lewis, 1996).

In hybridization, two sets of chromosomes from different sources are combined. The succes of hybridization between species by sexual means initially depends on the compatibility of the gametes and then on the compatibility of the genomes. The results presented here (Table 3) show that the *Alaria* species with matching chromosome numbers, i.e., n =22-28, hybridized without difficulty, except for A *crassitalia* which produced in two different reciprocal crosses stunted and abnormal sporophytes. This might be an indication of gradual reproductive isolation. Species with $n=14$ produced only two healthy viable crosses with n=22-28 species. Lewis (1996) showed that there are few exceptions in brown algae that it is not necessary for the chromosome number to match to obtain hybrids. Crosses among n=14 species showed even more incompatibility. No viable crosses were produced except for the A *marginata* x A *tenuifolia* cross. In n=14 crosses incompatibility is probably caused by incompatibility of the gametes or perhaps by chromosomal mispairing at meiosis. Hybridization results indicate that A *esculenta, A.praelonga* and *Acrassifolia* are most closely related, and to a lesser extent, to *A. tenuifolia and* A *marginata* and least related to A *nana.* These findings are in contrast with the restriction patterns which are probably caused by the few informative restriction enzymes (see discussion on genetic analysis).

Kelp evolution and divergence

The ability of the Atlantic A *esculenta* to hybridise with several Pacific *Alaria* species indicates a close relationship between the species in the two oceans and is further support of the original hypothesis of Stam *et al.,* (1988) that species of laminariales diverged from a common ancestor 15-19 Ma ago, most probably in the north Pacific, and then invaded the North Atlantic after inundation of the Bering Land Bridge 3.5 Ma ago. It is possible that *Alaria* species with n= 14 chromosomes diverged first from a common ancestor of the genus *Alaria,* representing the oldest assemblage of *Alaria* species at the beginning of the miocene 27 Ma ago. Probably during the mid-Miocene steepening of the temperature gradient between high and low latitudes extensive radiation in North Pacific Laminariales took place (Stam *et al,.* 1988). This major cooling step in the Tertiary leading to glaciation of the higher latitudes was possibly the driving force of speciation in Laminariales (Lüning, 1990). The climatic disturbance coupled with the continously changing configuration of the archipelagos in the North Pacific due to plate tectonics and

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sea level fluctuation could provide the ecological opportunity in which polyploids (amphiploids) can exploit their inherent advantage (Grant, 1981). Climatic changes in general bring about changes in the distribution of the species, altering genetic isolation. New contacts are made, natural hybridization occurs, and hybrid polyploids are formed (Grant, 1981). It therefore is possible that n=22-28 *Alaria* species are polyploid *Alaria* species and diverged from hybrids of $n=14$ species and radiated in several new species during the mid-Miocene cooling period. Possible doners for the polyploid hybrids might be *A. tenuifolia* and *A. marginata* because of the ability of these doners to hybridize with the postulated polyploid *Alaria* species (see Table 3). Not untill the opening of the Bering Land Bridge were *Alaria* species and Laminariales in general able to invade the Atlantic Ocean. Because polyploids often exhibit superior vigor, homeostatic buffering and environmental adaptability as compared with their diploid partners they are likely to be the most suitable candidates to invade the Atlantic and adapt to their new environment (Grant, 1981). With our limited knowledge of chromosome numbers in the genus *Alaria,* A *praelonga,* A *crassifolia* and *A. esculenta* are the most likely candidates from which only *A. esculenta* has really invaded the Atlantic. There is a possibility that other species might have invaded the Atlantic but did not survive the severe Pleistocene glaciation conditions.

Remarkably, nowadays the species with n=22-28 all occur at the North West Pacific coast/polar circle area or in the case of A *esculenta* in the Atlantic Ocean as well. The n=14 species are mainly found at the north eastern Pacific coast (Widdowson, 1971). In the geological past, different types of temperature stress have existed on both sites of the Pacific, with more extreme temperature ranges on the West Pacific coasts and more colder gradual ranges on the East Pacific coasts. Nowadays the Asiatic side of the Pacific has serverely compressed isotherms and a wide annual span of seawater tempera-tures (LUning, 1990). This supports the idea that the hypothised polyploid species are found in the more extreme temperature ranges of the West Pacific coast/polar circle area (polar light regime) due to their possible superior adaptability.

4.3 Summary

Intraspecific crosses **of the** genus *Alaria esculenta* The significant morphological best and fastest growing crosses were produced by the female Iceland x male Norway. female Ireland x male Norway, female Ireland x male Halifax and the Irish self cross. All except the female Ireland x male Norway cross produced well developed haptera and sporophylls and are therefore most suitable for rope cultivation in Atlantic Irish waters.

The restriction fragment length polymorphism technique distinguishes genetic different populations of the genus A *esculenta* in the North Atlantic Ocean.

Interspecific crosses **of Alria** species

The significant morphological and fastest growing cross was produced between Atlantic A. *esculenta* and Pacific A. *tenuifolia*, producing the largest and best developed plants. This cross would be most suitable to be used in closed tank cultivation.

There is a close realtionship between Atlantic and Pacific *Alaria* species indicating a recent species radiation in the genus *Alaria.*

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APPENDIX I (RGR-set-length)

		IRL. IRL(self) M SLH	E CBH	F SLH M CBH	F IMR M NOR	F NOR M IMR	E IHR. -M ICL	E ICI. M IHR	M IMR	M HFX	E IGL M NOR	ENOR MICL®	Fnor M HFX	MNOR	M ICL	M IHR	M AP	M AC	MIRI	ΑF	FTI IN					
IRL	IRL (self) \mathbf{x}			36.574 39.6088	35.463												44.5164 46.3342 39.6088 37.7406 41.9705 41.9705 41.0421 43.1028 41.9705 44.5164 36.1404 35.3234 41.0421 39.6088 46.3342 40.2666 41.0421					AC. 39.6088 57.4704		39.6088	AN 39.6088 44.516	AM
	FCBH MSLH			1.82937 0.04899 0.60379	30.4105 24.7703		0.3899 2.37637		4.463 5.52408 0.40164 4.3065 3.07141 3.58404 5.37604 3.55888 3.60445																2.958 4.19465 0.04899 2.97168 2.78017 3.56846 2.50426 0.68772 3.05338 2.56316 0.0160	
					2.13632 3.56553 1.35479 1.11438 3.61279 5.06823 1.49723 3.40544 1.83381 2.51366 4.74828 2.50237 2.46239 1.52949 3.26304 2.13632 1.82592 1.44073 2.46627 1.06159 0.53106																				36.574 38.7659 30.4105 27.9338 33.4285 33.4285 32.2552 34.8396 33.4285 36.574 25.7308 24.5701 32.2552 30.4105 38.7659 31.2625 32.2552 30.4105 51.5635 30.4105 30.4105 30.4105 35.574 1.7768 1.13831 1.80984	
	FSLH MCBH				29.0649 39.6088 41.6413 0.80346 0.38922 2.59758 5.14216 6.49419 0.40618 4.86888 3.48061 4.01287 6.0912 3.95084 4.29361												34 31.8041 36.7242 36.7242 35.6595 38.0131 36.7242 39.6088 29.8876 28.8944 35.6595	3.549 4.77339		34 41.6413 34.7641 35.6595 0.3.25999	3.1644 4.05269	2.8603 0.69911	34 53.7587	34	3.5 2.92892 0.03096	34 39,6088
	FIMR MNOR																							35.463 37.7196 29.0649 26.4626 32.2092 32.2092 30.9898 33.6715 32.2092 35.463 24.1255 22.8836 30.9898 29.0649 37.7196 29.9552 30.9898 29.0649 50.7815 29.0649 29.0649		35.463
F NOR M IMR																									1.09323 3.48676 6.81874 8.68752 1.18814 6.2764 4.75864 5.22384 7.67007 5.07122 6.28705 5.50172 6.24622 0.80346 4.21804 4.45199 5.41692 4.14942 1.19996 4.89775 4.2297 0.6239 46.3342 39.6088 37.7406 41.9705 41.9705 41.0421 43.1028 41.9705 44.5164 36.1404 35.3234 41.0421 39.6088 46.3342 40.2666 41.0421 39.6088 57.4704 39.6088 39.6088 44.5164	
F IHR.	MICL																								2.00176 4.02478 5.06417 0.01191 3.89295 2.6485 3.18135 4.96248 3.16898 3.12418 2.46662 3.77174 0.38922 2.59708 2.34912 3.14555 2.06604 0.38571 2.61516 2.12495 0.37386	
																	1.60097 2.46749 2.33894 1.60931 0.36338 1.03181 2.56855 1.10087 0.43508 0.14653 1.65078 2.5151 0.6624 0.03829								41.6413 39.6685 43.8938 43.8938 43.0069 44.9777 43.8938 46.3342 38.3571 37.5884 43.0069 41.6413 48.0832 42.2675 43.0069 41.6413 58.8897 41.6413 41.6413 46.3342 0.86 0.25383 1.69503 0.18396 0.20613 2.62703	
F ICL	M IHR									0.99699 4.35453 0.10816 1.38102							31.8041 36.7242 36.7242 35.6595 38.0131 36.7242 39.6088 29.8876 28.8944 35.6595			34 41.6413 34.7641 35.6595			34 53,7587	-34	0.607 1.37021 0.4826 1.2664 1.82503 0.15447 6.05076 1.09602 1.90664 0.72804 2.23171 3.84891 1.64216 1.39977 5.17823	34 39,6088
FHFX MIMR																									34.7011 34.7011 33.5723 36.0624 34.7011 37.7406 27.3637 26.2752 33.5723 31.8041 39.8685 32.6197 33.5723 31.8041 52.3975 31.8041 31.8041 37.7406	
F IMR.	M HFX									5.52216 0.79929 2.37529 1.55615															0.4943 1.49092 2.1689 2.99689 0.96249 7.54802 2.69424 2.87541 1.95022 2.7413 5.17964 2.60756 3.36304 3.96523 39.2598 38.2657 40.4681 39.2598 41.9705 32.9536 32.0555 38.2657 36.7242 43.8938 37.4327 38.2657 36.7242 55.5217 36.7242 36.7242 41.9705	
F ICL.	MNOR											4.17447 2.78147 3.5055													5.456 3.69969 2.96373 2.1654 3.9557 0.35541 3.66678 2.96645 3.38684 2.24194 0.5164 2.78054 2.2126 0.43957	
												38.2657 40.4681 1.42919													39.2598 41.9705 32.9536 32.0555 38.2657 36.7242 43.8938 37.4327 38.2657 36.7242 55.5217 36.7242 36.7242 41.9705 0.649 1.10924 0.55148 1.28579 1.94243 0.21877 4.26027 1.30655 2.14622 0.89607 2.22076 3.21736 1.59768 2.07032 4.90227	
FNOR	MICL										-S				39.5044 38.2657 41.0421 31.7627		0.71954 2.60227 0.78874 0.10256 0.52557 1.45139 3.90762 0.36626 0.45764 0.54772 0.75342 2.01208 0.14061								30.83 37.2451 35.6595 43.0069 36.3888 37.2451 35.6595 54.8233 35.6595 35.6595 41.0421 0.6587 3.51499	
Fnor	M HFX																								40.4681 43.1028 34.3842 33.5244 39.5044 38.0131 44.9777 38.6981 39.5044 38.0131 56.3826 38.0131 38.0131 43.1028	
FHFX MNOR																									1.75825 0.09752 0.56182 1.45402 0.51404 4.43639 0.50088 1.26875 0.23938 1.39963 3.02417 0.74574 1.3685 3.89242 41.9705 32.9536 32.0555 38.2657 36.7242 43.8938 37.4327 38.2657 36.7242 55.5217 36.7242 36.7242 41.9705	
	M ICL																								1.60128 2.89403 3.67633 1.66829 5.84582 2.29826 2.97099 2.15601 3.44309 5.06781 2.38518 3.31558 5.87786	
FHFX																	0.77925 1.52708 0.3345 3.81287 0.52357 1.00316 0.25837 1.2785 2.95294								36.1404 35.3234 41.0421 39.6088 46.3342 40.2666 41.0421 39.6088 57.4704 39.6088 39.6088 44.5164 0.931 1.4132 3.84274	
F AP	M IHR																								23.9199 31.7627 29.8876 38.3571 30.7541 31.7627 29.8876 51.2569 29.8876 29.8876 36.1404 1.07774 1.31887 4.29361 0.19356 0.47757 0.52646 0.97837 2.85688 0.29361 0.96168 4.33463	
F IHR.	M AP																								30.83 28.8944 37.5884 29.7898 30.83 28.8944 50.6842 28.8944 28.8944 35.3234	
F IMR	M AC																	2.19495							3.549 0.88335 0.25046 1.36135 0.17179 2.24829 0.32463 0.05846 2.04743 35,6595 43,0069 36,3888 37,2451 35,6595 54,8233 35,6595 35,6595 41,0421	
FTUN	MIRL																								4.77339 0.80142 1.65461 0.69002 2.04621 2.41929 0.93421 1.98077 4.80778	
																				41.6413 34.7641 35.6595	3.25999 3.1644 4.05269	2.8603 0.69911	34 53.7587	34	3.5 2.92892 0.03606	34 39.6088
AP	AP																								42.2675 43.0069 41.6413 58.8897 41.6413 41.6413 46.3342 0.60904 0.20384 0.92456 1.66696 0.40224 0.86853 2.95627	
FTUN	AM																								36.3888 34.7641 54.2452 34.7641 34.7641 40.2666	
МАР	FTUN																								0.94834 0.36698 1.33513 0.25867 0.29986 2.76243 35.6595 54.8233 35.6595 35.6595 41.0421	
MAP	AC																								1.3255 1.95051 0.71556 1.26007 3.55106	
																							53.7587	34	1.1099 0.63971 0.06863 2.48622	34 39,6089
MAP	AM																								53.7587 53.7587 57.4704 1.51448 1.1533 0.6753	
FAN	AC																								0.57108 3.03534	34 39.6088
MAP	AN																									39,6088
AM	AM																									2.54513

APPENDIX II (RGR-length)

APPENDIX III (RGRset-Width)

APPENDIX IV (RGR-Width)

APPENDIX V (Blade Length)

RESTRICTION FRAGMENT DATA MATRIX (PRESENCE=1, ABSENCE=0) FOR THE ITS AND RUBISCO SPACERS OF *6 ALARIA ESCULENTA* ISOLATES AND 5 *OTIlERALARIA* SPECIES. FOR ABBREVERATIONS SEE TABLE I.

APPENDIX VI (Blade Wdth)

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APPENDIX VII