

RESEARCH

Open Access



Complete mitochondrial genome of *Agrostis stolonifera*: insights into structure, Codon usage, repeats, and RNA editing

Jiaxing Li¹, Yinglong Chen², Yaling Liu³, Chen Wang⁴, Ling Li⁴ and Yuehui Chao^{1*}

Abstract

Background Plants possess mitochondrial genomes that are large and complex compared to animals. Despite their size, plant mitochondrial genomes do not contain significantly more genes than their animal counterparts. Studies into the sequence and structure of plant mitochondrial genomes heavily imply that the main mechanism driving replication of plant mtDNA, and offer valuable insights into plant evolution, energy production, and environmental adaptation.

Results This study presents the first comprehensive analysis of *Agrostis stolonifera*'s mitochondrial genome, characterized by a branched structure comprising three contiguous chromosomes, totaling 560,800 bp with a GC content of 44.07%. Annotations reveal 33 unique protein-coding genes (PCGs), 19 tRNA genes, and 3 rRNA genes. The predominant codons for alanine and glutamine are GCU and CAA, respectively, while cysteine and phenylalanine exhibit weaker codon usage biases. The mitogenome contains 73, 34, and 23 simple sequence repeats (SSRs) on chromosomes 1, 2, and 3, respectively. Chromosome 1 exhibits the most frequent A-repeat monomeric SSR, whereas chromosome 2 displays the most common U-repeat monomeric SSR. DNA transformation analysis identifies 48 homologous fragments between the mitogenome and chloroplast genome, representing 3.41% of the mitogenome's total length. The PREP suite detects 460 C-U RNA editing events across 33 mitochondrial PCGs, with the highest count in the *ccmFn* gene and the lowest in the *rps7* gene. Phylogenetic analysis confirms *A. stolonifera*'s placement within the Pooideae subfamily, showing a close relationship to *Lolium perenne*, consistent with the APG IV classification system. Numerous homologous co-linear blocks are observed in *A. stolonifera*'s mitogenomes and those of related species, while certain regions lack homology.

Conclusions The unique features and complexities of the *A. stolonifera* mitochondrial genome, along with its similarities and differences to related species, provide valuable insights into plant evolution, energy production, and environmental adaptation. The findings from this study significantly contribute to the growing body of knowledge on plant mitochondrial genomes and their role in plant biology.

Keywords *A. stolonifera*, Mitochondrial genome, Repeat-mediated recombination, RNA editing events

*Correspondence:

Yuehui Chao
chaoyuehui@bjfu.edu.cn

¹School of Grassland Science, Beijing Forestry University, Beijing 100083, China

²UWA School of Agriculture and Environment, The UWA Institute of Agriculture, The University of Western Australia, Perth, WA 6001, Australia
³Inner Mongolia M-Grass Ecology And Environment (Group) Co., Ltd, Hohhot 010010, China

⁴Mentougou District Bureau of Ecological and Environment of Beijing Municipality, Beijing 102300, China



© The Author(s) 2023. **Open Access** This article is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License, which permits use, sharing, adaptation, distribution and reproduction in any medium or format, as long as you give appropriate credit to the original author(s) and the source, provide a link to the Creative Commons licence, and indicate if changes were made. The images or other third party material in this article are included in the article's Creative Commons licence, unless indicated otherwise in a credit line to the material. If material is not included in the article's Creative Commons licence and your intended use is not permitted by statutory regulation or exceeds the permitted use, you will need to obtain permission directly from the copyright holder. To view a copy of this licence, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>. The Creative Commons Public Domain Dedication waiver (<http://creativecommons.org/publicdomain/zero/1.0/>) applies to the data made available in this article, unless otherwise stated in a credit line to the data.

Background

Energy is a crucial requirement throughout the life cycle of eukaryotes, with mitochondria playing a key role in producing biological energy (ATP) [1]. Initially believed to be independent organisms in a symbiotic relationship with larger cells, mitochondria have since lost their ability to survive independently due to the transfer of their original genes into the host genome [2, 3]. Nevertheless, the remaining mitochondrial DNA is essential for processes like respiration, DNA replication, transcription, tRNA synthesis, and other organelle functions [4–6].

Despite their similar functions, plant and animal mitochondrial genomes differ significantly in size [7, 8]. Animal mitochondrial genomes are typically around 16.5 kb with few introns and non-coding regions, whereas plant mitochondrial genomes are larger, ranging from 200 to 2,000 kb, containing abundant repeat sequences, AT-rich non-coding regions, and large introns and non-coding sequences [9]. Furthermore, plant mitochondrial genomes contain significant amounts of short nuclear and chloroplast genomic sequences and uniquely undergo RNA editing, a process not found in mammals [10]. Despite these differences, plants do not encode more genes in their mitochondrial genomes than animals do.

The first mitochondrial genome sequence of a terrestrial plant was reported in 1992, and since then, numerous higher plant mitochondrial genomes have been sequenced and analyzed for structure [11, 12]. As of March 2023, 471 land plant mitochondrial genomes have been deposited in the National Center for Biotechnology Information.

Agrostis stolonifera, belonging to the genus Shearling of the family Gramineae, is a crucial cool-season turfgrass. It is widely distributed in temperate Eurasia and North America due to its prostrate growth and is the most tolerant of all cool-season turfgrasses to continuous low mowing in cold, wet, and transitional climates [13, 14]. Additionally, *A. stolonifera* is an allotetraploid plant ($2n=4x=28$) [15, 16]. Polyploid plants can combine multiple chromosome sets in a single nucleus and double the number of alleles at each locus, resulting in various genetic changes, such as chromosomal recombination, sequence elimination, gene silencing, activation, and expression levels, which can lead to different evolutionary directions [17, 18]. Heterozygous tetraploid plants, in comparison to homozygous tetraploid plants, come from different parents and rely on chromosomal recombination for the generation of new variants and phenotypes in their offspring [19]. These heterozygous tetraploid plants can experience frequent chromosome exchange, exhibit various types of chromosome rearrangements, and demonstrate greater adaptive capacity than homozygous tetraploids [20]. At the epigenetic level, hetero-tetraploid

plants may induce effects such as DNA methylation, transposon activation, and changes in RNA editing sites [21]. With the development of transcriptome sequencing technology, more scholars have been able to more accurately identify the internal structure and functional changes of genes in polyploid plants, thus deepening our understanding of polyploid gene expression changes. Recently, the complete chloroplast and nuclear genome sequences have been discovered by a large number of studies in *A. stolonifera* [22, 23]. However, the complete mitochondrial genome sequence of *A. stolonifera* is still unknown.

This study represents the first investigation of the complete sequence and structure of the mitochondria genome from *A. stolonifera*. The study includes functional annotation, codon usage analysis, repeat sequence identification, comparative mitochondrial genome analysis, gene transfer, and RNA edition analysis. These data expand the genetic information available and provide new insights into the genetic improvement of *A. stolonifera*.

Results

Structure features and annotation of *A. stolonifera*

Mitogenome

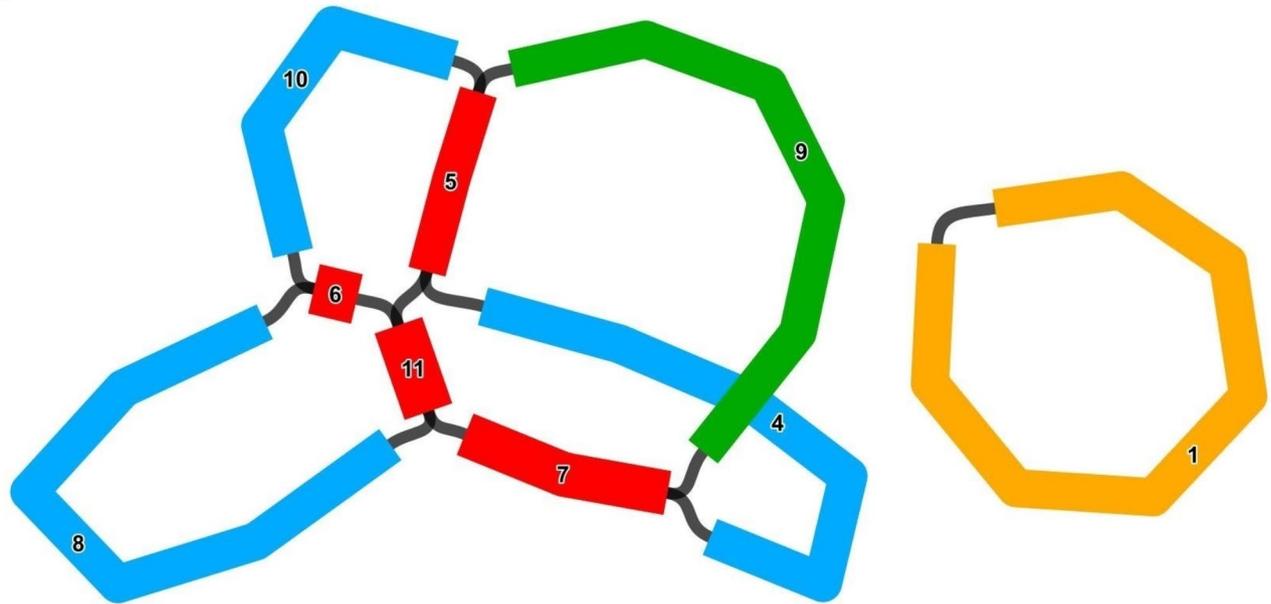
The main architecture of the *A. stolonifera* mitochondrial genome is branched. After exclusion of duplicated regions from the Nanopore sequencing data, three contiguous sequences (Chromosome 1–3) were obtained totaling 560,800 bp with a GC content of 44.07%. Chromosome 1 was 300,195 bp in length, Chromosome 2 was 139,595 bp, and Chromosome 3 was 121,010 bp, with GC contents of 44.03%, 44.33%, and 43.88%, respectively (Fig. 1).

The *A. stolonifera* mitochondrial genome was annotated with 33 unique PCGs, consisting of 24 mitochondrial core and 9 non-core genes, as well as 19 tRNA and 3 rRNA genes (Table 1; Fig. 2). Of the 24 unique mitochondrial core genes, 5 are related to ATP synthesis (*atp1*, *atp4*, *atp6*, *atp8* and *atp9*), 9 are NADH dehydrogenase genes (*nad1*, *nad2*, *nad3*, *nad4*, *nad4L*, *nad5*, *nad6*, *nad7* and *nad9*), 4 are cytochrome C reductase genes (*ccmB*, *ccmC*, *ccmFc*, and *ccmFn*), 3 are cytochrome c oxidase genes (*cox1*, *cox2*, and *cox3*), 1 is a transport membrane protein gene (*mttB*), 1 is a maturases gene (*matR*), and 1 is a ubiquinol-cytochrome C biogenesis gene (*cob*). Non-core genes include 1 large subunit ribosomal gene (*rpl16*) and 8 small subunit ribosomal genes (*rps1*, *rps2*, *rps3*, *rps4*, *rps7*, *rps12*, *rps13*, and *rps14*).

Codon usage analysis of PCGs in *A. stolonifera*

The codon usage of 33 unique PCGs from *A. stolonifera* was analyzed, and those with a relative synonymous codon usage (RSCU) greater than 1 were considered to be preferentially used by amino acids. The RSCU values

a



b

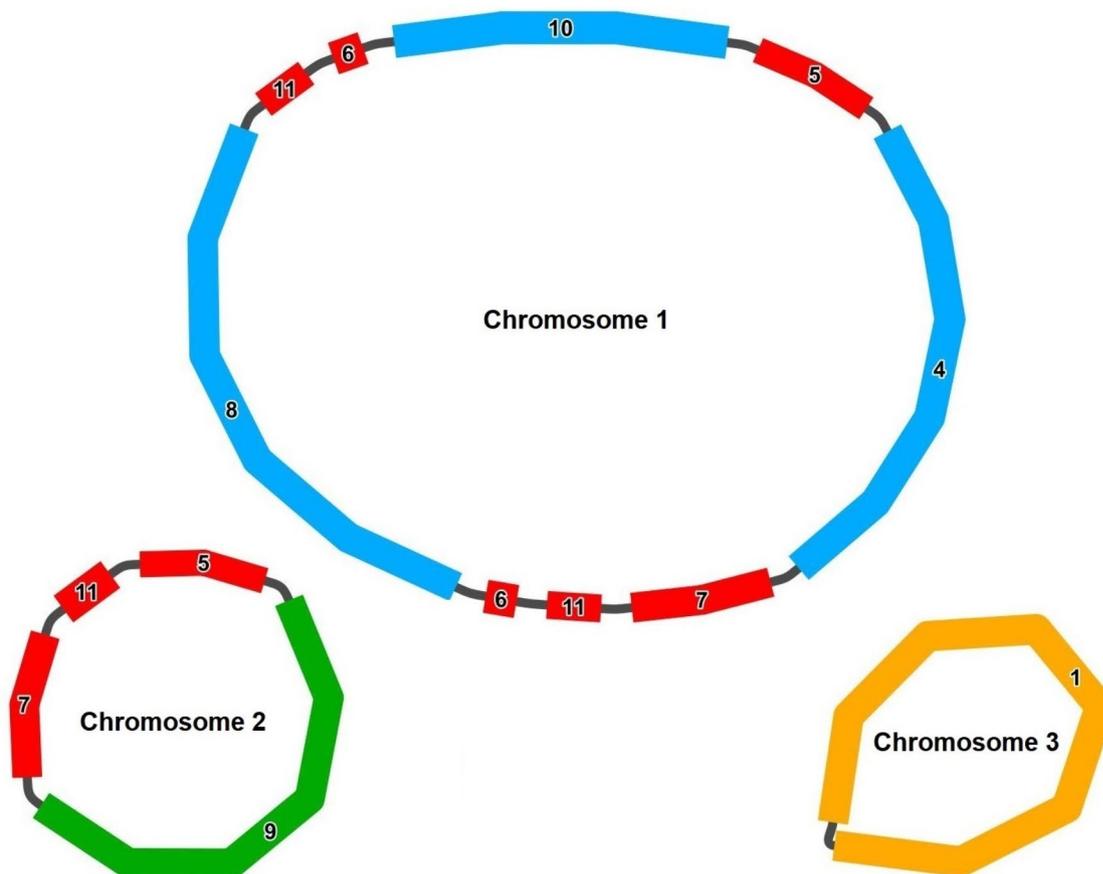


Fig. 1 Structure features of *A. stolonifera* mitogenome. **(a)** Branched conformation of *A. stolonifera* mitogenome. **(b)** Three circular molecules of *A. stolonifera* mitogenome

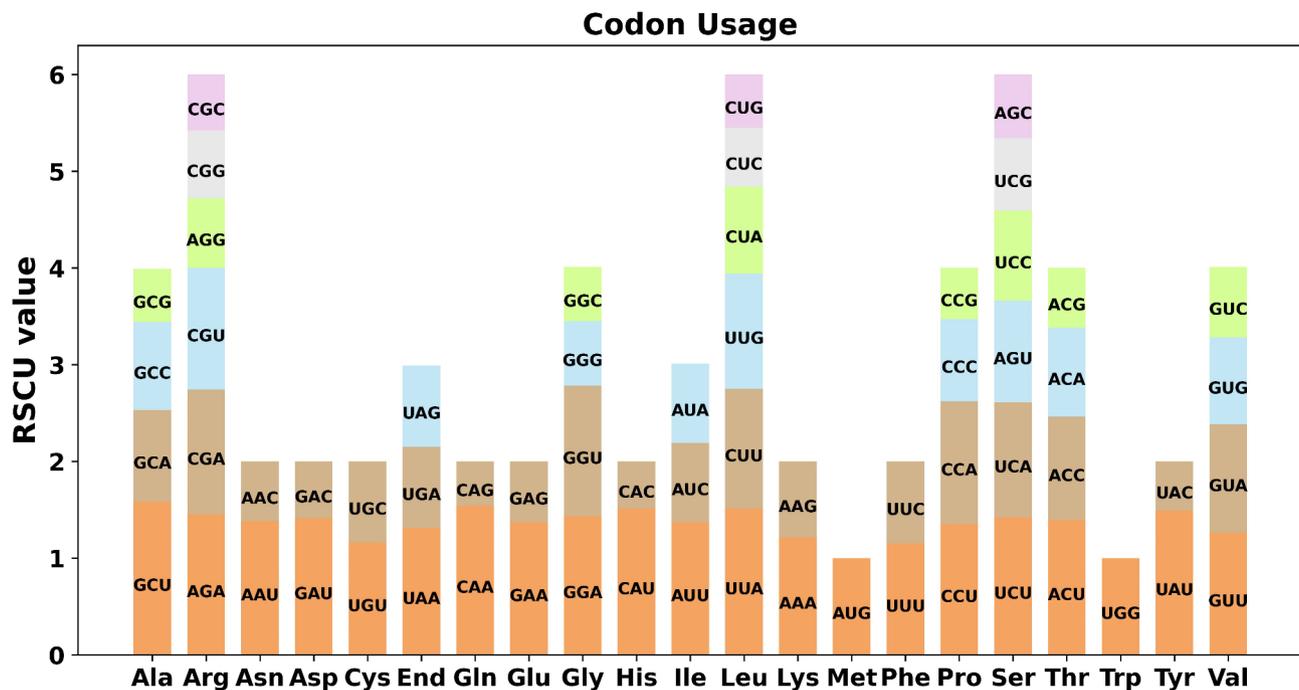


Fig. 3 Analysis of codon usage bias in *A. stolonifera* mitochondrial genomes. X-axis, codon families; Y-axis, the relative synonymous codon usage (RSCU) value. RSCU measures the likelihood of a specific codon being used among synonymous codons that encode the same amino acid and values greater than 1 indicate a higher frequency of usage for the codon

palindromic and 72 were forward repeats, with no reverse or complementary repeats. The largest palindromic and forward repeats measured 289 bp and 10,577 bp, respectively. Chromosome 2 contained 34 SSRs, of which 55.88% were monomeric and dimeric. The most prevalent monomeric SSR was a U repeat monomer, which occurred 6 times and made up 75% of the 8 monomeric SSRs. Two hexameric SSRs were found in Chromosome 2. The repeat analysis showed 9 tandem repeats in Chromosome 2, ranging from 18 to 65 bp, and 29 non-tandem repeats of ≥ 30 bp length. Of these, 9 were palindromic and 20 were forward repeats, with no reverse or complementary repeats. The largest palindromic and forward repeats measured 62 and 436 bp, respectively. Chromosome 3 contained 23 SSRs, with 34.78% being monomeric and dimeric. The most prevalent monomeric SSR was an A repeat monomer, which occurred 4 times and made up 66.67% of the total. Chromosome 3 also contained one hexameric SSR. The repeat analysis showed 9 tandem repeats in Chromosome 3, ranging from 17 to 65 bp, and 23 non-tandem repeats of ≥ 30 bp length. Of these, 8 were palindromic and 15 were forward repeats, with no reverse or complementary repeats. The largest palindromic and forward repeats measured 46 and 76 bp, respectively (Fig. 4).

DNA transfer from Chloroplast to Mitochondrion

The chloroplast genome was sequenced, assembled and annotated (Supplementary Fig. S1), which was used for

DNA transformation analysis. A total of 48 fragments were found in the mitogenome that were homologous to the chloroplast genome, accounting for 3.41% of the mitogenome's total length (19,114 bp; Fig. 5; Supplementary Table S2). The two longest fragments were 1 and 2, each measuring 4760 bp. Upon annotation, these homologous sequences revealed 12 complete genes, including 1 PCG (*rpl2*) and 11 tRNA genes (*trnC-GCA*, *trnF-GAA*, *trnH-GUG*, *trnI-CAU*, *trnL-CAA*, *trnM-CAU*, *trnN-GUU*, *trnP-UGG*, *trnS-GGA*, *trnV-GAC*, and *trnW-CCA*).

RNA editing events in Mitochondrion

The PREP suite was utilized to predict RNA editing events with a cutoff value of 0.2. As a result, 460 RNA editing events were identified in 33 mitochondrial PCGs (Fig. 6). The *ccmFn* gene contained the highest number of RNA editing sites at 36, while the *rps7* gene had the lowest number of events with only 1. No RNA editing events were found in the *atp9* and *rps14* genes, and all of the identified events were of the C-U type (Supplementary Table S3).

Mitochondrial DNA sequences from a total of 21 species from 6 subfamilies of Poaceae were obtained from the NCBI database. A phylogenetic analysis was performed based on 22 conserved mitochondrial PCGs (*atp4*, *atp6*, *ccmB*, *ccmC*, *ccmFc*, *cob*, *cox1*, *cox2*, *cox3*, *nad1*, *nad2*, *nad3*, *nad4*, *nad5*, *nad6*, *nad7*, *rpl16*, *rps3*, *rps4*, *rps7*, *rps12* and *rps13*). The results revealed that

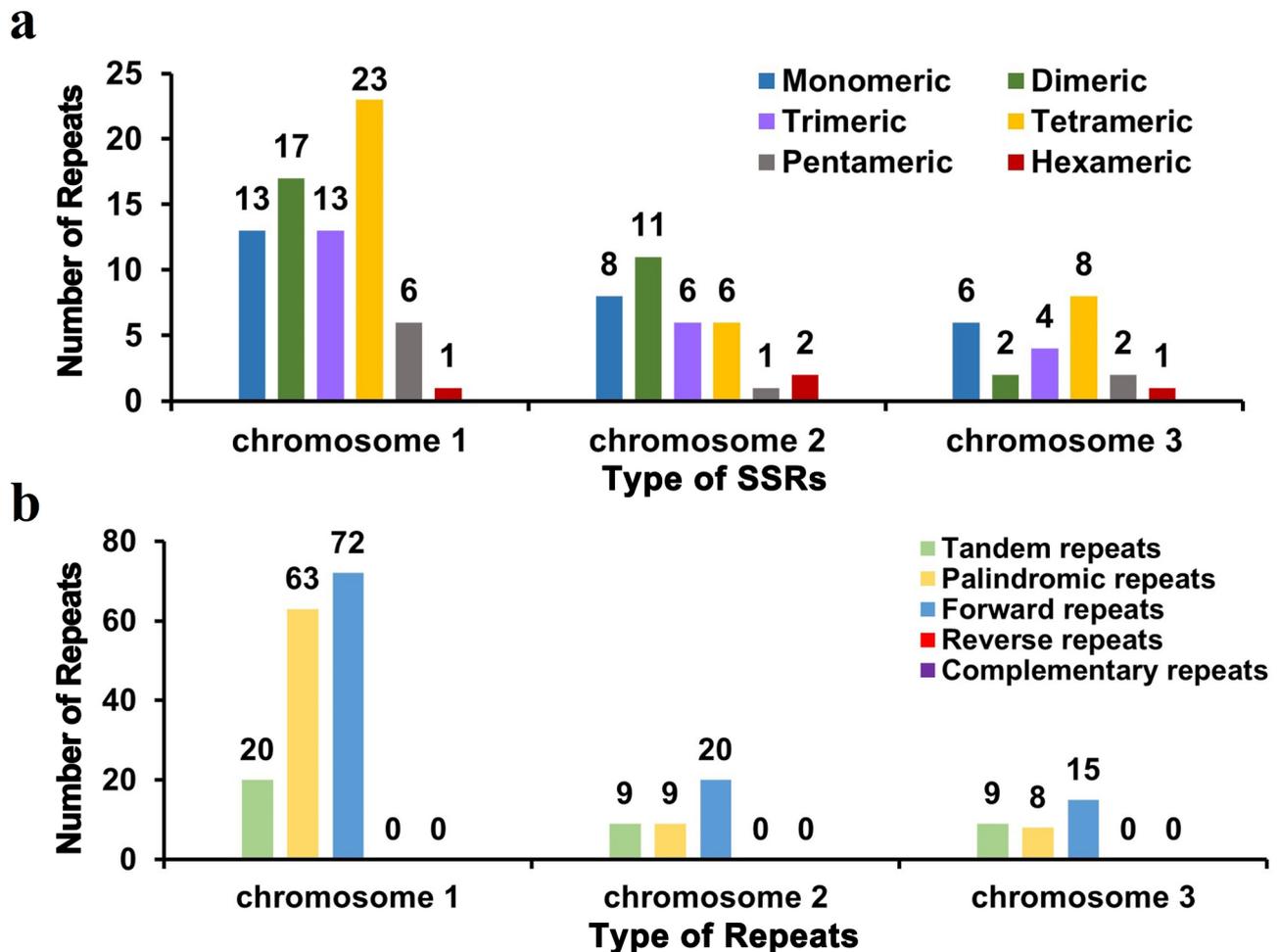


Fig. 4 Repeat sequence analysis of the *A. stolonifera* mitochondrial genome. **(a)** The x-axis represents the type of SSRs while the y-axis represents the number of repeats. Each colored legend represents a different type of SSR: purple for monomer, yellow for dimer, blue for trimer, green for tetramer, gray for pentamer, and red for hexamer SSRs. **(b)** The x-axis displays the type of repeats, and the y-axis displays the number of repeats. The green, red, and blue legends correspond to tandem, palindromic, and forward repeats, respectively. Notably, neither reverse nor complementary repeats were identified in the mitochondrial genome under investigation

A. stolonifera is part of the Pooideae subfamily in the Poaceae family and is closely related to *Lolium perenne* (Fig. 7). This supports the consistency of the phylogenetic tree obtained from the mitochondrial PCGs with the APG IV classification system.

The analysis of the mitogenomes of *A. stolonifera* and four closely related species, including *Lolium perenne*, *Triticum aestivum*, *Hordeum vulgare*, and *Thinopyrum obtusiflorum*, revealed the presence of a large number of homologous co-linear blocks (Fig. 8). However, the length of these blocks was relatively small, with the largest block measuring 12,998 bp in length and exhibiting 98.731% identity between chromosome 1 of the *A. stolonifera* and *Lolium perenne* mitogenomes. The arrangement of the co-linear blocks differed among individual mitogenomes, suggesting that the *A. stolonifera* mitogenome has undergone extensive genomic rearrangements in comparison to its closely related species and has an extremely

unconserved structure. Additionally, certain regions of the *A. stolonifera* mitogenome exhibited no homology to the other species, demonstrating their exclusive presence in this mitogenome.

Discussion

Mitochondria serve as the powerhouse of energy, playing a pivotal role in producing the energy required to maintain cellular life [24]. Compared to animal mitochondrial genomes, plant mitochondrial genomes are characterized by their complexity. Animal mitochondrial genomes typically range from 10 to 20 kb, whereas those of plants range from 190 kb to 11.3 Mb (commonly 400–800 kb) [25]. Plant mitochondria genomes contain only a few coding genes with highly conserved sequences that are sparsely distributed [26]. Although circular maps are commonly used to represent them during mitosis, recent studies have shown that they are unlikely to exist as a

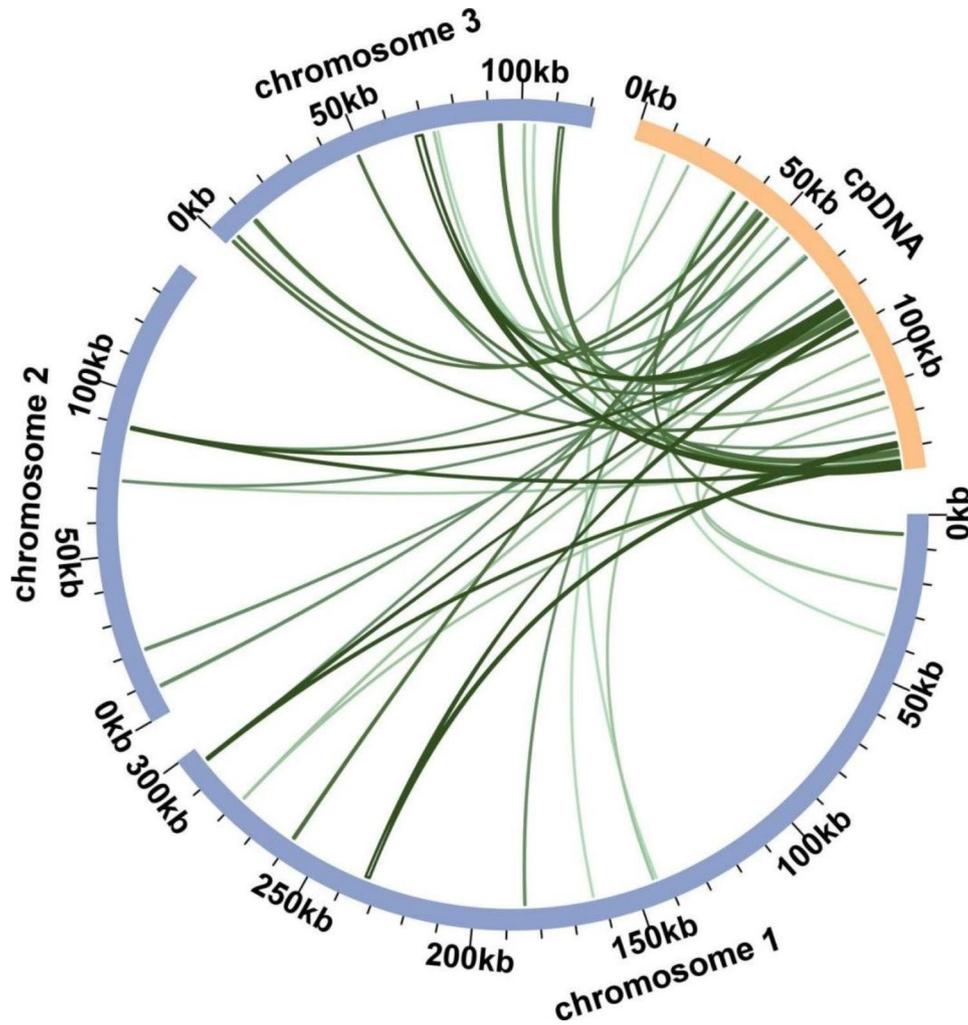


Fig. 5 The gene transfers that occurred between the chloroplast and mitochondrial genomes of *A. stolonifera*. The blue and orange arcs denote the mitochondrial and chloroplast genomes, respectively, while the green lines connecting the arcs represent homologous genome segments that were transferred between the two organelles

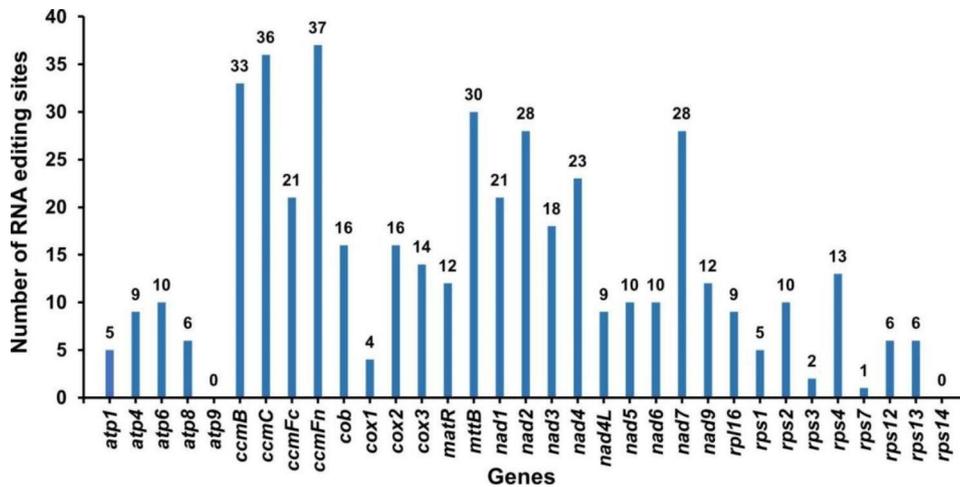


Fig. 6 The Number of RNA editing sites predicted in PCGs of *A. stolonifera* mitochondrial genome

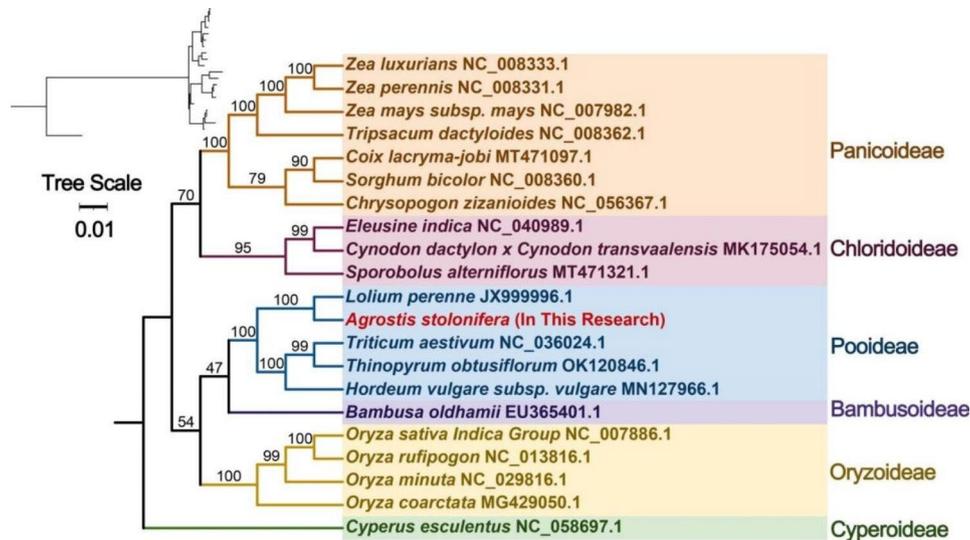


Fig. 7 The phylogenetic relationships of *A. stolonifera* with other closely related species. The Neighbor-Joining tree was constructed based on the sequences of 22 conserved PCGs. Colors indicate the families that the specific species belongs



Fig. 8 Mitochondrial genome Multiple Synteny Plot of *A. stolonifera* and closely related species. The bars on the graph indicate the mitochondrial genomes of the species, while the ribbons depict the homologous sequences between adjacent species. The red areas highlight where inversions occurred, while the gray areas indicate regions with strong homology

single deoxyribonucleic molecule [27–29]. Advances in sequencing technologies, including Illumina’s second-generation sequencing and Nanopore’s third-generation sequencing, have enabled researchers to explore the complex structure of these genomes more accurately [30–33]. This has led to a better understanding of their biological replication and recombination mechanisms and their unique functional and evolutionary processes. In this study, we sequenced *A. stolonifera*, a member of the Gramineae family, which has a multibranch primary structure containing three looped contigs, similar to the *Populus deltoides* mitogenome [34]. This is unlike the mitogenomes of a sugarcane cultivar [35], *Oryza sativa* [36], *Elymus sibiricus* [37], and most other

graminid mitochondrial genomes, which have single loops. The comparative analysis of DNA sequences of closely related species has revealed DNA repair can occur between closely related species through homologous recombination and exchange of nucleotide sequences at non-homologous ends. This process can result in the loss of coding frames or regulation of gene expression, and if not repaired promptly and accurately, it can lead to chromosome loss and recombination in plants, ultimately resulting in structural and functional differences in genes. However, the mechanism underlying the coexistence of these three circular molecules in *A. stolonifera* is still unclear and requires further investigation. Additionally, the *A. stolonifera* genome is GC-rich, which could

serve as an indicator to determine the species [38, 39]. With a total length of 560,800 bp and 44.07% GC content, *A. stolonifera* is highly similar to its fellow gramineae *Lolium perenne* (GenBank, JX 999,996) [40] and *Hordeum vulgare* (GenBank, AP017300 and AP017301) [41], which have GC contents of 44.1% and 44.2%, respectively. The GC content of the entire mitochondrial genome is remarkably similar and consistent with the conservation observed in higher plants.

The eukaryotic genome contains 64 codons that code for 20 different amino acids and three stop codons. With the exception of Met and Trp, all amino acids are encoded by two to six synonymous codons. The preference for the utilization of these synonymous codons is determined by several factors, including the abundance of tRNA, the mutational bias of the gene chain, gene expression level, gene length, and GC composition. The codon preference analysis of 33 unique PCGs of *A. stolonifera* mitochondria and the use of codons by individual amino acids are shown in Fig. 3. The PCGs of *A. stolonifera* mitochondria typically begin with ATG start codons and preferentially end with A or U in their stop codon. This result is similar to the codon preference of higher angiosperms [42–44].

In contrast to animal and yeast mitochondria, plant mitochondria contain abundant introns and repetitive elements in their mitochondrial repetitive sequences, accounting for up to 90% of the entire mt-genomes. Repeats play a significant role in mitochondrial intergenic sequences [45, 46]. Plant mitochondrial large repeating segments, over 1,000 bp, frequently undergo reciprocal recombination, which not only subdivides the genome, increasing recombination viability, but also generates the coexistence of small and large loop structures. Frequent recombination of repetitive sequences contributes to this phenomenon in mitochondria [47, 48]. We hypothesize that the multiple loop structure of *A. stolonifera*, as shown in Fig. 2, is correlated with its frequent repeat sequences. Recombination variation in *A. stolonifera* is significantly different and mainly concentrated in the mitotic genome of chromosome 1, which contains 73 variations of SSRs. A recent study suggests that these homologous recombination patterns contribute to reproductive diversity in higher plants, particularly through homologous recombination repair [49]. Although these rearrangements can lead to developmental issues or lethality, they may also result in a beneficial phenotype [50, 51]. Studies on the maintenance of the *Arabidopsis* mitochondrial *SSB1* and *SSB2* genes, which are involved in the ABA signaling pathway during seed germination and play roles in mitochondrial replication and homologous recombination, revealed that they negatively regulate mtDNA replication [52, 53]. Additionally, during mitochondrial evolution, some chloroplast fragments migrated into the mitochondrial genome, with the

length and sequence similarity of the migrated fragments varying over time. The growth and development of plant leaves and roots at different stages can cause fragments of various lengths from the chloroplast genome to migrate into the mitochondrial genome. As a result, higher plant mitochondrial genomes contain sequences that are homologous to chloroplast DNA, facilitating the movement of genetic material within the organism. In our study, we identified 48 mitochondrial genome fragments with a total length of 19,114 bp that were homologous to the chloroplast genome, including 12 complete genes. This finding demonstrates the existence of gene transfer between chloroplasts and mitochondria [54].

RNA editing, a deamination reaction, is essential for gene expression in higher plant mitochondrial genomes and occurs through a post-transcriptional process. Studying RNA modification target sites further advances our understanding of the molecular mechanisms underlying plant gene expression in both mitochondrial genomes and chloroplast genomes [55]. Previous studies have reported this phenomenon, such as 421 RNA editing sites in 26 genes of *A. truncatum* [56], 457 RNA editing sites in 36 genes of *Rhopalocnemis phalloides* [57], and 597 RNA editing sites in 35 genes of *Ipomoea batatas* Lam [58]. In our study, we identified 460 RNA editing sites in 33 PCGs of *A. stolonifera* mitochondria using online point prediction, with all of them being C-U RNA editing. This C-U RNA editing event predominantly occurs at the second codon position and is mostly fully edited, enabling the regulation of RNA editing sites in *A. stolonifera*. This process enhances the homology of mitochondrial protein sequences among different species, promotes plant growth and development, and could be exploited for use in other species.

To clarify the phylogeny of representative taxa of *A. stolonifera* based on mitochondrial genomic information and establish well-defined taxonomic relationships among them, we constructed a phylogenetic tree using PCGs. The analysis revealed that *A. stolonifera* is closely related to *Lolium perenne*, which is supported by their similar GC content. This finding further corroborates the congruence of the phylogenetic tree derived from mitochondrial PCGs with the APG IV classification system. By examining the arrangement of different co-linear blocks in individual mitochondrial genomes, we discovered that the *A. stolonifera* mitochondrial genome has experienced extensive genomic rearrangements, resulting in a highly variable structure compared to its close relatives. This allows for the evolution and diversification of the mitochondrial genome. Some regions of the *A. stolonifera* mitochondrial genome do not exhibit homology with other species, indicating their unique presence in this mitotic genome. This significant discovery has

implications for future studies on the genetics, growth, and development of *A. stolonifera*.

Conclusions

The findings of this study provide new insights into the evolution, energy production, and adaptation of plants to the environment. The discovery of RNA editing in the mitochondrial PCGs of *A. stolonifera* expands our understanding of the unique genetic features of plant mitochondria. The identification of SSRs and homologous co-linear blocks in the mitogenomes of *A. stolonifera* and related species paves the way for future genetic improvement studies. Overall, this study highlights the importance of understanding the mitochondrial genome in both basic and applied plant sciences.

Materials and methods

Plant materials, DNA extraction and *De novo* sequencing

The seeds of *A. stolonifera* (cv. 'Penn A-4') were bought from Barenbrug USA (Oregon, USA) and stored at School of Grassland Science, Beijing Forestry University, which were cultivated in a light culture chamber (26/20°C, 16 h light/8 h dark cycle with 50% humidity). Leaves from a 30-day-old seedling were harvested and used for DNA extraction by CTAB method. The DNA quantity and quality were checked using the Nanodrop and Qubit for library construction and sequencing. The mitochondrial genome sequencing was performed on BGI and Nanopore platforms.

Sequence assembly and annotation

The GetOrganelle software (v1.7.5) with default parameters was utilized to assemble *A. stolonifera* mitochondrial genome from short-read data, and the Bandage software was used to visualize the mitochondrial genome and remove single extended fragments from chloroplast and nuclear genomes. To make mitochondrial genome sequence more accurate, Flye software was employed to assembly and a graphical representation of the mitochondrial genome was generated with long-read data. The bwa software was used to compare short-read data to the graphical representation of the mitochondrial genome obtained from long-read data. Repeated sequences were excluded from the second-generation assembly results to ensure consistency between the short-read and long-read assembly results, resulting in the final mitochondrial genome of *A. stolonifera*.

Lolium perenne (JX999996.1) and *Liriodendron tulipifera* (NC_021152.1) were selected as the reference genomes for annotation. The Geseq software [59] was employed to annotate the coding genes of the mitochondrial genome from *A. stolonifera*. The tRNA genes were annotated using tRNAscan-SE software [60], while the rRNA genes were annotated using BLASTN software

[61]. To ensure accuracy, the annotation errors in the mitochondrial genome were manually corrected using Apollo software [62].

Analysis of codon usage bias and repeated elements

The codon usage bias in various species and organisms differs significantly. It is believed that this bias is a result of prolonged evolutionary selection. The protein-coding sequences were extracted using Phylosuite software [63] and the relative synonymous codon usage (RSCU) values of the amino acid composition of protein coding genes from mitochondrial genome were determined using MEGA (v7.0) software. Simple sequence repeats (SSRs) were identified using the MISA software (<https://web-blast.ipk-gatersleben.de/misa/>) [64]. Tandem repeats and non-tandem repeats in the mitochondrial genome were analyzed using TRF (<https://tandem.bu.edu/trf/trf.unix.help.html>) [65] and REPuter (<https://bibiserv.cebitec.uni-bielefeld.de/reputer/>) [66].

DNA transfer and RNA editing events

The chloroplast genome was assembled using GetOrganelle [67] and annotated using CPGAVAS2 [68]. Homologous fragments were analyzed with BLASTN [61], and the results were visualized using the package RCircos [69]. The prediction of RNA editing events was based on the PREP suit website (<http://prep.unl.edu/cgi-bin/mt-input.pl>) [70].

Phylogenetic and synteny analysis

The mitochondrial genome sequences of closely related plant species were obtained from the NCBI website, and common genes were extracted using PhyloSuite software [63]. Multiple sequence alignment analysis was performed using MAFFT [71] with a bootstrap value of 1000, and phylogenetic analysis was conducted using MRBAYES [72]. The final results of the phylogenetic analysis were then visualized using ITOL software [73].

To investigate the collinearity relationship of the mitogenome between various popular species, we used BLASTN [61] to align the nucleotides of the *A. stolonifera* mitogenome with those of closely related plant species. Homologous sequences with a length of over 500 bp were then utilized to generate a multiple synteny plot of the *A. stolonifera* mitogenome in comparison to closely related species using MCscanX [74].

Supplementary Information

The online version contains supplementary material available at <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12864-023-09573-1>.

Supplementary Material 1

Supplementary Material 2

Supplementary Material 3

Supplementary Material 4

Acknowledgements

We sincerely thank the experimental personnel and bioinformatics analysis at Wuhan Benagen Tech Solutions Company Limited (www.benagen.com) and MitoRun research group participated in this project.

Author contributions

All authors contributed to the study conception and design. Material preparation, data collection and analysis were performed by Jiaying Li, Yaling Liu, Chen Wang, Ling Li and Yinglong Chen. The first draft of the manuscript was written by Yuehui Chao and Jiaying Li, and all authors commented on previous versions of the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

Funding

This work was supported by the major demonstration project of "The open competition" for seed Industry science and technology innovation in Inner Mongolia (Grant No.: 2022JBG500160302).

Data Availability

The genome sequence data for the chloroplast and mitochondria of *A. stolonifera* have been uploaded to the NCBI database under Accession Numbers OQ695464 and OQ695465, respectively.

Declarations

Ethics approval and consent to participate

This article does not contain any studies with human participants or animals performed by any of the authors. The collection and cultivation of *A. stolonifera* complied with relevant institutional, national, and international guidelines and legislation.

Consent for publication

Not applicable.

Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

Received: 4 April 2023 / Accepted: 10 August 2023

Published online: 18 August 2023

References

- Schultze M, Kondorosi A. Regulation of symbiotic root nodule development. *Annu Rev Genet.* 1998;32:33–57. <https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev.genet.32.1.33>.
- Burger G, Gray MW, Franz Lang B. Mitochondrial genomes: anything goes. *Trends Genet.* 2003;19(12):709–16. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tig.2003.10.012>.
- Liere K, Börner T. Development-dependent changes in the amount and Structural Organization of Plastid DNA. 2013. doi:https://doi.org/10.1007/978-94-007-5724-0_11.
- Wendel JF. Genome evolution in polyploids. *Plant Mol Biol.* 2000;42(1):225–49. <https://doi.org/10.1023/A:1006392424384>.
- Gaeta RT, Pires JC, Iniguez-Luy F, Leon E, Osborn TC. Genomic changes in Resynthesized Brassica napus and their effect on Gene expression and phenotype. *Plant Cell.* 2007;19(11):3403–17. <https://doi.org/10.1105/tpc.107.054346>.
- Woloszynska M, Kmiec B, Mackiewicz P, Janska H. Copy number of Bean mitochondrial genes estimated by real-time PCR does not correlate with the number of gene loci and transcript levels. *Plant Mol Biol.* 2006;61(1–2):1–12. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11103-005-5773-3>.
- Preuten T, Cincu E, Fuchs JR, Zoschke K, Liere K, Börner T. Fewer genes than organelles: extremely low and variable gene copy numbers in mitochondria of somatic plant cells. 2010. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1365-313X.2010.04389.x>. Epub 2010 Nov 4.
- Cowdry Nh. A comparison of mitochondrial in plant and animal cells. *Biol Bull.* 1917;33(3):196–228. <https://doi.org/10.2307/1536370>.
- Nielsen BL. Plant mitochondrial DNA. *Front Biosci.* 2017;22(6):1023–32. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S1360-1385\(97\)01148-5](https://doi.org/10.1016/S1360-1385(97)01148-5).
- Kanazawa A, Tsutsumi N, Hirai A. Reversible changes in the composition of the population of mtDNAs during dedifferentiation and regeneration in tobacco. *Genetics.* 1994;138(3):865–70. <https://doi.org/10.1093/genetics/138.3.865>.
- Backert S, Lynn Nielsen B, Börner T. The mystery of the rings: structure and replication of mitochondrial genomes from higher plants. *Trends Plant Sci.* 1997;2(12):477–83. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S1360-1385\(97\)01148-5](https://doi.org/10.1016/S1360-1385(97)01148-5).
- Unsel M, Marienfeld JR, Brandt P, Brennicke A. The mitochondrial genome of *Arabidopsis thaliana* contains 57 genes in 366,924 nucleotides. *Nat Genet.* 1997;15:57–61. <https://doi.org/10.1038/ng0197-57>.
- Hutchings MJ. Resource Allocation Patterns in Clonal Herbs and Their Consequences for Growth. 1997. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1186/1471-2164-14-202>.
- Bonos S, Plumley K, Meyer W. Ploidy determination in *Agrostis* using Flow Cytometry and morphological traits. *Crop Sci.* 2002;42:192–6.
- Chakraborty N, Bae J, Warnke S, Chang T, Jung G. Linkage map construction in allotetraploid creeping bentgrass (*Agrostis stolonifera* L). *Tagtheoretical & Applied Geneticstheoretische Und Angewandte Genetik.* 2005;111(4):795. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00438-007-0240-2>.
- Loreto A, Sung-Chur S, Jin-Joo B, Nanda C, Joe C, Chang T, Maiko I, Scott W, Geunhwa J, Vendramin GG. Comparative genome analysis between *Agrostis stolonifera* and members of the Pooideae Subfamily, including *Brachypodium distachyon*. *PLoS ONE.* 2013;8(11):e79425. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0079425>.
- Rapp RA, Udall JA, Wendel JF. Genomic expression dominance in allopolyploids. *BMC Biol.* 2009;7(1):18. <https://doi.org/10.1186/1741-7007-7-18>.
- Zeng ZX, Zhang T, Li G, Liu C, Yang Z. Phenotypic and epigenetic changes occurred during the autopolyploidization of *Aegilops tauschii*. *Cereal Res Commun.* 2012;40(4):476–85. <https://doi.org/10.1556/CRC.40.2012.0014>.
- Cavalli-Sforza LL. *Popul Genet.* 1998;14(2):60–5.
- Warnke SE, Douches DS, Branham BE. Isozyme Analysis supports allotetraploid inheritance in tetraploid creeping Bentgrass (*Agrostis palustris* Huds). *Crop Sci.* 1998;38(3). <https://doi.org/10.2135/cropsci1998.0011183X00380003.0030x>.
- Rotter D, Bharti AK, Li HM, Luo C, Bonos SA, Bughrara S, Jung G, Messing J, Rudd MS, Al E. Analysis of EST sequences suggests recent origin of allotetraploid colonial and creeping bentgrasses. *Mol Genetics&Genomics.* 2007. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00438-007-0240-2>. Epub 2007 May 12.
- He H, Fu J, Wang Q, Xi Q, Wei X, Zhao Y, Ling C, Chang T, Zhao Y. The complete chloroplast genome of *Agrostis capillaris* L. *Mitochondrial DNA Part B.* 2021;6(9):2526–7. <https://doi.org/10.1080/23802359.2021.1959446>.
- Xu Y, Huang B. Comparative transcriptomic analysis reveals common molecular factors responsive to heat and drought stress in *Agrostis stolonifera*. *entific Rep.* 2018;8(1). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-018-33597-3>.
- Palmer Jd, Herbon LA. Plant mitochondrial-DNA Evolves Rapidly Structures, But Slowly In Sequence. *J mol Evol* 1989, 1989,28(1–2):87–97. doi:<https://doi.org/10.1007/BF02143500>.
- Kozik A, Rowan BA, Lavelle D, Berke L, Christensen AC. The alternative reality of plant mitochondrial DNA: one ring does not rule them all. *PLoS Genet.* 2019;15(8):e1008373. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pgen.1008373>.
- Daniel B, Sloan, Andrew J, Alverson, John P, Chuchalovcak M. Rapid Evolution of enormous, multichromosomal genomes in Flowering Plant Mitochondria with exceptionally high mutation rates. *PLoS Biol.* 2012;10(1):e1001241. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pbio.1001241>.
- Taanman JW. The mitochondrial genome: structure, transcription, translation and replication. *Biochim Biophys Acta.* 1999;1410(2):103–23.
- Wynn EL, Christensen AC. Repeats of Unusual Size in Plant Mitochondrial Genomes: Identification, Incidence and Evolution. *G3 Genes[Genomes]Genetics* 2019, 9(2):549–559. doi: [https://doi.org/10.1016/s0005-2728\(98\)00161-3](https://doi.org/10.1016/s0005-2728(98)00161-3). doi:10.1534/g3.118.200948.
- Jackman SD, Lauren C, Warren RL, Heather K, Eva T, Tina ML, Stephen P, Pawan P, Zhao Y, Coope RJ. Complete mitochondrial genome of a gymnosperm, Sitka spruce (*Picea sitchensis*), indicates a complex physical structure. *Genome Biol Evol.* 2020. <https://doi.org/10.1093/gbe/evaa108>.
- Alqahtani F. Statistical Mitogenome Assembly with RepeaTs. *Journal of computational biology: a journal of computational molecular cell biology* 2020, 27(9). doi: <https://doi.org/10.1089/cmb.2019.0505>.
- Dong S, Zhao C, Chen F, Liu Y, Zhang S, Wu H, Zhang L, Yang L. The complete mitochondrial genome of the early flowering plant *Nymphaea colorata* is

- highly repetitive with low recombination. *BMC Genomics*. 2018;19(1):1–12. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12864-018-4991-4>.
32. Zhang F, Chen F, Trude S, Heslop-Harrison JS, Teng N. The nature and genomic landscape of repetitive DNA classes in *Chrysanthemum nankinense* shows recent genomic changes. *Ann Botany* 2022(1):1. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1093/aob/mcac066>.
 33. Boo SH, Kim YK. The emerging role of RNA modifications in the regulation of mRNA stability. *Exp Mol Med*. 2020;52(3):400–8. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s12276-020-0407-z>.
 34. Qu Y, Zhou P, Tong C, Bi C, Xu L. Assembly and analysis of the *Populus deltoides* mitochondrial genome: the first report of a multicircular mitochondrial conformation for the genus *Populus*. *J Forestry Res*. 2022. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11676-022-01511-3>.
 35. Shearman JR, Sonthirod C, Naktang C, Pootakham W, Yoocha T, Sangsrakru D, Jomchai N, Tragoonrung S, Tangphatsornruang S. The two chromosomes of the mitochondrial genome of a sugarcane cultivar: assembly and recombination analysis using long PacBio reads. *Sci Rep*. 2016;6(1):31533. <https://doi.org/10.1038/srep31533>.
 36. Notsu Y, Masood S, Nishikawa T, Kubo N, Akiduki G, Nakazono M, Hirai A, Kadowaki K. The complete sequence of the rice (*Oryza sativa* L.) mitochondrial genome: frequent DNA sequence acquisition and loss during the evolution of flowering plants. *Mol Genet Genomics*. 2002;268(4):434–45. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00438-002-0767-1>. doi:
 37. Xiong Y, Yu Q, Xiong Y, Zhao J, Lei X, Liu L, Liu W, Peng Y, Zhang J, Li D, et al. The complete mitogenome of *Elymus sibiricus* and insights into its evolutionary pattern based on simple repeat sequences of seed plant mitogenomes. *Front Plant Sci*. 2021;12:802321. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpls.2021.802321>.
 38. Singh R, Ming R, Yu Q. Comparative analysis of GC content variations in Plant Genomes. *Trop Plant Biology*. 2016;9(3):136–49. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12042-016-9165-4>.
 39. Yu Y, Li H-T, Wu Y-H, Li D-Z. Correlation analysis reveals an important role of GC content in Accumulation of deletion mutations in the Coding Region of Angiosperm Plastomes. *J Mol Evol*. 2021;89(1):73–80. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00239-020-09987-5>.
 40. Islam MS, Studer B, Byrne SL, Farrell JD, Asp T. The genome and transcriptome of perennial ryegrass mitochondria. *BMC Genomics*. 2013;14(1):202. <https://doi.org/10.1186/1471-2164-14-202>.
 41. Hisano H, Tsujimura M, Yoshida H, Terachi T, Sato K. Mitochondrial genome sequences from wild and cultivated barley (*Hordeum vulgare*). *BMC Genomics*. 2016;17(1):824. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12864-016-3159-3>.
 42. Sloan DB, Wu Z, Sharbrough J. Correction of persistent errors in Arabidopsis Reference mitochondrial genomes. *Plant Cell*. 2018;30(3):525–7. <https://doi.org/10.1105/tpc.18.00024>.
 43. Yang J, Wariss HM, Tao L, Zhang R, Yun Q, Hollingsworth P, Dao Z, Luo G, Guo H, Ma Y, et al. De novo genome assembly of the endangered *Acer yangbiense*, a plant species with extremely small populations endemic to Yunnan Province. *China GigaScience*. 2019;8(7). <https://doi.org/10.1093/gigascience/giz085>.
 44. Zhou M, Li X. Analysis of synonymous codon usage patterns in different plant mitochondrial genomes. *Mol Biol Rep*. 2009;36(8):2039–46. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11033-008-9414-1>.
 45. Davila JI, Arrieta-Montiel MP, Wamboldt Y, Cao J, Mackenzie SA. Double-strand break repair processes drive evolution of the mitochondrial genome in Arabidopsis. *BMC Biology*;9,1(2011-09-27) 2011, 9(1):1–14. <https://doi.org/10.1186/1741-7007-9-64>.
 46. Galtier N. The intriguing evolutionary dynamics of plant mitochondrial DNA. *BMC Biology*;9,1(2011-09-27) 2011, 9(1):1–3. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1186/1741-7007-9-61>.
 47. Knoll A, Fauser F, Puchta H. DNA recombination in somatic plant cells: mechanisms and evolutionary consequences. *Chromosome Res*. 2014;22(2):191–201. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10577-014-9415-y>.
 48. Kozik A, Rowan B, Lavelle D, Berke L, Schranz E, Michellmore R, Christensen A. The alternative reality of plant mitochondrial DNA: one ring does not rule them all. *PLoS Genet*. 2019;15:e1008373. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pgen.1008373>.
 49. Chevigny N, Schatz-Daas D, Lotfi F, Gualberto J. DNA repair and the Stability of the plant mitochondrial genome. *Int J Mol Sci*. 2020;21:328. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijms21010328>.
 50. Gualberto JM, Mileschina D, Wallet C, Niazi AK, Weber-Lotfi F, Dietrich A. The plant mitochondrial genome: Dynamics and maintenance. *Biochimie*. 2014;100:107–20. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biochi.2013.09.016>.
 51. Kubo T, Newton KJ. Angiosperm mitochondrial genomes and mutations. *Mitochondrion*. 2008;8(1):5–14. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.mito.2007.10.006>.
 52. Qian J, Meng L, Min Z, Hsu Y-F. Arabidopsis SSB1, a mitochondrial single-stranded DNA-Binding protein, is involved in ABA response and mitochondrial RNA splicing. *Plant Cell Physiol*. 2021;62(8):1321–34. <https://doi.org/10.1093/pcp/pcab097>.
 53. Qian J, Zheng M, Wang L, Song Y, Yan J, Hsu Y-F. Arabidopsis mitochondrial single-stranded DNA-binding proteins SSB1 and SSB2 are essential regulators of mtDNA replication and homologous recombination. *J Integr Plant Biol*. 2022;64(10):1952–65. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jipb.13338>.
 54. Raman G, Park S, Lee E et al. Evidence of mitochondrial DNA in the chloroplast genome of *Convallaria keiskei* and its subsequent evolution in the Asparagales. *Sci Rep* 9,2019,5028. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-019-41377-w>.
 55. Bi C, Paterson AH, Wang X, Xu Y, Wu D, Qu Y, Jiang A, Ye Q, Ye N. Analysis of the complete mitochondrial genome sequence of the diploid cotton *Gossypium raimondii* by Comparative Genomics Approaches. *BioMed Res Int* 2016. 2016;5040598. <https://doi.org/10.1155/2016/5040598>.
 56. Ma Q, Wang Y, Li S, Wen J, Zhu L, Yan K, Du Y, Ren J, Li S, Chen Z, et al. Assembly and comparative analysis of the first complete mitochondrial genome of *Acer truncatum* Bunge: a woody oil-tree species producing nervonic acid. *BMC Plant Biol*. 2022;22(1):29. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12870-021-03416-5>.
 57. Yu R, Sun C, Zhong Y, Liu Y, Sanchez-Puerta MV, Mower JP, Zhou R. The minicircular and extremely heteroplasmic mitogenome of the holoparasitic plant *Rhopalocnemis phalloides*. *Curr Biol*. 2022;32(2):470–479e475. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cub.2021.11.053>.
 58. Yang Z, Ni Y, Lin Z, Yang L, Chen G, Nijati N, Hu Y, Chen X. De novo assembly of the complete mitochondrial genome of sweet potato (*Ipomoea batatas* [L.] Lam) revealed the existence of homologous conformations generated by the repeat-mediated recombination. *BMC Plant Biol*. 2022;22(1):285. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12870-022-03665-y>.
 59. Michael T, Pascal L, Tommaso P, Ulbricht-Jones ES, Axel F, Ralph B, Stephan G. GeSeq – versatile and accurate annotation of organelle genomes. *Nucleic Acids Res* 2017(W1):W6–W11. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1093/nar/gkx391>.
 60. Lowe TM, Eddy SR. tRNAscan-SE: a program for improved detection of transfer RNA genes in genomic sequence. *Nucleic acids research* 2019, 1997,25(5):955–964. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1093/nar/25.5.955>.
 61. Chen Y, Ye W, Zhang Y, Xu Y. High speed BLASTN: an accelerated MegaBLAST search tool. *Nucleic Acids Res*. 2015;43(16):7762. <https://doi.org/10.1093/nar/gkv784>.
 62. Lewis S, Searle S, Harris N, Gibson M, Iyer V, Richter J, Wiel C, Bayraktaroglu L, Birney E, Ma C. Software Apollo: a sequence annotation editor. 2002. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1186/gb-2002-3-12-research0082>.
 63. Zhang D, Gao F, Jakovli I, Zou H, Wang GT. PhyloSuite: an integrated and scalable desktop platform for streamlined molecular sequence data management and evolutionary phylogenetics studies. *Mol Ecol Resour*. 2020;20(1):348–55. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1755-0998.13096>.
 64. Beier S, Thiel T, Münch T, Scholz U, Mascher M. MISA-web: a web server for microsatellite prediction. *Bioinformatics*. 2017;33(16):2583–5. <https://doi.org/10.1093/bioinformatics/btx198>.
 65. Benson G. Tandem repeats finder: a program to analyze DNA sequences. *Nucleic Acids Res*. 1999;27(2):573–80. <https://doi.org/10.1093/nar/27.2.573>.
 66. Kurtz S, Choudhuri JV, Ohlebusch E, Schliepman C, Stoye J, Giegerich R. REPUTer: the manifold applications of repeat analysis on a genomic scale. Oxford University Press; 2001. 2210.1093/nar/29.22.4633.
 67. Jin JJ, Yu WB, Yang JB, Song Y, Li DZ. GetOrganelle: a fast and versatile toolkit for accurate de novo assembly of organelle genomes. *Genome Biol*. 2020;21(1):241. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13059-020-02154-5>.
 68. Shi L, Chen H, Jiang M, Wang L, Wu X, Huang L, Liu C. CPGAVAS2, an integrated plastome sequence annotator and analyzer. *Nuclc Acids Research* 2019(W1):W65–W73. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1093/nar/gkz345>.
 69. Zhang H, Meltzer P, Davis S. RCircos: an R package for Circos 2D track plots. *BMC Bioinformatics*. 2013;14(1):244. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11033-008-9414-1>.
 70. Mower JP. The PREP suite: predictive RNA editors for plant mitochondrial genes, chloroplast genes and user-defined alignments. *Nucleic Acids Res*. 2009;W253–259. <https://doi.org/10.1093/nar/gkp337>. 37(Web Server issue).
 71. Katoh K, Standley DM, Katoh K, Standley DM. MAFFT Multiple Sequence Alignment Software Version 7: Improvements in performance and usability. *Mol Biol Evol* 30: 772–780. *Molecular Biology and Evolution* 2013, 30(4). doi: <https://doi.org/10.1093/molbev/mst010>.

72. Huelsenbeck JP, Ronquist F. MRBAYES: bayesian inference of phylogenetic trees. *Bioinformatics*. 2001;17(8):754–5. <https://doi.org/10.1093/bioinformatics/17.8.754>.
73. Ivica L, Peer B. Interactive Tree Of Life (iTOL) v4: recent updates and new developments. *Nuclc Acids Research* 2019(W1):W256-W259. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1093/nar/gkz239>.
74. Wang Y, Tang H, Debarry JD, Tan X, Li J, Wang X, Tae-Ho L, Jin H, Barry M, Guo H. MCScanX: a toolkit for detection and evolutionary analysis of gene synteny and collinearity. *Nucleic Acids Res*. 2012;40(7):e49–9. <https://doi.org/10.1093/nar/gkr1293>.

Publisher's Note

Springer Nature remains neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.