

FULL PAPER

Norihisa Matsushita · Kensuke Kikuchi · Yasumasa Sasaki  
Alexis Guerin-Laguette · Frédéric Lapeyrie  
Lu-Min Vaario · Marcello Intini · Kazuo Suzuki

## Genetic relationship of *Tricholoma matsutake* and *T. nauseosum* from the Northern Hemisphere based on analyses of ribosomal DNA spacer regions

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**Abstract** The genetic relationship among *Tricholoma matsutake* and *T. nauseosum* strains collected from various parts of the Northern Hemisphere was investigated using sequence analysis of the rDNA ITS region and PCR-RFLP analysis of the rDNA IGS-1 region. ITS sequence similarity between *T. matsutake* and *T. nauseosum* ranged between 98.1% and 100%. The strains of *T. matsutake* from coniferous forests and those from broad-leaved forests showed more than 99.8% similarity in their ITS sequences. Three distinct RFLP types were detected when IGS-1 regions were digested with *Cfr*13I. RFLP patterns showed no variability among the strains of *T. nauseosum* and those of *T. matsutake* from broad-leaved forests. This pattern corresponded to the dominant RFLP type in the Japanese population of *T. matsutake*. Thus, strains belonging to this RFLP type are widely distributed throughout East Asia and Europe and associated with many tree species of Pinaceae and Fagaceae. The result suggests that *T. matsutake* in coniferous and broad-leaved forests and *T. nauseosum* should be treated as the same species genetically.

**Key words** Ectomycorrhizal fungi · Intergenic spacer (IGS) · Internal transcribed spacer (ITS) · *Tricholoma matsutake* · *Tricholoma nauseosum*

### Introduction

*Tricholoma matsutake* (S. Ito & Imai) Sing. is one of the most economically important ectomycorrhizal mushrooms in the world. In the early 1940s, about 12000 tons of *T. matsutake* were harvested each year in Japan, but since then production has dramatically decreased to less than 100 tons per year. In recent years, more than 2000 tons of *T. matsutake* or closely related species are imported annually, mainly from Bhutan, Canada, China, Korea, Mexico, Morocco, Turkey, and the United States (Japan Tariff Association 1994–2003; Suzuki 2005).

Among closely related species, *T. bakamatsutake* Hongo, *T. caligatum* (Viv.) Ricken, and *T. magnivelare* (Peck) Redhead are clearly distinguished from *T. matsutake* by morphological features (Hosford et al. 1997; Wang et al. 1997). Ito and Imai (1925) reported that *T. matsutake* (syn. *Armillaria matsutake*) and *T. caligatum* (syn. *A. caligata*) are quite different in the form of stipe base, i.e., the stipe of *T. matsutake* is enlarged and that of *T. caligatum* is tapered downward. However, the characteristics of stipe base could not be differentiated between *T. matsutake* and *T. nauseosum* because the stipe of *T. nauseosum* varies from tapered downward to enlarged (Kytövuori 1988). According to morphological studies with 139 specimens from Europe, North Africa, and Japan, Kytövuori (1988) proposed that *T. matsutake* was identical to *T. nauseosum*. Because the sequences of the ribosomal DNA (rDNA) internal transcribed spacer (ITS) region were 98%–99% matched between *T. nauseosum* and *T. matsutake*, they were considered to be the same species (Bergius and Danell 2000). However, only four strains of *T. nauseosum* from Sweden and one strain of *T. matsutake* from Japan were examined for sequencing. It seems to be too small a number to examine among the many strains throughout Japan.

N. Matsushita (✉) · K. Kikuchi · Y. Sasaki · A. Guerin-Laguette<sup>1</sup> · L.-M. Vaario · K. Suzuki  
Laboratory of Forest Botany and Forest Health, Department of Forest Science, Graduate School of Agricultural and Life Sciences, The University of Tokyo, 1-1-1 Yayoi, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo 113-8657, Japan  
Tel. +81-3-5841-5226; Fax +81-3-5841-7554  
e-mail: matusita@fr.a.u-tokyo.ac.jp

F. Lapeyrie  
Unité Mixte de Recherche INRA-UHP Interactions Arbres/Micro-organismes, Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique, Champenoux, France

M. Intini  
C.N.R. Pathologia, Firenze, Italy

Present address:

<sup>1</sup>New Zealand Institute for Crop and Food Research Limited, Invermay Agricultural Centre, Private Bag 50034, Mosgiel, New Zealand

**Table 1.** Nucleotide sequence length of the internal transcribed spacer (ITS) region and restriction fragment sizes of the amplified IGS-1 region by *Cfr13I* of *Tricholoma matsutake* and *T. nauseosum* strains analyzed

Strain <sup>a</sup>	Geographical origin		Sample <sup>b</sup>	Dominant host tree <sup>c</sup>	ITS <sup>d</sup>		IGS-1	
	Locality	Country			Accession no.	Length (bp)	Reference <sup>e</sup>	RFLP type <sup>f</sup>
<i>T. matsutake</i>								
TmK1	Yangyang	Korea	f	<i>Pinus densiflora</i>	AB 188533	634	–	C
TmC1	Jiahe, Jilin	China	f	<i>Pinus densiflora</i>	AB 188534	634	–	B
TmC2	Fuyu, Jilin	China	f	<i>Pinus densiflora</i>	AB 188535	634	–	A
TmC3	Antu, Jilin	China	f	<i>Pinus densiflora</i>	AB 188536	634	–	C
TmC4	Wangqing, Jilin	China	f	<i>Pinus densiflora</i>	–	–	–	A
TmY1	Lufeng, Yunnan	China	m	<i>Castanopsis orthacantha</i>	AB 188537	634	–	A
TmY2	Lufeng, Yunnan	China	m	<i>Castanopsis orthacantha</i>	AB 188538	634	–	A
TmY3	Lijiang, Yunnan	China	m	<i>Quercus</i> spp.	AB 188539	634	–	A
TmY4	Lijiang, Yunnan	China	m	<i>Quercus</i> spp.	AB 188540	634	–	A
TmY5	Lijiang, Yunnan	China	m	<i>Quercus</i> spp.	AB 188541	634	–	A
TmY6	Lijiang, Yunnan	China	m	<i>Pinus yunnanensis</i>	AB 188542	634	–	A
TmY7	Lijiang, Yunnan	China	m	<i>Pinus yunnanensis</i>	AB 188543	634	–	A
TmY8	Lijiang, Yunnan	China	m	<i>Pinus yunnanensis</i>	AB 188544	634	–	A
TmY9	Lijiang, Yunnan	China	m	<i>Pinus yunnanensis</i>	AB 188545	634	–	A
TmY10	Zhongdian, Yunnan	China	m	<i>Quercus pannosa</i>	AB 188546	634	–	A
TmY11	Zhongdian, Yunnan	China	m	<i>Quercus pannosa</i>	AB 188547	634	–	A
TmY12	Zhongdian, Yunnan	China	m	<i>Quercus pannosa</i>	AB 188548	634	–	A
Tm1	Ina, Nagano	Japan	–	<i>Pinus densiflora</i>	AF 204868	634	K	–
Tm4	Iwaizumi, Iwate	Japan	–	<i>Pinus densiflora</i>	–	634	K	–
Tm33	Minakuchi, Shiga	Japan	–	<i>Pinus densiflora</i>	AF 204806	634	K	–
Tm0945	Miyazu, Kyoto	Japan	–	<i>Pinus densiflora</i>	–	634	K	–
TmA-5	Kake, Hiroshima	Japan	–	<i>Pinus densiflora</i>	AF 202772	634	K	–
<i>T. nauseosum</i>								
Tn1	Valtellina	Italy	f	<i>Picea abies</i>	AB 188549	634	–	A
Tn2	Lario	Italy	f	<i>Picea abies</i>	AB 188550	634	–	A
Tn3	Varese	Italy	f	<i>Picea abies</i>	AB 188551	634	–	A
Tn4	Grognardo	Italy	f	<i>Castanea sativa</i>	AB 188552	634	–	A
Tn5	Val Gerola	Italy	f	<i>Picea abies</i>	AB 188553	634	–	A
Tn6	Ticino	Switzerland	f	<i>Picea abies</i>	AB 188554	634	–	A
Tn7	unknown	Sweden	f	<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	AB 188555	634	–	A
Tn8	unknown	Sweden	f	<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	AB 188556	634	–	A
Tn9	unknown	Sweden	f	<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	AB 188557	634	–	A
F-013392	Uppsala	Sweden	–	<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	AF 145447	637	B	–
F-013393	Annplog	Sweden	–	<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	AF 145448	636	B	–
F-013394	Vagnhärad	Sweden	–	<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	AF 145446	635	B	–
F-013395	Kiruna	Sweden	–	<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	AF 145449	639	B	–

<sup>a</sup> Species names were according to collectors

<sup>b</sup> DNA was extracted from hyphae sampled directly from the fruiting body (f) or from pure cultured mycelium (m)

<sup>c</sup> Dominant tree(s) at the collection site

<sup>d</sup> TmC4 was not used for ITS sequence analysis

<sup>e</sup> B, published by Bergius and Danell (2000); K, published by Kikuchi et al. (2000); –, determined in this study

<sup>f</sup> Published by Guérin-Laguette et al. (2002)

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