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A Comparison of the First Two Sequenced Chloroplast Genomes in Asteraceae: Lettuce and Sunflower

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Background

Asteraceae is the second largest family of plants, with over 20,000 species. For the past few decades, numerous phylogenetic studies have contributed to our understanding of the evolutionary relationships within this family, including comparisons of the fast evolving chloroplast gene, *ndhF* [2], *rbcL*, as well as non-coding DNA from the *trnL* intron plus the *trnL-trnF* intergenic spacer [3, 4], *matK* [5], and, with lesser resolution, *psbA-trnH* [6]. This culminated in a study by Panero and Funk in 2002 [1] that used over 13,000 bp per taxon for the largest taxonomic revision of Asteraceae in over a hundred years. Still, some uncertainties remain, and it would be very useful to have more information on the relative rates of sequence evolution among various genes and on genome structure as a potential set of phylogenetic characters to help guide future phylogenetic structures.

By way of contributing to this, we report the first two complete chloroplast genome sequences from members of the Asteraceae, those of *Helianthus annuus* and *Lactuca sativa*. These plants belong to two distantly related subfamilies, Asteroideae and Cichorioideae, respectively [1]. In addition to these, there is only one other published chloroplast genome sequence for any plant within the larger group called Eusterids II, that of *Panax ginseng* (Araliaceae, 156,318 bps, AY582139).

Early chloroplast genome mapping studies demonstrated that *H. annuus* and *L. sativa* share a 22 kb inversion relative to members of the subfamily Barnadesioideae [7-9]. By comparison to outgroups, this inversion was shown to be derived, indicating that the Asteroideae and

Cichorioideae are more closely related than either is to the Barnadesioideae. Later sequencing study found that taxa that share this 22 kb inversion also contain within this region a second, smaller, 3.3 kb inversion [10].

These sequences also enable an analysis of patterns of shared repeats in the genomes at fine level and of RNA editing by comparison to available EST sequences. In addition, since both of these genomes are crop plants, their complete genome sequence will facilitate development of chloroplast genetic engineering technology, as in recent studies from Daniell's lab [11-15]. Knowing the exact sequence from spacer regions is crucial for introducing transgenes into the chloroplast genome [14].

Results

Size, gene content, order and organization: lettuce and sunflower cp genomes

The lettuce chloroplast genome is 152,772 bp in length (Fig 1) and contains a pair of inverted repeats (IRs) of 25,034 bp each, separated by a large and small single copy region (LSC and SSC) of 84,105 and 18,599 bp, respectively. The sunflower chloroplast genome is 151,104 bp in length, with IRs of 24,633 each, separated by an LSC of 83,530 bp and a SSC of 18,308. The G+C content of both sunflower and lettuce is 38% across the whole cpDNA. Gene content and arrangement are identical in both cpDNAs, but the order is different from tobacco, which has one large and one small inversion relative to these. There are 81 unique protein-coding genes in both genomes, seven of which are duplicated in the IR. The four rRNA genes are contained completely within the IR, so they are doubled in the genome. There are 29 unique tRNA genes,

of which seven are in the IR, bringing the total number to 35 in the genome. There are 17 unique intron-containing genes; 15 genes have a single intron and two genes have two introns.

Sequence divergence

The p-distance for the 25 most divergent non-coding regions of cpDNA is listed in Table 1, with values ranging from 0.084 to 0.226. Figure 2 shows the average p-distance for four classes of genomic regions: protein coding genes, introns, intergenic spacers, and RNAs (both rRNA and tRNAs). The intergenic spacer divergence is almost double the next highest class (introns). RNAs hold the lowest sequence divergence, at an average of only 0.8 percent. Table 2 shows the 10 most divergent protein coding sequences, ranging from 0.102 to 0.036. Sequence divergence across the whole genome of *Helianthus* and *Lactuca* is graphically summarized in Fig 3 by a percent identity plot. Tobacco is included for comparison and the annotation from *Helianthus* was used for gene locations.

Repeat Analysis

Because the raw REPuter [16] output contains many redundant repeats, we used the filtering program Comparative Repeat Analysis (CRA), which identifies and excludes repeats that are contained entirely within other repeats. CRA also identifies shared repeats by similarity searching using BLAST to the repeats of other input genomes. The output of the CRA analysis is found in Fig 4a. Most of the repeats are less than 40 bp, with only two larger than 90 bp. Only repeats that are 23 bp or larger were examined by eye for both *Helianthus* and *Lactuca*. Since we are interested in the role of repeats in genome organization, we attempted to categorize these repeats, and arrived at seven classes: (1) Tandem repeats $> 2x$ are identified by CRA as one large repeat, but upon closer examination are actually 3+ smaller repeats back-to-back; (2) Direct repeats dispersed in the genome; (3) Repeats found in reverse complement orientation

dispersed in the genome; (4) Hairpin loops with a predicted 2^o structure based on mfold [17]; (5) Tandem repeat 2x are true tandem repeats, or any twice repeated sequence back-to-back; (6) Repeats of runs of A's or T's, usually in excess of 12 bp; and (7) Repeats of portions of RNA or protein encoding genes.

Figure 4c shows the histogram of frequency of repeats according to these categories. Figs 4c and 4d describe the “true” repeats, i.e., the collection of repeats excluding polyA, polyT, and gene similarity matches. In Fig 4d, the graph shows the number of repeats shared by tobacco and both Asteraceae genomes, shared only among Asteraceae genomes, and repeats that are unique to *Helianthus* or *Lactuca*. Most of these repeats are located in intergenic spacers, as shown in Fig 4e. A table with specific repeat information is located in the Supplemental Materials.

Variation between coding sequences and cDNAs

ESTs are available in the databases for only a few of the relevant chloroplast genes. Only one lettuce chloroplast gene was present in the EST database and it is a perfect match to the genomic sequence. There were 10 ESTs of *Helianthus* chloroplast genes available and the differences are summarized in Table 3. There are three C-to-U changes, which are thought to be conventional angiosperm RNA editing changes [18]. These changes occur in *psbC*, *psbZ*, and *ndhA*, none of which are homologous to known RNA editing sites in tobacco cpDNA [18]. Of note is a C-to-U change that causes a stop codon in *psbC*. Two insertions of a single nucleotide also are noted. In both cases they cause frame shifts that result in numerous stop codons.

Discussion

Genome organization

Although the sunflower and lettuce chloroplast genomes are identical in gene content and arrangement, they differ in their length and in the extent of their IR regions. The lettuce IR is 401 bp longer than the sunflower IR, which adds twice that length to the whole genome.

Although the lettuce genome IR is longer, the sunflower IR actually has a greater expansion along both edges by a total of 140 bp. The sunflower IR extends into *ycf1* with 576 bp (only 471 in sunflower) and into *rps19* with 101 bp (only 60 bp in lettuce). This expansion of boundaries in the sunflower IR is balanced by a deletion of 456 bp in *ycf2* in the sunflower. Other smaller indels across the IR add to this length difference. Since this 401 bp IR length difference is doubled in the genome, it contributes half of the total genome difference, which is 1,668 bp between the two genomes. The extent of the IR in both genomes is similar, although the exact extent into the single-copy genes varies among other published genomes, like *Glycine*, *Nicotiana*, *Atropa*, *Eucalyptus*, and *Panax* [11, 12, 19-21].

There is a 152 amino-acid (aa) deletion in the *ycf2* gene in sunflower. *ycf2* is one of five genes absent in some species' chloroplast genomes; the other genes are *accD*, *ycf1*, *rpl23*, *infA* [22].

Both *ycf1* and *ycf2* are absent in monocot grains, namely maize, rice, and sugarcane [23-25].

However, knockout studies of *ycf2* have confirmed it as an essential chloroplast gene for survival in tobacco [26]. From this study, we can only hypothesize that the *ycf2* gene in *Helianthus* is functional because the rest of the gene is highly conserved compared to the lettuce copy, with only 1.31% sequence divergence. If the large deletion in the *Helianthus* copy rendered it a pseudogene, we would expect there to be higher sequence divergence with internal stop codons.

The start codon in *accD* gene occurs 15 aa further into the gene than it does in *Lactuca*, a position that matches the annotation in *Lotus* and *Arabidopsis*. *Lactuca* also has a 25 aa insertion in the middle of the *accD* gene. Like with *ycf2*, we assume the gene is still functional since the sequence divergence is otherwise low across the rest of the gene. There are a few other instances where the lengths of genes differ (*matK*, *rbcL*, *rpl22*, *rpl33*, *rpoC2*, *ycf1*, *ycf15*), but the majority of genes between *Helianthus* and *Lactuca* have no indels. The tRNAs are even lower in indel events: one involves a five bp deletion in *trnS*-UGA that is shared between *Helianthus* and *Lactuca*, and two others occur between the two genomes (a one bp indel in both *trnV*-UAC and *trnI*-GAU). We assume that these events do not affect the tRNA function for the same reasons as above.

The differences between DNA sequence and the mRNA sequence (from the EST database) result in many polymorphisms that cause amino-acid changes. Since the EST library only overlaps in a small subset of genes, we cannot draw conclusions about RNA editing across the whole chloroplast genome. Three of these are C-to-U edits, which are possible RNA edited changes [27]. The C-to-U changes in *Helianthus* occur in *ndhA*, *psbC*, and *psbZ*. Two of these cause an amino-acid change and the third cause change to a stop codon (Table 3). None of these edits correspond to other published, conserved, angiosperm editing sites, but although edited sites can be shared among distantly related taxa [18] others have been acquired later in angiosperm evolution [28]. The other 17 polymorphisms are interesting because the ESTs were made from the exact same strain of plant as was used in the chloroplast genome sequencing. These differences could be due either to polymorphisms or low quality sequence in the ESTs (our

stringent phred-phrap requirement across the genomic sequence makes it very unlikely that low quality sequence could be present in the genomic sequence). Lee et al. showed a similar pattern of intra-species polymorphism between DNA and EST sequences in cotton [12], and in their case, none of the polymorphisms were C-to-U edits.

Evolutionary Implications

Past analyses of repeated sequence in chloroplast genomes have focused primarily on Simple Sequence Repeats or SSRs [29-31], which are useful for population level studies. Larger and more complex repeats have been associated with rearranged genomes [10, 11, 32], but tools for identifying and summarizing these more complex repeats have been incomplete in the past. There are two issues that skew repeat results when using the program REPuter [16]. One is the use of hamming-distance (HD) as a measure of determining similarity of repeating sequence. This is a fixed parameter that only allows one user-defined number of differences per repeat, which is the same regardless of length. In effect, this skews the number of smaller repeats found in the genome since a greater percentage of differences for smaller repeats is allowed. Our solution to this problem was to use a sliding window method of increasing the HD with the repeat size, i.e. 2 HD for repeats 21-30 bp, 3 HD for 31-40 bp, 4 HD for 41-50 bp, etc. The second issue with REPuter is that it doesn't recognize repeats contained within other repeats, which drastically overestimates the number of repeats found in the genome. Stacia Wyman's Comparative Repeat Analysis (CRA) addresses this second issue by sifting through the REPuter output and excluding repeats contained within others. This more accurate collection of repeats is summarized in Fig 4a.

In order to examine the evolutionary or functional significance of repeats they must be categorized by form. For instance, we assume that a hairpin loop has different evolutionary implications than does tRNA similarity. After manually examining each repeat above 22 bp, we established seven categories (Figure 4b). The four largest repeats from Fig 4a were actually composed of smaller tandem repeats, so were re-categorized as such and summarized in Fig 4c. Two of our categories are not considered 'real' repeats for our purposes: gene similarity and tRNA repeats provide evidence of gene duplication, which is shared among most land plants and poly-A and poly-T runs are actually SSRs. Figure 4d omits these former categories of repeats and identifies which of these remaining ones are shared and unique among the genomes. The four repeats that are shared among *Helianthus*, *Lactuca*, and *Nicotiana* are as follows: a 32 bp tandem repeat in the *rrn4.5-rrn5* spacer; a 42 bp sequence that is dispersed in the 2nd intron of *ycf3*, *ndhA* intron, and the *rps12-ycf15* intergenic spacer; a palindrome in the *accD-psbI* spacer, and another palindrome in the *trnT-trnL* spacer. Finally, most of the repeats are found in non-coding DNA. The greater number of repeats present in spacers vs. introns is likely a function of fewer intron sequences in the genome and not an actual bias for spacers over introns. Since repeats have been implicated in the rearrangement of chloroplast genomes, we looked for them at our three rearrangement endpoints (Table 4). The 31 bp repeat at positions 12,333 and 31,010 in the *Helianthus* genome is close to two of the 2nd and 3rd rearrangement endpoints. The copy at coordinate 31,010 is in the *trnG* intron, which is only 173 bp from the 3rd endpoint. But none of the other repeats stand out as being correlated with the rearrangement. Our analysis only looked at repeats of 21 bp and larger, so a further examination of smaller repeats might reveal a higher density of repeats in this area. All repeats examined in this study are listed in the supplementary data (Sup. ##).

Perhaps the most directly practical data to emerge from this analysis is the identification of new genomic regions for use in phylogenetic studies. The study of evolutionary relationships in Asteraceae has ballooned over the past 15 years, with studies focused both within and between the genera. Most studies use a combination of several chloroplast regions and one or two nuclear genes. Usually the chloroplast regions used have a lower rate of evolution than the nuclear DNA, so more sequencing is needed to achieve equivalent resolution. Panero and Crozier [33] reviewed the phylogenetic utility of different chloroplast regions specifically for Asteraceae, while a more recent Shaw et al. [34] review covered phylogenetic utility of cpDNA across flowering plants. Interestingly, these only partially overlap with our results. We listed the 25 most divergent regions between *Helianthus* and *Lactuca* in Table 1 along with their length and number of indels. Our p-distance measure excludes any position containing a gap, so indels are not included in the divergence calculation. Of these most divergent regions longer than 300 bp, 11 have not been widely utilized, if ever, for phylogenetic inference. This is a promising finding, since plant systematists are constantly searching for more variable chloroplast sequences for resolving species level relationships. Three of these regions are currently being utilized for phylogenetic analyses in *Helianthus* (RET unpublished) and the primer sequences used to amplify these regions are listed in Table 6.

Methods

Chloroplast isolation, amplification, and sequencing

Fresh leaf material from lettuce (*Lactuca sativa* strain Salinas) and sunflower (*Helianthus annuus* line HA383) was used for the chloroplast isolation. These strains are the same ones used in the EST and nuclear genome sequencing efforts of the Compositae Genome Project [35].

Chloroplasts were isolated from the fresh leaves by the sucrose-gradient method [36]. They were then lysed and amplified using the REPLI-g™ whole genome amplification kit (Molecular Staging). The product was then digested with *EcoRI* and *BstBI* and the clear banding pattern ensured that amplification product was indeed chloroplast and not nuclear DNA. A detailed description of these steps is outlined in Jansen et al. [37]. Purified cpDNA was sheared by serial passage through a narrow aperture using a Hydroshear device (Gene Machines), then these fragments were enzymatically repaired to blunt ends and gel purified, then ligated into pUC18 plasmids. These clones were introduced into *E. coli* by electroporation, plated onto nutrient agar with antibiotic selection, and grown overnight. Colonies were randomly selected and robotically processed through rolling circle amplification of plasmid clones, sequencing reactions using BigDye chemistry (Applied Biosystems), reaction cleanup using solid-phase reversible immobilization, and sequencing determination using an ABI 3730 XL automated DNA sequencer. Detailed protocols are available at

<http://www.jgi.doe.gov/sequencing/protocols/protsproduction.html>.

Genome Assembly and Annotation

Sequences from randomly chosen clones were processed using PHRED and assembled based on overlapping sequence into a draft genome sequence using PHRAP [38]. Quality of sequence

determination and assembly were verified by eye using the program Consed [39]. PCR and sequencing at the University of Texas at Austin were used to bridge gaps and mend low quality areas of the genome. Additional sequences were added until a completely contiguous consensus was created representing the entire cpDNA. Throughout the entire consensus, we verified that all regions had a quality of Q40 or greater and including at least two sequencing reads. For both lettuce and sunflower, most of the genome far exceeds these minimum requirements.

The beginning of each genome was standardized for gene annotation to be the first bp after the IRa. (In this case both started right before *trnH*.) The program DOGMA (Dual Organellar GenoMe Annotator, [40]) was used to assist in fully annotating all genes, identifying coding sequence, rRNAs, and tRNAs using the plastid/bacterial genetic code.

Calculating sequence divergence

The whole genome sequence and annotation of lettuce and sunflower were compared to the reference genome, tobacco, by a Percent Identity Plot (PIP) produced by the program MultiPipMaker [41]. The individual genes, rRNAs, tRNAs, introns, and intergenic spacers were also exported from both genomes in DOGMA and aligned by hand in MacClade [42] for a more detailed quantification of sequence divergence. Since we are only comparing two genomes, we quantified sequence divergence as the proportion (p) of aligned nucleotide sites within a specified region that are different (p-distance). A perl script was written to call PAUP [43] on each nexus file, calculate the p-distance between each region, and write out to a tab-delimited file.

Examination of repeat structure

Shared and unique repeats were characterized for both lettuce and sunflower genomes and compared to the reference genome of tobacco (*Nicotiana tabacum*) using Comparative Repeat Analysis (CPA) [44]. This program filters the redundant output of REPuter [16] and identifies shared repeats among the input genomes. For repeat identification, the following constraints were set in CPA: (i) minimum repeat size of 21 bp, and (ii) 90% or greater sequence identity for each 10 bp bin (i.e. hamming distance (HD) was set to 2 for 21-30 bp, HD = 3 for 31-40, HD = 4 for 41-50 etc., until no further repeats were found). All repeats above 22 bp were examined by eye and placed into author-defined repeat categories.

Variation between coding sequences and cDNAs

Expressed sequence tag (EST) databases for both lettuce and sunflower were downloaded from the Compositae Genome Project Database (CGPDB). The complete set of coding sequences from our direct sequencing of lettuce and sunflower were searched for similarity by BLAST against their respective EST database. Significant hits were examined by eye for base-pair differences and summarized in a table as possible RNA edited sites.

Authors' contributions

RET extracted and isolated chloroplasts from *Helianthus* and *Lactuca*, performed amplification of cpDNA, made the genomic library at the DOE Joint Genome Institute (JGI), performed PCR for closing gaps and improving low quality regions across the genome, annotated both genomes, performed all analyses and drafted this manuscript; JVK and JLB performed the genome sequencing and draft assembly. JLB also assisted with writing of the manuscript; RKJ assisted

with wet chloroplast isolations, annotation, analyses, and revised several versions of this manuscript.

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Table 1. The 25 genomic regions with the largest p-distance between *Lactuca* and *Helianthus* genomes. Checked are the regions that have been highlighted in other review papers: Shaw et al. [34] (see their Fig. 5) and Panero and Crozier [33]. Note: Phylogenetic utility is not directly correlated with p-distance.

non-coding	length	p-distance	# indels	Shaw et al. 2005	Panero and Crozier 2003
<i>trnE-rpoB</i>	1003	0.226	184		
<i>trnY-trnE</i>	169	0.223	66	✓ partial	
<i>trnL-rpl32</i>	925	0.214	238		
<i>5' rps12-clpP</i>	172	0.166	17		
<i>ndhC-trnV</i>	1174	0.130	395		
<i>trnH-psbA</i>	418	0.117	58	✓	
<i>trnL-trnF</i>	361	0.109	29	✓	✓
<i>trnR-trnG</i>	203	0.107	16	✓	
<i>trnD-trnY</i>	113	0.106	0	✓ partial	
<i>trnC-petN</i>	870	0.106	109		
<i>trnT-trnL</i>	571	0.100	45	✓	
<i>ycf1-rps15</i>	599	0.100	234		
<i>ndhD-ccsA</i>	303	0.098	41		
<i>rpl32-ndhF</i>	1083	0.096	258		
<i>psbI-trnS</i>	156	0.096	16		
<i>ycf3-trnS</i>	948	0.095	181		
<i>3' trnK-matK</i>	285	0.094	20	✓	✓
<i>ndhI-ndhG</i>	395	0.093	86		✓

<i>trnG-trnT</i>	171	0.091	31		
<i>petN-psbM</i>	549	0.088	88		
<i>rps16-trnQ</i>	1021	0.088	49		
<i>trnG-trnfM</i>	213	0.087	30	✓ partial	
<i>rpl36-infA</i>	122	0.087	8		
<i>psbZ-trnG</i>	333	0.086	35	✓ partial	
<i>trnM-atpE</i>	213	0.084	13		

Table 2. The 10 most divergent coding regions between *Lactuca* and *Helianthus* genomes.

Genes	Length	p-distance
<i>ycf1</i>	5343	0.102
<i>psbT</i>	102	0.059
<i>petL</i>	96	0.052
<i>ndhF</i>	2235	0.049
<i>ccsA</i>	969	0.047
<i>psbH</i>	222	0.045
<i>matK</i>	1521	0.043
<i>accD</i>	1593	0.042
<i>rps15</i>	279	0.039
<i>rpl32</i>	165	0.036

Table 3. Base pair differences between genomic sequences and processed mRNA in the form of expressed sequence tags (ESTs) for *Helianthus* and *Lactuca*.

Gene name	EST contig Name	gene length	EST overlap	position	bp change	AA genome	AA cDNA
<i>Helianthus</i>							
<i>atpA</i>	QHL20C13.yg.ab1	1527	573	648	G-->A	K(aaG)	K(aaA)
<i>atpB</i>	QHL3D12.yg.ab1	1497	394	44 bp diffs - only 87% similar			
<i>ndhH</i>	QH_CA_Contig4939	1182	421	no bp changes			
<i>ndhA</i>	QH_CA_Contig4939	1092	553	107	C-->U	P(cCt)	L(cTt)
<i>psbC</i>	QH_CA_Contig1086	1422	513	786	U-->C	R(cgT)	R(cgC)
				896	G-->C	S(aGt)	T(aCt)
				901	c insert	causes frameshift	
				956	U-->C	V(gTt)	A(gCt)
				959	G-->C	R(aGa)	T(aCa)
				1096, 1097	U-->C	L(TTa)	P(CCa)
				1131	c insert	causes frameshift	
				1162	C-->U	Q(Caa)	STOP(Taa)
<i>psbI</i>	QHM17F18.yg.ab1	111	111	44	U-->C	L(tTt)	S(tCt)
				67	U-->C	F(Ttc)	L(Ctc)
<i>psbZ</i>	QH_CA_Contig5109	189	189	50	C-->U	S(tCa)	L(tTa)
				74	U-->C	V(gTt)	A(gCt)
				152	U-->G	V(gTc)	G(gGc)
				165	G-->A	G(gGt)	D(gAt)
<i>rpl2</i>	QHK5F11.yg.ab1	825	394	816	U-->G	R(cgT)	R(cgG)
				819	U-->G	S(agT)	R(agG)
<i>rpl14</i>	QH_CA_Contig6111	369	175	no bp changes			

<i>rpl16</i>	QH_CA_Contig5085	411	411	44	G-->C	R(aGa)	T(aCa)
				186	U-->C	G(ggT)	G(ggC)
				247	c insert	causes frameshift	
				256	U-->C	G(ggT)	G(ggC)
				261	U-->C	G(ggT)	G(ggC)
<u>Lactuca</u>							
<i>ycf4</i>	QGH3h12.yg.ab1	555	193	no bp changes			

Table 4. Repeats that are in close approximation to genome rearrangement – locations stated for *Helianthus* genome based on estimated rearrangement endpoints, from Lee et al. [10].

Rearrangement location in <i>Helianthus</i>	repeat location	repeat type	length of repeat
8897-8901, <i>trnS-trnC</i>	8850	palindrome	30 (13bp stem)
	8891	polyA run	21
	9048, 66394	dispersed repeat	21
12183-12693, <i>trnE-rpoB</i>	12333, 31010	dispersed repeat	31
	12094, 47516	dispersed palindrome	21 (5bp stem)
	12431, 47612	dispersed repeat	21
31183, <i>trnG-trnT</i>	none		

Table 5. Primer sequences for three chloroplast spacer regions – Primers amplify across *Helianthus* and *Lactuca*. *internal sequencing primer.

cp DNA region	length	Primer name	5'- 3' primer sequence
ndhC-trnV	1248	ndhCretF	AAGTTTCTCCGGTCCTTTGC
		trnVretR	TCTACGGTTCGAGTCCGTATAG
trnL-rpl32	998	trnLretF	TACCGATTTACCATAGCGG
		rpl32retR	AGGAAAGGATATTGGGCGG
trnY-trnE-rpoB	1185	trnYretF	CGAATTTACAGTCCGTCCCC
		trnYintF*	TAGATTAGGTATATCCGCG
		rpoBretR	GGACATTGCGTCTATCCC

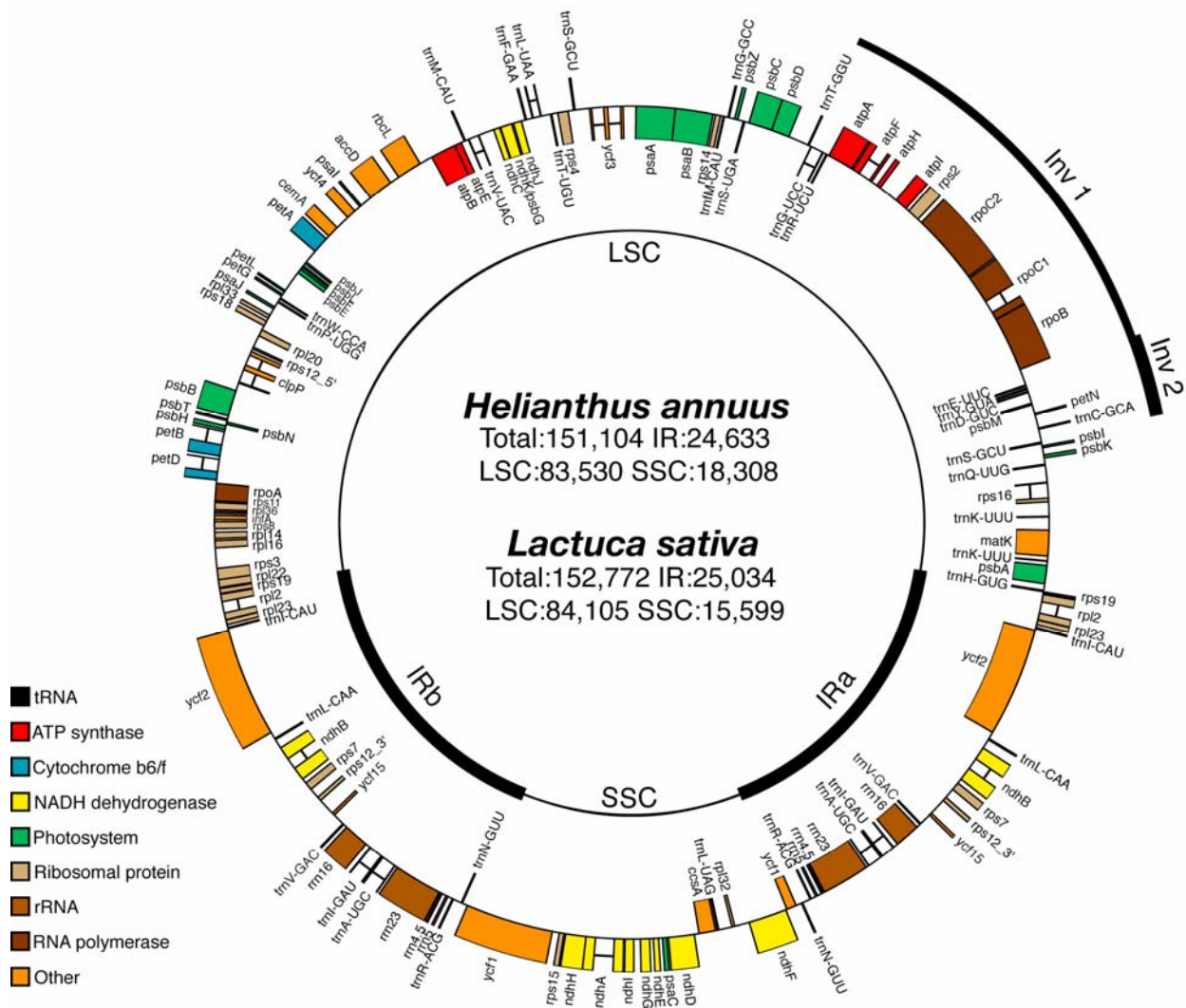
Figure Legends

Figure 1. Chloroplast genome map for *Helianthus* and *Lactuca*. Gene order and content is the same in both genomes – they differ slightly in their extent of the IR. Thick lines in inner circle indicate extent of inverted repeats (IRa and IRb). Genes on outside of the map or transcribed in the clockwise direction and genes on the inside are transcribed in the counterclockwise direction.

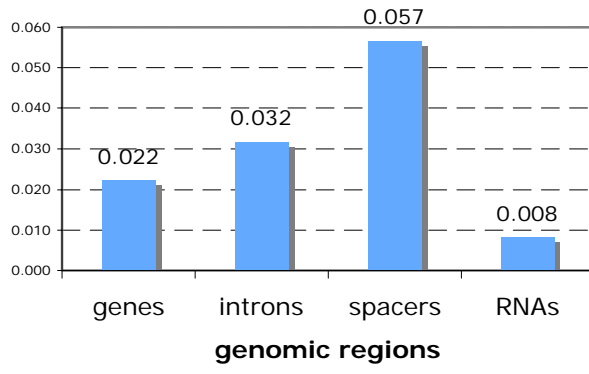
Figure 2. Average p-distance across four classes of genomic regions between *Lactuca* and *Helianthus*.

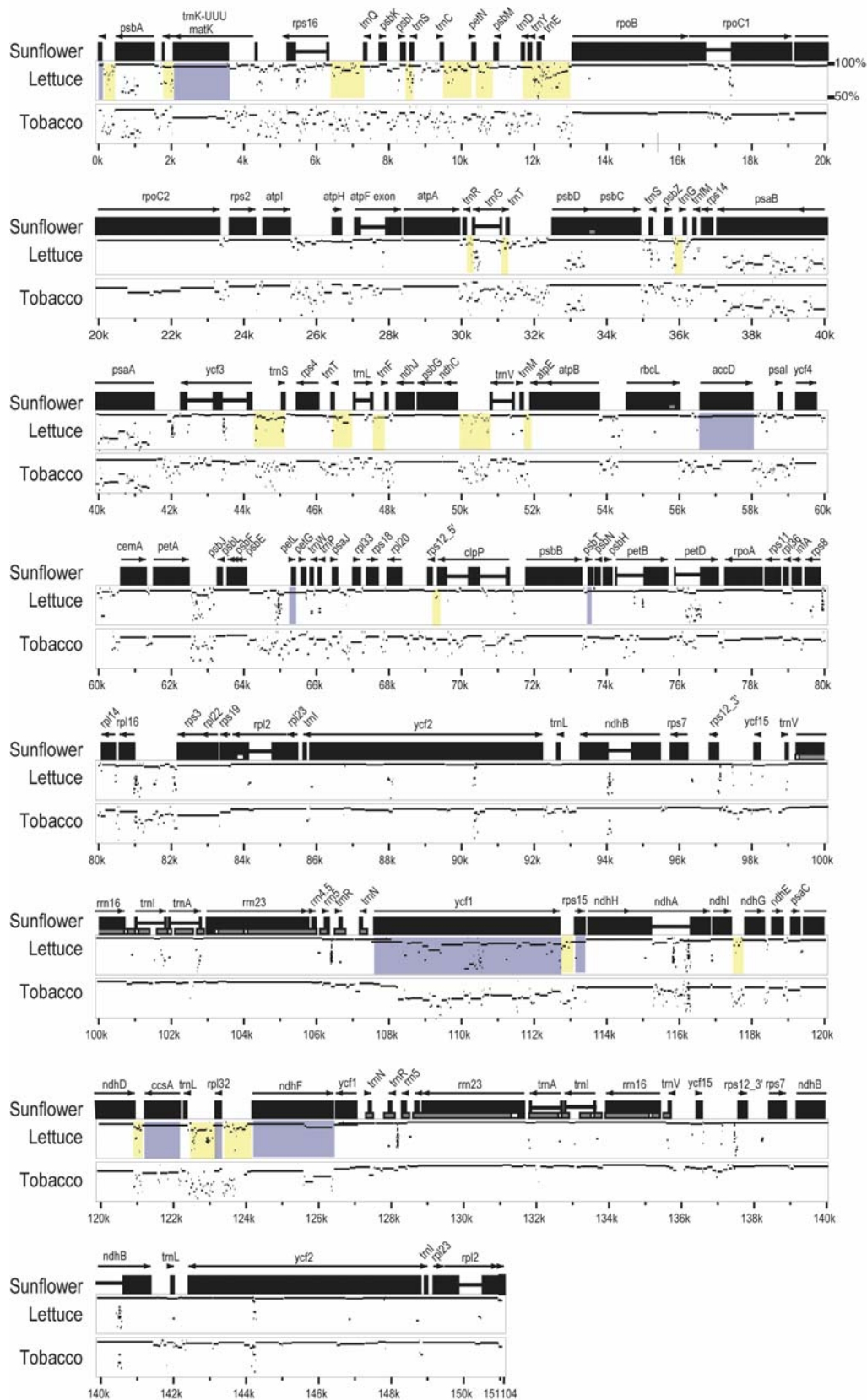
Figure 3. The detailed percent identity plot above shows the aligned regions as horizontal bars indicating average percent identity between 50-100% (shown on right of graph). As expected, the introns and intergenic spacers are most divergent, but the graph also shows variable regions within coding sequences. Highlighted in yellow are the intergenic spacers in Table 1, in blue are the genes in Table 2. Double bars show repeated sequence.

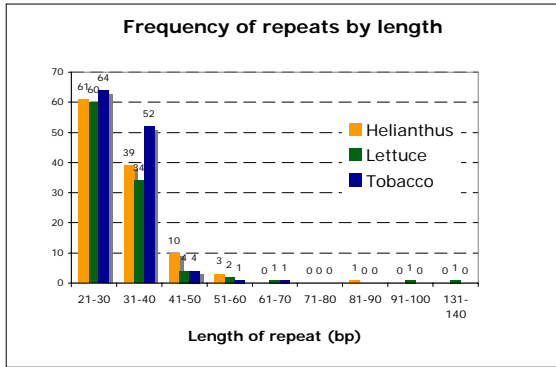
Figure 4. Repeat analyses. a) REPuter output filtered by Stacia Wyman's CPA program for repeats 21 bp or larger given a 90% sequence similarity. b) Manual examination of 23 bp or larger repeats reduce seven repeat categories. c) Adjustment of the frequency histogram for *Helianthus* and *Lactuca* after manual examination and reassignment of some repeats (some larger repeats were actually composed of smaller tandem repeats). d) A summary of shared repeats among *Helianthus* (HEL), *Lactuca* (LAC), and *Nicotiana* (NIC). e) Location of repeats from Fig 4.d.



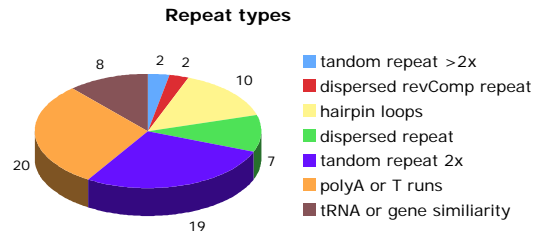
Average p-distance



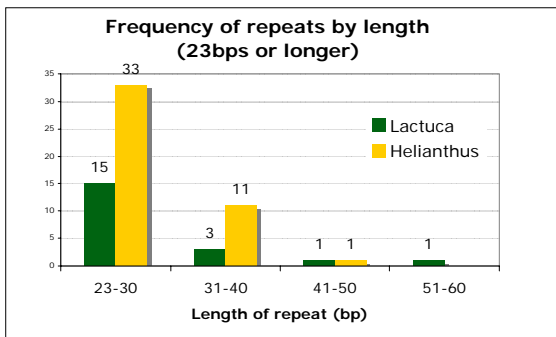




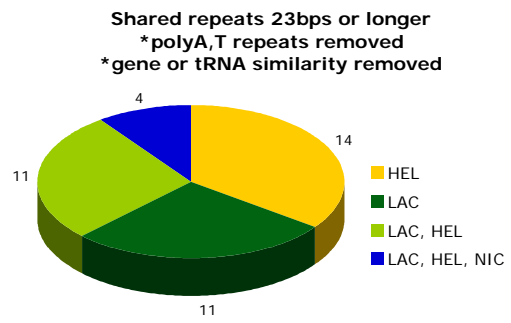
a.



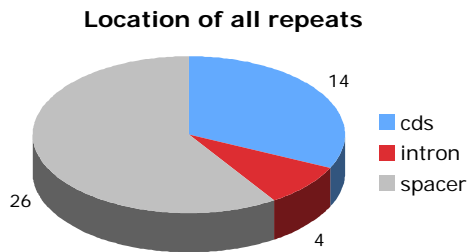
b.



c.



d.



e.