

## Research Article

# Characterization and Evaluation of BL41 Microsatellite Marker Associated with Milk Fat and Protein Percentage among Frieswal (HF x Sahiwal) Cattle of Indian Origin

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### ABSTRACT

BL41 is an autosomal microsatellite marker located at the region of bovine chromosome 3 (BTA3) which are well known for its lactogenic trait QTL property. In the present study, we have amplified the BL41 gene of Frieswal (HFx Sahiwal) crossbred cattle of India. Genotyping of the BL41 was done by outsourcing. Analysis revealed that Frieswal cow genome has seven allelic pattern of BL41 microsatellite marker and among them 245 bp allele is most frequently distributed in this bred. Direct count heterozygosity, Unbiased heterozygosity and Polymorphic information content of BL41 studied were 0.78, 0.79 and 0.76 respectively. A higher level of fat (4.45±0.05) and protein (3.09±0.09) percentage were observed among 238 and 234 allele of Frieswal BL41 microsatellite marker, respectively.

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### INTRODUCTION

Microsatellites, alternatively known as simple sequence repeats (SSRs), short tandem repeats (STRs) or simple sequence length polymorphisms (SSLPs) are tandem repeats of sequence units generally less than 5 bp in length (Bruford and Wayne 1993). These markers appear to be hypervariable, in addition to which their co-dominance and reproducibility make them ideal for genome mapping as well as for population genetic studies (Dayanandan et al. 1998).

Identification of molecular marker in modern genetics is an important challenge. Heyen et al. (1999) performed a microsatellite-based genome scan to detected QTL associated with milk production and milk composition. Studies reported that quantitative trait loci affecting milk yield (MY) and milk composition were localized to a region of bovine chromosome 3 (BTA3) are linked to a microsatellite marker BL41, which are located at 42 cM on the cattle linkage map (Rodriguez et al. 2002, Ihara et al. 2004). Thomas et al. (2012) also reported that BL41 microsatellite marker are informative as their PIC were 0.85 and are associated with milk fat percentage among Indian cross breed cattle developed in Kerala. The aim of the present study was to identify, characterize the BL41 microsatellite marker of an Indian cross bred Frieswal (HFx Sahiwal) cattle genome and further to evaluate the association ship of this candidate with milk fat and protein percentage.

### Materials and Methods

#### Cattle resource population and genomic DNA extraction

The cattle resource population for the present study consisted of randomly selected 93 lactating Frieswal (HF x Sahiwal) cows from the herd maintained at Military Farm, Meerut, Uttar Pradesh, India. Blood samples were collected and gDNA was isolated using standard phenol chloroform method described by Sambrook and Russel (2001).

#### Primer designing and PCR amplification

For the amplification of BL41 microsatellite marker gene from genomic DNA, primer sequences as were taken as reported by Thomas et al (2012) (Table1). At the 5' end of the forward primer we have added 6, FAM (Golbia, Bioserver, India) . The polymerase chain reactions (PCR) were carried out in a total volume of 25 µl solution containing 50 ng/µl of template DNA, IX buffer (Tris-HCl 100 mmol/l, pH 8.3; KCl 500 mmol/l), 0.25 µmol/l primers, 2.0 mmol/l MgCl<sub>2</sub>, 0.25 mmol/l dNTPs, and 0.5U Taq DNA polymerase (Sigma-aldrich, USA). The polymerase chain reaction (PCR) protocol was 94°C for 5 min, followed by 35 cycles of 94°C for 30 s, annealing at 55°C for 30 s and 72°C for 30 s, and a final extension at 72°C for 8 min. The PCR products were separated on 1.0% agarose gel (Sigma-aldrich, USA) including 0.5 µg/ml of ethidium bromide, photographed under Gel Documentation system (Alpha imager® EP).

#### Genotyping of BL41

Amplified PCR products were gel purified and sent for

Table 1. List of primer used for the present study

Primer	Sequence	Amplicons Size range (bp)
BL41 F	5'6 FAM CCTCTGCCATCTTTATTCCG 3'	232-258
BL41 R	5' AAGATCAACTTATTCCCTCACAGTG 3'	

Table 2. Parameters of BL41 characterized in Frieswal genome

Parameters	Values
Number of alleles observed	7
Most frequent allele	245 bp
Lowest frequent allele	257 bp
Values of allele frequency	238 (0.13), 245 (0.41), 243 (0.06), 240 (0.08), 234 (0.08), 253 (0.17), 257(0.04).
Direct count heterozygosity	0.78
Unbiased heterozygosity	0.79
Polymorphic information content	0.76

genotyping by outsourcing (Customer Support Team, SciGenom Labs Pvt Ltd, India). After analysis of the results animals were genotyped and each genotype was run in 6% denaturation polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis .

### Statistical analysis

#### Allele frequency

Estimation of allele frequency was done manually by direct counting. Finally allele size, number of alleles, allele frequency and heterozygosity was calculated.

#### Estimation of heterozygosity

The direct count heterozygosity was measured (Nei, 1973) by the formula,

$$H = 1 - \sum Pi^2$$

Where, Pi - is the frequency of i<sup>th</sup> allele

The unbiased heterozygosity was estimated (Pandey et al, 2002) by the formula

$$H = [2n/(2n-1)] [1 - \sum Pi^2]$$

Where, Pi - is the frequency of i<sup>th</sup> allele and n is number of observation.

#### Estimation of polymorphic information content (PIC)

PIC of BL41 microsatellite marker was estimated by the following formula (Botstein et al., 1980).

$$PIC = 1 - [1 - \sum_{i=1}^n Pi^2] - [\sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \sum_{j=i+1}^n 2 Pi^2 Pj^2]$$

Where, Pi and Pj - is the frequency of i<sup>th</sup> and j<sup>th</sup> allele respectively, n is number of observation.

#### Analysis of milk fat and protein percentage associated with each allele

Average and standard error were calculated as normal procedure and each data were represented as Average± SE.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Results demonstrated that Frieswal cow genome having seven different kinds of alleles for BL41 microsatellite markers. Their distribution revealed that 245 base pair is most frequent as compare to other seven alleles identified among Frieswal cow

genome. Allele frequency, direct heterozygosity, unbiased heterozygosity and PIC were calculated and data has been shown (Table 2). Different haplotypes identified after genotyping has been shown (Figure 1).

Association analysis with milk fat and protein percentage revealed that allele 238 showing a comparatively highest fat percentage (4.45±0.05) as compare to others where as allele 234 having highest protein percentage (3.09±0.09) in comparison to other counterparts (Table 3).

Microsatellite DNA markers have been well studied for identification of QTL and Marker assisted selection (MAS). According to the selective standards of microsatellite DNA loci, microsatellite loci ought to have at least four alleles to be an effective marker (Pandey et al. 2002). Heterozygosity is an appropriate measure of genetic variability within a population when populations are expanding (Hanslik et al. 2000). According to FAO (1995), Markers were classified as informative when PIC was ≥ 0.5 . Findings of the present study revealed that BL41 of Frieswal are informative as it's PIC is more than ≥ 0.5 as well more than four allele as and thus it may be further useful marker for analysis the genetic diversity.

Previously many others reported that microsatellite alleles are associated with some QTLs, for eg. 136 bp allele of BM1500 associate with weight gain in beef cattle and live weight in Holstein Friesian cattle (Almeida et al. 2007), 138 bp of allele of BM1500 are associated with fat deposition in beef cattle (Fitzsimmons et al. 1998). Liefers et al. (2002) could not find any positive correlation between BM1500 polymorphism and milk production traits among Holstein Friesian cattle. Thomas et al. (2012) reported that BL41 microsatellite are informative marker which are associated with milk fat percentage among Indian cross breed cattle developed in Kerala. In the present study we have observed that BL41 alleles may be associated with both fat and protein percentage among Frieswal crossbred cattle developed in India.

Further for effective microsatellite based MAS it need to be analyzed in large number of DNA samples and also need to evaluate other autosomal microsatellite markers associated

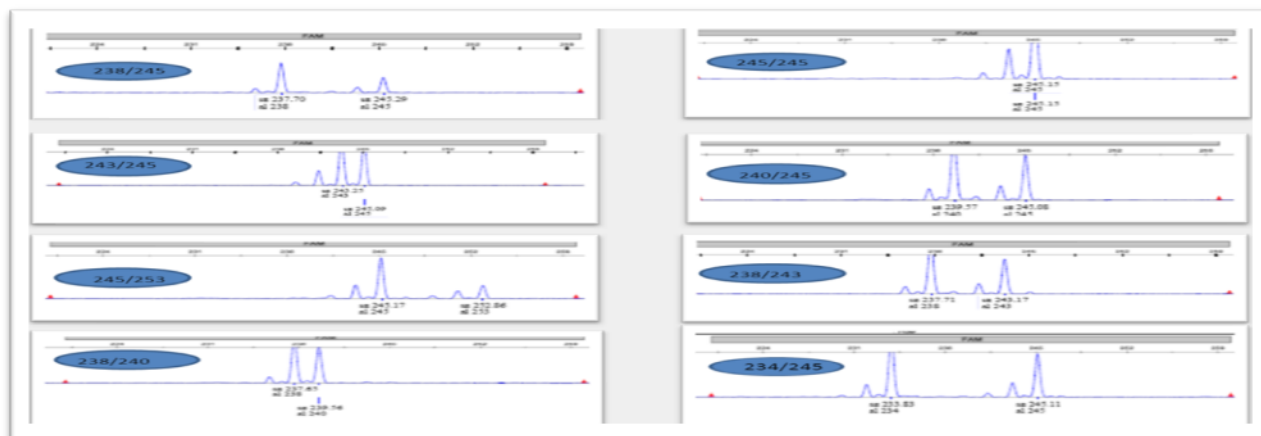


Table 3. Analysis of allelic average for milk fat and protein percentage for BL41 microsatellite marker in Frieswal cattle

Allele (bp)	Fat % (Average± SE)	Protein% (Average± SE)
238 (n-12)	4.45±0.05	2.97±0.03
245 (n-39)	4.09±0.04	3.03 ±0.02
243 (n-06)	3.82±0.13	2.99±0.05
240 (n-08)	3.74±0.13	3.02±0.02
234 (n-08)	3.83±0.10	3.09±0.09
253 (n-16)	4.02±0.05	2.97±0.02
257 (n-04)	3.52±0.16	2.87±0.08

with milk production traits among Frieswal cattle genome.

#### Conclusion

Present findings revealed that Frieswal (HFx Sahiwal) cattle

breed of Indian origin having seven allelic patterns of BL41 microsatellite marker and in which 245 bp allele is most frequently present. Direct count heterozygosity, Unbiased heterozygosity and Polymorphic information content of BL41 studied were 0.78, 0.79 and 0.76, respectively. A higher level of fat (4.45±0.05) and protein (3.09±0.09) percentage were observed among 238 and 234 allele of Frieswal BL41 microsatellite marker respectively. The information generated in the present study may further initiate research to evaluate different kind of microsatellite markers for association analysis with milk production and other QTL traits.

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