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Accepted Version

Khazaei, H., O'Sullivan, D. M. ORCID: https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4889-056X, Jones, H., Pitts, N., Sillanpää, M. J., Pärssinen, P., Manninen, O. and Stoddard, F. L. (2015) Flanking SNP markers for vicine—convicine concentration in faba bean (Vicia faba L). Molecular Breeding, 35 (1). 38. ISSN 1380-3743 doi: 10.1007/s11032-015-0214-8 Available at https://centaur.reading.ac.uk/39633/

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Published version at: http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s11032-015-0214-8

To link to this article DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s11032-015-0214-8

Publisher: Springer Verlag

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## Flanking SNP markers for vicine-convicine content in faba bean (*Vicia faba* L.)

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#### **Abstract**

The pyrimidine glycosides, vicine and convicine, limit the use of faba bean (*Vicia faba*) as food and feed. A single recessive gene, *vc*-, is responsible for a lowered vicine-convicine content. The biosynthetic pathway of these closely related compounds is not known, and the nearest available markers are several cM away from *vc*-. Improved markers would assist breeding and help to identify candidate genes. A segregating population of 210 F5 recombinant inbred lines was developed from the cross of Mélodie/2 (low vicine-convicine) x ILB938/2 (normal vicine-convicine), and vicine-convicine contents were determined twice on each line. The population was genotyped with a set of 188 SNPs. A single QTL for vicine-convicine content was identified on Chromosome I, flanked by markers 1.0 cM away on one side and 2.6 cM on the other. The interval defined by these markers in the model species *Medicago truncatula* includes about 340 genes, but no candidate genes were identified. Further fine-mapping should lead to the

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identification of tightly-linked markers as well as narrowing down the search for candidate regulatory or biosynthetic genes which could underlie the  $vc^-$  locus.

#### Introduction

The pyrimidine glycosides, vicine and convicine, are the first factors limiting the use of faba bean (Vicia faba L.) in food and feed (Duc et al. 1989; Crépon et al. 2010). Their aglycones, divicine and isouramil, are powerful oxidants and in humans with glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase deficiency, they cause an acute haemolytic anemia called favism, while in chickens, they cause a similar rupture of erythrocytes, especially in broiler breeds, while in egglaying hens productivity is decreased (reviewed by Crépon et al. 2010). The biosynthetic pathway of vicine and convicine is not known, so there are no identified enzymes or enzyme genes that can be sought and used in a candidate gene approach. Wild-type faba bean cultivars contain 4 to 16 g/kg of vicine-convicine (Khamassi et al. 2013), but vc- genotypes contain 5-10% of this (Duc et al. 1999) and vc- cultivars have subsequently been released (Duc et al. 2004). The vc- gene has been localized to 10.1 cM from colourless hilum (Duc et al. 2004), but not all colourless-hilum accessions are vc-. The identification of closer markers has had to await the development of new technologies that can be applied efficiently to the very large (13 Gbp) genome of this species. Gutierrez et al. (2006) reported the development of two RAPD (random amplified polymorphic DNA) markers converted to CAP (cleavage amplified polymorphism) linked to low vicine-convicine content, but these markers were further from vc- than hilum colour.

Large-scale transcriptome data together with genomic DNA-derived markers based on single nucleotide polymorphism (SNPs) are now facilitating the development of cost-effective and highly saturated genetic maps (Saxena et al. 2012; Kaur et al. 2014). SNPs provide low

genotyping cost per data point, high genomic abundance (highly polymorphic), locus specificity (accurate and reproducible, Yan et al. 2010), bi-allelism, co-dominance, simple documentation, potential for high throughput analysis and common occurrence among elite germplasm (Cottage et al. 2012) so they have emerged as the ideal powerful tools for genomics analyses and molecular breeding for crop improvement (Semagn et al. 2013). A set of SNP markers has been developed for faba bean (Cottage et al. 2013, Khazaei et al. 2014), offering the potential to more closely identify chromosome regions containing valuable genes.

For these reasons, we applied the SNP set to a population of recombinant inbred lines segregating for vicine-convicine content. The main objective was to identify putative QTLs (quantitative trait loci) as well as SNP markers linked to low vicine-convicine content. Our secondary aim was exploration of haplotype diversity in the region linked to low VC in diverse genetic backgrounds.

#### **Materials and Methods**

Mapping population

The parents for the mapping population were Mélodie/2, an inbred line selected from the French colourless-hilum and low vicine-convicine content cultivar Mélodie, and ILB 938/2, an inbred line selected from the Ecuadorian landrace ILB938 with black hilum and high vicine-convicine content (Khamassi et al. 2013). A population of 210 F<sub>5</sub> recombinant inbred lines (RILs) was generated by single-seed descent from the cross of Mélodie/2 (female) and ILB 938/2 (male) in the insect-proof greenhouse of Department of Agricultural Sciences, University of Helsinki, Finland during 2009-2012. The hilum colour was recorded during population development (F<sub>1</sub>–F<sub>5</sub>) and followed normal Mendelian segregation (Supplementary Table 1), as expected.

#### Growth conditions

The parental lines (15 replicates from each) and the mapping population were evaluated in a climate-controlled glasshouse of the Department of Agricultural Sciences, University of Helsinki, Finland using a randomized complete block design in three replicates in 2013. Seeds of all plants were inoculated with *Rhizobium leguminosarum* biovar. *viciae* (faba bean strain, Elomestari Oy, Tornio, Finland) before sowing. Seeds were sown in 4 L plastic pots containing a mixture of sand (size: 0.5–1.2 mm, Saint-Gobain Weber Oy Ab, Helsinki, Finland) and peat (White 420 W, Kekkilä Oy, Vantaa, Finland) (2:1 *v/v*) containing all essential nutrients.

Photoperiod was adjusted to 14 h light and 10 h dark, and the temperature was 20°C day/15°C night ± 2°C. Photosynthetic photon flux density (PPFD) was about 300 μmol m<sup>-2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup> at the canopy level. Soil moisture level was maintained at field capacity with automatic irrigation during the experiments.

#### *Vicine - convicine analysis*

Two methods were employed to measure the vicine-convicine content in the parental lines and the mapping population, one based on HPLC (high-performance liquid chromatography) and the other on spectrophotometry. The partners at NIAB used the method described by Khamassi et al. (2013), using both peak height and peak area for each of vicine and convicine on all 210 RILs, while those at Boreal followed Sixdenier et al. (1996) for total vicine-convicine on a subset of 161 RILs, owing to low seed quantity of the 49 other RILs. Modifications included using only one weighed and crushed seed per sample, incubating only 1 h 15 min at 90°C, and diluting the sample 1:10 before spectroscopy. Absorbances were converted to concentrations based on earlier calibration experiments, where HPLC was used as the reference method (Gutierrez et al. 2006).

A set of 188 polymorphic SNPs, listed in Khazaei et al. (2014), was used in this work. SNP genotyping was carried out using the KASPar<sup>TM</sup> (Kompetitive Allele Specific PCR) assay (KBioscience, UK) platform. Details on the KASPar principle, amplification of targeted region, fluorescence detection and allele calling are available at

http://www.kbioscience.co.uk/reagents/KASP\_manual.pdf.

Map construction and QTL mapping

The genetic map was originally constructed by Khazaei et al. (2014). The linkage map was constructed by using MapDisto v. 1.7.7.0.1 (Lorieux 2012) with logarithm of odds (LOD) score of 3.0 and recombination fraction of 0.3. The Kosambi function was used to calculate the map distance in centimorgans (cM) (Kosambi 1943). To map the hilum colour locus, we included binary phenotype status in both cases as an extra morphological marker to the molecular linkage map construction process, scoring the recessive colourless-hilum phenotype as homozygous and the dominant black HC phenotype using the relevant genotypic ambiguity code to denote possible heterozygosity.

For the F<sub>5</sub> generation progeny, we calculated observed segregation ratio at each locus and averaged their values over loci to obtain mean segregation ratios.

Single marker analysis, interval mapping (IM; Lander and Botstein 1989) [FLS1] and composite interval mapping (CIM; Jansen 1993; Zeng 1993) were used to detect the relationship between each linkage group and putative QTL locations of studied traits by Windows QTL Cartographer v 2.5\_011 (Wang et al. 2012). Significant QTLs were analysed with CIM. Cofactors were determined using the forward and backward method in the standard CIM model with the

probability in and out of 0.1. The number of control markers and window size were set to 5 and 10, respectively. The genome was scanned at a walk speed of 1 cM intervals. The 95% significance threshold for QTL detection (at each trait) was determined by the phenotype permutation using 1,000 permutations at an experiment-wise P < 0.05 (Churchill and Doerge 1994). LOD profiles over each of the linkage groups and for each trait were drawn. LOD score value greater than the threshold was considered as evidence of a QTL in these profiles. Uncertainty of the QTL position around maximum LOD-score was indicated by 1-LOD and 2-LOD support intervals (Conneally et al. 1985; Van Ooijen 1992). These intervals were calculated for the CIM run with 5 co-factors. Support interval threshold values were determined on the LOD-score scale by subtracting one (two) LOD from the maximum LOD-score value. Linkage map and QTL positions and profile were drawn by MapChart v. 2.2 (Voorrips 2002).

VC region haplotype diversity

A set of 37 diverse inbred accessions (Supplementary Table 2) was genotyped with 29 SNP markers from the faba bean consensus map Webb et al., 2015 covering the most telomeric-proximal portion (0-27cM) of the short arm of faba bean chr I and spanning the entire qV-C confidence interval.

#### **Results and Discussion**

In all generations, the segregation ratio of colourless to coloured hilum followed the expected Mendelian ratio (Supplementary Table 1), indicating that selection of the RIL population was unbiased in the region of hilum colour and vicine-convicine content.

Vicine content, convicine content, and total vicine-convicine content of the RIL population, as determined by the two partners on separate seed samples, were very highly correlated with each

other (Table 1). This result confirms that the methods used were consistent, and that peak height and peak area delivered essentially the same information. It also shows that there is little segregation for the ratio of vicine to convicine in the progeny of a single cross, in contrast to the wide range in ratios found in a germplasm collection (Khamassi et al. 2013).

The phenotype of vicine-convicine content in the  $F_5$  generation was clearly bimodal, with the first mode around zero and the second mode at around 6.5 g/kg (dry weight basis) (Figure 1).

The mean segregation ratios for each SNP locus were close to 1:1, confirming that there were few heterozygotes at the marker loci. A bimodal phenotypic distribution is expected to be seen in case of a single strong quantitative trait locus (QTL) in backcross population where only two genotypes are segregating (Lander and Botstein 1989). In this case, the assumption of normality is still considered valid, because QTL mapping methods often assume that the trait, conditionally on the effects of the QTL, follows a normal distribution. In other words this means that normality is assumed only after the QTL is first pre-corrected away. It is also essential to realize that the phenotypic distribution seen in the table is not spike-at-zero type of distribution where part of the trait values are zero (censored) (Broman 2003). One important difference is that there are many values around zero, not a single value.

QTL analysis using composite interval mapping showed a single, very strong peak for the individual and combined vicine and convicine contents, 1.81 cM from the end of the linkage group, with two tightly linked flanking SNPs on each side of the QTL and a further marker 0.8 cM away (Figure 2, Table 2). The markers enclose a zone of 3.6 cM in length, and are thus much closer to the key vicine-convicine gene than the hilum colour marker, in this case 5.3 cM distant. All of the markers, except one, are derived from *Medicago truncatula* chromosome II and

enclose a zone of about 340 genes in that model species

(http://www.medicagohapmap.org/?genome). None of those 340 genes is clearly associated with pyrimidine metabolism. The remaining marker is derived from *M. truncatula* chromosome I, again unassociated with known genes for pyrimidine metabolism. The interval is associated with the distal end of the short arm of Chromosome I of faba bean Webb et al., 2015.

The peak markers under the qV-C QTL may be of immediate use in selecting LVC progeny from crosses involving Mélodie/2 as the LVC source, but we were interested in determining the LVClinked allele frequencies in wider germplasm to assess the broad applicability of these markers in wider germaplsm. To this end, 29 SNPs from the vc-hc region of chr I of the faba bean consensus map Webb et al., 2015 were genotyped across 37 diverse inbred lines, seven of which had known (mostly wild type) VC status as determined by Khamassi et al., 2013. This made it clear that all 8 SNPs which distinguish Mélodie/2 from ILB938/2 are relatively frequent in diverse germplasm, ranging from 18% to 81% for the Mélodie/2 allele (Supp Table 3). The cosegregating peak markers within the qV-C interval - Vf\_Mt2g007780\_001 and Vf\_Mt2g008330\_001 – which are the best candidates for marker-assisted selection of the LVC trait show Mélodie/2 allele frequencies of 76 and 65% respectively and thus are probably informative in a minority of crosses and are certainly not diagnostic for the trait. This is not greatly surprising as the trait originated from a mutagenesis programme (ref Duc) and the causative mutation is probably therefore not found in nature and will simply be associated with a common haplotype represented by the original mutagenized background in those breeding lines and varieties into which the trait has been deliberately or accidentially introgressed from the single mutant source. Selection for low vicine-convicine content in a breeding program is also easy to perform on phenotypic level using the crude and cheap spectroscopic method. However,

when using this method the seed is destroyed which means that measuring the vicine-convicine content in segregating breeding material is not straightforward. When developing pure lines by single seed descent, it would be useful to fix low vicine-convicine content in the early generations by testing the  $F_2$  individuals with SNP markers. Selection of homozygous plants for further selfing would fix the useful trait in next generations.

#### Conclusion

A single QTL determining vicine-convicine content was identified on chromosome I of faba bean. Flanking markers were identified 1.0 cM upstream and 2.6 cM downstream of the QTL, but the available alleles were not diagnostic of low vicine-convicine content.

#### **Acknowledgments**

H. Khazaei thanks the Emil Aaltonen Foundation (Emil Aaltosen Säätiö) and Niemi-säätiö for their financial support. The project was further supported by the University of Helsinki and the Niemi-Säätiö. We thank Markku Tykkyläinen, Sanna Peltola, and Sini Lindström for their assistance in the glasshouse work at the University of Helsinki. Kirsi Peltoniemi (Boreal Plant Breeding Ltd) is thanked for providing the spectrophotometric vicine-convicine results. Prof. Wolfgang Link (Georg-August-University, Göttingen, Germany) kindly provided the seeds of the parental lines.

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### Figures and tables

**Table 1.** Correlations among vicine (V), convicine (C) and vicine-convicine (V-C) contents measured according to Khamassi et al (2013) and Sixdenier et al (1996) on the  $F_5$  RIL population (n = 210) of Mélodie/2 × ILB 938/2.

	Ca	V-C <sub>a</sub>	$V_h$	$C_h$	V-C <sub>h</sub>	V-C <sub>s</sub> <sup>†</sup>
V <sub>a</sub>	0.984	0.944	0.988	0.862	0.945	0.868
$C_{a}$		0.869	0.862	0.988	0.945	0.894
V-C <sub>a</sub>			0.932	0.960	0.983	0.909
$V_{h}$				0.859	0.947	0.855
$C_h$					0.978	0.889
V-C <sub>h</sub>						0.907

a, calculated by area; h, calculated by height (Khamassi et al. 2013).

All values are significant at P < 0.001.

S, Sixdenier et al. (1996) method.

 $<sup>^{\</sup>dagger}$  n = 161

**Table 2** Putative QTLs by composite interval mapping (CIM) for vicine-convicine content of the Mélodie/ $2 \times ILB$  938/2 RIL population.

Trait	QTL name <sup>a</sup>	Position (cM)	LOD score	LOD at P=	R <sup>2</sup>	Additive
				0.05 <sup>b</sup>		effect <sup>c</sup>
Vicine	qV	1.81	51.16	13.08	0.719	-0.193
Convicine	qC	1.81	57.62	13.16	0.706	-0.198
Vicine-Convicine	qV- $C$	1.81	60.20	13.28	0.765	-0.308

SNPs that are underlined show the nearest marker to the QTL.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup> QTLs are abbreviated by the trait name.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>b</sup> Permutation-based LOD threshold to determine significant QTL at P=0.05 with 1,000 times permutation.

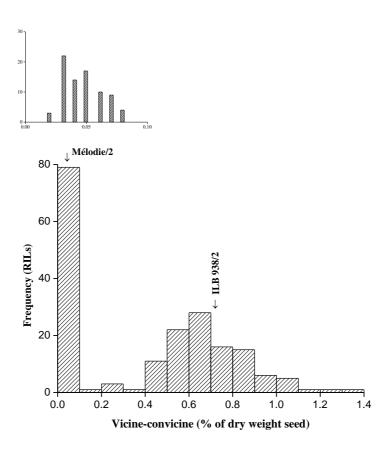
R<sup>2</sup> represents the proportion of phenotypic variance explained by each QTL.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>c</sup> Negative value shows the contribution of ILB 938/2 allele.

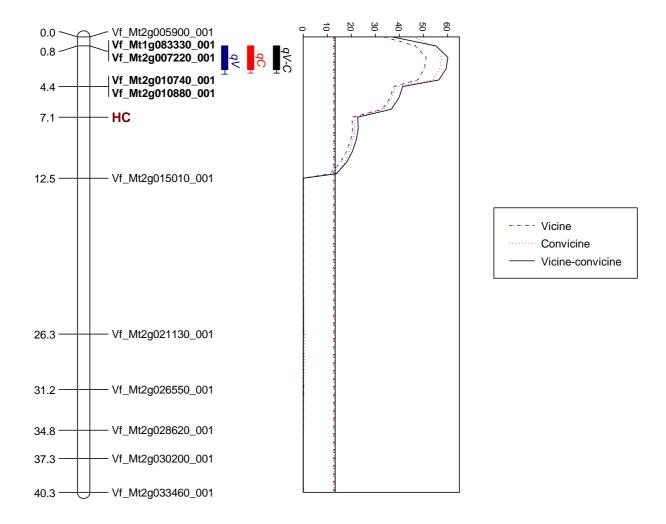
 Table 3 Sequences of SNP markers linked to vicine-convicine content.

SNP Name	K BIO. ID	Sequence
		GCTATAAAGGCTGTTGCCACTCCAAATCCAGCTGTGGAATTGCCATTAACCG
		CTGAAAATGTAGAAACTGTGCTTGATGAAATTCG[W]CCGTATCTYATTTCTG
		ATGGTGGAAATGTTGCTCTACATGAAATCGATGGCAATGTTGTACGGTTGAA
Vf_Mt2g005900_001	1770605960	GTTACAAGGTGCTTGTGGATCGTGTCCGAGTT
		AGGAGGAGTTGCAGAGAACGAATCTGGAATTGGAATCTTACAAAGAGAAGA
		T[Y]AAAGAGAATCAGGAGAAAATTAAGCTCAATAAACAACTACCCTACCTCG
Vf_Mt1g083330_001	1919331600	TTGGTAATATTGTTGAG
		GAATTCACTGGGGACTATGATGCTCTTCAACCCTTTCCAGAGATTGATT
		TGACTTTTTCAACAGCCATCCCAAGCTGCTCAAGTTTGATAT[Y]CATGGAGCC
Vf_Mt2g007220_001	1242748400	ATGTTTGCAGCACTATGCCAGAAGAACAGTCTAAAACATGT
		AGGTACAATGTCAGAACAGAAATTGTCCATCAAATAAGCTTGTTTTTCCATTG
		ATGGCACTACTAGCAGGAATATTAGGCGGTGTTTTCGGANNNNAT[Y]GGAGG
Vf_Mt2g010740_001	1182404129	TGGAATGCTTATAAGTCCACTTCTTCTTCAAGTCGGAATAGCTCCTGAGGTAA
		GGATGGACTTGGTAGCTGGTCAACACTTTTCCAAAGGCACCGCTTCCTCTTAT
		CTGCTCTCGTGCTCCTTACTATTCTATGTACTGTTTATCTTTACTT[Y]GCTATC
		ACCATAGGAAGTGGCTCCTGTTCTGGATTGAGTGGAGCACAGAAAGCTTCAT
Vf_Mt2g010880_001	1873029962	GCCATATGGAGCTTGTCAAGGATTCTATTTCCAACGGCA

**Figure 1** Frequency distributions of vicine-convicine content (determined by peak area) in 210 RILs derived from a cross between Mélodie/2 and ILB 938/2. Each parental value is the mean of 15 replicates. Skewness = 0.267, Kurtosis = -1.217.



**Figure 2** Comparison of LOD profiles of QTLs of vicine (v), convicine (c) and vicine-convicine (V-C) at Mélodie/2  $\times$  ILB 938/2 F<sub>5</sub> RILs obtained by composite interval mapping. HC, hilum colour. Recombinant fractions were converted to cM using the Kosambi mapping function. QTLs are represented by boxes extended by lines representing the LOD-1 and LOD-2 confidence intervals. HC, hilum colour



Supplementary Table 1 Segregation and  $\chi^2$  test for hilum colour amongst  $F_1$ ,  $F_2$ ,  $F_3$ ,  $F_4$  and  $F_5$  generations in cross Mélodie/2 (colourless) × ILB 938/2 (black).

Generation	hilum colo	our	Segregation ratio	$X^2$	Р
	Black	colourless			
$F_1$	30	0	1:0	_	_
$F_2$	260	88	3:1	0.015	0.901
$F_3$	209	122	5:3	0.058	0.809
$F_4$	172	130	9:7	0.061	0.805
$F_5$	112	98	17:15	0.004	0.952

# **Supplementary Table 2** Descriptive statistics for vicine-convicine content (measured by peak area).

Population /	Mélodie/2	ILB 938/2	$\mathbf{F}_{5}$				
trait	Mean (SD)	Mean (SD)	Mean (SD)	Min	Max	Skewness	Kurtosis
Vicine	0.00 (0.00)	0.33 (0.00)	0.13 (0.13)	0.00	0.58	0.576	-0.432
Convicine	<b>0.03</b> (0.00)	<b>0.38</b> (0.01)	0.28 (0.23)	0.02	0.87	0.345	-1.132
Vicine-convicine	<b>0.04</b> (0.01)	<b>0.71</b> (0.01)	0.41 (0.35)	0.02	1.31	0.267	-1.127

SD, standard deviation

	0	0	0.41	0.41	1.29	1.29	1.31	1.72	2.13	2.13	2.93	3.76	4.52	4.9	5.27	5.27	5.9	5.9	8.31	9.37	10.53	11.28	12.4	14.59	14.97	14.97	26.08	26.46	27.23
2013 Consensus Map Position>>>, cM																													
	Vf_Mt2g005930_001	Vf_Mt2g005590_001	Vf_Mt2g005900_001	Vf_Mt2g006070_001	$Vf\_Mt2g007220\_001$	Vf_Mt1g083330_001	$Vf\_Mt2g007780\_001$	$\rm Vf\_Mt2g007930\_001$	$Vf\_Mt2g008440\_001$	$Vf\_Mt2g008150\_001$	Vf_Mt2g008610_001	Vf_Mt2g009320_001	Vf_Mt2g010540_001	Vf_Mt2g010740_001	Vf_Mt2g010880_001	Vf_Mt2g010980_001	Vf_Mt2g010970_001	$Vf\_Mt2g011080\_001$	Vf_Mt2g012470_001	Vf_Mt2g012810_001	Vf_Mt2g013220_001	Vf_Mt2g013690_001	Vf_Mt2g013900_001	Vf_Mt2g015010_001	Vf_Mt2g015370_001	Vf_Mt2g015390_001	Vf_Mt2g019790_001	Vf_Mt2g020160_001	Vf_Mt2g021130_001
Marker Name NV734_1_ILB938	С	G	т	т	т	C	٨	C	٨	Т	Т	Т	Т	С	Т	Т	Т	С	G	С	G	G	С	G	A	A	G	Т	٨
NV735_1_MELODIE	C	G	Δ	т Т	C	Т	A	C	A	Т	C	A	Т	Т	C	Т	Т	C	G	C	G	G	C	Т	A	A	G	Т	G
NV662_1_VF136	C	G	Т	т Т	C	C	A	C	A	Т	C	A	Т	C	C	Т	Т	G	A	C	G	G	C	T	A	A	G	Т	G
NV644_1_KASZTEL	C	A	T	G	C	Т	G	Т	G	C	C	A	T	C	Н	Т	T	G	G	Т	G	A	C	Н	Н	A	G	T	G
NV729_1_VF6	С	G	Т	Т	C	С	A	С	G	Т	C	Т	Т	T	С	Т	С	G	A	С	A	G	C	Т	С	A	G	Т	A
 NV728_1_TW	С	G	A	Т	С	Т	A	Т	A	T	С	Т	T	T	С	Т	С	С	A	С	G	G	С	Т	A	A	G	T	G
NV730_1_I4347_4	C	A	T	T	T	T	A	С	A	T	С	T	С	С	C	T	С	G	A	С	G	G	C	T	A	A	G	T	G
NV731_1_I4347_3	C	A	T	T	T	T	A	С	A	T	С	T	C	C	C	T	С	G	A	С	G	G	C	T	A	A	G	T	G
NV643_3_S2_ALBUS	C	A	T	G	C	Н	Н	Н	G	?	Н	A	T	C	T	T	T	G	G	T	G	A	C	G	C	A	A	Т	A
NV739-1_CRB2702	С	G	A	T	C	Н	A	С	A	T	T	A	С	T	T	T	T	G	A	C	?	G	C	Н	A	A	G	T	G
NV656_3_S2A2_9_BPL183	C	G	T	T	C	T	A	С	A	T	T	A	T	T	?	T	С	G	G	С	Н	G	C	T	A	A	G	T	G
NV722_1_BANNER	C	G	A	T	C	T	A	C	A	T	T	A	T	C	C	T	T	C	A	C	G	G	C	T	A	A	G	T	G
NV648_2_S3B2_7_BPL10	A	G	A	T	T	?	A	С	A	T	T	T	C	T	C	C	С	C	A	C	A	G	T	T	A	G	G	С	G
NV714_1_HIVERNA	C	G	T	T	C	C	A	T	A	T	T	T	T	T	C	T	?	С	A	C	G	G	C	G	A	A	G	T	Α
NV718_1_L977_88	C	G	A	T	C	C	A	C	A	T	T	T	C	T	C	T	C	G	A	C	A	G	C	T	A	A	G	T	A
NV720_1_BOURDON	C	A	T	T	C	C	A	C	A	T	T	T	T	T	C	T	T	G	A	C	G	G	C	T	C	A	A	T	G
NV726_1_GIZA402	C	G	T	T	C	C	A	C	A	T	T	T	T	C	C	C	C	C	G	T	G	A	C	T	A	A	G	T	G
NV727_1_BPL4628	C	G	T	T	C	C	A	C	A	T	T	T	T	T	C	T	C	C	G	T	Н	G	T	G	A	A	G	T	G
NV732_1_BPL710	C	G	?	T	C	C	A	C	A	T	T	T	T	C	C	T	C	C	G	C	G	G	C	T	A	A	G	T	G

