Review: Crop adaptation through post-domestication introgression from wild relatives

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The traditional paradigm in crop domestication has been origin from a wild relative within one or more defined geographic centers followed by expansion to the modern-day extent of cultivation. Absent from this paradigm are the effects of hybridization between diffusing domesticates and closely-related, locally-adapted wild relatives outside the center of origin. New methods have recently been employed to detect genome-wide patterns of introgression in a number of species. In this review, we will: 1) briefly describe these methods and provide a summary of their recent application for detection of crop-wild introgression, 2) review evidence supporting the hypothesis that wild-to-crop introgression has conferred local adaptation to crops, 3) consider how the prevalence of this introgression alters traditional concepts of domestication, and 4) describe future advances in both basic and applied genetics that can be made through the study of introgression in agroecosystems.

Introgression methods and recent applications

The recent availability of genome-wide resequencing and reduced-representation genotyping (e.g., GBS and RAD-Seq) data combined with new analytical methods have facilitated comprehensive study of introgression across a number of species.

- 1. High-density marker data can be used with haplotype-based and other methods to assign specific genomic regions to a taxon of origin
- 2. In several instances, introgression is conserved across individuals and populations suggesting an adaptive role:
 - (a) Introgression from Neanderthals and other archaic hominins into humans at loci controlling skin pigmentation, defense against pathogens, and tolerance of high altitude (reviewed in [1])
 - (b) Introgression across butterfly species at protective color-pattern loci conferring Müllerian mimicry [2]
 - (c) Adaptive introgression across mosquito species at a locus controlling insecticide resistance [3]
- 3. **Table 1:** List and brief description of recently developed methods and examples of empirical studies employing these methods

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Crop adaptation through introgression

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Reevaluating concepts of domestication

Future studies in crop-wild introgression

References

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