

1 **Genome sequence analysis of a giant-rooted ‘Sakurajima daikon’ radish (*Raphanus sativus*)**

2 Running title: Genome of ‘Sakurajima daikon’ radish

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10

11 **Abstract**

12 Daikon radish (*Raphanus sativus*) roots vary in size and shape between cultivars. This study reports

13 the genome sequence assembly of a giant-rooted ‘Sakurajima daikon’ radish variety,

14 ‘Okute-Sakurajima’, which produces extremely large round roots. Radish genome assembly is

15 hampered by the repetitive and complex nature of the genome. To address this, single-molecule

16 real-time technology was used to obtain long-read sequences at 60× genome coverage. *De novo*

17 assembly of the long reads generated 504.5 Mb contig sequences consisting of 1,437 sequences with

18 contig N50 length of 1.2 Mb, including 94.1% of the core eukaryotic genes. Nine pseudomolecule

19 sequences, comprising 69.3% of the assembled contig length, were generated with high-density SNP

20 genetic maps. The chromosome-level sequences revealed structure variations and rearrangements

21 among Brassicaceae genomes. In total, 89,915 genes were predicted in the ‘Okute-Sakurajima’

22 genome, 30,033 of which were unique to the assembly in this study. The improved genome

23 information generated in this study will not only form a new baseline resource for radish genomics,

24 but will also provide insights into the molecular mechanisms underlying formation of giant radish

25 roots.

26 **Footnote**

27 References for data analysis tools used in this study, which are indicated with back quotes in the text,

28 are listed in Supplementary Table S1.

29

30 **1. Introduction**

31 Daikon radish (*Raphanus sativus*) is a member of the Brassicaceae family of flowering plants.

32 Daikon radish roots of different cultivars vary considerably in their size and shape.¹ For example,
33 among daikon cultivars, ‘Sakurajima daikon’ radishes exhibit the largest roots. ‘Sakurajima daikon’
34 is the name of a group of daikon radish varieties that are mainly cultivated in the Kagoshima
35 prefecture of Japan. Soil in this region contains volcanic ash from Mt. Sakurajima and is thought to
36 be particularly suitable for cultivation of ‘Sakurajima daikon’. One well-known ‘Sakurajima daikon’
37 line is ‘Okute-Sakurajima’, which has large round roots that can exceed 20 kg.¹ The size and shape
38 of ‘Okute-Sakurajima’ roots are desirable traits for plant breeding, but the molecular mechanisms
39 underpinning these characteristics remain unknown.

40 Four genome assemblies based on next-generation sequencing technologies have been reported
41 for radish,²⁻⁵ but these do not include ‘Okute-Sakurajima’ or ‘Sakurajima daikon’. The sequence
42 contiguities of the genome assemblies are relatively short, and the entire radish genome is not
43 covered.⁶ One reason for the short assembly size may be the complexity of the radish genome
44 because *Raphanus*, like other species in the *Brassica* genus, underwent genome triplication
45 sometime after divergence from *Arabidopsis*.⁷ Furthermore, radish, in common with other *Brassica*,
46 is self-incompatible and allogamous, resulting in a highly heterozygous genome.⁸

47 Recent advances in long-read sequence technology have allowed highly heterozygous genomes
48 of several plant species to be successfully sequenced.⁹ In this study, the ‘Okute-Sakurajima’ genome
49 was sequenced using long-read technology. Sequences were aligned to radish chromosomes,
50 establishing pseudomolecules and allowing gaps in previous radish genome assemblies to be
51 resolved. This enhanced radish genome will provide insights into radish evolutionary development
52 and, specifically, into the molecular underpinnings of giant daikon root formation.

53

54 **2. Materials and methods**

55 **2.1. ‘Okute-Sakurajima’ *de novo* genome assembly**

56 Total DNA was extracted from young leaves of the ‘Okute-Sakurajima’ daikon radish cultivar
57 (NARO GeneBank accession number: JP27228) using a Genomic-tip kit (Qiagen, Hilden, Germany).
58 Short-read sequence data were obtained using a MIGSEQ-2000 DNA sequencer (also known as a
59 DNBSEQ-G400; MGI Tech, Shenzhen, China) and were used to estimate the size of the
60 ‘Okute-Sakurajima’ genome, with *k*-mer distribution analysis performed using `Jellyfish`. To gain
61 long-read sequence data, an SMRT sequence library was constructed with an SMRTbell Express
62 Template Prep Kit (PacBio, Menlo Park, CA, USA) and sequenced on a PacBio Sequel system

63 (PacBio). The long reads from the Sequel system were assembled, and the haplotypes were phased
64 with `Falcon-unzip`. The assembly was polished twice with `Arrow` and designated as RSAskr_r1.0.
65 Assembly completeness was evaluated with `BUSCO`.

66 **2.2. Construction of map-based pseudomolecule sequences**

67 An F2 mapping population (n=115), termed SNF2, derived from a cross between an inbred line via
68 self-pollination of radish cultivar 'Shogoin Daikon' and a line of *R. sativus* var. *raphanistroides*
69 'Nohara 1', collected from Nohara, Maizuru, Kyoto, Japan, was used to establish genetic maps
70 according to the methods of Shirasawa and Kitashiba.⁶ In brief, DNA was extracted from leaves of
71 each line and used for ddRAD-Seq library construction. The library was sequenced on a HiSeq4000
72 sequencer (Illumina, San Diego, CA, USA). Data analysis was also performed as described by
73 Shirasawa and Kitashiba.⁶ After trimming low-quality sequences and adapter sequences using
74 `FASTX-Toolkit` and `PRINSEQ`, the remaining high-quality reads were mapped onto the
75 RSAskr_r1.0 assembly, using `Bowtie2` to call SNPs using the mpileup command in `SAMtools`
76 followed by filtering out the low-quality data with `VCFtools`. In parallel, ddRAD-Seq data (DRA
77 accession number: DRA005069) from another F2 population (n=95), namely ASF2,² derived from a
78 cross between 'Aokubi S-h' and 'Sayatori 26704', was also analyzed as above. SNP data were used
79 for genetic map construction with `Lep-Map3`. On the basis of genetic maps constructed with
80 `ALLMAPS`, the RSAskr_r1.0 sequence assembly was assigned to radish chromosomes to produce
81 pseudomolecule sequences, termed RSAskr_r1.0.pmol. The genome structure of the
82 'Okute-Sakurajima' genome was compared with those of *R. sativus*,⁴ *Brassica rapa*,¹⁰ and
83 *Arabidopsis thaliana*¹¹ using `D-Genies`.

84 **2.3. Gene identification in the genome sequences**

85 The gene models predicted in the RSA_r1.0 assembly² were mapped onto the RSAskr_r1.0.pmol
86 pseudomolecule sequences using `Minimap2`. In addition, *ab initio* gene prediction was performed
87 on the RSAskr_r1.0.pmol sequences using `Augustus` as described in Kitashiba et al.²

88

89 **3. Results**

90 **3.1. De novo assembly of the 'Okute-Sakurajima' radish genome**

91 *K*-mer distribution analysis of the 147.3 Gb short-read data indicated that the 'Okute-Sakurajima'
92 radish genome was highly heterozygous, and that the estimated haploid genome size was 592.4 Mb
93 (Supplementary Figure S1). Subsequent long-read sequencing produced 36.0 Gb data (60.7×

94 coverage of the estimated genome size) with 2.3 million reads with N50 length of 29.1 kb. After two
95 rounds of polishing, the long-read assembly consisted of 504.5 Mb primary contigs (including 1,437
96 sequences with N50 length of 1.2 Mb) and 263.5 Mb haplotig sequences (including 2,373 sequences
97 with N50 length of 154.6 kb) (Table 1). A BUSCO analysis of the primary contigs indicated that
98 71.0% and 23.1% of sequences were single-copy complete BUSCOs and duplicated complete
99 BUSCOs, respectively (Table 1), suggesting that most of the gene regions were represented in the
100 primary contigs.

101 **3.2. Construction of pseudomolecule sequences based on genetic maps**

102 In total, 5,872 and 2,830 high-quality SNPs were obtained from the SNF2 and ASF2 mapping
103 populations, respectively, and employed for linkage analysis. The resultant genetic map for SNF2
104 consisted of nine linkage groups with 5,570 SNPs covering 867.2 cM, and the map for ASF2
105 comprised nine linkage groups with 2,680 SNPs covering 895.3 cM (Supplementary Tables S2).
106 Contig sequences of RSAkr_r1.0 were assigned to the radish chromosomes in accordance with the
107 two genetic maps. Nine pseudomolecule sequences, termed RSAkr_r1.0.pmol, spanning 349.8 Mb
108 (69.3%) were established with 293 contigs (Table 2), of which 95 sequences (218.5 Mb, 43.3%)
109 were oriented. The nine resulting sequences were named using the nomenclature (R1–R9) proposed
110 by Shirasawa and Kitashiba⁶. The remaining unassigned sequences (n=1,144, 154.7 Mb, 30.7%)
111 were designated as R0. The structure of the ‘Okute-Sakurajima’ genome was conserved in *R. sativus*
112 but partially disrupted in *B. rapa* and *A. thaliana*, as indicated previously².

113 **3.3. Genes on the ‘Okute-Sakurajima’ genome sequence**

114 In total, 89,915 gene models were predicted in the RSAkr_r1.0 assembly using an *ab initio* gene
115 prediction method (Table 2). To assess the availability of gene spaces in RSAkr_r1.0,² the 80,521
116 predicted gene models were aligned to the RSAkr_r1.0.pmol pseudomolecules. Of the predicted
117 gene models, 78,645 (97.6%) were aligned, suggesting that most of the genes were represented in
118 the RSAkr_r1.0.pmol assembly. The genome positions of 59,882 predicted genes of RSAkr_r1.0
119 and 77,496 mapped genes of RSA_r1.0 overlapped. The remaining 30,033 genes (=89,915–59,882)
120 were unique to the assembled sequences of ‘Okute-Sakurajima’.

121

122 **4. Discussion**

123 In this study, we report the genome sequence assembly of ‘Okute-Sakurajima’ radish, a variety of
124 ‘Sakurajima-diakon’, based on long-read sequence technology. The total assembly size of 504.5 Mb

125 is the longest reported for any radish genome to date,²⁻⁵ suggesting that the long reads might span the
126 repetitive sequences found throughout the radish genome. However, since the assembly size was
127 approximately 90 Mb shorter than the estimated genome size, the long sequencing technology was
128 not sufficient to fully resolve the difficulties in assembling the complex genome of this
129 mesopolyploid species.⁷

130 Map-based pseudomolecule sequences comprising 69.3% of assembled sequences were
131 produced. Unexpectedly, 30.7% of assembled sequence remained unassigned to radish chromosomes.
132 As genetic mapping is reliant upon SNP availability in the genome, sequences cannot be assigned
133 where SNPs are not present. To overcome this genetic limitation, optical mapping and Hi-C
134 technologies, both of which are based on physical mapping strategies, have been developed.⁹ These
135 technologies, alongside traditional genetic mapping, would allow the genome coverage of the
136 assembly and the completeness of pseudomolecules to be further improved.

137 In this study, 30,033 genes were discovered that were unique to the current assembly,
138 suggesting that these genes may not have been identified in previous studies.² The expanded
139 genomic information obtained in this study is expected to provide new insights into radish growth
140 and development. For example, this study is the first genome report for a giant radish cultivar, and
141 some of the genes unique to the ‘Okute-Sakurajima’ genome may be involved in giant root
142 formation. Further comparative analysis with radish cultivars with divergent root shapes and sizes
143 would provide insights into the genetic mechanisms contributing to giant root formation.

144

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146 Kohara, C. Minami, H. Tsuruoka, and M. Yamada (Kazusa DNA Research Institute) for their
147 technical assistance. ‘Okute-Sakurajima’ seeds (Accession number: JP27228) were provided by the
148 NARO GeneBank, Tsukuba, Japan.

149 **Data availability:** Sequence reads are available from the DNA Data Bank of Japan (DDBJ)
150 Sequence Read Archive (DRA) under the accession number DRA009553. The DDBJ accession
151 numbers of assembled sequences are BLLE01000001-BLLE01003810. Genome information is
152 available at Plant GARDEN (<https://plantgarden.jp>).

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156 **Conflict of interest:** None declared.

157 **Supplementary Data:**

158 **Supplementary Table S1** Program tools used for genome assembly and gene prediction.

159 **Supplementary Table S2** Genetic map length and number of SNPs for F2 radish populations.

160 **Supplementary Figure S1** Genome size estimation for 'Okute-Sakurajima' with the distribution of
161 the number of distinct k -mers ($k=17$) with the given multiplicity values.

162

163 **References**

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190

191 **Table 1** Statistics of the primary contig sequences of ‘Okute-Sakurajima’

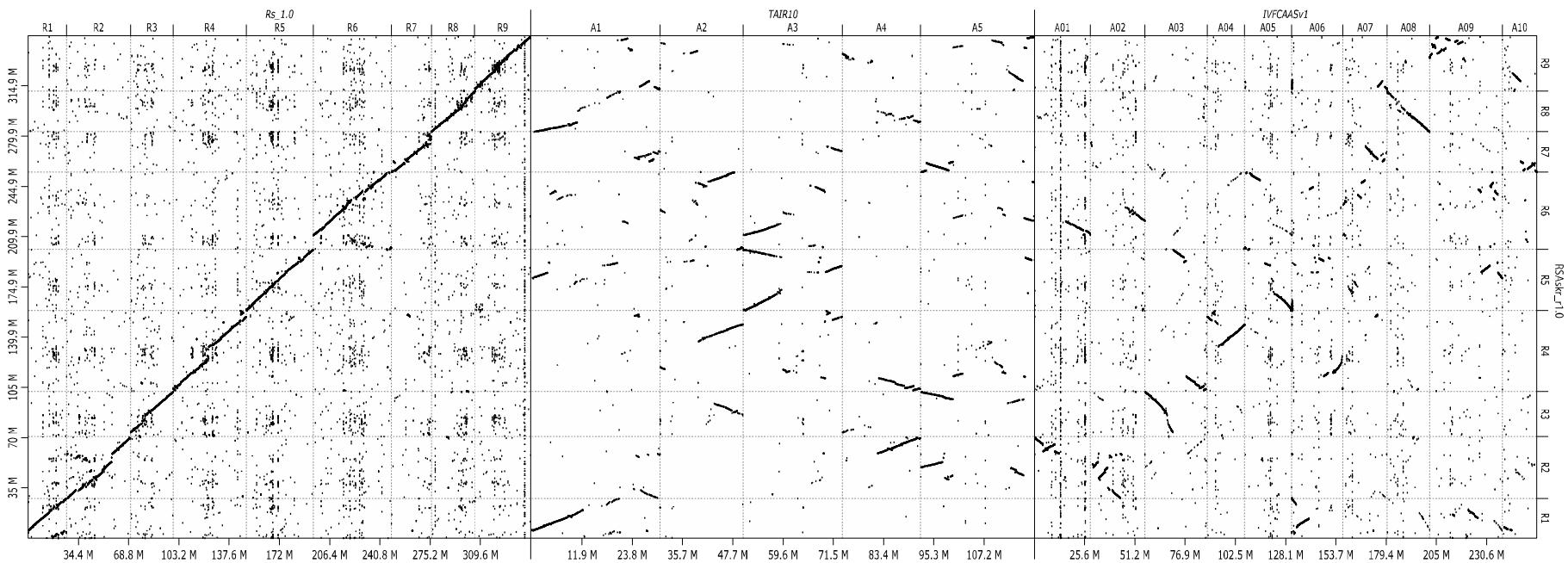
RSAskr_r1.0	
Total contig size (bases)	504,534,164
Number of contigs	1,437
N50 length (bases)	1,247,688
Longest contig size (bases)	8,317,732
Gap (%)	0.0
Complete BUSCOs	94.1
(Single-copy BUSCOs	71.0)
(Duplicated BUSCOs	23.1)
Fragmented BUSCOs	2.0
Missing BUSCOs	3.9
#Genes (<i>ab initio</i>)	89,915
#Genes (mapping)	78,645

192

193

Table 2 Statistics of the ‘Okute-Sakurajima’ pseudomolecule sequences, RSAskr_r1.0.pmol.

Chr	#Contigs	(%)	Contig size (bp)	(%)	#Genes	(%)
R1	25	1.7	27,719,058	5.5	5,426	6.0
R2	40	2.8	42,944,316	8.5	8,295	9.2
R3	30	2.1	31,410,669	6.2	5,923	6.6
R4	35	2.4	56,498,296	11.2	10,843	12.1
R5	34	2.4	42,357,306	8.4	8,477	9.4
R6	41	2.9	53,940,652	10.7	10,403	11.6
R7	17	1.2	28,108,325	5.6	5,545	6.2
R8	30	2.1	28,319,830	5.6	5,474	6.1
R9	41	2.9	38,520,653	7.6	7,143	7.9
R1-R9	293	20.4	349,819,105	69.3	67,529	75.1
R0	1,144	79.6	154,715,059	30.7	22,386	24.9
Total	1,437	100.0	504,534,164	100.0	89,915	100.0



194

195 **Figure 1** Comparative maps of the 'Okute-Sakurajima' genome.

196 Dots indicate sequence similarities of the 'Okute-Sakurajima' genome (RSAskr_r1.0) on the vertical axis with those of *R. sativus* (Rs_1.0), *A. thaliana* (TAIR10), and *B. rapa*

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