

1 **Single molecule sequencing of THCA synthase reveals copy number variation in** 2 **modern drug-type *Cannabis sativa* L.**

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7 **Summary**

- 8 • Cannabinoid expression is an important genetically determined feature of
9 *cannabis* that presents clinical and legal implications for patients seeking
10 cannabinoid specific therapies like Cannabidiol (CBD).
- 11 • Cannabinoid, terpenoid, and flavonoid marker assisted selection can accelerate
12 breeding efforts by offering genetic tools to select for desired traits at an early
13 stage in growth. To this end, multiple models for chemotype inheritance have
14 been described suggesting a complex picture for chemical phenotype
15 determination.
- 16 • Here we explore the potential role of copy number variation of THCA Synthase
17 using phased single molecule sequencing and demonstrate that copy number
18 and sequence variation of this gene is common and suggests a more nuanced
19 view of chemotype prediction.

21 **Introduction**

22 The genetics of cannabis chemotype has been extensively studied due to the highly
23 selected THCA and CBDA phenotypes. A co-dominant model of inheritance of THCA
24 and CBDA synthase (THCAS, CBDAS)(de Meijer *et al.*, 2003) has been demonstrated
25 describing a Bt:Bd allele in linkage to the synthase genes(Onofri *et al.*, 2015; Weiblen *et*
26 *al.*, 2015). In addition to this Bt:Bd allele, single nucleotide polymorphisms in the FAD
27 binding domain of THCAS have been described that impair the function of the
28 enzyme(Sirikantaramas *et al.*, 2004). Cascini *et al.* demonstrated varying copy number
29 of a highly conserved region in THCAS but did not find this assay to be correlative to
30 THCAS expression(Cascini *et al.*, 2012; Cascini *et al.*, 2013). Complimenting de Meijer
31 and Sirikantaramas work, van Bakel *et al.* reported a gene of unknown function (AAE3)
32 that was differentially replicated in drug versus fiber type cannabis(van Bakel *et al.*,
33 2011).

34
35 Whole genome sequencing using 454 and Illumina sequence data demonstrated
36 excessive polymorphic coverage over the single exon THCAS gene(McKernan,
37 <https://archive.org/details/SequencingTheCannabisGenome>)) but allelic phasing of
38 these important genes has not been possible using short read sequencing and
39 conventional genome assembly technologies. Using bacterial cloning, Onofri *et al.*
40 demonstrated a polyploid status for THCA synthase (THCAS) confirming the putative
41 copy number variation observed with whole genome sequencing. Nevertheless, this
42 polyploid status appeared to be a rare event occurring in a single United States bred
43 cultivar and was not correlated with increased THCA expression. Weiblen *et*
44 *al.*(Weiblen *et al.*, 2015). and Cascini *et al.*(Cascini *et al.*, 2012; Cascini *et al.*, 2013)
45 further supported polyploidy with quantitative PCR and bacterially cloned THCAS DNA
46 but deep sampling of alleles may have been limited by bacterial cloning methods. Here,

1 we apply over 10,000 long-read single molecule sequences per sample in combination
2 with Illumina sequencing methods, to phase the multiple copies of THCA synthase in
3 over a dozen modern medicinal cultivars(Eid *et al.*, 2009). Allelic phasing of this 1.6kb
4 gene adds further support to additional mechanism of polyploidy in chemical
5 inheritance.

6
7 Multiple primer pairs were designed to amplify THCAS, and the amplicons were
8 sequenced using Pacific Bioscience's circular consensus sequencing (CCS) method and
9 a size-selected Illumina paired-250bp read system (Table1). Given the 40kb reads of
10 the Pacific Biosciences (PacBio) platform, it is ideally suited for phasing polymorphic
11 genes that are longer than the read lengths accessible by Sanger sequencing. Bacterial
12 cloning and primer walking has been used traditionally to address this, but the
13 methods can be cumbersome, expensive and are susceptible to cloning bias(Metzker,
14 2010). Single molecule sequencing enables one to deeply sequence a PCR product
15 without bacterial cloning to eliminate this bias. The higher raw error rate of single
16 molecule sequencing is overcome by ligating the target amplicon into a circle and
17 performing 20X rolling circle sequencing(Chaisson *et al.*, 2015). This CCS procedure
18 significantly reduces the stochastic error associated with single molecule detection
19 while providing long phased haplotypes of each copy of the amplified gene. These
20 phased haplotypes were then verified by paired-end Illumina sequencing to confirm
21 pure phase with homozygous alignments. Cultivars that vary in CBDA and THCA
22 content were sequenced to assess the diverse haplotypes present in *cannabis* and to
23 resolve putative pseudogenes from intact open reading frames.

24 25 **Results**

26 We demonstrate that multiple copies of THCAS with distinct sequences are present in
27 many common dispensary and coffee house cultivars in circulation in 2015 (Figure 1).
28 The ascertainment of THCAS copy number is dependent on primer selection
29 suggesting local divergence in the 5' and 3' untranslated regions (UTRs).

30
31 Utilizing two sets of primer pairs (within and external to THCAS), we amplified
32 polyploid copies of THCAS and sequenced them using the Pacific Biosciences CCS
33 method. To mitigate PCR error we required a minimum of 10 independent, but
34 identical sequences from different zero mode waveguides (ZMW) to establish a
35 haplogroup. For each CCS, the molecule was read on the forward and reverse strands
36 20-30 times to form a circular consensus that was over 99.95% accurate (Table 2).

37
38 Once PacBio long reads were error corrected using CCS, Illumina Nextera libraries
39 were generated from size-selected 850 bp fragments derived from the PCR products,
40 and were sequenced with 250 base paired-end reads. The resulting read pairs could be
41 accurately mapped to each PacBio haplogroup to produce homozygous alignments for
42 each allele (Figure 2.). These homozygous alignments were helpful in ascertaining
43 whether all haplogroups were accurately represented in PacBio data and if there were
44 any remaining variants ambiguously mapped. Unphased polymorphic data is difficult
45 to translate into amino acid sequence and obscures accurate assessment of functional
46 alleles.

1
2 The THCAS amplicons were initially amplified using the primers described by Onofri *et al.* (Onofri *et al.*, 2015) This primer set spans the start and stop codons of the THCAS
3 gene and thus is incapable of providing sequence information for the first and last
4 25bp of the gene. Moving the primers out into the flanking non-coding regions (MGC-
5 2130 external primer set) delivered fewer haplogroups for all cultivars tested,
6 presumably due to the divergence of these regions in the different gene copies (Figure
7 3).
8

9
10 To ascertain the reproducibility of this approach, Chemdog91 was amplified 3 different
11 times and run on 3 different SMRT cells. One sample was run as a single-plex sample
12 on a SMRT cell to afford high enough sampling to ensure no alleles were missed. While
13 each sample consistently sequenced the active haplogroups to high coverage, a few
14 inactive or unknown haplogroups emerged on only 2 of the 3 SMRT cells. Since one of
15 the intermittent haplogroups has a unique variant (S221F genotype) private to
16 Chemdog91, we can rule out contamination from other gDNA being the source of these
17 intermittent haplogroups. We cannot rule out the possibility of other diverged copies
18 of inactive THCAS stochastically amplifying given the PCR reactions were set up
19 independently. Gradient PCR at lower annealing temperatures with the Onofri primers
20 may unveil additional diverged pseudogenes. A few intermittent haplogroups had
21 depressed consensus accuracy and are detectable with appropriate quality filtering
22 tools. As a result of these conditions we do not believe the amplicon subread coverage
23 numbers derived from the Onofri primer sets can be taken as a direct proxy for
24 absolute copy number in the genome. It is possible that some of the high coverage,
25 active THCAS haplogroups may be more than diploid in copy number yet exist as non-
26 diverged sequence in the genome. With the MGC-2130 data being multiplexed, any
27 inter-strain coverage or inferred copy number differences are more likely the result of
28 normalization of barcoded samples prior to multiplexing. Only intra-strain copy
29 number can be assessed with these data.
30

31 We segregated the haplogroups based on two genbank accession sequences that have
32 been confirmed as encoding active (Q8GTB6.1 also identical to genbank accession
33 number E33090) and inactive (Q33DQ2.1) THCAS (Sirikantaramas *et al.*, 2004; Kojoma
34 *et al.*, 2006). While these two haplogroups differ by 37 amino acids from each other,
35 several other haplogroups diverged by up to 2 and 6 amino acids from these two
36 reference sequences (Figure 4, Table 3). Other haplogroups were identified that
37 contained termination or frame-shifting variants. These had higher similarity to
38 Q33DQ2.1 than Q8GTB6.1, suggesting an inactive heritage. Phylogenetic trees were
39 constructed that clustered the divergent haplogroups around Active, Inactive, and
40 frame-shifted clusters (Figure 4).
41

42 We surveyed CBDA and THCA dominant cultivars seen in Table 1,2 and 3. Cultivars
43 measured to have CBDA-rich chemotypes like WZ_CBD contained 3 haplogroups, one
44 of which was clearly a pseudogene (Figure 1). The other two haplogroups were either
45 identical to, or had 6 amino acid mismatches with the "Inactive THCAS" in genbank
46 (Q33DQ2.1). Since this cultivar has low but measured THCA (0.6% THCA : 20%CBDA),

1 it could be assumed that the 6 amino acid divergence from the inactive form
2 represents a very weakly active THCAS gene. The cultivar was positive for the Bd:Bd
3 genotype described by de Mijer, and if this allele governs the binary expression of
4 CBDAS over THCAS then the expression level of THCAS is uncertain and the impact of
5 the 6 amino acid variants on activity is impossible to infer. Some level of chemotype
6 expression exists and suggests a leaky Bd:Bd expression is responsible for the 0.6%
7 THCA. Of note, this haplogroup failed to amplify with the MGC-2130 external primer
8 set (Table 4).

9
10 The 6 amino acid diverged THCAS haplogroup is also found in other THCA dominant
11 cultivars like Chemdog91, however Chemdog91 is a high THCA expressing cultivar and
12 has 5 THCAS copies in total (one with a stop codon, one that is inactive and three that
13 are putatively active). One haplogroup in Chemdog91 is identical in amino acid
14 sequence to the active THCAS sequence (Q8GTB6.1) and the other has a common
15 A250D variant of the active form. Although we did not collect RNA from these samples,
16 Onofri, *et al.* also describe some of these alternative alleles and demonstrates RNA
17 expression(Onofri *et al.*, 2015).

18
19 Adding to the observations of Onofri, *et al.*, we were able to find THCA producing
20 strains that exclusively held the ambiguous genotypes described in their paper as (1/4
21 , 2/1 , 2/2 , 2/3). The 1/4 genotype described by Onofri, *et al.* is an A250D variant of
22 the active form. The Cultivar “AK-47” presented with 3 haplogroups of which one had a
23 stop codon, one had an inactive allele (Q33D12.1) and one presented with a single
24 active THCAS haplotype with an A250D variant. We can deduce from this that the
25 A250D allele is the only haplogroup capable of synthesis of the high levels of THCA
26 found in AK-47.

27
28 Interestingly, another high THCA strain (Black84) shared this A250D variant but also
29 had the I63L variant described and deemed active by Onofri *et al.* (Table 3). Only the
30 A250D variant amplified with the MGC-2130 primer set bringing some question to the
31 activity of the I63L variant in our cultivars. Chemdog91, in addition to its Q8GTB6.1
32 active allele, also has an A250D haplogroup. Both of these haplogroups amplify with
33 the MGC-2130 primer set in Chemdog91 and only the A250D allele amplifies in
34 Black84 suggesting the I63L variant may be inactive (Table 4). Further work is
35 required to characterize the I63L variants functionality.

36
37 The other THCA:CBDA hybrid cultivar “Blueberry Essence” has a single haplogroup
38 that amplified with both primers, suggesting the sample had identical maternal and
39 paternal alleles for THCAS sequence. This sequence has a single amino acid variant
40 from the active form (P333R). Considering the structure of the gene, this proline
41 change may alter the activity of the THCAS and explain the 8.11% THCA, 10.8%CBDA
42 expressed in Blueberry Essence(Shoyama *et al.*, 2012). Figure 6 demonstrates a Hybrid
43 Bd:Bd genotype. The difference in Bd:Bd vs Bt:Bd genotypes relies on measuring the
44 magnitude of the 3rd peak in the electropherogram but in our hands the assay did not
45 produce a clear presence-absence result allowing unambiguous differentiation of these
46 two alleles (Figure 6.). Interestingly, the B1080/B1192 primers described in Pacifico

1 *et al.* were confirmed to be the B1180/B1192 genotyping primers utilized in Table 2 of
2 Onofri *et al.* (personal communication G. Mandolino). This forward primer targets a
3 region conserved between active and inactive THCAS while the mid portion of the
4 reverse primer rests on a H494P and A495E variant between active and inactive
5 alleles. Although the 3 prime end of the primer is 12 bases upstream of these primed
6 variants, it is possible but unlikely that this primer set differentiates between active
7 and inactive transcripts of THCAS.

8
9 Otto and Sour Tsunami are both CBDA dominant chemotypes but demonstrate 2 and 6
10 haplogroups respectively. Three of the haplogroups in Sour Tsunami have stop codons.
11 The remaining three haplogroups are exact active and inactive haplogroups with an
12 additional 6 amino acid variant of the inactive haplogroup with unknown activity. Otto
13 has 2 haplogroups, one inactive copy that only amplifies with Onofri primers and
14 another that amplifies with both primer sets and represents a single active Q8GTB6.1
15 haplogroup with an A411V variant.

16 17 **Illumina Sequencing of the Bt:Bd alleles**

18 We amplified the Bt:Bd alleles from all of the samples in Table 1 (Figure 6). While 4 of
19 the THCA positive samples demonstrated the 190bp band, 3 did not. A select few of
20 these products were Illumina sequenced to gain a better understanding of the loci the
21 B190:200 primers amplify. Assembling these amplicons produced several contigs per
22 cultivar where the inserts can be mapped to a tandem repeat in CanSat3 Scaffold
23 19079 (Figure 7.). Only 9-10bp of the 3' end of the B190/B200 primers match the
24 reference at appropriate distances implying a Tm sensitive assay that is likely highly
25 sensitive to salts in various DNA isolations. Of note, the referenced methods in
26 Mandolino *et al.* recommend 38C annealing temperatures(Mandolino, 1999). We
27 confirmed these alignments with cross comparisons to other public whole genome
28 assemblies with of Chemdog91 and LA Confidential(McKernan,
29 <https://aws.amazon.com/datasets/the-cannabis-sativa-genome/>). Contig_60162 of
30 LA Confidential has a 100% 159bp alignment of WZ-CBD B190/B200 allele while
31 Chemdog91s contig_96784 has a 148/159bp alignment with many other contigs
32 showing similar homology. Various polymorphisms also exist in the alignments. While
33 this appears to be a repeat, it is also rich in secondary structure notorious for error
34 prone sequencing(Nakamura *et al.*, 2011).

35
36 While these are useful markers for tracking chemotype, its unclear by their sequence
37 alone what function they play. Even though THCAS rests on CanSat3 scaffold 19603
38 and shares little homology to CanSat3 scaffold 19079, one possibility is that the
39 regions are simply in linkage to active and inactive alleles of CBDAS and THCAS and
40 closer markers to the gene may be more predictive in a polymorphic population.

41 42 **Discussion**

43 Even though absolute copy number does not correlate with CBDA dominant or THCA
44 dominant chemotypes, a more nuanced view of the amino acid alterations in the
45 haplogroups reveals an interesting pattern. All CBDA strains contain at least one
46 haplogroup with similarity to the inactive Q33DQ2.1 haplogroup. The most common

1 second haplogroup in CBDA dominant cultivars is the 6 amino acid diverged form of
2 Q33DQ2.1 (N90F, I266T, L370F, D420G, Y471C, T492S). Additionally, no CBDA
3 dominant strains amplified with perfect Q8GTB6.1 active alleles with the MGC-2130
4 primers. The only two cultivars to amplify with the MGC-2130 primers had variants
5 (Otto-A411V, and Blueberry Essence-P333R). The other three CBDA cultivars failed to
6 amplify with MGC-2130 primers (WZ-CBD, Sour Tsunami, CannaTsu) despite gradient
7 PCR optimization attempts.

8
9 This suggests UTR sequences of various THCAS haplogroups are associated with
10 different chemotypes, and invokes an interest in the linked Bt:Bd allele described by de
11 Meijer *et al.*. Weiblen *et al.* demonstrated this marker is tightly linked to THCAS and
12 CBDAS. Pacifico *et al.* implied these B190/200 markers were imperfect in resolving the
13 Bt:Bd from Bd:Bd alleles but never published the implied and improved B1080/1192
14 primers(Pacifico, 2006). Although, it is possible that the Bt allele is just in phase with
15 the MGC-2130 primer set and predicts active form THCAS while the Bd allele is in
16 phase with functional CBDAS, the current genome assemblies can only anchor partial
17 B190 or B200 primer sequences (used to amplify the Bt:Bd allele) to a genomic contig
18 (scaffold 19079). Sequencing these Bt:Bd products with Illumina sequencing
19 demonstrated high coverage and high homology between the various sized bands
20 suggesting a recently expanded repetitive element that is hard to assemble (Figure 7).

21
22 The UTR based MGC-2130 primers imply the THCAS replicated inactive events did not
23 include 5 or 3' UTRs. Primers that rest 387 & 160 bases back from the start and stop of
24 the gene amplify fewer haplogroups of THCAS presumably due to the genomic
25 divergence flanking the transcribed sequences. 10/13 of the cultivars amplified
26 successfully with the more distant MGC- 2130 primers (WZ-CBD, Sour Tsunami, and
27 CannaTsu failed to amplify). Only one hybrid cultivar demonstrated a single
28 haplogroup with both primers (Blueberry Essence Q8GTB6.1 P333R). The MGC-2130
29 primers appear to predominantly amplify the active forms and could possibly be used
30 to better inform chemotype prediction. Due to the high polymorphism rate of this
31 species and locus, sampling of additional cultivars with well-measured chemotypes is
32 underway.

33
34 These haplogroups help to inform why copy number assays targeting highly conserved
35 regions of THCAS can fail to differentiate active from inactive haplogroups. Cascini *et al.*
36 demonstrate copy number variation in THCAS with qPCR but these primer
37 selections would have failed to amplify only one inactive variant haplogroup in this
38 study (Black84_Onofri-lbc1_C0_P0_NumRs92). A comprehensive sequencing strategy
39 can properly identify active from inactive copies.

40 41 **Conclusions**

42 The study of the inheritance of THCAS in modern drug type cultivars must consider
43 polyploidy. Even though many of the replication events in THCAS appear to be
44 pseudogenes or inactive forms, partially active forms are emerging and appear to be
45 associated with more the balanced (Bt:Bd) THCA:CBDA cultivars. While de Meijer *et al.*
46 demonstrate (Jurka & Kapitonov, 2001)chemotype prediction from the B190/B200

1 primers for the Bt:Bd allele, its precise location in the genome is difficult to uniquely
2 resolve and while it can inform THCA and CBDA chemotype it has not been able to
3 predict the magnitude of THCA or CBDA expression and some ambiguity on Bt:Bd vs
4 Bd:Bd genotyping has been noticed. The sequencing of these alleles demonstrates a
5 repetitive and polymorphic locus that appears difficult to design higher throughput
6 qPCR assays for.

7
8 The observation of diverged THCAS genes and copy number variation may provide
9 another tool in refining the chemotype prediction for *Cannabis* in light of previous
10 work. Novel variants have been identified and phased with other variants of interest
11 in THCAS. In light of both copy number variation, amino acid variation, B190-B200
12 alleles and van Bakels AAE3 observations, it is possible that the highly selected
13 chemotype is experiencing convergent evolution. Of note are the several
14 CWCTTA/TTAGWG “P Instability Factor” (PIF) sequences present in THCAS. While it is
15 unclear if this replication event is transposon driven, the multiple, albeit small,
16 recognition sequence signals in the gene and the repetitive sequence flanking THCAS is
17 of note (Jurka & Kapitonov, 2001; Zhang *et al.*, 2001). Structural variation in the human
18 genome is often attributed to segmental duplication of ancestral alleles followed by
19 Nonhomologous end joining (NHEJ) or non allelic homologous recombination (NAHR).
20 VNTRs and retrotransposition are also known to drive these events (Kidd *et al.*, 2008).
21 While gene duplication of THCAS is common, the exact mechanism driving it remains
22 to be determined.

23

24 **Methods**

25 Two different amplicons for THCAS were selected. Primers described by Onofri *et al*
26 were utilized but also redesigned as these previously described primers are internal to
27 the gene (5' ATG in the Forward primer is the start codon for the gene) and cannot
28 inform on start codon or N-terminal signal peptide sequence. To multiplex multiple
29 cultivars per SMRT cell, 5 prime dual 16 base pair molecular barcodes were utilized as
30 described by the vendor.

31

32 *THCAS PCR*

33 PCR was performed with 50ul 2x LongAmp (New England Biolabs- #M0287S), 8ul
34 10uM each primer, 42ul DNA+ddH₂O (30ng total). Plant DNA was extracted with
35 SenSATIVax according to manufacturers instructions (Medicinal Genomics part
36 #420001). DNA is eluted with 50ul ddH₂O.

37

38 THCAS was amplified from genomic 30ng of genomic DNA using primers Onofri-F
39 (Forward; ATGAATTGCTCAGCATTTTCCTT) and Onofri-R (Reverse;
40 ATGATGATGCGGTGGAAGA). Product was cycled using 98C 30 s followed by 28 cycles
41 of 98C 10 s, 48C 30 s, 72C 90 s followed by a 72C for 5 min.

42

43 THCAS was also amplified from genomic 30ng of genomic DNA using primers MGC-
44 2130-F (Forward; ATGGGAACCATAATAAACTATAAAAAGTCATT) and MGC-2130-R
45 (Reverse; TATGATTGTCTACACAGTTCTAATGTAGATTTTC). Product was cycled using

1 94C 30s followed by 28 cycles of 98C 10s, 58C 30s, 65C 150s followed by a 65C for 5
2 min.

3
4 PCR products were purified with equal volume of SenSATIVAx (100ul) followed by two
5 100ul 70% EtOH washes. Samples were eluted in 25ul ddH₂O and quantified with
6 Qubit and Agilent HS chips, normalized and pooled for Pacific Biosciences circular
7 consensus sequencing. DNA barcodes recommended by the manufacturers were used
8 to multiplex sequencing on each SMRT cell. Sequencing was performed by University
9 of Florida service center.

10

11 **Nextera Libraries for Illumina phase confirmation.**

12 To generate sized shotgun libraries 9ul of THCAS PCR product (1.7ng/ul) was added to
13 20ul Nextera Buffer with 0.5ul Nextera Enzyme and 0.5ul ddH₂O. Nextera reaction was
14 driven 7 minutes at 51C. Reaction was quickly purified with 40ul of SenSATIVAx. Tip
15 mixes 10 times and placed on a magnet plate (Medicinal Genomics part#420202) for
16 10 minutes, removed supernatant and washed with 100ul 70% EtOH twice. After 5
17 minutes of benchtop room temp drying of residual EtOH the samples were eluted with
18 25ul ddH₂O.

19

20 **Post Nextera end healing or NT-PCR.**

21 To end repair the transposition event a nick translation event was performed prior to
22 initial denaturization (NT-PCR). 31ul of LongAmp 2X master mix (New England
23 Biolabs- #M0287S) was added to 6ul primer+indicies (2ul Index 1, 2ul Index 2, 2ul
24 ILMN primers). 25ul Purified Nextera library DNA (62ul total reaction volume) was
25 used for NT-PCR.

26

27 Reactions were cycled with 72C for 3 minutes, 98C for 30 seconds, 98C for 10 seconds,
28 63C for 30s, 72C for 1minute, Goto step 3 for 14cycles, 10C-hold. After NT-PCR, the
29 sample was purified with 60ul SenSATIVAx added to the 62ul NT-PCR reaction.
30 SenSATIVAx was tip mixed 10 times and placed on a magnet plate for 10 minutes. After
31 separation and supernatant removal the sample was washed twice with 100ul of 70%
32 EtOH. The beads were dried on a magnet plate for 10 minutes and eluted in 25ul
33 ddH₂O

34

35 **SAGE size separation**

36 25ul sample was added to 10ul R2 Marker (Sage Sciences) and loaded into a Sage
37 Science Blue Pippin, 1.5% Agarose Dye-Free 40ul EM. Software was set to size cut at
38 600-800bp in size. 40-60ul of elution was captured in the output port. Optionally QC
39 1ul on an Agilent 2100 Bioanalyzer High Sensitivity chips. Loaded library according to
40 Illumina V2 instructions protocol with 2x250bp reads.

41

42 **Bt:Bd Allele Amplification and sequencing**

43 Primers described by de Meijer *et al.* were used named B190F(Forward; B190F
44 TGCTCTGCCAAAGTATCAA) and B200R (Reverse; CCACTCACCACTCCACCTTT).

45

46 Using 5ng input DNA was added to 25uL Q5 polymerase 2X Master Mix (NEB #).

1 1.25uL B190F Primer (10uM) with 1.25uL B200R Primer (10uM) were mixed with
2 22.5uL Water. Total volume was brought to 50ul with water + DNA (5ng total).

3

4 *Genomic amplification*

5 PCR reactions were heated to 98C for 30 seconds and 40 cycles of 98C for 10s, 56C for
6 30s, 72C for 30s. A final 72C for 5 minutes was performed before 8C hold. PCR
7 products were purified with 75ul SenSATIVAx. After two 100ul 70% EtOH washes, the
8 beads were dried and eluted in 25ul ddH2O. Yield was measured with a Qubit and an
9 Agilent HS chip.

10

11 *PCR product Cloning*

12 DNA libraries were constructed with 250ng DNA using NEB's NEBNext Quick ligation
13 module (NEB # E6056S). End Repair used 3ul of Enzyme Mix, 6.5ul of Reagent Mix,
14 55.5ul of DNA + ddH2O. After End Repair, Ligation was performed directly with 15ul of
15 Blunt End TA Mix, 2.5ul of Illumina Adaptor (10uM) and 1ul of Ligation enhancer
16 (assumed to be 20% PEG 6000). After 15-minute ligation at 25C, 3ul of USER enzyme
17 was added to digest the hairpin adaptors and prepare for PCR. The USER enzyme was
18 tipmixed and incubated at 37C for 20 minutes. After USER digestion, 86.5ul of
19 SenSATIVAx was added and mixed. The samples were placed on a magnet for 15
20 minutes until the beads cleared and the supernatant could be removed. Beads were
21 washed twice with 150ul of 70% EtOH. Beads were left for 10 minute to air dry and
22 then eluted in 25ul of 10mM Tris-HCl.

23

24 *Amplification of libraries*

25 Samples adapted with NEB adaptors were amplified with 25ul of 2X Q5 Polymerase
26 (NEB). 1ul of 25uM i7 Primer and 1ul Universal primer were added. 23ul of Eluted
27 DNA was added to make a 50ul total reaction. 98C for 30s was used to hot start the
28 enzyme, followed by 6 cycles of 98C for 10s, 65C for 30s and 72C for 30s. A final 72C
29 for 5 minutes was performed before 8C hold. PCR products were then purified using
30 equal volumes (50ul) of SenSATIVAx. Samples were run on Qubit and Agilent to gauge
31 their quality and further size selected on a SAGE Blue Pippin 1.2% Agarose dye free
32 system to remove off target amplicons. (100-400bp). Quantified libraries were run on
33 a MiSeq with V2 chemistry using 2x250bp reads.

34

35 *Analysis*

36 Circular Consensus was achieved using Pacific Biosciences tools for de-multiplexing
37 symmetric barcodes with the RS Long Amplicon Analysis.1 using SMRTanalysis 2.3.0
38 workflows (<http://www.pacb.com/devnet/>). Minimum size was selected as 1500 and
39 2300 for Onofri and MGC-2130 amplicons respectively with a maximum subread of
40 700. Fasta files were aligned with a CLCbio workstation and confirmed using BLAST to
41 active and inactive accessions numbers (Q8GTB6.1 and Q33DQ2.1). Phylogenetic trees
42 were graphed with CLC bio with E33090 set as the root.

43

44 Illumina reads were mapped with BWA-MEM version 0.7.12-r1044 to the E33090 with
45 600-650bp inserts selected. These reads were subsequently mapped to each PacBio
46 derived haplogroup for each respective cultivar. Reads mapped to PacBio haplogroup

1 references were displayed in the Integrated Genome Viewer or IGV(Robinson *et al.*,
2 2011). Genbank accession numbers for this manuscript: SRP064442

3 **Author Contributions**

4 KJM- Experimental design, barcoded PCR, Nextera, Sequencing and Manuscript
5 drafting

6 YH- Barcoded PCR, Nextera, Sequencing, B190, B200 tests

7 VT- THCAS primer design and PacBio software installment.

8 SM- Illumina alignments to phased PacBio data and Figure generation

9 JS- Experimental optimizations and method development

10 LZ- Experimental optimizations and method development

11 DS- Manuscript review and drafting.

12 **Acknowledgments**

13
14 Helpful communication from Ryan Lee, John McPartland, Brad Douglass, and Giuseppe
15 Mandolino.

16
17
18
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Cultivar	Source	Chemotype	B190-B200
Black84_THCA	Uncle Ikes, Seattle, WA	THCA	Bt:Bd
BlueBerry Essence_CBDA_THCA	Cannabis City, Seattle, WA	8.11%THCA:10.8%CBDA	Bd:Bd
Sour Tsunami_CBDA	Werc Shop, Seattle, WA	11.3% CBDA, 0.5%THCA	Bd:Bd
BlueDream_THCA	MCR labs, MA	THCA	Bd:Bd
Otto_CBDA	Centennial Seeds, CO	11.3% CBDA, 0.5%THCA	Bd:Bd
WZ-CBD_CBDA	Rocky Mountain Remedies, CO	20% CBDA, 05%THCA	Bd:Bd
WIFI_THCA	MCR labs, MA	THCA	Bt:Bt
ChemDog91_THCA	Greenhouse Seeds, NL	THCA	Bt:Bt
CannaTsu_CBDA	Salmon Creek, CA	11.4% CBDA:0.4%THCA	Bd:Bd
C4 X CannaTsu	Salmon Creek, CA	Unknown	Bd:Bd
C4_THCA	Salmon Creek, CA	THCA	Bt:Bt
AK-47_THCA	Salmon Creek, CA	THCA	Bd:Bd
Alaskan Ice_THCA	MCR labs, MA	THCA	Bt:Bt
Chemdog91_THCA repeat	Greenhouse Seeds, NL	THCA	Bt:Bt
Chemdog91_SinglePlex	Greenhouse Seeds, NL	THCA	Bt:Bt

Table1. THCAS was amplified with two primer sets (Onofri and MGC-2130) for each Cultivar and single molecule sequenced with Pacific BioSciences SMRT cell circular consensus sequencing. B190, B200 alleles were measured according to Mandolino *et al.* Red highlighted samples represent B190-B200 Genotype-Chemotype discordant samples.

Samples Run on 3 different chips						
Singleplex ChemDog91	SubRead Coverage (#ZMWs)	Chemotype	PredictedAccuracy	ConsensusConverged	Activity	Reference_AAVariant
ChemDog91_Iplex_Onofri_lbc0_CO_P2_NumReads320_Q33DQ2.1_S221F	320	THCA	0.9999369	TRUE	Unknown	Q33DQ2.1_F221S
ChemDog91_Iplex_Onofri_lbc0_C1_P1_NumReads312_Q8GT86.1_A250D	312	THCA	0.9999369	TRUE	Active by deduction	Q8GT86.1_A250D
ChemDog91_Iplex_Onofri_lbc0_C1_P0_NumReads189_Q8GT86.1	189	THCA	0.9999369	TRUE	Active	Q8GT86.1
ChemDog91_Iplex_Onofri_lbc0_CO_P0_NumReads93_Q33DQ2.1_6AA	93	THCA	0.9996669	TRUE	Unknown	Q33DQ2.1_N90FJ266T_L370F.D420G.Y471C.T492S
ChemDog91_Iplex_Onofri_lbc0_CO_P1_NumReads87_Q33DQ2.1_STOP_438			0.9936923	TRUE	Stop/Frame-Shift	Q33DQ2.1_M134I_STOP438
FR09904480						
ChemDog91_lbc10_NumReads318_Q33DQ2.1	SubRead Coverage (#ZMWs)	Chemotype	PredictedAccuracy	ConsensusConverged	Activity	Reference_AAVariant
ChemDog91_lbc10_NumReads318_Q33DQ2.1	318	THCA	0.9999369	TRUE	Inactive	Q33DQ2.1
ChemDog91_lbc10_NumReads307_Q8GT86.1_A250D	307	THCA	0.9999369	TRUE	Active by deduction	Q8GT86.1_A250D
ChemDog91_lbc10_NumReads193_Q8GT86.1	193	THCA	0.9999311	TRUE	Active	Q8GT86.1
ChemDog91_lbc10_NumReads95_Q33DQ2.1_M134I_STOP438	95	THCA	0.992139	TRUE	Stop/Frame-Shift	Q33DQ2.1_M134I_STOP438
ChemDog91_lbc10_NumReads87_Q33DQ2.1_6AA	87	THCA	0.9921376	TRUE	Unknown	Q33DQ2.1_N90FJ266T_L370F.D420G.Y471C.T492S
FR09904616						
ChemDog91_lbc7_CO_P1_NumReads299_Q8GT86.1_A250D	SubRead Coverage (#ZMWs)	Chemotype	PredictedAccuracy	ConsensusConverged	Activity	Reference_AAVariant
ChemDog91_lbc7_CO_P1_NumReads299_Q8GT86.1_A250D	299	THCA	0.9999369	TRUE	Active by deduction	Q8GT86.1_A250D
ChemDog91_lbc7_CO_P0_NumReads201_Q8GT86.1	201	THCA	0.9999369	TRUE	Active	Q8GT86.1
ChemDog91_lbc7_C1_P2_NumReads103_FS	103	THCA	0.9963401	TRUE	Stop/Frame-Shift	Frame Shift
ChemDog91_lbc7_C1_P0_NumReads103_Q33DQ2.1_S221F	103	THCA	0.9981365	FALSE		Q33DQ2.1_F221S
ChemDog91_lbc7_C1_P1_NumReads75_Q33DQ2.1_6AA	75	THCA	0.9911302	TRUE	Unknown	N90FJ266T_L370F.D420G.Y471C.T492S
ChemDog91_lbc7_C1_P3_NumReads67_Q33DQ2.1_M134I_STOP438	67	THCA	0.9999369	TRUE	Stop/Frame-Shift	Q33DQ2.1_M134I_STOP438
Active (Q8GT86.1)						
Inactive (Q33DQ2.1)						
Unknown						
Stop FrameShift						

Table2. Triplicate Sample analysis. ChemDog91 was amplified 3 distinct times and sequenced on 3 different SMRT cells to assess reproducibility and sampling. Active forms consistently amplify and sequence across all amplification products. A few private inactive or unknown activity haplogroups amplify inconsistently (Q33DQ2.1- Red and Q33DQ2.1_F221S- Green).

Sample	Coverage	Chemotype	Location	Notes	Transcript_AAVariant
Black84_lbc1_C0_P1_NumReads408_Q33DQ2.1	408	THCA	Seattle		Q33DQ2.1
Black84_lbc1_C1_P1_NumReads333_Q8GT86.1_A250D	333	THCA		AK-47 implies this is active	Q8GT86.1_A250D
Black84_lbc1_C1_P0_NumReads167_Q8GT86.1_I63L	167	THCA		2010.24a.35/T-Onofri has an	Q8GT86.1_I63L
Black84_lbc1_C0_P0_NumReads92_STOP	92			2010.24a.35/T	Stop_Frameshift
Blue Essence_lbc2_C0_P0_NumReads500_Q8GT86.1	>500	THCA:CBDA	Seattle		Q8GT86.1_P333R
SourTsunami_lbc5_C1_P0_NumReads500_Q8GT86.1	>500	11.3% CBDA, 0.5%THCA	Seattle		Q8GT86.1
SourTsunami_lbc5_C0_P2_NumReads218_Q33DQ2.1	218	11.3% CBDA, 0.5%THCA			Q33DQ2.1
SourTsunami_lbc5_C0_P0_NumReads117_STOP	117	11.3% CBDA, 0.5%THCA			Stop_Frameshift
SourTsunami_lbc5_C0_P1_NumReads103_Q33DQ2.1_6AA	103	11.3% CBDA, 0.5%THCA			Q33DQ2.1_F90V,I266T,L370F,G420D,Y472C,T491S
SourTsunami_lbc5_C0_P3_NumReads62_STOP	62	11.3% CBDA, 0.5%THCA			Stop_Frameshift
SourTsunami_lbc5_C2_P0_NumReads23_STOP	23	11.3% CBDA, 0.5%THCA			Stop_Frameshift
BlueDream_lbc6_C1_P0_NumReads500_Q8GT86.1	500	THCA	Mass		Q8GT86.1
BlueDream_lbc6_214_C0_P3_NumReads214_Q33DQ2.1	24	THCA			Q33DQ2.1
BlueDream_lbc6_C0_P2_NumReads102_STOP	102	THCA			Stop_Frameshift
BlueDream_lbc6_C0_P0_NumReads92_STOP	92	THCA			Stop_Frameshift
BlueDream_lbc6_C0_P1_NumReads92b_Q33DQ2.1_6AA	92	THCA			Q33DQ2.1_V90F,I266T,L370F,G420D,Y472C,T491S
Otto_lbc7_C0_P0_NumReads500_Q33DQ2.1	500	CBDA	Centennial Seeds		Q33DQ2.1 reference
Otto_lbc7_C1_P1_NumReads500b_Q8GT86.1_A411V	500	CBDA		Active or not?	Q8GT86.1_A411V
WZ_CBD_lbc8_C0_P2_NumReads335_Q33DQ2.1	335	CBDA	Seattle		Q33DQ2.1
WZ_CBD_lbc8_C0_P1_NumReads86_STOP	86	CBDA			Stop_Frameshift
WZ_CBD_lbc8_C0_P1_NumReads79_Q33DQ2.1_6AA	79	CBDA			Q33DQ2.1_F90V,I266T,L370F,G420D,Y472C,T491S
WiFi_lbc9_C0_P1_NumReads290_Q8GT86.1	290	THCA	Mass male		Q8GT86.1
WiFi_lbc9_C0_P0_NumReads210_Q8GT86.1_V125L	210	THCA			Q8GT86.1_V125L
WiFi_lbc9_C1_P1_NumReads205_Q33DQ2.1	205	THCA			Q33DQ2.1
WiFi_lbc9_C1_P0_NumReads119_Q33DQ2.1_N225_P81S	119	THCA			Q33DQ2.1_N225,P81S
Canna-Tsu-lbc1_C0_P0_NumReads359_Q8GT86.1	359	CBDA	Salmon Creek, CA		Q8GT86.1_A250D,
Canna-Tsu-lbc1_C1_P2_NumReads146_Q33DQ2.1_A430T	146	CBDA			Q33DQ2.1_A430T
Canna-Tsu-lbc1_C1_P1_NumReads81_Q33DQ2.1_S221F	81	CBDA			Q33DQ2.1_S221F
Canna-Tsu-lbc1_C1_P0_NumReads55_STOP	55	CBDA			Stop_Frameshift
C4-lbc2_C0_P0_NumReads500_Q8GT86.1	500	THCA	Salmon Creek, CA		Q8GT86.1
C4-lbc2_C1_P1_NumReads96_Q33DQ2.1_N225_P81S	96	THCA			Q33DQ2.1_N225,P81S
C4-lbc2_C1_P2_NumReads92_Q33DQ2.1	92	THCA			Q33DQ2.1
C4-lbc2_C1_P0_NumReads91_Q33DQ2.1_A375V	91	THCA			Q33DQ2.1_A375V,
C4xCanna_tsu-lbc3_C0_P1_NumReads270_Q8GT86.1_P333R	270	Unknown	Salmon Creek, CA	Not direct cross	Q8GT86.1_P333R
C4xCanna_tsu-lbc3_C0_P0_NumReads230_Q8GT86.1	230	Unknown		from C4	Q8GT86.1
C4xCanna_tsu-FS-lbc3_C1_P0_NumReads47_STOP	47	Unknown	qual flag	from CannaTsu	Stop_Frameshift
C4xCanna_tsu-lbc3_C2_P0_NumReads20_Q33DQ2.1	20	Unknown		from C4	Q33DQ2.1
AK47-lbc4_C0_P0_NumReads500_Q8GT86.1_A250D	500	THCA	Salmon Creek, CA	Deduced Active	Q8GT86.1_A250D,
AK47-lbc4_C1_P1_NumReads400_Q33DQ2.1	400	THCA			Q33DQ2.1
AK47-lbc4_C1_P0_NumReads100_STOP		THCA			Stop_Frameshift
Alaskan_lbc-lbc6_C0_P0_NumReads184_Q8GT86.1	184	THCA	Mass		Q8GT86.1
Alaskan_lbc-lbc6_C0_P1_NumReads183_Q8GT86.1_V125L_G410E	183	THCA			Q8GT86.1_V125L,G410E
Alaskan_lbc-lbc6_C0_P4_NumReads82_Q33DQ2.1	82	THCA			Q33DQ2.1
Q33DQ2.1 = Inactive					
Somewhere in between					
Q8GT86.1 = Active					

Table 3. List of all haplogroups discovered from each cultivar other than Chemdog91 (Table 2). Red highlighting are Inactive haplogroups. Green highlightings are unknown haplogroups and blue highlightings are active haplogroups.

Haplogroup Clusters	SubRead Coverage (ZMW)	Chemotype	PredictedAccuracy	ConsensusConverged	Activity	Reference_AAVariant
Black84_2130-IBC11_CO_P0_NumReads500	>500	THCA	0.9999369	TRUE	Active by deduction	Q8GTB6.1_A250D
Blueberry Essence_2130-IBC12_CO_P0_NumReads500	>500	8.11%THCA:10.8%CBDA	0.9999369	TRUE	Active by deduction	Q8GTB6.1_P333R
C4_SSC_2130-IBC14_CO_P0_NumReads500	>500	THCA	0.9999369	TRUE	Active	Q8GTB6.1
C4 x CannaTsu_2130-IBC15_CO_P1_NumReads265	265	Unknown	0.9999369	TRUE	Active by deduction	Q8GTB6.1_P333R
C4 x CannaTsu_2130-IBC15_CO_P0_NumReads235	235	Unknown	0.9999369	TRUE	Active	Q8GTB6.1
WiFi_2130-IBC16_CO_P0_NumReads500	>500	THCA	0.9999369	TRUE	Active	Q8GTB6.1
ChemDog91-2130-IBC17_CO_P1_NumReads334	334	THCA	0.9999369	TRUE	Active by deduction	Q8GTB6.1_A250D
Chemdog91-2130-IBC17_CO_P0_NumReads166	166	THCA	0.9999369	TRUE	Active	Q8GTB6.1
AK47_SCC-IBC18_CO_P0_NumReads500	>500	THCA	0.9999369	TRUE	Active by deduction	Q8GTB6.1_A250D
Alaskan Ice_2130-IBC19_CO_P0_NumReads500	>500	THCA	0.9999369	TRUE	Active	Q8GTB6.1
Otto_2130-IBC20_CO_P0_NumReads500	>500	11.4% CBDA:0.4%THCA	0.9999369	TRUE	Low Activity by deducti	Q8GTB6.1_A411V

Table4- MGC-2130 primers only amplify active alleles. Active transcript Q8GTB6.1 is the most common haplogroup sequenced. A250D is the second most common haplogroup and is the only haplogroup present in a high THCA expressing cultivar AK-47 and is thus labeled as “Active by deduction”. P333R is also present in Blueberry Essence with 8.11% THCA suggesting Active by deduction Classification. A411V may be low activity or in a cultivar with Bd:Bd genotype.

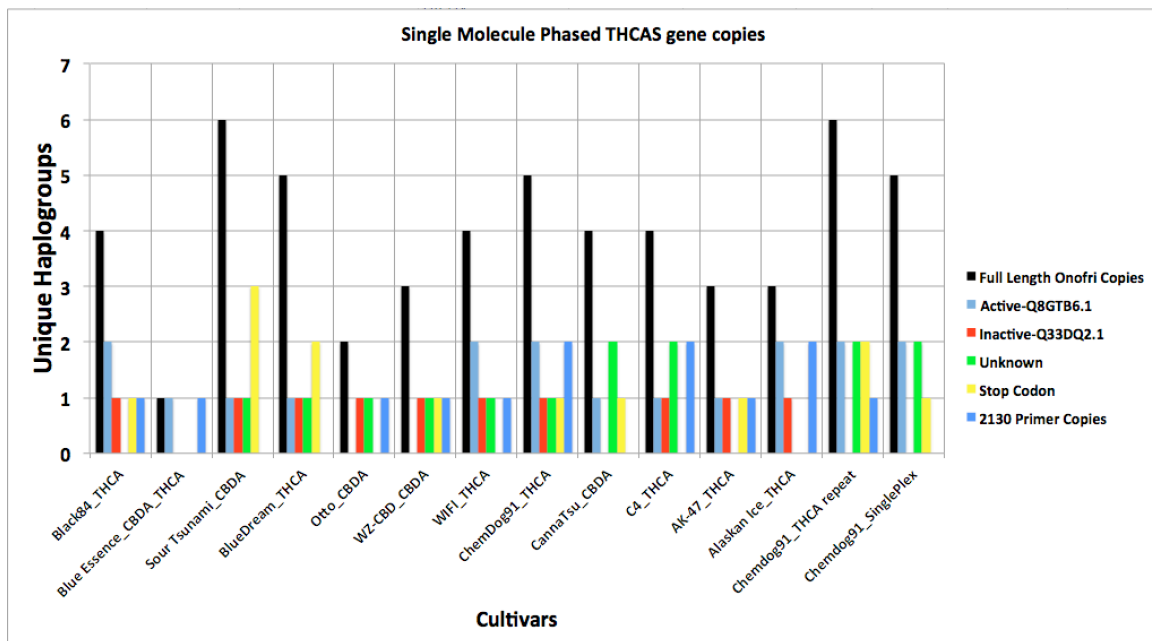


Figure 1. Unique full length THCA Synthase sequences for each cultivar demonstrate diploidy is a rare event in Drug Type cultivars selected for high cannabinoid content. All THCA positive strains have an active form of THCAS with the exception of AK-47 that has an A250D variant of the active form Q8GTB6.1. A250D variants are also present in Black84 as the only possible functional THCAS and as the 2nd THCAS haplogroup in Chemdog91. While it is also present in a CannaTsu high CBDA cultivar, this cultivar does not amplify with the MGC-2130 primers suggesting an MGC-2130 A250D haplogroup is in fact an active THCAS when full length.

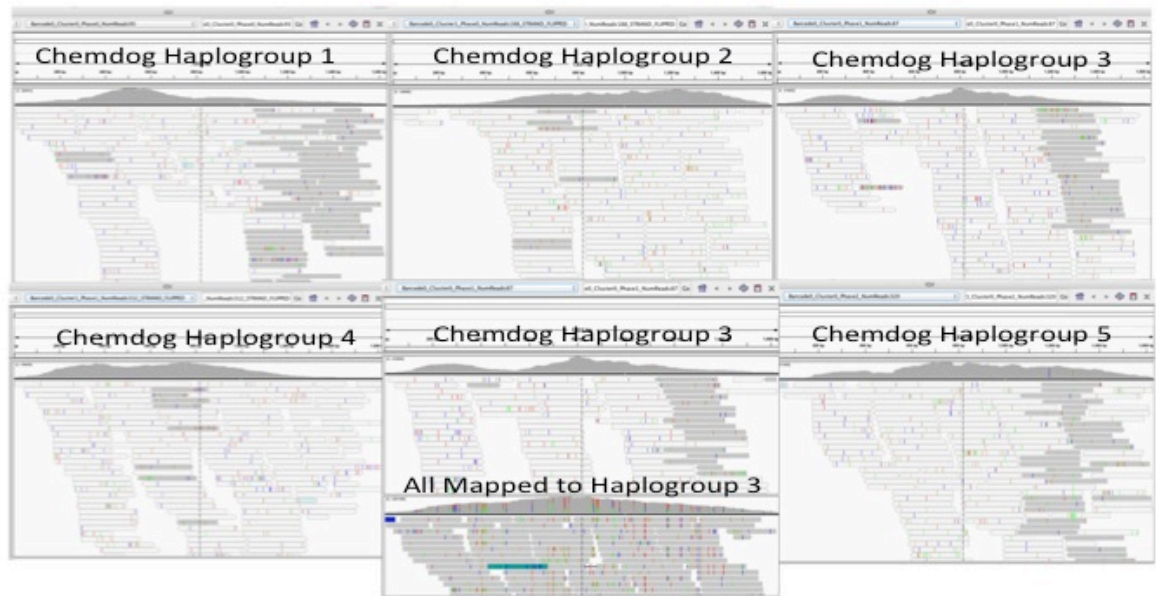


Figure 2. Mapping 2x250 Illumina reads to all of the Phased Pacific Bioscience generated haplogroups compared to mapping them to a single THCAS haplogroup sequence as you might find in CanSat3. 5 haplogroups of Chemdog91 shown in IGV with Illumina reads mapped to a reference containing all 5 references. The center bottom view “All Mapped to Haplogroup3” represents all of the reads mapped to just Haplogroup 3 demonstrating collapsed polymorphic reads when mapped to the unphased reference sequence of a single haplogroup. Most reads in IGV are labeled with poor mapping scores due to homology between the haplogroups. IGV also filters out alleles under 20% frequency inducing a more detailed dissection of this across more samples in Figure 5.

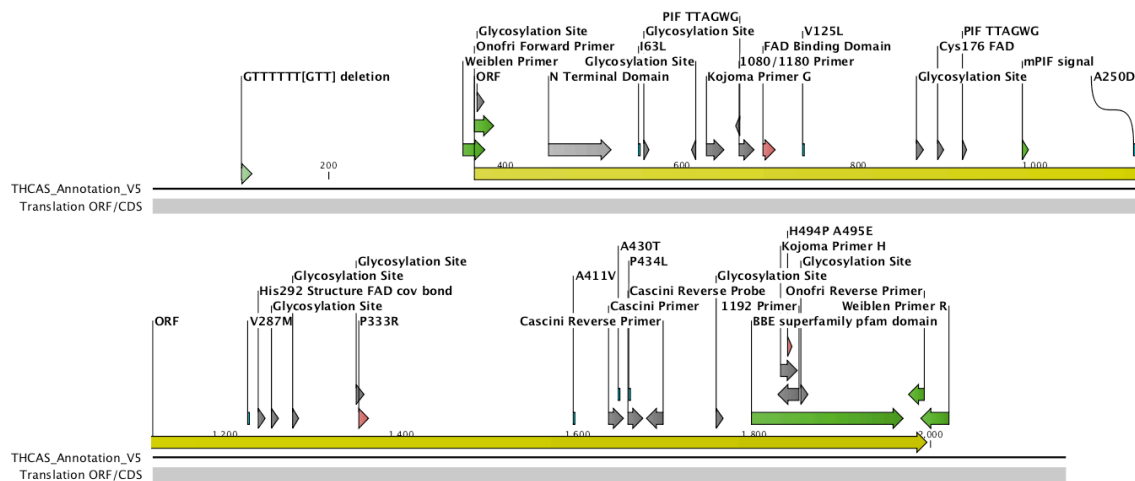


Figure 3. THCA Synthase Annotation.

MGC-2130 Primers bracket the displayed region of interest. Onofri and Weiblen primers are in green. THCAS ORF is in yellow. Various nonsynonymous SNPs (I63L, V125L, A250D, V287M, M289T, P333R, A411V) found in Active THCAS haplogroups are annotated near respective functional groups like Glycosylation sites, FAD binding domains and mPIF signals. Cascini primers and BBE Pfam domains are labeled accordingly.

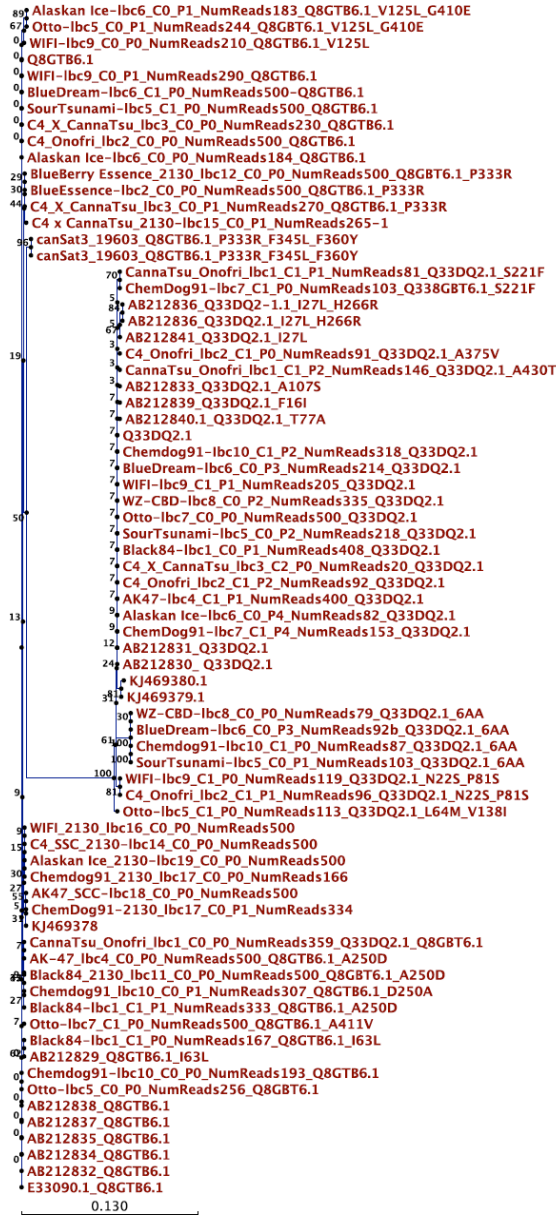


Figure 4. Phylogenetic tree of amino acid sequences of THCAS using E33090 as the root. Long pseudogenes were omitted from the tree since they had excessive divergence. The NumReads reflects the number of subreads that support a haplogroup after circular consensus has been achieved. Most haplogroups cluster around Active and Inactive like accessions (Q8GTB6.1 & Q33DQ2.1 accessions). Only Q8GTB6.1 cluster amplify with MGC-2130 primers. Other GenBank Accessions are label as AB#.

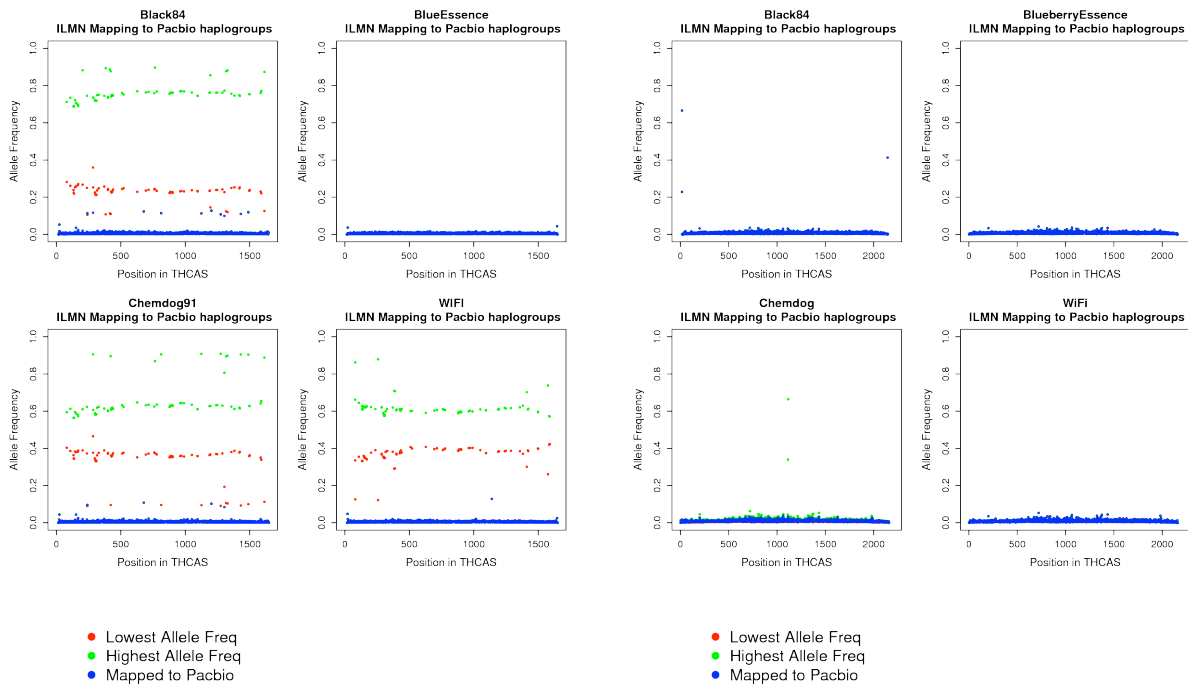


Figure 5. Over 100,000X coverage with Illumina 2x250bp reads derived from Onofri and MGC-2130 primer based amplification of THCAS. The Illumina data is mapped to the Pacbio FASTA files derived from Pacbio LAA analysis. The strain sequence is respectively mapped- for example- *Black84* Illumina Data is mapped to the *Black84* Pacbio FASTA. As an example, if there are 5 haplogroups, the data is mapped 6 times; once to each separate haplogroup and once to all 5 together in one FASTA reference. An allele count is performed on each position of THCAS. A clustal alignment is performed between all the haplogroups so we are able to compare the same position across the multiple reference/bam files. The minimum and maximum non-reference ratio at each position (~1600) is calculated across all the haplogroups (i.e. 5). This is the green and red dots shown. The non-reference ratio for all haplogroups mapped together is also calculated and shown in blue. Left two columns of the chart is Onofri amplification allelic coverage charts. Right 2 columns are MGC-2130 amplicon allelic coverage charts. On the X-axis is THCAS bases 1-1654bp or 1-2130bp respectively. On the Y-axis is Heterozygosity where homozygous genotypes are either 1 or 0 and heterozygous genotypes would display at 0.5. Samples Blueberry essence has been fully sampled with the PacBio depth on both primer sets (all blue homozygous alignments). Samples with red and green dots at equal allele frequency across the amplicon represent PacBio data that may have a remaining haplogroups detected at 100,000 X Illumina sequence but not yet sampled at the PacBio read depth. All 2130-MGC amplicons look fully sampled with phased active alleles.

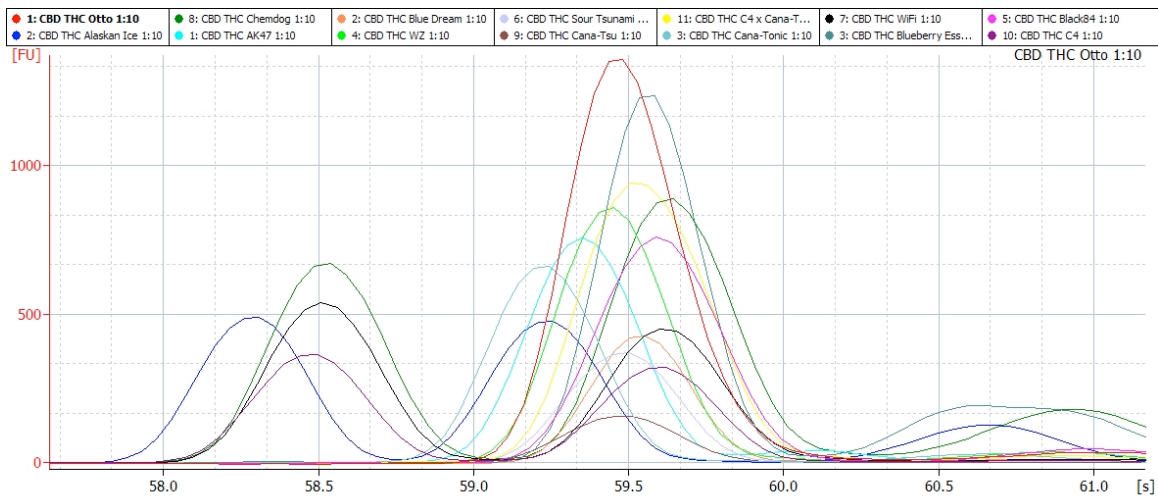


Figure 6. Bt:Bd allele amplified and run on an Agilent High Sensitivity chip. High THCA cultivars (WiFi, Chemdog, C4, Alaskan Ice) replicate a small ~190bp band known as Bt:Bt. High CBDA alleles generate a major 200 bp and a minor 215bp band known as Bd:Bd. Hybrid Bt:Bd alleles generate similar bands as Bd:Bd but with more 215bp product. This later peak is a bit subjective to measure.

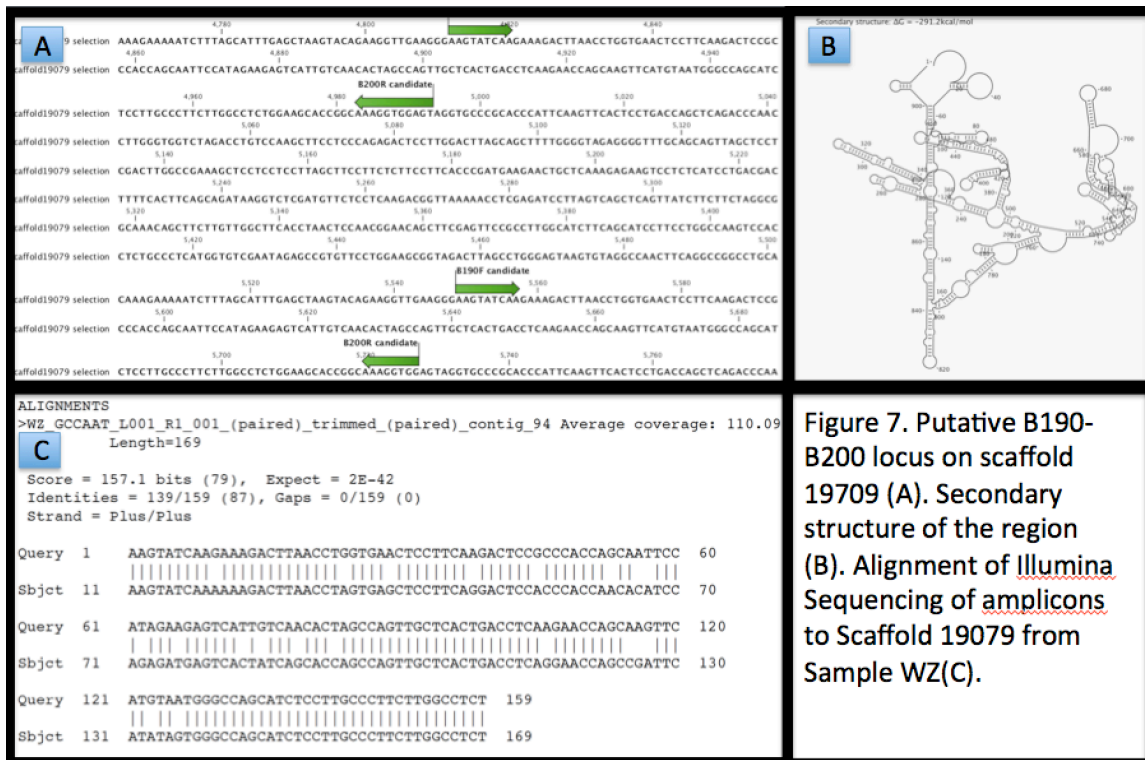


Figure 7. Assembly of Illumina reads from Bt:Bd allele in Cultivar WZ with homology to the B190/B200 partial primer sequences highlighted in green arrows.

