

1 **Identification of candidate genes for gelatinization temperature, gel consistency**  
2 **and pericarp color by GWAS in rice based on SLAF-sequencing**

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## 29 **Abstract**

30 Rice is an important cereal in the world, uncovering the genetic basis of agronomic  
31 traits in rice landraces genes associated with agronomically important traits is  
32 indispensable for both understanding the genetic basis of phenotypic variation and  
33 efficient crop improvement. Gelatinization temperature, gel consistency and pericarp  
34 color are important indices of rice cooking and eating quality evaluation and potential  
35 nutritional importance, which attract wide attentions in the application of genetic and  
36 breeding. To dissect the genetic basis of gelatinization temperature (GT), gel  
37 consistency (GC) and pericarp color (PC), a total of 419 rice landraces core  
38 germplasm collections consisting of 330 *indica* lines, 78 *japonica* lines and 11  
39 uncertain varieties were grown, collected, then GT, GC, PC were measured for two  
40 years, and sequenced using Specific Locus Amplified Fragment Sequencing (SLAF)  
41 technology. In this study, 261,385,070 clean reads and 56,768 polymorphic SLAF  
42 tags were obtained, which a total of 211,818 single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs)  
43 were discovered. With 208,993 SNPs meeting the criterion of minor allele frequency  
44 (MAF) > 0.05 and integrity > 0.5, the phylogenetic tree and population structure  
45 analysis were performed for all 419 rice landraces, and the whole panel mainly  
46 separated into six subpopulations based on population structure analysis.  
47 Genome-wide association study (GWAS) was carried out for the whole panel, *indica*  
48 subpanel and *japonica* subpanel with subset SNPs respectively. One quantitative trait  
49 locus (QTL) on chromosome 6 for GT was detected in the whole panel and *indica*  
50 subpanel, and one QTL associated with GC was located on chromosome 6 in the  
51 whole panel and *indica* subpanel. For the PC trait, 8 QTLs were detected in the whole  
52 panel on chromosome 1, 3, 4, 7, 8, 10 and 11, and 7 QTLs in the *indica* subpanel on  
53 chromosome 3, 4, 7, 8, 10 and 11. The loci on chromosome 3, 8, 10 and 11 have not  
54 been identified previously, and they may be the candidate genes of pericarp color. For  
55 the three traits, no QTL was detected in *japonica* subpanel, probably because of the  
56 polymorphism repartition between the subpanel, or small population size of *japonica*  
57 subpanel. This paper provides new gene resources and insights into the molecular  
58 mechanisms of important agricultural trait of rice phenotypic variation and genetic  
59 improvement of rice quality variety breeding.

## 60 **Introduction**

61 Rice is one of the most important food crops in the world[1], the increased rice yield,  
62 improved quality and advanced resistance to biotic and abiotic stress play an  
63 important role in solving the world food problem, improving people's life quality and  
64 reducing environmental pollution. Identification and utilization of favorable genes in  
65 rice germplasm resources is the foundation of rice breeding. Guangxi is likely the  
66 origin of cultivated rice[2], which possesses a large number of rice landraces  
67 containing rich natural variation and genetic diversity, and it is the important genetic  
68 resources for breed improvement.

69 Quantitative trait loci (QTLs) mapping has been widely used to explore the

70 genetic basis of complex agronomic traits in different crops. So far, yield-related  
71 genes [3-6], quality-related genes [7-9], and resistance-related genes [10-12] and so  
72 on have been identified and cloned through biparental linkage mapping in rice  
73 (<http://www.gramene.org/>, <http://www.ricedata.cn/index.htm>). However, almost  
74 studies need to construct mapping populations (e.g. F<sub>2</sub>, BC, RILs, NILs), which is  
75 very time-consuming and painstaking [13].

76 In recent years, with the rapid development of high-throughput sequencing  
77 technology and reduced sequencing cost, genome-wide association study (GWAS)  
78 based on SNPs has become a new method for studying important agronomic traits in  
79 rice [14-20], maize [21], sorghum [22], soybean [23], tomato [24], et al. Previous  
80 studies have documented that GWAS could be a useful tool to dissect the genetic  
81 changes for complicated traits has some advantages. First, GWAS can efficiently  
82 detect multiple QTLs in the same population meanwhile; Second, the associated  
83 population includes the majority of variations of the related loci. Therefore, the  
84 GWAS not only can help us understand the gene function, but also discover the  
85 favorable alleles for genetic improvement of plants. However, GWAS has some  
86 limitations. (i) the large effect variations and minor effect genes can not be identified  
87 easily by GWAS [25]; (ii) genetic heterogeneity can reduce the efficacy of mutation  
88 detection[25,26]; (iii) the population structure lead to false positive associations  
89 between phenotype and unlinked markers [18]; (iv) GWAS can be limited by the  
90 genetic characteristics of different species, for example, the LD decay of rice is lower  
91 than that of outcrossing maize [27], so the GWAS still can not replace the traditional  
92 map based clone to achieve fine mapping of the target gene [18,28].

93 Although a number of GWAS analysis for important agronomic traits in rice have  
94 been performed, new QTLs and candidate genes can be found through different  
95 populations [14-20]. In this study, we used 419 rice landraces core germplasm  
96 collections from Guangxi to explore the molecular basis of GT, GC and PC, the panel  
97 was genotyped based on SLAF-seq technology, the three traits were measured for  
98 twice during 2014 and 2015, and then the GWAS was performed. The research  
99 provided genetic resources for molecular breeding and shed light on rice quality  
100 improvement.

## 101 **Materials and methods**

### 102 **Plant materials and phenotyping**

103 The diversity panel was composed of 419 landraces collected from core rice  
104 germplasm of Guangxi. The lines were planted in Nanning experimental field (China  
105 at 22.85°N, 108.26°E) from July 2014 to November 2014 and from July 2015 to  
106 November 2015. For each landrace, five randomly chosen plants were harvested when  
107 they were mature and used for measurement of gelatinization temperature and gel  
108 consistency and recording the pericarp color. The gelatinization temperature was  
109 measured by the alkali digestion test [29] and the gel consistency was estimated based  
110 on Cagampang et al. (1973) [30].

## 111 **SLAF sequencing and SNP genotyping**

112 Total genomic DNA was extracted from young quadrifoliate leaves of all rice  
113 landraces using cetyltrimethyl ammonium bromide (CTAB) protocol [31], and digested  
114 by two restriction enzymes RsaI and HaeIII. The SLAF sequencing was performed on  
115 an IlluminaHiSeq 2500 system. The polymorphic SLAF tags were obtained by  
116 clustering the clean reads using BLAT software [32], aligned to reference genome  
117 (*Oryza sativa* L. spp. *japonica*. cv. Nipponbare, <http://plants.ensembl.org/index.html>)  
118 using the BWA software [33], and then the SNP calling was performed using GATK  
119 [34] and Samtools packages [35]. A total of 208,993 SNPs with a minor allele  
120 frequency (MAF)>0.05 and integrity > 0.5 was retained for GWAS.

## 121 **Genetic kinship calculation, phylogenetic tree construction, principal component** 122 **analysis, population structure**

123 Based on the 208,993 high quality SNPs, the phylogenetic tree was constructed by  
124 MEGA5 [36]. the pairwise kinship was carried out using the SPAGeDi software  
125 package [37], and the population structure was analysed by Admixture software [38],  
126 which the subpanel number was predicted from 1 to 10. The kinship and population  
127 structure analysis was performed for the whole panel, *indica* subpanel and *japonica*  
128 subpanel respectively in convenience of subsequent GWAS for the three combinations.  
129 Principal component analysis (PCA) was performed using GAPIT [39].

## 130 **Genome-wide association study**

131 In this study, in order to eliminate the effect of population structure between *indica*  
132 subpopulation and *japonica* subpopulation, GWAS was proceeded for the whole panel,  
133 *indica* subpanel and *japonica* subpanel respectively using the mixed linear model  
134 (MLM) of Tassel v3 [40], which took the population structure and kinship into  
135 consideration, and the significant P value was set to  $4.79 \times 10^{-8}$ .

## 136 **Result**

### 137 **Phenotypic variation of gelatinization temperature, gel consistency and pericarp** 138 **color**

139 The alkali spreading value can be used to measure the gelatinization temperature,  
140 which is inversely related to GT, and ranged from 0 to 6.15 with an average of 2.86 in  
141 2014, and 0 to 7 with an average of 3.74 in 2015; The gel consistency spanned 26 to  
142 100 with an average of 67.91 in 2014, and 6 to 100 with an average of 70.94 in 2015;  
143 for the pericarp color trait, the number of rice landraces with white, red, black color is  
144 308, 97, 14 respectively (S1 Table).

### 145 **Analysis of SLAF-seq data and development of SNPs**

146 After sequencing data quality control, a total of 67,665 SLAF tags were obtained with  
147 an average sequencing depth of 8.75×. Ultimately, 56,768 polymorphic SLAF tags  
148 were retained when aligned to the reference genome (S2 Table).

149 A total of 211,818 SNPs was identified using the GATK and samtools software  
150 package, of these, the number of SNPs with MAF > 0.05 and integrity > 0.5 was

151 208,993, which distributed on every chromosome with a mean number 17,416 per  
152 chromosome. For the high quality SNPs, 104,068 SNPs located in gene region, and  
153 107750 SNPs in intergenic region. The chromosome 10 possessed the most SNP  
154 density while chromosome 2 for the fewest SNP density (Fig 1, S3 Table).

### 155 **Genetic kinship calculation, phylogenetic tree construction and principal** 156 **component analysis**

157 Based on the 208,993 high quality SNPs, 87,571 pairwise calculations for all 419 rice  
158 landraces were carried out. Of these, the number of pairs reached up to 45,709, which  
159 the genetic relationship coefficients  $<0.05$ . The phylogenetic tree was clustered two  
160 mainly panels in accordance with the *indica* and *japonica* subpopulations. The first  
161 two principal components explained 5.64% and 3.92% of the genetic variation  
162 respectively (Fig 2).

### 163 **Analysis of population structure**

164 Based on the error rate of 5-fold cross-validation, the ancestor number was  
165 confirmed to 6 for all the 419 rice landraces. The six subpanels respectively contain  
166 330 *indica* varieties, 78 *japonica* varieties (Fig 3).

### 167 **GWAS mapping in rice landraces**

168 The whole panel composed of 419 rice landraces, *indica* subpanel (330 rice landraces)  
169 and *japonica* subpanel (78 rice landraces) were utilized for GWAS respectively in  
170 order to avoid population structure noise. Only one QTL was detected for GT, but in  
171 both the whole population and *indica* subpopulation. Similarly, only one association  
172 with GC was obtained, also both the whole population and *indica* subpopulation.  
173 Interesting, the two QTLs were both located on chromosome 6 (Fig 4, Fig 5). For the  
174 pericarp color trait, 8 QTLs were detected in the whole panel on chromosome 1, 3, 4, 7,  
175 8, 10 and 11, and 7 QTLs in the *indica* subpanel on chromosome 3, 4, 7, 8, 10 and 11  
176 (Fig 6).

### 177 **GWAS on Gelatinization Temperature**

178 Gelatinization temperature is one of the most important indexes to evaluate the  
179 cooking and eating quality of rice. The association analysis for GT was conducted for  
180 the whole panel, *indica* subpanel and *japonica* subpanel successively. In 2014, for the  
181 whole panel of 419 rice accessions, GWAS detected a total of 48 GT related SNPs ,  
182 the 26 SNPs of which can also be detected in *indica* subpanel, and the significant  
183 associated SNPs distributed on the 1807797 bp-7174281 bp of chromosome 6 (Fig 4,  
184 S4 Table). In the whole and *indica* panels, the most significant associated SNPs with  
185 GT were Chr6\_6733351 ( $P=2.04\times 10^{-15}$ ) and Chr6\_6740370 ( $1.39\times 10^{-13}$ ). In  
186 2015, 8 GT related SNPs were identified in the whole panel, of which 4 SNPs can  
187 also be detected in *indica* panel, and the positions of SNPs ranged from 6740370 bp  
188 to 6927719 bp of chromosome 6 (Fig 4, S4 Table). However, no significant SNPs  
189 were detected for the *japonica* subpanel in the both 2014 and 2015 year. In the whole  
190 panel and *indica* subpanel, the most significant associated SNPs were both  
191 Chr6\_6879531 ( $2.23\times 10^{-11}$ ,  $1.14\times 10^{-9}$ ). Chr6\_6733351 and Chr6\_6740370 were

192 located in 15kb and 8 kbupstream of the *ALK* gene (*LOC\_Os06g12450*), respectively  
193 ([Table 1](#)).

194 The *ALK* gene encodes soluble starch synthaseⅡa ( *SSIIa* ) and is responsible for  
195 GT of rice [7]. Some researchers have analyzed the SNP in *ALK* gene, and considered  
196 that SNP variation is the main factor of gelatinization temperature change [41-43]. We  
197 also found a SNP Chr6\_1807797 ( $P=2.53\times 10^{-8}$ ) which was significantly associated  
198 with GT located in the *Wx* gene region in 2014, which further verified the correlation  
199 between the *ALK* gene and the *Wx* gene ([Fig 4](#)).

#### 200 **GWAS on Gel Consistency**

201 Gel consistency is a complex quality trait, and views about the genetic basis of GC  
202 were not consistent between researchers (<http://www.gramene.org/>). Gel consistency  
203 is inversely related to amylose content, we performed Pearson correlation analysis for  
204 gel consistency and amylose content trait, and reached the same conclusion ([S5 Table](#)).  
205 Many researchers believed that the *Wx* gene located on the Chromosome 6 of rice is  
206 the major gene controlling the gel consistency [44-46] , and some other GC-related  
207 QTLs located on chromosome 1, 2, 3, 6, and 7 were also detected [47,48]. In 2014, in  
208 the whole panel and *indica* subpanel, GWAS detected a total of 28 and 24  
209 significantly associated SNPs respectively, the QTL located in the interval of 1607061  
210 bp-1958767 bp of chromosome 6, and the most significant associated SNP were both  
211 Chr6\_1797551 ( $P=1.03\times 10^{-17}$ ;  $P=3.62\times 10^{-16}$ ) for both whole and *indica* panels  
212 ([Fig 5](#), [S6 Table](#)). In 2015, 13 and 4 associated SNPs were confirmed for the whole  
213 and *indica* panels respectively. The associated SNPs sited in 1661801 bp-1822395 bp  
214 of chromosome 6 ([Fig 5](#), [S6 Table](#)). However, no SNPs were detected for the *japonica*  
215 subpanel in both 2014 and 2015 year. For the whole and *indica* panels, the most  
216 significant associated SNPs were Chr6\_1807797 ( $P=9.48\times 10^{-12}$ ) and  
217 Chr6\_1754453 ( $P=1.86\times 10^{-9}$ ) respectively. The Chr6\_1754453, Chr6\_1797551 and  
218 Chr6\_1807797 were located 11.2kb upstream, 26.9kb downstream and 37.2kb  
219 downstream of the *Wx* gene (*LOC\_Os06g04200*) respectively ([Table 1](#)).

#### 220 **GWAS on Pericarp Color**

221 Proanthocyanidins and anthocyanins are accumulated in the red pericarp rice and  
222 black pericarp rice respectively. The anthocyanin biosynthesis pathway includes  
223 multiple structural genes, such as *CHS*, *CHI* and *DFR*. A large number of studies have  
224 shown that these structural gene expressions have different degrees of synergy, which  
225 are directly controlled by MBW protein complexes formed by MYB, bHLH and  
226 WD40 transcription factors. The synthesis of anthocyanin in most plants is regulated  
227 by MBW through binding to the promoter of structural genes.

228 For the whole and *indica* panels, 763 and 99 significantly associated SNPs were  
229 identified respectively, however significant SNPs were not detected for *japonica*  
230 panel ([Fig 6](#), [S7 Table](#)). For chromosome 1 of rice, 25 significantly associated SNPs  
231 were detected in the whole panel, but no SNPs in *indica* subpanel. The most  
232 significant SNP was Chr1\_22408336 ( $P=6.80\times 10^{-14}$ ), located in the 2.97 Mb

233 downstream of proanthocyanidins biosynthesis gene *Rd* [49] (*LOC\_Os01g44260*). For  
234 chromosome 3, 647 and 27 significant associated SNPs were detected for the whole  
235 and *indica* pane respectively, which sited in two clearly divided QTLs. In the  
236 17126203 bp-24432074 bp, the most significantly associated loci were  
237 Chr3\_20743207 ( $P=1.50\times 10E-27$ ) and Chr3\_17963359 ( $P=7.88\times 10E-16$ ) for the  
238 whole and *indica* panels respectively. The *LOC\_Os03g38210* and *LOC\_Os03g31230*,  
239 which both encode the MYB family transcription factors, were located in the 459.6 kb  
240 downstream of Chr3\_20743207 and 179.2kb upstream of Chr3\_17963359  
241 respectively (Table 1). In the 31984778 bp-34408499 bp of chromosome 3, for the  
242 whole and *indica* panels, the most significantly associated SNPs were  
243 Chr3\_32304963 ( $P=1.07\times 10E-15$ ) and Chr3\_31521682 ( $P=2.89\times 10E-9$ ); the  
244 Chr3\_32304963 sited in the 350.3kb downstream of gene *LOC\_Os03g56090*  
245 encoding MYB family transcription factor; Chr3\_31521682 located in 94.8kb  
246 downstream of *LOC\_Os03g55220* and 86.9kb downstream of *LOC\_Os03g55550*,  
247 which both encode bHelix-loop-helix transcription factor (Table 1). For chromosome  
248 4, 11 and 5 significantly associated SNPs were found between whole and *indica*  
249 panels, and the most significant SNPs were both Chr4\_26803164 ( $P=1.07\times 10E-12$ ,  
250  $P=6.35\times 10E-12$ ) (Table 1). *Kala4* was located in the 1.11 Mb downstream of  
251 Chr4\_26803164, which encodes a bHLH transcription factor, provided structural  
252 rearrangements of its promoter region, then resulting in its ectopic expression, thus  
253 giving the trait of black pericarp in rice [50]. For chromosome 7, 12 significant SNPs  
254 were detected in the whole panel, and 61 significant SNPs in *indica* subpanel. The  
255 most significant SNP was Chr6\_6069266 ( $2.52\times 10E-10$ ;  $1.72\times 10E-18$ ), located in the  
256 *Rc* gene region (Table 1), which encodes a bHLH motif contained protein that  
257 participates in the synthesis of proanthocyanidins of pericarp, and the 14-bp deletion  
258 of seventh exon of *Rc* leads to the *Rc* mutation to *rc* [51]. For chromosome 8, 17  
259 significantly associated SNPs for the whole panel and 2 SNPs for *indica* subpanel  
260 were detected. For the whole panel, the gene *LOC\_Os08g21660* encoding a WD  
261 domain, G-beta repeat domain contained protein located in 59.9kb upstream of  
262 Chr8\_12968543 ( $P=3.96\times 10E-10$ ) (Table 1), which also located in the QTL ranging  
263 from 938782 bp to 20998896 bp of *indica* subpanel. For chromosome 10, 37  
264 significant SNPs for the whole panel and 3 significant SNPs for *indica* panel were  
265 found, and there was no identical SNPs between them. Forthe whole panel,  
266 *LOC\_Os10g30690* and *LOC\_Os10g30719* (Table 1), which encode MYB family  
267 transcription factor, were located in 148.5kb and 162.3kb downstream of the most  
268 significant SNP Chr10\_15835327 ( $P=3.25\times 10E-14$ ) respectively. For Chr11, 14 and 1  
269 significant SNPs were detected for the whole and *indica* panels respectively , but no  
270 candidate genes related to the pericarp color were found.

## 271 Discussion

### 272 SNP markers obtained by SLAF-Seq technology

273 Rice is the most important staple crop worldwide, and feeding a fast growing  
274 population, so it is emergent to identify genes related to agronomically important

275 traits. The association analysis is powerful to identify phenotypic variance related  
276 nucleotide polymorphisms [52,53]. In this study, in order to dissect the genetic basis  
277 of gelatinization temperature, gel consistency and pericarp color, we performed  
278 GWAS based on SLAF-seq technology. A total of 67,665 SLAF tags were obtained  
279 with an average sequencing depth of 8.75 $\times$ . Ultimately, 56,768 polymorphic SLAF  
280 tags were retained when aligned to the reference genome, which polymorphic ratio  
281 reached up to 83.89%. A total of 211,818 SNPs were identified and the number of  
282 SNPs with MAF > 0.05 and integrity > 0.5 was 208,993, which then were used for  
283 association analysis. Wang et al. (2016) [68] have documented that low-coverage  
284 whole-genome sequencing is an effective strategy for genome-wide association  
285 studies in rice. Our research also confirms the conclusion that the SLAF-technology  
286 can effectively and accurately identify the associated genes, though the obtained  
287 genome information is less than information, which is obtained by whole genome  
288 resequencing.

### 289 **QTL comparison among different panels**

290 In this study, in order to eliminate the noise of population structure, we conducted  
291 association analysis for the whole panel, *indica* subpanel and *japonica* subpanel  
292 respectively. The GWAS results in 2014 and 2015 showed that the QTLs of GT, GC  
293 and PC were relatively stable in different environmental conditions. For gelatinization  
294 temperature, one quantitative trait locus on chromosome 6 was detected in the whole  
295 panel and *indica* subpanel, which overlapped with *ALK* gene (Table 1), a confirmed  
296 major gene for GT [7]. One association with gel consistency was located on  
297 chromosome 6 in the whole panel and *indica* subpanel, where *Wx* (*LOC\_Os06g04200*)  
298 located (Table 1, <http://rice.plantbiology.msu.edu/>). For the pericarp color trait, eight  
299 QTLs were detected in the whole panel on chromosome 1, 3, 4, 7, 8, 10 and 11, and  
300 seven QTLs in the *indica* subpanel on chromosome 3, 4, 7, 8, 10 and 11 (Table 1). For  
301 the three traits, no QTL was detected in *japonica* subpanel, probably because of the  
302 polymorphism repartition between the subpanel [54], or small population size of  
303 *japonica* subpanel [25].

### 304 **Analysis of candidate genes for GT, GC and PC**

305 Core collection is a subset of the germplasm resources, representative of the genetic  
306 diversity and geographical distribution of the entire population with the minimum  
307 number of genetic resources [55]. Guangxi province of China is likely to be the origin  
308 of cultivated rice [2], which possesses a large number of rice germplasms and genetic  
309 resources.

310 In this study, a GWAS for GT, GC and PC of 419 rice landraces core germplasms  
311 from Guangxi was performed, and it was concluded that *ALK* is the major effect gene  
312 for GT [56,57] and *Wx* has a minor effect on gelatinization temperature (2009) [58].  
313 GC is an eating and cooking quality related trait with complicated genetic basis. So  
314 far, more than 20 QTLs for gel consistency have been detected  
315 ( <http://www.gramene.org/> ) in rice, which located on chromosome 1, 2, 4, 7, 11.



316 Many researchers asserted that *Wx* is the major gene for GC [7,45,46,56]. Swamy et  
317 al. (2012) [59] identified 6 QTLs for GC located on chromosome 1, 2, 4, 11 in BC2F2  
318 population. Based on RAD-seq technology, Peng et al. (2016) [48] confirmed a *Wx*  
319 linked QTL for GC on chromosome 6 in BC1F5 population derived from crosses  
320 between YVB × V20B. Li et al. (2004) [47] found two QTLs for GC on chromosome  
321 2, 7 through RFLP and SSR marker in BC3F1 population obtained from V20A (*O.*  
322 *sativa* L.) × 103544 (*O. glaberrima* S.). In this study, the major effort QTL for GC  
323 located on chromosome 6, which overlapped *Wx* gene.

324 The accumulation of proanthocyanidins and anthocyanins in the testa leads to red  
325 and black pericarp respectively. The anthocyanin metabolism pathway in *Zea mays*,  
326 *Antirrhinum majus* and *Arabidopsis thaliana* has been explored to some extent [60],  
327 which is not yet fully understood in rice. So far, some structural genes involved in  
328 anthocyanin biosynthesis has been identified, such as *OsCHS1* [61], *OsCHS2* [62],  
329 *OsCHI* [63], *OsF3H* [64], *OsF3'H* [62], *OsDFR(Rd)* [49] and *OsANS* [62]. However,  
330 the regulatory genes, MYB, bHLH and WD40 are not fully reported. Furukawa et al.  
331 cloned *Rc* gene located on chromosome 7, which encodes bHLH domain contained  
332 transcription factor and participates in the proanthocyanidin synthesis [51], which is  
333 consistent with our result. Oikawa et al. (2015) [50] identified *Kala4* gene controlling  
334 anthocyanin biosynthesis, identical to *OSB2* gene confirmed by Sakamoto et al. (2001)  
335 [65] in rice. Chin et al. (2016) [66] have showed that the *OsCI* gene of chromosome 6  
336 is related to the purple sheath in rice, encoding a MYB transcription factor.

337 In this study, for the whole panel, a pericarp color-related QTL was detected, where  
338 the most significant SNP Chr1\_22408336 was adjacent to the *Rd* [49] participating in  
339 the proanthocyanidins biosynthesis. The *LOC\_Os03g38210*, *LOC\_Os03g31230* and  
340 *LOC\_Os03g56090* all encode a MYB transcription factor, which are different locus of  
341 *Kala3* (*Os03g0410000*) participating in anthocyanin biosynthesis for black rice [67].

342 Both *LOC\_Os03g55220* and *LOC\_Os03g55550* encode bHLH motif contained  
343 transcription factor. The anthocyanin biosynthesis related key gene *Kala4* locates in  
344 the significant QTL of chromosome 4 [50]. The *LOC\_Os08g21660* gene locates in  
345 54.35kb upstream of Chr8\_12968543, and encodes a WD domain and G-beta repeat  
346 domain contained protein. So far, the WD40 domain contained gene has not been  
347 identified in rice, which is involved in the anthocyanin biosynthesis [50]. There are  
348 two genes (*LOC\_Os10g30690* and *LOC\_Os10g30719*) located in 148.5 kb and  
349 162.3 kb downstream of most significant SNP of Chromosome 10 respectively, both  
350 encoding MYB transcription factor, which are not overlapped the gene *qPc10*  
351 (*Os10g0536400*) identified by Wang et al. (2016) [68].

352 With the improvement of people's living standard, the rice of high quality is more  
353 and more needed. The discovery and utilization of excellent germplasm can accelerate  
354 rice breeding. Based on SLAF-seq technology, GWAS for gelatinization temperature,  
355 gel consistency and pericarp color of 419 rice core collections from Guangxi was

356 conducted, and associated genes, especially the anthocyanin synthesis related genes  
357 on chromosome 3,8,10 and 11 were reported for the first time. This study shed light  
358 on the genetic analysis for important agricultural trait of rice and beneficial to plant  
359 breeder.

### 360 **Acknowledgments**

361 This study was financially supported by National key R & D projects  
362 (2016YFD0100101-03), Guangxi's Ministry of Science and Technology  
363 (AB16380117), Guangxi Natural Science Foundation of China  
364 (2015GXNSFAA139054) and Guangxi Academy of Agricultural Sciences (2015YT15;  
365 2016JM09).

### 366 **Author Contributions**

367 Xinghai Yang designed, performed the experiment and wrote the manuscript,  
368 Xiuzhong Xia, Yu Zeng, Baoxuan Nong, Zongqiong Zhang performed the experiment,  
369 Yanyan Wu, Faqian Xiong, Yuexiong Zhang, Haifu Liang, Guofu Deng collected and  
370 analyzed data, Li Danting designed and revised the manuscript. All authors reviewed  
371 and approved this submission.

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Table 1 A subset of associated loci and candidate genes.

Panel	Trait	Chromosome	Position	P-value	Candidate gene	Annotation
Full	GT	6	6733351	2.04E-15	<i>LOC_Os06g12450</i>	Soluble starch synthase 2-3
Indica	GT	6	6740370	1.39E-13	<i>LOC_Os06g12450</i>	Soluble starch synthase 2-3
Full	GC	6	1797551	1.03E-17	<i>LOC_Os06g04200</i>	Starch synthase
Indica	GC	6	1797551	3.62E-16	<i>LOC_Os06g04200</i>	Starch synthase
Full	GC	6	1807797	9.48E-12	<i>LOC_Os06g04200</i>	Starch synthase
Indica	GC	6	1754453	1.86E-09	<i>LOC_Os06g04200</i>	Starch synthase
Full	PC	1	22408336	6.8E-14	<i>LOC_Os01g44260</i>	Dihydroflavonol-4-reductase
Full	PC	3	20743207	1.5E-27	<i>LOC_Os03g38210</i>	MYB family transcription factor
Indica	PC	3	17963359	7.88E-16	<i>LOC_Os03g31230</i>	MYB family transcription factor
Full	PC	3	32304963	1.07E-15	<i>LOC_Os03g56090</i>	MYB family transcription factor
Indica	PC	3	31521682	2.89E-09	<i>LOC_Os03g55220</i>	MYB family transcription factor
Full	PC	4	26803164	1.07E-12	<i>LOC_Os04g47059</i>	bHLH transcription factor
Indica	PC	4	26803164	6.35E-11	<i>LOC_Os04g47059</i>	bHLH transcription factor
Full	PC	7	6069266	2.52E-10	<i>LOC_Os07g11020</i>	bHLH transcription factor regulating proanthocyanidin production in seeds
Indica	PC	7	6069266	1.72E-18	<i>LOC_Os07g11020</i>	bHLH transcription factor regulating proanthocyanidin production in seeds
Full	PC	8	12968543	3.96E-10	<i>LOC_Os08g21660</i>	WD domain, G-beta repeat domain containing protein
Indica	PC	8	938782	2.02E-11	<i>LOC_Os08g21660</i>	WD domain, G-beta repeat domain containing protein
Full	PC	10	15835327	3.25E-14	<i>LOC_Os10g30690</i> ; <i>LOC_Os10g30719</i>	MYB family transcription factor
Indica	PC	10	5131361	2.32E-12	<i>LOC_Os10g30690</i> ;	MYB family transcription factor

*LOC\_Os10g30719*

Full	PC	11	12447381	8.27E-21
Indica	PC	11	27509828	1.19E-08

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GT: gelatinization temperature; GC: gel consistency; PC: pericarp color.