

Hybrid vigour and hybrid mimics in rice

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CERTIFICATE OF ORIGINAL AUTHORSHIP

I, You Zhang declare that this thesis, is submitted in fulfilment of the requirements for the award of the Doctor of Philosophy, in the Faculty of Science at the University of Technology Sydney.

This thesis is wholly my own work unless otherwise reference or acknowledged. In addition, I certify that all information sources and literature used are indicated in the thesis.

This document has not been submitted for qualifications at any other academic institution.

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Table of Contents

<i>CERTIFICATE OF ORIGINAL AUTHORSHIP</i>	i
Acknowledgements	ii
List of illustrations and tables	vi
Abbreviations	xii
Abstract	xiii
Introduction	1
Hybrid vigour & hybrid rice development.....	1
Hybrid mimics in <i>Arabidopsis</i>	5
Rice life cycle	9
Heterosis is established in vegetative stages	13
Photosynthesis & respiration	14
Heterosis at early developmental stages	18
Program objectives.....	20
Materials & Method	22
Chinese hybrid mimic selection materials & schedule.....	22
Candidate Australian hybrid rice lines (Materials)	30
Physiological measurements	36
qPCR & RNA-seq	39
Hybrid mimic line selection from Chinese hybrids	44
F1 vigour	44
Selection process.....	46
F5, F6& F7 hybrid mimic agronomic measurement	48
Variation decreases as hybrid mimic selection progress	53
Seed quality & disease resistance of F7 hybrid mimics.....	55

Summary	58
Australian hybrid lines & hybrid mimic selection	60
Early growth pattern selection	60
F1 growth & yield measurement of <i>Doon x Rei</i>	61
Hybrid vigour of <i>Doon x Rei</i>	65
Australian hybrid mimic selection	65
<i>Doon x Rei</i> F4 is hybrid mimic or not.....	71
Q2 physiological measurement of early photosynthesis.....	73
The starting time-point of photosynthesis in <i>Doon x Rei</i>	73
Li-Cor measurement of photosynthetic capacity of mature rice leaves on Chengdu Hybrid mimic lines.....	80
Transcriptome analysis of young rice seedlings	83
RNA-seq transcriptome analysis of China hybrid & hybrid mimic lines (<i>GZ63S x 93-11</i>)	83
RT-qPCR transcriptome analysis of photosynthesis-related genes of both Chinese & Australian hybrid materials	88
SNP analysis of F6 mimic lines.....	89
Discussion of earlier photosynthesis & other potential pathways contributing to hybrid vigour	95
Discussion.....	96
Hybrid mimic lines & their future in agricultural production.....	96
Early vigour & longer vegetative stage	99
Molecular mechanism of heterosis.....	100
Future work	101
Summary	102
Conclusions.....	103

Appendices	104
Bibliography.....	106

List of illustrations and tables

- Figure 1.1. Heterosis in vegetative biomass and reproductive trait in different species (P. 3)
- Figure 1.2: The two *Arabidopsis* parents, *C24* and *Ler*, together with the F1 hybrid and F2 plants at 28 DAS (P. 4)
- Figure 1.3: The growth phenotypes of *C24*, *Ler*, F1 hybrid and F6 hybrid Mimic at 47 DAS (P. 7)
- Figure 1.4: The agronomic traits measurement of *C24*, *Ler*, F1 hybrid and F6 hybrid Mimic (P. 7)
- Figure 1.5: Boxplots of rosette diameter at 39 DAS changing in each generation during hybrid Mimic selection (P. 9 commencement)
- Figure 1.6: The Life cycle of rice (P. 10)
- Figure 1.7: The structure of germinated rice seed and one-leaf rice seedling (P. 11)
- Figure 1.8: The structure of a rice spikelet (P. 12)
- Figure 1.9: The development of the individual rice grain (P. 13)
- Figure 1.10: The light reactions of photosynthesis (P. 15)
- Figure 1.11: The three stages of the Calvin cycle (P. 16)
- Figure 1.12: Plant cellular respiration (P. 17)

Figure 1.13: Expression fold-change to MPV of genes contributing to each step of the light reaction	(P. 19)
Table 2.1: Two Candidate hybrid lines for hybrid mimic selection	(P. 22)
Figure 2.2: Growth comparison of <i>DY527</i> , <i>D62B</i> and <i>R527</i>	(P. 23)
Figure 2.3: Growth comparison of <i>FLY1</i> hybrid, <i>GZ63S</i> and <i>93-11</i>	(P. 23)
Figure 2.4: The young rice seedlings grown in the hydroponic system	(P. 25)
Figure 2.5: Selection schedule of China hybrid mimics	(P. 27)
Figure 2.6: The genealogical tree graph of the hybrid mimic selection of <i>FLY1</i> hybrid	(P. 28)
Figure 2.7: Australia hybrid lines	(P. 30)
Figure 2.8: The pedigree tree of the two varieties <i>Doongara</i> and <i>Reiziq</i>	(P. 32)
Figure 2.9: Phylogenetic tree of genetic diversity of <i>Rei</i> and <i>Doon</i>	(P. 33)
Figure 2.10: The pre-test setup photo of water cycle system in the glasshouse	(P. 34)
Figure 2.11: Planting plan of the F3 generation of Australian hybrid mimic selection	(P. 35)
Figure 2.12: Planting plan of the F4 generation of Australian hybrid mimic selection	(P. 36)
Figure 2.13: Rice seedling was grown in Q2 2ml and 4ml tubes	(P. 37)
Figure 2.14: Q2 system with an LED light device	(P. 38)

Table 2.15: The table of 10 photosynthesis-related genes as the target genes for qPCR test	(P. 40)
Figure 2.16: Growth photo of <i>GZ63S</i> , <i>93-11</i> , F1, two of the large hybrid mimic line and one small hybrid mimic control at Day 1	(P. 41)
Figure 2.17: Growth photo of <i>GZ63S</i> , <i>93-11</i> , F1, two of the large hybrid mimic line and one small hybrid mimic control at Day 2	(P. 42)
Figure 2.18: Growth photo of <i>GZ63S</i> , <i>93-11</i> , F1, two of the large hybrid mimic line and one small hybrid mimic control at Day 3	(P. 42)
Figure 3.1: The phenotypic traits of <i>FLY1</i> and its parental lines	(P. 45)
Figure 3.2: The phenotypic traits of <i>DY527</i> and its parental lines	(P. 46)
Figure 3.3: <i>FLY1</i> & <i>DY527</i> and F2 populations	(P. 47)
Figure 3.4: Increasing biomass of <i>FLY1</i> hybrids and photos at seedling stages	(P. 49)
Figure 3.5: Increasing biomass of <i>DY527</i> hybrids and photos at seedling stages	(P. 50)
Figure 3.6: The phenotypes of <i>GZ63S</i> , <i>93-11</i> , <i>FLY1</i> hybrid, <i>FLY1</i> F7 and small control plant	(P. 50)
Figure 3.7: The phenotypes of <i>D62B</i> , <i>R527</i> , <i>DY527</i> hybrid, <i>DY527</i> F6 and small control plant	(P. 51)
Figure 3.8: The growth pattern of <i>FLY1</i> hybrids, Mimic 1, Mimic 2 and small line	(P. 51)
Figure 3.9: The growth pattern of <i>DY527</i> hybrids, Mimic 1, Mimic 2 and small line	(P. 52)

Figure 3.10: The heading time of <i>FLY1</i> and <i>DY527</i> hybrid combinations	(P. 52)
Figure 3.11: The grain yield measurement of <i>FLY1</i> and <i>DY527</i> lines	(P. 53)
Figure 3.12: The boxplots of grain & biomass in the progress of hybrid mimic selection	(P. 54)
Figure 3.13: The comparison of agronomic traits of the better parental line with the <i>FLY1</i> hybrid, two F7 hybrid mimic lines and one small F7 line	(P. 54)
Figure 3.14: The comparison of agronomic traits of the better parental line with the <i>DY527</i> hybrid, two F6 hybrid mimic lines and one small F6 line	(P. 55)
Table 3.15: The quality test results of F1 and hybrid mimics of <i>FLY1</i> and <i>DY527</i>	(P. 56)
Figure 3.16: The percentage of resistant individuals to rice blast in different rice line	(P. 57)
Figure 3.17: Disease lesion length of blight in parental lines, F1s and hybrid mimic lines	(P. 58)
Figure 4.1: Two-week growth pattern comparison of <i>Doon</i> x <i>Rei</i>	(P. 60)
Figure 4.2: Two-week growth pattern comparison of <i>Teqing</i> x <i>Doon</i>	(P. 61)
Figure 4.3: Seedling growth of the F1 hybrid (H), <i>Doongara</i> , and <i>Reiziq</i> at Week 3 after sowing	(P. 62)
Figure 4.4: Average leaf area of the F1, <i>Doongara</i> , and <i>Reiziq</i> at Week 3 after sowing	(P. 62)
Figure 4.5: Tiller number of the F1, <i>Doongara</i> , and <i>Reiziq</i> at Day 40 after sowing	(P. 63)

Figure 4.6: Growth comparison of F1, <i>Doongara</i> , and <i>Reiziq</i> at the grain filling stage	(P. 64)
Figure 4.7: Grain yield per plant of <i>Doongara</i> , <i>Reiziq</i> and the F1 hybrid	(P. 65)
Figure 4.8: Grain yield per plant of <i>Doongara</i> , <i>Reiziq</i> , MPV, the F2 hybrid and the F2 elite individuals	(P. 66)
Table 4.9: Growth plots of the F3 generation in hybrid mimic selection	(P. 67)
Figure 4.10: Grain yield per plant of <i>Doongara</i> , <i>Reiziq</i> , MPV, the F1 hybrid and the F3 lines and the F3 small line	(P. 68)
Figure 4.11: Growth plots of the F4 generation in hybrid mimic selection	(P. 68)
Figure 4.12: boxplots of grain yield from the parental line to the F4 generation	(P. 69)
Figure 5.1: Oxygen level change in each tube during 72hr measurement	(P. 73)
Figure 5.2: The growth of seedlings after 72hr Q2 measurement	(P. 73)
Figure 5.3: The natural log curves of oxygen consumption of one replicate of <i>Doongara</i> , respiration oxygen consumption trendline of <i>Doongara</i>	(P. 75)
Figure 5.4: The natural log curves of oxygen consumption of one replicate of <i>Reiziq</i> , respiration oxygen consumption trendline of <i>Reiziq</i>	(P. 75)
Figure 5.5: The natural log curves of oxygen consumption of one replicate of <i>Doon x Rei</i> , respiration oxygen consumption trendline of <i>Doon x Rei</i>	(P. 76)
Figure 5.6: Photosynthesis starting time of <i>Doongara x Reiziq</i> combination	(P. 77)
Figure 5.7: Photosynthesis starting time of <i>Teqing x Doongara</i> combination	(P. 78)

Figure 5.8: CO ₂ assimilation rate of mature leaves of <i>DY527</i> combination at 90DAS	(P. 79)
Figure 5.9: CO ₂ assimilation rate of mature leaves of <i>FLY1</i> combination at 90DAS	(P. 80)
Figure 6.1: The number of differential expression genes in F1 and F6 mimics	(P. 84)
Figure 6.2: Heatmap of relative log ₂ fold-change of differentially expressed genes of 1DAS in F1, hybrid mimic lines, and F6 small control line at 1DAS, 2DAS, 3DAS	(P. 85)
Figure 6.3: The read counts of LHCH, LHCP, Cab27 and psaK in <i>GZ63S</i> , <i>93-11</i> , F1 hybrid and two hybrids at different time points	(P. 87)
Figure 6.4: The Heatmap of log ₂ expression level foldchange of photosynthesis-related genes to the MPV at different time-points in <i>FLY1</i> and <i>DY527</i> hybrids	(P. 88)
Figure 6.5: The Heatmap of expression level foldchange of photosynthesis-related genes to MPV at different time-points in <i>Doon x Rei</i> Hybrid	(P. 89)
Figure 6.6: The growth photos of <i>Doongara</i> , <i>Reiziq</i> and F1 hybrid seedlings at 1DAS, 2DAS, 3DAS	(P. 90)
Figure 6.7: The bar charts showing the percentage of SNP genotype	(P. 92)
Figure 6.8: The Genotypes of chromosomal segments of F6 <i>FLY1</i> mimic lines	(P. 93)

Abbreviations

QTL	Quantitative trait loci
DAS	Day after sowing
TAG	Time after germination
MPV	Mid parent value
<i>RuBP</i>	ribulose 1,5-bisphosphate
<i>Rubisco</i>	ribulose-1,5-bisphosphate carboxylase/oxygenase
<i>3-PGA</i>	3-phosphoglycerate
<i>G3P</i>	<i>Glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate</i>
<i>cFBPase</i>	<i>FRUCTOSE-1,6-BISPHOSPHATASE</i>
<i>SPS</i>	<i>SUCROSE PHOSPHATE SYNTHASE</i>
GO	Gene ontology
<i>R527</i>	<i>Restorer527</i>
<i>DY527</i>	<i>D-You-527</i>
<i>FLY1</i>	<i>Feng-Liang-You No.1</i>
GI	Glycemic index
HAS	Hours after sowing
<i>Doon</i>	<i>Doongara</i>
<i>Rei</i>	<i>Reiziq</i>
<i>Tq</i>	<i>Teqing</i>
A_n	Net assimilation rate
A_{leaf}	Assimilation rate per unit leaf area
DEG	Differentially expressed gene
FC	Foldchange

Abstract

Hybrid vigour, or Heterosis, is the phenomenon when the hybrid offspring has qualities in growth, survival and fitness superior to its parents. Heterosis has been applied in agriculture for decades, especially in the production of maize and rice, but the molecular mechanism of heterosis is not clear. The hybrid rice industry needs to produce fresh hybrid seeds for every planting, and farmers cannot reserve seeds for the next sowing. Previous studies indicated that heterosis could be associated with altered gene expression at early developmental stages, especially genes related to photosynthetic pathways. Hybrid mimics are stable F1-like lines, developed through recurrent pure breeding from F2 plants. Hybrid mimic lines have been developed in *Arabidopsis*. The hybrid mimics in *Arabidopsis* have similar biomass as the F1 and are larger than the parents, and the increased biomass could be stably inherited to offspring. The objectives of this project were to develop hybrid mimic lines in rice and to investigate the relationship between heterosis at early developmental stages and photosynthesis.

In my program, two Chinese hybrid mimic lines were developed in cooperation with scientists from Sichuan Agriculture University. An Australian hybrid underwent recurrent selection for an F1 like phenotype to the F4 generation, results are promising, and hybrid mimics can likely be developed at the F5/F6 generation. The hybrid mimics enable farmers to reserve seeds for planting high yielding lines, avoiding purchasing hybrid seeds each planting season. The three hybrid lines all had biomass heterosis at the early seedling development stage. The early heterosis was associated with early expression of photosynthesis-related genes in hybrids and hybrid mimics. Physiological evidence that an earlier commencement of photosynthesis in hybrids than parents was collected in the

Australian hybrids. The results suggested that the earlier photosynthesis in hybrids contribute to the establishment of early heterosis. The molecular mechanism resulting in the earlier photosynthesis process in hybrids may be the key to understanding the secret of hybrid vigour. Hybrid Mimics give a greater continuity to superior hybrids and should increase global food supply.