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(54) MARKER ASSOCIATED WITH POWDERY MILDEW RESISTANCE IN PLANT OF GENUS FRAGARIA AND USE THEREOF

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U.S. Cl.

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(57)ABSTRACT

This invention intends to develop many DNA markers for a plant of the genus Fragaria and detect powdery mildew resistance with high precision by using the many DNA markers. The marker associated with powdery mildew resistance in a plant of the genus Fragaria comprises a continuous nucleic acid region sandwiched between the nucleotide sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 1 and the nucleotide sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 19 in the chromosome of the plant of the genus Fragaria.

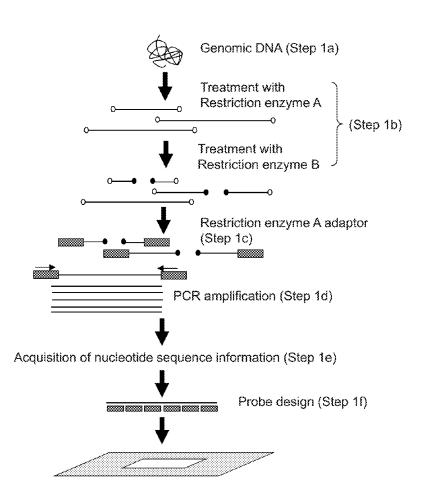


Fig. 1

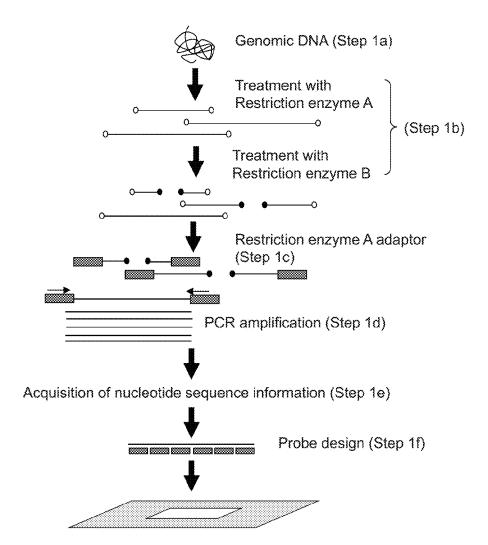


Fig. 2

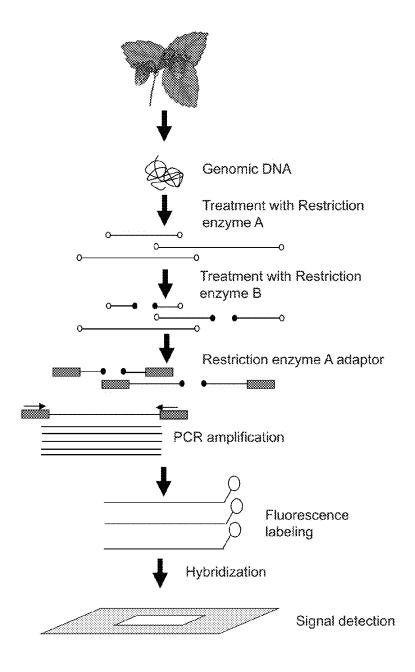
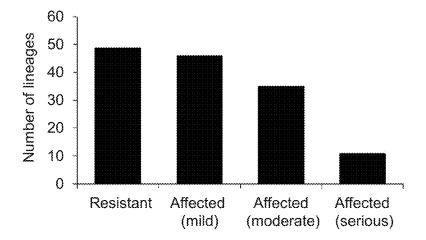


Fig. 3



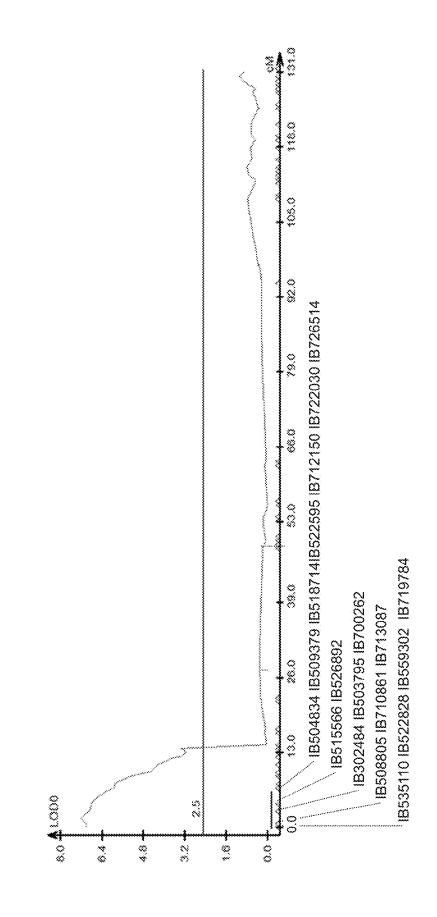


Fig. 5-1 Phenotypes concerning powdery mildew resistance/susceptibility of hybrid progenies (F1) in Populations A, B, and E

Populations A, B, and E							
Miyazak	i Natsu Haruka	Miyazak	i Natsu Haruka	09s E-b 45e x Miyazaki			
x	08 To-f	· x	Ohkimi	Na	tsu Haruka		
	Powdery		Powdery		Powdery		
Lineage	mildew	Lineage	mildew	Lineage	mildew		
	resistance		resistance		resistance		
A01	0	B01	0	E01	0		
A02	1	B02	0	E02	1		
A03	1	B03	0	E03	11		
A04	0	B04	1	E04	1		
A05	1	805	0	E05	1		
A06	0	806	0	E06	0		
A07	0	B07	1	E07	0		
80A	1	B08	0	E08	0		
A09	1	B09	0	E09	0		
A10	1	B10	1	E10	0		
A11	0	B11	1	E11	1		
A12	0	B12	0	E12	1		
A13	0	B13	1	E13	0		
A14	0	814	1	E14	0		
A15	0	B15	1	E15	1		
A16	0	B16	1	E16	1		
A17	1	B17	0	E17	0		
A18	1	B18	0	E18	0		
A19	1	B19	0	E19	0		
A20	0	B20	0	E20	0		
A21	1	B21	0	E21	0		
A22	0	B22	1	E22	0		
A23	0	B23	0	E23	1		
A24	1	B24	1	E24	1		
A25	1	B25	1	E25	1		
A26	0	B26	0	E26	1		
A27	1	B27	0	E27	1		
A29	4	B28	1	E28	1		
-A30	1	B29	0	E29	1		
A31	1	830	1	E30	0		
A32	1	831	1	E31	0		
A33	1	B32	0	E32	0		

•Fig. 5-2

-	i Natsu Haruka 08 To-f	_	i Natsu Haruka Ohkimi	09s E-b 45e x Miyazaki Natsu Haruka		
Lineage	Powdery mildew resistance	Lineage	Powdery mildew resistance	Lineage	Powdery mildew resistance	
A34	1	B33	1	E33	0	
A35	0	B34	1	E34	1	
A36	1	B35	0	E35	1	
A37	Ó	B36	1	E36	1	
A38	0	B37	1	E37	1	
A39	0	B38	0	E38	0	
A40	0	B39	0	E39	1	
A41	0	B40	0	E40	0	
A42	1	B41	1	E41	0	
A43	1	842	0	E42	1	
A44	Ó					
A45	0					
A46	1					
A47	0					
A48	0					
A49	0					
A50	1					
A51	0					

Powdery mildew resistance: 0: Not affected; 1: Affected

Affected Affected Affected Resistant **}~~** Resistant Ĭ. Affected Resistant Affected Affected \sim Resistant 4~ Resistant 3-of 80 Miyazaki Haruka Affected Natsu IB710861 B535110 IB522828 B559302 B719784 B508805 B503795 B700262 B515566 B526892 B504834 B509379 B518714 B522595 B712150 B722030 IB726514 B713087 B302484 Marker name Powdery mildew phenotype fl linkage Linkage dnoug dnosŝ

Fig.6-1

Resistant Affected Affected œ Affected ~ Resistant ñ ũ Resistant ξ Resistant 4. 38.188 83.888 Resistant Resistant ű Resistant ئىن ئىس Marker name IB508805 IB518714 IB726514 B522828 IB503795 IB700262 B515566 IB504834 IB522595 IB712150 IB722030 IB719784 IB302484 IB713087 IB710861 Powdery mildew phenotype fl. linkage group Linkage group 08 To-

Fig.6-2

 Affected Affected တ္လ Affected Resistant Affected ĭ Affected Resistant Resistant Affected Marker name IB509379 (B710861 B726514 B522828 B719784 B508805 IB503795 IB700262 IB515566 B526892 IB522595 IB712150 IB559302 IB713087 B302484 IB722030 Powdery mildew phenotype IB504834 fl linkage group Linkage group

Fig.6-3

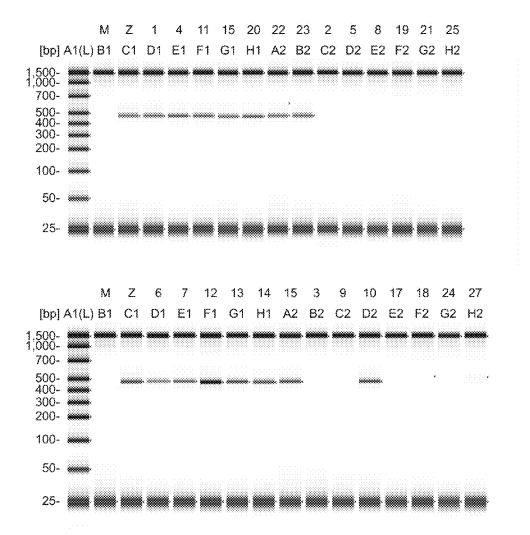
Resistant 0 Resistant Resistant Resistant Affected ũ Resistant Affected Affected Affected Affected (23 Marker name IB503795 IB700262 IB712150 IB713087 B518714 IB710861 B509379 IB535110 B515566 IB522595 IB726514 B522828 IB559302 B719784 B508805 B302484 B526892 B504834 IB722030 Powdery mildew phenotype fl linkage group Unikage group 08 To-

Fig.6-4

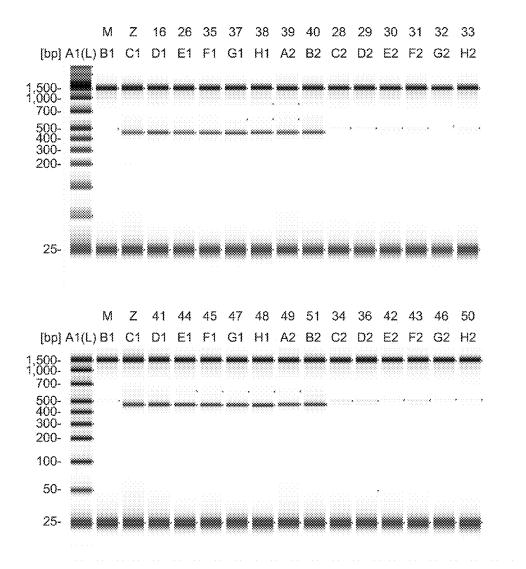
Concordance	with phenotype	98.0%	98.0%	98.0%	98.0%	80.0%	%0′86	98.0%	90.0%	%0'06	90.0%	92.0%	92.0%	92.0%	92.0%	92.0%	92.0%	92.0%	92.0%	92.0%	,
	ű	24260	8517	9845	8140	12442	22528	45072	21901	34331	36118	18933	55956	26481	44050	42783	5958	41580	19927	20455	Resistant
	20	267	601	736	627	695	268	268	3776	2118	1146	294	4899	826	2303	4546	637	1865	442	584	Affected
	49	25024	8500	10876	9034	11393	23600	45433	21514	33507	36227	15982	63463	26986	49624	47109	6708	45737	20596	20683	Resistant
	48	23365	5838	9385	7049	9604	24476	47555	18400	32932	33518	18420	57065	25313	48721	25379	5595	24578	16538	10632	Resistant
	47	22499	7395	9585	7108	10127	27218	50601	17642	30402	33115	20230	59445	25489	42680	39447	5745	38126	18076	16505	Resistant
ĩ	46	199	612	90% 40%	738	631	339	223	2633	1508	384	266	4221	599	3916	6057	909	2567	413	820	Affected
	45	21605	6992	9411	7246	11936	24913	51391	20069	32937	33186	21646	59842	26505	40891	34384	7043	33033	19356	14623	Resistant
	44	22280	7669	9431	7224	11372	24921	51569	19356	33394	36260	20861	61549	24230	43882	39708	6893	39259	18910	18220	Resistant
	£3.	256	564	733	568	888	405	258	3305	1730	981	328	4217	714	3206	4263	727	1777	443	929	Affected
	42	260	448	553	558	877	261	260	18573	28546	32505	20531	59343	26972	44816	26949	6027	27239	20103	10997	Affected
	-	27473	8355	10996	8400	11650	29585	48317	20603	34614	36117	21969	60917	26913	39270	45207	7429	42688	19719	21197	Resistant
,	name	18535110	IB522828	IB559302	IB719784	IB508805	IB710861	IB713087	IB302484	IB503795	IB700262	IB515566	IB526892	IB504834	IB509379	IB518714	IB522595	IB712150	IB722030	IB726514	Powdery mildew phenotype
,	group	80 To filmkage group g					Powder														

Fig.6-5

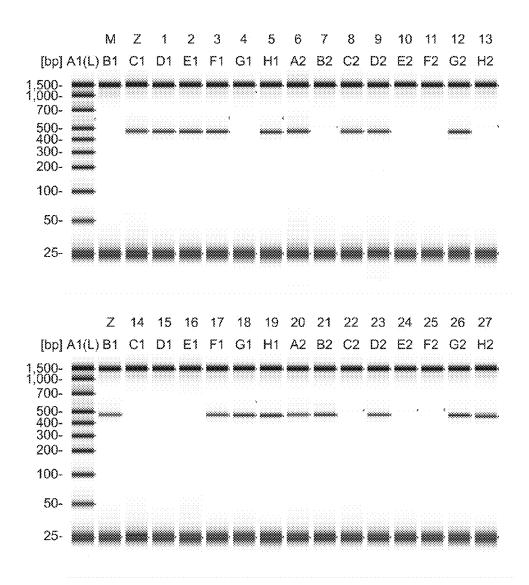
•Fig. 7-1



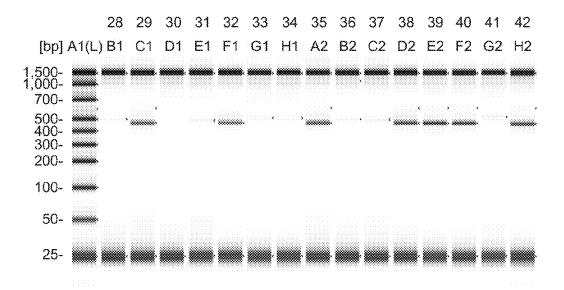
*Fig. 7-2



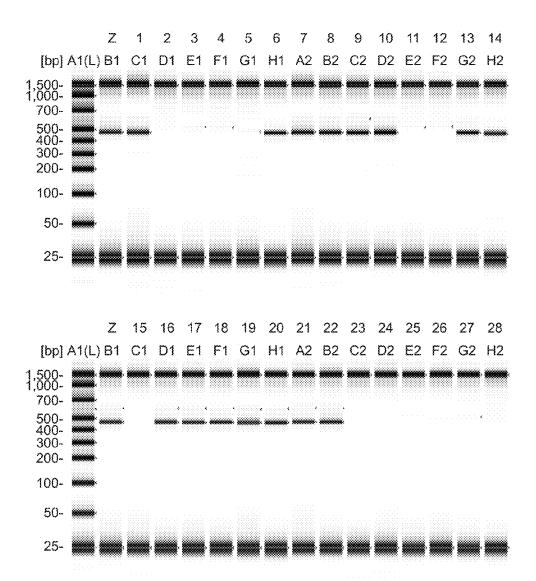
*Fig. 8-1



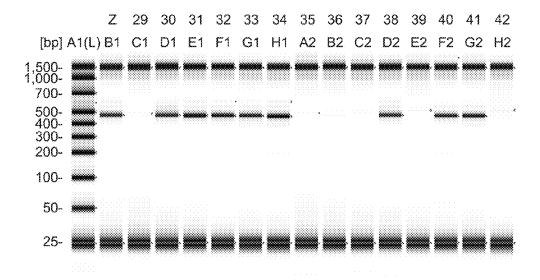
*Fig. 8-2



•Fig. 9-1



•Fig. 9-2



•Fig. 10-1

Mi	yazaki Natsu F	łaruka	Mir	yazaki Natsu H	laruka	09s E-b 45e			
	x 08 To-f			x Ohkimi		x Miyazaki Natsu Haruka			
		Results			Results			Results	
	Powdery	attained		Powdery	attained.		Powdery	attained	
Lineage	mildew	using PCR	Lineage	mildew	using PCR	Lineage	mildew	using PCR	
	resistance	base		resistance	base		resistance	base	
		marker			marker			marker	
A01	0	0	801	0	0	E01	0	0	
A02	1	1	802	Q	0	E02	1	1	
A03	1	1	803	0	0	E03	1	1	
A04	0	0	B04	1	1	E04	1	1	
A05	1	1	805	0	0	E05	1	1	
A06	0	0	B06	Q	Ü	E06	0	0	
A07	0	0	807	1	1	E07	0	0	
A08	1	1	B08	Q	0	E08	0	0	
A09	1	1	809	0	0	E09	0	0	
A10	1	<u>0</u>	B10	1	1	E10	0	0	
A11	0	0	811	1	1	E11	1	1	
A12	0	0	812	Q.	0	E12	1	1	
A13	Ö	0	813	1	1	E13	Ö	0	
A14	-0	0	B14	1	1	E14	0	0	
A15	0	0	815	1	1	E15	1	1	
A16	0	0	B16	1	1	E16	1	0	
A17	1	1	817	0	0	E17	0	0	
A18	1	1	B18	0	0	E18	0	0	
A19	1	1	819	0	0	E19	0	9	
A20	0	0	B20	0	Ō	E20	0	0	
A21	1	1	821	0	0	E21	0	0	
A22	0	0	B22	1	1	E22	0	0	
A23	0	0	823	0	0	E23	1	1	
A24	1	1	B24	1	1	E24	1	1	
A25	1	1	825	1	1	E25	1	1	
A26	9	0	B26	0	0	E26	1	1	
A27	1	1	827	0	0	E27	1	1	
A29	1	1	828	1	1	E28	1	1	
A30	1	1	829	0	0	E29	1	1	
A31	1	1	B30	1	1	E30	0	0	
A32	1	1	831	1	1	E31	0	0	
A33	1	1	B32	0	ō	E32	0	0	
A34	1	1	833	1	1	E33	0	0	

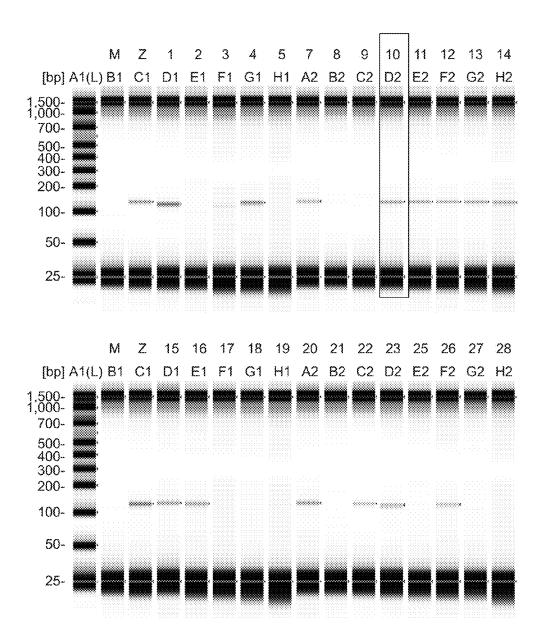
*Fig. 10-2

Mi	yazaki Natsu F	faruka	Mi	yazaki Natsu F	łaruka	09s E-b 45e			
	x 08 To-f			x Ohkimi		x Miyazaki Natsu Haruka			
Lineage	Powdery mildew resistance	Results attained using PCR base	Lineage	Powdery mildew resistance	Results attained using PCR base	Lineage	Powdery mildew resistance	Results attained using PCR base	
		marker			marker			marker	
A35	0	0-	B34	1	1	E34	1	<u>B</u>	
A36	1	1	B35	Ō	.0	E35	1	1	
A37	0	0	B36	1	1	E36	1	1	
A38	0	0	B 37	1	1	E37	1	1	
A39	0	.0	B38	0	0	E38	0	0	
A40	0	0	B39	0	Ω	E39	1	1	
A41	0	0	B40	0	0	E40	0	0	
A42	1	1	B41	1	.1	E41	0	0	
A43	1	1	B42	Ö	0	E42	1	1	
A44	0	0							
A45	0	0							
A46	1	1							
A47	0	0							
A48	0	0							
A49	0	0							
A50	1	1.							
A51	0	0							

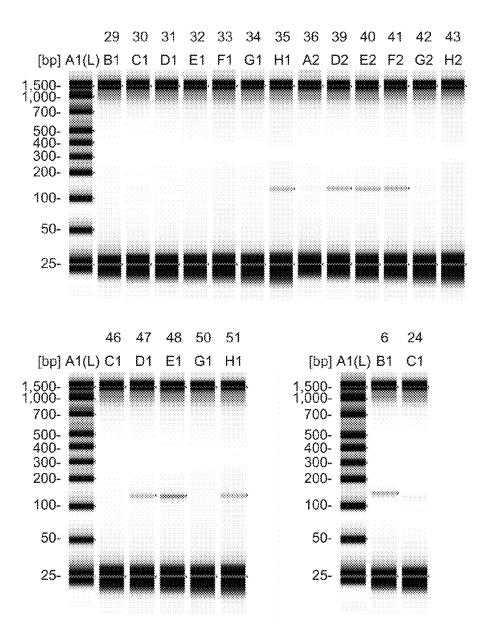
^{*} Powdery mildew resistance: 0. Not affected, 1: Affected

^{*} PCR base marker: 0: Band detected; 1: No band detected

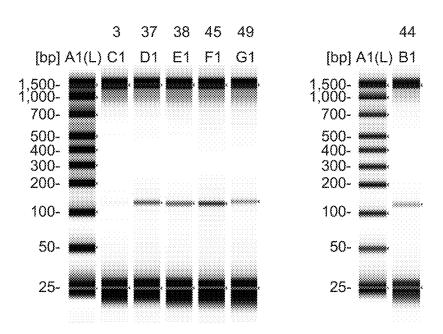
•Fig. 11-1



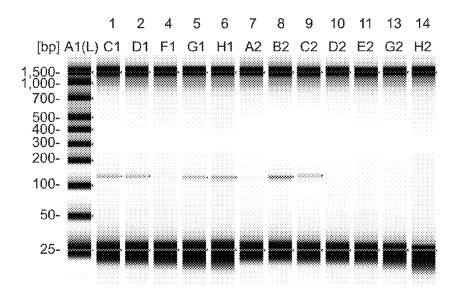
*Fig. 11-2

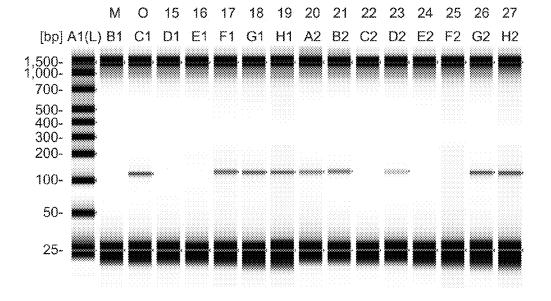


•Fig. 11-3

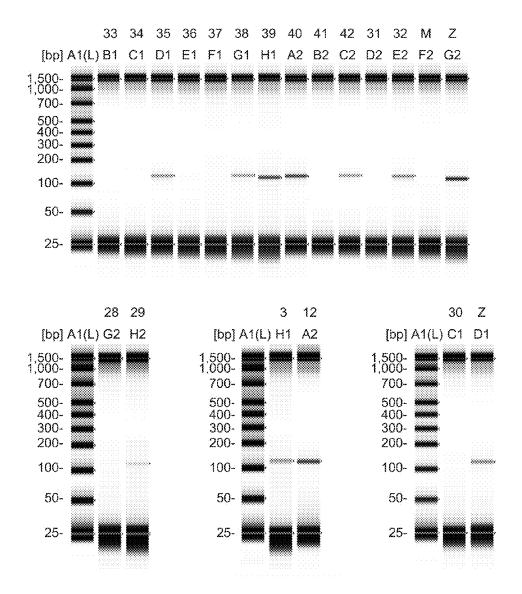


•Fig. 12-1

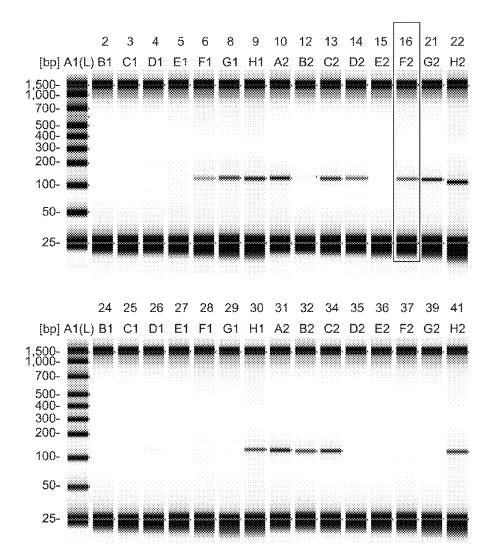




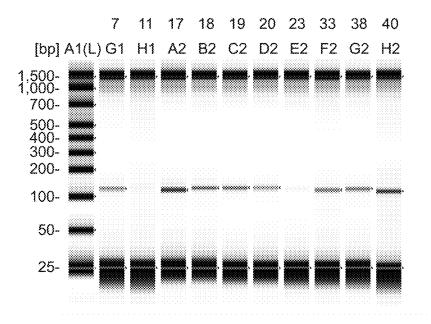
•Fig. 12-2

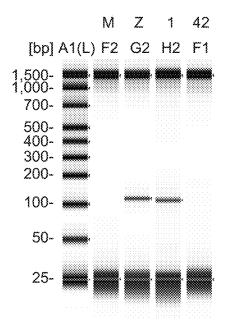


*Fig. 13-1



•Fig. 13-2





•Fig 14-1

Miya	azaki Natsu I	Haruka	ſ	Miyazaki Natsu Ha	ruka	09s E-b 45e			
	x 08 To-f		5 5 5 5 5	x Ohkimi		x Miyazaki Natsu Haruka			
Lineage	Powdery mildew resistance	Results attained using PCR base marker	Lineage	Powdery mildew resistance	Results attained using PCR base marker	Lineage	Powdery mildew resistance	Results attained using PCR base marker	
A01	0	0	B01	0	0	E01	0	0	
A02	1	1	B02	0	-0	E02	1	1	
A03	1	1	B03	0	0	E03	1	1	
A04	0	0	B04	1	1	E04	1	1	
A05	1	1	B05	0	0	E05	1	1	
A06	0	0	B06	0	0.	E06	0	0	
A07	0	0	B07	1	1	E07	0	0	
A08	1	1	B08	0	0	E08	0	0	
A09	1	1	B09	0	0	E09	0	0	
A10	1	<u>0</u>	B10	1	1	E10	0	0	
A11	0	0	B11	1	1	E11	1	1	
A12	0	0	B12	0	0	E12	1	1	
A13	0	0	B13	1	1	E13	0	0	
A14	0	0	B14	1	1	E14	0	0	
A15	0	0	B15	1	1	E15	1	1	
A16	0	0	B16	1	1	E16	1	<u>0</u>	
A17	1	1	B17	0	0	E17	0	0	
A18	1	1	B18	0	0	E18	0	0	
A19	1	1	B19	0	0	E19	0	0	
A20	0	0	B20	0	0	E20	0	0	
A21	1	1	B21	0	0,	E21	0	0	
A22	0	0	B22	1	1.	E22	0	0	
A23	.0	0	B23	0	0	E23	1	1	
A24	1	1	B24	1	1	E24	1	1	
A25	1	1	B25	1	1	E25	Ť	1	
A26	0	0	B26	0	0	E26	1	1	
A27	1	-1	B27	0	0	E27	1	1	
A29	1	1	B28	1	1	E28	1	1	
A30	1	.1	B29	0	0	E29	1	1	
A31	1	1	B30	1	1	E30	0	0	
A32	1	1	B31	1	1	E31	0	0	
A33	1	1	B32	0	0	E32	0	0	
À34	1	1	B33	1	1	E33	0	0	

•Fig 14-2

Miya	Miyazaki Natsu Haruka			Miyazaki Natsu Ha	ruka	09s E-b 45e			
	x 08 To-f			x Ohkimi		x Miyazaki Natsu Haruka			
		Results			Results			Results	
	Powdery	attained		Powdery	attained		Powdery	attained	
Lineage	mildew	using PCR	Lineage	mildew	using PCR	Lineage	mildew	using PCR	
	resistance	base		resistance	base		resistance	base	
		marker			marker			marker	
A35	0	0	B34	1	1	E34	1	<u>0</u>	
A36	1	1	B35	0	0	E35	1	1	
A37	0	0	B36	1	1	E36	1	1	
A38	0	0	B37	1	1	E37	1	1	
A39	0	0	B38	0	0	E38	0	0	
A40	0	0	B39	0	0	E39	1	1	
A41	0	0	B40	0	0	E40	0	0	
A42	1	1	841	1	1	E41	0	0	
A43	1	1	B42	0	0	E42	1	1	
A44	0	0							
A45	0	0							
A46	1	1							
A47	0	0							
A48	0	0							
A49	0	0							
A50	1	1							
A51	0	0							

^{*} Powdery mildew resistance: 0: Not affected; 1: Affected

^{*} PCR base marker: 0: Band detected; 1: No band detected

MARKER ASSOCIATED WITH POWDERY MILDEW RESISTANCE IN PLANT OF GENUS FRAGARIA AND USE THEREOF

TECHNICAL FIELD

[0001] The present invention relates to a marker associated with powdery mildew resistance that enables selection of a plant line of the genus *Fragaria* exhibiting resistance against powdery mildew and use thereof.

BACKGROUND ART

[0002] With the development of DNA markers (also referred to as genetic markers or gene markers), both useful and undesirable traits can be rapidly and efficiently identified when improvement in plant varieties is intended. The development of DNA markers has advanced for a wide variety of practical plants as well as for model plants such as *Arabidopsis thaliana* and *Oryza saliva*. Thus, such markers significantly contribute to improvement in plant varieties.

[0003] Plant epidemic prevention 52: 14-17, Uchida, Inoue, 1998 reports that there are at least 2 pathogenic races of powdery mildew fungi of strawberries in Japan. Also, Plant epidemic prevention 52: 14-17, Uchida, Inoue, 1998 implies that, on the basis of the results of investigation concerning sensitivity and resistance to powdery mildew fungi, powdery mildew resistance of strawberries is controlled by at least one oligogene. However, Plant epidemic prevention 52: 14-17. Uchida, Inoue, 1998 does not disclose or suggest DNA markers associated with powdery mildew resistance of strawberries.

[0004] Bulletin of the Hyogo Prefectural Technology Center for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, No. 51: 7-12, Yamamoto et al., 2003 discloses that a linkage map was prepared with the use of hybrid lines of strawberry varieties "Toyonoka" and "Houkou-wase" and DNA markers detecting powdery mildew resistance were selected. Bulletin of the Hyogo Prefectural Technology Center for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, No. 51: 7-12, Yamamoto et al., 2003 discloses that 29 linkage groups of "Toyonoka"-specific markers (a total of 109 markers, full-length: 1451.7 cM) and 21 linkage groups of "Houkou-wase"-specific markers (a total of 88 markers, full-length: 1205.7 cM) were obtained and that QTL analysis was conducted on the basis of the results of investigation concerning the onset of powdery mildew. According to Bulletin of the Hyogo Prefectural Technology Center for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, No. 51: 7-12, Yamamoto et al., 2003, however, the LOD value attained by prospective linkage groups is about 1.22. [0005] Summary of achievements, Miyagi Prefectural Agriculture and Horticulture Research Center, Chiba, Itabashi, 2008 discloses that resistance to strawberry powdery mildew can be attained via aggregation of a plurality of resistant genes and that linkage maps of 30 linkage groups (137 DNA markers, full length: 1,360 cM) were prepared with the use of F. virginiana (the original species) having resistance to strawberry powdery mildew-afflicted variety "Sachinoka." According to Summary of achievements, Miyagi Prefectural Agriculture and Horticulture Research Center, Chiba, Itabashi, 2008, QTLs are designated at 3 positions as a result of the QTL analysis using the results of examination and linkage maps of strawberry powdery mildew.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Objects to be Attained by the Invention

[0006] To date, the DNA marker technologies concerning powdery mildew resistance of strawberries as described above could not be regarded as sufficient in terms of the logarithm of odds (LOD) and the contribution ratio, and such markers could not be evaluated as excellent markers.

[0007] Under the above circumstances, it is an object of the present invention to develop many DNA markers in plants of the genus *Fragaria*, which are polyploids with complex genomic structures, and to provide markers associated with powdery mildew resistance that enable evaluation of powdery mildew resistance with high accuracy with the use of such many DNA markers and to provide a method of using such markers.

Means for Attaining the Objects

[0008] The present inventors have conducted concentrated studies in order to attain the above objects. As a result, they discovered markers linked to powdery mildew resistance by preparing many markers in plants of the genus *Fragaria* and conducting linkage analysis between phenotypic expression and markers in hybrid progeny lines. This has led to the completion of the present invention.

[0009] The present invention includes the following.

- **[0010]** (1) A marker associated with powdery mildew resistance in plants of the genus *Fragaria* comprising a continuous nucleic acid region sandwiched between the nucleotide sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 1 and the nucleotide sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 19 in the chromosome of the plant of the genus *Fragaria*.
- [0011] (2) The marker associated with powdery mildew resistance in plants of the genus *Fragaria* according to (1), wherein the nucleic acid region comprises any nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of nucleotide sequences as shown in SEQ ID NOs: 1 to 19 or a part of the nucleotide sequence.
- [0012] (3) The marker associated with powdery mildew resistance in plants of the genus *Fragaria* according to (1), wherein the nucleic acid region is located in a region sandwiched between the nucleotide sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 1 and the nucleotide sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 7 in the chromosome of the plant of the genus *Fragaria*.

[0013] (4) A method for producing a plant line of the genus *Fragaria* with improved powdery mildew resistance comprising:

[0014] a step of extracting a chromosome of a progeny plant whose at least one parent is a plant of the genus Fragaria and/or a chromosome of the parent plant of the genus Fragaria; and

[0015] a step of determining the presence or absence of the marker associated with powdery mildew resistance in the plant of the genus *Fragaria* according to any one of (1) to (3) in the chromosome obtained above.

[0016] (5) The method for producing a plant line of the genus *Fragaria* according to (4), wherein the step of determination comprises conducting a nucleic acid amplification reaction using a primer that specifically amplifies the marker associated with powdery mildew resistance in the plant of

the genus *Fragaria* to determine the presence or absence of the marker associated with powdery mildew resistance in the plant of the genus *Fragaria*.

[0017] (6) The method for producing a plant line of the genus *Fragaria* according to (4), wherein the step of determination involves the use of a DNA chip comprising a probe corresponding to the marker associated with powdery mildew resistance in the plant of the genus *Fragaria*.

[0018] (7) The method for producing a plant line of the genus *Fragaria* according to (4), wherein the progeny plant is a seed or seedling and the chromosome is extracted from the seed or seedling.

[0019] This description includes part or all of the content as disclosed in the descriptions and/or drawings of Japanese Patent Application Nos. 2015-054618 and 2016-042028, which are priority documents of the present application.

Effects of the Invention

[0020] The present invention provides novel markers associated with powdery mildew resistance in plants of the genus *Fragaria* that are linked to powdery mildew resistance among various traits of plants of the genus *Fragaria*. With the use of the markers associated with powdery mildew resistance in plants of the genus *Fragaria* according to the present invention, powdery mildew resistance in hybrid lines of the plants of the genus *Fragaria* can be tested. Thus, plant lines of the genus *Fragaria* with improved powdery mildew resistance can be identified in a very cost-effective manner.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0021] FIG. 1 schematically shows a process for producing a DNA microarray used for obtaining markers in chromosomes of plants of the genus *Fragaria*.

[0022] FIG. 2 schematically shows a step of signal detection using a DNA microarray.

[0023] FIG. 3 shows a characteristic diagram showing the results of inspection concerning the onset and extent of strawberry powdery mildew of hybrid progeny lines of the "Miyazaki Natsu Haruka" and "08 To-f."

[0024] FIG. 4 shows a characteristic diagram showing the results of QTL analysis concerning powdery mildew resistance (the 1st linkage group of "08 To-f").

[0025] FIG. 5-1 shows a characteristic diagram showing the results of inspection concerning the onset and extent of powdery mildew in hybrid progeny lines of "Miyazaki Natsu Haruka" and "08 To-f" (Population A), hybrid progeny lines of "Miyazaki Natsu Haruka" and "Ohkimi" (Population B), and hybrid progeny lines of "Miyazaki Natsu Haruka" and "09s E-b 45e" (Population E).

[0026] FIG. 5-2 shows a characteristic diagram showing the results of inspection concerning the onset and extent of powdery mildew in hybrid progeny lines of "Miyazaki Natsu Haruka" and "08 To-f" (Population A), hybrid progeny lines of "Miyazaki Natsu Haruka" and "Ohkimi" (Population B), and hybrid progeny lines of "Miyazaki Natsu Haruka" and "09s E-b 45e" (Population E).

[0027] FIG. 6-1 shows a characteristic diagram showing the results of comparison of the array signal values of the markers associated with powdery mildew resistance of strawberries and the phenotypes of hybrid progeny lines of "Miyazaki Natsu Haruka" and "08 To-f" (Population A).

[0028] FIG. 6-2 shows a characteristic diagram showing the results of comparison of the array signal values of the markers associated with powdery mildew resistance of strawberries and the phenotypes of hybrid progeny lines of "Miyazaki Natsu Haruka" and "08 To-f" (Population A).

[0029] FIG. 6-3 shows a characteristic diagram showing the results of comparison of the array signal values of the markers associated with powdery mildew resistance of strawberries and the phenotypes of hybrid progeny lines of "Miyazaki Natsu Haruka" and "08 To-f" (Population A).

[0030] FIG. 6-4 shows a characteristic diagram showing the results of comparison of the array signal values of the markers associated with powdery mildew resistance of strawberries and the phenotypes of hybrid progeny lines of "Miyazaki Natsu Haruka" and "08 To-f" (Population A).

[0031] FIG. 6-5 shows a characteristic diagram showing the results of comparison of the array signal values of the markers associated with powdery mildew resistance of strawberries and the phenotypes of hybrid progeny lines of "Miyazaki Natsu Haruka" and "08 To-f" (Population A).

[0032] FIG. 7-1 shows electrophoresis images showing the results of PCR carried out with the use of a primer that specifically amplifies the marker 1B535110 of hybrid progeny lines of "Miyazaki Natsu Haruka" and "08 To-f" (Population A).

[0033] FIG. 7-2 shows electrophoresis images showing the results of PCR carried out with the use of a primer that specifically amplifies the marker IB535110 of hybrid progeny lines of "Miyazaki Natsu Haruka" and "08 To-f" (Population A).

[0034] FIG. 8-1 shows electrophoresis images showing the results of PCR carried out with the use of a primer that specifically amplifies the marker IB535110 of hybrid progeny lines of "Miyazaki Natsu Haruka" and "Ohkimi" (Population B).

[0035] FIG. 8-2 shows electrophoresis images showing the results of PCR carried out with the use of a primer that specifically amplifies the marker IB535110 of hybrid progeny lines of "Miyazaki Natsu Haruka" and "Ohkimi" (Population B).

[0036] FIG. 9-1 shows electrophoresis images showing the results of PCR carried out with the use of a primer that specifically amplifies the marker IB535110 of hybrid progeny lines of "Miyazaki Natsu Haruka" and "09s E-b 45e" (Population E).

[0037] FIG. 9-2 shows electrophoresis images showing the results of PCR carried out with the use of a primer that specifically amplifies the marker IB535110 of hybrid progeny lines of "Miyazaki Natsu Haruka" and "09s E-b 45e" (Population E).

[0038] FIG. 10-1 shows a characteristic diagram summarizing the results of PCR carried out with the use of a primer that specifically amplifies the marker IB535110 of hybrid progeny lines of "Miyazaki Natsu Haruka" and "08 To-f" (Population A), hybrid progeny lines of "Miyazaki Natsu Haruka" and "Ohkimi" (Population B), and hybrid progeny lines of "Miyazaki Natsu Haruka" and "09s E-b 45e" (Population E).

[0039] FIG. 10-2 shows a characteristic diagram summarizing the results of PCR carried out with the use of a primer that specifically amplifies the marker IB535110 of hybrid progeny lines of "Miyazaki Natsu Haruka" and "08 To-f" (Population A), hybrid progeny lines of "Miyazaki Natsu

Haruka" and "Ohkimi" (Population B), and hybrid progeny lines of "Miyazaki Natsu Haruka" and "09s E-b 45e" (Population E).

[0040] FIG. 11-1 shows electrophoresis images showing the results of PCR carried out with the use of a primer that specifically amplifies the marker IB522828 of hybrid progeny lines of "Miyazaki Natsu Haruka" and "08 To-f" (Population A).

[0041] FIG. 11-2 shows electrophoresis images showing the results of PCR carried out with the use of a primer that specifically amplifies the marker IB522828 of hybrid progeny lines of "Miyazaki Natsu Haruka" and "08 To-f" (Population A).

[0042] FIG. 11-3 shows electrophoresis images showing the results of PCR carried out with the use of a primer that specifically amplifies the marker IB522828 of hybrid progeny lines of "Miyazaki Natsu Haruka" and "08 To-f" (Population A).

[0043] FIG. 12-1 shows electrophoresis images showing the results of PCR carried out with the use of a primer that specifically amplifies the marker IB522828 of hybrid progeny lines of "Miyazaki Natsu Haruka" and "Ohkimi" (Population B).

[0044] FIG. 12-2 shows electrophoresis images showing the results of PCR carried out with the use of a primer that specifically amplifies the marker IB522828 of hybrid progeny lines of "Miyazaki Natsu Haruka" and "Ohkimi" (Population B).

[0045] FIG. 13-1 shows electrophoresis images showing the results of PCR carried out with the use of a primer that specifically amplifies the marker IB522828 of hybrid progeny lines of "Miyazaki Natsu Haruka" and "09s E-b 45e" (Population E).

[0046] FIG. 13-2 shows electrophoresis images showing the results of PCR carried out with the use of a primer that specifically amplifies the marker IB522828 of hybrid progeny lines of "Miyazaki Natsu Haruka" and "09s E-b 45e" (Population E).

[0047] FIG. 14-1 shows a characteristic diagram summarizing the results of PCR carried out with the use of a primer that specifically amplifies the marker IB522828 of hybrid progeny lines of "Miyazaki Natsu Haruka" and "08 To-f" (Population A), hybrid progeny lines of "Miyazaki Natsu Haruka" and "Ohkimi" (Population B), and hybrid progeny lines of "Miyazaki Natsu Haruka" and "09s E-b 45e" (Population E).

[0048] FIG. 14-2 shows a characteristic diagram summarizing the results of PCR carried out with the use of a primer that specifically amplifies the marker IB522828 of hybrid progeny lines of "Miyazaki Natsu Haruka" and "08 To-f" (Population A), hybrid progeny lines of "Miyazaki Natsu Haruka" and "Ohkimi" (Population B), and hybrid progeny lines of "Miyazaki Natsu Haruka" and "09s E-b 45e" (Population E).

EMBODIMENTS FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION

[0049] Hereafter, the markers associated with powdery mildew resistance in plants of the genus *Fragaria* of the present invention, the method for using the same, in particular, a method for producing plant lines of the genus *Fragaria* using the markers associated with powdery mildew resistance in plants of the genus *Fragaria* are described.

[Markers Associated with Powdery Mildew Resistance in Plants of the Genus Fragaria]

[0050] The marker associated with powdery mildew resistance in plants of the genus Fragaria according to the present invention is a particular region in the chromosome of a plant of the genus Fragaria that makes it possible to identify traits of powdery mildew resistance of a plant of the genus Fragaria. By determining the presence or absence of the marker associated with powdery mildew resistance in the plant of the genus Fragaria in the progeny lines obtained from existing plants of the genus Fragaria, specifically, whether or not a line of interest has powdery mildew resistance can be determined. In the present invention, the term "strawberry powdery mildew" refers to a disease resulting from infection with Sphaerotheca aphanis (Podosphaera aphanis), leading to development of lesions, as described in Ann. Phytopathol. Soc. Jpn., 64: 121-124, 1998. [0051] In the present invention, strawberry powdery mildews are preferably caused by infection with fungi that are pathogenic for 7 varieties other than "Toyonoka" and "Harunoka" among 9 strawberry varieties; i.e., "Toyonoka," "Nyohou," "Reikou," "Himiko," "Houkou-Wase," "Dana." Kougyoku," "Harunoka." and "Fukuba" (Race 0, Japanese Journal of Phytopathology Vol. 63, No. 3, p. 226).

[0052] The term "a marker associated with powdery mildew resistance in plants of the genus Fragaria" refers to a marker linked to traits of a high degree of powdery mildew resistance. When the marker associated with powdery mildew resistance in plants of the genus Fragaria is present in a given plant of the genus Fragaria, for example, such plant can be determined to have a high degree of powdery mildew resistance. In particular, the marker associated with powdery mildew resistance in plants of the genus Fragaria may be considered to be a region linked to a causal gene (or causal genes) of traits such as powdery mildew resistance in plants of the genus Fragaria.

[0053] The term "plants of the genus Fragaria" used herein refers to all plants belonging to the rosaceous genus Fragaria (Fragaria L.). Specific examples of plants of the genus Fragaria include hybrids of general strawberry cultivars, Fragaria ananassa (i.e., Fragariaxananassa). Examples of plants of the genus Fragaria include plants of F. virginiana that are progenitor species of strawberry cultivars and plants of wild species, such as F. chiloensis. F. vesca, F. iinumae. F. nipponica. F nilgerrensis. F. nubicola. F bucharica. F daltoniana. F. ortentalis, F. cortmbosa, F. moschata, and F. iturupensis. Further. "plants of the genus Fragaria" encompass known varieties and lines of strawberry cultivars (F.×ananassa). Known varieties and lines of strawberry cultivars are not particularly limited, and any varieties and lines that can be used inside or outside Japan are within the scope thereof. For example, strawberry varieties grown in Japan are not particularly limited. Examples thereof include Toyonoka, Sanchigo. June berry, Nyohou, Pisutoro, Rindamore. Tochiotome, Aisutoro, Tochinomine, Akihime, Benihoppe, Tochihime, Sachinoka, Keikiwase, Sagahonoka. Aiberry, Karen berry, Red pearl, Satsumaotome, Fukuoka S6 (Amaou), Nohime, Hinomine, and Houkou-wase.

[0054] The presence or absence of the marker associated with powdery mildew resistance in plants of the genus *Fragaria* can be determined in the above plants of the genus *Fragaria* and progeny lines of the above plants of the genus *Fragaria*. In a progeny line, either the mother plant or father

plant may be a plant of the genus *Fragaria* described above. A progeny line may result from sibling crossing or may be a hybrid line. Alternatively, a progeny line may result from so-called back crossing.

[0055] It is particularly preferable that the presence or absence of the marker associated with powdery mildew resistance in the plant of the genus Fragaria be determined in strawberry cultivars (F.×ananassa). In addition, it is preferable that the presence or absence of the marker associated with powdery mildew resistance in the plant of the genus Fragaria be determined in improved lines resulting from various varieties and lines of the strawberry cultivars described above. In such a case, powdery mildew resistance of strawberries can be evaluated in produced new varieties. Accordingly, it is preferable that a new variety be derived from a line having powdery mildew resistance in strawberries as either the mother plant or father plant.

[0056] The marker associated with powdery mildew resistance in plants of the genus *Fragaria* according to the present invention has been newly identified by QTL (Quantitative Trait Loci) analysis using a genetic linkage map containing 8,218 markers acquired from the strawberry variety "Miyazaki Natsu Haruka" and 8,039 markers acquired from the strawberry line "08 To-f" and data concerning powdery mildew resistance of strawberries. QTL analysis is carried out with the use of the genetic analysis software of QTL Cartographer (Wang S., C. J. Basten and Z.-B. Zeng, 2010, Windows QTL Cartographer 2.5., Department of Statistics, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, N.C.) in accordance with the composite interval mapping (CIM) method.

[0057] Specifically, a region exhibiting a LOD score equivalent to or higher than a given threshold (e.g., 2.5) was found in the gene linkage maps by the QTL analysis. A size of a region that is lower than the peak by 1 LOD is approximately 6.8 cM (centimorgan), and this region is included in the 1st linkage group of the strawberry line "08 To-f." The unit "morgan (M)" relatively indicates a distance between genes on the chromosome, and such distance is represented in terms of a percentage of the crossing-over value. In the chromosome of a plant of the genus *Fragaria*, "1 cM" is equivalent to approximately 400 kb. This region has a peak whose LOD score is approximately 7.3. This implies the presence of a causal gene (or causal genes) that improve(s) powdery mildew resistance in plants of the genus *Fragaria* at such peak or in the vicinity thereof.

[0058] The 6.8-cM region comprises the 19 types of markers shown in Table 1 in the order shown in Table 1. The marker names indicated in Table 1 were acquired exclusively for the present invention.

TABLE 1

Sea

ID No

Marker

name

1	IB535110	GGTGGAATTCATATACCATTTATTTAACAGAAGA
		GGCTTGTAAGTTATCGATCAATCGATACAAGGTA
		TAGTGTTGTGATTTTTTCAAGCTAAGATCATCTA
		ATATCATTCTTTTTTGCAGTTATGCTGGTATGTA
		AGCCTCTGGGTCTGATCAAATGAGAGTGTATCTA
		GAACTTTCAACTTGATACTTTGACCATATCGTTT
		GAGTTTGCCTCATGAAATTTGATTGCAATCTACT
		ACTGTTTATCTTGCACTCTTTGATGATAGATAAC
		GCAGCCATGCGTTGAGCACAGACCGAACTACACA
		TATATGAATCGGAGCCATGGATGCAGCCTTAGTT

Nucleotide sequence information

TABLE 1-continued

Seq Marker
ID No name Nucleotide sequence information

TCAGGTACTTTGATTATCAATAGTTTCAGCCGCA
GTAACAAACAACTATGGCCCTTTCGCATTTTATG
AATGTCTCATCTGTTCTTGCTAATAA
AATGTTATACAAACCAAATCATCTTGTAATAA

GTAACAACAACTATGGCCCTTTCGCATTTTATG
AATGTCTCATCTGTTCCTGTCTATACTTGAAATA
ATATTATTACATACCAAATACTACTTCGTTGTCC
GACGTAAGTATATTAATCTATTTGAACAGCTATG
GAGTTCCAATTTTAAATGCATGAAGTAAGAGAAA
ATTTAGAAACCATGAATTAAGATATATAGAATTCC
TACATCATCACCACCCAGAGCCAAGAGAGTTTGG
TGGTGTTTCAATTTCAGCCAAAGTTTTCTCTATT
CGTCGTCTCCTCTCTCCCTCCATTATTTCC
ATTACATGACAGTTGAAACGCTTTCTCCCGATCG
TGTACAATTCATTTCGATTGAGCATCTTGAGCA
GAACTCTGATCACTATTAATTCACTTTCTGATGG
GGACTCTGATCACTATTAATTCACTTTCTGATGG
GGACTCTGATCACATATTAATTCACTTTCTGATGG
CGTTGAGCAGCCAAACTGGGT

TB522828 TCCAAGACACTTGACGATATCAGACGCAAAGGGT CGTCATATAATCCACTACTGCTGCTTTGACGCCT ACTGCAATAGCATATTCCTATGAATCACCCACCG TGGCAGGCTGGCAGTGTTTTGGCTGTGAATGATG AAGATGATGAAATTTGGGTTATGCTCAAGTG GTGCAAACTTTTGAAAGCAACGTGAGCTTTAACG AAGCCCAACCCAAATTAAGTCCTACATTTGAGAG AGACTCTGAGATGAGTGAGATCAGTGCATCATTC TTTGAATCATTCAACAATATCCACTTTCAAAACA AATTTTTCTCTCTTTTTGGGTAAACAAACAAGTTT TGAATAGGTTTCCTTCTTCTGTAACAAGGACTTG CTACAGAAATGGACCGATAACAACCTGCTGTTCC ${\tt AGAGGACTCCCCATTCTTCTGTGTAAGGCTTCTG}$ GAGCTCGATGATATCAAAGAAGGGAGGAAGGTAC $\tt CTTTGCTTATGTCTCTTTTTTTAATCTTCTCAAA$ GCTTGTAACTTTGAAAGCTGAAACATGCATTTGC

TTCAGTACTGATCTTGTTTTT

IB559302 CTGGAAGTTCCTGTACATAGGTATATAGTTAGAC TTAGTCACAATGCATAATGGTGGGTTCAAATTAG AGGCAAAACAAGCCATAAACAGATAAAGATACAG CTAAAAACCAAGGCCAAGGGAATAGAAACACAGT AAACATGAAAATTTGAATTGTCCTTCACGGTACA GGGTACAGATTTCAAACTTTTTAGCTGCAAAAAG TTCATAAATCAAGCAGAACCTTTTTCTTTATTGT CCTGCAAGACTTATCTATAAAGGCTTATAATTTC AAGTGTTTGGAAAAAAAAATGTAAAATAAAAAC AGAACAACAGCTGGAATTAACAGAATCATAGAAC ${\tt TGAAGCAAAGCTCTTTAGTTTCTACTTTCTAGTG}$ AACATGTAAAGATCTCAACTTTCAACTCTCAAGA TTATCAAGCTGTGAAATTAAGTAAACACATGTTC CTAAAAAAGTGGAAAATGTAAAGGTTTTATCTT TCACGCTAATCAAACAAGATCAGAACTTCTCCAC ACAAAAAAAAACAAGATCAGTA

	T	ABLE 1-continued	TABLE 1-continued				
Seq ID No	Marker name	Nucleotide sequence information	Seq ID No	Marker name	Nucleotide sequence information		
6	IB710861	CACAAGAAACCAAAAGAAGAATACAAAAGTATTA GCTACCTCAAAGCCTGTTATCTTT AAGAATGAAGAATGTAAAGAGACACTGTCCAGCT TTGAAAAAATCTGATCTTGGTCTTAATCAGCGTGG			TTTGTTTTCTCTACTAATTCTGACAATCGAAAAA CCGAACGTGTTAGTCTAGAAATGACGTATTATAA AACACAGGTGTTCCATTTCTAATTTTTCTGCATA ACACCTGCTTTCAGTTGTGATTAGAAAAACATCT TTAAGTTGACATTT		
		TAATCAAGGCCTTCATGGATTGTTTGAGCAAGT CGATCAGCTAAAGTATTGTGTGTAAAAATTTTTTT GTAGTGTCAAACCGGTGATGTTACTACTGCAAAA CTGGTGATGATACTACTGCAATGATTC AGACGCAGATCATGTTTTCTATTGATCCATTTCT TGTTTAACTCTTTATCCACAGAGATGACCTTTCGAT CTTCTCATATTTTCGTAAAAAGAATAAGGTTGC AAATGCTTTAGCTAACCACGGTACGTCATTAACA TAGCTAGTTTGGTAAGAGTTCACATATTCCTTTTA TTTTGTTATTTGTAGTAGTGACCTTATGAGTCT TCCCAATTTCGGTTTCTTTAGTTTTGTTTCGTTG TTATTTTGTTACGAGAGATTTTGGTTTAATCCTC CTCTCTTGAGTGTTCCTTTTTTTTTT	11		TAACTTCAGGGAGCTAAAGATCATGGGTCGTTTC GACGTCAGATTCGCTTCAACATTAGTTGGTACTT ATCTTCCTAATCTCAAGGTCATGAGCCTGCGGTG TTCGCAGCTGGTTAGGGAAGCTTTGATCACTGTA TTGGACGGGTTACCACAGCTAGAACTCCTCAATA TAGCACATTGTGTGTCTCTATTGAACCCCCGCG CCGTAATCAGCCTCTCCAAATTGTTGAGGAGGTT GATGAAGTTATTCTTGAGAAGGCTGCTCGGTTAG AGAGATTCATAACGTGCACGCAAATAGACCAGGGGGG CATCCTGTGCCAAAGGGCCAGAAACGACGAGGGGGG ATTATGAAATGGTATAAATTAGAAGAAGGGCTCT GGAAACAAGATGAGGTGAACACTCTTGCTCTTTG ATTCTATTCGAGTGTGTTATACTTGTAA		
_	TD 54 0 0 0 5	TTATTGAAAGTTTTGCTTCATGTGTGT	12	18526892	CTTCCTATCTGTGACAACAATCCTAACCTTCAAT GAATAGGAGAAGTAGACTATCTCTACCAAATATA		
7	IB713087	AGATATATTCGTCGTCAGAGCCACCACTTCTGCT TGTTGCTGCCTTAACCATGAGCCTCACTTCTTCA TTCATAGCCTCGTGAACAGAAATGCTGCTATTGG ATTGTTTCATTTACTAATCAGCTCTTTCTTTGTCG TGCTCAAACAGTGCACGGGCCCCACATTTCTTCA CCTTCATGTAGCTGCATAAAGGGGCTTTCATTCA CCTTCATGTACCAAGATTCCATCTTTCTTCTTT TTGATTTGAT	13	TB504924	CATATATACAGGACTATATGTTTCAAATTATATG TATCCAGATTGGAAAAGTTTGCCATCAGATTATT TGCGGTGTAGCATTGTTTGTAAATCATGGAATTG CGTAGCAAACGATAATCGAATCCAACAAGCTAAG ATGATTCCTGCAAAATTCCATCACCCTCCTATGCTCT TGATTCCTGCAAAAGAAGAATACATGGAACTT GTACAACATTATGGAAAAAAAAGGTTCTTGATAT GCAAGTCACAGTGCCACCTAACTATAAACGGTTT TCTGGATCCTCAAAGGGATGGTTGATAATCCTTT CTCTAGAGTTTTGTAGAACACTGATAAATCCTTT CTCTAGAGTTAAGGGAAGGAAAGAAAAT TCAATCATTCGGCTTCCTCCTTTTGAATCATCAAC AATCGACAATAAGATTACTTTTTGAAAACTT		
8	TB302494	GGCAATGGTTT CTGTAAAAATCAAAGGCAAGCACTTGATGAAAAA	13	18504834	TGTAGCGGAGGGATTGTTTTGTCATTTCAAAACT GAGGGACTTTTTTTTTT		
Ü	12302101	GAAGGTTGGTGATTTTGGATTAGATGGGCATCCA TCGTATATAGGCTCTAATATCTTTTGTGGTTGAT TAAACAAATGAGGATCTCTGTAATAAGTGGAGAT TCTTATCATTTCCCACATCTGAGAAACTCTGAAA TAAACAAAAAGAAGAAGAAAAAGGCTTTCACGAC AATATGGGTGAAGCATGGGGTCCTAACTCCTAAG TTGTAATACCTGTGTTTGTTAAACTACTATACAT AGCAACTCTTGGTGTTTGCTCGGTCTAAGG			TGCCGTTTTCTTTGATCGAAGTTTTTATGGCAAG GGGTTTAATTGTCCTTTCAAAAATGTTAGAAGTG AAATTTGGGTCAGATGGATGAAGGTTTTCTTGTG TCCATATTACGAGTGTATTATGTTTCGTCGATG TATCGATGATTATATTAAATTTCAGATTTTAAT TTTGAGACATGAAAAACATTTATAATTTAAGTGA TTTTGTGTTTCTAGCCTTATAGT		
9	IB503795	CTGTAAAAATCAAAAGCAAGCACTTGATGAAAAA	14	IB509379	AGTGCTATGGAATATGTCTTCGGTTCAACCTTTG TGTGCAAGACTATTAATGCTGCAAAGGAGGTGAG		
		GAAGGTTGGTGATTTTGGACGAGATGGACATCCA TCATATATAGGGTCTAATATCTTTTGTGGTTGAT TAAACATATGAGGATCTCTGTAATAAGTGGAGAT TCTTATCATCCCACATCTGAGAAAACTCAGAAA CAAACAAAAAAAAAGAAAAAAGGCTTTCACGAC AATATGGGTGAAGCATGGGTCCTAAGTTCGTAAT CTCTGTGTTTTGTTAAACAACTATAATCTATATAT AGTAACTCTTGGTGTTGCTCGGTCTAAGGTTGTA CCAATCAGTGTCTTAGATAGACAAAGTCGGTGGA AGGTGGCAGTAACATATAACCAAAAGTCTGTTGTG GGGTTGCAACAATATAACGCAACTGTAAACTGTC ACATCAGTTTACAAACTCTACTTACATAAATTTT ATTTAGTGTTCAACGTTCAAACATTCAT CATATTTCGGTGCATGACATACTTCGCGTTTTGG AC	15	IB518714	AGGTTGATTATCGTGCTGTAGGCTGATTATATAG TATTGTCCTTTTAAACACTTGTAATCTAAGCAGG AAAGCGGCATGACCCAATCTGGTTCTCTATGAAT GTTTCCTAGGTTGCTTTTAACAGGAAGGTTCGTA CCCTAGTGTCACTCTTGAAGGTGATATCTTCCAG CCCAGTGGTCTTTTGACTGGTGGAAGCCGCAAGT AAGCCACTGTTCTTTTTCCTCCAGTTTAGATTTC ATGCTTTACCCCCTTCCTCTTGAGTATATCTGTT GTTAGCTCTCTGACTAATTTTCCATACTTGTG TTGTCCTTATCATTTATCAATTCAAAGTACATAT ACTTCTAGCCAGTTTTCCTTCTAAAGCAAAAATT TCCTGTCACAGGGGTGGGGGAGATCTGTTAAG TAGGTGATATTTGACGTGCAAAGTTAAATCAATTAAGTCAAATTAA		
10	IB700262	TGTGGCAAATTACAGACCAAAAGATCTATCTGTC TATCAATGCCGACCTATTCTCATATGGTTTTGGC			TGACCATCAAACTATCTCCAGCGCTACCTGTTGT CGGCACCCTCTACCGACGTTATTTCACAACCATT		
		TTCTATGTGGTGAAGGTTCAACGTTGTTGTTT AAGGAAGGTCATCTTGGACTTTTATTTTTTCC AAGTTCTATTTATTAATTTCATATGAAAATGATA TATACCTACAGAAGCTAACATTACCCGTGAAATA TTGAACACCCTTTTGATGTCTATACTTCAATAAT GTCTGTCAGATGATTAAGGCAAACTATCTTTTAT GGCATCTAAATTGGTTAATTCGATTCG			TTAATTAACGTTCGATTTGTTTCAGTGAAAAACA AACAGTTGGTAGTAAAAGCA GACTGCGTGGTGGGGTGG		

TABLE 1-continued

		ABLE 1-CONCINUED
Seq ID No	Marker name	Nucleotide sequence information
		TGAGTGATTAGAATTGGGAGGTTTTGGTGGTGGA TGACACTGAATATAGTGCCGGATGCTTGCCGGGT
16	IB522595	AAATTGTTTCCATATGATACGGTTCAACATGACA CTTACATAGTTACATTAGCATAGAAGTCAACATT GCCTCTCTTCTCCACACTGATCAAACTCTACCT GATCAGGCAGGCCAATCAAGAGAGAGATTGACTG CATTTCAGCAAAATAAGCACATATGCACACCCT ATGCCCATATACAAGAAGTGCACACTTGCCTTCA CATTTGCCTAAAAGTACATAAAACTAACAGAAGC ATCCATGAAAGCTCCATGGCAACCACTTCTCAAC TCCATTGCCTAGTTAAACAATGTAGATCATAATT AAAACAGATATTTGAGGAGCAGGAAA
17	IB712150	CAAACCGGGTTTAGACTTGCTACGATCAAGTTGT TCTTCAATCTGCTCTGC
18	IB722030	TGTAGCGGAGGGATTGTTTTGTCATTTCAAAACT GAGGACTTTTTTTTTT
19	IB726514	GAAAACCCCATCATCTTTAATCCTTTGCTGAGGG GAAGCACAAGGGCTCAACAGCTATAACATTGAGC AACTACTATAGTTAGTCCTGTGATTGGAAGTGCC AAGGGTCTTCAAAATAACCGGGGCAATCCATGGC CATGGTTCTATGTATATACCATAATCCTCTATCCT AGTTATGCTACCAAATATGTTCTGAGACATAATC GTTCTTCTGTTGCTCGGAACAATGCAGAAAACTT AAAATACTAAAAGTGTTTTATAGAAATCCTCAA AAATTTTAGACCATTTTAGGGAAATTCTATCAGT GTTCAATCGTTAGACACTCCACTACTAAA CTAATCCAAAAGCCTCACTACAAAAATACATGAA GACATTTACATGGGACCATACTAGCCTTCCTAT TCAGAACGAACCAACACTAAGAAGAGCATCATAG GATACATAATCCTCTATCCGTAAACAAATGACAA TCAGAAGAAAACA

[0059] Specifically, the marker associated with powdery mildew resistance in plants of the genus *Fragaria* according to the present invention is a continuous nucleic acid region

sandwiched between the nucleotide sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 1 and the nucleotide sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 19 in the chromosome of the plant of the genus *Fragaria*. The peak in the 6.8-cM region is located in a region sandwiched between the marker comprising the nucleotide sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 1 (1B535110) and the marker comprising the nucleotide sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 7 (1B713087).

[0060] A continuous nucleic acid region in the 6.8-cM region shown in Table 1 can be used as the marker associated with powdery mildew resistance in plants of the genus Fragaria. The term "nucleic acid region" used herein refers to a region comprising a nucleotide sequence having 95% or less, preferably 90% or less, more preferably 80% or less, and most preferably 70% or less identity to the other region in the chromosome of the plant of the genus Fragaria. As long as the degree of identity between the nucleic acid region as the marker associated with powdery mildew resistance in plants of the genus Fragaria and the other region is within the range described above, such nucleic acid region can be specifically detected in accordance with a conventional technique. The degree of identity can be determined using, for example, BLAST with the default parameters.

[0061] A nucleic acid region serving as the marker associated with powdery mildew resistance in plants of the genus *Fragaria* can comprise at least 8, preferably 15 or more, more preferably 20 or more, and most preferably 30 nucleotides. As long as the number of nucleotides constituting the nucleic acid region as the marker associated with powdery mildew resistance in plants of the genus *Fragaria* is within such range, such nucleic acid region can be specifically detected in accordance with a conventional technique.

[0062] In particular, the marker associated with powdery mildew resistance in plants of the genus *Fragaria* is preferably selected from a region sandwiched between the nucleotide sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 1 and the nucleotide sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 7 among the 19 types of markers included in the 6.8-cM region because the peak is located in the region sandwiched between the nucleotide sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 1 and the nucleotide sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 7.

[0063] The marker associated with powdery mildew resistance in plants of the genus *Fragaria* can be a nucleic acid region including a single type of marker selected from among the 19 types of markers shown in Table 1. For example, use of a nucleic acid region including a marker comprising the nucleotide sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 1 (IB535110), which is located in a position nearest to the peak, as the marker associated with powdery mildew resistance in plants of the genus *Fragaria* is preferable. In such a case, the nucleotide sequence of the nucleic acid region including the marker can be identified by a method of flank sequence analysis, such as inverse PCR using primers designed based on the nucleotide sequence of the marker.

[0064] Alternatively, a plurality of regions may be selected from a nucleic acid region sandwiched between the nucleotide sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 1 and the nucleotide sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 19 in the chromosome of the plant of the genus *Fragaria* as the marker associated with powdery mildew resistance in the plant of the genus *Fragaria*.

[0065] In addition, any of the above 19 types of markers can be directly used as markers associated with powdery

mildew resistance in plants of the genus Fragaria. Specifically, one or more regions selected from the 19 regions comprising the nucleotide sequences as shown in SEQ ID NOs: 1 to 19 can be used as markers associated with powdery mildew resistance in plants of the genus Fragaria. For example, use of a marker comprising the nucleotide sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 1 (IB535110), which is located in a position nearest to the peak, as a marker associated with powdery mildew resistance in plants of the genus Fragaria is preferable. Alternatively, a region sandwiched between the marker comprising the nucleotide sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 2 (IB522828) and the marker comprising the nucleotide sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 3 (IB559302) can be used as a marker associated with powdery mildew resistance in plants of the genus Fragaria, for example.

[Identification of Marker in Plants of the Genus Fragaria]

[0066] In the present invention, as described above, the markers associated with powdery mildew resistance in plants of the genus *Fragaria* were identified from among the 8,218 markers acquired from the strawberry variety "Miyazaki Natsu Haruka" and the 8,039 markers acquired from the strawberry line "08 To-f." Such 8,218 markers and 8,039 markers are described below. These markers can be identified with the use of a DNA microarray in accordance with the methods disclosed in JP 2011-120558 A or WO 2011/074510.

[0067] Specifically, probes used for the DNA microarray are designed in the manner shown in FIG. 1. That is, genomic DNA is first extracted from "Miyazaki Natsu Haruka" or "08 To-f" (Step 1a). Subsequently, the extracted genomic DNA is digested with one or more restriction enzymes (Step 1b). In an embodiment shown in FIG. 1, two types of restriction enzymes, Restriction enzyme A and Restriction enzyme B, are used in that order to digest genomic DNA. Restriction enzymes are not particularly limited, and examples of restriction enzymes that can be used include PstI, EcoRI, HindIII, BstNI, HpaII, and HaeIII. Restriction enzymes can be adequately selected by taking, for example, the frequency of recognition sequence appearance into consideration, so as to yield a genomic DNA fragment with 20 to 10,000 nucleotides upon complete digestion of genomic DNA. When a plurality of restriction enzymes are used, it is preferable that the genomic DNA fragment comprise 200 to 6,000 nucleotides after all the restriction enzymes are used. When a plurality of restriction enzymes are used, in addition, the order in which restriction enzymes are subjected to treatment is not particularly limited. Under common treatment conditions (e.g., a solution composition or temperature), a plurality of restriction enzymes may be used in the same reaction system. While Restriction enzyme A and Restriction enzyme B are successively used in that order so as to digest genomic DNA in an embodiment shown in FIG. 1, specifically. Restriction enzyme A and Restriction enzyme B may be simultaneously used in the same reaction system to digest genomic DNA. Alternatively, Restriction enzyme B and Restriction enzyme A may be successively used in that order, so as to digest genomic DNA. In addition, 3 or more restriction enzymes may be used.

[0068] Subsequently, adaptors are bound to the genomic DNA fragment treated with restriction enzymes (Step 1c). The adaptors used herein are not particularly limited, pro-

vided that such adaptors can be bound to the both ends of the genomic DNA fragment obtained through the treatment with restriction enzymes. An example of an adaptor that can be used is an adaptor comprising a single strand that is complementary to a protruding end (a sticky end) formed at both ends of the genomic DNA fragment obtained through the treatment with restriction enzymes and having a primerbinding sequence to which a primer used at the time of amplification can hybridize (details are described below). Alternatively, an adaptor comprising a single strand complementary to the protruding end (a sticky end) and having a restriction enzyme recognition site to be incorporated into a vector at the time of cloning can be used.

[0069] When genomic DNA is digested with a plurality of restriction enzymes, a plurality of adaptors corresponding to relevant restriction enzymes can be used. Specifically, a plurality of adaptors each comprising a single strand complementary to any of a plurality of types of protruding ends resulting from digestion of genomic DNA with a plurality of types of restriction enzymes can be used. In such a case, a plurality of adaptors corresponding to a plurality of restriction enzymes may have common primer-binding sequences enabling hybridization of common primers. Alternatively, such adaptors may have different primer-binding sequences, so that different primers can hybridize thereto.

[0070] When genomic DNA is digested with a plurality of restriction enzymes, in addition, an adaptor corresponding to a restriction enzyme selected from among the plurality of restriction enzymes used or adaptors corresponding to a subset of restriction enzymes selected from among the plurality of restriction enzymes used can be prepared.

[0071] Subsequently, a genomic DNA fragment comprising adaptors bound to both ends thereof is amplified (Step Id). When adaptors comprising primer-binding sequences are used, primers that can hybridize to such primer-binding sequences may be used, so that the genomic DNA fragment can be amplified. Alternatively, a genomic DNA fragment comprising adaptors added thereto may be cloned into a vector using the adaptor sequences, and primers that can hybridize to particular regions in such vector may be used, so as to amplify the genomic DNA fragment. An example of an amplification reaction of the genomic DNA fragment with the use of primers is PCR.

[0072] When genomic DNA is digested with a plurality of restriction enzymes and a plurality of adaptors corresponding to relevant restriction enzymes are ligated to the genomic DNA fragments, adaptors would be ligated to all genomic DNA fragments resulting from the treatment with the plurality of restriction enzymes. In such a case, primerbinding sequences contained in the adaptors may be used to perform a nucleic acid amplification reaction. Thus, all resulting genomic DNA fragments can be amplified.

[0073] When genomic DNA is digested with a plurality of restriction enzymes and an adaptor corresponding to a restriction enzyme selected from among the plurality of restriction enzymes used or adaptors corresponding to a subset of restriction enzymes selected from among the plurality of restriction enzymes used are ligated to the genomic DNA fragments, alternatively, the genomic DNA fragments comprising the recognition sequences for the selected restriction enzymes at both ends thereof can be selectively amplified among the resulting genomic DNA fragments.

[0074] Subsequently, nucleotide sequences of the amplified genomic DNA fragments are determined (Step 1e), one or more regions of a nucleotide length shorter than that of the genomic DNA fragment and corresponding to at least a part of the genomic DNA fragment are identified, and the one or more identified regions are designed as probes in strawberry cultivars (Step 1f). A method for determining nucleotide sequences of genomic DNA fragments is not particularly limited. For example, a conventional technique involving the use of a DNA sequencer in accordance with the Sanger's method can be employed. A region to be designed herein is of, for example, a 20-to 100-nucleotide length, preferably a 30- to 90-nucleotide length, and more preferably a 50- to 75-nucleotide length, as described above. [0075] As described above, many probes are designed using genomic DNAs extracted from strawberry cultivars, and oligonucleotides comprising target nucleotide sequences are synthesized on a support based on the nucleotide sequences of the designed probes. Thus, a DNA microarray can be produced. With the use of the DNA microarray produced as described above, the 8,218 markers and the 8,039 markers including the 19 types of markers associated with powdery mildew resistance in plants of the genus Fragaria as shown in SEQ ID NOs: 1 to 19 can be

[0076] More specifically, the present inventors obtained the signal data with the use of the DNA microarray concerning 8.215 markers obtained from the strawberry variety "Miyazaki Natsu Haruka," the strawberry line "08 To-f," and hybrid progeny lines thereof (147 lines). They then obtained the genotype data from the obtained signal data, and, on the basis of the obtained genotype data, they obtained the positional information for markers in the chromosomes in accordance with a genetic distance calculation formula (Kosambi) using genetic map production software (AntMap, Iwata, H., Ninomiya, S., 2006, AntMap: Constructing genetic linkage maps using an ant colony optimization algorithm. Breed Sci., 56: 371-378). On the basis of the positional information for the obtained markers, in addition, a genetic map datasheet was prepared using the Mapmaker/EXP ver. 3.0 (A Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research Technical Report, Third Edition, January, 1993). As a result, the 8,218 markers and the 8,039 markers including the 19 types of markers associated with powdery mildew resistance in plants of the genus Fragaria as shown in SEQ ID NOs: 1 to 19 are identified.

[Use of Markers Associated with Powdery Mildew Resistance in Plants of the Genus Fragaria]

[0077] With the use of the markers associated with powdery mildew resistance in plants of the genus *Fragaria*, whether or not plants of the genus *Fragaria* whose powdery mildew resistance remains unknown (e.g., progeny lines) have powdery mildew resistance can be determined. The use of markers associated with powdery mildew resistance in plants of the genus *Fragaria* includes an embodiment of the use of a method that specifically amplifies a nucleic acid fragment comprising the markers and an embodiment of the use of a DNA microarray comprising probes corresponding to the markers.

[0078] The method that specifically amplifies a nucleic acid fragment comprising markers associated with powdery mildew resistance in plants of the genus *Fragaria* is a method of so-called nucleic acid amplification. Examples of methods of nucleic acid amplification include a method

involving the use of a primer designed so as to specifically amplify a target nucleic acid fragment and a method of specifically amplifying a target nucleic acid fragment without the use of a primer.

[0079] A primer that specifically amplifies a target nucleic acid fragment is an oligonucleotide that can amplify a nucleic acid fragment comprising a marker associated with powdery mildew resistance in plants of the genus Fragaria as defined above by a method of nucleic acid amplification. Methods of nucleic acid amplification involving the use of primers are not particularly limited, and any method may be employed, provided that a nucleic acid fragment is amplified. A representative example is a polymerase chain reaction (PCR). Examples of other methods include, but are not limited to, conventional techniques, such as rolling circle amplification (RCA), cycling probe technology (CPT), isothermal and chimeric-primer-initiated amplification of nucleic acids (ICAN), loop-mediated isothermal amplification of DNA (LAMP), strand displacement amplification (SDA), nucleic-acid-sequence-based amplification (NASBA), and transcription-mediated amplification (TMA).

[0080] When PCR is selected from among such nucleic acid amplification reactions, for example, a pair of primers are designed so as to sandwich markers associated with powdery mildew resistance in plants of the genus *Fragaria* in the chromosome of the plant of the genus *Fragaria*. When the LAMP method is employed, 4 types of primers are designed so as to sandwich the markers associated with powdery mildew resistance in plants of the genus *Fragaria* in the chromosome of plants of the genus *Fragaria*.

[0081] A method of nucleic acid amplification to be performed without the use of a primer is not particularly limited, and an example thereof is a method of ligase chain reaction (LCR). When the method of LCR is employed, a plurality of oligonucleotides that hybridize to nucleic acid fragments containing the markers associated with powdery mildew resistance in plants of the genus *Fragaria* are designed.

[0082] When the markers associated with powdery mildew resistance in plants of the genus *Fragaria* are present in the target plants of the genus *Fragaria*, as described above, nucleic acid fragments containing the markers can be obtained as amplification products according to methods of nucleic acid amplification. When a nucleic acid fragment of interest is amplified via a method of nucleic acid amplification using, as a template, the chromosome extracted from the target plant of the genus *Fragaria*, in other words, the target plant of the genus *Fragaria* can be determined to have powdery mildew resistance.

[0083] Methods for detecting an amplified nucleic acid fragment are not particularly limited. Examples thereof include a method in which a solution resulting after the amplification reaction is subjected to agarose electrophoresis, and a fluorescent intercalator, such as ethidium bromide or SYBR green, is allowed to bind thereto, so as to observe specific fluorescence, a method in which a fluorescent intercalator is added to a solution used for nucleic acid amplification, so as to detect fluorescence after the amplification reaction, and a method in which nucleic acid amplification is carried out with the use of a fluorescence-labeled primer, so as to detect fluorescence after the amplification reaction. [0084] When the markers associated with powdery mildew resistance in plants of the genus Fragaria are detected

via a method of nucleic acid amplification, an amplified fragment containing such markers can contain, for example, 30 to 10.000, preferably 50 to 5,000, and more preferably 70 to 2,000 nucleotides, although the number of nucleotides would vary depending on the principle of the method of nucleic acid amplification.

[0085] When evaluating the powdery mildew resistance of plants of the genus Fragaria, a plurality of markers associated with powdery mildew resistance in plants of the genus Fragaria may be detected. Specifically, a plurality of regions selected from nucleic acid regions sandwiched between the nucleotide sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 1 and the nucleotide sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 19 in the chromosome of plants of the genus Fragaria may be designated as the markers associated with powdery mildew resistance in plants of the genus Fragaria, and the plurality of markers associated with powdery mildew resistance in plants of the genus Fragaria may be detected. For example, a plurality of regions selected from among 19 regions consisting of nucleotide sequences as shown in SEQ ID NOs: 1 to 19 may be designated as the markers associated with powdery mildew resistance in plants of the genus Fragaria, and the plurality of regions may be detected.

[0086] For example, the region comprising the nucleotide sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 1 (IB535110) and the region comprising the nucleotide sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 2 (IB522828) may be designated as the markers associated with powdery mildew resistance in plants of the genus Fragaria, and these regions may be subjected to nucleic acid amplification, so as to determine the presence or absence of the markers associated with powdery mildew resistance in plants of the genus Fragaria. Alternatively, a region sandwiched between the region comprising the nucleotide sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 2 (IB522828) and the region comprising the nucleotide sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 3 (IB559302) may be designated as the marker associated with powdery mildew resistance in plants of the genus Fragaria, and the region may be subjected to nucleic acid amplification, so as to determine the presence or absence of the marker associated with powdery mildew resistance in plants of the genus *Fragaria*.

[0087] According to an embodiment in which a DNA microarray comprising probes corresponding to the markers associated with powdery mildew resistance in plants of the genus Fragaria is used, the probes are oligonucleotides that can hybridize specifically to the markers associated with powdery mildew resistance in plants of the genus Fragaria as defined above under stringent conditions. Such an oligonucleotide can be designed as, for example, a partial region comprising 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, or more continuous nucleotides in the nucleotide sequence of the marker associated with powdery mildew resistance in plants of the genus Fragaria as defined above or a complementary strand thereof or the entire region of the nucleotide sequence. The DNA microarray comprising probes may be, for example, a microarray comprising a planar substrate of glass or silicone as a carrier, a bead array comprising microbeads as carriers, or a three-dimensional microarray comprising probes immobilized on the inner wall of a hollow fiber.

[0088] With the use of the DNA microarray thus produced, whether or not a plant of the genus *Fragaria* whose phenotypic characteristics with regard to powdery mildew resistance remain unknown (e.g., a progeny line) exhibits a

phenotype indicating excellent powdery mildew resistance can be determined. Alternatively, the marker associated with powdery mildew resistance in plants of the genus *Fragaria* may be detected in accordance with a conventional technique, and whether or not the target plants of the genus *Fragaria* have excellent powdery mildew resistance may be determined by a method other than the method involving the use of a DNA microarray. An example of a method other than the method involving the use of a DNA microarray that can be employed is so-called FISH (fluorescence in situ hybridization) involving the use of the probes described above.

[0089] A method involving the use of a DNA microarray is described in greater detail. As shown in FIG. 2, genomic DNA is first extracted from a target plant of the genus *Fragaria*. A target plant of the genus *Fragaria* is a plant of the genus *Fragaria* with unknown phenotypic characteristics in terms of powdery mildew resistance (e.g., a progeny line) and/or a parent plant of the genus *Fragaria* used when producing a progeny line, which is to be evaluated as to excellent powdery mildew resistance.

[0090] Subsequently, the extracted genomic DNA is digested with the restriction enzyme used when preparing the DNA microarray described in the [Identification of markers in plants of the genus Fragaria] section above, so as to prepare a plurality of genomic DNA fragments. The resulting genomic DNA fragments are then ligated to adaptors used when preparing the DNA microarray. The genomic DNA fragments comprising adaptors added to the both ends are then amplified using the primers used when preparing the DNA microarray. Thus, the genomic DNA fragments derived from the target plant of the genus Fragaria corresponding to the genomic DNA fragment amplified in Step Id when preparing a DNA microarray can be amplified.

[0091] In this step, among the genomic DNA fragments comprising adaptors added thereto, specific genomic DNA fragments may be selectively amplified. When a plurality of adaptors corresponding to the plurality of restriction enzymes are used, for example, genomic DNA fragments comprising specific adaptors added thereto can be selectively amplified. When genomic DNA is digested with a plurality of restriction enzymes, adaptors are selectively added to the genomic DNA fragments having protruding ends corresponding to specific restriction enzymes among the resulting genomic DNA fragments. Thus, genomic DNA fragments comprising the adaptors added thereto can be selectively amplified. By selectively amplifying specific genomic DNA fragments, as described above, these fragments can be concentrated.

[0092] Subsequently, the amplified genomic DNA fragments are labeled. Any conventional material may be used as a label. Examples of labels that can be used include fluorescent molecules, pigment molecules, and radioactive molecules. This step can be omitted with the use of a labeled nucleotide in the step of genomic DNA fragment amplification. That is, a genomic DNA fragment is amplified with the use of a labeled nucleotide in the above step, so that the amplified DNA fragment is labeled.

[0093] Subsequently, a labeled genomic DNA fragment is brought into contact with a DNA microarray under given conditions, so as to allow a probe immobilized on a DNA microarray to hybridize to the labeled genomic DNA fragment. It is preferable that hybridization be carried out under highly stringent conditions. Under highly stringent condi-

in the target plant of the genus Fragaria can be determined with higher accuracy. Stringent conditions can be adjusted based on reaction temperature and salt concentration. Specifically, higher stringency can be realized by increasing temperature or decreasing salt concentration. When a probe comprising 50 to 75 nucleotides is used, for example, hybridization can be carried out at 40° C. to 44° C. in 0.2% SDS and 6×SSC, so that higher stringency can be realized. [0094] Hybridization between a probe and a labeled genomic DNA fragment can be detected based on a label. After the hybridization reaction between the labeled genomic DNA fragment and the probes, specifically, unreacted genomic DNA fragments or the like are washed, and a label bound to the genomic DNA fragment that had specifically hybridized to the probes are then observed. In the case that the label is a fluorescent material, for example. the fluorescent wavelength thereof is detected. When a label

is a pigment molecule, the pigment wavelength thereof is

detected. More specifically, apparatuses such as fluorescence detectors or image analyzers used for conventional

DNA microarray analysis can be used.

tions, whether or not the marker associated with powdery

mildew resistance in plants of the genus Fragaria is present

[0095] By the method involving nucleic acid amplification or the method involving the use of a DNA microarray, as described above, whether or not the target plant of the genus *Fragaria* has the marker associated with powdery mildew resistance in plants of the genus *Fragaria* can be determined. As described above, a marker associated with powdery mildew resistance in plants of the genus *Fragaria* is linked to traits of excellent powdery mildew resistance. If a marker associated with powdery mildew resistance in plants of the genus *Fragaria* is present, accordingly, the target plant can be determined to be of a line or variety excellent in powdery mildew resistance.

[0096] According to the method described above, in particular, it is not necessary to have the target plant of the genus Fragaria grow to the extent that the target plant can actually be subjected to the test as to powdery mildew resistance. For example, seeds of progeny lines or young seedlings germinated from such seeds can be used. With the use of the markers associated with powdery mildew resistance in plants of the genus Fragaria, accordingly, cost of the field for growing the target plant of the genus Fragaria and cost for growing the plant can be reduced to a significant extent. Also, the use of markers associated with powdery mildew resistance in plants of the genus Fragaria eliminates the need to actually infect plants with microorganisms causing powdery mildew (i.e., Sphaerotheca aphanis). Thus, expenditures required for equipment such as a large-scale greenhouse for an exclusive purpose, a field for an exclusive purpose, or a facility isolated from the outside can be reduced.

[0097] When producing new varieties of the plants of the genus Fragaria, it is particularly preferable that several tens of thousands of types of hybrid species be first produced via crossing and evaluation take place prior to or instead of seedling selection with the use of the markers associated with powdery mildew resistance in plants of the genus Fragaria. Thus, the number of plants to be grown in the actual field can be reduced to a significant extent, and the labor and expenditures required for the production of new varieties of plants of the genus Fragaria can be reduced to a significant extent.

[0098] When producing new varieties of plants of the genus Fragaria, alternatively, the presence or absence of the markers associated with powdery mildew resistance in plants of the genus Fragaria in the parent varieties to be used for crossing is first evaluated, and parent varieties with excellent powdery mildew resistance can be selected. By producing progeny lines with the preferential use of parent varieties with excellent powdery mildew resistance, progeny lines with excellent powdery mildew resistance can develop at high frequency. Thus, the number of plants necessary to cultivate in order to produce superior lines can be reduced to a significant extent, and the labor and expenditures required for the production of new plant varieties of the genus Fragaria can be reduced to a significant extent.

EXAMPLES

[0099] Hereafter, the present invention is described in greater detail with reference to the examples, although the technical scope of the present invention is not limited to these examples.

- 1. Preparation of DNA Microarray Probe
- (1) Materials

[0100] The strawberry varieties: "Miyazaki Natsu Haruka" and "08 To-f," were used.

(2) Treatment with Restriction Enzyme

[0101] Genomic DNA was extracted from these strawberry varieties using the Dneasy Plant Mini Kit (Qiagen). The extracted genomic DNA (150 ng) was treated with the PstI restriction enzyme (5 units, NEB) at 37° C. for 1 hour.

(3) Ligation of Adaptors

[0102] The PstI sequence adaptors (5'-CACGATGGATC-CAGTGCA-3' (SEQ ID NO: 20) and 5'-CTGGATC-CATCGTGCA-3' (SEQ ID NO: 21)) and T4 DNA ligase (200 units, NEB) were added to the genomic DNA fragment (150 ng) treated in (2) above, and the resultant was subjected to ligation at 16° C. for 1 hour, 55° C. for 20 minutes, and then 37° C. for 30 minutes. Subsequently, the BstNI restriction enzyme (6 units, NEB) was added to the treated sample, and the sample was then treated at 60° C. for 1 hour.

(4) Amplification by PCR

[0103] The PstI sequence adaptor recognition primer (5'-GATGGATCCAGTGCAG-3' (SEQ ID NO: 22)) and Taq polymerase (1.25 units, PrimeSTAR, Takara Bio Inc.) were added to the sample treated with the BstNI restriction enzyme (15 ng) obtained in (3) above, and the DNA fragment was amplified by PCR (30 cycles of 98° C. for 10 seconds, 55° C. for 15 seconds, and 72° C. for 1 minute, and treatment at 72° C. for 3 minutes, followed by storage at 4° C.).

(5) Acquisition of Genome Sequence

[0104] The nucleotide sequence information of the genomic DNA fragment amplified by PCR in (4) above was determined using Hiseq 2000 (Miseq, Illumina).

(6) Design of Probes and Preparation of DNA Microarray

[0105] On the basis of the genome sequence information acquired in (5) above, 50 to 60 bp probes were designed. On

the basis of the nucleotide sequence information of the designed probes, a DNA microarray comprising these probes was produced.

2. Acquisition of Signal Data

(1) Materials

[0106] The strawberry varieties: "Miyazaki Natsu Haruka" and "08 To-f," and 147 hybrid progeny lines thereof were used.

(2) Treatment with Restriction Enzyme

[0107] Genomic DNA was extracted from these strawberry varieties and the hybrid progeny lines using the Dneasy Plant Mini Kit (Qiagen). The extracted genomic DNA (150 ng) was treated with the PstI restriction enzyme (6 units, NEB) at 37° C. for 1 hour.

(3) Ligation of Adaptors

[0108] The PstI sequence adaptors (5'-CACGATGGATC-CAGTGCA-3' (SEQ ID NO: 20) and 5'-CTGGATC-CATCGTGCA-3' (SEQ ID NO: 21)) and T4 DNA ligase (200 units, NEB) were added to the genomic DNA fragment (150 ng) treated in (2) above, and the resultant was subjected to ligation at 16° C. for 1 hour, 55° C. for 20 minutes, and then 37° C. for 30 minutes. Subsequently, the BstNI restriction enzyme (6 units, NEB) was added to the treated sample, and the sample was then treated at 60° C. for 1 hour.

(4) Amplification by PCR

[0109] The PstI sequence adaptor recognition primer (5'-GATGGATCCAGTGCAG-3' (SEQ ID NO: 22)) and Taq polymerase (1.25 units, PrimeSTAR, Takara Bio Inc.) were added to the sample treated with the BstNI restriction enzyme (15 ng) obtained in (3) above, and the genomic DNA fragment was amplified by PCR (30 cycles of 98° C. for 10 seconds, 55° C. for 15 seconds, and 72° C. for 1 minute, and treatment at 72° C. for 3 minutes, followed by storage at 4° C.).

(5) Labeling

[0110] The DNA fragment amplified in (4) above was purified through a column (Qiagen), and a labeled sample was then prepared using a NimbleGen One-Color DNA Labeling kit (Roche Diagnostics K.K.) in accordance with the NimbleGen Arrays User's Guide.

(6) Hybridization and Signal Detection

[0111] Hybridization was carried out by the array CGH (aCGH) method involving the use of the Agilent in-situ

QTL associated with powdery mildew resistance of strawberries and selection of selection markers

(1) Preparation of Gene Map Data Sheet

[0112] From the signal data of the 147 hybrid progeny lines of "Miyazaki Natsu Haruka" and "08 To-f," the genotype data of "Miyazaki Natsu Haruka"-type 8,218 markers and "08 To-f'-type 8,039 markers were obtained. On the basis of the genotype data, the gene mapping data of the markers were obtained in accordance with the genetic distance calculation formula (Kosambi) using the genetic map production software (AntMap, Iwata. H., Ninomiya, S., 2006, AntMap: Constructing genetic linkage maps using an ant colony optimization algorithm. Breed Sci. 56: 371-378).

(2) Acquisition of Phenotype Data of Strawberry Powdery Mildew

[0113] Seeds of the 147 hybrid progeny lines of "Miyazaki Natsu Haruka" and "08 To-f" were grown to seedlings in a greenhouse, the resulting seedlings were transplanted in an outdoor field in spring on the following year, and the onset and extent of strawberry powdery mildew was inspected in summer (FIG. 3). Affected plants were evaluated in terms of the severity at 3 different stages: mild, moderate, and severe. [0114] In this example, the plants were naturally infected with powdery mildew fungi indigenous in the soil of Morioka, Iwate, Japan.

(3) Analysis of Quantitative Trait Loci (QTL)

[0115] On the basis of the genetic map data obtained in (1) above and the results of strawberry powdery mildew test obtained in (2) above (i.e., the onset and extent of powdery mildew). QTL analysis was carried out by the composite interval mapping (CIM) method with the use of the genetic analysis software (QTL Cartographer, Wang S., C. J. Basten, and Z.-B. Zeng, 2010, Windows QTL Cartographer 2.5. Department of Statistics, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, N.C.). The LOD threshold was designated to be 2.5. As a result, the presence of the gene associated with powdery mildew resistance of strawberries (LOD value: 7.3) was detected in a region between the 1B535110 marker and the 1B726514 marker in the 1st linkage group of "08 To-f" (Table 2, FIG. 4).

(4) Selection of Selection Marker

[0116] Markers in the vicinity of the region of the strawberry powdery mildew resistant gene in a region from 0 cM to 6.83 cM of the 1st linkage group were selected as selection markers (FIG. 4, Table 1).

TABLE 2

QTL concerning strawberry powdery mildew resistance							
Variety	Linkage group	Position (cM)	Range (cM)	Flanking markers	LOD value	Effect*	Contribution rate (%)
08 To-f	1	0.0	6.8	IB535110-IB726514	7.3	-0.8	15.7

^{*}Extent of powdery mildews (0: none; 1: mild; 2: moderate; 3: severe)

oligo DNA microarray kit using the labeled sample obtained in (5) above and the DNA microarray prepared in 1. above. Signals from the samples were detected. 3. Identification of

[0117] In Table 2, the column of the effects indicates an influence of the QTL on the onset and extent of powdery mildews (0: none; 1: mild; 2: moderate; 3: severe). If the

numeral value indicating the effects is a negative value, specifically, an extent of powdery mildew is lowered, and such QTL is linked to a trait that improves the powdery mildew resistance.

[0118] As shown in FIG. 4, a marker located in the vicinity of such peak is inherited in linkage with a causal gene (or causal genes) capable of improving the powdery mildew resistance. This indicates that such marker may be used as the marker associated with powdery mildew resistance in plants of the genus *Fragaria*. Specifically, the 19 types of markers shown in FIG. 4 were found to be usable as the markers associated with powdery mildew resistance in plants of the genus *Fragaria*.

4. Selection of Unknown Line

(1) Acquisition of Phenotype Data of Strawberry Powdery Mildew

[0119] Separately from the lines described in "3. (2) Acquisition of phenotype data of strawberry powdery mildew" above, seeds of the hybrid progeny lines of "Miyazaki Natsu Haruka" and "08 To-f" were grown to seedlings in a greenhouse (50 lines, hereafter referred to as "Population A"), the resulting seedlings were transplanted in an outdoor field in autumn, and the onset and extent of strawberry powdery mildew was inspected in summer on the following year. In addition, hybrid progeny lines of "Miyazaki Natsu Haruka" and "Ohkimi" (42 lines, hereafter referred to as "Population B") and hybrid progeny lines of "Miyazaki Natsu Haruka" and "09s E-b 45e" (42 lines, hereafter referred to as "Population E") were grown to seedling, transplanted, and then inspected in terms of the onset and extent of powdery mildew in the same manner (FIGS. 5-1 and 5-2).

(2) Extraction of Genomic DNA

[0120] Separately, genomic DNAs were extracted from the strawberry varieties: "Miyazaki Natsu Haruka" and "08 To-f," and Population A, respectively, using the Dneasy Plant Mini Kit (Qiagen).

(3) Treatment with Restriction Enzyme and Ligation of Adaptor

[0121] The extracted genomic DNA (150 ng) was treated with the PstI restriction enzyme (5 units, NEB) at 37° C. for 1 hour, the PstI sequence adaptors (5'-CACGATGGATC-CAGTGCA-3' (SEQ ID NO: 20) and 5'-CTGGATC-CATCGTGCA-3' (SEQ ID NO: 21)) and T4 DNA ligase (200 units, NEB) were added to the sample treated with PstI, and the resultant was subjected to the reaction at 16° C. for 1 hour, 55° C. for 20 minutes, and then 37° C. for 30 minutes. The BstNI restriction enzyme (6 units, NEB) was added to the treated sample, and the sample was then treated at 60° C. for 1 hour.

(4) Amplification of DNA Fragment

[0122] The PstI sequence adaptor recognition primer (5'-GATGGATCCAGTGCAG-3' (SEQ ID NO: 22)) and Taq polymerase (1.25 units, PrimeSTAR, Takara Bio Inc.) were added to the sample treated with the BstNI restriction enzyme (15 ng) obtained in (3) above, and the DNA fragment was amplified by PCR (30 cycles of 98° C. for 10

seconds, 55° C. for 15 seconds, and 72° C. for 1 minute, and treatment at 72° C. for 3 minutes, followed by storage at 4° C.).

(5) Labeling

[0123] The DNA fragment amplified in (4) above was purified through a column (Qiagen), and a labeled sample was then prepared using a NimbleGen One-Color DNA Labeling kit (Roche Diagnostics K.K.) in accordance with the NimbleGen Arrays User's Guide.

(6) Hybridization and Signal Detection

[0124] Hybridization was carried out by the array CGH (aCGH) method involving the use of the Agilent in-situ oligo DNA microarray kit using the fluorescence-labeled sample obtained in (6) above and the array prepared in 1. above. Signals from the samples were detected.

(7) Test of Selection Marker

[0125] In Population A, the markers in the vicinity of the region of the strawberry powdery mildew resistant gene were selected (Table 1), the array signal values regarding the selection markers and the phenotypes of Population A were compared, and the degrees of consistency were found to be 90.0% to 98.0% (FIGS. 6-1 to 6-5). In FIGS. 6-1 to 6-5, high array signal values were underlined. The results indicate that the use of the markers shown in Table 1 enables selection of lines that are excellent and lines that are poor in terms of powdery mildew resistance.

5. Selection and Test Using PCR Base Marker 1

(1) Extraction of Genomic DNA

[0126] Genomic DNAs were extracted from the strawberry varieties: "Miyazaki Natsu Haruka," "08 To-f," "Ohkimi," and "09s E-b 45e," Population A (51 lines), Population B (42 lines), and Population E (42 lines), using the Dneasy Plant Mini Kit (Qiagen).

(2) Preparation of Primer

[0127] With the use of PCR primer analytic software (Primer 3), primers that recognize the sequences of IB535110 were prepared on the basis of the sequence information thereof (SEQ ID NO: 1) (35110_v1F: ACA-CATATATGAATCGGAGCCA (SEQ ID NO: 23); 35110_v1R: GCTCAAGATGCTCAATCGAA (SEQ ID NO: 24)).

(3) Amplification by PCR and Test of Selection Marker

[0128] The above pair of the primers (35110_v1F and 35110_v1R) and Taq polymerase (1.25 units, Tks Gflex DNA Polymerase, Takara Bio Inc.) were added to the genomic DNAs (15 ng each) of the hybrid progeny lines: Population A. Population B, and Population E, and the genomic DNAs were amplified by PCR (30 cycles of 94° C. for 1 minute, 98° C. for 10 seconds, 60° C. for 15 seconds, and 68° C. for 30 seconds, followed by storage at 4° C.). The PCR-amplified DNA fragment was confirmed using the TapeStation D1000 (Agilent). The results attained for Population A, Population B, and Population E are shown in FIGS. 7-1 and 7-2, FIGS. 8-1 and 8-2, and FIGS. 9-1 and 9-2, respectively. In FIGS. 7-1 to 9-2, lane M represents "Miyazaki Natsu Haruka" and lane Z represents "08 To-f."

These results are summarized in FIGS. 10-1 and 10-2. In FIGS. 10-1 and 10-2, underlines are provided when phenotypes are not consistent with the results attained with the use of PCR markers. As shown in FIGS. 7-1 to 10-2, the degree of consistency between band patterns and phenotypes is very high (i.e., 98.5%) and the method of nucleic acid amplification involving the use of primers that specifically amplify IB535110 enables selection of lines that are excellent and lines that are poor in terms of powdery mildew resistance.

6. Selection and Test Using PCR Base Marker 2

(1) Extraction of Genomic DNA

[0129] Genomic DNAs were extracted from the strawberry varieties: "Miyazaki Natsu Haruka," "08 To-f." "Ohkimi," and "09s E-b 45e," Population A (51 lines), Population B (42 lines), and Population E (42 lines), using the Dneasy Plant Mini Kit (Qiagen).

(2) Preparation of Primer

[0130] With the use of PCR primer analytic software (Primer 3), primers that recognize the sequences of IB533828 were prepared on the basis of the sequence information thereof (SEQ ID NO: 2) (22828_v6F: CTTT-GACGCCTACTGCATIA (SEQ ID NO: 25) and 22828_v6R: GGTUGGGCTTCGTTAAATCT (SEQ ID NO: 26)).

(3) Amplification by PCR and Test of Selection Marker

[0131] The above pair of the primers (22828 v6F and 22828_v6R) and Taq polymerase (1.25 units, Tks Gflex DNA Polymerase, Takara Bio Inc.) were added to the genomic DNAs (15 ng each) of the hybrid progeny lines: Population A, Population B, and Population E, and the genomic DNAs were amplified by PCR (30 cycles of 94° C. for 1 minute, 98° C. for 10 seconds, 60° C. for 15 seconds, and 68° C. for 30 seconds, followed by storage at 4° C.). The PCR-amplified DNA fragment was confirmed using the TapeStation D1000 (Agilent). The results attained for Population A, Population B. and Population E are shown in FIGS. 11-1 to 11-3, FIGS. 12-1 and 12-2, and FIGS. 13-1 and 13-2, respectively. In FIGS. 11-1 to 13-2, lane M represents "Miyazaki Natsu Haruka," lane Z represents "08 To-f," and lane O represents "Ohkimi." These results are summarized in FIGS. 14-1 and 14-2. In FIGS. 14-1 and 14-2, underlines are provided when phenotypes are not consistent with the results attained with the use of PCR markers. As shown in FIGS. 11-1 to 14-2, the degree of consistency between band patterns and phenotypes is very high (i.e., 98.5%) and the method of nucleic acid amplification involving the use of primers that specifically amplify 1B522828 enables selection of lines that are excellent and lines that are poor in terms of powdery mildew resistance.

[0132] All publications, patents, and patent applications cited herein are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.

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- 1. A marker associated with powdery mildew resistance in plants of the genus *Fragaria* comprising a continuous nucleic acid region sandwiched between the nucleotide sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 1 and the nucleotide sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 19 in the chromosome of the plant of the genus *Fragaria*.
- 2. The marker associated with powdery mildew resistance in plants of the genus *Fragaria* according to claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid region comprises any nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of nucleotide sequences as shown in SEQ ID NOs: 1 to 19 or a part of the nucleotide sequence.
- 3. The marker associated with powdery mildew resistance in plants of the genus *Fragaria* according to claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid region is located in a region sandwiched between the nucleotide sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 1 and the nucleotide sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 7 in the chromosome of the plant of the genus *Fragaria*.
- **4.** A method for producing a plant line of the genus *Fragaria* with improved powdery mildew resistance comprising:
 - a step of extracting a chromosome of a progeny plant whose at least one parent is a plant of the genus *Fragaria* and/or a chromosome of the parent plant of the genus *Fragaria*; and

- a step of determining the presence or absence of the marker associated with powdery mildew resistance in the plant of the genus *Fragaria* according to claim 1 in the chromosome obtained above.
- **5**. The method for producing a plant line of the genus *Fragaria* according to claim **4**, wherein the step of determination comprises conducting a nucleic acid amplification reaction using a primer that specifically amplifies the marker associated with powdery mildew resistance in the plant of the genus *Fragaria* to determine the presence or absence of the marker associated with powdery mildew resistance in the plant of the genus *Fragaria*.
- **6.** The method for producing a plant line of the genus *Fragaria* according to claim **4**, wherein the step of determination involves the use of a DNA chip comprising a probe corresponding to the marker associated with powdery mildew resistance in the plant of the genus *Fragaria*.
- 7. The method for producing a plant line of the genus *Fragaria* according to claim 4, wherein the progeny plant is a seed or seedling and the chromosome is extracted from the seed or seedling.

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