Genetics and Resistance

# Genetic Characterization of Leaf and Stripe Rust Resistance in the Brazilian Wheat Cultivar Toropi

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## ABSTRACT

Leaf and stripe rust are major threats to wheat production worldwide. The effective, multiple rust resistances present in the Brazilian cultivar Toropi makes it an excellent choice for a genetic study of rust resistance. Testing of DNA from different seed lots of Toropi with 2,194 polymorphic 90K iSelect single nucleotide polymorphism markers identified significant genetic divergence, with as much as 35% dissimilarity between seed lots. As a result, further work was conducted with a single plant line derived from Toropi variant Toropi-6.4. A double haploid population with 168 lines derived from the cross Toropi-6.4 × Thatcher was phenotyped over multiple years and locations in Canada, New Zealand, and Kenya, with a total of seven field trials undertaken for leaf rust and nine for stripe rust. Genotyping with the 90K iSelect array, simple sequence repeat and Kompetitive allele-specific polymerase chain reaction markers resulted in a genetic map of 3,043 cM, containing 1,208 nonredundant markers. Significant quantitative

Wheat leaf (brown) and stripe (yellow) rust, caused by the fungal pathogens *Puccinia triticina* Eriks and *P. striiformis* Westend f. sp. *tritici* Eriks., respectively, are major global threats to wheat production (Pretorius et al. 2017). The introduction of rust resistance genes into elite wheat germplasm is the preferred method of disease control, being environmentally friendly and crucial to sustained wheat production. Many major, qualitative rust resistance genes have been identified in wheat. These are generally expressed through-out the life of the plant, being referred to as seedling or allstage resistance. However, these tend to represent race-specific resistance, and virulence shifts in the *Puccinia* population often result in the resistance genes becoming ineffective, frequently in a relatively short time frame after cultivar release. Quantitative rust resistance, identified as quantitative trait loci (QTL), tends to be

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trait loci (QTL) derived from Toropi-6.4 were identified in multiple environments on chromosomes 1B (*QLr.crc-1BL/QYr.crc-1BL*), 3B (*QLr.crc-3BS*), 4B (*QYr.crc-4BL*), 5A (*QLr.crc-5AL* and *QYr.crc-5AL*), and 5D (*QLr.crc-5DS*). The QTL *QLr.crc-1BL/QYr.crc-1BL* colocated with the multi-rust resistance locus *Lr46/Yr29*, while the QTL *QLr.crc-5DS* located to the *Lr78* locus previously found in a wheat backcross population derived from Toropi. Comparisons of QTL combinations showed *QLr.crc-1BL* to contribute a significantly enhanced leaf rust resistance when combined with *QLr.crc-5AL* or *QLr.crc-5DS*, more so than when *QLr.crc-5AL* and *QLr.crc-5DS* were combined. A strong additive effect was also seen when the stripe rust resistance QTL *QYr.crc-1BL* and *QYr.crc-5AL* were combined.

*Keywords*: adult plant resistance, durable resistance, leaf rust, stripe rust, QTL, wheat

partial and expressed postseedling, being referred to as adult plant resistance (APR) (Pinto-da-Silva et al. 2018; Rosewarne et al. 2013; Wang and Chen 2017). APR genes can be race-specific, but some have been demonstrated to be race-nonspecific, and are often associated with a slow-rusting phenotype (Caldwell 1968). Slowrusting resistance extends the latent period, reducing the size of uredinia (Singh et al. 1991, 2005). The APR loci Lr34/Yr18/ Sr57/Pm38, Lr46/Yr29/Sr58/Pm39, Lr67/Yr46/Sr55/Pm46, and Sr2/Yr30 are examples of partial, slow-rusting resistance with pleiotropic effect (Dyck 1987; Hare and McIntosh 1979; Herrera-Foessel et al. 2011; Hiebert et al. 2010; Lillemo et al. 2008; McIntosh 1992; Rosewarne et al. 2006; Singh 1992; Singh et al. 2000; Spielmeyer et al. 2005), and in the case of Lr34/Yr18/Sr57/ Pm38 and Lr67/Yr46/Sr55/Pm46 it is known that a single gene confers resistance to multiple pathogens (Krattinger et al. 2009; Moore et al. 2015). A better approach to sustainable rust resistance is therefore, the deployment of diverse resistance sources and multiple APR loci. A single QTL rarely confers adequate resistance, especially under high disease pressure, a combination of four or five QTL/genes being required to establish adequate levels of rust resistance (Singh et al. 2000).

The Brazilian cultivar Toropi, released in 1965, was commercially cultivated for over 15 years. Throughout its cultivation it maintained a high level of field resistance to leaf rust, although being seedling susceptible to all known Brazilian *P. triticina* isolates (Barcellos et al. 2000; Casassola et al. 2015; Zoldan and Barcellos 2002). Toropi originated from the cross Frontana 1971.37/Quaderna//Petiblanco 8. Frontana has been shown to contain the leaf rust APR genes *Lr13*, *Lr34*, and *Lr68* (Herrera-Foessel et al. 2012; Singh and Rajaram 1992); however allelism

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tests have demonstrated that Toropi lacks Lr34 (Barcellos et al. 2000). Two leaf rust resistance genes were reported in Toropi on chromosomes 1AS and 4DS (Da-Silva et al. 2012). Recently, a leaf rust APR gene derived from Toropi was reported on chromosome 5DS (designated Lr78) (Kolmer et al. 2018), while three small effect QTL were found on chromosomes 1BL, 3BS, and 4BS in a separate population derived from Toropi (Kolmer et al. 2018). It has also been shown that Toropi has a prehaustorial resistance to leaf rust, with the majority of *P. triticina* infection sites being halted in their development before the formation of haustoria (Wesp-Guterres et al. 2013).

The leaf and stripe rust resistance in Toropi represents a valuable resource for wheat rust resistance breeding (Rosa et al. 2016). The durability of the resistance probably rests upon a combination of several genes. However, like many valuable wheat genotypes, seed of Toropi has been moved around the world, grown, and used by many breeders and researchers. Hence, the genetic purity of any Toropi seed lot is brought into question. The objectives of this study were therefore twofold. The first objective was to compare the genetic profiles of Toropi seed lots obtained from different sources to determine the extent Toropi genetics had drifted. Having selected a defined Toropi line, taken from a single plant showing good field leaf rust resistance, but seedling susceptibility, the second objective was to develop a doubled haploid mapping population and map field resistance to both leaf and stripe rust.

# MATERIALS AND METHODS

Molecular genetic comparison between different seed lots of the Brazilian wheat cultivar Toropi. DNA of the Toropi seed lot Toropi-6.0 (originated from Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation, EMBRAPA-Wheat, Brazil; Barcellos et al. 2000) and two lines derived from Toropi-6.0, Toropi-6.3, and Toropi-6.4, were provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC), Morden, Canada. Toropi-6.3 and Toropi-6.4 were selected from Toropi-6.0 following seedling inoculation with P. triticina race BBBD, which indicated heterogeneity within the Toropi-6.0 seed lot. Toropi-6.4 and Toropi-6.3 were each selected from single plants, Toropi-6.4 being seedling susceptible to race BBBB, while Toropi-6.3 was resistant (Rosa et al. 2016). The SCAR markers SCS1302 and SCS1362 (Gupta et al. 2006) support the presence of Lr24 in Toropi-6.3, and absence from Toropi-6.4, Toropi-6.0, and Thatcher (data not show). AAFC also held seed of Toropi supplied by Silvia German, National Institute of Agricultural Research of Uruguay, Montevideo, Uruguay. This seed had been multiplied at AAFC and DNA was extracted from the Uruguay seed lots dated 2004, 2009, and 2011. DNA from Toropi was obtained from EMBRAPA-Wheat, Passo Fundo, Brazil (Toropi-EMBRAPA) and from Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS), Porto Alegre, Brazil (Toropi-UFRGS). Two, replicate DNAs of seed lots of Toropi were also provided by Evans Lagudah, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO), Australia.

In order to compare the genetic profiles of different sources of Toropi, DNA was isolated from 14-day-old single seed seedlings using the Qiagen DNeasy 96 Plant Kit (Qiagen, Mississauga, Ontario) and genotyped using the 90K iSelect single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) (Wang et al. 2014) array developed by Illumina Inc. (San Diego, CA). The SNP profiles of each wheat genotype were determined using GenomeStudio (Illumina). SNP markers that differed between two or more genotypes were retained for pairwise similarity analyses. Three biological replicates were genotyped of Toropi-6.0, Toropi-6.3, and Toropi-6.4. Two DNA samples were provided by CSIRO, but only one sample was used for Toropi-EMBRAPA, Toropi-UFRGS, and the 3 year samples from Uruguay. Thatcher was also included in the analysis as a genetic outlier. The pairwise similarity of the SNP profiles of each genotype were compared by an Euclidean distance analysis, the results being displayed in a heat-map plot using the package ggfortify (Tang et al. 2016) on R software (R Development Core Team, 2018).

**Toropi mapping population development and genetic linkage map construction.** Two crosses were made with the cultivar Thatcher: Toropi-6.4 × Thatcher and Toropi-6.3 × Thatcher. Double haploid (DH) populations were made from each cross using the maize/wheat hybridization method (Thomas et al. 2010), as summarized by Rosa et al. (2016). Three  $F_1$  plants were used to generate each population. The Toropi-6.4 × Thatcher population had 171 DH lines and the Toropi-6.3 × Thatcher was composed of 155 DH lines.

The Toropi-6.4  $\times$  Thatcher DH population was genotyped using the 90K Illumina iSelect array (Wang et al. 2014), 227 polymorphic simple sequence repeat (SSR) (Somers et al. 2004) markers and 149 Kompetitive allele-specific polymerase chain reaction (KASP) (Allen et al. 2011) markers, genotyped by Kbioscience (LGC Genomics, Beverly, USA). For Illumina iSelect, DNA was extracted from a single plant from each DH line using the Qiagen DNeasy 96 Plant Kit (Qiagen, Mississauga, ON, Canada). SNP genotype calling were determined using GenomeStudio (Illumina). For SSR markers, DNA was extracted from multiple plants from each DH line using a modified ammonium acetate extraction (Chao and Somers 2012), and marker analysis carried out using Applied Biosystems ABI 3100 genetic analyzer (Applied Biosystems, Streetville, ON, Canada) as described by Somers et al. (2004). Data were converted to a gel-like image, using Genographer version 2.1.4, and GS500-LIZ or 500-ROX (Applied Biosystems, Foster City, California) as the internal molecular weight standards for the ABI 3100. The Toropi-6.4  $\times$  Thatcher DH population was also genotyped with the csLV46G22 sequence tagged site (STS) marker, which is linked to Yr29/Lr46 (E. Lagudah, CSIRO Canberra, personal communication).

Redundant, cosegregating markers were removed using the BIN function of the IciMapping v. 4.1 software (Meng et al. 2015). Linkage analyses were conducted using MapDisto version 1.7.5.1 (Lorieux 2012) and the Kosambi (1943) mapping function with a minimal logarithm of the odds (LOD) threshold of 3.0 and r = 0.2. Markers significantly distorted from the expected segregation ratio (P < 0.0001), as well as markers with more than 10% missing data, were excluded from the analysis. DH lines with more than 20% of missing data were also removed. The physical location of the SNP markers was confirmed using the Chinese Spring NRGene-IWGSC v1.0 genome assembly (https://www.wheatgenome.org/News/Latestnews/RefSeq-v1.0-URGI). MapChart v 2.3 (Voorrips 2002) was used to draw the linkage maps.

Field phenotypic evaluation of leaf and stripe rust resistance. Field trials of leaf and stripe rust resistance in the Toropi- $6.4 \times$  Thatcher DH population were undertaken in Canada, New Zealand, and Kenya. Leaf rust trials were conducted in Manitoba, Canada (Glenlea – 2010; Portage La Prairie – 2011 and 2012; and Morden – 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018). Stripe rust trials were conducted in Canada (Creston, British Columbia – 2017 and 2018, and Lethbridge, Alberta – 2013, 2017 and 2018), in New Zealand (Lincoln – 2011 and 2012), and in Kenya (Njoro – 2012 and 2018). A randomized, complete block design, composed of two replicates was used in all field locations and seasons, the only exceptions being the field trials conducted at Creston in 2017 and Kenya in 2012, where there was only one replicate. The nurseries were organized in small rows of 60 cm in Canada, 1 m in New Zealand, and 70 cm in Kenya.

In Canada, the leaf rust spreader rows were composed of a mixture of the leaf rust susceptible wheat cultivars Morocco, Little Club, and Thatcher. Spreaders for stripe rust inoculation in Canada were composed of a mixture of susceptible cultivars Morocco, SWS18, AC Barrie, and Zak. In Canada, leaf rust spreader rows were inoculated by spraying urediospore mixtures of *P. triticina* isolates, suspended in light mineral oil (Bayol) on leaves at early tillering. The mixture of *P. triticina* races used represented the

*P. triticina* population found in Canada in the previous year, in the proportion in which they were found in the Canadian *P. triticina* survey. There are typically about 40 races in this mixture. For stripe rust, the field trials conducted in Canada, New Zealand, and Kenya all relied on natural infection from the prevalent *P. striiformis* f. sp. *tritici* populations.

Plants were scored for leaf and stripe rust infection at wheat anthesis, when the susceptible check lines showed over 50% rust infection. Leaf and stripe rust severity was scored according to the modified Cobb scale (Peterson et al. 1948; Roelfs et al. 1992), with infection type on the flag leaves being scored as R = resistant, MR = moderately resistant, MS = moderately susceptible, and S = susceptible (Knott 1989; McIntosh et al. 1995). In New Zealand and Kenya, leaf rust severity was recorded on a 0 to 100% severity infection scale.

The Toropi-6.3 × Thatcher DH population was phenotyped for leaf rust resistance in field trials in Canada (Glenlea – 2010, Portage La Prairie – 2011 and 2012) and for stripe rust in New Zealand (Lincoln – 2011 and 2012). The field experiments and phenotyping were conducted as described above for the Toropi-6.4 × Thatcher DH population.

**Statistical analysis.** An analysis of variance (ANOVA) was undertaken for the leaf and stripe rust percentage infection using the linear mixed model (REML) procedure in GenStat, 19th Edition (Rothamsted Experimental Station, Harpenden, UK). Predicted means for the Toropi- $6.4 \times$  Thatcher DH lines were extracted from the REML analyses for all phenotypic data set, with exception of Creston 2017 and Kenya 2012.

The mean percentage rust infections of each DH line, in each field trial, were displayed using the ggplot2 package in R (Wickham 2016). Pearson's correlation coefficients, across years and locations, were calculated for mean leaf and stripe rust percentage infection using psych (Revelle 2018), and plotted using corrplot (Wei and Simko 2017) packages in R. Significant differences



Fig. 1. A pairwise Euclidean analysis showing the genetic dissimilarities between 16 DNA samples of the wheat cultivar Toropi (Trp) and one DNA sample from Thatcher. The Toropi DNA is derived from different seed lots; Toropi-6.0, Toropi-6.3, and Toropi-6.4, AAFC, Morden, Canada; AAFC-Toropi-Uruguay, National Institute of Agricultural Research of Uruguay, Montevideo, Uruguay; Toropi-EMBRAPA, Embrapa-wheat, Passo Fundo, Brazil; Toropi-UFRGS, Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, Porto Alegre, Brazil, and Toropi-Australia, CSIRO, Australia. Replicate DNA samples are indicated by lowercase letters. The color scale shows the percentage of 2,194 single nucleotide polymorphism markers that differ between each DNA sample.

between the mean rust infection values of DH lines carrying the different QTL combinations were compared by ANOVA, followed by Tukey's HSD test (honestly significant difference, using a significance level of P = 0.05), and were plotted using the agricolae package (Mendiburu 2017) in R.

Identification of leaf and stripe rust resistance loci in the cross Toropi-6.4 × Thatcher. QTL analysis was initially carried out using the mapping program IciMapping and further confirmed by R/qtl (Broman and Sen 2009). The inclusive composite interval mapping (ICIM) function was used to evaluate marker intervals associated with leaf and stripe rust resistance in the Toropi-6.4  $\times$ Thatcher DH population. Single marker regression (SMR), standard interval mapping (IM), Harley-Knott regression (HK), and composite interval mapping (CIM) were also performed using R/qtl. One thousand permutations for each data set, with a significance level of 0.05, were performed to determine the LOD threshold. Stepwise regression was used to estimate both the main effects and percentages of phenotypic variance explained (PVE) of each significant QTL. For all environments, QTL analyses were conducted using both the arithmetic and predicted means. As we observed similar results with both the arithmetic and predicted means, only the OTL results using arithmetic mean are presented.

**Conversion of SNP loci to KASP markers.** SNP that were closely linked to the leaf or stripe rust resistance QTL on chromosomes 1B, 5A, and 5D were converted to KASP markers. The KASP markers were first evaluated for polymorphism between Toropi-6.4, Toropi-6.3 and Thatcher, and the polymorphic markers then mapped in the Toropi-6.4 × Thatcher and Toropi-6.3 × Thatcher populations.

KASP assays were performed as described by Kassa et al. (2016) and data analyzed using the KlusterCaller software (LGC Genomics). KASP markers were mapped in each population using SMR, IM, and HK in R/qtl for all leaf and stripe rust phenotypic data sets. One thousand permutations for each data set, with a significance level of 0.05, were performed to determine the LOD threshold.

## RESULTS

Comparison of the molecular genetic profiles of different seed sources of the Brazilian wheat cultivar Toropi. We tested DNA from different sources of Toropi seed using the 90K iSelect SNP array to compare the molecular profile of each seed lot. A pairwise Euclidean analysis, using 2,194 polymorphic iSelect SNPs (all monomorphic SNP were not considered in the analysis), revealed genetic variation among the Toropi samples (Fig. 1; Supplementary Table S1). This analysis also confirmed the heterogeneity observed in Toropi-6.0 by Rosa et al. (2016) which led to the selection of the single plant lines Toropi-6.3 and Toropi-6.4. Toropi-6.3 differed from Toropi-6.0 by approximately 30%, while Toropi-6.4 differed by 25%. Toropi-6.3 differed from Toropi-6.4 by approximately 33%. The sources of Toropi from Brazil (Toropi-EMBRAPA and Toropi-UFRGS) had similar molecular profiles, differing from each other by approximately 4.4%. This was expected, as both seed sources recently originated from EMBRAPA-Wheat. All three Toropi genotypes from AAFC, Morden differed from the genotypes from EMBRAPA and UFRGS by 30 to 34%. The three sources of Toropi-Uruguay DNA were more closely related to the Brazilian seed sources (Toropi-EMBRAPA and Toropi-UFRGS; 10 to 20% dissimilarity) than to Toropi-6.0, 6.3, and 6.4 (30 to 35%) dissimilarity). The DNA provided by CSIRO was also very similar in its molecular profile to the Uruguay 2009 and 2011 (1.4 to 1.7%) dissimilarity) samples, but differed by 35% from Toropi-6.4 used in this study to map leaf and stripe rust resistance.

Phenotypic evaluation of leaf and stripe rust resistance in the Toropi-6.4  $\times$  Thatcher population. The Toropi-6.4  $\times$ Thatcher DH population was phenotyped extensively for both leaf and stripe rust resistance in field trials conducted in multiple years in Canada, Kenya, and New Zealand. Seven field trials were conducted for leaf rust (Fig. 2A) and nine for stripe rust (Fig. 2B). In all seven leaf rust field trials, Toropi-6.4 expressed high levels of leaf rust resistance, with leaf rust infection ranging from 0 to 20%. Some transgressive segregation was seen within the population, although mainly representing DH lines with greater leaf rust susceptibility compared with Thatcher, suggesting that Thatcher retains a low level of residual leaf rust resistance. Significant correlations were observed between all the leaf rust field trials (Supplementary Fig. S1; Supplementary Table S2).

Toropi-6.4 also exhibited high levels of stripe rust resistance, with levels of stripe rust infection ranging from 0 to 5% in the field trials carried out in Canada. However, in New Zealand (2011 to 40% and 2012 to 30%) and Kenya (2012 to 20% and 2018 to 40%) higher levels of stripe rust infection were seen on Toropi-6.4. In Canada and New Zealand, Thatcher was susceptible to stripe rust, with percentage infections ranging from 45 to 75% in Canada, and 55% (2012) and 90% (2018) in New Zealand. However, in Kenya, Thatcher showed moderate resistance to stripe rust (2012 to 20%) and 2018 to 30%). Transgressive segregation for stripe rust resistance was observed in all field trials, although DH lines more resistant than Toropi-6.4 were more prominent in Kenya and New Zealand, where Toropi-6.4 did not confer complete stripe rust resistance, and Thatcher exhibited moderate resistance. Significant correlations (P < 0.0001) were observed between all the stripe rust field trials undertaken in Canada. The stripe rust trials undertaken in New Zealand in 2011 and 2012, and in Kenya in 2012 and 2018, also correlated in-country. However, the 2018 Kenya trial did not correlate at P < 0.0001 with the stripe rust trial undertaken in Creston in 2017 and in New Zealand in 2012 (Supplementary Fig. S1B and Table S2).

Construction of a genetic linkage map for the Toropi-6.4 × Thatcher population. Three Toropi-6.4 × Thatcher DH lines were removed due to low quality or high percentage of missing data, leaving 168 DH lines for genetic linkage map construction. From the 90K SNP array 10,576 SNPs were retained after quality control and removal of markers with more than 10% missing data. After removal of markers showing segregation distortion we were left with 9,808 markers. The BIN function of IciMapping was used to remove cosegregating markers, leaving 1,301 markers from which the genetic linkage map was constructed. The final linkage map was composed of 1,208 marker loci (1,101 SNP, 22 KASP, and 85 SSR markers), forming 21 linkage groups, representing all 21 wheat chromosomes (Supplementary Fig. S2). The linkage map had a total length of 3,043 cM, with an average interval between marker loci of 2.51 cM. The A genome had the most markers (45.36%), followed by the B (40.89%) and the D genome (13.74%) (Supplementary Table S3).

QTL analysis of leaf and stripe rust resistance in the Toropi-6.4 × Thatcher cross. Six QTL conferring leaf rust resistance and four QTL conferring stripe rust resistance were identified in the Toropi-6.4 × Thatcher DH population (Fig. 3; Table 1). QTL contributing to leaf rust resistance in Toropi-6.4 were found on chromosomes 1BL, 3BS, 5AL and 5DS. The QTL located on chromosomes 1BL and 5AL showed strong leaf rust resistance effects. *QLr.crc-1BL* was detected in all seven field experiments, with the highest LOD value (LOD 19.10) being seen in the 2016 trial in Morden, Canada. *QLr.crc-5AL* was detected in three field trials in Canada (Glenlea 2010, Morden 2015, and 2018), with the highest LOD value (LOD 16.35) being seen at Glenlea 2010.

The smaller effect QTL *QLr.crc-5DS* (max. LOD 6.98) was detected in five field trials in Canada (Portage 2012, Morden 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018). The leaf rust resistance QTL on chromosome 3B (*QLr.crc-3BS*) was detected in three field trials in Canada (Portage 2012, Morden 2016 and 2018), having a maximum LOD value of 6.17 (Morden 2015).

Surprisingly, two minor leaf rust resistance QTL were detected in the Toropi-6.4 × Thatcher population derived from Thatcher: QLr.crc-2BL and QLr.crc-3DS. QLr.crc-2BL was identified in Portage la Prairie in 2012 (LOD = 3.96) and Morden in 2018 (LOD = 4.29). QLr.crc-3DS was identified in Portage la Prairie in 2012 (LOD = 4.41) and Morden in 2016 (LOD = 3.04) and 2018 (LOD = 5.22).

Three of the four QTL conferring stripe rust resistance in the Toropi-6.4 × Thatcher population were derived from Toropi-6.4: QYr.crc-1BL, QYr.crc-4BL, and QYr.crc-5AL (Fig. 2). The QTL found on chromosomes 1BL and 5AL showed strong effects, QYr.crc-1BL being found in four field trials (Lethbridge 2013, New Zealand 2011 and 2012, and Kenya 2018), with the highest LOD values being seen in the New Zealand 2012 field trial data set (LOD = 12.66). QYr.crc-1BL colocated with the leaf rust resistance QTL



Fig. 2. Phenotypic distribution of the A, leaf and B, stripe rust percentage infection values of each double haploid (DH) line of the Toropi- $6.4 \times$  Thatcher population, in each field trial. Gray dots show the mean percentage infection value of each DH line, black dots show the mean infection value of the trial, black squares show the mean infection value of Toropi-6.4, and black triangles show the mean infection value of cultivar Thatcher. Vertical lines show the error variation. New Zealand (NZ).

*QLr.crc-1BL*, cosegregating with STS marker *csLV46*. *QYr.crc-5AL* was detected in eight of the nine stripe rust field trials (Lethbridge 2013, 2017, and 2018; Creston 2017 and 2018; New Zealand 2011 and 2012; and Kenya 2012). The highest LOD value was found in Lethbridge 2013 (LOD = 42.84). *QYr.crc-4BL* was only found in the Lethbridge 2018 trial (LOD = 7.44). *QYr.crc-2BS*, derived from Thatcher, was only detected in the Kenyan 2018 stripe rust field trial (LOD = 11.03).

Validation of leaf and stripe rust resistance QTL in Toropi-6.3. The 90k SNP array markers linked with the significant leaf and stripe rust QTL, *QLr.crc-1BL/QYr.crc-1BL, QYr.crc.5AL*, *QLr.crc.5AL*, and *QLr.crc.5DS* were converted to KASP markers. A total of 18 SNP markers were selected, of which 14 amplified and were polymorphic between the parents in both the Toropi-6.4 × Thatcher and Toropi-6.3 × Thatcher DH populations (Supplementary Table S4). The KASP markers were screened in both populations.

The Toropi-6.3 × Thatcher population was phenotyped for both leaf and stripe rust resistance in Canada and New Zealand. In all three leaf rust field trials Toropi-6.3 expressed high levels of leaf rust resistance, and some transgressive segregation was seen between the DH lines. With stripe rust, Toropi-6.3 exhibited moderated levels of resistance in the New Zealand field trials (2011 to 35% and 2012 to 40%) (Supplementary Fig. S3).

Single marker regressions were performed to (i) confirm comapping of the KASP markers with the respective QTL in the Toropi-6.4 × Thatcher population and (ii) determine whether the QTL *QLr.crc-1BL/QYr.crc-1BL*, *QYr.crc.5AL*, *QLr.crc.5AL*, and *QLr.crc.5DS* were present in Toropi-6.3. The KASP markers defining each QTL produced significant associations (P < 0.05) when mapped in the Toropi-6.4 × Thatcher population, confirming the presence of each QTL. In the Toropi-6.3 × Thatcher population the KASP markers detected *QLr.crc-1BL/QYr.crc-1BL* and *QLr.crc. 5AL*, but not *QLr.crc-5DS* and *QYr.crc-5AL* (Supplementary Table S5). **Interactions between QTL.** The effect of QTL interactions on leaf and stripe rust resistance was evaluated. The average leaf rust percentage infection of lines containing different combinations of the leaf rust resistance QTL *QLr.crc-1BL*, *QLr.crc-5AL*, and *QLr.crc-5DS* were compared (Supplementary Fig. S4). Alone, each QTL had only a small effect on the level of leaf rust infection. However, a clear additive effect was seen when these QTL were combined, with lines containing all three leaf rust QTL having the least leaf rust infection. While variation existed across field trials, the general trend was for higher levels of leaf rust resistance when *QLr.crc-1BL* was combined with *QLr.crc-5AL* or *QLr.crc-5DS* than when *QLr.crc-5AL* and *QLr.crc-5DS* were combined, as exemplified in Figure 4A.

A strong additive effect was seen in most field trials when the stripe rust resistance QTL *QYr.crc-1BL* and *QYr.crc-5AL* were combined (except Kenya 2018) (Supplementary Fig. S5). Alone, each QTL significantly reduced stripe rust infection levels in Lethbridge in 2013 and in 2017 and Kenya in 2012, but only *QYr.crc-5AL* had a significant effect in most field trials, while in Kenya 2018 neither QTL significantly reduced stripe rust infection levels. In Canada, *QYr.crc-5AL* had a significant effect in all field trials, while *QYr.crc-1BL* was only significant at Lethbridge 2013 and 2017, as exemplified in Figure 4B.

#### DISCUSSION

The field leaf rust resistance in the old Brazilian wheat cultivar Toropi is considered by many to be different from other sources of durable resistance. Released in 1965, Toropi is known to be susceptible at the seedling stage to all known Brazilian isolates of *P. triticina* (Marcia Chaves, *personal communication*). In the field Toropi still confers very good levels of leaf rust resistance, having been tested extensively in Brazil, Canada, and the United States (Barcellos et al. 2000, Rosa et al. 2016; Kolmer et al. 2018). However, efforts to identify the location of the genes/QTL



**Fig. 3.** Leaf and stripe rust resistance quantitative trait loci (QTL) identified in the Toropi- $6.4 \times$  Thatcher population. Six and four significant QTL for leaf (green) and stripe (blue) rust resistance, respectively, as identified across seven leaf rust and nine stripe rust field trials, are shown against their chromosome locations on the genetic linkage map of Toropi- $6.4 \times$  Thatcher. The markers significantly linked with QTL are highlighted in green for leaf rust, in blue for stripe rust, and in red for both.

conferring the leaf rust resistance in Toropi have been difficult, with the reported results showing inconsistencies.

Two leaf rust resistance genes were originally reported by Da-Silva et al. (2012) on chromosomes 1AS and 4DS based on monosomic and single marker regression analyses. Kolmer et al. (2018) reported a leaf rust APR gene on chromosome 5DS, designated Lr78, in one backcross population, and another three, small effect QTL on chromosomes 1BL (Lr46/Yr29), 3BS and 4BS in a second population derived from Toropi. In addition, good levels of stripe rust resistance have subsequently been found in Toropi (Rosa et al. 2016), but to the best of our knowledge no studies have yet been reported on the genetics underlying this stripe rust resistance.

Consequently, seed of Toropi has changed hands many times, having been worked on by many groups around the world. As a result, the genetic purity of Toropi has been bought into question. The Toropi seed lots obtained from Brazil were genetically very different from seed lots that had been multiplied over many years in other institutes around the world. This would indicate that significant levels of residual genetic diversity can exist within any given seed lot of a cultivar of wheat, an inbred, homozygous species, and how easy it is for wheat cultivars to genetically diverge during standard seed multiplication procedures. The genetic variation found between different seed lots of Toropi would also go some way to explaining the inconsistencies reported in the literature regarding the leaf rust resistance genes/QTL present in Toropi. Extensive phenotyping for leaf rust, over many years and locations, indicated that Toropi-6.4 provided effective resistance to the *P. triticina* populations prevalent across Canada. Four QTL for leaf rust were identified in Toropi-6.4, *QLr.crc-1BL*, *QLr.crc-3BS*, *QLr.crc-5AL*, and *QLr.crc-5DS*. While variation was seen across years and locations, *QLr.crc-1BL* was detected in all field leaf rust data sets. *QLr.crc-1BL* cosegregated with the marker *csLV46*, which has previously been shown to be linked to the rust resistance locus *Lr46/Yr29* (E. S. Lagudah, *personal communication*). As seedling tests with 12 different Canadian *P. triticina* races had all resulted in susceptible phenotypes the field resistance seen in Toropi-6.4 is likely to be race-nonspecific (Rosa et al. 2016).

Lr46 is unique in that it confers broad-spectrum resistance to four biotrophic fungal pathogens: *P. triticina* (Lr46), *P. striiformis* f. sp. tritici (Yr29), *P. graminis* f. sp. tritici (Sr58) (Singh et al. 2013), and Blumeria graminis f. sp. tritici (Pm39) (Lillemo et al. 2008). Lr46 has been reported in 20 studies from 19 wheat donor genotypes (Pinto da Silva et al. 2018), with Lr46 being associated with the marker csLV46 in 13 of these studies. The effectiveness of Lr46 depends greatly upon the genetic background and environment (Lan et al. 2015). Lr46 explained from 2.9 to 74.5% of the total PVE in the 20 reported studies (Pinto da Silva et al. 2018). In this study QLr: crc-1BL explained between 1.76 and 16.61% of the PVE. Alone, QLr:crc-1BL did not significantly reduce leaf rust infection levels, but in combination with either QLr:crc-5AL or QLr:crc-5DS made a significant contribution to resistance. Similarly, Lr46 was shown to

TABLE 1. Quantitative trait loci (QTL) detected by composite interval mapping significantly associated with disease severity of leaf and stripe rust in the 168 lines of the Toropi- $6.4 \times$  Thatcher doubled haploid population evaluated from 2010 to 2018 in a total of seven trials for leaf rust, and nine trials for stripe rust<sup>a</sup>

							%		
QTL	Location	Chromosome	Position (cM)	Left marker	Right marker	LOD <sup>b</sup>	PVE <sup>c</sup>	Add <sup>d</sup>	Source
Leaf rust									
QLr.crc-1BL	Glenlea_2010	1BL	140.8-146.1	Excalibur_c35888_208	csLV46	3.79 (4.69)	1.76	4.07	Trp-6.4
	Portage_2011	1BL		csLV46	BobWhite_rep_c50057_164	4.89 (4.45)	13.74	9.56	Trp-6.4
	Portage_2012	1BL		csLV46	BobWhite_rep_c62955_567	5.09 (5.85)	16.61	9.93	Trp-6.4
	Morden_2015	1BL		csLV46	BobWhite_rep_c62955_567	14.07 (12.1)	10.53	7.22	Trp-6.4
	Morden_2016	1BL		csLV46	BobWhite_rep_c62955_567	19.10 (18.8)	13.10	13.91	Trp-6.4
	Morden_2017	1BL		csLV46	BobWhite_rep_c62955_567	13.01 (13.3)	10.76	9.51	Trp-6.4
	Morden_2018	1BL		csLV46	BobWhite_rep_c62955_567	14.23 (14.3)	3.22	15.56	Trp-6.4
QLr.crc-2BL	Portage_2012	2BL	130.6-132.5	Kukri_c34553_188	Tdurum_contig94203_610	3.96 (2.54*)	11.12	-8.08	Thatcher
	Morden_2018	2BL		Kukri_c34553_188	Tdurum_contig94203_610	4.29 (4.17*)	2.78	-13.25	Thatcher
QLr.crc-3BS	Portage_2011	3BS	0.0-6.64	BS00063433_51	RFL_Contig3626_491	2.54 (2.74*)	1.86	3.53	Trp-6.4
	Portage_2012	3BS		Excalibur_rep_c114249_187	BS00011532_51	3.61 (2.37*)	2.32	3.31	Trp-6.4
	Morden_2015	3BS		Excalibur_rep_c114249_187	BS00011532_51	6.17 (6.07)	3.96	4.10	Trp-6.4
QLr.crc-3DS	Portage_2012	3DS	0.00 - 18.7	BobWhite_c16071_165	wsnp_Ra_c17636_26538543	4.41 (3.01*)	2.87	-3.64	Thatcher
	Morden_2016	3DS		BobWhite_c16071_165	wsnp_Ra_c17636_26538543	3.04 (2.91*)	1.27	-4.53	Thatcher
	Morden_2018	3DS		BobWhite_c16071_165	wsnp_Ra_c17636_26538543	5.22 (5.95)	0.66	-6.78	Thatcher
QLr.crc-5AL	Glenlea_2010	5AL	144.1-146.52	Excalibur_rep_c111129_125	Kukri_c12384_430	16.35 (14.3)	16.78	16.52	Trp-6.4
	Morden_2015	5AL		Excalibur_rep_c111129_125	Kukri_c12384_430	4.53 (4.40)	2.89	3.67	Trp-6.4
	Morden_2018	5AL		Excalibur_rep_c111129_125	Kukri_c12384_430	2.69* (1.97*)	2.73	13.12	Trp-6.4
QLr.crc-5DS	Portage_2012	5DS	23.35-51.4	Xcfa2104-5D	Xcfd189-5D	6.42 (3.17*)	4.63	4.62	Trp-6.4
	Morden_2015	5DS		Xcfd189-5D	RAC875_c3118_758	4.65 (3.75*)	3.24	3.66	Trp-6.4
	Morden_2016	5DS		Xgpw4467.5DS	wsnp_JD_rep_c62958_40146122	3.34 (4.36)	1.41	4.77	Trp-6.4
	Morden_2017	5DS		Xgpw4467.5DS	wsnp_JD_rep_c62958_40146122	2.98* (3.56*)	1.40	4.49	Trp-6.4
	Morden_2018	5DS		Xgpw4467.5DS	wsnp_JD_rep_c62958_40146122	6.98 (6.99)	1.07	8.18	Trp-6.4
Stripe rust									
QYr.crc-1BL	Lethbridge_2013	1BL	139.65-146.1	BobWhite_c8293_236	csLV46	5.09 (5.70)	4.91	6.74	Trp-6.4
	New Zealand_2011	1BL		csLV46	BobWhite_rep_c62955_567	7.15 (6.83)	8.41	0.54	Trp-6.4
	New Zealand_2012	1BL		BobWhite_c8293_236	csLV46	18.26 (21.1)	12.66	22.58	Trp-6.4
	Kenya_2018	1BL		csLV46	BobWhite_rep_c62955_567	5.61 (4.64)	8.09	3.29	Trp-6.4
QYr.crc-2BS	Kenya_2018	2BS	44.34-45.53	BobWhite_c8734_91	JD_c6368_651	11.03 (8.12)	17.78	-4.87	Thatcher
QYr.crc-4BL	Lethbridge_2018	4BL	76.7-77.3	RAC875_rep_c72961_977	BS00048794_51	7.44 (7.79)	19.97	11.79	Trp-6.4
QYr.crc-5AL	Lethbridge_2013	5AL	220.8-225.7	tplb0036c11_641	BS00067816_51	42.84 (45.3)	56.05	22.69	Trp-6.4
	Lethbridge_2017	5AL		CAP7_c2107_56	tplb0036c11_641	16.92 (15.9)	6.76	24.36	Trp-6.4
	Lethbridge_2018	5AL		tplb0036c11_641	BS00067816_51	18.84 (14.1)	29.81	14.39	Trp-6.4
	Creston_2017	5AL		Xgwm291	CAP7_c2107_56	10.20 (10.9)	24.59	12.57	Trp-6.4
	Creston_2018	5AL		tplb0036c11_641	BS00067816_51	14.57 (15.9)	17.17	11.10	Trp-6.4
	New Zealand_2011	5AL		Excalibur_c27357_146	Xgwm291	15.48 (13.2)	20.63	0.85	Trp-6.4
	New Zealand_2012	5AL		tplb0036c11_641	BS00067816_51	12.90 (14.2)	5.30	14.34	Trp-6.4
	Kenya_2012	5AL		Excalibur_c27357_146	CAP7_c2107_56	7.58 (7.85)	9.51	4.53	Trp-6.4

<sup>a</sup> Logarithm of the odds scores (LOD) were showing IciMapping and R/qtl (between brackets) results.

<sup>b</sup> Nonsignificant LOD score at level at P = 0.05.

<sup>c</sup> PVE, percentage of phenotypic variance explained by individual QTL.

<sup>d</sup> Add, additive effect of resistance allele. Negative additive effect indicates that the resistance was originated from 'Thatcher' and positive effects from 'Toropi-6.4'. enhance leaf rust resistance when combined with the QTL *QLr.cdl-5BL* derived from the wheat cultivar Americano 25e (Kolmer 2015).

QLr.crc-5AL was detected in three of the seven field trials and QLr.crc-5DS in five field trials. QLr.crc-5AL represents a new leaf rust QTL, and to the best of our knowledge no leaf rust resistant locus has been reported in this region of the long arm of chromosome 5A (Pinto da Silva et al. 2018). A minor QTL, QLr. cimmyt-5AL, derived from cultivar Avocet has been reported on 5AL (Rosewarne et al. 2012), but it does not colocate with QLr.crc-5AL.

*QLr.crc-5DS* lies in the same region on chromosome 5DS where Kolmer et al. (2018) found the leaf rust resistance gene *Lr78*. The 9K SNP marker *IWA6289*, which defines *Lr78* (Kolmer et al. 2018), is the same SNP as the 90K SNP marker wsnp\_JD\_rep\_ c62958\_40146122 that defines *QLr.crc-5DS*. While neither *QLr. crc-5AS* nor *QLr.crc-5DS* alone had a significant effect on leaf rust infection levels, their value to wheat rust resistance breeding is seen when combined with other QTL, such as *QLr.crc-1BL*.

QLr.crc-3BS was detected in three field trials. Kolmer et al. (2018) also found a leaf rust resistance QTL derived from Toropi on the short arm of chromosome 3B (QLr.cdl-3BS.2), the closest marker locus to the QTL peak being Xbarc147. Xbarc147 was mapped in the Toropi-6.4 × Thatcher population, laying 6.0cM from the peak marker defining QLr.crc-3BS. Li et al. (2017) also identified a QTL on 3BS (QLr.hwwg-3BS.1) in cultivar Clark, which was provisionally assigned as Lr74. Lr74 was closely linked

to marker loci *Xgwm533* and *Xbarc147*, placing *QLr.crc-3BS* and *Lr74* within a 20 cM interval.

Lower levels of stripe rust infection were seen on Toropi-6.4 in Canada compared with New Zealand and Kenya. As infection in the stripe rust field trials relied on natural P. striiformis f. sp. tritici inoculum, these differences in infection levels may be due to differences in P. striiformis f. sp. tritici inoculum levels. Also the environmental conditions for stripe rust infection development may have differed between Canada, New Zealand, and Kenya, New Zealand and Kenya generally being considered stripe rust areas. However, it may also indicate a race-specific response conferred by one or more of the stripe rust resistance genes in Toropi-6.4. Three QTL for stripe rust resistance, QYr.crc-1BL, QYr.crc-4BL, and QYr.crc-5AL were identified in Toropi-6.4. As with QLr.crc-1BL, QYr.crc-1BL located to the region on the long arm of chromosome 1A where the multirust resistance locus Lr46/Yr29 is located. QYr.crc-1BL was only detected in four of the nine field trials, being most effective in New Zealand (2011 and 2012) and Kenya 2018. In Canada QYr.crc-1BL was only detected in the Lethbridge 2013 field trial. However, when combined with QYr.crc-5AL a clear additive effect was observed.

QYr.crc-5AL was detected in eight of the nine stripe rust field trials. QYr.crc-5AL maps to the same region on the long arm of chromosome 5A as the Yr48/Yr34 locus (Lowe et al. 2011; Qureshi et al. 2018). The APR Yr48 was identified in the synthetic spring wheat PI610750 (pedigree Croc1/Aegilops tauschii (Synthetic



Fig. 4. The mean infection phenotypes of double haploid (DH) lines from the Toropi-6.4 × Thatcher population grouped by rust resistant quantitative trait loci (QTL). A, The mean leaf rust infection values for DH lines containing the following QTL combinations: none, QLr.crc-1BL (1B), QLr.crc-5AL (5A), QLr.crc-5DS (5D), QLr.crc-1BL plus QLr.crc-5AL (1B/5A), QLr.crc-1BL plus Lr.crc-5DS (1B/5D), QLr.crc-5AL plus QLr.crc-5AL (1B/5A), QLr.crc-1BL plus Lr.crc-5DS (1B/5D), QLr.crc-5AL plus QLr.crc-5AL (5A), and both QTL (1B/5A/5D). B, The mean stripe rust infection values for DH lines containing the following QTL combinations: none, QYr.crc-1BL (1B), QYr.crc-5AL (5A), and both QTL (1B/5A). The data shown are for the leaf rust field trial in Morden 2015 and the stripe rust field trial in Lethbridge 2013. Box plots show the median (black solid line), 25 and 75 percentile rust infection values (lower and upper limits of box). The white dots represent outlying data points. Lowercase letters that differ indicate QTL combinations that differ from each other. (All other leaf and stripe rust field trial analyses can be found in Supplementary Figures S4 and S5, respectively.)

205)//Kauz) developed by CIMMYT (Mujeeb-Kazi et al. 2000). *Yr34* was identified in an Australian wheat advanced breeding line and shown to be allelic, or very closely linked to *Yr48* (Qureshi et al. 2018).

QYr.crc-4BL was only found in the Lethbridge 2018 trial. There are three Yr gene described on chromosome 4BL, Yr50, Yr62, and Yr68 (McIntosh et al. 2008). Yr50 is an all-stage resistance gene derived from *Thinopyrum intermedium* (Liu et al. 2013). Yr62 and Yr68 are APR genes, and were identified in the wheat line PI 192252 (Lu et al. 2014) and Avocet S\*5 (McIntosh et al. 2008), respectively. Yr62 is linked to the marker locus Xgwm251, which was also mapped in the Toropi-6.4 × Thatcher population, positioned 6.8cM from the peak marker defining QYr.crc-4BL. Yr68 is linked to marker *IWA4640*, the location of which on the International Wheat Genome Sequencing Consortium RefSeq v. 1.0 genome places it in the vicinity of QYr.crc-4BL.

QYr.crc-2BS, derived from Thatcher, was detected in the Kenya 2018 stripe rust field trial, where Thatcher exhibited resistance to stripe rust. The stripe rust resistance in Thatcher is probably due to the presence of Yr7. Although virulence to Yr7 is frequently found in Kenya (Mogens Hovmoller, personnel communication), the Kenyan P. striiformis f. sp. tritici population carries alleles both virulent and avirulent to Yr7. The location of the markers defining QYr.crc-2BS colocate with the KASP markers developed for Yr7 (Marchal et al. 2018) as indicated by the International Wheat Genome Sequencing Consortium RefSeq v.1.0 genome.

The leaf and stripe rust resistance in Toropi represent a valuable resource for wheat rust resistance breeding. In addition to known leaf and stripe rust resistance loci such as *Lr46/Yr29*, we have identified potentially new sources of leaf rust resistance on the long arm of chromosome 5A, *QLr.crc-5AL*. The positive interactions between *QLr.crc-1BL* (*Lr46/Yr29* locus) and *QLr.crc-5AL* and *QLr.crc-5DS* is of particular interest, the level of leaf rust resistance being greater than seen in lines containing *QLr.crc-5AL* and *QLr.crc-5DS*. The stripe rust resistance QTL *QYr.crc-5AL* is also worthy of further study. This QTL reduced stripe rust infection significantly in eight out of nine field trials, the level of stripe rust resistance varying considerably across locations and years.

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