

Cloning and Ectopic Expression of *ScYCF1* Gene from *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* in Cotton

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Abstract

Yeast cadmium factor 1 (*YCF1*), is a member of the ATP-binding cassette (ABC) transporter family. To explore the functions of *YCF1* of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* (*ScYCF1*) in the cotton, *ScYCF1* was cloned from *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* As2.375, with the full-length of 4548 bp. The bioinformatics analysis revealed that the largest component of *ScYCF1* protein is leucine (12%). *ScYCF1* is alkaline and positive charged, stable, and hydrophilic protein. The predictive secondary structure is mainly composed of α -helix areas, random coils and β -sheets. We constructed the pBI121-*ScYCF1*:GFP infusion expression vector and verified it by enzyme digestion. The transient expression results of cotton pollen showed that the green fluorescence phenomenon of three kinds of upland cotton pollen significantly increased after transforming *ScYCF1*. The salt sensitive material upland cotton CCRI12 was transformed *in vivo* simultaneously, and the germination ability of trans-*ScYCF1*-gene T₀ seeds was much better than the acceptor material CCRI12 under the stress of 100 mM NaCl saline solution. According to the gene nucleotide sequences, four pairs of primers were designed for molecular detection of T₀ generation, and the sequencing results of PCR products of four specific primers evidence that the transgene is successful. Salt tolerance analysis of leaf discs of identified transgenic cotton showed that the chlorophyll content of leaf discs of transgenic cotton was higher than the content of the control cotton under salt stress. *ScYCF1* gene was cloned and introduced into cotton, showing that *ScYCF1* plays an important role in improving the salt tolerance of cotton.

Keywords

Saccharomyces cerevisiae, *ScYCF1*, Upland Cotton, Pollen Instantaneous Expression, Molecular Detection

*These authors contributed equally to this work.

1. Introduction

Soil salinization is a phenomenon that the water-soluble salts in soil and groundwater move on with capillary water to surface soil, and the water of the top soil evaporates resulting in accumulation of salts in the soil solum or regolith [1]. Salinization affects about 1/5 of the world's arable land and causes loss of 10 million hectares per year [2] [3] [4].

Numerous studies showed that related salt tolerant genes of halotolerant fungi can increase the salt tolerance of fungal microorganisms and plants [5] [6] [7]. *SOD2* of yeast was transferred into rice, and the salt tolerance of transgenic plants was improved [8]. *Chaetomium thermophilic SOD* was cloned and transferred into tobacco, and found that it cannot only improve the salt tolerance of transgenic plants but also has certain resistant activity against tobacco brown spot disease and anthracnose [9]. Salt tolerant gene *RPL44* isolated from *Aspergillus glaucus* and transferred into arabidopsis and tobacco, and showed that tolerance of transgenic plants to salinization was significantly higher than the control wild-types [10].

In 1996, genome sequencing of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* was completed [11]. Nelson *et al.* [4] showed that there are more than 200 genes in the genome of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* that are related to salt tolerance. It was found in the genome sequencing results that there are 31 ABC genes in the genome; phylogenetic analysis showed that the yeast ABC proteins can be divided into six different subfamilies, which are named MDR, PDR, MRP/CFTR, ALDp, YEF3 and RLI [12]. *ScYCF1* is the member of the most studied MRP subfamily. Based on the correlation between *YCF1* protein and liquid bubble detoxification, the salt tolerance experiment was conducted in arabidopsis under high salt conditions. Three weeks old arabidopsis wild type and transgenic seedlings were treated with 75,100,150 and 200 mM NaCl for 6 h and results showed that after being treated with 200 mM NaCl the accumulation amount of Na⁺ in Arabidopsis was 26.5% higher than that in wild type, but under stress of other salt concentrations there was no significant difference between them, indicating that Arabidopsis plants with transformed *ScYCF1* gene has stronger stress tolerance to NaCl than the wild type, it is because of the transgenic plants can accumulate more Na⁺ in vacuoles [13].

Cotton is one of the ideal crops for development and utilization of saline land, and improving salinity tolerance of cotton through genetic engineering and transgenic technology become an urgent demand and important direction for current cotton breeding. This study took *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* As2.375 as the materials, cloned *ScYCF1* gene and constructed expression vector, used a gene gun *in vivo* conversion technology to transform upland cotton (*Gossypium hirsutum* L.) CCRI12, aiming to explore whether the fungi salt-tolerant gene can successfully play its function in cotton and provide a theoretical basis for obtaining new salt tolerant cotton varieties.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1. Experiment Material

Saccharomyces cerevisiae As2.375 is purchased from Shanghai Industrial Institute of Microbiology. The pMD18-T Vector is purchased from TaKaRa. *E. coli* strain DH5 α , expression vector pBI121:GFP are preserved by the research group. CCRI12, GK50, Y2067 and GZ-2 were conserved in the stress-resistance identification research group of Institute of Cotton Research of CAAS.

2.2. Cloning of Targeted Gene and Sequential Analysis

The RNA of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* AS2.375 was extracted with the Ultra Clean Microbial RNA Isolation Kit (MO BIO) kit, whose concentration and purity was assessed by Nanodrop 2000 ultramicrospectrophotometer. The RNA was reversely transcribed into cDNA with ReverTra Ace qPCR RT Master Mix with gDNA Remover kit. According to the obtained cDNA as the template, the full-length gene primer was designed using the Primer Premier 5 software, 5'-end: *ScYCF1*-F and 3'-end: *ScYCF1*-R (Table 1). The full-length sequence of mRNA was amplified using 2 \times TransTaq-T PCR SuperMix. The amplification procedure was 94°C 5 min, 94°C 45 s, 55°C 45 s, 72°C 1 min, 40 cycles; 72°C 10 min. The connected pMD-18T vector was transformed into competent *Escherichia coli* cells DH5 α , and the positive clone was picked for sequencing verification. The physicochemical property of *ScYCF1* protein was analyzed using the online-software ProtParam (<http://web.expasy.org/protparam/>), and the hydrophilic-hydrophobic property of protein was predicted by ProtScale

Table 1. Primers used in the experiments.

| Primers name | Sequence (5' - 3') |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <i>ScYCF1</i> -F | ATGGCTGGTAATCTTGTTT |
| <i>ScYCF1</i> -R | TTAATTTTCATTGACCAAACCA |
| In <i>ScYCF1</i> -F | CACGGGGGACTCTAGAATGGCTGGTAATCTTGTTT |
| In <i>ScYCF1</i> -R | ACTCATACTAGTCCCGGATTTTCATTGACCAAAC |
| <i>ScYCF1</i> -F1 | ACGGTGTGATCCTAAATCTATCAG |
| <i>ScYCF1</i> -R1 | AAGTTCTGCATATAGCCCATGA |
| <i>ScYCF1</i> -F2 | GCTATGTTTCTGGTGGGCTT |
| <i>ScYCF1</i> -R2 | CTTTTCCCTATAAGGCTTCTCCCA |
| <i>ScYCF1</i> -F3 | GGCATAGATACGACGCGGAA |
| <i>ScYCF1</i> -R3 | GCAGTTGTTCCAGCTCTCCT |
| <i>ScYCF1</i> -F4 | CATCAAGGGAGTTGCGTCGT |
| <i>ScYCF1</i> -R4 | GTGGTCTGTGGCCTTCAACT |

(<http://web.expasy.org/protscale/>). The secondary structure of protein was analyzed with SOPMA (http://npsa-prabi.ibcp.fr/cgi-bin/npsa_automat.pl?page=/MPSA/npsa_sopma.html).

2.3. Construct Fluorescence Expression Vector pBI121-*ScYCF1*:GFP

The In-Fusion primer was designed on line (<http://bioinfo.clontech.com/infusion>) 5'-end In*ScYCF1*-F and 3'-end In*ScYCF1*-R (Table 1). The target sequence was obtained through amplification of the *ScYCF1* plasmid as the template. The double cleavage sites Xba I and Sma I were chosen, and double enzyme digestion was performed on the expression vector pBI121:GFP. The fusion expression vector pBI121-*ScYCF1*:GFP was constructed with In-Fusion method, followed by recombinant clone verification and sequencing.

2.4. Transient Expression Analysis of *ScYCF1* in the Pollen from Upland Cotton

The pollen from upland cotton Y-2067, ZA-23 and GZ-3 were bombarded with portable particle gun GDS-80, and the gene expression was observed under laser scanning confocal microscope FV1000 (Olympus, Japan).

2.5. *In vivo* Transformation of Cotton with Gene Gun

The powders and plasmids were treated as the way of Kong Jingjing [14] and the particle gun transformation *in vivo* was completed.

2.6. Molecular Detection of Transgenic Cotton

Four pairs of primers were designed for *ScYCF1* gene sequence, 5'-end primers were *ScYCF1*-F1, *ScYCF1*-F2, *ScYCF1*-F3, *ScYCF1*-F4 and the 3'-end primers were *ScYCF1*-R1, *ScYCF1*-R2, *ScYCF1*-R3, *ScYCF1*-R4 (Table 1). DNA from transgenic plants was extracted with CTAB method for PCR amplification, and the program is 94°C, 5 min; 94°C 45 s, 58°C 45 s, 72°C 30 s, 40 cycle; 72°C 10 min.

2.7. Analysis of Salt Tolerance of Trans-*ScYCF1* Cotton

The germination experiment was performed on obtained T₀ seeds with the double walled filter paper method [14], using 100 mM NaCl solution as treatment solution and water as control. Each group repeated for three times. The seeds were sent into the illumination incubator for incubation (condition of culture: 28°C, illumination for 14 h; 25°C, darkness for 10 h). The germination results were summarized after 7 d. Measured and compared the content of chlorophyll of the leaf discs, which obtained from the same position of 6 transgenic cotton and acceptor material CCRI12, were treated with 0, 400 and 600 mM

NaCl and cultured at 28°C under illumination conditions for 72 h to analyze salt tolerance of trans-*ScYCF1* cotton.

3. Results

3.1. Cloning of *ScYCF1* Gene and Construction of Expression Vector

The specific primer was designed according to the full-length sequence of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae ScYCF1* gene retrieved from NCBI database (GenBank: NM_001180442.3). Gene amplification was performed using cDNA as template to obtain a nucleotide sequence with a length of 4584 bp (**Figure 1**), which was connected to vector for sequencing and turned out correct. *ScYCF1* gene was inserted into a plant expression vector pBI121:GFP to construct green fluorescent fusion expression vector. Digestion by restriction endonuclease Bgl II was verified to be properly inserted (**Figure 2**), indicating that the expression vector was successfully constructed and was named as pBI121-*ScYCF1*:GFP.

3.2. Bioinformatics Analysis

The results of bioinformatics analysis indicated that *ScYCF1* gene encodes a

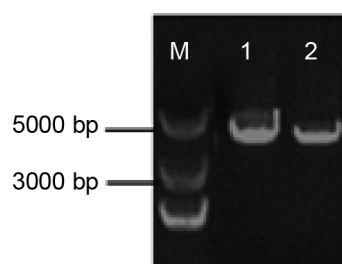


Figure 1. Gene amplification PCR product. M: DNA Marker DL5000; 1- 2: *ScYCF1* gene.

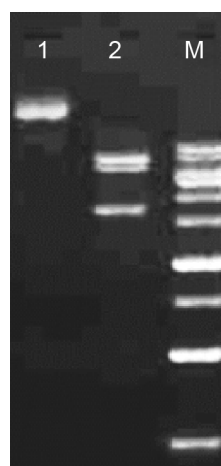


Figure 2. Enzyme digestion of expression vector pBI121-*ScYCF1*:GFP. M: 1 KB ladder; 1: vector plasmid; 2: digested with Bgl II.

protein *ScYCF1* with 1515 amino acid, the molecular formula of *ScYCF1* protein was $C7777H12253N2031O2199S54$, with the molecular weight of 120.34 kDa and the isoelectric point of 8.64, and located on the cell membrane. Amino acid composition showed that *ScYCF1* protein leucine (Leu) takes up the largest proportion, 12%; which is followed by valine (Ile) and serine (Ser) taking up 8% each (Figure 3). With 156 positively charged alkaline amino acids (Arg + Lys) and 143 negatively charged acidic amino acid (Asp + Glu), the protein is alkaline and positively charged, the instability index is 36.15, with a half-life over 20 h, which belonged stable protein. The hydrophilicity and hydrophobicity analysis of *ScYCF1* protein revealed that the quantity of hydrophobic amino acids in the protein much larger than that of hydrophilic amino acids (Figure 4), of which the GRAVY was 0.064 namely the whole protein was hydrophobic. The secondary structure prediction result (Figure 5) showed that in the protein there were 700 amino acids in α helical region, which constituted the main structure of the protein; there were 309 β -pleated sheets, accounting for 20.4%, 375 randomly coiled amino acids, accounting for 24.75%, and β -turn contains 131 amino acids, accounting for 8.65%. Thus, we could speculate that the structural and functional domain might be composed of β -pleated sheets and randomly coils.

3.3. Transient Expression Analysis of Cotton Pollen

Cotton pollen has auto-fluorescence phenomenon. Under excitation light at a wavelength of 488 nm, the auto-fluorescence of cotton pollen is green [14]. According to previous findings, three varieties Y2067, ZA-23 and GZ-2 with weak auto-fluorescence [14] were selected to collect pollen, and gene gun in vivo conversion technology was used to bombard the cotton pollen. The study found that

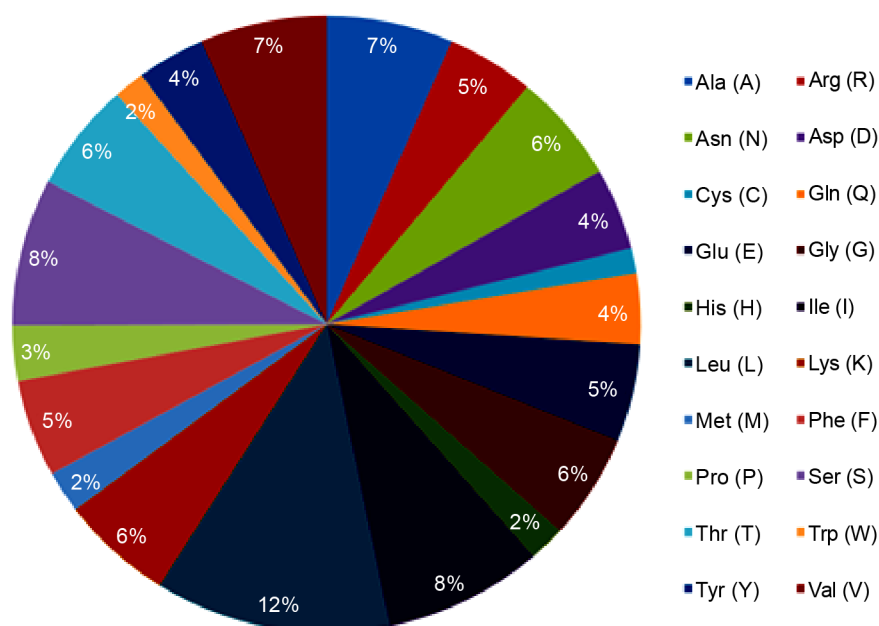


Figure 3. Amino acid composition of *ScYCF1* protein.

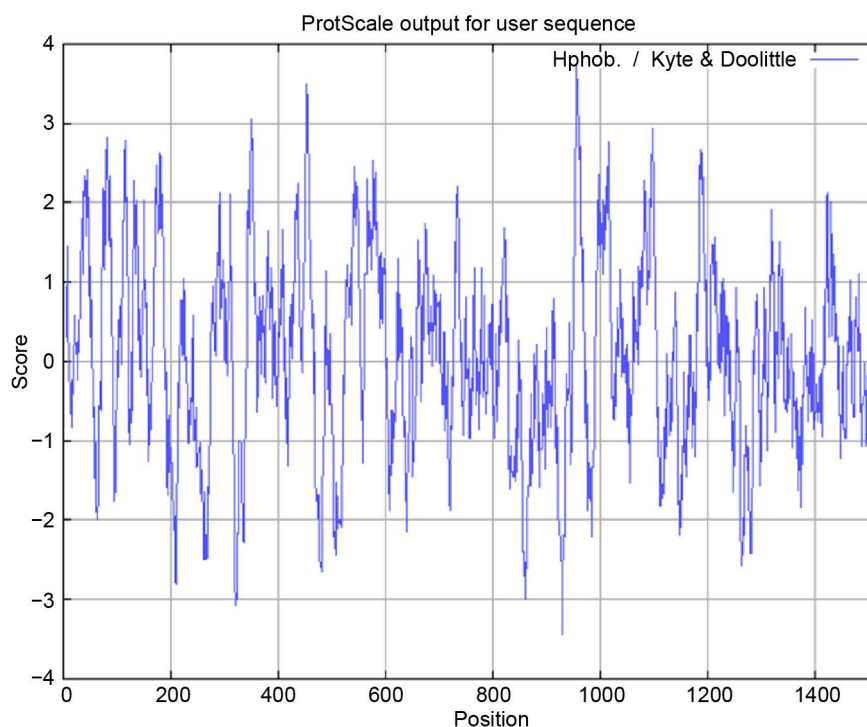


Figure 4. Hydrophilic and hydrophobic characteristics of *ScYCF1* protein.

after the vector pBI121-*ScYCF1*:GFP was bombarded, the green fluorescence of pollens of three materials was significantly enhanced (**Figure 6**), indicating that *ScYCF1* can be expressed in cotton pollen, which lay the foundation of using gene gun *in vivo* conversion technology to obtain transgenic salt-tolerant materials in the next step.

3.4. Salt Tolerance Analysis of T₀ Generation of Transgenic Cotton Seeds

Choosing 20 grains of plump and uniform transgenic *ScYCF1* seeds and CCRI12 inbreds was used for salt tolerance screening experiments. The seeds treated with 100 mM NaCl solution were taken as the experimental group, and those treated with water as the control group. The result (**Figure 7**) shown that under stress from 100 mM NaCl solution, the germination capacity of transgenic seeds was significantly higher than the control seeds, and the growth capacity of the root was significantly stronger than the control group. The root length of CCRI12 inbreds and transgenic seeds in water and under stress from 100 mM NaCl was measured respectively and it was found that under two kinds of treatment, the root length of transgenic seeds was longer than that of CCRI12 inbreds, indicating that the expression of salt tolerant gene *ScYCF1* can not only enhance salt tolerance of cotton seeds, but also can enhance the growing ability of them.

3.5. Molecular Detection of Transgenic Seeds

Four pairs of primers were designed based on mRNA of *ScYCF1* gene for

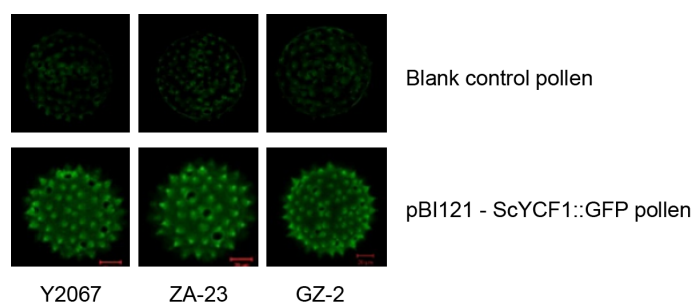


Figure 6. The transient expression analysis of cotton pollen.

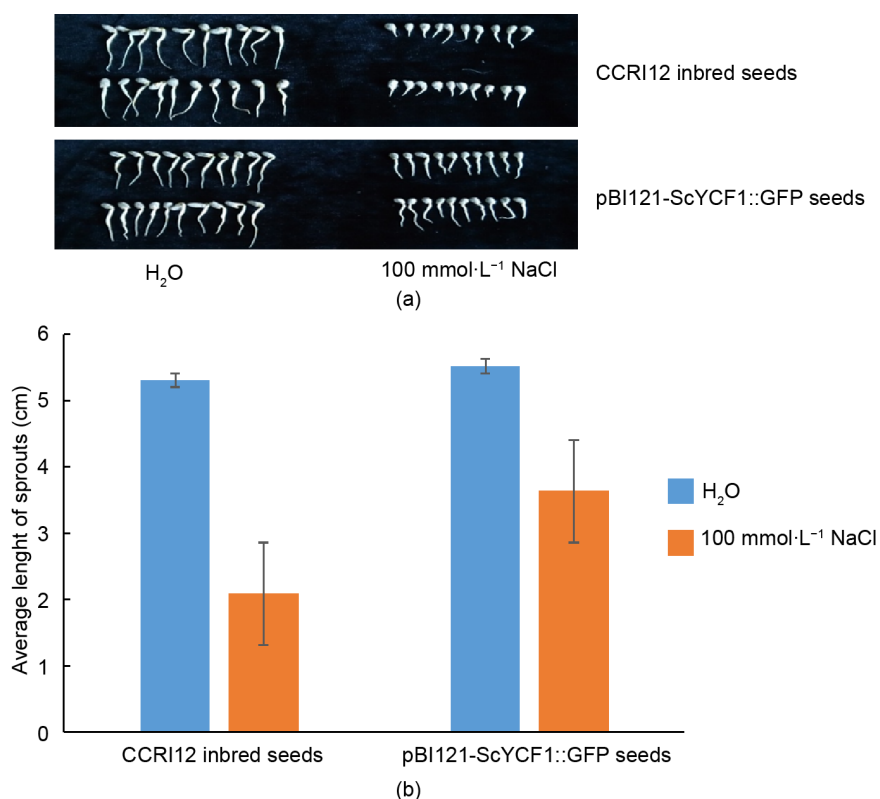


Figure 7. The test of transgenic cotton with (a) seed germination and (b) buds long statistics.

molecular detection of transgenic *ScYCF1* plants. The length of amplified fragments of primers was 747 bp, 477 bp, 525 bp and 450 bp. The detection results were shown in **Figure 8**, expected band can be amplified from the transgenic plants and plasmid, while in the negative control CCRI12 inbreds there were no band amplified. Combining the sequencing results of PCR products (**Figure 9**), it was considered that the cotton was successfully transformed with *ScYCF1* gene.

3.6. Salt Tolerance Analysis of Leaf Discs

Salt tolerance experiments of leaf discs were conducted for six transgenic plants that were detected with correct molecular. After being treated with stress from

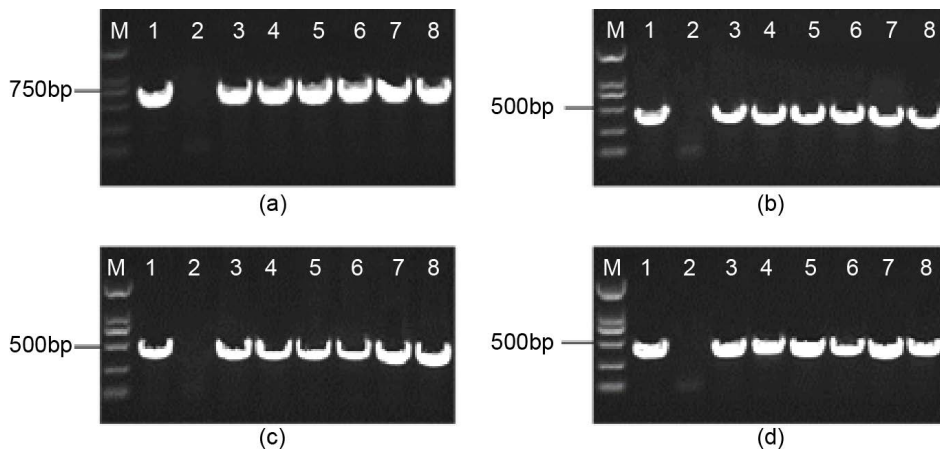


Figure 8. The transgenic plants molecular detection of *ScYCF1* with (a) *ScYCF1*-F1 and *ScYCF1*-R1; (b) *ScYCF1*-F2 and *ScYCF1*-R2; (c) *ScYCF1*-F3 and *ScYCF1*-R3; (d) *ScYCF1*-F4 and *ScYCF1*-R4. M: DNA Marker DL2000; 1: Vector plasmid; 2: Receptor species of CCRI12; 3 - 8: Transgenic plant.

| | | | |
|----------------|--|--|-----|
| NM_001180442.3 | ACGGTIGATCCTAAATCTATCAGCAATTTTCATGATAACCTTCGGTATCAGAGATTAGTTAACCTT | TGCAAGAAAAACACTCTGGCATCAAATATAG | 200 |
| 1-1.txt | | TGCAAGAAAAACACTCTGGCATCAAATATAG | 32 |
| 1-2.txt |TATCAGCAATTTTCATGATAACCTTCGGTATCAGAGATTAGTTAACCTT | TGCAAGAAAAACACTCTGGCATCAAATATAG | 82 |
| 1-3.txt |TCTATCAGCAATTTTCATGATAACCTTCGGTATCAGAGATTAGTTAACCTT | TGCAAGAAAAACACTCTGGCATCAAATATAG | 84 |
| 1-4.txt |AGCAATTTTCATGATAACCTTCGGTATCAGAGATTAGTTAACCTT | TGCAAGAAAAACACTCTGGCATCAAATATAG | 78 |
| 1-5.txt |TCTATCAGCAATTTTCATGATAACCTTCGGTATCAGAGATTAGTTAACCTT | TGCAAGAAAAACACTCTGGCATCAAATATAG | 84 |
| Consensus | | tgcaagaaaaaacactctggcatcaaatatag | |
| NM_001180442.3 | GCGGAATGGATTATTGCTCTAGGATGGCACTAGTTCGTTGGAGATAGCGTTTGTTCACCTTGGCTCTTAAATATTTCTAAAGAAGAAGCGGAAAAAC | 300 | |
| 1-1.txt | GCGGAATGGATTATTGCTCTAGGATGGCACTAGTTCGTTGGAGATAGCGTTTGTTCACCTTGGCTCTTAAATATTTCTAAAGAAGAAGCGGAAAAAC | 132 | |
| 1-2.txt | GCGGAATGGATTATTGCTCTAGGATGGCACTAGTTCGTTGGAGATAGCGTTTGTTCACCTTGGCTCTTAAATATTTCTAAAGAAGAAGCGGAAAAAC | 182 | |
| 1-3.txt | GCGGAATGGATTATTGCTCTAGGATGGCACTAGTTCGTTGGAGATAGCGTTTGTTCACCTTGGCTCTTAAATATTTCTAAAGAAGAAGCGGAAAAAC | 184 | |
| 1-4.txt | GCGGAATGGATTATTGCTCTAGGATGGCACTAGTTCGTTGGAGATAGCGTTTGTTCACCTTGGCTCTTAAATATTTCTAAAGAAGAAGCGGAAAAAC | 178 | |
| 1-5.txt | GCGGAATGGATTATTGCTCTAGGATGGCACTAGTTCGTTGGAGATAGCGTTTGTTCACCTTGGCTCTTAAATATTTCTAAAGAAGAAGCGGAAAAAC | 184 | |
| Consensus | | gcggaatggattattgctctaggatggcactagtctgttggagatagcgtttgttccacttggctctttaaataatttctaaagaagaagcggaaaaac | |
| NM_001180442.3 | TTTACCATTGTAAGTCAATATGCTTCTACAATGTTATCTTTATTGTGCTTTAGCCTTACACTGGATAGAATACGATAGATCAGTTGTAGCCAATACGG | 400 | |
| 1-1.txt | TTTACCATTGTAAGTCAATATGCTTCTACAATGTTATCTTTATTGTGCTTTAGCCTTACACTGGATAGAATACGATAGATCAGTTGTAGCCAATACGG | 232 | |
| 1-2.txt | TTTACCATTGTAAGTCAATATGCTTCTACAATGTTATCTTTATTGTGCTTTAGCCTTACACTGGATAGAATACGATAGATCAGTTGTAGCCAATACGG | 282 | |
| 1-3.txt | TTTACCATTGTAAGTCAATATGCTTCTACAATGTTATCTTTATTGTGCTTTAGCCTTACACTGGATAGAATACGATAGATCAGTTGTAGCCAATACGG | 284 | |
| 1-4.txt | TTTACCATTGTAAGTCAATATGCTTCTACAATGTTATCTTTATTGTGCTTTAGCCTTACACTGGATAGAATACGATAGATCAGTTGTAGCCAATACGG | 278 | |
| 1-5.txt | TTTACCATTGTAAGTCAATATGCTTCTACAATGTTATCTTTATTGTGCTTTAGCCTTACACTGGATAGAATACGATAGATCAGTTGTAGCCAATACGG | 284 | |
| Consensus | | tttaccattgtaagtcaatattgcttctacaatgttatctttattgtgcttttagccttacctggatagaatacgatagatcagttgtagccaatacgg | |
| NM_001180442.3 | TACTTTTATTCCTATTGGCTTTTGAACATTCGGTAATTTTGCTAAACTAATAAATATTCTAATTAGACACACCTACGAAGGCATTGGTATTCGGGACA | 500 | |
| 1-1.txt | TACTTTTATTCCTATTGGCTTTTGAACATTCGGTAATTTTGCTAAACTAATAAATATTCTAATTAGACACACCTACGAAGGCATTGGTATTCGGGACA | 332 | |
| 1-2.txt | TACTTTTATTCCTATTGGCTTTTGAACATTCGGTAATTTTGCTAAACTAATAAATATTCTAATTAGACACACCTACGAAGGCATTGGTATTCGGGACA | 382 | |
| 1-3.txt | TACTTTTATTCCTATTGGCTTTTGAACATTCGGTAATTTTGCTAAACTAATAAATATTCTAATTAGACACACCTACGAAGGCATTGGTATTCGGGACA | 384 | |
| 1-4.txt | TACTTTTATTCCTATTGGCTTTTGAACATTCGGTAATTTTGCTAAACTAATAAATATTCTAATTAGACACACCTACGAAGGCATTGGTATTCGGGACA | 378 | |
| 1-5.txt | TACTTTTATTCCTATTGGCTTTTGAACATTCGGTAATTTTGCTAAACTAATAAATATTCTAATTAGACACACCTACGAAGGCATTGGTATTCGGGACA | 384 | |
| Consensus | | tacttttattctctattggcttttgaacattcggtaattttgctaaactaataaataattcttaattagacacacctacgaaggcatttggattccgggaca | |
| NM_001180442.3 | AACGGGTTTCATACTAACGTTATTCCAAGTAATAACATGTCGCAATCCTGTTACTTGAAGCTCTTCCAAGAAGCCGCTAATGCCACATCAACACATA | 600 | |
| 1-1.txt | AACGGGTTTCATACTAACGTTATTCCAAGTAATAACATGTCGCAATCCTGTTACTTGAAGCTCTTCCAAGAAGCCGCTAATGCCACATCAACACATA | 432 | |
| 1-2.txt | AACGGGTTTCATACTAACGTTATTCCAAGTAATAACATGTCGCAATCCTGTTACTTGAAGCTCTTCCAAGAAGCCGCTAATGCCACATCAACACATA | 482 | |
| 1-3.txt | AACGGGTTTCATACTAACGTTATTCCAAGTAATAACATGTCGCAATCCTGTTACTTGAAGCTCTTCCAAGAAGCCGCTAATGCCACATCAACACATA | 484 | |
| 1-4.txt | AACGGGTTTCATACTAACGTTATTCCAAGTAATAACATGTCGCAATCCTGTTACTTGAAGCTCTTCCAAGAAGCCGCTAATGCCACATCAACACATA | 478 | |
| 1-5.txt | AACGGGTTTCATACTAACGTTATTCCAAGTAATAACATGTCGCAATCCTGTTACTTGAAGCTCTTCCAAGAAGCCGCTAATGCCACATCAACACATA | 484 | |
| Consensus | | aacgggtttcatactaacgttatccaagtaataaacatgtcgcgaatcctggttacttgaagctcttccaagaagccgctaatgccacatcaacacata | |
| NM_001180442.3 | CATCAAACCTTTAACAAGAAGAAAACCAATCCATACGATAGCGCAACATATTTCCAGGATTACCTTCTCTGGATGTCAGGTTTGTATGAAAACCTGGCT | 700 | |
| 1-1.txt | CATCAAACCTTTAACAAGAAGAAAACCAATCCATACGATAGCGCAACATATTTCCAGGATTACCTTCTCTGGATGTCAGGTTTGTATGAAAACCTGGCT | 532 | |
| 1-2.txt | CATCAAACCTTTAACAAGAAGAAAACCAATCCATACGATAGCGCAACATATTTCCAGGATTACCTTCTCTGGATGTCAGGTTTGTATGAAAACCTGGCT | 582 | |
| 1-3.txt | CATCAAACCTTTAACAAGAAGAAAACCAATCCATACGATAGCGCAACATATTTCCAGGATTACCTTCTCTGGATGTCAGGTTTGTATGAAAACCTGGCT | 584 | |
| 1-4.txt | CATCAAACCTTTAACAAGAAGAAAACCAATCCATACGATAGCGCAACATATTTCCAGGATTACCTTCTCTGGATGTCAGGTTTGTATGAAAACCTGGCT | 578 | |
| 1-5.txt | CATCAAACCTTTAACAAGAAGAAAACCAATCCATACGATAGCGCAACATATTTCCAGGATTACCTTCTCTGGATGTCAGGTTTGTATGAAAACCTGGCT | 584 | |
| Consensus | | catcaaacctttacaagaagaaaaccaatccatacgatagcgcaaacatatttccaggattaccttctctggatgtcaggtttgtatgaaaacctggct | |
| NM_001180442.3 | ATGAAAAATACCTTAGTGGAAAGCAGATTTATATAAAATACCGAGGAACCTTTAGTAGTGAAGAACCTCTCTCAAAATTTGGAGAAAACCTGGGAAAATGAGTT | 800 | |
| 1-1.txt | ATGAAAAATACCTTAGTGGAAAGCAGATTTATATAAAATACCGAGGAACCTTTAGTAGTGAAGAACCTCTCTCAAAATTTGGAGAAAACCTGGGAAAATGAGTT | 604 | |
| 1-2.txt | ATGAAAAATACCTTAGTGGAAAGCAGATTTATATAAAATACCGAGGAACCTTTAGTAGTGAAGAACCTCTCTCAAAATTTGGAGAAAACCTGGGAAAATGAGTT | 682 | |
| 1-3.txt | ATGAAAAATACCTTAGTGGAAAGCAGATTTATATAAAATACCGAGGAACCTTTAGTAGTGAAGAACCTCTCTCAAAATTTGGAGAAAACCTGGGAAAATGAGTT | 684 | |
| 1-4.txt | ATGAAAAATACCTTAGTGGAAAGCAGATTTATATAAAATACCGAGGAACCTTTAGTAGTGAAGAACCTCTCTCAAAATTTGGAGAAAACCTGGGAAAATGAGTT | 678 | |
| 1-5.txt | ATGAAAAATACCTTAGTGGAAAGCAGATTTATATAAAATACCGAGGAACCTTTAGTAGTGAAGAACCTCTCTCAAAATTTGGAGAAAACCTGGGAAAATGAGTT | 684 | |
| Consensus | | atgaaaaataccttagtggaaagcagatTTATATAAAATACCGAGGAACCTTTAGTAGTGAAGAACCTCTCTCAAAATTTGGAGAAAACCTGGGAAAATGAGTT | |

(a)

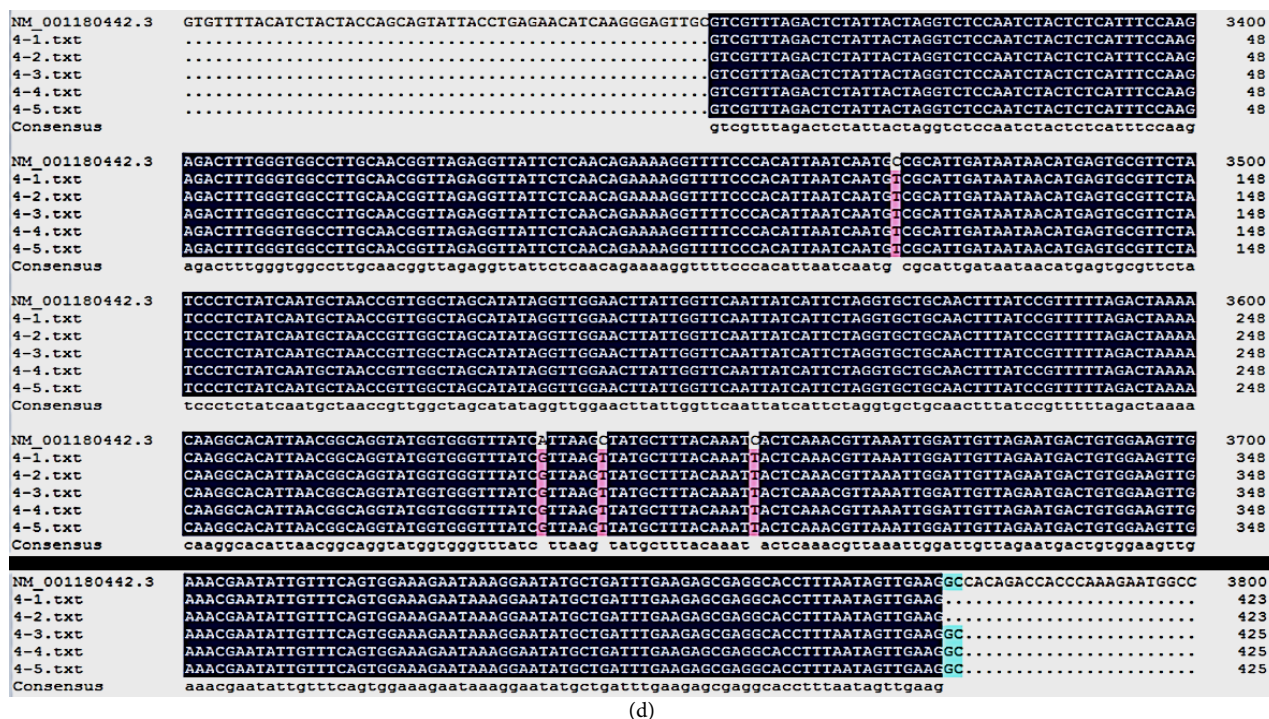


Figure 9. The gene sequencing result of trans-*ScYCF1*: (a) The sequencing results of *ScYCF1*-F1 and *ScYCF1*-R1; (b) The sequencing results of *ScYCF1*-F2 and *ScYCF1*-R2; (c) The sequencing results of *ScYCF1*-F3 and *ScYCF1*-R3; (d) The sequencing results of *ScYCF1*-F4 and *ScYCF1*-R4.

400 and 600 mM NaCl saline for 72 h, (Figure 10) the color of the cotton leaf discs gradually turned yellow, and the leaf margin turned white, while the leaf discs under 0 mM NaCl solution remained green; Under the same concentration of saline, the color and shape of leaf discs in *ScYCF1* transgenic plants were more obvious than the control leaf discs. The chlorophyll content of the leaf discs processed was measured and results showed that under three kinds of treatment, the chlorophyll content of leaf discs in transgenic plants was significantly higher than that in CCR12; but after treated with 400 mM NaCl, there wasn't much difference in chlorophyll content between the two groups, so it is speculated that *ScYCF1* gene of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* can increase the chlorophyll content of cotton and plays a significant role in the tolerance of the cotton to salt stress.

4. Discussion

In recent years, domestic and foreign experts have used transient expression technology to establish corresponding expression systems in wheat (*Triticum monococcum*), corn (*Zea mays*), rice (*Oryza sativa*), petunia (*Petunia hybrid*), periwinkle (*Catharanthus roseus*) and green algae (*Chlorophyta*) and other plants [15] [16] [17] [18] [19]. Kong Jingjing selected 26 cotton varieties to study the auto-fluorescence phenomenon of cotton pollen and results showed that the auto-fluorescence of cotton pollen is green under 288 nm excitation light, and

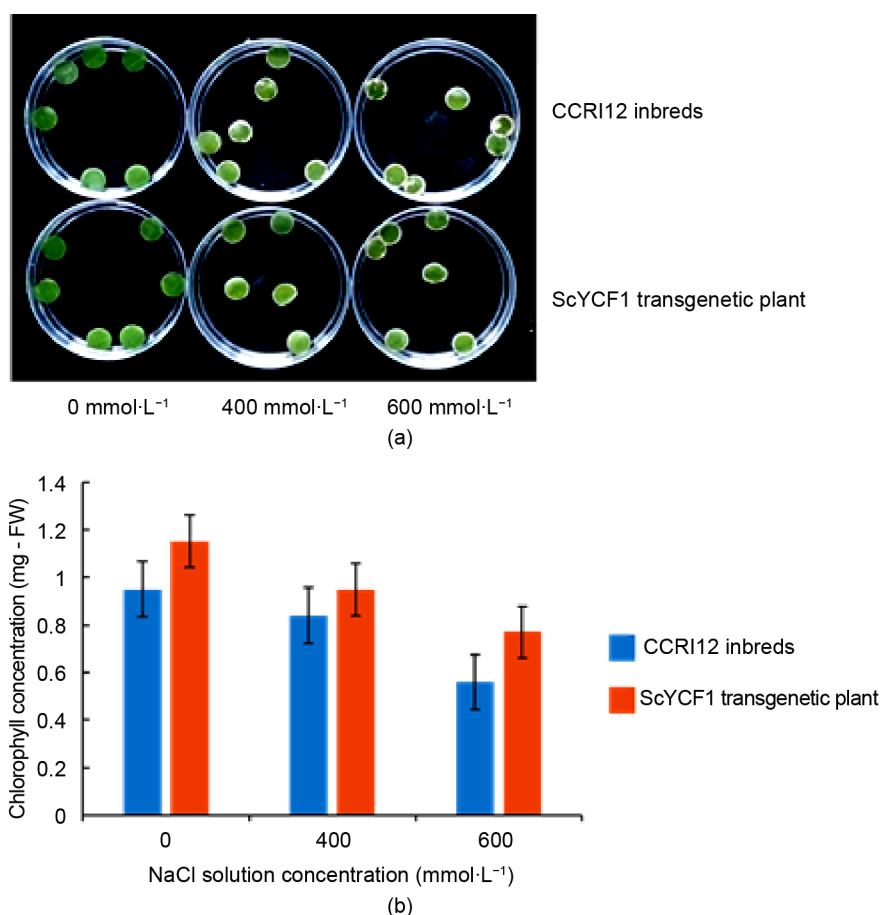


Figure 10. Transgenic cotton semal salt resistance analysis: (a) The color and form of the *ScYCF1* transgenic plant and CCRI12 in different concentrations of salt-stress in solution after 96 hours; (b) The chlorophyll of semal (six slices).

the auto-fluorescence of pollens of three cotton varieties (Y2067, GZ-2 and ZA-23) is weaker than it of other cotton varieties [14]. This study chose the three cotton varieties with weak pollen auto-fluorescence, bombarded the target gene to the pollen by a gene gun and results showed that the fluorescence of three kinds of cotton pollens was strengthened. If to transform upland cotton with genes of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, the distant genetic relationship between the two may lead to that the genes of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* cannot be expressed in the upland cotton, while in the transient expression assay of cotton pollen, the expression of yeast genes was observed in a short time, which laid a foundation for successful transformation of cotton with yeast genes.

T₀ cotton seeds were harvested after transforming with a gene gun, but whether the yeast salt-tolerant gene can enter and be integrated into the genome of upland cotton, the size of integrated fragments, and functional performance of the target gene in the transgenic plants all needs to be further explored, therefore, detection of transgenic cotton materials is a critical step. Given that more T₀ generation of seeds ask for arduous testing work and the growing cycle is

quite long, this study started from verification of the gene function, coerced the transgenic seeds with 100 mM NaCl solution, used double-filter paper method to filter its salt tolerance, and combined with PCR method for amplification of target gene sequences, and directly sequenced the purified fragments after amplification, which greatly reduced the time of a series of experiments including molecular detection and function verification of target genes and sped up the progress of the experiment.

Given that *ScYCF1* protein is related to vacuole detoxification, salt tolerance experiments were conducted for *ScYCF1* transformed arabidopsis plants under high salt conditions. Three weeks old arabidopsis wild type and transgenic seedlings were treated with 75, 100, 150 and 200 mM NaCl for 6 h and results showed that after being treated with 200 mM NaCl the accumulation amount of Na⁺ in Arabidopsis was 26.5% higher than that in wild type, but under stress of other salt concentrations there was no significant difference between them, indicating that Arabidopsis with transformed *ScYCF1* gene has stronger stress tolerance to NaCl than the wild type, which is because that the transgenic plants can accumulate more Na⁺ in vacuoles [13]. This study conducted salt tolerance germination experiment for transgenic cotton plants with 100 mM NaCl solution and results showed that the bud length of transgenic seeds under salt stress was significantly shorter than that in water of the control group, but was longer than that of non-transgenic seeds under salt stress. Salt tolerance analysis of leaf discs in transgenic plants showed that transforming the cotton with yeast *ScYCF1* improves the salt tolerance of leaf discs and plays an important role in improving the salt tolerance under high salt concentrations. The transgenic plants will be further explored in subsequent trials.

5. Conclusion

The *ScYCF1* gene of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* were transformed and expressed in cotton and its pollen, which not only enhanced salt tolerance of cotton seeds and the growing ability of them, but also increased the chlorophyll content of cotton and played a significant role in the tolerance of the cotton to salt stress.

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