

Primers for complete chloroplast genome sequencing in *Magnolia*

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PREMISE: A new set of primers was developed for sequencing of whole chloroplast genomes of *Magnolia* species and gap-filling of unfinished genomes.

METHODS AND RESULTS: Two hundred and fifty primers were newly designed based on two previously reported chloroplast genomes from two different genera in Magnoliaceae. A total of 134 primer pairs, including the ones developed in this study and 18 previously reported ones, were enough to cover the entire chloroplast genome sequences in Magnoliaceae. Four species from different sections of *Magnolia* (*M. dealbata*, *M. fraseri* var. *pyramidalis*, *M. liliiflora*, and *M. odora*) were used to show the general application of these primers to chloroplast genome sequencing in *Magnolia*.

CONCLUSIONS: Using the developed primers, four *Magnolia* chloroplast genomes were successfully assembled. These results show the utility of these primers across *Magnolia* and their potential use for phylogenetic studies, DNA barcoding, and population genetics in this group.

KEY WORDS chloroplast genome; *Magnolia*; Magnoliaceae; Sanger sequencing.

The family Magnoliaceae is characterized by the presence of (1) numerous stamens and carpels that are spirally arranged on an elongated floral axis, and (2) an undifferentiated perianth (except for some species in *Magnolia* L. section *Yulania* (Spach) Dandy) (Figlar and Nooteboom, 2004). In this family, 298 species are distributed mainly in Southeast Asia (ranging from India to the Kuril Islands including New Guinea) and the Americas (ranging from eastern Canada to Brazil including the Caribbean) (Govaerts et al., 2017). The current classification system of Magnoliaceae includes only two genera, *Liriodendron* L. with only two species and *Magnolia* comprising 296 species divided into three subgenera and 12 sections (Figlar and Nooteboom, 2004). A comprehensive phylogenetic study using 10 chloroplast regions (both genes and intron/intergenic spacers) suggests 12 major clades in Magnoliaceae with a basal polytomy in *Magnolia* (Kim and Suh, 2013).

The reliability of phylogenetic inferences is heavily dependent upon the number of phylogenetically informative characters (Dong et al., 2013). To elucidate the relationships among major clades in *Magnolia*, a comparative genome analysis that provides more phylogenetically informative characters is needed. The chloroplast genome sequence is an essential resource in the study of plant phylogeny, and several approaches have been suggested for the completion of chloroplast genome sequences. Currently,

next-generation sequencing-based genome skimming is commonly used for the de novo assembly of chloroplast genomes. Although techniques such as organelle isolation, hybrid capture, and methylation enrichment have been developed to improve the efficiency of this work, there are still challenges in the completion of chloroplast genome sequences, particularly for genomes assembled from herbarium material or for structurally divergent genomes (Twyford and Ness, 2017). In some cases, assembly using next-generation sequencing data generates incomplete genomes and critical parts of the assembly need to be resequenced. Therefore, short-range PCR in combination with traditional Sanger sequencing is still used as an alternative, complementary method to assemble complete chloroplast genomes (Dong et al., 2013). For example, a set of universal primers designed in Saxifragales was successfully applied in the phylogenetic study of that family (Dong et al., 2013).

In this study, we report and test 134 sequencing primer pairs to cover entire chloroplast genomes in *Magnolia*. These primers can be used for de novo sequencing or finishing incomplete chloroplast genomes, as well as for phylogenetic, DNA barcoding, and population genetic studies in Magnoliaceae. Additionally, these primers will be a useful resource for chloroplast microsatellite development. The utility of chloroplast microsatellites in Magnoliaceae has been well demonstrated by Kuang et al. (2011).

TABLE 1. Primer pairs used for chloroplast genome sequencing in *Magnolia*.

(Continues)

TABLE 1. (Continued)

Primer pair	Forward primer ^a		Reverse primer ^b		Size in M. kobus (bp)	T _a (°C)	Mde	Mfr	Mli	Mod	PCR success ^c
47	M93	CTGGCCAAACTGGGATA	M94	ATTGACCCACCTATTCCG	1622	52	+	+	+	+	+
48	M95	TACAGATGAGATAAACGATG	M96	CAACGGAGAACATAGAAGG	1137	55	+	+	+	-	+
49	M97	TGGCTCGTATGAAGTCTCT	M98	GAGATGGTGGATTGATTGATTIC	1125	55	+	+	+	+	+
50	M99	GGGATACAGACAGAAGGAA	M100	GACTTTTCACTCATCCCATT	1195	52	+	+	+	+	+
51	M101	CGGAAAAGATGGAAAAAGAT	M102	ACAGAACAAATCAAGAAAGGA	955	52	+	+	+	+	+
52	M103	CTGAACTAACGATTAACGAAAG	M104	CAATCAATCAAGTCCGTAG	1190	55	+	+	+	+	+
53	M105 (=CF ^d)	CGAAATCGGTAGACGTACG	M106 (=FR ^e)	ATTGAACTGGTGACACGAG	987	55	+	+	+	+	+
54	M107 (=EF ^e)	GGTCAAGTCCTCTATCCC	M108	GGGCTAATAAAAGAAAGGGG	1075	55	+	+	+	+	+
55	M109	TTCTCTATTCTTACTCCCTCC	M110	TGGGTCTCACAGGAAATC	1043	55	+	+	+	+	+
56	M111	CACAAACACCCCTGCCT	M112	ATGACCCAGAACAAAC	1250	55	+	+	+	+	+
57	M113	AATGCCAAATAGGAATAACAC	M114	GAATCCCCAACTCATCAT	1230	52	+	+	+	+	+
58	M115	GGTTAGGCTTCGTGACAATA	M116	GTGCCAAATAGAACCCATCA	1371	55	+	+	+	+	+
59	M117	TTGACAGGAAGATAACGAGATG	M118	GATGGCTTCCGGAGCAG	1467	55	+	+	+	+	+
60	M119	TAAGGCTGTGGCAAATGG	M120	TACCAACGAAATCAAGCG	1751	51	+	+	+	+	+
61	M121 (=AT1 ^g)	AGAACCGAAAGTAGTAGGAT	M122 (=ML2R ^g)	TTCAATTATCTCTCTCACTTGG	1276	52	+	+	+	+	+
62	M123 (=Z ^g)	ATGTCACCAAAACAGAAA	M124 (=3 ^g)	CGGCTAACCTTTAGAAAAA GATGGGGCGAG	1508	55	+	+	+	+	+
63	M125 (=ML7 ^g)	GGAGAACATTAGGACACC	M126	TCCCTGACACCTAAAAATGAT	1096	55	+	+	+	+	+
64	M127	CAAAATAGGGGGCAGGAAG	M128	TTGTTAGGAGATGTAAGGATG	1204	55	+	+	+	-	+
65	M129	GGGTGTTGCTTCGGGGAG	M130	CGTTTGGATTGCCAGTTC	1620	55	+	+	+	+	+
66	M131	TTAACCCCTCTATTATTGTCCT	M132	CGAGTAAGGGAAATGGCT	1017	52	+	+	+	+	+
67	M133	GTGTGTATTTTTCGTGGGG	M134	TTATCATTTGTCCAAACAGG	1424	52	+	+	+	+	+
68	M135	GATTCAAAGTGCCTAAAAAG	M136	ACAGTATCAGGAAGCACGC	1137	52	+	+	+	+	+
69	M137	TGGTAAGGAACAGATGAC	M138	TATTCCTCTCTACTATGCT	1279	55	+	+	+	+	+
70	M139	TGTITITGCTGTCTTGTITA	M140	ACCGAACGACAAATAATG	1439	50	+	+	+	-	+
71	M141	CTATCAGCCAAAGGAAATC	M142	TGCTCAGACAACTATAGA	1299	52	+	+	+	+	+
72	M143	GTCTCTCCGGCTTCAG	M144	AAAGACCCAAACCATAGTAG	1784	55	+	+	+	+	+
73	M145	ATCCCTGTCCTGTTTCCAC	M146	CGAACAAAAACATCAATCATCT	1586	52	+	+	+	+	+
74	M147	CTTTTGTAGGGCTTGTG	M148	AAGAAGCAGAAAGATTATG	1420	52	+	+	+	+	+
75	M149	CACACTCTTGGCTCTACCC	M150	CCCTTTTGTCTCCACACC	1331	52	+	+	+	+	+
76	M151	GAAATAATGAATCCATAGACC	M152	GTCTGTACAAAAAGAATGG	1149	55	+	+	+	+	+
77	M153	TTTTGACTGACTGATCTGCTCC	M154	ACAGAAAGCACCAGGACCG	1165	52	+	+	+	+	+
78	M155	CTGCTTCTCTTGTCTACGA	M156	AATAATCCCCCTTCGCGC	1148	52	+	+	+	+	+
79	M157	GCTTITGTTGTTGCTTGA	M158	ATAGGCCATTGCGACAC	1516	52	+	+	+	+	+
80	M159	CGAAACTATTACAGGGGATT	M160	AAAAAGTCATAGCAAAACCG	1250	52	+	+	+	-	+
81	M161	CGGAGATTAGGCTGGGTGTC	M162	AGGCCCTCGTTCTTCCTTA	1159	52	+	+	+	+	+
82	M163	GAGGATAGGAAACGGAGCC	M164	TGCGGGAGAACAGGACAT	1578	55	+	+	+	+	+
83	M165	CTAAGGAAAGAACGGAGCC	M166	GGACACCATTTGCTGCTC	2345	55	+	+	+	-	+
84	M167	CGCTTTTTTTAGGAGCT	M168	TTGGAGGAGAACAGTTTGTGT	1141	52	+	+	+	+	+
85	M169	TTTTGTTCTTCATTCCGG	M170	GAAATGGGGGGAGATGATCG	1303	52	+	+	+	+	+
86	M171	AAAGGGCTCTGAGGTTGATAAAGC	M172	AAAAGGAGGGAGATGATAAAGC	1208	52	+	+	+	+	+
87	M173	TTGGTTCTGGTTGGTT	M174	GCAAAACCTTATGGACAACCC	1049	52	+	+	+	+	+
88	M175	CTTCTTTGTATCCGGTTGTC	M176	GGAGAAGGGAGAACAGGTC	989	55	+	+	+	+	+
89	M177	CTCATAGGAACGCCAAC	M178	ATAAGCCAGATGACGGACG	1195	55	+	+	+	+	+
90	M179	ATCAATAAAAACCCCTTCCC	M180	ATCATTAAGCTTCAACCC	1109	51	+	+	+	+	+
91	M181	CGGACCTTTTACCAACGATG	M182	CCCCACATTAGATTCTAGGC	1269	55	+	+	+	+	+

(Continues)

TABLE 1. (Continued)

Primer pair	Forward primer ^a	Reverse primer ^b	Size in <i>M. kobus</i> (bp)	PCR success ^c				
				T _a (°C)	Mde	Mfr	Mii	
92	M183	TITGATGGGGCTTCTTCC	M184	TGTCAAGAGAAAAAGAACGAT	1196	52	+	+
93	M185	CAAACGGAAACCAACAGAG	M186	CCCGATACTCACAAAAGAAA	1362	52	+	+
94	M187	CCGTTTTCAAACTAGTGTTCG	M188	AGCACTATTCTGTTGAAGG	1165	55	+	+
95	M189	ACTTATGTCAGCCTCTTCAG	M190	TCTCTTCTCTCATCATCAATCG	1115	55	+	+
96	M191	CATACCAATCCATCAATC	M192	GCAACAGCCCTCTCATCG	1329	52	+	+
97	M193	GGCTTCTTATTCCACACAA	M194	TGGATGGAGTATTAGAACG	1324	52	+	+
98	M195	CCCTTGTCTGTGTTTC	M196	GTTTAGGGATGGCAGAC	1048	52	+	+
99	M197	TGGATTCTTCTGGATAGG	M198	CGAAACCAAGAAATAACCCC	1282	55	+	+
100	M199	CATAACCCGCCATTC	M200	TTTCTGACTTGCTCCIAAGG	1129	55	+	+
101	M201	GACTTTCATCTGCACGG	M202	CCGATGGAGAAGAACCTA	1191	55	+	+
102	M203	AGGTAGGAGCATAAACTGAAAC	M204	AAAAGGGGGAAAGGGATAC	1530	55	+	+
103	M205	CACTTATTGCTTTTGACG	M206	TGGGATAGGGATAGGAGAG	1391	55	+	+
104	M207	TTACCAAAATGNGGGAT	M208	GAAGCAGACCAAGTCAGAAGA	1262	55	+	+
105	M209	AGGCAAGAGGATAGCAAGTTAC	M210	GCGGTGTCAGTCAGTCAGGCC	1243	55	+	+
106	M211	GGACGGGGAGTGGGTGTT	M212	CGGGTTTGTGGAGTTAGC	1177	52	+	+
107	M213	TCGTGCCGTAAAGGTGTG	M214	CGGTACCCCCAGAAATAAAAG	1208	55	+	+
108	M215	TCAGGAGGATAAGATGGG	M216	CGCGCGACTCCAACATTC	1157	55	+	+
109	M217	GGGATTACGGGGTGGATG	M218	GGTTGTCCTGCTGCC	1145	55	+	+
110	M219	CCTTCCATTAGCAGCAC	M220	GCATTTTACATCCACAGC	1253	52	+	+
111	M221	GAGACGATGGGGATAAG	M222	CGCCCCATAGAAACTGTG	1306	55	+	+
112	M223	GTAAGTTCCGACCCGAC	M224	TAGAGGGGGGGCAGAG	1154	55	+	+
113	M225	GGGATGGGGACAGAAG	M226	GAATCACCTCAATACTCTG	1268	55	+	+
114	M227	TTTGTGTTTACTCCCCG	M228	AGAAATGAAACAAAAGATACTGG	1148	52	+	+
115	M229	CGGACTCTATTATGGATTCTG	M230	CGAAAAGGAGGTCAAAAGG	932	55	+	+
116	M231	TACCGTGCCTTATTGTAC	M232	GTCTCTTAATTACTTGTGTTG	1215	52	+	+
117	M233 (=M1861R ^d)	TGAAAAGGATGATAAACAGACCC	M234 (=M561 ^d)	TGGTTAATTTAGGAATCTTAGG	1323	55	+	+
118	M235 (=972R ^e)	CATAATAACCCATTAGAGAC	M236	ATCGCCGTAAATAGTGGATG	1298	52	+	+
119	M237 (=M256R ^e)	TGGGTGCAATAGTGGCC	M238	TCTCAATACGCTTTTTG	1468	52	+	+
120	M239	GTAGGGGACCTCATAGACATAG	M240	GTGTGAGGATTACCGAAC	1250	55	+	+
121	M241	GACTTTGCTTGTAACTCTCCG	M242	GACTAATAGACGATAACTCCA	1616	55	+	+
122	M243	GTGCCCTGCCTACAATCC	M244	TTTTCCTCCCTGGTTGATG	1479	52	+	+
123	M245	CCATTGAGTCGCCGTATCG	M246	TGCTCCCTGCTCCAAGAAC	1241	55	+	+
124	M247	ACCAAGGAAAAATAACTCGTG	M248	GCGGTGTTTGTCTGTGTT	1185	52	+	+
125	M249	CGATAGAAAAATAATAGGCAC	M250	GGATAACCCCTTGATTC	1229	52	+	+
126	M251	ATCCCGCTTGTGATCG	M252	CTTACTCTGGGGATGG	1072	52	+	+
127	M253	ATAGGAATGAAAGGAACAAAT	M254	AGTAAACATAAGCAGTGGAAAC	1284	52	+	+
128	M255	CGTTCCCGATAGTCATTTCT	M256	AATGGCAAAAGAAGGAGAC	1527	52	+	+
129	M257	TCCTTITGGGGTTCTACTC	M258	TGACTGGATTATTATATTCC	1470	52	+	+
130	M259	CCAATGTGAAGTAAGTCCTCG	M260	CACGAAACCGACAAAAAG	1346	52	+	+
131	M261	ATCCATTGTCACATCCCAT	M262	TGATGAAAGAAATAAGAAGGA	1638	52	+	+
132	M263	CTCTATTTCGCAATTTCATTCG	M264	GAGGATGGAGGGAGTGG	1351	52	+	+
133	M265	TTTTTCCCTTTCTTTCAATTTCG	M266	TCAGAAAATCAAAACGAAATG	1015	52	+	+
134	M267	ATTCTTCTCTCATTTCTGTCTC	M268 (=350-2R ^f)	GGAAAGAAAAGGAGGATCCGG	1001	55	+	+

^{Note:} — = unsuccessful amplification; + = successful amplification.^aPrimer above the line in Figure 1.^bPrimer below the line in Figure 1.^cMde = *M. dealbata* (JX28093); Mfr = *M. fraseri* var. *pyramidalis* (JX280395); Mii = *M. iliciflora* (JX280397); Mod = *M. odorata* (JX280398).

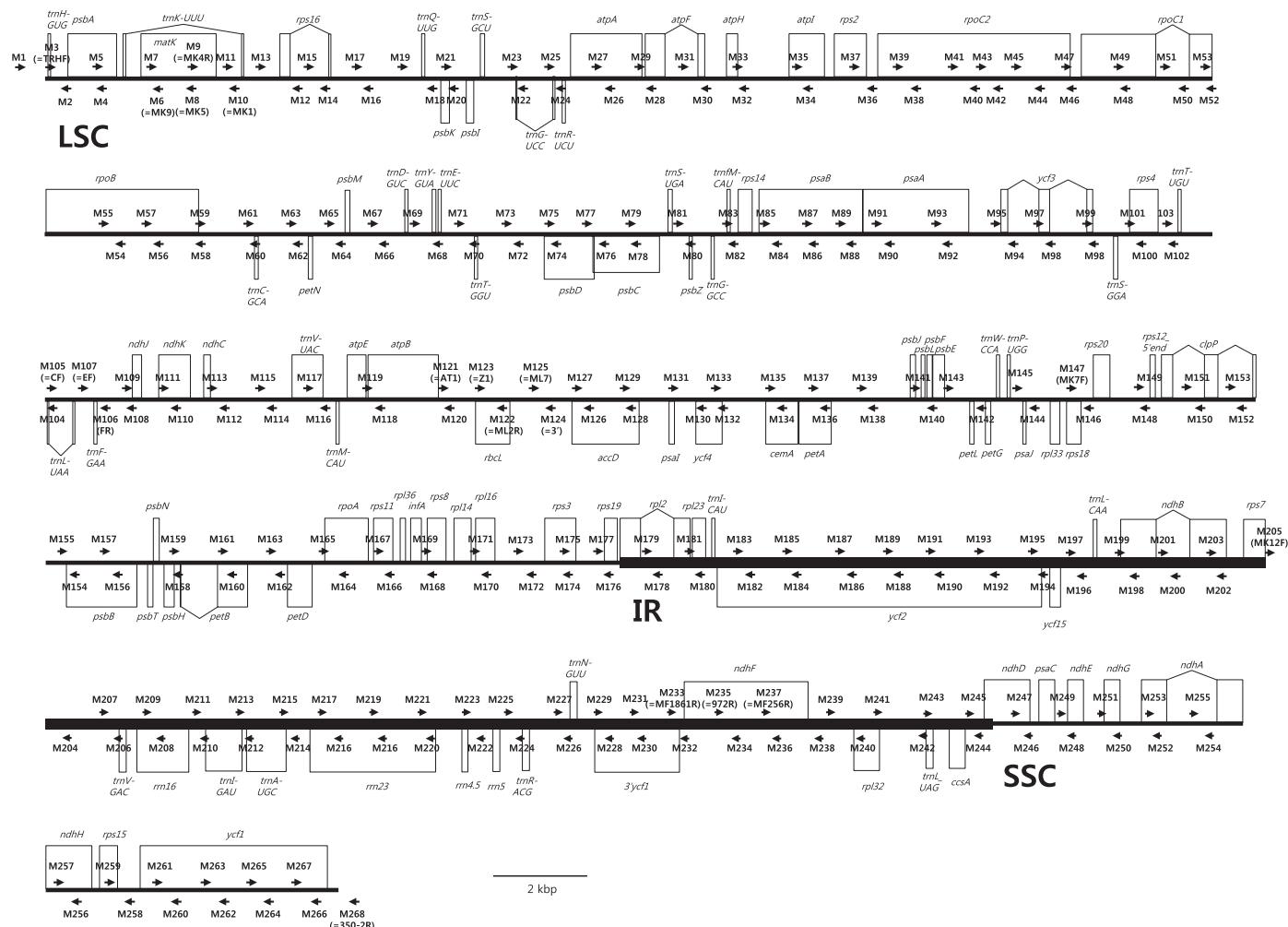


FIGURE 1. Sequencing primer positions (arrows) along the linearized chloroplast genome map of *Magnolia kobus*. One inverted repeat region is not shown. The genes above the line are transcribed in the reverse direction, whereas the genes below the line are transcribed in the forward direction. IR = inverted repeat; LSC = large single-copy region; SSC = small single-copy region.

METHODS AND RESULTS

We designed 116 pairs of primers based on two previously reported chloroplast genomes in Magnoliaceae: *M. kobus* DC. (Song et al., 2018; NC_023237) and *L. tulipifera* L. (Cai et al., 2006; NC_008326). These sequences were aligned using CLUSTALW (Higgins et al., 1994), and primers were designed in the shared sequence regions of two chloroplast genomes using Primer3 (with default settings; Untergasser et al., 2012) or OLIGO (version 5.0; National Biosciences Inc., Plymouth, Minnesota, USA) (Table 1). PCR products generated from these primers along with the previously reported 18 primers (Kim and Suh, 2013 and references therein) covered the entire chloroplast genome in Magnoliaceae (Fig. 1). Four species from different subgenera and sections of *Magnolia* (*M. dealbata* Zucc., *M. fraseri* Walter var. *pyramidalis* (W. Bartram) Torr. & A. Gray, *M. liliiflora* Desr., and *M. odora* (Chun) Figlar & Noot.) were used to determine the broad applicability of these primers to chloroplast genome sequencing in *Magnolia* (Appendix 1).

PCR was performed in a final reaction volume of 20 µL containing 1 µL of template DNA, 10 µL of 2× AmpMaster Taq (GeneAll, Seoul, Korea), 1 µL of each primer (10 µM), and 7 µL of distilled

water, using a S1000 thermal cycler (BioRad, Hercules, California, USA). PCR conditions were 5 min at 95°C for pre-denaturation, 30 cycles of 30 s at 95°C for denaturation, 30 s at 51–55°C for annealing (see Table 1), and 30 s at 72°C for extension with a final extension step of 7 min at 72°C. PCR products were checked by 1.5% agarose gel electrophoresis, stained with 0.001% ethidium bromide, and visualized under ultraviolet light using a Gel Doc XR+ System (BioRad). Each pair of primers generated 0.9–2.3 kbp of amplicons (Table 1, Fig. 1), and 27.38% of a genome overlapped with these products. The success or failure of each PCR is shown in Table 1; the overall success rate was 95%. For gap-filling, species-specific primers were designed outside PCR-failed regions in each genome (data not shown). PCR products were sequenced by the Sanger method from both directions. For sequencing, PCR products were purified with a commercial purification kit (PCR SV; GeneAll) and sequenced with an ABI 3700 sequencer (Applied Biosystems, Carlsbad, California, USA). Sequence reads obtained from each PCR product were edited and aligned with Sequencher 4.9 (Gene Codes Corporation, Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA). Genome annotation was carried out with DOGMA (Wyman et al., 2004). The gene map of the chloroplast genome was created using GenomeVx (Conant and Wolfe, 2008).

CONCLUSIONS

For chloroplast genome studies in *Magnolia*, we designed 250 new primers based on the chloroplast genomes of *M. kobus* and *L. tulipifera*. PCR products derived from 134 primer pairs, including 18 previously reported primers, successfully covered the entire chloroplast genomes of four *Magnolia* species from different sections within the genus. This study demonstrates that these primers will facilitate the de novo assembly of chloroplast genomes and assist with the completion of incomplete genomes.

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AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

S.K. conceived and designed the project, supervised the lab and field work, and wrote the manuscript. E.S. designed the primers and completed the chloroplast genomes. S.P. wrote the first version of the manuscript.

DATA AVAILABILITY

Chloroplast genome sequences have been deposited at GenBank (Appendix 1), and voucher specimens for each chloroplast genome have been deposited at the herbarium of the Natural Products Research Institute (NPRI) in the Department of Pharmacology, Seoul National University (Appendix 1).

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Additional Supporting Information may be found online in the supporting information tab for this article.

APPENDIX 1. Chloroplast genome sequences used and generated in this study and their voucher information. The classification system by Figlar and Nooteboom (2004) was followed.

Taxa	Voucher (Herbarium)	Collection site	NCBI accession no.	Reference
Family Magnoliaceae				
Subfamily Magnolioideae				
Genus <i>Magnolia</i>				
Subgenus <i>Magnolia</i>				
Section <i>Rytidospernum</i>				
<i>M. dealbata</i>	S. Kim 1008 (NPRI)	Chollipo Arboretum, Korea	JX280393	This study
Section <i>Auriculata</i>				
<i>M. fraseri</i> var. <i>pyramidalis</i>	S. Kim 1011 (NPRI)	Chollipo Arboretum, Korea	JX280395	This study
Subgenus <i>Yulania</i>				
Section <i>Yulania</i>				
<i>M. kobus</i>	—		NC_023237	Song et al., 2018
<i>M. liliiflora</i>	S. Kim 1014 (NPRI)	Chollipo Arboretum, Korea	JX280397	This study
Section <i>Michelia</i>				
<i>M. odora</i>	S. Kim 1099 (NPRI)	South China Botanical Garden, China	JX280398	This study
Subfamily Liriodendroideae				
Genus <i>Liriodendron</i>				
<i>L. tulipifera</i>	—		NC_008326	Cai et al., 2006