

FIELD EVALUATION OF CONDE PROGENIES WITH EARLY HEADING DATE AND RESISTANCE TO BACTERIAL LEAF BLIGHT

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Abstract

Heading date is one of key traits in rice adaptation to different environments. Rice with early maturity is very useful for increasing rice production extensively especially in Indonesia. The improvement of rice variety Conde for heading date and resistance to bacterial leaf blight (BLB) was developed through Marker Assisted Backcrossing approach (MAB). *Xa7* derived from Conde as recipient parents for resistance to BLB and *Hd2* gene derived from Nipponbare as a donor parent for heading date. The aim of this research was to evaluate the performance of heading date and agronomic traits of 85 BC₂F₄ lines in two field stations, Sukamandi (West Java) and Maros (South Sulawesi). Molecular analysis of *Xa7* on chromosome 6 and *Hd2* gene on chromosome 7 and agronomic performance was evaluated. Foreground analysis resulted 41% for *Xa7* and 66.7% for *Hd2* gene in homozygous condition. The majority of lines have similar heading date and yield with Conde and more resistance to bacterial leaf blight (BLB) than Conde. Six lines flowered earlier 5 days than Conde in Sukamandi and three lines flowered earlier 3 days in Maros. Twelve lines with flowered earlier than Conde, resistance to BLB and similar yield with Conde were selected for background analysis resulted 93% genome recovery. These lines would be further evaluated in preliminary yield trail for their stability.

Keywords: *Hd2*, Maros, Sukamandi, Tropical region, *Xa7*

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Introduction

Flowering time is closely related to the grain yield for crop attribute to maintain an appropriate balance between full use of resources and avoidance of environmental stresses such as high temperature, low temperature, and drought. Abiotic stresses can pose a serious threat to spikelet fertility and consequently induce yield loss (Zhang *et al.*, 2019).

Furthermore, early maturity allows farmers to increase their cropping intensity from two to three cropping of rice per year in tropical regions. Breeding for high yielding rice varieties with early maturity is considered important to increase cropping indexes in the fully irrigated farm lands (Fatimah *et al.*, 2014; Pramudyawardani *et al.*, 2015).

Until now, a number of genes/QTLs involved in the photoperiodic flowering pathway/heading date have been identified and

mapped in rice (Hori *et al.*, 2016). Eighteen QTLs (*Hd1-Hd18*) were detected with the different populations (Liu *et al.*, 2018). They derived from crosses between Nipponbare and Kasalath and between Koshihikari and Hayamasari, and most of the QTLs have been cloned (Matsubara, 2008, Lin, 2000, Yano, 2001, Shibaya 2016).

Hd2 derived from a cross between Nipponbare and Kasalath (Yano *et al.*, 1997; Yamamoto *et al.*, 1998) and confirmed as *OsPRR37* gene (pseudo-response regulator gene) (Koo *et al.*, 2013). *Hd2* is allelic with *Ghd7.1* (Yan *et al.*, 2013) and through map based cloning approach it was confirmed that *Ghd7.1* is the *OsPRR37* gene, or Gao *et al.*, (2014) reported *Days to heading 7 (DTH7)* and Zhang *et al.*, (2016) detected *qHD7.2*, both of them encodes a pseudo-response regulator protein (*OsPRR37*).

Hd2/Ghd7.1/DTH7/OsPRR37/qHD7.2, or later named *Hd2*, was located in

LOC_Os07g49460 putative gene of 96.3-kb region in chromosome 7 (MSU Rice Genome Annotation Project). It involved in regulating rice heading date that suppresses flowering under short day and long day conditions (Koo *et al.* 2013; Yan *et al.* 2013) and played important roles in the expansion of rice cultivation to temperate areas and rice adaptation from low to high latitudes (Koo *et al.*, 2013).

Farmers prefer grows short duration rice cultivar than long duration of rice cultivars because its easier and more efficient in crop management and field practice. They will save more energy, including water, fertilizer and labor, when they grow in short duration (Ahadiyat *et al.*, 2012).

BLB caused by *Xanthomonas oryzae* pv. *oryzae* (*Xoo*) is a disastrous disease in rice worldwide. Yield losses caused by *Xoo* can be as high as 50% in some areas of Asia (Adhikari *et al.*, 1995). In Indonesia, Suparyono and Sudir (1992) reported that damage threshold due to BLB was ca. 20% at about two weeks before harvest. Above the threshold, each 10% increase in the BLB severity the yield losses increased by 5 to 7%. The evaluation of disease resistance in early breeding generations of rice is important to develop varieties with better resistance and the selection of appropriate donor parents which show broad spectrum of resistance is important for the breeding program.

Conde, Indonesian rice varieties, was nationally released on 2002 as new lowland rice varieties. It derived from IR64, an existing popular variety, this variety is well accepted by farmers and consumers (Toenniessen, 2003; Jena & Mackill, 2008). The improvement of Conde rice variety that containing *Xa7* gene was transferred with *Hd2* gene from Nipponbare for earliness heading date and productivity has already developed through Marker Assisted Backcrossing approach (MABc) (Fatimah *et al.*, 2014; Fatimah *et al.*, 2018). MABc is using markers to select for target loci (donor), minimize the length of the donor segment containing a target locus, and/or accelerate the recovery of the recurrent parent genome during backcrossing (Hospital, 2001).

The aim of this research was to evaluate the performance of heading date and agronomic traits of BC₂F₄ lines with *Xa7* and *Hd2* gene in two field stations, Sukamandi, West Java

Province in Western Indonesia and Maros, South Sulawesi Province in Eastern Indonesia.

Materials and Methods

Plant materials

This study was carried out using 85 BC₂F₄ lines of backcross population and their parents Conde (resistance to bacterial leaf blight, *Xa7+Xa4* gene, recipient) and Nipponbare (*Hd2* gene, donor). Two Indonesian elite rice varieties Inpari 13 and Ciherang also included as check variety for productivity and IRBB7 containing *Xa7* gene as resistant check.

Molecular Analysis

The foreground selection :PCR amplification was generated using Biorad Thermal Cycler PCR machine using SSR primer RM1362 (F: TGATCTAAACAGGCCCTTAG and R: CATCATCAAGACCACACAT C) and RM7601 (F: GCCTCGCTGTCGCTAATATC and R: CAGCCTCTCCTTGTGTTG TG) associated with the QTLs for *Hd2* locus located on chromosome 7 at the genetic distance of 116.1 cM and 116.6 cM (Fujino and Sekiguchi, 2005; Fujino and Sekiguchi, 2008). SSR Primer RM20582 (F: AGAGCGTCGTCCTTCACCATCC and R: GGCCAATACGACGATACATTACACG) linked to *Xa7* locus located on chromosome 6 at the genetic distance of 118,5 cM (Chen *et al.*, 2008). For the background selection: two hundred and forty three polymorphic SSR primers distributed on 12 chromosomes (Fatimah *et al.*, 2014) were used for background selection. Amplified products was separated by electrophoresis in 8% polyacrylamide gel (Dual Triple-Wide Mini-Vertical System, C.B.S. Scientific, CA, USA) and observed by ethidium bromide and photographed under ultraviolet light using the gel documentation system (BioRad).

BLB Evaluation

These varieties were first sown in plastic boxes. The seedling was transplanted into pot containing natural paddy soil. Rice plants were grown under greenhouse condition. The cultivation and management of the rice proceeded as usual. The parents and check (Conde, Nipponbare and IRBB7) were inoculated with 39 Indonesian *Xoo* isolates at seedling stage (40 days old). Three isolates

(Xoo1110, Xoo1122 and Xoo1130) that showed different patterns of resistance between Nipponbare (susceptible) and Conde or IRBB7 (resistant) continued for disease evaluation in the BC₂F₄ population.

The fully expanded leaves were clip-inoculated (Kauffman *et al.*, 1973) with scissors, which were dipped, prior to inoculation, into a bacterial cell suspension containing approximately 10⁹ cfu ml⁻¹. The suspension was prepared from 48-h old actively growing cultures of each isolate grown on NB medium. The length of the lesion was measured at 14 days after inoculation. The resistance reaction was classified into susceptible and resistant was based on the BLB intensity of Conde as the cut off. The resistant lines gave similar BLB intensity with Conde and susceptible lines gave higher BLB intensity than Conde.

Field Experiments

Heading date and agronomic performance were evaluated in two locations, at Indonesian Center for Rice Research, Sukamandi, West Java Province and Indonesian Cereals Research Institute, Maros, South Sulawesi Province. All experiments were conducted during the months of March to July. The experiments were laid out following a Randomized Complete Block Design (RCBD) which the 85 BC₂F₄ lines as treatment with three replications. The seeds of improved lines and checks were sown in a seed bed nursery. Two weeks-old seedlings were then manually transplanted into the rice field with one seedling planted per hill. The plot size was 1.5 m x 2 m. Each plot had a planting density of 25 cm between plants (within a row), and 25 cm between rows. In all experiments, fields were fertilized by hand broadcasting with 115 kg/ha of urea, 38 kg/ha of P₂O₅ and 50 kg/ha of K₂O. Weed control was performed using chemical herbicide and hand weeding. From each breeding lines, five individual plants were selected for characterization of their agronomic performance.

Data Collection

Traits measurement of the agronomic performance were heading date (DH), plant height (PH), numbers of tiller (NT), and grain yield (GY). DH was recorded when 80% of the individual plants in each plot flowered. PH and NT were measured at maturity stage. PH was

measured from the soil surface to the tip of the panicle. NT was counted manually. To measure GY in each plot, only the inner rows were used in square (1m x 1m) consisted of 16 clumps. Two border rows and the border plants of each row were discarded. GY of each plot was adjusted to 14% moisture content. The GY per plot was extrapolated to tons per hectare.

Data Analysis

The marker data were scored as “A”, “B” and “H” analyzed as homozygous recipient allele, homozygous dominant allele and heterozygous allele respectively. The marker data was analyzed using the software Graphical Genotyper (GGT 3.2) (Berloo, 2008). All agronomic traits in each experiment were subjected to statistical analysis using the SPSS v.17 program. Analysis of variance (ANOVA) was calculated based on the randomized complete block design (RCBD). A combined analysis of variance was performed using the mean value of data in all traits of each experiment. Duncan significant difference (DMRT) was determined at a five percent probability level to make the comparison between the mean values of each breeding line and parents.

Results

Molecular Analysis

Foreground analysis of the 85 BC₂F₄ lines revealed 56 lines (66.7%) were homozygous to Nipponbare for the marker RM7601 and RM1362 linked to *Hd2* and 35 lines (41%) were homozygous to Conde for the marker RM20582 for *Xa7* detection (Figure 1). Based on molecular data of *Xa7* and *Hd2* gene, heading date and grain yield of 85 BC₂F₄ lines, it was selected 26 lines that homozygous to *Xa7* and *Hd2* gene, flowered earlier and gave similar yield with Conde variety.

The background analysis was conducted on 12 selected lines that flowered earlier, resistance to BLB and similar yield with Conde. It resulted the average of genome recovery of the selected BC₂F₄ progenies in 12 chromosomes with the value was 93% (Figure 2).

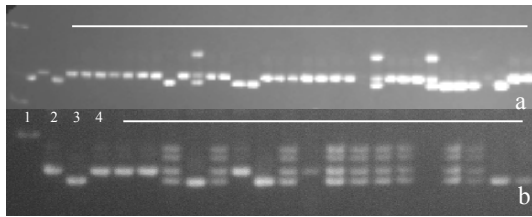


Figure 1. Foreground selection of BC₂F₄ individuals (Conde/Nipponbare) using marker a) RM7601 and b) RM20582. From left to right, lane 1: 100 bp marker, lane 2: Conde, lane 3: Nipponbare, lane 4: BC₂F₄ individuals on 8% polyacrilamid gel electrophoresis.

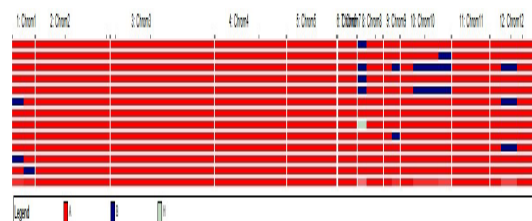


Figure 2. The background selection of the selected BC₂F₄ lines using 243 SSR primers distributed on 12 chromosomes.

BLB Evaluation

Conde, Nipponbare and IRBB7 were inoculated with 39 Indonesian *Xoo* isolates at seedling stage (40 days old). Conde was resistant to 39 isolates whereas IRBB7 was resistant to 24 isolates and Nipponbare was resistant to 23 isolates. Out of 39, 10 isolates showed the different patterns of resistance between Nipponbare (susceptible) and Conde/IRBB7 (resistance) (data not shown). This result indicated that resistance gene possessing by Nipponbare and Conde/IRBB7 were different genes and their resistant reaction were difference while Conde and IRBB7 giving the same reaction pattern against Indonesian *Xoo* isolates.

The resistance of Conde to bacterial blight within 14 days after inoculation (DAI) was evaluated with three selected *Xoo* strains, Xoo1110, Xoo1122, and Xoo1130 (Figure 3). Nipponbare was susceptible to the three *Xoo* strains. The BLB intensity of Conde were 4% (Xoo1110), 5,38% (Xoo1122) and 9.5% (Xoo1130). The number of resistant BC₂F₄ lines were 42% ($\chi^2=1.98$, $p=0.16$) with the BLB intensity of the BC₂F₄ lines were lower than Conde (<4%) (Figure 4).

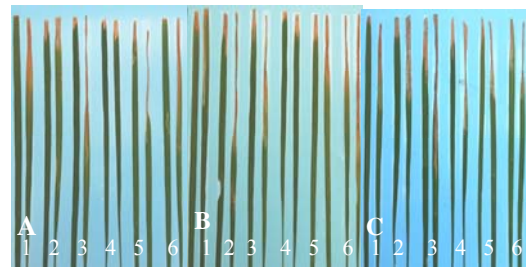


Figure 3. Lesions leaves of 14 days after inoculated with (A) Xoo1110, (B) Xoo1122, (C) Xoo1130. From left to right, line 1) IRBB7, 2) #12, 3) #01, 4) #04, 5) #05, and 6) Conde.

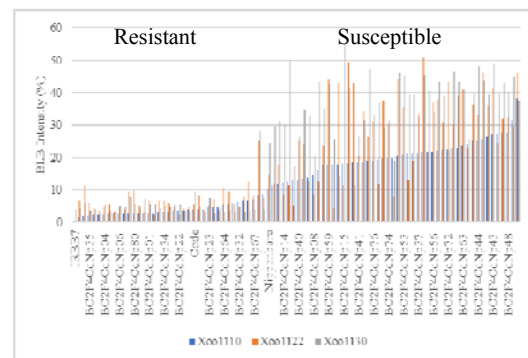


Figure 4. Distribution of BLB intensity (%) after inoculation with Indonesian Xoo1110, Xoo1122, and Xoo1130 containing 85 individuals from a BC₂F₄ population.

Field Experiment

Maros is located in eastern part of Indonesia (40°45' - 50° 07' South Latitude and 109°205' - 129° 12' East longitude) while Sukamandi located in western part of Indonesia (60 11' - 60 49' South Latitude and 1070 31' - 1070 54' East longitude) that lead to some different climate parameter. Both field stations were located in the same altitude. Sukamandi in West Java Province was 16 m above sea level in Western Indonesia and Maros in South Sulawesi Province was 15 m above sea level in Eastern Indonesia (Figure 5).



Figure 5. Agronomic Performance of BC₂F₄ Plants in field, A) Sukamandi B) Maros.

The amount of rainfall and temperature of the field station in Sukamandi and Maros during the experiment (March – July 2012) (BMKG, 2012; BPS, 2013) is shown in Table 1. During the experimental trial, the climate of Maros categorized as wet tropical climate than Sukamandi, with an average rainfall of about 216 mm per month compare to Sukamandi 82 mm per month and the average temperature in Maros was 26,2 °C – 27,4 °C compare to Sukamandi was 23 °C – 27,4 °C.

Table 1. Temperature and rainfall during experiment in Sukamandi and Maros field station.

Month	Rainfall (mm)		Temperature (°C)					
	Suka mandi	Maros	Sukamandi			Maros		
			min	max	av.	min	max	av.
March	175,2	574	22,8	29,5	23	24,3	30,3	26,3
April	138,2	230	24,5	31,6	27,4	24,1	31,4	27,4
May	7,0	164	22,8	31,5	23	24,6	31	27,2
June	14,4	69	22,5	31,2	23	23,8	31	26,7
July	0,2	44	21,9	32,8	26,5	23,0	30,6	26,2

Table 2. The ANOVA of four traits in Conde/Nipponbare BC₂F₄ population

Location	Trait	MS	F	P	CV (%)
Maros	Heading date	15.72*	4.38	0	1.9
	Tiller number	33.46*	1.94	0.002	11.6
	Plant Height	461.36*	11.31	0	10.0
	Grain Yield	4.40*	1.66	0.005	31.2
Suka mandi	Heading date	23.94*	6.11	0	2.82
	Tiller number	17.77*	2.95	0	10.80
	Plant Height	653.82*	35.23	0	13.21
	Grain Yield	2.77*	2.88	0	17.11

*:Significantly different at 5% level of Duncan significant difference.

MS: Mean square, F: FStat, P: Pvalue, CV: Coefficient of variation

Agronomic and yield performance

Analysis of variance (ANOVA) of four traits is presented in Table 2. In BC₂F₄ population showed significant effects (P<0.05) were detected for all traits among the breeding lines at both Sukamandi and Maros field station. The agronomic performance of parents, check varieties and BC₂F₄ lines from both field station is presented in Table 3.

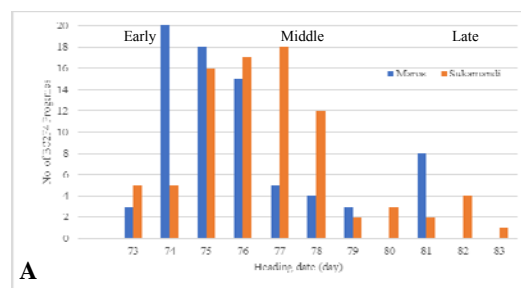
Table 3. Agronomic performance of parents, check varieties and BC₂F₄ lines.

Variety/line	Heading date (DAS)	Number of Tiller	Plant Height (cm)	Yield (Ton/ha)
Nipponbare	61	18	68	1.12
Conde	77	20	95	4.75
Ciherang	78	36	97	5.62
Inpari 13	76	30	111	5.16
BC ₂ F ₄	76	22	104	4.61
Range of BC ₂ F ₄	73 - 83	16 - 36	79 - 133	1.1 - 7.7

Heading date

The comparison between parents, progenies and other varieties revealed that Nipponbare, as the donor parent, was the earliest flowering (61 days after sowing/DAS), followed by BC₂F₄ lines (73-76 DAS), Inpari 13 (76 DAS), Conde (77 DAS), and Ciherang (78 DAS) (Table 3).

In both field station, significant difference was found for heading date when comparison was made among the BC₂F₄ lines and between BC₂F₄ lines and Conde. In Sukamandi, the mean values of BC₂F₄ lines ranged from 73 to 83 DAS, Nipponbare was 60 DAS and Conde was 78 DAS while in Maros ranged from 73 to 81 DAS, Nipponbare was 63 DAS and Conde was 76 DAS (Table 3).



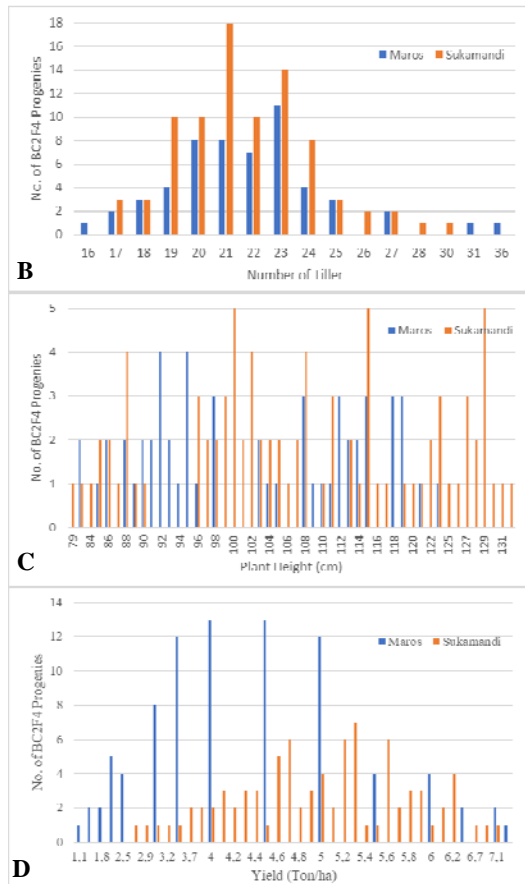


Figure 6. Distribution of agronomic trait on BC₂F₄ population and parents for A) heading date, B) tiller number, C) plant height and D) grain yield in Sukamandi and Maros field station.

The majority of the BC₂F₄ lines in Sukamandi and Maros have similar heading date with Conde (not with Nipponbare) however it was found three different type of heading date. In Sukamandi: early-fixed ranged 73-74 DAS (11,8%), middle-fixed ranged 75-79 DAS (77,6%) and late-fixed ranged 80-83 DAS (10,6%) while in Maros: early-fixed 73 DAS (3,5%), middle-fixed ranged 74-79 DAS (87%) and late-fixed 81 DAS (9,4%) (Figure 5). In Sukamandi, the BC₂F₄ lines flowered earlier 5 days than Conde were line number #31, #43, #44, #45, #48, and #49 and in Maros, the BC₂F₄ lines flowered earlier 3 days than Conde were #09, #72, #74 (Figure 6).

Genotype variances were found for number of tiller among the BC₂F₄ lines and Conde. The mean value of BC₂F₄ lines was 17-30 in Sukamandi and 16-34 in Maros while Conde was 20. The majority of BC₂F₄ lines have

similar number of tiller with Conde was 81% in Sukamandi and 43,5% in Maros (Figure 6). Line number #28, #30, #31, #33, #78, #83, #84, and #85 (Sukamandi) and #04, #15, and #26 (Maros) gave higher number of tiller than Conde.

Genotype variances were found for plant height among the BC₂F₄ lines and Conde. The mean value of plant height of BC₂F₄ lines ranged from 100 to 133 cm in Sukamandi and 82 to 124 cm in Maros while Conde was 91 cm in Maros and 100 cm in Sukamandi (Figure 6). The majority of BC₂F₄ lines have similar plant height with Conde was 72% in Sukamandi and 53% in Maros (Figure 6).

There is no significant difference of grain yield observed in Sukamandi among the BC₂F₄ lines and Conde. The mean value of grain yield of the breeding line ranged from 2.5 to 7.0 ton/ha while Conde was 6,5 ton/ha (Figure 6). The majority of BC₂F₄ lines have similar yield with Conde (74,2%). Line number #03, #9, and #78 were giving higher yield than Conde and resistant to BLB however the heading date of these lines was similar with Conde (77 DAS).

Significance differences of grain yield observed in Maros among BC₂F₄ lines and Conde. The mean value of grain yield of the breeding line ranged from 1.1 to 7.7 ton/ha while Conde was 2.8 ton/ha (Figure 6). The majority of the breeding lines have similar yield with Conde (83,5%). Line number #01, #05, and #06 were flowered earlier than Conde, resistance to BLB and higher yield than Conde.

Correlation analysis

Based on their correlation using Pearson correlation analysis showed that there is a low correlation on BC₂F₄ lines between heading date and tiller number however both of them are statistically significant. Low correlation also revealed between heading date and plant height however it was not significant. The low correlation also showed between heading date and yield however both of them are statistically significant. The low correlation also showed between heading date and resistance to bacterial leaf blight however it was not significant (Table 4).

Breeding Selection

The BC₂F₄ lines were selected based on the molecular analysis in foreground selection that

homozygous to Conde for *Xa7* and homozygous to Nipponbare for *Hd2* gene, and background selection with genome recovery higher than 84%, early heading date, resistance to bacterial leaf blight, and similar or higher yield than Conde, then it was selected 16 BC₂F₄ lines for further evaluation in preliminary yield trial for their stability (Table 5).

Tabel 4. Coeficient of Pearson Correlation.

Maros	Parameter	Heading date	Plant Height	No.of tiller
Pearson	Heading date	1	0,141	0,256
Correlation	Plant Height	0,141	1	-0,192
	No.of tiller	0,256	-0,192	1
Sig. (1-tailed)	Heading date	.	0,009	0
	Plant Height	0,009	.	0,001
	No.of tiller	0	0,001	.

Sukamandi	Parameter	Heading date	Plant Height	No.of tiller
Pearson	Heading date	1	-0,014	0,325
Correlation	Plant Height	-0,014	1	-0,28
	No.of tiller	0,325	-0,28	1
Sig. (1-tailed)	Heading date	.	0,384	0
	Plant Height	0,384	.	0
	No.of tiller	0	0	.

Greenhouse	Parameter	Heading date	BLB Intensity
Pearson	Heading date	1	-0,119
Correlation	BLB Intensity	-0,119	1
Sig. (1-tailed)	Heading date	.	0,128
	BLB Intensity	0,128	.

Tabel 5. Agronomy performance of the selected BC₂F₄ of Conde in Sukamandi (S) and Maros (M) field station.

No.	Lines	Hd	NT	PH	Yield	BLB	GR
1	#01	74*	E	22	95	5,64	5,10 R 97
2	#02	74*	E	23	93	5,43	3,85 R 97
3	#03	76	M	23	97	5,42	4,48 R 84
4	#05	75	E	23	96	6,13*	3,78 R -
5	#07	75	E	22	97	4,23	4,08 R 85
6	#22	78	M	23	87	5,06	3,81 R 84
7	#23	74*	E	25*	84	4,36	5,78 R 95
8	#24	78	M	22	88	3,84	3,63 R -
9	#26	75	E	24*	83	5,2	4,28 R 95
10	#31	74*	E	27*	103	2,57	5,02 R 97
11	#32	75*	E	24*	86	3	5,32 R 95
12	#35	81	L	22	113*	3,72	3,79 R -
13	#65	75	E	23	117*	4,76	6,59 R 97
14	#68	75	E	23	122*	5,35	5,03 R 95
15	#78	76	M	19	108	6,45*	5,67 R 95
16	#79	78	L	22	92	4,58	6,66 R -
Nipponbare		61	E	17	68	1,08	16,84 S
Conde		77	M	20	95,5	4,68	15,39 S
Inpari 13		73	E	30	111	5,16	- S
Ciherang		76	M	36	97	5,62	- S

*Significantly different at 5% level of Duncan significant difference.

Hd: Heading date (DAS), E; Early, M: Middle, L: Late, NT: Number of tillers, PH: Plant Height (cm), Yield: ton/ha, BLB: BLB Intensity (%), R: Resistant, S: Susceptible, GR: Genome Recovery (%).

Discussion

Rice heading date is one of the most important agronomic traits for season adaptation and grain yield, which is affected by both genetic and environmental factors (Ebana *et al.* 2011). Rice is a facultative short-day (SD) plant whose flowering is accelerated under SD conditions (<10-h light/day) and is delayed under longday (LD) conditions (>14-h light/day) (Izawa, 2007; Tsuji *et al.*, 2008). In tropical regions, the daylength is less than 13.5 h, and the daily temperature is high, which ensures that rice can grow all year (Liu *et al.*, 2018).

Nipponbare is a *japonica* rice variety with photoperiod-sensitive identified *Hd2* and *Hd4* gene (Yano *et al.*, 1997) used as donor in this study while Conde is an *indica* rice variety and an elite cultivar used as recipient parent. Many heading-date quantitative trait locus (*Hd*-QTLs) (*Hd1*- *Hd3a*, *Hd3b*-*Hd17*) were found in the crosses of *japonica* and *indica* cultivars with distinct heading dates and photoperiod sensitivity (Yano *et al.*, 2001; Monna *et al.*, 2002; Uga *et al.*, 2007). Yano *et al.* (1997) indicated that five QTL (*Hd1*-*Hd5*) cause variation in rice heading date in crosses between Nipponbare and Kasalath. Koo *et al.* (2013) demonstrate that natural variation in *PRR37/Ghd7/Hd2* has contributed to *japonica* rice adaptation to growth in the northernmost regions of rice cultivation as well as double cropping of an *indica* variety in low-latitude regions (tropical region) by reducing days to heading and photoperiod sensitivity.

In this study, it was found three different phenotype of heading date of *Hd2* gene in BC₂F₄ lines. Six lines flowered earlier 5 days than Conde in Sukamandi and three lines flowered earlier 3 days in Maros. In line with Prasetyono *et al.* (2014) reported that the earliest flowering line in the improved Ciherang was 4 days earlier than Ciherang. Yamamoto *et al.* (1998) reported that large variation in days to heading of *Hd2* was observed in the population of crossing between Nipponbare and Kasalath. Zhang *et al.* (2019) mentioned the genetic interactions among *Ghd7*, *Ghd8*, *OsPRR37/Hd2* and *Hd1* contribute to large variation in heading date in rice.

Grain yield is positively correlated with heading date, especially in low latitude areas (tropical region) where the temperature is

warm year-round (Gao *et al.* 2014; Li *et al.* 2018). In this study, in Maros, the average minimum air temperature was 24° C and average maximum air temperature was 30,8°C while in Sukamandi, the average minimum air temperature was 23,2° C and average maximum air temperature was 31,3°C. It was reported that *Hd2* is not only photoperiod-related, but also a temperature-related QTL (Nakagawa *et al.*, 2005). Under low temperature in long day conditions it delays heading (Song *et al.*, 2012).

In this study also showed that the majority of BC₂F₄ lines had heading date and yield similar to Conde and well adapted to different part of Indonesia. This also maintained the yield potential and stability of the Conde across two experimental locations in Indonesia with little difference among both locations. Yan *et al.* (2013) mentioned that *Hd2* contributes greatly to regulating rice photoperiodic flowering, plant architecture and grain productivity and provides an opportunity to breed high-yield varieties with improved adaptive flexibility for special farming regions.

The use of resistant cultivars is the most economical and effective way to control BLB disease and has played a key role in sustaining rice productivity that requires no additional cost to farmers and is environmentally safe. Fatimah *et al.* (2018) reported that Conde revealed the similar gene action with *Xa7* gene for BLB that exhibits high resistance to most of the Indonesian races of (BLB). In this study, the majority of BC₂F₄ lines gave more resistance to BLB than Conde.

This study provides a marked improvement of heading date and BLB resistance in Conde progenies. The preliminary yield trial needs to be done before amplifying seed for large-scale testing and validation in farmers fields at target areas. The result of this study contributes to enhancing and sustaining future livelihoods and food security in Indonesia versus climate change.

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