Transcriptome dynamics in the dormancy-spring growth transition of Douglas-fir needles

Brian J. Knaus¹ Peter C. Dolan² Dee Denver³ Rich Cronn¹

¹Pacific Northwest Research Station, USDA Forest Service

²Department of Mathematics, University of Minnesota, Morris

³Department of Zoology, Oregon State University

Forest Tree Workshop, PAG XX Sunday, January 15th, 2012

1 The Douglas-fir needle transcriptome.

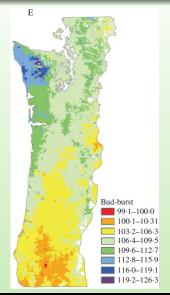
2 Differential expression: the dormancy-spring growth transition.

3 Annotation: are differentially expressed isogroups annotated?



- Huge geographic and environmental range
- 22 million hectares in the US/Canada
- Planted in Europe, New Zealand, Chile
- 8 billion board feet of lumber in 2002
- Large breeding programs more than: 4 million progeny from 34,000 parents on 1,000 progeny test sites

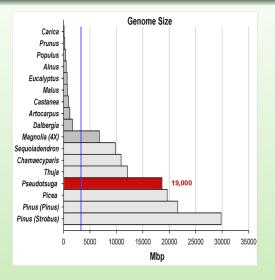
Adaptive genetic variation in Douglas-fir



- Strong correlation between climate and quantitative traits.
 - Spring bud burst
 - Fall cold hardiness
 - Growth rhythm, biomass accumulation
 - Trunk taper
- Association is basis for seed transfer guidelines.
- Association is basis for candidate gene tests for adaptive variation.

St Clair, J.B., Mandel, N.L. and Vance-Borland, K.W. 2005. Genecology of Douglas fir in western Oregon and Washington. Annals of Botany 96(7):1199-1214.

Challenges to conifer genomics projects



- Genome size much larger than current model organisms
- Douglas-fir is average-sized for a conifer.
- Conifers are incompletely characterized at a genic level.
- Uncertainty in evolutionary, functional homology to 'candidate' genes.
- Adaptations unique to Douglas-fir.

RNA-Seq methodology

Wet chemistry

- Urea/LiCl total RNA.
- Illumina library preparation.
 - Poly(A)+ selection
 - Tru-Seg kit
 - Strand-specific modification, dUTP method (Parkhomchuk, 2009)
- Illumina GAII sequencing.
 - 100 bp single-end sequences
 - 6-plex index pools

Bioinformatics

- De novo assembly with Trinity.
 - RNA-Seq assembler
 - Strand specific
 - Isogroup aware
- Validation.
 - blastn
 - tblastx
 - Custom perl and R

The Douglas-fir transcriptome

De novo transcriptome assembly

Increase	$v2012^1$	v2011 ²	
166X	500	3	Million reads
2.1X	112.8	53.6	Assembled million bp
3.6X	90,086	25,002	Isogroups
-	-	102,623	Singletons
3.7X	143,392	38,589 ³	Isoforms

¹Libraries derived from needle tissue, sequenced with Illumina technology, assembled with Trinity.

²Libraries derived from multiple tissues, sequenced with Roche/454 and Sanger technologies, assembled with Newbler.

³Excludes singletons.

Core eukaryotic gene (KOG) validation

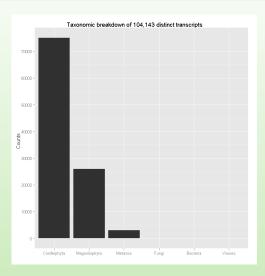
KOGs tblastn against Douglas-fir needle transcriptome

112	Zero hits
105	One hit
101	Two hits
50	Three hits
90	More than three hits
458	Total KOG genes

75.5% of *A. thaliana* KOG genes appear to occur one or more times as (nearly) fully assembled.

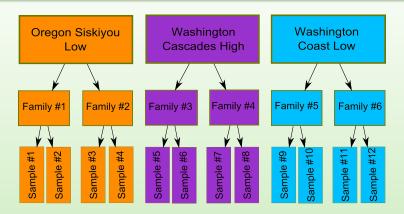
Where a hit is an HSP with an e-value less than e^{-10} and the alignment is at least 90% as long as the KOG sequence (a subglobal alignment).

The Douglas-fir needle meta-genome

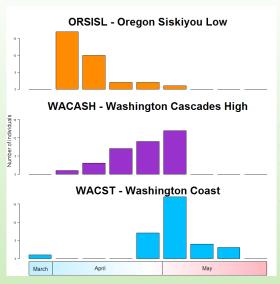


72.6% of transcripts were successfully assigned a taxonomic annotation.

Experimental design



Two half-sib families nested within three seed sources for a total of 12 samples. (Three 32 sample families collected during 2011 - final sequencing dependent on sequencing cost.)



Phenotypic differences through time:

March	Dormant
April	Budburst
May	Physiologically
	active

Differential expression methodology

Read mapping

- Same reads used from transcriptome assembly.
 - RNA-Seq
 - Illumina GAII
- Reads mapped with bowtie.
- Summarize into count tables with custom perl.
- Summarize isoforms to isogroups.
 - Mitigates multimap reads

Hypothesis testing

- Negative binomial GLMs.
- Library size normalized by random subset.
- Negative binomial dispersion parameters estimated in EdgeR (tag-wise, trend based).
- Control (March) contrasts.
- Correction for multiple comparisons (q-values) followed the method of Benjamini and Hochberg (1995).

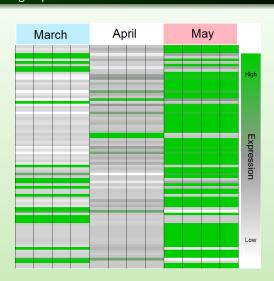
Differentially expressed isogroups

Difference in mean expression during the dormancy-spring growth transition

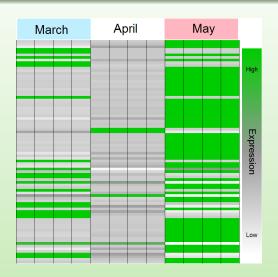


- Hundreds to thousands of differentially expressed isogroups.
- 84 isogroups common to all three seed sources.
- 391 isogroups differentially expressed by two seed sources.

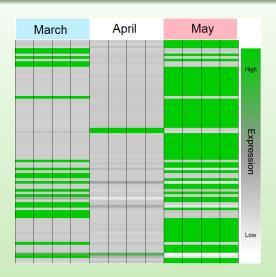
Oregon Siskiyous, Low Elevation 84 common D.E. isogroups



Washington Cascades, High Elevation 84 common D.E. isogroups

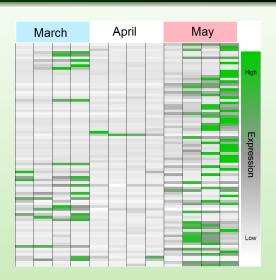


Washington Coast, Low Elevation 84 common D.E. isogroups

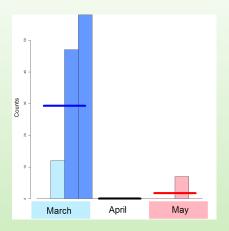


Washington Coast, Low Elevation

84 common D.E. isogroups, raw data



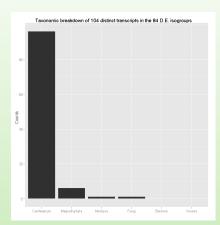
Washington Coast, Low Elevation Isogroup 81, raw data

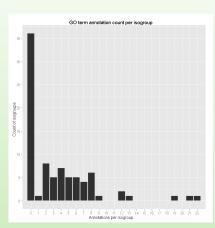


- Fitted values do not account for family differences.
- Larger sample size may allow partitioning of variance at the level of family.

Taxonomic annotation

84 common D.E. isogroups





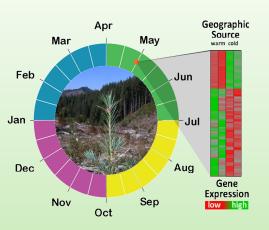
blastn

blastx

Summary

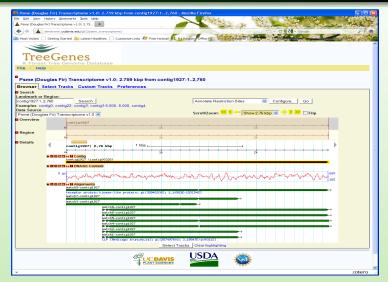
- *De novo* assembly of transcriptomes using short read technologies (≈ 100 bp) is possible.
- Some isogroups appear more abundant in the physiologically dormant state (dormancy genes).
- Annotation indicates that 57.1% these isogroups may be homologous to annotated genes. The remaining 43.0% of isogroups may be novel to Douglas-fir (or conifers in general).

Climate Change Transcriptome Observatory Things to come



- Douglas-fir annual atlas of transcript dynamics.
 - Relate transcriptome variation to phenology
 - Characterize expression from trees that are cold, mesic and warm adapted
 - Build networks of gene interactions to identify higher order responses
- Diurnal atlas of the Douglas-fir needle transcriptome.

Douglas-fir transcriptome at Dendrome



Dendrome annotation 52,309 total transcripts

33,145	blastx match (NCBI nr)	
6,428	blastn to Picea sitchensis	
12,736	no description	
52,309	Total (clustered) transcripts	

Thank you Jill Wegrzyn and Pine RefSeq project!

Acknowledgements



United States Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture

This project was supported by an Agriculture and Food Research Initiative Competitive Grant from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture.



Brad St.Clair, Constance Harrington, Peter Gould, Tara Jennings, Chris Poklemba and Danielle Marca.



Glenn Howe (OSU Forestry).

391 differentially expressed isogroups 111 blastx hits (96 hits to plant, 13 hits to bacteria/fungi)

- Cell wall/glucan processes
 - Xyloglucosyl transferase
 - Polygalacturonase
- Energy production
 - Proline-rich APG-like protein
 - PEP Carboxykinase
 - Glyceraldehyde-3phosphate dehydrogenase
- Carbohydrate/Metabolism
 - Beta-glucosidase

- Transcription factors
 - NAM (no apical meristem)-like
 - WRKY11 transcription factor
 - AP2/EREBP transcription factors
 - F-box/KELCH
 - ETHYLENE responsive elements binding factors
 - Protease-associated zinc finger
 - Protein phosphatase
 2C(maintanence of meristem activity)
 - R2R3 MYBs Myb2, myb 305
 - Transducin wd40-domain