The chloroplast genome comparative characteristic of artificial breeding tree, a case about *Broussonetia kazinoki* × *Broussonetia papyrifera*

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Abstract: Broussonetia kazinoki × Broussonetia papyrifera (ZJGS) is a hybrid species in Moraceae family, which has a very complicated hybrid origin. The excellent characteristics of fast growth, strong soil and water conservation ability, high leaf protein content and stem fiber content in ZJGS make it both ecological benefits in the mining area and economically valuable. This study aims to further understand ZJGS and other Moraceae taxa through the ZJGS chloroplast (cp) genome structure and the comparison with 12 closely related Moraceae species. Among the 13 Moraceae species, the cp genome length of seven Broussonetia species (ranges from 160,239 bp to 162,594 bp) is larger than that of six Morus species (ranges from 158,459 bp to 159,265 bp). Among the 77 shared protein-coding genes (PCGs) in Moraceae species, the obvious positive selection of Ka/Ks ratios acted on *petD* and *rpl16* genes of *B. kazinoki* and *B. papyrifera*, respectively. Phylogenetic analysis based on shared PCGs from 28 species shows that ZJGS is closely related to maternal *B. kazinoki*. These findings provide data support for the origin of ZJGS hybridization and provide genomic resources for future ZJGS resource development and molecular breeding.

MP:

Abbreviations

		M. atropurpurea:	Morus atropurpurea
B. papyrifera :	Broussonetia papyrifera	NJ:	neighbor-joining method
bp:	Base pairs	NAD(P)H:	Nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide (reduced)
cp:	Chloroplast	NDH:	NAD(P)H dehydrogenase
CNR1:	Cell Number Regulator 1 gene	PCGs:	proteincoding genes
DOGMA:	Dual Organellar GenoMe Annotator	SSC:	small single copy
F. carica:	Ficus carica	rRNA:	Ribosomal RNA
IRs:	inverted repeats	SSR:	Simple sequence repeats
Ka:	the number of nonsynonymous substitu-	SPR:	Subtree-Pruning-Regrafting
	tions per non-synonymous site	tRNA:	Transfer Ribonucleic Acid
Ks:	the number of synonymous substitutions	ZJGS:	Broussonetia kazinoki $ imes$ Broussonetia
	per synonymous site		papyrifera
LSC:	large single copy		
ML:	maximum likelihood method	Introduction	

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maximum parsimony method

There are many hybridization phenomena in nature, which

are regarded as effective methods to produce "positive

species" (Gowda et al., 2010; Pucher et al., 2016; Tompkins

et al., 2006). Hybrid breeding is widely used in forestry



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production, especially in horticulture. At present, there are already many hybrid breeds used in agriculture and forestry production based on heterosis. The hybrid aspen (Populus tremula × Populus tremuloides) has a higher yield than the parent species and can be quickly regenerated from the root sucker (Liesebach et al., 1999; Rytter, 2002; Rytter and Stener, 2005). Hybrids of Abies genus have the advantage of strong anti-pollution ability and resistance to pests and diseases (Kobliha and Stejskal, 2009; Kobliha et al., 2013). The heterosis is predicted by both positive gene contribution and environment. Hybridization is also an important way to produce gene diversity. Biologists have always focused on the role of hybridization in evolution. In-depth analyses of heterozygous genotypes showed that heterosis mainly came from the accumulation of a large number of rare superior alleles with positive dominance (Huang et al., 2015). Recently, five candidate genes involved in high yield were identified in super hybrid rice LYP9, among which heterozygous segments containing qSS7 and qHD8 showed superiority and contributed to heterosis (Lin et al., 2020). In maize, the silent expression of Cell Number Regulator 1 gene (CNR1) can increase the size of plant and organ and become a direct contributor to heterosis (Guo et al., 2010). The nucleotide sequence of the plastid gene rbcL and the nuclear gene PgiC were used to study the reticulated evolution of the Dryopteris varia complex in Japan and a haplotype not belonging to any existing species was found. It was speculated that it came from an extinct species. This indicates that hybrids may have higher fitness due to heterosis and become an effective way to preserve their genetic diversity (Hori et al., 2014). However, the above genetic information related to hybridization is mostly concentrated in nuclear genome. Studies have shown that there is gene exchange between the chloroplast (cp) genome and the nuclear genome (Jansen et al., 2007; Lin et al., 2017; Sugiura, 2015; Timmis et al., 2004), so the heterosis of nuclear genes may affect the cp genome. Typically, the cp genome is minimal when compared with the plant mitochondrial and nuclear genomes, which has significant advantages in the study of phylogenetic evolution of species.

Cp genome, as an independent genetic unit, is mostly unisexual, although multiple inheritance patterns had been found in the cpDNA of Actinidia (Li et al., 2013). The selection pressure during the evolution of the cp genome is small, which can directly reflect the genetic variation accumulated in the long-term evolution of plants, and can be used to trace the origin and migration of species as well as study genetic diversity (Nadachowska-Brzyska et al., 2015; Timmis et al., 2004; Won, 2019). The cp genome contains a large number of functional genes, which can be divided into three categories: genes related to photosynthesis (Photosystem I: psa; Subunits of Photosystem I: ycf3 and ycf4; Photosystem II: psb), genes related to gene expression (ribosomal RNA genes and transfer RNA genes, etc.), and other genes related to biosynthesis (ATP synthase gene, NADH dehydrogenase gene, etc.). As the two largest genes, ycf1 and ycf2 located at the IR/SC junction and the IRs regions, respectively, which proved to be useful for analyzing cp genome variation in higher plants (Zhang et al., 2013). As the development of sequencing technology, cp genome sequences are more and more available. The phylogenetic analyses based on the cp genome are achievable and revealed qualitative and valuable information to confirm the genetic relationship of different species (Moore *et al.*, 2010; Nguyen *et al.*, 2015b). The complete cp genome sequence of *Morus cathayana* and *Morus multicaulis* were obtained and compared with other genus *Morus*, the results indicated that both natural selection and mutational bias have contributed to the codon bias (Kong and Yang, 2017).

Paper mulberry is a member of genus Broussonetia in Moraceae family. The tree displayed the features on fastgrowing, easy breeding, resistant to pruning and widely distributing (Morgan and Overholt, 2016; Peng et al., 2015; Yan et al., 2011). Vegetation survey in tailing's area showed that the tree is an excellent native plant having a comprehensive absorption effect for various heavy metals (Zhao et al., 2014). Meanwhile, the leaves are an important source of pig feeds and some chemical substances are also important resources for medicine (Ryu et al., 2012). Most importantly, as the name implies, because of its long fiber and ease of preparation, paper mulberry contributed to the invention of papermaking and then was also used in barkcloth (Moncada et al., 2013). Based on the multiple uses of paper mulberry, paper mulberry has historically been an important economic tree species and even accompanied by human expansion (Chang et al., 2015). Now, there is some confusion in the name of paper mulberry. Paper mulberry, Broussonetia papyrifera, B. kazinoki × B. papyrifera are all used to called the tree, while it may not the same tree (Xu et al., 2018). In recent years, a hybrid variety for paper mulberry was bred (Peng et al., 2014; Won, 2019). The breeding process is showed in Fig. 1 and in order to standardize the name, we called it as the hybrid paper mulberry (ZJGS) in the study. ZJGS is a hybrid between B. kazinoki and B. papyrifera, whose maternal lineage is B. kazinoki and paternal is B. papyrifera, respectively (Ni et al., 2020; Peng et al., 2014; Won, 2019). With a long breeding



FIGURE 1. Schematic diagram of ZJGS breeding. Note: The *Broussonetia monoica* ① was named as *Broussonetia kaempferi* in the flora of China. The *Broussonetia kazinoki* ② was also called as *B.* × *hanjiana* in Korea and *B.* × *kazinoki* in Japan.

process of more than ten years, the researchers first used modern breeding technology and then loaded the hybrid materials into the spacecraft and bred by space mutation. The mutant materials were optimized and cultivated after the spacecraft returned to the ground, and finally hybrid plants with excellent traits were obtained. However, *B. kazinoki* was found to be probably a naturally occurring hybrid, with *B. monoica* as the female parent and *B. papyrifera* as the male parent (Won, 2019). The complicated hybridization process has blurred the genetic background of paper mulberry and hindered the determination of the classification status of the tree and its utilization.

Due to the tree nuclear genome is always large, a few forest tree genomes have been sequenced. Among the genetic resources of ZJGS, only nuclear genome of B. papyrifera was assembled (Peng et al., 2019). Although we have reported the cp genome structure of ZJGS, comparative analysis of related species is lacking (Xu et al., 2018). The vacancy of molecular genetic information about ZJGS may prevent optimal breeding of the tree and the exploration of adaptability mechanisms. In order to further determine the characteristics of the cp genome during the hybridization process, the cp genome of ZJGS was compared with 12 Moraceae species, including B. papyrifera and B. kazinoki. The research is not only helpful for us to further determine the status of hybrid paper mulberry, but also provide reference value for future molecular markers and breeding of new varieties.

Materials and Methods

Comparative analyses of cp genome structure

Our research group has reported the complete cp genome of ZJGS, and the sequence was submitted to GeneBank with the accession number of MF496038. The more experiment details can be got from the announcement (Xu et al., 2018). At the same time, 12 Moraceae plants, including six Broussonetia species and six Morus species were selected to compare cp genomes structure with ZJGS. The cp genomes information of 13 Moraceae plants were downloaded from NCBI database and the GenBank accession numbers were listed in Suppl. Table S1. Firstly, the characteristics of cp genomes, such as GC content, length of IRs regions and number of genes were compared manually. Secondly, mVista in Shuffle-LAGAN mode was employed to compare cp genomes of the above selected 13 plants and ZJGS was set as the reference (Brudno et al., 2003). To explore the evolutionary event of ZJGS, the details of IRs junction regions were detected and displayed, for the IRs regions were considered as the most conserved regions and these junctions were regarded as an index of cp genome evolution.

Simple sequence repeats (SSRs) and long repeats sequences analysis

SSRs, which is one of the most widely used molecular marker systems in plant genetic breeding and revealed more polymorphism (Powell *et al.*, 1996; Suo *et al.*, 2016; Umadevi *et al.*, 2014). The SSRs within the cp genome of each species were predicted by MISA with the parameters were set as: ≥ 10 for mononucleotides, ≥ 4 for di-nucleotides, ≥ 3 for tetra-nucleotides, penta-nucleotides and hexanucleotides. The number and details of SSRs were showed. Long repeat sequences, including forward match, reverse match, palindromic match and complementary match were identified by REPuter (Kurtz *et al.*, 2001). The related settings were showed as follows: (1) 90% or greater sequence identity; (2) a minimal repeat size of 20 bp. The graphs were all plotted using software SigmaPlot 12.5.

Molecular evolution analysis

The Ka/Ks ratio is a good indicator of selective pressure at the sequence level, which can calculate selective pressure within protein coding regions. Here, the Ka/Ks ratio of 77 shared protein-coding genes (PCGs) of 12 Moraceae plants cp genomes were compared with ZJGS. Firstly, the multiple nucleotide sequences of the homologous genes that code for proteins were aligned by MEGA 7 (Kumar *et al.*, 2016), and then the Ka/Ks ratio was calculated using DnaSP v5 (Librado and Rozas, 2009).

Phylogenetic analysis

In order to clarify the phylogenetic relationship of ZJGS, 27 related species were downloaded from the NCBI for phylogenetic analysis (the GenBank accession numbers were listed in Suppl. Table S1). The multiple sequences were aligned use MAFFT v7 (Katoh and Standley, 2013) in PhyloSuite v1.2.2 (Zhang et al., 2020) with the default parameters strategy and normal alignment mode. ModelFinder (Kalyaanamoorthy et al., 2017) was used to select the best-fit model (GTR + F + I + G4) using BIC criterion. Maximum likelihood (ML) phylogenies were inferred using IQ-TREE (Nguyen et al., 2015a) under the model automatically selected for 100 standard bootstraps, as well as the Shimodaira-Hasegawa-like approximate likelihood-ratio test. Bayesian Inference (BI) phylogenies were inferred using MrBayes 3.2.6 (Ronquist et al., 2012) under GTR + I + G + F model (2 parallel runs, 20,000 generations), in which the initial 25% of sampled data were discarded as burn-in. The percentage of replicate trees in which the associated taxa clustered together in the bootstrap test (1,000 replicates) were shown next to the branches.

Results

Comparative analyses of the cp genomes of Moraceae species In the Moraceae species of comparison, the cp genome length of all seven *Broussonetia* (ranges from 160,239 bp to 162,594 bp) is higher than that of the six *Morus* (ranges from 158,459 bp to 159,265 bp), but the total GC content is relatively lower in the genus *Broussonetia*, the average value is 35.72%, which in *Morus* is 36.26% (Table 1). From the perspective of cp genome length, the species that are closer to ZJGS are *B. papyrifera*, *B. kazinoki*, *B. monoica* and *B. kaempferi*, and the GC content of *B. kazinoki* is most similar to ZJGS. The length ratio of the IRs regions in ZJGS cp genome is the lowest among all the comparative species, which is 16.04%. In addition, the ZJGS cp genome contains the largest number of genes, while the number of genes that direct synthetic proteins is the least, only 81.

TABLE 1

Summary statistics of cp genomes contents of ZJGS and Moraceae plants

Species		LSC			SSC			IR		Tot	al	Number	PCGs
	Length (bp)	GC%	Length (%)	Length (bp)	GC%	Length (%)	Length (bp)	GC%	Length (%)	Length (bp)	GC%	of genes	
ZJGS	89,220	33.33	55.45	20,079	28.50	12.48	25,802	42.72	16.04	160,903	35.74	135	81
B. papyrifera	88,621	33.50	55.31	19,918	28.49	12.43	25,850	42.66	16.13	160,239	35.83	132	88
B. kazinoki	89,066	33.34	55.38	20,093	28.47	12.49	25,841	42.68	16.07	160,841	35.73	125	87
B. monoica	88,993	33.37	55.35	20,076	28.51	12.49	25,854	42.68	16.08	160,777	35.76	130	85
B. kaempferi	88,956	33.21	55.38	19,965	28.37	12.43	25,852	42.64	16.09	160,625	35.65	132	87
B. luzonica	89,980	33.29	55.34	19,560	28.52	12.03	26,527	42.32	16.31	162,594	35.66	132	87
B. kurzii	90,174	33.24	55.61	20,150	28.51	12.43	25,923	42.66	15.99	162,170	35.66	132	87
M. cathayana	88,143	33.77	55.34	19,844	29.20	12.46	25,639	42.95	16.10	159,265	36.16	129	85
M. multicaulis	87,940	33.82	55.27	19,809	29.26	12.45	25,677	42.91	16.14	159,103	36.19	129	85
M. indica	87,386	34.12	55.14	19,742	29.35	12.46	25,678	42.92	16.20	158,484	36.37	130	84
M. mongolica	87,367	33.97	55.14	19,736	29.33	12.45	25,678	42.92	16.20	158,459	36.29	127	89
M. notabilis	87,470	34.11	55.12	19,776	29.34	12.46	25,717	42.89	16.21	158,680	36.36	129	83
M. atropurpurea	87,761	33.90	55.16	19,875	29.30	12.49	25,707	42.90	16.16	159,113	36.20	126	89

CpDNA variation and conservation of ZJGS

In order to detect the global sequence variability of the Moraceae cp genome, the sequence of ZJGS was used as a reference to compare with the other Moraceae species (Fig. 2). It is found that the ZJGS cp genomic sequence has the highest similarity with B. kazinoki and B. monoica by comparison. Furthermore, the sequence of its paternal B. papyrifera exhibits higher divergence. These highly different regions include matK, rps16, atpF, rpoC2, rpoC1, ycf3, clpP, ndhF, ccsA, ndhA and ycf1. It has become apparent to us that these genes are good sources for interspecies phylogenetic analysis and evolutionary studies. There are also some genes that are relatively conserved among these species, such as atpH, petN, psbE, rpl2, psbH, psbM and rps7. As a whole, the non-coding sequence of the Moraceae plants is more divergent than the coding sequence, and the sequence variation in the IRs regions is smaller than that in the LSC and SSC regions, which also shows that the IRs regions are more conservative than the LSC and SSC regions.

Intuitive results show that the gene composition in IR/SC junction of ZJGS cp genome is somewhat different from that of several other species (Fig. 3). Among them, the most obvious is that in IRa/SSC region, *ycf1* is replaced by *trnN* in ZJGS cp genome, which is the same as *B. monoica*, *B. kaempferi*, *B. luzonica* and *B. kurzii*. However, the genetic constitution in the two parent species of ZJGS at the IR/SC junction is similar. In terms of gene length, the *rpl2* gene (401 bp) in the ZJGS cp genome is significantly shortened in the IRa region and is more than three times shorter than other species (1,509 bp), which is related to the IRa boundary contraction.

Repeat sequence comparison

In this study, the SSRs of ZJGS and 12 Moraceae species cp genomes were detected (Fig. 4). Similarly, all cp genomes of Moraceae plants have mononucleotides, dinucleotides,

trinucleotides, tetranucleotides and pentanucleotides. While, hexanucleotide repeats are only detected in B. papyrifera and B. kurzii. Moreover, the number of SSRs in Broussonetia species is higher than that of Morus species, except for B. papyrifera. On the whole, ZJGS and its maternal species B. kazinoki have the most similar performance among different types of SSRs (Table 2). Mainly reflects in the following SSRs: C/G, AAT/ATT, AAG/CTT, AAAT/ATTT, AGAT/ATCT, ATCG/ATCG, AAATT/AATTT, AATAG/ATTCT, AATAT/ ATATT, and AAATGT/ACATTT, which shows the characteristics of maternal inheritance of ZJGS cpDNA. In order to obtain more genetic regulation information, the long repeat sequences of 13 Moraceae plants were further analyzed (Fig. 5A). Four types of repeats were detected in the cp genome of M. atropurpurea and Broussonetia species except for B. luzonica. And the number of palindromic repeats is the largest, then the type of forward repeat and reverse repeat, the least is the complementary repeat. The forward repeats, palindromic repeats, and complementary repeats in the ZJGS cp genome all contain the most repeating elements. Repetitive sequences of 20-30 bp in length reach 50% or more (Figs. 5B-5E). It can be clearly seen that the long repeat sequences of the ZJGS cp genome is dominant in this interval, and these repeat elements can be used as important genetic resources for the genetics and phylogenetic of the ZJGS population.

The form of sequence evolution: Ka/Ks ratio

In this study, the cp genome sequence of ZJGS was used as reference, the Ka/Ks ratios of Moraceae species was presented (Fig. 6, Suppl. Table S2). The Ka/Ks ratios of such genes: *atpH*, *petG*, *petN*, *psaC*, *psbE-psbI*, *psbL-psbT* and *rps7* is 0, which reflects the strong purification selection and also indicates that these genes are highly conserved. On the contrary, most of the NADH genes



FIGURE 2. (continued)



FIGURE 2. Comparison of sequence similarity among 13 Moraceae plants cp genomes using ZJGS as reference. Arrows indicate the direction of the gene, where exons are shown in blue, tRNA or rRNA genes are shown in green, and CNS represent non-coding sequences, indicated in red.



FIGURE 3. Comparison of ZJGS cp genome with the IR/SC borders of other 12 Moraceae species.



FIGURE 4. Simple sequence repeats (SSRs) in cp genomes of ZJGS and 12 Moraceae plants.

(*ndhA-ndhK*) have higher Ka/Ks ratio, and in the comparison of all species, the Ka/Ks ratio of *atpF*, *ndhB* and *rpoC1* is >1, these three genes are strongly positive selection. Except for the above three genes, *clpP*, *ndhA*, *ndhD*, *petB* and *petD* genes are also positive selection compared with maternal *B. kazinoki* of ZJGS. While compared with paternal *B. papyrifera*, *ndhA*, *ndhD*, *ndhF*, *petB*, *rpl16*, *rpoA* and *ycf1* genes were positively selected. Among them, *petD* and *rpl16* have the largest Ka/Ks ratio, and both are >3. These two genes are highly evolved and can be used for subsequent gene identification.

Phylogenetic analysis

In the phylogenetic tree based on 77 shared PCGs, ZJGS and its maternal *B. kazinoki* formed a single clade with high bootstrap support (100%) through two different methods (Fig. 7). All species are divided into four branches according to their evolutionary history. The first branch is the family of Moraceae, which contains genus of *Broussonetia*, *Ficus* and *Morus*. Here, *Broussonetia* and *Ficus* are highly clustered with bootstrap values of 100%. In addition, ZJGS, *B. kazinoki* and

TABLE 2

Frequency of repeat types in ZJGS, B. papyrifera and B. kazinoki cp genomes

SSR	Species								Nur	nber o	of repe	ats					
		3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	Total
A/T	ZJGS	-	-	_	-	-	-	_	15	18	20	5	3	6	1	_	68
	B. papyrifera	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	27	11	2	6	2	4	1	1	54
	B. kazinoki	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	18	17	19	3	7	3	_	_	67
C/G	ZJGS	_	_	-	_	_	_	_	1	_	-	-	-	-	_	-	1
	B. papyrifera	_	_	-	_	_	_	_	-	_	-	-	-	-	_	-	0
	B. kazinoki	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	1	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	1
AG/CT	ZJGS	_	20	1	_	_	_	_	-	_	-	-	-	-	-	-	21
	B. papyrifera	_	20	1	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	-	21
	B. kazinoki	_	20	1	-	-	-	-	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	21
AT/AT	ZJGS	_	47	7	2	2	_	_	1	_	-	-	-	-	-	-	59
	B. papyrifera	_	38	12	2	_	1	_	-	_	-	-	-	-	-	-	53
	B. kazinoki	_	20	1	_	_	-	_	_	-	-	_	-	-	-	-	21
AAT/ATT	ZJGS	_	4	-	_	_	_	_	-	_	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
	B. papyrifera	_	2	_	-	-	-	-	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	2
	B. kazinoki	_	4	-	_	_	_	_	-	_	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
AAG/CTT	ZJGS	_	_	-	_	_	_	_	-	_	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
	B. papyrifera	_	1	-	_	_	_	_	-	_	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	B. kazinoki	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	-	0
AAAT/ATTT	ZJGS	4	_	-	_	_	_	_	-	_	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
	B. papyrifera	4	2	-	_	_	_	_	-	_	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
	B. kazinoki	4	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	4
AATT/AATT	ZJGS	1	_	-	_	_	_	_	-	_	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	B. papyrifera	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	0
	B. kazinoki	_	_	-	_	_	_	_	-	_	-	-	-	-	_	-	0
AGAT/ATCT	ZJGS	_	1	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	1
	B. papyrifera	1	_	-	_	_	_	_	-	_	-	-	-	-	_	-	1
	B. kazinoki	_	1	-	_	_	_	_	-	_	-	-	-	-	_	-	1
ATCG/ATCG	ZJGS	1	_	-	_	_	_	_	-	_	-	-	-	-	_	-	1
	B. papyrifera	_	_	_	-	-	-	-	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	0
	B. kazinoki	1	_	_	-	-	-	-	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	1
AAAGG/CCTTT	ZJGS	1	_	-	_	_	_	_	-	_	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	B. papyrifera	1	_	_	-	-	-	-	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	-	1
	B. kazinoki	1	_	_	-	-	-	-	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	1
AAATT/AATTT	ZJGS	2	_	_	-	-	-	-	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	2
	B. papyrifera	1	_	_	-	-	-	-	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	-	1
	B. kazinoki	2	_	_	-	-	-	-	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	-	2
AATAG/ATTCT	ZJGS	1	_	_	-	-	-	-	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	-	1
	B. papyrifera	_	2	_	-	-	-	-	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	-	2
	B. kazinoki	1	_	_	-	-	-	-	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	1
AATAT/ATATT	ZJGS	1	_	-	-	-	_	_	-	_	_	_	_	-	_	-	1
	B. papyrifera	-	-	_	-	-	-	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	-	0
	B. kazinoki	1	-	_	-	-	-	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	-	1
AATCT/AGATT	ZJGS	1	-	_	-	-	-	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	-	1
	B. papyrifera	1	-	_	-	-	-	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	-	1
	B. kazinoki	1	_	_	-	-	-	-	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	-	1



FIGURE 5. Long repeat sequences in the cp genomes of ZJGS and 12 Moraceae species. (A) The four repetitive sequences. (B) The number of the forward repeat by length. (C) The number of the reverse repeat by length. (D) The number of the palindromic repeat by length. (E) The number of the complementary repeat by length.



FIGURE 6. The Ka/Ks ratios of 77 shared PCGs in 12 Moraceae cp genomes were compared with ZJGS.

B. monoica formed a well-supported clade, as a natural hybrid, *B. kazinoki* also has the closest phylogenetic relationship with its maternal *B. monoica*. The second branch, Cannabaceae, includes *C. sativa* and *H. lupulus*, which is closely to Moraceae. Studies have shown that both Cannabaceae and Moraceae belong to the Urticalean Rosid clade (Leme *et al.*, 2020; Sytsma *et al.*, 2002). The remaining two families, Rosaceae and Fagaceae, belong to Rosanae. In general, the classification results provide important information for the phylogenetic of ZJGS, as well as confirm the source of ZJGS hybridization.

Discussion

In this study, the cp genome of ZJGS (a hybrid plant) was analyzed with the Moraceae species from structural comparison and sequence alignment. From the structure composition of the cp genome, it can be seen that the seven *Broussonetia* species and the six *Morus* species are grouped independently and each of them have similar compositions. Among the seven *Broussonetia* species, total GC content of ZJGS cp genome sequence is the closest to the maternal *B. kazinoki*, shows high species affinity (Guo *et al.*, 2020),

which is also reflected in the comparison of sequence diversity and SSRs. In addition, the sequence comparison analysis of ZJGS cp genome and other 12 Moraceae plants at the genomic level reflects the high sequence conservation of the IRs regions, so the changes of IRs regions can be used as a marker of species evolution (Huang et al., 2014; Wang et al., 2008). At the boundary of the IRs regions, the changes in the length of the *rpl2*, *rps19*, *trnN* and *ycf1* reflect the contraction and expansion of the IRs regions. Through the previous study of sequence diversity, we know that the IRs regions are the most conserved regions in the cp genome. Most studies have shown that the contraction and expansion of the IRs regions determine the length of the cp genome, and this change directly affects the length and distribution of genes at the boundary of this region (Guo et al., 2020; Ivanova et al., 2017; Ravi et al., 2006; Zhang et al., 2013). In the evolution of higher plants, all kinds of repetitive elements have a common feature, which tends to show "co-evolution", which plays a crucial role in the genome sequence diversity and gene rearrangement (Dover and Coen, 1981; Hanson et al., 1998). Studies have shown that the number of repeats is related to the degree of



FIGURE 7. Phylogenetic tree was constructed for ZJGS and 27 related species using different methods based on the 77 shared PCGs. (A) ML phylogenies based on IQ-TREE; (b) BI phylogenies based on the GTR + I + G + F model.

genome rearrangement (Guisinger *et al.*, 2011; Lee *et al.*, 2007; Xue *et al.*, 2019). Here, long repeat sequences in ZJGS cp genome are the largest, and the number of 20–30 bp repeats may promote the rearrangement of ZJGS (Weng *et al.*, 2014), these repeats can serve as good molecular markers for species evolution, and play an important role in the variation of cp genome sequence.

The breeding process of ZJGS is long and complicated. It has undergone many cross-breeding and space mutations to form excellent plants with stable inheritance. And its maternal *B. kazinoki* has experienced controversy (Chung *et al.*, 2017; Won, 2019), therefore, it is necessary to compare ZJGS and its hybrid parent systematically. Unlike the previous study (Xu *et al.*, 2018), the cp genome of ZJGS was analyzed in detail. The results of total length and total GC content reflect the high species affinity of ZJGS and maternal species in the phylogenetic history (Choi and Park, 2015; Guo *et al.*, 2020). Similarly, in the sequence diversity comparison, we also found that the cp genome sequence of ZJGS and maternal *B. kazinoki* remains highly consistence. This is related to sequence conservation and provides a basis for the species evolution of ZJGS (Ivanova *et al.*, 2017;

Yin *et al.*, 2018). The construction of the phylogenetic tree shows the most intuitive results, closely related species are grouped into the same branch. And ZJGS is closest to maternal *B. kazinoki*, which strongly supports the characteristics of cp maternal inheritance (Corriveau and Coleman, 1988; Quan *et al.*, 2003).

Ka/Ks ratio represents the ratio between nonsynonymous substitution (Ka) and synonymous substitution (Ks) at a particular site, which is used to infer the direction and magnitude of natural selection acting on PCGs. A ratio >1 means positive selection; <1 means purifying selection; and = 1 indicates no selection (Hurst, 2002; Yang and Bielawski, 2000). According to previous study, except for the most genes with faster evolution rate, the frequency of synonymous nucleotide substitutions is higher than nonsynonymous substitutions due to the purification selection (Ivanova et al., 2017). We can screen some genes according to Ka/Ks ratio and then carry out functional studies, which have been commonly applied to the field of molecular evolution (Tae-Kun and Hirohisa, 2008; Yoshihiro et al., 2002). In our research, three genes of *atpF*, *ndhB* and *rpoC1* show a complete positive selection. In previous studies,

some genes have been reported with a faster evolution rate, including ycf1, ycf2, accD, clpP, ndhA, rbcL, matK, ccsA and cemA (Salamin et al., 2013; Stephan et al., 2008). Compared with two cross parents, the same genes (atpF, ndhA, ndhB, ndhD, petB and rpoC1) with positive selection were screened out. Most of the NADH genes (ndhA-ndhK) have a higher Ka/Ks ratio than photosynthesis genes (Photosystem I: psaA, psaB, psaC, psaI, psaJ; Photosystem II: psbA, psbB, psbC, psbD, psbE, psbF, psbH, psbI, psbJ, psbK, psbM, psbN, psbT, psbZ), which is similar to the previous research (Choi and Park, 2015; Yang et al., 2016), shows that photosynthesis genes have strong purification selection. NADH genes have higher activity during cellular senescence and oxidative stress (Martín et al., 1996; Peng et al., 2011), and early hybrid selection experiments showed that most proteins synthesized by chloroplasts in the early stages of aging are NDH polypeptides (Vera et al., 1990). It can be seen that these genes under positive selection belong to the advantageous genes of hybrid plants, and may be the key to speciation.

Conclusions

This study is based on the cp genome of ZJGS, a hybrid species, whose structure and composition are the same as most angiosperms, and the IRs regions are highly conserved. The detailed comparison of 13 closely related Moraceae plants revealed the evolutionary characteristics of ZJGS cp genome: (1) The comparison of total GC content, sequence diversity, and SSRs all indicate that the cp genome of ZJGS has significant maternal inheritance; (2) The high sequence variability of the LSC region, the SSC region, and the intergenic regions, and the contraction and expansion of the IRs regions bounder leads to the changes in gene length; (3) Compared with Morus species, the Broussonetia species have a longer cp genome length, higher total GC content and SSRs number. And among all the Broussonetia plants, ZJGS is closest to maternal B. kazinoki. (4) Ka/Ks ratio reveals positive selection of genes such as *atpF*, *ndhB* and rpoC1, and NADH genes. Phylogenetic analysis supporting the close relationship between ZJGS and its hybrid parents (the maternal B. kazinoki and the paternal B. papyrifera). And it strongly supports the genetic relationship between ZJGS and maternal B. kazinoki. Our results provide a basis for overcoming phylogenetic problems at the species level, and also provide important genomic resources for the functional utilization of ZJGS.

Availability of Data and Materials: All data generated or analyzed during this study are included in this published article (and its supplementary information files). The sequencing data can be downloaded from NCBI Genebank (https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/).

Author Contribution: The authors confirm contribution to the paper as follows: study conception and design: XZ; data collection: XZ, ZW, YG; analysis and interpretation of results: XZ, ZW, ZJ; draft manuscript preparation: XZ, ZW; funding acquisition, XZ, ZW, HH, ZY. All authors reviewed the results and approved the final version of the manuscript. **Funding Statement:** This work was supported by Hunan Provincial Natural Science Foundation of China [Grant No. 2019JJ50027]; China Postdoctoral Science Foundation [Grant No. 2020M683592]; Key Projects of National Forestry and Grassland Bureau [Grant No. 201801]; and Scientific Innovation Fund for Post-graduates of Central South University of Forestry and Technology [Grant No. CX20191004].

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Supplementary files

TABLE S1

The GenBank accession numbers of 28 related species downloaded fr	om the NCBI

Species	GenBank accession numbers
ZJGS	MF496038
Broussonetia papyrifera	KX828844
Broussonetia kazinoki	MH223642
Broussonetia monoica	MH189567
Broussonetia kaempferi	MH189569
Broussonetia luzonica	MH189566
Broussonetia kurzii	MH118529
Morus cathayana	KU981118
Morus multicaulis	KU981119
Morus indica	NC_008359
Morus mongolica	KM491711
Morus notabilis	NC_027110
Morus atropurpurea	KU355276
Ficus carica	KY635880
Ficus religiosa	KY416513
Ficus racemosa	KT368151
Cannabis sativa	KR779995
Humulus lupulus	KT266264
Amygdalus kansuensis	NC_023956
Pyrus pyrifolia	NC_015996
Prunus persica	NC_014697
Fragaria vesca subsp. Vesca	NC_015206
Rosa odorata var. gigantea	KF753637
Pentactina rupicola	NC_016921
Castanea mollissima	HQ336406
Castanopsis echinocarpa	NC_023801
Quercus rubra	NC_020152
Trigonobalanus doichangensis	NC_023959

S	5
TABLE	

Ka/Ks analysis table

Ka\Ks	B. papyrifera	B. kazinoki	B. monoica	B. kaempferi	B. luzonica	B. kurzii	M. cathayana	M. multicaulis	M. indica	M. mongolica	M. notabilis	M. atropurpurea
accD	0.336134454	0	0	1.003948967	0.452012384	0.446153846	1.159441953	1.162929746	1.162929746	1.166583624	1.167885638	1.159441953
atpA	0.01618705	0	0	0.032967033	0.049242424	0.049242424	0.069239501	0.069239501	0.069239501	0.069239501	0.074299635	0.069239501
atpB	0.098901099	0	0	2.01583048	0.082066869	0.119601329	2.020816327	2.020816327	1.884797685	2.020816327	2.020816327	2.020816327
atpE	0.057793345	0	0	0.147982063	0.193452381	0.094476744	0	0	0	0	0	0
atpF	1.133445756	1.162140484	1.162140484	1.08380069	1.213452805	1.213452805	1.088554541	1.042669233	1.042669233	1.042669233	1.042669233	1.042669233
atpH	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
atpI	0.323353293	0	0	0	0.106508876	0.053254438	0.079470199	0.079470199	0.079470199	0.079470199	0.079470199	0.079470199
ccsA	0.320430108	0	0	0.46130031	0.224736048	0.214473684	0.923382971	0.923382971	0.923382971	0.923382971	0.923382971	0.923382971
cemA	0.441558442	0	0	0.230136986	0.342281879	0.443478261	0.504332756	0.504332756	0.504332756	0.504332756	0.535405872	0.504332756
clpP	0.965097403	1.165203252	1.165203252	0.99862183	0.960895361	0.960895361	1.0484746	1.0484746	1.0484746	1.0484746	1.0484746	1.0484746
matK	0.736842105	0	0.266666667	1.407047825	1.357854933	1.28872428	1.338642774	1.324142459	1.324142459	1.338642774	1.329739592	1.338642774
ndhA	1.099908759	1.168740667	1.150416463	1.182335477	1.203970223	1.211633663	0.785278746	0.791122715	0.791122715	0.785278746	0.785278746	0.785278746
ndhB	1.072743402	1.073808991	1.073808991	1.062168142	1.070825933	1.073876279	1.037397319	1.037397319	1.037397319	1.037397319	1.037397319	1.037397319
ndhC	0.197297297	0	0	0.302904564	0	0	0.144370861	0.144370861	0.144370861	0.144370861	0.144370861	0.144370861
D	1.637329478	1.465917734	1.465917734	1.436389314	1.477558889	1.460824144	1.545098969	1.545098969	1.559454307	1.545098969	1.510350877	0.309278351
ndhE	0.307142857	0	0	1.241134752	0.306338028	0.306338028	0.299589603	0.238419619	0.238419619	0.238419619	0.238419619	0.238419619
ndhF	1.114905399	0	1.210526316	1.159442141	1.083113456	1.090390522	0.996727273	1.00255102	1.00255102	0.996727273	0.984902948	1.041557469
DdhG	0.207039337	0	0	0.474683544	0.390625	0.965189873	0.313278008	0.313278008	0.313278008	0.313278008	0.313278008	0.313278008
НЧри	0.081180812	0	0	0.285714286	0.140425532	0.187633262	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125
Idhn	0.43258427	0	0.579545455	0.190298507	0.141666667	0.040561622	0.149469624	0.149469624	0.149469624	0.149469624	0.136084284	0.149469624
[4pu	0.095320624	0	0	0.193661972	0.114107884	0.095155709	0.074410163	0.074410163	0.074410163	0.074410163	0.117758784	0.074410163
ndhK	0.487603306	0	0	0.062295082	0.136890951	0.139534884	0.356037152	0.356037152	1.814383228	0.356037152	1.814383228	0.356037152
petA	0.387640449	0	0	0.152542373	0.237623762	0.440894569	0.191666667	0.191666667	0.191666667	0.191666667	0.191666667	0.227777778
petB	1.728798082	1.795919554	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	1.730536574	1.769812272	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
petD	n.a.	3.452632384	2.952380952	0.410596026	0.503311258	n.a.	0.179034158	0.179034158	0.161016949	0.179034158	0.179034158	0.179034158
petG	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
petL	0	0	0	0.372208437	0	0	0	0	0.749379653	0	0	0
petN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
psaA	0.026086957	0	0	0	0.051829268	0.043814433	0.033464567	0.033464567	0.03219697	0.033464567	0.034836066	0.033464567
psaB	0.05	0	0	0.100840336	0.108597285	0.074303406	0.03515625	0.03515625	0.049315068	0.03515625	0.045028143	0.03515625
												(Continued)

Table	S2 (continued	1).										
Ka\Ks	B. papyrifera	B. kazinoki	B. monoica	B. kaempferi	B. luzonica	B. kurzii	M. cathayana	M. multicaulis	M. indica	M. mongolica	M. notabilis	M. atropurpurea
psaC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
psal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.29280397	0.29280397	0.29280397	0.29280397	0.29280397	0.29280397
psaJ	0	0	0	0	0.156346749	0.156346749	0	0	0	0	0	0
psbA	0.048979592	0	0	0	0	0	0.092124814	0.035014006	0.037313433	0.037313433	0.037313433	0.037313433
psbB	0.087179487	0	0	0.102409639	0.089211618	0.057395143	0.029850746	0.029850746	0.029850746	0.029850746	0.029850746	0.029850746
psbC	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
psbD	0.058823529	0	0	0.098360656	0	0	0.060240964	0.060240964	0.0499002	0.060240964	0.028915663	0.060240964
psbE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
psbF	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hqsd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
psbI	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
[qsd]	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.366242038	0.366242038	0.366242038	0.366242038	0.366242038	0.366242038
psbK	0.109831029	0	0	0	0.291836735	0.291836735	0.094540613	0.094540613	0.094540613	0.094540613	0	0.094540613
psbL	0	0	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	0	0	0	0	0	n.a.
psbM	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
psbN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
psbT	n.a.	n.a.	0	0	0	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	0	n.a.	0	n.a.
psbZ	0.330275229	0	0	0.163265306	0.328798186	0.328798186	0.125432526	0.125432526	0.159867696	0.125432526	0.125432526	0.125432526
rbcL	0.313492063	0	0	0.118644068	0.312865497	0.230994152	0.167776298	0.167776298	0.167776298	0.167776298	0.178961749	0.167776298
rpl2	0.914814815	0.788888889	0.788888889	0.788888889	0.914814815	0.914814815	1.417910448	0.914814815	0.914814815	0.914814815	0.914814815	0.914814815
rpl14	0.104347826	0	0	0.157894737	0.318584071	0.318584071	0.087740385	0.087740385	0.087740385	0.087740385	0.114136126	0.087740385
rpl16	3.960815888	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	3.774882105	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
rp120	0.966101695	0	0	0	0.644067797	0.478991597	1.940677966	1.940677966	0.958158996	1.940677966	0.958158996	1.940677966
rpl23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.299363057	0.299363057	0.299363057	0.299363057	0.299363057	0.299363057
rp132	0	0	0	0	0	0.273927393	0.282312925	0.282312925	0.282312925	0.282312925	0.282312925	0.282312925
rpl33	0.904977376	0	0	0	0.295555556	0.588105727	0.918181818	0.918181818	0.918181818	0.918181818	0.918181818	0.918181818
rpl36	0	0	0	0.305128205	0	0	0.09909166	0.09909166	0.09909166	0.09909166	0.09909166	0.09909166
rpoA	1.375815354	0	0	1.46277778	0.359621451	0.31147541	0.231800766	0.218390805	0.218390805	0.218390805	0.22983871	0.218390805
rpoB	0.195767196	0	0	0.259259259	0.134693878	0.135245902	0.192170819	0.192170819	0.201067616	0.192170819	0.187175043	0.192170819
rpoCl	1.685794977	1.64826969	1.64826969	1.614672407	1.663105753	1.646669816	1.748072304	1.665074024	1.665074024	1.665074024	1.665074024	1.665074024
rpoC2	0.372641509	0	0	0.321568627	1.15327219	1.155283404	1.01530469	1.01530469	1.01530469	1.01530469	1.022733691	1.01530469
rps2	0.302702703	0	0	0.31147541	0.926229508	0.926229508	0.262237762	0.262237762	0.262237762	0.262237762	0.235109718	0.262237762
												(Continued)

Table	S2 (continued	.(1										
Ka\Ks	B. papyrifera	B. kazinoki	B. monoica	B. kaempferi	B. luzonica	B. kurzii	M. cathayana	M. multicaulis	M. indica	M. mongolica	M. notabilis	M. atropurpurea
rps3	0.219178082	0	0	0.164383562	0.15503876	0.23255814	0.241530055	0.241530055	0.241530055	0.241530055	0.241530055	0.241530055
rps4	0.103773585	0	0	0	0.155477032	0.155477032	0.257009346	0.257009346	0.191304348	0.257009346	0.257009346	0.257009346
rps7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
rps8	0.311004785	0	0	0.205047319	0.464114833	0.622009569	0.388095238	0.388095238	0.255485893	0.388095238	0.542654028	0.388095238
rps11	0.338541667	0	0	0	0.08125	0.09352518	0.134931507	0.134931507	0.125	0.134931507	0.112560055	0.134931507
rps12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1.778734177	1.327466016
rps14	0	0	0	0.143333333	0.070261438	0.070261438	0.15647482	0.15647482	0.10290652	0.15647482	0.15647482	0.15647482
rps15	0.423529412	0	0	0.284023669	0.489942529	0.492795389	0.557823129	0.557823129	0.557823129	0.557823129	0.551685393	0.557823129
rps16	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
rps18	0.585034014	0	0	0	0.28956229	0.292517007	0.212871287	0.212871287	0.212871287	0.212871287	0.212871287	0.212871287
rps19	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	1.662247741	1.875810342	1.662247741	1.924763218	1.662247741
ycfl	1.160925197	0	0	1.009786477	1.396434266	1.3718629	1.266224433	1.26361728	1.26361728	1.264257294	1.251424189	1.570767094
ycf2	0.45454545455	0	0	0.65	0.985774818	0.966686675	1.009011507	1.009011507	1.009011507	1.009011507	1.010263523	1.009011507
ycf3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.075581395	0.075581395	0.075581395	0.075581395	0.075581395	0.075581395
ycf4	0.602564103	0	0	0.177944862	0.23573201	0.176616915	0.3575	0.3575	0.3575	0.3575	0.416458853	0.3575