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## Article

# Development of S Haplotype-Specific Markers to Identify Genotypes of Self-Incompatibility in Radish (*Raphanus sativus* L.)

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**Abstract:** Radish (*Raphanus sativus* L.), a root vegetable belonging to the Brassicaceae family, is considered as one of the representative crops displaying sporophytic self-incompatibility (SSI). The utilization of a self-incompatibility system in F<sub>1</sub> breeding can improve the efficiency of cross combinations, leading to a reduction in breeding time and aiding in the development of novel F<sub>1</sub> varieties. The successful implementation of this system necessitates the rapid and accurate identification of S haplotypes in parental lines. In this study, we identified a total of 9 S haplotypes among 22 elite radish lines through Sanger sequencing. Subsequently, we obtained sequences for showing 95% similarity to 9 S haplotypes, along with sequences identified by other researchers using BLAST. Following this, multiple sequence alignment (MSA) was conducted to identify SRK and SLG sequence similarities, as well as polymorphisms within the class I, II groups. Subsequently, S haplotype-specific marker sets were developed, targeting polymorphic regions of SRK and SLG alleles. These markers successfully amplified each of 9 S haplotypes. these markers will play a crucial role in the rapid and precise identification of parental S haplotypes in the radish F<sub>1</sub> breeding process, proving instrumental in the radish F<sub>1</sub> purity test.

**Keywords:** radish (*Rahpanus sativus* L.); self-incompatibility; S haplotype; MSA

## 1. Introduction

Radish (*Raphanus sativus* L.) is a root vegetable that belongs to the Brassicaceae family and is one of the most globally cultivated crops. The radish root is low in calories and rich in various minerals, particularly secondary metabolites such as polyphenols and glucosinolates, known for their anti-cancer effects [1,2].

Self-incompatibility (SI) is a mechanism that prevents self-fertilization and promotes outcrossing to maintain genetic diversity in plants [3]. Self-incompatibility can be classified into sporophytic self-incompatibility (SSI) and gametophytic self-incompatibility (GSI), depending on the timing of S gene expression [4–6]. Brassicaceae plants, including radish, exhibit sporophytic self-incompatibility (SSI) determined by the genotype of the pollen parent [7]. SSI is controlled by a single multi-allelic locus, termed the S locus after “S” of sterility [6–8].

There are three major genes that comprise the S locus: SRK (S locus receptor kinase), SLG (S locus glycoprotein), and *SCR/SP11* (S locus cysteine-rich protein/S locus protein 11) [9,10]. S locus Receptor Kinase (SRK) is specifically expressed in the stigma and acts as a maternal determinant [11]. SRK comprises three domains: the receptor domain (S domain), transmembrane domain, and serine/threonine kinase domain. The S domain is crucial in the process of self-pollen recognition, and its structural characteristics include 12 cysteine residues, potential N-glycosylation sites, and three hypervariable regions. The S domain of SRK and SLG alleles have the same structure features, and the sequence similarity of two genes is over 80% within S alleles [12–14]. S locus glycoprotein (SLG) is also specifically expressed in the stigma, and the function of the SLG gene has been reported to be

crucial for stabilizing the self-incompatibility response. However, the exact function or mechanism remains unknown [11,15]. S locus cysteine rich protein/S locus protein11 (*SCR/SP11*), specifically expressed in pollen, acts as a ligand in the allele-specific recognition between SRK and SCR/SP11. SCR/SP11 activates a signal cascade mediating SI response [8].

SRK, SLG, and SCR/SP11 involved in S locus, are tightly linked to each other and tend to be inherited together in the next generation, forming what is termed an S haplotype [16]. S haplotypes can be classified into two groups, class I and class II, based on amino acid sequence similarities of SLG and SRK [17]. The amino acid sequences of the S domain of SRK or SLG alleles shows 72% similarity within the same group and 70% or less similarity between different groups [18]. Additionally, SLG and S domain of SRK alleles within the same S haplotype generally show high sequence similarity, especially in class II group [19–22]. Between the two groups, there exists a complex genetic dominance relationship, where class I S haplotypes are generally dominant over class II S haplotypes in the pollen. On the other hand, in the stigma, codominance frequently occurs [21,23].

The SI system has been widely applied to F<sub>1</sub> hybrid breeding, encompassing radish, cabbage, and other Brassica species. The utilization of the SI system has increased the efficiency of cross combinations, shortening breeding time and facilitating the development of novel F<sub>1</sub> varieties [24]. However, if parents share the same S haplotype, it is difficult to produce a large scale of F<sub>1</sub> hybrid seeds [25]. Therefore, it is necessary to select cross combinations by early excluding radish breeding lines that exhibit the same S haplotype through the rapid and accurate identification of radish S haplotypes in the F<sub>1</sub> hybrid breeding process.

Early studies on the identification of radish S haplotypes involved compatibility index (CI) analysis through test crosses, pollen tube examination, fluorescence analysis, and isoelectric focusing (IEF) gel examination [10,26,27]. However, these methods were labor-intensive, complex, and low accuracy. Recently, Polymerase Chain Reaction-Restriction Fragment Length Polymorphism (PCR-RFLP) markers and Sequence Characterized Amplified Region (SCAR) markers that specifically amplify radish SRK or SLG alleles have been developed and used for the identification of radish S haplotypes [28–30]. Despite the development of several methods, identification of radish S haplotypes remains challenging. When using PCR-RFLP, the presence of identical restriction enzyme sites among some S haplotypes complicates the accurate identification process. With SCAR markers, the high sequence similarity between certain class I and II S haplotypes often leads to the co-amplification of several different S haplotypes [24,29,30]. Furthermore, each researcher has independently assigned a nomenclature for radish S haplotypes in different countries, making the identification of radish S haplotypes more difficult [31,32].

In this study, to overcome the limitations of previously developed S haplotype markers, we developed radish S haplotype-specific markers based on the nucleotide sequences of SRK and SLG using 22 radish breeding lines, mainly used for F<sub>1</sub> hybrid breeding in Korea and Japan etc., fixed through more than 7 generations of self-pollination. S haplotype-specific markers developed in this study are expected to be used for effective identifying the S haplotypes of parental lines, selecting cross combinations for F<sub>1</sub> hybrid breeding, and performing seed purity tests during the F<sub>1</sub> hybrid breeding process.

## 2. Materials and Methods

### 2.1. Plant Materials

The 22 elite cultivated radish lines ('SJ-1~22'), serving as parental lines for F<sub>1</sub> hybrid breeding in Korea, Japan, and other regions, were used as plant materials in this study [33]. The plant materials were rendered homozygous through self-pollination via bud pollination for more than 7 generations at a plant breeding house in Gyeonggi-do, Yeosu, Yanggui-ri, South Korea (Table 1).

**Table 1.** Materials of radish breeding lines used in this study.

Accession Number	Type of Fleshy Root	Color of Fleshy Root	Source
SJ-1	Narrow elliptic	Green and White	South Chinese
SJ-2	Acicular	Green and White	South Chinese
SJ-3	Narrow elliptic	Green and White	South Chinese
SJ-4	Oblong	Green and White	South Chinese
SJ-5	Medium elliptic	Green and White	North Chinese
SJ-6	Medium elliptic	Green and White	North Chinese
SJ-7	Bell shaped	Green and White	North Chinese
SJ-8	Oblong	Green and White	South Chinese
SJ-9	Oblong	Green and White	South Chinese
SJ-10	Oblong	Green and White	South Chinese
SJ-11	Oblong	Green and White	South Chinese
SJ-12	Ovate	Green and White	South Chinese
SJ-13	Medium elliptic	Green and White	North Chinese
SJ-14	Medium elliptic	Green and White	North Chinese
SJ-15	Bell shaped	Green and White	North Chinese
SJ-16	Oblong	White	South Chinese
SJ-17	Oblong	White	South Chinese
SJ-18	Bell shaped	Green and White	North Chinese
SJ-19	Oblong	Green and White	South Chinese
SJ-20	Oblong	Green and White	South Chinese
SJ-21	Bell shaped	Green and White	South Chinese
SJ-22	Narrow elliptic	Green and White	North Chinese

2.2. Amplification and Sequencing of SRK, SLG Alleles

2.2.1. Extraction of Genomic DNA and Amplification of SRK, SLG Alleles

Genomic DNA was extracted from seedling leaves (15 to 20 days after germination) of each radish breeding line using the CTAB method [34]. The concentration and purity of all extracted genomic DNAs were assessed using a nanodrop machine (DeNovix Co., Wilmington, DE, USA).

For the PCR amplification of SRK and SLG nucleotide sequences of ‘SJ-1~22’, 7 class I, II SRK and SLG universal primer sets were used in this study (Tables 1 and S1). The UVSLGII primer set was designed to amplify the most region of SLG21 (Lim) nucleotide sequence with the multiple sequence alignment of 12 class II SLG and S domain of SRK sequences identified from radish. This primer set targeted the 5' and 3' class II SLG conserved nucleotide sequences. PCR amplification was performed in a total 15 µL reaction mixture, consisted of 7.5 µL Dyne Ready 2X-GO (Star Plus Taq with Dye; Dynebio Co., Gyeonggi-do, Korea), 1.5 µL 5X Tune-up solution, 1.5 µL forward primer (5 µM), 1.5 µL reverse primer (5 µM), 1.5 µL template DNA (50 ng/µL) and 1.5 µL distilled water. The PCR amplification conditions involved an initial denaturation at 95 °C for 3 minutes and a final elongation at 72 °C for 5 minutes, with the optimal annealing temperature applied to each primer (Table 2).

**Table 2.** PCR condition for class I, II Universal primer sets used in this study.

Gene	Forward	Reverse	Annealing Temperature / Cycle
Class I SRK-KD	UVSRK-F	UVSRK-R	54°C / 34X
Class I SLG	SLG-I-F	SLG-I-R	50°C / 39X
	PS22	SLG-I-R	54°C / 35X
Class II SRK-KD	KS2	KA2	61°C / 35X
Class II SLG	SLG-II-F	SLG-II-R	55.5°C / 39X
	Rs9SLG-F	Rs9SLG-R	53°C / 35X

UVSLGII-F	UVSLGII-R	61°C / 30X
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2.2.2. Identification of S Haplotypes Based on BLAST Search

The PCR products obtained by amplifying SRK and SLG alleles of 22 radish breeding lines were separated by electrophoresis on a 2% agarose gel stained with 7.2 μL of EcoDye (Biofact Co., Daejeon, Korea) in 360 mL of 0.5X TBE buffer at 250 V for 40 minutes and visualized using an Ultraviolet (UV) Transilluminator. Subsequently, gel extraction was carried out to obtain accurate nucleotide sequence information for SRK and SLG alleles. Slices of the agarose gel containing the amplified target SRK and SLG alleles were cut to approximately 0.2 to 0.3 g, transferred to a 2 mL micro-centrifuge tube, and purified using the LaboPass Gel and PCR Clean-up Kit (Cosmogenetech Co., Seoul, Korea). Following purification, Sanger sequencing was performed by Cosmogenetech Co. (Seoul, Korea). To address base noise, sequencing was performed twice, using both forward and reverse primers. Any base with a base quality value (QVs) of 20 or less was excluded from the sequencing analysis.

To determine the S haplotypes of the 22 elite breeding lines (‘SJ-1~22’), the sequencing data was compared with other kinase domain and S domain of SRK and SLG alleles registered in the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) or other database using the Basic Local Alignment Search Tool (BLAST) program.

Since nomenclature of S haplotype differed for each researcher in each country and was not unified, the S haplotypes were classified based on the nomenclature proposed by Lim [28].

2.3. Multiple Sequence Alignment (MSA)

To develop S haplotype-specific markers, we attempted to identify target regions of SRK and SLG alleles that showed sequence or structural variation. we performed multiple sequence alignment (MSA) for both nucleotide and amino acid sequences. This analysis involved the S haplotypes amplified by PCR from 22 radish breeding lines, S haplotypes showing more than 94% similarity through a BLAST search, and additional S haplotypes identified by researchers in Korea [18,28], China [25], and Japan [32,35].

Using BLAST, we acquired SRK and SLG nucleotide sequences with more than 94% similarity to SRK and SLG alleles of ‘SJ-1~22’. Subsequently, MSA of both nucleotide and amino acid sequences was performed using EMBL-EBI (European Bioinformatics Institute), MAFFT version 7.0, and MEGA version 11.0 programs. Hypervariable regions 1 to 3 (HV-I to III) of SRK and SLG alleles were identified through the EMBL-EBI sixpack tool.

2.4. Development of S Haplotype-Specific Markers

Based on the results of MSA, S haplotype-specific markers were developed, targeting specific regions that show polymorphism in SRK and SLG alleles of ‘SJ-1~22’. The Primer-BLAST program was used, with the primer length set between 20-30 bp, the melting temperature (Tm) value ranging from 52-66°C, and the GC-content around 60%. The annealing temperature was calculated using NEB Tm calculator version 1.15.0.

First, candidate S haplotype-specific markers that selectively amplified the kinase domain of SRK and SLG of each of ‘SJ-1~22’ in silico were chosen. Primer sets that exhibited overlapping binding sites, low polymorphism, or amplified regions of 100 bp or less were discarded. Subsequently, PCR amplification and gel electrophoresis were performed on the 22 elite breeding lines (‘SJ-1~22’) using the selected S haplotype-specific markers to assess whether they specifically amplified the corresponding S haplotypes.



### 3. Results

#### 3.1. Amplification of SRK, SLG Alleles Using Universal Primers

A total of three class I SRK and SLG universal primer sets, along with four class II SRK and SLG universal primer sets, were used to amplify the kinase domain of SRK and SLG alleles of 22 radish breeding lines ('SJ-1~22').

In 14 radish breeding lines ('SJ-1~14'), class I kinase domain of SRK was amplified using the UVSRK-F + UVSRK-R primer combination. Additionally, class I SLG alleles were amplified with the SLG-I-F + SLG-I-R and PS22 + SLG-I-R primer combinations, resulting in a total band size of 1,000 to 1,500 bp (Figure S1).

In 8 radish breeding lines ('SJ-15~22'), class II kinase domain of SRK was amplified using the KS2 + KA2 primer combination. Additionally, class II SLG alleles were amplified with the SLG-II-F + SLG-II-R, Rs9 SLG-F + Rs9 SLG-R, and UVSLGII-F + UVSLGII-R primer combinations, resulting in a total band size of 800 to 1,500 bp (Figure S2).

#### 3.2. Identification of S Haplotypes Based on BLAST Search

We performed BLAST search using SRK and SLG alleles amplified by universal primer sets from 'SJ-1~22' to identify the corresponding S haplotypes. These sequences were compared to previously published S haplotypes in NCBI database or from other researchers. As a result, it was determined that the 22 radish breeding lines possessed a total of 9 S haplotypes (Table 3). Nucleotide sequence information is provided in the supplementary materials (Table S4), and if two or more radish lines had the same S haplotype, only the sequence obtained from one of them was indicated.

A total of 14 radish breeding lines ('SJ-1~14') were classified as class I S haplotype. 'SJ-1~4' were identified as S<sub>1</sub> (Lim), since kinase domain of SRK and SLG alleles showed 100%, 99% identity to SRK1(Lim) and SLG1(Lim) respectively. 'SJ-5~6' were identified as S<sub>8</sub> (Lim) due to 100% identity in kinase domain of SRK allele with SRK8 (Lim), SRK19 (Kim) and SRK-19 (Haseyama), along with 100% identity in SLG allele with SLG-19 (Haseyama). S<sub>8</sub> (Lim) has been reported as the same S haplotype as S<sub>19</sub> (Kim) and RsS-19 (Haseyama) [32]. Additionally, kinase domain of 'SJ-5~6' SRK allele showed 97% identity with SRK-18 (Haseyama). 'SJ-7~9' were identified as S<sub>10</sub> (Lim), since kinase domain of SRK and SLG alleles showed 99.9% identity to SRK10 (Lim) and SLG10 (Lim) respectively. There were 11 other SRK sequences showing 98 to 99% identities to kinase domain of 'SJ-7~9' SRK allele (Table 3, Figure S7). 'SJ-10~11' were identified as S<sub>16</sub> (Lim) due to 99.9% identity in kinase domain of SRK allele with SRK16 (Lim) and SRK-22 (Haseyama), along with 100% identity in SLG allele with SLG-22 (Haseyama). S<sub>16</sub> (Lim) has been reported as the same S haplotype as RsS-22 (Haseyama) [32]. 'SJ-12~14' were identified as S<sub>18</sub> (Lim) due to 99.9% identity in kinase domain of SRK allele with SRK18 (Lim) and SRK-6 (Haseyama), along with 100% identity in SLG allele with SLG18 (Lim) and SLG-6 (Sakamoto). S<sub>18</sub> (Lim) has been reported as the same S haplotype as RsS-6(Sakamoto) [32].

A total of 8 radish breeding lines ('SJ-15~22') were classified as class II S haplotype. 'SJ-15~17' were identified as S<sub>4</sub> (Lim) due to 99% and 100% identity in SLG allele with SLG4 (Lim) and SLG-26 (Lim). S<sub>4</sub> (Lim) has been reported as the same S haplotype as RsS-26 (Haseyama) [32]. Additionally, 'SJ-15~17' SLG allele showed 97% identity with SLG-11 (Haseyama). 'SJ-18~20' were identified as S<sub>5</sub> (Lim) due to 99% identity in kinase domain and S domain of SRK allele with SRK-5 (Wang). S<sub>5</sub> (Lim) has been reported as the same S haplotype as S-5 (Wang) [25]. Also, kinase domain of 'SJ-18~20' SRK allele showed 99% identity with SRK-9 (Wang) and SRK6 (*R.raphanistrum*). Additionally, S domain of 'SJ-18~20' SRK allele showed 97 to 99% identity with 10 other class II S domain of SRK and SLG alleles (Table 3). 'SJ-21' was identified as S<sub>21</sub> (Lim) due to 99% identity in kinase domain of SRK allele with SRK-9 (Wang) and 100% identity in SLG allele with SLG21 (Lim), SLG-9 (Haseyama) and SLG-9 (Wang). S<sub>21</sub> (Lim) has been reported as the same S haplotype as RsS-9 (Haseyama) and S-9 (Wang) [25,32]. Also, kinase domain of 'SJ-21' SRK allele showed 99% identity with SRK-5 (Wang) and SRK6 (*R.raphanistrum*). Additionally, 'SJ-21' SLG allele showed 94 to 100% identity with 9 other class II S domain of SRK and SLG alleles (Table 3). 'SJ-22' was identified as S<sub>26</sub> (Lim) due to 100% identity in

SLG allele with SLG26 (Lim) and SLG-29 (Haseyama). S26 (Lim) has been reported as the same S haplotype as RsS-29 (Haseyama) [32].

**Table 3.** Identification and comparison of S haplotypes using BLAST program; Acc.: accession name of radish breeding lines ('SJ-1~22') used in this study; NCBI Acc.: accession number of genes registered in NCBI database; bold letters: S haplotype with best hit in result of BLAST search.

Acc.	S Haplotype	Gene region	Tool	Gene	NCBI Acc.	Iden(%)	Query Cov
SJ-1~4	S1 (Lim)	SRK-KD (1,063bp)	BLASTn	<b>SRK1 (Lim)</b>	<b>AY052579</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>99%</b>
		SLG (1,220bp)	BLASTn	<b>SLG1 (Lim)</b>	<b>AY052572</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>99%</b>
SJ-5~6	S8 (Lim)	SRK-KD (1,133bp)	BLASTn	<b>SRK8 (Lim)</b>	<b>AY052583</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>
				<b>SRK19</b>	<b>KX961713</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>
				SRK-19	LC341229	100%	97%
				SRK-18	LC341228	97%	97%
		SLG (1,201bp)	BLASTn	SLG-19	LC341238	99%	55%
				<b>SRK10 (Lim)</b>	<b>AY052585</b>	<b>99.9%</b>	<b>100%</b>
				SRK11 (Lim)	AY534533	98%	100%
SJ-7~9	S10 (Lim)	SRK-KD (1,051bp)	BLASTn	SRK16 (Lim)	AY534535	98%	100%
				SRK20 (Lim)	AY534537	98%	100%
				SRK29 (Lim)	AY534541	99%	100%
				SRK-22	LC341231	98%	95%
				SRK-23	LC341232	98%	99%
				SRK-31	LC341234	99%	96%
				SRK7	KX961701	98%	78%
				SRK10	KX961704	98%	78%
				SRK16	KX961710	99%	78%
				SRK17	KX961711	98%	78%
		SLG (1,202bp)	BLASTn	<b>SLG10 (Lim)</b>	<b>AY052576</b>	<b>99.9%</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table 3. Continued.

Acc.	S Haplotype	Gene Region	Tool	Gene	NCBI Acc.	Iden(%)	Query Cov
SJ-10~11	S16 (Lim)	SRK-KD (1,071bp)	BLASTn	<b>SRK16 (Lim)</b>	<b>AY052579</b>	<b>99.9%</b>	<b>100%</b>
				SRK-22	LC341231	100%	94%
				SRK10 (Lim)	AY052585	98%	100%
				SRK11 (Lim)	AY534533	98%	100%
				SRK20 (Lim)	AY534537	97%	100%
				SRK29 (Lim)	AY534541	98%	100%
				SRK-23	LC341232	97%	100%
				SRK-31	LC341234	98%	94%
				SRK7	KX961701	99%	76%
				SRK10	KX961704	98%	76%
				SRK16	KX961710	99%	76%
				SRK17	KX961711	99%	76%
		SLG (1,168bp)	BLASTn	<b>SLG-22</b>	<b>LC341239</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>64%</b>
				SLG-7	AB009684	99.9%	100%
SJ-12~14	S18 (Lim)	SRK-KD (1,108bp)	BLASTn	<b>SRK18 (Lim)</b>	<b>AY534536</b>	<b>99.9%</b>	<b>100%</b>
				SRK-6	LC341226	99.9%	95%
		SLG (1,235bp)	BLASTn	<b>SLG18 (Lim)</b>	<b>AY527401</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>
				SLG-6	AB009682	100%	100%
SJ-15~17	S4 (Lim)	SRK-KD	-	-	-	-	-
		(Not amplified)					
		SLG (1,002bp)	BLASTn	<b>SLG4 (Lim)</b>	<b>AY052577</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>100%</b>

				SLG-26	LC341241	99%	99%
				SLG-11	LC341236	97%	87%
SJ-18~20	S5 (Lim)	SRK-KD (1,053bp)	BLASTn	SRK-5 (Wang)	-	99%	99%
				SRK-9 (Wang)	-	99%	99%
				SRK6	KP117077	99%	94%
				SRK-5 (Wang)	-	99%	94%
				SLG5 (Lim)	AY052578	97%	100%
				SLG21 (Lim)	AY529650	95%	100%
				SLG24 (Lim)	AY529651	96%	100%
		SLG (1,004bp)	BLASTn	SRK1	KX961695	96%	100%
				SRK-9	AB114851	96%	98%
				SLG-9	LC341235	95%	90%
				Rs chr7	OY743213	95, 97%	100%
				Rs chr8	LR778317	95, 97%	100%

Table 3. Continued.

Acc.	S Haplotype	Gene Region	Tool	Gene	NCBI Acc.	Iden(%)	Query Cov
SJ-21	S21 (Lim)	SRK-KD (1,015bp)	BLASTn	SRK-9 (Wang)	-	99%	99%
				SRK-5 (Wang)	-	99%	99%
				SRK6	KP117077	99%	96%
				SLG21 (Lim)	AY529650	100%	84%
				SLG-9	LC341235	100%	77%
				Rs chr7	OY743213	100, 94%	100%
		SLG (1,055bp)	BLASTn	Rs chr8	LR778317	100, 94%	100%
				Rs SLG S13-like	XM_056990347	100%	100%
				SLG24 (Lim)	AY529651	96%	84%
				SLG5 (Lim)	AY052578	94%	84%
				SRK-1	KX961695	94%	100%
				SRK-9	AB114851	94%	100%
SJ-22	S26 (Lim)	SRK-KD (Not amplified)	-	-	-	-	-
		SLG (802bp)	BLASTn	SLG26 (Lim)	AY529652	100%	100%
				SLG-29	LC341242	100%	100%

3.3. Multiple Sequence Alignment (MSA) of SRK, SLG Alleles

Multiple Sequence Alignment (MSA) of nucleotide and amino acid sequences was performed to develop S haplotype-specific markers targeting polymorphic regions of SRK and SLG alleles. In this alignment, we used all the S haplotype sequences registered by Korean, Chinese, and Japanese researchers. This included 7 kinase domains of SRK and 10 SLG alleles from Lim's group [28], 10 kinase domains of SRK alleles from Kim's group [18], 3 kinase domains and 3 S domains of SRK alleles from Wang's group [25], 7 SLG alleles from Sakamoto's group [35], along with 8 kinase domains, 3 S domains of SRK alleles, and 4 SLG alleles from Haseyama's group [32]. Only one sequence of the S haplotype was used when the same S haplotype was designated differently.

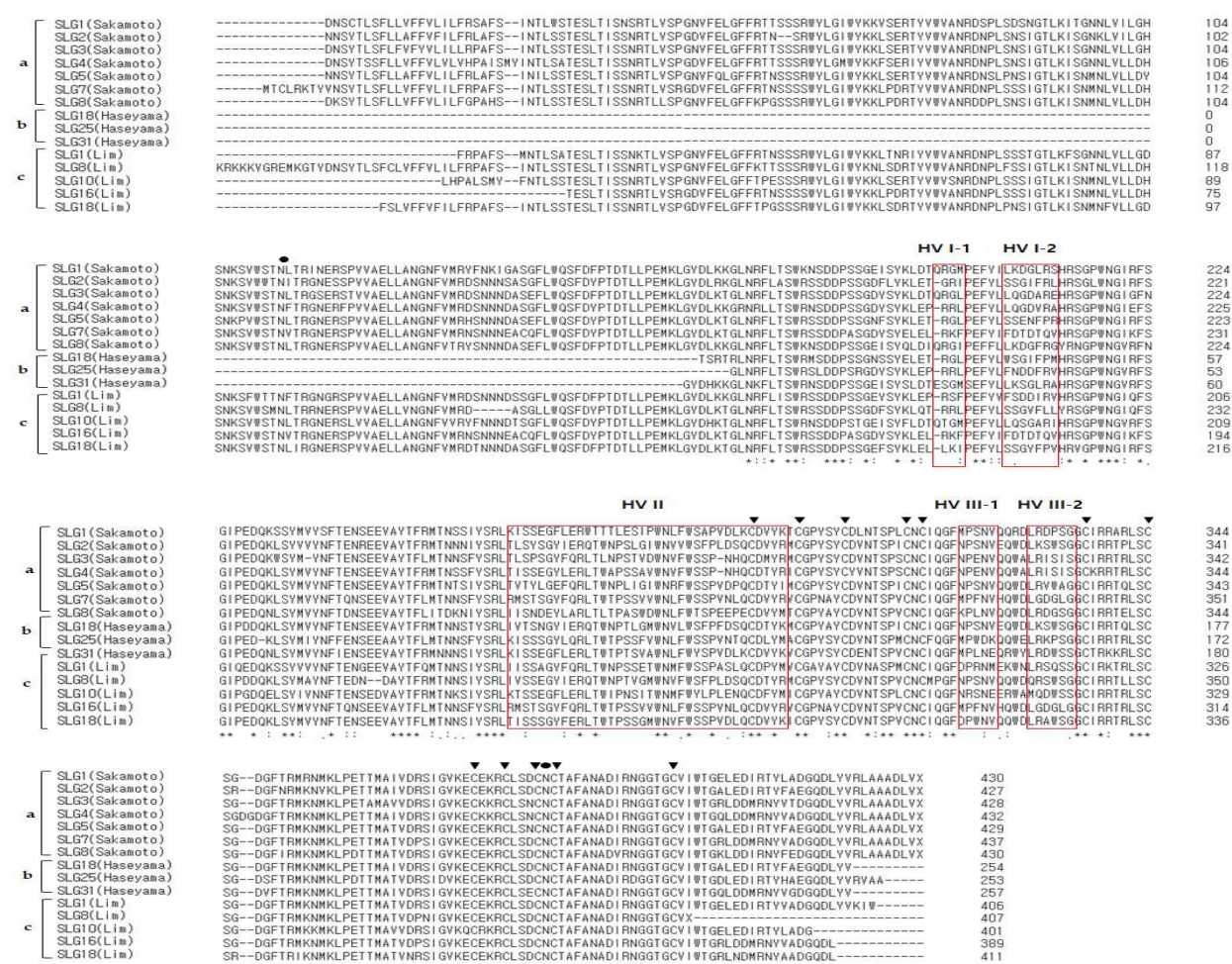
A total of 19 class I kinase domain of SRK sequences were used for the alignment of class I kinase domain of SRK alleles. The similarity between class I kinase domain of SRK nucleotide sequences ranged from 83.86 to 91.85%. All exon regions (4<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup>) were conserved relative to intron regions (4<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup>). In the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> exons, some nucleotide polymorphisms, including insertions/deletions (InDels), were detected. In the 6<sup>th</sup> exon region, a small gap (13bp) was observed. Additionally, a large gap (41 to 49 bp) and a small gap (19 to 29 bp) were observed in the 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> intron region, excluding SRK-KD18 (Haseyama) and SRK-KD1 (Haseyama) (Figure S3).



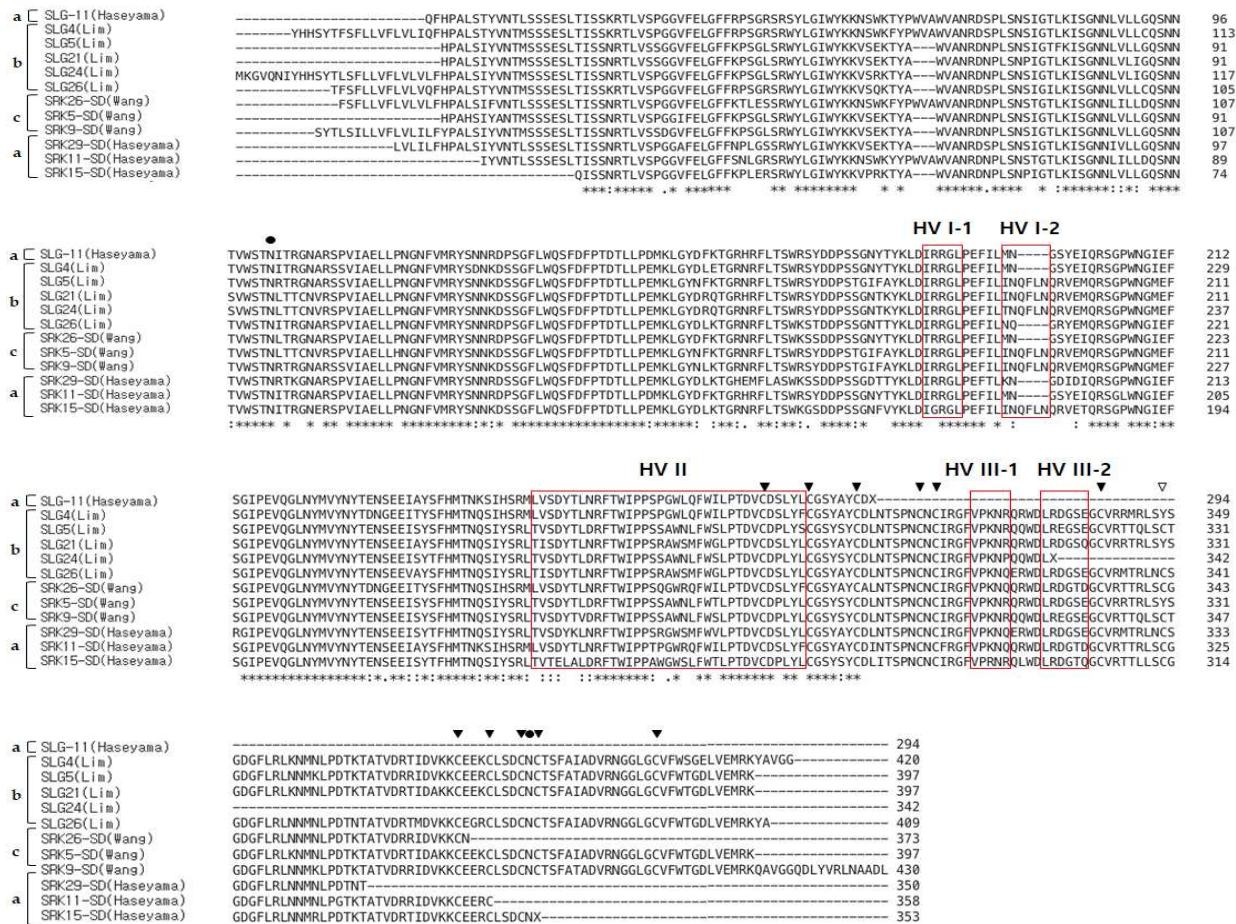
A total of 15 class I SLG sequences were used for the alignment of class I SLG alleles. The similarity between class I SLG nucleotide sequences ranged from 84 to 88.94%. many single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) were observed in hypervariable region I to III (HV-I to III). Especially, a small gap (6bp) was observed in the downstream region of HV-II, excluding SLG4 (Sakamoto). The deduced amino acid sequences of 14 class I SLG alleles revealed characteristics as previously reported, including 12 conserved cysteine residues, the potential N-glycosylation sites, and three hypervariable regions (Figures 1 and S4).

A total of 9 class II kinase domain of SRK sequences were used for the alignment of class II kinase domain of SRK alleles. The similarity between class II kinase domain of SRK nucleotide sequences ranged from 90.17 to 99.17%. Notably, SRK26-KD (Wang) nucleotide sequence showed high similarity (99.17%) with SRK14-KD (Kim). As observed in the case of class I kinase domain of SRK alleles, all exon regions were conserved relative to intron regions. On the other hand, all exon regions showed high similarity within the same group of class II kinase domain of SRK alleles. Some single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) and insertions/deletions (InDels) were observed in the 6<sup>th</sup> intron region, particularly a small gap (14bp) was only detected in SRK-5 (Wang) and SRK-9 (Wang) (Figure S5).

Due to high similarity between class II SLG and S domain of SRK sequences, a total of 12 sequences including SLG and S domain of SRK alleles, were used for the alignment. The similarity between class II SLG nucleotide sequences was 90 to 97.05%, and when including S domain of SRK sequences, they showed 87.5 to 99.16%. In the upstream region of HV-I, small gaps (9, 12bp) were observed. In the deduced amino acid sequences of class II SLG and S domain of SRK alleles, 12 conserved cysteine residues were detected at the same positions as those in class I SLG alleles, excluding SLG4, 21 (Lim) and SRK-5 (Wang). Additionally, the potential N-glycosylation sites and three hypervariable regions were found to be located at the same positions (Figures 2 and S6).



**Figure 1.** Multiple sequence alignment of the amino acid sequences of the 15 class I S haplotype SLG alleles; a: S haplotype published by Sakamoto [35]; b: S haplotype published by Haseyama [32]; c: S haplotype published by Lim [28]; Red box: hypervariable region I to III of the SLG; Filled circle: N-linked glycosylation site; Filled triangle: conserved cysteine residues; Asterisk: conserved amino acid residues.



**Figure 2.** Multiple sequence alignment of the amino acid sequences of the 12 class II S haplotype SLG and S domain of SRK alleles; a: S haplotype published by Haseyama [32]; b: S haplotype published by Lim [28]; c: S haplotype published by Wang [25]; Red box: hypervariable region I to III of the SLG; Filled circle: N-linked glycosylation site; Filled triangle: conserved cysteine residues; empty triangle: the site where non-synonymous mutation was inferred to have occurred; Asterisk: conserved amino acid residues.

3.4. Development of S Haplotype-Specific Markers

Based on the results of class I and II SRK and SLG sequences alignment, we identified regions showing single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) or small insertions/deletions (INDELs) within class I and II groups. Targeting these regions, we developed S haplotype-specific markers to selectively amplify the 9 S haplotypes present in 22 radish breeding lines ('SJ-1-22') (Tables 4 and S2).

A total of 4 kinase domain of SRK primer sets were designed, with each primer set amplifying specific regions of SRK1 (Lim), SRK8 (Lim), SRK10 (Lim), and SRK18 (Lim) kinase domains, ranging from 4<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> exon of SRK alleles. The expected PCR product size using these primer sets was 105 to 764bp, designed to exhibit length polymorphism with each primer set (Table 4)

Additionally, 9 SLG primer sets were designed, each amplifying specific regions of SLG1 (Lim), SLG4 (Lim), SLG5 (Lim), SLG8 (Lim), SLG10 (Lim), SLG16 (Lim), SLG18 (Lim), SLG21 (Lim) and SLG26 (Lim), ranging from HV-I to III of SLG alleles. The expected PCR product size using these

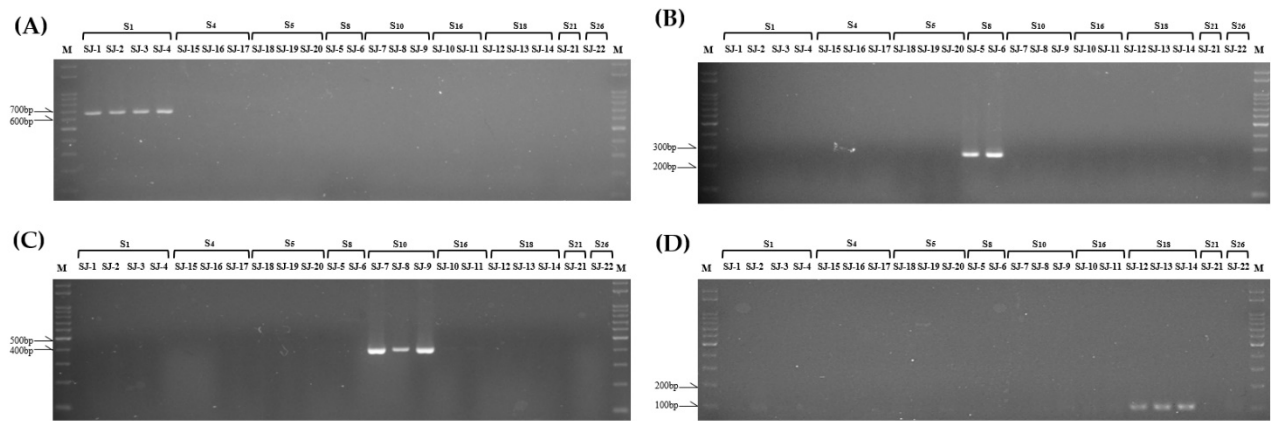


primer sets was 131 to 529bp, similar to kinase domain of SRK alleles, designed to show length polymorphism with each primer set (Table 4).

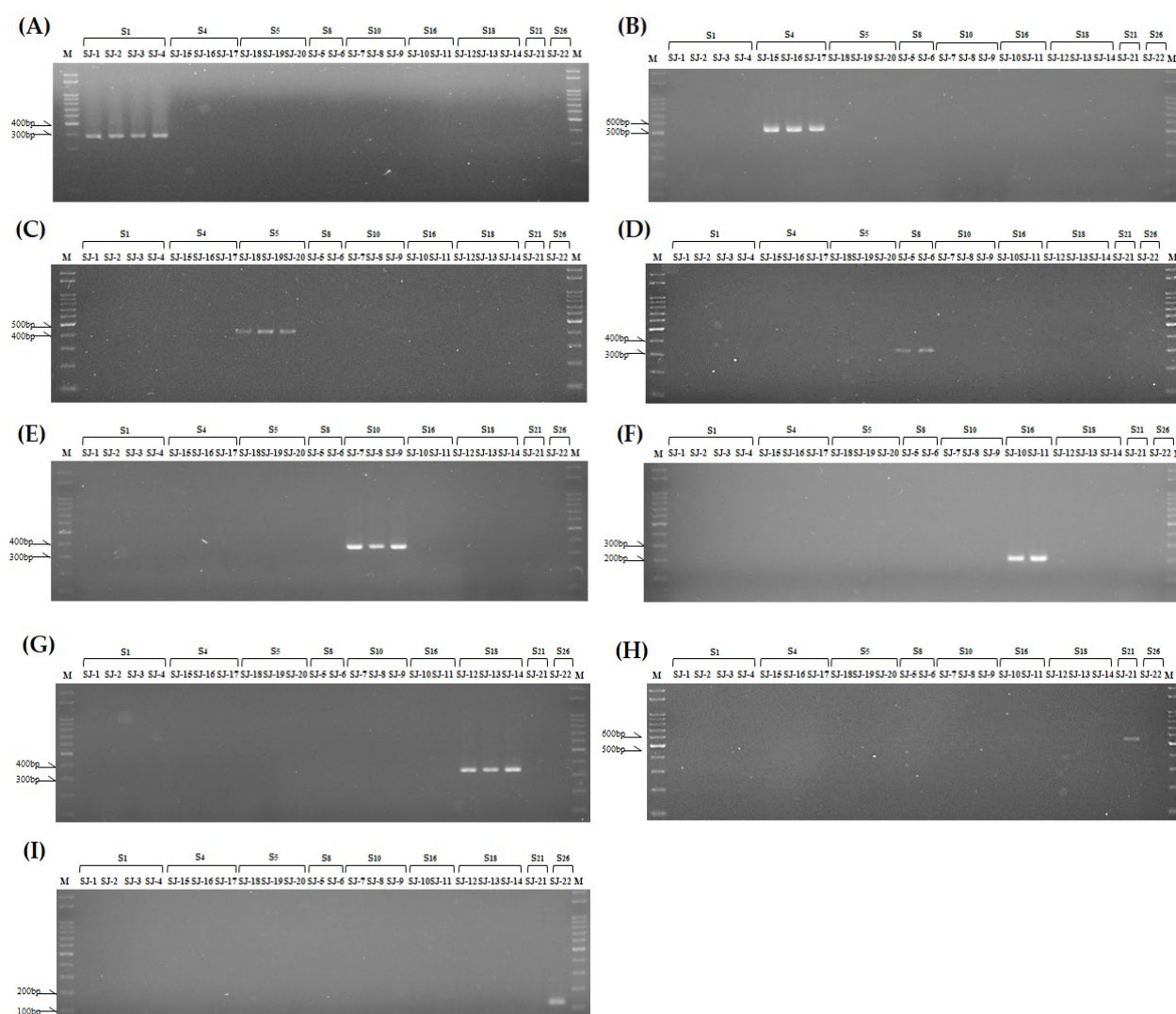
To verify the specificity of the kinase domain of SRK and SLG primer sets developed in this study, genotyping was conducted on 22 radish breeding lines ('SJ-1~22') using the kinase domain of SRK and SLG primer sets. Consequently, all 5 SRK primer sets and 9 SLG primer sets selectively amplified radish breeding lines possessing a distinct S haplotype, and the predicted length of the PCR product from in silico analysis aligned with the observed results (Figures 3 and 4). Furthermore, it was noted that the drawbacks, such as the amplification of nonspecific S haplotypes, which arose from the previously developed SCAR marker, did not occur in the S haplotype-specific markers developed in this study.

**Table 4.** List of 9 S haplotype-specific markers (kinase domain of SRK, SLG) developed in this study.

S haplotype	Primer Set	Forward	Reverse	Expected Size
S1 (Lim)	SRK1	KD1-F	KD1-R	665bp
	SLG1	SLG1-F	SLG1-R	388bp
S4 (Lim)	SLG4	SLG4-F	SLG4-R	529bp
S5 (Lim)	SLG5	SLG5-F	SLG5-R	409bp
S8 (Lim)	SRK8	KD8-F	KD8-R	271bp
	SLG8	SLG8-F	SLG8-R	314bp
S10 (Lim)	SRK10	KD10-F	KD10-R	411bp
	SLG10	SLG10-F	SLG10-R	369bp
S16 (Lim)	SLG16	SLG16-F	SLG16-R	216bp
S18 (Lim)	SRK18	KD18-F	KD18-R	105bp
	SLG18	SLG18-F	SLG18-R	353bp
S21 (Lim)	SLG21	SLG21-F	SLG21-R	529bp
S26 (Lim)	SLG26	SLG26-F	SLG26-R	131bp



**Figure 3.** PCR result of 22 radish breeding lines ('SJ-1~22') using developed kinase domain of SRK (SRK-KD)-specific primer sets in this study. 'S1~S26' are S haplotype that each of lines have. (A): SRK1 (665bp); (B): SRK8 (271bp); (C): SRK10 (411bp); (D): SRK18 (105bp).



**Figure 4.** PCR result of class I radish breeding lines ('SJ-1~22') using developed SLG-specific primer sets in this study. Each number is S haplotype that each S homozygous lines have. (A): SLG1 (388bp); (B): SLG4 (529bp); (C): SLG5 (204bp); (D): SLG8 (314bp); (E): SLG10 (369bp); (F): SLG16 (216bp); (G): SLG18 (353bp); (H): SLG21 (445bp); (I): SLG26 (131bp).

#### 4. Discussion and Conclusions

For both class I, II SRK and SLG alleles, PCR amplification using universal primers posed challenges in identifying S haplotypes due to inaccurate amplification of the target gene in some instances. For instance, when performing PCR amplification using universal class II SLG primer sets in 'SJ-21', It was observed that PCR amplification occurred for the S domain of SRK allele instead of SLG allele. These results were consistent with previous reports indicating that the sequences of S domain of SRK and SLG alleles within class II group were highly similar [22,25,36].

Additionally, when using universal class II kinase domain of SRK primer sets in 'SJ-15~17' and 'SJ-22', other regions with the same primer binding sites were co-amplified, leading to sequencing error (mixed signal). As a result, the exact kinase domain of SRK sequences of 'SJ-15~17' and 'SJ-22' could not be identified.

Within the class I S haplotype group, including SRK and SLG alleles of 'SJ-1~14', along with those obtained through BLAST search in the NCBI database, there were numerous cases where kinase domain of SRK alleles exhibited significant similarity to each other. This similarity was particularly notable in SRK10 (Lim) and SRK16 (Lim). The kinase domain of SRK alleles is known to be the region where recombination could occur, and the observed high similarity within class I kinase domain of

SRK alleles might be attributed to genetic recombination events [37]. In contrast to previous reports suggesting recombination in SLG alleles, we did not observe high similarity within class I SLG alleles.

When BLAST search was conducted using kinase domain of SRK10 (Lim) sequence as a query, 11 kinase domain of SRK sequences showing high similarity (98 to 99%) were identified. Subsequent sequence alignment of SRK10 (Lim) kinase domain with these 11 similar kinase domains revealed nearly identical nucleotide sequences, with only a few single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) (Figure S7).

Although SLG16 (Lim) nucleotide sequence identified in 'SJ-10~11' and SLG-7 (Sakamoto) were 99.9% identity, S16 (Lim) has not been reported to be the same as RsS-7 (Sakamoto). Consequently, a comparison of the total length of two SLG alleles or S domain of SRK alleles was necessary to reclassify the two S haplotypes.

In the class II S haplotype group, including SRK and SLG alleles of 'SJ-15~22', along with those obtained through BLAST search in the NCBI database, kinase domain of SRK alleles as well as SLG alleles were highly similar to each other, unlike the class I S haplotype group. Previous studies have been reported that kinase domain of SRK and SLG alleles is the regions where recombination could occur [37,38]. The class II S haplotype group is inferred to be more recently diverged than the class I S haplotype group, as indicated by the high similarity within the class II S haplotype group [39]. According to the Brassica SI evolutionary model proposed by Uyenoyama, the class II S haplotype group might invade populations at lower rates than class I S haplotype, leading to a decrease in the occurrence of mutations and divergence within the class II group [40].

SLG4 (Lim) sequence identified in 'SJ-12~14' showed 97% similarity with SLG-11 (Haseyama), but S4 (Lim) has not been reported to be the same as RsS-11 (Haseyama).

The S domain of SRK5 (Lim) sequence exhibited high similarity with SLG21 (Lim) and SLG24 (Lim) at 95% and 96%, respectively. This is presumed to result from the gene duplication of the S domain of SRK alleles, intergenic recombination within SLG alleles, and gene conversion between the S domain of SRK and SLG alleles [19,41–44].

The kinase domain of SRK5 (Lim) and SRK 21 (Lim) sequences not only showed similarity with each other but also revealed high similarity with the kinase domain of wild radish SRK allele (99%). It has been reported that class II S haplotypes of cultivated cabbage have been identified in wild species of the cabbage group [45]. This implies that nucleotide sequences more similar or identical to class II S haplotypes of cultivated radish may be discovered in wild radish.

Highly similarity regions with SLG5 (Lim) and SLG21 (Lim) were searched on radish chromosomes 7 and 8 (OY743213, LR778317). The S locus is a single gene locus located on chromosome 7 [46]. When performing local BLAST with SLG21 (Lim) sequence as a query on the radish genome 'QZ-16' (GCA\_902824885.1), including chromosomes 7 (LR778316) and 8 (LR778317), sequences corresponding to SLG21 (Lim) were only founded on chromosome 8, with none matching on chromosome 7 (Table S3). Therefore, it is highly probable that the two regions searched on chromosome 8 (LR778317) were S domain of SRK and SLG alleles rather than S homologs. This issue was inferred to result from errors during the chromosome-scale assembly process, and it could potentially lead to confusion in identifying radish S haplotypes through BLAST search.

In this study, multiple sequence alignment was performed using all the S haplotype sequences identified until now by Korean, Chinese, and Japanese researchers. Through this, variations in SRK and SLG alleles for each class group were detected.

In the class I group alignment, a gap of 19 to 29bp was observed only in the 6<sup>th</sup> intron of SRK6 (Lim) kinase domain and an insertion of 6bp was observed only in the downstream region of HV-III in SLG-4 (Sakamoto). It was thought that these regions could be used to design candidate S6 (Lim) and S4 (Sakamoto) haplotype-specific markers.

In the case of the class II group alignment, S domain of SRK and SLG alleles showed very high similarity (87.5 to 99.16%). Notably, SLG5 (Lim) and S domain of SRK21 (Lim) showed the highest similarity (99.16%), although they were different S haplotypes. This result elucidated why the two S haplotypes (S5, S21) were co-amplified when previously developed SCAR markers were used.



Additionally, we observed tyrosine residue in HV-III of SLG4, 21 (Lim) and S domain of SRK21 (Lim). it was presumed that non-synonymous mutations might have occurred at that site, substituting the 12<sup>th</sup> cysteine residue with tyrosine. Based on the observation that mutations have occurred not only in SLG alleles but also in the S domain of SRK alleles, it is considered necessary to further study whether the SNP mutation at that location affects the main function of the S domain of SRK alleles, which perceives and rejects self-pollen in the stigma.

Based on the results of BLAST search and sequence alignment, as there was a potential risk of nonspecific amplification of the kinase domain of SRK alleles. For a more accurate identification of the target S haplotype, it might be preferable to prioritize SLG allele-specific primer sets over kinase domain of SRK primer sets.

When using S haplotype-specific markers developed in this study, it will be possible to overcome the shortcomings of previously developed SCAR markers, such as amplification of nonspecific S haplotypes. These markers can be used for the more accurate and rapid amplification of target S haplotypes in radish (Figures 3 and 4). These markers are anticipated to aid in identifying the S haplotypes of parental lines and selecting cross combinations during radish F<sub>1</sub> breeding processes. Furthermore, these markers are expected to be effectively applied in the F<sub>1</sub> seed purity test.

To identify additional S haplotypes rapidly and accurately, in addition to the 9 S haplotypes already identified, it is considered imperative to develop other S-allele-specific markers based on the methods applied in this study.

**Supplementary Materials:** The following supporting information can be downloaded at: [www.mdpi.com/xxx/s1](http://www.mdpi.com/xxx/s1), Figure S1. PCR result of 22 radish breeding lines ('SJ-1~22') using class I, II kinase domain of SRK (SRK-KD) primer set. (A) PCR amplification of class I SRK-KD using UVSRK-F + UVSRK-R primer set; (B): PCR amplification of class II SRK-KD using KS2 + KA2 primer set; M: 100bp size marker. Figure S2: PCR result of 22 radish breeding lines ('SJ-1~22') using class I, II SLG primer set. (A) PCR amplification of class I SLG using SLG-I-F + SLG-I-R primer set; (B): PCR amplification of class I SLG using PS22 + SLG-I-R primer set; (C): PCR amplification of class II SLG using SLG-II-F + SLG-II-R primer set; (D): PCR amplification of class II SLG using Rs9 SLG-F + Rs9 SLG-R primer set; M: 100bp size marker; (E): PCR amplification of class II SLG using UVSLGII-F + UVSLGII-R primer set; M: 100bp size marker. Figure S3. Multiple sequence alignment of the nucleotide sequences of the 19 class I S haplotype kinase domain of SRK alleles; a: S haplotype published by Haseyama (2018); b: S haplotype published by Kim (2016); c: S haplotype published by Lim (2002); Red box: 4<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> exons of the SRK; Asterisk: conserved nucleotide. Figure S4. Multiple sequence alignment of the nucleotide sequences of the 15 class I S haplotype SLG alleles; a: S haplotype published by Sakamoto (1998); b: S haplotype published by Haseyama (2018); c: S haplotype published by Lim (2002); Red box: hypervariable region I to III of the SLG; Asterisk: conserved nucleotide. Figure S5. Multiple sequence alignment of the nucleotide sequences of the 9 class II S haplotype kinase domain of SRK alleles; a: S haplotype published by Kim (2016); b: S haplotype published by Haseyama (2018); c: S haplotype published by Lim (2002); Red box: 4<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> exons of the SRK; Asterisk: conserved nucleotide. Figure S6. Multiple sequence alignment of the nucleotide sequences of the 12 class II S haplotype SLG and S domain of SRK alleles; a: S haplotype published by Haseyama (2018); b: S haplotype published by Lim (2002); c: S haplotype published by Wang (2018); Red box: hypervariable region I to III of SLG; Asterisk: conserved nucleotide. Figure S7: Multiple sequence alignment of SRK10 (Lim, AY052579) and other 11 S haplotypes; Asterisk: conserved nucleotide; a: S haplotype published by Lim (2002); b: S haplotype published by Haseyama (2018); c: S haplotype published by Kim (2016). Table S1: Information of class I, II S haplotype universal primer used in this study. Table S2: Information of 9 S haplotype-specific primer developed in this study. Table S3: Result of BLASTN 2.14.1+ using SLG21 (Lim) nucleotide sequence to *Raphanus sativus* genome assembly 'QZ-16' (GCA\_902824885.1). SLG21 (Lim) sequence is obtained from 'SJ-21' radish breeding line; Bold letters: putative region of SLG21 (Lim) and SRK21 (Lim) S domain. Table S4: Nucleotide sequences of SRK and SLG alleles of SJ-1~22.

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