

Table 2 Characteristics of meta-QTLs (MQTLs) detected during the present study

Chromosome	MetaQTL No.	Position on consensus map (cM)	Flanking SSR markers the position	Number of initial QTLs comprised in MQTL	Number of initial QTLs in study	Mean explained variance of QTL ( $R^2$ ) (%) of individual QTLs, condensed in MQTLs	Most precise CI of QTL (cM)	Mean initial CI (cM)	MQTL CI (95%) (cM)	Coefficient of reduction in length from initial to MQTL CI	Coefficient of reduction in length from initial to MQTL CI
3A	1	18.46	<i>barc57 - barc12</i>	4	3	15.45 (10.50-30.20)	50.9	17.6	6.55	7.8	2.7
	2	96.48	<i>gwm497- wmc153</i>	4	3	07.56 (5.60-11.00)	30.5	21.6	3.36	9.1	6.4
3B	3	68.93	<i>gwm77- wmc527</i>	2	2	18.10 (17.20-19.00)	36.2	24.85	2.36	15.3	10.5
	4	85.27	<i>gwm4 - barc229</i>	3	3	16.30 (14.81-17.45)	32.8	18.9	2.61	12.6	7.2
	5	96.41	<i>gwm108 - barc84</i>	3	2	16.70 (7.80-27.00)	34.0	53.6	2.32	14.7	23.1
3D	6	29.36	<i>wmc529 - gdm128</i>	3	2	06.00 (3.00-11.00)	11.4	10.0	3.28	3.5	3.0
	7	43.71	<i>gwm3 - wmc552</i>	6	3	14.22 (8.00-17.00)	36.8	27.11	0.49	75.1	55.3
4A	8	75.75	<i>gwm894 - gwm269</i>	11	4	25.16 (8.00-45.10)	24.9	14.88	0.40	62.3	37.2
Mean						14.94	32.18	23.56	2.67	25.05	18.17