

# Sequencing and analysis of the complete mitochondrial genomes of *Toona sinensis* and *Toona ciliata* reveal evolutionary features of *Toona*

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## Research Article

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# Abstract

*Toona* is a critical genus in the Meliaceae, and the plants of this group are an asset for both restorative and restorative purposes, the most flexible of which are *Toona sinensis* and *Toona ciliata*. To concentrate on the advancement of mitochondrial genome variety in *Toona sinensis* and *Toona ciliata*, the mitochondrial genomes of the two species were sequenced in high throughput independently, after de novo assembly and annotation to construct a mitochondrial genome map for comparison in genome structure, along with ML phylogenetic analysis with seven other *Toona* relatives. Results show:(1)The mitochondrial genome of *Toona ciliata* is 683,000 bp in length, with 45.40% GC content and circular structure, and contains 38 protein genes plus 33 transfer RNA genes, of which 33 tRNAs encode 20 amino acids. AT preference exists for MtDNA, TTT is the most frequently encountered codon, appearing 413 times, as well as the largest codon corresponding to The codon encoding the equivalent of Phe, which had the maximum content. (2)Mitochondrial genome of *Toona sinensis* is 638482bp in entire length, with 45.56% GC content and a circumscribed architecture, it encodes 38 protein genes and 34 transfer RNA genes, among 34 tRNAs embodying 20 amino acids. AT is preferred by mtDNA, whereas TTT, which is utilized 412 times quite often and seems to have the maximum Phe concentration, is the most frequently employed codon. (3)Both the mitochondrial genomes of *Toona sinensis* and *Toona ciliata* are highly preserved in terms of structural and functional genes, while the main variability is reflected in the length of tRNA and the number of genes. (4) In the ML evolutionary tree, *Toona sinensis* and *Toona ciliata* clustered individually into a small branch with 100% support, reflecting two species of *Toona* are very similarly related to each other. This research provides a basis for the exploitation of *Toona sinensis* and *Toona ciliata* in terms of medicinal, edible, and timber resources to avoid confusion; at the same time, it can explore the evolutionary relationship between the *Toona* and related species, which does not only have an important practical value, but also provides a theoretical basis for future hybrid breeding of forest trees, molecular markers, and evolutionary aspects of plants, which has great scientific significance.

## Introduction

*Toona* plants have magnificent material, straight surface, and radiance, turning into the predominant furnishings and inside adornment wood, known as "Chinese mahogany", which is greatly esteemed by individuals(Bangyu 1995; Chengjing ; Guoqian and Shiman 1991; Liwen et al. 2014; Zhenfu, Ruilong, and Jieling 2003). *Toona sinensis* and *Toona ciliata* have the most noteworthy application in the *Toona*. *Toona sinensis* (A. Juss) Roem is a unique species of vegetable in China, its young shoots and leaves are crisp and juicy, fragrant and unique in flavor, it is a traditional and valuable woody vegetable that our people like to eat, and is also a local product for foreign trade export(Fangren and Youwang 2005; Libo et al.). *Toona sinensis* is not only an excellent vegetable but also a natural green nutritious food of medicinal and food origin. It has somewhat high happiness of flavone and other pharmacologically dynamic mixtures(Lixin et al. 2015; Yang et al. 2016). *Toona ciliata* is a Grade II safeguarded plant, an important timber tree, and a therapeutic plant that has acquired broad consideration as of late(Dongmei et al. 2015; Duanmu 1996; Li et al. 2018; Li et al. 2015). The roots, stems, and leaves of *Toona ciliata* can be utilized as medication and have successful restorative properties(Lucchese et al. 2019; Nassur et al. 2013; Parthiban et al. 2019). The monetary worth of this variety is quite high, and it is generally utilized and has extraordinary potential for advancement and utilization(Ribeiro et al. 2014; Wei et al. 2020; Yadong et al. 2022; Zhuchou et al. 2022).

Mitochondria are organelles in higher plant cells with a semi-autonomous genetic system that provides the majority of the energy required for cellular and other life activities(Baolong 2012; Guodong 2016; Guohong, Na, and Jianrong 2012; Hao et al. 2021). Mitochondria are particularly important in the study of the origin and evolution of living things. The mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) is a genetic material found outside the nucleus that is normally a double-stranded circular molecule with a covalent closure(Hisano et al. 2016; Huo et al. 2016; Jongsun et al. 2020). Advanced plants have the

largest mitochondria of any known higher organism species, ranging from 200 kb to 2400 kb(S. et al. 2021; Small and Wendel 1999; Wanqi 2020).

Plant mitochondrial genomes have been increasingly studied and more and more mitochondrial genomes have been sequenced in recent years, which is very important for studying the diversity of biological phenotypes, functional diversity, as well as species evolution. This is critical for understanding biological phenological diversity, functional diversity, and the emergence of new functions during species evolution(Wenlong, Fu, and Guohong 2019; Woojong et al. 2021).

Even though *Toona* plants have a long history of cultivation in China, most studies have been limited to chemical pathology, physiology, biochemistry, introduction, and breeding, with little research done on its origin, taxonomy, cytogenetics, and so on. There are still some issues with *Toona* classification, such as interspecific hybridization, that need to be addressed(Changxun, Dechun, and Debing 2001; Chunhua et al. 2022). Furthermore, *Toona* plants have a geographically dispersed distribution in China, resulting in a scarcity of natural forests and susceptibility to natural and anthropogenic breakage, and *Toona ciliata* has now been classified as an endangered plant(Qiang 2016; Ruyu, Guangyou, and Jianmin 2005; Tieshan et al. 2000; Jun et al. 2013).

Subsequently, this review, given mitochondrial near genomic examination through trend-setting innovations, for example, sub-atomic sequencing of mitochondrial DNA, makes it conceivable to concentrate on *Toona* further top to bottom according to a minuscule viewpoint notwithstanding plainly visible morphological characterization and makes the preservation of excellent hereditary assets of the imperiled species *Toona ciliata*, determination and reproducing of good species, and advancement and usage with significant hypothetical and functional importance.

## 1. Materials And Methods

### 1.2. Plant material, DNA extraction, and Library construction

While *Toona sinensis* was acquired from Pingxiang, Guangxi, *Toona ciliata* was obtained from Baoshan, Yunnan (Longitude: 106.75 E, Latitude: 22.12 N.) Before this investigation, both species completed seedling trials and were found to be suitable for cultivation in Guangzhou, Guangdong. (Note: WeiZhou conducted a detailed identification of the plant material. The seed trial forest is situated near the South China Agricultural University's teaching and research facility in Guangzhou, China, at N23°16' and E113°37'.)

High-quality total DNA is the primary prerequisite for obtaining the whole mitochondrial genome sequence. Fresh leaves of *Toona sinensis* and *Toona ciliata* were taken and whole genome DNA was extracted by the CTAB (Irfan et al. 2013)method. high-quality genome DNA was extracted and quality checked for purity, concentration, and integrity using Nanodrop (Qian et al. 2017; Guodong 2016), 1% (w/v) agarose gel electrophoresis. DNA samples that passed the electrophoresis test were randomly broken into fragments of approximately 350 bp in length using a Covaris ultrasonic fragmentation machine(Tim et al. 2014). After processing, the DNA fragments were subjected to end repair, A-tail addition, sequencing junction addition, purification, PCR amplification, and other steps to complete the entire library preparation. After the library was constructed, the initial quantification was performed using Qubit 3.0, and the library was diluted to 2 ng/ul. The insert size (insert size) of the library was then detected using Agilent 2100(J et al. 2000; Liu, Padmanaban, and Etteldorf 2016; Wanqi 2020), after the insert size met the expectation, the effective concentration of the library was quantified using Q-PCR. After the inserts met the expectation, the effective concentration of the library was accurately quantified by Q-PCR (Yuxia 2013)to ensure the quality of the library. After the libraries passed the test, they were sent to Guangzhou Ruike Gene Technology Co.

### 1.3. Sequencing, Assembly, and Annotation

Utilizing the Illumina HiSeq 4000 High-throughput Sequencing Platform, qualified DNA libraries were sequenced. Once the sequencing was completed, the sequenced data were spliced into the mitochondrial genome. The reads with low sequencing quality (< 40bp in length) were filtered by Trimmomatic (M, Marc, and Bjoern 2014), the overlapping reads were filtered out by Blast to obtain Clean Data, and the sequencing data were analyzed by 15-mer using K-mer software to obtain high-quality reads. Assembly was performed using SOAP denovo (Minjie et al. 2013) assembly software. The preliminary assembly results were optimized and holes were filled using krskgf and gapclose (Xu et al. 2020) software to obtain the specific assembly results.

The complete mitochondrial genome sequence was annotated utilizing CPGAVAS (Chang et al. 2012) software together with DOGMA (K, K, and L 2004) software. Transfer RNA (transfer RNA, tRNA) genes were identified along with manual correction employing tRNAscan-SE (M and R 1997) software. The BLAST (Liping 2021) search method was performed to align (Federico, Rafael, and David 2005; Koichiro, Glen, and Sudhir 2021; Tang et al. 2015) and validate (Kersten et al. 2016) the information sites such as gene boundaries, intron, exon, and coding regions.

## 1.4. NCBI submission

The annotated genome sequences were submitted to NCBI according to the requirements, resulting in the definitive accession numbers *Toona sinensis* (GenBank: OM574631.1) and *Toona ciliata* (GenBank: OM574630.1).

## 1.5. Superior Mitochondrial Genome Analysis

### 1.5.1. Structure and composition

Mitochondria were mapped by OGDRAW v1.2 (Organellar Genome DRAW) (Marc, Oliver, and Ralph 2007) online website (<https://chlorobox.mpimp-golm.mpg.de/OGDraw.html>). The circular structure of the genome sequence was mapped. The base content of the mitochondrial genome was calculated using Editseq (C and P 1997) software to obtain the ratio of A, T, C, G, and GC content respectively.

### 1.5.2. Frequency of codon usage

Considering the formula mentioned in Sharp PM literature (M and H 1987), the utilization of relative equivalent codon use (RSCU) was examined utilizing CodonW (M and H 1987; P et al. 2015) software.

### 1.5.3. Phylogenetic tree analysis

Species with complete mitochondrial genome arrangements and explanations in direct relation to the objective species were downloaded from NCBI for phylogenetic tree development. The protein-coding qualities of the mitochondrial genomes of the species checked for phylogenetic tree development were chosen independently (by and large, the coding qualities normal to all species were gathered for tree development). MUSCLE v.3.8.31 (<http://www.drive5.com/muscle/>) programming was utilized to play out the correlation of individual qualities among various species. And afterward, the qualities of every species after the examination were coordinated in a specific request couple to shape the protein-coding quality succession set of that species. Afterward, the groupings were utilized for the procedure investigation. Nucleic corrosive model testing was performed against chosen grouping DNA utilizing jModelTest2.1.7 (David 2009, 2008) (<https://code.google.com/p/jmodeltest2/>) and amino corrosive model test with Prottest 3.2(2) (Diego et al. 2011; Federico, Rafael, and David 2005) (<https://code.google.com/p/prottest3/>). The base worth of AIC (Akaike Information Criterion) (David 2008; Ehsan et al. 2022) was chosen as the best model for tree development. RAxML 8.1.5 (Dimitri et al. 2021) (<https://sco.h-its.org/exelixis/web/programming/raxml/index.html>) programming, Maximum Likelihood strategy (ML technique: Maximum Likelihood technique) (Koichiro, Glen, and Sudhir 2021; Wenlong, Fu, and Guohong 2019; Baolong 2012; Wanqi 2020) was utilized to develop the phylogenetic tree, and Bootstrap esteem was set to 1000.

## 2. Results & Analysis

### 2.1. Genome Features

The total mitochondrial genome length of *T. ciliata* was 683,000 bp, the composition of bases was A (27.31%), T (27.29%), C (22.56%), and G (22.85%), and the C + G content was 45.40%. The size of the *T. sinensis* mitochondrial genome was 638482 bp, and its base makeup was A (27.35%), T (27.09%), C (22.79%), and G (22.76%), with a C + G content of 45.56%. All of them have a circumferential mitochondrial genome construction, where their longest gene is the rrn26 gene in the transfer RNA, measuring 3116 bp (Table 1; Fig. 1 ).

Reverse transcription is indicated by genes outside of the circles, and clockwise transcription is indicated by genes inside the circles. The two IR regions are represented by the thick black line on the outside circle. The GC content is represented by the inner nucleus' dark gray graph.

Table 1  
Results of mt DNA genome sequence analysis of two plants.

| <i>Toona_ciliata</i>                                                                                |         |            | <i>Toona_sinensis</i> |            |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|------------|-----------------------|------------|
| Type                                                                                                | Size    | Proportion | size                  | Proportion |
| A content                                                                                           | 186,538 | 27.31%     | 174,629               | 27.35%     |
| T content                                                                                           | 186,361 | 27.29%     | 172,983               | 27.09%     |
| G content                                                                                           | 156,039 | 22.85%     | 145,343               | 22.76%     |
| C content                                                                                           | 154,062 | 22.56%     | 145,527               | 22.79%     |
| Total content                                                                                       | 683,000 |            | 638,482               |            |
| G + C content                                                                                       | 310,101 | 45.40%     | 290,870               | 45.56%     |
| longest gene                                                                                        | 3,116   | 50.77%     | 3,116                 | 50.77%     |
| Note: Both mitochondria of the longest gene are 26S-rRNA, 50. The GC content of the gene is 50.77%. |         |            |                       |            |

### 2.2. Functional gene

#### 2.2.1. Gene encoding protein

*T.ciliata* encodes 71 genes while *T.sinensis* encodes 72 genes. Protein-coding genes of both *Toona* plants are consistent in frequency, types, and measurements (Table 2), whereas the predominant divergence is in tRNAs, with *T. ciliata* encoding 33 tRNAs and *T. sinensis* encoding 34 (Table 3 ).

Table 2  
Gene content in mitochondrial genomes of *T.ciliata* and *T.sinensis*.

| Product group    | Gene         | <i>T.ciliata</i> |          | <i>T.sinensis</i> |          |
|------------------|--------------|------------------|----------|-------------------|----------|
|                  |              |                  | size(bp) |                   | size(bp) |
| Complex I        | <i>nad1</i>  | +                | 978      | +                 | 978      |
|                  | <i>nad2</i>  | +                | 1467     | +                 | 1467     |
|                  | <i>nad3</i>  | +                | 357      | +                 | 357      |
|                  | <i>nad4</i>  | +                | 1485     | +                 | 1485     |
|                  | <i>nad5</i>  | +                | 1989     | +                 | 1989     |
|                  | <i>nad6</i>  | +                | 618      | +                 | 618      |
|                  | <i>nad7</i>  | +                | 1188     | +                 | 1188     |
|                  | <i>nad4l</i> | +                | 303      | +                 | 303      |
|                  | <i>nad9</i>  | +                | 573      | +                 | 573      |
| Complex II       | <i>sdh3</i>  | +                | 369      | +                 | 369      |
|                  | <i>sdh4</i>  | +                | 426      | +                 | 426      |
| Complex III      | <i>cob</i>   | +                | 1182     | +                 | 1182     |
| Complex IV       | <i>cox1</i>  | +                | 1584     | +                 | 1584     |
|                  | <i>cox2</i>  | +                | 783      | +                 | 783      |
|                  | <i>cox3</i>  | +                | 798      | +                 | 798      |
| Complex V        | <i>atp1</i>  | +                | 1530     | +                 | 1530     |
|                  | <i>atp4</i>  | +                | 597      | +                 | 597      |
|                  | <i>atp6</i>  | +                | 720      | +                 | 720      |
|                  | <i>atp8</i>  | +                | 486      | +                 | 486      |
|                  | <i>atp9</i>  | +                | 300      | +                 | 300      |
| Cytochrome c     | <i>ccmB</i>  | +                | 621      | +                 | 621      |
|                  | <i>ccmC</i>  | +                | 753      | +                 | 753      |
|                  | <i>ccmFC</i> | +                | 1476     | +                 | 1476     |
|                  | <i>ccmFN</i> | +                | 1797     | +                 | 1797     |
| Ribosome Protein | <i>rps1</i>  | +                | 606      | +                 | 606      |
|                  | <i>rps3</i>  | +                | 1692     | +                 | 1692     |
|                  | <i>rps4</i>  | +                | 1692     | +                 | 1692     |
|                  | <i>rps10</i> | +                | 333      | +                 | 333      |
|                  | <i>rps12</i> | +                | 378      | +                 | 378      |

| Product group           | Gene         | <i>T.ciliata</i> | <i>T.sinensis</i> |
|-------------------------|--------------|------------------|-------------------|
|                         | <i>rpl2</i>  | +                | 1035              |
|                         | <i>rpl16</i> | +                | 558               |
|                         | <i>rpl5</i>  | +                | 555               |
|                         | <i>rpl10</i> | +                | 489               |
| Ribosome RNA            | <i>rrn5</i>  | +                | 119               |
|                         | <i>rrn18</i> | +                | 1954              |
|                         | <i>rrn26</i> | +                | 3116              |
| tRNA(Detail in Table 3) |              | 33               | 34                |
| other ORF               | <i>matR</i>  | +                | 1917              |
|                         | <i>mttb</i>  | +                | 786               |
| total                   |              | 71               | 72                |

Employing NCBI-BLAST analysis, 38 genes encoding proteins were obtained on the mitochondrial genomes of both *T. ciliata* and *T. sinensis*. We categorized the protein-encoding genes into the following eight categories according to their gene functions (Table 2): including Complex I genes ( *nad1*, *nad2*, *nad3*, *nad4*, *nad4L*, *nad5*, *nad6*, *nad7*, and *nad9*) involved in the synthesis of NADH deaminase subunits; Complex II genes ( *sdh3* and *sdh4*) participated in the synthesis of cytochrome b precursor subunits ; Complex III gene (*cob*) implicated in the synthesis of the cytochrome C oxidase subunit; Complex IV genes (*cox1*, *cox2*, and *cox3*) Complex V genes (*atp1*, *atp4*, *atp6*, *atp8*, and *atp9*), associated with the synthesis of ATP synthase subunits Cytochrome c biosynthetic genes (*ccmB*, *ccmC*, *ccmFC* and *ccmFM*) engaged in the synthesis of cytochrome C synthase subunits Ribosome protein genes synthesized by ribosome protein synthesis genes (*rps1*, *rps3*, *rps4*, *rps10*, *rps12*, *rpl2*, *rpl5*, *rpl10* and *rpl16*) The ribosomal RNA genes (*rrn5*, *rrn18* and *rrn26*) as well as the *matR* gene (encoding a maturation-like enzyme) and the *mttB* gene (encoding a transporter).

## 2.2.2. Gene encoding tRNA

Utilizing tRNAscan-SE, 33 and 34 genes encoding transfer RNAs were identified on the mitochondrial genomes of *T. ciliata* and *T. sinensis*, separately.

In the *T. ciliata* gene, a total of 33 tRNAs encode 20 amino acids ranging from 66 bp-88 bp in length. five of these tRNAsers, LeU, Gly, Gly, Cys, Arg, and Lys each have two tRNAs encoding, Met and Pro are distributed with three tRNAs encoding, and the remaining amino acids all have one tRNA Editor. In contrast to *T. ciliata*, *T. sinensis* has 34 tRNAs encoding 20 amino acids, ranging from 63–167 bp in length. compared to *T. ciliata*, *T. sinensis* has 2 fewer tRNAs encoding Cys and Arg, but 3 more tRNAs encoding Pro, ILe, and Glu (Table 3 ).

Table 3  
tRNA present in the *T.ciliata* and *T.sinensis* mitochondrial genome.

| Table 3 <i>tRNA present in the T.ciliata and T.sinensis mitochondrial genome.</i> |        |            |           |        |                 |            |            |          |        |                 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|------------|-----------|--------|-----------------|------------|------------|----------|--------|-----------------|
| T.ciliata                                                                         |        |            |           |        |                 | T.sinensis |            |          |        |                 |
| Type                                                                              | Number | Anti-codon | Size (bp) | GC_    | One Letter code | Number     | Anti-codon | Size(bp) | GC_    | One Letter code |
| Ser                                                                               | 5      | TGA        | 67        | 50.75% | S               | 5          | CGA        | 67       | 47.76% | S               |
|                                                                                   |        | GGA        | 82        | 42.68% | S               |            | GGA        | 82       | 42.68% | S               |
|                                                                                   |        | GCG        | 88        | 51.14% | S               |            | TGA        | 88       | 51.14% | S               |
|                                                                                   |        | GCT        | 88        | 46.59% | S               |            | GCT        | 88       | 46.59% | S               |
|                                                                                   |        | GGA        | 72        | 51.72% | S               |            | TGA        | 167      | 49.10% | S               |
| Leu                                                                               | 2      | CAG        | 73        | 46.58% | L               | 2          | GAG        | 75       | 46.67% | L               |
|                                                                                   |        | CAG        | 69        | 49.28% | L               |            | CAG        | 73       | 46.58% | L               |
| Met                                                                               | 3      | CAT        | 72        | 59.72% | M               | 3          | CAT        | 77       | 42.86% | M               |
|                                                                                   |        | CAT        | 77        | 42.86% | M               |            | CAT        | 73       | 43.84% | M               |
|                                                                                   |        | CAT        | 74        | 43.84% | M               |            | CAT        | 72       | 59.72% | M               |
| Gln                                                                               | 1      | TTG        | 74        | 47.22% | Q               | 1          | TTG        | 72       | 47.22% | Q               |
| Gly                                                                               | 2      | GCC        | 73        | 54.05% | G               | 2          | GCC        | 63       | 55.56% | G               |
|                                                                                   |        | TGT        | 76        | 43.42% | G               |            | GCC        | 74       | 54.05% | G               |
| Asp                                                                               | 1      | GTC        | 84        | 62.16% | D               | 1          | GTC        | 74       | 62.16% | D               |
| Asn                                                                               | 1      | GTT        | 72        | 52.78% | N               | 1          | GTT        | 72       | 52.78% | N               |
| Cys                                                                               | 2      | GCA        | 72        | 51.39% | C               | 1          | GCA        | 72       | 51.39% | C               |
|                                                                                   |        | GCA        | 73        | 52.05% | C               |            |            |          |        |                 |
| Pro                                                                               | 3      | CGG        | 74        | 31.08% | P               | 4          | TGG        | 72       | 48.61% | P               |
|                                                                                   |        | /          | 77        | 49.35% | P               |            | TGG        | 77       | 49.35% | P               |
|                                                                                   |        | CCC        | 75        | 54.67% | P               |            | CGG        | 74       | 31.08% | P               |
|                                                                                   |        |            |           |        |                 |            | TGG        | 75       | 54.67% | P               |
| Trp                                                                               | 1      | TGG        | 74        | 51.35% | W               | 1          | CCA        | 74       | 51.35% | W               |
| Ala                                                                               | 1      | CCA        | 66        | 46.97% | A               | 1          | GGC        | 87       | 55.17% | A               |
| His                                                                               | 1      | GGC        | 75        | 60.00% | H               | 1          | GTG        | 75       | 60.00% | H               |
| Thr                                                                               | 1      | GTG        | 81        | 45.68% | T               | 1          | TGT        | 81       | 45.68% | T               |
| Arg                                                                               | 2      | TTT        | 74        | 41.89% | R               | 1          | GCG        | 74       | 41.89% | R               |
|                                                                                   |        | CCG        | 75        | 58.67% | R               |            |            |          |        |                 |

| Table 3 <i>tRNA present in the T.ciliata and T.sinensis mitochondrial genome.</i> |   |     |    |        |     |   |     |        |        |   |  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|-----|----|--------|-----|---|-----|--------|--------|---|--|
| Val                                                                               | 1 | GAC | 87 | 36.78% | V   | 1 | TAC | 81     | 40.74% | V |  |
| Phe                                                                               | 1 | GAA | 74 | 45.95% | F   | 1 | GAA | 74     | 45.95% | F |  |
| Ile                                                                               | 1 | TGG | 73 | 47.95% | I   | 2 | TAT | 73     | 47.95% | I |  |
|                                                                                   |   |     |    |        | TAT |   | 73  | 47.95% | I      |   |  |
| Lys                                                                               | 2 | TAT | 74 | 47.30% | K   | 2 | TTT | 74     | 47.30% | K |  |
|                                                                                   |   | TTC | 75 | 48.00% | K   |   | TTT | 75     | 48.00% | K |  |
| Glu                                                                               | 1 | TGA | 72 | 50.00% | E   | 2 | TTC | 72     | 50.00% | E |  |
|                                                                                   |   |     |    |        | TTC |   | 71  | 50.70% | E      |   |  |
| Note:/ Indicates unknown or not found                                             |   |     |    |        |     |   |     |        |        |   |  |

## 2.3. Codon Usage bias

RSCU (Relative Synonymous Codon Usage)(P et al. 2015) is a measure of relative synonymous codon usage, indicating the proportion of a given synonymous codon usage among all synonymous codons. The mitochondrial genomes of *T. ciliata* and *T. sinensis* have a codon usage bias for all amino acids except for the Trp of only one codon, TGG.

The codon TTT was the most frequently accessed codon in the mitochondrial protein-coding genes of *T. ciliata* and *T. sinensis*, with the second commonest codon being ATT and the third being TTC. The termination codon TAG was the least frequently addressed codon, being exclusively indexed six and five occasions respectively (Table 4 ).

Table 4  
Statistical table of RSCU values for *T.ciliata* and *T.sinensis*

| <i>T.ciliata</i> |       |        |               |             | <i>T.sinensis</i> |        |               |             |
|------------------|-------|--------|---------------|-------------|-------------------|--------|---------------|-------------|
| Amino acid       | Codon | Number | Frequency (%) | RSCU        | Codon             | Number | Frequency (%) | RSCU        |
| Ala              | GCT   | 268    | 2.529256323   | 1.60960961  | GCT               | 267    | 2.523390984   | 1.608433735 |
| Ala              | GCA   | 159    | 1.500566251   | 0.954954955 | GCA               | 158    | 1.493242605   | 0.951807229 |
| Ala              | GCC   | 153    | 1.44394111    | 0.918918919 | GCC               | 153    | 1.445988092   | 0.921686747 |
| Ala              | GCG   | 86     | 0.811627029   | 0.516516517 | GCG               | 86     | 0.81277762    | 0.518072289 |
| Arg              | AGA   | 172    | 1.623254058   | 1.461756374 | AGA               | 173    | 1.635006143   | 1.472340426 |
| Arg              | CGA   | 155    | 1.462816157   | 1.317280453 | CGA               | 155    | 1.464889897   | 1.319148936 |
| Arg              | CGT   | 137    | 1.292940732   | 1.164305949 | CGT               | 137    | 1.294773651   | 1.165957447 |
| Arg              | AGG   | 93     | 0.877689694   | 0.790368272 | AGG               | 93     | 0.878933938   | 0.791489362 |
| Arg              | CGG   | 79     | 0.745564364   | 0.671388102 | CGG               | 78     | 0.7371704     | 0.663829787 |
| Arg              | CGC   | 70     | 0.660626652   | 0.59490085  | CGC               | 69     | 0.652112277   | 0.587234043 |
| Asn              | AAT   | 224    | 2.114005285   | 1.333333333 | AAT               | 225    | 2.126453076   | 1.339285714 |
| Asn              | AAC   | 112    | 1.057002643   | 0.666666667 | AAC               | 111    | 1.049050184   | 0.660714286 |
| Asp              | GAT   | 226    | 2.132880332   | 1.36969697  | GAT               | 226    | 2.135903979   | 1.36969697  |
| Asp              | GAC   | 104    | 0.981502454   | 0.63030303  | GAC               | 104    | 0.982893866   | 0.63030303  |
| Cys              | TGT   | 94     | 0.887127218   | 1.160493827 | TGT               | 94     | 0.888384841   | 1.175       |
| Cys              | TGC   | 68     | 0.641751604   | 0.839506173 | TGC               | 66     | 0.623759569   | 0.825       |
| Gln              | CAA   | 217    | 2.04794262    | 1.466216216 | CAA               | 217    | 2.050845856   | 1.466216216 |
| Gln              | CAG   | 79     | 0.745564364   | 0.533783784 | CAG               | 79     | 0.746621302   | 0.533783784 |
| Glu              | GAA   | 311    | 2.935069838   | 1.385300668 | GAA               | 311    | 2.939230697   | 1.388392857 |
| Glu              | GAG   | 138    | 1.302378256   | 0.614699332 | GAG               | 137    | 1.294773651   | 0.611607143 |
| Gly              | GGA   | 266    | 2.510381276   | 1.453551913 | GGA               | 266    | 2.513940081   | 1.457534247 |
| Gly              | GGT   | 231    | 2.18006795    | 1.262295082 | GGT               | 230    | 2.173707589   | 1.260273973 |
| Gly              | GGG   | 134    | 1.264628162   | 0.732240437 | GGG               | 134    | 1.266420943   | 0.734246575 |
| Gly              | GGC   | 101    | 0.953189883   | 0.551912568 | GGC               | 100    | 0.945090256   | 0.547945205 |
| His              | CAT   | 190    | 1.793129483   | 1.526104418 | CAT               | 190    | 1.795671487   | 1.526104418 |
| His              | CAC   | 59     | 0.556813892   | 0.473895582 | CAC               | 59     | 0.557603251   | 0.473895582 |
| Ile              | ATT   | 346    | 3.265383163   | 1.284653465 | ATT               | 348    | 3.288914091   | 1.288888889 |
| Ile              | ATC   | 240    | 2.265005663   | 0.891089109 | ATC               | 240    | 2.268216615   | 0.888888889 |

| <i>T.ciliata</i> |     |     |             |             | <i>T.sinensis</i> |     |             |             |
|------------------|-----|-----|-------------|-------------|-------------------|-----|-------------|-------------|
| Ile              | ATA | 222 | 2.095130238 | 0.824257426 | ATA               | 222 | 2.098100369 | 0.822222222 |
| Leu              | TTA | 294 | 2.774631937 | 1.48609941  | TTA               | 294 | 2.778565353 | 1.488607595 |
| Leu              | CTT | 250 | 2.359380898 | 1.263689975 | CTT               | 247 | 2.334372933 | 1.250632911 |
| Leu              | TTG | 229 | 2.161192903 | 1.157540017 | TTG               | 230 | 2.173707589 | 1.164556962 |
| Leu              | CTA | 181 | 1.70819177  | 0.914911542 | CTA               | 180 | 1.701162461 | 0.911392405 |
| Leu              | CTG | 119 | 1.123065308 | 0.601516428 | CTG               | 119 | 1.124657405 | 0.602531646 |
| Leu              | CTC | 114 | 1.07587769  | 0.576242628 | CTC               | 115 | 1.086853795 | 0.582278481 |
| Lys              | AAA | 261 | 2.463193658 | 1.186363636 | AAA               | 261 | 2.466685568 | 1.183673469 |
| Lys              | AAG | 179 | 1.689316723 | 0.813636364 | AAG               | 180 | 1.701162461 | 0.816326531 |
| Met              | ATG | 281 | 2.65194413  | 1           | ATG               | 280 | 2.646252717 | 1           |
| Phe              | TTT | 413 | 3.897697244 | 1.12995896  | TTT               | 412 | 3.893771855 | 1.128767123 |
| Phe              | TTC | 318 | 3.001132503 | 0.87004104  | TTC               | 318 | 3.005387014 | 0.871232877 |
| Pro              | CCT | 207 | 1.953567384 | 1.5         | CCT               | 206 | 1.946885928 | 1.500910747 |
| Pro              | CCA | 149 | 1.406191015 | 1.079710145 | CCA               | 148 | 1.398733579 | 1.078324226 |
| Pro              | CCC | 110 | 1.038127595 | 0.797101449 | CCC               | 109 | 1.030148379 | 0.79417122  |
| Pro              | CCG | 86  | 0.811627029 | 0.623188406 | CCG               | 86  | 0.81277762  | 0.626593807 |
| Ser              | TCT | 213 | 2.010192525 | 1.395196507 | TCT               | 213 | 2.013042246 | 1.395196507 |
| Ser              | AGT | 171 | 1.613816535 | 1.120087336 | AGT               | 173 | 1.635006143 | 1.133187773 |
| Ser              | TCA | 165 | 1.557191393 | 1.080786026 | TCA               | 164 | 1.54994802  | 1.074235808 |
| Ser              | TCC | 138 | 1.302378256 | 0.903930131 | TCC               | 139 | 1.313675456 | 0.910480349 |
| Ser              | TCG | 132 | 1.245753114 | 0.864628821 | TCG               | 130 | 1.228617333 | 0.851528384 |
| Ser              | AGC | 97  | 0.915439789 | 0.635371179 | AGC               | 97  | 0.916737548 | 0.635371179 |
| Stp              | TAA | 18  | 0.169875425 | 1.588235294 | TAA               | 18  | 0.170116246 | 1.588235294 |
| Stp              | TGA | 10  | 0.094375236 | 0.882352941 | TGA               | 11  | 0.103959928 | 0.970588235 |
| Stp              | TAG | 6   | 0.056625142 | 0.529411765 | TAG               | 5   | 0.047254513 | 0.441176471 |
| Thr              | ACT | 185 | 1.745941865 | 1.335740072 | ACT               | 184 | 1.738966071 | 1.330922242 |
| Thr              | ACC | 143 | 1.349565874 | 1.032490975 | ACC               | 143 | 1.351479066 | 1.034358047 |
| Thr              | ACA | 140 | 1.321253303 | 1.010830325 | ACA               | 140 | 1.323126359 | 1.012658228 |
| Thr              | ACG | 86  | 0.811627029 | 0.620938628 | ACG               | 86  | 0.81277762  | 0.622061483 |
| Trp              | TGG | 166 | 1.566628917 | 1           | TGG               | 165 | 1.559398923 | 1           |
| Tyr              | TAT | 259 | 2.444318611 | 1.510204082 | TAT               | 258 | 2.438332861 | 1.50877193  |
| Tyr              | TAC | 84  | 0.792751982 | 0.489795918 | TAC               | 84  | 0.793875815 | 0.49122807  |

| <i>T.ciliata</i>                              |     |     |             |             | <i>T.sinensis</i> |     |             |             |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-------------|-------------|-------------------|-----|-------------|-------------|
| Val                                           | GTA | 193 | 1.821442054 | 1.17325228  | GTA               | 194 | 1.833475097 | 1.179331307 |
| Val                                           | GTT | 192 | 1.81200453  | 1.167173252 | GTT               | 191 | 1.805122389 | 1.161094225 |
| Val                                           | GTG | 153 | 1.44394111  | 0.930091185 | GTG               | 154 | 1.455438994 | 0.936170213 |
| Val                                           | GTC | 120 | 1.132502831 | 0.729483283 | GTC               | 119 | 1.124657405 | 0.723404255 |
| Remark: Frequency (%): codon usage frequency. |     |     |             |             |                   |     |             |             |

## 2.4. ML Phylogeny Analysis

Aiming to ascertain the evolutionary status of *T. ciliata* and *T. sinensis* in the plant system, we downloaded the mtDNA sequences of the same ORDER relatives that have published their mtDNA sequences on NCBI. Six Anacardiaceae species, five Sapindaceae species, three Rutaceae species, two Nitrariaceae species, and two Meliaceae species, *Toona ciliata* (OM574630) and *Toona sinensis* (OM574631), for a total of 18 tree species. The outgroup for the mitochondrial genome was *Morus notabilis* (NC 041177.1), and an evolutionary tree was constructed using the maximum likelihood method using the software MEGA 11(Koichiro, Glen, and Sudhir 2021).In the likelihood ML phylogenetic tree (Fig. 2), a total of 15 nodes were formed, nine of which had 100 percent support, except for the large branch of Anacardiaceae and Nitrariaceae, which had 69 percent support, and *Xanthoceras sorbifolium* (MK333231.1) and *Sapindus mukorossi* (MT806100.1), which formed a minor branch with only 56 percent support, but all the other nodes had no less than 93% support.

## 3. Discussion

### 3.1. Mitochondrial Structure & Genetic Comparison

In terms of GC content, gene content, and genetic codon usage preference, the numerical mitochondrial genomes of *T. ciliata* and *T. sinensis* were well conserved. *T. ciliata* and *T. sinensis* had GC values of 45.40 and 45.56 percent each, respectively, and AT contents of 54.6 and 54.44 percent, with an A/T preference. The two *Toona* plants have 38 protein-coding genes and three rRNA genes in common, making their mitochondrial genomes practically identical.

Within the two *Toona*, genes in complexes I, III, IV, and V, ribosomal RNA genes, protein translocator, and intron maturation enzyme genes are conserved between mitochondrial genomes. These encoded genes are mainly concerned with the synthesis of ATP synthase subunits, cytochrome C synthesis, and ribosomal protein synthesis. This provides the theoretical conditions for the exploration of the mechanisms and pathways of metabolite synthesis reactions including respiration and other related metabolites between the two species.

It is speculated that in *T. ciliata*, tRNAs from either the chloroplast or the nucleus would be involved in amino acid translocation to achieve the required number of amino acids for life, since there are 33 tRNA genes in *T. ciliata* and 34 tRNAs in *T. sinensis*, although they encode the same 20 amino acids.

In addition, the codons specifying tRNAs of the two plants are not identical regardless of the determination of the endogenous amino acids, the sizes of the coding genes also differ, thus revealing the existence of a superb concatenation of codons in the mitochondrial genome between the two plants in the *Toona*, and the codons encoding the simultaneous presence of the first amino acid are called synonymous codons.

Similarly, the type of codons and amino acid species encoded by *T. ciliata* and *T. sinensis* were completely identical, there was almost no discrepancy in codon frequency, generally, less than 0.01, and the difference was dominant in the number of codons used, which only differed by one number. The difference in RSCU values between the two plants was very slight, the majority of the values were the same, differing by less than 0.02.

The determination of RSCU values illustrates that *T. ciliata* and *T. sinensis* are remarkably conserved in terms of codon preference. *T. ciliata* and *T. sinensis* exhibit a mitochondrial preference for A or T. Corresponding to the codon usage bias, the amino acid composition of their protein-coding genes are marked by arginine, isoleucine, alanine, and phenylalanine. The content of Stp was higher and the content of Stp was minimum (Table 4).

Heritable traits were drawn directly from tRNA, which is hooked up to the horizontal transfer of genetic material between the mitochondria and the nucleus and chloroplasts, in the mitochondrial genomes of the two plants. The nucleus, chloroplasts, and mitochondria frequently exchange genetic information during genetic evolution, and their DNA typically undergoes genetic drift. As a side effect, mitochondrial DNA exhibits the phenomenon of chloroplast-derived DNA or nuclear-derived DNA, and hybrid DNA appears; among several hybrid DNAs, tRNA has the highest proportion (Yidong et al. 2001; Zhenhua 2008). The similarity between mitochondrial genes and other genetic material has not yet been explored in depth, hence it is questionable whether the evolution between the two *Toona* genera is linked to gene sequence migration analysis, and the loss or transfer of particular genes.

This analysis serves as a foundation for additional investigations into the physiological behaviors correlated to amino acids, the nutritional composition associated with codon substitution bias, and the amino acid composition of protein-coding genes.

## 3.2. Systematic Evolution

*T. ciliata* and *T. sinensis* have similar morphological characters and cultivate in similar environments, so the traditional morphological taxonomy considers the two plants to be closely related (Jiming et al. 2017; Liao et al. 2016). In the phylogenetic tree, the target tree species *Toona ciliata* (OM574630) and *Toona sinensis* (OM574631), belonging to the Meliaceae, clustered into a narrow branch with 100% support. This unifies with the results of traditional morphological taxonomy.

Since plants in the Sapindaceae are more susceptible to geographical location and their genetic variation, the evolutionary distance and genetic variation of plants within the Sapindaceae vary widely (Limin et al. 2014; Minghe 2012), and *Xanthoceras sorbifolium* (MK333231.1) and *Sapindus mukorossi* (MT806100.1), although *Xanthoceras sorbifolium* (MK333231.1) and *Sapindus mukorossi* (MT806100.1) are on the same branch line, the support between them is not high, only 56%.

Flora of China records that Meliaceae, Rutaceae, Anacardiaceae, Sapindaceae, and Nitrariaceae are natural taxon. Taxonomists such as Rendle, Hutchinson, and others, who have organ morphological classification, have concluded that Meliaceae and Rutaceae are closely related, but for the classification of the degree of affinity between them, most of them are distinguished from plant physiology and morphology, less from the molecular level of genes (Ping, Yi, and Yingying 2003; Xueqin et al.). The establishment of the ML evolutionary tree provides a preliminary evolutionary relationship between Meliaceae and Rutaceae at the mitochondrial genome level, but there are limitations because the published mitochondrial genome sequences of plants are still quantitatively insufficient to represent the family level.

## 4. Conclusion

The completion of mitochondrial genome sequencing of *T. ciliata* and *T. sinensis* has enriched the mitochondrial genome library of *Toona*. and is important for investigating interspecific species relationships and researching the genetics and evolution of *Toona*.

The mitochondrial genomes are predominantly maternally inherited and do not originate in the recombinant genome, therefore, they may have dissimilar evolutionary mechanisms and might reflect different evolutionary information. Phylogenetic tree building also further illustrates that the simulation of mitochondrial genomic evolutionary tree outcomes is moderately compatible with the traditional classification. The mitochondrial genome can be acclaimed as a molecular marker for the investigative assessment of phylogenetic relationships among species and the genetic structure of populations.

Regarding *T. ciliata* and *T. sinensis*, it is of great value for the data on their energy metabolism, growth and development, and hybrid breeding.

## Declarations

Plant Material:

I hereby declare that the plant material for this experiment was harvested in strict accordance with the relevant institutional, national and international guidelines and legislation, and that the material was used exclusively for scientific research purposes.

Availability of data and materials

The datasets generated during the current study are available in the [NCBI] repository, [ *Toona sinensis* (GenBank:OM574631.1) and *Toona ciliata* (GenBank:OM574630.1)] .

Ethics approval and consent to participate

Not applicable.

Consent for publication

Not applicable.

Competing interests

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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Author Contributions:

Conceptualization, Youli Li and Min Gu; Data curation, Youli Li and Jiana Lin; Formal analysis, Min Gu and Jiana Lin; Funding

acquisition, Xingcui Xiao and Wei Zhou; Project administration, Xingcui Xiao; Supervision, Xingcui Xiao and Wei Zhou;

Validation, Jiana Lin; Writing – original draft, Youli Li and Min Gu.

All authors will be informed about each step of manuscript processing including submission, revision, revision reminder, etc.

Consent for publication

All authors consistently consent to publish the article.

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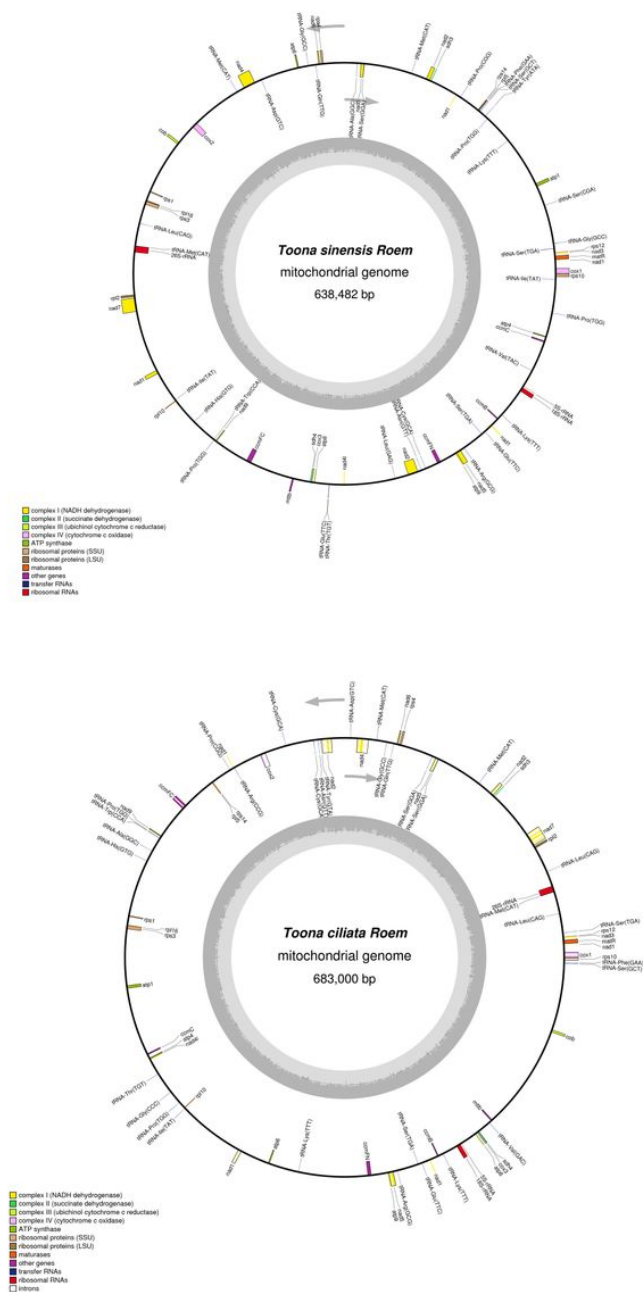
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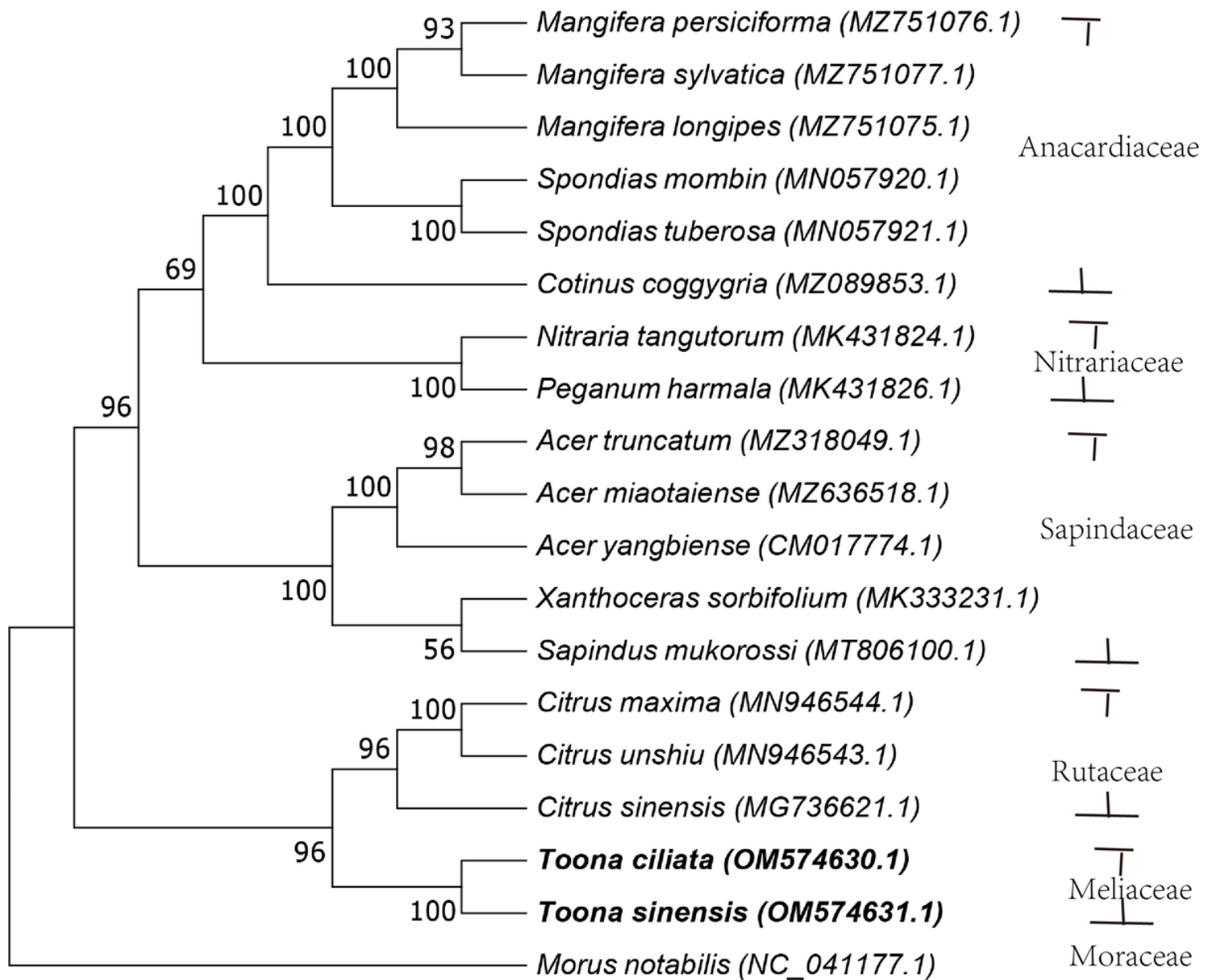
## Figures



**Figure 1**

A map of the mitochondrial genome of the *Toona*. (A) *Toona sinensis*,(B) *Toona ciliata*.

Reverse transcription is indicated by genes outside of the circles, and clockwise transcription is indicated by genes inside the circles. The two IR regions are represented by the thick black line on the outside circle. The GC content is represented by the inner nucleus' dark gray graph.



**Figure 2**

Phylogenetic trees constructed based on the ML method for 19 related plants.