

# Fine Mapping of Two Major Quantitative Trait Loci for Rice Chalkiness With High Temperature-Enhanced Additive Effects

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Chalkiness is a crucial determinant of rice quality. During seed filling period, high temperature usually increases grain chalkiness, resulting in poor grain quality. Rice chalkiness was controlled by quantitative trait loci (QTLs) and influenced by environmental conditions. In this study, we identified two single-segment substitution lines (SSSLs) 22-05 and 15-06 with significantly lower percentage of grain chalkiness (PGC) than recipient Huajingxian 74 (HJX74) over 6 cropping seasons. Two major QTLs for chalkiness, *qPGC5* and *qPGC6*, were located by substitution mapping of SSSLs 22– 05 and 15–06, respectively. gPGC5 was located in the 876.5 kb interval of chromosome 5 and *qPGC6* was located in the 269.1 kb interval of chromosome 6. Interestingly, the PGC of HJX74 was significantly different between the two cropping seasons per year, with 25.8% in the first cropping season (FCS) and 16.6% in the second cropping season (SCS), while the PGC of SSSLs 22-05 and 15-06 did not significantly differ between FCS and SCS. The additive effects of qPGC5 and qPGC6 on chalkiness in the SSSLs were significantly greater in FCS than in SCS. These results showed that qPGC5 and qPGC6 had major effects on chalkiness and the SSSL alleles were more effective in reducing chalkiness under high temperature condition in FCS. The finemapping of the two QTLs will facilitate the cloning of genes for chalkiness and provide new genetic resources to develop new cultivars with low chalkiness even under high temperature condition.

Keywords: chalkiness, QTL, SSSL, substitution mapping, high temperature, rice quality

## INTRODUCTION

Rice (*Oryza sativa*) is an essential cereal crop in the world. Rice cultivars of high yield and good quality are required to meet human needs. Grain appearance is a crucial trait to determine rice quality. Chalk is an opaque area of the seed endosperm, which affects grain appearance and milling and cooking performance (Fitzgerald et al., 2009; Misra et al., 2019). Rice chalkiness is easily affected

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by environments. During seed development, high temperature stress gives rise to irregular grain-filling and obstacles to storage biosynthesis, resulting in the emergence of chalkiness (Sreenivasulu et al., 2015; Edwards et al., 2017; Nevame et al., 2018). The ratio of source to sink had a significant effect on chalkiness, and the degree of influence varied with cultivars (Cheng et al., 2007). By comparison, the chalkiness level of new cultivars is higher than that of modern old cultivars, while hybrid cultivars are usually higher than other modern cultivars (Laborte et al., 2015). Consequently, high-yield cultivars usually exhibit high chalkiness (Misra et al., 2019).

Rice chalkiness is a complex trait controlled by multiple quantitative trait loci (QTLs) and is quantified as the percentage of grain chalkiness (PGC) (Sreenivasulu et al., 2015; Misra et al., 2019; Yang et al., 2021a). In the past decades, a large number of QTLs for rice chalkiness have been detected using diverse mapping populations (Sreenivasulu et al., 2015; Yang et al., 2021a). It was found that rice chromosomes 5 and 6 were hotspot regions for chalkiness QTLs (Tan et al., 2000; Wan et al., 2005; Zhou et al., 2009; Chen et al., 2011, 2016; Liu et al., 2012; Peng et al., 2014; Gao et al., 2016; Yun et al., 2016; Zhao et al., 2016; Wang et al., 2017; Misra et al., 2020). Some QTLs for high temperature-induced chalkiness were detected using heat stresssensitive cultivars, and these QTLs accelerated the occurrence of chalkiness under high temperature conditions (Yamakawa et al., 2008; Kobayashi et al., 2013; Wada et al., 2015; Nevame et al., 2018; Yang et al., 2021a). Until now, a few QTLs were mapped in a fine resolution or cloned (Wu et al., 2021; Yang et al., 2021a). Li et al. (2014) cloned a major QTL positively regulating rice chalkiness, Chalk5, which encodes a vacuolar H<sup>-</sup>-translocating pyrophosphatase (V-PPase) and is specially expressed in endosperm. Most rice cultivars have higher Chalk5 expression levels and higher grain chalkiness. Yang et al. (2022) identified a transcription factor OsbZIP60 controlling grain chalkiness by using genome-wide association studies (GWAS). The moderate expression of OsbZIP60 can maintain endoplasmic reticulum (ER) homeostasis. The impaired function of OsbZIP60 disturbs the ER homeostasis, and then OsbZIP50-mediated unfolded protein response activation is triggered dealt with to ER stress, thus affecting the expression of genes for endosperm development, finally resulting in chalkiness formation. Wu et al. (2022) cloned the WCR1 on chromosome 1, which negatively regulates rice chalkiness. Two alleles WCR1A and WCR1G were identified based on the SNP-A/G in the promoter region of WCR1. OsDOF17, as a transcriptional activator, promotes the transcription of WCR1<sup>A</sup>. And then, WCR1 interacts with metallothionein MT2b to maintain redox homeostasis in the endosperm of rice, thereby reducing grain chalkiness.

Chalkiness occurs in the endosperm of seeds and is influenced by some seed development genes. The dysfunctional GW2 allele was shown to enhance width and weight of rice grain, while causing the increase in grain chalkiness (Song et al., 2007). The alleles GW7, gw8 and gs9 caused much slenderer grain shape, resulting in the reducing of rice chalkiness (Wang et al., 2012, 2015; Zhao et al., 2018). Recently, Jiang et al. (2021) identified GSE5 had a pleiotropic function to regulating grain shape and chalkiness by map-based cloning. Several genes for

endosperm development have been found to influence grainfilling and chalkiness. OsPPDKB regulated carbon metabolism during grain filling, which mutant showed white-core endosperm (Kang et al., 2005). SSIIIa had pleiotropic effects on endosperm development, which mutant had a chalky interior appearance in seeds (Fujita et al., 2007). GIF1 encoded a cell-wall invertase required for carbon partitioning in the early stage of grainfilling, which mutant exhibited abnormal development and loose accumulation of starch granules, resulting in the increase of grain chalkiness (Wang et al., 2008). UGPase1 had an effect on male sterility and grain chalkiness (Woo et al., 2008). Some floury endosperm (flo) mutants including flo2, flo7, flo10 and flo19 caused the obstacles to storage biosynthesis and amyloplast development, leading to the formation of floury endosperm (She et al., 2010; Zhang et al., 2016; Wu et al., 2019; Lou et al., 2021). Interestingly, many chalkiness QTLs are located in the same region as other seed development genes (Zhao et al., 2015; Yang et al., 2021b). These results indicate that rice chalkiness is a complex trait, and is affected by the pleiotropic effect of other genes.

Recently, we identified four QTLs for rice chalkiness using the single-segment substitution lines (SSSLs) with the Huajingxian 74 (HJX74) genetic background (Yang et al., 2021a,b). Two QTLs, *qPGC9* on chromosome 9 and *qPGC11* on chromosome 11, were sensitive to high temperature, which reduced their additive effect on chalkiness in the cropping season of high temperature (Yang et al., 2021a). By comparison, qPGC8.1 and qPGC8.2, as two closely linked QTLs on chromosome 8, were insensitive to high temperature (Yang et al., 2021b). In this study, two QTLs for rice chalkiness, *qPGC5* and *qPGC6*, were detected by substitution mapping using HJX74-SSSLs. Compared with the four QTLs detected previously, qPGC5 and qPGC6 had major effects on grain chalkiness, and their SSSL alleles had the additive effects enhanced by high temperature. The fine-mapping of *qPGC5* and *qPGC6* will contribute to understand the genetic architecture of rice chalkiness and to develop the cultivars with low chalkiness even under high temperature.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

#### **Rice Materials and Field Cultivation**

Two SSSLs 22–05 and 15–06 with low rice chalkiness were selected from the HJX74-SSSL library (Zhang, 2019, 2021). The substitution segment of 22–05 was from Khazar, a *japonica* variety, and that of 15–06 was from American Jasmine, an *indica* variety. Rice materials were grown in the experimental field of South China Agricultural University (23°07′N, 113°15′E), Guangzhou in 2017–2019 with two cropping seasons per year. The first cropping season (FCS) was from late February to midJuly and the second cropping season (SCS) from late July to midNovember. Rice planting and pest control followed conventional practices (Yang et al., 2021a).

## **Phenotyping of Traits**

The seeds of 10 plants per line were harvested after full maturity. The dry seeds per plant were separately processed into milled rice, and 200 head milled rice per plant were used to measure chalkiness (Yang et al., 2021a). The percentage of chalky grains (PCG) per plant and the percentage of chalky area (PCA) per chalky grain were measured by a rice quality analyzer.<sup>1</sup> PGC is the product of PCG times PCA (Yang et al., 2021a). The investigations of heading date, panicle number per plant and plant height were carried out in the experimental field. The measurements of grain yield traits were performed using the yield traits scorer, a rice phenotyping facility (Yang et al., 2014).

#### **Genotyping and Substitution Mapping**

"RM" markers were selected from Gramene database.2 New markers used in this study were designed using the sequences of insertions/deletions (InDels) or SNPs between recipient HJX74 and donors by the software of Primer Premier 5.0 (Supplementary Table 1). PCR products were separated on 6% denaturing PAGE and detected by silver staining (Tan et al., 2020). The secondary SSSLs or near-isogenic lines (NILs) were developed from the crosses between SSSL 22-05 or 15-06 and recipient HJX74. The lengths of substitution segments were estimated by the marker position on the substitution segments (Tan et al., 2020). When the PGC of SSSL or NIL was significantly different from that of HJX74, a QTL for PGC was located on the substitution segment of SSSL or NIL. When multiple NILs with overlapping substitution segments showed significantly different phenotypes from HJX74, the QTL was detected in the overlapping region (Eshed and Zamir, 1995; Tan et al., 2020).

Linkage maps of markers were drawn by MapChart2.3. Additive effect of a QTL was estimated by the phenotype difference between NIL and HJX74 (Zhou et al., 2020). QTL naming followed the proposed rules (McCouch et al., 1997).

#### **Statistical Analysis**

The comparison of the two sets of data was performed by Student's *t*-test. The comparisons between multiple groups and the control group were performed by Dunnett *t*-test. The multiple range test among multiple groups was done by least significance range (LSR) (Duncan, 1955). For the statistical analysis, data of percentages were converted to the arcsine square root. SPSS statistics 23.0 and OriginPro 9.0 were used for the data analysis and figure making.<sup>3</sup>

#### RESULTS

#### **Rice Chalkiness in Single-Segment Substitution Lines**

Two SSSLs 22–05 and 15–06 were used to measure rice chalkiness over the 6 cropping seasons from 2017 to 2019 (**Figure 1A**). Compared with recipient HJX74, the PCG, PCA and PGC of 22–05 and 15–06 were significantly reduced in every cropping season (**Supplementary Table 2**). On average, the PGC of 22–05 and 15–06 were 5.7 and 3.8%, respectively, much lower

<sup>1</sup>www.wseen.com

than 21.2% of recipient HJX74 (**Figure 1B** and **Supplementary Table 2**). The results showed that there were QTLs for rice chalkiness in the substitution segments of the two SSSLs. The substitution segments of 22–05 and 15–06 were detected by markers. The estimated lengths of substitution segments were 17.81 Mb in 22–05 and 3.92 Mb in 15–06 (**Figure 1C** and **Supplementary Table 3**).

Eight agronomic traits of 22–05 and 15–06 were surveyed in two cropping seasons. Compared with HJX74, panicle number per plant, total grain number per plant and grain yield per plant of 22–05 and 15–06, and plant height and 1,000-grain weight of 15– 06 had no significant difference, while heading date, grain length and width of 22–05 and 15–06, and plant height and 1,000-grain weight of 22–05 showed significant difference in two cropping seasons or in only one cropping season (**Figures 1A,D–F** and **Supplementary Table 4**). The result indicated that the SSSLs and HJX74 had a similar genetic background.

#### Substitution Mapping of qPGC5

In order to map the QTL controlling rice chalkiness in the substitution segment of SSSL 22-05, the SSSL was used to produce secondary SSSLs or NILs. Eight NILs were obtained from an F<sub>2:3</sub> population of the HJX74/22-05 cross. Then the rice chalkiness of the eight NILs was measured in two cropping seasons. PGC levels of five NILs, NIL22-05-22, NIL22-05-33, NIL22-05-119, NIL22-05-65, and NIL22-05-3, were as low as 22-05, while those of other three NILs, NIL22-05-5, NIL22-05-23, and NIL22-05-14, were as high as HJX74. In the region from RM509 to SNP5M16, the substitution segments of the five NILs with low PGC overlapped each other, while the substitution segments of the other three NILs with high PGC were outside this region. The result showed that the QTL controlling the PGC, qPGC5, was mapped in the estimated region of 876.5 kb between markers RM509 and SNP5M16 (Figures 2A,B). In addition, the grain length and width of the NILs were segregated, but not cosegregated with the grain chalkiness controlled by qPGC5 (Figures 2C,D). The grain width gene gw5 was located on the substitution segment of 22-05, but far away from the qPGC5 interval (Figure 2B).

Using marker ID5M4 in *qPGC5* interval, the segregation of marker genotypes in an F<sub>2</sub> population of 100 plants was tested by Chi-square test. The results showed that the plants number of three marker genotypes were 25, 48, and 27, respectively, with a segregation ratio of 1:2:1 ( $\chi^2 = 2.27 < \chi^2_{0.01, 2} = 9.21$ ). The PGC of heterozygous genotype *qPGC5-NIL/qPGC5-HJX74* was significantly higher than that of *qPGC5-NIL/qPGC5-NIL* genotype and significantly lower than that of *qPGC5-HJX74* genotype. Therefore, *qPGC5* showed an incomplete dominance effect on grain chalkiness (**Figure 2E**).

#### Substitution Mapping of qPGC6

In order to map the QTL controlling rice chalkiness on the substitution segment of SSSL 15–06, the SSSL was used to produce secondary SSSLs or NILs. Seven NILs were obtained from an  $F_{2:3}$  population of HJX74/15-06 cross. The rice chalkiness of the seven NILs was then measured in two

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>https://archive.gramene.org/markers/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>https://www.originlab.com



FIGURE 1 | Phenotypes and substitution segments of two SSSLs. (A) Plant type of SSSLs 22–05 and 15–06 and control HJX74. Scale bar, 15 cm. (B) Percentage of grain chalkiness (PGC) of SSSLs and control HJX74. PGC is shown as mean ± S.E. in six cropping seasons. (C) Substitution segments of SSSLs 22–05 and 15–06. Black bars on the left of chromosomes represent the substitution segments of SSSLs. Physical distance is shown on the ruler. Chr., Chromosome. Mb, Megabase. The grain length (D), grain width (E) and grain yield per plant (F) of SSSLs 22–05 and 15–06 and control HJX74 are shown as mean ± S.E. FCS, First cropping season; SCS, Second cropping season. \*, \*\* and \*\*\*, Significant difference at the 0.05, 0.01, and 0.001 levels, respectively. NS, No significance.

cropping seasons. Three NILs, NIL15-06-13, NIL15-06-30, and NIL15-06-108, showed PGC levels as low as 15-06, while the other four NILs, NIL15-06-72, NIL15-06-20, NIL15-06-9, and

NIL15-06-38 showed PGC levels as high as HJX74. In the region between markers ID6M57 and ID6M1, the substitution segments of the three NILs with low PGC overlapped each other,



while the substitution segments of the other four NILs with high PGC were outside the region. The result showed that the chalkiness QTL, qPGC6, was mapped in the estimated interval of

269.1 kb between markers ID6M57 and ID6M1 (**Figures 3A,B**). In addition, the grain length and width of the NILs were segregated, but not co-segregated with the chalkiness controlled



by qPGC6 (Figures 3C,D). The grain size gene gs6 was located on the substitution segment of 15–06, but outside the qPGC6interval (Figure 3B).

Using marker RM588 in qPGC6 region, Chi-square test was carried out in an F<sub>2</sub> population of 170 plants. The result showed that the plants number of three marker genotypes were 45,

84, and 41, respectively, which segregated in the ratio of 1:2:1 ( $\chi^2 = 1.40 < \chi^2_{0.01, 2} = 9.21$ ). The PGC of heterozygous genotype *qPGC6-NIL/qPGC6-HJX74* differed markedly from those of the homozygous genotypes *qPGC6-NIL/qPGC6-NIL* and *qPGC6-HJX74/qPGC6-HJX74*. Therefore, *qPGC6* showed an incomplete dominance effect on grain chalkiness (**Figure 3E**).

# Influence of Cropping Seasons in Rice Chalkiness

The rice materials were planted in two cropping seasons for chalkiness measurement per year. The daytime and nighttime temperatures during the period from flowering to harvest of rice were very different between FCS and SCS. In the FCS and SCS of 2017–2019, the maximum temperatures were 32.1 and 28.6°C, the minimum temperatures were 25.9 and 21.0°C, and the mean temperatures were 29.0 and 24.9°C, respectively. The average temperature in FCS increased by 4.1°C compared with that in SCS (**Supplementary Table 5**). In rice chalkiness, PGC of HJX74 was significantly different in two cropping seasons, which was 25.8% in FCS and 16.6% in SCS. In contrast, the PGC of SSSLs 22–05 and 15–06 did not differ significantly between FCS and SCS (**Figure 4**). The results indicated that, unlike HJX74, the chalkiness of 22–05 and 15–06 were not influenced by the high temperature of FCS.

PGC consists of PCG and PCA. The significant positive correlation of PCG and PCA with PGC was detected by regression correlation analysis. The regression coefficients of PCG, PCA, and PGC were 0.8232 and 0.6177 in 22–05 carrying *qPGC5*, and 0.9095 and 0.7112 in 15–06 carrying *qPGC6*, respectively (**Supplementary Figure 1**). The results showed that both PCG and PCA contributed greatly to PGC, and the contribution of PCG to PGC was greater than that of PCA.

# Additive Effects of *qPGC5* and *qPGC6* on Rice Chalkiness

The additive effects of qPGC5 and qPGC6 were estimated from the PGC values of SSSLs and HJX74 in 2017–2019. The additive effects of qPGC5 and qPGC6 on chalkiness were negative and significantly different between FCS and SCS. The additive effect of qPGC5 on PGC was -18.6% in FCS and -12.3% in SCS, respectively, and the additive effect in FCS was -6.3% greater than that in SCS. The additive effects of qPGC6 on PGC in the FCS and SCS were -21.6 and -13.1%, respectively, and the additive effect in FCS increased by -8.5% compared with that in SCS (**Figure 5**). These results showed that qPGC5 and qPGC6 had major additive effects on chalkiness, and their additive effects in FCS were significantly greater than those in SCS. The high temperature of FCS enhanced the additive effects of *qPGC5* and *qPGC6*, making the QTLs more effective in decreasing rice chalkiness.

## DISCUSSION

# *qPGC5* and *qPGC6* Were Mapped in the Hot-Spot Regions of Grain Development Genes

Many chalk QTLs were identified in both sides of centromere of rice chromosome 5 (Tan et al., 2000; Chen et al., 2011, 2016; Liu et al., 2012; Li et al., 2014; Gao et al., 2016; Yun et al., 2016; Zhao et al., 2016; Wang et al., 2017; Misra et al., 2020). Zhao et al. (2016) detected 32 (21) and 46 (22) QTLs for chalkiness based on single environment analysis in two sets of recombinant inbred lines (RILs) respectively, of which QTLs *qDEC5b* and qPGWC5b were located in the region of 14.22-18.35 Mb of chromosome 5. In this study, we located *qPGC5* in the region of 16.38–17.43 Mb (Figure 2), which overlaps with *qDEC5b* and qPGWC5b. On the short arm of chromosome 5, several genes related to grain development were identified. The major chalky QTL Chalk5 was located in the position of 3.3 Mb of chromosome 5 (Li et al., 2014). Near Chalk5, GS5 was responsible for grain size by adjusting grain width, grain filling and grain weight (Li et al., 2011). Located in about 5.4 Mb of the chromosome, GW5 was a major QTL underlying grain width and grain weight, and regulated cell division through the brassinosteroid signaling pathway during seed development (Liu et al., 2017). Located  $\sim$ 3 kb upstream to GW5, chalk5.1, a newly predicted gene identified by genome-wide association studies (GWAS), was responsible for chalkiness (Misra et al., 2019). These results showed that the regions flanking centromere of chromosome 5 are the hot-spots of chalkiness related OTLs.

Some QTLs on rice chalkiness were identified on short arm of chromosomes 6 in different experiments (Tan et al., 2000; Zhou et al., 2009; Chen et al., 2016; Gao et al., 2016; Yun et al., 2016; Zhao et al., 2016; Misra et al., 2020). Around the *Waxy* (*Wx*) gene controlling amylose content of endosperm (Wang et al., 1995), several chalkiness QTLs were identified. Tan et al. (2000)





identified a QTL controlling the chalk of white core in the region of Wx-R1952. A putative QTL qPGWC-6 for PGWC was detected close to the marker RM190, which is tightly linked to Wx gene (Temnykh et al., 2000; McCouch et al., 2002), in a chromosome segment substitution line (CSSL) population (Zhou et al., 2009). Misra et al. (2020) detected 78 QTL regions associated with chalkiness by GWAS, of which PGC6.1 was located in the region of 1.22–1.87 Mb and PGC6.2 in that of 2.03–2.23 Mb on the chromosome. In the present study, qPGC6 was mapped in the region of 1.47–1.79 Mb, which includes the Wx locus (**Figure 3**). The results revealed that the region close to Wx locus on chromosome 6 is the hot spot of grain chalkiness QTLs.

## *qPGC5* and *qPGC6* Were Major Quantitative Trait Loci for Rice Chalkiness

Rice chalkiness is a quantitative trait. More than 100 QTLs have been identified, most of which have low genetic effect on rice chalkiness (Sreenivasulu et al., 2015; Wang et al., 2017; Quero et al., 2018 Misra et al., 2019; Yang et al., 2021a). Although 11 GWAS loci were identified to be responsible for chalky grain rate, they showed low heritability and minor effects for chalkiness (Gong et al., 2017). Using HJX74-SSSLs, we totally detected 6 QTLs for rice chalkiness in the same genetic background. The four QTLs detected previously, qPGC9, qPGC11, qPGC8.1, and *qPGC8.2*, had low additive effects on PGC, ranging from -6.7 to -12.3% (Yang et al., 2021a,b). In this study, the two QTLs, *qPGC5* and qPGC6, had higher additive effects on PGC, ranging from -12.3 to -21.6% (Figure 5). The additive effects of qPGC5 and *qPGC6* were almost twice that of the other four QTLs. Therefore, compared with qPGC8.1, qPGC8.2, qPGC9 and qPGC11, qPGC5 and *qPGC6* were major QTLs for rice chalkiness.

# *qPGC5* and *qPGC6* Had Additive Effects Enhanced by High Temperature

High temperature is an important factor for the formation of chalkiness. The emergence of high temperature stress during the

grain-filling period leads to irregular grain-filling and obstacles to storage biosynthesis, resulting in the increase of rice chalkiness (Sreenivasulu et al., 2015; Edwards et al., 2017; Nevame et al., 2018). In the Guangzhou area of China, the air temperature in FCS is usually higher than that in SCS at the grainfilling stage (Supplementary Table 5; Yang et al., 2021a,b). Recently, two chalkiness QTLs *qPGC9* and *qPGC11* were detected and their additive effects on chalkiness in SCS were nearly double of that in FCS. Due to high temperature sensitivity, the effects of *qPGC9* and *qPGC11* were inhibited in FCS, resulting in higher chalkiness in FCS than that in SCS (Yang et al., 2021a). Unlike qPGC9 and qPGC11, the other two QTLs for rice chalkiness, qPGC8.1 and qPGC8.2, were not sensitive to high temperature and their additive effects on chalkiness were not significantly different between FCS and SCS (Yang et al., 2021b). In this study, the additive effects of *aPGC5* and *aPGC6* did not decrease but increased with high temperature, which made the chalkiness decreasing in FCS more than that in SCS (Figures 4, 5). Therefore, the response of chalkiness QTLs to high temperature is diverse. Under high temperature, the decreasing chalkiness ability of many QTLs was inhibited. This result revealed the reason why most cultivars usually exhibit higher chalkiness at high temperature. Fortunately, qPGC5 and qPGC6 were the major QTLs with additive effects enhanced by high temperature, which are rare QTLs for reducing rice chalkiness under heat stress. Therefore, qPGC5 and qPGC6 will be helpful to develop the rice cultivars with low chalkiness even under high temperature.

# CONCLUSION

Using the SSSLs 22–05 and 15–06, two QTLs for rice chalkiness, qPGC5 and qPGC6, were fine-mapped by substitution mapping. qPGC5 was located in the 876.5 kb interval of chromosome 5 and qPGC6 was located in the 269.1 kb interval of chromosome 6. The additive effects of qPGC5 and qPGC6 on chalkiness were significantly greater in FCS than in SCS. The two QTLs were

the major QTLs for chalkiness with additive effects enhanced by high temperature and their SSSL alleles were more effective in reducing chalkiness under high temperature condition in FCS. The discovery of these two QTLs provides new genetic resources for the development of new varieties with low chalkiness even under high temperature conditions.

#### DATA AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

The original contributions presented in this study are included in the article/**Supplementary Material**, further inquiries can be directed to the corresponding author/s.

#### **AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS**

GZ and SW conceptualized, designed, and supervised the work. WY conducted most of the experiments, analyzed the experimental data, and wrote the original draft. QH, JL, QT, XL,

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SL, HZ, SB, ZL, and GL performed a part of experiments. GZ analyzed the data and wrote the manuscript. All authors reviewed and approved the final manuscript.

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#### SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL

The Supplementary Material for this article can be found online at: https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fpls.2022. 957863/full#supplementary-material

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