



(86) Date de dépôt PCT/PCT Filing Date: 2007/10/10 (87) Date publication PCT/PCT Publication Date: 2008/06/05 (45) Date de délivrance/Issue Date: 2018/04/17 (85) Entrée phase nationale/National Entry: 2009/03/26 (86) N° demande PCT/PCT Application No.: US 2007/080895 (87) N° publication PCT/PCT Publication No.: 2008/067043 (30) Priorités/Priorities: 2006/10/11 (US60/829,123); 2007/10/09 (US11/869,500)	(51) Cl.Int./Int.Cl. <i>C12N 15/29</i> (2006.01), <i>A01H 1/02</i> (2006.01), <i>A01H 1/04</i> (2006.01), <i>C07H 21/00</i> (2006.01), <i>C07K 16/16</i> (2006.01), <i>C12N 15/11</i> (2006.01), <i>C12N 15/82</i> (2006.01) (72) Inventeurs/Inventors: HILL, CURTIS B., US; HARTMAN, GLEN L., US (73) Propriétaires/Owners: THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS, US; UNITED STATES, AS REPRESENTED BY THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE, US (74) Agent: MCKAY-CAREY & COMPANY
---	---

(54) Titre : GENE DE SOJA POUR UNE RESISTANCE AUX APHIS GLYCINES
(54) Title: SOYBEAN GENE FOR RESISTANCE TO APHIS GLYCINES

(57) **Abrégé/Abstract:**

An Aphis glycines resistance Rag2 gene is provided herein, along with methods for identifying its presence using marker-assisted selection. A cultivar of G. max having resistance to Aphis glycines conferred by the Rag2 gene has been identified. The Rag2 gene, as well as the methods, aphid-resistant varieties, and markers disclosed herein may be used to breed new elite lines expressing soybean aphid resistance.

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
5 June 2008 (05.06.2008)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2008/067043 A3

(51) International Patent Classification:

C12N 15/09 (2006.01) *A01H 5/00* (2006.01)
C12N 15/82 (2006.01) *A01H 5/10* (2006.01)
A01H 1/00 (2006.01)

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/US2007/080895

(22) International Filing Date: 10 October 2007 (10.10.2007)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:

60/829,123 11 October 2006 (11.10.2006) US
11/869,500 9 October 2007 (09.10.2007) US

(71) Applicants (*for all designated States except US*): **THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS** [US/US]; 352 Henry Administration Building, 506 South Wright Street, Urbana, IL 61801 (US). **UNITED STATES, AS REPRESENTED BY THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE** [US/US]; 1815 North University Street, Peoria, IL 61604 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (*for US only*): **HILL, Curtis B.** [US/US]; 1801 Barrington Street, Champaign, IL 61821 (US). **HARTMAN, Glen L.** [US/US]; 206 W. Iowa Street, Urbana, IL 61801 (US).

(74) Agents: **WINNER, Ellen P.** et al.; Greenlee, Winner, and Sullivan, P.C., 4875 Pearl East Circle, Suite 200, Boulder, CO 80301 (US).

(81) Designated States (*unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RS, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SV, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (*unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available*): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

- with international search report
- with sequence listing part of description published separately in electronic form and available upon request from the International Bureau

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:
24 December 2008

(54) Title: SOYBEAN GENE FOR RESISTANCE TO *APHIS GLYCINES*

(57) Abstract: An *Aphis glycines* resistance *Rag2* gene is provided herein, along with methods for identifying its presence using marker-assisted selection. A cultivar of *G. max* having resistance to *Aphis glycines* conferred by the *Rag2* gene has been identified. The *Rag2* gene, as well as the methods, aphid-resistant varieties, and markers disclosed herein may be used to breed new elite lines expressing soybean aphid resistance.



WO 2008/067043 A3

SOYBEAN GENE FOR RESISTANCE TO *APHIS GLYCINES*

BACKGROUND

[0001] Described herein are a soybean gene for resistance to *Aphis glycines*, soybean plants possessing this gene, which maps to a novel chromosomal locus, and methods for identifying and breeding these plants, the methods involving marker-assisted selection.

[0002] Soybeans (*Glycine max* L. Merr.) are a major cash crop and investment commodity in North America and elsewhere. Soybean oil is one of the most widely used edible oils, and soybeans are used worldwide both in animal feed and in human food production.

[0003] A native of Asia, the soybean aphid was first found in the Midwest in 2000. It rapidly spread throughout the region and into other parts of North America. High aphid populations can reduce crop production directly when their feeding causes severe damage such as stunting, leaf distortion, and reduced pod set (Sun, Z. et al., "Study on the uses of aphid-resistant character in wild soybean. I. Aphid-resistance performance of F₂ generation from crosses between cultivated and wild soybeans," (1990) *Soybean Genet. News.* 17:43-48).

[0004] Yield losses attributed to the aphid in some fields in Minnesota during 2001, where several thousand aphids occurred on individual soybean plants, were >50%. In earlier reports from China, soybean yields were reduced up to 52% when there was an average of about 220 aphids per plant (Wang, X.B. et al., "A study on the damage and economic threshold of the soybean aphid at the seedling stage," (1994) *Plant Prot. (China)* 20:12-13) and plant height was decreased by about 210 mm after severe aphid infestation (Wang, X.B. et al., "Study on the effects of the population dynamics of soybean aphid (*Aphis glycines*) on both growth and yield of soybean," (1996) *Soybean Sci.* 15:243-247). An additional threat posed by the aphid is its ability to transmit certain plant viruses to soybean such as *Alfalfa mosaic virus*, *Soybean dwarf virus*, and *Soybean mosaic virus* (Sama, S. et al., "Varietal screening for resistance to the aphid, *Aphis glycines*, in soybean," (1974) *Research Reports 1968-1974*, pp. 171-172; Iwaki, M. et al., "A persistent aphid borne virus of soybean, Indonesian *Soybean dwarf virus* transmitted by *Aphis glycines*," (1980) *Plant Dis.* 64:1027-1030; Hill, J.H. et al., "First report of transmission of *Soybean mosaic virus* and *Alfalfa mosaic virus* by *Aphis glycines* in the New World," (2001) *Plant Dis.* 561; Clark, A.J. and Perry, K.L., "Transmissibility of field isolates of soybean viruses by *Aphis glycines*," (2002) *Plant Dis.* 86:1219-1222).

[0005] Because *A. glycines* is a recent pest in the USA, a comprehensive integrated management approach to control the aphid has yet to be developed. Research to evaluate the efficacy of currently-available insecticides and other control measures has just begun.

[0006] An integral component of an integrated pest management (IPM) program to control aphids is plant resistance (Auclair, J.L., "Host plant resistance," pp. 225-265 *In* P. Harrewijn (ed.) Aphids: Their biology, natural enemies, and control, Vol. C., Elsevier, New York (1989); Harrewijn, P. and Minks, A.K., "Integrated aphid management: General aspects," pp. 267-272, *In* A.K. Minks and P. Harrewijn (ed.)

Aphids: Their biology, natural enemies, and control, Vol. C., Elsevier, New York (1989). Insect resistance can significantly reduce input costs for producers (Luginbill, J.P., "Developing resistant plants – The ideal method of controlling insects," (1969) USDA, ARS. Prod. Res. Rep. 111, USGPO, Washington, D.C. Resistance was reported in *G. soja* (Sun, Z. et al., "Study on the uses of aphid-resistant character in wild soybean. I. Aphid-resistance performance of F₂ generation from crosses between cultivated and wild soybeans," (1990) *Soybean Genet. News* 17:43-48), a close relative of *G. max* (Hymowitz, T., "On the domestication of the soybean," (1970) *Econ. Bot.* 24:408-421), and other wild relatives (Zhuang, B. et al., "A study on resistance to soybean mosaic virus and *Aphis glycines* of perennial wild soybean," (1996) *Soybean Genet. Newsl.* 23:66-69). Prior to 2004, there were no reports of resistance in *G. max*. A report from Indonesia had indicated that there was no resistance in a test of 201 soybean cultivars and breeding lines (Sama, S. et al. (1974) Research Reports 1968-1974, p. 171-172. *In* Varietal screening for resistance to the aphid, *Aphis glycines*, in soybean. Agricultural Cooperation, Indonesia, the Netherlands).

[0007] There are numerous examples of the discovery and use of resistance genes to control aphids in crops other than soybean. Examples include Russian wheat aphid (Du Toit, F. (1987), "Resistance in wheat (*Triticum aestivum*) to *Diuraphis noxia* (Homoptera: Aphididae)," *Cereal Res. Commun.* 15:175-179; wheat greenbug (Tyler, J.M., et al. (1985), "Biotype E greenbug resistance in wheat streak mosaic virus-resistant wheat germplasm lines," *Crop Science* 25:686-688), potato aphid on tomato (Kaloshian, I., et al. (1997), "The impact of Meu-1-mediated resistance in tomato on longevity, fecundity and behavior of the potato aphid," *Macrosiphum euphorbiae*," *Entomol. Exp. Appl.* 83:181-187), and cotton-melon aphid on melon (Klinger, J. et al. (2001), "Mapping of cotton-melon aphid resistance in melon," *J. Am. Soc. Hortic. Ci.* 136:56-63).

[0008] A number of soybean markers have been mapped and linkage groups created, as described in Cregan, P.B., et al., "An Integrated Genetic Linkage Map of the Soybean Genome" (1999) *Crop Science* 39:1464-1490.

[0009] U.S. Patent Publication 2006/0014964, Hill, C.B., et al. (2006), "Soybean aphid resistance in soybean Jackson is controlled by a single dominant gene," Crop Science 46:1606-1608, and Hill, C.B., et al. (2006), "A single dominant gene for resistance to the soybean aphid in the soybean cultivar Dowling," Crop Science 46:1601-1605 disclose two previously-discovered soybean aphid resistance genes, *Rag1* in Dowling and another gene in Jackson.

[0010] A trait that maps to soybean Linkage Group F is root-knot nematode resistance. (Tamulonis, J.P., et al. (1997), "DNA marker analysis of loci conferring resistance to peanut root-knot nematode in soybean," Theor. Appl. Genet. 95:664-670.) Jeong, S.C. et al., "Cloning And Characterization Of An Rga Family From The Soybean Molecular Linkage Group F," in an Abstract published by Plant & Animal Genome VIII Conference, Town & Country Hotel, San Diego, CA, January 9-12, 2000 and in Yong G. Yu, Glenn R. Buss, and M. A. Saghai Maroof (1996), "Isolation of a superfamily of candidate disease-resistance genes in soybean based on a conserved nucleotide-binding site," PNAS, 93:11751-11756, discloses that the soybean chromosomal region on linkage group F flanked by the markers K644 and B212 contains several virus, bacteria, fungus and nematode resistance genes.

[0011] Conventional plant breeding for insect resistance traditionally relied on screening whole plants for resistance directly with live insects and assessing insect population development or plant damage caused by insect feeding, or indirectly with techniques that measure insect feeding behavior, such as Electrical Penetration Graph (EPG). Implementation of these techniques requires a certain amount of time and specialized space, such as in a greenhouse or plant growth room. More efficient and cost-effective molecular genetic and polymerase chain reaction (PCR) techniques, with the development of DNA markers, enable breeders to significantly increase throughput and efficiency in screening plants for traits that are tightly linked to DNA markers, by screening genomic DNA of plants in the laboratory. There are numerous examples of the use of this technology to select plants with certain traits in breeding programs, including insect resistance.

[0012] Other publications directed to marker-identification of soybean aphid resistance include Hill, C.B., et al. (2006), "Soybean aphid resistance in soybean Jackson is controlled by a single dominant gene," Crop Science 46:1606-1608; Hill, C.B., et al. (2006), "A single dominant gene for resistance to the soybean aphid in the soybean cultivar Dowling," Crop Science 46:1601-1605; Li, Y., et al. (2004) "Effect of three resistant soybean genotypes on the fecundity, mortality, and maturation of soybean aphid (Homoptera : Aphididae)," Journal of Economic Entomology 97:1106-1111; Hill, C.B., et al. (2004) "Resistance to the soybean aphid in soybean germplasm and other legumes," p. 179, World Soybean Research Conference, Foz do Iguassu, PR, Brazil; Hill, C.B., et al. (2004), "Resistance to the soybean aphid in soybean germplasm," Crop Science 44:98-106; and Hill, C.B., et al. (2004), "Resistance of *Glycine* species and various cultivated legumes to the soybean aphid (Homoptera : Aphididae)," Journal of Economic Entomology 97:1071-1077). Additional methods and molecular tools are needed to allow breeding of *A. glycines* resistance into high-yielding *G. max* soybean varieties.

SUMMARY

[0013] A method is provided for determining the presence or absence in a soybean germplasm of a gene for resistance to the soybean aphid, *Aphis glycines*. The aphid resistance trait has been found to be closely linked to a number of molecular markers that map to linkage group F. The gene conferring the resistance trait is designated "*Rag2*" pending approval of the Soybean Genetics Committee. The *Rag2* gene was originally discovered in the resistance source Sugao Zairai (PI200538). ("PI" stands for "plant introduction" and this PI number refers to the USDA depositary accession number.) The trait of resistance to *Aphis glycines* is also found in other varieties as described hereafter.

[0014] The *Rag2* gene, is non-allelic with the *Rag1* gene previously found in the soybean cultivar Dowling (Hill, C.B. et al., (2006), "A single dominant gene for resistance to the soybean aphid in the soybean cultivar Dowling," Crop Science 46:1601-1605). Similar to *Rag1*, when present in soybean plants, the *Rag2* gene conditions strong resistance to the soybean aphid by preventing aphid colonization on plants through reduced aphid multiplication, survival, lifespan, and development of nymphs to adults. Expression of resistance is dominant over susceptibility in heterozygous plants containing both forms of the gene. Resistance controlled by *Rag2* is effective against all known soybean aphid biotypes.

[0015] The location of the *Rag2* gene was mapped to linkage group F on the soybean genetic map and it is closely flanked by two DNA markers called simple sequence repeats (SSR), namely Soyhsp176 and Satt510, which are tightly linked to the gene. The tight linkage of the two DNA markers with *Rag2* enables soybean breeders to efficiently identify plants that have the soybean aphid resistance gene in progeny of their crosses without having to inoculate plants with aphids.

[0016] Use of the technology to identify the presence of the *Rag2* gene facilitates and expedites the development of new soybean aphid-resistant cultivars using conventional breeding methods without genetic engineering, by back crossing the *Rag2* gene into current, adapted soybean cultivars, converting them to new soybean aphid resistant soybean cultivars. This technology, combined with the technology to identify *Rag1* and the related gene covered in U.S. Patent Publication No. 20060015964 enables the development of soybean cultivars with more than one resistance gene to maximize resistance to the soybean aphid.

[0017] In accordance with the present method, the *Rag2* gene for resistance to *Aphis glycines* co-segregates with molecular markers with which it is linked on linkage group F, most preferably, Satt510 and Soyhsp176. Additional markers that are also useful for identifying the presence of the *Rag2* gene include Sat_120, Sat_234, and Sat_297. The *Rag2* gene has been found to map to a locus that lies between the markers Satt510 and Soyhsp176. Other markers of linkage group F may also be used

to identify the presence or absence of the gene. Preferably flanking markers are used for identifying the presence of the *Rag2* gene for marker-assisted breeding. In one embodiment, the markers used map within about 20 cM, and preferably within about 3 cM to about 10 cM of the *Rag2* gene locus (which contains the *Rag2* gene), or within about 20 cM and preferably within about 3 cM to about 10 cM of Satt510 or Soyhsp176.

[0018] The information disclosed herein regarding *Rag2* locus is used to aid in the selection of breeding plants, lines and populations containing *Aphis glycines* resistance for use in introgression of this trait into elite soybean germplasm, *i.e.*, germplasm of proven genetic superiority suitable for cultivar release.

[0019] Also provided is a method for introgressing a soybean *Aphis glycines* resistance gene into non-resistant soybean germplasm or resistant soybean germplasm that is more or less resistant than that of PI200538. According to the method, nucleic acid markers linked to the *Rag2* gene are used to select soybean plants containing a *Rag2* locus. Plants so selected have a high probability of expressing the trait *Aphis glycines* resistance. Plants so selected can be used in a soybean breeding program. Through the process of introgression, the *Rag2* gene locus is introduced from plants identified using marker-assisted selection into other plants. According to the method, agronomically desirable plants and seeds can be produced containing the *Rag2* gene locus from germplasm containing the *Rag2* gene.

[0020] The *Rag2* gene locus is defined as the DNA between flanking markers Satt510 and Soyhsp176.

[0021] Particular examples of sources of *Rag2* resistance (aphid resistance conferred by the *Rag2* gene) are provided by soybean cultivar Sugao Zarai (PI200538) and progeny thereof carrying the *Rag2* gene locus.

[0022] Also provided herein is a method for producing an inbred soybean plant adapted for conferring, in hybrid combination, *Aphis glycines* resistance. First, donor soybean plants for a parental line containing the *Rag2* gene are selected. According to

the method, selection can be accomplished via nucleic acid marker-associated selection as explained herein. Selected plant material may come from, among others, an inbred line, a hybrid, a heterogeneous population of soybean plants, or simply an individual plant. According to techniques well known in the art of plant breeding, this donor parental line is crossed with a second parental line. Preferably, the second parental line is high yielding. This cross produces a segregating plant population composed of genetically heterogeneous plants. Plants of the segregating plant population are screened for the *Rag2* gene locus. Those plants having the *Rag2* gene locus are selected for further breeding until a line is obtained that is homozygous for resistance to *Aphis glycines* at the *Rag2* locus. This further breeding may include, among other techniques, additional crosses with other lines, hybrids, backcrossing, or self-crossing. The result is an inbred line of soybean plants that are resistant to *Aphis glycines* and also have other desirable traits from one or more other inbred lines.

[0023] The method can also include producing inbred lines having both Rag trait resistance from Rag trait loci on linkage group M as described in U.S. Patent Publication No. 20060015964 (including *Rag1* aphid resistance) and *Rag2* aphid resistance from linkage group F, as well as traits derived from elite soybean lines. This method comprises crossing soybean plants having *Rag2* resistance with soybean plants having *Rag1* gene resistance and additional Rag gene resistance conferred by a gene or gene found on linkage group M, and testing for the presence of the aphid resistance traits from both linkage groups F and M using marker-assisted selection, and then making additional crosses with elite lines. As is known in the art, the aphid resistance traits from linkage groups F and M can be stacked in this manner, along with other desirable traits from the elite line(s), into a new soybean cultivar with the intention to increase the durability and effective lifetime of the aphid resistance trait by increasing the difficulty and time for the soybean aphid to produce genetic variants that can overcome both resistance genes.

[0024] Soybean plants, seeds, tissue cultures, variants and mutants having *Aphis glycines* resistance produced by the foregoing methods are also provided herein.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0025] Figure 1 shows a published soybean genetic linkage F composite map and anchored markers. The map has been broken into thirteen consecutive vertical sections, Figures 1A through Figures 1M.

[0026] Figure 2 is a linkage map of a portion of soybean linkage group F (LGF) showing the locations of the soybean aphid resistance gene *Rag2*. The location of Sat_297 has been designated as 0, measuring from which the location of *Rag2* is shown at 18 cM, midway between Satt510 at 13 cM and Soyhsp176 at 23 cM.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0027] "Allele" is any of one or more alternative forms of a gene, all of which alleles relate to one trait or characteristic. In a diploid cell or organism, the two alleles of a given gene occupy corresponding loci on a pair of homologous chromosomes.

[0028] "Backcrossing" is a process through which a breeder repeatedly crosses hybrid progeny back to one of the parents (recurrent parent), for example, a first generation hybrid F₁ with one of the parental genotypes of the F₁ hybrid.

[0029] "Cultivar" and "cultivar" are used synonymously and mean a group of plants within a species (*e.g.*, *Glycine max*) that share certain genetic traits that separate them from the typical form and from other possible varieties within that species. Soybean cultivars are inbred lines produced after several generations of self-pollination. Individuals within a soybean cultivar are homogeneous, nearly genetically identical, with most loci in the homozygous state.

[0030] "Gene" means a specific sequence of nucleotides in DNA that is located in the germplasm, usually on a chromosome, and that is the functional unit of inheritance controlling the transmission and expression of one or more traits by specifying the structure of a particular polypeptide or controlling the function of other genetic material. In the present instance, the *Rag2* gene for resistance to *Aphis glycines* has been found on major soybean linkage group F flanked by markers Satt510 and

Soyhsp176. The *Rag2* gene may be isolated by one skilled in the art of genetic manipulation without undue experiments by means known to this art including PCR cloning utilizing the adjacent Satt510 and Soyhsp176 primer sequences, or primer sequences from other markers flanking the gene as described herein, by positional cloning using BACs (bacterial artificial chromosomes), or other methods. See, e.g., Wu, et al., "A BAC and BIBAC-based Physical Map of the Soybean Genome" (2004) *Genome Res.* Feb;14(2):319-26, which describes the use of BACs in mapping the soybean genome. Contiguous BACs lying between Soyhsp176 and Satt510, and in which the *Rag2* gene is present, may be found in BAC libraries known to the art, such as The Soybean GBrowse Database.

[0031] "Germplasm" means the genetic material with its specific molecular and chemical makeup that comprises the physical foundation of the hereditary qualities of an organism. As used herein, germplasm includes seeds and living tissue from which new plants may be grown; or, another plant part, such as leaf, stem, pollen, or cells, that may be cultured into a whole plant. Germplasm resources provide sources of genetic traits used by plant breeders to improve commercial cultivars.

[0032] "Hybrid plant" means a plant offspring produced by crossing two genetically dissimilar parent plants.

[0033] "Inbred plant" means a member of an inbred plant strain that has been highly inbred so that all members of the strain are nearly genetically identical.

[0034] "Introgression" means the entry or introduction by hybridization of a gene or trait locus from the genome of one plant into the genome of another plant that lacks such gene or trait locus.

[0035] "Molecular marker" is a term used to denote a nucleic acid or amino acid sequence that is sufficiently unique to characterize a specific locus on the genome. Examples include restriction fragment length polymorphisms (RFLPs) and simple sequence repeats (SSRs). RFLP polymorphisms are found when base substitutions,

additions, deletions or sequence rearrangements occur between restriction endonuclease recognition sequences. The size and number of fragments generated by one such enzyme is therefore altered. A probe that hybridizes specifically to DNA in the region of such an alteration can be used to rapidly and specifically identify a region of DNA that displays allelic variation between two plant varieties. SSR markers occur where a short sequence displays allelic variation in the number of repeats of that sequence. Sequences flanking the repeated sequence can serve as polymerase chain reaction (PCR) primers. Depending on the number of repeats at a given allele of the locus, the length of the DNA segment generated by PCR will be different in different alleles. The differences in PCR-generated fragment size can be detected by gel electrophoresis. Other types of molecular markers are known. All are used to define a specific locus on the soybean genome. Large numbers of these have been mapped. Each marker is therefore an indicator of a specific segment of DNA, having a unique nucleotide sequence. The map positions provide a measure of the relative positions of particular markers with respect to one another. When a trait is stated to be linked to a given marker it will be understood that the actual DNA segment whose sequence affects the trait generally co-segregates with the marker. More precise and definite localization of a trait can be obtained if markers are identified on both sides of the trait. By measuring the appearance of the marker(s) in progeny of crosses, the existence of the trait can be detected by relatively simple molecular tests without actually evaluating the appearance of the trait itself, which can be difficult and time-consuming, requiring growing up of plants to a stage where the trait can be expressed.

[0036] Another type of molecular marker is the random amplified polymorphic DNA (RAPD) marker. Chance pairs of sites complementary to single octa- or decanucleotides may exist in the correct orientation and close enough to one another for PCR amplification. With some randomly chosen decanucleotides no sequences are amplified. With others, the same length products are generated from DNAs of different individuals. With still others, patterns of bands are not the same for every individual in a population. The variable bands are commonly called random amplified polymorphic DNA (RAPD) bands.

[0037] Another type of molecular marker is the target region amplification polymorphism (TRAP) marker. The TRAP technique employs one fixed primer of known sequence in combination with a random primer to amplify genomic fragments.

[0038] A further type of molecular marker is the single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) marker, in which DNA sequence variations that occur when a single nucleotide (A,T,C,or G) in the genome sequence is altered are mapped to sites on the soybean genome.

[0039] Other molecular markers known to the art, as well as phenotypic traits may be used as markers in the methods described herein.

[0040] "Linkage" is defined by classical genetics to describe the relationship of traits that co-segregate through a number of generations of crosses. Markers on the same chromosome are linked to one another, meaning that they are inherited as a unit unless there is recombination between markers. Genetic recombination occurs with an assumed random frequency over the entire genome. Genetic maps are constructed by measuring the frequency of recombination between pairs of traits or markers. The closer the traits or markers lie to each other on the chromosome, the lower the frequency of recombination, the greater the degree of linkage. Traits or markers are considered herein to be linked if they generally co-segregate. A 1/100 probability of recombination per generation is defined as a map distance of 1.0 centimorgan (1.0cM). Preferably, markers useful for screening for the presence of *Rag2 Aphis glycines* resistance map to within 20 cM of the trait, and more preferably within 10 cM of the trait.

[0041] A second marker that maps to within 20 cM of a first marker that co-segregates with the *Rag2* trait and generally co-segregates with the *Rag2* trait is considered equivalent to the first marker. Any marker that maps within 20 cM and more preferably 10 cM of the *Rag2* trait belongs to the class of preferred markers for use in screening and selection of soybean germplasm having the *Rag2 Aphis glycines* resistance trait. A number of markers are known to the art to belong to linkage group F on which the Rag trait is found. A number of markers are proprietary markers known

only to certain of those skilled in the art of soybean plant breeding. A proprietary marker mapping within 20 cM, and preferably within 10cM, of any publicly known marker specified herein is considered equivalent to that publicly-known marker.

[0042] "Linkage group" refers to traits or markers that generally co-segregate. A linkage group generally corresponds to a chromosomal region containing genetic material that encodes the traits or markers.

[0043] "Locus" means a chromosomal region where a polymorphic nucleic acid or trait determinant or gene is located.

[0044] "Polymorphism" means a change or difference between two related nucleic acids. A "nucleotide polymorphism" refers to a nucleotide that is different in one sequence when compared to a related sequence when the two nucleic acids are aligned for maximal correspondence. A "genetic nucleotide polymorphism" refers to a nucleotide that is different in one sequence when compared to a related sequence when the two nucleic acids are aligned for maximal correspondence, where the two nucleic acids are genetically related, *i.e.*, homologous, for example, where the nucleic acids are isolated from different strains of a soybean plant, or from different alleles of a single strain, or the like.

[0045] "Marker assisted selection" means the process of selecting a desired trait or desired traits in a plant or plants by detecting one or more nucleic acid polymorphisms from the plant, where the nucleic acid polymorphism is linked to the desired trait.

[0046] "Plant" means plant cells, plant protoplast, plant cell or tissue culture from which soybean plants can be regenerated, plant calli, plant clumps and plant cells that are intact in plants or parts of plants, such as seeds, pods, flowers, cotyledons, leaves, stems, buds, roots, root tips and the like.

[0047] "Probe" means an oligonucleotide or short fragment of DNA designed to be sufficiently complementary to a sequence in a denatured nucleic acid to be probed and to be bound under selected stringency conditions.

[0048] "*Rag2*-derived resistance" means resistance in a soybean germplasm to *Aphis glycines* that is provided by the heterozygous or homozygous expression of the *Rag2* gene within the *Rag2* locus mapped between the SSR markers Satt510 and Soyhsp176

[0049] "Rag phenotype" means resistance to *Aphis glycines* by soybean germplasm, as demonstrated by resistance to *Aphis glycines* after inoculation with same according to the methods described herein. *Rag2* phenotype means such aphid resistance conferred by the *Rag2* gene.

[0050] "Rag soybean plant" means a plant having resistance to *Aphis glycines* that is derived from the presence and expression of at least one Rag gene, or that is shown to have a Rag gene. *Rag2* soybean plant means a plant having such aphid resistance conferred by the *Rag2* gene.

[0051] "Self-crossing or self-pollination" is a process through which a breeder crosses hybrid progeny with itself, for example, a second generation hybrid F_2 with itself to yield progeny designated $F_{2:3}$, meaning the progeny from an individual F_2 generation plant.

[0052] As used herein, the terms "segregate," "segregants," "co-segregate," "hybrid," "crossing," and "selfing" refer to their conventional meanings as understood in the art (see, for instance, Briggs, F. N. and Knowles, P. F. and, Introduction to Plant Breeding (Reinhold Publication Corp., New York, N.Y., 1967).

[0053] Markers that "flank" the *Rag2* gene are markers that occur one to either side of the *Rag2* gene. Flanking marker DNA sequences may be part of the gene or may be separate from the gene.

[0054] The method for determining the presence or absence of the *Rag2* gene, which confers resistance to the soybean aphid *Aphis glycines* in soybean germplasm, comprises analyzing genomic DNA from a soybean germplasm for the presence of at least one molecular marker, wherein at least one molecular marker is linked to the *Rag2* trait locus, and wherein the *Rag2* trait locus maps to soybean major linkage group F and is associated with resistance to the soybean aphid *Aphis glycines*. The term "is associated with" in this context means that the *Rag2* locus containing the *Rag2* gene has been found, using marker-assisted analysis, to be present in soybean plants that show or are capable of showing resistance to *Aphis glycines* in live aphid bioassays as described herein.

[0055] *Aphis glycines* resistance associated with the *Rag2* gene was found in PI200538 and can also occur in the following soybean germplasm accessions that are resistant to all known soybean aphid biotypes: PI71506; PI88508, Showa No. 1-4; PI230977; PI437696, San-haj-hun-mao-huan-dou; PI499955, PI507298, Sokoshin (Kamigoumura); PI518726, Bao jiao huang; PI548237, T260H; PI548409, Sato; PI567391, Jiang se huang dou; PI567541B; PI567598B; 587552, Nan jing da ping ding huang yi 1; PI587617, Jin tan qing zi; PI587656, Huang dou; PI587663, Zhong chun huang dou; PI587666, Er dao zao; PI587669, Zan zi bai; PI587677, Xiao li huang; PI587685, Da li huang 2; PI587693, Yu shan dou; PI587702, Qing pi dou; PI587717, Xiang yang ba yue zha; PI587732, Ying shan ji mu wo; PI587759, Song zi ba yue cha; PI587763, Jing huang 36; PI587775, Tong shan si ji dou; PI587800, Ying shan da li huang; PI587816, Bai mao dou; PI587824, Ying shan qing pi cao; PI587840, Du wo dou; PI587861, Da qing dou; PI587870, Huang pi dou; PI587871, Bao mao dou; PI587873, Feng wo dou; PI587876, Xi mao dou; PI587897, Qing pi dou; PI587899, Ba yue bai; PI587905, Xiao huang dou; PI587972, Chang zi dou; PI588000, Shi yue huang; PI588040, Shan xing dou; PI594421, Da du huang dou; PI594425, Xiao cao huang dou; PI594431, Chang pu qing dou; PI594499, Luo ma aluo; PI594503, Mu gu hei chi huang dou; PI594514, Hua lian dou, PI594554, Huang pi tian dou; PI594573, Lu pi dou; PI594592, Shi yue xiao huang dou; PI594595, Ba yue da huang dou (jia); PI594703, Qing pi dou -1; PI594707, Da hei dou; PI594822, Xi huang dou; PI594868, Huang dou;

and PI594879, Huo shao dou. The *Rag2* gene can also be found in progeny of the foregoing varieties and in other varieties by methods set forth herein.

[0056] Other sources of *A. glycines* resistance include the *G. max* varieties: PI87059, Moyashimame; PI417084A, Kumaji 1; PI508294; PI548445, CNS; PI548480, Palmetto; PI548657, Jackson; PI548663, Dowling; PI567543C; PI567597C; PI587553A; PI587559B, Dan tu he shang tou jia; PI587664B, Shan zi bai; PI587668A, Hui mei dou; PI587674A, Ba yue bai; PI587682A, Da li huang 1; PI587684A, Ai jiao huang; PI587686A, Xi li huang 1; PI587687A Xiao li dou 1; PI587700A, Da qing dou; PI587723A, Ying shan ji mu wo; PI587844C, Tong cheng hei se dou; PI587863B, Liu yue bai; PI587877A, Jiu yue zao; PI587891A, Qi yue ba; PI594426A, Tie jiao huang; PI594426B, Tie jiao huang; PI594427A, Ba yuemang; PI594557B, Lao shu dou; PI594560B, Xia shui huang; PI594586A; PI594666B, Liu yue mang 5; PI594711B, Qing huang za dou 3; PI594751A, Long zhou dong feng dou; PI594864, Yang yan dou; PI603521; PI603530A; PI603538A; PI603640; PI603644; PI603655; PI603650; PI605771; PI605823; PI605855; and PI605902, and progeny thereof. *G. soja* varieties: G3; JS1; L4; PI518282, S12 Taichung 38; PI518281, Taichung 37; PI573059, and PI573071 and progeny of these varieties, are also sources of *A. glycines* resistance. These varieties may contain the *Rag1* and related aphid resistance gene on linkage group M, and/or can contain the *Rag2* gene, or different soybean aphid resistance genes. Resistance that is controlled by *Rag1* or *Rag2* in these and other varieties can be confirmed by marker-assisted selection as described herein.

[0057] Any one of the foregoing varieties or their progeny bearing a Rag gene may be used in the methods described herein, and any combination thereof is considered to be a class of varieties useful in the methods provided herein.

[0058] Preferably a marker used to determine the presence or absence of a Rag gene is selected from the group consisting of Satt510, Soyhsp176, Sat_234, Sat_297, and any marker that maps to within at least about 10 to about 20 cM of any of said markers.

[0059] Any marker assigned to soybean linkage group F may be useful for this purpose. Exemplary markers of linkage group F include: Satt510, R045_1, Rsv1, Sat_154, BLT053_7, B212_1, Rpv1, Soyhsp176 and L28831, and markers that map within about 3 to about 10 cM, or in another embodiment, within about 10 to about 20 cM, of any of the foregoing.

[0060] A further class of markers useful in the present methods include: Ubiquitin, BLT025_1, P157_1, Mng157_1, A757_1, Sat_229, Satt114, L063_1, A186_1, Rpg1, Sat_234, K644_1, L28831, Soyhsp176, Rpv1, B212_1, BLT053_7, Sat_154, Rsv1, R045_1, L050_14, Satt510, Sat_317, K007_2, Rps3, cr321_2, Sct033, Sat_120, Satt335, and Satt334, and markers that map within about 10 to about 20 cM of any of the foregoing.

[0061] A further class of markers useful in the present methods include: A401_1, A806_1, K390_1, Sat_309, Satt374, Satt516, Satt425, Mng228_1, Gy5, G248_2, Bng075_1, K002_1, Satt595, B202_1, Sat_133, K265_1, K314_1, Bng004_1, HSP_2, Satt663, Sat_103, Bng118_1, Sat_297, Ubiquitin, BLT025_1, P157_1, Mng157_1, A757_1, Sat_229, Satt114, L063_1, A186_1, Rpg1, Sat_234, K644_1, L28831, Soyhsp176, Rpv1, B212_1, BLT053_7, Sat_154, Rsv1, R045_1, L050_14, Satt510, Sat_317, K007_2, Rps3, cr321_2, Sct033, Sat_120, Satt335, and Satt334, A245_1, Satt362, B174_3, A708_1, Sct_188, Pa2, Sat_375, Satt072, B1, Sat_313, Bng190_1, cr207_2, E049_2, and Satt490, and markers that map within about 10 to about 20 cM of any of the foregoing.

[0062] A further class of markers useful in the present methods include: GMRUBP_SSR, Satt325, Sat_390, M8E6mr1, Satt146, Satt586, Satt569, Satt343, DOP_A04, Sat_387, Satt193, G214_13, Satt030, K250_1, Satt649, j11_1, Sat_262, BLT030_1, Satt145, 0PAN06, Satt269, Satt346, Satt252, Satt149, BLT010_1, AW186493, Satt423, BE806387, Sat_240, Satt206, Satt659, Sat_039, W1, BLT057_1, Sat_298, DUBC767, C0L2-1, Satt160, A401_1, A806_1, K390_1, Sat_309, Satt374, Satt516, Satt425, Mng228_1, Gy5, G248_2, Bng075_1, K002_1, Satt595, B202_1, Sat_133, K265_1, K314_1, Bng004_1, HSP_2, Satt663, Sat_103, Bng118_1, Sat_297

Ubiquitin, BLT025_1, P157_1, Mng157_1, A757_1, Sat_229, Satt114, L063_1, A186_1, Rpg1, Sat_234, K644_1, L28831, Soyhsp176, Rpv1, B212_1, BLT053_7, Sat_154, Rsv1, R045_1, L050_14, Satt510, Sat_317, K007_2, Rps3, cr321_2, Sct033, Sat_120, Satt335, and Satt334, A245_1, Satt362, B174_3, A708_1, Sct_188, Pa2, Sat_375, Satt072, B1, Sat_313, Bng190_1, cr207_2, E049_2, SATT490, Shr, L195_2, Satt144, cr409_1, Sat_197, K014_2, B148_1, Sat554, A566_1, Ngm26b, Satt657, Cgy1, Ngm22, Satt218, Satt522, AW756935, T092_1, Sat_090, Bng172_1, Satt656, A083_3, Sat_417, K102_2, Sat_074, Ngm23b, Ngm44b, Satt395, and 0PAV06b, and markers that map within about 10 to about 20 cM of any of the foregoing.

[0063] Updated information regarding markers assigned to soybean linkage group F may be found on the USDA's Soybase website. Table 1 provides current information on the Genbank location, location in Linkage Group F, and Accession Nos. of markers useful in the methods disclosed herein. Sequence information pertaining to the markers can be found on Genbank using the gi#. Table 2 provides upper and lower primer sequences for these markers. Note that Figure 2 indicates a different order for the markers shown. It should be understood that up-to-date information regarding markers on Linkage Group F can be used in the methods disclosed herein as it becomes available.

Table 1. Markers on Linkage Group F

SSR locus	GenBank gi #	cM Position in LG	GenBank Accession #
GMRUBP	<u>18741</u>	0.00	V00458
Sat_390	31044745	1.79	CC453915
Satt146	14969861	1.92	BH126358
Satt325	14970019	2.23	BH126516
Satt343	14970037	3.04	BH126534
Sat_387	31044742	3.11	CC453912
Satt569	14970238	3.35	BH126735
Satt193	14969903	3.42	BH126400
Satt586	14970255	3.63	BH126752
Satt030	14969810	3.95	BH126307
Satt649	31044834	5.36	CC454004
Sat_262	31044627	9.69	CC453797

Satt145	14969860	10.65	BH126357
Satt269	14969968	11.37	BH126465
Satt348	14970041	15.29	BH126538
Satt252	14969953	16.08	BH126450
Satt149	14969864	18.13	BH126361
Satt423	14970105	20.56	BH126602
AW186493	6455810	21.04	AW186493
BE806387	10237499	22.97	BE806387
Sat_240	31044608	25.58	CC453778
Satt659	31044844	26.71	CC454014
Satt205	14969915	26.98	BH126412
Sat_039	15243073	27.87	BH146207
Sat_298	31044661	32.32	CC453831
Satt160	14969875	33.19	BH126372
Sat_309	31044671	41.47	CC453841
Satt374	14970064	43.01	BH126561
Satt425	14970107	43.44	BH126604
Satt516	14970189	44.42	BH126686
Satt595	14970264	50.24	BH126761
Sat_133	14969806	50.78	BH126303

SSR locus	GenBank gi #	cM Position in LG	GenBank Accession #
Satt663	31044848	56.17	CC454018
Sat_103	14969778	57.77	BH126275
Sat_297	31044660	59.60	CC453830
Sat_229	31044598	62.79	CC453768
Satt114	14969835	63.69	BH126332
Sat_234	31044603	66.55	CC453773
SOYHSP176	169984	68.44	M11317
Sat_154	31044535	68.91	CC453705
Satt510	14970184	71.41	BH126681
Sat_317	31044678	72.97	CC453848
Sct_033	14970276	74.13	BH126773
Sat_120	14969793	75.97	BH126290
Satt335	14970029	77.70	BH126526
Satt334	14970028	78.06	BH126525
Satt362	14970053	82.83	BH126550
Sct_188	14970285	85.33	BH126782
Satt072	14969823	87.01	BH126320
Sat_375	31044731	88.09	CC453901
Sat_313	31044675	91.87	CC453845
Satt490	14970164	97.97	BH126661
Satt144	14969859	102.08	BH126356
Sat_197	31044568	103.51	CC453738
Satt554	14970224	111.89	BH126721
Satt657	31044842	116.91	CC454012
Satt218	14969925	117.65	BH126422
Satt522	14970195	119.19	BH126692
AW756935	7686224	124.88	AW756935
Sat_090	14969768	130.64	BH126265
Satt656	31044841	135.12	CC454011
Sat_417	31044771	135.95	CC453941
Sat_074	31044511	142.35	CC453681
Satt395	14970081	146.42	BH126578

Table 2. Marker Sequences

SSR locus	Upper primer sequence (5'-->3')	Lower primer sequence (5-->3')
GMRUBP	CTGGCGTGCTAAAAGTA [SEQ ID NO:1]	GGACAGATTTGATCAATAATT [SEQ ID NO:2]
Sat_390	GCGTAGATGCTTATAATCGACCCTAACAATT [SEQ ID NO:3]	GCGCGAGGATCCCATAAAAAAGTAAAATAG [SEQ ID NO:4]
Satt146	AAGGGATCCCTCAACTGACTG [SEQ ID NO:5]	GTGGTGGTGGTGAAAACATTAGAA [SEQ ID NO:6]
Satt325	GCGGGGTATTAAGGGAAAAACAAA [SEQ ID NO:7]	GCGTAAACGAACAATCACTTCATA [SEQ ID NO:8]
Satt343	CATGGCGGAAAGCGAAACA [SEQ ID NO:9]	TCCCAATTCACCTCTTCA [SEQ ID NO:10]
Sat_387	GCGGAATTTACCAGTTTATAATATTGCTGA [SEQ ID NO:11]	GCGTACTAAATATTCAAAGACTCAAAGAGAA [SEQ ID NO:12]
Satt569	GCGCAAATTGCTTCACGCATCCAAAT [SEQ ID NO:13]	GCGGCCTACTATAGTGAAGGGTATA [SEQ ID NO:14]
Satt193	GCGTTTCGATAAAAATGTTACACCTC [SEQ ID NO:15]	TGTTTCGCATTATTGATCAAAAAT [SEQ ID NO:16]
Satt586	GCGGCCTCCAACTCCAAGTAT [SEQ ID NO:17]	GCGCCCAAATGATTAATCACTCA [SEQ ID NO:18]
Satt030	AAAAAGTGAACCAAGCC [SEQ ID NO:19]	TCTTAAATCTTATGTTGATGC [SEQ ID NO:20]
Satt649	TTACTGGCCGTGTTTACCCGTGTAA [SEQ ID NO:21]	GCGGACGTTATAAGATTTTTTTATCATG [SEQ ID NO:22]
Sat_262	GCGTTTGCATTAGGGATTATCTAGTTTATGA [SEQ ID NO:23]	GCGGGTTAGAACATTCTTAGTTAGCTCCAG [SEQ ID NO:24]
Satt145	AGCATATGGGATACAAGTGATTAG [SEQ ID NO:25]	CGGTGTTGGTGTGGTATGT [SEQ ID NO:26]
Satt269	GCGTGCCAGGTAGAAAAATATTAG [SEQ ID NO:27]	GCGGTTTTTCACTTTTCAAATTC [SEQ ID NO:28]
Satt348	GCGCTTAGTAATGGTTCCACAGATAA [SEQ ID NO:29]	GCGGTGATATCTAGCAACACAA [SEQ ID NO:30]
Satt252	GCGAATTTGGATTAATTAATTTATG [SEQ ID NO:31]	GCGCTCGTCTCTCAAATAAGGTCTC [SEQ ID NO:32]
Satt149	TTGCACATTCTTTTTGGTAAACAGTCATAA [SEQ ID NO:33]	GTTGGAGGCCATAGTCACATTAATCTTAGA [SEQ ID NO:34]
Satt423	TTCGCTTGGGTTCACTTACTT [SEQ ID NO:35]	GTTGGGGAATTAAAAAATG [SEQ ID NO:36]
AW186493	GCGGTGATCCGTGAGATG [SEQ ID NO:37]	GCGGAAAGTAGCACCAAGAG [SEQ ID NO:38]
BE806387	GCGACCCCTTTTGTCTTCTT [SEQ ID NO:39]	GCGGAGGCCAGAGATGAA [SEQ ID NO:40]
Sat_240	GCGGGCAGAAGTCTAATGAATGTGAAATGA [SEQ ID NO:41]	GCGGTTGTGACCGAAATAGATGTTATTTAAT [SEQ ID NO:42]
Satt659	GCGGCTCAACTTCGTGTAACAAG [SEQ ID NO:43]	GCGCATCGGTAACCTATCTAATATTCGTA [SEQ ID NO:44]
Satt206	GCGCATGTGAAAAGAATGAGATTATGTA [SEQ ID NO:45]	GCGTCCAACTCATCCTTAAGGTATT [SEQ ID NO:46]
Sat_039	CAAGAATAATCTAAAGGTACACTT [SEQ ID NO:47]	AGTTAAAAAACCCACACAAC [SEQ ID NO:48]
Sat_298	GCGCGTCGAAGCAAAAATTTAA [SEQ ID NO:49]	GCGGCGAAACCCACAAAGCATA [SEQ ID NO:50]
Satt160	TCCCACACAGTTTTTCATATAATATA [SEQ ID NO:51]	CATCAAAAGTTTATAACGTGTAGAT [SEQ ID NO:52]
Sat_309	GCGAACGGATATATACCCATAAATTTTCATG [SEQ ID NO:53]	GCGTCATCCAATATAACAATTGTTAAAGTCA [SEQ ID NO:54]

SSR locus	Upper primer sequence (5'-->3')	Lower primer sequence (5-->3')
Satt374	AACATTTGCCGAAAAAATAACTATGATG [SEQ ID NO:55]	GCGTATCAATTAAGATCCATTAAGTG [SEQ ID NO:56]
Satt425	GCGCAATTAAGATCCACTAAGTGATT [SEQ ID NO:57]	GCGGCTTTTCACTCTTCTTTTATTATT [SEQ ID NO:58]
Satt516	GCGTTAGCACTATTTTTTTTACAAGA [SEQ ID NO:59]	GCGCCGTTCTCTTTACTTTAT [SEQ ID NO:60]
Satt595	GATGGGAAGCAAACAAGAAG [SEQ ID NO:61]	AACCCCTCCCCTAAAT [SEQ ID NO:62]
Sat_133	GCGCACATCTTAAC TCAATAATTGATAAAG [SEQ ID NO:63]	GCGTTCAATTGGATTTGATGAAATTTTAAAT [SEQ ID NO:64]
Satt663	GCGTCATGCAATGTTGTATAAT [SEQ ID NO:65]	GCGACTGCAGATAACTTGA CTGGTAGT [SEQ ID NO:66]
Sat_103	ACTGGGAATCCATTTCTTGTTA [SEQ ID NO:67]	AAAGAACTTTCAATCAAATGTTGTG [SEQ ID NO:68]
Sat_297	GCGTGAAAATAAATACATAGACATCCACCAT [SEQ ID NO:69]	GCGTTTTAACACGCATCAACACTCTTC [SEQ ID NO:70]
Sat_229	GCGTGTGCTACTTCACATCTTGAGAGAAAGA [SEQ ID NO:71]	GCGAGGGTTTAGAAAAAGATTCACCAAATAT [SEQ ID NO:72]
Satt114	GGGTTATCCTCCCCAATA [SEQ ID NO:73]	ATATGGGATGATAAGGTGAAA [SEQ ID NO:74]
Sat_234	GCGATGCGTTTAATAAGTTTTGAAAAATGCC [SEQ ID NO:75]	GCGGAAACCATCCTTATATGTCAATTGCTCA [SEQ ID NO:76]
SOYHSP176	TTTTTGTTTAAGTTACTGTACTGT [SEQ ID NO:77]	GCTAGTCTTCTACAACCTTCTA [SEQ ID NO:78]
Sat_154	GCGTCAGGGTCAAGTCATCTAACA [SEQ ID NO:79]	GCGGACGCATTTCTATTGATCAAG [SEQ ID NO:80]
Satt510	GCGAGTTTCGCCGTTACCACCTCAGCTT [SEQ ID NO:81]	CCCTCTTATTTACCCCTAAGACCTACAA [SEQ ID NO:82]
Sat_317	GCGACAGTCCCAATACCATTAACAAGT [SEQ ID NO:83]	GCGTCCTTAGGTACCTAGAATAATTCTTCAC [SEQ ID NO:84]
Sct_033	CTTTTAAATTATAATAGCATGATCT [SEQ ID NO:85]	TGCTAATTTAGATTACGTTATGT [SEQ ID NO:86]
Sat_120	CATATAAAAATGGTCCTCTCACATA [SEQ ID NO:87]	GCTTGAGCAACTTACAATTC ACT [SEQ ID NO:88]
Satt335	CAAGCTCAAGCCTCACACAT [SEQ ID NO:89]	TGACCAGAGTCCAAAGTTCATC [SEQ ID NO:90]
Satt334	GCGTTAAGAATGCATTTATGTTTAGTC [SEQ ID NO:91]	GCGAGTTTTTGGTTGGATTGAGTTG [SEQ ID NO:92]
Satt362	GCGTTGTTGTTTCAAATGTATTTAGTT [SEQ ID NO:93]	GCGGACGGATCATCAAACCAATCAAGAC [SEQ ID NO:94]
Sct_188	TTCAACCATGTCATAAAAT [SEQ ID NO:95]	CTCACTCCTCCATAAAAAT [SEQ ID NO:96]
Satt072	GGAAAGAATCAGCAAAAT [SEQ ID NO:97]	CCCCCACATAAATAATAAA [SEQ ID NO:98]
Sat_375	GCGTGTTAATGATTGCATAAGGTTTCG [SEQ ID NO:99]	GCGTGTCAAAGAAACTCAATAAAGAAAAAT [SEQ ID NO:100]
Sat_313	GCGTATTCCCTTAACAAAATTAAAGTTTCAC [SEQ ID NO:101]	GCGCGTCAGCCTAACAAAAAGAATAAAAT [SEQ ID NO:102]
Satt490	GCGGCACGAGTCAACTTTCTGTTTCCT [SEQ ID NO:103]	GCGGAAGAAGATTTTCGTTTTTAT [SEQ ID NO:104]
Satt144	CGTCGCCATCACTATGAGAA [SEQ ID NO:105]	CCATCTTGAGCAGAGTTTGAAGTT [SEQ ID NO:106]
Sat_197	GCGATTTTGGTTTTGTTTTATTAG [SEQ ID NO:107]	GCGGTTAACAGCCAAGTTCTTTC [SEQ ID NO:108]
Satt554	GCGATATGCTTTGTAAGAAAATTA [SEQ ID NO:109]	GCGCAAGCCCAAATATTACAAATT [SEQ ID NO:110]

SSR locus	Upper primer sequence (5'-->3')	Lower primer sequence (5-->3')
Satt657	GCGCATTGACTTTTACTTC [SEQ ID NO:111]	GCGACGATGTTAATTGGTAGAATC [SEQ ID NO:112]
Satt218	TCAATCAACAAAAACATAATTCTTC [SEQ ID NO:113]	ATTTGTGTTTTGTTTAGCTCTCTA [SEQ ID NO:114]
Satt522	GCGAAACTGCCTAGGTAAAA [SEQ ID NO:115]	TTAGGCGAAATCAACAAT [SEQ ID NO:116]
AW756935	GCGGCTGGTGATTGTGTAAT [SEQ ID NO:117]	GCGTAATATAGTTTTGTATTGAAAT [SEQ ID NO:118]
Sat_090	CTCGCTGCTACTGGTC [SEQ ID NO:119]	AAGAATGCGTTGGATTTA [SEQ ID NO:120]
Satt656	GCGTACTAAAAATGGCAATTATTTGTTG [SEQ ID NO:121]	GCGTGTTCAGTATTTGGATAATAGAAT [SEQ ID NO:122]
Sat_417	GCGAATATGGCGTTGAAAATAGTGAT [SEQ ID NO:123]	GCGACCCAGATTCTGTGCTAAGA [SEQ ID NO:124]
Sat_074	GGGTGAGAAATACATGCAACTTACA [SEQ ID NO:125]	GGGCATCAAATTGATATTAAATGTCTAA [SEQ ID NO:126]
Satt395	CGCGCTAGTTGAATGAATGT [SEQ ID NO:127]	GCGCATTGAGGAATTTTTTAT [SEQ ID NO:128]

[0064] Other types of markers such as SNP markers, for example, as described in Jeong, S.C. and Saghai Maroof, M.A. (2004), "Detection and genotyping of SNPs tightly linked to two disease resistance loci, Rsv1 and Rsv3, of soybean," Plant Breeding 123:305-310, mapping close to *Rag2* on linkage group F are also useful in the methods described herein.

[0065] Sequences for specific markers useful in the present methods are provided below (taken from the USDA Cregan Soymap website):

[0066] Sat_297:

```

1      gatccctca gctagcctt cagatgtggc ctgaccagag agcattgaat gaacagcacg
61     ttcttttct tgctccagca ccgtcataca gtggagggat ggtccacct caaggaatgt
121    atccatcttc tgattggagt gggatatcatc aggtaccttt gaatccatat taccctcccg
181    gtgttccttt cccgcatttt ccagctgccc atatgaatca cccgatgtac aaggctgcag
241    atataccagg acatcaacca ccaccatctg atgagtatcc cgagagacct ggccaacctg
301    aatgccagca ttctgtta [SEQ ID NO:129]

```

[0067] Sat_234:

```

1      taacgcgaaa gggggaacat cttatatgaa taataataaa tggagaaaag gaaaagaatc
61     acaggtcca ggtttttcc tttataccc tcctttctt cctaaattct gaggtttcac

```

121 cataaccata ttgggatc [SEQ ID NO:130]

[0068] Soyhsp176:

1 gaattctgaa attgggtctt ttgtgggca cttttgatg ttttgtta agttactgta
 61 ctgtgggcca caaaacgtat agatcaaagt agtaataata atattgatta aatgatatat
 121 atatatatat atatatatat atatctagaa ggtttagtaa gactagctag aacgtacgta
 181 ttcgttgga gaagtcctga agttatcga atcatctaaa actgctaaaa tagcaaaca
 241 cattatattg taaacaatat tttctggaa catacaagag tctccttca cttcctttaa
 301 atacctcgag tgtcccatc gacatcatca aacaagagaa gagttacaga atttctgtt
 361 tacgatctca ttacaattt gcaacttca aagcttatta gctaaagtaa catcaaaaga
 421 tgcattgat tccaagtatt ttcggtggcc caaggagcaa cgtgttcgat ccattctcac
 481 tcgatatgtg ggatccctc aaggatttc atgtccac ttcttctgtt tctgctgaaa
 541 attctgcatt tgtgaacaca cgtgtggatt ggaaggagac ccaagaggca cacgtgctca
 601 aggctgatat tccagggctg aagaaagagg aagtgaaggt tcagattgaa gatgataggg
 661 ttcttcagat tagcggagag aggaacgtg agaaggaaga caagaacgac acgtggcatc
 721 gcgtggaccg tagcagtga aagttcatga gaagggtcag attgccagag aatgcaaaag
 781 tggagcaagt aaaggctgt atggaaaatg gggttctcac tgttactatt ccaaaggaag
 841 aggttaagaa gtctgatgtt aagcctatag aaatctctgg ttaaacttg tttactgaa
 901 aatcgtgaga gcttttaaatt ttgcttgtt gtaataagt tccttctgt tgtgttcaa
 961 tggtgatttt gagaaagatc atacaattgt gccttgtgtt gttgtgcaag tgtaattgaa
 1021 gtgaataaaa aattaacacc tgcttcaga aaatttgcgt gtgtgtcatt gtcacgaat
 1081 atgtgatgta ggcaagaaat agaccgtgaa aataatatct gacatttggc taattgctt
 1141 tgttatgctg agacactcta tgtgaaataa ctgcattat catgttccat cttcttaata
 1201 caagaagtca ataccaatgt ctaccaaatt taagataaca ggttgatttg gactcatcaa
 1261 agtgcagccc ttatttggga ctcatcaaag tgcagcacta aagggttttg ttaactagca
 1321 agttcagagc atcatttaag taattaaaag aaaaaatatt aaatatata atcataagat
 1381 gatataaaaa aattcatgaa cagtctcttc atttttttc aataaaaaata ttttatttt
 1441 aattttttaa aataatatcc tcataacatt ggtttaactc ccaagttaa aatttactag
 1501 tgctagataa attctctaag ataattgata gataaaaaata agataaatta gaaaattttt
 1561 aaggagagat tttttttat aaaaattagg tatatgtatt ggttttagtt tacagagaaa
 1621 tataatttat atttctttt tgtgtaaata ttaatgaaaa aaattattca aattcaattc
 1681 taaatcttaa tttttttt gacagaattc t [SEQ ID NO:131]

[0069] Satt510 (BAC – cultivar Faribault):

1 gccgtcgct tagccggagc tgcaggctcc gtgccttgct ccgccgccat
 61 catcgggtgcc tcgctcctgt tgtctctcat gactgcgttt gacgttttaa gattctatat
 121 atagtttgca tttcatgaat tattattcca aaataatata tagagagata ataaactggt
 181 agattgcgag ttccgccgtt accacctcag cttattttat gattattatt attattatta ttattattat
 241 tattattatt attattatta ttattattat tattaattgt ttaggtctt agggtgaaat aagagggatt
 301 ttgacctct ctacattttt attgtaatt atgtaatgct atatattatg tatgggtata atttagatcc
 361 agtcatttta tgtttctcat gttcttttt ttaatttatt acttctataa agaaaataac ttaaactcaa
 421 aatacttata ataacatagc tgatacattt atattatata cactaaatta ttgatatat gacgagtatc
 481 gtagtggtat aggtttgaat gtcagagg [SEQ ID NO:132]

[0070] Sat_120:

1 taaagctgca ccagctagca tttccttgat atcaataccc tgcaatgcag ctggaagtaa
 61 acccacagct gacatttctg aagtcctacc accaaccxaa tcaaacatag gaaaccgagc
 121 taaccatccc tctattctag cagcgggtatc caacagagaa ttttcttgag taattgcaac
 181 accctgtttt gagaattgca gccctgcata tctgaaggct ttccgtactt ctagtagacc
 241 attgcgggtt tcaggtgtgc ctccgctctt agaaatgaca attacaagag tagttgccag
 301 ttcaggctct agttgagcaa ttgatgatc aatcccagca ggatc [SEQ ID NO:133]

[0071] Sat_375:

1 aatcattaac atataccatt agaatatgtt aatgattgca taaggttcgg gcacccacta
 61 tgctcttac acatataata tatatatata tatatatata ttttgctgat taaaaaaaaa
 121 ctattagaat atgttattct cagtcttagt ttattttaga ctttagatt ttgagtagtt
 181 acatattaac attctaaata gtgcaaatac tatattgaaa attcattatt tttctttatt
 241 gagtttctt tgacatatta taattacatt acttagatag actacttata tttctttctg
 301 tatatatgat aagggtgtatt actaacccca ctagagctac aactacaact aaagaaataa
 361 tataaaacta tgaatatcaa tcttctgtgt ttcatttaa ttatattcgg ttataaaca
 421 ataacagctc ataaaacaat aattattgaa atttaaaatc c [SEQ ID NO:134]

[0072] Markers that map closer to the *Rag2* locus are preferred over markers that map farther from the *Rag2* locus for use in the present methods. The markers may be any type of mapped molecular marker or phenotypic trait known to the art, including

restriction fragment length polymorphism (RFLP) markers, target region amplification polymorphism (TRAP) markers, random amplified polymorphic (RAPD) markers, simple sequence repeat (SSR) markers, single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) markers, and isozyme markers.

[0073] In one embodiment of the methods described herein, markers flanking the *Rag2* locus are used in the marker-assisted selection processes as described herein. The genomic DNA of soybean germplasm is preferably tested for the presence of at least two of the foregoing molecular markers, one on each side of the *Rag2* locus. Most preferably, the two markers are Soyhsp176 and Satt510. Markers that map close to Soyhsp176 and Satt510 can also be used, provided they fall to either side of the *Rag2* locus. Preferably, one of said at least two molecular markers is within at least about 3 to about 10 cM, or about 10 to about 20 cM of Satt510, and another of said at least two molecular markers is within at least about 3 to about 10 cM or about 10 to about 20 cM of Soyhsp176, and to ensure that the markers used flank the *Rag2* locus, one of said at least two molecular markers within at least about 3 to about 10 cM or about 10 to about 20 cM of Satt510 should be farther than that distance from Soyhsp176, and another of said at least two molecular markers within at least about 3 to about 10 cM or about 10 to about 20 cM of Satt510 should be farther than that distance from Soyhsp176.

[0074] A method described herein for reliably and predictably introgressing soybean *Aphis glycines* resistance into non-resistant soybean germplasm or into less or differently-resistant soybean germplasm comprises: providing a first soybean germplasm that has *Rag2*-gene-derived resistance to *Aphis glycines*; providing a second soybean germplasm that lacks *Rag2*-gene-derived resistance to *Aphis glycines*; crossing the first soybean germplasm with the second soybean germplasm to provide progeny soybean germplasm; screening said progeny germplasm to determine the presence of *Rag2*-gene-derived resistance to *Aphis glycines*; and selecting progeny that tests positive for the presence of *Rag2*-gene-derived resistance to *Aphis glycines* as being soybean germplasm into which germplasm having *Rag2*-gene-derived resistance to *Aphis glycines* has been introgressed.

[0075] The second soybean germplasm that lacks *Rag2*-gene-derived resistance to *Aphis glycines* can be germplasm that lacks resistance to *Aphis glycines* entirely, or can be germplasm that has *Aphis glycines* resistance derived from another source, such as a *Rag1* or related gene as described in U.S. Patent Publication No. 2006/0014964.

[0076] Preferably, the screening and selection are performed by using marker-assisted selection using a marker on major linkage group F as described above.

[0077] The screening and selection can also be performed by exposing plants containing said progeny germplasm to aphids of the species *Aphis glycines* in a live aphid bioassay and selecting those plants showing resistance to aphids (or if the second germplasm already carries *Aphis glycines* resistance from a different gene, selecting those plants showing resistance to an *Aphis glycines* biotype that can overcome resistance that is present in the second germplasm) as containing soybean germplasm into which germplasm having *Rag2*-gene-derived resistance to *Aphis glycines* has been introgressed. The live aphid assay may be any such assay known to the art, e.g., as described in Hill, C.B., et al., "Resistance to the soybean aphid in soybean germplasm" (2004) Crop Science 44:98-106, Hill, C.B., et al., "Resistance of Glycine species and various cultivated legumes to the soybean aphid (Homoptera: Aphididae)" (2004) J. Economic Entomology 97(3):1071-1077, "Li, Y. et al., "Effect of three resistant soybean genotypes on the fecundity, mortality, and maturation of soybean aphid (Homoptera: Aphididae)" (2004) J. Economic Entomology 97(3):1106-1111, Hill, C.B., et al., "A single dominant gene for resistance to the soybean aphid in the soybean cultivar Dowling" (2006) Crop Science 46: 1601-1605, or Hill, C.B., et al. "Soybean aphid resistance in soybean Jackson is controlled by a single dominant gene" (2006) Crop Science 46: 1606-1608, or as described in the Examples hereof. A preferred method includes placing aphid-infested plant parts on vegetative cotyledon (VC) stage plants and rating aphid population and plant damage weekly. As described herein, a 0 to 4 scale, where 0 = no aphids present, 1 = few solitary live or dead aphids (dead aphid bodies) present, 2 = several transient aphids (aphids possibly probing for a

suitable feeding site) present with some viviparous aptera surrounded by a few nymphs, 3 = dense colonies, and 4 = dense colonies accompanied by plant damage, including leaf distortion and stunting, may be used.

[0078] The screening and selection may also be done by methods including hybridizing nucleic acid from plants containing progeny germplasm to a nucleic acid fragment comprising a *Rag2* gene, and selecting those plants having germplasm that hybridizes to the nucleic acid fragment as having resistance to *Aphis glycines*.

[0079] A method described herein for breeding a soybean plant homozygous for the *Rag2 Aphis glycines* resistance gene that is a cultivar adapted for conferring, in hybrid combination with a suitable second inbred, *Rag2* resistance to *Aphis glycines*, comprises selecting a first donor parental line possessing the desired *Rag2 Aphis glycines* resistance, said first donor parental line comprising a *Rag2 Aphis glycines* resistance gene located on major linkage group F; crossing the first donor parental line with a second parental line that is generally high yielding in hybrid combination to produce a segregating plant population of genetically heterogenous plants; screening the plants of the segregating plant population for the *Rag2* gene; selecting plants from the population having the gene; and breeding by self-crossing the plants containing the gene until a line is obtained that is homozygous for the locus containing the *Rag2* gene and adapted for conferring, in hybrid combination with a suitable second inbred, *Rag2* resistance to *Aphis glycines*.

[0080] The screening and selection are preferably performed by using marker-assisted selection as described above, but may also be performed by live aphid bioassay as described above, selecting those plants showing resistance to aphids as containing soybean germplasm having a *Rag* gene. When it is known that the only source of aphid resistance in the plant material comes from a plant having *Rag2* resistance, it can be concluded that the resistance shown in live aphid bioassays is *Rag2* resistance. The screening and selection may also be done by hybridizing nucleic acid from plants containing said progeny germplasm to a nucleic acid fragment

comprising the *Rag2* gene and selecting those plants whose germplasm hybridizes to the nucleic acid fragment as having an aphid resistance gene.

[0081] As the parental line having *Rag2* soybean aphid resistance, any soybean line known to the art or disclosed herein as having *Rag2* soybean aphid resistance, as described above, may be used. In addition, without undue experimentation, varieties set forth in Table 10 known to have soybean aphid resistance can be tested using marker-assisted analysis as described herein for the presence of the *Rag2* gene, thus identifying additional lines for use in the breeding methods described herein.

[0082] Also provided herein are soybean plants produced by any of the foregoing methods:

[0083] Isolated nucleic acid fragments comprising a *Rag2* gene are also provided herein. The nucleic acid fragments comprise at least a portion of nucleic acid belonging to linkage group F, and further comprise nucleotide sequences falling between molecular markers Satt510 and Soyhsp176. They are capable of hybridizing under stringent conditions to nucleic acid of a soybean cultivar having *Rag2* resistance to *Aphis glycines*.

[0084] Vectors comprising such nucleic acid fragments, expression products of such vectors expressed in a host compatible therewith, antibodies to the expression product (both polyclonal and monoclonal), and antisense nucleic acid to the nucleic acid fragment are also provided herein.

[0085] Also provided herein are soybean plants having *Rag2* resistance to *Aphis glycines* comprising a *Rag2* gene and produced by introgression of DNA containing the gene into a soybean germplasm lacking the gene in its genome, and progeny of said soybean plants.

[0086] Seed of a soybean germplasm produced by crossing a soybean cultivar having *Rag2* *Aphis glycines* resistance in its genome with a soybean cultivar lacking the

Rag2 gene in its genome, and progeny thereof, is also provided herein. Such seed, from BC3 or BC4 generations derived from crosses with aphid resistant Sugao Zairai (PI200538) x Ina or x Williams 82 F₂ plants, is made available through the University of Illinois.

EXAMPLES

Example 1. Genetic analysis of *Rag2* in PI200538.

[0087] Crosses were made between PI200538 and two susceptible soybean cultivars, Ina and Williams 82. The parents, F₁ and F₂ plants were tested in a choice test in the greenhouse using the methods described in Hill, C.B., Y. Li, and G. Hartman (2006), "A single dominant gene for resistance to the soybean aphid in the soybean cultivar Dowling," Crop Science 46:1601-1605. Three weeks after infestation, aphid colonization was visually rated using the following scale: 0 = no aphids present, 1 = few solitary live or dead aphids (dead aphid bodies present), 2 = several transient aphids present with some viviparous aptera surrounded by a few nymphs, 3 = dense colonies, and 4 = dense colonies accompanied by plant damage.

[0088] PI200538 plants had ratings of 0, 1, or 2 with a rating of 1 being most frequent. Ina and Williams 82 plants had ratings of 3 or 4. Progeny from crosses between PI200538 and the susceptible parents were considered to be resistant with ratings of 0 to 2 and susceptible with ratings of 3 or 4. F₁ plants were all resistant to the soybean aphid, indicating that resistance was dominant over susceptibility. X² analyses on the segregation of F₂ plants (Table 3) indicated that a single dominant gene conditioned resistance.

Table 3. Genetic analysis of the segregation of F₂ plants in two Ina x PI200538 and three Williams 82 x PI200538 F₂ populations for resistance to the soybean aphid

Observed F ₂ segregation					
Cross	F ₂ Family	Resistant	Susceptible	X ² (3:1)	P
Ina x PI200538	4401	39	14	0.06	0.81
	4741	75	23	0.12	0.73
	Totals			0.18	0.91

	Pooled	114	37	0.02	0.89
	Heterogeneity			0.16	0.69
Williams 82 x PI200538	4791	88	30	0.01	0.92
	4792	67	19	0.39	0.53
	4793	48	16	0.00	1.00
	Totals			0.40	0.94
	Pooled	155	49	0.10	0.75
	Heterogeneity			0.29	0.86

[0089] F_{2:3} progeny from F₂ plants derived from plants in two Ina x PI200538 (Table 5) and three Williams 82 x PI200538 (Table 6) F₂ populations were evaluated for resistance to the soybean aphid. To have high confidence that all possible susceptible segregants were detected, only F_{2:3} families that had a minimum of 11 viable plants were included in the genetic analysis of F₂ plant soybean aphid resistance genotypes. A maximum of 20 F₃ plants from an F₂ plant were included in the genetic analyses.

Table 4. Genetic analysis of the segregation of F_{2:3} families, derived from plants in two Ina x PI200538 F₂ populations, for F₂ plant soybean aphid resistance genotype

F₂ family	F₂ plant phenotype	F₂ plant genotype	No. of F_{2:3} families	X² (1:2:1)	P
4401	Resistant	RR (all F _{2:3} plants resistant)	4		
		Rr (resistant and susceptible F _{2:3} plants)	13		
		rr (all F _{2:3} plants susceptible)	0		
	Susceptible	RR (all F _{2:3} plants resistant)	0		
		Rr (resistant and susceptible F _{2:3} plants)	0		
		rr (all F _{2:3} plants susceptible)	5		
				0.82	0.66
4741	Resistant	RR (all F _{2:3} plants resistant)	14		
		Rr (resistant and susceptible F _{2:3} plants)	20		
		rr (all F _{2:3} plants susceptible)	0		
	Susceptible	RR (all F _{2:3} plants resistant)	0		

		Rr (resistant and susceptible F _{2:3} plants)	0		
		rr (all F _{2:3} plants susceptible)	5		
				4.18	0.12
Totals				5.00	0.08
Pooled				1.62	0.44
Hetero- geneity				3.37	0.07

Table 5. Genetic analysis of the segregation of F_{2:3} families, derived from plants in three Williams 82 x PI200538 F₂ populations, for F₂ plant soybean aphid resistance genotype

F₂ family	F₂ plant phenotype	F₂ plant genotype	No. of F_{2:3} families	X² (1:2:1)	P
4791	Resistant	RR (all F _{2:3} plants resistant)	17		
		Rr (resistant and susceptible F _{2:3} plants)	43		
		rr (all F _{2:3} plants susceptible)	0		
	Susceptible	RR (all F _{2:3} plants resistant)	1		
		Rr (resistant and susceptible F _{2:3} plants)	0		
		rr (all F _{2:3} plants susceptible)	13		
				2.62	0.27
4792	Resistant	RR (all F _{2:3} plants resistant)	10		
		Rr (resistant and susceptible F _{2:3} plants)	33		
		rr (all F _{2:3} plants susceptible)	1		
	Susceptible	RR (all F _{2:3} plants resistant)	0		
		Rr (resistant and susceptible F _{2:3} plants)	0		
		rr (all F _{2:3} plants susceptible)	14		
				1.97	0.37

F ₂ family	F ₂ plant phenotype	F ₂ plant genotype	No. of F _{2:3} families	X ² (1:2:1)	P
4793	Resistant	RR (all F _{2:3} plants resistant)	14		
		Rr (resistant and susceptible F _{2:3} plants)	25		
		rr (all F _{2:3} plants susceptible)	0		
	Susceptible	RR (all F _{2:3} plants resistant)	0		
		Rr (resistant and susceptible F _{2:3} plants)	3		
		rr (all F _{2:3} plants susceptible)	7		
				3	0.22
Totals				7.59	0.06
Pooled				4.34	0.11
Heterogeneity				3.25	0.07

[0090] Results of the F₂ genetic analyses indicated that there was a single, dominant gene in PI200538 that conditioned resistance to the soybean aphid. The results of the F₃ genetic analyses for the Ina x PI200538 and Williams x PI200538 crosses supported the single, dominant gene hypothesis.

[0091] Crosses were made between the cultivars Dowling, possessing *Rag1*, and Jackson, that likely also possess *Rag1*, and PI200538, and their F₂ progeny were evaluated for soybean aphid resistance to determine if *Rag1* and the gene in PI200538 were allelic or the same gene. Segregation of resistant and susceptible F₂ plants significantly fit a 15:1 pattern, expected for the segregation of two different, non-allelic dominant genes (Table 6). The results indicated that the gene in PI200538, tentatively called *Rag2*, is non-allelic and unique from *Rag1*.

Table 6. Genetic analysis of the segregation of F₂ progeny for soybean aphid resistance from crosses between Dowling and PI200538 and Jackson x PI200538

Observed F ₂ segregation				
Cross	Resistant	Susceptible	X ² (15:1)	P
Dowling x PI200538	39	3	0.06	0.81
Jackson x PI200538	71	6	0.31	0.58
Totals			0.37	0.83
Pooled	110	9	0.19	0.66
Heterogeneity			0.18	0.67

Example 2. Identification of linked SSR markers and soybean map location of *Rag2*.

[0092] Subsets of 90 F₂ plants were randomly selected from the combined F₂ populations of each of the crosses Ina x PI200538 and Williams 82 x PI200538 for mapping the location of *Rag2* in the soybean genetic map. DNA was extracted from each of the plants in each of the two subsets and polymerase chain reaction (PCR) was carried out using simple sequence repeat (SSR) markers developed by Dr. Perry Cregan, USDA-ARS. The PCR products were evaluated on gels as previously described in: Wang, D. J., et al., (2003), "A low-cost, high-throughput polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis system for genotyping with micro satellite DNA markers," Crop Science 43:1828-1832.

[0093] Initial SSR marker screening to identify markers that were polymorphic between the parents of the crosses and that could be associated with the soybean aphid resistance gene was done with genomic DNA extracted from the parents and separate DNA samples from 10 randomly selected susceptible F₂ plants that were bulked from each cross subset. In order to minimize the number of soybean SSR markers to screen for polymorphisms and association with resistance, knowledge of the potential association between resistance to aphids and root knot nematodes, as put forward in Hill, C.B., Y. Li, and G.L. Hartman, (2004), "Resistance to the soybean aphid in soybean germplasm," Crop Science 44:98-106 was exploited to select markers from

soybean linkage groups (LG) E and F. Genes for resistance to peanut root knot nematode, found in PI200538, were mapped to LGs E and F (Tamulonis, J.P., et al. (1997), "DNA marker analysis of loci conferring resistance to peanut root-knot nematode in soybean," Theoretical and Applied Genetics 95:664-670). Two LG M SSR markers, Satt435 and Satt463, tightly linked to *Rag1* (U.S. Patent Publication 2006/0015964), were also included in the screen as a check for genetic allelism between *Rag1* and *Rag2*.

[0094] Six LG F SSR markers were polymorphic between Ina and PI200538, associated with soybean aphid resistance, and linked to *Rag2*. The location of *Rag2* in relation to the six SSR markers was generated with Joinmap 3.0, a genetic mapping software application, after entering the genotype data for the six LG F SSR markers, the F_2 resistance phenotype data, and available F_2 genotype data for each of the 90 F_2 plants in the Ina x PI200538 F_2 mapping population. Tight linkage of Soyhsp176 and Satt510, both within 5 centimorgans (cM) on opposite sides of *Rag2*, was shown. With the location of Sat_297 taken as zero, and *Rag2* at 18 cM, the additional markers were: Sat_234 at 5 cM, Soyhsp176 at 23 cM; Satt510 at 13cM; Sat_120 at 26 cM and Sat_375 at 40 cM.

[0095] Subsequently, genotype data from 45 F_2 plants from a cross between Ina x PI200538 was analyzed. Segregation of markers Sat_120 and Sat_375 did not fit the expected F_2 1:2:1 ratio for a co-dominant gene, and therefore were dropped from the linkage data described above. The linkage map resulting from this analysis is shown in Figure 2.

Example 3. Effectiveness of *Rag2* against different soybean aphid isolates.

[0096] A soybean aphid population was found in Ohio that could colonize soybean plants possessing the resistance gene *Rag1*. Subsequent tests demonstrated that an isolate from the Ohio soybean aphid population was a biotype that could overcome the resistance expressed by *Rag1* in soybean plants, distinguishing it from other soybean aphid isolates. Identification of a soybean aphid biotype that can overcome the resistance gene *Rag1*. In non-choice tests (Table 7) and choice tests

(Table 8), resistance expressed by *Rag2* in PI200538 was as effective against the Ohio biotype as an isolate from Illinois.

Table 7. Number of aphids per plant 10 and 15 d after infestation with the Ohio and Illinois aphid isolates across two non-choice tests.

Soybean genotype	10 days after infestation		15 days after infestation	
	Illinois Isolate	Ohio Isolate	Illinois Isolate	Ohio Isolate
Dowling (<i>Rag1</i>)	8cd [†]	146a	12de	586ab
Williams82	231a	209a	726a	574abc
LD05-16611 (<i>Rag1</i>)	10cd	215a	774a	548ab
Jackson	7d	191a	11de	396ab
Dwight	146a	178a	363ab	332b
PI567541B	6abcd	57b	5abcde	82c
PI567597C	31b	12c	18d	7e
PI200538 (<i>Rag2</i>)	8cd	8cd	9de	7e

[†]Means followed by the same letters in the 10 d after infestation columns or the 15 d after infestation columns are not significantly different by the least significant different test ($P=0.05$).

Table 8. Number of aphids per plant 10 d after infestation with the Ohio isolate in a choice test.

Soybean genotype	Number of aphids plant ⁻¹ 10 days after infestation
Dwight	177a
LD05-16611 (<i>Rag1</i>)	168a
Williams82	166a
Dowling (<i>Rag1</i>)	156a
Jackson	110b
PI567541B	34c
PI567597C	31cd
PI200538 (<i>Rag2</i>)	22d

[†]Means followed by the same letters in a column are not significantly different by the least significant different test ($P=0.05$).

[0097] Results of a preliminary, un-replicated, non-choice test of 11 soybean aphid isolates collected from their primary hosts, *Rhamnus cathartica* and *R. frangula*, at different locations in the central USA, indicated that *Rag2* provided effective resistance against all of them in PI200538 (Table 9).

Table 9. Number of aphids of 11 soybean aphid isolates on Dowling (*Rag1*) and PI200538 (*Rag2*) 7 and 10 days after infestation

Soybean line	Aphid isolate	Number of aphids (7 days)	Number of aphids (15 days)
Dowling (<i>Rag1</i>)	Black Hawk from <i>R. cathartica</i>	2	6
	Black Hawk III from <i>R. cathartica</i>	1	1
	Bronson, Michigan from <i>R. cathartica</i>	0	0
	Hy 47 & 64, Illinois from <i>R. cathartica</i>	7	3
	Irish Hills from <i>R. cathartica</i>	4	3
	Joliet College from <i>R. cathartica</i>	5	15
	Pit, Indiana from <i>R. cathartica</i>	18	126
	Rock II from <i>R. cathartica</i>	10	26
	Secor, Indiana from <i>R. cathartica</i>	0	0
	Springfield from <i>R. frangula</i>	17	4
	Stratton, Indiana from <i>R. cathartica</i>	8	42
PI200538 (<i>Rag2</i>)	Black Hawk from <i>R. cathartica</i>	23	82
	Black Hawk III from <i>R. cathartica</i>	1	0
	Bronson, Michigan from <i>R. cathartica</i>	0	0
	Hy 47 & 64, Illinois from <i>R. cathartica</i>	3	3
	Irish Hills from <i>R. cathartica</i>		
	Joliet College from <i>R. cathartica</i>	0	0
	Pit, Indiana from <i>R. cathartica</i>	0	0
	Rock II from <i>R. cathartica</i>	0	0
	Secor, Indiana from <i>R. cathartica</i>	2	0
Soybean line	Aphid isolate	Number of aphids (7 days)	Number of aphids (15 days)
	Springfield from <i>R. frangula</i>	1	0
	Stratton, Indiana from <i>R. cathartica</i>	2	0

Example 4. Soybean accessions that possess *Rag2*.

[0098] A set of 80 soybean germplasm accessions that were resistant to an Illinois soybean aphid isolate were challenged with the Ohio soybean aphid biotype that can overcome *Rag1*. The accessions listed in Table 3 had resistance not significantly different from PI200538. It is can therefore be deduced that these accessions also possess *Rag2* (or possibly another gene effective against the Ohio biotype but not *Rag1*.)

Table 10. List of soybean accessions that had resistance equal to PI200538 (*Rag2*) against the Ohio soybean aphid biotype

PI#	Name	Aphid Rating (0-4)
71506		0.0
88508	Showa No. 1-4	1.7
200538	Sugao Zarai	1.0
230977		1.3
437696	San-haj-hun-mao-huan-dou	1.0
499955		1.0
507298	Sokoshin Kamigoumura	1.0
518726	Bao jiao huang	1.0
548237	T260H	1.5
548409	Sato	1.6
567391	Jiang se huang dou	1.7
567541B		1.7
567598B		2.0
587552	Nan jing da ping ding huang yi 1	1.0
587617	Jin tan qing zi	1.0
587656	Huang dou	1.0
587663	Zhong chun huang dou	1.0
587666	Er dao zao	1.0
PI#	Name	Aphid Rating (0-4)
587669	Zan zi bai	1.0
587677	Xiao li huang	1.0
587685	Da li huang 2	1.0
587693	Yu shan dou	1.3

587702	Qing pi dou	1.7
587717	Xiang yang ba yue zha	1.3
587732	Ying shan ji mu wo	1.1
587759	Song zi ba yue cha	1.0
587763	Jing huang 36	1.1
587775	Tong shan si ji dou	1.0
587800	Ying shan da li huang	1.0
587816	Bai mao dou	1.1
587824	Ying shan qing pi cao	1.1
587840	Du wo dou	1.1
587861	Da qing dou	1.3
587870	Huang pi dou	1.3
587871	Bao mao dou	1.0
587873	Feng wo dou	1.7
587876	Xi mao dou	1.0
587897	Qing pi dou	2.1
587899	Ba yue bai	1.0
587905	Xiao huang dou	1.0
587972	Chang zi dou	1.0
588000	Shi yue huang	1.1
588040	Shan xing dou	1.0
594421	Da du huang dou	1.6
594425	Xiao cao huang dou	1.1
594431	Chang pu qing dou	1.1
594499	Luo ma aluo	1.1
594503	Mu gu hei chi huang dou	1.3
594514	Hua lian dou	1.1
594554	Huang pi tian dou	1.1
594573	Lu pi dou	1.0
594592	Shi yue xiao huang dou	1.0
594595	Ba yue da huang dou (jia	1.1
594703	Qing pi dou -1	1.1
PI#	Name	Aphid Rating (0-4)
594707	Da hei dou	1.3
594822	Xi huang dou	1.0
594868	Huang dou	1.0
594879	Huo shao dou	1.5

[0099] Although methods and cultivars have been described in detail for purposes of clarity and understanding, it will be clear to those skilled in the art that equivalent cultivars, markers, and methods may be practiced within the scope of the claims hereof.

We claim:

1. A method for determining the presence or absence of a gene for resistance to *Aphis glycines* in soybean germplasm conferred by a resistance to *Aphis glycines* (*Rag2*) gene comprising:

obtaining soybean germplasm;

performing marker-assisted selection (MAS) on said germplasm by:

detecting a *Rag2* locus that maps to soybean linkage group F of said soybean germplasm, wherein said *Rag2* locus is flanked on opposite sides by markers Soyhsp176 and Satt510, and wherein the *Rag2* locus comprises allelic DNA sequences that control resistance to *Aphis glycines*; and

identifying the presence or absence of said allelic DNA sequences linked to the *Rag2* gene coding for resistance to *Aphis glycines* in said germplasm; wherein the presence or absence of said allelic DNA sequences linked to said gene is determined by comparing a first PCR-amplified polymorphic marker fragment of said soybean germplasm to a second PCR-amplified polymorphic marker fragment of soybean germplasm from a plant having *Aphis glycines* resistance conferred by said *Rag2* gene, wherein said second fragment is made using the same marker that was used to make said first fragment, and wherein said second fragment has a size the same as that of a PCR-amplified polymorphic marker fragment of germplasm of *Aphis glycines*-resistant soybean variety PI200538 made using the same marker used to make said first and second fragments; and

determining that said gene coding for *Rag2* resistance is present in said soybean germplasm when said first fragment is the same size as said second fragment, and

determining that said gene is not present in said germplasm when said first fragment is not the same size as said second fragment.

2. A method for determining the presence or absence of a gene for resistance to *Aphis glycines* in soybean germplasm conferred by a resistance to *Aphis glycines* (*Rag2*) gene comprising:

analyzing said germplasm by marker-assisted selection (MAS) to:

detect a *Rag2* locus that maps to soybean linkage group F of said soybean germplasm, wherein said *Rag2* locus is flanked on opposite sides by markers Soyhsp176 and Satt510, and wherein the *Rag2* locus comprises allelic DNA sequences that control resistance to *Aphis glycines*; and

determine the presence or absence of said allelic DNA sequences linked to the *Rag2* gene coding for resistance to *Aphis glycines* in said germplasm; wherein the presence or absence of said allelic DNA sequences linked to said gene is determined by (1) generating a first PCR-amplified polymorphic marker fragment of said soybean germplasm, (2) generating a second PCR-amplified polymorphic marker fragment of soybean germplasm from a plant having *Aphis glycines* resistance conferred by said *Rag2* gene, and (3) comparing said first PCR-amplified polymorphic marker fragment of said soybean germplasm to said second PCR-amplified polymorphic marker fragment of soybean germplasm from a plant having *Aphis glycines* resistance conferred by said *Rag2* gene, wherein said second fragment is made using the same marker that was used to make said first fragment, and wherein said second fragment has a size the same as that of a PCR-amplified polymorphic marker fragment of germplasm of *Aphis glycines*-resistant soybean variety PI200538 made

using the same marker used to make said first and second fragments; and

determining that said gene coding for *Rag2* resistance is present in said soybean germplasm when said first fragment is the same size as said second fragment, and

determining that said gene is not present in said germplasm when said first fragment is not the same size as said second fragment.

3. The method of claim 2, further comprising hybridizing to nucleic acid of soybean linkage group F of said soybean germplasm at least one nucleic acid fragment, which comprises the sequence of, or a primer sequence of, a DNA marker that maps to within 20 cM of said Soyhsp176 and/or Satt510 markers, and which is linked to the *Rag2* locus.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein said polymorphic marker is selected from the group consisting of Sat_234, Soyhsp176, Sat_297 and Satt510.

5. The method of claim 3, wherein at least two polymorphic markers are hybridized to said nucleic acid of soybean linkage group F of said soybean germplasm.

6. A method for reliably and predictably introgressing soybean *Aphis glycines* resistance conferred by a *Rag2* gene into non-resistant soybean germplasm or less resistant soybean germplasm comprising:

providing a first soybean germplasm that has resistance to *Aphis glycines* conferred by said *Rag2* gene;

providing a second soybean germplasm that lacks said resistance;

crossing the first soybean germplasm with the second soybean germplasm to

provide progeny soybean germplasm;

analyzing said progeny germplasm by marker-assisted selection (MAS) to:

determine the presence of *Rag2* resistance to *Aphis glycines* by detecting a resistance to *Aphis glycines* (*Rag2*) locus that maps to soybean linkage group F of said soybean germplasm, wherein said *Rag2* locus is flanked on opposite sides by markers Soyhsp176 and Satt510, and wherein the *Rag2* locus comprises allelic DNA sequences that control resistance to *Aphis glycines*; and

determine the presence or absence of said allelic DNA sequences linked to the *Rag2* gene coding for resistance to *Aphis glycines* in said germplasm, wherein the presence or absence of said allelic DNA sequences linked to said gene is determined by identifying a region of DNA that displays allelic variation between said first and second soybean germplasm linked to said *Rag2* locus; and

determining that said gene coding for *Rag2* resistance is present in said soybean germplasm when said region of DNA comprises a polymorphism linked to *Rag2* resistance and present in PI200538;

determining that said gene is not present in said germplasm when said region of DNA does not comprise said polymorphism linked to *Rag2* resistance and present in PI200538; and

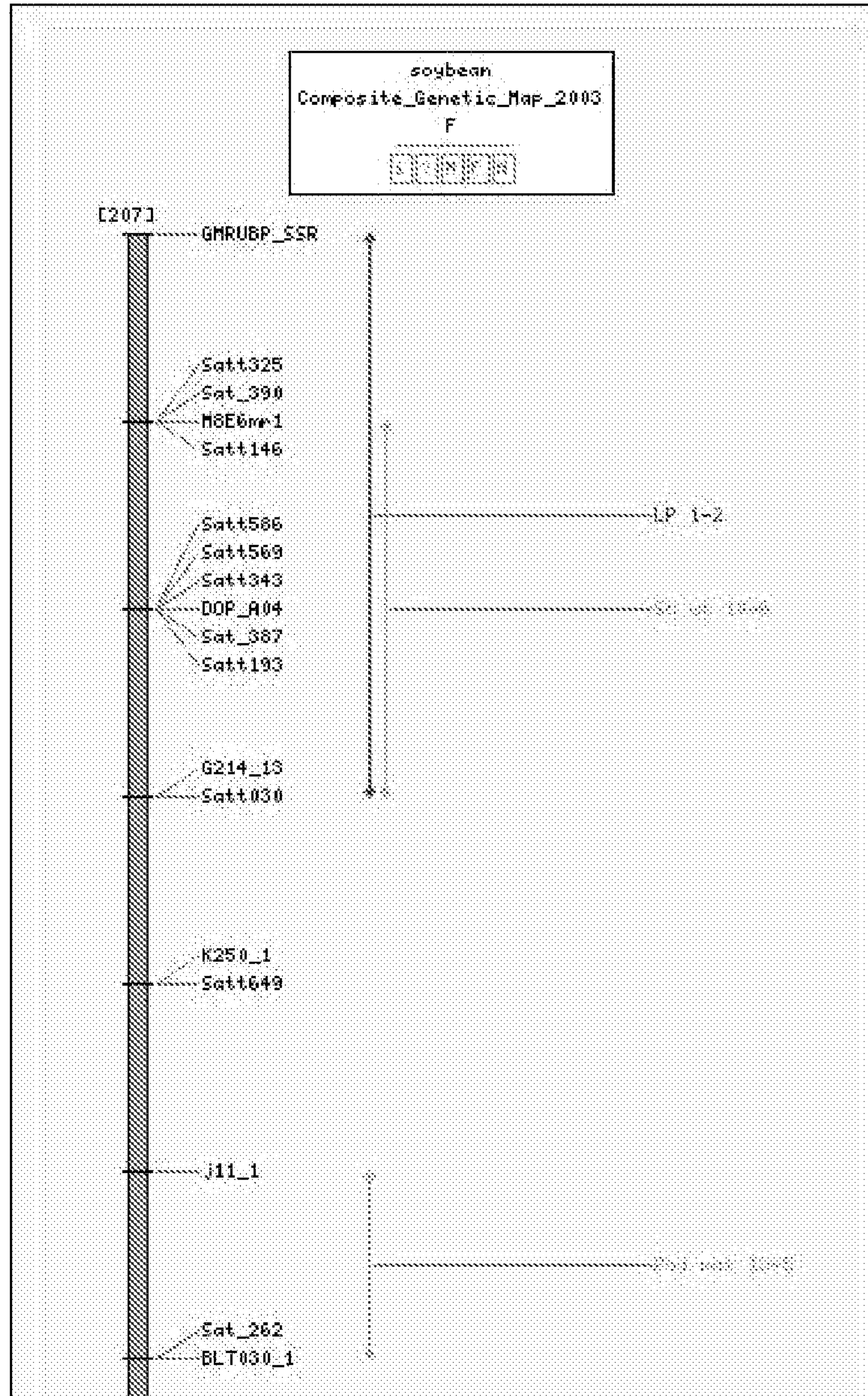
selecting progeny that tests positive for the presence of *Rag2* resistance to *Aphis glycines* as being soybean germplasm into which germplasm having *Rag2* resistance to *Aphis glycines* has been introgressed.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein said allelic form of DNA is identified by MAS comprising selecting a marker from the group consisting of Satt510, Soyhsp176, Sat_234, and Sat_297, and other markers that map to within 20 cM of any of these markers on linkage group F.
8. The method of claim 6, wherein said allelic form of DNA is identified by MAS comprising selecting a marker from the group consisting of Satt510, Soyhsp176, Sat_234, and Sat_297.
9. The method of claim 6, wherein said second soybean germplasm has resistance to *Aphis glycines* conferred by a gene on soybean linkage group M.
10. The method of claim 6, wherein said second soybean germplasm is from an inbred soybean line.
11. The method of claim 6, wherein said first soybean germplasm that has resistance to *Aphis glycines* is germplasm of a cultivar having *Rag2 Aphis glycines* resistance selected from the group consisting of PI200538; PI437696; PI499955, PI507298; PI548237; PI567391; PI587656; PI587669; PI587775; PI587870; PI587871; PI587899; PI587972; PI588000; PI588040; PI594431; PI594499; PI594573; PI594707; PI594822; PI594879 and progeny thereof having *Rag2 Aphis glycines* resistance.
12. The method of claim 6, wherein said soybean germplasm that has resistance to *Aphis glycines* is of PI200538.
13. The method of claim 6, for the production of an inbred soybean cultivar adapted for conferring, in hybrid combination with a suitable second inbred, resistance to *Aphis glycines* conferred by the *Rag2* gene locus, wherein said second soybean germplasm is high yielding in hybrid combination with said first soybean germplasm that has said resistance to *Aphis glycines*, comprising the further step of self-crossing the plants that

tested positive for the presence of said *Aphis glycines* resistance until a line is obtained that is homozygous for said *Aphis glycines* resistance and adapted for conferring, in hybrid combination with a suitable second inbred, said *Aphis glycines* resistance conferred by the *Rag2* gene locus.

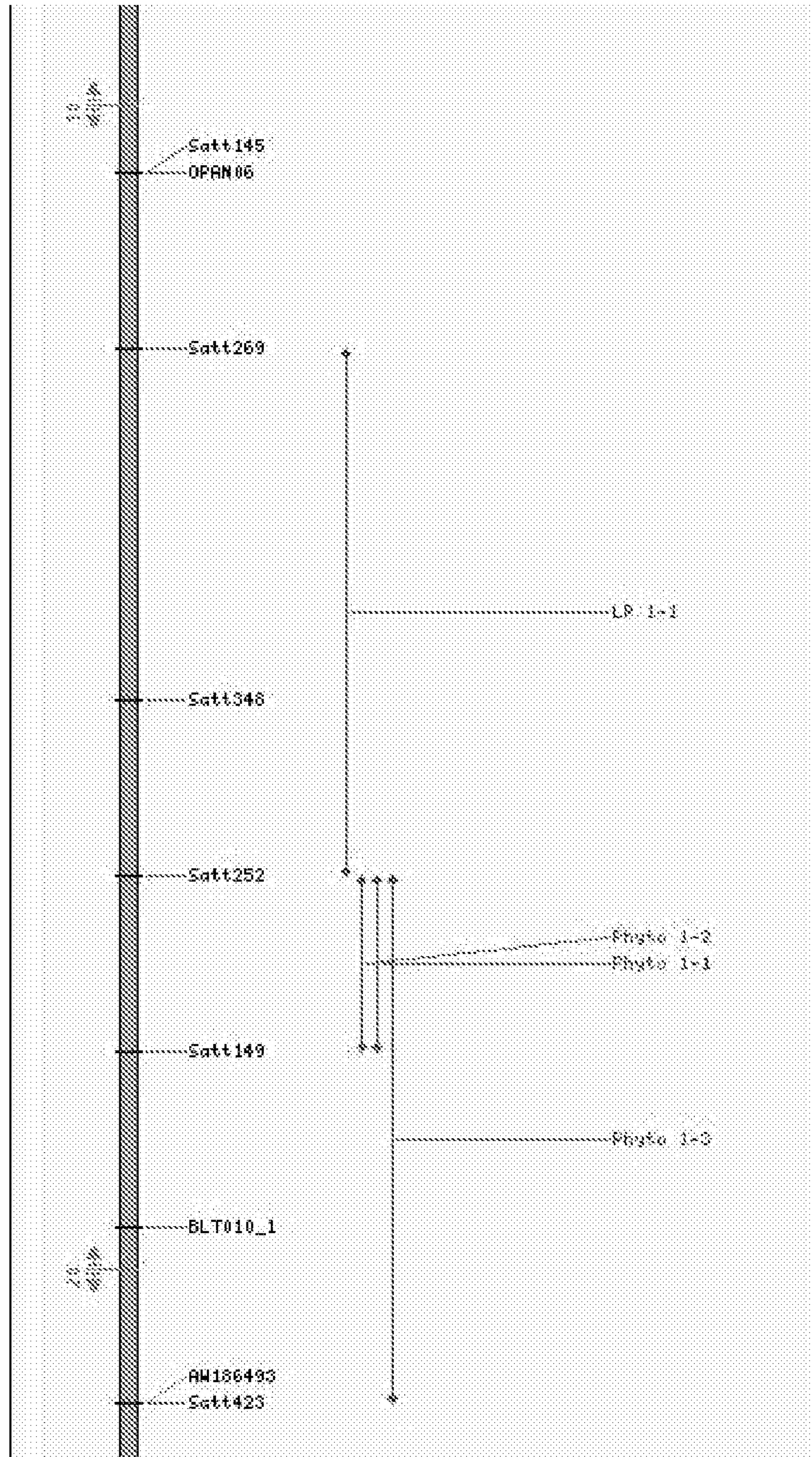
1/14

FIGURE 1A



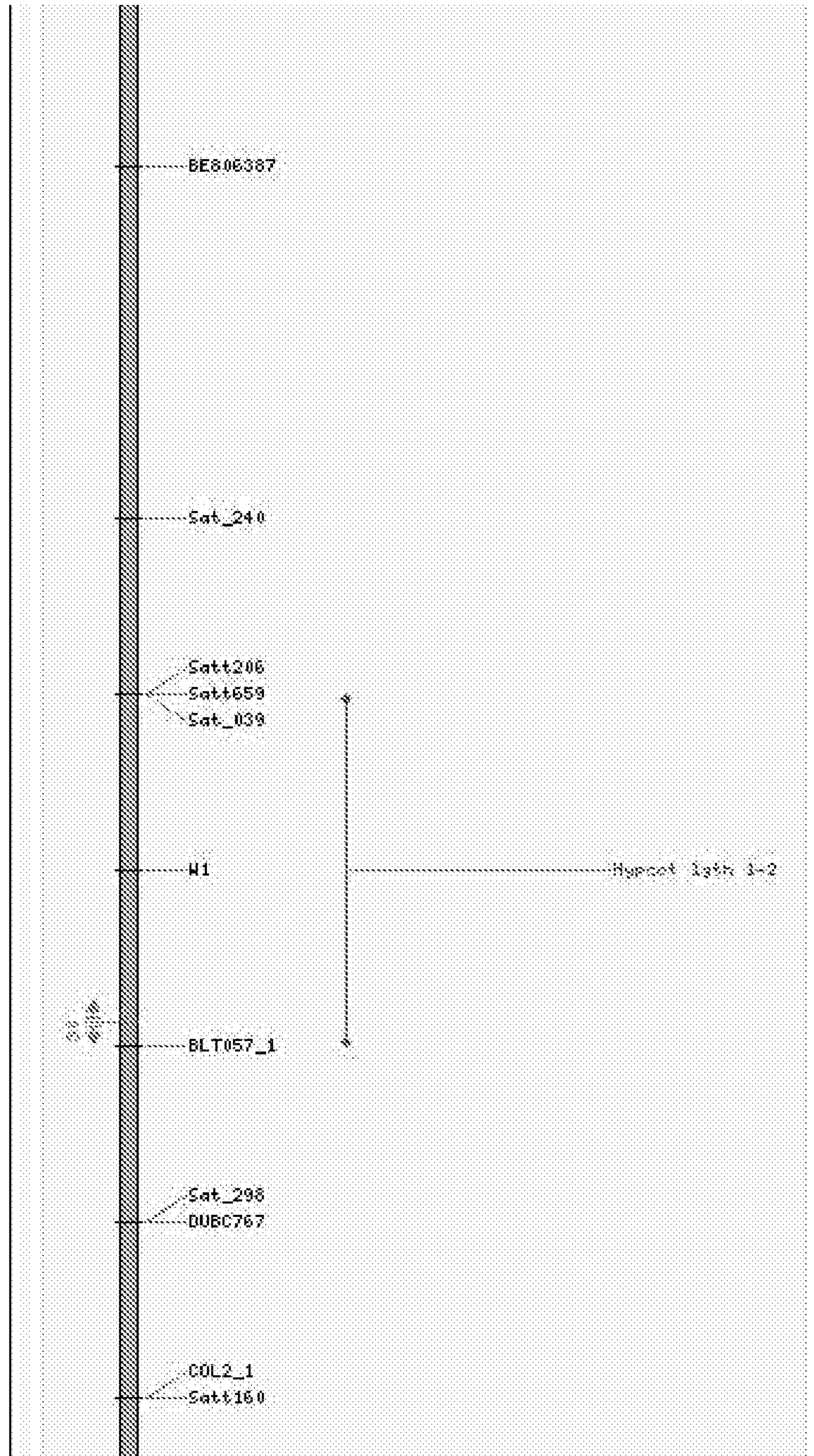
2/14

FIGURE 1B



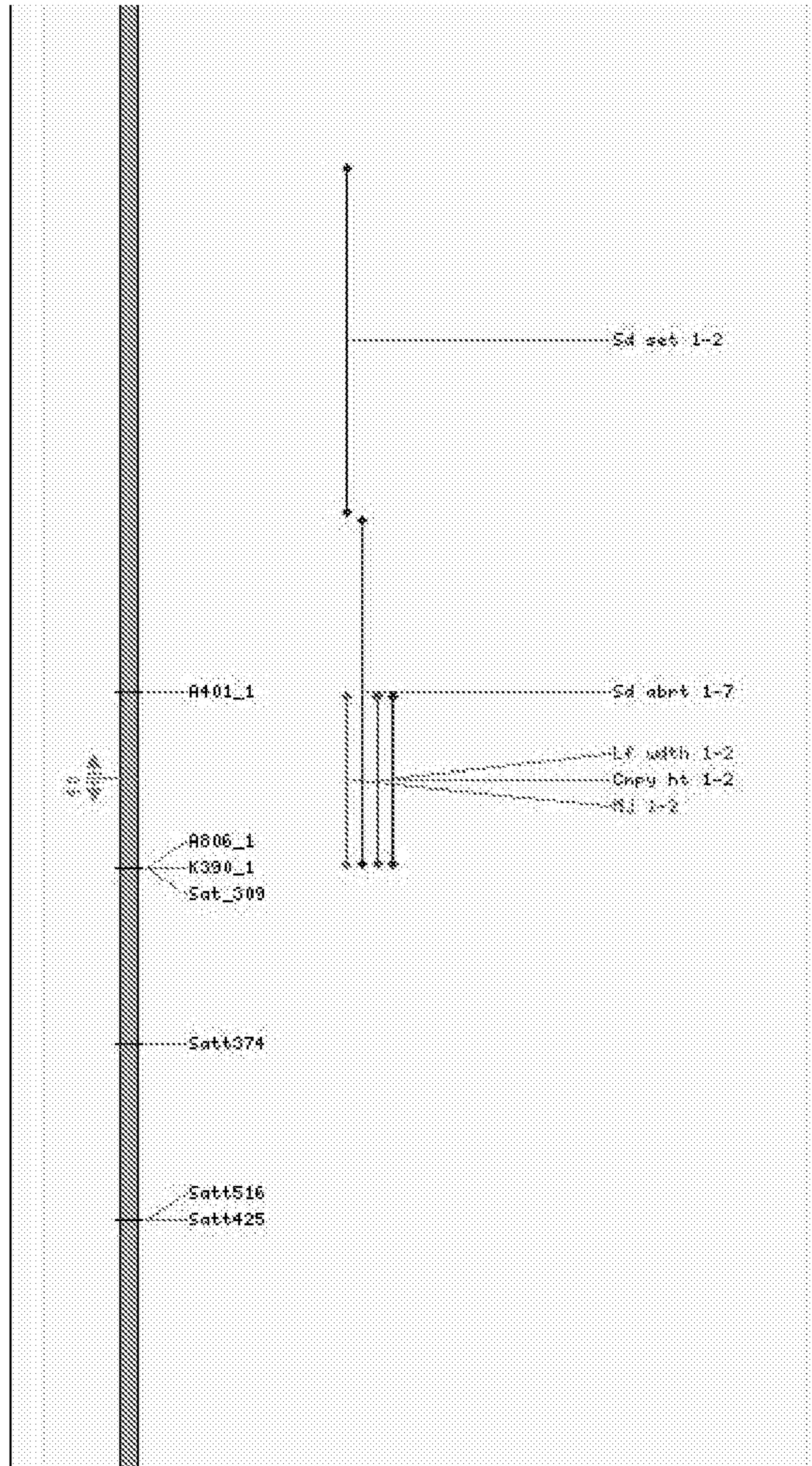
3/14

FIGURE 1C



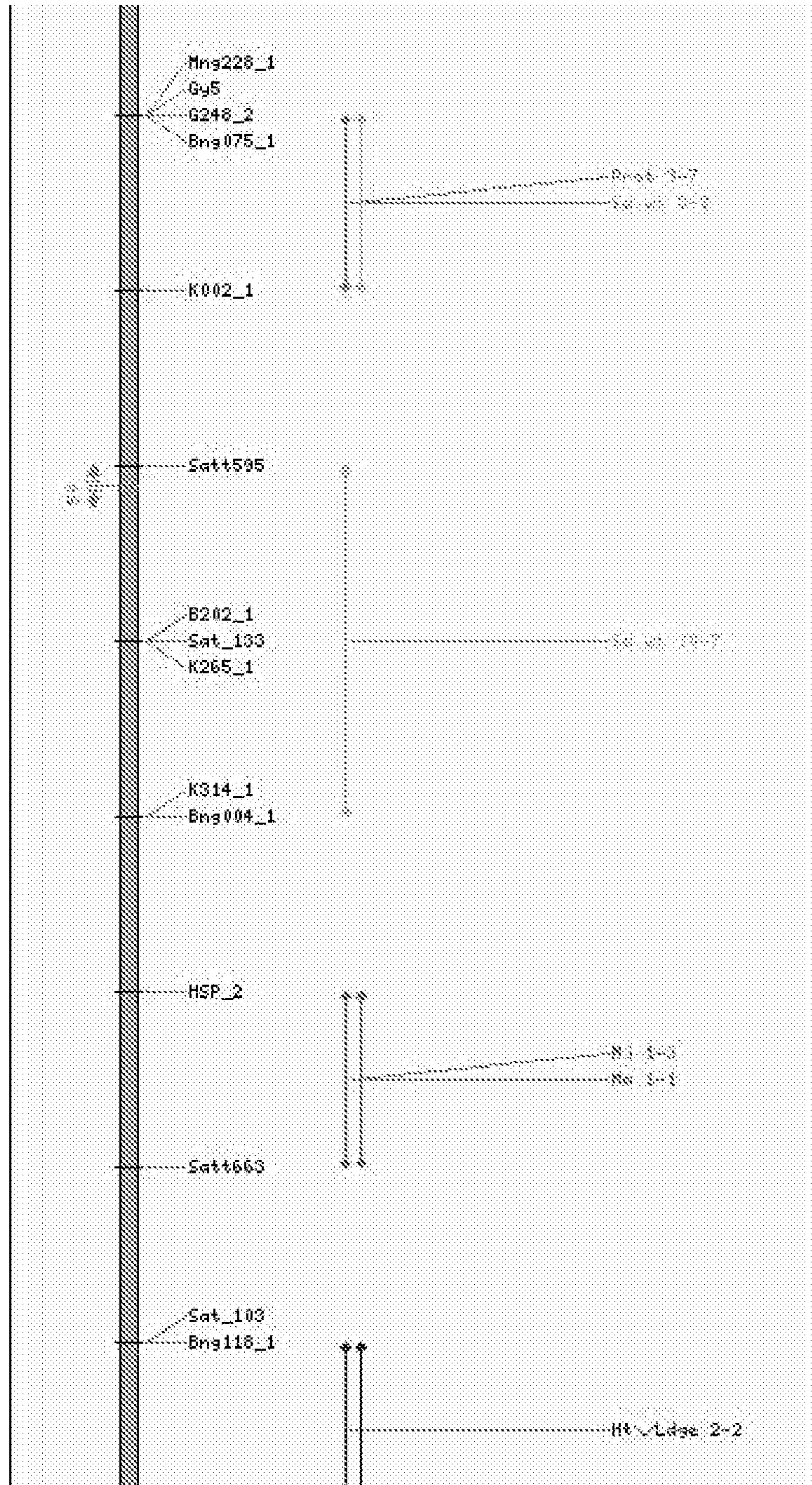
4/14

FIGURE 1D



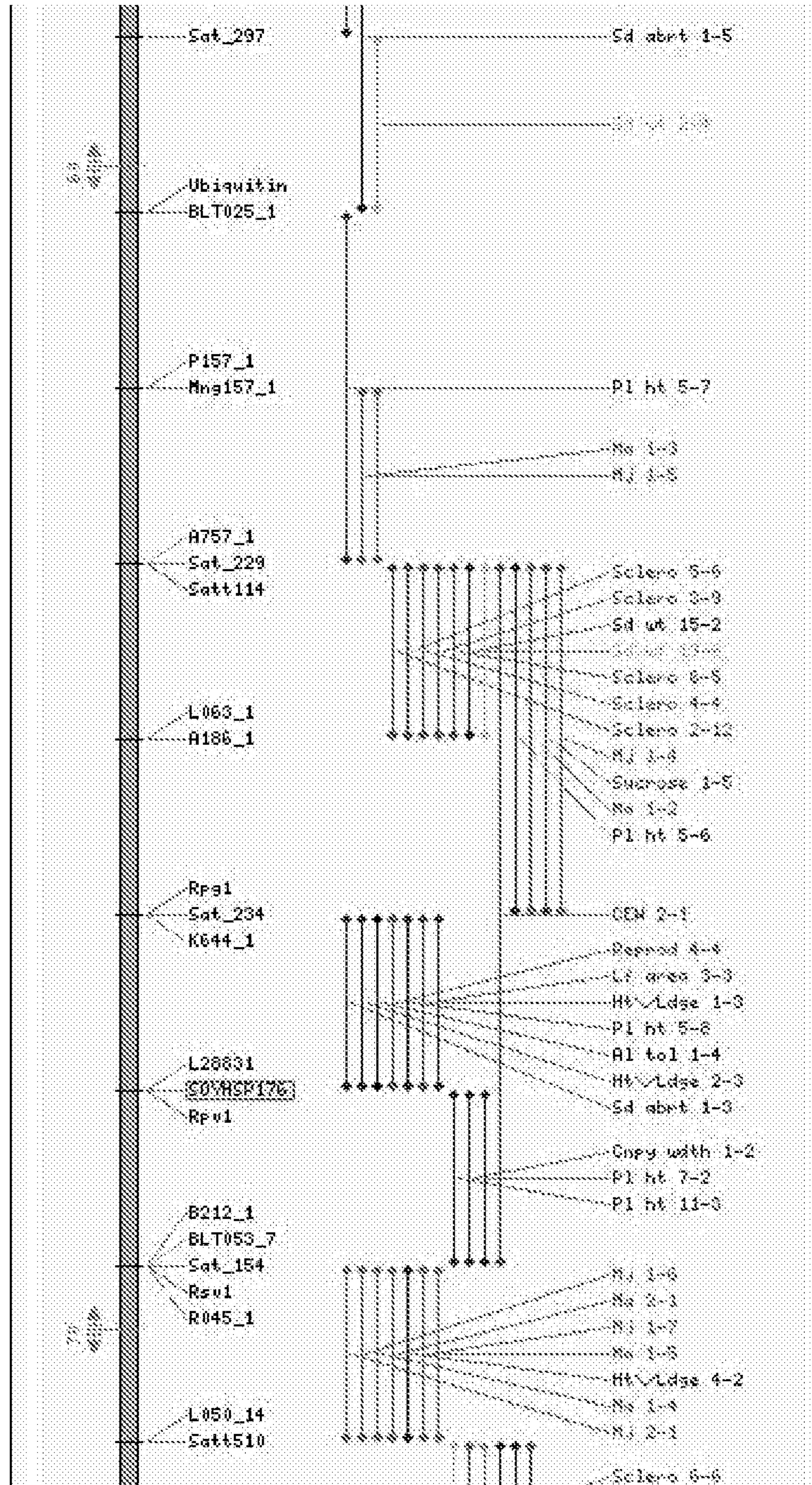
5/14

FIGURE 1E



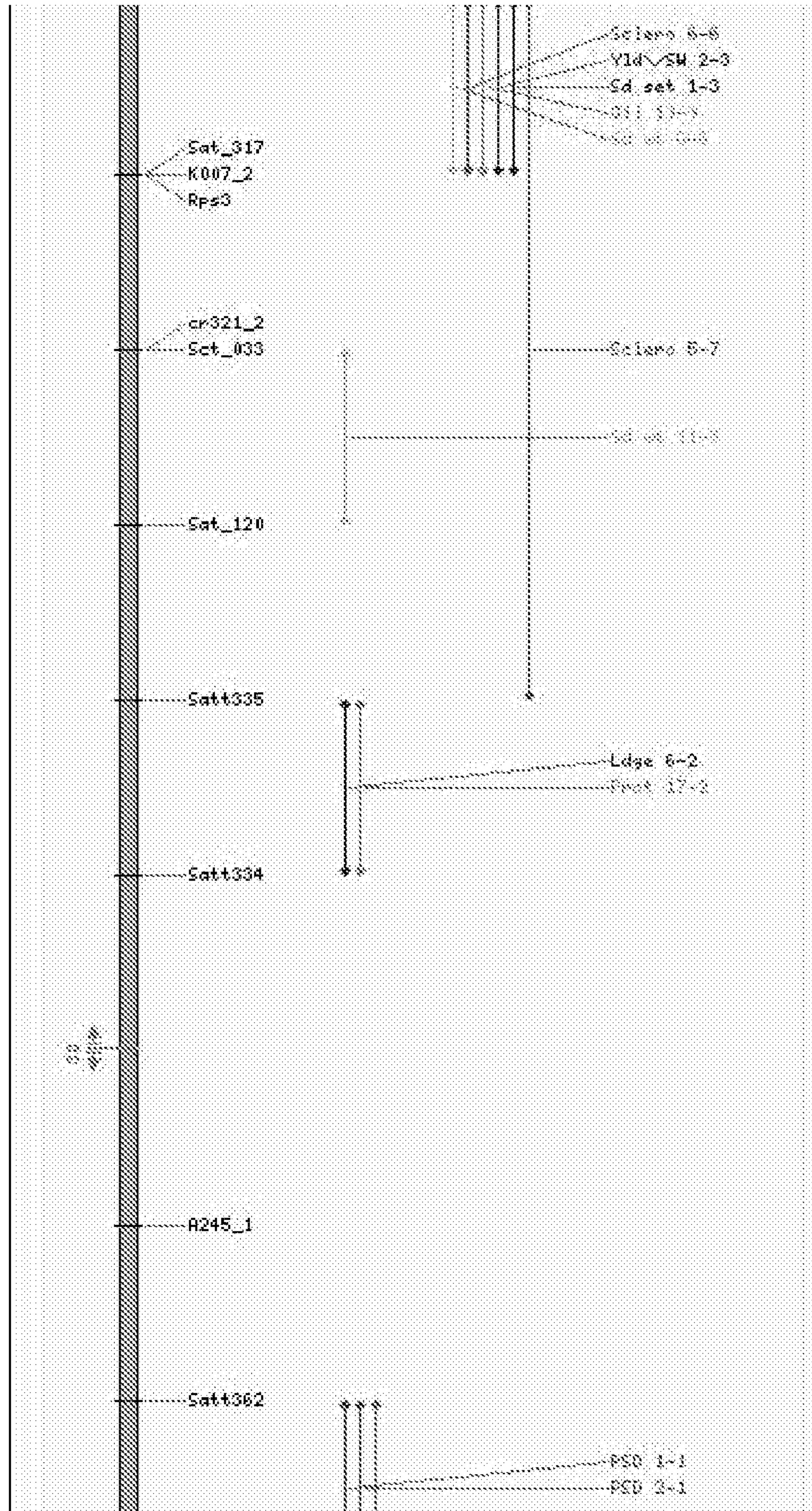
6/14

FIGURE 1F



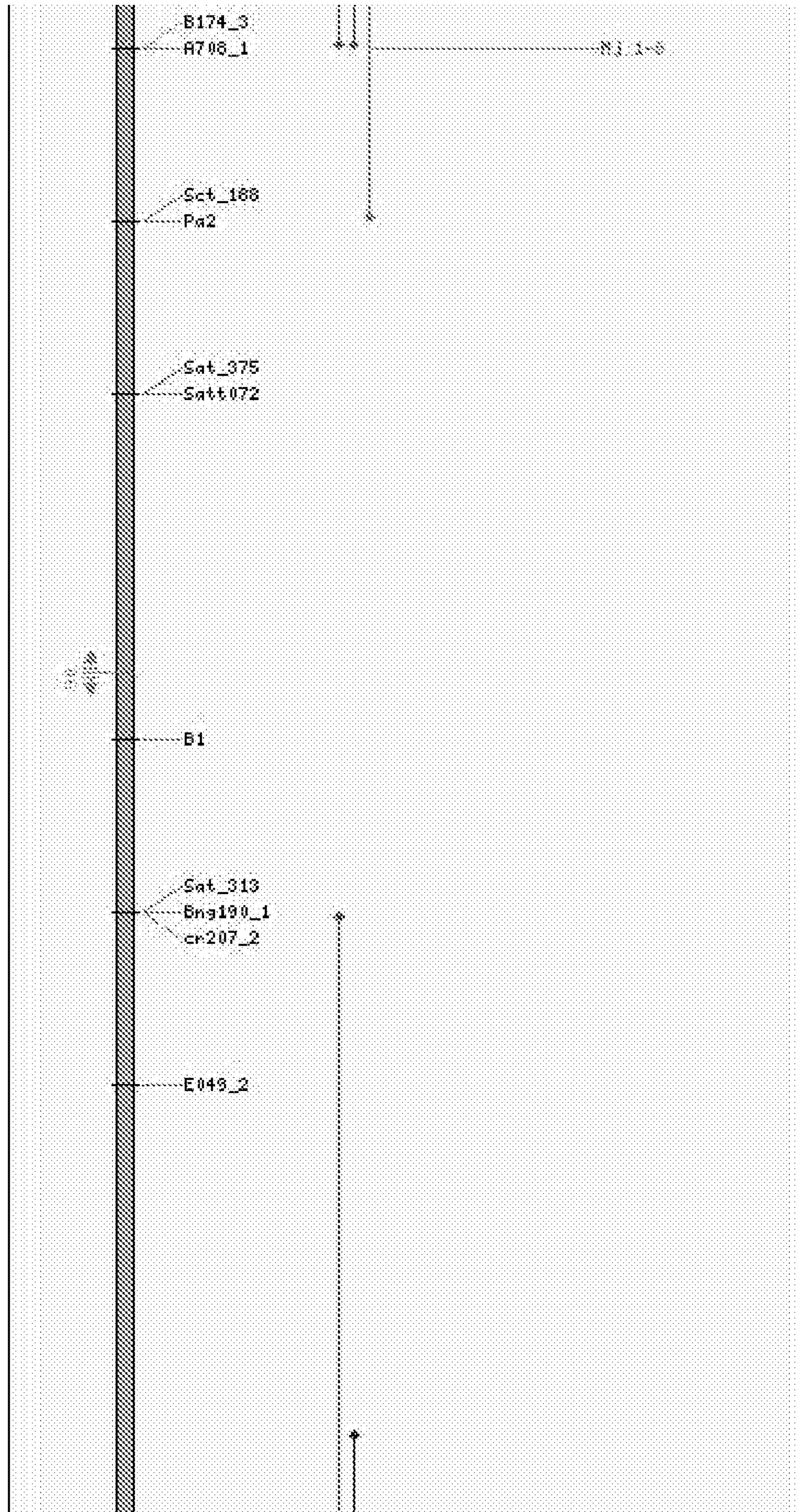
7/14

FIGURE 1G



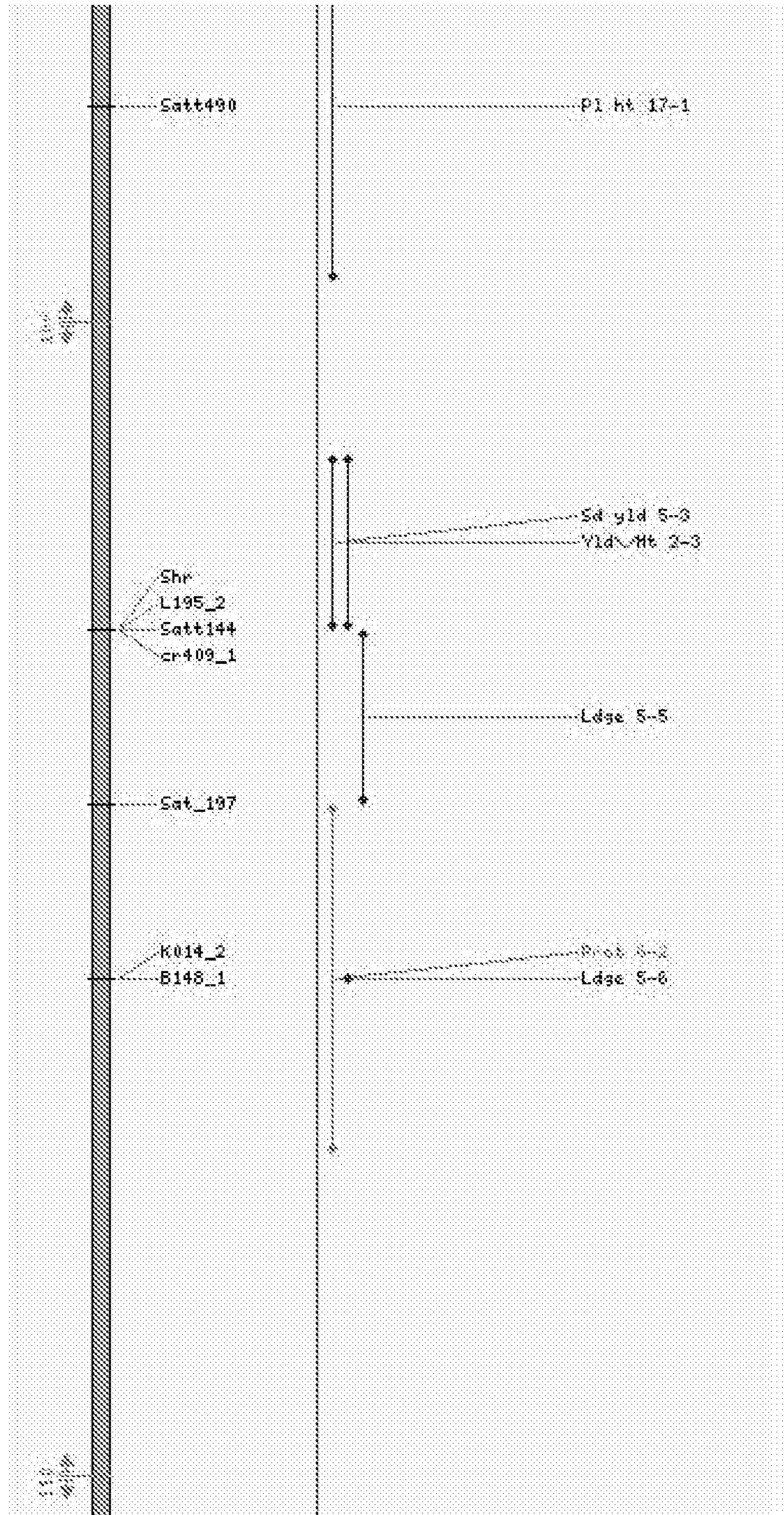
8/14

FIGURE 1H



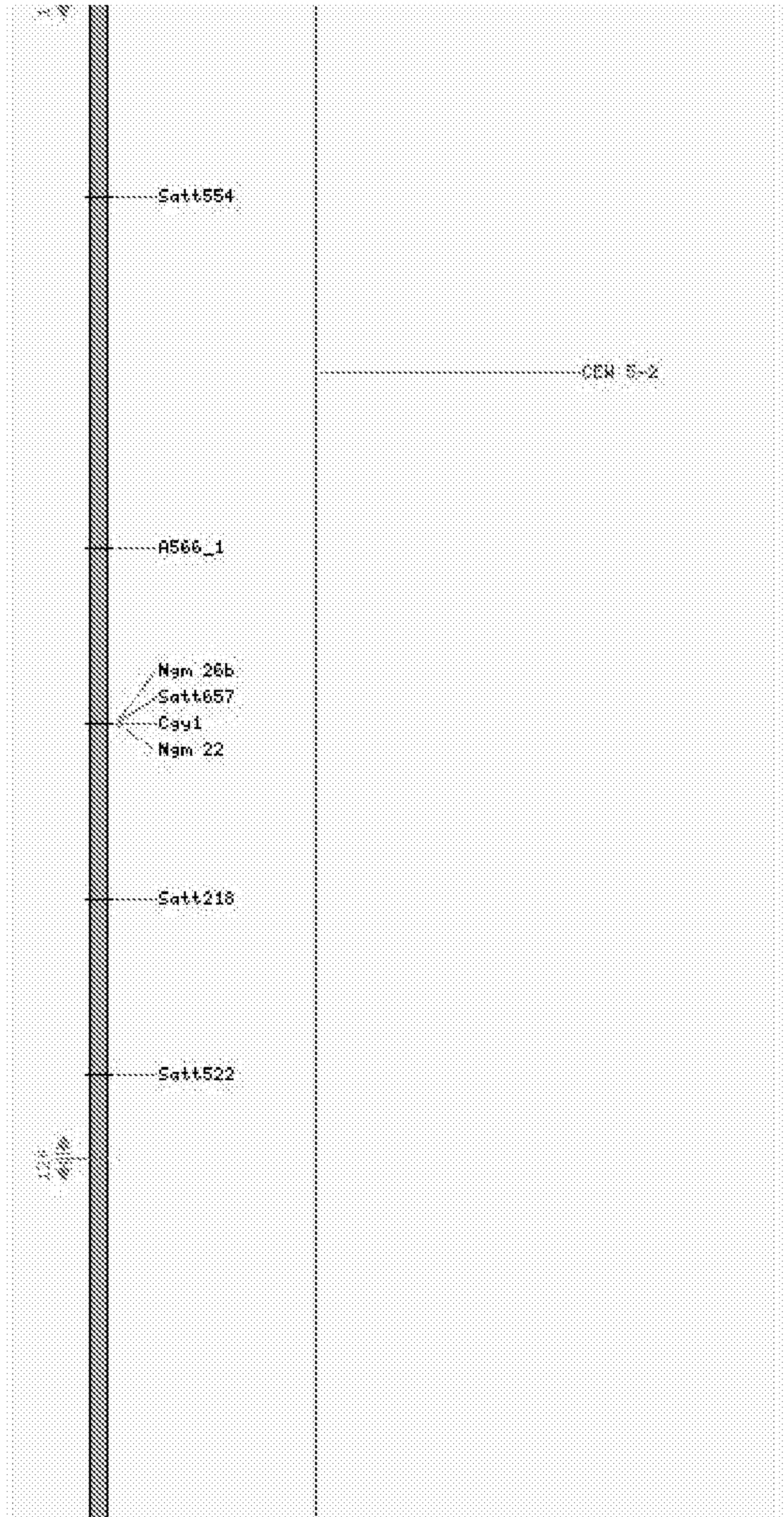
9/14

FIGURE 11



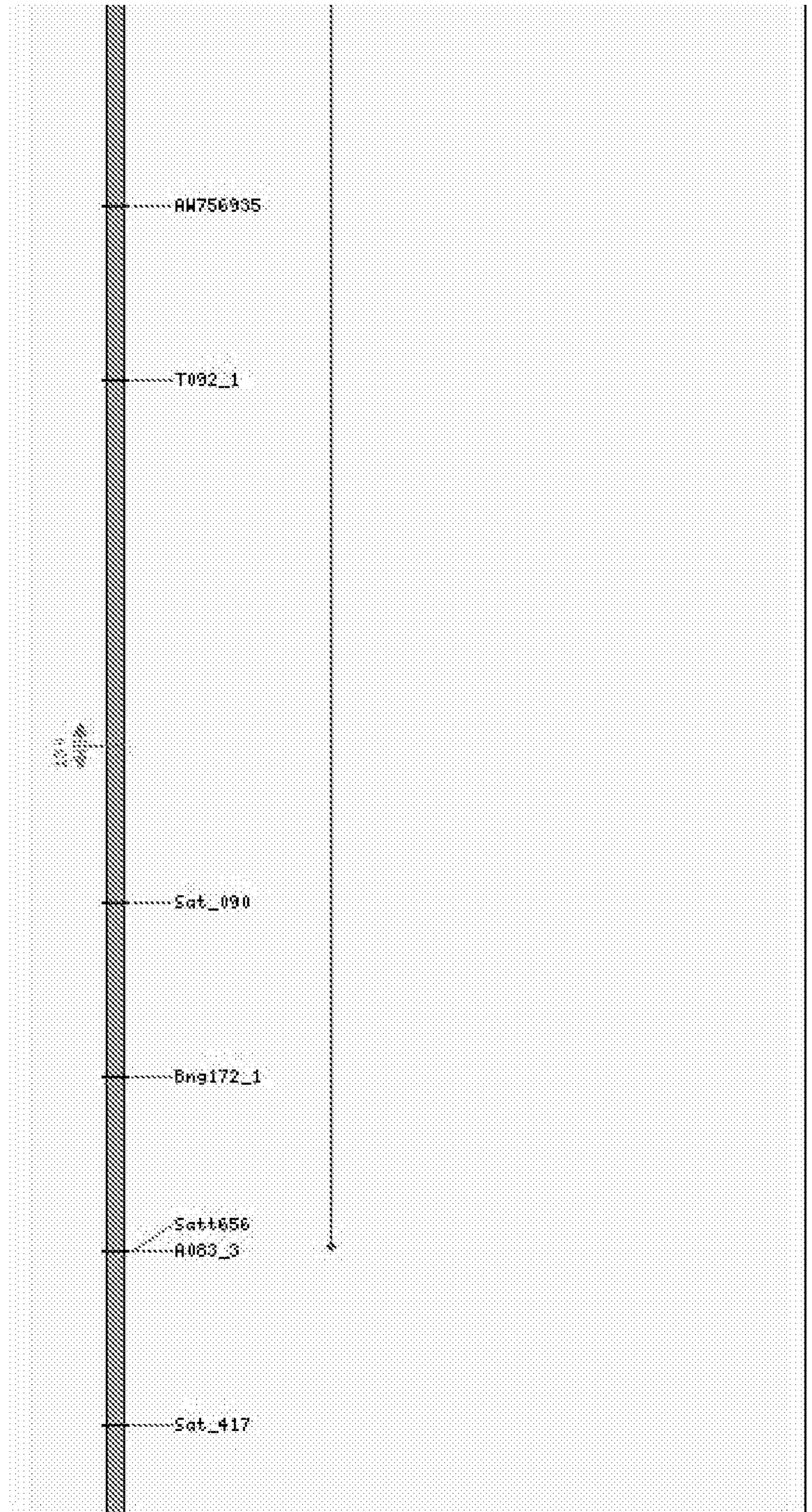
10/14

FIGURE 1J



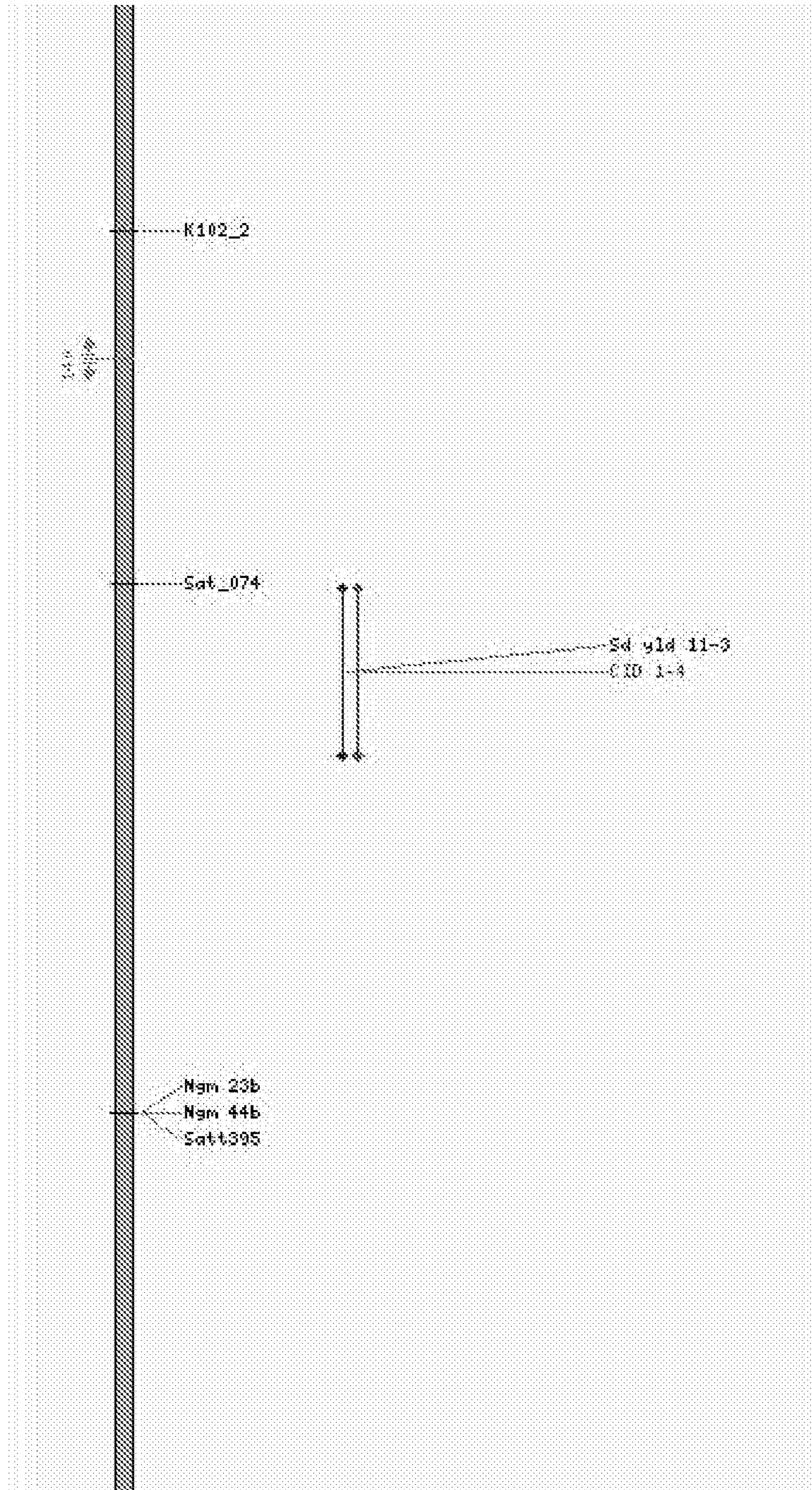
11/14

FIGURE 1K



12/14

FIGURE 1L



13/14

FIGURE 1M



14/14
FIGURE 2

