

Loss of inner kinetochore genes is associated with the transition to an unconventional point centromere in budding yeast

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Background: The genomic sequences of centromeres as well as the set of proteins that recognize and interact with centromeres are known to quickly diverge between lineages potentially contributing to post-zygotic reproductive isolation. However, the actual sequence of events and processes involved in the divergence of the kinetochore machinery is not known. The patterns of gene loss that occur during evolution concomitant with phenotypic changes have been used to understand the timing and order of molecular changes.

Methods: We screened the high quality genomes of twenty budding yeast species for the presence of well-studied kinetochore genes. Based on the conserved gene order and complete genome assemblies we identified gene loss events. Subsequently, we searched the intronic regions to identify any un-annotated genes or gene remnants to obtain additional evidence of gene loss.

Results: Our analysis identified the loss of four genes of the inner kinetochore constitutive centromere-associated network (CCAN) in both the *Naumovozyma* species for which genome assemblies are available. Surprisingly, this collective loss of four genes of the CCAN coincides with the origin of unconventional centromeres in *N.castellii* and *N.dairenensis*. Our study suggests a tentative link between the origin of unconventional point centromeres and turnover of kinetochore genes in budding yeast.

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Abstract

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Introduction

Increasing availability of genomic datasets across diverse species has allowed the use of comparative genomic approaches to study kinetochore evolution. Such comparative approaches

have led to interesting evolutionary insights from species with unique kinetochores (Drinnenberg and Akiyoshi 2017). The kinetochore associated protein interaction network has undergone frequent changes in gene content and also exhibits strong signatures of adaptive evolution (Malik and Henikoff 2001; Talbert et al. 2004; Schueler et al. 2010). The frequent turnover in the gene content of the kinetochore machinery while essentially performing the same function has even been equated to a “Ship of Theseus” (Drinnenberg et al. 2016). Kinetochore genes that form protein complexes also show patterns of co-evolution with interacting components through correlated gene loss events (Tromer 2017). Large-scale systematic screening for kinetochore genes in the genomes of numerous eukaryotes has shown that majority of the components of the CCAN (constitutive centromere-associated network) are lost in many lineages (van Hooff et al. 2017). Another unexpected observation is that the CENH3 (CSE4 homolog) gene which performs a central role in kinetochore function is lost in many insect species. This potentially recurrent loss of the CENH3 gene in insect species coincides with their transition to holocentricity (Drinnenberg et al. 2014). Interestingly, it has been shown that *C.elegans* holocentromeres are actually point centromeres that are dispersed at transcription factor hotspots (Steiner and Henikoff 2014). Hence, it has been speculated that changes in the gene content of kinetochores might be functionally related to transitions in the centromere type (Drinnenberg and Akiyoshi 2017).

Centromere sequences in the vast majority of species are repeat rich regions that are thought to be defined epigenetically and/or through recognition of dyad rich regions with non-B-form DNA structures (Kasinathan and Henikoff 2018). Despite advances in genome sequencing and assembly methods, the high repeat content of these centromeres makes it harder to assemble and study them. Hence, as a proxy to the study of centromere regions comparison of tandem repeats across large phylogenetic distances have been performed to understand the evolution of centromere sequences (Melters et al. 2013).

One of the most interesting transitions during centromere evolution is the origin of genetically defined point centromeres in budding yeasts (Malik and Henikoff 2009). These ~150bp long centromeres found in Saccharomycetaceae have been easier to study due to the lack of repetitive regions, availability of complete high quality genome assemblies for multiple closely related

species, gene knockout libraries and ease of experimental manipulation. Hence, budding yeast species are a popular system to study the evolution of centromeres and the set of proteins that interact with them (Roy and Sanyal 2011).

In addition to changing their sequences, centromeres are also known to change their genomic positions without any change in the karyotype (Montefalcone et al. 1999). However, centromere evolution can also be accompanied by changes in the karyotype (O'Neill et al. 2004). Within mammals, centromeres are known to have undergone multiple re-positioning events (Rocchi et al. 2012). Centromere repositioning events seem to be fairly common and could have a role in driving speciation or at the very least have a non-negligible role in affecting the local genomic selection landscape. Recently, it has been shown that in *Naumovozyma* an unconventional centromere has come into existence at a location that is largely distinct from that expected based on synteny with other *Saccharomycetaceae* species (Kobayashi et al. 2015). The *Naumovozyma* genus has been suggested as model for comparative genomics and study of adaptive evolution due to the various phenotypic differences compared to other yeast species (Karademir Andersson and Cohn 2017).

In this study, we first screened the genome assemblies of eight Pre-WGD and twelve Post-WGD yeast species for the presence/absence of homologs of 67 kinetochore genes. We find evidence for the concurrent loss of multiple genes from the CTF19 protein complex in *Naumovozyma* species and corresponding sequence divergence of the N-terminal region of the CSE4 gene that interacts with the CTF19 complex. In contrast to this we see high levels of sequence conservation of the C-terminal region of the CSE4 gene that mediates an interaction between the kinetochore and centromere. Our analysis finds an association between gene loss events and the origin of novel centromeres in *Naumovozyma* species.

Materials and Methods

Gene presence/absence screening

We compiled a list of 67 kinetochore associated genes in the yeast *S. cerevisiae* by downloading genes annotated with the GO term GO: 0000776 in Ensembl. Orthologs of these genes in all twenty yeast species were identified from the Yeast Gene Order Browser (YGOB). We screened

the genomes of all twenty yeast species for the presence of all 67 genes. Kinetochores are known to evolve at a very fast rate, making it hard to identify orthologs of these genes even in closely related species (van Hooff et al. 2017). Despite our precautions, it is possible that these genes have evolved at a very fast rate making it unfeasible to establish homology of these genes. Fortunately, the YGOB provides not only the order of the genes but also the intergenic sequences between genes. Based on flanking genes with conserved synteny in other species we identified the intergenic regions that correspond to the location of the missing genes. We checked these intergenic sequences for the presence of open reading frames (ORFs). The ORFs that were found in the intergenic regions did not show any homology to the genes that we have inferred to be lost. Based on the evidence from identification of syntenic regions using YGOB and additional screening of intergenic regions we are fairly confident of these gene loss events.

Multiple sequence alignments of CSE4 gene

The complete open reading frame of the CSE4 gene was used for multiple sequence alignment. To ensure that the results we see is not the result of alignment artifacts we performed the multiple sequence alignment at the nucleotide sequence level and amino acid residue level using three different programs (Clustal omega, M-coffee and Guidance with PRANK as the aligner). The presence of additional sequences in the genus *Naumovozyma* was seen in all of the multiple sequence alignments that we have analysed. It is possible that longer ORF's have been incorrectly annotated as the CDS for both *Naumovozyma* species. However, the second methionine codon in the CDS occurs at the 226th and 40th residue from the currently annotated start codon in *N. castellii* & *N. dairenensis* respectively. If the second methionine is the correct start codon, the *N. castellii* protein would be just 39 residues. This suggests that the correct ORF is annotated in *Naumovozyma* species. To further rule out the possibility of erroneous annotation of shorter ORF's in non-*naumovozyma* species we took the flanking introns and searched them for ORF's. We found that the longest ORF that could be identified in the sequence spanning across both flanking introns was the currently annotated ORF itself. This further supports the validity of the annotation and multiple sequence alignments generated by us.

Results

Patterns of kinetochore gene loss

Our study system consists of eight Pre-WGD and twelve Post-WGD yeast species at varying evolutionary distances (see **Fig. 1**). Based on our screening of twenty yeast genomes we identified seven genes that are lost in Pre-WGD species and eight genes that have lost both copies in Post-WGD species (see **Table S1**). Intriguingly, five of the eight genes (see **Table S1**) that have lost both their copies in the Post-WGD species are also the ones that are lost in the Pre-WGD species. This hints at the dispensability of these genes over the course of evolution. The gene presence/absence matrix for six selected genes that have lost both gene copies in Post-WGD species is presented in **Fig. 2**. First, we focus on the set of four genes (NKP1, NKP2, IML3, and CHL4) that are lost in *Naumovozyma*. As the name suggests, the Non-essential Kinetochore Protein genes NKP1 & NKP2 produce proteins that localise to kinetochores and produce viable single gene mutants (Cheeseman et al. 2002). However, both single gene mutants are known to show elevated rates of chromosome loss (Fernius and Marston 2009). Despite being non-essential genes, at least one copy of both of these genes is found in 15 of the 20 yeast species screened in this study. A broader phylogenetic search for homologs of these genes has shown repeated loss of these two genes in various taxa (Tromer 2017).

The CHL4 (CHromosome Loss 4) single gene knockouts are also viable but are known to show increased levels of chromosome loss, miss-segregation and abnormal kinetochores (Roy et al. 1997). However, based on the chromatin state CHL4 mutant cells are known to show two distinct (high and low) levels of mitotic mobility (Roy and Sanyal 2011). This suggests that CHL4 mutants can be compensated through changes in the chromatin state. IML3 (Increased Minichromosome Loss) protein forms a stable heterodimer with CHL4 protein (Hinshaw and Harrison 2013). Although IML3 and CHL4 are known interactors, the phylogenetic distribution of IML3 seems to be more restricted than that of CHL4. The association of cohesin with the pericentromeric regions is ensured by the action of IML3 and CHL4. The lack of these two genes leads to reduced cohesin binding at the pericentromere that results in miss-segregation of chromosomes (Fernius and Marston 2009). While the gene loss events in *Naumovozyma* are very interesting, they are not the only kinetochore genes that we identify as missing both copies among the twenty species screened. Two other genes (CNN1 & WIP1) of the CCAN are lost in another yeast species *T. blattae* (see **Fig. 2**).

N-terminal divergence of CSE4 gene in Naumovozyma

Detailed study of the interactions between kinetochore proteins in *S. cerevisiae* has led to a better understanding of their individual roles (Measday et al. 2005; Baetz et al. 2006). However, the evolution of the kinetochore network across Eukaryotes has been shown to be a complex process that requires further investigation (van Hooff et al. 2017). In the current study, we have focussed on well-studied genetic interactions (see **Fig. 3A**) of the selected genes that have lost both copies in Post-WGD yeast species. Chromatin Immuno-Precipitation (ChIP) of CSE4 protein followed by sequencing of DNA fragments was used by Kobayashi et al. (2015) to identify all the CSE4 binding sites in the *N. castellii* genome. Based on this experimental data for CSE4 along with similar ChIP-seq data for the NDC10, NDC80 and CEP3 proteins the locations of the new centromeres in *N. castellii* have been validated (Kobayashi et al. 2015). The multiple sequence alignment of amino-acid sequences across the study species (see **Fig. 3B**) shows that the CSE4 genes of *N. castellii* and *N. dairenensis* have a stretch of approximately 10 amino acid residues at the very beginning of the CSE4 gene that are absent in other species. It is known that the C-terminal of the CSE4 protein binds to centromeric DNA sequence and the N-terminal interacts with the CTF19 complex (Chen et al. 2000). The N-terminal region has overall reduced sequence conservation across all species compared to the C-terminal region. The N-terminal of the CSE4 protein has been shown to play a role in the ubiquitin-mediated proteolysis of the CSE4 protein (Au et al. 2013). More recently, sumoylation and ubiquitination of the N-terminal have been shown to be required to prevent mislocalization of CSE4 to non-centromeric chromatin (Ohkuni et al. 2018). The lysine 65 residue (K65) in the CSE4 gene has been identified as the residue important for proper localisation. Changes in the N-terminal region of CSE4 gene could have led to changes in the post-translational modifications resulting in changes in the localisation patterns and subsequent movement of centromeres in *Naumovozyma*.

In Post-WGD species, most (58 out of 67) of the kinetochore genes have lost at least one of the copies that resulted during the WGD event. Only nine genes have retained both copies in at least one Post-WGD species. This set of nine genes could have been retained to maintain a certain dosage of expression or might have diverged in function through neo or sub functionalisation

(Zhang 2003; Qian and Zhang 2014). The YBP1 gene is the only kinetochore gene that is present in all Pre-WGD species that has also retained both copies in all Post-WGD species. HRR25 is found in two copies in *K. africana*, *K. naganishii*, *N. castellii*, *N. dairenensis*, *T. blattae*, *T. phaffii*, and *V. polyspora*. The CIN8 gene has retained two copies each in both *T. phaffii* and *V. polyspora*. MAD1 gene is present in two copies only in *V. polyspora* and RTS1 occurs twice only in *T. blattae*. BUB1 is present in two copies in all Post-WGD species except *T. blattae*, *T. phaffii* and *V. polyspora*. The gene CRM1 has the most intricate pattern of gene loss with single copies found in *K. naganishii*, *S. uvarum*, *S. cerevisiae*, *S. kudriavzevii*, *S. mikatae* and *T. blattae*.

The MPS1 gene has retained two copies in *N. castellii* but has lost one of the copies in all other Post-WGD species including *N. dairenensis*. Interestingly, the copy that has been lost in *N. dairenensis* is different from the copy that has been lost in the other Post-WGD species (see **Table S1**). This suggests a more recent potentially independent gene loss in *N. dairenensis*. MIF2 has retained two copies only in *N. castellii*. These gene copy differences within *Naumovozyma* might reflect the ongoing process of kinetochore evolution in this genus. It is of special interest to note that MPS1 gene is required for correct localisation of kinetochore components (Vigneron 2004). Experimental evaluation of the roles of these genes in terms of gene dosage as well as compensation ability with respect to chromosome segregation phenotypes would be able to provide a better idea about the molecular details.

A recent study has established that centromere regions are defined by the presence of Non-B-form DNA structures resulting from the presence of dyad symmetry in the nucleotide sequence (Kasinathan and Henikoff 2018). This same study found that while the new *Naumovozyma* centromeres are enriched for dyad symmetries and non-B-form DNA, the dyad symmetry was less and the SIST DNA melting and cruciform extrusion scores were lower in *Naumovozyma* (*sensu lato*) compared to *sensu strictu* species (see Figure 6 of Kasinathan and Henikoff 2018). However, they utilised the contrast of *sensu stricto* vs *sensu lato* with very few species to make this comparison. Using a larger sample size (centromeres from various budding yeast species) we show that the GC content shows a significant negative correlation (Pearson's correlation coefficient r of -0.33 , p -value: $1.157e-6$) with dyad density (see **Fig. 4**). This correlation is

reflective of the genome-wide pattern seen in *S. cerevisiae* (Lisnić et al. 2005). By establishing the presence of this correlation even for the nucleotide sequences of centromeres we are able to understand some of the variance seen in dyad density across budding yeast species.

The unconventional centromeres in the yeast species *N. castellii* and *N. dairenensis* are in most cases located at a different genomic locus compared to the point centromeres found in other budding yeast species such as *S. cerevisiae* (Kobayashi et al. 2015). This movement of centromeres has partly been attributed to chromosomal re-arrangements. We show that the GC content of the introns corresponding to the older (*S. cerevisiae* like) centromeres is very high and dyad density is low (see **Fig. 4**; red coloured circles and squares). On the other hand the new unconventional centromeres that have been identified in *Naumovozyma* (see **Fig. 4**; blue coloured circles and squares) are having higher dyad densities and lower GC content. We note that the pattern is the same for both *Naumovozyma* species (see **Fig. 4**; filled squares for *N. castellii* and filled circles for *N. dairenensis*). This change in dyad density and GC content probably reflects a divergence that occurred after the change in the location of the centromere.

Discussion

The role of gene-flow during the process of speciation has been the focus of considerable debate especially with respect to natural hybrid zones (Barton and Hewitt 1985; Slatkin 1987). The recent availability of large-scale genomic datasets has accentuated the role of gene-flow resulting in the development of models of speciation with gene flow (Feder et al. 2012). Prevalence of such unexpected gene-flow across relatively large evolutionary distances has important implications for how reproductive isolation builds up between species (Harrison and Larson 2014; Payseur and Rieseberg 2016). This has motivated re-evaluation of the speciation phases at which karyotype and centromere evolution are important (Brown and O'Neill 2010; Faria and Navarro 2010). Another aspect that has received considerable attention is the nucleotide sequence divergence of centromere proximal regions (Stump et al. 2005; Ellegren et al. 2012). However, there is no consensus on the role, if any, that restricted recombination at centromeres has on maintaining species boundaries (Noor and Bennett 2009; Cruickshank and Hahn 2014).

Nucleotide sequence divergence at the centromeres themselves as well as in the genes that recognise and bind to centromeres have been proposed as potential mechanisms for the build-up

of post-zygotic reproductive isolation (Borodin et al. 2001). The paradoxical behaviour of centromeres to evolve rapidly while still being inherited stably makes them good candidates for loci that contribute to the process of speciation (Henikoff et al. 2001). However, the observation that *Drosophila* species produce fertile offspring despite the extensive divergence of the sequence of centromere binding proteins seems to contradict this idea (Sainz et al. 2003; but see Thomae et al. 2013). Computational identification and functional characterisation of the effects of sequence divergence, loss and duplication of the kinetochore genes in diverse species will help clarify the role of the centromere in facilitating reproductive isolation.

In this study, we provide evidence that suggests that both copies of four genes of the CCAN are lost in *Naumovozyma* budding yeast species that have transitioned to unconventional centromeres (Kobayashi et al. 2015). The loss of these CCAN genes that are from the CTF19 complex is potentially mediated by changes in the N-terminal region of the CSE4 gene (see **Fig. 3B**). Although we have no experimental data to suggest that the changes in the N-terminal region of the CSE4 gene are a consequence of changes in the sequence of the centromere being bound by the C-terminal region, it is one potential scenario that could explain the observed association between gene loss and transition to unconventional centromeres. In contrast to the well-studied case of loss of CENH3 (CSE4 homolog) gene in multiple insect lineages (Drimmenberg et al. 2014) and the multiple cases of exon gain and loss (Fan et al. 2013), we show that transition to a new centromere sequence might be sufficient for the loss of CCAN genes. Understanding the sequence of events involved in the loss of the CCAN genes and origin of the unconventional centromere in budding yeast species would help understand the loss of CCAN genes in various eukaryotic lineages (van Hooff et al. 2017). The CSE4 gene has an additional sequence in *Naumovozyma* compared to other species suggesting that the unconventional centromeres might potentially be remnants of the ancestral state of point centromeres. We discuss few other potential scenarios for the sequence of events that could have led to the association observed.

The dispensability of the genes that are lost in *Naumovozyma* is supported by the viability of *S. cerevisiae* knockouts and independent loss in the two Pre-WGD *Eremothecium* species. It is possible that initially these genes were sequentially lost and the origin of novel centromeres was an adaptive response to compensate for the lost genes. Yet, the loss of three out of these four genes in *Eremothecium* species (*E. gossypii* and *E. cymbalariae*) does not seem to be associated

with any noticeable changes in centromere type. The evolution of novel centromeres could just be one possible solution to the loss of these genes from the CCAN and Eremothecium species might have come up with a different solution. Further phenotypic characterisation of Eremothecium species might shed light on this.

It has been shown that loss of RNAi leads to a shortening of the centromeres and is an important determinant of centromere evolution in fungi (Yadav et al. 2018). The *N. castellii* species in addition to having unconventional point centromeres have also been shown to have a functional RNA interference pathway (Drinnenberg et al. 2009). Despite having a role in fission yeast heterochromatin specification at the centromeres, siRNA's have not been found to have any centromere specific role in *N. castellii* (Kobayashi et al. 2015). Nonetheless, it would be interesting to know what role the presence of RNAi machinery in *Naumovozyma* might have had in the loss of CCAN genes. The Drinnenberg et al. study (2009) reports the gene expression fold change of ago1 knockout and dcr1 knockout in *N. castellii* compared to the wild type. However, none of the genes showing a fold-change greater than two are part of the kinetochore gene set.

The function of the genes lost in *Naumovozyma* may be performed by genes that are found in *Naumovozyma* but are absent in *S. cerevisiae*. *Naumovozyma* species have 46 genes that are absent in the other 18 species analysed in this study. To evaluate whether any of these genus specific genes could have taken over the role performed by the four missing genes, we identified homologs of each of these genes by performing blastp search against the non-redundant protein database with an e-value cut-off of 10^{-3} . None of the identified homologs had a characterised role related to the kinetochore machinery.

The current study does not perform any experimental characterisation of phenotypes across the twenty yeast species that would be caused by knocking out the genes that we identify as lost. However, kinetochore genes have been studied extensively in *S. cerevisiae*. Single and double gene knockouts have been phenotypically characterised in great detail (Measday et al. 2005). This functional data from *S. cerevisiae* can be extrapolated to other species by supplementing it with computational predictions. Such extrapolation would, of course, have to be experimentally verified by subsequent studies in the focal species. Hence, our study is merely focussed on

demonstrating strong patterns of associations that suggests kinetochore network rewiring in Naumovozyma.

Stable separation of chromosomes into daughter cells requires proper functioning of the kinetochore machinery. Reduced efficiency in such segregation of chromosomes would result in reduced fertility. The high levels of gene turnover seen in kinetochore genes suggest frequent changes in the interactome of kinetochore genes. Such frequent changes in gene content could lead to differences in the interactome of closely related species. These differences in the interactome can have a prominent role in mediating speciation through reproductive isolation. Reconstruction of the sequence of events leading to turnover of kinetochore machinery and centromere sequence at the molecular level in budding yeast species might serve as good test case for understanding its role in speciation.

Conclusions

Rapid changes in the genomic sequence of centromeres and associated kinetochore proteins between closely related species are thought to have an important role in speciation. Yet, it is not conclusively known whether the centromere sequence divergence occur first or kinetochore proteins evolve to use a different centromere sequence. We look at patterns of kinetochore gene loss in twenty species of yeast to identify major lineage specific events. Interestingly, the loss of four genes of the CCAN coincides with the origin of unconventional centromeres in *N.castellii* and *N.dairenensis*. We speculate that loss of these genes might have occurred subsequent to the divergence of the centromere sequences as their role might have been taken over by other genes. While our results cannot establish the sequence of events, the identified lineage specific loss of kinetochores genes that are known to functionally interact serves as a molecular footprint of genetic changes that contribute to reproductive isolation between species.

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Figure legends

Figure 1: Phylogenetic relationship between budding yeast species. The whole genome duplication event separating the Pre-WGD and Post-WGD species is denoted by a green dot. Point centromeres are common to all twenty budding yeast species and their origin is depicted by a dark blue dot. Origin of unconventional point centromere in *Naumovozyma* is depicted by a light blue dot.

Figure 2: Patterns of kinetochore gene loss events across the twenty species. Gene IDs of NKP1, NKP2, IML3, CHL4, CNN1 and WIP1 from YGOB are provided for each species.

The genes missing in both Post-WGD copies are coloured red. Missing in only one Post-WGD copy is coloured light blue. Missing in the Pre-WGD copy is coloured orange. Present in Pre-WGD is coloured light green.

Figure 3: Known genetic and physical interactions between lost kinetochore genes. (A)

Network representing the known/predicted biological interactions between various kinetochore genes in *S. cerevisiae* as annotated in the String database (von Mering et al. 2003). **(B)** Multiple sequence alignment (Clustal omega) of the amino acid residues in the CSE4 gene from twenty yeast species. *Naumovozyma* species show additional stretches of amino acids that are missing in the other yeast species.

Figure 4: Negative correlation between GC content and dyad density at the point

centromeres across budding yeast species. The filled squares represent *N. castellii* and filled circles show *N. dairenensis*. Red colour is used for the intronic regions corresponding to the older (*S. cerevisiae* like) centromeres. Blue colour is used for the new unconventional centromeres that have been identified in *Naumovozyma*. Centromeres of the remaining budding species are coloured black except for four of the centromeres that are coloured brown (*S. uvarum* centromeres that have gaps in the genome assembly).

Figure 1

Phylogenetic relationship between budding yeast species

The whole genome duplication event separating the Pre-WGD and Post-WGD species is denoted by a green dot. Point centromeres are common to all twenty budding yeast species and their origin is depicted by a dark blue dot. Origin of unconventional point centromere in *Naumovozyma* is depicted by a light blue dot.

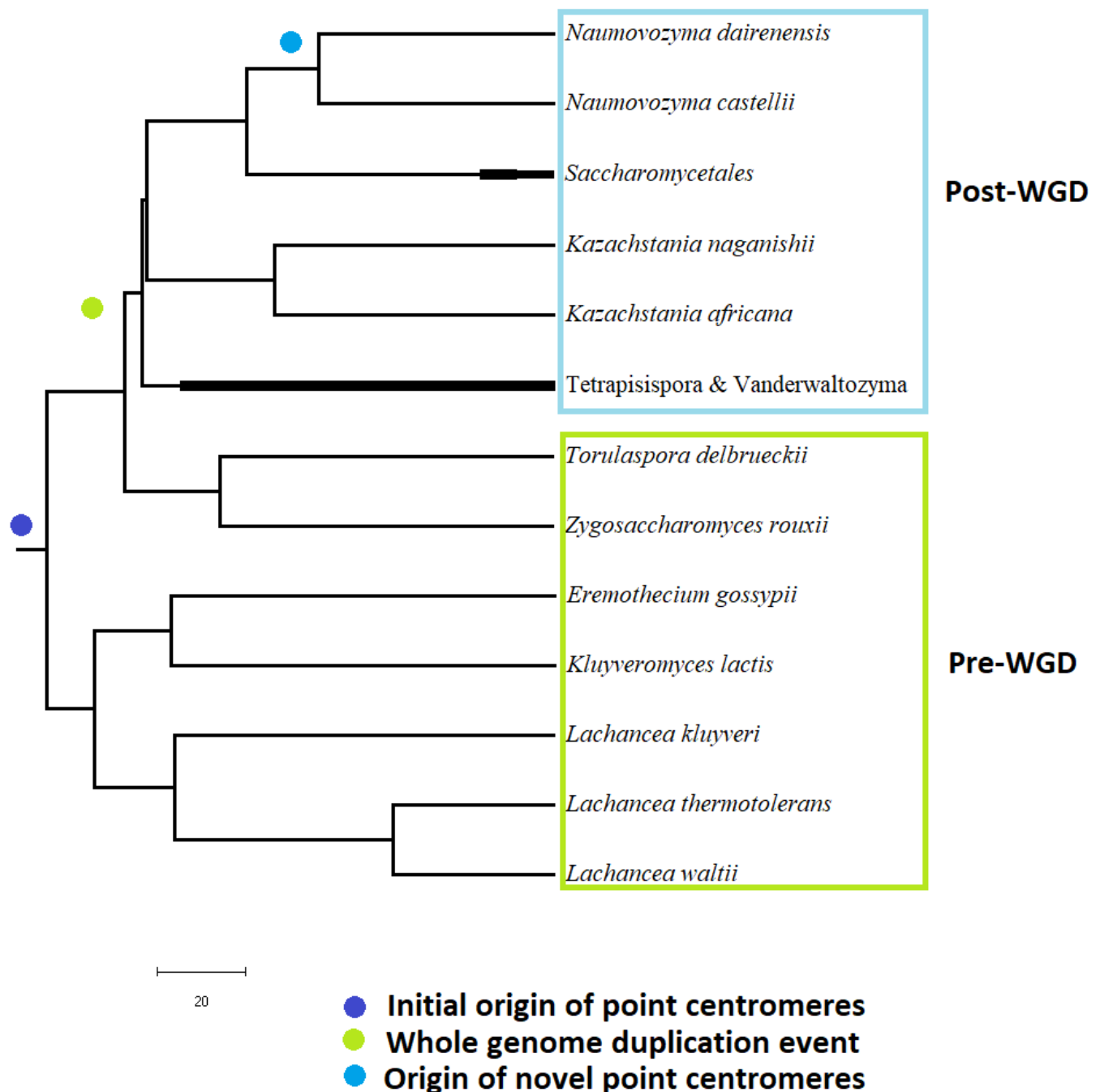


Figure 2

Patterns of kinetochore gene loss events across the twenty species

Gene IDs of NKP1, NKP2, IML3, CHL4, CNN1 and WIP1 from YGOB are provided for each species. The genes missing in both Post-WGD copies are coloured red. Missing in only one Post-WGD copy is coloured light blue. Missing in the Pre-WGD copy is coloured orange. Present in Pre-WGD is coloured light green.

| Gene name | <i>N.castellii A</i> | <i>N.castellii B</i> | <i>N.dairenensis A</i> | <i>N.dairenensis B</i> | | | | | | |
|-----------|----------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| NKP1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | | | | | | |
| NKP2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | | | | | | |
| IML3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | | | | | | |
| CHL4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | | | | | | |
| CNN1 | NCAS0F03940 | ... | NDAI0B06250 | ... | | | | | | |
| WIP1 | NCAS0A11780 | ... | NDAI0A04510 | ... | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gene name | <i>C.glabrata A</i> | <i>C.glabrata B</i> | <i>S.savaran A</i> | <i>S.savaran B</i> | <i>S.kudriavzevii A</i> | <i>S.kudriavzevii B</i> | <i>S.mikatae A</i> | <i>S.mikatae B</i> | <i>S.cerevisiae A</i> | <i>S.cerevisiae B</i> |
| NKP1 | CAGL0A03190g | ... | Sava_2,558 | ... | Skud_4,655 | ... | Smik_4,653 | ... | YDR383C | ... |
| NKP2 | ... | CAGL0F08591g | Sava_10,412 | ... | Skud_12,400 | ... | Smik_12,401 | ... | YLR315W | ... |
| IML3 | CAGL0K12298g | ... | Sava_4,354 | ... | Skud_2,233 | ... | Smik_2,247 | ... | YBR107C | ... |
| CHL4 | CAGL0B02673g | ... | Sava_2,420 | ... | Skud_4,516 | ... | Smik_4,501 | ... | YDR254W | ... |
| CNN1 | CAGL0C01991g | ... | Sava_12,11 | ... | Skud_6,137 | ... | Smik_7,366 | ... | YFR046C | ... |
| WIP1 | Cgla_YGOB_YDR374W-A | ... | Sava_2,547 | ... | Skud_4,644 | ... | Smik_4,642 | ... | YDR374W-A | ... |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gene name | <i>K.africana A</i> | <i>K.africana B</i> | <i>K.naganishii A</i> | <i>K.naganishii B</i> | <i>T.blattae A</i> | <i>T.blattae B</i> | <i>T.phaffii A</i> | <i>T.phaffii B</i> | <i>V.polyspora A</i> | <i>V.polyspora B</i> |
| NKP1 | KAFR0E03690 | ... | KNAG0C04700 | ... | TBLA0A08000 | ... | TPHA0E01560 | ... | Kpol_543.1 | ... |
| NKP2 | KAFR0J01380 | ... | KNAG0C05870 | ... | ... | ... | TPHA0K01510 | ... | Kpol_1062.50 | ... |
| IML3 | KAFR0E02720 | ... | KNAG0B01510 | ... | TBLA0B02410 | ... | TPHA0A01590 | ... | Kpol_1065.19 | ... |
| CHL4 | KAFR0E02910 | ... | KNAG0A04020 | ... | ... | ... | TPHA0L01360 | ... | ... | Kpol_1031.77 |
| CNN1 | KAFR0J00200 | ... | KNAG0D02930 | ... | ... | ... | ... | TPHA0N01270 | ... | Kpol_460.17 |
| WIP1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | TPHA0E01670 | ... | ... | ... |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gene name | <i>L.waltii</i> | <i>L.thermosiderans</i> | <i>L.khuyveri</i> | <i>E.cymbalariae</i> | <i>E.gossypii</i> | <i>K.lactis</i> | <i>T.delbrueckii</i> | <i>Z.rouxii</i> | | |
| NKP1 | Kwal_55,21322 | KLTH0F1535g | SAKLOG01190g | ... | ... | KLLA0E02883g | TDEL0A01270 | ZYRO0B02420g | | |
| NKP2 | Kwal_47,17609 | Kbhe_YGOB_Anc_4,132 | SAKLOH02726g | ... | ... | KLLA0C18425g | TDEL0D03200 | ZYRO0G10802g | | |
| IML3 | Kwal_23,3739 | KLTH0F10670g | SAKLOH07766g | ... | ... | ... | TDEL0C05000 | ZYRO0C16302g | | |
| CHL4 | Kwal_27,11838 | KLTH0E11440g | SAKLOH11308g | Ecym_2542 | AGL251C | KLLA0D11770g | TDEL0B01450 | ZYRO0F08316g | | |
| CNN1 | Kwal_47,19240 | KLTH0G09902g | SAKLOF01012g | Ecym_2588 | AFR256C | KLLA0A00913g | TDEL0D06270 | ZYRO0E09350g | | |
| WIP1 | Kwal_YGOB_YDR374W-A | Kbhe_YGOB_YDR374W-A | Sku_YGOB_YDR374W-A | ... | Agos_YGOB_YDR374W-A | KLLA0E02465g | TDEL0D02540 | ZYRO0G01694g | | |

Figure 3

Known genetic and physical interactions between lost kinetochore genes

(A) Network representing the known/predicted biological interactions between various kinetochore genes in *S. cerevisiae* as annotated in the String database (von Mering et al. 2003). **(B)** Multiple sequence alignment (Clustal omega) of the amino acid residues in the CSE4 gene from twenty yeast species. *Naumovozyma* species show additional stretches of amino acids that are missing in the other yeast species.

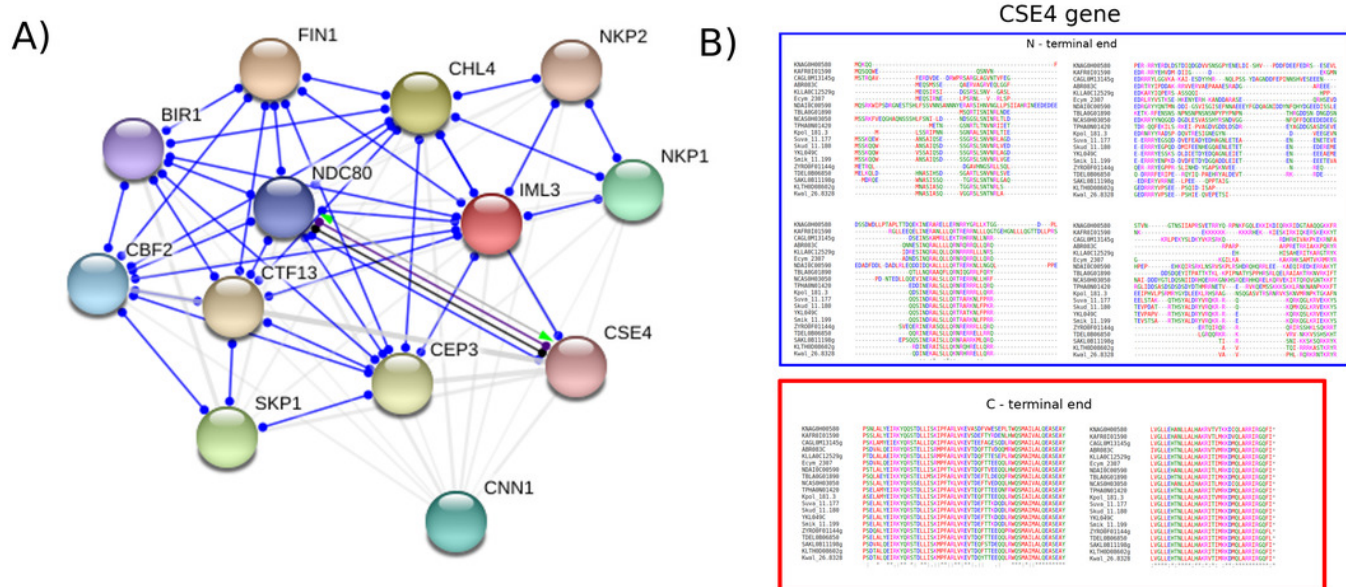


Figure 4

Negative correlation between GC content and dyad density at the point centromeres across budding yeast species

The filled squares represent *N. castellii* and filled circles show *N. dairenensis*. Red colour is used for the intronic regions corresponding to the older (*S. cerevisiae* like) centromeres. Blue colour is used for the new unconventional centromeres that have been identified in *Naumovozyma*. Centromeres of the remaining budding species are coloured black except for four of the centromeres that are coloured brown (*S. uvarum* centromeres that have gaps in the genome assembly).

