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Whole-genome comparisons of *Penicillium* spp. reveals secondary metabolic gene clusters and candidate genes associated with fungal aggressiveness during apple fruit decay

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Blue mold is a postharvest rot of pomaceous fruits caused by *Penicillium expansum* and a number of other *Penicillium* species. The genome of the highly aggressive *P. expansum* strain R19 was re-sequenced and analyzed together with the genome of the less aggressive *P. solitum* strain RS1. Whole genome scale similarities and differences were examined. A phylogenetic analysis of *P. expansum*, *P. solitum*, and several closely related *Penicillium* species revealed that the two pathogens isolated from decayed apple with blue mold symptoms are not each other's closest relatives. Among a total of 10,560 and 10,672 protein coding sequences respectively, a comparative genomics analysis revealed 41 genes in *P. expansum* R19 and 43 genes in *P. solitum* RS1 that are unique to these two species. These genes may be associated with pome fruit-fungal interactions, subsequent decay processes, and mycotoxin accumulation. An intact patulin gene cluster consisting of 15 biosynthetic genes was identified in the patulin producing *P. expansum* strain R19, while only a remnant, seven-gene cluster was identified in the patulin-deficient *P. solitum* strain. However, *P. solitum* contained a large number of additional secondary metabolite gene clusters indicating that this species has the potential capacity to produce an array of known, as well as not-yet-identified products, of possible toxicological or biotechnological interest.

1 **Whole-genome comparisons of *Penicillium* spp. reveals secondary metabolic gene clusters**
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15

16 **ABSTRACT**

17 Blue mold is a postharvest rot of pomaceous fruits caused by *Penicillium expansum* and a number
18 of other *Penicillium* species. The genome of the highly aggressive *P. expansum* strain R19 was re-
19 sequenced and analyzed together with the genome of the less aggressive *P. solitum* strain RS1.
20 Whole genome scale similarities and differences were examined. A phylogenetic analysis of *P.*
21 *expansum*, *P. solitum*, and several closely related *Penicillium* species revealed that the two
22 pathogens isolated from decayed apple with blue mold symptoms are not each other's closest
23 relatives. Among a total of 10,560 and 10,672 protein coding sequences respectively, a
24 comparative genomics analysis revealed 41 genes in *P. expansum* R19 and 43 genes in *P. solitum*
25 RS1 that are unique to these two species. These genes may be associated with pome fruit–fungal
26 interactions, subsequent decay processes, and mycotoxin accumulation. An intact patulin gene
27 cluster consisting of 15 biosynthetic genes was identified in the patulin producing *P. expansum*
28 strain R19, while only a remnant, seven-gene cluster was identified in the patulin-deficient *P.*
29 *solitum* strain. However, *P. solitum* contained a large number of additional secondary metabolite
30 gene clusters indicating that this species has the potential capacity to produce an array of known,
31 as well as not-yet-identified products, of possible toxicological or biotechnological interest.

32 INTRODUCTION

33 Postharvest “blue mold” is the most common and economically deleterious pome fruit rot
34 worldwide (Rosenberger, 1990; Xiao & Boal, 2009). Many *Penicillium* species (*P.*
35 *aurantiogriseum*, *P. carneum*, *P. commune*, *P. brevicompactum*, *P. crustosum*, *P. solitum*, *P.*
36 *verrucosum* and *P. expansum*) cause blue mold during long-term storage of apples, pears, quince
37 and sometimes other fruits (Raper & Thom, 1949; Sanderson & Spotts, 1995; Sholberg & Haag,
38 1996; Pianzola, Moscatelli & Vero, 2004). The fungus gains access to stored fruits primarily
39 through stem punctures/wounds and bruises. On apples, *P. expansum* is the most cosmopolitan
40 and aggressive species (Pianzola, Moscatelli & Vero, 2004) while *P. solitum* is less aggressive
41 and causes significantly less decay in storage (Pitt et al., 1991).

42 Isolates of *P. expansum* regularly produce patulin, a regulated mycotoxin, while all tested
43 *P. solitum* isolates are non-toxigenic (Frisvad, 2004; Jurick et al., 2010). Comparisons of the
44 patulin biosynthetic pathway have been conducted between *P. expansum*, *P. italicum* and *P.*
45 *digitatum* but not other blue mold causing fungi (Li et al., 2015). By comparing the genomes of
46 the aggressive and toxigenic *P. expansum*, the less aggressive and nontoxigenic *P. solitum*, and
47 other closely related *Penicillium* species, we sought to identify differences that provide insights
48 into blue mold decay of stored pome fruits. With the aim of devising novel strategies for
49 management of these economically important fungi, it is important to understand the genetic basis
50 of the secondary metabolite production which is facilitated by a well sequenced and annotated
51 genome.

52 *Penicillium expansum* R19 was the first *P. expansum* strain to be sequenced, published and
53 released to the public domain (Yu et al., 2014). Although several other strains of *P. expansum* have
54 been sequenced since that time (Li et al., 2015; Ballester et al., 2015), to the best of our knowledge,

55 there has been no comparative genomic analysis amongst *Penicillium* species causing blue mold
56 on pome fruit. Therefore, we conducted a detailed study comparing different species of these fungi
57 at the genome level. Recently, we sequenced the genome of *P. solitum* strain RS1 and achieved a
58 high-quality assembly (Yu et al., 2016). Here, we re-sequenced the highly aggressive and patulin-
59 producing *P. expansum* strain R19 to achieve a better assembly, and then compared the two blue
60 mold genomes to each other, as well as to the genomes of five other *Penicillium* species that inhabit
61 different ecological niches and hosts.

62 Our analysis included the genomes of two citrus pathogens, *Penicillium digitatum* (“pdi”)
63 (Marcet-Houben et al., 2012) and *Penicillium italicum* (“pit”) (Ballester et al., 2015); two cheese
64 making species, *Penicillium camemberti* (“pca”) and *Penicillium roqueforti* (“pro”) (Cheeseman
65 et al., 2014); and the penicillin-producing industrial strain *Penicillium chrysogenum* (“pch”) (van
66 den Berg et al., 2008). We report differences and similarities in the gene repertoires of *P. expansum*
67 and *P. solitum*, and discuss the potential functions of some of their unique genes. A robust
68 phylogenetic analysis was performed using nearly four hundred core eukaryotic genes (CEGs) to
69 compare the two blue mold species to the five other *Penicillium* genomes. Our data provides a
70 solid platform to further explore the genetic basis of the differences in the ability of *P. expansum*
71 and *P. solitum* to cause postharvest decay of pome fruits, uncover new insights into secondary
72 metabolic gene clusters, and strengthen our understanding of genome-wide phylogenetic
73 relationships amongst economically important *Penicillium* species.

74 MATERIALS AND METHODS

75 Fungal growth, genomic DNA extraction, genome sequencing, assembly, and annotation

76 Growth, both in culture and *in vivo* including inoculation of apple, and genomic DNA extraction
77 of *P. expansum* R19 were conducted using the same approaches as previously published (Conway,

78 1982; Yu et al., 2014). The sequencing, assembly, and annotation pipeline previously described in
 79 our study on *P. solitum* RS1 (Yu et al., 2016) was used for the genome of *P. expansum* R19.
 80 Briefly, the assembly was conducted using HGAP3 under default settings, which applies long read
 81 correction algorithms and the Celera assembler to confidently produce high quality contigs
 82 (unitigs) using reads from PacBio Single Molecule Real Time (SMRT) sequencing technology
 83 (Ricker et al., 2016). The annotation software MAKER (Holt & Yandell, 2011) was implemented
 84 for four iterative runs starting with gene predictions from CEGMA (Parra, Bradnam & Korf, 2007).
 85 This newly sequenced *P. expansum* genome was 32,356,049 bp which is 97.3% of the currently
 86 published *P. expansum* MD-8 genome. The BUSCO (v. 3.0.2) analysis resulted in 289 complete
 87 BUSCOs out of 290 (dikarya odb9) and one fragmented BUSCO for a 99.7% complete assembly
 88 (Waterhouse et al., 2018). In the annotation step, *P. solitum* proteins were used as a part of the
 89 protein evidence set instead of *P. expansum* proteins.

90 ***Penicillium* species phylogenomics**

91 Whole genome phylogeny of seven *Penicillium* species and one *Aspergillus flavus* strain was built
 92 using peptide sequences of shared core eukaryotic genes (CEGs) as predicted by CEGMA (Parra,
 93 Bradnam & Korf, 2007). The source data for the other included genomes came from NCBI and
 94 EMBL, *A. flavus* NRRL 3357 (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/nucleotide/EQ963472>), *P. digitatum*
 95 Pd1(http://fungi.ensembl.org/Penicillium_digitatum_pd1_gca_000315645/Info/Index), *P.*

96 *camemberti* FM 013
 97 (https://fungi.ensembl.org/Penicillium_camemberti_fm_013_gca_000513335/Info/Index), *P.*
 98 *chrysogenum* Wisconsin 54-1255
 99 (http://fungi.ensembl.org/Penicillium_rubens_wisconsin_54_1255_gca_000226395/Info/Index),
 100 *P. italicum* PHI-1 (<https://genome.jgi.doe.gov/Penita1/Penita1.home.html>), and *P. roqueforti* FM

101 164 (https://fungi.ensembl.org/Penicillium_roqueforti_fm164_gca_000513255/Info/Index). We
102 used a set of 399 CEGs that satisfy the following criteria: 1) They are present in all eight above-
103 mentioned genomes; 2) all sequences are at least 90% the length of their *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*
104 orthologs (Engel et al., 2014). Sequences were first aligned with MAFFT with parameters --
105 localpair --maxiterate 1000 (Kato et al., 2002), and then concatenated. The phylogeny was
106 inferred using RAxML (Stamatakis, 2006) with the parameters “-f a -# 400 -m
107 PROTGAMMAJTT”.

108 **Markov cluster algorithm (MCL) clustering**

109 The protein sequences of the seven selected *Penicillium* species were subjected to BLAST
110 comparison against each other (Altschul et al., 1990). The bitscores were then used to generate
111 clusters of genes via the TRIBE-MCL algorithm (Enright, Van Dongen & Ouzounis, 2002) using
112 default settings.

113 **Gene Ontology (GO) annotation and Fisher’s exact tests**

114 *P. expansum* R19 protein sequences were used in a BLAST comparison against the NCBI NR
115 protein database and the results were used to predict GO annotation using Blast2go with default
116 settings (www.blast2go.com). Further, GO enrichment in selected groups of genes was tested
117 using Fisher’s exact tests. The same analysis was also performed on *P. solitum* RS1 protein
118 sequences.

119 **Secondary metabolite gene clusters**

120 Secondary metabolite gene clusters were identified using the antiSMASH program for fungi at
121 default settings (Weber et al., 2015).

122 **RESULTS**

123 The growth of *Penicillium expansum* and *P. solitum* was compared, both on agar plates as well as
124 the aggressiveness on apples incubated at different temperatures. When cultured on potato dextrose
125 agar, both fungi grew on all temperatures ranging from 0 to 20°C although *P. solitum* grew slightly
126 slower than *P. expansum* (**Figures 1A, 1B**). However, when inoculated onto apple fruit, the
127 differences in aggressiveness were much more pronounced (**Figures 1C, 1D**). Both pathogens are
128 necrotrophic and require a wound for infection, they are unable to puncture the skin of the fruit
129 due to the lack of an appressorium and rely on pectin degrading enzyme production for growth
130 (Yao, Conway & Sams, 1996; Jurick et al., 2009, p. 20019). Decay was evident 7 days post
131 inoculation (DPI) on apples inoculated with *P. expansum* at 10 and 20°C, while the apples
132 inoculated with *P. solitum* displayed only a small lesion around the inoculation point at 20°C
133 (**Figure 1C, 1D**).

134 To achieve optimal genome sequence and ensure reliable downstream bioinformatic
135 comparisons, the PacBio Single Molecule Real Time (SMRT) sequencing platform was utilized to
136 resequence *P. expansum* R19, with sequencing coverage reaching 65-fold. An assembly of 16
137 unitigs with an N50 value of 8.17 Mbp was achieved and the genome assembly was deposited
138 under BioSample SUB4649056. Gene annotation revealed 10,560 putative protein coding genes.
139 Using CEMGA 99.2% complete core eukaryotic genes (CEGs) and 99.6% partial (including
140 complete) CEGs were predicted in the genome. A genome-wide multi-gene phylogenetic approach
141 was then implemented, involving 399 CEGS, using *P. expansum*, *P. solitum*, and several other
142 related *Penicillium* species, with *Aspergillus flavus* as a designated outgroup (**Figure 2**). The
143 closest relative of *P. solitum* amongst the *Penicillium* spp. was *P. camemberti*, while for *P.*
144 *expansum*, the most phylogenetically similar were the two citrus pathogens *P. digitatum* and *P.*

145 *italicum* (**Figure 2**). *P. roqueforti*, a cheese making species associated with blue cheeses and *P.*
146 *chrysogenum*, the penicillin-producing species, formed another distant, yet distinct clade (**Figure**
147 **2**).

148 For *P. expansum* R19, 7,921 proteins were annotated (75% of all proteins) with a total of
149 37,962 GO entries (4.8 GO entries per protein), representing 6,000 unique GO categories. For *P.*
150 *solitum* RS1, 7,920 proteins were annotated (74.2% of all proteins) with a total of 37,858 GO
151 entries (4.8 GO entries per protein), representing 5,993 unique GO categories. We analyzed GO
152 enrichment in a group of 877 proteins that were over-represented in *P. expansum*, defined as
153 having $\geq 2X$ more copies than detected in *P. solitum* (**Table 1**). We also tested the GO enrichment
154 in 550 *P. expansum* proteins that were over-represented in both blue mold fungi, defined as having
155 on average $\geq 2X$ copies in *P. expansum* and *P. solitum* than in the five *Penicillium* species included
156 in this study (**Table 2**). An analysis using *P. solitum* proteins over-represented in the two pome
157 blue mold *Penicillium* species revealed similar results. Also, we examined the GO enrichment in
158 a group of 1,096 proteins that are represented more frequently in *P. solitum*, defined as having \geq
159 $2X$ copies in *P. solitum* than in *P. expansum* (**Table 3**). The seven *Penicillium* species included in
160 this study, with a total of 9,960 protein families, encompassing 78,479 proteins, were identified.
161 All species shared 5,308 protein families, encompassing 64,598 proteins, or 82.3% of the total
162 proteins also referred to as the proteome. For *P. expansum* 86.4% (9,119 out of 10,560), and for
163 *P. solitum* 85.3% (9,099 out of 10,672) of the proteins were shared with the other species.
164 However, a small set (36) of protein families were unique to the two blue mold species isolated
165 from pome fruits, accounting for 41 proteins in *P. expansum* and 43 proteins in *P. solitum*
166 (**Supplementary Table 1**). Amino acid sequences from both fungi that cause blue mold of pome
167 fruits were also compared. The more aggressive species, *P. expansum* R19, contained 222 gene

168 families, encompassing 261 proteins that were not present in the less aggressive species *P. solitum*
169 RS1. Similarly, there were 299 gene families, accounting for 375 proteins present in *P. solitum* but
170 not in *P. expansum*, (**Supplementary Table 1**). In addition, *P. expansum* R19 contained
171 significant numbers of proteins with copy numbers that are one to several fold more than *P. solitum*
172 RS1 (**Supplementary Table 1**).

173 In the *P. expansum* R19 genome, we identified the fifteen-gene patulin cluster (**Figure 3**).
174 In the *P. solitum* genome, a sequence similarity search (BLAST) identified a partial patulin gene
175 cluster, spanning 31 kb (**Figure 3**). Within the *P. solitum* partial gene cluster, only seven of the
176 identified patulin biosynthetic genes were present (**Figure 3**), with amino acid sequence identity
177 >91% and e-value = 0. The seven genes identified from the partial cluster were *patC*, *patD*, *patG*,
178 *patH*, *patL*, *patM*, and *patN* (**Figure 3**). Five other genes (*patA*, *patB*, *patE*, *patK*, and *patO*) were
179 found dispersed elsewhere in the genome with much lower amino acid sequence identity (between
180 29% and 49%). Three genes, *patF*, *patI* and *patJ*, were not found anywhere in the genome (e-value
181 cutoff of $1e^{-5}$). Using the antiSMASH platform, all seven of the *Penicillium* spp. genomes were
182 analyzed to determine their secondary metabolism genes. Within the *P. solitum* genome, we
183 identified 66 gene clusters that were putatively involved in secondary metabolism (SM), more than
184 any other of the *Penicillium* species analyzed in this study (**Figure 4**). In contrast, 58 gene clusters
185 were found in *P. expansum*, 21 gene clusters in *P. italicum*, and 35 gene clusters in *P. digitatum*.

186 DISCUSSION

187 The first aim of this study was to provide a high quality, annotated, and assembled genome
188 sequence of *P. expansum* (R19), so that it could be used for further downstream bioinformatic
189 analyses. The longer reads achieved by the PacBio platform enabled better assembly and resulted
190 in fewer gaps than illumina sequencing has produced. PacBio SMRT sequencing technology

191 allows for Hence, an assembly of 16 unitigs with an N50 value of 8.17 Mbp was achieved, a major
192 improvement over the 48.5 kbp previously achieved using Illumina (Yu et al., 2014).

193 Although *P. expansum* and *P. solitum* cause blue mold decay of pome fruits (Frisvad, 2004;
194 Jurick et al., 2010), the closest relative of *P. solitum* was determined to be *P. camemberti*, a species
195 named after the distinctive soft cheese with a white rind (Cheeseman et al., 2014). In addition to
196 causing blue mold on apple, *P. solitum* has been isolated from spoiled processed meats, cheeses,
197 and margarine which are commonly stored at 4°C like apples (Pitt et al., 1991; Hocking et al.,
198 1998). Moreover, *P. solitum* has been isolated from several very cold, high salt environments and
199 has been termed an “extremophile” (Stierle et al., 2012). In contrast, for *P. expansum*, the closest
200 relatives in our analyses were *P. digitatum* (Marcet-Houben et al., 2012) and *P. italicum* (Ballester
201 et al., 2015) indicating that ancestors of these three species may have occupied the same
202 carbohydrate-rich niches associated with fruit decay.

203 By comparing the two blue mold fungi at the whole-genome scale, our aim was to identify
204 differences in genetic factors that are linked to pathogen aggressiveness during pome fruit rot in
205 addition to finding genes specific to the apple fruit pathogens. Thirty-six protein families were
206 present only in the two pome fruit pathogens (*P. expansum* and *P. solitum*), but absent in the other
207 five *Penicillium* species examined.. In *P. expansum* there were 222 gene families not found in *P.*
208 *solitum*. of which 44 protein families were present only in *P. expansum* R19, but absent in the
209 other species analyzed in this study. These protein families are of primary interest since they may
210 represent specific genes involved in pome fruit maceration or account for *P. expansum*'s increased
211 aggressiveness during apple fruit decay. Here, we discuss the potential role of several *P. expansum*
212 and *P. solitum*-specific enzymes.

213 To examine similarities and differences in gene repertoires amongst the seven *Penicillium*
214 species, we identified protein families using a Markov cluster algorithm called TRIBE-MCL that
215 detects and categorizes eukaryotic protein families (Enright, Van Dongen & Ouzounis, 2002).
216 Gene ontology (GO) enrichment analyses were performed using annotated protein sequences via
217 Blast2go (Conesa et al., 2005). Several categories related to combating plant defense mechanisms
218 were enriched, including phenylpropanoid catabolic process, cinnamic acid catabolism, and
219 response to iron ion sequestration (siderophores). Flavonoid metabolism, a specific gene category
220 involved in plant defense, was enriched, which may be beneficial for the fungus to overcome the
221 phenolic-rich (quercetin) environment of the apple host tissue, known to be important in basal
222 defense systems of apple fruits (Sun et al., 2017). These categories included lyase activity. It is
223 well established that lyases degrade cell wall components like pectin and they have been shown to
224 be involved in the maceration of pome fruit tissues by *P. expansum* and *P. solitum* (Yao, Conway &
225 Sams, 1996; Jurick et al., 2009).

226 Single copies of SnoaL-like polyketide cyclases (PF07366) are found in both *P. expansum*
227 and *P. solitum* (**Supplementary Table 1**). A more detailed analysis of PF07366 on
228 <http://pfam.xfam.org/> reveals their presence in a number of prokaryotes, in two other fungal
229 species, and a few other eukaryotes (**Table 4**). These eukaryotic members are either aquatic or
230 plant related (**Table 4**), suggesting that this gene might have been laterally transferred between
231 organisms living in close proximity or occupying the same ecological niche. These cyclases are
232 backbone genes for polyketide secondary metabolite biosynthesis and thus involved in fungal
233 secondary metabolism. A Glucose-6-phosphate isomerase (PF10432) is found in a number of
234 prokaryotes and only two eukaryotes, *P. expansum* and *P. solitum* (<http://pfam.xfam.org/>,
235 **Supplementary Table 1**), suggesting that this gene might have been laterally transferred. The

236 exact function it plays in pome fruit decay warrants further exploration via RNAi and /or gene
237 deletion studies.

238 A thermolysin metallopeptidase (PF01447) was found only in *P. expansum*, but not in *P.*
239 *solitum* or any of the other five *Penicillium* species included in this study. Peptidases are known
240 virulence factors for fungal plant pathogens such as *Fusarium graminearum*. They break down
241 plant host proteins to provide nutrients for fungal growth, reproduction, and colonization (Lowe
242 et al., 2015). This *P. expansum* unique metallopeptidase may play a role in pome fruit decay and
243 should be explored further. In addition to the above-mentioned examples, several putative
244 transcription factors, hydrolases, and other enzymes that are unique to one or both blue mold
245 *Penicillium* species were uncovered (**Supplementary Table 1**). They provide a guide for future
246 research to pinpoint the genes essential for postharvest apple fruit decay.

247 Patulin is a well-studied, polyketide-derived mycotoxin commonly found in apple
248 products. Due to its carcinogenic effects, the European Union (EU) has set limits on the maximum
249 allowable amount of patulin to 50 µg/L for juice and fruit derived products, 25 µg/L for solid apple
250 products, and 10 µg/L for juices and food for babies and infants (European-Union, 2003). The U.S.
251 Food and Drug Administration (FDA), as well as regulatory agencies in other countries, have
252 imposed limits on the permissible amounts of patulin in fruit juices and processed pome fruit
253 products for human consumption at 50µg/L (Puel, Galtier & Oswald, 2010). There are 15 genes
254 involved in patulin biosynthesis found within a well-defined gene cluster (Tannous et al., 2014; Li
255 et al., 2015; Ballester et al., 2015). The structural organization of the cluster is shown in the same
256 order in our *P. expansum* R19 strain as reported earlier (Tannous et al., 2014). The partial patulin
257 gene cluster arrangement in *P. solitum* was very similar to that found in *P. camemberti* (Ballester
258 et al., 2015), with the same seven patulin biosynthetic genes present and arranged in the same

259 configuration. The incomplete patulin gene cluster found in both *P. solitum* and in *P. camemberti*
260 may explain why these species are unable to produce patulin in either liquid or solid culture
261 conditions (Frisvad, 2004). Curiously, some of the patulin genes were dispersed outside of the
262 cluster, likely due to chromosomal rearrangements. Our genomic data suggests that the ability to
263 produce patulin was lost in the ancestor of these two species.

264 While patulin is the mycotoxin of primary concern to apple producers, processors and
265 packers in the U.S. and EU, it is only one of many secondary metabolites known to be produced
266 by *Penicillium* species (Puel, Galtier & Oswald, 2010; Wright, 2015). Genes responsible for the
267 synthesis of secondary metabolites are generally organized together in clusters in fungal genomes.
268 Despite the large number of putative SM gene clusters in these *Penicillium* species, only a few
269 gene products such as patulin, penicillic acid, and citrinin are well studied in agriculture and food
270 science. In addition, because *P. solitum* is an extremophile, there are reports of several interesting
271 secondary metabolites isolated from unusual environments that merit further study in order to
272 determine if they are produced in apples with blue mold symptoms. For example, a strain of *P.*
273 *solitum* isolated from The Berkeley Pit, a former copper mine located in Butte, Montana produces
274 two drimane sesquiterpene lactones named Berkedrimanes A and B (Stierle et al., 2012). These
275 secondary metabolites inhibit the signal transduction enzymes caspase-1 and caspase-3 and
276 mitigate the production of interleukin 1- β in a leukemia cell line (Stierle et al., 2012). Another
277 biologically active metabolite from *P. solitum* is solistatin, a phenolic compactin analogue related
278 to Mevastatin, one of the classes of statins which inhibit HMG-CoA reductase, which are widely
279 prescribed as cholesterol lowering agents (Sørensen et al., 1999).

280 Across the fungal kingdom, however, the products of bioinformatically discovered SM
281 gene clusters are largely unknown. Some clusters are functional and expressed only under specific

282 conditions (e.g. during competition for nutrients or stress conditions), but not expressed under
283 routine conditions in the laboratory (Tannous et al., 2014; Li et al., 2015). In light of our recent
284 findings, it remains unexplored whether the large number of bioinformatically detected SM gene
285 clusters in the *P. solitum* genome translates into a greater capacity for producing various secondary
286 metabolites on apple, and if any of these metabolites might pose hitherto undiscovered risks to
287 human health. Further characterization of these identified gene clusters, via functional gene
288 deletion studies, will help ascertain our understanding of SM gene cluster function and the
289 mechanisms of secondary metabolism/biosynthesis.

290 CONCLUSIONS

291 Comparison of the genomes of *P. expansum* and *P. solitum* has provided a unique opportunity to
292 explore the genetic basis of the differential ability of these two species to cause blue mold decay.
293 Key genes identified here can now be analyzed functionally to confirm their involvement in apple
294 fruit decay. Fungal gene networks, pathways, and regulators can be exploited to design specific
295 control strategies to block decay. Additionally, our comparative genomic data has clarified
296 phylogenetic relationships between *Penicillium* species that occupy different ecological niches.
297 Additionally, the SM gene cluster repertoire has been elucidated in both *P. expansum* and *P.*
298 *solitum* and provided evidence to explain the lack of patulin production in *P. solitum* (RS1), while
299 also revealing the potential for discovery of hitherto unknown secondary metabolites of possible
300 biotechnological use. In agriculture, these genomic findings will guide apple fruit producers to
301 help maintain safe, high quality apples during long-term storage, as well as being of interest to the
302 food processing industry, plant pathologists, and the broader scientific community.

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304 Mention of trade names or commercial products in this publication is solely for the purpose of
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Figure 1

Effect of temperature on fungal growth in culture and during apple fruit decay

(A) *Penicillium expansum* growing on Potato Dextrose Agar. (B) *Penicillium solitum* growing on Potato Dextrose Agar. (C) *Penicillium expansum* causing blue mold decay on apple fruit. (D) *Penicillium solitum* causing blue mold decay on apple fruit.

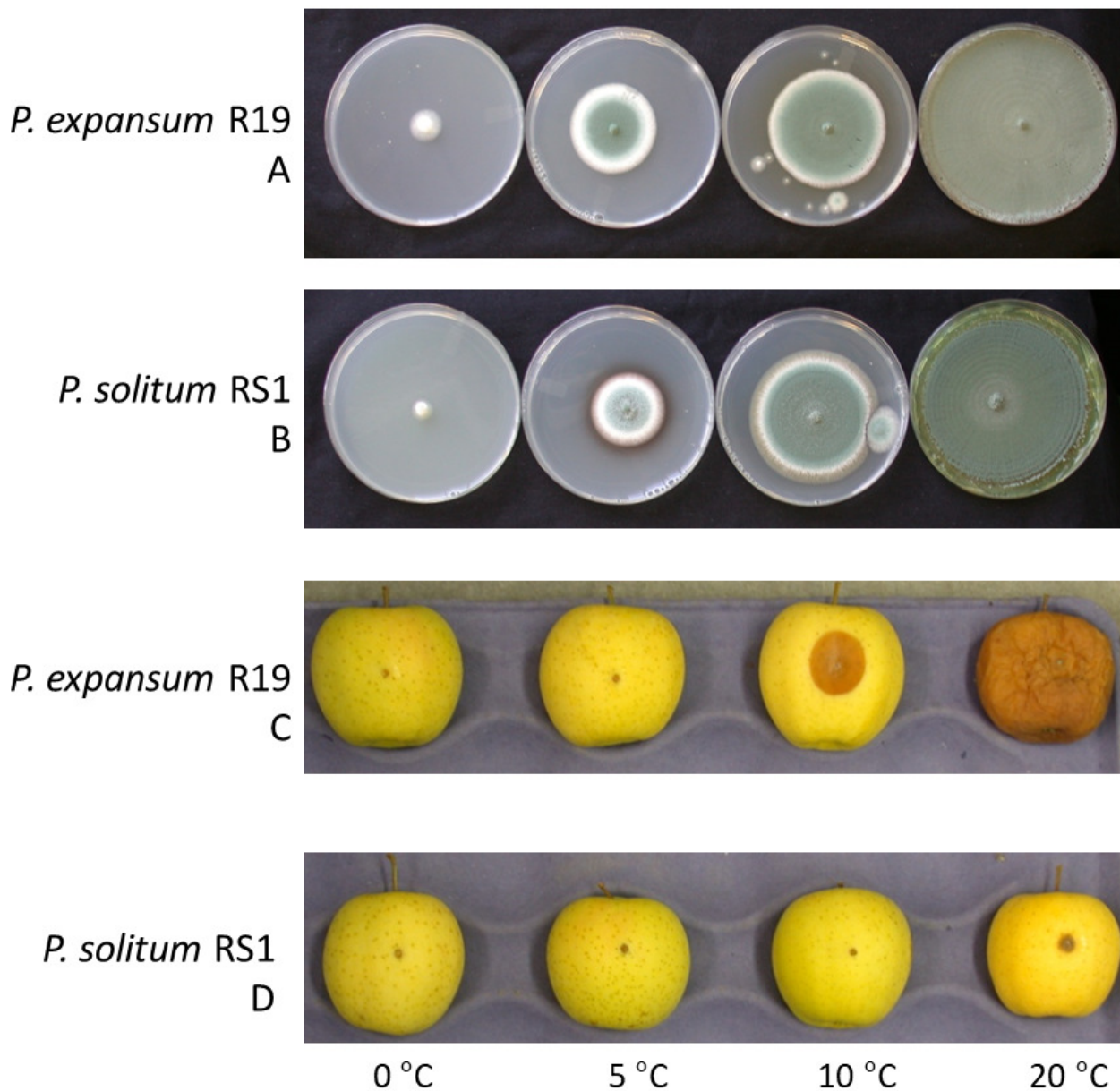
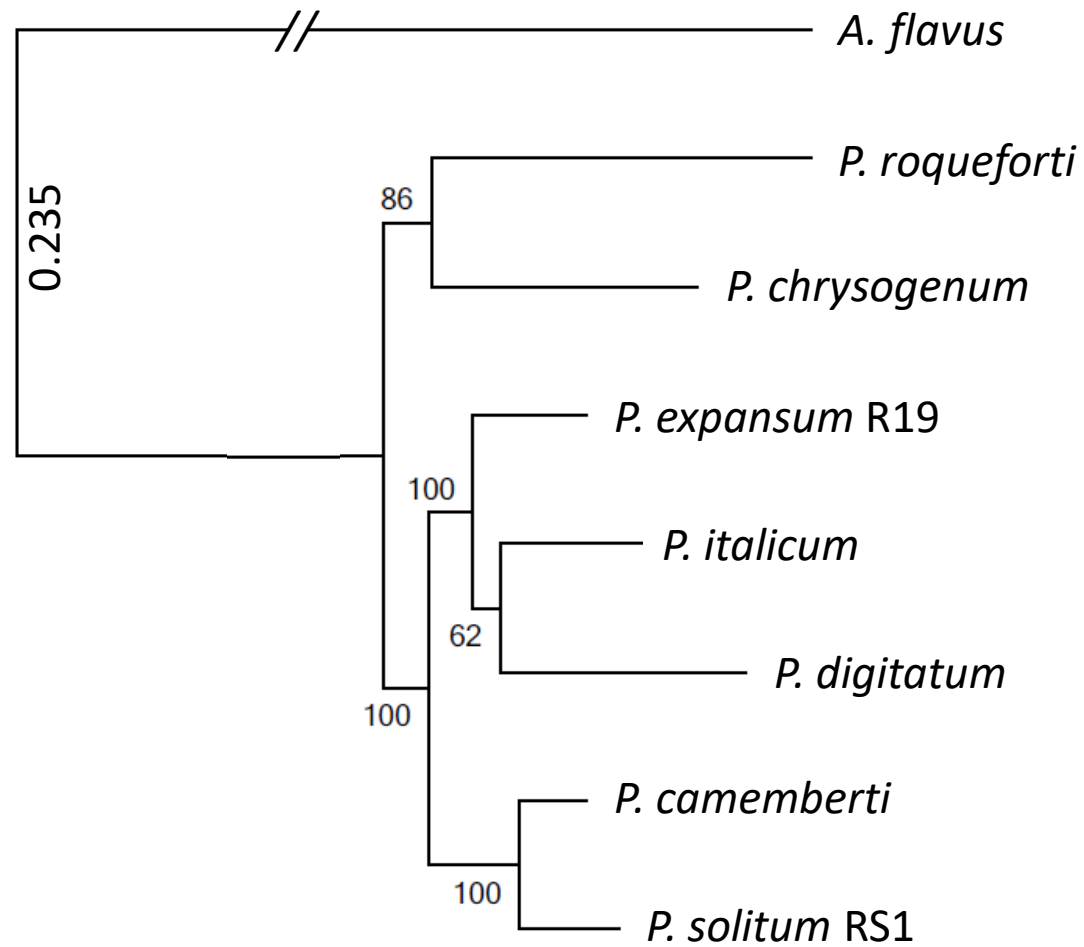


Figure 2 (on next page)

Phylogenomic analysis of seven *Penicillium* species

A. flavus was used as outgroup and bootstrap values are indicated on the branches.



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Figure 3(on next page)

Patulin gene cluster in *Penicillium expansum* (A) and *P. solitum* (B)

Gene IDs and gene names are indicated below the genes. Reciprocal best matches are linked with a line. Red colored genes are known members of the patulin gene cluster.

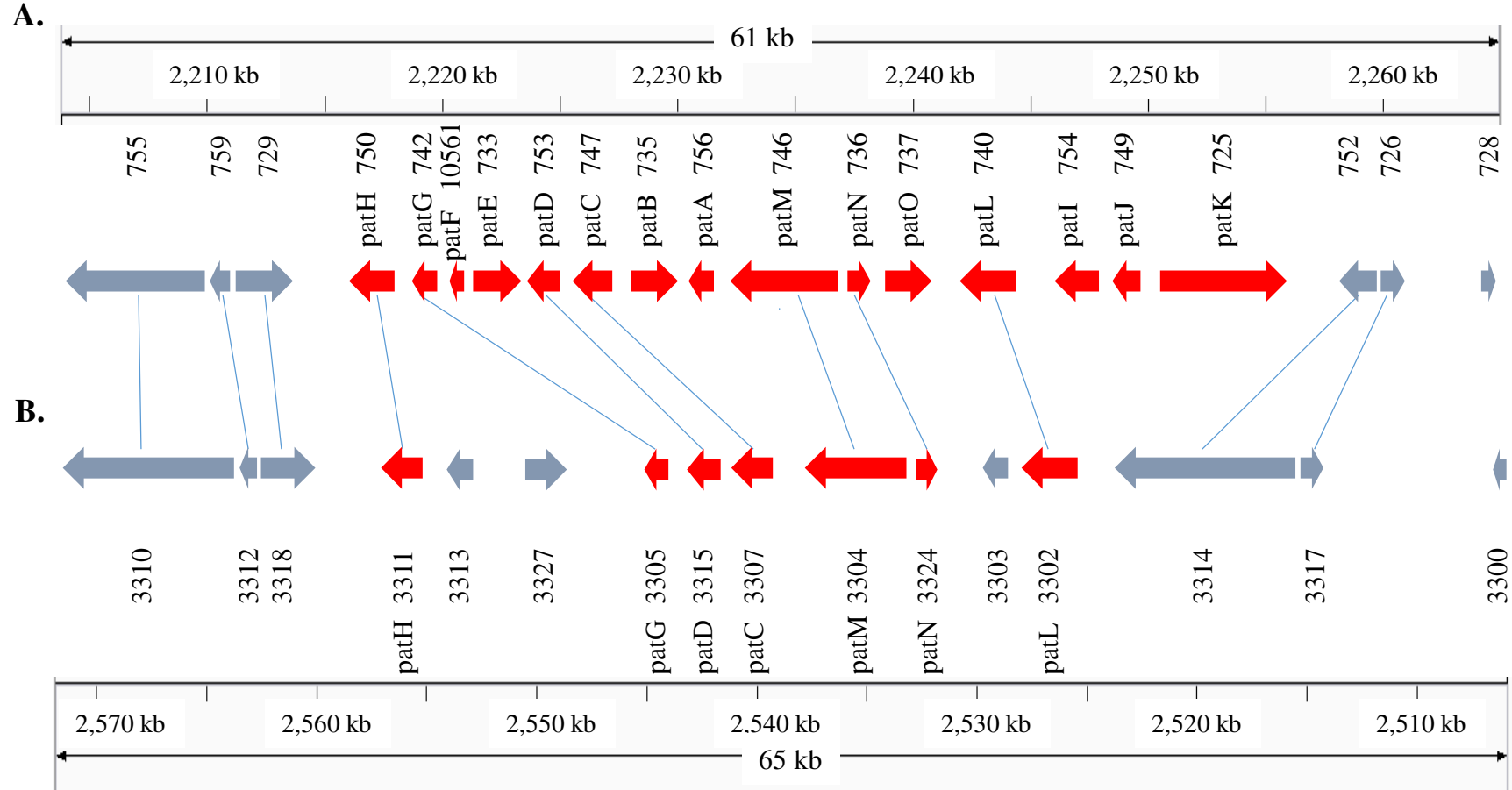


Figure 4(on next page)

Composition of secondary metabolism gene clusters and their backbone genes in seven different *Penicillium* species.

SM gene cluster types in 7 different *Penicillium* spp.

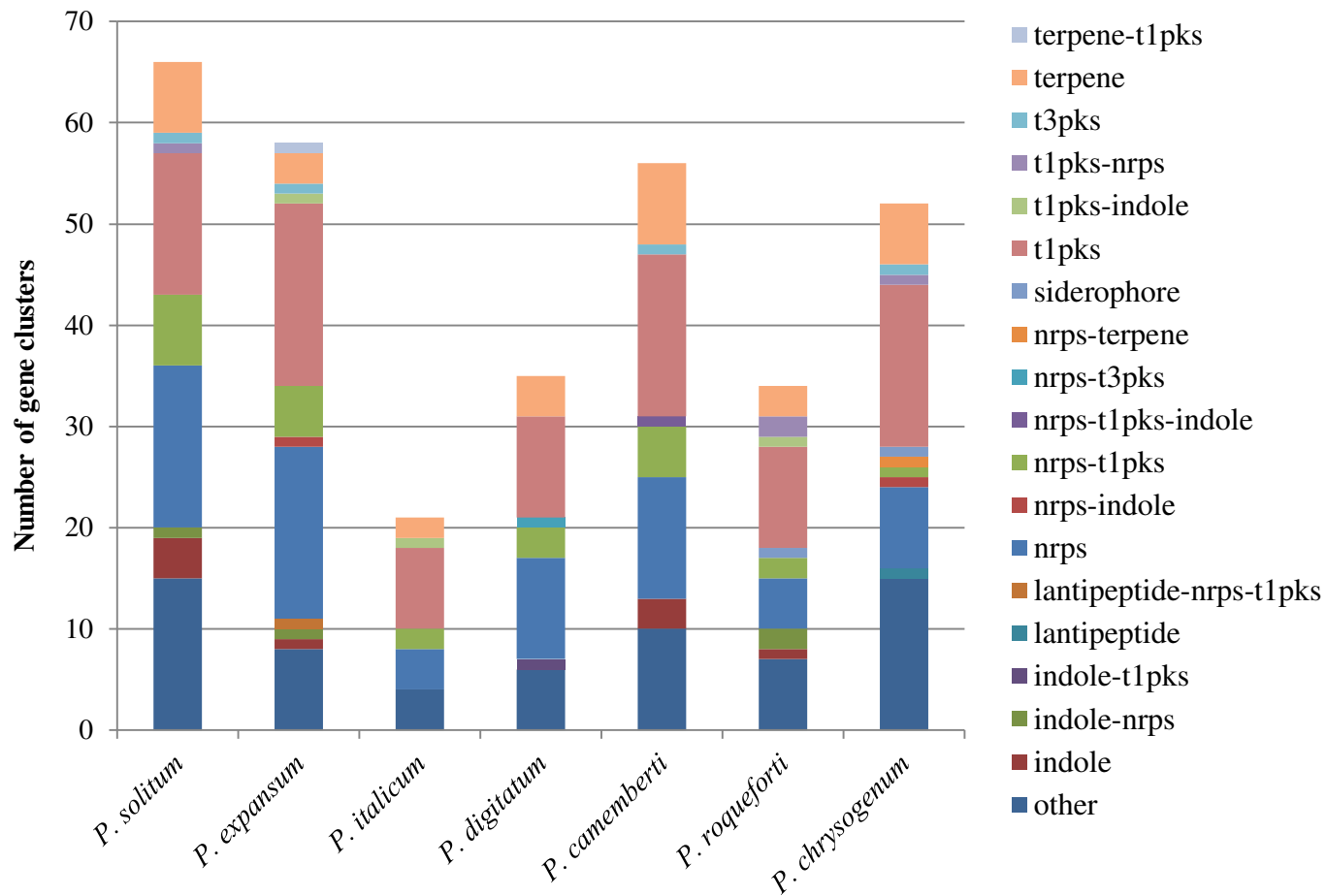


Table 1 (on next page)GO enrichment tests of over-represented *P. expansum* proteins

Type indicates the category of GO terms (P: biological process; F: molecular function). FDR = False Discovery Rate. SG = the number of proteins that are in the tested group and have the GO term. NSG = the number of proteins that are not in the tested group, and have the GO term. SNG = the number of proteins that are in the tested group, and do not have the GO term. NSNG = the number of proteins that are not in the tested group, and do not have the GO term.

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GO-ID	Term	Type	FDR	P-Value	SG	NSG	SNG	NSNG
GO:0003824	catalytic activity	F	2.37E-05	2.80E-09	319	3992	155	3455
GO:0016829	lyase activity	F	1.59E-03	3.75E-07	37	218	437	7229
GO:0008152	metabolic process	P	1.81E-03	6.39E-07	369	5015	105	2432
GO:0046271	phenylpropanoid catabolic process	P	1.34E-02	1.27E-05	4	0	470	7447
GO:0046281	cinnamic acid catabolic process	P	1.34E-02	1.27E-05	4	0	470	7447
GO:0034396	negative regulation of transcription from RNA polymerase II promoter in response to iron	P	1.34E-02	1.27E-05	4	0	470	7447
GO:0034395	regulation of transcription from RNA polymerase II promoter in response to iron	P	1.34E-02	1.27E-05	4	0	470	7447
GO:0009803	cinnamic acid metabolic process	P	1.34E-02	1.27E-05	4	0	470	7447
GO:0019748	secondary metabolic process	P	3.10E-02	3.29E-05	21	111	453	7336
GO:0016813	hydrolase activity, acting on carbon-nitrogen (but not peptide) bonds, in linear amidines	F	3.93E-02	5.32E-05	6	7	468	7440
GO:0071281	cellular response to iron ion	P	3.93E-02	6.03E-05	4	1	470	7446
GO:0010039	response to iron ion	P	3.93E-02	6.03E-05	4	1	470	7446
GO:0009698	phenylpropanoid metabolic process	P	3.93E-02	6.03E-05	4	1	470	7446
GO:0071241	cellular response to inorganic substance	P	4.27E-02	7.05E-05	7	12	467	7435

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Table 2 (on next page)

GO enrichment tests of *P. expansum* proteins over-represented in the two pome fruit decaying *Penicillium* species

Type indicates the category of GO terms (P: biological process; F: molecular function). FDR stands for False Discovery Rate. SG indicates the number of proteins that are in the tested group, and have the GO term. NSG indicates the number of proteins that are not in the tested group, and have the GO term. SNG indicates the number of proteins that are in the tested group, and do not have the GO term. NSNG indicates the number of proteins that are not in the tested group, and do not have the GO term.

GO-ID	Term	Type	FDR	P-Value	SG	NSG	SNG	NSNG
GO:0009812	flavonoid metabolic process	P	3.48E-03	4.11E-07	4	0	198	7719
GO:0047661	amino-acid racemase activity	F	8.53E-03	2.01E-06	4	1	198	7718
GO:0036361	racemase activity, acting on amino acids and derivatives	F	1.25E-02	5.92E-06	4	2	198	7717
GO:0016855	racemase and epimerase activity, acting on amino acids and derivatives	F	1.25E-02	5.92E-06	4	2	198	7717
GO:0010333	terpene synthase activity	F	4.49E-02	2.65E-05	4	4	198	7715

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Table 3 (on next page)GO enrichment tests of over-represented *P. solitum* proteins

Type indicates the category of GO terms (P: biological process; F: molecular function). FDR stands for False Discovery Rate. SG indicates the number of proteins that are in the tested group, and have the GO term. NSG indicates the number of proteins that are not in the tested group, and have the GO term. SNG indicates the number of proteins that are in the tested group, and do not have the GO term. NSNG indicates the number of proteins that are not in the tested group, and do not have the GO term.

GO-ID	Term	Type	FDR	P-Value	SG	NSG	SNG	NSNG
GO:0046983	protein dimerization activity	F	1.49E-09	1.77E-13	29	63	478	7350
GO:0042559	pteridine-containing compound biosynthetic process	P	1.23E-04	2.91E-08	10	8	497	7405
GO:0006729	tetrahydrobiopterin biosynthetic process	P	7.47E-04	4.43E-07	6	1	501	7412
GO:0046146	tetrahydrobiopterin metabolic process	P	7.47E-04	4.43E-07	6	1	501	7412
GO:0008124	4-alpha-hydroxytetrahydrobiopterin dehydratase activity	F	7.47E-04	4.43E-07	6	1	501	7412
GO:0042558	pteridine-containing compound metabolic process	P	1.29E-03	9.17E-07	10	14	497	7399
GO:0015074	DNA integration	P	5.73E-03	4.76E-06	6	3	501	7410
GO:0046654	tetrahydrofolate biosynthetic process	P	1.56E-02	1.66E-05	4	0	503	7413
GO:0003934	GTP cyclohydrolase I activity	F	1.56E-02	1.66E-05	4	0	503	7413
GO:0016829	lyase activity	F	1.99E-02	2.36E-05	35	227	472	7186
GO:0000981	RNA polymerase II transcription factor activity, sequence-specific DNA binding	F	2.12E-02	2.76E-05	41	289	466	7124

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Table 4(on next page)

Eukaryotes that contain SnoaL-like polyketide cyclase domain (PF07366)

Species name, number of sequences, group and ecological habitat containing SnoaL-like domains.

Species	Nr. of sequences	Group	Habitat
<i>Amphimedon queenslandica</i>	1	Sponge	Aquatic
<i>Thelohanellus kitauei</i>	1	Myxozoa	Aquatic/Parasitic
<i>Thalassiosira pseudonana</i>	1	Diatom	Aquatic
<i>Chlamydomonas reinhardtii</i>	1	Green algae	Aquatic
<i>Volvox carteri</i>	2	Green algae	Aquatic
<i>Chlorella variabilis</i>	1	Green algae	Aquatic
<i>Ostreococcus tauri</i>	1	Green algae	Aquatic
<i>Auxenochlorella protothecoides</i>	2	Green algae	Aquatic
<i>Phytophthora sojae</i>	1	Oomycetes	Plant pathogenic
<i>Phytophthora ramorum</i>	1	Oomycetes	Plant pathogenic
<i>Fusarium graminearum</i>	4	Ascomycetes	Plant pathogenic
<i>Colletotrichum sublineola</i>	2	Ascomycetes	Plant pathogenic
<i>Penicillium expansum</i>	1	Ascomycetes	Plant pathogenic
<i>Penicillium solitum</i>	1	Ascomycetes	Plant pathogenic
<i>Setaria italic</i>	2	Higher plants	Soil
<i>Triticum aestivum</i>	2	Higher plants	Soil

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