The genome of the cereal pest *Sitophilus oryzae*: a transposable element haven

PARISOT Nicolas[1,$], VARGAS-CHAVEZ Carlos[1,2,†,$], GOUBERT Clément[3,4,‡,$], BAA-PUYOULET Patrice[1], BALMAND Séverine[1], BERANGER Louis[1], BLANC Caroline[1], BONNAMOUR Aymeric[1], BOULESTEIX Matthieu[3], BURLET Nelly[3], CALEVRO Federica[1], CALLAERTS Patrick[5], CHANCY Théo[1], CHARLES Hubert[1,6], COLELLA Stefano[1,§], DA SILVA BARBOSA André[7], DELL'AGLIO Elisa[1], DI GENOVA Alex[3,6,8], FEBVAY Gérard[1], GABALDON Toni[9,10,11], GALVÃO FERRARINI Mariana[1], GERBER Alexandra[12], GILLET Benjamin[13], HUBLEY Robert[14], HUGHES Sandrine[13], JACQUIN-JOLY Emmanuelle[7], MAIRE Justin[1,¬], MARCET-HOUBEN Marina[9], MASSON Florent[1,£], MESLIN Camille[7], MONTAGNE Nicolas[7], MOYA Andrés[2,15], RIBEIRO DE VASCONCELOS Ana Tereza[12], RICHARD Gautier[16], ROSEN Jeb[14], SAGOT Marie-France[3,6], SMIT Arian F.A.[14], STORER Jessica M.[14], VINCENT-MONEGAT Carole[1], VALLIER Agnès[1], VIGNERON Aurélien[1,#], ZAIDMAN-REMY Anna[1], ZAMOUM Waël[1], VIEIRA Cristina[3,6,*], REBOLLO Rita[1,*], LATORRE Amparo[2,15,*] and HEDDI Abdelaziz[1,*]

[1] Univ Lyon, INSA Lyon, INRAE, BF2I, UMR 203, 69621 Villeurbanne, France.

[2] Institute for Integrative Systems Biology (I2SySBio), Universitat de València and Spanish Research Council (CSIC), València, Spain.

[3] Laboratoire de Biométrie et Biologie Evolutive, UMR5558, Université Lyon 1, Université Lyon, Villeurbanne, France.

[4] Department of Molecular Biology and Genetics, 526 Campus Rd, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York 14853, USA.

[5] KU Leuven, University of Leuven, Department of Human Genetics, Laboratory of

Behavioral and Developmental Genetics, B-3000, Leuven, Belgium.

[6] ERABLE European Team, INRIA, Rhône-Alpes, France.

[7] INRAE, Sorbonne Université, CNRS, IRD, UPEC, Université de Paris, Institute of Ecology

and Environmental Sciences of Paris, Versailles, France.

[8] Instituto de Ciencias de la Ingeniería, Universidad de O'Higgins, Rancagua, Chile.

[9] Life Sciences, Barcelona Supercomputing Centre (BSC-CNS), Barcelona, Spain.

[10] Mechanisms of Disease. Institute for Research in Biomedicine (IRB), Barcelona, Spain.

[11] Institut Catalan de Recerca i Estudis Avançats (ICREA), Barcelona, Spain.

[12] Laboratório de Bioinformática, Laboratório Nacional de Computação Científica, Petrópolis,

Brazil.

[13] Institut de Génomique Fonctionnelle de Lyon (IGFL), Université de Lyon, Ecole Normale

Supérieure de Lyon, CNRS UMR 5242, Lyon, France.

[14] Institute for Systems Biology, Seattle, WA, USA.

[15] Foundation for the Promotion of Sanitary and Biomedical Research of Valencian

Community (FISABIO), València, Spain.

[16] IGEPP, INRAE, Institut Agro, Université de Rennes, Domaine de la Motte, 35653 Le Rheu,

France.

[†] Present address: Institute of Evolutionary Biology (IBE), CSIC-Universitat Pompeu Fabra,

Barcelona, Spain.

[‡] Present address: Human Genetics, McGill University, Montreal, QC, Canada.

§ Present address: LSTM, Laboratoire des Symbioses Tropicales et Méditerranéennes, IRD,

CIRAD, INRAE, SupAgro, Univ Montpellier, Montpellier, France.

£ Present address: Global Health Institute, School of Life Sciences, Ecole Polytechnique

Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), Lausanne 1015, Switzerland.

‑ Present address: School of BioSciences, The University of Melbourne, Parkville, VIC 3010,

Australia.

Present address: Department of Evolutionary Ecology, Institute for Organismic and

Molecular Evolution, Johannes Gutenberg University, 55128 Mainz, Germany.

$ Authors contributed equally to this work.

* Authors contributed equally to this work.

NP: nicolas.parisot@insa-lyon.fr

CV-C: carlos.vargas@uv.es

CG: goubert.clement@gmail.com

PB-P: patrice.baa-puyoulet@inrae.fr

SB: severine.balmand@inrae.fr

LB: beranger.louis.bio@gmail.com

CB: blancbillard.caroline@gmail.com

AB: aymeric.bonnamour@gmail.com

MB: matthieu.boulesteix@univ-lyon1.fr

NB: nelly.burlet@univ-lyon1.fr

FC: federica.calevro@insa-lyon.fr

PC: patrick.callaerts@kuleuven.be

TC: theo.chancy@hotmail.fr

HC: hubert.charles@insa-lyon.fr

SC: stefano.colella@inrae.fr

ASB: andredsb.2b@gmail.com

ED: elisa.dell-aglio@insa-lyon.fr

ADG: digenova@gmail.com

GF: gerard.febvay@inrae.fr

TG: toni.gabaldon@bsc.es

MGF: mari.ferrarini@gmail.com

AG: alegerber@lncc.br

BG: benjamin.gillet@ens-lyon.fr

RH: robert.hubley@isbscience.org

SH: sandrine.hughes@ens-lyon.fr

EJ-J: emmanuelle.joly@inrae.fr

JM: justin.maire@unimelb.edu.au

MM-H: marina.marcet@bsc.es

FM: masson.ff@gmail.com

CM: camille.meslin@inrae.fr

NM: nicolas.montagne@sorbonne-universite.fr

AM: andres.moya@uv.es

ATRV: atrv@lncc.br

GR: gautier.richard@inrae.fr

JR: jeb.rosen@isbscience.org

M-FS: Marie-France.Sagot@inria.fr

AFAS: arian.smit@isbscience.org

JMS: jessica.storer@isbscience.org

CV-M: carole.monegat@insa-lyon.fr

AVa: agnes.vallier@inrae.fr

AVi: avignero@uni-mainz.de

AZ-R: anna.zaidman@insa-lyon.fr

WZ: wzamoum@gmail.com

CV: cristina.vieira@univ-lyon1.fr

RR: rita.rebollo@inrae.fr

AL: amparo.latorre@uv.es

AH: abdelaziz.heddi@insa-lyon.fr

107   Abstract

108   Background

109   Among beetles, the rice weevil *Sitophilus oryzae* is one of the most important pests causing

110   extensive damage to cereal in fields and to stored grains. *S. oryzae* has an intracellular

111   symbiotic relationship (endosymbiosis) with the Gram-negative bacterium *Sodalis*

112   *pierantonius* and is a valuable model to decipher host-symbiont molecular interactions.

113   Results

We sequenced the *Sitophilus oryzae* genome using a combination of short and long reads to

produce the best assembly for a Curculionidae species to date. We show that *S. oryzae* has

undergone successive bursts of transposable element (TE) amplification, representing 72%

of the genome. In addition, we show that many TE families are transcriptionally active, and

changes in their expression are associated with insect endosymbiotic state. *S. oryzae* has

undergone a high gene expansion rate, when compared to other beetles. Reconstruction of

host-symbiont metabolic networks revealed that, despite its recent association with cereal

weevils (30 Kyear), *S. pierantonius* relies on the host for several amino acids and

nucleotides to survive and to produce vitamins and essential amino-acids required for insect

development and cuticle biosynthesis.

Conclusions

In addition to being an agricultural pest and a valuable endosymbiotic system, *S. oryzae* can be a remarkable model for studying TE evolution and regulation, along with the impact of TEs on eukaryotic genomes.

Keywords

Coleoptera, weevil, *Sitophilus oryzae*, genome, transposable elements, endosymbiosis, immunity, evolution

Background

Beetles account for approximately 25% of known animals, with an estimated number of 400 000 described species [1–3]. Among them, Curculionidae (true weevils) is the largest animal family described, comprising about 70 000 species [1,4,5]. Despite being often associated with ecological invasion and ecosystem degradation, only three Curculionidae genomes are publicly available to date [6–8]. Among the cereal weevils, the rice weevil *Sitophilus oryzae* is one of the most important pests of crops of high agronomic and economic importance (wheat, maize, rice, sorghum and barley), causing extensive quantitative and qualitative losses in field, stored grains and grain products throughout the world [9–11]. Moreover, this insect pest is of increasing concern due to its ability to rapidly evolve resistance to insecticides such as phosphine, a fumigant used to protect stored grains from insect pests [12–14].

Like other holometabolous insects, the life cycle of *S. oryzae* can be divided into four stages: egg, larva, pupa and adult (Figure 1). Females drill a small hole in the grain, deposit a single egg and seal it with secretions from their ovipositor. Up to six eggs can be laid daily by each

female, totaling around 400 eggs over its entire lifespan [15]. Larvae develop and pupate

within the grain kernel, metamorphose, and exit the grain as adults. The whole process

takes on average 30 days [10]. Like many insects living on nutritionally poor diets, cereal

weevils permanently associate with nutritional intracellular bacteria (endosymbionts) that

supply them with nutrients that are not readily available in the grains, thereby increasing their

fitness and invasive power. The endosymbiont of *S. oryzae*, the gamma-proteobacterium

Sodalis pierantonius [16,17], is housed within specialized host cells, named bacteriocytes,

that group together into an organ, the bacteriome [18]. Contrasting with most studied

symbiotic insects, the association between *Sitophilus* spp*.* and *S. pierantonius* was

established recently (less than 30 000 years ago), probably following the replacement of the

ancestor endosymbiont, Candidatus *Nardonella*, in the Dryophthorinae subfamily [19,20]. As

a result, contrary to long-lasting endosymbiotic associations, the genome of *S. pierantonius*

is GC rich (56.06%), and its size is similar to that of free-living bacteria (4.5 Mbp) [16].

Moreover, it encodes genes involved in bacterial infection, including Type Three Secretion

Systems (TTSS), as well as genes encoding Microbial Associated Molecular Patterns

(MAMPs) that trigger Pattern Recognition Receptors (PRR), and are usually absent or

reduced in bacteria involved in long-lasting associations [16,21,22]. Nevertheless, many

features indicate that the genome of *S. pierantonius* is in a process of degradation, as it

contains many pseudogenes (43% of the predicted protein-coding sequences) and a large

number of mobile elements (18% of the genome size) [16,23]. Finally, it is important to note

that no other symbionts, with the exception of the familiar *Wolbachia* endosymbiont in some

strains*,* have been described in *S. oryzae*.

In order to help unravel potential adaptive functions and features that could become the

basis for identifying novel control strategies for weevils and other major insect pests, we

have undertaken the sequencing, assembly and annotation of the genome of *S. oryzae*.

Strikingly, the repeated fraction of *S. oryzae*'s genome (repeatome), composed mostly of

transposable elements (TEs), is among the largest found to date in insects. TEs, the most

versatile DNA units described to date, are sequences present in multiple copies and capable

of relocating or replicating within a genome. While most observed TE insertions evolve

neutrally or are slightly deleterious, there are a number of documented cases where TEs

may facilitate host adaptation (for reviews see [24–26]). For instance, gene families involved

in xenobiotic detoxification are enriched in TEs in *Drosophila melanogaster* [27], *Plutella*

xylostella [28], a major crop pest, and *Myzus persicae*, another phytophagous insect causing

significant agronomic losses [29]. TEs have also been frequently associated with insecticide-

resistance in *Drosophila* species [30–32]. In addition, population genetics studies suggested

that more than 84 TE copies in *D. melanogaster* may play a positive role in fitness-related

traits [33], including xenobiotic resistance [32] and immune response to Gram-negative

bacteria [34].

In eukaryotes, TE content varies drastically and contributes significantly to the size and

organization of the genome. From TE-rich genomes as maize (85% [35]), humans (≈45%

[36]), and the recently sequenced lungfish (≈90% [37]) for instance, to TE-poor genomes, as

D. melanogaster (12-15% [38]), or *Arabidopsis thaliana* (≈10% [39]), repeatomes thrive on a

high level of diversity. These drastic variations are also observed within animal clades, such

as insects, where the proportion of TE ranges from 2% in the Antarctic midge (*Belgica*

antarctica) to 65% in the migratory locust (*Locusta migratoria*) [40–42] and up to 75% in

morabine grasshoppers (*Vandiemenella viatica* species) [43]. In addition to the overall TE

content, the number of different TE families (homogeneous groups of phylogenetically

related TE sequences), their size (number of copies per family) and sequence diversity are

also very high among insect species [44]. For instance, SINEs (Short INterspersed

Elements) are almost absent from most insect genomes, but many lepidopterans harbor

these elements [44]. In flies, Long Terminal Repeats retrotransposons (LTRs) are a staple of

the *Drosophila* genus, but such TEs are nearly absent from other dipteran genomes (*e.g.*

Glossina brevipalpis and *Megaselia scalaris*) [44]. Recent advances in sequencing have

dramatically increased the level to which TEs can be studied across species and reveal that

such variations can persist even within recently diverged groups, as observed within

Drosophila species [45] or among *Heliconius* butterflies [46]. An increasing number of insect

genomes are reported with large repeatomes (*e.g. Aedes aegypti* and *Ae. albopictus* 40-

50% [47,48], *L. migratoria* 60-65% [40,41], *Dendrolimus punctatus* 56% [49], *Vandiemenella*

viatica species 66-75% [43]).

Here we present the genome of *S. oryzae*, with a strong focus on the repeatome, its

largest genomic compartment, spanning over ≈74% of the assembly. *S. oryzae* represents a

model system for stored grain pests, host-TE evolutionary biology, and the study of the

molecular mechanisms acting at the early steps of symbiogenesis. Moreover, the features

uncovered suggest that *S. oryzae* and its relatives have the potential to become a platform

to study the interplay between TEs, host genomes and endosymbionts.

214 Results and discussion

215 Genome assembly and annotation

We have sequenced and assembled the genome of the rice weevil *S. oryzae* at a base

coverage depth of 142X using a combination of short and long read strategies (see

Methods). The karyotype of *S. oryzae* comprises 22 chromosomes [50], and the genome

assembly consists of 2 025 scaffolds spanning 770 Mbp with a N50 of 2.86 Mbp,

demonstrating a high contiguity compared to other Coleopteran genomes (Table 1). The

assembly size is consistent with the genome size measured through flow cytometry (769

Mbp in females and 768 Mbp in males [50]). We assessed the completeness of the genome

assembly using BUSCO [51] (97.9% complete and 0.7% fragmented), and along with the

aforementioned statistics, *S. oryzae* is the best assembled Curculionidae genome to date

[7,52,53] (Table 1). The complete analysis of gene content and function can be found in

Additional file 1.

Table 1. Assembly statistics of *S. oryzae*'s genome in comparison to Curculionidae genomes

and *T. castaneum*

Statistics	*Sitophilus oryzae*	*Rhynchophorus ferrugineus* [8]	*Hypothenemus hampei* [6]	*Dendroctonus ponderosae* [7]	*Tribolium castaneum* [53]
Order, Family	Coleoptera, Curculionidae	Coleoptera, Curculionidae	Coleoptera, Curculionidae	Coleoptera, Curculionidae	Coleoptera, Tenebrionidae
No. chromosomes	2n=22 [50]	2n=22 [54]	2n=14 [55]	2n=24 [56]	2n=20 [57]
No. scaffolds	2,025	4,807	15,896	8,188	2,149
Total length (Mb)	770	782	151	253	166
Scaffold N50 (Kb)	2,861	64,117	39	629	4,456
GC%	32.9	30.5	27.8	38.4	35.2
Gap length (Mb)	12.6	40.6	20.9	51.0	13.5
Median coverage	142×	108×	100×	443×	-
BUSCO (% complete/partial)	98/99	92/94	97/98	96/97	99/100
No. protein-coding genes	15,057	25,567*	19,222*	13,021	12,862

230   *All genes, no NCBI RefSeq annotation report available.*

Annotation of the *Sitophilus oryzae* genome

233   Among the different pathways we were able to decipher in the genome of *S. oryzae*, we

234   present here highlights of the main annotation efforts, followed by a detailed analysis of the

235   TE content and impact on the host genome. A comprehensive analysis for each highlight is

236   presented as Supplemental Notes in Additional file 1.

Phylome and horizontal gene transfer

Sitophilus oryzae has a high gene expansion rate when compared to other beetles. Some of the families with the largest expansions include genes coding for proteins with DNA binding motifs, potentially regulating functions specific to this clade. Olfactory receptors, antimicrobial peptides (AMPs) and P450 cytochromes were expanded as well, probably in response to their ecological niche and lifestyle. Additionally, we noticed an expansion of plant cell wall degrading enzymes that originated from horizontal gene transfer (HGT) events from both bacteria and fungi. Given the intimate relationship between *S. oryzae* and its endosymbiont, including the permanent infection of the female germline, we searched for evidence for HGT in the weevil genome possibly coming from *S. pierantonius*. Contrary to the genome of the tsetse fly *Glossina,* where at least three HGT events from *Wolbachia* have been reported [58], we were unable to pinpoint any HGT event from either the ancient endosymbiont *Nardonella, Wolbachia,* or the recently acquired *S. pierantonius.* A detailed description is reported in Additional file 1: Supplemental Note 1 and Note 3 for digestive enzymes.

Global analysis of metabolic pathways

Using the CycADS [59] pipeline and Pathway Tools [60] we have generated BioCyc metabolism reconstruction databases for *S. oryzae* and its endosymbiont *S. pierantonius*. We compared *S. oryzae* metabolism to that of other arthropods available in the ArthropodaCyc collection and we explored the metabolic exchanges between weevils and their endosymbionts (see Additional file 1: Supplemental Note 2). The metabolic reconstruction reveals that, despite its large genome for an endosymbiotic bacterium, *S. pierantonius* relies on its host for several central compounds, including alanine and proline, but also isocitrate, Inosine MonoPhosphate (IMP) and Uridine MonoPhosphate (UMP), to produce essential molecules to weevils, including the essential amino acids tryptophan, phenylalanine, lysine and arginine, the vitamins pantothenate, riboflavin and dihydropteroate as a folate precursor, as well as nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide (NAD) (Additional file 1:

264 Supplemental Note 2). Among the amino acids listed above, phenylalanine, in particular is

265 an essential precursor for the cuticle synthesis in emerging adults [61]. In addition, several

266 studies have shown that *S. pierantonius* improves host fitness, including fertility,

267 developmental time and flight capacity, in part by supplying the host with vitamins and

268 improving its mitochondrial energy metabolism [62–64].

Development

The annotation of developmental genes uncovered a high level of conservation in

comparison to the red flour beetle *Tribolium castaneum*, a model coleopteran. When

compared to *D. melanogaster*, several key coordinate group genes are absent in *T.*

castaneum and *S. oryzae*. Moreover, a number of genes with two homologs in the

Drosophila genome are represented by a single ortholog in *T. castaneum* and *S. oryzae*. We

also observed that homologs for several signaling pathway ligands could not be identified,

which, given the presence of conserved receptors, is probably due to divergent primary

sequence of the ligands. A detailed description is reported in Additional file 1: Supplemental

Note 4.

Cuticle protein genes

Among the distinctive biological features of coleopterans is the ability to generate a hard and

thick cuticle that protects them against dehydration and represents the first physical barrier

from infections and topical insecticide penetration. The analysis of cuticle proteins (CPs)

showed that *S. oryzae* has an average number of CPs, but with an enrichment of members

of the CPAP1 family. While some members of this family are known to be involved in molting

and maintaining the integrity of the cuticle in *T. castaneum*, most are still uncharacterized

[65,66]. Thus, these proteins might be involved in the development of specific cuticular

tissues in *S. oryzae* or other weevils. The total number of CPs did not follow the taxonomy of

beetles, suggesting instead that it might be an adaptation to their diverse lifestyles. For

details see Additional file 1: Supplemental Note 5.

Innate immune system

The analysis of immunity-related genes revealed that the genome of *S. oryzae* encodes the

canonical genes involved in the three main antimicrobial pathways Toll, Imd and JAK-STAT,

suggesting functional conservation of these pathways in cereal weevils. The conservation of

the Imd pathway in the *S. oryzae* genome is of particular interest as its degradation in other

symbiotic insects (*Acyrthosiphon pisum* [67], *B. tabaci* [68], or *Rhodnius prolixus* [69] was

initially correlated to their symbiotic status. The Imd pathway is not only present in *S. oryzae*,

but it is also functional [70,71], and has evolved molecular features necessary for

endosymbiont control [70] and host immune homeostasis [71]. Thus, not only is the Imd

pathway conserved in cereal weevils, contrary to aphids and some other hemimetabolous

insects, but it seems to have been evolutionary "rewired" toward additional functions in

symbiotic homeostasis [70]. A detailed description can be seen in Additional file 1:

Supplemental Note 6.

Detoxification and insecticide resistance

Fumigation using phosphine, hydrogen phosphide gas (PH_3), is by far the most widely used

treatment for the protection of stored grains against insect pests due to its ease of use, low

cost, and universal acceptance as a residue-free treatment [72,73]. However, high-level

resistance to this fumigant has been reported in *S. oryzae* from different countries [13,74–

81]. Hence, we searched for genes associated with detoxification and resistance to

insecticide and more generally to toxins, including plant allelochemicals. The *S. oryzae*

repertoire of detoxification and insecticide resistance genes includes more than 300

candidates, similar to what is seen in other coleopteran genomes. For more details see

Additional file 1: Supplemental Note 7.

Odorant receptors

One promising pest management strategy relies on modifying insect behavior through the

use of volatile organic compounds that act on odorant receptors (ORs) [82,83]. ORs play a

significant role in many crucial behaviors in insects by mediating host-seeking behavior,

mating, oviposition, and predator avoidance [84]. Interfering with the behavior of pest insects

and modulating their ability to find suitable hosts and mates has been shown to reduce

population numbers, notably using plants that are capable of producing attractants and

repellents [85,86]. *Sitophilus* spp. are known to use kairomones for host detection [87,88], as

well as aggregation pheromones [89,90]. We annotated 100 candidate OR genes in *S.*

oryzae (named SoryORs), including the gene encoding the co-receptor Orco. Of these

genes, 46 were predicted to encode a full-length sequence. The global size of the SoryOR

gene repertoire is in the range of what has been described in other species of the

coleopteran suborder Polyphaga (between 46 in *Agrilus planipennis* and more than 300 in *T.*

castaneum) and close to the number of OR genes annotated in the closely related species

Dendroctonus ponderosae (85 genes, [91]) (Additional file 1: Supplemental Note 8).

Massive expansion of TE copies in the genome of *S. oryzae*

Detection and annotation of the repeatome

The repeatome represents the fraction of the genome categorized as repetitive. It

encompasses TEs, satellites, tandem, and simple repeats. Eukaryotic TEs can be separated

into two classes, depending on their replication mode [92]. DNA (Class II) based elements

are able to directly move within a genome, and include terminal inverted repeat (TIR),

Crypton, rolling-circle (RC/Helitron), and large composite elements (Maverick). Conversely,

retrotransposons (Class I) have an RNA intermediate and replicate through RNA

retrotranscription. Retrotransposons can be further divided into long terminal repeat (LTR),

and non-LTR elements, including long and short interspersed nuclear repeat elements

(LINEs and SINEs). Other retrotransposons include Penelope-like (PLEs) and DIRS-like

elements. Each one of these TE orders can be further classified into specific superfamilies

(as for instance Copia or Gypsy LTR elements, and hAT or Tc1/Mariner TIR elements), that

may encompass hundreds of TE families, each containing thousands of copies. The intrinsic

diversity of TEs complicates their identification and annotation, especially in understudied

species genera.

We used multiple state-of-the-art TE detection tools, including RepeatModeler2 and EDTA

[93,94], to generate consensus sequences of the TE families in *S. oryzae*. After an initial

discovery step, more than 10 000 likely redundant TE families were identified by the

dedicated programs; we combined their results using multiple sequence alignments and

clustering (see Methods and Additional file 1: Figure S1) to reduce this number to 3 399.

Due to the evolutionary distance between *S. oryzae* and other known coleopterans, the

consensus sequences obtained were further classified using a thorough combination of

sequence homology and structure (see Methods).

The *S. oryzae* genome is among the most TE-rich insect genomes to date

We uncovered 570 Mbp of repeat sequences, corresponding to ≈74% of the *S. oryzae*

genome: ≈2% of satellite sequences, simple or low-complexity repeats, and ≈72% of other

mobile elements, including TEs, (Figure 2A, Additional file 2). Given the limitation of the

sequencing technologies, the proportion of satellites and TEs usually abundant in the

heterochromatin is likely underestimated. We took advantage of a recent comparative

analysis of TE content in 62 insect species [40] to contrast with the *S. oryzae* TE

compartment. The *S. oryzae* genome ranks among those with the highest TE fraction

observed in insects (Figure 2B and 2C). Within the largest insect order, Coleoptera, very

little is known regarding TE distribution and evolution. *T. castaneum* harbors only 6% of TEs

[53], *Hypothenemus hampei* contains 8.2% of TEs [6,95], while *Dichotomius schiffleri*

harbors 21% [96]. The species closest to *S. oryzae*, *Rhynchophorus ferrugineus,* has a TE

content of 45% [8]. Therefore, while TE content has been described to follow phylogenetic

relationships in most insects [44,45] there is a large variation among the few Coleoptera

species with available genomes. It is important to note that the pipeline we used to detect

and annotate TEs in *S. oryzae* differs from the method implemented by Petersen and

colleagues [40], as we incorporated 31 manually curated TE references for *S. oryzae*, and

specifically annotated DNA/TIR elements based on their sequence structure (see Methods),

increasing the annotation sensitivity.

Class II (DNA) elements dominate *S. oryzae*'s genome

The most striking feature of the genome of *S. oryzae* is the high abundance of Class II

(DNA) elements (≈32% of the genome, ≈43% of the TE content) (Figure 2A), which is the

highest observed among all 62 insect species included in this analysis [40–42]. The most

DNA transposon-rich genomes include mosquito *Culex quinquefasciatus,* and *Ae. aegypti,*

harboring 25% and 20% of DNA transposon content in their genome, amounting to 54% and

36% of the total TE compartment, respectively [6]. The TE-rich grasshopper *L. migratoria*

repeatome comprises only 14% of DNA transposons, while LINE retroelements (Class I)

amount to 25%. Morabine grasshoppers, with up to 75% of TE content, show equivalent

amounts of DNA, LINE and Helitrons [43]. Finally, among Coleoptera, a large diversity of

repeatomes is observed (Figure 2C) with *A. planipennis, Leptinotarsa decemlineata* and

Onthophagus taurus carrying an abundant LINE content, while *S. oryzae, T. castaneum* and

Anoplophora glabripennis show larger DNA transposon content.

Among the Class II elements present in *S. oryzae*, the majority belongs to the TIR

subclass but has not been assigned a known superfamily (Figure 2D), while Tc Mariners

make up ≈6% of DNA elements. Among the consensus sequences we were able to

assemble from 5'TIR to 3'TIR (highest confidence, see Methods), the length distribution

shows a continuum starting at a couple of hundred bases to a maximum of ~5 Kbp (see

Figure 2E). We hypothesize that most of the smaller TIR families observed are miniature

inverted repeat elements (MITEs). MITEs are non-autonomous elements, deriving from

autonomous ClassII/TIR copies, comprising two TIRs flanking a unique, non-coding, region

(sometimes absent) of variable length. While the TE detection pipeline used was able to

detect and annotate most Class II/TIR elements based on transposase homologies, we also

specifically searched for non-autonomous TIR sequences, allowing the detection of putative MITEs that lack protein coding regions (Additional file 1: Figure S1). Among all Class II/TIR superfamilies, TIR length varies between tens of base pairs to ≈1 Kbp (Figure 2E). We identified short elements, composed mostly of their TIR sequences (Figure 2E), typical of MITEs. Interestingly, the unknown TIR families show an average size smaller than 1 Kbp, while TIRs with an annotated superfamily, show larger sizes (Additional file 1: Figure S3), suggesting that most unknown families could be indeed non-autonomous MITEs. MITE size ranges were previously described from around 100 bp to copies reaching more than 1 Kbp [97]. Finally, the distribution of the proportions of TIR relative to the consensus length appears superfamily-specific (Figure 2E and Additional file 1: Figure S3), and unknown families recapitulate these patterns. In conclusion, while most unknown TIR families seem to be composed of MITEs, we cannot exclude that our homology database is limited, likely missing some unknown protein domains. The most abundant TE family detected in the *S. oryzae* genome is indeed a MITE element (TE2641_SO2_FAM0704), with 10 486 genomic hits (or the equivalent of ≈4 117 copies based on the consensus size), corresponding to 1.3% of the genome. Large fractions of MITEs were also reported in Class II-rich genomes, such as the aforementioned mosquitoes [48,98] and the invasive *Ae. albopictus* [47], but also in many plant species such as the rice *Oryza sativa* [99–101]. Among Class II elements, we have also detected Crypton (0.9% of the genome), RC/Helitrons (0.4% of the genome) and Mavericks (0.3% of the genome).

LINE elements are the second most abundant TE subclass, representing ≈11% of the *S. oryzae* genome, among which ≈35% are assigned to RTE elements and ≈22% to I elements (Figure 2D). No SINE families have been detected. LTRs are rather scarce, representing only ≈3% of the genome (Figure 2D), and the vast majority belongs to the Gypsy superfamily (≈30%). Another retrotransposon order detected are Penelope (PLEs), reaching nearly 2% of *S. oryzae*'s genome, and DIRS (Tyrosine recombinase retrotransposons, 0.14% of the genome).

Finally, around 22% of the genome is composed of repeats for which our pipeline could not

assign a known TE class (Figure 2D). These unknown families highlight the wealth and

diversity of TEs among insects and Coleopteran genomes in particular, and could represent

an overlooked reservoir of genomic innovations.

TE copies make up most of non-coding sequences of *S. oryzae*'s genome

TE copies are interspersed around the *S. oryzae* genome. TEs are less frequently found

close to gene transcription start sites (TSS), 5' and 3' untranslated regions (5' and 3' UTRs)

and exons (Figure 3A), as expected. On the contrary, introns and intergenic sequences

harbor the highest TE content (Figure 3A), amounting to around 50% of TE density, close to

the general TE proportion in the genome (72%), suggesting that most non-coding DNA

sequences in the *S. oryzae* genome are virtually made of TEs. To grasp the impact of TEs

on intron size, we compared intron length in *S. oryzae* with two very well assembled

genomes: *D. melanogaster* with a very compact and small genome, and the large, TE-rich

human genome (Figure 3B). In *D. melanogaster*, introns are small and harbor few TEs, while

in humans, introns are much larger potentially due to high TE accumulation [102]. *S. oryzae*

intron sizes also seem to be due, at least partly, to TE accumulation. Interestingly, the *S.*

oryzae genome presents a bimodal distribution, with a large proportion of small introns, as

found in *D. melanogaster,* but also a noticeable amount of larger, TE packed and more

human-like introns. This could suggest that specific regions of the genome could be more

prone to TE elimination, and be associated with high rates of recombination and/or signature

of purifying selection.

TE activity inferred by evolutionary history

Within reconstructed TE families, nucleotide substitution levels (Kimura 2 Parameters, K2P)

between copies and their consensus sequences allowed estimation of their relative ages and

identified potentially active ones (Figure 4A). Such "TE landscapes'' are extremely helpful to

pinpoint potential TE amplifications (modes in the distribution) and extinctions (valleys) within

the 0-30% K2P range (beyond, the increased divergence between copies affects negatively

the sensitivity of the alignments, such that TE-derived sequences are no longer

recognisable). The landscape analysis revealed a heterogeneous distribution of the TE copy

divergence to their consensus within and between the main TE subclasses (Figure 4A). Most

identified TE copies have a K2P divergence under 10, which is often observed in insects,

and strikingly distinguishes itself from TE-rich mammalian genomes (RepeatMasker.org,

[40]). While *S. oryzae's* TE density and distribution evokes the architecture of mammalian

genomes, this relatively younger TE landscape suggests higher deletion rates, and possibly

a higher TE turnover rate, as observed in *Drosophila* [103,104]. LINEs and DNA transposons

have the wider spectrum of divergence levels, suggesting an aggregation of distinct

dynamics for the TE families present in *S. oryzae.* By contrast, the rare LTR copies identified

appear to be the most homogeneous within families, with only a few substitutions between

copies and their consensuses, suggesting a very recent amplification in this subclass.

Finally, unknown TEs share a large part of their K2P distribution with TIR elements, though

relatively less divergent from their consensus sequences as a whole. A breakdown of the

K2P distributions at the superfamily level reveals specific evolutionary dynamics (Figure 4B).

Diverse superfamilies, such as Tc-Mar and hAT (TIR) or RTE (LINE), show more uniform

distributions, suggesting sustained activity of some of its members throughout *S. oryzae*'s

genome evolution, though this could also indicate that these subfamilies could be subdivided

further. As observed at the class level, all three identified LTR superfamilies (Pao, Gypsy

and Copia) show families within the lowest K2P range.

TEs are transcriptionally active in somatic and germline tissues

The TE K2P landscape suggests that LTR elements as well as some LINE families and

several Class II subclasses are among the youngest, and thus potentially active. In order to

estimate the transcriptional activity of *S. oryzae*'s TE families, we have produced somatic

(midgut) and germline (ovary) transcriptomic data. While germline tissues allow identification

of potential TE families capable of producing vertically transmitted new copies, TE

derepression in somatic tissues represents the potential mutational burden due to TEs. The

expression of TE families varied extensively within a class and the proportion of

transcriptionally active/inactive TE families between classes was also distinct (Figure 5A). In

total, 1 594 TE families were differentially expressed between ovary and midgut tissues

(Figure 5B, Additional file 3); of which 329 have an absolute Log2 fold change higher than 2

(71 downregulated and 258 upregulated in midgut). In total, we detected 360 TE families

downregulated in midgut when compared to ovaries: A much larger set of upregulated TE

families was detected in midgut when compared to ovaries (1 236), illustrating the tighter

regulation of TE copies in germline tissues. Moreover, the distribution of Log2 fold changes

were similar between TE subclasses but different for LTRs, which had a higher proportion of

upregulated TE families in ovaries compared to other classes (Figure 5C. Kruskall and

Wallis rank-sum test: H = 36.18, *P* < 0.01; LTR vs. LINE, Class II or Unknown: Dunn's test:

P-adj < 0.01). In conclusion, the large TE compartment in *S. oryzae* shows abundantly

expressed TE families, and tissue-specific expression patterns.

To estimate the TE transcriptional load imposed on *S. oryzae,* we computed the

percentage of total RNA-seq poly-A enriched reads mapping to TE consensus sequences

(Additional file 1: Figure S4). Around 5% of the midgut transcriptome corresponds to TE

sequences. We compared such transcriptional burden to a TE-poor (*D. melanogaster,*

≈12%*)* and a TE-rich (*Ae. albopictus* ≈50%*)* genome, using similar technology in equivalent

tissues (adult midgut, see Methods). It is important to note that, despite being a TE-poor

genome, *D. melanogaster* harbors many young LTR elements that have been recurrently

shown to transpose [105]. We did not detect a direct correlation between genomic TE

content and TE expression (Additional file 1: Figure S4). *S. oryzae* bears the highest

proportion of RNAseq reads mapped against TE consensus sequences (≈5%), followed by

D. melanogaster (≈1%) and *Ae. albopictus* (≈0.01%). Henceforth, not only is *S. oryzae* a TE-

rich genome, but the transcriptional load from TEs is higher than in other TE-rich genomes

(*Ae. albopictus)*, and in genomes harboring young and active TE copies (*D. melanogaster,*

[38,106]).

Finally, it is important to note that while transcriptional activation of TE copies may have an

impact on the host genome, it does not indicate high transposition and therefore higher

mutation rates. The high transcriptional load of *S. oryzae* compared to other species might

stem from differences in TE regulation. In insects, TEs are mainly silenced by small RNAs

and repressive chromatin marks [107]. More specifically, piwi-interacting RNAs (piRNAs) are

able to target post-transcriptional repression of TEs, and guide chromatin silencing

complexes to TE copies [107–109]. Therefore, we have annotated genes implicated in small

RNA biogenesis and found that all three pathways (piRNAs but also microRNAs and small

interfering RNAs biogenesis pathways) are complete (Additional file 1: Supplemental Note

9). Genes involved in piRNA biosynthesis are expressed mainly in ovaries and testes, while

somatic tissues (midgut) show smaller steady-state levels (Additional file 1: Supplemental

Note 9), suggesting the piRNA pathway is potentially functional in *S. oryzae* ovaries, and

could efficiently reduce transposition.

TE content is variable among *Sitophilus* species

Cereal weevils are part of the Dryophthoridae family that includes more than 500 species.

Very little is known about genome dynamics in this massive phylogenetic group. Because of

the unusual high TE copy number and landscape observed in *S. oryzae,* we analyzed three

other closely related species namely *Sitophilus zeamais, Sitophilus granarius* and *Sitophilus*

linearis. We produced low coverage sequencing and estimated the TE content from raw

reads using our annotated *S. oryzae* TE library with dnaPipeTE [47]. Remarkably, among

Sitophilus species, repeat content is variable (Figure 6A), with *S. linearis* harboring the

smaller repeat load (≈54%) compared to *S. oryzae* (≈80%), *S. zeamais* (≈79%)*,* and *S.*

granarius (≈65%). Most importantly, Class II (DNA) elements of *S. oryzae* are nearly absent

from *S. linearis*, and no recent burst of LTR elements is observed, contrary to the other

Sitophilus species, suggesting alternative TE evolutionary histories (Figure 6B). It is

important to note that our analysis is biased towards *S. oryzae,* as the library used to

annotate the TEs in the other *Sitophilus* species stems from automatic and manual

annotation of the *S. oryzae* genome. Finally, the relatively higher dnaPipeTE estimations of

the LTR content in *S. oryzae* compared to the assembled genome supports the hypothesis

that LTR elements have seen a recent burst of transposition, as young elements tend to

collapse in genome assemblies and eventually diminish their estimated copy number.

Overall, the comparison of TE content in closely related species highlights the influence of

phylogenetic inertia, but reveals a possible TE turnover in the *S. linearis* lineage. In addition

to the regulation mechanisms that strongly contribute to TE amount and variation, TE

accumulation is conditioned by the drift/selection balance in populations. Indeed, effective

population size has been suggested to be a major variable influencing TE content, as small,

inbred or expanding populations suffer drift, allowing detrimental insertions to stay in the

gene pool and thus favor TE fixation [110]. Such hypotheses should be addressed in the

future, especially on recently sequenced TE-rich but rather small (<1 Gbp) genomes such as

S. oryzae.

Endosymbionts impact TE transcriptional regulation

The four *Sitophilus* species studied have different ecologies. *S. oryzae* and *S. zeamais* infest

field cereals and silos, while *S. granarius* is mainly observed in cereal-containing silos. *S.*

linearis, however, lives in a richer environment, *i.e.* tamarind seeds. In association with their

diets, the interaction of *Sitophilus* species with endosymbiotic bacteria differs: the cereal

weevils (*S. oryzae, S. zeamais* and *S. granarius*) harbor the intracellular gram-negative

bacteria *S. pierantonius*, albeit at very different loads. While *S. oryzae* and *S. zeamais* show

high bacterial load, *S. granarius* has a smaller bacterial population [61]. In contrast, *S.*

linearis has no nutritional endosymbionts, in correlation with its richer diet. We wondered

whether the presence of intracellular bacteria impacts TE regulation, and took advantage of

artificially obtained aposymbiotic *S. oryzae* animals to search for TE families differentially

expressed in symbiotic versus aposymbiotic ovaries. There were 50 TE families upregulated

in symbiotic ovaries compared to artificially obtained aposymbiotic ones, while 15 families

were downregulated (Figure 7 and Additional file 3). Only three families presented an

absolute Log2 fold change higher than 2: one LINE and two LTR/Gypsy elements. The three

of them were upregulated both in symbiotic *versus* aposymbiotic ovaries, and in ovaries

versus midgut (Additional file 5), suggesting that such elements have tissue specificity, and

their expression is modulated by the presence of intracellular bacteria. Such TE families

would be ideal candidates to further study the crosstalk between host genes, intracellular

bacteria and TE transcriptional regulation.

564   Conclusion

The success of obtaining a TE-rich genome assembly complete enough to understand

genome architecture and regulatory networks relies on the use of multiple sequencing

platforms [111]. Here, we describe the first assembly of the repeat-rich (74%) *S. oryzae*

genome, based on a combination of long and short read sequencing, and a new assembly

method, WENGAN [112]. While this first assembly reaches quality standards similar to other

coleopteran species (Table 1), it is important to stress that new sequencing methods have

emerged in order to improve genome assemblies, including linked-reads and optical

mapping [111].

We uncovered around 74% of repeated sequences in the *S. oryzae* genome, mostly TE

families. While the TE landscape is marked by a wealth of Class II elements, especially non-

autonomous MITE elements, 22% of the genome is composed of unknown repeats. Large

duplicated gene families can be present in such a category, but it is tempting to speculate

that the majority is composed of novel Class II elements. Indeed, Unknown and TIR

elements share the same K2P landscapes, and many Class II elements have only been

detected through an inverted repeat search for TIRs, and not proteins, excluding therefore

TE copies old enough that TIRs are too divergent to be recognized. Moreover, we have

shown that many TE families in *S. oryzae* are present in the transcriptome, suggesting that

several families can be transcriptionally active. How such TE families are able to escape

host silencing remains unknown. It seems obvious today that insect models such as *D.*

melanogaster only represent a small window on the complex biology and evolution of TEs,

and the sequencing and annotation of species with high TE content -- while challenging

[113] -- is key to understanding how genomes, their size, their structure and their function

evolve. In conclusion, *S. oryzae* constitutes an excellent model to understand TE dynamics

and regulation and the impact on genome function.

Sitophilus species not only differ in their TE landscape, but also in their ecology and as a

consequence, their association with intracellular bacteria. Comparison of TE content within

the *Sitophilus* genus shows variable TE amount and diversity. In addition, intracellular

bacterium impacts transcription of specific TE families in ovaries. The molecular

mechanisms behind the co-evolution between an insect, its endosymbiotic bacterium and

TEs remains unexplored. The impact of intracellular bacteria on host genomes is poorly

studied, and the *Sitophilus* genus offers a simpler experimental setting, with a single

intracellular bacterium present within specific host cells [19,62], and a well established

knowledge of host-bacteria interaction [61,70,71,114,115].

Methods

DNA extraction and high-throughput sequencing

Individuals of both sexes of *S. oryzae* were reared on wheat grains at 27.5 °C with 70%

relative humidity. The aposymbiotic strain was obtained by treating the symbiotic strain

during one month at 35 °C and 90% relative humidity as previously described [116]. This

strain is viable, fertile and was raised in the same conditions as the symbiotic strain. The

aposymbiotic status was confirmed by PCR and histology. Male and female adults of *S.*

oryzae were used for DNA extraction. Only the gonads were used to minimize DNA

contamination from its diet, which could be still present in the gut. The reproductive organs

were obtained from aposymbiotic adults and a DNA extraction protocol specific for *Sitophilus*

weevils was performed. DNA extractions were performed using a STE buffer (100 mM NaCl,

1 mM Na$_2$EDTA pH 8, 10 mM Tris HCl pH 8). Tissues were homogenized in STE buffer, then

treated successively by SDS 10%, proteinase K and RNase. Briefly, genomic DNA was

purified by two successive extractions with phenol:chloroform:isoamyl alcohol (25/24/1)

followed by extraction with 1 vol of chloroform:isoamyl alcohol (24/1). Genomic DNA was

then precipitated by 0.7 vol isopropanol. After washing the pellet with 70% ethanol, genomic

DNA was recovered in TE (1 mM EDTA, 10 mM Tris HCl pH8) buffer. Using this protocol, we

obtained six different DNA samples: four from males and two from females. Each sample

corresponds to the genomic DNA from 20 individuals. Five additional DNA samples were

obtained using a high molecular weight DNA extraction protocol consisting of a single

phenol:chloroform:isoamyl alcohol (25/24/1) extraction step from the genomic DNA of 100

males. The DNA concentration in each of these samples was quantified using a NanoDrop

spectrophotometer (ThermoFisher Scientific, Waltham, MA, USA).

Sequencing was performed using a combination of Illumina, PacBio and Nanopore

technologies (Additional file 4). For each sex, two Illumina libraries were generated: one

paired-end library with an average fragment size of 500 bp and one mate pair library with an

average fragment size of 5 Kbp. The libraries were sequenced using an Illumina HiSeq 2000

platform with the V3 chemistry and a read size of 101 bp; the paired-end (PE) libraries were

sequenced at the "Génomique & Microgénomique" service from ProfileXpert (Lyon, France)

while the mate paired (MP) were sequenced at Macrogen (Seoul, South Korea). Two male

samples were used to build (i) an Illumina library with an average fragment size of 200 bp

which was sequenced on a HiSeq 2500 instrument using the V4 chemistry and a read size

of 125 bp, and (ii) a PacBio library sequenced on seven SMRT cells using the P6-C4

chemistry. These two libraries were sequenced at KeyGene (Wageningen, The

Netherlands). Finally, five male samples were used to build Nanopore libraries with the SQK-

LSK109 kit and without DNA fragmentation step. The libraries were independently

sequenced on five MinION R9.4 flow cells. These libraries were built and sequenced at the

sequencing platform of the IGFL (Institut de Génomique Fonctionnelle de Lyon, Ecole

Normale Supérieure de Lyon, France). Statistics and accession numbers from all the

sequencing runs are listed in the Additional file 3.

Genome assembly and annotation

First, the Illumina reads were error-corrected using BFC release 181 [117]. The PacBio and

Nanopore reads were error-corrected using LORDEC v0.9 [118] with the error-corrected

Illumina overlapping PE reads, a k-mer size of 19 and solidity threshold of 3. Overlapping

reads were then merged using FLASH2 v2.2 [119]. Based on the merged Illumina reads, a

first short-read assembly was produced using a modified version of MINIA v3.2.1 [120] with

a k-mer length of 211. A hybrid assembly was then performed using WENGAN v0.1 [112] on

the MINIA short-read assembly and the raw Nanopore reads. The resulting assembly was

polished using two rounds of PILON v1.23 [121] using the error-corrected Illumina

overlapping PE reads and the --diploid option. A first scaffolding was then performed with

two rounds of FAST-SG v06/2019 [122] and SCAFFMATCH v0.9 [123] with the error-

corrected Illumina MP, Illumina PE, PacBio and Nanopore libraries. The LR_GAPCLOSER

algorithm v06/2019 [124] was used for the gap-filling step using the error-corrected PacBio

and Nanopore libraries. An additional scaffolding step was performed using RASCAF v1.0.2

[125] with the available RNA-seq libraries from the Sequence Read Archive (SRX1034967-

SRX1034972 and SRX3721133-SRX3721138). The resulting scaffolds were then gap-filled

using a new round of LR_GAPCLOSER as previously described followed by two rounds of

SEALER v2.1.5 [126] using the error-corrected Illumina overlapping PE reads and k-mer

sizes of 64 and 96. Two rounds of PILON, as previously described, were performed to

produce the final assembly. Quality of the assembly was assessed by computing several

metrics using i) QUAST v5.0.2 [127] with a minimal contig size of 100 bp and the --large and

-k options, ii) BUSCO v4.0.5 [51] using the Insecta ODB10 database and the -geno option,

and iii) KMC v3.0.0 [128] to evaluate the percentage of shared 100-mers between the

assembly and the merged Illumina reads.

Three contaminant scaffolds corresponding to the mitochondrial genome and an artefact

were removed from the assembly prior to the annotation step. The 'NCBI *Sitophilus oryzae*

Annotation Release 100' was produced using the NCBI Eukaryotic Genome Annotation

Pipeline v8.2.

Low-coverage genome sequencing of other *Sitophilus* species

Twenty pairs of ovaries were dissected from *S. oryzae, S. zeamais, S. granarius and S.*

linearis females. Ovaries were homogenized in 100 mM NaCl, 1 mM EDTA pH 8, 10 mM

Tris-HCl pH 8 using a small piston. Proteinase K digestion followed in the presence of SDS

for 2 h at 55 °C with shaking and for 1 h at 37 °C with RNAse A. A typical phenol chloroform

extraction was then performed and genomic DNA was isopropanol precipitated. Eight whole

genome sequencing libraries with a median insert size of 550 bp were constructed using the

Illumina TruSeq DNA PCR-free sample preparation kit (Illumina, San Diego, CA, USA),

according to manufacturer's protocols. Briefly, 2 µg of each gDNA were sheared using a

Covaris M220 Focused-ultrasonicator (Covaris, Inc. Woburn, MA, USA), end-repaired, A-

tailed, and adapter ligated. Library quality control was performed using the 2100 Bioanalyzer

System with the Agilent High Sensitivity DNA Kit (Agilent Technologies, Santa Clara, CA,

USA). The libraries were individually quantified via qPCR using a KAPA Library

Quantification Kits (Kapa Biosystems, Wilmington, MA, USA) for Illumina platforms, then

they were pooled together in equimolar quantities and sequenced in a MiSeq sequencing

system. 2x300 paired-end reads were obtained using a MiSeq Reagent Kits (600-cycles).

TE library construction

In order to annotate the *S. oryzae* repeatome, we collected and combined cutting-edge bioinformatic tools to (i) create and (ii) classify a non-redundant library of repeated elements (Additional file 1: Figure S1). First, we separately ran RepeatModeler2 [93] and EDTA [94] on the assembled genome. Together, these programs include most of the recent and long-trusted tools used to detect generic repeats, but also include specific modules, such as for LTR and TIR elements. Preliminary analyses of the *S. oryzae* genome with RepeatModeler1 [129] and dnaPipeTE [47] suggested a rather large fraction of Class II DNA elements with terminal inverted repeats (TIRs). Thus, MITE-Tracker [130] was incorporated in our pipeline and ran independently on the genome assembly using 1- and 2-Kbp size cutoffs to detect Class II elements harboring TIRs with high sensitivity. Following this initial step, 15 510 consensus sequences obtained from RM2, EDTA and the two runs of MITE-tracker were successively clustered using MAFFT [131]*,* Mothur [132]*,* and Refiner [129] to reduce redundancy in the repeat library to a total of 2 754 consensus sequences (Additional file 1: Figure S1A, https://github.com/clemgoub/So2). Then, we inspected the quality of the raw library by calculating the genomic coverage of each consensus. We ran the library against the genome using RepeatMasker (52) and implemented a simple algorithm "TE-trimmer.sh" to trim or split a consensus sequence wherever the genomic support drops below 5% of the average consensus coverage (Additional file 1: Figure S1A, https://github.com/clemgoub/So2). To mitigate any redundancy generated by the splitting, the newly trimmed library was clustered before being re-quantified using RepeatMasker [129]. At this step, we removed any consensus under 200 bp and represented by less than the equivalent of two full-length copies (in total bp). In addition, TAREAN [133] was used to detect and quantify candidate satellite repeats. We obtained an *ab-initio* repeat library of 3 950 consensus sequences automatically generated (Additional file 1: Figure S1A).

To refine and improve the quality of the TE consensus sequences, we then turned it over to DFAM [134] who processed the *ab initio* library. First, any sequences mostly composed of

tandem repeats were removed using a custom script to remove any sequences that were

greater than 80% masked and/or had a sequence less than 100 bp. To generate seed

alignments for each consensus, the consensus sequences were used as a search library for

RepeatMasker to collect interspersed repeats. Seed alignments in the form of stockholm

files were generated using the RepeatMasker output. To extend potentially truncated

elements, the instances in the stockholm file for each model were extended into neighboring

flanking sequences until the alignment was below a threshold equivalent to ~3 sequences in

agreement. More specifically, all sequences are extended using full dynamic programming

matrices using an improved affine gap penalty (default: -28 open, -6 extension) and a full

substitution matrix (default: 20 percent divergence, 43% GC background). The termination of

extension occurs when the improvement by adding a further column to the multiple

alignment does not exceed 27 (with default scoring system). This is equivalent to a net gain

of ~3 sequences in agreement. Following extension, the new consensus were collected and

consensus sequences greater than 80% similar for 80% of their length were considered

duplicates and only one consensus was kept.

Upon completion, we used RepeatMasker to quantify the improved library. We selected

the top 50 elements (by abundance in the genome) represented in each of the "LTR",

"LINE", "Class II" and "Unknown" classes for manual inspection (these categories represent

the 4 most abundant classes of repeats in the *S. oryzae* genome). While most consensus

sequences where correctly extended and annotated (200) we noticed some cases of over-

extension with LTR (consensus doubled in size) and flagged others with non-supported

fragments for further trimming (Additional file 2 | tab 1). Once our quality check completed

and the sequences curated, we removed fragments with 100% identity against a previously

established consensus (Additional file 2 | tab 2). The final TE library contains 3 399

sequences to classify.

The classification of the final repeat library was done in successive rounds combining

homology and structure methods (Additional file 1: Figure S1B). Before the final TE library

was completed, we manually curated and annotated the sequences of 31 transposable

741 elements and satellites among the most represented in *S. oryzae*. These high-confidence

742 references were added to the default libraries used by the following programs and Repbase

743 v.2017 [135]. We searched for nucleotide homology using RepeatMasker (V.4.1.1 [129]) with

744 -s "-slow" search settings. Best hits were chosen based on the highest score at the

745 superfamily level allowing non-overlapping hits of related families to contribute to the same

746 hit. In addition we used blastx [136] to query each consensus against a curated collection of

747 TE proteins (available with RepeatMasker), as well as those identified in the 31 manual

748 consensus sequences. We kept the best protein hit based on the blastx score. Based on the

749 200 consensus sequences manually inspected (see above), we set a hit length / consensus

750 size threshold of 0.08 (RepeatMasker) and 0.03 (blastx) to keep a hit. In our hands, these

751 thresholds were conservative to automate the classification. As an alternate homology-

752 based method, we also ran RepeatClassifier (RepeatModeler2). Finally, because DNA

753 elements are often represented by non-autonomous copies (unidentifiable or absent

754 transposase) we further used einverted to flag terminal inverted repeats located less than

755 100 bp of the ends of each sequence. The complete library of 3 399 consensus sequences

756 was first annotated at the subclass level (see DFAM taxonomy:

757 https://dfam.org/classification/tree) if two out of RepeatMasker, RepeatClassifier and blastx

758 annotations agreed. Further, the same rule was applied for the superfamilies if possible. At

759 this stage, consensus sequences without annotation by homology but with TIRs as flagged

760 by einverted, were classified as TIR and all other sequences classified as Unknown. We

761 further divided the subclass "DNA" into "MAV" (Mavericks), "RC" (Rolling circle/Helitron),

762 "CRY" (Crypton) and "TIR" (terminal inverted repeats). Finally, the classifications

763 automatically given as "Unknown" to 16/274 manually inspected consensus sequences were

764 replaced to match the manually reported classification.

Estimation of the repeat content

The total repeat content of the *S. oryzae* genome was analyzed using RepeatMasker

(v.4.1.1) and our classified library of 3 399 consensus sequences and the following

parameters: -s -gccalc -no_is

-cutoff 200. The subsequent alignments were parsed with the script "parseRM.pl" [137]

https://github.com/4ureliek/Parsing-RepeatMasker-Outputs) to remove hits overlap and

statistically analyzed with R version 4.0.2.

Genomic distribution of TE copies

The distribution of TE copies across the *S. oryzae* genome was assessed using two different

approaches over six different genomic regions namely TSS ± 3 Kbp, 5' UTRs, exons,

introns, 3' UTRs and intergenic regions. Briefly, the coverage of all TE copies was computed

over a sliding window of 100 bp across the whole genome sequence using the

makewindows and coverage tools from the bedtools package [138] and the

bedGraphToBigWig UCSC gtfToGenePred tool. Then the different genomic regions were

retrieved from the *S. oryzae* annotation file (GFF format) using the gencode_regions script

(https://github.com/saketkc/gencode_regions) and the UCSC gtfToGenePred tool

(https://github.com/ENCODE-DCC/kentUtils). A matrix containing the TE coverage per

genomic region was generated using the computeMatrix tool from deepTools [139] and used

to generate metaplots using the plotProfile tool.

TE landscapes

The relative age of the different TE families identified in the genome assembly was drawn

performing a "TE-landscape" analysis on the RepeatMasker outputs. Briefly, the different

copies of one TE family identified by RepeatMasker are compared to their consensus

sequence and the divergence (Kimura substitution level, CpG adjusted, see RepeatMasker

webpage: http://repeatmasker.org/webrepeatmaskerhelp.html) is calculated. The TE

landscape consists of the distribution of these divergence levels. In the end, the relative age

of a TE family can be seen as its distribution within the landscape graph: "older" TE families

tend to have wider and flatter distribution spreading to the right (higher substitution levels)

than the "recent" TE families, which are found on the left of the graph and have a narrower

distribution. TE landscapes were drawn from the RepeatMasker output parsed with the

options -l of "parseRM.pl". We report here the TE landscape at the level of the TE subclass

(LINE, LTR, TIR, CRY, MAV, DIRS, PLE, RC and Unknown).

801　dnaPipeTE comparative analysis in *Sitophilus* species

To compare the TE content of *S. oryzae* to four related species of *Sitophilus* (*S. granarius,*

S. zeamais, S. linearis) we used dnaPipeTE v.1.3 [47]. dnaPipeTE allows unbiased

estimation and comparison of the total repeat content across different species by assembling

and quantifying TE from unassembled reads instead of a linear genome assembly. Reads

for *Sitophilus* species were produced as described above. Using our new classified library (3

390 consensus) as TE database in dnaPipeTE, we were further able to identify the

phylogenetic depth of the repeat identified in *S. oryzae*.

810　RNA sequencing and TE expression analysis

Adapter sequences and low quality reads were filtered out with Trimmomatic (v0.36) [140]

and clean reads were aligned to the *S. oryzae* genome with STAR aligner (v2.5.4b, [141])

and featureCounts from subread package [142] to obtain gene counts. We also used the

STAR aligner to map the clean reads against all TE copies extracted from the genome with

the following options: --outFilterMultimapNmax 100 --winAnchorMultimapNmax 100 --

outMultimapperOrder Random --outSAMmultNmax 1. The mapped bam files were used as

input to TEtools software [143] to determine TE family expression. Genes and TE family

counts were used as input for DESEq2 package [144] to determine differential TE

expression between Ovary vs Gut tissues as well as Ovaries from symbiotic and

aposymbiotic weevils. Differentially expressed TEs were defined whenever the adjusted p-

value was smaller than 0.05 and Log2 fold change was higher than 1 or smaller than -1. We

used the aforementioned STAR alignment parameters to map transcriptomic sequencing

reads from midgut of *S. oryzae* (Accession: SRX1034971, and SRX1034972), *D.*

melanogaster (Accession: SRX029389, and SRX045361), and *Ae. albopictus* (Accession:

SRX1512976, SRX1898481, SRX1898483, SRX1898487, SRX3939061, and SRX3939054)

against the TE consensus sequences for each species.

828   Abbreviations

AMPs: AntiMicrobial Peptides

CPs: cuticle proteins

HGT: horizontal gene transfer

IMP: Inosine MonoPhosphate

K2P: Kimura 2 Parameters

LINE: long INterspersed Element

LTR: Long Terminal Repeat

MAMPs: Microbial Associated Molecular Patterns

MITEs: miniature inverted repeat elements

ORs: odorant receptors

PRR: Pattern Recognition Receptors

PLE: penelope-like

RC: rolling circle

SINE: Short INterspersed Element

TIR: terminal inverted repeat

TSS: transcription start sites

TEs: transposable elements

TTSS: Type Three Secretion Systems

UTR: untranslated regions

UMP: Uridine MonoPhosphate

850   Declarations

851   Ethics approval and consent to participate

852   Not applicable

854   Consent for publication

855   Not applicable

Availability of data and materials

This Whole Genome Shotgun project has been deposited at DDBJ/ENA/GenBank under the accession PPTJ00000000. The version described in this paper is version PPTJ02000000. The assembly can be visualised, along with gene models and supporting data, on a dedicated genome browser (https://bipaa.genouest.org/sp/sitophilus_oryzae/). Raw reads from low coverage genome sequencing of *S. zeamais*, *S. granarius* and *S. linearis* have been deposited at NCBI Sequence Read Archive (SRA) under the BioProject accessions PRJNA647530, PRJNA647520 and PRJNA647347 respectively. TE annotation (GFF) and consensus sequences can be found at https://dx.doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4570415. Bisulfite-seq reads have been deposited at NCBI SRA, under the BioProject accession PRJNA681724.

Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

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886   Authors' contributions

AH and AL conceived the original sequencing project and were joined by NP, RR, CG, CV-

C, AM and CV who participated in the coordination of the project. AVa, CV-M, ED, JM, FM

and AVi reared the inbred lines and AVa extracted genomic DNA and RNA that was used for

library construction and sequencing. BG and SH produced and sequenced the Nanopore

libraries. CG, AVa, MB, NB, CV, AG and ATRV produced and sequenced the low-coverage

Illumina libraries. NP, CV-C, ADG and M-FS performed the genome assembly and

automated gene prediction. CV-C, MM-H and TG analyzed and wrote the *phylome and*

horizontal gene transfer note. PB-P, GF, SC, HC and FC analyzed and wrote *the global*

analysis of metabolic pathways note. NP analyzed and wrote the *digestive enzymes* and the

detoxification and insecticide resistance notes. PC analyzed and wrote the *development*

note. CV-C analyzed and wrote the *cuticle protein genes* note. CV-M, CV-C, NP, JM, LB,

AB, WZ, FM, AVi and AZ-R analyzed and wrote the *innate immune system* note. NM, CM,

ASB and EJ-J analyzed and wrote the *odorant receptors* note. TC, CB, AVa and RR

produced the data for the *epigenetic pathways* note. TC, CB, AVa, GR, CV-C, CV and RR,

analyzed and wrote the *epigenetic pathways* note. MGF, CG, ED, RR, SB, GF, NM, CV-M

and NP produced the figures. CG, RR, JMS, JR, RH and AFAS annotated and analyzed the

TE content while MGF analyzed the TE RNAseq data. NP, CV-C, CG, CV, RR, AL and AH

wrote the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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Figure legends

Figure 1. *Sitophilus oryzae* overview. A. Life cycle of cereal weevil *Sitophilus oryzae*. The embryo develops into a larva and pupa, and metamorphoses into a young adult, exiting the grain around 3 days after metamorphosis completion. The developmental times indicated are from a rearing condition at 27 °C and 70% relative humidity. B. Photos of adult *S. oryzae*. Lower panel shows an adult exiting the grain.

Figure 2. A. Proportion of repeat content in *S. oryzae*'s genome. The majority of repeats detected in *S. oryzae* are represented by Class II (TIR) elements, LINEs (Class I), and unclassified repeats (unknown). NR: non repetitive. B. Variation of genome size and TE content in 62 insect species from [40] and *S. oryzae*. Coleopteran species are depicted in dark blue, and *S. oryzae* in light blue. *S. oryzae* is clearly a TE-rich genome. C. TE proportion across 11 insect species, including six coleoptera. In agreement with the data used for comparison [40], PLEs are included in the LINE superfamilies, DIRS in LTRs, and RC, CRY, MAV and TIR in the DNA superfamilies. NR: non repetitive. *S. oryzae* harbors the largest TE content among Coleopterans and most insect species studied to date. Within Coleoptera, there is a large variation in TE content and type, with *A. planipennis, L. decemlineata* and *O. taurus* carrying an abundant LINE content, while *S. oryzae, T. castaneum* and *A. glabripennis* show larger DNA content. Cladogram based on [145]. D. Classification of the 570 Mbs of TEs present in the *S. oryzae* genome. Most TIR families detected were not classified into known superfamilies. RTE LINE and Gypsy LTR elements are the most abundant superfamilies among retrotransposons. Around 22% of repeats in *S. oryzae*'s genome were not classified by our pipeline, and remain unknown (grey). E. Distribution of TIR length sequences (right) detected by einverted, and the internal region present between both TIRs (left) for complete consensus of TIR superfamilies (color) and unknown TIR families (grey).

Figure 3. TE distribution in *S. oryzae*'s genome. A. Density of TE copies within gene regions.

TE copies are the least abundant within TSSs, 5' and 3' UTRs and exons, while introns and

intergenic regions are riddled with TEs. TSS: transcription start site, UTR: untranslated

regions. B. Relationship between intron length and TE per intron in *D. melanogaster* (red), *H.*

sapiens (blue) and *S. oryzae* (yellow). *S. oryzae* shares characteristics of both *Drosophila*

with short and TE poor introns and Humans with a significant number of large, TE-packed

introns.

Figure 4. A. TE divergence landscape. Distribution of the divergence (Kimura two

parameters, K2P) between TE copies and their consensus, aggregated by TE class reported

in percent of the genome. The less divergent superfamilies are distributed to the left and

suggest recent activity. Strikingly, most of the TE copies have less than 10% divergence to

their consensus, with a large number of copies under 5% (dotted line). The distribution of the

"unknown" class overlaps with the leftmost mode of the TIR distribution, suggesting that

many more TIR families are yet to be described in *S. oryzae.* Strikingly, LTR elements are

the least diverged altogether with the mode of the distribution on the 0-1% divergence bin. B.

Mean K2P distributions within TE superfamilies. Left panel depicts Class II families, and all

Class I (retrotransposons) and unknown families are on the right panel. LTR superfamilies

harbor some of the least divergent TE families, suggesting that this class may host some of

the youngest TE.

Figure 5. TE family expression in midguts and ovaries from *S. oryzae*. A. Log10 normalized

counts in midguts and ovaries triplicates. Normalized counts show different proportions of

transcriptionally active TE families in different TE classes. B. Log10 of base mean average

expression of TE families in ovaries and midguts from three biological replicates. Depicted in

color only TE families which had differential expression between ovary and gut tissues

(padj<0.05, |log2FC|>2). Most TE families are upregulated in midguts compared to ovaries.

C. Distribution of all significant (padj<0.05). Log2FC depicts specifically deregulated TE

classes in each tissue. LTR elements are predominantly upregulated in ovaries.

Figure 6. TE landscape across *Sitophilus* species. A. Proportion of TE per species estimated

from short reads with dnaPipeTE and a custom TE library including Repbase (release 2017)

and annotated TE consensus discovered in *S. oryzae*. *S. oryzae*, *S. zeamais* and *S.*

granarius harbor similar TE content, while *S. granarius* presents a smaller TE load, and *S.*

linearis harbors the smallest TE content and the higher proportion of unknown repeats. The

proportion of unknown repeats only found by dnaPipeTE (black) increases from *S. oryzae* to

S. linearis with the phylogenetic distance. B. Distribution of divergence values between raw

reads and repeats contig assembled with dnaPipeTE (blastn) across four *Sitophilus* species.

S. oryzae appears to share its TE landscape with *S. zeamais* and *S. granarius*, but the three

species display a distinct repeatome than *S. linearis,* in spite of their phylogenetic proximity.

SO2: *S. oryzae*'s TE library produced in this analysis, DPTE: DNApipeTE TE annotation

(repeats only found by dnaPipeTE).

Figure 7. Differentially expressed TE families between symbiotic and aposymbiotic *S. oryzae*

ovaries. Log10 of base mean average expression of TE families in symbiotic vs

aposymbiotic ovaries from two biological replicates. Depicted in color only TE families which

had differential expression between both ovary types (padj<0.05, |log2FC|>2). Two LTR

elements and one LINE element are upregulated (log2FC > 2) in symbiotic ovaries.

Additional files

996 Additional file 1: Supplementary notes, supplementary figures, and small tables. (PDF)

997 Additional file 2: Transposable elements annotation tables. (XLSX)

998 Additional file 3: STAR and TEtools mapping statistics. (XLSX)

999 Additional file 4: Summary of sequencing libraries produced for *S. oryzae.* (XLSX)

1000 Additional file 5: Large supporting tables and datasets. (XLSX)

1001

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