# Whole-Genome Sequencing and Comparative Genomic Analysis of Potential Biotechnological Strains from *Trichoderma harzianum*, *Trichoderma atroviride*, and *Trichoderma reesei*

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- 18 **Number of words:** 5644
- 19 Number of figures: 7
- 20 Number of tables: 3

## Keywords: *Trichoderma*, genomes, comparative analysis, orthology analysis, structural variant analysis

23 Abstract

24 Fungi of the genus Trichoderma exhibit high genetic diversity and can thus be utilized in a large range of biotechnological applications. While Trichoderma reesei is the primary source of industrial 25 26 enzymatic cocktails, Trichoderma atroviride and Trichoderma harzianum are widely used as 27 commercial biocontrol agents against plant diseases. Recently, T. harzianum IOC-3844 (Th3844) and 28 T. harzianum CBMAI-0179 (Th0179) demonstrated great potential in the enzymatic conversion of lignocellulose into fermentable sugars. Despite such potential, the genomes of both hydrolytic strains 29 30 remain unclear. Herein, we performed whole-genome sequencing and assembly of Th3844 and Th0179 strains. To assess the genetic diversity within the genus Trichoderma, the results of both strains were 31 32 compared with those from T. atroviride CBMAI-00020 (Ta0020) and T. reesei CBMAI-0711 33 (Tr0711). The resulting assembly revealed a total length of 40 Mb, (Th3844), 39 Mb (Th0179), 36 Mb 34 (Ta0020), and 32 Mb (Tr0711), in which 10,786 (Th3844), 11,322 (Th0179), 10,082 (Ta0020), and 35 8,796 (Tr0711) genes were predicted. Then, the annotation of the predicted CDS sequences from the evaluated strain genes revealed 413 (Th3844), 413 (Th0179), 377 (Ta0020), and 329 (Tr0711) 36 37 CAZymes. The orthology analysis revealed 18,349 orthogroups, which encompassed 95% of the total 38 genes, 3,378 orthogroups with all species present, and 408 species-specific orthogroups. A genome-

39 wide phylogenetic analysis modeled from the 1,864 single-copy orthogroups provided details on the 40 relationship of the newly sequenced species with other *Trichoderma* and with more evolutionarily 41 distant genera. Structural variants revealed genomic rearrangements between Th3844, Th0179,

Ta0020, and Tr0711 with the *T. reesei* QM6a reference genome as well as the functional effects of

- 43 such variants on the evaluated strains. In conclusion, the findings presented herein allow the genetic
- 44 diversity of the evaluated strains, including those from the same species, to be viewed, offering
- 45 opportunities to further explore such fungal genomes in future biotechnological and industrial
- 46 applications.

#### 47 **1** Introduction

- 48 Fungi of the genus *Trichoderma* are characterized by their considerable nutritional versatility
- 49 (Sharma et al., 2019), which allows them to be employed in a wide range of biotechnological
- 50 applications (Kidwai and Nehra, 2017). For example, *Trichoderma reesei* is the primary fungal

51 source of the industrial cellulases and hemicellulases present in enzymatic cocktails (Bischof et al.,

52 2016). In addition to enzymatic activities, the capacity of biocontrol against plant pathogenic fungi

has been widely explored in *Trichoderma harzianum* and *Trichoderma atroviride* (Medeiros et al.,
 2017; Saravanakumar et al., 2017). Recently, *T. harzianum* strains were explored for their enzymatic

55 potential and were demonstrated to be useful for improving the lignocellulosic conversion into sugars

56 during second-generation ethanol (2G ethanol) production (Almeida et al., 2021; Delabona et al.,

- 57 2020a; Motta et al., 2021; Zhang et al., 2020a).
- 58 The phenotypic and ecological heterogeneity across fungi of the same genera is reflected, in part, by

the diversity observed within their genomes (Priest et al., 2020). In this way, the diverse and

60 important roles of fungi, as well as the technological advances in next-generation sequencing, have

61 motivated broad efforts to sequence several fungal genomes (Ganesh Kumar et al., 2021; Hagestad et

62 al., 2021; Nagel et al., 2021; Varga et al., 2019; Wu et al., 2018). Since the genome of *T. reesei* 

63 QM6a was first presented (Martinez et al., 2008), *Trichoderma* sequencing studies have increased

64 with the goal of better understanding the biological and ecological roles of *Trichoderma* to improve

their applications (Druzhinina et al., 2018b; Horta et al., 2014; Kubicek et al., 2011; Kubicek et al.,

66 2019; Li et al., 2017; Schmoll et al., 2016). Such a growing number of sequenced species may help

67 reveal the molecular basis for the specific features of diverse *Trichoderma* strains.

68 Previously, the transcriptional profiles of two *T. harzianum* strains, *T. harzianum* IOC-3844 (Th3844)

69 and *T. harzianum* CBMAI-0179 (Th0179), were analyzed under cellulose degradation conditions and

70 compared with those from *T. atroviride* CBMAI-0020 (Ta0020) and *T. reesei* CBMAI-0711 (Tr0711)

71 (Almeida et al., 2021; Horta et al., 2018). Such studies have suggested the great potential of both *T*.

72 *harzianum* strains as hydrolytic enzyme producers, and this was similar to Tr0711, while Ta0020

rd showed a low cellulolytic ability. Furthermore, differences in the transcription regulation within

<sup>74</sup> hydrolytic enzyme expression were observed for Th3844 and Th0179 (Rosolen et al., 2021),

75 highlighting the genetic differences between such strains. Although previous studies investigated the

Th3844 genomic regions, which are related to biomass degradation, through bacterial artificial chromosome (BAC) library construction (Crucello et al., 2015; Ferreira Filho et al., 2017), genomic

chromosome (BAC) library construction (Crucello et al., 2015; Ferreira Filho et al., 2017), genomic
 information regarding the hydrolytic strains of *T. harzianum*, Th3844 and Th0179 remains unclear.

79 In this study, Pacific Biosciences (PacBio) (Ardui et al., 2018) technology was used to obtain highly

80 contiguous de novo assemblies and to describe the genetic variation present among Th3844 and

81 Th0179. Aiming to expand knowledge on the genetic diversity within the genus *Trichoderma*, the

82 results obtained for *T. harzianum* strains were compared to those from *T. atroviride* and *T. reesei*. The

83 chosen species are appropriate for the study's goal because while *T. atroviride* is a biocontrol species

84 that is distantly related to the lignocellulolytic species *T. reesei* (Druzhinina et al., 2006), representing

a well-defined phylogenetic species (Dodd et al., 2003), *T. harzianum sensu lato* is also commonly

used in biocontrol but constitutes a complex of several cryptic species (Chaverri et al., 2015;
Druzhinina et al., 2010).

88 After performing whole-genome annotation, we investigated the content of carbohydrate-active 89 enzymes (CAZymes) (Cantarel et al., 2009) that were distributed among the studied genomes. To 90 thoroughly investigate the genetic variability across the four evaluated strains, we explored the 91 structural variants (SVs), which represent a major form of genetic and phenotypic variations that are 92 inherited and polymorphic in species (Mills et al., 2011), between them and T. reesei OM6a, the 93 reference genome (Martinez et al., 2008). In addition, by performing a comparative genomic analysis 94 across the genus Trichoderma and more evolutionarily distant genera, the orthologs and the 95 orthogroups across them were identified, and the rooted gene tree based on the single-copy orthologs

96 was inferred.

97 The genomic resources we provide herein significantly extend our knowledge regarding the evolution 98 and basic biology of the evaluated strains, and this may increase their biotechnological employment. 99 The results from this study might also increase the availability of genomic data, which can be used to 100 perform comparative studies to correlate phenotypic differences in the genetic diversity of 101 *Trichoderma* species; therefore, the study may help to improve the search for enzymes with enhanced 102 properties and provide aid toward improving the production of chemicals and enzymes in such fungi.

#### 103 2 Material and methods

#### 104 **2.1 Fungal strains and culture conditions**

The species originated from the Brazilian Collection of Environment and Industry Microorganisms 105 106 (CBMAI), which is located in the Chemical, Biological, and Agricultural Pluridisciplinary Research 107 Center (CPQBA) at the University of Campinas (UNICAMP), Brazil. The identity of Trichoderma 108 isolates was authenticated by CBMAI based on phylogenetic studies of their internal transcribed 109 spacer (ITS) region and translational elongation factor 1 (tef1) marker gene. Briefly, Th3844, 110 Th0179, Ta0020, and Tr0711 strains were cultivated on potato dextrose agar (PDA) solid medium 111 (ampicillin 100 µg/ml and chloramphenicol 34 µg/ml) for 3 days at 28 °C. Conidia were harvested, 112 and an initial spore solution was used to inoculate 500 mL of potato dextrose broth (PDB) medium. 113 The cultivation process was performed in biological triplicates for 72 h at 28 °C and 200 rpm for all 114 evaluated strains. Then, mycelial samples were harvested using Miracloth (Millipore), frozen using 115 liquid nitrogen, and stored at -80 °C. Frozen material was used for DNA extraction.

### 116 **2.2 DNA extraction and sequencing**

117 The ground fungal tissue was suspended using lysis buffer, then phenol:chloroform:isoamyl alcohol

118 (25:24:1) (Sigma, US) was added. After centrifugation at 4 °C and 13,000 rpm for 10 min, the

aqueous layer was collected, and genomic DNA was precipitated via the addition of isopropanol.

120 DNA was harvested by centrifugation at 4 °C and 13,000 rpm for 10 min, and the pellet was washed

with 70% ethanol, followed by centrifugation at 4 °C and 13,000 rpm for 5 min. After a second

washing with 95% ethanol and centrifugation at 4  $^{\circ}$ C and 13,000 rpm for 5 min, the pellet was dried

123 at room temperature and dissolved in TE buffer. Before the quality control steps, the DNA was

124 subjected to RNAse treatment.

- 125 The quantity of the extracted gDNA was determined by measuring the absorbance at 260 nm using a
- 126 NanoDrop 1000 spectrophotometer (Thermo Fisher Scientific) and Qubit Fluorometer (Thermo
- 127 Fisher Scientific). The quality of extracted gDNA was assessed through 0.8% agarose gel
- 128 electrophoresis. HiFi sequencing libraries were prepared according to the PacBio protocol, and
- sequencing was performed at the Arizona Genomics Institute (AGI; Tucson, USA) using a SMRT
- 130 DNA sequencing system from PacBio (PacBio RSII platform).

#### 131 **2.3** Genome assembly

132 The data were transferred to a local server, and the genomes were assembled de novo using Canu

software (v.2.1) (-pacbio – hifi, and a genome estimate equal to 40 Mb for all evaluated strains),

134 which was developed for long-read sequencing (Koren et al., 2017). Genome integrity was assessed

- using the Quality Assessment Tool (QUAST) (Gurevich et al., 2013) (v.5.0.2) and Benchmarking
- 136 Universal Single-Copy Orthologs (BUSCO) (Simão et al., 2015) (v.4.1.4) tools. The Nucmer
- alignment tool from the MUMmer (v.4.0.0beta2) toolbox (Kurtz et al., 2004; Marçais et al., 2018)
- 138 was used to perform the whole-genome alignments between the evaluated strains.

### 139 **2.4** Gene prediction and functional annotation

- 140 Gene prediction was performed using AUGUSTUS (v.3.3.3) (Stanke et al., 2006) through gene
- 141 models, which were built from *T. harzianum* T6776, *T. atroviride* IMI206040, and *T. reesei* QM6a
- 142 (TrainAugustus (v.3.3.3)), together with the MAKER (Cantarel et al., 2008) (v.2.31.11). Such
- 143 programs are implemented on the Galaxy platform. The predicted genes were functionally annotated
- by searching for homologous sequences in the UniProt (The UniProt, 2021), eggNOG-mapper v.2
- 145 (Cantalapiedra et al., 2021), and Protein Annotation with Z score (PANNZER2) (Törönen et al., 2021)
- 146 2018) databases. Transmembrane proteins were predicted using TMHMM v.2.0 (Krogh et al., 2001).
- For the annotation of CAZymes, we used CDS sequences as homology search queries against the database of the dbCAN2 server (Zhang et al., 2018), which integrates (I) DIAMOND (E-Value < 1e-
- database of the dbCAN2 server (Zhang et al., 2018), which integrates (I) DIAMOND (E-Value < 1e-</li>
  102) (Buchfink et al., 2015), (II) HMMER (E-Value < 1e-15, coverage > 0.35) (Finn et al., 2011),
- and Hotpep (Frequency > 2.6, Hits > 6) (Busk et al., 2017) tools. We considered all CDSs as true hits
- 151 if they were predicted by at least two tools. Coverages were estimated with QualiMap
- 152 (Okonechnikov et al., 2016) (v.2.2.2c) using minimap2 (Li, 2018) v. 2.17 + galaxy4, which were
- both implemented on the Galaxy platform (Afgan et al., 2018).

## 154 **2.5** Ortholog identification and clustering

- 155 The proteomes of Th3844, Th0179, Ta0020, and Tr0711 were compared with the *Trichoderma* spp.
- 156 proteomes that are available on NCBI databases. *Fusarium* spp., *Aspergillus* spp., and *Neurospora*
- 157 spp. were used as outgroup. For this analysis, we used the software OrthoFinder (Emms and Kelly,
- 158 2015, 2019) v2.5.2, which clustered the protein sequences of fungi into orthologous groups and
- allowed the phylogenetic relationships between them to be identified. The consensus species tree was
- 160 inferred using STAG algorithm (Emms and Kelly, 2018) and rooted using STRIDE algorithm (Emms
- and Kelly, 2017), which are implemented on the OrthoFinder program. The resulting tree from the
- 162 OrthoFinder analysis was visualized and edited using Interactive Tree of Life (iTOL) v6 (Letunic and
- 163 Bork, 2007).

### 164 **2.6 Long-read structural variant analysis**

- 165 SVs were identified by aligning the PacBio HiFi reads from Th3844, Th0179, Ta0020, and Tr0711
- 166 with the *T. reesei* QM6a reference genome (Martinez et al., 2008) using the software Map with

- 167 BWA-MEM (Li and Durbin, 2010) v.0.7.17.2 with (-x pacbio, sort by chromosomal coordinates).
- 168 The duplicate reads in the BAM file were identified and marked using the tool MarkDuplicates
- 169 (Institute) v.2.18.2.2. Variants were called using Sniffles (Sedlazeck et al., 2018) v.1.0.12+galaxy0
- allowing for a minimum support of 10 (--min\_support), maximum number of splits of 7 (--
- 171 max\_num\_splits), maximum distance of 1000 (--max\_distance), minimum length of 30 (--
- 172 min\_length), minimum mapping quality of 20 (--minmapping\_qual), and CCS reads option (--
- 173 ccs\_reads). SVs were annotated using SnpEff (v.4.3+T. galaxy1) (Cingolani et al., 2012), which
- allowed the effects of variants in genome sequences to be categorized. Such tools are implemented
- 175 on the Galaxy platform (Afgan et al., 2018).

#### 176 **3 Results**

#### 177 3.1 Strain cultivations and evaluation of extracted DNA

- 178 First, we cultivated Th3844, Th0179, Ta0020, and Tr0711, which can be identified by common
- 179 morphological characteristics, such as a bright green conidial pigment and a repetitive branch (Figure
- 180 1). Next, the DNA from the evaluated *Trichoderma* isolates was extracted, and its integrity and
- 181 quality were assessed (Supplementary Material 1: Supplementary Table 1 and Supplementary
- 182 Material 1: Supplementary Figure 1).

#### 183 **3.2** Assembled genomic features and general comparison across *Trichoderma* spp.

- 184 In the present study, we introduced the whole-genome sequences of Th3844, Th0179, Ta0020, and
- 185 Tr0711 (Table 1). Overall, the genomes of the evaluated *Trichoderma* spp. varied in a number of
- 186 contigs (14–26), sizes (32–40 Mb) and gene contents (8,796–11,322 genes). In comparison with the
- 187 other strains, Th0711 contains the smallest gene repertoire, while Th3844 contains the highest gene
- repertoire. To assess the completeness and integrity of the assembled genomes, BUSCO analysis was
- 189 performed. For all evaluated strains, over 90% of genes were complete. Although the genome of
- 190 Th3844 presented a considerable number of missing genes (9.7%), its assembled genome exhibited a
- 191 lower degree of fragmentation compared to that of other genomes.
- 192 Considering the genome sequencing coverage, genome size, GC content, length metrics (N50 and
- 193 L50 values), assembly level, and number of genes, the genomes of Th3844, Th0179, Ta0020, and
- 194 Tr0711 were compared to other fungal genome references (Baroncelli et al., 2015; Chung et al.,
- 195 2021; Kubicek et al., 2011; Li et al., 2017; Martinez et al., 2008) (Table 2). All *T. harzianum*
- 196 genomes were similar in size and GC content. The same profile was observed for the *T. atroviride*
- 197 and *T. reesei* genomes. Large differences were found for the genome sequencing coverage, in which
- Th3844, Th0179, Ta0020, and Tr0711 presented higher values than those reported for other strains in
- the literature (Baroncelli et al.; Kubicek et al., 2011; Li et al., 2017). In regard to quality, except for
- Tr0711, the genomes assembled in this study showed a lower degree of fragmentation compared to
- those previously available (Baroncelli et al., 2015; Chung et al., 2021; Kubicek et al., 2011; Li et al.,
- 202 2017; Martinez et al., 2008).
- We also performed alignment analyses to evaluate the similarities and variations between the genomes of the studied strains (I) with *T. reesei* QM6a, which is a model organism for the lignocellulose deconstruction system and has a genome that is assembled at the chromosomic level (Li et al., 2017) (Figure 2), and (II) with their respective reference genomes (Supplementary Material 1: Supplementary Figure 2). The profile of alignment across the genomes illustrated the degree of divergence across the studied strains with *T. reesei* QM6a and with the closest related strain of each evaluated fungus. For each evaluated strain, we observed alignment in different regions of the *T. reesei* QM6a reference

210 genome. Using T. reesei QM6a as a reference genome, we found a total of (I) 12% aligned bases for

211 Th3844, (II) 13% aligned bases for Th0179, (III) 8% aligned bases for Ta0020, and (IV) 95% aligned

212 bases for Tr0711. The total percentage of aligned bases for Th3844 and Th0179 genomes with the T.

- 213 harzianum T6776 genome was approximately 83.5% and 89%, respectively. In addition, for the
- 214 Ta0020 genome, the total percentage of aligned bases to the T. atroviride IMI206040 reference genome
- 215 was approximately 88%.

#### 216 3.3 Genome functional annotation and CAZyme distribution

217 After performing the genome assembly and gene prediction steps, functional annotation was

- 218 accomplished by a homology search. The functional category distribution regarding the clusters of
- 219 orthologous groups of proteins (COG) (Tatusov et al., 2000) is shown in Figure 3 and Supplementary
- 220 Material 1: Supplementary Table 2. Disregarding the (S) function unknown category, the top 5
- 221 functional categories were (G) carbohydrate metabolism and transport, (O) posttranslational

222 modification, protein turnover, chaperone functions, (Q) secondary structure, (E) amino acid 223 transport and metabolism, and (U) intracellular trafficking, secretion, and vesicular transport.

224

- Overall, the evaluated strains seem to have similar COG assignment profiles. The complete 225 functional annotation of the four genomes is available in Supplementary Material 2: Supplementary
- 226 Table 3.

227 Within filamentous fungi, the genus *Trichoderma* is a model system for the production of CAZymes,

- 228 which includes glycoside hydrolases (GHs), carbohydrate esterases (CEs), glycosyltransferases
- 229 (GTs), polysaccharide lyases (PLs), auxiliary activities (AAs), and carbohydrate-binding modules
- 230 (CBMs) (Cantarel et al., 2009). Due to the important role of CAZymes in microparasitism and
- 231 saprophytic degradation of debris, a thorough investigation regarding the enzyme content in the

232 genomes of the four *Trichoderma* spp. was performed (Supplementary Material 3: Supplementary

233 Table 4). Overall, the genes encoding the CAZymes encompassed approximately 3.8% of the

- 234 genomes assembled herein. Moreover, to detect similarities and differences between the strains, their
- 235 CAZyme profiles were compared (Figure 4A).
- 236 Among the main CAZyme classes detected in all strains, GHs were overrepresented, and Th3844
- 237 (256) and Th0179 (252) had the highest number, followed by Ta0020 (230) and Tr0711 (184). This
- 238 CAZyme class was followed by GTs as follows: (I) 88 (Th3844), (II) 90 (Th0179), (III) 90 (Ta0020),
- 239 and (IV) 86 (Tr0711). However, when the CAZymes with predicted signal peptides were analyzed,
- 240 we observed that only a few GTs were secreted, as follows: (I) 8 (Th3844), (II) 9 (Th0179), (III) 7
- 241 (Ta0020), and (IV) 4 (Tr0711) (Figure 4B). The distribution of the different CAZyme families
- 242 among strains was investigated and is available in Supplementary Material 1: Supplementary Figure
- 243 3. For simplification purposes, only the CAZyme families related to biomass degradation are
- 244 exhibited in Figure 5. Overall, CAZymes from the GH5, AA1, AA3, GH2, and GH3 families were
- 245 well represented for all strains, and the highest numbers were in Th3844 and Th0179.

246 Due to the mycoparasitic characteristics of some fungi from the genus Trichoderma, CAZymes

- 247 involved in such activity were also identified in the four evaluated genomes (Supplementary Material
- 248 1: Supplementary Figure 3). For example, CAZymes from the GH18 family, which are related to
- 249 chitin degradation, were present in all evaluated strains, and CAZymes from GH75 are related to
- 250 chitosan degradation. Additionally, we would like to highlight that other CAZyme classes, including
- 251 GH16, GH55, and GH64, are related to the mycoparasitic interaction that was present in the genomes
- 252 of Th3844, Th0179, Ta0020, and Tr0711.

#### 253 Orthology analysis, phylogenetic profiling, and structural variant analyses 3.4

254 The predicted proteomes of Th3844, Th0179, Ta0020, and Tr0711 were compared with those of 19 255 other Trichoderma spp. and with those from more phylogenetically distant fungi, including Fusarium 256 spp., Aspergillus spp., and Neurospora spp. (outgroups) (Supplementary Material 4: Supplementary 257 Table 5). We identified a total of 18,349 orthogroups, which encompassed 313,444 genes (95%) in a 258 total of 329,927 genes, i.e., the number of unassigned genes was equal to 16,483 (5%) genes. 259 Moreover, we detected 3,378 orthogroups with all species present, of which 1,864 consisted entirely 260 of single-copy genes and 408 species-specific orthogroups. Fifty percent of all genes were in 261 orthogroups with 29 or more genes (G50 was 29) and were contained in the largest 4,609 262 orthogroups (O50 was 4609). Regarding the orthologous relationships across the evaluated strains, 263 both T. harzianum strains shared the highest number of orthologous genes among them compared to 264 that of the other strains. In relation to the other evaluated strains, Th3844 and Th0179 presented more 265 orthologs that were in common with Ta0020 than with Tr0711 (Table 3). To explore the evolutionary 266 history of Th3844, Th0179, Ta0020, and Tr0711, a rooted species tree was inferred using the 1,864 267 single-copy orthologous genes that were conserved in the 29 fungi analyzed (Figure 6 and 268 Supplementary Material 1: Supplementary Figure 4). Such phylogenetic analysis indicated that 269 Tr0711 was most closely related to Trichoderma parareesei CBS 125925, while Ta0020 was most 270 closely related to T. atroviride IMI206040. On the other hand, Th0179 and Th3844 were

- 271 phylogenetically close to *Trichoderma lentiforme* CFAM-422 and to other *T. harzianum* strains
- 272 (TR274 and CB226.95), respectively.

273 The SVs of the evaluated *Trichoderma* isolates were identified by mapping the long reads of the 274 fungi against the reference genome of T. reesei QM6a (Martinez et al., 2008). A total of 12,407 275 (Th3844), 12,763 (Th0179), 11,650 (Ta0020), and 7,103 (Tr0711) SVs were identified for each 276 strain, showing substitution rates of  $\sim 1/2,674$  nucleotides (Th3844),  $\sim 1/2,585$  nucleotides (Th0179), 277  $\sim 1/2,832$  nucleotides (Ta0020), and  $\sim 1/4,655$  nucleotides (Tr0711). These SVs included different 278 phenomena that affect gene sequences, such as break ends, deletions, multiple nucleotides and 279 InDels, duplications, insertions, and inversions (Supplementary Material 5: Supplementary Table 6 280 and Figure 7A). Compared with the other evaluated strains, Tr0711 presented a low number of SVs, 281 while Th0179 displayed the highest number. For all evaluated strains, the most presented SV 282 categories were multiple nucleotides and an InDel, followed by deletions and insertions (Figure 7A). 283 To thoroughly investigate the functional effects of the identified SVs, we performed an annotation of 284 the structural rearrangements, which were placed into different classes based on their predicted 285 effects on protein function. Details of these effects can be found in Supplementary Material 6: 286 Supplementary Table 7, and the most prevalent effects are represented in Figure 7B. For all evaluated 287 strains, the majority of variants presented a modifier impact, which was higher at downstream and 288 upstream genomic locations. Such an effect was more accentuated for both T. harzianum strains. In 289 addition, SVs present in transcripts, genes, and intergenic regions were well represented for Ta0020.

#### 290 4 Discussion

291 Diversity within the genus *Trichoderma* is evident from the wide range of phenotypes exhibited by 292 the fungi as well as the various ecological roles and industrial purposes the fungi serve (Nakkeeran et 293 al., 2021). Because of their various applications, different *Trichoderma* species have become model 294 organisms for a broad spectrum of physiological phenomena, such as plant cell wall degradation and 295 enzyme production (Fang et al., 2021), biocontrol (Zin and Badaluddin, 2020), and response to light 296 (Schmoll, 2018). Within the genus Trichoderma, T. harzianum has been used as a commercial 297 biocontrol agent against plant diseases (Fraceto et al., 2018). In addition to their mycoparasitic activities, hydrolytic enzymes from T. harzianum strains have demonstrated great potential in the 298

299 conversion of lignocellulosic biomass into fermentable sugars (Almeida et al., 2021; Delabona et al.,

300 2020b; Motta et al., 2021; Zhang et al., 2020b). Recently, different types of enzymatic profiles across

301 *Trichoderma* species were reported, in which Th3844 and Th0179 presented a higher hydrolytic

302 potential during growth on cellulose than that of Ta0020 (Almeida et al., 2021); furthermore,

differences between Th3844 and Th0179 concerning the transcriptional regulation coordinated by

304 XYR1 and CRE1 during cellulose degradation were reported (Rosolen et al., 2021). Because such

diversity in enzyme response might be related to transcriptomic and genomic differences, we aimed

to provide foundations for further studies that could investigate such variations at a genomic level.

307 Technological advances, particularly in long-read sequencing, coupled with the increasing efficiency 308 and decreasing costs across sequencing platforms, enabled fungal genomes to be characterized (Dal 309 Molin et al., 2018; Miyauchi et al., 2020; Wu et al., 2020). Herein, we presented high-quality genome 310 assemblies for two T. harzianum strains with hydrolytic potential (Th3844 and Th0179) and, for 311 comparative purposes, for a mycoparasitic species (Ta0020) and saprotrophic species (Tr0711). 312 Thus, T. reesei and T. atroviride strains were used to assess the genetic differences in the genus 313 Trichoderma. With the aim of obtaining high-quality genomes, we employed Canu software for the 314 genome assemblies, and this software has been applied with success in the assembly of fungal 315 genomes (Courtine et al., 2020; Gan et al., 2020; Montoliu-Nerin et al., 2020). Except for Tr0711, the 316 resulting genomics assemblies displayed the highest coverage scores and the lowest fragmentation 317 values compared to those of Trichoderma virens Gv29-8 (Kubicek et al., 2011) as well as to T. 318 harzianum T6776 (Baroncelli et al., 2015) and T. atroviride IMI206040 (Kubicek et al., 2011), which 319 were used as the reference genome in preceding studies from our research group (Almeida et al., 320 2021; Horta et al., 2018). Although the genomes were not assembled at the chromosome level, the 321 quality of the Th3844, Th0179, Ta0020, and Tr0711 genome assemblies based on the BUSCO value 322 was over 90%. Only the Th3844 genome exhibited 9.7% missing genes. However, even 323 chromosome-level genome assembly does not necessarily achieve a complete BUSCO score (Chung 324 et al., 2021). This may be because the assembly is not 100% accurate, but at the same time, the 325 BUSCO value may not be a perfect indicator to assess genomic qualities. Despite its limitations, 326 without a definitive alternative, BUSCO is still an essential genomic quality assessment tool that

327 includes up-to-date data from many species.

328 After evaluating the quality of the four assembled genomes, we performed a gene prediction and

329 functional annotation for the datasets. The ecological behavior of the mycoparasites *T. atroviride* and

330 *T. virens*, compared to the plant wall degrader *T. reesei*, is reflected by the sizes of the respective

331 genomes; *T. atroviride* (36 Mb) and *T. virens* (39 Mb) were somewhat larger than the weakly

332 mycoparasitic *T. reesei* (33 Mb) (Kubicek et al., 2011; Martinez et al., 2008). Herein, compared to

Th3844 (40 Mb), Th0179 (39 Mb), and Ta0020 (36 Mb), the genome of Tr0711 (32 Mb) was

334 smaller, which might be conceivably as the gene function is lost to mycoparasitism during the

evolution of *T. reesei* (Kubicek et al., 2011). In relation to the number of genes, our results showed

that Tr0711 presented a smaller gene content than that of Th3844, Th0179, and Ta0020. Such
 findings corroborated a previous study (Xie et al., 2014), in which 9,143 and 11,865 genes were

predicted for *T. reesei* and *T. atroviride*, respectively. In relation to the *T. reesei* QM6a reference

genome, the genomes of Th3844, Th0179, Ta0020, and Tr0711 displayed significant structural

340 reorganization, which was more greatly accentuated by an increased phylogenetic distance.

341 Interestingly, this structural reorganization was also observed within strains of the same species,

342 highlighting their genetic diversity.

### 343 **4.1 Comparative and functional genomics**

344 To obtain insights regarding the functional profile of Th3844, Th0179, Ta0020, and Tr0711, COG 345 analyses of proteins from their genomes were performed. "Carbohydrate metabolism and transport" 346 was a notable COG term for all evaluated strains, suggesting that the genomic arsenal of these fungi 347 is connected to their ability of using carbon sources that are available in the environment. Such 348 characteristics are well known for saprophytic fungal T. reesei (Arntzen et al., 2020), and recent 349 studies have observed the same characteristics for T. harzianum (Almeida et al., 2021; Delabona et 350 al., 2020a). "Posttranslational modification, protein turnover, chaperone functions" was the second 351 most notable COG term that was present in the four evaluated genomes. Posttranslational 352 modifications (PTMs), which are used by eukaryotic cells to diversify their protein functions and 353 dynamically coordinate their signaling networks, encompass several specific chemical changes that 354 occur on proteins following their synthesis (Ramazi and Zahiri, 2021). The production of intact and 355 functional proteins is a prerequisite for large-scale protein production, and extensive host-specific 356 PTMs often affect the catalytic properties and stability of recombinant enzymes. The high 357 extracellular secretion capability and eukaryotic PTM machinery make *Trichoderma* spp. particularly 358 interesting hosts (Wei et al., 2021). In this context, PTMs are a major factor in the cellulolytic 359 performance of fungal cellulases (Amore et al., 2017; Beckham et al., 2012; Dana et al., 2014), and 360 the impact of plant PTMs on the enzyme performance and stability of the major cellobiohydrolase 361 Cel7A from *T. reesei* has already been determined (van Eerde et al., 2020). In addition, PTMs, 362 especially phosphorylation, of the proteins involved in plant biomass degradation, including CRE1, 363 play an essential role in signal transduction to achieve carbon catabolite repression (CCR) (Han et al., 364 2020; Horta et al., 2019). Thus, describing this class of *Trichoderma* genomes is essential to 365 understand the impact of alternative PTMs on the catalytic performance and stability of recombinant 366 enzymes. We also would like to highlight that the "secondary structure" and "amino acid transport

and metabolism", which are related to PTMs, were overrepresented COG terms.

368 To achieve the complete depolymerization of complex lignocellulosic polysaccharides, a repertoire 369 of enzymes that act together on different chemical bonds is needed (Chukwuma et al., 2020). The 370 comparative genomics of *Trichoderma* spp. suggested that mycoparasitic strains, such as *T. vires* and 371 T. atroviride, presented a set of genes, including CAZymes and genes encoding secondary 372 metabolites, that were more expressive and related to mycoparasitism compared to those of the 373 saprotrophic species T. reesei (Kubicek et al., 2011). Although such fungi are widely used in industry 374 as a source of cellulases and hemicellulases, they have a smaller arsenal of genes that encode the 375 CAZymes related to biomass deconstruction than that of other lignocellulolytic fungi (Martinez et al., 376 2008). A potential reason for this observation is that its CAZyme content was shaped by loss and a 377 massive horizontal gene transfer (HGT) was gained in enzymes that degrade plant cell walls 378 (Druzhinina et al., 2018a). Herein, compared to the other evaluated strains, Tr0711 also displayed a 379 lower quantity of genes that encode CAZymes. Although the genome of the evaluated strains 380 presented a significant number of GTs, only a few were predicted to be secreted proteins. Such a 381 result could be related to the enzyme activity exhibited by the CAZymes from the GT class, which 382 includes enzymes that are involved in cell wall synthesis in microorganisms and not necessarily in 383 lignocellulose deconstruction (Ardèvol and Rovira, 2015). Furthermore, the presence of putative 384 CAZyme-encoding genes in the genomes of Th0179 and Th3844 provides insight into its 385 lignocellulose-degrading enzyme potential but cannot be directly related to its real degradation 386 ability. In fact, since fungal species rely on different strategies, it has been observed that the number 387 of genes related to the degradation of a given polysaccharide is not necessarily correlated to the 388 extent of its degradation (Arntzen et al., 2020; Kjærbølling et al., 2020). For instance, T. reesei relies 389 on the high production levels of a limited set of glycosyl hydrolases (Arntzen et al., 2020). For this 390 reason, CAZy analysis is associated with functional approaches, such as enzymatic activity assays, 391 which provide valuable insight into the actual behavior of the concerned species on specific

392 lignocellulose substrates. Regarding the CAZyme content, the results found here for the Th3844,

- Th0179, Ta0020, and Tr0711 genomes follow the same profile as that of a previous study (Fanelli et
- al., 2018), in which the CAZyme genetic endowment of some strains from *T. harzianum*, including
- B97 and T6776, was significantly higher than that of *T. atroviride* IMI206040, *T. reesei* QM6a, and
- 396 *T. virens* Gv-29-8.

397 In relation to the CAZyme families that are directly associated to the deconstruction of plant biomass, 398 the genomes of Th3844, Th0179, Ta0020, and Tr0711 showed an expressive number of genes 399 encoding GH5, which includes cellulases that are most abundant in fungi (Li and Walton, 2017) and 400 are commonly present in industrial enzymatic cocktails; GH3, which includes  $\beta$ -glucosidases that are 401 frequently secreted into the medium (Guo et al., 2016); and AA3, which is a member of the enzyme 402 arsenal that is auxiliary to GHs (Levasseur et al., 2013). Lytic polysaccharide monooxygenases 403 (LPMOs), which are classified into CAZy auxiliary activity families AA9-AA11 and AA13-AA16, 404 are copper-dependent enzymes that also perform important roles in lignocellulose degradation 405 (Couturier et al., 2018; Monclaro and Filho, 2017). As AA9, AA11, AA13, AA14, and AA16 are 406 exclusive to fungal genomes, multiple genes encoding LPMOs appear to be common in fungal 407 genomes, particularly in Ascomycetes and Basidiomycetes (Kracher et al., 2016). Herein, each of the 408 Th3844, Th0179, Ta0020, and Tr0711 genomes exhibited three AA9 and two AA14 enzymes. 409 Compared to other fungi, the genomes of *Trichoderma* species harbor a high number of chitinolytic 410 genes (Kubicek et al., 2011; Kubicek et al., 2019), reflecting the importance of these enzymes in the 411 mycoparasitic characteristic of fungi. From the Trichoderma genomes that were analyzed in detail 412 thus far, the fungal chitinases that belong to the family GH 18 are significantly expanded in *T. virens*, 413 T. atroviride, T. harzianum, Trichoderma asperellum, Trichoderma gamsii, and Trichoderma 414 atrobrunneum (Fanelli et al., 2018; Kubicek et al., 2011). Similarly, the number of chitosanases 415 (GH75) is enhanced and there are at least five corresponding genes; in contrast, most other fungi 416 have only one or two corresponding genes (Kappel et al., 2020; Kubicek et al., 2011). Furthermore, 417  $\beta$ -1,3-glucanases that belong to GH families 16, 17, 55, 64, and 81 are expanded in *Trichoderma* 418 mycoparasites compared to other fungi (Fanelli et al., 2018; Kubicek et al., 2011). Here, the 419 CAZyme families that are related to mycoparasitic activity were present in the four genomes studied,

420 and the most were in Th3844 and Th0179.

### 421 **4.2** Insights into the evolutionary history

422 Comparative genomics could be a powerful tool for studying fungal evolution and promoting insights 423 into their genetic diversity. In this context, identifying orthology relationships among sequences is an 424 essential step to more thoroughly understand the genetic correlation of particular fungi. Thus, by 425 applying orthology analyses, we could identify orthogroups and orthologs between the evaluated 426 strains, as well as among some other *Trichoderma* spp. and filamentous fungi that are more 427 genetically distant. In the genus *Trichoderma*, several lifestyles have been documented, including 428 saprotrophy, which is a lifestyle that is also observed in other filamentous fungi, such as *Neurospora* 429 spp., Aspergillus spp., and Fusarium spp. (Arntzen et al., 2020; Corrêa et al., 2020; Najjarzadeh et 430 al., 2021). Thus, the proteomes of some species and strains of such genera were also included in the 431 orthology analysis. Through our results, we may infer that some genus-specific genes are necessary 432 for specific lifestyles and are shared by fungi that have the same lifestyle but are in quite different 433 evolutionary orders. The phylogenetic tree modeled from the orthologous analysis revealed a low 434 bootstrap value for the clade formed by aligning the sequence proteomes from *T. harzianum*. 435 Furthermore, the presence of other Trichoderma species, such as T. lentiforme, T. guizhouense, and 436 T. simmonsii, was observed. These observations might be explained by the complex speciation

438 position is uncertain for fungi from these species. However, the molecular identification of Th3844

- and Th0179 based on the ITS and *tef1* sequences has already been reported (Rosolen et al., 2021),
- 440 confirming that both strains were phylogenetically close to other *T. harzianum* strains. Tr0711 was
- 441 grouped with *T. pararessei* CBS 125925, and both were phylogenetically in proximity to other *T.*
- 442 *reesei* strains.

443 While short reads perform well in the identification of single nucleotide variants (SNVs) and small

- insertions and deletions (InDels), they are not well suited for detecting changes in larger sequences
   (Mahmoud et al., 2019). SVs, which include insertions, deletions, duplications, inversions, or
- 445 (Mahmoud et al., 2019). SVs, which include insertions, deletions, duplications, inversions, or 446 translocations that affect  $\geq$  50 bp (Mills et al., 2011), are more amenable to long-read sequencing
- 447 (Mitsuhashi and Matsumoto, 2020; Sakamoto et al., 2020). In fungi, SV analysis was employed
- successfully using reads from third-generation sequencing (Badet et al., 2021; Basile et al., 2021). In
- this study, we detected SVs by aligning our four genomes against *T. reesei* QM6a (Martinez et al.,
- 450 2008); although the genomes were assembled at a scaffolding level, unlike the *T. reesei* QM6a
- 451 reference genome that was assembled at the chromosome level, we chose to proceed with this dataset 452 because its annotation file was available (Li et al., 2017). As expected, due to phylogenetic proximity
- to the reference genome (Rosolen et al., 2021), Tr0711 showed the lowest number of SVs compared
- to that of the other strains. However, although *T. atroviride* is phylogenetically distant from *T. reesei*
- 455 (Rosolen et al., 2021), Ta0020 exhibited fewer SVs than that of both *T. harzianum* strains, and this
- 456 result might be explained by the uncertain phylogenetic position of fungi in these species (Druzhinina
- 457 et al., 2010). Although the *T. harzianum* strains are phylogenetically close (Rosolen et al., 2021),
- 458 genetic variability across the strains is evident when comparing the SVs that were identified from 459 mapping both genomes against *T. reesei* QM6a (Martinez et al., 2008). Such results are consistent
- 460 with the findings of previous studies in that genetic variations between fungal strains of the same
- 461 species are not uncommon (Andersen et al., 2011; de Vries et al., 2017; Thanh et al., 2019).
- 462 Considering their basic and economic importance, the high-quality genomes found herein might be
- 463 helpful for better understanding the diversity within the genus *Trichoderma*, as well as improving the
- biotechnological applications of such fungi. Furthermore, the comparative study of multiple related
- 465 genomes might be helpful for understanding the evolution of genes that are related to economically
- 466 important enzymes and for clarifying the evolutionary relationships related to protein function.
- 467 **Conflicts of interest**
- 468 The authors declare that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial 469 relationships that could be construed as potential conflicts of interest.

## 470 Author contributions

- 471 **RRR:** Writing original draft, methodology, formal analysis, and visualization. **MACH:**
- 472 Conceptualization, methodology, and writing review & editing. **PHCA:** Methodology and
- 473 resources. CCS: Methodology and formal analysis. DAS: Methodology and resources. GHG:
- 474 Writing review & editing. **APS:** Conceptualization, supervision, review & editing, and funding
- 475 acquisition.

## 476 **Funding**

- 477 Financial support for this work was provided by the São Paulo Research Foundation (FAPESP -
- 478 Process number 2015/09202-0 and 2018/19660-4), the Coordination of Improvement of Higher
- 479 Education Personnel (CAPES, Computational Biology Program Process number

- 480 88882.160095/2013-01), and the Brazilian National Council for Technological and Scientific
- 481 Development (CNPq- Process number 312777/2018-3). RRR received a PhD fellowship from
- 482 CAPES (88887.482201/2020-00) and FAPESP (2020/13420-1), PHCA received a PhD fellowship
- 483 from CAPES (88887.612254/2021-00), MACH received a postdoctoral fellowship from FAPESP
- 484 (2020/10536-9), and APS received a research fellowship from CNPq (312777/2018-3).

#### 485 Abbreviations

- 486 **2G ethanol:** second-generation ethanol
- 487 **BAC:** bacterial artificial chromosome
- 488 **BUSCO:** benchmarking universal single-copy orthologs
- 489 CAZymes: carbohydrate-active enzymes
- 490 **CBMs:** carbohydrate-binding modules
- 491 **CBMAI:** Brazilian collection of environmental and industrial microorganisms
- 492 **CCR:** carbon catabolite repression
- 493 **CEs:** carbohydrate esterases
- 494 **COG:** clusters of orthologous groups of proteins
- 495 **CPQBA:** chemical, biological, and agricultural pluridisciplinary research center
- 496 **GHs:** glycoside hydrolases
- 497 **GTs:** glycosyltransferases
- 498 **HGT:** horizontal gene transfer
- 499 InDels: small insertion and deletions
- 500 **iTOL:** interactive tree of life
- 501 **ITS:** internal transcribed spacer
- 502 **LPMOs:** lytic polysaccharide mono-oxygenases
- 503 **PacBio:** pacific biosciences
- 504 **PANNZER2:** protein annotation with z score
- 505 **PDA:** potato dextrose agar
- 506 **PDB:** potato dextrose broth
- 507 **PLs:** polysaccharide lyases
- 508 **PTMs:** posttranslational modifications
- 509 **QUAST:** quality assessment tool
- 510 SNVs: single nucleotide variants
- 511 SVs: structural variants
- 512 **Ta0020:** *Trichoderma atroviride* CBMAI-0020
- 513 *tef1:* translational elongation factor 1
- 514 Th0179: Trichoderma harzianum CBMAI-0179
- 515 Th3844: Trichoderma harzianum IOC-3844

### 516 Acknowledgments

- 517 We are grateful to CBMAI Campinas and SP for conceiving the fungal isolates used in the current
- 518 study; the Center of Molecular Biology and Genetic Engineering (CBMEG) at the University of
- 519 Campinas and SP for the use of the center and laboratory space; and the São Paulo Research
- 520 Foundation (FAPESP), the Coordination of Improvement of Higher Education Personnel (CAPES,
- 521 Computational Biology Program), and the Brazilian National Council for Technological and
- 522 Scientific Development (CNPq) for supporting the project and researchers.

#### 523 Data availability statement

- 524 All data generated or analyzed in this study are included in this published article (and its
- 525 supplementary information files). The raw datasets and the assembled genomes were deposited in the
- 526 NCBI Sequence Read Archive and can be accessed under BioProject number PRJNA781962 and
- 527 BioSample number, as follow SAMN23309297 (Th3844), SAMN23309298 (Th0179),
- 528 SAMN23309299 (Ta0020), and SAMN23309300 (Tr0711).

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#### 1000 Figure legends

- 1001 **Figure 1.** *Trichoderma* isolates evaluated in this study. (A) Th3844, (B) Th0179, (C) Tr0711, and
- 1002 (**D**) Ta0020 cultivated on potato dextrose broth (PDA) solid medium at 28 °C. After DNA extraction,
- 1003 their genome was sequenced and assembled. Ta0020: *T. atroviride* CBMAI-0020; Th0179: *T.*
- 1004 harzianum CBMAI-0179; Th3844: T. harzianum IOC-3844; Tr0711: T. reesei CBMAI-0711.
- 1005 Figure 2. Comparisons between the genomes of the analyzed *Trichoderma* isolates and the *T*.
- 1006 *reesei* QM6a reference genome. Dot plots of the assemblies of (A) Th3844, (B) Th0179, (C)
- 1007 Ta0020, and (**D**) Tr0711 that were generated by Canu (y-axis) against those from *T. reesei* QM6a (x-
- axis) that are available in the NCBI database. Ta0020: *T. atroviride* CBMAI-0020; Th0179: *T.*
- 1009 harzianum CBMAI-0179; Th3844: T. harzianum IOC-3844; Tr0711: T. reesei CBMAI-0711.
- 1010 Figure 3. COG functional category distribution of the *Trichoderma* isolates considered. The plot
- 1011 shows the number of genes in the genomes of (A) Th3844, (B) Th0179, (C) Ta0020, and (D) Tr0711,
- 1012 in which a COG classification was obtained. The size of the boxes represents the abundance of the
- 1013 genes at the level of individual COG families. Only the COG functional categories with more than a
- 1014 hundred counts were represented. Ta0020: *T. atroviride* CBMAI-0020; Th0179: *T. harzianum*
- 1015 CBMAI-0179; Th3844: T. harzianum IOC-3844; Tr0711: T. reesei CBMAI-0711.
- 1016 **Figure 4. Distribution of CAZymes in** *Trichoderma* **spp**. (A) The predicted CAZymes from the
- 1017 assembled genomes were classified according to the CAZy database. (**B**) The secreted CAZymes
- 1018 were grouped according to their CAZyme class. CAZymes: carbohydrate-active enzymes; Ta0020: *T*.
- 1019 *atroviride* CBMAI-0020; Th0179: *T. harzianum* CBMAI-0179; Th3844: *T. harzianum* IOC-3844;
- 1020 Tr0711: *T. reesei* CBMAI-0711. AA: auxiliary activity; CBM: carbohydrate-binding module; EC:
- 1021 carbohydrate esterase; GH: glycosyl hydrolase; GT: glycosyl transferase; PL: polysaccharide lyase.
- 1022 Figure 5. Quantitative comparison of the biomass-degrading enzyme repertoires of
- 1023 *Trichoderma* isolates. Heatmap of the number of enzymes in each CAZY family from the Th3844,
- 1024 Th0179, Ta0020, and Tr0711 genomes. This map includes only the enzymes/proteins related to
- 1025 biomass degradation. Ta0020: T. atroviride CBMAI-0020; Th0179: T. harzianum CBMAI-0179;
- 1026 Th3844: T. harzianum IOC-3844; Tr0711: T. reesei CBMAI-0711; LPMOs: Lytic polysaccharide
- 1027 monooxygenases; CDHs: Cellobiose dehydrogenases; PHDs: Pyranose dehydrogenases.
- 1028 **Figure 6. Phylogenetic relationships of** *Trichoderma* **spp. as inferred by an orthology analysis**.
- 1029 The phylogenetic tree modeled by OrthoFinder software was based on the concatenation of 2,229
- single copy orthogroups. In addition to the proteomes of Th3844, Th0179, Ta0020, and Tr0711, this
- 1031 methodology shows the inferred relationships among 19 *Trichoderma* spp., for which the proteomes
- are available in the NCBI database. Fusarium spp., Aspergillus spp., and Neurospora spp. were used
- 1033 as the outgroup. Bootstrap values are shown at the nodes.
- 1034 Figure 7. Structural variant heterogeneity across the genomes of the evaluated *Trichoderma*
- 1035 spp. (A) Long-read alignment-based structural variant (SV) analyses among the evaluated
- 1036 Trichoderma isolates and T. reesei QM6a showed breakends (BNDs), deletions (DELs), multiple
- 1037 nucleotides and InDels (MIXEDs), duplications (DUPs), insertions (INSs), and inversions (INVs)
- between the genomes. (**B**) Functional effects of the identified SVs. Ta0020: *T. atroviride* CBMAI-
- 1039 0020; Th0179: T. harzianum CBMAI-0179; Th3844: T. harzianum IOC-3844; Tr0711: T. reesei
- 1040 CBMAI-0711.
- 1041

#### **Tables**

**Table 1.** Genome assembly and annotation statistics.

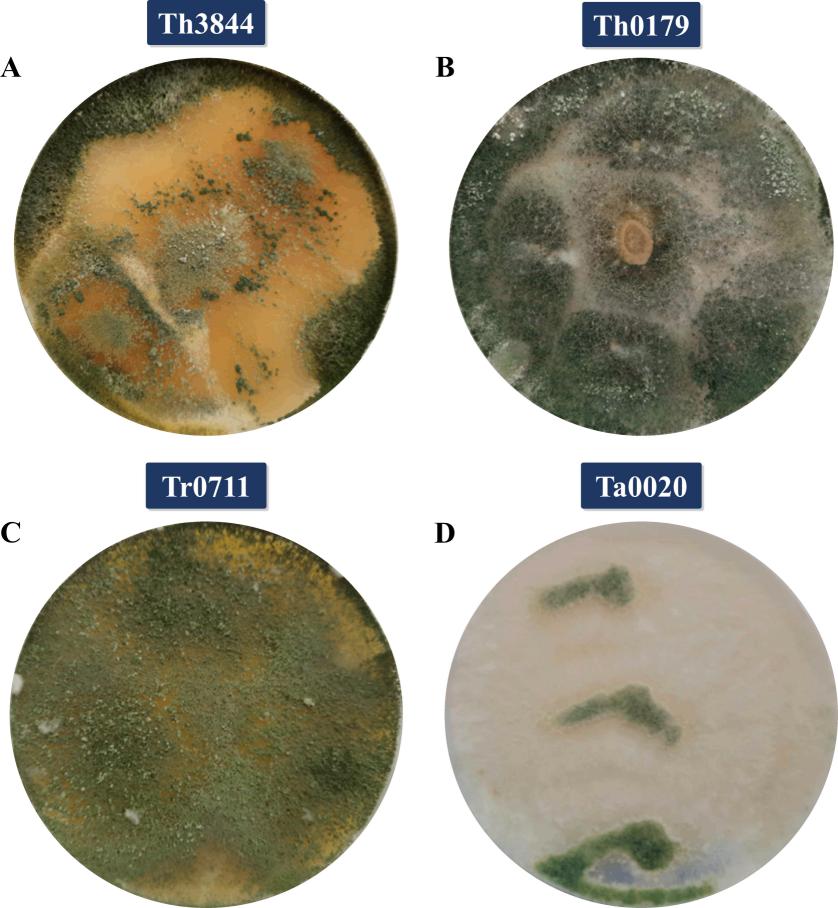
	Th3844	Th0179	Ta0020	Tr0711
Number of reads	418,031	504,913	458,142	282,252
Genome size (bp)	40,219,724	39,170,259	36,411,897	32,448,670
GC content (%)	47.5	49.4	49.5	53.5
N50 reads	3,607,994	2,983,622	3,146,023	1,694,659
L50 contigs	5	6	5	7
Number of contigs	15	18	14	26
<b>Complete BUSCOs (%)</b>	90.1	98.7	99	99.1
Complete and single-copy BUSCOs (%)	89.6	98.1	98.8	98.9
<b>Complete and duplicated BUSCOs (%)</b>	0.5	0.6	0.2	0.2
Fragmented BUSCOs (%)	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1
Missing (%)	9.7	1.1	0.9	0.8
Number of predicted genes	10,786	11,322	10,082	8,796
Number of annotated genes	10,611	11,065	9,547	8,495

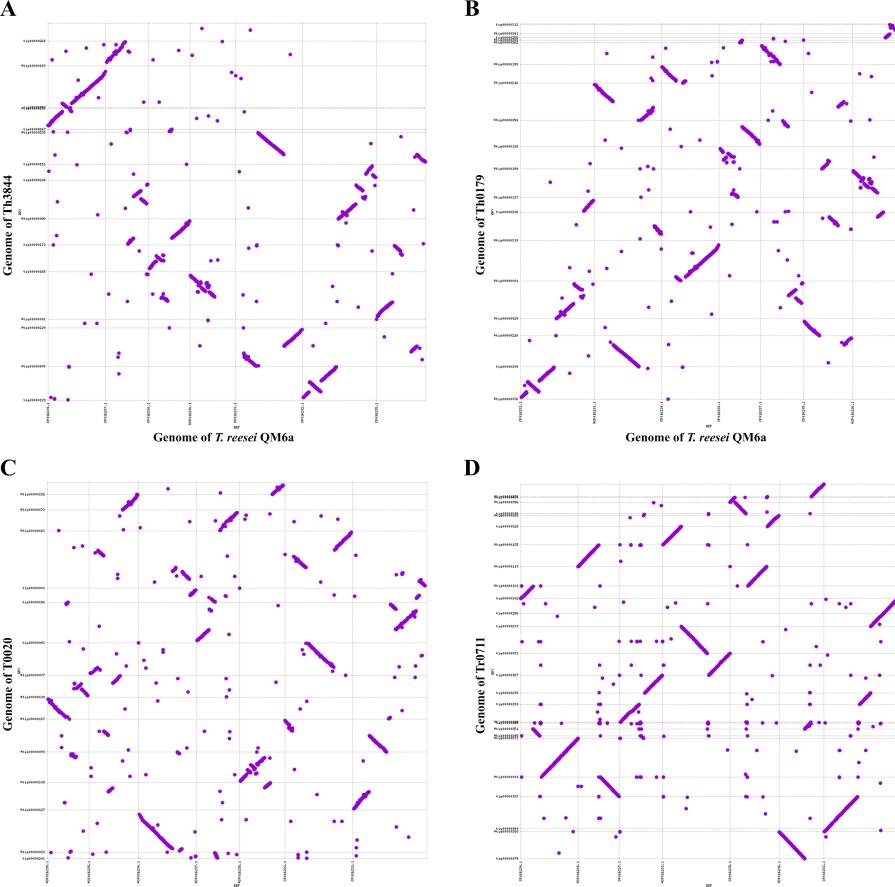
Species	Strain	Coverage	NCBI accession	Genome size (Mb)	GC content (%)	N50 reads	L50 contigs	Assembly level	Genes	Reference
T. harzianum	IOC-3844	164 x	SAMN23309297	40	47.5	3,607,994	5	Contigs (15)	10,786	This study
T. harzianum	CBMAI- 0179	219 x	SAMN23309298	39	49.4	2,983,622	6	Contigs (18)	11,322	This study
T. harzianum	T6776	85 x	SAMN02851310	39	48.5	68,846	178	Scaffolds (1,572)	11,501	(Baroncelli et al., 2015)
T. harzianum	CBS 226.95	120 x	SAMN00761861	41	47.6	2,414,909	7	Scaffolds (532)	14,269	-
T. virens	Gv29-8	8 x	SAMN02744059	39	49.2	1,836,662	8	Scaffolds (93)	12,405	(Kubicek et al., 2011)
T. simmonsii	GH-Sj1	-	SAMN15516371	40	48.13	6,451,197	3	Scaffolds (7)	13,296	(Chung et al., 2021)
T. atroviride	CBMAI- 0020	229 x	SAMN23309299	36	49.5	3,146,023	5	Contigs (14)	10,082	This study
T. atroviride	IMI206040	8 x	SAMN02744066	36	49.7	2,007,903	6	Contigs (29)	11,809	(Kubicek et al., 2011)
T. reesei	CBMAI- 0711	143 x	SAMN23309300	32	53.5	1,694,659	7	Contigs (26)	8,796	This study
T. reesei	QM6a	80 x	SAMN05250858	35	51.0	18,236	3	Chromosomes (7)	10,877	(Li et al., 2017)
T. reesei	QM6a	9 x	SAMN02746107	33	52.8	1,219,543	9	Scaffolds (77)	9,109	(Martinez et al., 2008)

## **Table 2.** Comparison of the genome features of *Trichoderma* spp. genomes.

1074 **Table 3.** Distribution of Th3844, Th0179, Ta0020, and Tr0711 orthologs.

	Th3844	Th0179	Ta0020	Tr0711
Th3844	-	9,729	7,927	7,330
Th0179	9,729	-	8,755	8,141
Ta0020	7,927	8,755	-	7,784
Tr0711	7,330	8,141	7,784	-





Genome of *T. reesei* QM6a

Genome of *T. reesei* QM6a

Α	Th	3844					B	Th	0179			
	Carbohydrate metabolism and	Amino Acid metabolism and transport	d traf	tracellular ficking and eccretion	Sign Transdu			Carbohydrate metabolism and	Amino Acio metabolism a transport	nd traffickin	ig and	Tran
	transport							transport				
	Post-translational			RNA processin and modification	ig tra	ganic ion nsport and abolism		Post-translational	Energy production	Lipid metabolism	Inorganic transpo and metabolis	ort
	modification, protein turnover, chaperone	Translation	Lipid metabolism			Cell		modification, protein turnover, chaperone	and conversion		George	
	functions			Replication	Chromatin Structure	cycle control		functions		Transcription	Coenzym metabolis	
				and repair	and dynamics	and mitosis					Cell	
		Energy production				Nucleotide					cycle control	
Function Unknown	Secondary Structure	and conversion	Transcription	Coenzyme metabolism	Cytoskeleto n	metabolism and transport	Function Unknown	Secondary Structure	Signal Transduction	RNA processing and modification		Cytosk eleton

C

**Function Unknown** 

Та	0020				D	Tr	0711				
Carbohydrate metabolism and	Secondary Str	Amino A metabolisn ructure transpo	n and	Translation		Post-translational modification, protein	Amino Acid metabolism a transport	nd Se	condary tructure	Translat	tion
transport						turnover, chaperone functions					
		Lipid metabolism	Inorgani ion transp and metabolis	oort Replication				RNA processing	Energy production an conversion	nd ti	organic ion ransport and etabolism
Post-translational modification, protein turnover, chaperone functions	Signal Transduct	RNA processing	Coenzym			Carbohydrate metabolism and transport	Signal Transduction	and modificatio	-	Chromati n	Cell cycle control
		and modification	metabolisi Cell	m dynamics Nucleotide metabolism					Replication and repair	Structure and dynamics	and mitosis
Intracellular trafficking and secretion	Energy production and conversion	Transcription		Cytosk eleton	Function Unknown	Intracellular trafficking and secretion	Transcription	Lipid metabolisn	Coenzyme n metabolism	Cytoskeleto n	Nucleotide metabolism and transport

Translation

Replication

and repair

Chromatin Structure

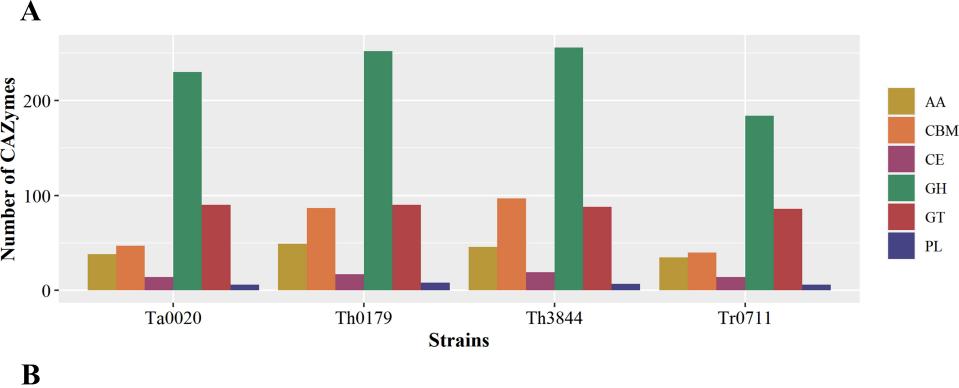
and

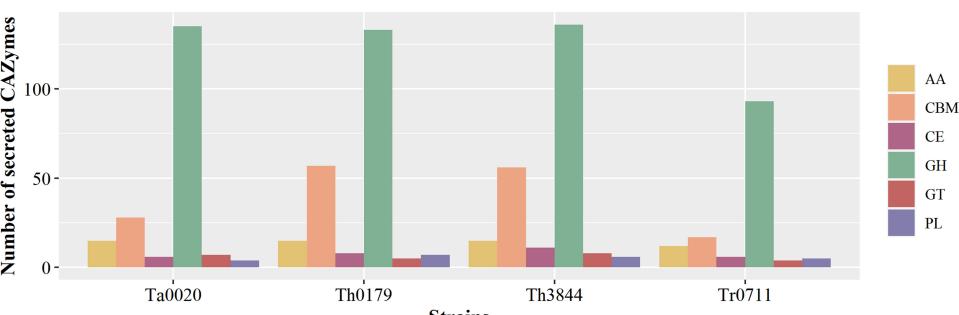
dynamics

Nucleotide metabolism

and transport

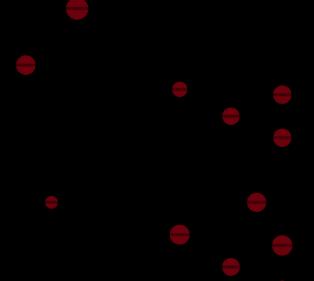
Cell wall/membrane/ envelop...

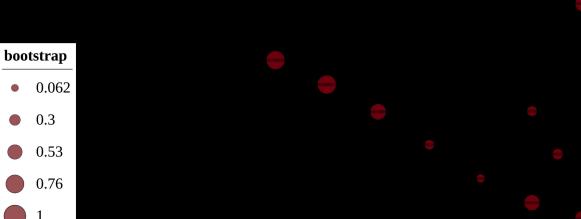




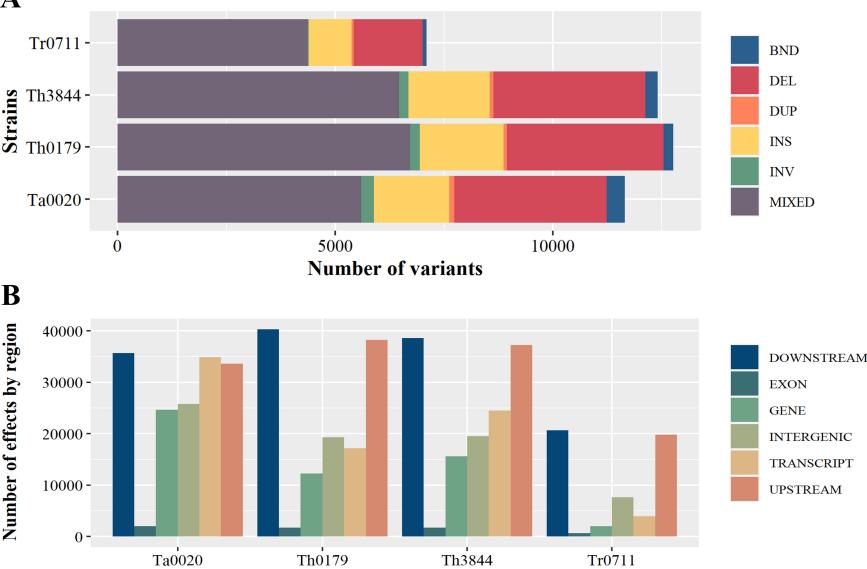
Strains

Substrate/enzyme category	Enzyme class	CAZy family	Th3844	Th0179	Ta0020	Tr0711
	Exo-arabinanases/Arabinofuranosidases	GH51	0	0	1	0
Arabinan	Arabinofuranosidases	GH54	2	2	2	2
	Endoarabinanases	GH43	5	4	4	2
	Cellobiohydrolases	GH6	1	1	1	1
Callulaça	Oligosaccharide oxidases	AA7	2	3	1	1
Cellulose	LPMOs	AA9	3	3	3	3
	Endoglucanases	GH5	10	10	9	7
	Feruloyl/p-coumaroyl/acetyl esterases	CE1	1	0	0	0
Esterases	4-O-methyl-glucoronoyl esterases	CE15	1	1	1	1
	Acetyl esterases	CE5	4	4	3	4
	Glyoxal oxidases (GLOX)	AA5	1	1	1	1
Lignin	1,4-benzoquinone reductases	AA6	1	1	1	1
	Vanillyl-alcohol oxidases	AA4	2	3	0	0
	Peroxidases	AA2	1	3	5	3
	Laccases	AA1	9	9	6	4
Lignin/Cellulose	Oxidoreductases/CDHs	AA3	19	20	12	12
Monosugars	PDHs	AA12	1	1	1	0
	Pectin lyases	PL1	0	0	1	0
	Pectin methylesterases	CE8	1	1	1	0
Pectin	Rhamnosidases	GH78	2	2	2	1
	Pectin lyases	PL20	2	2	2	2
	Polygalacturonases	GH28	5	5	5	4
Sabible alignmenta	β-glucosidases	GH1	4	4	4	2
Soluble oligosaccharides	Mannosidases	GH2	11	13	10	7
	Xylanases	GH10	2	2	1	1
Xylan	LPMOs	AA14	2	2	2	2
	Xylanases	GH11	4	4	4	3
Xylosidases/β-glucosidases	Xylosidases/β-glucosidases	GH3	16	17	15	12









**Strains**