PharaohFUN: PHylogenomic Analysis foR plAnt prOtein History and FUNction elucidation

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Abstract

Motivation: Since DNA sequencing has turned commonplace, the development of efficient methods and tools to explore gene sequences has become indispensable. In particular, despite photosynthetic eukaryotes constituting the largest percentage of terrestrial biomass, computational functional characterization of gene sequences in these organisms still predominantly relies on comparisons with *Arabidopsis thaliana* and other angiosperms. This paper introduces PharaohFUN, a web application designed for the evolutionary and functional analysis of protein sequences in photosynthetic eukaryotes, leveraging orthology relationships between them.

Results: PharaohFUN incorporates a homogeneous representative sampling of key species in this group, bridging clades that have traditionally been studied separately, thus establishing a comprehensive evolutionary framework to draw conclusions about sequence evolution and function. For this purpose, it incorporates modules for exploring gene tree evolutionary history, domain identification, multiple sequence alignments, and functional annotation. The study of the CCA1 protein exemplifies how PharaohFUN unifies results for both land plants and chlorophyte microalgae, accurately tracing the evolutionary history of this protein.

Availability and Implementation: PharaohFUN web application is freely available at https://greennetwork.us.es/AlgaeFUN/ and its source code can be freely accessed at https://github.com/fran-romero-campero/AlgaeFUN.

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Introduction

With the falling cost of massive sequencing technologies, the availability of genomes of new organisms is growing exponentially, allowing for the inclusion of representatives in clades that enable the reconstruction of the evolutionary histories of lineages on a large scale (Rokas and Carroll 2005). However, the functional characterization of the gene sequences identified in these new genomes is not progressing at the same rate as their sequencing, giving rise to a bottleneck in the application of these organisms as models of their corresponding clades (Cantalapiedra et al. 2021).

One clade in particular where this phenomenon has a marked impact is Viridiplantae. In 2020, the INSDC (Arita, Karsch-Mizrachi and Cochrane 2021) contained genomes for more than 800 species of this group, but their distribution remains heavily unbalanced: while 543 correspond to angiosperms, taxa such as gymnosperms, bryophytes or most algae are poorly represented (Kress et al. 2022). The imbalance in the functional annotation of these genomes is even more pronounced. Although organisms such as *Arabidopsis thaliana* and *Oryza sativa* have highly refined annotations, other taxa do not receive as much attention (Van Bel et al. 2018). Annotation based on these species establishes an important bias, especially since most new species do not receive neither computational nor experimental reviews or manual curation (Van Bel et al. 2018; Kress et al. 2022). In addition, most functional annotation databases neglect entire clades of this group, as is the case for streptophyte algae, key models for understanding plant colonization of land (Huerta-Cepas

et al. 2019; Leebens-Mack et al. 2019; Hanschen and Starkenburg 2020). The unequal availability of
resources among species translates into a clear predominance of *A. thaliana* and other angiosperms in terms
of the number of published papers (Marks et al. 2023).

In recent years, it has been demonstrated how working in an evolutionary framework facilitates the
resolution of classical problems in genomics. One such example is the assignment of relationships between
genes, where software such as SHOOT, based on phylogenetic methods, has been found to be more accurate
than those based on local pairwise alignments, such as BLAST (Emms and Kelly 2022). Another instance is
the annotation of genomic regions, where the TOGA tool incorporates information from orthologous genes to
delineate coding and non-coding regions, outperforming previous methods in terms of annotation
completeness (Kirilenko et al. 2023).

In this work, we introduce PharaohFUN, a web application aiming to overcome functional annotation
limitations in photosynthetic organisms by facilitating the inter-species transfer of functional information
based on the orthology relationships between genes. To achieve this, PharaohFUN incorporates genomic
information from 46 species spanning Viridiplantae, Rhodophyta, Glaucophyta, Cryptophyta and
Stramenopiles, establishing an evolutionary framework among them. By integrating phylogenetic and
evolutionary contexts of each gene, along with sequence and domain studies and leveraging species with
refined annotation, PharaohFUN allows users to build reliable hypotheses about the function of a gene of
interest in a few minutes.

Methods and data

PharaohFUN is a web-based tool written in R, using the practical framework of the Shiny package. This tool
has been included in the AlgaeFUN platform (Romero-Losada et al. 2022), which integrates transcriptomic,
genomic and phylogenomic analyses oriented towards microalgae in a single suite. However, PharaohFUN
extends its scope including up to 18 land plants models for study.

PharaohFUN is powered by Orthofinder 2 (Emms and Kelly 2019) and CAFE5 (Mendes et al. 2020) results,
utilizing a set of curated proteomes encompassing different clades crucial for assessing the evolution in
photosynthetic eukaryotes. Our platform also incorporates modules for exploring of functional domains and
sequence conservation (PFAM domains and Multiple Sequence Alignment), annotation (GO terms, KEGG
orthology and literature-based data), as well as sequence identification.

PharaohFUN incorporates two models with different numbers of species on which to perform the analyses
(**Table S1**). The Viridiplantae model includes the proteomes of 36 species representing the main clades of the
green lineage, namely Chlorophyta and Streptophyta. On the other hand, the Global model, with 46 species,
also incorporates representatives of the Glaucophyta and Rhodophyta groups, completing the Archaeplastida
clade, as well as several Cryptophytes and Stramenopiles.

These models were generated using Orthofinder 2 on the proteomes of the aforementioned species, extracted
from Phytozome (Goodstein et al. 2012), PhycoCosm (Grigoriev et al. 2021), FernBase (www.fernbase.org),
MarpolBase (Kawamura et al. 2022), ORCAE (Sterck et al. 2012) and some other specific sources (Luo et al.
2019; Li et al. 2020; Wang et al. 2021; Liu et al. 2022). The proteomes were previously filtered to include

only the proteic products of the primary transcript, ensuring that the clustering remained unaltered by the appearance of multiple proteins with high similarity derived from the same gene. Therefore, we will hereafter refer to genes instead of proteins, since each protein sequence is representative of a single gene. The Multiple Sequence Alignments (MSA) function of the software was used to generate the final orthogroups and gene trees, reconciling with the species trees generated using DendroBLAST and bibliographically validated (Strassert et al. 2021) (**Fig. 1**).

The Viridiplantae model contains 803,613 genes assigned to 49,811 orthogroups, representing 87.7% of the total genome size. As for the Global model, 920,612 genes (85.8%) are organized into 57,308 orthogroups. Although the Global model includes Viridiplantae, it should not be considered as a subset of the former, since the assignment of genes to orthogroups is essentially different. This discrepancy arises from the core concept of orthogroup: genes derived from a common gene in the ancestor of the species under study. Consequently, the difference in the age of the common ancestors between the two models, along with gene duplications and losses experienced through their connecting branches, influences the distribution of genes in each orthogroup. This distinction is illustrated by the G50 statistic, which measures the number of genes in an orthogroup such that 50% of the genes are in orthogroups of that size or larger. The G50 value is 63 for the Global model and 53 for Viridiplantae, indicating a larger orthogroup size in the Global model. A deformation in the distribution of species in the orthogroups is also observed. While the Global model has 566 orthogroups containing genes from all species, this number rises to 1,163 for Viridiplantae, pointing to a greater conservation of genes in the root of the tree for this model. Certain species exhibit a significantly higher number of identified duplications compared to other species within their respective clades. Notable cases are those of *Mesostigma viride, Spirogloea muscicola* and *Triticum aestivum*, attributed to whole-genome duplication events and polyploidy (El Baidouri et al. 2017; Cheng et al. 2019; Liang et al. 2020).

Due to the variation in the number of genes per species in the orthogroups, an analysis of their contractions and expansions was performed using CAFE5 software with species trees dated using the R ape package. To ensure accurate parameter estimation for birth-death processes, a subset of the orthogroups was selected to avoid distortion caused by high variation in the number of copies between species and the occurrence of orthogroups with no representative element in their root. The selected orthogroups fulfill the following criteria: presence of more than twelve species, less than 100 copies within the same species, and a maximum variation of 30 copies between species. A 3-category discrete gamma model, with an alpha parameter estimated by maximum likelihood, was employed to characterize Among Family Rate Variation, a parameter which considers the possibility that different orthogroups belong to different evolutionary rate categories. Furthermore, we considered the possibility that different branches of the species tree were subject to different evolutionary rates. Accordingly, we applied a model with 4 different birth-death parameters in the case of Viridiplantae, and 6 in the case of the global model, distributed as follows: Stramenopiles and Cryptophytes, Rhodophytes and Glaucophytes, Chlorophytes, Streptophyte algae, Non-Spermatophyte Embryophytes and Spermatophytes.

Based on these results, PharaohFUN is structured in 4 main modules, each one rendering publication-ready plots and standard format files to ensure compatibility with other specific software (**Fig. 2**).

1) Input and Sequence Identification

The tool receives as input the ID of a gene corresponding to one of the genomes of the species included in the analysis, typically following the notation used in Phytozome and Phycocosm. To overcome potential ambiguities, the "Identify Sequences" tab allows users to input an amino acid sequence and search for the most similar sequences in the proteome of a specific organism. This task is accomplished using the DIAMOND aligner (Buchfink, Xie and Huson 2015). Moreover, this functionality facilitates the mapping of protein sequences from related species to identify highly similar sequences in the species included in the model.

2) Gene Trees and Orthogroup Size Evolution

The Gene Trees tab serves as the initial step in PharaohFUN's analyses, creating and representing gene trees corresponding to specific orthogroups. Trees corresponding to orthogroups containing more than four genes are generated using distance matrices derived from the MSA and are subsequently modified by PharaohFUN to meet user's requirements. The tool takes three main inputs to generate the tree: the query gene ID, the species to be included and the optional reconciliation with the species tree. This enables users to restrict analyses to specific clades of interest. In addition, the reconciliation feature facilitates the mapping of orthogroup history relative to species evolution to graphically identify duplication and speciation events. Alternatively, an analysis based solely on sequence similarity can be performed. The Gene Trees tab provides information about the genes included in the tree filtered according to the user's guidelines, along with their corresponding plotting. Results can be exported in various formats: TSV (IDs), FASTA (protein sequences), NEWICK (tree) and PNG (tree image).

The "Orthogroup Size Expansion/Contraction" tab complements the previous information when understanding the evolution of an orthogroup throughout the species tree is the objective. This feature uses the output of CAFE5 to explore changes in the orthogroup size mapped onto the species tree. It reconstructs the number of genes belonging to the orthogroup in the common ancestors of each clade and identifies the number of genes gained or lost along each branch. Additionally, it incorporates a statistical analysis of the orthogroups that have experienced expansions or contractions in any of their branches. In this tab, the species tree is displayed with information on the number of genes within the orthogroup in each node, along with gene significant gains or losses of genes in each branch. For orthogroups with no significant changes detected or that were absent at the root of the species tree, non-significance is reported. Images are generated using cafeplotter software (https://github.com/moshi4/CafePlotter) and can be downloaded in PNG format. The raw trees are also available for download as NEWICK files.

3) Domains and Sequence Similarities

The focus of this module is to compare different sequences originating from the same gene tree, assessing their potential functional relationships through the analyses of PFAM domains they contain and the conserved and divergent regions according to an MSA. The tool implements a connection with the PFAM server to send a query for desired protein sequences. The results of the query are presented as a structured table displaying the positions of the different domains in each sequence, along with information about each domain. Additionally, an image of the proteins representing domain locations is provided.

In the MSA tab, selected protein sequences undergo alignment using the MUSCLE algorithm (Edgar 2004).
This feature is useful when studying a specific clade of the gene tree, enabling the examination of sequence
conservation within that group rather than in the entire tree. The output of this section consists of the plain
text alignment and two downloadable files: the MSA in FASTA format and the alignment with logos and
colors indicating the chemical nature of each amino acid.

4) Functional Annotation

One of the main objectives of PharaohFUN is to facilitate the formulation of hypotheses about the function
of proteins with deficient functional annotation leveraging their evolutionary relationship with proteins of
known function. To achieve this, PharaohFUN implements three different analyses: GO enrichment, KEGG
orthology and literature-based annotation.

In the "GO Terms" tab, a gene ontology enrichment analysis is performed on a subset of genes in the tree for
Biological Processes, Molecular Functions or Cellular Components categories. This analysis functionally
characterizes genes based on existing functional annotations of phylogenetically close genes. The program
displays a list of existing GO terms for each gene and presents two plots. The first plot, an emapplot,
visualizes relationships between different groups of terms based on connections by genes involved in
different processes. The second plot, the GO terms association plot, classifies GO terms clustered according
to shared parental terms, providing a summarized view.

In the "KEGG Orthology (KO)" tab, once genes are selected, they are compared with proteome annotations
generated using the KAAS tool (Moriya et al. 2007) with 17 photosynthetic eukaryotic organisms as
reference. The annotation stores the inferred KO terms for each protein sequence that are subsequently used
as input for a KEGG pathway enrichment analysis. This analysis reveals the various metabolic or signaling
pathways in which the selected genes are involved. The output is presented in a tabular format, and users can
also choose to plot and visualize a specific pathway to and the steps in which the selected genes act.

Finally, the "Literature Annotation" tab provides a connection to the PlantConnectome web tool
(https://connectome.plant.tools/) (Fo and Mutwil 2023). This feature allows users to retrieve extensive
information from plant science literature, obtained through the application of Large Language Models to
process articles related to this field. Users can associate the results from the two previous tabs with other
bibliographically supported biological information. Additionally, a link to the paper from which each piece
of information has been inferred are provided to expand or verify the accuracy of the results.

Results

As a case study to illustrate PharaohFUN's functionalities, CIRCADIAN CLOCK ASSOCIATED 1 (CCA1)
gene from *A. thaliana* was chosen as a central regulator of circadian rhythms, which is largely conserved
throughout Viridiplantae. *Arabidopsis thaliana*, *Marchantia polymorpha*, *Ostreococcus tauri* and
Klebsormidium nitens were selected as species of interest along with the Viridiplantae model. The
application of the "Identify Sequences" function on the amino acid sequence of the protein extracted from
Uniprot (ID P92973), resulted in the identifier AT2G46830, with 100% identity. The reconciled gene tree for
these species using the found identifier showed a division into two clades (**Fig. 3A**).

The first clade contained the CCA1 and LHY genes from *A. thaliana*, along with a subclade of *A. thaliana*
genes, including members from the REVEILLE family such as RVE1, RVE2 and RVE7. A gene from *O.*
tauri and another one from *K. nitens* were also identified in this clade, both of which have been previously
reported to encode CCA1 orthologs in these organisms (Linde et al. 2017). An *M. polymorpha* gene was also
found in this clade; however, existing literature suggests the absence of a CCA1 homolog in this organism
(Linde et al. 2017). Subsequent application of other functionalities implemented in PharaohFUN led us to
exclude this *M. polymorpha* gene as a CCA1 ortholog, confirming previous analysis, as discussed below.
The second clade was constituted by proteins traditionally referred to as the LHY-CCA1-Like (LCL) family,
which included RVE3, RVE5, RVE6 and RVE8. Within this clade, a gene from *M. polymorpha* known as
MpRVE, and one from *K. nitens* were identified supporting predictions from previous analysis (Linde et al.
2017). Interestingly, two genes from *O. tauri* were also identified, although only one of them had been
previously described. Therefore, our analysis unveiled a new gene in *O. tauri* that may share its function
with RVEs.
To further explore the outcomes derived from the gene tree, we used the rest of functionalities in
PharaohFUN. Notably, the analysis of orthogroup contraction / expansion revealed (**Fig. 3D**) the acquisition
of an additional gene in *O. tauri* relative to the rest of the Mamiellophyceae species clade, lending support to
the observation of two RVE genes for this microalga in the gene tree. To gather more evidence and refine
previous results, a PFAM domain analysis was conducted. The proteins from the gene tree, with the
exception of the *M. polymorpha* CCA1 potential ortholog, were found to contain the Myb-like DNA-binding
domain (PF00249.34) or a closely related variant (PF13921.9) that overlapped with it at the same position
and with the same length (45 amino acids). This domain is known to be highly prevalent in transcription
factors that constitute the central circadian clock (Carré and Kim 2002). Notably, both *O. tauri* genes
contained this domain, providing further confirmation that they are indeed RVE genes. In contrast, the *M.*
polymorpha CCA1 potential ortholog was much shorter than the other proteins and contained a different
Myb DNA-binding domain in a distinct position (**Fig. 3B**). Next, we performed a MSA using the sequences
of all the proteins from the gene tree. The alignment revealed the fully conserved SHAQKYF motif in all
proteins, except for the *M. polymorpha* CCA1 potential ortholog (**Fig. 3C**). This motif, found in Myb DNA
binding domains, is typically associated with RVE and CCA1 orthologs (Linde et al. 2017). The lack of this
motif and the presence of the variant Myb DNA-binding domain in the *M. polymorpha* CCA1 potential
ortholog suggests a strong divergence that may have led to loss of function or neofuctionalization. Therefore,
we disregard this gene in agreement with the current existing literature. Nonetheless, further experimentation
would be required to validate these predictions.
We applied the remaining functionalities in PharaohFUN to leverage the evolutionary results obtained thus to
elucidate potential functions for the uncharacterized genes in this example. A GO terms enrichment analysis
on the orthogroup revealed processes related to circadian rhythm transcription, auxin biosynthesis, seed
germination and flower development, catabolic processes, response to blue light, response to temperature
and temperature compensation of the circadian clock (**Fig. 4A-B**). However, it is important to consider that
the species whose genes are used to transfer functional information can greatly impact the accuracy of the

results. For instance, the inclusion of *A. thaliana* in the analysis led to the appearance of seed germination
and flower development processes not applicable to a chlorophyte microalga such as *O. tauri*. Therefore, the
study of clades in the tree is crucial for selecting genes that may carry information of interest for a particular
study gene. In addition, the KO annotation confirmed the presence of homologs of CCA1 and LHY in the
orthogroup, highlighting their involvement in pathways related to circadian rhythm (**Fig. 4C**). Finally, the
literature annotation provided valuable biological information, including descriptions of relationships such as
complex formation with LHY (which belongs to the same orthogroup), repression of TOC1 through binding,
control over circadian rhythms, and more than 200 further relationships. These annotations can be used to
experimentally test hypotheses regarding conservation of function among predicted orthologs (**Fig. 4D**).
This example showcases the strengths of PharaohFUN, which arise from its ability to combine multiple
techniques for phylogenetic analysis, gene trees, PFAM domains and MSA to identify potential orthologs
and study their evolutionary history. Based on these analyses, functional annotations can be associated with
unknown proteins (Gil et al. 2023).
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Discussion
Currently, there is a limited collection of tools available for quickly identifying orthologs of plant genes, and
few of them include a diverse range of plant species in their databases. Notable exceptions are SHOOT
(Emms and Kelly 2022), FunTree (Furnham et al. 2012) or, exclusively for plant species, PLAZA (Van Bel et
al. 2022) which cater to specific objectives and capabilities differing from those of PharaohFUN, as
summarized in **Table 1**.
SHOOT primarily focuses on the phylogenetic location of new genes by incorporating them into a database
through MSA. While it provides links to gene information stored in Phytozome, it lacks modules for domain
analysis, orthogroup evolution along species trees, and functional annotation of complete orthogroups. The
limited representation of algae among its 30 species Plant database (only 4 chlorophytes and 1 streptophyte)
is evident when conducting searches, as demonstrated by the example of searching for the CCA1 gene,
which only returns results in terrestrial plants (**Fig. S1A**) despite its widespread presence across Viridiplantae
(Linde et al. 2017).
FunTree is designed to study the evolution of enzyme superfamilies by integrating functional, structural and
phylogenetic information. Unlike the previous tool, it reconstructs common ancestors of gene groups. Its
focus solely on specific enzyme superfamilies and their activities restricts its applicability and genes that do
not code for enzymes in the registered superfamilies are not analyzed. Moreover, reconstructions are
performed at the level of the most likely ancestral enzyme activity (in terms of their EC number), not based
on orthogroup status. Therefore, features to explore gene evolutionary history are not provided. In the case of
the CCA1 example, neither the Uniprot ID search nor the beta sequence-based search function yielded any
results.
To some extent, PLAZA pursues a similar goal to PharaohFUN's, but it is limited to studying angiosperms,
with separate instances for PLAZA Dicots 5.0 and PLAZA Monocots 5.0. In contrast, PharaohFUN aims to
represent all photosynthetic organism groups uniformly, including clades outside Viridiplantae or

Archaeplastida. In this sense, while pico-PLAZA (Van Bel et al. 2018) targets 11 chlorophyte genera, it lacks

representation for streptophyte algae, which serves as a liaison to the 4 land plants considered in its database,

and only has one non-angiosperms embryophyte species (*Physcomitrium patens*). The lack of evolutionary

linking elements between groups produces separation into isolated instances. While this may lead to the

creation of refined gene groups, it hinders an integrated analysis of orthogroups. Bias can be incorporated in

the clustering process towards the creation of small high similar gene groups corresponding to very closely

related species excluding related but distant genes from orthogroups.

In contrast, PharaohFUN employs uniform species sampling to eliminate bias towards any specific clade.

This approach allows for the implementation of an analysis of the evolution of different orthogroups along

the species tree, a feature not supported by PLAZA. Furthermore, in terms of annotation, PharaohFUN

incorporates the new literature annotation utility provided by PlantConnectome, facilitating the exploration

of biological data associated with specific terms of interest and enabling annotation and representation of

KEGG pathways. While both SHOOT and pico-PLAZA lack the functionalities to directly perform

functional analysis for all the genes in the tree and redirects users to other external tools PharaohFUN

overcomes this limitation by providing specific analysis features for these tasks within the same platform.

Moreover, PharaohFUN leverages DIAMOND to enable the rapid mapping of proteins from related species

to their respective representatives in the provided dataset. This approach expands PharaohFUN's utility

compared to the ID-based search implemented in PLAZA and the basic form of PharaohFUN usage, thereby

addressing possible ambiguity issues with gene IDs across different annotation versions. As a comparison

with PharaohFUN, the search for the gene encoding CCA1 in pico-PLAZA found an orthologous gene

family (ORTHO03P024982) with only four angiosperm clade-specific genes (**Fig. S1B**), despite its presence

in chlorophyte species such as *O. tauri*, reflecting the aforementioned bias due to lack of evolutionary

cohesion.

In summary, PharaohFUN significantly increases and unifies the evolutionary range for studies outside the

flowering plants. It addresses the growing demand for research on photosynthetic eukaryotes outside this

dominant group, particularly highlighting its utility in analyzing aquatic species of biotechnological or

evolutionary interest. In addition, PharaohFUN stands out among other evolutionary analysis tools due to its

unique features integrating domain, sequence and functional annotation information into a single platform.

Thus providing a comprehensive approach that enables researchers to conduct in-depth and holistic analysis

of gene evolution and function, making PharaohFUN a valuable tool for the research community on

photosynthetic organisms.

As future directions, we expect PharaohFUN to be widely embraced by users in the field of plant sciences

due to its user-friendly interface and its ability to facilitate evolutionary and functional analysis across

numerous species of interest. The tool will continue to evolve based on feedback and interactions with users

being regularly updated to incorporate the latest genome versions and include new representative species

form different clades dealing with the rapid expansion in the number of genomes available. PharaohFUN's

modular design allows for seamless incorporation of new species to the models for analysis, without

requiring major changes to its underlying architecture. This adaptability ensures that PharaohFUN will

remain a relevant and effective tool meeting the evolving needs of the scientific community working in photosynthetic organisms.

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Figures

Figure 1. Dated species tree used for model construction. **Left**: dated species tree measured in millions of
years. Eras terminology: **Pp** Paleoproterozoic, **Mp** Mesoproterozoic, **Np** Neoproterozoic, **Pa** Paleozoic, **Me**
Mesozoic and **Ce** Cenozoic. Dating times were extracted from (Strassert et al. 2021). The inferred gene
duplication number of internal nodes is mapped by circle color and size. **Right**: gene duplication number of
extant species. Clades are distinguished by different bar color according to legend.

Figure 2. General architecture of PharaohFUN. Dashed boxes represent modules, continuous ones represent input types or analysis functionalities. Boxes in each functionality represent supported output. Arrows show the standard workflow through the different modules. Yellow: Input and Sequence Identification module. Green: Gene Trees and Orthogroup Size Evolution module. Red: Domains and Sequence Similarities

module. Purple: Functional Annotation module.

Figure 3. Overview of results for CCA1 evolution using PharaohFUN. **A** Gene Tree for CCA1 orthogroup in *A. thaliana* (yellow), *M. polymorpha* (green), *K. nitens* (pink) and *O. tauri* (blue) species. Query gene is highlighted in red. **B** PFAM Domains location in proteins corresponding to this orthogroup. **C** MSA for the orthogroup proteic sequences. **D** Size evolution of orthogroup through species tree, showing significant gene gains in red and significant gene losses in blue. P-value: * < 0.05, ** < 0.01, *** < 0.001.

Figure 4. Overview of results for CCA1 orthogroup functional annotation using PharaohFUN. **A** Treeplot showing clustered GO terms for biological processes. **B** Association plot showing biological processes performed by the same genes. **C** KEGG pathway for Circadian Rhythms in Plants, highlighting genes in the orthogroup (CCA1 and LHY) in red. **D** Example of some rows of literature annotation result for CCA1.

Tables

Table 1. Comparison between phylogenetic web-based tools. Number of species is measured in number of different genera per clade. * FunTree uses taxonomy data to guide reconciliation of trees, but species tree is not explicitly shown.

	PharaohFUN	SHOOT	FunTree	PLAZA 5.0 (dicots + monocots)	pico-PLAZA 3.0
Angiosperms	7	17	*	~ 80 + 30	3
Non-angiosperms land plants	11	8	*	5	1
Streptophyte algae	6	1	*	1	0
Chlorophyte algae	12	4	*	3	11
Non-viridiplantae archaeplastida	6	3 (only Rhodophyta)	*	0	3 (only Rhodophyta)
Stramenopiles algae	3	0	*	0	7
Cryptophyte algae	2	0	*	0	0
Gene trees	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes

Integrated domains information	Yes	Only as individual links to gene databases	Yes	Only for query gene, and as individual links for the rest	Only for query gene, and as individual links for the rest
Ancestral reconstruction	Yes (for number of genes in orthogroup)	No	Yes (for EC function)	No	No
Direct functional annotation for all genes	Yes	No	Complete record but assignment is left to manual exploration	Complete record but assignment is left to manual exploration	Complete record but assignment is left to manual exploration
Include non-enzyme genes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Sequence-based search	Yes (via ID conversion)	Yes (via MSA)	Beta	No	No
Direct functional annotation	GO, KEGG (including EC)	No	GO, EC, MACiE	GO, Mapman (including EC)	GO, Mapman (including EC)
Literature annotation	Yes	No	No	No	No
Support evolutionary studies	Yes	Yes	Only for enzymes	Yes	Yes
Support functional studies	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes

475 **Supplementary data**

Supplementary Figure S1. Results for CCA1 rendered by **A** SHOOT and **B** pico-PLAZA 3.0.

Page 1 of 1, showing 4 records out of 4 total, starting on record 1, ending on 4

gene_id	species	strand	chr	outlier
AT1G01060	ath	-	1	No
AT2G46830	ath	+	2	No
ATR_00001G05020	atr	+	scaffold00001	No
OS08G06110	osa	+	8	No

495 **Supplementary Table 1.** Genomic data used in PharaohFUN, including species names, genome version,
496 species clade and genome source. Sources of genomes not downloaded from major databases are indicated as
497 their corresponding reference.

Organism	GENOME VERSION	CLADE	GENOME SOURCE
Aegilops tauschii	Aet_v4.0	Streptophyta (Liliopsida)	[20]
Anthoceros agrestis	Bonn	Streptophyta (Bryophyta)	[22]
Arabidopsis thaliana	Araport11	Streptophyta (Eudicotyledons)	Phytozome
Azolla filiculoides	V1.1	Streptophyta (Polypodiopsida)	FernBase

Bathycoccus prasinos	RCC1105	Chlorophyta (Mamiellophyceae)	ORCAE
Ceratodon purpureus	R40	Streptophyta (Bryophyta)	Phytozome
Ceratopteris richardii	V2.1	Streptophyta (Polypodiopsida)	Phytozome
Chara braunii	S276	Streptophyta (Charophyceae)	Phycocosm
Chlamydomonas reinhardtii	v.5.5	Chlorophyta (Chlorophyceae)	Phytozome
Chlorokybus atmophyticus	CCAC 0220	Streptophyta (Chlorokybophyceae)	Phycocosm
Chromochloris zofingiensis	v.5.2.3.2	Chlorophyta (Chlorophyceae)	Phytozome
Coccomyxa subellipsoidea	C-169, v3	Chlorophyta (Trebouxiophyceae)	Phycocosm
Cryptophyceae sp.	CCMP2293 v1.0	Cryptophyta	Phycocosm
Cyanidioschyzon merolae	10D	Rhodophyta	Phycocosm
Cyanophora paradoxa	CCMP329	Glaucophyta	Phycocosm
Cycas panzhihuaensis	V1.0	Streptophyta (Acrogymnospermae)	[19]
Dunaliella salina	v.1.0	Chlorophyta (Chlorophyceae)	Phytozome
Galdieria sulphuraria	SAG 21.92	Rhodophyta	Phycocosm

Gracilariopsis chorda	SKKU-2015	Rhodophyta	Phycocosm
Guillardia theta	CCMP2712 v1.0	Cryptophyta	Phycocosm
Haematococcus lacustris	GCA_011766145.1_Lacustris_1.0	Chlorophyta (Chlorophyceae)	[21]
Klebsormidium nitens	V1.1	Streptophyta (Klebsormidiaceae)	Phycocosm
Marchantia polymorpha	V5.1	Streptophyta (Bryophyta)	MarpolBase
Mesostigma viride	NIES-296	Streptophyta (Mesostigmatophyceae)	Phycocosm
Mesotaenium endlicherianum	SAG 12.97	Streptophyta (Zygnemophyceae)	Phycocosm
Micromonas pusilla	CCMP1545 v3.0	Chlorophyta (Mamiellophyceae)	Phytozome
Nannochloropsis gaditana	B-31	Stramenopiles	Phycocosm
Oryza sativa	v.7.0	Streptophyta (Liliopsida)	Phytozome
Ostreococcus tauri	RCC 4221 v3.0	Chlorophyta (Mamiellophyceae)	Phycocosm
Phaeodactylum tricornutum CCAP 1055/1 v2.0		Stramenopiles	Phycocosm
Physcomitrium patens	V3.3	Streptophyta (Bryophyta)	Phytozome
Porphyra umbilicalis	V1.5	Rhodophyta	Phytozome
Raphidocelis subcapitata	NIES-35	Chlorophyta (Chlorophyceae)	Phycocosm
Saccharina japonica	str.Ja	Stramenopiles	Phycocosm

Salvinia cucullata	V1.2	Streptophyta (Polypodiopsida)	FernBase
Scenedesmus obliquus	UTEX 393	Chlorophyta (Chlorophyceae)	Phycocosm
Selaginella moellendorffii	V1.0	Streptophyta (Lycopodiopsida)	Phytozome
Solanum lycopersicum	ITAG4.0	Streptophyta (Eudicotyledons)	Phytozome
Sorghum bicolor	454 v3.1.1	Streptophyta (Liliopsida)	Phytozome
Sphagnum magellanicum	V1.1	Streptophyta (Bryophyta)	Phytozome
Spirogloea muscicola	CCAC 0214	Streptophyta (Zygnemophyceae)	Phycocosm
Thuja plicata	v.3.1	Streptophyta (Acrogymnospermae)	Phytozome
Triticum aestivum	V2.2	Streptophyta (Liliopsida)	Phytozome
Ulva mutabilis	Foyn	Chlorophyta (Ulvophyceae)	Phycocosm
Volvox carteri	V2.1	Chlorophyta (Chlorophyceae)	Phytozome
Zea mays	RefGenv4	Streptophyta (Liliopsida)	Phytozome

A

circadian rhythm	circadian DNA-templated rhythm transcription
regulation of DNA-templated transcription	
auxin biosynthetic process	auxin auxin-activated biosynthetic pathway
auxin-activated signaling pathway	
regulation of flower development	seed flower germination development
seed germination	
response to blue light	catabolic blue inorganic light
catabolic process	
response to inorganic substance	
photomorphogenesis	
response to organonitrogen compound	compensation cold compound clock
response to heat	
temperature compensation of the circadian clock	
regulation of gene expression	
response to cold	

B

catabolic process

auxin biosynthetic process

response to blue light

photomorphogenesis

auxin-activated signaling pathway

response to inorganic substance

regulation of DNA-templated transcription

regulation of flower development

circadian rhythm

seed germination

response to organonitrogen compound

response to cold

response to heat

regulation of gene expression

temperature compensation of the circadian clock

C

D

Source	Interaction Type	Target	Pubmed ID
CCA1	BINDS	TOC1	17616736
CCA1	REPRESSES	H3 ACETYLATION	17616736
CCA1	ANTAGONIZES	TOC1 MRNA ABUNDANCE	17616736
CCA1	DIFFERS IN DIURNAL RHYTHM	BETWEEN FLOWERING ECOTYPES	17631524
CCA1	REGULATED BY	LIGHT	17873091
CCA1	STABILIZED BY	FAR-RED LIGHT	17873091
RED AND BLUE LIGHT	DEGRADES	CCA1	17873091
CCA1	CONTAINS INSTABILITY DETERMINANTS IN	CODING REGION	17873091
CCA1	INTERACTS WITH	LHY	17877705
PRR7	REPRESSES	CCA1	17877705
CCA1	REPRESSES	SVP ABUNDANCE	19011118
CCA1	REPRESSES	TOC1	19029881