Hyperdiverse, bioactive, and interaction-specific metabolites produced only in co-culture

suggest diverse competitors may fuel secondary metabolism of xylarialean fungi

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Running Head: Competitor-specific bioactive xylarialean metabolites

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Abstract

Xylariales is one of the largest and most ecologically diverse fungal orders. Xylarialean fungi are well-known for their chemical diversity, reflecting a hyperdiversity of biosynthetic gene clusters (BCGs), even compared to other bioactive fungi. Enhanced secondary metabolism appears linked to the number of horizontal gene transfer (HGT) events and gene duplications, which is highest in the clade that also has a greater ability to both degrade lignocellulose as saprotrophs and interact with a wider variety of plant and lichen hosts as symbiotic endophytes. Thus, one hypothesis for BGC diversification in this clade is that diverse competitive interactions—in both their free-living and symbiotic life stages—may exert selective pressure for HGT and a diverse metabolic repertoire. Here, we tested this hypothesis using untargeted metabolomics to examine how pairwise co-culture interactions between seven xylarialean fungi influenced their metabolite production. Overall, we detected >9,000 features, including putatively anti-microbial, insecticidal, and medicinal compounds. In total, 6,115 features were over-represented in co-cultures vs. 2,071 in monocultures. No features occurred in all 21 interactions, and only 39% of features occurred in >10 different co-culture combinations. Each additional co-culture interaction resulted in an 11 to 14-fold increase in metabolite richness. Consistent with HGT, metabolite profiles did not reflect phylogenetic relationships. Overall, the diversity and specificity of metabolites support the role of widespread and diverse competitive interactions to drive diversification of xylarialean metabolism. Additionally, as plant hormones were only detected in co-culture, our results also reveal how competition may influence the outcome of endophytic symbioses.

Importance

Saprotrophic and endophytic xylarialean fungi are among the most prolific producers of bioactive secondary metabolites, which are often encoded by sets of physically clustered genes (i.e., biosynthetic gene clusters). Secondary metabolites have numerous industrial uses as antibiotics, pharmaceuticals, and insecticidal toxins, but their ecological importance for competitive and symbiotic interactions with other fungi, bacteria, and plants is not fully understood. Here, we examined how co-culture interactions with ecologically and genetically diverse competitors influence the metabolite production of seven xylarialean strains. Among 21 pairwise interactions, we detected >9,000 metabolite features, 67% of which were produced only in specific co-cultures and not in monocultures. Over 8,000 features were unclassified at any level and likely represent novel bioactive compounds. Our data illustrate that competitor identity and ecology significantly impact xylarialean fungal secondary metabolite production, key information that will enable us to further harness the immense biotechnological potential of these fungi.

Introduction

As both plant symbionts and saprotrophs that can catabolize a wide range of organic

substrates, fungi are a critical component of all ecosystems (1, 2). As osmotrophs, competition

for shared resources can drive fungal metabolic diversification, especially the production of

secondary metabolic (SM) compounds that provide an ecological advantage (3, 4). Fungal SMs

can determine virulence against plants and animals, enhance nutrient acquisition and defense

against predators and abiotic stressors, and facilitate intra-organismal communication and

quorum sensing (e.g., (4–7)). Genes involved in fungal SM production are frequently encoded by

biosynthetic gene clusters (BGCs) that can evolve through gene duplication and/or horizontal

gene transfer (HGT) (e.g., (8, 9)).

Xylarialean fungi, especially species of Xylariaceae *sensu lato* (*s.l.*) (10, 11), are among

the most prolific fungal SM producers (12, 13). Described species are primarily saprotrophs or

pathogens of woody hosts (14–16); however, numerous species have been cultured as endophytic

symbionts of diverse plants and lichens (e.g., (17–19)). Endophytic xylarialean fungi appear to

be host and substrate generalists: closely related strains have been cultured from phylogenetically

diverse hosts, as well as both living and decomposing plant tissues (17). A previous study found

that xylarialean endophytes with higher BGC diversity and rates of HGT formed symbiotic

associations with a greater diversity of hosts and displayed a greater capacity to degrade leaf

litter (11). Generalist endophytes thus interact with both a greater number of hosts, as well as

potentially with diverse microbes *in planta* and/or during a free-living saprotrophic stage, which

may promote greater SM diversification compared to more ecologically specialized species (11)

(see also (20)).

Here, to better understand the evolutionary and ecological factors influencing SM

diversification in xylarialean fungi, we used untargeted metabolomics to study the metabolic

interactions in all pairwise combinations of seven xylarialean fungal strains whose BGC

diversity was previously studied (11) (Fig. 1). Although performed *in vitro*, co-culturing can

induce the production of bioactive compounds not typically produced by either microorganism

when grown without competitors (21–23). For xylarialean fungi, co-culture has proven to be a

valuable tool to trigger the production of bioactive SMs (24–27). More recently, co-culturing

paired with mass spectrometry has led to discoveries of novel SMs with applications in the

pharmaceutical, food, and agronomic industries (21, 23, 28).

Our main goal was to directly compare the diversity, composition, and bioactivity of

small molecules secreted by fungi in monoculture vs. co-culture, explicitly examining the impact

of fungal ecological mode, BGC content, and phylogenetic position on the resulting metabolome

diversity and composition. Specifically, we tested the following hypotheses: (i) a strain's BGC

content and SM production would be positively correlated; (ii) phylogenetic distance between

strains would influence SM production in co-culture, with greater competition and SM

production occurring in interactions between close relatives (21, 22), and (iii) each strain will

produce a unique suite of metabolites during each interaction, reflecting selection for BCG

diversification in response to diverse microbial competitors in different hosts and substrates.

Results

Fungal interactions. Overall, 17 of 21 (80%) pairwise co-culture combinations resulted in

deadlock growth between strains (i.e., fungal hyphae approached each other, but growth was

arrested). Deadlock usually resulted in a clear space between fungal hyphae representing a

potential zone of inhibition, but in some co-cultures, hyphae of each pair appeared to nearly

touch, yet without a clear zone (Supplemental Figs. 1-7). Only four co-culture pairs resulted in

the invasion of one strain over another: three cases involved *X. arbuscula* invading other strains,

and the fourth instance was *B. mediterranea* overgrowing *P. punctata*.

Results of Untargeted Metabolomics. Across all 84 fungal samples and controls, liquid

chromatography coupled with high-resolution tandem mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS) detected

47,316 ions with unique mass-to-charge ratio (m/z) and retention time (RT) values (i.e., features)

(Table 1). Approximately 20% of features (n = 9,762) were significantly more abundant in

fungal cultures compared to negative extraction and media controls (Table 1; Supplemental

Table 1), but only 955 of 9,762 features were assigned to a Superclass (Supplemental Fig. 8).

Influence of co-culture vs. monoculture on metabolite production. Pairwise statistical analyses

of all 21 co-cultures compared to their respective monocultures (Fig. 2) identified a total of 6,141

features that were significantly over-represented in either co-culture and/or monoculture

(hereafter, "dysregulated") (Table 2). Among these dysregulated features, 4,070 were unique to

co-cultures (i.e., only over-represented in co-culture), and 26 features were unique to

monocultures (i.e., only over-represented in monoculture). Including features over-abundant in at

least one co-culture or monoculture (i.e., "ambiguous"; see Fig. 2), our pairwise analyses

identified a total of 6,115 features that were significantly more abundant in at least one co-

culture vs. monoculture. In comparison, 2,071 features were more abundant in at least one

monoculture vs. its respective co-cultures (Table 2).

Consistent with our hypothesis, the mean number of features significantly more abundant

in at least one co-culture was 2.2X higher than the mean number of features significantly over-

represented in at least one monoculture (Fig. 3A; Table 2). Moreover, rarefaction analysis

illustrates each additional different co-culture interaction increases metabolite richness 11 to 14-

fold (i.e., 1,279 to 4,037 additional metabolites) compared to similar comparisons between

monocultures (Fig. 3B). Although the number of features over-represented in co-cultures did not

differ significantly between fungi of various phylogenetic distances (Fig. 3C), co-cultures

involving *P. punctata* resulted in a 1.8X increase in the mean number of over-represented

features regardless of partner (Fig. 3D).

Although co-cultures consistently resulted in a greater number of over-represented

features compared to monocultures, the magnitude of the difference was variable among

different pairwise comparisons (Fig. 4). For example, we observed a 6-fold increase in

significant features for the co-culture of *P. punctata* and *X. flabelliformis* NC1011 vs. either

strain's monoculture. However, there was only a 1.2X increase in the number of features for the

co-culture of *X. arbuscula* vs. *N. diffusa* compared to either monoculture (Table 2). The latter

pair also had the fewest total features in co-culture (n = 1,278). The highest number of features

significantly over-represented in any co-culture was 4,817 (*P. punctata* vs. *X. flabelliformis* CBS

116.85), whereas the highest number of features over-represented in any monoculture was 1,315

for two *X. flabelliformis* strains compared to their co-culture (Table 2).

Influence of competitor identity on co-culture metabolism. Among the 6,115 features that were

over-abundant in co-culture vs. the respective monocultures, none were universally over-

abundant in all 21 co-culture combinations, and only one feature was shared among 20 of 21

pairs (Fig. 5A). Instead, we found that only 8.4% of over-abundant features (n = 514) occurred in

at least 15 of 21 interactions, and only 30.9% (n = 1,891) of features were shared across 11-14

interaction pairs. Instead, the majority of features (60.7%; n = 3,710) were shared among 10 or

fewer interactions. In addition, 245 (4.0%) over-abundant features were unique to a single co-

culture pair, including 190 features that were unique to the co-culture of *X. flabelliformis*

NC1011 and *B. mediterranea* (Fig. 4A). Concomitant with the general lack of shared metabolites

among different fungal interactions, a heatmap of feature frequency in co-cultures of each strain

illustrates that the production of most metabolite features occurred infrequently (Fig. 5B). Yet,

while most features were rare, a subset of features were consistently observed in the co-cultures

of some strains (e.g., 533 features that occurred in all co-cultures with *P. punctata* as a partner)

(Fig. 5B).

Similar to the general lack of overlap among features over-abundant in co-culture

compared to monoculture across all 21 interactions, comparisons of feature overlap for a single

strain in co-culture with six other strains interactions compared to the corresponding

monoculture revealed a majority of features occurred in only one or two co-culture combinations

per focal strain, although the percentage of shared features varied by focal strain (Supplemental

Fig. 9). The fraction of features unique to one particular interaction pair ranged from 620 in all

co-cultures with *P. punctata* (12% of total features in this strain) to 1,428 in all co-cultures with

X. flabelliformis NC1011 (53% of total features in this strain). In general, co-cultures with any of

the three *X. flabelliformis* strains resulted in a relatively high number of features specific to these

interaction pairs (Supplemental Fig. 9).

Although the phylogenetic relationship or genetic distance between strains did not appear

to explain the number of shared features (see Fig. 3C), we observed other patterns. For example,

the same 880 features were found among *X. arbuscula* co-cultures with either two (n = 432) or

three (n = 448) of the *X. flabelliformis* strains (Supplemental Fig. 9). However, in contrast to

other strains that had largely unique metabolite profiles when interacting with different

competitors, 1,096 features were shared among all *P. punctata* co-culture combinations,

regardless of the partner (Supplemental Fig. 9). For *B. mediterranea*, 18% percent of features (n

= 686 of 3,776 total) were shared in interactions between all other strains except *P. punctata*

(Supplemental Fig. 9).

Links between metabolites and fungal genomes. Using MAGI 1.0 (29) we identified 135

features (out of 6,141 total) that were linked to genes/BGCs in the genomes of all seven strains

(Table 3). Overall, these 135 features were linked to 2,651 genes via 487 different InChIKey

strings (Table 3; Supplemental Tables 2-3). Additionally, 14.3% of linked genes (i.e., 379 genes

that were linked to 83 features) were previously found to reside within the boundaries of 300

different BGCs (based on data from (11)). Among these 379 genes, 78 were within BGCs with at

least one significant hit against the MIBiG repository (Table 3) (11). Furthermore, by leveraging

previous analyses of HGT in the genomes of these strains (11), we found that 20 of these genes

(8 previously identified as part of a BGC) were potentially acquired via HGT from Bacterial

donors (Supplemental Table 3).

Co-culturing and the production of bioactive compounds. In addition to the greater number of

features produced in co-cultures vs. monocultures, numerous features that were over-abundant in

co-cultures were putatively identified as bioactive compounds (Table 4; Supplemental Table 4).

In general, sesquiterpenes were one of the most prevalent bioactive compound classes produced

by these seven fungal strains in co-culture (Table 4). Feature hits include matches to parthenolide

(30), alantolactone (31), polygodial (32), zerumbone (33), steviol (34), and valerenic acid (35),

nootkatone, which have been reported to have anti-microbial, anti-fungal, insecticidal, anti-

inflammatory activity. Numerous features also had hits to mycotoxins such as alternariol,

diacetoxyscirpenol, culmorin, and the cytochalasins C, D, and J (36, 37), that all pose a serious

threat to human health and food safety (12, 13, 21–23).

Overall, we detected numerous features with putative matches to compounds typically

identified in plants, including hormones, terpenes, and toxins. Features identified as the plant

hormones jasmonic acid (JA) and abscisic acid (ABA) occurred in at least one co-culture of each

of the seven strains (71% and 90% of all potential pairwise interactions) (Supplemental Table 4).

In general, features with matches to ABA were linked to a single, unclustered gene in each of the

genomes; however, in one case, the feature was linked to the ABA gene within a putative BGC

in *P. punctata* (Supplemental Table 3) (38). In at least one co-culture of each strain, we observed

features with matches to the monoterpene carvone (Table 4), a component of dill and carraway

essential oils with insecticidal and insect feeding-deterrent properties (38). Fungal features with

hits to carvone were linked to numerous fungal genes, including some genes that reside within

BGCs (Supplemental Table 3).

Numerous features had hits to bioactive compounds with reported antimicrobial activity

(Table 4, Supplemental Table 4), such as the potent and non-toxic Gram-positive antibacterial

compounds platencin and platensimycin from *Streptomyces platensis* (28, 39). Features

identified as platencin were predominately found in co-cultures of *B. mediterranea*, whereas

features linked to platensimycin were detected in all co-cultures of *X. flabelliformis* CBS 116.85

and *X. flabelliformis* NC1011. A feature identified as mitochondrial F1F0 ATP synthase inhibitor

oligomycin B from *Streptomyces* spp. (40), occurred in four co-cultures involving *P. punctata*. A

feature with hits to the antibiotic malioxamycin from *Streptomyces lydicu* (41) was exclusively

detected in all co-cultures of *P. punctata*. Features matching the antibacterial and antifungal

compound, asperlactone from *Aspergillus ochraceus* (42), were detected in all co-cultures of *B.*

mediterranea and *N. diffusa*, as well as in co-cultures with *X. flabelliformis* CBS 123580. The

broad-spectrum antibiotic 2,4-diacetylphloroglucinol (DAPG), which is considered the primary

determinant of the biological control activity of *Pseudomonas fluorescens* F113 (43), was

frequently observed in co-cultures with the three different strains of *X. flabelliformis*. Lastly,

features matching the antifungal compound griseofulvin and its structural analogs,

dechlorogriseofulvin and griseofulvic acid, were observed in numerous different co-culture

combinations (Fig. 6; Supplemental Fig. 10). In general, features matching griseofulvin occurred

rarely in monocultures (Table 4); however, for some cultures, features structurally related to

griseofulvin were significantly more abundant in monocultures compared to some of their co-

cultures (e.g., *B. mediterranea*, *P. punctata*, *X. arbuscula*, *X. flabelliformis* CBS 116.85, and *X.*

flabelliformis NC1011) (Fig. 6).

Discussion

Co-culture interaction phenotypes not related to metabolite production. Xylarialean fungi,

especially endophytic strains, are known to be prolific producers of bioactive compounds (12,

13, 44). Consistent with these reports, the majority of our co-culture interactions resulted in the

formation of an inhibitory halo or a deadlock between strains, indicative of the production of

inhibitory metabolites such as griseofulvin (see below). While the majority of co-culture

interactions appeared to inhibit the growth of both strains, one strain (*X. arbuscula*) overgrew its

competitor in three of six interactions. However, overgrowth did not appear to substantially alter

the number of features over-represented in co-culture compared to monoculture. In addition, the

dung saprotroph *P. punctata*, which showed no visible growth on the media, still appeared to

strongly inhibit the growth of *Nemania diffusa*, as well as three *X. flabelliformis* strains.

Interactions with *P. punctata* also resulted in a significantly higher number of features in co-

culture. Thus, our results suggest that the total number of metabolites produced or the fraction of

features unique to particular co-culture interactions, as well as potentially the number of

bioactive compounds, may not be easily predicted based on fungal growth or degree of

inhibition/antagonism between strains. Future work will need to examine how xylarialean fungal

interaction phenotypes are altered by particular SMs, their cellular distribution or secretion,

and/or regulatory changes (21, 25).

Influence of competition on the evolution of xylarialean fungal secondary metabolic diversity.

Xylarialean fungi are of particular interest due to their bioactivity and chemical diversity (12,

13), which reflects a significantly higher richness and diversity of BCGs in xylarialean genomes

compared to other filamentous fungi, including highly bioactive genera such as *Aspergillus* and

Penicillium (11). Such enhanced secondary metabolism, which is linked to the number of HGT

events and gene duplications (45), appeared greatest in the Xylariaceae *s.l.* clade that also has a

greater ability to degrade lignocellulose as saprotrophs, as well as interact with a wide variety of

plant and lichen hosts as endophytes (11). Thus, one hypothesis for the diversification of BGCs

in xylarialean fungi is that diverse competitive interactions in both their free-living and

symbiotic life stages may exert selective pressure for both the HGT of BGCs and the

maintenance of a diverse BGC repertoire (11).

Species that have evolved to occupy a specific ecological niche have also evolved to

compete with one another, *sensu* Gause's competitive exclusion principle (46). For example, the

composition of fungal communities in decaying wood strongly reflects combative interactions

between diverse basidiomycete fungi (47). In fungi, antagonistic interactions often occur

primarily through the production of SM in the presence of the competing organism (23). Thus,

our experiment was designed to assess whether xylarialean fungi exhibit a differential metabolic

response to different competitors, which would provide evidence to support the hypothesis for

BGC diversification for ecological generalists. In contrast, if co-culturing resulted in the

production of similar metabolite profiles regardless of competitor identity, or no up-regulated

response to competition (i.e., no differences between co-culture and monoculture), competition

may not be the major factor driving xylarialean BGC diversity.

In support of the role of competition against different competitors driving the

diversification of diverse xylarialean BGCs, xylarialean fungi had a significantly higher number

of over-represented metabolites in co-culture vs. monoculture. Overall, each additional co-

culture interaction resulted in an 11 to 14-fold increase in metabolite richness compared to

monocultures. Compared to monocultures, co-cultures had a higher fraction of compounds

classified as lipids, accompanied by a corresponding decrease in the fraction of organic acids or

organoheterocyclic compounds. Additionally, rather than a shared metabolic response to all

competitors, we found that zero features occurred in all 21 co-culture combinations and <40% of

features occurred in more than 10 different co-culture combinations (out of 21 possible).

Similarly, analyses of each strain vs. all others demonstrated that the majority of features were

found in only one or two of the six possible co-culture combinations.

Contrary to our hypothesis that more closely related fungi would be more likely to

compete for similar resources, resulting in the production of a greater number of metabolites in

co-culture, we found no clear relationship between intra-strain phylogenetic distance and either

the number of metabolites they produced in co-culture or the similarity of their metabolomes

(i.e., metabolomes did not cluster by phylogeny). The unpredictable distribution of shared

metabolites among different co-culture pairs, as well as the observation that distantly related

fungi produce similar metabolite features, aligns with the high rate of HGT of BGCs reported for

xylarialean fungi, including numerous BGCs for the production of bioactive compounds (11). In

addition, consistent with the well-known bioactivity and high number of BGCs among strains of

X. flabelliformis (11), we observed that co-cultures of any strain with any of the three *X.*

flabelliformis strains typically resulted in a large number of features specific to these interaction

pairs.

Conversely, although the genome of *P. punctata* has fewer predicted BGCs compared to

stains of *Xylaria* and *Nemania*, all co-cultures with *P. punctata* as a partner resulted in a

significantly higher mean number of over-abundant features. As other six strains were either

isolated as endophytes or saprotrophs of wood/bark, the significant impact of *P. punctata* on

metabolite diversity may reflect its distinct ecological niche as a saprotroph of animal dung.

Herbivorous animal dung is a nutrient-rich, spatially limited, and ephemeral resource that

contains mycoparasites, bacteria, fungi, and invertebrates (48, 49). As a late colonizer of dung,

P. punctata has potentially evolved the ability to synthesize antagonistic metabolites to displace

already established organisms (50, 51). However, despite the higher number of over-abundant

metabolites, *P. punctata* produced the fewest number of unique features in co-culture: all *P.*

punctata co-cultures contained the same 1,096 features regardless of the partner. The lack of

unique metabolites potentially reflects the slightly lower BGC diversity within *P. punctata*,

which may be related to its role as a substrate specialist on dung, rather than a generalist

saprotroph or endophyte.

Co-culture and the production of bioactive compounds. Previous experiments show that

fungal co-culturing will 'turn on' the synthesis of bioactive compounds that are typically not

produced in pure culture (or only at low levels) (21, 23). While a Petri dish does not accurately

reflect nature, co-culturing has led to the discovery of novel chemical diversity and their

ecological roles (23, 28, 52, 53). In this present study, we found that for all strains, co-culture

resulted in a substantially higher number of features with hits to bioactive compounds with

antiviral, bactericidal, fungicidal, insecticidal, herbicidal, and nematicidal activity (Table 4;

Supplemental Table 4). Microorganisms employ secondary metabolites for niche exploitation

and colonization (5–7, 54). Thus, our observation that features related to broad-spectrum

antimicrobial compounds were over-abundant in co-culture rather than monoculture is consistent

with xylarialean fungi producing bioactive compounds as a mechanism to compete for resources

within complex microbial communities often found in decomposing organic matter and soils (21,

54, 55). Although the majority of putatively bioactive features were produced in co-culture, some

features related to bioactive compounds were observed in monocultures, suggesting the potential

for constitutive production of some secondary metabolites (e.g., griseofulvin; Fig. 6).

In previous studies of interactions between basidiomycete white rot fungi (*Trametes*

coccinea with either *Leiotrametes lactinea* or *T. versicolor*), the zone where competing

mycelium physically connected was darkly pigmented due to melanin production (56).

Interactions between the wood-decay fungi *Stereum hirsutum* and two *Coprinus* spp. also

produce melanin (57). In these studies, melanin production appears related to the production of

extracellular enzymes (e.g., laccase) that can convert phenolic compounds to reactive quinone

compounds (57, 58). Oxidative polymerization of quinone compounds produces melanin and

melanin-like compounds that act as physical barriers to competitors (57, 58). Here, we observed

a dark pigmentation in the co-culture interaction zones of *X. arbuscula*, especially with *N. diffusa*

or *X. flabelliformis* CBS 123580 (Supplemental Fig. 4), and on nutrient-rich media xylarialean

cultures often become very dark over time (see (17)) and *Xylaria* can cause spalting in wood

(59). Consistent with the numerous melanin BCGs in xylarialean genomes (11), we detected a

feature matching the melanin precursor molecule, 1,8-dihydroxynaphthalene (59), yet it was not

significantly over-abundant in co-culture compared to monocultures. Thus, while previous

studies on basidiomycete fungi show the production of large amounts of melanin in co-culture

(57, 58), the strains examined here appear to produce bioactive SMs as a defensive mechanism

rather than invest in melanin production.

In addition to their roles in complex microbial communities found in litter, wood, or

soils, the production of antimicrobial or cytotoxic compounds by xylarialean fungi may be

related to symbiotic interactions. Previously, it was noted that there was a positive relationship

between the number of BGCs and endophytic host breadth (11), consistent with fungal secondary

metabolites directly interacting with host plants, similar to toxin production by fungal pathogens

(60). However, endophytes can also produce antagonistic secondary metabolites that protect their

hosts from pathogens and pests (7, 61). For example, the entomopathogenic endophyte

Beauveria bassiana protects its hosts from insects (62). Here, in co-culture xylarialean fungi

produced a metabolite feature similar to the insecticidal sesquiterpenoid nootkatone described

from plants such as *Callitropsis nootkatensis* and grapefruit (63). In addition, the seven

xylarialean fungi produced metabolite features putatively identified as steviol glycosides and the

phytohormones ABA and JA. Numerous symbiotic fungi and bacteria produce plant

phytohormones that can influence plant responses to abiotic stressors and modulate plant growth

and development (64). For example, some strains of *Botrytis cinerea* can produce ABA (65).

Likewise, certain fungi, such as *Lasiodiplodia theobromae*, are capable of producing JA at high

levels (66). Interestingly here xylarialean fungi produced ABA only in co-culture, which

suggests a potential role for microbial interactions in stimulating the production of compounds

that impact host plants during symbiosis. Future studies are necessary to accurately identify these

features detected here and determine their role in endophyte-host interactions.

Importance of integrating genomic and metabolomic data. Although our untargeted approach

was aimed at understanding phylogenetic and ecological factors that influence metabolite

diversity in xylarialean fungi and does not provide the unambiguous identification of methods

such as NMR (67), numerous features over-abundant in co-culture were also linked to genes or

BGCs related to the production of secondary metabolites. Our results also suggest that even

fungi with significant genomic variation in BGC gene content and identity may be capable of

producing structurally related compounds with similar antifungal activity. For example, we

established connections between genes and features identified as griseofulvin and its structural

analogs (dechlorogriseofulvin and griseofulvic acid) for all strains except *P. punctata*. In the

present study, despite no known BGCs related to griseofulvin found in their genomes (11),

monocultures of *B. mediterranea* and *X. arbuscula* contained features with hits to griseofulvin

and its analogs.

Although we observed griseofulvin production in a few monocultures, it was primarily

observed in co-cultures, consistent with griseofulvin's antifungal activity against competitors (68,

69). A previous co-culture study of an endophytic *X. flabelliformis* strain with *Aspergillus*

fischeri also resulted in deadlock due to the production of griseofulvin (25). In that study,

griseofulvin was completely extruded into the media in co-culture; yet in monoculture, the

compound accumulated in outermost mycelia (25). Here, the visible inhibitory zone observed in

the majority of *X. flabelliformis* interactions are consistent with antifungal secretion into the

media, as was griseofulvin detection in media surrounding some monocultures. Further targeted

metabolomics research will be necessary to confirm that these strains produce griseofulvin, as

well as transcriptomics to identify the genes/BCGs that are upregulated during griseofulvin

production. There remain significant challenges to link diverse diverse xylarialean metabolites to

BCGs as >90% of metabolite features we detected here were not identified at the SuperClass

level and previously, only 25% of 6,879 putative BCGs predicted in 96 xylarialean genomes had

hits to characterized BCGs in MiBIG (11).

Conclusions. The results of the present study are consistent with our previous hypothesis that

secondary metabolite diversity in xylarialean fungi is higher in strains that are ecological

generalists (11). Here, we found xylarialean strains that are substrate and host generalists

deployed a unique metabolic response for different competitors, consistent with their high BGC

diversity. In contrast, although ecological specialist dung saprotroph *P. punctata* was very

metabolically active and appeared to inhibit the growth of other fungi, rather than unique

responses to competitors in co-culture, it produced a very similar suite of metabolites regardless

of competitor identity. The fact that the *P. punctata* genome contains >60 predicted BGCs,

which is higher than typical Pezizomycotina fungi (Fig. 1), suggests that total BCG number

cannot predict a fungus' response to competitors. However, future studies should include

additional strains with diverse ecological modes to assess how ecological roles and BGC

diversity impact fungal metabolomes.

   In addition to providing novel information on the evolutionary and ecological factors that

may influence secondary metabolism within xylarialean fungi, our results further emphasize the

incredible bioactivity of xylarialean fungi and their potential in the pharmaceutical, agricultural,

food, and cosmetic industries. Many of these putatively identified compounds also have been

attributed to antiproliferative, anti-inflammatory, antioxidant, antiallergic, and sedative

properties, as well as mycotoxins, actin-binding cytochalasins, and phytohormones. Obtaining

bioactive compounds is typically expensive and can have negative environmental impacts. For

example, although parthenolide can be obtained from its traditional plant sources, such processes

are neither sustainable nor prepared to meet the growing market demand (70). Thus, the potential

for fungi to provide an alternative source for some bioactive compounds would be both

economically and environmentally beneficial. Finally, the fact that the majority of the features in

this study were unidentified, even at the Superclass level, indicates a large number of novel

putative bioactive compounds. Future work will be necessary to accurately identify and

characterize the activity of the diverse metabolites identified here.

Materials and Methods

Fungal strain selection and co-cultivation experiment

BCG content and phylogenetic position were used to select seven strains of Xylariaceae *s.l.* for

co-culturing and metabolomics (11) (Fig. 1; Supplemental Tables 5-7). A ~6 mm diameter agar

plug (removed from the growing edge of a 2-week-old pure culture of each strain using a sterile

transfer tube) was placed on a 100 mm Petri dish with minimal media containing glucose either

alone (i.e., monoculture) or in combination another strain (i.e., co-culture). Three replicate plates

were inoculated for each monoculture and co-culture interaction. After one month at room

temperature under ambient light/dark, defined interactions had occurred among the majority of

fungal pairs and each plate was photographed (Supplemental Figs. 1-7). Each co-culture

interaction was scored as either deadlock (i.e., visible inhibition zone) or invasion (i.e., one

fungus grew over the other) following (47).

Metabolite extraction and LC-MS/MS

As the majority of co-cultures had no mycelial contact, we harvested only media from the entire

clear space between the hyphae of each strain (~4-7 cm x 1 cm) using a sterile scalpel. In three

cases, one strain overgrew the other, and we harvested a similar area of agar/mycelium in the

interaction zone containing mycelia of both strains. For monocultures, a similar area of

mycelium/agar was removed from the growing mycelial edge. A similar amount of media was

also harvested from each negative control plate. Media/tissue was immediately flash-frozen in

liquid N and stored at -80°C until lyophilized for 48 h. Freeze-dried samples were homogenized

to a fine powder in a 2 ml tube containing stainless steel beads (Qiagen, Hilden, Germany) at

1,400 RPM for 30-sec intervals (maximum of 90 sec). Samples were extracted in MeOH and

resuspended in methanol with an internal standard (ISTD) mix of isotopically labeled

compounds (71), filtered, and analyzed on an Agilent 1290 UHPLC inline with a Thermo

QExactive Orbitrap HF mass spectrometer (Thermo Scientific, San Jose, CA), implementing JGI

LC-MS/MS ESI methods (72, 73). Normal phase and reverse chromatography were performed (3

uL injections) with randomized injection order. Blanks (methanol only) were run between each

sample.

A list of features was generated with MZmine (74), removing isotopes, adducts, and

features without MS/MS. The most intense fragmentation spectrum for each feature was

uploaded to Global Natural Products Social Molecular Networking (GNPS) (75) and analyzed

using the Feature-Based Molecular Network (FBMN) workflow. Peak heights were normalized

using a global normalization approach adapted from NormalyzerDe (76). Only features that were

significantly more abundant (log2FC = 2; adjusted P-value <0.05) in cultures vs. controls were

kept for analyses (77). MetaboAnalyst 5.0 (78) was used to perform a data integrity check and

data filtering using Interquartile Range (IQR). Features from each chromatography column and

ionization mode were combined and compared between (i) each co-culture pair and their

corresponding monocultures and (ii) all pairwise combinations of monocultures (see Fig. 2). To

connect features to putative genes/BGCs, MAGI 1.0 (29) was run with default setting using

significant features and predicted genes of each strain (11).

Data Availability

Raw metabolomics data is deposited in the Mass spectrometry Interactive Virtual Environment

(http://massive.ucsd.edu/) with the accession number MSV000093277. For non-polar

metabolites Feature Based Molecular Networking (FBMN) (results in positive and negative

ionization modes (with minimum cosine score of 0.7 and at least 3 matching fragment ions for

both library matches) are available at:

https://gnps.ucsd.edu/ProteoSAFe/status.jsp?task=3b3f57d427b54d9fb5317bb94b73509b and

https://gnps.ucsd.edu/ProteoSAFe/status.jsp?task=b3f3b9c0a43f46ceb140aa99ff2d0a20. For

polar metabolites, FBMN results in positive and negative ionization modes are available at

https://gnps.ucsd.edu/ProteoSAFe/status.jsp?task=e54e61e735f04bae9f55cd26cb25b7b5 and

https://gnps.ucsd.edu/ProteoSAFe/status.jsp?task=ec1f5d74e6c349a284e69a1f3f897476.

Genome data for all seven strains are available at JGI Mycocosm

(https://mycocosm.jgi.doe.gov/mycocosm/home).

Acknowledgments

Funding for the project was provided by the DOE JGI Large-scale Community Science Project

(Grant no. 503506 to JMU: https://doi.org/10.46936/10.25585/60001144) conducted by the U.S.

Department of Energy Joint Genome Institute (https://ror.org/04xm1d337), a DOE Office of

Science User Facility, that is supported by the Office of Science of the U.S. Department of

Energy operated under Contract No. DE-AC02-05CH11231. MEEF was funded by the

University of Arizona Office for Research, Innovation, and Impact and BIO5 Postdoctoral

Fellowship Program. The authors thank Drs. M. Tfaily and J.H. Wisecaver for helpful discussion

on the project; L.P. Moore for laboratory assistance; C. Orlando Ayala-Ortiz for sharing R

scripts; and G. Sensibar and D. Odum at Tucson High Magnet School for generating the time-

lapse of fungal interactions as part of their Southern Arizona Regional Science and Engineering

Fair (SARSEF) project. The authors have no competing interests.

<u>Tables</u>

Table 1. Number of features combined and for each column type and ioniziation mode after processing.

Number of features	Combined	HILIC-Z +	HILIC-Z -	C18 +	C18 -
Raw data	47,316	8,181	7,556	21,282	10,297
Not significantly different from extraction and negative controls	37,554 (79.4%)	7,422 (90.7%)	5,988 (79.2%)	17,237 (81.0%)	6,907 (67.1%)
Significantly more abundant in the fungal cultures than controls*	**9,762**	**759**	**1,568**	**4,045**	**3,390**
Classified at Superclass level	955 (9.8%)	176 (23.2%)	150 (9.6%)	495 (12.2%)	134 (4.0%)

* Features that were used for all down-stream analyses after removal of duplicated InChl keys, keeping those with the best MQScore value.

Table 2. Number of features that were significantly greater (i.e., log2FC, adjusted P<0.05) in either co-culture vs. monoculture for all 21 pairwise combinations. Features derived from both chromatographies and ionization modes were combined into a single dataset and analyzed together.

Fungal Strain A	Fungal Strain B	Number of features more abundant in co-culture than one or both monocultures					Number of features more abundant in either co-culture or monoculture (i.e., "ambiguous")			Number of features more abundant in monoculture than co-culture				
		AB > A, and AB > B	AB > A	AB > B	Total (only co-culture)	Total co-culture (including ambiguous)	AB > B and A > AB	AB > A and B > AB	Total Ambiguous	A > AB, and B > AB	A > AB	B > AB	Total (only monoculture)	Total monoculture (including ambiguous)
Biscogniauxia mediterranea AZ0048*	*Poronia punctata* CBS180.79	186	363	2,467	3,016	3,064	2	46	48	2	11	150	163	211
Nemania diffusa NC0034	*Biscogniauxia mediterranea* AZ0048	56	500	1,330	1,886	1,992	70	36	106	2	93	204	299	405
Nemania diffusa NC0034	*Poronia punctata* CBS180.79	289	416	2,861	3,566	3,727	108	53	161	7	94	136	237	398
Nemania diffusa NC0034	*Xylaria flabelliformis* NC1011	51	1,022	738	1,811	1,888	11	66	77	2	24	75	101	178
Nemania diffusa NC0034	*Xylaria flabelliformis* CBS123580	52	697	1,345	2,094	2,186	22	70	92	2	19	54	75	167
Xylaria arbuscula FL1030	*Biscogniauxia mediterranea* AZ0048	164	526	1,578	2,268	2,290	0	22	22	4	20	75	99	121
Xylaria arbuscula FL1030*	*Nemania diffusa* NC0034	22	676	525	1,223	1,278	23	32	55	0	21	35	56	111
Xylaria arbuscula FL1030*	*Poronia punctata* CBS180.79	114	325	3,183	3,622	3,705	30	53	83	6	24	174	204	287
Xylaria arbuscula FL1030*	*Xylaria flabelliformis* NC1011	167	1,187	690	2,044	2,049	0	5	5	0	1	25	26	31
Xylaria arbuscula FL1030	*Xylaria flabelliformis* CBS123580	128	554	1,190	1,872	1,894	1	21	22	3	14	86	103	125
Xylaria flabelliformis CBS116.85	*Biscogniauxia mediterranea* AZ0048	148	414	2,485	3,047	3,159	75	37	112	1	77	167	245	357
Xylaria flabelliformis CBS116.85	*Nemania diffusa* NC0034	11	279	1,339	1,629	1,731	78	24	102	1	75	129	205	307
Xylaria flabelliformis CBS116.85	*Poronia punctata* CBS180.79	248	249	4,204	4,701	4,817	72	44	116	0	28	78	106	222
Xylaria flabelliformis CBS116.85	*Xylaria arbuscula* FL1030	39	407	1,641	2,087	2,153	48	18	66	0	31	15	46	112
Xylaria flabelliformis CBS116.85	*Xylaria flabelliformis* NC1011	4	62	1,267	1,333	1,338	0	5	5	0	1	70	71	76
Xylaria flabelliformis CBS116.85	*Xylaria flabelliformis* CBS123580	11	81	2,221	2,313	2,328	13	2	15	0	16	57	73	88
Xylaria flabelliformis NC1011	*Biscogniauxia mediterranea* AZ0048	336	757	2,337	3,430	3,456	5	21	26	1	57	57	115	141
Xylaria flabelliformis NC1011	*Poronia punctata* CBS180.79	103	321	3,424	3,848	3,906	8	50	58	0	16	113	129	187
Xylaria flabelliformis CBS123580	*Biscogniauxia mediterranea* AZ0048	241	1,026	1,403	2,670	2,691	18	3	21	3	149	21	173	194
Xylaria flabelliformis CBS123580	*Poronia punctata* CBS180.79	337	623	2,440	3,400	3,541	115	26	141	0	153	24	177	318
Xylaria flabelliformis CBS123580	*Xylaria flabelliformis* NC1011	30	1,597	172	1,799	1,799	0	0	0	4	37	5	46	46
Total Number of Unique Features for Each Category		2,748	65	1,257	4,070	6,115	272	55	2,045	2	8	16	26	2,071

* Indicates fungal strains that overgrew competitor in co-culture. See Supplemental Figs. 1-7 for images.

Table 3. Number of features and related compound gene-gene connections using MAGI 1.

Number of features (both columns and ionization modes combined):	Co-culture and/or monoculture*	Co-culture > monoculture**	Monoculture > co-culture***
Significantly different by treatment	6,141	6,115	2,071
MAGI 1, input features	783	741	251
MAGI 1, input compounds (InChI keys)	1,060	1,048	537
MAGI 1, unsearched compounds (InChI keys)	573	568	278
MAGI 1, features connected to compounds (InChI keys)	135	135	57
MAGI 1, genes connected to compounds (InChI keys)	2,651	2,601	584
MAGI 1, features connected to genes in SMGCs (antiSMASH)	83	82	27
Unique SMGC IDs	300	295	78
MAGI 1, features connected to genes in BCGs (using antiSMASH) with significant hits to MIBiG (KnownClusterBlast)	55	55	16
Unique MIBiG IDs	78	78	38

*Features that were significantly over- or under-represented in either mono- or co-culture (i.e., dysregulated).

**Includes features only over-represented in co-culture (AB>A; AB>B; or AB>A and AB>B), as well as ambiguous features (AB>A and B>AB; AB>B and A>AB).

***Includes features only over-represented in monoculture (B>AB; A>AB; or A>AB and B>AB), as well as ambiguous features (AB>A and B>AB; AB>B and A>AB)

Table 4. Subset of the putatively bioactive compounds with MQScores >0.90, their frequency in xylarialean co-culture vs. mono-culture, biological activities, uses, and previously reported biological sources. See Supplemental Table 7 for more detailed information.

Compound name	Compound Category*	Observed Biological Activities*	Previously Described Natural Source*	Frequency in all co-culture pairwise analyses	Frequency in all co-culture pairwise analyses	Feature(s) MQScore
Nootkatone	Sesquiterpenoid	M, C, A, I, O	Plants	0.95	0.00	0.988043-0.413273
Perillaldehyde	Aldehyde	M, C, A	Plants	0.71	0.00	0.99322-0.592918
Chamazulene	Sesquiterpenoid	M	Plants	0.67	0.00	0.939767-0.743369
Orcinol β-D-glucoside	Glycoside	M	Plants	0.62	0.00	0.951372-0.740981
(-)-Myrtenal	Monoterpenoid	M, C	Plants	0.62	0.00	0.992069-0.679613
(+)-Carvone	Monoterpenoid	M, C, A, I, P	Plants	0.57	0.00	0.977081-0.972748
L-Carvone [(A)]	Monoterpenoid	M, C, A, I	Plants	0.57	0.00	0.901109-0.883955
ar-Turmerone	Sesquiterpenoid	M, C, A, I, O	Plants, Lichen	0.52	0.00	0.960267-0.815509
Neoabietic acid	Diterpenoid	A	Plants	0.19	0.00	0.998189-0.972936
α-Cyperone	Sesquiterpenoid	M, C, A	Fungi, Plants	0.95	0.02	0.960776-0.400954
Cytochalasin D	Cytochalasin	M, C, A	Fungi	0.90	0.02	0.935687-0.407988
Abietic acid	Diterpenoid	M, A	Algae, Plants	0.62	0.02	0.994925-0.414036
Lumichrome	Riboflavin metabolite	P	Algae, Bacteria, Fungi, Plants	0.29	0.02	0.95404-0.429184
Jasmonic acid	Oxo monocarboxylic acid	P	Algae, Fungi, Plants	0.71	0.05	0.994482-0.403317
Dehydrocostus lactone	Guaianolide sesquiterpene lactone	O	Bacteria	0.95	0.07	0.920102-0.416364
Parthenolide	Sesquiterpene lactone	M, C, A	Fungi, Plants	0.95	0.07	0.971081-0.405395
Galiellalactone	Lactone	C, A	Fungi	0.90	0.07	0.909601-0.415254
Steviol	Ent-kaurane diterpenoid	P	Plants	0.86	0.07	0.920258-0.478784
Bisabolol oxide A	Sesquiterpene	I	Animals, Plants	1.00	0.10	0.978746-0.458545
Zerumbone	Sesquiterpenoid	M, C, A, I	Plants	1.00	0.10	0.969946-0.40489
Costunolide	Germacranolide	M, C, A	Plants	0.95	0.12	0.925914-0.412583
Alternariol	Benzochromenone	C, O	Fungi, Lichen	0.71	0.12	0.902518-0.524149
Norlichexanthone	Xanthone	M, C, A, O	Fungi, Lichen, Plants	0.71	0.12	0.945321-0.428965
Thymoquinone	Benzoquinones	M, C, A	Plants	0.62	0.12	0.934129-0.879387
Lecanoric acid	Benzoate ester	M, C, A	Fungi, Lichen	0.43	0.12	0.983711-0.81159
Orsellinic acid	Phenol	M	Fungi, Lichen	0.43	0.12	0.985166-0.888573
Valerenic acid	Monocarboxylic acid	M	Plants	1.00	0.14	0.965617-0.428295
Polygodial	Sesquiterpenoid	M, C, A, I	Animals, Plants	1.00	0.14	0.977564-0.42917
(-)-Globulol	Sesquiterpenoid	A	Fungi, Plants	0.90	0.14	0.946199-0.798093
Cedrol	Sesquiterpenoid alcohol	M, C, A, I	Fungi, Plants	0.71	0.14	0.983602-0.797492
Patchouli alcohol	Sesquiterpenoid tertiary alcohol	M, C, A, I, O	Plants	0.71	0.14	0.995816-0.804617
α-Bisabolol	Monocyclic sesquiterpene alcohol	M, C	Algae, Fungi, Plants	0.67	0.14	0.949284-0.621228
Farnesol [(A)]	Sesquiterpenoid	M, C, I, O	Animals, Fungi, Plants	0.67	0.14	0.952341-0.582818
β-Elemene	Sesquiterpenoid	M, C, A, I	Animals, Fungi, Algae, Plants	0.67	0.14	0.915714-0.816806
Stachydrine	Proline and derivatives	M, C	Animals, Fungi, Algae, Plants	0.52	0.14	0.980021-0.745809
Griseofulvin [(A)]	Benzofuran	A	Fungi	0.90	0.19	0.97691-0.536526
(-)-Caryophyllene oxide	Epoxide	M, C, I	Plants	1.00	0.21	0.984298-0.400756
Malioxamycin	Valine derivate	A	Bacteria	0.29	0.21	0.930222-0.410817
Alantolactone	Sesquiterpene Lactone	M, C, A, I	Plants	1.00	0.24	0.952116-0.405555

* Information from Chemical Entities of Biological Interest (ChEBI; https://www.ebi.ac.uk/chebi/). **(A) Antimicrobial**: anti-oomycete, antibacterial, antidermatophyte, antifungal, antileishmanial, antinematodal, antiviral, anti-HIV, anti-trypanosomal; **(C) Cytotoxic**: anti-tumor, herbicidal, mycotoxin, phytotoxic; **(I) Insecticidal**: anti-tick, insect antifeedant; **(M) Medicinal:** anti-acetylcholinesterase, anti-inflammatory, anti-osteoporotic, anti-psoriasis, anti-anxiety, anti-depressant, anti-pyretic, anti-venom, anti-epileptic, anti-osteoporosis, anxiolytic, cardioprotective, hepatoprotective, immunosuppressant, nephroprotective, neuroprotective, acaricidal, analgesic, anthelmintic; **(P) Plant-Interaction:** legume-rhizobia symbiosis, plant-growth promoting molecule, potato sprouting inhibitor, plant sweetener, phytohormone; **(O) Other:** antioxidant, aroma-flavor, fragrance, quorum-sensing, virulence factor, spore germination/fungal inhibitor

    Figures

Figure 1. Phylogenetic relationships and metabolic gene content for the seven ecologically

diverse xylarialean fungal strains used in this study. To examine the impact of phylogenetic

distance on metabolic production in co-culture we selected three closely related strains of

Xylaria flabelliformis, along with four additional strains of Xylariaceae s.l. that were

increasingly phylogenetically distant from *X. flabelliformis* (11). *Xylaria flabelliformis* was

chosen as a focal species due to the highest number of BGCs and previous untargeted

metabolomics studies that detected bioactive metabolites in NC1011 (11). Different colored

boxes next to each strain name indicate its substrate of isolation in either living tissues

(symbiont) or decomposing tissues (saprobe). Stacked bars indicate the number and classification

of predicted biosynthetic gene clusters (BGCs; the black and red dashed lines show the mean

number of BCGs in genomes of other Pezizomycotina and Xylariaceae *s.l.,* respectively) and

KEGG pathways in each strain (11). See Supplemental Tables 5-7.

Figure 2. Schematic of analysis workflow to identify metabolite features significantly more abundant in co-culture or monoculture for 21 different pairwise comparisons. In total, there were three replicate plates for each pairwise co-culture (n = 63), each of the seven monocultures (n = 21) for a total of 84 samples. Negative controls included three media-only plates (extracted in parallel) and extraction controls. Features from each monoculture (above A or B) and co-culture (A+B) whose abundance was log2FC greater than controls were selected to perform pairwise comparisons of each co-culture (A:B) against each corresponding monoculture (A or B) using a univariate volcano plot analysis in MetaboAnalyst (criteria >log2 fold-change (log2FC),

p-value < 0.05) (Table 1). Given the nature of the pairwise comparisons, some features could not

be unambiguously assigned to either category: they were more abundant in co-culture compared

to at least one of the monocultures, but also more abundant in at least one of the monocultures

compared to a co-culture (i.e., AB > B and A > AB; AB > A and B > AB; hereafter,

"ambiguous" features) (see Table 2). MAGI 1.0 (29) was executed with all significantly

dysregulated features in co-cultures relative to each of their corresponding monocultures against

genes in the corresponding genome of each strain (i.e., 4 compound sets with 2 gene sets) (11).

Compound-gene connections ('MAGI score' ≥ 2, a 'reciprocal score' ≥ 1, and labeled as 'direct')

were then compared to predicted BGCs and annotations from MiBIG (11) (Table 3). Data from

both chromatography columns and ionization modes were combined for analyses (with

duplicates removed).

Figure 3. Statistical comparisons of metabolite richness between co-cultures and monocultures. (**A**) Interquartile box plots comparing the median number of significantly over-abundant metabolites produced in all pairwise co-culture comparisons vs. all monoculture comparisons. Asterisks indicate significant differences after t-test of means ($t_{20.6} = 11.56$, P <0.0001). (**B**) Rarefaction curves of metabolite richness as a function of the number of comparisons to other cultures when grown in either co-culture or monoculture. (**C-D**) Interquartile box plots comparing the median number of metabolites that were significantly over-abundant in co-culture as a function of the taxonomic relationships among different pairs. (**C**) Intergenic: pairwise comparisons of strains in four different genera (*Xylaria, Nemania, Poronia,*

541   and *Biscognauxia*); Intragenic: pairwise comparisons of four *Xylaria* spp.; Interspecific: pairwise

542   comparisons of three *X. flabilliformis* strains). ANOVA found no significant differences: $F_{2,18} =$

543   2.60, P = 0.1000. (**D**) Pairwise co-culture comparisons either with (Pp+) or without (Pp-) strain

544   *P. punctata* CBS 180.79. Asterisks indicate significant differences after t-test of means ($t_{9.5} =$

545   −5.84, P = 0.0002).

Figure 4. Stacked bar plots with the total number of features that were identified as significantly more abundant in either co-culture (CC) or monoculture (MC) for all 21 interaction pairs. Bars are colored by the statistical methods used to assign features to either treatment, as shown in Fig. 2. Ambiguously defined features (defined as CC and/or MC) are also indicated. Each numbered plot corresponds to one co-culture interaction pair (abbreviated strain names are listed to the right). Asterisks (*) next to *X. arbuscula* (Xa FL1030) indicate three cases where this strain overgrew its competitor in co-culture. For each interaction pair, boxes to the left of the name indicate either the substrate source of each strain or the pairwise genetic distance

555   between genomes of each strain (11). Metabolites were compared after one month of growth

556   either in co-culture or monoculture on *Aspergillus* minimal medium at room temperature under

557   ambient light/dark conditions. Features derived from both chromatography columns and

558   ionization modes were combined into a single dataset and analyzed together (Supplemental

559   Table 1).

Figure 5. Overlap and frequency of features over-represented in co-culture vs.

monoculture. (A) UpSet plot showing the distribution of features that were over-abundant in co-

culture vs. monocultures across all 21 interaction pairs. The height of each stacked bar indicates

the number of features found (i.e., "intersection" size) for different interaction pair(s). Vertical

black lines connect features shared between >1 pair. Dot color indicates whether a feature is

present (black) or absent (grey) for each interaction pair. Colors in each stacked bar correspond

to feature classifications within each set at the 'Superclass level' using the ClassyFire.

Interactions with <10 features are not displayed for readability. **(B)** Heatmap based on the

proportion of co-cultures (columns) where a feature (row) was found in co-culture for a

particular strain (i.e., number of occurrences out of six different co-cultures). A proportion equal

to 1.0 (dark blue) thus corresponds to compounds always detected in co-cultures with that strain,

suggesting it may be the compound producer. Compounds and fungal strains were grouped using

hierarchical clustering (complete) using Euclidean distance (see also Supplemental Fig. 11,

574   where strains are instead ordered by their phylogenetic relationships). Features derived from both

575   chromatography columns and ionization modes were combined into a single dataset and

576   analyzed together with duplicates removed.

Border: Anaolg compound name

- Griseofulvin
- Dechlorogriseofulvin
- Griseofulvic acid

Inner chart: Frequency in monoculture / Outer chart: Frequency in co-culture

- *Biscogniauxia mediterranea* AZ0048
- *Nemania diffusa* NC0034
- *Poronia punctata* CBS 180.79 *
- *Xylaria flabelliformis* CBS 123580 *
- *Xylaria arbuscula* FL1030
- *Xylaria flabelliformis* CBS 116.85 *
- *Xylaria flabelliformis* NC1011 *

Figure 6. Compounds structurally related to griseofulvin were frequently detected among co-cultures yet rarely observed in monocultures. Network showing some features structurally related to griseofulvin. Each node represents a feature with its ID in the center. The border is colored by the analog compound identified in the database: griseofulvin. The outer and inner charts show the frequency with which the feature was detected as significantly more or less abundant (respectively) in co-culture than monoculture, colored by fungal strain. Asterisks indicate strains with BGCs matching the griseofulvin biosynthetic gene cluster from *Penicillium aethiopicum* at the MIBiG repository (BGC0000070). Nodes were positioned by a pre-fuse force-directed layout algorithm, and edges between two nodes were weighted by the Cosine score. Ions derived from the C18 chromatography and positive ionization mode.

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