Genomic features and evolution of the conditionally dispensable chromosome in the tangerine pathotype of *Alternaria alternata*

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Abstract

The tangerine pathotype of the ascomycete fungus *Alternaria alternata* is the

causal agent of citrus brown spot, which can result in significant losses of both yield

and marketability for tangerines and tangerine hybrids worldwide. A conditionally

dispensable chromosome (CDC), which harbors the host-selective ACT toxin gene

cluster, is required for tangerine pathogenicity of *A. alternata*. To understand the

genetic makeup and evolution of the tangerine pathotype CDC, we analyzed the

function and evolution of the CDC genes present in the *A. alternata* Z7 strain. The

1.84Mb long CDC contains 512 predicted protein-coding genes, which are enriched in

functional categories associated with 'metabolic process' (132 genes, p-value =

0.00192) including 'oxidation-reduction process' (48 genes, p-value = 0.00021) and

'lipid metabolic process' (11 genes, p-value = 0.04591). Relatively few of the CDC

genes can be classified as CAZymes (13), kinases (3) and transporters (20).

Differential transcriptome analysis of H_2O_2 treatment and control conditions revealed

that 29 CDC genes were significantly up-regulated and 14 were significantly down-

regulated, suggesting that CDC genes may play a role in coping with oxidative stress.

Evolutionary analysis of the 512 CDC proteins showed that their evolutionary

conservation tends to be restricted within the genus *Alternaria* and that the CDC

genes evolve faster than genes in the essential chromosomes. Interestingly,

phylogenetic analysis suggested that the genes of 13 enzymes and one sugar

transporter residing in the CDC were likely horizontally transferred from distantly

related species. Among these, one carboxylesterase gene was transferred from

bacteria but functionally knocking out this gene revealed no obvious biological role.

Another 4 genes might have been transferred from *Colletotrichum* (Sordariomycetes)

and 5 were likely transferred as a physically linked cluster of genes from

Cryptococcus (Basidiomycota) or *Penicillium* (Eurotiomycetes). Functionally

knocking out the 5-gene cluster resulted in an 80% decrease in asexual spore

production in the deletion mutant. These results provide new insights into the function

and evolution of CDC genes in *Alternaria*.

Keywords: plant pathogen; Dothideomycetes; accessory chromosome; evolutionary

origin; horizontal gene transfer; conidia

Author Summary

Many fungal phytopathogens harbor conditionally dispensable chromosomes

(CDCs). CDCs are variable in size, contain many genes involved in virulence, but

their evolution remains obscure. In this study, we investigated the origin of the CDC

present in the tangerine pathotype of *Alternaria alternata* Z7 strain. We found that

most of the Z7 CDC proteins are highly conserved within the genus *Alternaria* but

poorly conserved outside the genus. We also discovered that a small number of genes

originated via horizontal gene transfer (HGT) from distantly related fungi and

bacteria. These horizontally transferred genes include a carboxylesterase gene that

was likely acquired from bacteria, a cluster of 4 physically linked genes likely

transferred from *Colletotrichum*, and a cluster of 5 physically linked genes likely

transferred from *Cryptococcus* (Basidiomycota) or *Penicillium* (Eurotiomycetes). To

gain insight into the functions of these transferred genes, we knocked out the bacterial

carboxylesterase and the 5-gene cluster. Whereas the carboxylesterase deletion mutant

showed no obvious phenotype, the 5-gene cluster mutant showed a dramatically

reduced production of asexual spores (conidia). The results of our study suggest that

Alternaria CDCs are largely comprised from rapidly evolving native genes; although

only a few genes were acquired via horizontal gene transfer, some of them appear to

be involved in functions critical to the phytopathogenic lifestyle.

Introduction

Alternaria alternata fungi can be ubiquitously found in soil, various plants, and decaying plant debris (Thomma, 2003). Some *A. alternata* strains, which are known as pathotypes, can cause plant diseases and result in severe crop losses worldwide. Specifically, at least seven pathogenic *A. alternata* pathotypes, each producing a unique host-selective toxin (HST) essential to pathogenicity, have been recognized to cause diseases in Japanese pear, strawberry, tangerine, apple, tomato, rough lemon and tobacco (Tsuge et al., 2013). Generally, genes required for HST biosynthesis are clustered on relatively small chromosomes of 1.0 ~ 2.0 Mb in size in *A. alternata* (Tsuge et al., 2013). These chromosomes, which are known as accessory or conditionally dispensable chromosomes (CDCs), are highly variable among species and are required for pathogenicity in *A. alternata*. However, CDCs are generally not required for fungal growth and reproduction on artificial media (Johnson et al., 2001; Hatta et al., 2002).

The importance of CDCs conferring pathogenicity to fruits has been demonstrated by the construction of *A. alternata* hybrids in laboratory conditions. More specifically, two distinct laboratory hybrids were constructed from tomato and strawberry pathotypes and separately for apple and tomato pathotypes. The resulting hybrids harbored two CDCs from their parents allowing for the production of HSTs that caused diseases in both parental plant species (Akamatsu et al., 2001; Akagi et al., 2009b). Furthermore, these studies support the hypothesis that CDCs can be transmitted between different stains thereby facilitating the spread and evolutionary diversification of fungal phytopathogens.

Besides *A. alternata*, many other fungal phytopathogens have CDCs in their

genomes including *Fusarium oxysporum*, *Nectria haematococca*, *Zymoseptoria tritici*

(previously known as *Mycosphaerella graminicola* and *Septoria tritici*), and

Colletotrichum gloeosporioides (Coleman et al., 2009; Ma et al., 2010; Stukenbrock

et al., 2010). Because CDCs are typically found in some, but not all, strains, they have

been proposed to have different evolutionary origins than the essential chromosomes

(Covert, 1998; Tsuge et al., 2013), e.g., through horizontal transfer from distantly

related species (Covert, 1998; Hatta et al., 2002). The possibility of horizontal transfer

of CDCs between species has been demonstrated in several studies. For example, a 2-

Mb chromosome was transferred between two different biotypes of *C.*

gloeosporioides during vegetative co-cultivation in the laboratory (He et al., 1998).

Importantly, CDC acquisition can facilitate the transition from the non-pathogenic to

pathogenic phenotype in the recipient organism. For example, co-incubation of non-

pathogenic and pathogenic genotypes of *F. oxysporum* revealed that the transfer of a

CDC from the pathogenic (donor) to non-pathogenic genotype (recipient) enabled the

recipient to become pathogenic to tomatoes (Ma et al., 2010).

Previously, the ~1.0 Mb CDC of the tomato pathotype of *A. alternata* was

identified and characterized (Hu et al., 2012). Genes in that CDC are abundant in the

categories of "metabolic process" and "biosynthetic process", and include 36

polyketide and non-ribosomal peptide synthetase domain-containing genes;

furthermore, the GC content of third codon positions, codon usage bias, and repeat

region load in the CDC are different from those in the essential chromosomes (Hu et

al., 2012), raising the hypothesis that the *A. arborescens* CDC was acquired through

horizontal transfer from an unrelated fungus (Hu et al., 2012).

The tangerine pathotype of *A. alternata*, which can cause citrus brown spot on

tangerines and tangerine hybrids, was demonstrated to harbour an additional

chromosome of about 1.9~2.0Mb by pulse-field gel electrophoresis studies

(Miyamoto et al., 2008; Miyamoto et al., 2009). Seven genes, *ACTTR*, *ACTT2*,

ACTT3, *ACTT5*, *ACTT6*, *ACTTS2* and *ACTTS3*, were located onto this chromosome

and found to be required for the biosynthesis of the ACT-toxin, a unique HST

produced by the tangerine pathotype (Tsuge et al., 2013). However, relatively little is

known about the content, potential biological functions, and evolution of the other

genes in the CDC of the tangerine pathotype of *A. alternata.* To address this question,

we examined the functional annotation, transcriptional activity, and evolution of all

512 genes in the CDC of the tangerine pathotype strain Z7 of *A. alternata*. We found

that these genes are enriched in functions associated with 'metabolic process'.

Furthermore, 43 CDC genes were differentially expressed in response to oxidative

stress. Finally, we found that conservation for the majority of the 512 Z7 CDC genes

was restricted to the genus *Alternaria* and that 14 CDC genes likely originated via

horizontal gene transfer (HGT) events from other fungi or bacteria. Construction of

the deletion mutant of a carboxylesterase gene that was likely acquired from bacteria

did not show any obvious differences in phenotype from the wild type. In contrast, the

deletion mutant of a 5-gene cluster that was likely acquired from distantly related

fungi showed a dramatic reduction in the production of asexual spores. These results

suggest that CDC genes in *Alternaria* are involved in processes associated with

metabolism, that they are rapidly evolving, and that they sometimes originate via

HGT.

Results

General features of CDC

To identify the genome content of CDC of the tangerine pathotype of *A. alternata*

strain Z7, we compared the genome sequence of the Z7 strain to that of *A.*

brassicicola, which is known to not have a CDC (see methods). This strategy

identified 43 CDC contigs with a combined total length of 1.84Mb, which is close to

the CDC size estimated by the pulse-field electrophoresis experiment (1.9~2.0Mb)

(Miyamoto et al., 2008; Miyamoto et al., 2009). The overall G+C content of the CDC

was 47.7%, while that of the essential chromosomes (ECs) was 51.2%. The

percentage of repetitive sequences on the Z7 CDC was 1.23%, over 2-fold of that of

ECs (0.51%). The average gene length and gene density of CDC were significantly

smaller than those of ECs (Table 1).

Functional annotation of the genes in the CDC

The CDC was predicted to comprise of 512 protein-coding genes. To predict

their functions, gene ontology analysis was performed and 233 genes were assigned to

154 gene ontology terms related to biological process. 132 genes are assigned to the

GO term metabolic process (p-value 0.00192) (Fig 1). Within the metabolic process,

the GO terms oxidation-reduction process (48, p-value 0.00021) and lipid metabolic

process (11, p-value 0.04591) were also significantly enriched (Fig 1). The reduction-

oxidation (redox)-associated genes include monoxygenase, dehydrogenase, and

reductase, suggesting that the CDC may be involved in intracellular redox

homeostasis.

To functionally annotate the 512 genes in the CDC, we classified their protein

products into protein families using several different approaches. Based on Pfam

domain characterization, 307 / 512 genes belonged to 195 protein families (S1 Table).

We identified 13 CAZyme genes in the CDC, accounting for 3.48% (13 / 373) of the

total CAZymes of Z7. These include 3 Glycosyl Transferases (GTs), 6 Glycoside

Hydrolases (GHs) and 5 Auxiliary Activities (AAs) (S1 Table). A total of 29 secreted

proteins were predicted in the CDC, including 3 plant cell wall-degrading enzymes,

10 small-secreted cysteine-rich proteins (SSCPs), 3 peptidases, 1 lipase, and 1 LysM

domain-containing protein (S1 Table). Only 3 kinases from 3 different kinase families

were found in the CDC (S1 Table). We identified 20 transcription factors in the CDC,

which can be divided into 5 subfamilies: Zinc finger Zn_2-Cys_6 (8), Zinc finger C_2H_2

(5), Myb-like DNA-binding (1), helix-turn-helix, Psq (4) and high mobility group box

(2) (S1 Table). Twenty-six transporter-encoding genes were found in the CDC (S1

Table). Among the 48 redox related genes in the CDC, 13 were predicted to be

Cytochrome P450 monooxygenases. Based on comparisons with proteins in the PHI-

database, 35 CDC proteins are related to pathogenicity (S1 Table). Finally, the CDC

contained the ACT-toxin biosynthetic gene cluster present only in the tangerine

pathotype of *A. alternata*, which has been described in detail previously (Wang et al.,

2016).

Expression of CDC genes under H_2O_2 stress

The production of the host-selective ACT toxin is crucial for the pathogenicity of

the tangerine pathotype of *A. alternata* (Miyamoto et al., 2008; Miyamoto et al., 2009;

Tsuge et al., 2013). Additionally, recent studies have shown that the ability to

eliminate ROS by the tangerine pathotype of *A. alternata* is also of vital importance

for pathogenesis to citrus (Lin et al., 2009; Chen et al., 2013; Yang et al., 2016). To

discover which genes in the *A. alternata* Z7 CDC are potentially involved in coping

with oxidative stress, we performed transcriptome analysis using the previously

published transcriptome data of *A. alternata* Z7 after H_2O_2 treatment using no H_2O_2

treatment as a control (Wang et al., 2016).

Of the 512 CDC genes, 43 were significantly differentially expressed during the

H_2O_2 stress condition (Table 2, S2 Table). These included 29 CDC genes that were

significantly upregulated and 14 that were significantly downregulated. The set of

upregulated genes includes proteins such as oxidoreductases, hydrolases, transcription

factors and phosphatases. Interestingly, the polyketide synthase (AALT_g11750,

log2FC 3.3), which was hypothesized to be crucial for the biosynthesis of the ACT

toxin (Miyamoto et al., 2010), was strongly induced after H_2O_2 treatment. A cluster of

four genes (AALT_g11772, AALT_g11773, AALT_g11774 and AALT_g11775)

located on CDC was also highly upregulated (log2FC from 3.4 to 4.4) during H_2O_2

stress. After comparing these four proteins to the Pfam database, proteins

AALT_g11772 and AALT_g11774 were found to contain an oxidoreductase family

domain and a NmrA-like family domain, respectively. However, no protein domain

was predicted for AALT_g11773 and AALT_g11775 (Table 2, S2 Table).

The Evolutionary origin of the Z7 CDC

To explore the evolutionary origin of the Z7 CDC, we compared the sequence

similarity (calculated by BLAST identity score * query coverage) of each of the 512

CDC proteins to the protein sequences from the genomes of other species in the

Dothideomycetes. In the species phylogeny, *Alternaria* species are grouped into three

clades (I through III), which coincides with a previously constructed phylogeny based

on 200 conserved single-copy orthologs (Wang et al., 2016). Proteins in the Z7 CDC

showed a wide range of sequence similarity values to proteins in other

Dothideomycetes (Fig 2). As expected, the highest degree of similarity was with

proteins of other *Alternaria* species, and in particular with those from clade I (Fig 2,

S1 Fig). For example, we found that 442 / 512 (86.3%) of the Z7 CDC proteins (442,

86.3%) showed >50% similarity to proteins in *A. turkisafria* (Fig 2, S1 Fig), which

can also cause citrus brown spot. However, *A. citriarbusti* and *A. tangelonis* can also

cause citrus brown spot but these exhibited much lower numbers (321 / 512, 62.7%

and 310 / 512, 60.5%, respectively) of proteins with >50% similarity to proteins in Z7

CDC (Fig 2). These results suggest that the gene content and sequence similarity on

CDC can be highly variable among strains of the same pathotype.

To examine if any of the Z7 CDC proteins were more similar to proteins outside

those found in genomes from the genus *Alternaria*, a BLASTp search of those 512

protein sequences against the NCBI non-redundant database was performed and the

result was filtered using the E-value<1e-10 and sequence identity>30% criteria.

Although the best matches for 330 / 512 proteins were proteins from other *Alternaria*

species, 81 proteins had their best matches to be proteins found in non-*Alternaria*

members from the family Pleosporaceae, 33 from the order Pleosporales (other than

Pleosporaceae), 9 from the class Dothideomycetes (other than Pleosporales), 44 from

the domain Fungi (other than Dothideomycetes), and 1 from the domain Bacteria (S3

Table).

To further dissect the evolutionary history of Z7 CDC genes, we reconstructed

the phylogenetic tree for each Z7 CDC gene with their orthologs from other species in

the Dothideomycetes. There were too few orthologs to construct phylogenetic trees

for three CDC genes; among the remaining 509 gene trees, 402 showed monophyly

within the genus *Alternaria*. Taken together, our results suggest that most of the

A.alternata Z7 CDC proteins were likely present in the *Alternaria* ancestor and that

some of them were likely independently lost in some of the species during the

diversification of the genus.

Relative evolutionary rate of Z7 CDC

To figure out if genes in the CDC and genes in the ECs in Z7 evolve differently,

we built a phylogenetic tree for each Z7 gene which has orthologs in more than 7

(50% of total number) species within Alternaria Clade I. A total of 191 CDC and

10,060 EC genes were used to calculate the average branch length for each tree. The

average branch length for most genes in both the CDC and the ECs are very low (Fig

3), which indicates that most genes are highly conserved within the genus *Alternaria*

Clade I. However, as a whole, we found that EC genes had lower average branch

lengths than CDC genes (P= 2.2e-16, Fig 3), suggesting that the Z7 CDC genes are

evolving faster than the Z7 EC genes.

HGT of genes in the CDC

To examine whether any of the *A. alternata* Z7 CDC genes originated via HGT,

we calculated the Alien Index (Gladyshev et al., 2008; Wisecaver et al., 2016) of all

512 genes. A total of 43 genes show AI > 0 and at least 80% of their top 200 BLASTp

hits with a taxonomic classification other than Dothideomycetes. The validity of these

43 HGT candidates was further examined phylogenetically. The phylogenetic trees for

most of these 43 HGT candidates were weakly supported, but the evolutionary origin

of 14 of these genes was strongly supported to be outside Dothideomycetes (Table 3,

S2-15 Fig). The approximately unbiased (AU) test for each of the 14 genes

significantly rejected the hypothesis that they formed a monophyletic group with the

rest of the sequences from Dothideomycetes (Table 3). As the genes inferred to have

undergone HGT are also found in other *Alternaria* species, we infer that the HGT

events occurred before the divergence of the Z7 strain from the other *Alternaria*

genomes examined and not after. Specifically, 4 of the horizontally transferred genes

are found in the genomes of species in *Alternaria* Clades I and II, 6 genes are also

found in the genomes of species in *Alternaria* Clade I, and 4 genes are found only in

the Japanese pear, strawberry and tangerine pathotypes (Table 3).

All HGT genes encode enzymes except for AALT_g11770, which is a hexose

transporter (Table 3). According to their predicted functions, these HGT candidates

are involved in two biological processes: oxidation reduction and carbohydrate

metabolism (Table 3). There is only one gene (AALT_g12037) that was likely

transferred from bacteria (Fig 4A, Fig S2). The phylogenetic tree of this gene contains

a large proportion of bacteria (Fig 4A). There are only 15 fungal species predicted to

contain this gene, including 13 *Alternaria* species, *Fusarium oxysporum* and

Pyrenochaeta sp. DS3sAY3a (Fig 4B). AALT_g12037 is 1,428 bp in length and

contains no introns. It encodes one of the carboxylesterases that are responsible for

the hydrolysis of carboxylic acid esters into their corresponding acid and alcohol

(Potter and Wadkins, 2006). This protein in Z7 CDC shows high sequence identity

(75%, 73% and 74%) and query coverage (99%, 100% and 98%) to its orthologs in

Fusarium oxysporum, *Pyrenochaeta sp. DS3sAY3a* and *Bacillus subtilis*, one of the

potential donors. To test the functional significance of this gene, the coding region of

AALT_g12037 was knocked out in *A.alternata Z7* (Fig S16A, B). However, the

mutant strain did not exhibit any phenotypic difference from the wildtype strain (Fig

S16E, F, G).

The ACT toxin is essential for the pathogenicity of *A. alternata* Z7 to citrus

leaves, the synthesis of which is predicted to be controlled by a cluster composed of

about 25 genes (Wang et al., 2016). Surprisingly, 4 / 25 of the ACT cluster genes

contained in the Z7 CDC strain are always grouped together with sequences from the

unrelated *Colletotrichum* (Sordariomycetes) in their gene phylogenies (Fig 5A, S3-6

Fig). Interestingly, the orthologous genes in *Colletotrichum tofieldiae* are physically

linked with each other and are part of a secondary metabolite biosynthetic gene

cluster predicted by antiSMASH 4.0 (Blin et al., 2017) (Fig 5A, B), although the gene

order and orientation of the two clusters is different (Fig 5B). Besides *A.alternata* Z7

(the tangerine pathotype), this cluster is also present in the Japanese pear pathotype

and the strawberry pathotype (Wang et al., 2016). Previously, deletion of the AKT3

gene in the Japanese pear pathotype, which is the ortholog of the HMG-CoA

hydrolase gene ACTT3 (AALT_g11755), produced toxin-deficient and non-

pathogenic mutants (Tanaka and Tsuge, 2000). Taken together, these results raise the

hypothesis that the HGT of four genes from a lineage related to *Colletotrichum* may

have contributed to the composition of the HST gene clusters found in the CDCs of

three pathotypes of *Alternaria*.

Interestingly, five of the transferred genes are physically clustered in the Z7 strain

CDC and almost always appear on the gene phylogeny as sisters to sequences from

either *Cryptococcus* (Basidiomycota) or *Penicillium* (Eurotiomycetes) fungi (Fig 6A,

S7-11 Fig). Specifically, both *Penicillium flavigenum* and *Cryptococcus gattii* have 4

clustered genes that are highly similar and group together on the gene phylogeny with

4 of these 5 genes (Fig 6A, B); *Penicillium flavigenum* lacks the neuraminidase

encoding gene homolog (AALT_g11771) while *Cryptococcus gattii* lacks the

oxidoreductase encoding gene homolog (AALT_g11772) (Fig 6B). However, the

gene order and orientation is quite different among the clusters of these three genomes

(Fig 6B). From these results, the most likely scenario is that the genes were

horizontally transferred from *Cryptococcus* or *Penicillium* species and were

subsequently rearranged. To further characterize this 5-gene cluster, we constructed a

deletion mutant lacking the entire cluster and examined its phenotypic characteristics

upon osmotic, oxidative, fungicide, and cell wall stresses, as well as its asexual

development and pathogenicity (S16 Fig). We found that the mycelial growth of the

mutant in potato dextrose agar (PDA) was slightly reduced (by 9.1%) when compared

with that of the wildtype (S16G Fig); furthermore, the mutant formed a fluffy colony

during asexual development and conidial production was decreased by 79.5% relative

to wild type conidial production) (Fig 6C). No other phenotypic differences between

the mutant and the wildtype strains were found (S16E, G Fig). These results indicate

that this horizontally transferred gene cluster is critical for the conidiation of *A.*

alternata.

Discussion

Conditionally dispensable chromosomes (CDCs) are commonly found in fungal

phytopathogens and play key roles in pathogenicity (Johnson et al., 2001; Hatta et al.,

2002). However, despite their importance, our knowledge about the gene content and

evolutionary origin of CDCs is limited. In this study, we identified and characterized

the 1.84 Mb CDC of the tangerine pathotype strain Z7 of *A. alternata* and examined

the function and evolutionary history of its genes. Our results suggest that CDC genes

in *Alternaria* are involved in processes associated with metabolism, that they are

conserved within the genus *Alternaria* and are rapidly evolving, and that they

sometimes originate via HGT. Below, we discuss our findings in the context of the

genome content of *Alternaria* CDCs and the evolutionary origin of *Alternaria* CDC

genes.

In this study, we functionally annotated the CDC of the tangerine pathotype strain

Z7 of *A. alternata*. Although the Z7 CDC is much larger than the *A. arborescens*

CDC, several Z7 CDC gene families are comparable to those present in the *A.*

arborescens CDC, including CAZymes, SSCPs, kinases, transcription factors and

transporters (S1 Table) (Hu et al., 2012). This result suggests that there are some

shared properties between CDCs from these two divergent species. Our analyses also

identified differences between CDCs in *A. arborescens* and in *A. alternata* strain Z7.

For example, the enrichment of "biosynthetic process" genes was discovered in the *A.*

arborescens CDC but not in the *A. alternata* CDC (Hu et al., 2012). In addition, the *A.*

arborescens CDC contains 10 SM clusters and harbors 36 polyketide and non-

ribosomal peptide synthetase genes that might be responsible for the biosynthesis of

the backbone structures of several groups of secondary metabolites (Hu et al., 2012).

However, in Z7 CDC, except for the host selective ACT-toxin gene cluster, no other

gene cluster involved in the biosynthesis of secondary metabolites was identified.

About 39.2% (201) of the 512 genes found in Z7 CDC were described as hypothetical

proteins according to their BLAST hits in the NCBI nr database, indicating that the

functions of a great number of Z7 CDC genes are not known (S1 Table).

Evolutionary analysis showed that most of the Z7 CDC proteins are highly

conserved within the genus *Alternaria* and likely originated in the *Alternaria* last

common ancestor (Fig 2). These results contrast with those of a previous study

suggesting that the *A. arborescens* CDC originated from an unknown species through

HGT (Hu et al., 2012). The discrepancy is most likely due to the small amount of

available data used in the previous study; specifically, *A. arborescens* protein-coding

genes were compared to only two small databases respectively composed of either

only *A. brassicicola* proteins or of three fungal species from other filamentous fungal

genera (*Leptosphaeria maculans*, *Pyrenophora tritici-repentis*, and *Aspergillus*

oryzae) (Hu et al., 2012). In contrast, the much larger number of *Alternaria* genomes

examined in our study shows that the evolutionary history of most CDC genes is

consistent with the species phylogeny and with vertical, not horizontal, transmission.

Comparison of the Z7 CDC proteins to those in the proteomes of other

Alternaria species showed that CDCs in different species or even in the same

pathotype can be very variable (Fig 2). This result is consistent with the fact that the

length of CDCs in distinct pathotypes of *A.alternata* is very variable. For example,

both the strawberry and the tomato pathotypes contain a ~1.0 Mb CDC (Ito et al.,

2004; Hu et al., 2012); both the Japanese pear and the tangerine pathotypes contain a

1.9-2.0 Mb CDC (Miyamoto et al., 2008; Miyamoto et al., 2009); the apple pathotype

contains a 1.1-1.8 Mb CDC (Harimoto et al., 2007); while the rough lemon pathotype

contains a 1.2-1.5 Mb CDC (Masunaka et al., 2005). Although the mechanism

underlying the formation of these diverse CDCs in *Alternaria* species is largely

unknown, a recent population genomics study in *Zymoseptoria tritici* identified the

precise breakpoint locations of insertions that give rise to the highly differentiated

gene contents in *Z. tritici* CDCs (Croll et al., 2013). That same study also reported the

occurrence of CDC losses in progeny because of nondisjunction during meiosis as

well as the emergence of a new CDC through a fusion between sister chromatids

(Croll et al., 2013). Thus, the CDCs of *Z. tritici* were proposed to originate mainly

from ancient core chromosomes through a degeneration process involving breakage-

fusion-bridge cycles and large insertions (Croll et al., 2013). Although determining

whether the breakage-fusion-bridge cycles model holds for *Alternaria* CDCs will

require further sequencing of CDCs and analyses, we note that our finding of

evolutionary conservation of CDC genes within *Alternaria* is consistent with the *Z.*

tritici model.

Horizontal transfer of CDCs between different strains of the same or closely

related fungal species has been documented for *Fusarium oxysporum*, *Colletotrichum*

gloeosporioides, as well as for some *Alternaria* species (He et al., 1998; Akamatsu et

al., 2001; Akagi et al., 2009a; Ma et al., 2010). Horizontal transfer of entire CDCs

may contribute not only to the introduction of CDCs in fungal populations but also to

their subsequent spread and to their acquisition of virulence factors that are essential

for pathogenicity. Since fungal CDCs are known to be able to transfer between

closely related species, it may be very difficult to distinguish between vertical and

horizontal transmission of CDCs within *Alternaria*. On the other hand, horizontal

transfer of CDCs between distantly related species has never been demonstrated,

making it a less likely explanation for the evolutionary origin of *Alternaria* CDCs.

Although horizontal transfer is an unlikely explanation for the formation of CDCs in

Alternaria, our study found evidence that HGT is a mechanism for the origin of some

of the genes residing in its CDCs. One of the Z7 CDC genes, a carboxylesterase, was

likely acquired from Bacteria (Fig 4A). Carboxylesterases are ubiquitous enzymes

that exist in almost all living organisms and whose function is to hydrolyze

carboxylesters into the corresponding carboxylic acid and alcohol (Satoh and

Hosokawa, 1998). By degrading exogenous xenobiotics that contain esters,

carboxylesterases are thought to be associated with detoxification (Hatfield et al.,

2016), although, to date, no endogenous carboxylesterase substrates have been

identified. However, functional analysis of the horizontally transferred

carboxylesterase did not reveal any difference between a mutant strain lacking the

gene and the wild type strain for a range of phenotypes (Fig S16).

The 14 genes that were likely horizontally transferred in the Z7 CDC from

distantly related species, included 9 genes that formed 2 gene clusters (Table 3).

Previously, the 23-gene secondary metabolic gene cluster involved in the biosynthesis

of the mycotoxin sterigmatocystin was shown to have been horizontally transferred

from *Aspergillus* to *Podospora* (Slot and Rokas, 2011). HGT of intact gene clusters

would not only contribute to fungal metabolic diversity but also potentially provide its

recipient with a competitive advantage offered by the ability to synthesize a novel

secondary metabolite; for example, a subsequent study showed that *Podospora*

produces sterigmatocystin (Matasyoh et al., 2011). Although the horizontally

transferred gene cluster in this study contains fewer genes, the 5-gene cluster was

shown to be critical for conidial production (Fig 6C). Additionally, the HMG-CoA

hydrolase coding gene AKT3 found in another transferred cluster was shown to be

absolutely required for the HST production and virulence to host plant (Tanaka and

Tsuge, 2000). These results are consistent with the view that HGT events, including

ones involving the transfer of entire clusters, have played important roles over the

course of the evolution of filamentous fungi (Fitzpatrick, 2012; Soanes and Richards,

2014; Wisecaver and Rokas, 2015).

Methods

Genomic and transcriptomic data retrieval

The assembled *A. alternata* Z7 genome and proteome were downloaded from

GenBank under the accession number LPVP00000000 (Wang et al., 2016). Genome

data from other *Alternaria* species were downloaded from the *Alternaria* genomes

database (Dang et al., 2015) and from other species of Dothideomycetes from the

GenBank database (S4 Table) (last access on April 15, 2017). The transcriptome data

of *A. alternata* after H_2O_2 treatment were downloaded from the NCBI's Sequence

Read Archive (SRA) database with accession number SRP071688 (last access on

May 8, 2017).

Identification of the contigs comprising the CDC

To identify all the contigs that are part of the *A. alternata* Z7 CDC, we used a

previously described method with slight modifications (Hu et al., 2012). Briefly, all *A.*

alternata Z7 contigs with sequence lengths greater than 5 kb were aligned to contigs

from *Alternaria brassicicola*, a species that belongs to the same genus as *A. alternata*

but which does not carry CDCs, using MUMmer 3.0 with an identity cut-off at 80%

(Delcher et al., 2003). All contigs whose sequence coverage when aligned to *A.*

brassicicola was less than 20% were considered to be parts of the *A. alternata* Z7

CDC.

Functional annotation of the genes in the CDC

To functionally annotate the 512 genes (and their protein products) in the CDC,

we performed gene ontology analysis using the topGO version 2.28.0 (Alexa and

Rahnenfuhrer, 2016) and classified the 512 proteins into protein families using the

Pfam, version 31.0 databases (last access on June 1, 2016) (Finn et al., 2014). We

predicted CDC genes that were parts of fungal secondary metabolite pathways using

the web-based analytical tool SMURF (http://www.jcvi.org/smurf/index.php, last

access on Jun 20, 2016) (Khaldi et al., 2010). To identify CDC proteins that are

carbohydrate-active enzymes, we searched with the CAZymes Analysis Toolkit

(http://www.cazy.org/, last access on Jul 10, 2016) based on sequence and Pfam

annotation (Lombard et al., 2014). To identify secreted proteins, we used SignalP,

version 4.1 to predict transmembrane domains (Petersen et al., 2011) and we excluded

non-extracellular and GPI-anchored proteins by using ProtComp, version 5 (Klee and

Ellis, 2005) and fragAnchor

(http://navet.ics.hawaii.edu/~fraganchor/NNHMM/NNHMM.html, last access on July

10, 2016) (Poisson et al., 2007), respectively. All resulting secreted proteins that were

shorter than 200 amino acids (aa) in length and contained at least 4 cysteine residues

were considered as small secreted cysteine-rich proteins. Kinases were searched and

classified by an automated pipeline (Kosti et al., 2010). Cytochrome P450s were

classified based on Pfam and the P450 database, version 1.2 (last access on June 18,

2016) (Moktali et al., 2012). Transporters were identified by performing BLASTp

against the Transporter Classification Database (last access on June 7, 2016) (Saier et

al., 2016).

Species phylogeny inference and evaluation of sequence conservation of CDC

genes across Dothideomycetes

To understand the origin and evolution of genes in the *A. alternata* CDC, we first

constructed a species phylogeny using genomic data from all available *Alternaria*

species as well as for representative species from other Dothideomycetes. We

constructed the species phylogeny using 1,754 conserved, fungal BUSCO genes as

described previously (Simao et al., 2015; Shen et al., 2016). Briefly, the gene

structure of each genome was predicted by AUGUSTUS 3.1 (Stanke and Waack,

2003), then the sequences of these predicted genes were aligned to the HMM

alignment profile of each BUSCO gene in the OrthoDB v9 database (Simao et al.,

2015), and the ones with alignment bit-scores higher than 90% of the lowest bit-score

among the reference genomes were kept for tree construction. The isolates *Alternaria*

porri BMP0178 and *Alternaria destruens BMP0317* were excluded from downstream

analyses due to their poor (<60%) coverage of BUSCO genes (S5 Table). We also

compared the sequence similarity of each of the 512 CDC proteins to proteins in the

genomes of other Dothideomycetes by calculating the value of BLAST identity *

query coverage.

Examination of relative evolutionary rate between genes in the CDC and genes

in the essential chromosomes

To estimate the relative evolutionary rate between Z7 CDC and essential

chromosomes (ECs), ortholog groups within the *Alternaria* Clade I containing Z7

proteins from both CDC and ECs were extracted using OrthorMCL v2.0.9 and

reciprocal BLASTp with identity>50% and query coverage >50% as cut-offs (Chen et

al., 2006). For each ortholog group containing more than 7 (50% of total number)

species, only one sequence per isolate/species (the one that was the best hit to the Z7

protein) was kept for further analysis. The coding sequences of those ortholog

proteins were then aligned with MAFFT v7.023b using the E-INS-I strategy (Yamada

et al., 2016) and trimmed with trimAl v1.4.rev11 using its automated1 strategy

(Capella-Gutierrez et al., 2009). The maximum-likelihood (ML) phylogenetic trees

were inferred using IQ-TREE 1.5.4, with the best model selected by ModelFinder

(Nguyen et al., 2015; Kalyaanamoorthy et al., 2017) and with 1,000 bootstrap

replicates. The significance of the difference in the average total branch length of the

ML phylogenetic trees of CDC genes against that of the EC genes was determined by

Wilcoxon test.

Identification of CDC genes that underwent HGT

To detect gene candidates that experienced HGT in *A.alternata* Z7 CDC, we first

performed a BLASTp search of the local NCBI's nonredundant protein database (nr,

last access on May 21, 2017) using Z7 CDC proteins as queries. We next selected

proteins with the following characteristics as HGT candidates for further phylogenetic

analyses: a) an Alien Index (AI) score larger than 0 (Gladyshev et al., 2008;

Wisecaver et al., 2016), b) at least 80% of the top 200 BLASTp hits of the query

protein are from organisms other than Dothideomycetes, and c) the sequence identity

of the query protein across its entire length to its best BLASTp hit is equal or greater

than 50%.

All genes that fit these three criteria were used as query sequences in BLASTp

searches against the nr database and phylogenetic trees of their most closely related

sequences across the tree of life were constructed. To reduce the number of sequences

used to build each phylogenetic tree, we kept only one sequence per species (the one

with the best BLASTp hit to the HGT candidate), then we selected the top 200 hits

from the Blast results. The resulting sequences were used as input for multiple

sequence alignment, trimming and phylogenetic inference, which were performed as

described above.

The phylogenetic tree of each HGT candidate was manually inspected and only

those trees that were evidently incongruent with the species phylogeny and strongly

supported (bootstrap value > 95%) were retained as HGT candidates. For those HGT

candidates, we used the Consel software, version V0.1i (Shimodaira and Hasegawa,

2001; Shimodaira, 2002) to perform the approximately unbiased (AU) comparative

topology test between the unconstrained ML tree and the constrained ML tree in

which the *Alternaria* gene sequence was forced to be monophyletic with the rest of

the sequences from Dothideomycetes. All phylogenetic trees were visualized using

ITOL version 3.0 (Letunic and Bork, 2016).

Functional analyses of horizontally transferred genes

The AALTg12037 gene and the 5-gene cluster were knocked out using a fungal

protoplast transformation protocol, as described previously (Chen et al., 2017).

Briefly, the two flanking 600-900bp fragments and a bacterial phosphotransferase B

gene (HYG) were fused together and the resulting fragment was then introduced into

fungal protoplasts using polyethylene glycol and $CaCl_2$. The transformants growing

on a medium supplemented with 150 μg/ml hygromycin were selected and examined

by PCR with specific primer pairs. All the primers used in this study are listed in S6

Table.

Wildtype and mutant strains were grown on regular solid potato dextrose agar

(PDA) at 25 □ and asexual spore (conidial) production was inspected under a Nikon

Eclipse 80i light microscope (Nikon, Tokyo, Japan) after incubating for 7 days.

Conidia were collected with 10 mL sterile solution of 0.05% (v/v) Tween 20 and

filtered through lens wiping paper. Conidial concentration was quantified using a

hemocytometer. To examine stress tolerance, mutant and wildtype strains were grown

on PDA plates supplemented with either 1.5mM CuSO4, 0.01% SDS, 250ug/mL

Congo red, 250mM $CaCl_2$, 1 M NaCl, 25ug/mL Azoxystrobin, 20mM H_2O_2 or 2mM

tert-Butyl hydroperoxide. Each plate was inoculated with a 5-mm mycelial plug taken

from the edge of a 5-day-old colony. The diameters of the colonies were measured

after the plates were incubated at 25 ˚C for 5 days. Fungal virulence was assessed on

Citrus clementina leaves inoculated by placing a 5mm plug taken from the media for

2 days. Each strain was tested on at least 5 leaves and experiments were repeated two

times.

Data availability

All data generated in this study, including CDC contigs, CDC gene annotation,

multiple sequence alignments and phylogenetic trees, have been deposited on the

figshare repository at DOI: 10.6084/m9.figshare.5549077 (the data will be made

publicly available upon acceptance of the manuscript).

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792   Competing financial interests

793   The authors declare no competing financial interests.

Legends for Figures

Fig 1. GO enrichment analysis of the Z7 CDC genes in the category "Biological Process". Significantly enriched GO terms (p<0.05) are illustrated by rectangles. Rectangle color corresponds to degree of statistical significance and ranges from bright yellow (least significant) to dark red (most significant). For each node, the GO identifier, the GO term name, and p-value of each functional category is shown. The final line inside each node shows the number of genes that belong to the functional category in the CDC and in the whole genome of *A. alternata* Z7, respectively.

Fig 2. Sequence conservation of Z7 CDC genes across the phylogeny of *Alternaria* and representative species of Dothideomycetes. The phylogeny on the left depicts the evolutionary relationships of species of *Alternaria* and representative Dothideomycetes. The maximum likelihood phylogeny was inferred from the concatenation-based analysis of an amino acid data matrix comprised from 1,754 single-copy BUSCO genes under the LG+R10 substitution model. Branches with bootstrap support values of 100% are not shown; branches with bootstrap values <100% are shown near each branch. The heat map on the right was constructed using the sequence conservation value (BLAST identity * query coverage) of each Z7 CDC protein to its best counterpart in each of the species included in this analysis. Cells with red color correspond to proteins (in specific species) that exhibit high sequence conservation to a given Z7 CDC protein. The numbers next to each species' name correspond to the number of proteins that exhibit sequence conservation values greater or equal to 0.5 when compared to Z7 CDC proteins.

Fig 3. Distribution of the average branch length from all individual Z7 CDC (red line) or EC (blue line) gene trees constructed from groups of orthologous genes within

Alternaria Clade I. The dashed lines denote the mean values of the two distributions.

Fig 4. The gene AALT_g12037 was horizontally transferred from Bacteria to the *A.*

alternata Z7 CDC. A) ML phylogeny of AALT_g12037 homologs across the tree of

life. The gene's maximum likelihood phylogeny was inferred under the best

substitution model automatically selected by ModelFinder, as implemented in IQ-

TREE 1.5.4. Branch colors indicate the taxonomic lineages to which the different taxa

included in each phylogeny belong. The red asterisk indicates the *Alternaria* clade on

each phylogeny. The full tree can be found in S2 Fig. B) The presence of the HGT-

acquired gene family in other *Alternaria* genomes. Light grey indicates the lack of

this HGT gene in the corresponding species.

Fig 5. Horizontal transfer of 4 genes in the ACT toxin gene cluster in the tangerine

pathotype of *A.alternata* Z7 CDC. A) Phylogenetic evidence of the HGT of these

genes. For each gene, the maximum likelihood phylogeny was inferred under the best

substitution model automatically selected by ModelFinder, as implemented in IQ-

TREE 1.5.4. Branch colors indicate the taxonomic lineages to which the different taxa

included in each phylogeny belong. The red asterisk indicates the *Alternaria* clade on

each phylogeny. The full phylogenetic trees of the individual genes can be found in

S3 - S6 Figs. B) Conservation of synteny among the ACT toxin gene cluster in

A.alternata Z7 and a predicted secondary metabolic gene cluster in *Colletotrichum*

tofieldiae 0861. Orthologs among different species are marked with same color and

homologous regions are shown by the gray boxes. Arrows indicate gene direction.

Fig 6. Horizontal transfer of a cluster of 5 genes in the tangerine pathotype of

A.alternata Z7 CDC. A) Phylogenetic evidence of the HGT of these genes. For each

gene, the maximum likelihood phylogeny was inferred under the best substitution

model automatically selected by ModelFinder, as implemented in IQ-TREE 1.5.4.

Branch colors indicate the taxonomic lineages to which the different taxa included in

each phylogeny belong. The red asterisk indicates the *Alternaria* clade on each

phylogeny. The full phylogenetic trees of the individual genes can be found in S7 -

S11 Figs. B) Conservation of synteny among the cluster of 5 genes in *A. alternata* and

the evolutionary related clusters present in *Penicillium flavigenum* and *Cryptococcus*

gatti. Orthologs among different species are marked with same color and homologous

regions are shown by the gray boxes. Arrows indicate gene direction. C) Conidial

production in the wildtype (WT) and in the 5-gene cluster deletion mutant

$(KO^{AALT\_g11679-11773})$ after incubation for 7 days. Arrows indicate representative

conidia (not all of the conidia are indicated). Bar, 100µm.

Supporting information

S1 Fig. Bar plot of the degree of sequence conservation of Z7 CDC proteins to the proteomes of other species in the Dothideomycetes. The sequence conservation value of each Z7 CDC protein to its best counterpart in each of the species was calculated by BLAST identity * query coverage.

S2 – S15 Figs. Full ML phylogenetic trees of HGT gene homologs across the tree of life. Each gene's maximum likelihood phylogeny was inferred under the best substitution model automatically selected by ModelFinder, as implemented in IQ-TREE 1.5.4. Branch colors indicate the taxonomic lineages to which the different taxa included in each phylogeny belong. The *A. alternata* Z7 CDC sequence that was used as a query in the BLAST search is shown in red font. Bootstrap values are shown near each branch. S2 Fig: AALT_g12037; S3 Fig: AALT_g12032; S4 Fig: AALT_g11755; S5 Fig: AALT_g11757; S6 Fig: AALT_g11758; S7 Fig: AALT_g11769; S8 Fig: AALT_g11770; S9 Fig: AALT_g11771; S10 Fig: AALT_g11772; S11 Fig: AALT_g11773; S12 Fig: AALT_g11567; S13 Fig: AALT_g11777; S14 Fig: AALT_g11781; S15 Fig: AALT_g11892.

S16 Fig. Functional analysis of the role of the carboxylesterase gene (AALT_g12037) and horizontally transferred 5-gene cluster (AALT_g11769 - AALT_g11773) of the CDC. A) Schematic depiction of gene disruption of

AALT_g12037 via homologous recombination. Numbers denote primers listed in supplementary S6 Table. B) PCR verification of the deletion of the AALT_g12037 gene. Long bands can be only amplified in the mutants (KO$^{AALT\_g12037}$) using the outside PCR primer pairs 7/8 while the short band can be only amplified in the wildtype (WT) using the inner PCR primer pair 9/10. C) Schematic depiction of gene disruption within AALT_g11769 - AALT_g11773 via homologous recombination. Numbers denote primers listed in supplementary S6 Table. D) PCR verification of the deletion of AALT_g11769 - AALT_g11773 gene cluster. Long bands can be only amplified in the mutants (KO$^{AALT\_g11679-11773}$) using the outside PCR primer pairs 17/18 while the short band can be only amplified in the wildtype (WT) using the inner PCR primer pair 19/20. E) Virulence of the wildtype and mutant strains to citrus leaves. F) Conidial production in the wildtype and mutant strains after incubation for 7 days. Bar, 100μm. G) Growth assays of the wildtype and mutant strains on different conditions. CR: Congo red t-BHP: tert-Butyl hydroperoxide MM: Minimal medium.

Table 1. General features of the essential chromosomes (EC) and conditionally dispensable chromosome (CDC) in *A.alternata* strain Z7

Features	*A. alternata* EC	*A. alternata* CDC
Genome size (Mb)	32.53	1.84
Number of contigs	115	41
GC content (%)	51.2	47.7
Protein-coding genes	11536	512
Gene density (number of genes per Mb)	355	279
Mean gene length (bp)	1736	1516
Mean number of exons per gene	2.8	2.5
Mean length of exons	559	531
Mean number of introns per gene	1.8	1.5
Mean length of introns	92	121
Percentage of genes without intron (%)	24	32
Repeat rate (%)	0.51	1.23
tRNA genes	115	0

Table 2 Annotation of the differentially expressed genes located in the conditionally dispensable chromosome with absolute log2FC >2 during H_2O_2 stress

gene id	log2FC	padj	Pfam	domain	Description
AALT_g11773	4.3712	1.09E-07			oxidoreductase
AALT_g11774	4.2924	4.21E-08	PF05368	NmrA-like family	nucleoside-diphosphate-sugar epimerase family
AALT_g11717	3.9966	9.78E-05			hypothetical protein
AALT_g11883	3.5338	7.90E-04			hypothetical protein
AALT_g11772	3.4436	3.14E-05	PF01408	Oxidoreductase family, NAD-binding Rossmann fold	myo-inositol 2-dehydrogenase
AALT_g11775	3.4189	4.31E-09			hypothetical protein
AALT_g11750	3.3427	4.95E-10	PF14765, PF00698, PF08659	Polyketide synthase dehydratase, Acyl transferase domaindomain, Phosphopantetheine, attachment site, Methyltransferase domain,	polyketide synthase
AALT_g11216	3.2515	9.34E-09			hypothetical protein
AALT_g11903	3.2159	1.51E-33	PF12697	Abhydrolase_6	alpha beta hydrolase
AALT_g11194	3.2043	1.67E-26	PF01425	Amidase	glutamyl-tRNA(Gln) amidotransferase subunit A
AALT_g11797	3.1694	3.79E-35	PF05199, PF00732	GMC oxidoreductase	glucose oxidase
AALT_g11943	2.6733	1.63E-04			hypothetical protein
AALT_g11172	2.5340	1.50E-11	PF00797	N-acetyltransferase	Arylamine N-acetyltransferase
AALT_g11565	2.4221	7.76E-11	PF06331	Transcription factor TFIIH complex subunit Tfb5	RNA polymerase II transcription factor B subunit 5
AALT_g11916	2.3833	1.03E-07	PF12311	Protein of unknown function	hypothetical protein
AALT_g11577	2.2458	4.84E-11	PF02586	SOS response associated peptidase	putative duf159 domain protein
AALT_g11978	2.1658	4.45E-04	PF00651	BTB/POZ domain	hypothetical protein
AALT_g11054	-2.0725	3.00E-03	PF03184, PF03221, PF05225	DDE superfamily endonuclease, Tc5 transposase DNA-binding domain, helix-turn-helix, Psq domain	putative transposase
AALT_g11894	-2.0867	5.54E-05	PF00175, PF00667, PF00258, PF00067	Oxidoreductase NAD-binding domain, FAD binding domain, Flavodoxin, Cytochrome P450	bifunctional P-450/NADPH-P450 reductase
AALT_g11037	-2.2114	1.68E-04			hypothetical protein
AALT_g11895	-2.8403	2.37E-05	PF00487	Fatty acid desaturase	omega-6 fatty acid desaturase (delta-12 desaturase)

1   Table 3 Summary list of all horizontal gene transfers (HGTs) in *A.alternata* Z7 CDC.

Gene ID	Protein length	Closest sequence	Closest species	Proteome Identity	Gene Identity	Description	Distribution in *Alternaria*	AU test *P* value
AALT_g11567	667	EGU73680.1	*Fusarium oxysporum*	50	90	alcohol oxidase	Clade I, II	2E-08
AALT_g11755	296	KZL71655.1	*Colletotrichum tofieldiae*	51	64	HMG-CoA hydrolase	3 pathotypes	2E-50
AALT_g11757	2349	OLN84341.1	*Colletotrichum chlorophyti*	50	59	polyketide synthase	3 pathotypes	3E-52
AALT_g11758	439	OLN84339.1	*Colletotrichum chlorophyti*	50	74	Cytochrome P450, Aft11-1	3 pathotypes	2E-56
AALT_g11769	320	OQE18800.1	*Penicillium flavigenum*	51	71	short chain dehydrogenase	Clade I	2E-40
AALT_g11770	554	OQE18785.1	*Penicillium flavigenum*	51	89	hexose transporter	Clade I	2E-44
AALT_g11771	396	ADV23792	*Cryptococcus gattii*	41	83	neuraminidase	Clade I	2E-06
AALT_g11772	377	OQE18924.1	*Penicillium flavigenum*	51	89	NAD(P)-binding oxidoreductase	Clade I	3E-76
AALT_g11773	332	OQE18776.1	*Penicillium flavigenum*	51	87	gfo/Idh/MocA family oxidoreductase	Clade I	/
AALT_g11777	646	KFY76151.1	*Pseudogymnoascus sp. VKM F-103*	52	78	flavin-containing monooxygenase	Clade I, II	1E-06
AALT_g11781	362	KFZ02874.1	*Pseudogymnoascus sp. VKM F-4520*	49	80	NAD-binding Rossmann fold oxidoreductase	Clade I, II	3E-04
AALT_g11892	377	GAM40406.1	*Talaromyces cellulolyticus*	52	54	isopropanol dehydrogenase	Clade I	1E-06
AALT_g12032	349	KZL71680.1	*Colletotrichum tofieldiae*	51	72	Acyl-CoA dehydrogenase, Aft10-1	3 pathotypes	3E-73
AALT_g12037	430	EWZ28488.1	*Fusarium oxysporum*	50	73	carboxylesterase	Clade I, II	/

2   3 pathotypes: the Japanese pear, strawberry and tangerine pathotypes.

	Species	Number	Sequence conservation
			Clade I
			Clade II
			Clade III

81 *Alternaria gaisen* BMP2338 — ---314---
81 *Alternaria mali* BMP3063 — ---298---
Alternaria citriarbusti BMP2343 — ---321---
Alternaria fragariae BMP3062 — ---253---
Alternaria turkisafria BMP3436 — ---442---
Alternaria limoniasperae BMP2335 — ---303---
Alternaria alternata ATCC11680 — ---271---
Alternaria alternata Z7 * — ---512---
Alternaria alternata ATCC66891 — ---241---
Alternaria alternata ATCC66982 — ---263---
Alternaria tenuissima BMP0304 — ---257---
Alternaria alternata SRC1lrK2f — ---271---
Alternaria longipes BMP0313 — ---326---
Alternaria tangelonis BMP2327 — ---310---
Alternaria arborescens EGS128 — ---318---
Alternaria crassa BMP0172 — ---220---
Alternaria capsici BMP0180 — ---176---
Alternaria macrospora BMP1949 — ---225---
Alternaria dauci BMP0167 — ---238---
Alternaria tagetica BMP0179 — ---231---
Alternaria carthami BMP1963 — ---254---
Alternaria tomatophila BMP2032 — ---234---
Alternaria solani BMP0185 — ---160---
Alternaria brassicicola ATCC96836 — ---120---
Bipolaris victoriae — ---147---
Bipolaris zeicola — ---139---
Bipolaris oryzae — ---130---
Bipolaris sorokiniana — ---139---
Bipolaris maydis — ---150---
Setosphaeria turcica — ---142---
Stemphylium lycopersici — ---171---
Pyrenophora tritici-repentis — ---128---
Pyrenophora teres — ---125---
Leptosphaeria maculans — ---95---
Pyrenochaeta sp. DS3sAY3a — ---133---
Stagonospora sp. SRC1lsM3a — ---132---
Parastagonospora nodorum — ---115---
Ascochyta rabiei — ---104---
Paraphaeosphaeria sporulosa — ---93---
Glonium stellatum — ---63---
Cenococcum geophilum — ---56---
Lepidopterella palustris — ---46---
Coniosporium apollinis — ---48---
Diplodia seriata — ---34---
Diplodia corticola — ---51---
Macrophomina phaseolina — ---48---
Neofusicoccum parvum — ---49---
Verruconis gallopava — ---32---
Pseudocercospora musae — ---38---
Mycosphaerella eumusae — ---41---
Pseudocercospora fijiensis — ---38---
Sphaerulina musiva — ---37---
Dothistroma septosporum — ---34---
Zymoseptoria tritici — ---36---
Acidomyces richmondensis — ---28---
Baudoinia panamericana — ---32---
Aureobasidium namibiae — ---43---
Aureobasidium subglaciale — ---47---
Aureobasidium pullulans — ---55---

Alternaria
Pleosporaceae
89
Pleosporales
Dothideomycetes
0.1

A

Taxonomy
- Leotiomycetes
- Sordariomycetes
- Eurotiomycetes
- Dothideomycetes
- other_Pezizomycotina
- Basidiomycota
- Saccharomycotina
- other_Fungi
- Oomycetes
- other_Eukaryota
- Bacteria
- Archaea
- Viruses

0.1

★ *Alternaria* clade that includes *A.alternata* Z7

B

0.01

- *Alternaria gaisen* BMP2338
- *Alternaria mali* BMP3063
- *Alternaria citriarbusti* BMP2343
- *Alternaria fragariae* BMP3062
- *Alternaria turkisafria* BMP3436
- *Alternaria limoniasperae* BMP2335
- *Alternaria alternata* ATCC11680
- *Alternaria alternata* Z7 ✱
- *Alternaria alternata* ATCC66891
- *Alternaria alternata* ATCC66982
- *Alternaria tenuissima* BMP0304
- *Alternaria alternata* SRC1lrK2f
- *Alternaria longipes* BMP0313
- *Alternaria tangelonis* BMP2327
- *Alternaria arborescens* EGS128
- *Alternaria crassa* BMP0172
- *Alternaria capsici* BMP0180
- *Alternaria macrospora* BMP1949
- *Alternaria dauci* BMP0167
- *Alternaria tagetica* BMP0179
- *Alternaria carthami* BMP1963
- *Alternaria tomatophila* BMP2032
- *Alternaria solani* BMP0185
- *Alternaria brassicicola* ATCC96836

A

Tree scale: 0.1 ⊢——⊣

Taxonomy
- Leotiomycetes
- Sordariomycetes
- Eurotiomycetes
- Dothideomycetes
- other_Pezizomycotina
- Basidiomycota
- Saccharomycotina
- other_Fungi
- Oomycetes
- other_Eukaryota
- Bacteria
- Archaea
- Viruses

★ *Alternaria* clade that includes *A.alternata* Z7

B

Colletotrichum tofieldiae 0861

KZL71655.1 KZL71680.1 KZL71656.1 KZL71673.1

Alternaria alternata Z7

AALT_g12032   AALT_g11755   AALT_g11757 AALT_g11758

- acyl-CoA dehydrogenase
- HMG-CoA hydrolase
- polyketide synthase
- cytochrome P450

A

Tree scale: 0.1 ⊢⊣

Taxonomy
- Leotiomycetes
- Sordariomycetes
- Eurotiomycetes
- Dothideomycetes
- other_Pezizomycotina
- Basidiomycota
- Saccharomycotina
- other_Fungi
- Oomycetes
- other_Eukaryota
- Bacteria
- Archaea
- Viruses

⭐ *Alternaria* clade that includes *A.alternata* Z7

✴ *Alternaria* species

AALT_g11769   AALT_g11770   AALT_g11771   AALT_g11772   AALT_g11773

B

Penicillium flavigenum IBT 14082

OQE18776.1 OQE18800.1 OQE18785.1 OQE18924.1

Alternaria alternata Z7

AALT_g11770   AALT_g11772
AALT_g11769   AALT_g11771   AALT_g11773

Cryptococcus gattii WM276

ADV23794.1 ADV23719.1 ADV23720.1 ADV23792.1

- dehydrogenase
- hexose transporter
- neuraminidase
- oxidoreductase
- oxidoreductase

C

WT   KO^AALT_g11769-11773