

1 **Genome-wide association across *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* strains**
2 **reveals substantial variation in underlying gene requirements for toxin**
3 **tolerance.**

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35 **Abstract**

36 Cellulosic plant biomass is a promising sustainable resource for
37 generating alternative biofuels and biochemicals with microbial factories. But a
38 remaining bottleneck is engineering microbes that are tolerant of toxins
39 generated during biomass processing, because mechanisms of toxin defense are
40 only beginning to emerge. Here, we exploited natural diversity in 165
41 *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* strains isolated from diverse geographical and
42 ecological niches, to identify mechanisms of hydrolysate-toxin tolerance. We
43 performed genome-wide association (GWA) analysis to identify genetic variants
44 underlying toxin tolerance, and gene knockouts and allele-swap experiments to
45 validate the involvement of implicated genes. In the process of this work, we
46 uncovered a surprising difference in genetic architecture depending on strain
47 background: in all but one case, knockout of implicated genes had a significant
48 effect on toxin tolerance in one strain, but no significant effect in another strain.
49 In fact, whether or not the gene was involved in tolerance in each strain
50 background had a bigger contribution to strain-specific variation than allelic
51 differences. Our results suggest a major difference in the underlying network of
52 causal genes in different strains, suggesting that mechanisms of hydrolysate
53 tolerance are very dependent on the genetic background. These results could
54 have significant implications for interpreting GWA results and raise important
55 considerations for engineering strategies for industrial strain improvement.

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58 **Author summary**

59 Understanding the genetic architecture of complex traits is important for
60 elucidating the genotype-phenotype relationship. Many studies have sought
61 genetic variants that underlie phenotypic variation across individuals, both to
62 implicate causal variants and to inform on architecture. Here we used genome-
63 wide association analysis to identify genes and processes involved in tolerance
64 of toxins found in plant-biomass hydrolysate, an important substrate for
65 sustainable biofuel production. We found substantial variation in whether or not
66 individual genes were important for tolerance across genetic backgrounds.
67 Whether or not a gene was important in a given strain background explained
68 more variation than the allelic differences in the gene. These results suggest
69 substantial variation in gene contributions, and perhaps underlying mechanisms,
70 of toxin tolerance.

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73 **Introduction**

74 The increased interest in renewable energy has focused attention on non-
75 food plant biomass for the production of biofuels and biochemicals [1].

76 Lignocellulosic plant material contains significant amounts of sugars that can be
77 extracted through a variety of chemical pretreatments and used for microbial
78 production of alcohols and other important molecules [2-5]. However, there are
79 major challenges to making biofuel production from plant biomass economically
80 viable [6]. One significant hurdle with regards to microbial fermentation is the
81 presence of toxic compounds in the processed plant material, or hydrolysate,
82 including weak acids, furans and phenolics released or generated by the
83 pretreatment process [7-10]. The concentrations and composition of these
84 inhibitors vary for different pretreatment methods and depend on the plant
85 feedstocks [7, 9, 11]. These toxins decrease cell productivity by generating
86 reactive oxygen species, damaging DNA, proteins, cell membranes [12-14], and
87 inhibiting important physiological processes, including enzymes required for

88 fermentation [15], *de novo* nucleotide biosynthesis [16], and translation [17].
89 Despite knowledge of these targets, much remains to be learned about how the
90 complete suite of hydrolysate toxins (HTs) acts synergistically to inhibit cells.
91 Furthermore, how the effects of HTs are compounded by other industrial stresses
92 such as high osmolarity, thermal stress, and end-product toxicity remains murky.
93 Engineering strains with improved tolerance to industrial stresses
94 including those in the plant hydrolysate is of the utmost importance for making
95 biofuels competitive with fuels already in the market [6]. A goal in industrial strain
96 engineering is to improve lignocellulosic stress tolerance, often through directed
97 engineering. Many approaches have been utilized to identify genes and
98 processes correlated with increased stress tolerance, including transcriptomic
99 profiling of cells responding to industrial stresses [18-21], genetic mapping in
100 pairs of strains with divergent phenotypes [22-25], and directed evolution to
101 compare strains selected for stress tolerance with starting strains [26-29].
102 However, in many cases the genes identified from such studies do not have the
103 intended effect when engineered into different genetic backgrounds [30-33]. One
104 reason is that there are likely to be substantial epistatic interactions between the
105 genes identified in one strain and the genetic background from which it was
106 identified [34]. A better understanding of how tolerance mechanisms vary across
107 genetic backgrounds is an important consideration in industrial engineering.
108 Exploring variation in HT tolerance across strain background could also
109 reveal additional defense mechanisms. The majority of functional studies in
110 *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* are carried out in a small number of laboratory strains

111 that do not represent the rich diversity found in this species [35, 36]. The
112 exploration of natural diversity in *S. cerevisiae* has revealed a wide range of
113 genotypic and phenotypic variability within the species [36-40]. In some cases,
114 trait variation is correlated with genetic lineage [36, 41-43], indicating a strong
115 influence of population history. At least 6 defined lineages have been identified
116 in the species, including strains from Malaysia, West Africa, North America,
117 Europe/vineyards, and Asia [41] as well as recently identified populations from
118 China [38, 44]. In addition to genetic variation, phenotypic variation has
119 cataloged natural differences across strains, in transcript abundance [37, 45, 46],
120 protein abundance [47-49], metabolism [50-52], and growth in various
121 environments [32, 36, 37, 42, 52-54]. Thus, *S. cerevisiae* as a species presents
122 a rich resource for dissecting how genetic variation contributes to phenotypic
123 differences. In several cases this perspective has benefited industry in
124 producing novel strains by combining genetic backgrounds or mapping the
125 genetic basis for trait differences [25, 55-59].

126 We used genome-wide association (GWA) in *S. cerevisiae* strains
127 responding to synthetic hydrolysate (SynH), both to identify new genes and
128 processes important for HT tolerance and to explore the extent to which genetic
129 background influences mechanism. We tested 20 genes associated with HT
130 tolerance and swapped alleles across strains to validate several allele-specific
131 effects. However, in the process of allele exchange we discovered striking
132 differences in gene contributions to the phenotype: out of 14 gene knockouts
133 tested in two strains with opposing phenotypes, 8 (57%) had a statistically

134 significant effect on HT tolerance in one of the backgrounds but little to no
135 significant effect in the other background. In most of these cases, the specific
136 allele had little observable contribution to the phenotype. Thus, although GWA
137 successfully implicated new genes and processes involved in HT tolerance, the
138 causal variation in the tested strains is not at the level of the allele but rather
139 whether or not the gene's function is important for the phenotype in that
140 background. This raises important implications for considering natural variation
141 in functional networks to explain phenotypic variation.

142

143 **Results**

144

145 **Genetic variation across 165 *S. cerevisiae* strains**

146 We obtained 165 *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* strains, representing a
147 range of geographical and ecological niches, that have high quality whole
148 genome sequencing reads (coverage ~30X), coming from published sequencing
149 projects across the yeast community [39, 42, 52, 60] (S1 Table). We identified
150 486,302 high quality SNPs (see Methods). 68% of them had a minor allele
151 frequency less than 5%. Nucleotide variation compared to the well-studied
152 S288c-derived reference strain varied from as low as 0.08% for the closely
153 related W303 lab strain and as high as 0.72% for the bakery strain YS4 (S1
154 Table). The majority of strains were largely homozygous (in some cases due to
155 strain manipulation by sequencing projects); however, we identified 21 strains
156 with >20% heterozygous sites. Most of these were from natural environments
157 (11 strains) but they also included clinical samples (5 strains), baking strains (3
158 strains), a sugar cane fermenter (1) and a laboratory strain (FL100, which was

159 scored as 98% heterozygous and may have mated with another strain in its
160 recent history (S1 Table)).

161 Sixty-three percent of the variants were present in coding regions (S2
162 Table), which is lower than random expectation (since 75% of the yeast genome
163 is coding) and consistent with purifying selection acting on most gene sequences.
164 Indeed, coding variants predicted to have high impact, such as SNPs that
165 introduce a stop codon, eliminate the start codon, or introduce a defect in the
166 splicing region, were very rare (0.004% of genic SNPs) – a third of these were in
167 dubious ORFs (22%) or genes of unknown function (8%) [61] that are likely
168 nonfunctional and under relaxed constraint. However, 54 genes with debilitating
169 polymorphisms are reportedly essential in the S288 background; nearly half of
170 these polymorphisms are present in at least 3 strains and in some cases are
171 lineage specific (S3 Table). Tolerance of these polymorphisms could arise
172 through duplication of a functional gene copy [62], but could also arise due to
173 evolved epistatic effects as has been previously reported [63], highlighting the
174 complexity behind genetic networks and the role of genetic variation in
175 determining their regulation.

176 Principle component analysis of the genomic data recapitulated the known
177 lineages represented in the collection, including the European/wine, Asian/sake,
178 North American (NA), Malaysian, West African (WA), and mosaic groups [36, 41,
179 42, 64] (S1 Table). Our analysis split the West African population into three
180 subgroups not previously defined (Fig 1A). Construction of a simple neighbor-

181 joining (NJ) tree broadly confirmed the population groups present in the 165-
182 strain collection (Fig 1 B).

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185 **Phenotypic variation in SynH tolerance is partly correlated with ancestral**
186 **group**

187 We scored variation in lignocellulosic hydrolysate tolerance in several
188 ways. Strains that are sensitive to hydrolysate grow slower and consume less
189 sugars over time [65], thus we measured final cell density and percent of glucose
190 consumed after 24 hours to represent SynH tolerance. Growth and glucose
191 consumption were significantly correlated ($R^2 = 0.79$), although there was some
192 disagreement for particular strains (including flocculant strains) (S1 Table). We
193 also determined tolerance to HTs specifically, to distinguish stress inflicted by
194 HTs from effects of the base medium that has unusual nutrient composition and
195 high osmolarity due to sugar concentration. To do this, we calculated the relative
196 percent-glucose consumed and final OD₆₀₀ in media with (SynH) and without HT
197 toxins (SynH –HTs, see Methods) (S1 Table). Tolerance to SynH base medium
198 without toxins (SynH –HT) and SynH with the toxins was only partly correlated
199 ($R^2 = 0.48$) (S1 Fig), suggesting that there are separable mechanisms of growing
200 in base medium and surviving the toxins.

201 There is wide variation in tolerance to lignocellulosic hydrolysate that
202 partly correlates with populations (Fig 2, S1 Fig). North American and Malaysian
203 strains displayed the highest tolerance to SynH. As expected, phenotypic
204 variation within each population was related to genetic variation, e.g. West

205 African strains in Population 5 showed low genetic and phenotypic variation while
206 mosaic strains with genetic admixture showed the widest range of phenotypes.

207

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209 **Genome-wide association analysis reveals genes associated with SynH**
210 **tolerance**

211 We used GWA to map the genetic basis for the differences in SynH
212 tolerance, for each of the four phenotypes introduced above. The population
213 signatures in *S. cerevisiae* are problematic for GWA, since the strong
214 correlations between phenotype and ancestry obscure the identification of causal
215 polymorphisms [66, 67]. To overcome this, we incorporated a large number of
216 mosaic strains in the analysis and used a mixed-linear model to account for
217 strain relationships, as implemented in the program GAPIT [68] (see Methods).
218 We used as input SNPs that were present in at least 3 strains, eliminating 42% of
219 SNPs in the dataset (see Methods). Of the remaining SNPs, 45% have a minor
220 allele frequency of less than 5%; only those with an allele frequency >2% were
221 used for GWA. GWA identified loci whose variation correlated with phenotypic
222 variation. None of the GWA-implicated loci passed the stringent Bonferroni p-
223 value correction based on the number of effective tests (see Methods), which is
224 not uncommon for GWA at this scale [42, 69, 70]. We therefore used a
225 somewhat arbitrary p-value cutoff of 1e-04 and performed additional filtering to
226 minimize false positive associations (see Methods).

227 The combined analysis yielded 76 SNPs that met our p-value threshold
228 (S4 Table, S2 Fig). Thirty-eight of these SNPs, linked to 33 genes, passed

229 additional filtering (See Methods, Table 1). Of these, 17 SNPs are associated
230 with growth in SynH, while 23 SNPs are associated with tolerance to HTs
231 specifically (Table 1). Eight of the SNPs are intergenic and 20 are located within
232 genes, with 13 of those predicted to change the coding sequence. Although we
233 would expect that SNPs linked to HT tolerance should be identified in both sets
234 of analyses, only 2 SNPs were significantly associated with both SynH and HT
235 tolerance. This almost certainly highlights limited statistical power with the small
236 set of strains used here. For most SNPs, the allele associated with tolerance
237 was more frequent in our strain collection (Fig 3A), but for some it was the allele
238 associated with sensitivity that was nearly fixed. We carried out additional GWA
239 filtering to ensure that results were not driven by population structure (see
240 Methods), since we note that many of sensitive alleles were prominent in the
241 Asian population (S3 Fig). As expected for a largely additive trait, there was a
242 significant linear correlation between the number of deleterious alleles a strain
243 harbored and its tolerance to hydrolysate ($R^2 = 0.48$, $p = 2.2e-16$, Fig 3B).

244 Interestingly, the genes associated with the 38 implicated SNPs capture
245 functionally related processes, suggesting mechanistic underpinnings of
246 hydrolysate tolerance. Lignocellulosic hydrolysate contains a large number of
247 toxins that affect multiple cellular functions and can target energy stores,
248 membrane fluidity, protein and DNA integrity, and other processes [10, 65]. Our
249 analysis implicated several genes involved in redox reactions (*ADH4*, *ALD3*),
250 protein folding or modification (*CYM1*, *UBP5*, *UFD2*, *AOS1*), ergosterol or fatty
251 acid synthesis (*ERG12*, *HMG2*, *NSG2*), DNA metabolism and repair (*REV1*,

252 *DAT1, MCM5, SHE1*), mRNA transcription and export (*LEU3, SIR3, ELF1,*
253 *RIM20, MEX67*), mitochondrial function (*MNE1, MAS1*), and flocculation (*FLO1,*
254 *FLO10*). Several of these processes were already known to be associated with
255 hydrolysate stress, including flocculation [71], ubiquitin-dependent processes that
256 may be linked to protein folding challenges [13, 72, 73], and sterol biosynthesis
257 which affects tolerance to multiple stresses present in this media [32, 74, 75].
258 Nearly a third of these genes were identified as differentially expressed in our
259 previous study comparing strain responses to SynH and rich medium [32],
260 although this was not enriched above what is expected by chance. Thus,
261 although gene expression differences can be informative in suggesting affected
262 cellular processes, many of the genes implicated by GWA cannot be predicted by
263 expression differences, especially SNPs that affect function without altering gene
264 expression. Additional genes identified here belong to functional groups
265 previously identified in our differential expression analysis, such as amino-acid
266 and NAD biosynthesis.

267

268 **Gene knockouts confirm functional requirement for some implicated genes**

269 We sought to confirm the importance of the GWA-implicated genes in
270 SynH tolerance, first through gene-knockout analysis and then with allelic
271 replacement in two different strains backgrounds. We began by knocking out 19
272 of the implicated genes in the tolerant North American strain, YPS128. Of these,
273 37% (7/19) of the knockout mutants had a significant phenotype when grown on
274 SynH: four displayed decreased SynH tolerance, while 3 showed increased

275 performance (Fig 4A). We note that 4 of the 7 knockouts had a mild phenotypic
276 effect in standard growth medium (that was generally exacerbated in SynH),
277 while 3 of these had a phenotype only in response to SynH (S4 Fig). The most
278 significant knockouts decreasing tolerance in the YPS128 strain included the
279 transcription factor *LEU3*, ribosomal protein *RPL21B*, protein phosphatase
280 subunit *SAP190*, and to a milder extent the mitotic spindle protein *SHE1*. None
281 of these genes has been directly implicated in tolerance to hydrolysate in
282 previous studies.

283 The effect of deleting *LEU3*, which encodes the leucine-responsive
284 transcription factor, was intriguing, since our prior work reported that amino-acid
285 biosynthesis genes are induced specifically in response to HTs [32]. To confirm
286 that this response was due to the toxicity found in the media and not due to
287 amino acid shortage in SynH, we compared growth in synthetic complete (SC)
288 medium, which has similar levels of branched-chain amino acids compared to
289 SynH. The *LEU3* knockout strain grew as well as the wild type in SC, but it grew
290 to 54% lower final density in SynH –HT medium and 79% lower density in SynH
291 medium with the toxins added (Fig 5A). The defect was not fully complemented
292 by supplementing synthetic hydrolysate with 10X the normal amino acid mix (Fig
293 5B), indicating that amino acid shortage in the medium is unlikely to fully explain
294 the growth defect.

295 The most striking phenotypic improvement was caused by deletion *MNE1*,
296 encoding a splicing factor for the cytochrome c oxidase-encoding *COX1* mRNA
297 [76]. Aerobically, the mutant grew to roughly similar cell densities but consumed

298 44.7% more glucose and generated 64% more ethanol than the wild type,
299 generating significantly more ethanol per cell (S5 Fig). A logical hypothesis is
300 that this mutant has a defect in respiration and thus relies more on glycolysis to
301 generate ATP and ethanol than wild-type cells [76]. Under this hypothesis, the
302 effect of the mutation should be normalized when cells are grown anaerobically
303 because both the mutant and wild type must rely on fermentation. However,
304 under anaerobic conditions the mutant grew significantly better than the wild type
305 (Fig 6A), consumed 70% more glucose (Fig 6B), and produced 63% more
306 ethanol after 24-hour growth (Fig 6C). Thus, a simple defect in respiration is
307 unlikely to explain the result, suggesting that Mne1 may have a separable role
308 relating anaerobic toxin tolerance and/or metabolism.

309

310 **Extensive background effects influence gene involvement in SynH**

311 **tolerance**

312 We next knocked out 16 genes in the sensitive strain YJM1444, with the
313 intention of allelic exchange (Fig 4B). We were unable to recover knockouts for
314 some of the genes tested in YPS128, but of those we acquired 14 overlapped the
315 YPS128 knockouts, and two (*REV2* and *HMG2*) that we were unable to knock
316 out in the tolerant strain were added. Remarkably, knockouts had strikingly
317 different effects between the two genetic backgrounds – while three of the gene
318 deletions affected hydrolysate tolerance in YJM1444, there was no overlap with
319 the gene deletions causing a statistically significant effect in YPS128 (although
320 some mild effects may be below our statistical power to detect). The three

321 knockouts specific to YJM1444 improved SynH tolerance and included two
322 genes involved in sterol biosynthesis (*NSG2* and *HMG2*) and one involved in
323 flocculation (Fig 4B). In fact, deletion of *FLO1* dramatically reduced the
324 flocculation phenotype of YJM1444 and resulted in >236% increased glucose
325 consumption in SynH. This single mutation converted YJM1444 tolerance to the
326 level of SynH tolerance seen in YPS128 (S6 Fig). To test that this phenotypic
327 effect was directly caused by the *FLO1* allele, we deleted its paralog *FLO5*,
328 which caused neither a change in flocculation nor increased glucose
329 consumption of the culture (S7 Fig).

330 There appeared to be subtle, but not significant, effects of the *MNE1*
331 deletion in YJM1444 and we wondered if the was obscured by flocculation.
332 Therefore, we measured glucose consumption in high-rpm shake flasks that
333 disrupt flocculation. Indeed, *MNE1* deletion had a significant benefit under these
334 conditions; however, the magnitude of the effect was more subtle than *MNE1*
335 deletion in YPS128 (S8A Fig). We also tested this deletion in an industrial strain,
336 Ethanol Red (E. Red). Deletion of *MNE1* in a haploid spore derived from E. Red
337 produced a minor, reproducible benefit although it was not statistically significant
338 (S8A Fig). Nonetheless, these results show that *MNE1* plays a role in SynH
339 tolerant, albeit to different levels, in three different strain backgrounds.

340

341 **Genetic background effects dominate the effect of allelic variation in HT**
342 **tolerance**

343 We tested allelic effects in two ways. First, we introduced a plasmid-borne
344 copy of the tolerant allele or sensitive allele (S5 Table) into YPS128 lacking the
345 native gene, and measured percent final glucose consumption in SynH (S9 Fig)
346 in synthetic complete medium (required to allow drug-based plasmid selection)
347 with HTs (Fig 7A). The assay was fairly noisy, in part because wild-strains are
348 somewhat intolerant to the plasmid drug marker (unpublished). Nonetheless,
349 there was a clear effect for the *FLO1* allele, which caused YPS128 to become
350 flocculant and dramatically decreased growth in the SC with HTs. We did not
351 observe other allele-dependent effects that overcame the variability of the assay,
352 including for the genes whose knockout produced a defect in YPS128. Second,
353 we performed reciprocal hemizyosity analysis for six genes, including three
354 genes that whose deletion produced differential effects in YPS128 and YJM144.
355 We crossed the YPS128 and YJM1444 backgrounds such that the resulting
356 diploid was hemizygous for either the tolerant or sensitive allele (Fig 7B). In this
357 case, none of the six genes had an allele-specific effect – surprisingly, this
358 included *FLO1* for which there was clear allelic impact in the haploid
359 backgrounds. We realized a unique phenotype in the YPS128-YJM1444 hybrid:
360 whereas the strain is heterozygous for the functional *FLO1* allele, the hybrid lost
361 much of the flocculence of the YJM1444 strain (S8B Fig). *FLO1* expression is
362 known to be repressed in some diploid strains [77]. Thus, simply mating the
363 strains in effect created a new genetic background that changed the allelic
364 impact of the gene.

365 We wondered if this effect explained the lack of allele-specific phenotypes
366 for other implicated genes. We therefore created homozygous deletions in the
367 diploid hybrid for six genes whose deletion had strain-specific impacts in the
368 haploids (Fig 7C). Two of the knockouts (*leu3Δ* and *sap190Δ*) produced a defect
369 in the hybrid, similar to the effect seen in YPS128. Homozygous deletion of
370 *MNE1* produced a unique growth defect in 24-well plates that was not seen in the
371 haploids or the hemizygous diploids. This appeared to be due to increased
372 flocculation in the hybrid diploid; growth in shake flasks to disrupt flocculation
373 resulted in a mild but statistically insignificant benefit to the hybrid when grown in
374 flasks, similar to that seen for YJM1444. In contrast, deletion of *RIM20* or *FLO1*
375 had no effect under these growth conditions – this explains the lack of allele
376 specific effect, because the genes are no longer important in this background
377 and under these growth conditions.

378 Mating YJM128 and YJM144 created a new background that surpassed
379 performance of YPS128 (Fig 7D). We wondered if hybridization could benefit
380 other strains as well. We mated industrial strain E. Red crossed to YJM1444 and
381 YPS128. E. Red and YJM1444 were both scored as sensitive and perform
382 similarly in SynH (Fig 7D). However, the hybrid had a striking jump in SynH
383 tolerance, exceeding the tolerance of YPS128. This benefit may be in part
384 because the new diploid background changes the flocculation phenotype. On
385 the other hand, YJM144 and E. Red harbor alternate alleles at 71% of the SNPs
386 implicated by GWA, raising the possibility that complementation of recessive
387 alleles could also contribute to the strain improvement (see Discussion).

388

389 **Discussion**

390

391 Engineering strains for tolerance to lignocellulosic hydrolysate has proven
392 difficult due to the complex stress responses required to deal with the
393 combinatory effects of toxins, high osmolarity, and end products such as alcohols
394 and other chemicals. Even when the cellular targets of stressors are known, the
395 mechanisms for increasing tolerance are not always clear. We leveraged
396 phenotypic and genetic variation to implicate new mechanisms of hydrolysate
397 tolerance, by finding correlations between phenotypic and genetic differences
398 among a collection of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* strains, which allowed us to
399 implicate specific genes and alleles involved in hydrolysate tolerance. The
400 results indicate several important points relevant to engineering improved
401 hydrolysate tolerance and genetic architecture of tolerance more broadly.

402 Perhaps the most striking result is the level to which gene involvement
403 varies across the strains in our study. We expected that swapping alleles of
404 implicated SNPs should contribute to variation in the phenotype. Most alleles did
405 not detectably affect tolerance, although it is likely that they may have a minor
406 contribution below our limit of detection. Indeed, strains that harbor more
407 deleterious alleles are significantly more sensitive to SynH (Fig 3B), as expected
408 for an additive trait. But at the same time, we uncovered significant variation in
409 whether the underlying gene was involved in the phenotype. Among the genes
410 that we were able to knockout in both strains (14 genes), 57% produced a
411 phenotype (to varying levels and significance) in one of the two strains we tested.

412 This indicates substantial epistatic interactions with the genetic background, such
413 that the gene is important in one strain and but dispensable in another. Even
414 more striking is the case of *FLO1*: knocking out the functional gene in YJM1444
415 produced a major benefit to that strain, whereas introducing the functional allele
416 to YPS128 was very detrimental to SynH tolerance. Yet neither the allele nor the
417 gene itself influenced SynH tolerance in the hybrid, because the hybrid is much
418 less flocculant under these conditions (despite carrying functional YJM1444
419 *FLO1* gene).

420 While it may not be surprising that gene knockouts result in quantitatively
421 different phenotypes, we did not expect that most knockouts would have no
422 detectable effect in specific backgrounds. It will be important to investigate the
423 extent to which this effect is true in other organisms and for other phenotypes.
424 However, evidence in the literature hints at the breadth of this result: several
425 genes are required for viability in one yeast strain but not another [63, 78], while
426 overexpression of other genes produces a phenotype in one background but not
427 others [32]. Genetic background effects on gene contributions have been
428 reported before, in yeast and other organisms [35, 79-84]; however, the extent to
429 which different genes appear to be involved in toxin tolerance in the different
430 strains studied here suggests an important consideration that is
431 underappreciated in GWA analysis: that the network of genes contributing to the
432 phenotype could be largely different depending on genomic context. Dissecting
433 these epistatic interactions is likely to be daunting, since a major challenge in
434 most GWA studies remains identifying the epistatic interactions due to the high

435 statistical hurdle [34, 85, 86]. We propose that emerging network-based
436 approaches to augment linear contributions will be an important area in
437 identifying genetic contributions in the context of background-specific effects.

438 QTL mapping has allowed the characterization of the genetic architecture
439 of industrially relevant stresses, including tolerance to ethanol [22, 87], acetic
440 acid [23, 56], and plant hydrolysate [25] among many others [24, 88-90]. But
441 while this method exploits the genetic diversity between two strains, with GWA
442 we were able to study a much larger collection of genetic diversity, providing
443 unique insights. SynH tolerance is clearly a complex trait, with many genes likely
444 contributing. Previous studies have shown that part of the growth inhibition can
445 be explained by a re-routing of resources to convert toxins into less inhibitory
446 compounds [18, 19, 91-94] and to repair damage generated by reactive oxygen
447 species in membranes and proteins [13, 14, 95]. One of the most significant
448 effects was caused by deletion of *LEU3*, the transcription factor regulating genes
449 involved in branched amino acid biosynthesis. Interestingly, weak acids have
450 been shown to inhibit uptake of aromatic amino acids causing growth arrest [96],
451 and it is possible that Leu3 is required to combat this effect. Chemical genomic
452 experiments suggest an additional role for Leu3 in managing oxidative stress in
453 the cell [97], which could relate to oxidative stressors in hydrolysate [13, 14, 32].
454 We also uncovered a gene, *Mne1*, that when deleted significantly increases
455 ethanol production in SynH. *Mne1* aids the splicing of *COX1* mRNA [76] and has
456 not been previously linked to stress tolerance. Interestingly, *MNE1* mutants
457 produced more ethanol per cell aerobically, but also grew substantially better in

458 SynH anaerobically, raising the possibility that Mne1 plays an additional,
459 unknown role in cellular physiology that can be utilized to increase fermentation
460 yields. Finally, although flocculation has been previously shown to increase cell
461 survival in hydrolysate [71], our study showed that flocculation reduced the rate
462 of sugar consumption in the culture, likely because cells in the middle of the
463 clump are nutrient restricted. Together, these results shed new light on SynH
464 tolerance and mechanisms for future engineering.

465 Our results raise broader implications for strain engineering, based on the
466 genetic architectures uncovered here. Given the implication of gene-by-
467 background interactions, the best route for improving strain performance may be
468 crossing strains for hybrid vigor [98-100]. Indeed, we unexpectedly generated a
469 strain that outperformed the tolerant YPS128, by crossing two poor performers in
470 SynH. This improved vigor could emerge if the hybrid complements recessive
471 deleterious alleles in each strain, or if mating creates a new genetic background
472 that changes the requirements (and fitness) of the strain. We believe that both
473 models – weak but additive allelic contributions in the context of epistatic
474 background effects – are at work in our study. For additive traits, GWA and
475 genomic studies can have significant practical power, by predicting where
476 individual strains fall on the genotype-phenotype spectrum and by suggesting
477 which strains should be crossed for maximal phenotypic effect.

478

479 **Methods**

480

481 **Strains**

482 Strains used in the GWA are listed in S1 Table Gene knockouts were
483 performed in strains derived from North American strain YPS128 and mosaic
484 strain YJM1444. The homozygous diploid parental strains were first engineered
485 into stable haploids by knocking out the homothallic switching endonuclease
486 (HO) locus with the *KAN-MX* antibiotic marker [101], followed by sporulation in
487 1% potassium acetate plates and dissection of tetrads to attain heterothallic
488 MAT α and MAT α derivatives. Gene knockouts were generated through
489 homologous recombination with the HERP1.1 drug resistance cassette [102] and
490 verified by 3 or 4 diagnostic PCRs (validating that the cassette was integrated
491 into the correct locus and that no PCR product was generated from within the
492 gene that was deleted). Most knockouts removed the gene from ATG to stop
493 codon, but in some cases (e.g. *kdx1*) additional flanking sequence was removed,
494 without removing neighboring genes. Genes from YPS128 or strains carrying the
495 sensitive allele (S5 Table) were cloned by homologous recombination onto a
496 CEN plasmid, taking approximately 1,000 bps upstream and 600 bps
497 downstream from each genome, and verified by diagnostic PCR. Phenotyping of
498 strains harboring alternate alleles on plasmids was performed in as previously
499 described, except that the pre-culture was grown in YPD with 100 mg/L
500 nourseothricin (Werner BioAgents, Germany) to maintain the plasmid expressing
501 each allele. We note that plasmid-bourn expression of the gene complemented
502 the gene-deletion phenotype, where applicable, in all cases tested (not shown).
503 Allele specific effects were additionally tested by reciprocal hemizyosity analysis
504 (RHA) [103]. The HO locus was replaced with the nourseothricin resistance

505 cassette (*NAT-MX*) for each mating type of YPS128 and YJM1444. These were
506 then crossed with the appropriate deletion strain of opposite mating type and
507 harboring the KanMX cassette, selecting for mated cells resistant to both drugs,
508 to generate heterozygous strains that were hemizygous for the gene in question
509 (crosses shown in S6 Table).

510

511 **Media, growth, and phenotyping conditions**

512 Synthetic Hydrolysate (SynH) medium mimics the lignocellulosic
513 hydrolysate generated from AFEX ammonium treated corn stover with 90 g
514 glucan/L loading and was prepared as in Sardi *et al.* (2016). Two versions were
515 prepared to represent the complete hydrolysate (SynH) and the hydrolysate
516 without the hydrolysate toxin cocktail (HT) (SynH - HT), as previously published
517 [32].

518 Phenotyping for GWA, gene deletion assessment, and RHA, was
519 performed using high throughput growth assays in 24 well plates (TPP® tissue
520 culture plates, Sigma-Aldrich, St. Louis, MO). To prepare the cultures, 10 µl of
521 thawed frozen cell stock were pinned onto YPD agar plates (1% yeast extract,
522 2% peptone, 2% dextrose, 2% agar) and grown for 3 days at 30°C. Cells were
523 then pre-cultured in 24 well plates containing 1.5 ml of YPD liquid, sealed with
524 breathable tape (AeraSeal, Sigma-Aldrich, St. Louis, MO), covered with a lid and
525 incubated at 30°C while shaking for 24 h. Next, 10 µl of saturated culture was
526 transferred to a 24 well plate containing 1.5 ml of SynH or SynH-HT where
527 indicated, and grown as the preculture for 24 h. Cell density was measured by

528 optical density at 600 nm (OD_{600}) as ‘final OD’. Culture medium collected after
529 cells were removed by centrifugation was used to determine glucose
530 concentrations by YSI 2700 Select high performance liquid chromatography
531 (HPLC) and refractive index detection (RID) (YSI Incorporated, Yellow Springs,
532 OH). Biological replicates were performed on different days.

533 For GWA, we used four different but related phenotype measures of cells
534 growing in SynH or SynH – HTs: 1) final OD_{600} as a measure of growth, 2)
535 percent of starting glucose consumed after 24 hours in SynH, 3) HT tolerance
536 based on OD_{600} (calculated as the ratio of final OD_{600} in SynH versus final OD_{600}
537 in SynH -HTs), and 4) HT tolerance based on glucose consumption (calculated
538 as the ratio of glucose consumed in SynH versus in SynH -HTs). Strains and
539 phenotype scores are listed in S1 Table. Initial phenotyping for GWA was
540 performed in biological duplicates; knockout strains and hemizygous strains were
541 phenotyped in five biological replicates to increase statistical power, whereas
542 homozygous deletion strains were phenotyped in triplicate. Replicates for each
543 batch of strains shown in each figure were performed on separate days, for
544 paired statistical analysis.

545 Experiments done for allele replacements expressed on plasmids were
546 performed in glass tubes using modified synthetic complete medium (SC) with
547 high sugar concentrations and the toxin cocktail where indicated (Sardi *et al*
548 2016) to mimic SynH but with no ammonium to support nourseothricin selection
549 [104] (1.7 g/L YNB w/o ammonia sulfate and amino acids, 1 g/L monosodium
550 glutamic acid, 2 g/L amino acid drop-out lacking leucine, 48 μ g/L leucine, 90 g/L

551 dextrose, 45 g/L xylose). This was required since nourseothricin selection does
552 not work in high-ammonium containing SynH. First, we precultured strains
553 carrying plasmids in SC medium with nourseothricin (200 ug/ml) for 24 h. Next,
554 we inoculated a fresh culture at a starting OD₆₀₀ of 0.1 in 7 ml of the modified
555 synthetic complete medium with nourseothricin (200 ug/ml) and HTs. Cultures
556 were grown for 24 h and phenotyped as described above. Replicates were
557 performed on different days, and thus samples were paired by replicate date for
558 t-test analysis.

559 Anaerobic phenotyping was performed in the anaerobic chamber, where
560 cells were grown in flasks containing 25 ml SynH or SynH-HT and maintained in
561 suspension using a magnetic stir bar. Ethanol production was measured over
562 time by HPLC RID analysis. Paired t-test analysis was performed to determine
563 significance, pairing samples by replicate date.

564

565 **Genomic sequencing and Analysis**

566 We obtained publicly available whole genome sequencing reads from
567 *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* sequencing projects [39, 42, 52, 60]. Sequencing
568 reads were mapped to reference genome S288C (NC_001133, version 64 [105])
569 using bwa-mem [106] with default settings. Single nucleotide polymorphisms
570 (SNPs) were identified using GATK [107] Unified Genotyper, analyzing all the
571 strains together to increase detection power. GATK pipeline included base
572 quality score calibration, indel realignment, duplicate removal, and depth
573 coverage analysis. Default parameters were used except for -mbq 25 to reduce

574 false positives. Variants were filtered using GATK suggested criteria: $QD < 2$, FS
575 > 60 , $MQ < 40$. A dataset with high quality SNPs was generated using VCFtools
576 [108] by applying additional filters of a quality value above 2000 and excluding
577 sites with more than 80% missing data. Genetic variant annotation was
578 performed using SNPEff [109]. Principal component analysis and the neighbor-
579 joining tree were performed with the R package Adegenet 1.3-1 [110] using the
580 entire collection of high quality SNPs (486,302 SNPs).

581

582 **Genome-wide association analysis**

583 Correlations between genotype and phenotype were performed using a
584 mixed linear model implemented in the software GAPIT [68]. Only SNPs with a
585 minor allele frequency (MAF) of at least 2% were used for this analysis (282,150
586 SNPs). Multiple models, each incorporating a different number of principal
587 components to capture population structure (from 0 - 3), were analyzed. The
588 final model was manually chosen as the one with the greatest overall agreement
589 between the distribution of expected and the observed p-values, *i.e.* based on
590 QQ plots with the least skew across the majority of SNPs. We performed four
591 analyses, one for each for the four related phenotypes measured. The model
592 used to map SynH final OD_{600} and SynH percent glucose consumed used 0
593 principal components, with population structure corrected using only the kinship
594 generated by GAPIT. The model used to map HT tolerance based on relative
595 final OD_{600} used 2 principal components, and the model to map HT tolerance
596 based on glucose consumed incorporated 1 principal component. The threshold

597 for significance accounting for multiple-test correction was identified by dividing
598 the critical p-value cutoff of 0.05 by the number of independent tests estimated
599 by the SimpleM method [111], which decreased the number of tests from
600 282,150 to 137,398 to produce a p-value threshold of $3.6e-7$ [112]. However,
601 none of our tests passed this threshold, which is likely overly conservative. We
602 therefore used a p-value threshold of $1e-04$ to identify genes for detailed follow-
603 up analysis. We realized that the extreme phenotypes of Asian/sake strains
604 coupled with their strong population structure might be confounding the analysis
605 (unpublished). Therefore, to further reduce the chance of false positives due to
606 residual population influences, we reran the analyses without the 11 sake strains
607 and removed from the original list of significant SNPs those with $p > 5e-3$. For
608 each locus carrying a significant SNP, we plotted phenotypic distributions for
609 each possible genotype. We focused subsequent downstream analysis on
610 individual SNPs whose effects were additive across strains that were
611 heterozygous and homozygous at that site, assessed visually. Genes affected
612 by each SNP were determined by the SNPEff annotation, which predicted the
613 effect of variants on genes.

614

615 **Table 1. SNPs associated with SynH tolerance.**

Phen.	Locus Chr: Pos	Type	Gene/Region	Function	p Value
4	12:1033361	syn	HMG2	HMG coA reductase	3.20E-06
4	11:649062	mis	FLO10	flocculation protein	9.30E-06
1 & 2	16:230703	mis	MEX67	mRNA export	1.10E-05
3	16:897004	splice site	AOS1	SUMO E1	1.30E-05
1	04:122163	int	UFD2 /	Ubiquitin assembly	1.40E-05

1	04:122163	int	RBS1	RNA Pol II assembly	1.40E-05
4	12:1034877	mis	HMG2	HMG coA reductase	1.50E-05
3	15:993416	syn	MNE1	mitochondrial matrix p.	1.70E-05
3	15:993550	syn	MNE1	mitochondrial matrix p.	1.70E-05
3	15:993749	syn	MNE1	mitochondrial matrix p.	1.70E-05
3	15:993770	syn	MNE1	mitochondrial matrix p.	1.70E-05
4	15:983849	syn	REV1*	DNA damage repair	2.60E-05
1	11:152140	int	KDX1* /	MAP kinase	3.20E-05
1	11:152140	int	ELF1	transcription elongation	3.20E-05
3	15:840176	syn	RIM20	transcription reglugator	3.60E-05
2	13:685585	syn	ERG12	ergosterol synthesis	3.60E-05
3	12:492470	mis	MAS1	mitochondrial protein import	4.40E-05
1 & 4	12:1037554	mis	LEU3	transcription factor	4.60E-05
4	02:161990	mis	SHE1	spindle protein	4.80E-05
4	15:984317	syn	REV1*	DNA damage repair	4.90E-05
2 & 4	07:20180	int	ADH4* /	alcohol dehydrogenase	5.20E-05
2 & 4	07:20180	int	ZRT1	zinc transport	5.20E-05
3	16:897179	int	AOS1 /	SUMO E1	5.30E-05
3	16:897179	int	SEC1	secretion	5.30E-05
1 & 2	09:333735	syn	TIR3*	cell wall protein	6.20E-05
4	14:341663	syn	NSG2	sterol biosynthesis	6.30E-05
3	01:203973	mis	FLO1*	floccolation protein	6.70E-05
1 & 2	12:691485	int	PIG1* /	regulates Glc7 phosphatase	7.00E-05
1 & 2	12:691485	int	MCM5	DNA replication	7.00E-05
3	13:599730	syn	ALD3*	aldehyde dehydrogenase	7.80E-05
2	16:406798	intron	RPL21B*	ribosomal protein	8.40E-05
4	13:44254	syn	DAT1*	DNA binding protein	8.50E-05
1	11:496123	syn	SAP190	phosphatase complex	8.70E-05
1	11:496158	syn	SAP190	phosphatase complex	8.70E-05
2	12:1020142	mis	SIR3	gene silencing	8.70E-05
2	12:1020245	mis	SIR3	gene silencing	8.70E-05
2	04:1327584	mis	CYM1	metalloproteaase	8.90E-05
2	06:244932	mis	BNA6	NAD biosynthesis	8.90E-05
1	05:459953	mis	UBP5*	ubiquitin-dep. protease	9.20E-05
3	13:599732	mis	ALD3*	aldose reductase	9.40E-05
3	15:840149	syn	RIM20	transcription reglugator	9.60E-05
2	05:24902	int	HXT13 /	hexose transporter	9.60E-05

2	05:24902	int	YEL068C	uncharacterized	9.60E-05
4	15:983117	syn	REV1*	DNA damage repair	9.90E-05

616

617 SNPs whose p-value passed our threshold and additional filtering in any of the
618 GWA are shown, ranked by significance. Phenotypes to which the SNP was
619 associated are listed in the first column; (1) Final OD₆₀₀ in SynH, (2) Percent of
620 glucose consumed in SynH, (3) HT tolerance based on OD₆₀₀, (4) HT tolerance
621 based on glucose consumed. SNPs identified in multiple GWA, the most
622 significant p-value is listed in the last column. SNP type was determined by
623 SNPeff: syn, synonymous; mis, missense; int, intergenic. Genes with asterisk
624 (*) were identified as differentially expressed in SynH in Sardi et al (2016).
625

626

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628

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634

635

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637

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FIGURE LEGENDS

1080 **Fig 1. Genetic diversity found in the 165-strain collection.** The entire
1081 collection of high quality SNPs (486,302) was used as input for principal
1082 component analysis (PCA) (A) and to generate a neighbor-joining (NJ) tree (B).
1083 Populations assigned in circles were defined manually using published
1084 population structure data. Strains are color-coded according to genetic similarity,
1085 with matching colors between the PCA and NJ tree (generated by Adegnet
1086 [110]). The population and/or niche is represented by the key, with the number
1087 of strains in each group indicated in parentheses.

1088

1089 **Fig 2. Strain-specific difference for SynH and HT tolerance.** Tolerance to
1090 lignocellulosic hydrolysate across strains (left) and across each population (right)
1091 measured as glucose consumption in SynH (A) and HT tolerance based on
1092 glucose consumption were calculated as described in Methods for 165 strains.

1093 Individual strains were ordered based on the quantitative scores in (A).
1094 Population distributions shown in the boxplots are indicated for named
1095 populations from Fig 1.

1096 **Fig 3. Distribution of SNP alleles.** (A) A heat map of the 38 SNPs found in the
1097 GWA analysis (columns) in each strain (rows), where the alleles associated with
1098 the sensitive or resistance phenotypes are color-coded according to the key.
1099 Strains were organized from tolerant (top) to sensitive (bottom). (B) Percent
1100 glucose consumed in SynH + HTs was plotted against the number of sensitive
1101 alleles identified in each strain. Correlation of the two is indicated by the R^2 and
1102 linear fit line.

1103 **Fig 4. Knockout effects of genes containing SNPs found in GWA.** Genes
1104 linked to SNPs implicated by GWA were deleted in one or two genetic
1105 backgrounds, tolerant strain YPS128 (A) and sensitive strain YJM1444 (B).
1106 Significance was determined by paired T-test (where experiments were paired by
1107 replicate date, see Methods) with FDR correction compared to respective wild
1108 type strain. Asterisks indicate $FDR < 0.05$ or $p < 0.05$ (which corresponds to FDR
1109 of ~13%), according to the key. Deletion strains in (B) are ordered as in (A); NA
1110 indicates missing data due our inability to make the gene deletion in that
1111 background. *zrt1-adh4Δ* indicates the deletion of an intergenic sequence
1112 between these genes.

1113 **Fig 5. LEU3 is important for SynH tolerance.** (A) Wild-type YPS128 and a
1114 YPS128 *leu3Δ* mutant were grown in Synthetic Complete medium (SC), SynH

1115 without toxins (SynH -HT), or SynH with toxins, and final OD₆₀₀ was measured
1116 after 24 hours. (B) Final OD₆₀₀ was also measured in strains grown in media with
1117 10X SC concentration of branched amino acids (leucine, isoleucine, and valine)
1118 in SynH -HT and SynH. Data represent average of 3 replicates with standard
1119 deviation. Significance was determined by paired t-test.

1120

1121 **Fig 6. Increased SynH performance in the *mne1Δ* mutant is independent of**
1122 **oxygen availability.** Wild type YPS128 and the *mne1Δ* mutant were grown
1123 anaerobically as described in Methods, and media was sampled over time to
1124 determine (A) cell density, (B) glucose consumption, and (C) ethanol production
1125 over time. Plots represent the average and standard deviation of 3 replicates.

1126

1127 **Fig 7. Little allele-specific contribution to SynH tolerance.** (A) YPS128
1128 strains lacking individual genes were complemented with a plasmid carrying the
1129 tolerant allele (T) or the sensitive allele (S) of each gene. Cells were grown in
1130 synthetic complete medium (SC) with HTs and nourseothricin (NAT) to allow for
1131 drug-based plasmid selection. Significance was determined by paired t-test
1132 comparing strains carrying the tolerant versus sensitive allele. Data represent
1133 the average and standard deviation of three replicates. (B) Relative phenotype
1134 based on reciprocal hemizyosity analysis (RHA) where the ratio of glucose
1135 consumption of strains carrying the tolerant versus sensitive allele was calculated
1136 across 7 biological replicates. (C) Relative percent glucose consumed in wild-

1137 type YJM144 x YPS128 hybrid and homozygous deletion strains compared to the
1138 average of the wild-type YJM144 x YPS128 hybrids, in SynH as described in
1139 Methods. Data represent the average and standard deviation of three replicates.
1140 One of the *bnaf1* cultures did not grow; the other two replicates looked
1141 indistinguishable from the wild-type culture. (D) Phenotypic improvement
1142 achieved by crossing strains with diverse phenotypic and genetic characteristics
1143 was investigated by measuring percent of glucose consumption in SynH.
1144 Significance was determined by paired t-test comparing each hybrid and the
1145 most tolerant strain, YPS128.

1146

1147 **Supporting information**

1148 **S1 Figure. Strain-specific differences in SynH and HT tolerance.** Tolerance
1149 to lignocellulosic hydrolysate across strains (left) and summarized within each
1150 population (right) measured as final OD₆₀₀ in SynH (A) and HT tolerance (B)
1151 (based the ratio of final OD₆₀₀ in cultures grown with versus without toxins).
1152 Strains were ordered as in (A). Population names for boxplots are listed in Fig 1.

1153

1154 **S2 Figure. Allele frequency of significant SNPs found through GWA.**

1155 Distribution of the minor allele frequency of 76 SNPs is shown.

1156

1157 **S3 Figure. Distribution of tolerant and sensitive allele based on population.**

1158 A heat map of the 38 SNPs found in the GWA analysis (columns) in each strain
1159 (rows), where the alleles associated with the sensitive or resistance phenotypes

1160 are color-coded according to the key. Strains were grouped based on their
1161 ancestral population as indicated in the figure; Wine, Asian, NA (North American),
1162 WA (West African), and MOS (mosaic).

1163

1164 **S4 Figure. Knockout effects of genes containing SNPs found in GWA when**
1165 **cells were grown in rich medium.** The phenotypic impact of genes affected by
1166 SNPs found in GWA was tested in rich lab medium (YPD). Average and
1167 standard deviation of 5 replicates is shown. Significance was determined by
1168 paired t-test compared to wild type strain.

1169

1170 **S5 Figure. Deletion of *MNE1* significantly increases fermentation rates in**
1171 **SynH.** Effects of the *MNE1* deletion in YPS128 were measured in cells growing
1172 in flasks. We observed increased glucose consumption (A), higher production of
1173 ethanol (B), and higher production of ethanol per cell (C). Average and standard
1174 deviation of 3 replicates is shown. Significance was determined by paired t-test
1175 compared to wild type strain.

1176

1177 **S6 Figure. Deletion of *FLO1* significantly increases YJM1444 glucose**
1178 **consumption in SynH.** Effects of the *FLO1* deletion in YPS128 and YJM1444
1179 were measured in cells growing in flasks. This single deletion increased
1180 YJM1444 glucose consumption in SynH to the level seen in YPS128.
1181 Significance was determined by paired t-test compared to wild type strain.

1182

1183 **S7 Figure. Increased tolerance to SynH is specific to the *FLO1* deletion.**

1184 Deletion of *FLO5*, the paralog of *FLO1*, did not decrease flocculation (not shown)
1185 or increase growth in SynH.

1186

1187 **S8 Figure. Deletion of *MNE1* improves glucose consumption in SynH in**

1188 **multiple genetic backgrounds. (A)** Effect of *MNE1* deletion on glucose
1189 consumption in SynH was measured in YJM1444 and the ethanol red strain (E.
1190 Red) by growing cells in flasks and measuring percent of glucose consumed after
1191 24 hours. Significance was determined by paired t-test compared to wild type
1192 strain. Red asterisk symbolizes $P < 0.01$. **(B)** Flocculation differences in haploid
1193 strains (left), and three independently made crosses of YPS128 and YJM1444
1194 from the designated mating types. Cultures were grown in tubes to saturation
1195 and cells allowed to sit briefly without shaking. These culture conditions
1196 exacerbate the amount of flocculation for easy visualization. The YJM1444
1197 haploid is highlight flocculant under these conditions (visualized as clear media
1198 with cell precipitate at the bottom of the tube) whereas multiple independently
1199 made hybrids are no longer flocculant.

1200

1201 **S9 Figure. Plasmid complementation carrying tolerant and sensitive allele**

1202 **in SynH.** YPS128 deletion mutants were transformed with an empty plasmid
1203 (pKI), a plasmid carrying the tolerant allele (pT), or a plasmid carrying the
1204 sensitive allele (pS). Cells were grown in SynH, which does not allow the use
1205 antibiotics due to the presence of ammonium sulfate in the medium. Although

1206 most cells likely retain the plasmid over the duration of this experiment, we were
1207 unable to detect allele-specific effects that overcome the variation in the
1208 experiments.

1209

1210 **S1 Table. Strain information**

1211

1212 **S2 Table. Summary of SNPs and predicted impacts.** SNP classifications

1213 were performed by SnpEff as outlined in Methods. Low impact genic

1214 polymorphisms are represented by synonymous codon changes, moderate

1215 impact genic SNPs are nonsynonymous codon changes, and high impact

1216 variants include introduction of premature stop codons, altered start position, or

1217 interruptions of slicing regions.

1218

1219 **S3 Table. List of genes with high impact mutations.**

1220

1221 **S4 Table. Initial identification of SNPs correlated with SynH tolerance.**

1222 Initial set of SNPs whose p-value passed our threshold in any of the GWA are

1223 shown, ranked by significance. Phenotypes to which the SNP was associated

1224 are listed in the first column; (1) Final OD₆₀₀ in SynH, (2) Percent of glucose

1225 consumed in SynH, (3) HT tolerance based on OD₆₀₀, (4) HT tolerance based on

1226 glucose consumed. SNPs identified in multiple GWA, the most significant p-value

1227 is listed in the last column. SNP type was determined by SnpEff: syn,

1228 synonymous; mis, missense; int, intergenic.

1229

1230 **S5 Table. Plasmids with tolerant and sensitive alleles.** Strain genotype

1231 sources for cloning of tolerant and sensitive allele for plasmid complementation

1232 are shown.

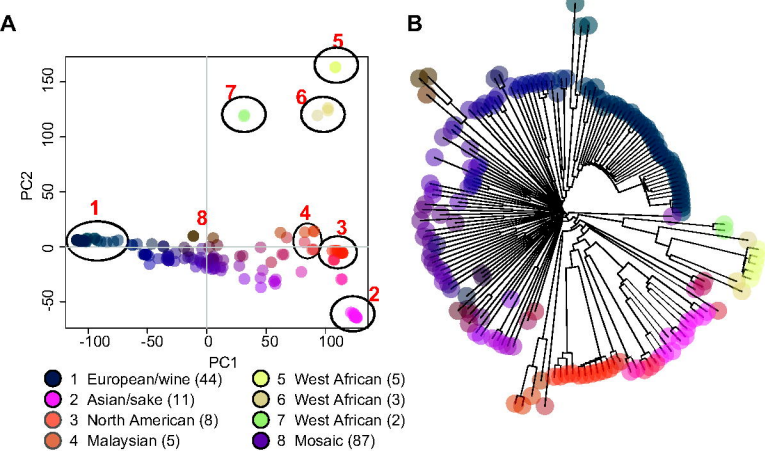
1233

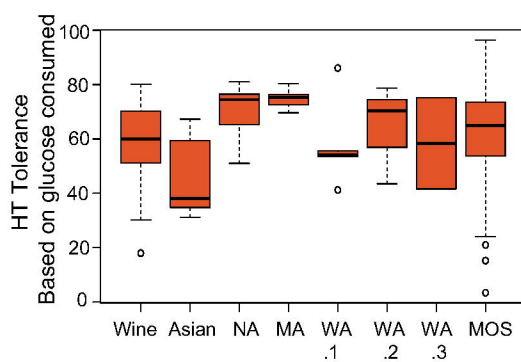
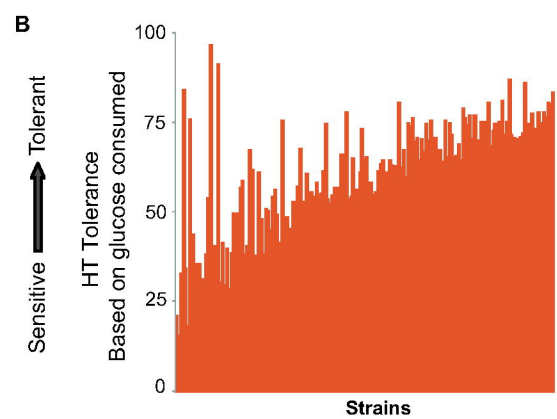
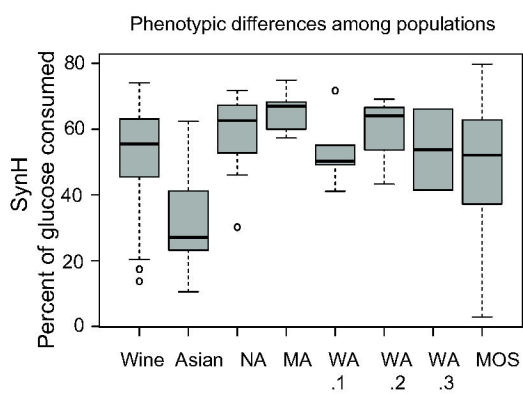
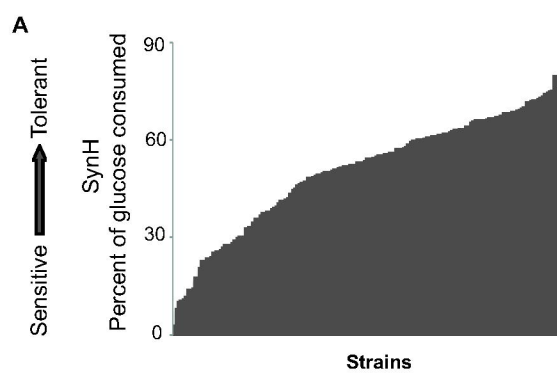
1234 **S6 Table. Strains used for RHA between YPS128 and YJM1444 to test**

1235 **alleles found in GWAS.** The type of allele that is tested in each hybrid is

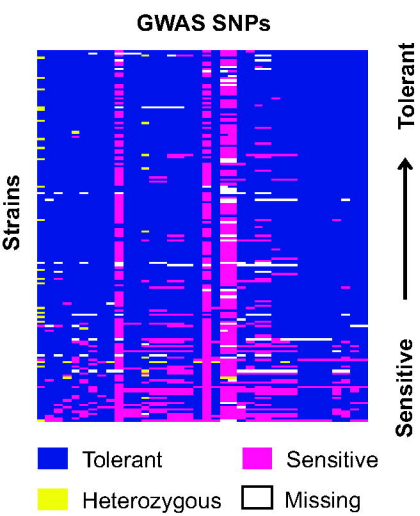
1236 labeled as sensitive (S) and tolerant (T).

1237





A



B

