

1           **A dispensable paralog of succinate dehydrogenase subunit C**  
2           **mediates standing resistance towards a subclass of SDHI**  
3           **fungicides in *Zymoseptoria tritici***

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32

### 33 **Abstract**

34 Succinate dehydrogenase inhibitor (SDHI) fungicides are widely used for the control of a  
35 broad range of fungal diseases. This has been the most rapidly expanding fungicide group in  
36 terms of new molecules discovered and introduced for agricultural use over the past fifteen  
37 years. A particular pattern of differential sensitivity (resistance) to a subclass of chemically-  
38 related SDHIs (SHA-SDHIs) was observed in naïve *Zymoseptoria tritici* populations. Class  
39 specific SHA-SDHI resistance was confirmed at the enzyme level but did not correlate with  
40 the genotypes of the succinate dehydrogenase (SDH) encoding genes. Mapping and  
41 characterization of the genetic factor responsible for standing SHA-SDHI resistance in natural  
42 field isolates identified a gene (*alt-SDHC*) encoding a paralog of the C subunit of succinate  
43 dehydrogenase. This paralog was not present within our sensitive reference isolates and found  
44 at variable frequencies within *Z. tritici* populations. Using reverse genetics, we showed that  
45 alt-SDHC associates with the three other SDH subunits leading to a fully functional enzyme  
46 and that a unique Qp-site residue within the alt-SDHC protein confers SHA-SDHI resistance.  
47 Enzymatic assays, computational modelling and docking simulations for the two types of  
48 SQR enzymes (alt-SDHC, SDHC) enabled us to describe protein-inhibitor interactions at an  
49 atomistic level and to propose rational explanations for differential potency and resistance  
50 across SHA-SDHIs. European *Z. tritici* populations displayed a presence (20-30%) / absence  
51 polymorphism of *alt-SDHC*, as well as differences in *alt-SDHC* expression levels and splicing  
52 efficiency. These polymorphisms have a strong impact on SHA-SDHI resistance phenotypes.  
53 Characterization of the *alt-SDHC* promoter in European *Z. tritici* populations suggest that  
54 transposon insertions are associated with the strongest resistance phenotypes. These results  
55 establish that a dispensable paralogous gene determines SHA-SDHIs fungicide resistance in  
56 natural populations of *Z. tritici*. This study paves the way to an increased awareness of the

57 role of fungicidal target paralogs in resistance to fungicides and demonstrates the paramount  
58 importance of population genomics in fungicide discovery.

## 59 **Author Summary**

60 *Zymoseptoria tritici* is the causal agent of Septoria tritici leaf blotch (STB) of wheat, the most  
61 devastating disease for cereal production in Europe. Multiple succinate dehydrogenase  
62 inhibitor (SDHI) fungicides have been developed and introduced for the control of STB. We  
63 report the discovery and detailed characterization of a paralog of the C subunit of the SDH  
64 enzyme conferring standing resistance towards a particular chemical subclass of the SDHIs.  
65 The resistance gene is characterized by its presence/absence, expression and splicing  
66 polymorphisms which in turn affect resistance levels. The identified mechanism influenced  
67 the chemical optimization phase which led to the discovery of pydiflumetofen, exemplifying  
68 the importance of population genomics for discovery and rational design of the most adapted  
69 solutions.

## 70 **1. Introduction**

71 Fungicide research is driven by the discovery of molecules that either display novel modes of  
72 action or act on known targets but with a novel spectrum of biological activity or that escape  
73 target-based resistance mechanisms (1). During this research process, a very high diversity of  
74 molecules is generated to reach the necessary potency and biological spectrum. For single-site  
75 fungicides, rational active ingredient (AI) design and empirical chemical scouting are needed  
76 to best cover the chemical space of potential inhibitors. A broad biological spectrum is  
77 important for disease control. However, this is particularly difficult to achieve for single-site  
78 fungicides, mostly because the molecular targets usually show a significant level of variation  
79 across pathogens. In addition, the assessment of field populations' sensitivity baselines and

80 the definition of cross-resistance patterns are important since they may reveal unexpected  
81 variations which then need to be taken into consideration for AI design.

82 Such strategies were extensively used for the design of carboxamide Succinate  
83 Dehydrogenase Inhibitors (SDHIs). SDHIs block the tricarboxylic acid (TCA) cycle through  
84 inhibition of the succinate dehydrogenase enzyme (syn. succinate ubiquinone oxidoreductase  
85 (SQR), EC 1.3.5.1) which is better known as Complex II of the respiratory chain. SDHIs bind  
86 to the SQR enzyme at the ubiquinone binding site (Qp-site) which is created by the interface  
87 of three of the four enzyme subunits (2, 3). The fungal SQR is highly variable across species,  
88 mainly because of a low sequence conservation of the internal mitochondrial membrane  
89 SDHC and D subunits (4). These target variations have a big impact on the biological  
90 spectrum of activity of carboxamide SDHIs (5). Indeed, carboxin, the first molecule of this  
91 class introduced in 1966, displayed a basidiomycete spectrum of activity and was mostly used  
92 as seed treatment (6, 7). Major chemistry breakthroughs were needed to expand this  
93 biological spectrum to ascomycetes. In 2003, boscalid was released as the first foliar SDHI  
94 with a broadened spectrum of activity, enabling the control of diseases caused by ascomycetes  
95 (8). This discovery was shortly followed by the introduction of many other SDHIs covering  
96 almost the entire spectrum of fungal diseases (9). SDHI has been the fastest expanding class  
97 of fungicides in the past 15 years with 23 molecules currently listed by the fungicide  
98 resistance committee (10). In particular, some of these novel molecules effectively control the  
99 ascomycete *Zymoseptoria tritici* responsible for the main foliar disease of wheat. *Z. tritici* is  
100 the causal agent of Septoria tritici leaf blotch (STB), a major threat to bread and durum wheat  
101 production worldwide and a major driver for fungicide research (11). Resistance towards  
102 SDHIs was readily generated in the lab and caused by non-synonymous mutations within the  
103 Qp-site composing subunits encoded by *SDHB*, *SDHC*, and *SDHD* (12-14). Highly  
104 differential cross-resistance (XR) profiles were observed for some mutations. In particular,

105 the SDHB\_H267Y boscalid-resistant mutants showed increased sensitivity towards fluopyram  
106 in *Z. tritici* and multiple other species (13-16). The field situation is monitored by the industry  
107 and academic or governmental research institutes (17-19). To date, a panel of approximately  
108 20 Qp-site subunit mutation types altering the activity of commercial SDHIs *in vivo* has been  
109 reported for *Z. tritici* populations in Europe (19, 20). The expected impact on field  
110 performance is variable depending on the particular mutation-SDHI compound combination  
111 (17). Overall for *Z. tritici*, the SDHI target resistance situation is at a stage of slight expansion  
112 in both diversity and frequency of mutations. The speed of resistance development and its  
113 practical impact on STB control has been contained, based on recommendations limiting the  
114 number of applications in spray programs and the use of mixtures with molecules carrying  
115 different modes of action.

116 Standing resistance towards fluopyram and isofetamid has been recently reported in *Z. tritici*  
117 European populations (21). The most shifted isolates were shown to display practical  
118 resistance to the compounds *in planta* but sensitivity to bixafen, another SDHI was not  
119 affected. Since no variation was observed in the sequences of the genes encoding the SQR  
120 Qp-site subunits, authors concluded that the mechanism was non-target based (21). During  
121 our research focusing on this novel class of SDHIs, we monitored the sensitivity baselines of  
122 a large collection of *Z. tritici* field isolates and identified similar resistance to fluopyram. This  
123 resistance was specific for a new chemical sub-class of SDHIs, which we termed SHA-  
124 SDHIs. Resistance was not associated with known mutations in SQR genes which was  
125 unexpected, since similarly to other fungicides used for STB control such as the QoIs (22-24)  
126 or the DMIs (25-27), previously known SDHIs resistance emerged through non-synonymous  
127 mutations within the target (17, 18). However, non-target related mechanisms have been  
128 reported that may contribute to sensitivity shifts, such as the overexpression of drug

129 transporters like *MgMFS1* (28-31), or other transporters such as *ABCt-2* (32) or, a  
130 phenotypical connection between melanisation and fungicide uptake (33).

131 Therefore, the primary aim of this study was to characterize which molecular factors were  
132 involved in this natural SHA-SDHIs / fluopyram resistance. We report here the mapping and  
133 genetic validation of this resistance factor, a dispensable paralog of *SDHC* (*alt-SDHC*) which  
134 is present in 20-30% of the European *Z. tritici* population. Differential levels of expression  
135 and splicing of the alt-SDHC mRNA and a competition between the two SDHC proteins for  
136 inclusion into the SQR complex are the main factors modulating resistance. Molecular  
137 characterization of promoter sequences for a set of individuals revealed insertions of  
138 transposable elements in highly resistant isolates. This level of understanding enabled the  
139 careful design and early *in planta* assessment of pydiflumetofen, a novel SHA-SDHI affected  
140 by the mechanism but for which the variation has no practical impact on efficacy under  
141 normal use conditions. To our knowledge this is the first time that a fungicide target paralog  
142 with such complex presence/absence, splicing efficiency and expression polymorphisms has  
143 been described in naïve populations and taken into consideration during fungicide  
144 optimization.

## 145 **2. Results**

### 146 **2.1. *Z. tritici* populations display differential sensitivity to the SHA-SDHI fluopyram**

147 Assaying fungicide sensitivity of fungal populations is a pre-requisite for launching new  
148 fungicides. Large differences in sensitivity are frequently observed in naïve fungal  
149 populations which have not yet been in contact with the new fungicide. Depending on the  
150 fungicide and pathogen, the difference between least sensitive and most sensitive field  
151 isolates can reach a few orders of magnitude. Such differences are usually caused by standing  
152 variations either in the gene encoding the fungicide target or in its expression level. Variations  
153 in intracellular substrate abundance or expression of fungicide detoxification enzymes can

154 also play a role in this differential sensitivity. Finally, cross-resistance plots help to determine  
155 whether similar factors affect different classes of chemicals with the same mode of action and  
156 to detect isolates that have been selected for their resistance to commercial fungicides with a  
157 mode of action similar to the newly released molecule. The early characterization of a fungal  
158 population's sensitivity baselines is also an important tool for AI design, since it enables the  
159 early detection of potential standing resistance which would otherwise only become dominant  
160 when the new fungicides are tested in the field.

161 To observe whether similar factors affected the different classes of SDHIs, sensitivity towards  
162 commercial fungicides was determined for a set of 99 SDHI-naïve *Z. tritici* field isolates  
163 sampled in Europe between 2006 and 2009. The EC<sub>50</sub> of these isolates was determined in  
164 liquid growth assays and the data obtained compared for each possible pair of SDHI  
165 fungicides (cross-resistance (XR) plots, Figure 1). As expected for fungicides carrying the  
166 same mode of action, a good correlation was observed for all SDHIs tested (Figure 1,  
167 ABCDEF). However, Spearman correlation factors were lower for fluopyram-paired  
168 comparisons (Figure 1). In particular, the three isolates displaying the lowest sensitivity  
169 (resistance) towards fluopyram (06STD024, 07STGB009 and 09STF011) displayed either  
170 normal or high sensitivity towards the other SDHIs benzovindiflupyr, boscalid and  
171 fluxapyroxad (Figure 1, ABC and DEF). The effect was specifically observed for fluopyram  
172 and all other research carboxamides carrying an aliphatic CC linker at the carbonyl end of the  
173 amide bond (data not shown, S1 Figure). Based on this observation, these molecules were  
174 grouped as a single cross-resistance group and termed stretch heterocycle amide SDHIs  
175 (SHA-SDHIs). *In vitro* enzyme succinate-quinone reductase (SQR) sensitivity tests were  
176 performed with mitochondria extracted from the highly shifted isolates, which indicated a  
177 target-based mechanism specific for SHA-SDHIs molecules (data not shown). However, in  
178 SHA-SDHIs/fluopyram shifted isolates, the target-related mechanism could not be explained

179 by the genotypes of the known *SDHB*, *SDHC* and *SDHD* genes suggesting that other genes  
180 were involved in this fluopyram-specific resistance (S1 Dataset).

181

## 182 **2.2. Mapping of a genetic factor responsible for fluopyram resistance in 06STD024** 183 **and 07STGB009 *Z. tritici* isolates**

184 Crosses between *Z. tritici* isolates sensitive (S: IPO323, IPO94269) and resistant (R:  
185 06STD024, 07STGB009) to fluopyram were generated. Mapping populations of 234 and 95  
186 progeny were obtained for crosses IPO323 x 06STD024 and IPO94269 x 07STGB009  
187 respectively. Progeny isolates from both crosses were characterized for their growth (R) / non  
188 growth (S) phenotypes on agar plates supplemented with 10 mg.L<sup>-1</sup> fluopyram (Figure 2A). In  
189 both crosses, inheritance of the R phenotype was monogenic (49.5% and 51.5% resistant  
190 progeny respectively). A pooled sequencing bulked segregant analysis (BSA) approach was  
191 used to map the R locus using pools of genomic DNA from 30 S and 30 R progeny from cross  
192 IPO323 x 06STD024. Bulked segregant analysis (BSA) identified a locus on chromosome 3  
193 between positions 3,081,782 and position 3,423,761 of IPO323 genome sequence (342kb)  
194 explaining the difference between the pools with 95% confidence (Figure 2B, S2 Dataset).  
195 Fine mapping with the full set of 234 IPO323 x 06STD024 progeny was performed with  
196 molecular markers such as cleaved amplified polymorphic sequences (CAPS) and direct PCR  
197 length polymorphisms developed from this region (S1 Table). This fine mapping located the  
198 resistance factor in an interval of 16kb from positions 3,200,730 to 3,217,341 of chromosome  
199 3 of IPO323 (Figure 2B).

200 Within this genomic region, nine genes are predicted in IPO323 (Figure 2B). Only one gene,  
201 *Mycgr3G70478* encoding a putative P-Type ATPase cation transporter, was predicted to be  
202 targeted to the mitochondria (S2 Table). Based on predicted function and subcellular  
203 localization, none of these genes could explain in simple terms the specific SHA-shifted



204 SDHI sensitivity profile observed in the SQR enzymatic assay. Sliding-window PCRs were  
205 performed on 06STD024 genomic DNA to see whether structural variation may occur at the  
206 R locus that would potentially reveal additional genes in the resistant parental strain. This  
207 approach resulted in the detection of two large insertions at the mapped locus in the genome  
208 of the 06STD024 resistant strain that are not present in IPO323. The first large insertion was  
209 15 kb in size and located at position 3: 3,209,932 of IPO323 genome. The second, over 10 kb  
210 in size was located at position 3: 3,215,008 of IPO323 genome (Figure 2C).

211 The 15 kb insert of 06STD024 was fully sequenced (GenBank: MK067274), and 7 putative  
212 CDS and a long putative transposon were identified within the locus (Figure 2D). One of  
213 these CDS displayed protein sequence similarity to SDHC (XM\_003850403, 54% identity).  
214 The presence of two short introns within this CDS was confirmed by sequencing of  
215 06STD024 cDNA and the corresponding gene was termed alternative SDHC (*alt-SDHC* or  
216 *ZtSDHC3*). Comparisons of the 06STD024-specific 15kb region of chromosome 3 to publicly  
217 available *Z. tritici* genomes identified similar regions in chromosome 3 of the 3D7 and 1E4  
218 isolates (Fig 2D). The *alt-SDHC* gene was identified within the *Z. tritici* isolate 3D7 between  
219 positions 3: 3,502,409 and 3: 3,503,066 (GenBank: LT853694 locus tag ZT3D7\_G4528 with  
220 100% identity to *alt-SDHC* at the DNA sequence level). However, *alt-SDHC* was not  
221 identified in the 1E4 genome. Interestingly, the region of similarity between 06STD024 and  
222 3D7 is interrupted by an uncategorized transposable element (TE) in 06STD024. This TE is 7  
223 kb in length and located 182 bp upstream of the start codon of the *alt-SDHC* gene. The TE is  
224 found in multiple copies in IPO323 and within the other available *Z. tritici* genomes, but  
225 inserted at different chromosomal positions. *Alt-SDHC*-specific primers amplified this gene  
226 only in R parents 06STD024 and 07GB009, while *SDHC*-specific primers amplified the gene  
227 in all (R and S) parental strains. These PCR markers were used to genotype all progeny from  
228 crosses IPO323 x 06STD024 and IPO94269 x 07STGB009. For both crosses the presence of

229 *alt-SDHC* fully segregated with the R phenotype (S1 and S3 Tables). Progeny from cross  
230 07GB009 x IPO94269 were genotyped with additional CAPS markers from this chromosome  
231 3 locus and confirmed the presence of the *alt-SDHC* gene at a similar chromosomal location  
232 in strain 07STGB009 compared to 06STD024 (S3 Table).

### 233 **2.3. The alternative SDHC is responsible for fluopyram / SHA-SDHIs specific** 234 **resistance**

235 *alt-SDHC* (*ZtSDHC3*) DNA sequence displayed 62% identity compared to IPO323 *SDHC*  
236 (*ZtSDHC1*) CDS. The alt-SDHC protein sequence displayed an identity of 54% with IPO323  
237 *SDHC*. The two nuclear encoded pre-proteins strongly differ at their N-termini. TargetP1.1  
238 (34) predicted N-terminal mitochondrial transit peptides of 36 and 42 amino acids for alt-  
239 *SDHC* and *SDHC* respectively, that only share 16% identity. The predicted processed protein  
240 sequences (SQR cytochrome B subunit without transit peptide) of alt-*SDHC* and *SDHC*  
241 displayed a much higher similarity (62.5% identity). An alignment of the *SDHC* paralogs  
242 from *Z. tritici* is presented in Figure 3.

243 Phylogenetic analysis of fungal *SDHC* proteins revealed the presence of 0-2 paralogs in  
244 multiple species (S2 Figure). *SDHC* paralogs are found in multiple clades, but the number of  
245 paralogs within a genus appears species-specific (S4 Table). Another paralog of *ZtSDHC1*  
246 was identified in the IPO323 genome (Mycgr3G74581) and named *ZtSDHC2*. The  
247 Mycgr3G74581 gene model was modified using the revised gene model of Grandaubert *et al.*  
248 (35). This modified gene model was also found as a correctly predicted gene in the genome of  
249 isolate 1E4 (SMR59342). *ZtSDHC2* was present in all the genomes of sequenced *Z. tritici*  
250 isolates. Orthologs of *ZtSDHC2* were identified in *Z. brevis*, *Ramularia collo-cygni* and  
251 *Mycosphaerella emusae* genomes (S2 Figure). Orthologs of *ZtSDHC2* were not detected in  
252 the genomes of the closely related species *Pseudocercospora fijiensis*, *Dothistroma*  
253 *septosporum* and *Baudoinia panamericana*, which all carried an orthologue of *ZtSDHC1*.

254 This phylogenetic analysis suggested that *SDHC* was duplicated in a common ancestor of  
255 *Zymoseptoria spp.*, *Ramularia collo-cygni* and *Mycosphaerella emusae* to give *ZtSDHC2* and  
256 *ZtSDHC3*, the alternative SDHC. Species-specific losses of *ZtSDHC2* and/or *ZtSDHC3* must  
257 have occurred during the evolution of these species since *ZtSDHC3* is now only found in *Z.*  
258 *tritici*. The functional role of *ZtSDHC2* as a possible SQR C-subunit has not been validated.  
259 In the *Z. tritici* IPO323 isolate, there is no clear evidence of the expression of this gene in any  
260 tested condition (S3 Figure, (36)). Therefore, we concluded that *ZtSDHC1* is the only gene  
261 encoding a functional SDHC subunit in isolate IPO323, while isolate 06STD024 likely carries  
262 two functional SDHC subunits, SDHC encoded by *ZtSDHC1* and alt-SDHC encoded by  
263 *ZtSDHC3*.

264 To validate that *alt-SDHC* is responsible for fluopyram / SHA-SDHIs resistance, targeted  
265 deletions of *alt-SDHC* (*ZtSDHC3*) or *SDHC* (*ZtSDHC1*) were performed in the resistant  
266 isolate 06STD024. Targeted gene deletion vectors were constructed using a hygromycin  
267 resistance cassette flanked by 1-2kb of the upstream and downstream genomic sequences of  
268 either *alt-SDHC* or *SDHC* (see materials and methods). The *alt-SDHC* deletion mutants of  
269 06STD024 were sensitive to fluopyram and other SHA-SDHIs. Their sensitivity levels were  
270 similar to IPO323, a SDHI-sensitive reference isolate (Figure 4A, 4B). The deletion of *SDHC*  
271 (*ZtSDHC1*) in 06STD024 was also achieved. These *SDHC* deletion mutants were more  
272 resistant (2 to 10 fold) to SHA-SDHIs than isolate 06STD024 (Figure 4B, S5 Table). The  
273 deletion of *SDHC* was not successful in IPO323 (data not shown), suggesting that *ZtSDHC2*,  
274 the unique *SDHC* paralog in this isolate, was not sufficient for maintaining SQR function in  
275 this background. IPO323 transformants carrying an ectopic insertion of a vector containing  
276 *alt-SDHC* under the control of a tetracyclin-repressible promoter were obtained (pTet::*altC*,  
277 Figure 4A). These IPO323 pTet::*altC* transformants displayed a SHA-SDHI resistance level  
278 similar or slightly superior to the 06STD024 isolate (Figure 4B, S5 Table). The addition of

279 30ppm doxycycline did not alter growth on non-selective media, but abolished growth in the  
280 presence of the SHA-SDHIs fluopyram and isofetamid (Figure 4A).

281 Amongst non-conserved positions in the protein alignment shown in Figure 3, isoleucine I78  
282 of alt-SDHC corresponds to an alanine A84 in SDHC. A84 is located within the Qp-site, and  
283 is involved in ubiquinone substrate or inhibitor binding (14). Interestingly, the SDHC\_A84I/V  
284 substitutions in *Z. tritici* were shown to confer resistance to fluopyram while displaying no  
285 effect on sensitivity/resistance to other SDHIs (14, 37). Therefore, the presence of an  
286 isoleucine at position 78 of alt-SDHC could explain the SHA-SDHIs-specific resistance  
287 profile conferred by the presence of *alt-SDHC*.

288 The involvement of the I78 Qp-site residue of alt-SDHC was tested by expressing an alt-  
289 SDHC\_I78A variant in IPO323. IPO323 alt-SDHC\_I78A transformants displayed similar  
290 sensitivity towards SHA-SDHIs as IPO323 or the 06STD024 *alt-SDHC* knock-out (KO)  
291 mutant (Figure 4A and 4B). Overall, these results demonstrated that *alt-SDHC* is responsible  
292 for the fluopyram/SHA-SDHIs-specific resistance profile of 06STD024 and that this gene can  
293 functionally replace *SDHC* in this background. *alt-SDHC* therefore encodes a dispensable  
294 functional C subunit of the *Z. tritici* SQR enzyme whose expression results in SHA-SDHIs  
295 specific resistance due to its natural I78 Qp-site residue.

296 The influence of the *alt-SDHC*-driven SHA-SDHI resistance for the control of *Z. tritici* during  
297 wheat infection was assessed with a small range of commercial SDHIs (Figure 4C, 4D). *In*  
298 *planta* SDHIs sensitivity assays were performed with the 06STD024 isolate and its *SDHC* or  
299 *alt-SDHC* KO mutants. A control strain (705) devoid of the *alt-SDHC* gene but more  
300 aggressive than IPO323 on wheat variety Riband was also included for comparison (Figure  
301 4C and 4D).

302 On untreated plants, 06STD024 KOs displayed infection levels similar to wild type, although  
303 a slightly delayed virulence was observed for the *SDHC* KO (data not shown). *In planta*

304 sensitivities towards the non SHA-SDHIs benzovindiflupyr and isopyrazam were similar  
305 across the isolates (Figure 4D). Conversely, the presence of *alt-SDHC* impacted the SHA-  
306 SDHI compound pydiflumetofen (Figure 4C, 4D). Similarly to liquid culture assays,  
307 06STD024 and its *SDHC* or *alt-SDHC* KO mutants differed in their sensitivity towards the  
308 SHA-SDHI pydiflumetofen. The most shifted isolate was 06STD024 *SDHC* KO, which  
309 displayed an *in planta* EC<sub>50</sub> 53 fold higher than 06STD024 *alt-SDHC* KO mutant (2.85 g.ha<sup>-1</sup>  
310 and 0.053 g.ha<sup>-1</sup> respectively) (Figure 4D). Isolate 06STD024 displayed a reduced *in planta*  
311 EC<sub>50</sub> of 1.31 g.ha<sup>-1</sup> which corresponds to a sensitivity difference of 25 fold compared to the  
312 *alt-SDHC* KO mutant.

313 Our data validate the effect of *alt-SDHC* on *Z.tritici* sensitivity towards commercial SHA-  
314 SDHIs *in planta*. The activity of pydiflumetofen on the most SHA-SDHI-shifted *Z. tritici* GM  
315 isolate was similar to that of benzovindiflupyr on wild type isolates. The strongly shifted *alt*-  
316 *SDHC* genotypes are therefore not considered to be resistant to the compound in practice.

317

#### 318 **2.4. Expression levels of the two types of SDHC subunits influence mitochondrial** 319 **SQR composition and resistance**

320 In order to explore the influence of differential *alt-SDHC* expression on SQR enzyme  
321 composition and resistance, we used reference isolates 06STD024, IPO323 and the pTet::*altC*  
322 IPO323 transformant grown under inductive or repressive conditions and characterized i)  
323 *SDHC* and *alt-SDHC* mRNA expression ii) mitochondrial *SDHC* and *alt-SDHC* proteins  
324 abundances (quantified by LC-MS/MS) and iii) SQR enzyme sensitivity to SDHIs (Figure 5,  
325 Table 1).

326 RT-PCR revealed partially incomplete splicing of *alt-SDHC* mRNA in 06STD024. A band of  
327 non-spliced mRNA of a size similar to the genomic amplicon was clearly visible as well as

328 other partially spliced species of higher size compared to the main fully spliced band (Figure  
329 5A). This partial splicing was not only observed with 06STD024 but also with the ectopic  
330 transformant of IPO323 expressing the *alt-SDHC* gene under the control of the tetracyclin-  
331 repressible promoter (Figure 5A). Conversely, the *SDHC* gene appeared to be fully spliced as  
332 suggested by a single band of the expected size (Figure 5A). Hydrolysis probe RT-qPCR  
333 assays were used to quantify unspliced (second intron) and total forms (third exon) of *alt-*  
334 *SDHC* mRNA as well as the total form (spliced) of *SDHC* mRNA (third exon). These RT-  
335 qPCR assays enabled the comparison of functional mRNA quantities and ratios for both  
336 *SDHC* genes (Figure 5B, 5C).

337 The total amount of *SDHC* mRNA was ten folds lower in 06STD024 compared to IPO323,  
338 demonstrating strain to strain variation (Figure 5B). As expected in the pTet::*altC* IPO323  
339 transformant *alt-SDHC* mRNA was strongly induced in the absence of doxycycline and  
340 highly repressed by doxycycline 30ppm (100 fold). This differential *alt-SDHC* mRNA  
341 expression had no impact on *SDHC* expression (Figure 5B). In 06STD024, spliced *alt-SDHC*  
342 mRNA was 34 fold more abundant than *SDHC* mRNA (84.6% spliced *alt-SDHC* compared  
343 with 2.5% spliced *SDHC*). In this context, the alt-SDHC protein was the only SDHC protein  
344 detected in the 06STD024 mitochondrial sample (97 fmol). In the IPO323 pTet::*altC*  
345 transformant grown under non-repressive conditions, fully spliced *alt-SDHC* mRNA was nine  
346 fold more abundant than the *SDHC* mRNA (72.5% spliced *alt-SDHC* compared with 7.9%  
347 *SDHC*) (Figure 5C). In this context, the mitochondrial alt-SDHC protein was 27 fold more  
348 abundant than the SDHC protein (84 fmol alt-SDHC vs 3.1 fmol SDHC, Figure 5D). Adding  
349 30 ppm doxycycline repressed the expression of *alt-SDHC* (Figure 5A, B) which resulted in  
350 20 fold lower abundance compared to *SDHC* mRNA (93.7% of SDHC mRNA compared to  
351 4.7% spliced *alt-SDHC* mRNA, Figure 5C). In this context the SDHC protein dominated over  
352 the alt-SDHC protein in the mitochondria (90 fmol SDHC vs 4.8 fmol alt-SDHC, Figure 5D).

353 Although the amounts of spliced mRNA encoding the alt-SDHC protein differ significantly in  
354 the pTet::*altC* IPO323 transformant grown under permissive versus repressive conditions, the  
355 total amount of mitochondrial SDHC subunit was similar (87.1 fmol vs 94.8 fmol) suggesting  
356 a saturation limit caused by the availability of other SQR subunits for integration into the  
357 functional SQR complex *in vivo*. In this context, the competition between SDHC and alt-  
358 SDHC proteins for integration into the SQR enzyme also translates into a steep reduction of  
359 the least expressed subunit as found for SDHC in 06STD024.

360 The impact of these mixed SDHC compositions on SQR enzyme sensitivity towards SHA-  
361 SDHIs was tested using succinate-ubiquinone enzyme inhibition tests (Table 1).

362 Mitochondrial SQR from a non-repressed IPO323 pTet::*altC* transformant displayed IC<sub>50</sub>  
363 values clearly shifted for SHA-SDHIs (RF fluopyram = 44) but this resistance level was lower  
364 than 06STD024 (RF fluopyram = 111) (Table 1). Conversely IC<sub>50</sub> values obtained with  
365 mitochondria extracted from the same transformant grown in the presence of doxycycline  
366 displayed very low resistance to SHA-SDHIs (RF fluopyram = 1.7) and IC<sub>50</sub> values similar to  
367 sensitive isolates IPO323 or 06STD024 KO\_*altC* (Table 1) .

368 These results are consistent with a mixture of the two types of SQR enzymes being  
369 simultaneously present and functional. They suggest a competition for integration within the  
370 functional enzyme leading to the presence of mixed SQR populations and mitigating the  
371 observed sensitivity shift due to differing expression ratios of the two types of C subunits.

372

373

374 **Table 1. Succinate-quinone SDHs sensitivity assays on purified mitochondria of field isolates and transformants of *Z. tritici*.**

Compounds	Succinate-quinone IC <sub>50</sub> (nM) <sup>a</sup>												
	IPO323	IPO323_Flu21		06STD024		D024 KO alt		D024 KO C		pTet Induced		pTet Repressed	
	SDHC	SDHC_A84I	RF	SDHC / altC	RF	SDHC	RF	altC	RF	SDHC / altC	RF	SDHC / altC	RF
Carboxin	969.0 ± 182.1	1152.9 ± 152.7	<b>1.2</b>	730.7 ± 84.4	<b>0.8</b>	775.1 ± 94.5	<b>0.8</b>	865.0 ± 214.9	<b>0.9</b>	762.5 ± 163.7	<b>0.8</b>	1196.5 ± 85.0	<b>1.2</b>
Boscalid	17.0 ± 3.7	62.0 ± 19.2	<b>3.6</b>	61.9 ± 16.0	<b>3.6</b>	16.4 ± 2.4	<b>1.0</b>	54.4 ± 12.9	<b>3.2</b>	40.3 ± 2.7	<b>2.4</b>	29.8 ± 4.0	<b>1.8</b>
Penthiopyrad	1.4 ± 0.3	4.6 ± 1.7	<b>3.3</b>	2.0 ± 0.8	<b>1.4</b>	1.5 ± 0.3	<b>1.1</b>	1.6 ± 0.7	<b>1.2</b>	1.8 ± 0.1	<b>1.3</b>	1.9 ± 0.4	<b>1.4</b>
Bixafen	1.4 ± 0.1	3.2 ± 0.5	<b>2.3</b>	1.8 ± 0.7	<b>1.3</b>	1.3 ± 0.2	<b>1.0</b>	2.1 ± 0.6	<b>1.5</b>	1.8 ± 0.4	<b>1.3</b>	1.5 ± 0.6	<b>1.1</b>
Fluxapyroxad	4.3 ± 1.1	5.1 ± 0.7	<b>1.2</b>	3.5 ± 0.3	<b>0.8</b>	3.3 ± 0.8	<b>0.8</b>	3.1 ± 0.4	<b>0.7</b>	3.3 ± 0.6	<b>0.8</b>	4.5 ± 1.0	<b>1.1</b>
Isopyrazam	0.8 ± 0.1	5.2 ± 2.6	<b>6.4</b>	2.6 ± 0.6	<b>3.3</b>	0.6 ± 0.2	<b>0.7</b>	2.4 ± 0.5	<b>2.9</b>	1.7 ± 0.4	<b>2.1</b>	1.2 ± 0.3	<b>1.5</b>
Benzovindiflupyr	0.7 ± 0.2	1.0 ± 0.2	<b>1.4</b>	0.5 ± 0.17	<b>0.8</b>	0.6 ± 0.11	<b>0.8</b>	0.6 ± 0.05	<b>0.9</b>	0.5 ± 0.09	<b>0.8</b>	0.5 ± 0.03	<b>0.8</b>
Fluopyram	12.5 ± 2.0	1440.9 ± 354.3	<b>115.6</b>	1387.3 ± 522.2	<b>111.3</b>	10.1 ± 2.0	<b>0.8</b>	1164.4 ± 201.2	<b>93.4</b>	547.5 ± 68.8	<b>43.9</b>	21.9 ± 7.7	<b>1.8</b>
Compound 1	113.0 ± 10.9	2566.0 ± 238.6	<b>22.7</b>	874.7 ± 158.9	<b>7.7</b>	79.4 ± 7.6	<b>0.7</b>	940.2 ± 238.3	<b>8.3</b>	484.1 ± 42.8	<b>4.3</b>	152.5 ± 17.5	<b>1.4</b>
Compound 2	5.3 ± 0.6	780.2 ± 156.6	<b>146.5</b>	415.2 ± 68.0	<b>78.0</b>	3.7 ± 0.5	<b>0.7</b>	357.6 ± 63.4	<b>67.1</b>	204.0 ± 20.7	<b>38.3</b>	15.6 ± 3.9	<b>2.9</b>
Compound 3	0.7 ± 0.2	28.0 ± 7.3	<b>41.9</b>	26.4 ± 1.2	<b>39.5</b>	0.8 ± 0.13	<b>1.2</b>	22.7 ± 0.8	<b>34.0</b>	nd <sup>b</sup>	-	nd	-
Pydiflumetofen	0.3 ± 0.04	2.0 ± 0.4	<b>6.2</b>	1.4 ± 0.05	<b>4.6</b>	0.3 ± 0.07	<b>1.1</b>	1.5 ± 0.4	<b>4.9</b>	0.9 ± 0.3	<b>2.8</b>	0.5 ± 0.1	<b>1.7</b>
Isofetamid	0.9 ± 0.1	21443.3 ± 4551.8	<b>22876</b>	nd	-	nd	-	>50000	<b>&gt;55000</b>	nd	-	nd	-

<sup>a</sup> Values are the mean of three independent IC<sub>50</sub> determinations and expressed in nM ± standard deviation

<sup>b</sup> Not determined

375 Field isolates: IPO323 and 06STD024, IPO323\_Flu21: UV mutant of IPO323 carrying the SDHC\_A84I mutation, D024 KOC and D024\_KOalt: deletion mutants  
 376 of either the core *SDHC* (KO\_SDHC) or of the *alt-SDHC* (KO\_altC) in 06STD024 background, pTet Induced and pTet Repressed: IPO323 pTet::*altC*  
 377 transformant grown in the absence (induced) or presence (repressed) of 30 mg.L<sup>-1</sup> doxycycline.

378

379



## 380 **2.5. Molecular docking within 3D models of SQR variants explain differential** 381 **potency and cross resistance among SHA-SDHIs**

382 Significant potency and sensitivity variations have been observed for the molecules that were  
383 tested against *Z. tritici* SQR variants (Table 1). Amongst the SHA-SDHIs molecules tested,  
384 pydiflumetofen combined highest potency on wild type SQR ( $IC_{50}=0.3nM$ ) with lowest  
385 resistance levels on alt-SQR ( $<7$ ). In contrast, isofetamid showed a dramatic loss of efficacy on  
386 both alt-SQR and C\_A84I-SQR mutants ( $RF>20'000$ ) despite a high potency on WT-SQR  
387 ( $IC_{50}=0.9mM$ ). Finally, fluopyram combined moderate potency ( $IC_{50}=12.5nM$ ) on WT-SQR  
388 with an approximate 100 fold resistance on the alt-SQR. To unravel the factors driving potency  
389 and resistance across SHA-SDHIs at an atomistic level, 3D homology models for the WT-SQR  
390 and alt-SQR were generated and comparative docking studies carried out.

391 The superposition of WT and alternative SQR models showed that the two enzymes are  
392 structurally highly conserved. In particular all Qp site residues are conserved except  
393 SDHC\_A84 which corresponds to I78 in alt-SDHC (Figure 3, Figure 6A). In agreement with  
394 this, C\_A84I and alt-SQR enzymes displayed highly similar SDHI sensitivity profiles (Table  
395 1). Molecular docking of SHA-SDHIs into the homology models of the *Z.tritici* SQR variants  
396 have been carried out and protein-ligand interactions analyzed. The interaction of carboxamide  
397 SDHIs with the SDHC\_A84 residue and C\_A84V/I-SQR mutants has been described  
398 previously (14). Carboxamide SDHIs are predicted to interact with SDHC\_A84 via Van-der-  
399 Waals forces and a change from alanine to a larger valine or isoleucine residue is therefore  
400 likely to have an impact on ligand binding. This impact was specifically observed for fluopyram  
401 which was affected by high resistance factors compared to carboxin, boscalid, and isopyrazam  
402 in SDHC\_A84V/I UV mutants. We assumed that this was caused by the linker of fluopyram  
403 which is in the z-dimension sterically more demanding and cannot be properly accommodated

404 with a valine or an isoleucine at position 84 (14). These findings and assumptions remain true  
405 for fluopyram interaction with the alt-SQR.

406 Molecular docking of isofetamid into the WT-SQR predicts hydrogen bonds between the amide  
407 oxygen of the molecule and SDHD\_Y130 and SDHB\_W224 residues (Figure 6D). The nitrogen  
408 of the amide forms a hydrogen bond to SDHC\_S83 mediated by a water molecule. The carbonyl  
409 oxygen of isofetamid SHA aliphatic chain is not involved in a hydrogen bond to SQR but plays  
410 an important role together with the gem di-methyl group for the pre-organization of the  
411 molecule into the bioactive conformation. In particular, the ortho methyl substituent stabilizes  
412 a conformation of the phenyl ring in which Van-der-Waals interactions to SDHC\_A84 can be  
413 formed. In addition, the para isopropoxy substituent is at the right distance in the model to  
414 form Van-der-Waals interactions to SDHC\_V88. Contrastingly, in alt-SQR the isoleucine 78  
415 of alt-SDHC reduces the size of the binding pocket. Docking of isofetamid into the smaller  
416 binding pocket of alt-SQR did not result in any energetically favorable conformation which is  
417 in agreement with the very poor potency of isofetamid on alt-SQR in enzymatic tests (Table 1).  
418 Maintaining an isofetamid conformation similar to the one obtained in WT-SQR leads to a  
419 steric clash of the phenyl ring with alt-SDHC\_I78 which is in agreement with the very high  
420 resistance factors (>20'000 fold) observed in the alt-SQR and A84I-SQR mutants.

421 In contrast, pydiflumetofen is highly potent on WT-SQR ( $EC_{50}=0.3\text{nM}$ ) and is only shifted by  
422 a factor of 6 in the isoleucine SQRs (C\_A84I and alt-SQR) ( $IC_{50}=2.0\text{ nM}$ ). This is a unique  
423 behavior to our knowledge within SHA-SDHIs. To assign how distinct parts of the chemical  
424 structure of pydiflumetofen contribute to the favorable activity and resistance profile,  
425 molecules have been selected for analysis that belong to the same chemical series of  
426 pydiflumetofen but differ only by single chemical transformations (matched pairs, compounds  
427 1-3 shown Figure 6C). The putative binding mode of pydiflumetofen in complex with the  
428 classical and alternative SQR are shown in Figure 6 B, E.

429 Similarly to other carboxamide SDHIs, the binding interaction of pydiflumetofen with the Qp  
430 site involves hydrogen bonds with SDHD\_Y130 and SDHB\_W224 through the carbonyl  
431 oxygen of the amide bound. The specific SHA-SDHI CC linker of pydiflumetofen bears a  
432 stereo center. The role of this stereo center is elucidated by comparing two related SDH  
433 inhibitors for which the only difference is a methyl group: compound 1, a molecule bearing an  
434 ethyl linker without methyl group and stereo center, is more flexible and multiple low energy  
435 conformations exist. A pre-organization is caused by the additional methyl group in  
436 compound 2, which also introduces a stereo center (R and S enantiomers). The S enantiomer  
437 is predicted to adopt a low energy conformation more compatible with the shape of the  
438 ubiquinone binding pocket. This pre-organized conformation leads to a favorable entropic  
439 effect that is predicted to increase the activity. The IC<sub>50</sub> for compound 2 is indeed lower in  
440 comparison to compound 1 on WT-SQR but the magnitude of the effect (21 fold) is more  
441 pronounced than predicted. The same trend is observed in isoleucine SQR but in this case  
442 leading to only a 3 fold increased activity for compound 2 compared to compound 1.

443 A very special feature of pydiflumetofen is its substituted N-methoxy amide. While all other  
444 carboxamide SDHIs are predicted to form hydrogen bonds to SDHC\_S83 mediated by a  
445 water molecule, pydiflumetofen is predicted to form a direct hydrogen bond of the methoxy  
446 oxygen to the serine (Figure 6B). This hypothesis is in line with various crystal structures in  
447 which ubiquinone analogues are bound to SQR (e.g. pdb code 5C3J), and form direct  
448 hydrogen bonds to the serine. In addition, in the model the methyl moiety of the N-methoxy  
449 amide forms lipophilic interactions with isoleucine 269 and proline 220 of SDHB. This might  
450 be the reason for the 7.6 fold increased potency of N-methoxy amide-containing compound 3  
451 compared to the matched pair compound 2 (without N-methoxy amide). The resistance  
452 factors are reduced to 2 or 39.5 fold for compound 3 in comparison to 146 or 80 fold for

453 compound 2 which is hypothesized to be due to positive lipophilic interactions to I84 or I78 in  
454 the SDHC or alt-SDHC SQR variants respectively.

455 Interestingly the addition of a third chlorine atom in the aromatic ortho position significantly  
456 decreases the resistance factor from 42 fold for compound 3 to 6 fold for pydiflumetofen. A  
457 conformational analysis showed that the aromatic ring is rotated further away from  
458 SDHC\_A84 in comparison to compound 3 in the energy minimum conformation of  
459 pydiflumetofen (Figure 6E). It is assumed that this particular conformational effect reduces  
460 the steric hindrance in alt-SQR.

## 461 **2.6. Polymorphism of *alt-SDHC* in *Z. tritici* field populations: presence/absence,** 462 **expression and splicing**

463 The presence/absence polymorphism of *alt-SDHC* and *SDHC* in *Z. tritici* field populations  
464 was determined using PCR specific for each gene (see materials and methods). The *alt-SDHC*  
465 gene was detected at frequencies ranging from 17% to 31% in the EU depending on the year  
466 of sampling whereas the *SDHC* gene was detected in all isolates (Table 2). 123 *Z. tritici*  
467 genomes (38) corresponding to isolates collected in four locations (Switzerland, USA, Israel,  
468 Australia) prior to the introduction of SDHIs for disease control in wheat were screened *in*  
469 *silico*. The *alt-SDHC* gene was found in 29% of Swiss isolates and in 18% of the USA  
470 (Oregon) isolates. Interestingly, the gene was not detected in the 25 isolates from Israel but  
471 was present in all isolates from Australia.

472 *alt-SDHC* sequences were determined by Sanger or Illumina amplicon sequencing for a panel  
473 of 154 isolates carrying the gene (EU collections from Table 2). We identified 12 nucleotide  
474 haplotypes (S6 Table) among which 11, were rare variants of the main canonical sequence  
475 and represented only once in the panel (0.6%). Among these variants, six carried non-  
476 synonymous mutations affecting the alt-SDHC protein sequence. Three corresponded to  
477 truncated likely inactive forms of the protein and three corresponded to likely functional

478 R34Q, S66Y and T73S protein variants. In comparison, for 350 strains (2016 collection)  
479 sequenced at the *ZtSDHC1* gene locus, 206 different nucleotide haplotypes were identified for  
480 a total of 27 different protein variants (data not shown). This relatively rare occurrence of  
481 mutations within the *alt-SDHC* gene is highly contrasting with the high degree of  
482 polymorphisms observed for the core *SDHC* gene.

483 Liquid culture and plate growth SDHI sensitivity assays were performed on a cohort of 93  
484 field isolates collected in 2009 and characterized for the presence/absence of the *alt-SDHC*  
485 gene (Figure 7A, 7B). Liquid culture assay validated a significant difference between the two  
486 groups with SHA-SDHI fluopyram (t test,  $p < 0.05$ ) but not with non SHA-SDHI  
487 benzovindiflupyr (Figure 7A). However, the panel of *alt-SDHC* containing isolates displayed  
488 a wide range of fluopyram  $EC_{50}$ s varying from sensitive ( $0.3 \text{ mg.L}^{-1}$ ) to resistant (up to  $3.2$   
489  $\text{mg.L}^{-1}$ ). The growth/no growth phenotype on SHA-SDHI supplemented agar plates of these  
490 93 field isolates mostly correlated with the presence/absence of the *alternative SDHC* gene  
491 (Figure 7B). However, again depending on the SHA-SDHI used for the assay, significant  
492 growth/sensitivity differences are visible across the isolates carrying the *alt-SDHC* gene.

493 Among SHA-SDHIs, isofetamid was the compound for which the presence of the gene gave  
494 the clearest correlation (presence=growth, absence=no growth). Only one isolate carrying the  
495 gene, 09STIR20.1 did not grow on isofetamid-supplemented agar plate (10DPI,  $5 \text{ mg.L}^{-1}$ ),  
496 which is in agreement with our observation of a loss of function frameshift mutation in the  
497 *alt-SDHC* gene in this strain (position 78 in Figure 7B, S6 Table). On fluopyram-  
498 supplemented plate (18DPI,  $5 \text{ mg.L}^{-1}$ ), a longer incubation was required to distinguish a wide  
499 range of growth phenotypes for the *alt-SDHC* containing strains, these varied from strong  
500 growth to no growth at all, including strains carrying a functional *alt-SDHC* gene. Under  
501 these conditions, some background growth started to become visible for isolates devoid of the  
502 *alt-SDHC* gene. However, only *alt-SDHC* containing strains displayed strong to moderate

503 growth in the assay. Finally, for pydiflumetofen, in addition to an extended incubation, the  
504 concentration of the molecule needed to be reduced by 50 fold (18DPI, 0.1mg.L<sup>-1</sup>) to observe  
505 moderate growth with resistant controls 06STD024 and 07GB009 and with same isolates that  
506 displayed a strong growth on fluopyram-supplemented plates. Also for this compound,  
507 background growth started to become visible for a range of isolates not carrying *alt-SDHC*.  
508 This effect was even more pronounced than with fluopyram, suggesting that other genetic  
509 factors besides the presence of *alt-SDHC* are also relevant for baseline sensitivity differences  
510 to this molecule in the population.

511 These growth assay results are in good agreement with the different potency and resistance  
512 factors observed in SQR assays for SHA-SDHIs (Table 1). Isofetamid combined a high  
513 potency on WT-SQR and extremely high resistance factor on alt-SQR enzyme suggesting that  
514 even low quantities of the alt-SDHC protein could lead to a visible phenotype at high  
515 concentrations of the molecule. Fluopyram combined moderate potency on WT-SQR and  
516 high resistance factor on alt-SQR suggesting that at high concentration a good correlation  
517 would be maintained. Pydiflumetofen combined high potency on WT-SQR with low  
518 resistance factor on alt-SQR which suggested that at low concentrations a moderate to low  
519 correlation would be found.

520 A subset of eight isolates carrying the *alt-SDHC* gene was analyzed for their sensitivity to  
521 SDHIs, alt-SDHC expression and splicing patterns. Liquid culture growth sensitivity tests  
522 were performed to determine EC<sub>50s</sub> for this set of isolates towards a wide range of commercial  
523 and research SDHIs (S5 Table). The results obtained for fluopyram are presented in figure  
524 8B. The liquid culture sensitivity results are in good agreement with growth phenotype on  
525 solid agar at fixed concentration (Fig8A, 8B). These experiments support a wide range of  
526 fluopyram SHA-SDHI resistance levels from 3 fold for 09STIR20.3 to 50 fold for 06STD024  
527 and 07STGB009 (Figure 8B, S5 Table). We hypothesized that these differences in resistance

528 levels among *alt-SDHC*-carrying isolates are driven by differences in its expression. Indeed,  
529 semi quantitative RT-PCR and hydrolysis probe RT-qPCRs revealed varying proportions of  
530 spliced and unspliced *alt-SDHC* mRNA across the range of tested isolates (Figure 8C and  
531 8D). Total *alt-SDHC* mRNA correlated with increased splicing efficiency (Figure 8E). This  
532 efficiency ranged between not measurable for the most sensitive isolate 09STIR20.3, to 73%  
533 and 87 % for the most SHA-SDHI resistant isolates 07STGB009 and 06STD024 respectively.  
534 Moderately resistant isolates 09STF011 and 09STF112 displayed less of the spliced form,  
535 which represented 60% and 59% of total *alt-SDHC* mRNA respectively. Overall, the quantity  
536 of spliced *alt-SDHC* mRNA correlated with fluopyram resistance levels (Figure 8F).  
537 Interestingly, *SDHC* expression levels were concomitantly found to be the lowest in the most  
538 highly *alt-SDHC* expressing strains 06STD024 and 07STGB009 (Figure 8D), suggesting a  
539 possible link between the two.

540 At the protein level, the total amount of mitochondrial SDHC proteins (alternative and core)  
541 ranged between 21 fmol in IPO94269 to 130 fmol in 07GB009 suggesting that the total  
542 amount of mitochondrial SQR protein varied across isolates (Table 3). Surprisingly, the  
543 alternative SDHC protein could be detected in all isolates carrying the gene, including the  
544 fully sensitive isolate 09STIR20.3 in which the alternative SDHC mRNA is very poorly  
545 expressed and for which splicing was not detected (Table 3, Figure 8C). Isolates 06STGB009  
546 and 07STD024 which showed the strongest fluopyram resistance also displayed the highest  
547 amount of alternative SDHC (up to 120 fmol in 06STGB009). These high levels of alternative  
548 SDHC protein were associated with very low (0.4 fmol in 07STGB009) or undetectable  
549 (06STD024) amounts of the “core” SDHC protein. Moderately shifted isolates 09STF011 and  
550 09STF112, in which balanced splicing of *alt-SDHC* mRNA was detected, also displayed a  
551 balanced abundance of both SDHC proteins from 38.6 to 57.7 fmol for alternative SDHC  
552 while the core SDHC protein was depleted but still detectable at 7.8 and 4.5 fmol



553 respectively. Despite the differences in splicing efficiency, isolates 09STD041 and 09STF037  
 554 displayed very similar SDHC proteins quantities and ratios compared with 09STF011 and  
 555 09STF112. This was unexpected given the differences in RT-PCR suggesting lower quantities  
 556 of the alt-SDHC protein should have been observed. Finally isolates 09STIR20.3 and  
 557 09STD053 for which no or very low splicing could be detected displayed amounts of core  
 558 SDHC similar to WT isolates IPO323 or IPO94269. The alt-SDHC protein was detected at  
 559 similar levels to other moderately or poorly shifted isolates in 09STD053 (48.6 fmol) and in  
 560 much lower amounts in 09STIR20.3 for which no splicing of the alt-SDHC mRNA was  
 561 detected (2 fmol).

562 These data demonstrate the importance of expression levels and splicing efficiency of *alt-*  
 563 *SDHC* mRNA in conferring the resistance phenotype. They also suggest that the alt-SDHC  
 564 protein is more stable compared to the core SDHC in *Z. tritici* mitochondria, since very low  
 565 expression of the functional spliced mRNA is sufficient for detection of the protein. Depletion  
 566 of the core SDHC subunit, which is likely due to its replacement by alt-SDHC within the  
 567 SQR enzyme, seems to correlate to the resistance phenotype.

568 **Table 2. Frequency of *alt-SDHC* in *Z. tritici* populations. Occurrence of the *alt-SDHC* gene in**  
 569 **European monitoring populations and the pangenome.**

	EU monitoring				Pangenome			
	2009	2010	2011	2016	Switzerland 1999	USA 1990	Israel 1992	Australia 2001
Present	16	30	19	102	11	9	0	21
Absent	80	66	77	282	27	41	25	0
Total	96	96	96	384	38	50	25	21
Frequency (%)	16.7	31.3	19.8	26.6	28.9	18	0	100

570

571 Shaded grey area, corresponds to available *Z. tritici* genomes (38).

572 **Table 3. Quantification of the SDHC and altSDHC proteins in mitochondrial extracts of a panel of 10**  
 573 **field isolates by LC-MS/MS.**

Isolate	SDHC (fmol)	altSDHC (fmol)
IPO323	41.9 ± 20.5	nd*
IPO94269	21.1 ± 3.3	nd*
09STIR20.3	39.6 ± 20.9	2.0 ± 1.3



09STD053	27.1 ± 13.0	48.6 ± 17.0
09STD041	4.9 ± 4.9	46.3 ± 22.3
09STF037	5.1 ± 2.8	55.4 ± 3.2
09STF011	7.8 ± 3.5	38.6 ± 5.0
09STF112	4.6 ± 0.4	57.7 ± 9.7
07STGB009	0.4 ± 0.7	133.2 ± 15.9
06STD024	nd*	97.2 ± 47.0

574

575 Values presented correspond to the mean of 6 individual determinations on the same set of samples  
576 ± SD. \*not detected.

577

578 **2.7. Up-regulation of *alt-SDHC* gene expression in field isolates is associated with**  
579 **transposons insertions in the promoter region.**

580 The *alt-SDHC* locus of isolate 06STD024 differed from the corresponding locus in the 3D7  
581 genome by the insertion of a large class II transposon (no cat element 8, 7kb) located 182 bp  
582 upstream of the *alt-SDHC* start codon (Figure 2D). Fragments encompassing the *alt-SDHC*  
583 gene as well as ~1.5kb downstream and upstream sequences were amplified and sequenced in  
584 the eight isolates already characterized for fluopyram/SHA-SDHI resistance (Figure 8).

585 All isolates, except 07STGB009, displayed a similar *alt-SDHC* locus organization to 3D7  
586 (Figure 9A). SNPs, insertions and deletions were detected in the intergenic region located  
587 between *alt-SDHC* and its 5' neighboring gene (EMBL: ZT3D7\_G4529, Figure 9A). The  
588 highest variation in this region corresponded to a 23bp deletion 80bp upstream of *alt-SDHC*  
589 start codon in moderately resistant isolate 09STF112.

590 Long range PCR was used to amplify a much larger fragment (12 kb) in the highly resistant  
591 isolate 07STGB009. In this isolate, we detected the insertion of a large class II DNA  
592 transposon of 11.6 kb in length and annotated DHH element 3 in the promoter region of the  
593 *alt-SDHC* gene (Figure 9B). This DNA transposon was also found at different genomic loci  
594 and in variable copy numbers among fully sequenced *Z. tritici* isolates. The transposon  
595 insertion site was located 368 bp upstream of the *alt-SDHC* start codon and at 195 bp

596 upstream of the other transposon insertion site in the 06STD024 strain. In both cases, a 9 bp  
597 sequence of the *alt-SDHC* promoter was duplicated at the border of each transposon,  
598 suggesting the recent insertion of these transposons at these loci (target site duplication,  
599 Figure 9B). Overall the insertion of transposons in the promoter of *alt-SDHC* was only  
600 observed in the two highly resistant isolates 07STGB009 and 06STD024. This result  
601 suggested that the insertion of transposons in the promoter of *alt-SDHC* supports higher  
602 expression and better functional splicing of the gene.

## 603 **2.8. Frequency of structural variants in *alt-SDHC* promoter in European *Z. tritici*** 604 **populations.**

605 In order to explore the frequency of structural changes in the *alt-SDHC* promoter region at a  
606 population scale, a set of 145 strains carrying the *alt-SDHC* gene and collected during the  
607 years 2009, 2010 and 2016 in Europe was assessed using locus-specific primers (S5 Table).  
608 Within this set of 145 field isolates, amplification products of 2.4kb, similar to the expected  
609 size of 3D7 were obtained for 117 isolates (80.7%). Amplification products of larger sizes  
610 than 3D7, ranging between 3 and 20 kb, were found in 17 isolates (11.7%) and no  
611 amplification product was obtained for 11 isolates (7.5%). Insertion points were determined  
612 for 14 isolates displaying larger promoters (Table S8). The insertion points ranged between  
613 173 and 1073bp upstream of the *alt-SDHC* start codon, suggesting a wide range of structural  
614 variations. A graphical overview of the results obtained for the 2016 population (n: 387  
615 isolates) characterized for presence/absence of *alt-SDHC* gene and its promoter structure is  
616 presented on a graphical map of Europe (Figure 9C). The *alt-SDHC* gene is widely distributed  
617 across Europe, but was more frequently found in isolates from the United Kingdom, Ireland  
618 and Northern regions of Germany and France. Structural promoter variants corresponding to  
619 potential insertions of transposons were detected in isolates from Germany, United Kingdom,  
620 Ireland, France and Belgium. Although tested isolates with insertions upstream of the *alt-*

621 *SDHC* gene being on average more resistant to fluopyram than isolates with no insertions  
622 (Figure S4), the difference between the two groups was not statistically significant.

### 623 **3. Discussion**

624 We demonstrated that a pre-existing *SDHC* paralog characterized by (i) its presence / absence  
625 and (ii) functional expression polymorphisms is responsible for standing sensitivity variation  
626 towards a particular class of SDHIs in the European *Z. tritici* population. Phylogenetic  
627 analysis showed that the *alt-SDHC* gene (*ZtSDHC3*) originates from an ancient duplication of  
628 an ancestor of *SDHC* (*ZtSDHC1*). Another paralog, *ZtSDHC2*, is also present in all sequenced  
629 isolates. We initially did not consider this paralog as a potential SQR subunit because (i) the  
630 gene model was partly incorrect and lacked a mitochondrial targeting peptide and (ii) because  
631 the gene was not substantially expressed in either the IPO323 or 3D7 strains and in any of the  
632 conditions tested (S3 Figure), (36, 39). Functional explorations by reverse genetics will be  
633 required to assess whether this gene can perform a true SQR function. If this is the case, we  
634 propose that similarly to *alt-SDHC*, *ZtSDHC2* expression variants may exist in the population  
635 which will potentially further leverage our understanding of target-based SDHI sensitivity  
636 patterns in this pathogen.

637 *Rhynchosporium commune* was to our knowledge the only well described example of a plant  
638 pathogen carrying a dispensable target gene paralog responsible for standing fungicide  
639 sensitivity variation in populations. The presence of multiple paralogs of *CYP51*, the target of  
640 azole fungicides is common in ascomycetes. *R. commune* isolates can carry up to two  
641 functional *CYP51* paralogs, *CYP51A* and *CYP51B*. The *CYP51A* paralog is dispensable and  
642 was mostly absent in *R. commune* populations before azole adoption but re-emerged  
643 following the introduction of azole fungicides (40). The *R. commune* *CYP51A* paralog  
644 benefits from an azole-inducible regulation and confers a ten-fold sensitivity shift towards  
645 azole fungicides. A recent analysis of a global set of 400 *R. commune* isolates validated

646 selection of the *CYP51A* gene at a global scale, and also the recent emergence of novel  
647 *CYP51A* variants carrying nonsynonymous substitutions, likely resulting from azole  
648 fungicides selection (41). The dispensable *CYP51A* paralog is therefore the main factor  
649 driving the sensitivity shift towards azole fungicides in *R. commune*.

650 Similarly to *R. commune* *CYP51* paralogs, the biological reasons for the emergence of  
651 multiple *SDHC* paralogs is unclear. It seems that duplication events of the *SDHC* gene have  
652 occurred multiple times throughout evolution in fungi, but the conservation (or loss) of the  
653 paralog(s) seems species-specific (S4 Table). By analogy to our findings one could suggest  
654 that the presence of paralogs could support standing resistance towards natural SDHs. To our  
655 knowledge, few natural SDHs have been reported so far. Siccanin (a metabolite from  
656 *Helminthosporium siccans*) and atpenins (metabolites from *Penicillium* sp.) can inhibit  
657 bacterial, fungal and mammalian SQRs through the Qp site (42-44). Metchnikowin an  
658 antifungal peptide of *Drosophila melanogaster*, was also recently found to bind to the  
659 *Fusarium graminearum* iron-sulfur subunit SDHB and to inhibit fungal SQR *in vitro* (45).  
660 Therefore, SDH inhibition by natural antifungal compounds as a driving force for the  
661 selection of *SDHC* paralogs in fungi cannot be totally ruled out. The *Z. tritici* *SDHC* paralog  
662 situation could therefore result from a specific acquired resistance profile towards natural  
663 products synthesized by competing species, similar to bacterial antibiotics resistance genes  
664 which have been shown to be of ancient origin because they evolved to resist pre-existing  
665 natural products (46).

666 The core role of the succinate dehydrogenase step of the TCA cycle in driving primary  
667 metabolism and consequently growth and secondary metabolism may rather suggest that  
668 *SDHC* paralogs would permit a controlled production of hybrid SQR enzymes. This could  
669 have subtle effects on growth phases during pathogenicity and may carry an advantage  
670 leading to their maintenance within populations, particularly if the gene is under

671 developmental regulation and leads to a SQR enzyme of differing efficiency as found in  
672 parasitic nematodes (47, 48) or plants (49). In yeast, one paralog of the SDHC subunit and  
673 one paralog of the SDHD subunit were shown to lead to hybrid functional SQR enzymes  
674 which, although less active, may play an adaptive role in restrictive environmental conditions  
675 (50). Similarly to mutants of the classical SDHC and SDHD subunits, the hybrid SQRs  
676 conferred very distinct “metabotypes” which also correlated with different growth yield (50,  
677 51). Interestingly, the yeast *SDHC* paralog may also carry additional function(s) as the protein  
678 was found in a subcomplex with Tim18p as part of the TIM22 inner membrane translocase  
679 (52). Altogether this suggests that *SDHC* and its paralogs may possibly functionally overlap  
680 for a range of functions.

681 Based on its complex regulation and partial splicing it will be interesting to determine  
682 whether *alt-SDHC* displays particular expression or splicing patterns during *in planta*  
683 infection. Within our panel of eight isolates specifically chosen for covering a range of  
684 resistance phenotypes, expression levels of spliced *alt-SDHC* and in particular the amount of  
685 spliced *alt-SDHC* positively correlated with the SHA-sensitivity shift (Figure 8). The main  
686 factor limiting SHA resistance was the incomplete splicing of the mRNA which was clear in  
687 all isolates and appeared the least effective in low expressing non-shifted isolates. The  
688 replacement of the SDHC subunit within the functional SQR complex was associated with  
689 disappearance of the SDHC protein from the mitochondria suggesting degradation of the non-  
690 SQR-integrated polypeptide. This effect was particularly clear within the highly shifted,  
691 highly expressing strains in which the core SDHC protein was significantly depleted.  
692 Conversely, the *alt-SDHC* protein seemed less prone to degradation since low levels of the  
693 protein were still observed in strains expressing low levels of the gene, including strain  
694 09STIR20.3 for which spliced *alt-SDHC* mRNA was not detected by RT-PCR (Table 3,  
695 Figure 8). If not an artefact, this differential degradation pattern suggests that either the *alt-*

696 SDHC polypeptide outcompetes SDHC protein for inclusion within the functional SQR or  
697 that the protein gets integrated within another complex of the IMM of another function.  
698 Alternatively, a less effective scavenging of the complex-free alt-SDHC polypeptide could  
699 lead to the same effect (53).

700 Interestingly, limited sequence variation was observed within the *alt-SDHC* gene, which  
701 highly contrasts with very high sequence variability in the *Z. tritici ZtSDHC1* gene. This  
702 suggests that the two genes undergo very different selection pressures. We hypothesize that  
703 the higher evolutionary pressure on *ZtSDHC1* is linked to its principal SQR function. The  
704 membranous SDHC and SDHD subunits are the least evolutionarily conserved SQR subunits  
705 (4) and in *Z. tritici* populations both genes show high sequence variation. To form the SQR  
706 enzyme, the SDHC and SDHD subunits associate as an integral membrane heterodimer of the  
707 IMM and serve as membrane anchors to the mitochondrial matrix SDHA/B catalytic dimer. It  
708 is conceivable that *SDHC* and *SDHD* variant combinations may not all be similarly favorable  
709 to the translation and scaffolding of functional SQR. Natural variations within the core *SDHC*  
710 (*ZtSDHC1*) could have a biological impact in regulating SQR amounts and efficiency, in  
711 particular non-synonymous variations such as the highly frequent C\_N33T, N34T allele  
712 within the transit peptide may possibly impact mitochondrial import efficiency whereas the  
713 multiple synonymous mutations found in the gene may lead to differential translation  
714 efficiencies. Variations of the SDHC and SDHD genes could therefore represent a means to  
715 differentially regulate SQR-associated developmental or metabolic traits that are important for  
716 pathogenicity. So it can be envisaged that either one or the two paralogs of *SDHC*, the  
717 conserved *ZtSDHC2* and the dispensable *alt-SDHC* have a biological significance in building  
718 alternative hybrid SQR enzymes and regulating developmental growth and metabolism at  
719 particular stages of the infection. Interestingly, *in planta* assays with isogenic lines carrying

720 SDHI resistance-conferring mutations showed increased necrosis on a wheat cultivar  
721 suggesting a link between functional efficiency of the SQR enzyme and virulence (14).

722 An in depth exploration of haplotype networks of the *ZtSDH* genes is under investigation and  
723 may provide further support to this hypothesis. In general, the higher conservation of *alt-*  
724 *SDHC* combined with its higher stability within mitochondrial membranes could suggest an  
725 opportunistic integration within the SQR complex. The *alt-SDHC* may represent an  
726 independently evolved *SDHC* paralog which could have undergone convergent functional  
727 evolution after initial divergence.

728 Fluopyram is currently the only SHA-SDHI molecule registered for STB control in Europe.  
729 Given the complete lack of control observed *in planta* for resistant isolates we expect that  
730 poor efficacy and strong selection would result from applications of the solo compound (21).  
731 However, fluopyram is sold in a mixture with another SDHI (bixafen), and an azole  
732 (prothioconazole) which are both not affected by the mechanism. Novel highly active SHA-  
733 type SDHI molecules such as pydiflumetofen, which are intrinsically more active on *Z. tritici*  
734 compared to current SDHIs, will likely also exert a selection for strains carrying the  
735 alternative *SDHC* paralog. However, unlike *CYP51*, the two *SDHC* paralogs (i) display  
736 differential sensitivity towards compounds of the same mode of action and (ii) compete for  
737 inclusion into the functional SQR which partially limits the sensitivity shift. Therefore, we  
738 may expect that such mechanisms would be outcompeted by classical target mutations of the  
739 core genes such as the C-H152R mutation, conferring superior sensitivity shifts and cross-  
740 resistance towards all classes of SDHIs (17, 18). Using a GM approach we artificially  
741 generated isolates only carrying the alt-SQR enzyme. This enabled us to compare SHA-  
742 SDHIs of different structures on the two types of SQR enzymes and to gather rational  
743 understanding of the structural features maximizing potency and minimizing cross-resistance.  
744 The pure alt-SQR GM isolates represent a worst case scenario for this paralog-mediated



745 resistance mechanism. We observed that despite a superior sensitivity shift of the GM isolate  
746 (KO-*SDHC*) compared to the original isolate *in vivo*, the dose of pydiflumetofen required for  
747 full *in planta* control was similar to that of other SDHIs on the market for controlling wild  
748 type isolates. This result has high practical relevance since it supports the use of a robust rate  
749 for the novel SHA-type SDHIs for an effective control of the whole population including  
750 strains carrying the *alt-SDHC* gene. As such our findings explain baseline variation for SHA-  
751 SDHIs and will enable tracking for potential evidence of selection such as an increased  
752 occurrence of strains carrying the gene or the potential emergence of mutated forms of the  
753 alternative protein.

754 The decreasing cost of population-wide genome sequencing and the widespread adoption of  
755 genome-wide association studies (GWAS), should facilitate the identification of the  
756 molecular factors involved in baseline fungicide sensitivity (33, 54). Since the increased  
757 natural variation encompassed by paralogs provide a source of direct adaptation to natural  
758 compounds or xenobiotics it is likely that population genomics will enable the discovery of  
759 many more instances of dispensable paralogs of fungicide targets or detoxification genes. For  
760 agrochemical research, population variation is a major challenge that needs to be addressed  
761 and an in depth understanding of the molecular factors involved represents a real opportunity  
762 for more accurate chemical design of future solutions.

## 763 **4. Materials and Methods**

### 764 **4.1. Strains, media and culture conditions**

765 All *Z. tritici* strains were isolated from infected wheat leaves collected during Syngenta  
766 European monitoring following already described procedures (22). The reference strains  
767 IPO323 and IPO94269 were kindly provided by Gert H.J. Kema (Wageningen University,  
768 NL). The isolates were inoculated from stocks stored in liquid nitrogen onto solid V8 agar at  
769 18°C for 5 days (55). Fresh cells were harvested from these plates and used as an inoculum



770 for all experiments. The following media were used throughout: TSM40 (4 g.L<sup>-1</sup> glucose, 10  
771 g.L<sup>-1</sup> malt extract, 4 g.L<sup>-1</sup> yeast extract, pH 7.0); AE medium (56); induction medium (IM)  
772 (55), YPD (10 g.L<sup>-1</sup> yeast extract, 20 g.L<sup>-1</sup> peptone, 20 g.L<sup>-1</sup> glucose). DH5 $\alpha$ , TOP10 or DB3.1  
773 cells (Invitrogen) were used for the maintenance of plasmids in *Escherichia coli*.  
774 *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* strain EHA105 (57, 58), was used for *A. tumefaciens* mediated  
775 transformation (ATMT) following procedures described in (55).

776

#### 777 **4.2. Liquid culture assays for fungicide sensitivity determination**

778 Pre-culture of the inoculum and fungicide sensitivity tests were performed following  
779 previously described procedures (14). Different ranges of inhibitor concentrations were used  
780 for population monitoring and for the detailed phenotyping of a selected set of individual field  
781 isolates and genetically modified strains. For fungicide sensitivity monitoring of European  
782 field populations, final inhibitors concentrations were between 100 mg.L<sup>-1</sup> and 0.0001 mg.L<sup>-1</sup>  
783 with uniform 10x dilution steps (7 inhibitor concentrations + DMSO control). For refined  
784 sensitivity analysis of a smaller panel of isolates final inhibitor concentrations ranged between  
785 0.5 mM and 0.47 nM with uniform 4x dilution factor steps (11 inhibitor concentrations+  
786 DMSO control).

787

#### 788 **4.3. Mapping population generation and resistance mapping**

789 Mating type determinations were performed using PCR markers described in (59). 06D024 x  
790 IPO323 and 07GB009 x IPO94269 crosses were performed as previously described in (60).  
791 Single ascospore progeny isolates were collected and groups of 234 and 96 isolates were  
792 obtained respectively. Fluopyram resistance inheritance was determined by spotting 2 $\mu$ l of  
793 2.10<sup>6</sup> cells.ml<sup>-1</sup> onto AE agar supplemented or not with fluopyram 10 mg.L<sup>-1</sup>. DNA extraction  
794 were performed using fresh culture grown on V8-agar plates (5 days, 18°C in the dark),  
795 approximately 100 mg of fresh cells were collected with an inoculation loop and processed

796 to DNA extraction using the DNeasy 96 Plant Kit (Qiagen) and following provider's  
797 instructions. For pool sequencing, 2  $\mu$ g of DNA for each pool was sheared to an average  
798 fragment size of 340 base pairs using a Covaris S220 focused-ultrasonicator (Covaris, Inc.,  
799 Woburn, Massachusetts, USA). The samples were then cleaned using DNAClean XP  
800 (Beckman Coulter Life Sciences, Indianapolis, Indiana, USA). Sequencing libraries were  
801 prepared from the sheared DNA using the NEBNext® DNA library prep kit for Illumina  
802 (New England BioLabs, Ipswich, Massachusetts, USA). Size selection was performed using  
803 an E-gel precast agarose system. Each sample was run in three lanes of an Illumina Genome  
804 Analyzer II (Illumina, San Diego, California, USA) in a 36 cycle paired end run. Total  
805 sequence yield was 2.7 gigabases for the resistant pool sample and 3.3 gigabases for the  
806 susceptible pool. Sequence reads were aligned to the JGI *M. graminicola* v2.0 assembly,  
807 using gsnap (61) and uniquely aligning reads were used to call variants with the Alpheus  
808 pipeline (62), with filtering criteria requiring at least 2 reads having average base quality of  $\geq$   
809 20 with an allele frequency within the sample of  $\geq 0.2$ . Differences in allele frequencies  
810 between the pools were then used to determine the putative genomic location of the causative  
811 variants. All PCR-based genotyping assays (SSR, CAPS) were run on individual genomic  
812 DNA using GoTaq DNA polymerase, at recommended temperature and cycling parameters  
813 and using oligonucleotides and enzymes listed in S7 and S1 Tables respectively.

#### 814 **4.4. Phylogenic analysis of fungal SDHC proteins**

815 Orthologs for SHDC1 were retrieved using ENSEMBL ortholog/paralog prediction where  
816 available (63). For *ZtSDHC2* and *ZtSDHC3* or genomes not ortholog mapped in ENSEMBL  
817 a reciprocal BLAST was performed to identify homologous sequences. All retrieved  
818 sequences were run through TargetP analysis (34) and only mitochondrially targeted  
819 sequences were retained. Sequences were aligned using Clustal-omega with default settings  
820 (64). A tree was drawn using PhyML for amino acid sequences using the best of NNI and

821 SPR as the tree topology search operation (LogLk = -21960.63386) (65). The tree was  
822 visualized using iTOL (66).

823

#### 824 **4.5. PCR methods and Sanger sequencing**

825 All oligonucleotides were purchased from Microsynth AG (Balgach, 175 Switzerland). PCR  
826 primers used to amplify sequences for CAPS/SSR markers, Sanger sequencing or clonings are  
827 listed in S3 Dataset. PCR products for cloning or direct Sanger sequencing were obtained  
828 using the Phusion Hot Start II High-Fidelity DNA Polymerase (ThermoFisher Scientific,  
829 F549L). For the long PCR products required to characterize promoter inserts, LongAmp Taq  
830 DNA Polymerase (NEB, M0323S) was used. PCR products for classical genotypings such as  
831 CAPS markers or SSR analysis were amplified using GoTaq® G2 Hot Start Polymerase  
832 (Promega, M7405). Each PCR was performed according to the conditions recommended by  
833 the respective manufacturers. Sanger sequencing was done at Microsynth AG (Applied  
834 Biosystems 3130 Genetic Analyzer). Pyrosequencing was performed on a PyroMark Q96 ID  
835 (Biotage/QIAGEN).

836 DNA was extracted using the DNeasy 96 Plant Kit (Qiagen) following provider's  
837 instructions. For the sequencing of large promoter insertions, the large fragments were cloned  
838 into TOPO vectors and a primer walking procedure applied at Microsynth AG (Balgach, 175  
839 Switzerland).

840

#### 841 **4.6. Growth tests on solid agar at discriminatory fungicide concentrations**

842 A large scale spotting assay of 96 isolates (Figure 7) was performed using the V&P 96  
843 floating pin tool VP408FP6 (V&P Scientific), equipped with flat tip FP6 pins of 1.58 mm  
844 diameter (resulting in approx. 0.4 µl transfer volume). Source cultures for cell spotting were  
845 grown in 100 µl YPD liquid medium in a 96 well flat bottom plate (Corning, 3370) at 18 °C

846 for 11 days (average cell density of  $3.5 \cdot 10^6/\text{ml}$ ), then diluted 1:2x in fresh YPD medium and  
847 incubated for another 1.5 h before transfer with the pin tool (approx. 700 cells per spot) onto  
848 AE agar with or without fungicide. Plates were incubated at 20 °C in the dark for up to 18  
849 days. Smaller scale spotting assays (Figure 4 and Figure 8) were performed using 5 days V8-  
850 agar plates inoculums adjusted to  $2 \cdot 10^6$  spores. $\text{mL}^{-1}$  in water and diluted in steps of 3.  $2\mu\text{L}$  of  
851 spore suspension was spotted on the plates, and the plates were incubated shielded from light  
852 at 21°C for 6 days.

853

#### 854 **4.7. *In planta* fungicide dose response**

855 Wheat (*Triticum aestivum*) variety Riband was grown in pots (d = 6.5cm), at a density of 4  
856 plants per pot and treated with the growth regulator CCC (Chlorcholinchlorid; Chlormequat; 5  
857 ml / pot, 0.4% solution) 4 days after sowing. Wheat plantlets were maintained in a climatic  
858 room at 18°C, 60% humidity and under a 12h light regime (high intensity). Fungicide  
859 applications were performed on 14 days old plantlets for which leaf 2 is the fully expanded  
860 target leaf. Fungicide treatments were performed using a custom-made track sprayer adjusted  
861 at  $200\text{L} \cdot \text{ha}^{-1}$  (Nozzle: Lechler, orange LU90-01). The fungicides used were Solatenol™  
862 EC100 (Elatus Plus, benzovindylflupyr), Isopyrazam EC125 (Seguris Flexi or Reflect),  
863 Atepidyn™ EC100 (research formulation of pydiflumetofen). *Z. tritici* infections were  
864 performed using a Devilbis airbrush (spray of about  $150\text{ml} \cdot \text{m}^{-2}$ ) one day after fungicide  
865 application and using an inoculum grown on V8-agar adjusted to  $1.8 \cdot 10^6$  spores. $\text{ml}^{-1}$  in 0.05%  
866 Tween20 in MQ water. Inoculated plants were initially incubated for 72h under reduced light  
867 conditions and high humidity using towel-covered Plexiglas hoods in a climatic chamber set  
868 to 21°C/19°C day/night alternations, 80% humidity and a 14h light regime. The Plexiglas  
869 hoods were then removed until evaluation. Plants were fertilized once per week and disease  
870 evaluation performed based on disease coverage on the second leaf approximately 16-19 days

871 after infection, once untreated plants reached 75-90% disease coverage. Each fungicide was  
872 tested at several rates to produce dose responses. There were 3 pots (4 plants each) per  
873 fungicide rate and isolate, the whole experiment was repeated 4 times. *In planta* EC<sub>50</sub> were  
874 calculated using the software GraphPad Prism v6.08.

#### 875 **4.8. Production of *Z. tritici* transformants**

876 The multisite binary pNOV2114\_gateway and pNOV2114 Hyg\_gateway (3-way) vectors  
877 were used to generate the different transformation constructs (14). To generate the *SDHC* and  
878 *alt-SDHC* KO mutants, 5' upstream regions of 1000bp and 2074 bp and 3' downstream  
879 regions of 914bp and 1313bp for *SDHC* (*ZtSDHC1*) and *alt-SDHC* (*ZtSDHC3*) respectively  
880 were PCR-amplified from genomic DNA of IPO323 or 06STD024 strains and the fragments  
881 cloned by BP cloning using Gateway™ BP Clonase II Enzyme Mix (Invitrogen) into  
882 pDONR-P4-P1R (upstream regions) or pDONR-P2R-P3 (downstream regions) (S3 dataset for  
883 oligos). These 5' and 3' gene locus-paired entry plasmids were then combined with the  
884 pENTR221-TrpChyg described previously (55) and pNOV2114\_gateway for multisite  
885 gateway LR cloning using Gateway™ LR Clonase II Plus enzyme Mix (Invitrogen) following  
886 provider's instructions. The final pNOV2114 KO-SDHC and pNOV2114 KO-alt-SDHC  
887 binary plasmids carry a hygromycin resistance cassette flanked by 5' and 3' upstream regions  
888 of the *SDHC* and *alt-SDHC* genes respectively.

889 For generating expression constructs under the control of a tetracyclin-repressible promoter,  
890 the plasmid pMF2-4h (67) was modified by removal of the hygromycin resistance cassette  
891 after digestion by *NotI* and recircularization of the plasmid to generate pMF2-4h<sup>r</sup>. The  
892 fragment containing the full Tet repressor expression cassette followed by operator sequences  
893 fused to *Mfal* minimal promoter was PCR amplified from re-circularized pMF2-4h<sup>r</sup> plasmid  
894 and cloned by gateway cloning into pDONR\_P4P1R using oligos listed in S3 dataset.

895 To generate the *alt-SDHC* expression plasmids, the *alt-SDHC* gene of 06STD024 was  
896 amplified from the genome and cloned into pDONRZeo by gateway cloning to generate  
897 pENTRZeo-*alt-SDHC*. A variant of this plasmid (pENTRZeo-*alt-SDHC*\_I78A) encoding the  
898 I78A variant of *alt-SDHC* was obtained by site-directed mutagenesis using QuikChange® II  
899 Site Directed Mutagenesis kit (Stratagene) following provider's instructions and oligos listed  
900 in S3 dataset. The Tetoff promoter region from plasmid pMF2-4h (67) was sub-cloned into  
901 pDONR221 using oligos listed in the S3 Dataset. These entry plasmids were combined with  
902 pENTR\_TrpCterm and pNOV2114 Hyg\_gateway plasmids (55) to generate the  
903 pNOV2114\_Tetoff\_*alt-SDHC*\_TrpCterm and pNOV2114\_Tetoff\_*alt-SDHC*<sup>I78A</sup>\_TrpCterm  
904 binary vectors used for transformation of IPO323.

905 All entry and subsequent binary plasmids were validated by Sanger sequencing of the cloned  
906 fragment before transfer to *A. tumefaciens*. *Z. tritici* transformation was performed as  
907 described previously (55). *Z. tritici* transformants were validated by PCR using primer  
908 combinations enabling the validation of successful gene deletion events for the KOs mutants  
909 or the completeness of the transformation cassette for the ectopic expression mutants.

910

#### 911 **4.9. Quantitative Real-Time PCR and semi-quantitative PCR**

912 To produce the RNA samples, field isolates and transformants were initially inoculated on  
913 V8-agar plates and left to grow for 4 days, 25 ml TSM40 liquid cultures in 100 ml round  
914 bottom Erlenmeyer flasks were then initiated using 10 µl inoculation loops. The flasks were  
915 incubated at 20 °C, 160 rpm, for 4 days before cells were harvested by filtration using a tissue  
916 filter and ground in liquid nitrogen using mortar and pestle. For RNA extraction, 50 mg of the  
917 powdered material was processed with the RNeasy Plant Mini kit (Qiagen, 74904) according  
918 to the manual and including an on-column DNase I digestion (Qiagen, 79254). A second  
919 DNase digestion was performed on the eluates, followed by purification using the same

920 RNeasy Plant Mini kit. RNA yield and integrity was determined on an Agilent 2100  
921 Bioanalyzer System and the absence of residual genomic DNA in the samples was verified by  
922 PCR, using primers specific for the  $\beta$ -tubulin (*TUB1*) gene (S3 Dataset) and the cycling  
923 protocol described below for semi-quantitative PCR. The High Capacity cDNA Reverse  
924 Transcription kit (Applied Biosystems, 4368814) was used for reverse transcription of 2  $\mu$ g of  
925 total RNA per sample, using the RT Random Primers provided in the kit and according to the  
926 manufacturer's instructions.

927 Semi-quantitative PCR was performed using GoTaq G2 Flexi DNA Polymerase (Promega,  
928 M7805) and the PCR primers listed in (S3 Dataset). *SDHC* and *alt-SDHC* from field isolates  
929 and reference strains were amplified from undiluted cDNA, whereas cDNA for detection of  
930 the  $\beta$ -tubulin sequence *TUB1* and of the *alt-SDHC* expression strain (samples pTet::*altC* and  
931 pTet::*altC* + Dox) were diluted 1:3x in water before use. Genomic DNA of isolate 06STD024  
932 was included as control (carrying un-spliced template sequences for all three targets). The  
933 PCR program was: Initial denaturation for 2 min at 95 °C, followed by 40 cycles of  
934 denaturation at 95 °C for 30 s, primer annealing at 54 °C for 30 s and extension at 72 °C for  
935 34, followed by a final incubation for 5 min at 72 °C.

936 Quantitative Real-Time PCRs were performed with all four targets in a multiplexed reaction  
937 using hydrolysis probes carrying different fluorophores and quenchers listed in S3 Dataset.  
938 The binding sites of qPCR oligonucleotides within *SDHC1* and *alt-SDHC* are shown in S5  
939 Figure. Primers were used at 900 nM and hydrolysis probes at 200 nM final concentration in  
940 20  $\mu$ l multiplexed qPCRs with KAPA Probe Force qPCR Master Mix 2x (Kapa Biosystems,  
941 KK4301) and 5  $\mu$ l template DNA per well. The cDNA preparations were diluted 1:9x in  
942 DEPC-treated water immediately before the experiment. RNA (No-Reverse-Transcription  
943 reaction controls) of the same samples were also tested in two separate runs using the  
944 corresponding plate layout.



945 To enable absolute quantification, a reference plasmid was generated by the sequential  
946 cloning of the coding sequences of *ZtSDHC1*, *TUB1* (both amplified from cDNA of IPO323),  
947 and *alt-SDHC* (from gDNA of 06STD024) using a GENEART Seamless Cloning and  
948 Assembly Kit (Invitrogen, A13288) and PCR oligos listed in S3 Dataset. The cloned  
949 fragments encompass the binding sites of the qPCR oligonucleotides. The resulting plasmid  
950 pUC19\_cSDHC\_gAlt-SDHC\_cTUB1 (calculated molecular weight: 3200964.1 Da) was used  
951 to generate standard curves for both calculation of primer efficiencies and the absolute  
952 quantification of *ZtSDHC1* and *alt-SDHC* copy numbers. A serial 1:6x dilution of  
953 pUC19\_cSDHC1\_gAlt-SDHC\_cTUB1 was made in 4 replicates, with a starting concentration  
954 of 4 pg/μl (resulting in 1 pg/μl or 20 pg total in the final reaction mix, 1 pg equals 188131  
955 molecules based on the calculated molecular weight of 3200964.1 Da).

956 All 12 cDNA samples, a no-template RT reaction control and the reference plasmid dilution  
957 series were run on the same 96-well assay plate, with 4 technical replications per plate and the  
958 run was repeated on a duplicate plate. The qPCR was performed on a CFX96 Real-Time  
959 System on top of a C1000 Touch Thermal Cycler (Bio-Rad), and analyzed using the CFX  
960 Manager 3.0 software (Bio-Rad). The PCR program was: Initial denaturation for 3 min at 98  
961 °C, followed by 45 cycles of denaturation at 95 °C for 10 s and combined annealing/extension  
962 for 20 s at 60 °C with subsequent plate reading. Assay results were exported to RDML format  
963 (S4 Dataset). For relative expression level comparisons of *ZtSDHC1* and *alt-SDHC*\_total/un-  
964 spliced the Starting Quantity (SQ) values of individual wells were used to calculate the  
965 respective copy numbers using the reference plasmid standard curves. Statistical analysis was  
966 then performed on the 8 technical replicate values from individual wells.

#### 967 **4.10. Mitochondria isolation and enzyme assays**

968 Biomass production, mitochondrial extraction and purification were performed as described  
969 in (14). Succinate: ubiquinone/DCPIP sensitivity tests were performed as described in (14)



970 with minor modification. The different mitochondrial suspensions were adjusted to similar  
971 initial velocity ( $1 \text{ OD}_{595\text{nm}} \text{ hour}^{-1}$ ) and inhibitor concentrations ranged between 0.047nM and  
972 50 $\mu\text{M}$  with uniform 4x dilution steps (11 concentrations + DMSO control). Calculated  
973 absorbance slopes (OD/min) were used for IC<sub>50</sub> calculations using GraphPad Prism 6.07  
974 software non-linear curve fitting against log inhibitor concentrations.

975

#### 976 **4.11. Sample preparation for SDHC and alt-SDHC protein quantitation.**

977 Protein from mitochondrial extracts was precipitated using trichloroacetic acid/acetone. After  
978 resuspension under denaturing conditions, the total protein concentration was estimated using  
979 a Bradford assay (68). An aliquot of 25  $\mu\text{g}$  protein from each sample was separated on a 10%  
980 NuPAGE gel (Life Technologies). Gels were stained with colloidal Coomassie blue, and a gel  
981 region (10-25 kDa) from each lane was excised for trypsin digestion. In-gel digestion was  
982 carried out using a published protocol (69). After digestion, peptide samples were dried using  
983 a centrifugal evaporator, and re-suspended in LC-MS/MS sample buffer containing 3%  
984 acetonitrile, 0.1% formic acid, 100 femtomole (fmol) per microliter isotopically labelled  
985 internal peptide standards (JPT Peptide Technologies GmbH, Berlin, Germany). Peptide  
986 sequences and isotopic labelling information can be found in S7 Table. The peptides used for  
987 the LC-MS/MS analysis were chosen based on sequence uniqueness in the *Z. tritici* proteome.  
988 The peptides had also been identified in a separate proteomic analysis of mitochondrial  
989 extracts. Four technical replicates for each strain were prepared for LC-MS/MS analysis.

990

#### 991 **4.12. Multiple reaction monitoring LC-MS/MS analysis.**

992 LC-MS/MS analysis was done using a TSQ Vantage triple quadrupole mass spectrometer  
993 equipped with a nano-electrospray source (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, MA, USA)  
994 and coupled to an Ultimate/ Switchos split-flow LC system (Dionex, Thermo Scientific). A  
995 volume of 2.5  $\mu\text{l}$  of each peptide sample was injected into the system. Peptides were separated

996 on a Picotip column (75  $\mu$ m, 15 cm column packed with 5  $\mu$ m C18 particles; Nikkyo Technos  
997 Co., Ltd. Japan). Gradient elution was performed using 0.1% formic acid in water as solvent  
998 A and 99.9% acetonitrile/0.1% formic acid as solvent B. Gradient length was 30 min, from 3  
999 to 40% solvent B. The flow rate was 300 nL per min. The TSQ Vantage instrument was  
1000 operated with a capillary temperature of 275°C and spray voltage set to 1.7 kV. The data were  
1001 acquired in positive scan mode with the collision gas set to 1.5 mTorr. The Q1 and Q3 peak  
1002 widths (FWHM) were set to 0.2 u and 0.7 u, respectively. The cycle time was set to 5  
1003 seconds. No retention time scheduling for the two peptides was used. The list of monitored  
1004 transitions and collision energy settings can be found in S8 Table. The run order of samples  
1005 was randomised. The mass spectrometry raw files were imported into Skyline v1.2 software  
1006 (University of Washington, USA). Integrated peak areas were exported to Microsoft Excel.  
1007 The amount of SDHC and alt-SDHC protein in femtomole (fmol) was calculated based on the  
1008 peak area for the endogenous peptide and the corresponding isotopically labelled internal  
1009 peptide standard.

1010

#### 1011 **4.13. Homology model, docking simulations and conformational analysis**

1012 The homology model for *Z. tritici* WT-SQR with the “core” SDHC was generated as  
1013 described in (14). The homology model of the alt-SQR carrying the alternative SDHC subunit  
1014 was generated following a similar procedure. Isofetamid, pydiflumetofen and compounds 1-3,  
1015 were manually docked into the *Z. tritici* SQR Qp binding site. Interactions of key residues  
1016 were determined through pharmacophore elucidation (14). In a second step the protein ligand  
1017 complexes were minimized using Moloc MAB force field (70), allowing full flexibility for  
1018 the ligands while keeping the *Z. tritici* SQR protein rigid. For pydiflumetofen conformational  
1019 analysis, a diverse set of 30 conformations were generated with the CCDC conformer  
1020 generator (71). Each conformation generated by the CCDC conformer generator was

1021 optimized with the M06L DFT (72) functional method and 6-31G(d) as basis set within  
1022 Gaussian09 (73). Additional parameters that were used: scrf=(iefpcm,solvent=water).  
1023 Conformations have been evaluated based on the calculated DFT energy.

1024

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## 1231 7. Figures legends

### 1232 **Figure 1. Baseline cross-resistance of *Z. tritici* populations to SDHI fungicides.**

1233 Sensitivity towards different SDHIs was determined in liquid culture assays for a collection of 97 *Z.*  
1234 *tritici* strains sampled for fungicide resistance monitoring in 2009 in Europe (plain circles). Two  
1235 strains 06STD024 (red triangle) and 07STGB009 (green square), were considered fluopyram-resistant  
1236 in monitoring performed in 2006 and 2007 respectively. 09STF011 (blue circle), belongs to the  
1237 collection of 97 isolates sampled in 2009 and is the isolate with lowest sensitivity towards fluopyram  
1238 in this set. Panels A, B and C represent liquid culture cross-resistance plots with SHA-SDHI  
1239 fluopyram on the y axis and non-SHA SDHIs benzovindiflupyr, fluxapyroxad or boscalid on the x-  
1240 axis respectively. D, E and F correspond to cross resistance plots of non-SHA SDHIs fluxapyroxad,  
1241 benzovindiflupyr and boscalid, compared as pairs. 06STD024, 07STGB009 and 09STF011 are circled  
1242 in red.

1243

### 1244 **Figure 2. Fine mapping of fluopyram resistance factor using 06STD024 x IPO323 progeny.**

1245 A. Agar plate growth assay used for characterizing progeny isolates for resistance or sensitivity to  
1246 fluopyram. 2 µl of 2.10<sup>6</sup> cells.ml<sup>-1</sup> were spotted onto AE agar supplemented or not with 10 mg.L<sup>-1</sup>  
1247 fluopyram and incubated at 20°C. Pictures were taken either 7 days (control) or 14 days (fluopyram)  
1248 after inoculation. B. IPO323 mapping intervals determined by BSA using 60 progeny isolates (i) and  
1249 by CAPS markers (ii) on the full mapping population (234 progeny isolates). C. 16 kb mapping  
1250 interval of IPO323 chromosome 3. Structural variations at this locus between IPO323 and 06STD024  
1251 were determined using long range PCRs. Insert 1 was fully sequenced, only borders of insert 2 were  
1252 sequenced. Insert 1 and insert 2 positions are based on the IPO323 genome. D. Gene content of insert  
1253 1 region. Predicted genes and their orientation are visualized with arrows, green: putative genes, red:  
1254 *alt-SDHC* (*ZtSDHC3*), blue: transposable element. Diagonally striped rectangles represent regions of  
1255 high similarity (>90% identity) to other fully assembled *Z. tritici* genomes, corresponding  
1256 chromosomal coordinates are indicated.

1257

### 1258 **Figure 3. *Z. tritici* SDHC proteins alignment.**

1259 *Z. tritici* ZtSDHC3 (alt-SDHC, NCBI MK067274, isolate 06STD024), ZtSDHC1 (SDHC, Uniprot  
1260 F9XH52, isolate IPO323) and ZtSDHC2 (SDHC2, NCBI SMR59342, isolate IPO323) proteins were



1261 aligned with AlignX (Blosum62). Asterisk (\*) is located above the predicted cleavage sites of the pre-  
1262 proteins indicated by a red line. Red arrow highlights the Qp-site amino-acid residue likely involved in  
1263 differential SDHI sensitivity pattern.

1264

1265 **Figure 4. The role of *alt*-SDHC\_I78 residue in conferring SHA-SDHIs-specific resistance *in vivo***  
1266 **and *in planta*.**

1267 A. Agar growth phenotypes of IPO323 mutants (left panel) and 06STD024 mutants (right panel). Left  
1268 panel: Flu21 is an IPO323 SDHC\_A84I UV mutant, pTet::*altC* : IPO323 transformants carrying the  
1269 *alt*-SDHC gene under the control of a tetracycline-repressible promoter, pTet::*altC*\_I78A IPO323  
1270 transformants carry a similar construct but contain a mutated version of *alt*-SDHC gene encoding an  
1271 I78A variant. Right panel: 06STD024 and individual deletion mutants of either the core SDHC  
1272 (KO\_SDHC) or the *alt*-SDHC (KO\_*altC*). Pictures were taken at 6DPI, + Dox indicates the addition of  
1273 doxycycline (30 mg.L<sup>-1</sup>) to the medium. B. Liquid culture sensitivity of IPO323 and 06STD024  
1274 mutants towards SDHIs. The set of characterized IPO323 (white bars) and 06STD024 (grey bars)  
1275 mutants was similar to panel A. EC<sub>50s</sub> (nM) were determined in duplicate in at least 3 biological  
1276 replicates (see S5 Table). Values obtained for a broader range of marketed and research SDHIs are  
1277 presented in S5 Table. C. *In planta* SDHI-sensitivity assays. The presented graphs are derived from a  
1278 single biological experiment, each value / data point represents the mean disease control value of 12  
1279 individual plants. The sensitivity curves were obtained by non-linear regression of the data using  
1280 GraphPad Prism software. D. *In planta* EC<sub>50s</sub> (g.ha<sup>-1</sup>) of reference strain (705) and 06STD024 mutants  
1281 for commercial SDHIs, benzovindiflupyr, isopyrazam (non SHA-SDHIs) and pydiflumetofen (SHA-  
1282 SDHI). Values are derived from four biological replicates of 12 technical replicates each (EC<sub>50</sub> +/-  
1283 95% confidence interval).

1284

1285 **Figure 5. Expression-driven competition of SDHC and *alt*-SDHC proteins for functional**  
1286 **integration in the mitochondrial SQR.**

1287 A. RT-PCR analysis of SDHC and *alt*-SDHC in 06STD024 and IPO323 pTet::*altC* transformant. The  
1288 expected PCR products corresponding to fully spliced mRNAs were 389 and 384 bp for SDHC and  
1289 *alt*SDHC respectively. B. Absolute quantification by RT-qPCR of the three SDHC mRNA species in  
1290 the 06STD024 strain and IPO323 pTet::*altC* transformant. C. Normalized proportion of the three  
1291 mRNA species (as deduced from panel B). D. LC-MS/MS quantification of the SDHC and *alt*SDHC  
1292 proteins in mitochondrial extracts from 06STD024 and IPO323 pTet::*altC* transformant. Values  
1293 presented are the mean of 6 individual experiments ± SD.

1294

1295 **Figure 6. Comparison of *Z. tritici* 3D models of the two SQR paralogs and putative binding**  
1296 **modes for SHA SDHIs.**

1297 A. Homology model of *Z. tritici* WT-SQR (blue) superimposed on the homology model of *Z. tritici*  
1298 *alt*-SQR (salmon). B. Putative binding mode of pydiflumetofen in *Z. tritici* WT-SQR. C. 2D depiction  
1299 of SDH inhibitors used for docking comparisons and discussed in the text. D. Putative binding mode  
1300 of isofetamid in *Z. tritici* WT-SQR. E. superposition of energy minimum conformations for  
1301 pydiflumetofen and compound 3.

1302

1303 **Figure 7. Resistance to SHA-SDHIs in *Z. tritici* EU populations.**

1304 A. Box and whisker plot presenting EC<sub>50</sub> sensitivity data of 93 *Z. tritici* isolates sampled in the EU in  
1305 2009. Sensitivity data are sorted by genotype according to the presence of the *alt*-SDHC gene. \*\* p  
1306 value of 0.0029 in Welch's corrected unpaired t-test. B. Solid agar growth of a collection of 93 *Z.*

1307 *tritici* isolates sampled in 2009 (same set as above). Individual strains from this collection are boxed  
1308 and numbered 1 to 93. Boxes A and B correspond to reference resistant strains 06STD024 and  
1309 07GB009 respectively. Box C corresponds to IPO323 reference sensitive isolate. The yellow framed  
1310 boxes correspond to strains carrying the *alt-SDHC* gene. Yellow arrow designates strain 09STIR20.1  
1311 (number 78) carrying a non-functional *alt-SDHC* (frameshift, S6 Table). Each individual strain was  
1312 spotted onto AE agar plates (approx. 700 cells per spot) supplemented or not with isofetamid 5 mg.L<sup>-1</sup>,  
1313 fluopyram 5 mg.L<sup>-1</sup> and pydiflumetofen 0.1 mg.L<sup>-1</sup>. Plates were left to grow at 20°C in the dark and  
1314 imaged at 10 DPI (DMSO control and isofetamid) or 18 DPI (fluopyram and pydiflumetofen).

1315

1316 **Figure 8. Fungicide sensitivity, gene expression and mRNA splicing in *alt-SDHC*-containing field**  
1317 **isolates.**

1318 A. Growth phenotypes of a collection of ten *Z. tritici* field isolates on solid AE agar supplemented or  
1319 not with different SDHIs. Two control strains (IPO323 and IPO94269) lack the *alt-SDHC* gene  
1320 whereas the other eight isolates (09STIR20.3, 09STD053, 09STD041, 09STF037, 09STF011,  
1321 09STF112, 07STGB009 and 06STD024) all carry the gene. B. Fluopyram liquid culture sensitivity  
1322 results (similar set of strains as shown in A). C. Gel electrophoresis of RT-PCR products of *SDHC* and  
1323 *alt-SDHC* (5' regions encompassing 2 introns each). gDNA of strain 06STD024 was used as control.  
1324 D. Absolute quantification by hydrolysis probe RT-qPCR of total *SDHC* mRNA, and of total and  
1325 unspliced *alt-SDHC* mRNAs. E. Plot of total *alt-SDHC* mRNA for each isolate versus calculated  
1326 percentage of spliced *alt-SDHC* mRNA. Results for strain 09STIR20.3 not shown (calculation leading  
1327 to negative value). F. Plot of spliced *alt-SDHC* mRNA against fluopyram liquid culture sensitivity.  
1328 Results for strain 09STIR20.3 not shown.

1329

1330 **Figure 9. Structural variation at the *alt-SDHC* locus in European *Z. tritici* field isolates and**  
1331 **populations.**

1332 A. Structural overview of *alt-SDHC* locus variations in a set of sequenced isolates. Mutations are lined  
1333 up to 3D7 genomic structure, only mutations located within the region between ZT3D7\_G4529 start  
1334 codon to the stop codon of the *alt-SDHC* gene are shown. Positions are numbered according to the *alt-*  
1335 *SDHC* start codon (+1). Sequences have been deposited at NCBI under references MK067275-  
1336 MK067282. B. Insertion of transposable elements in the promoter of *alt-SDHC* of highly resistant  
1337 06STD024 and 07STGB009 field isolates. Target site duplications of 9 bp are flanking each  
1338 transposon insertion. C. European map with pie charts representing the 4 genotypes detected in  
1339 *Zymoseptoria tritici* isolates collected in 2016. Green: *alt-SDHC* gene absent, grey: *alt-SDHC* gene  
1340 present and no promoter amplification product, yellow: *alt-SDHC* gene present and promoter of  
1341 classical size, red: *alt-SDHC* gene present and promoter of larger size. The total count of isolates for  
1342 each sampling location is presented in white boxes. Right panel: Bar chart showing the total count of  
1343 isolates of each type (similar color code) listed by countries.

## 1344 **8. Supplementary material**

1345 **S1 Figure. Structure of carboxamides SDHIs molecules used in the study.**

1346 Shaded grey area represents the SHA cross-resistance group. Schematic view of a typical SHA  
1347 compound is shown in the bottom right corner.

1348 **S2 Figure. Phylogenetic tree of fungal SDHC proteins.**

1349 Tree generated using PhyML and visualized using iTOL (see material and methods). ZtSDHC1-3  
1350 paralogs are highlighted in yellow.

- 1351 **S3 Figure. Box Plot of IPO323 time course expression of SDH-encoding genes**
- 1352 Expression data inferred from RNAseq (Rudd et al., 2015).
- 1353 **S4 Figure. Box plot of fluopyram sensitivity of 133 *Z. tritici* isolates collected in Europe in 2016.**
- 1354 Isolates were grouped by genotyping based on the detection of the *alt-SDHC* gene and *alt-SDHC*-
- 1355 promoter insertions. \*ns: No significant difference in student t-test.
- 1356 **S5 Figure. Schematic view of oligo positioning for *ZtSDHC1* and *ZtSDHC3* Taqman RT-qPCR**
- 1357 **assays.**
- 1358 Exons are shown as blue arrows and introns as grey bars, labelled hydrolysis probes are shown in red,
- 1359 forward and reverse PCR oligos are shown as black arrows. Oligonucleotides sequences and probe
- 1360 details are shown in S3 Dataset.
- 1361 **S1 Table. IPO323x06STD024 progeny genotyping results inferred from CAPS and SSR assays.**
- 1362 **S2 Table. IPO323 genes within the final 16 kb mapping window.**
- 1363 **S3 Table. 07STGB009xIPO94269 progeny genotyping results inferred from CAPS and SSR**
- 1364 **assays**
- 1365 **S4 Table. Count of SDHC paralogs per species**
- 1366 **S5 Table. Liquid culture SDHs sensitivity for the panel of *Zymoseptoria tritici* field and**
- 1367 **genetically modified strains referred in the study.**
- 1368 Mean: mean EC<sub>50</sub> in nM, SEM: standard error of the means, N: number of individual determinations.
- 1369 **S6 Table. Overview of *alt-SDHC* sequencing and promoter PCR results for a panel of 154**
- 1370 **isolates carrying the gene and collected in Europe in 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2016.**
- 1371 **S7 Table. Internal peptide standards used in the LC-MS/MS assay to quantify SDHC and alt-**
- 1372 **SDHC proteins.**
- 1373 **S8 Table. Monitored transitions in LC-MS/MS assay for quantifying SDHC and alt-SDHC**
- 1374 **proteins.**
- 1375 The assay used a multiple reaction monitoring approach on a TSQ Vantage triple quadrupole mass
- 1376 spectrometer.
- 1377 **S1 Dataset. Core *SDHB*, *SDHC* and *SDHD* genes sequencing results for a set of *Z. tritici* field**
- 1378 **isolates referred in the study**
- 1379 Base count according to first codon.
- 1380 **S2 Dataset. Pool seq genotyping results and mapping interval**
- 1381 **S3 Dataset. Oligonucleotides used in the study**
- 1382 **S4 Dataset. q-RT-PCR results files in RDML format (zip)**
- 1383
- 1384

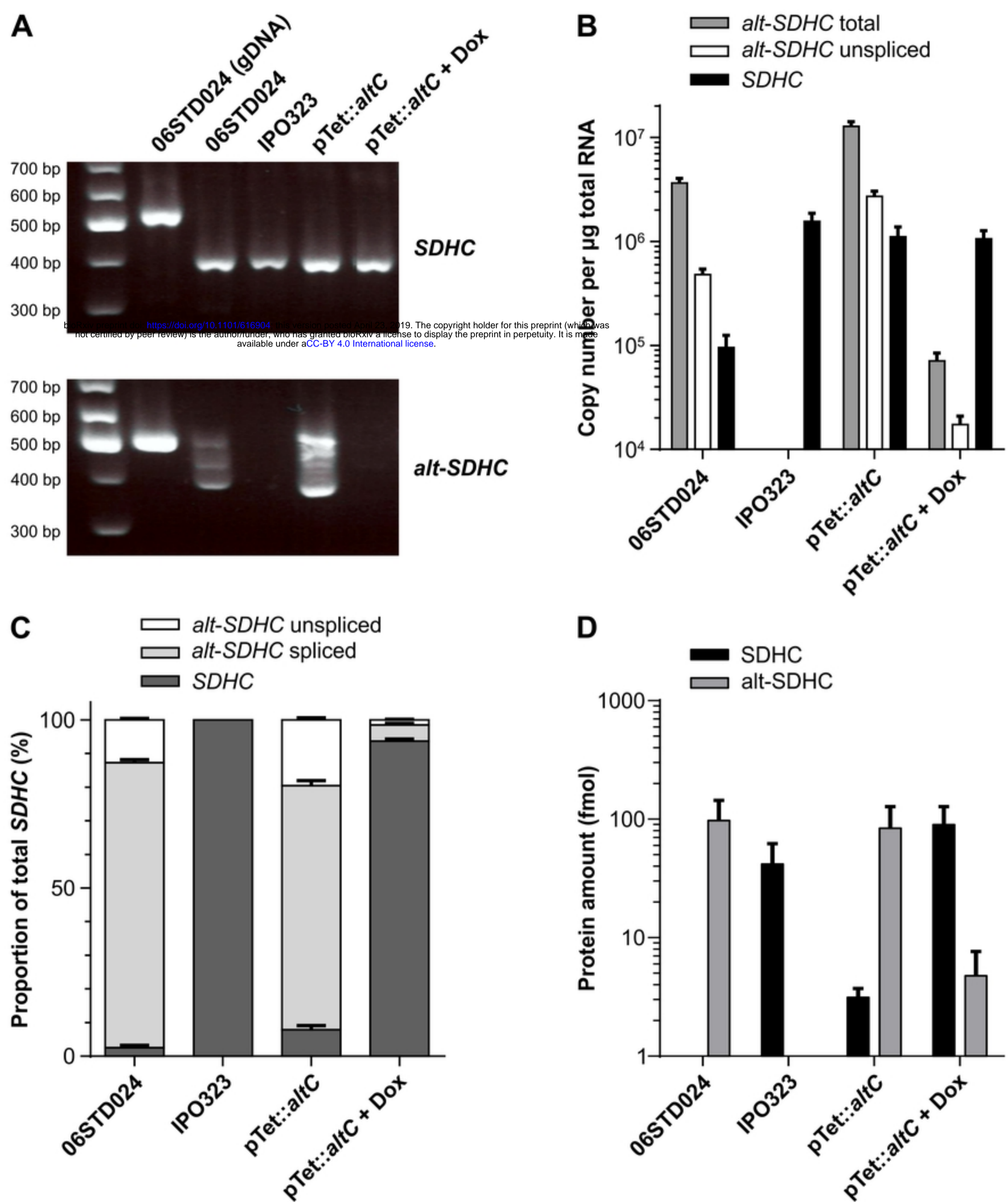


Figure 5



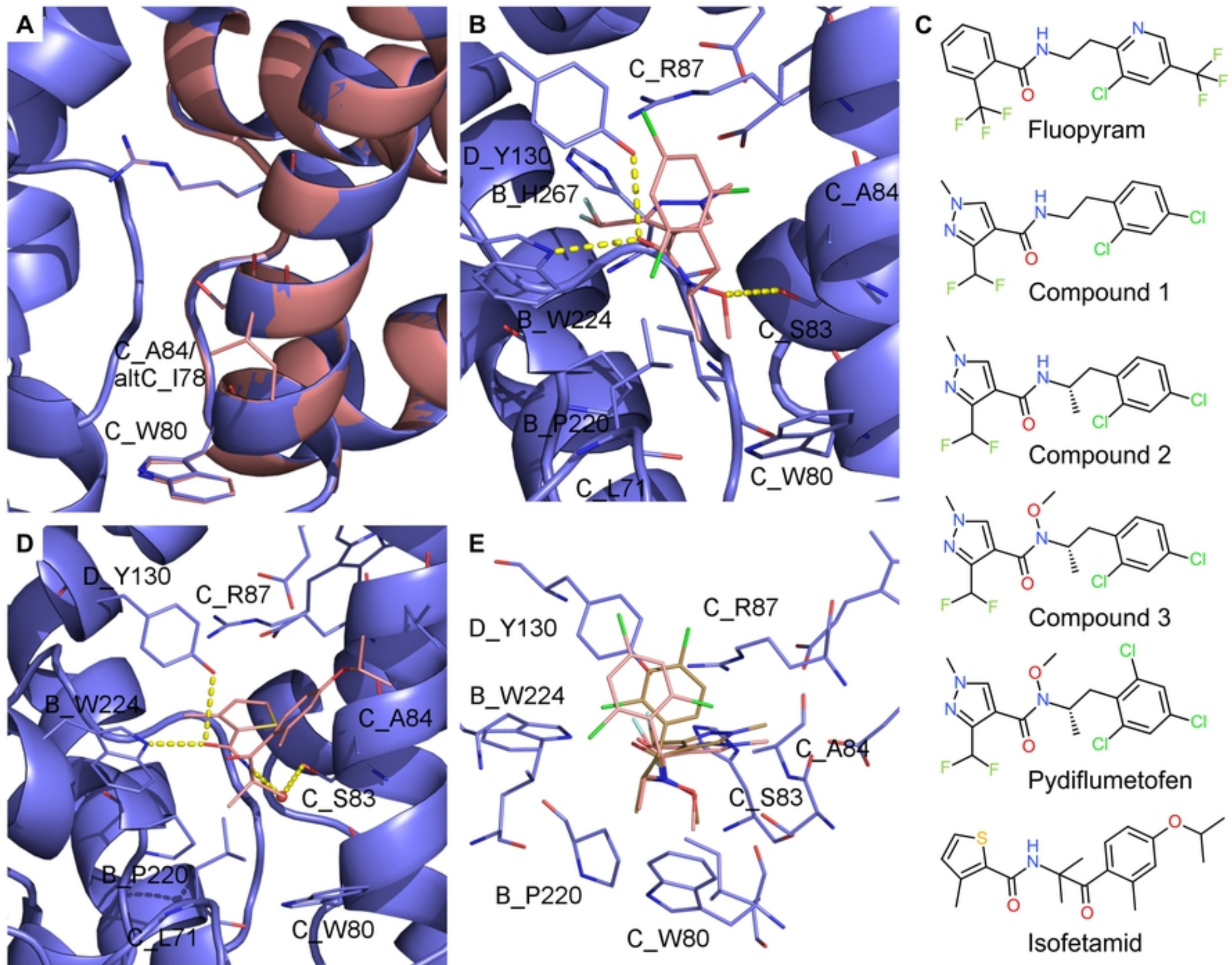


Figure 6



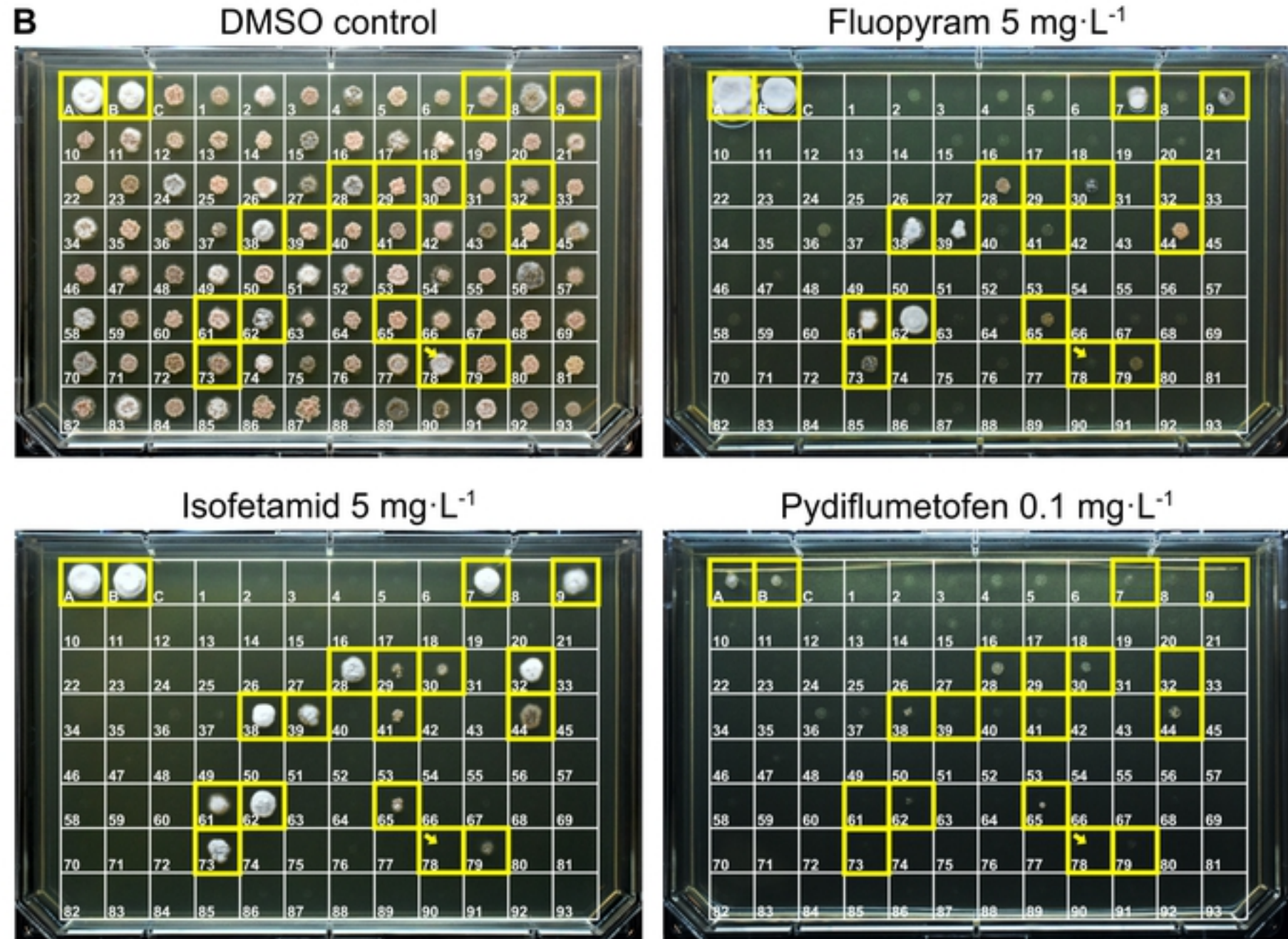
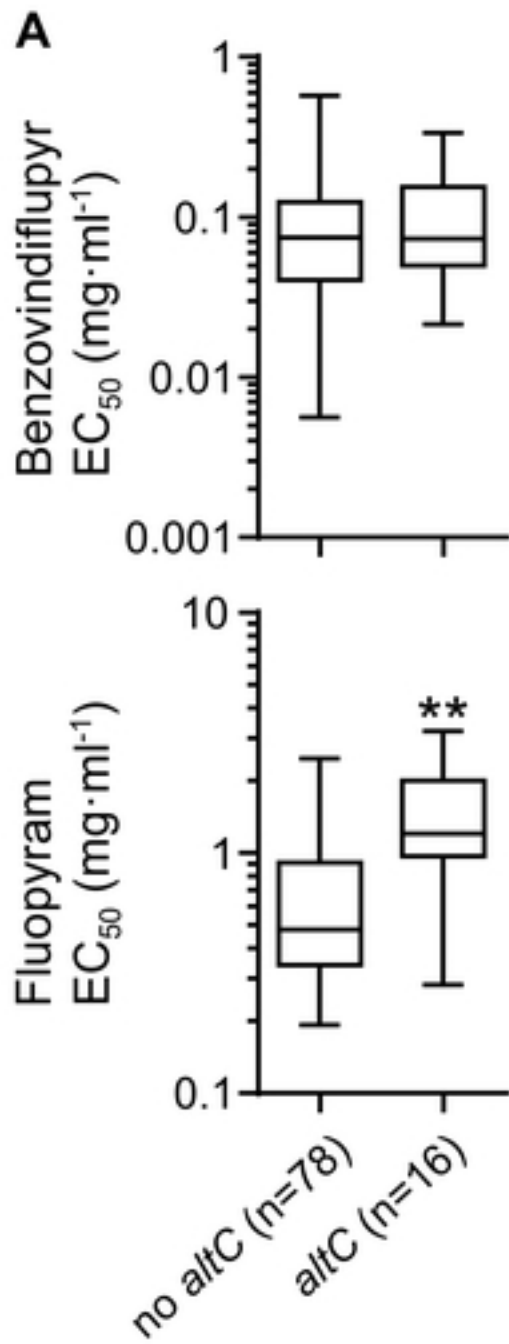


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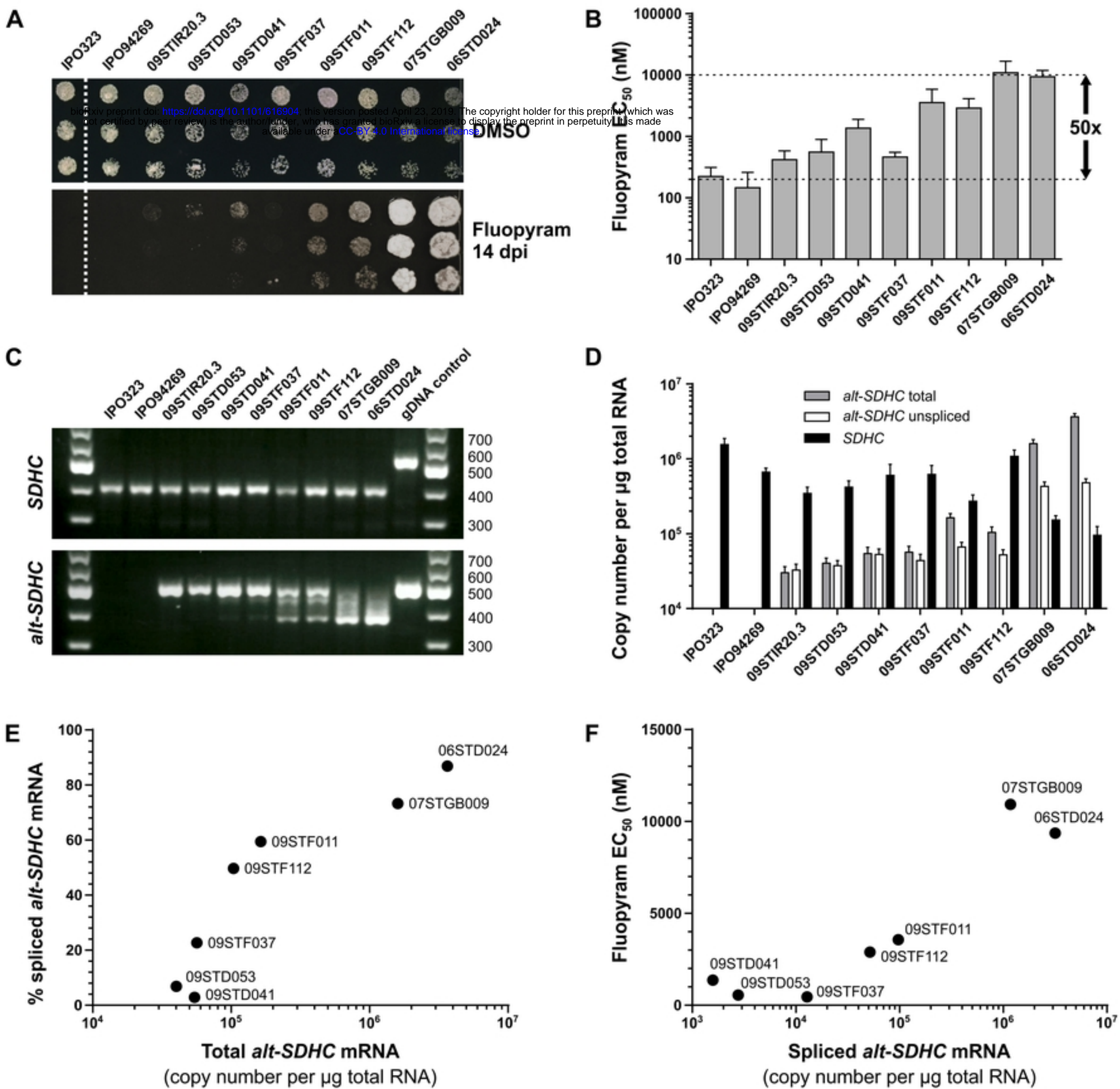


Figure 8



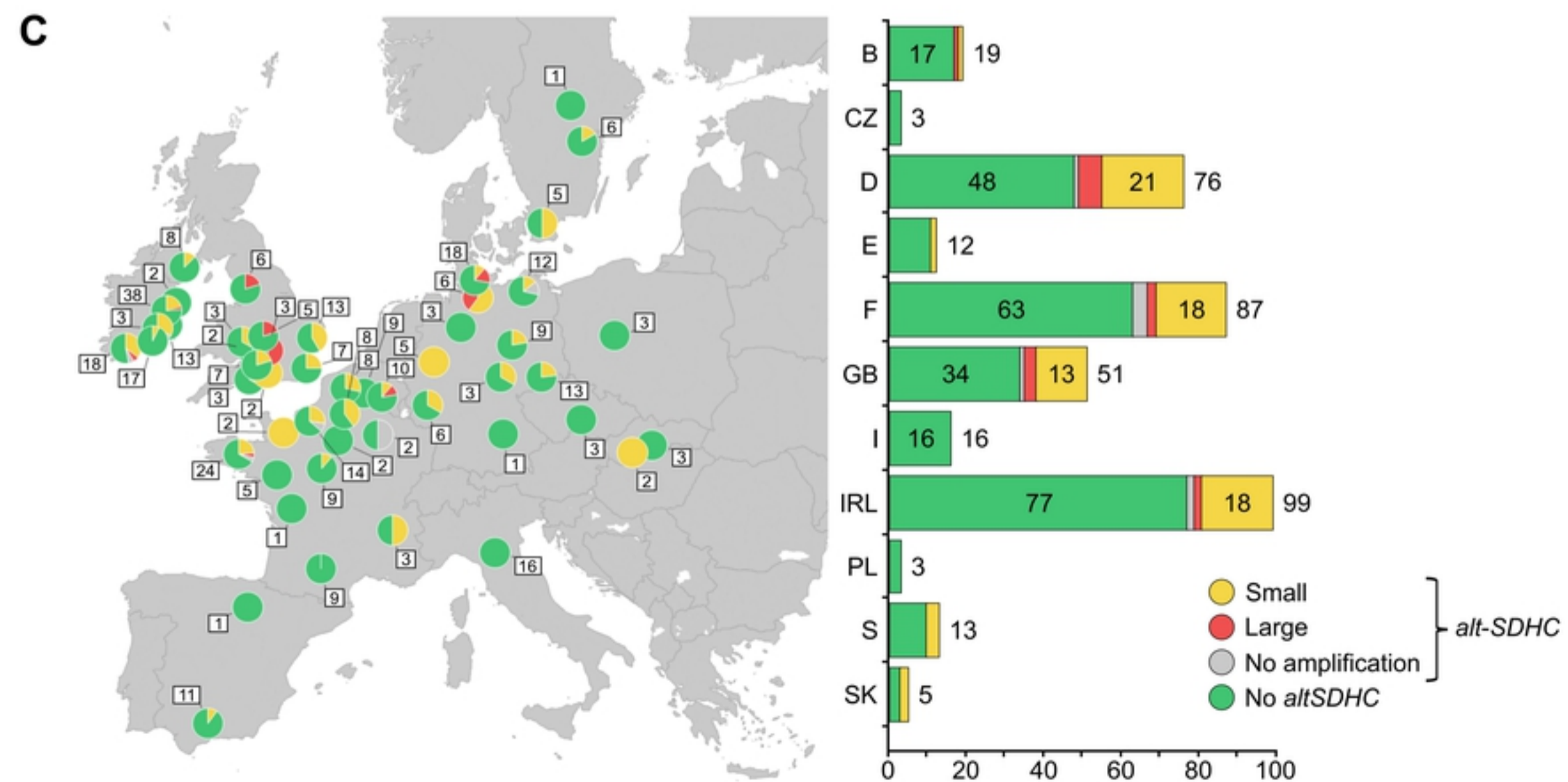
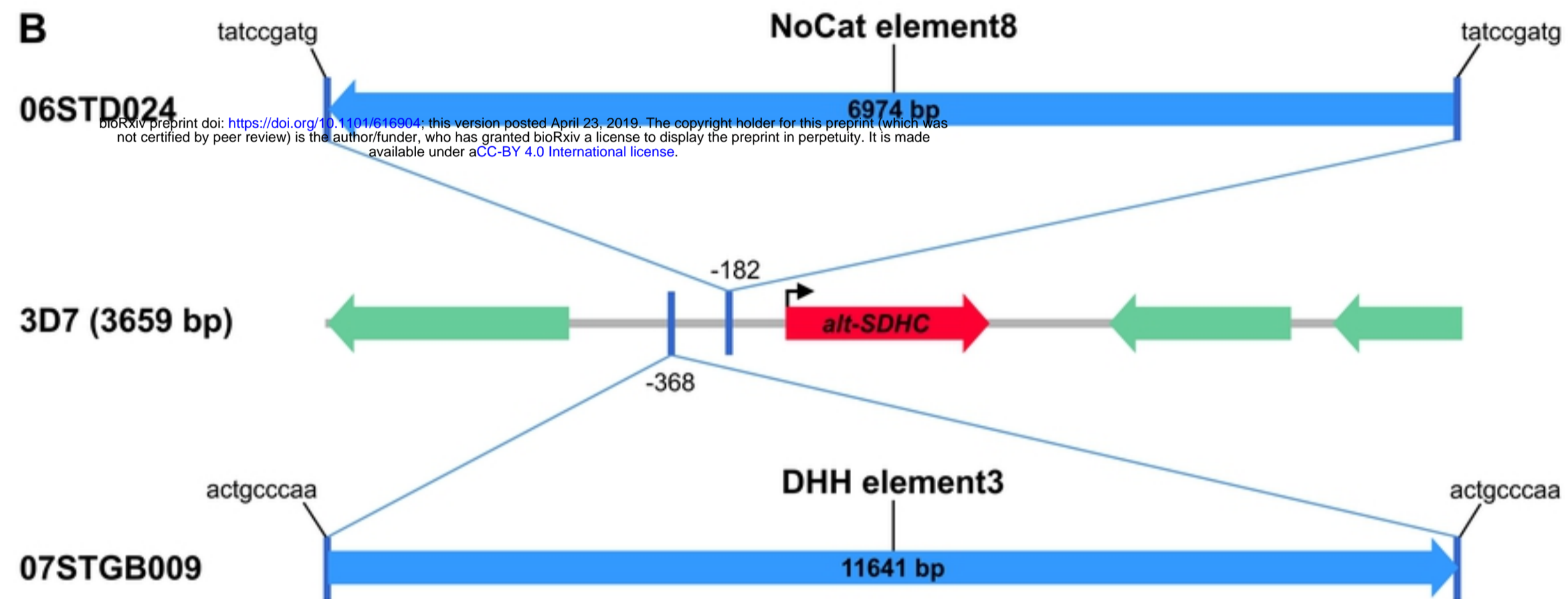
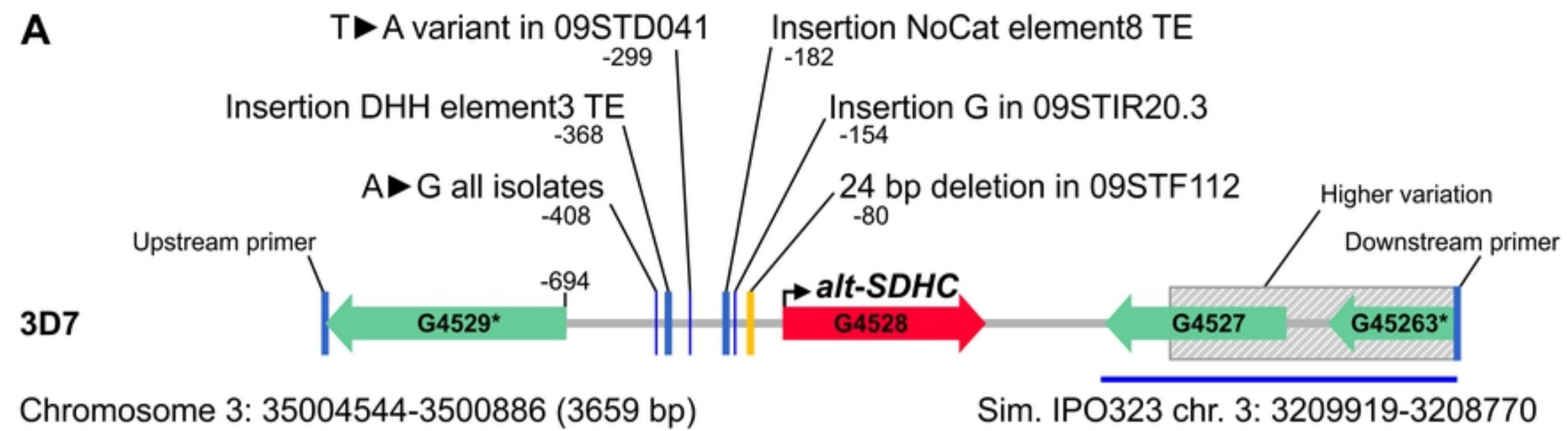


Figure 9

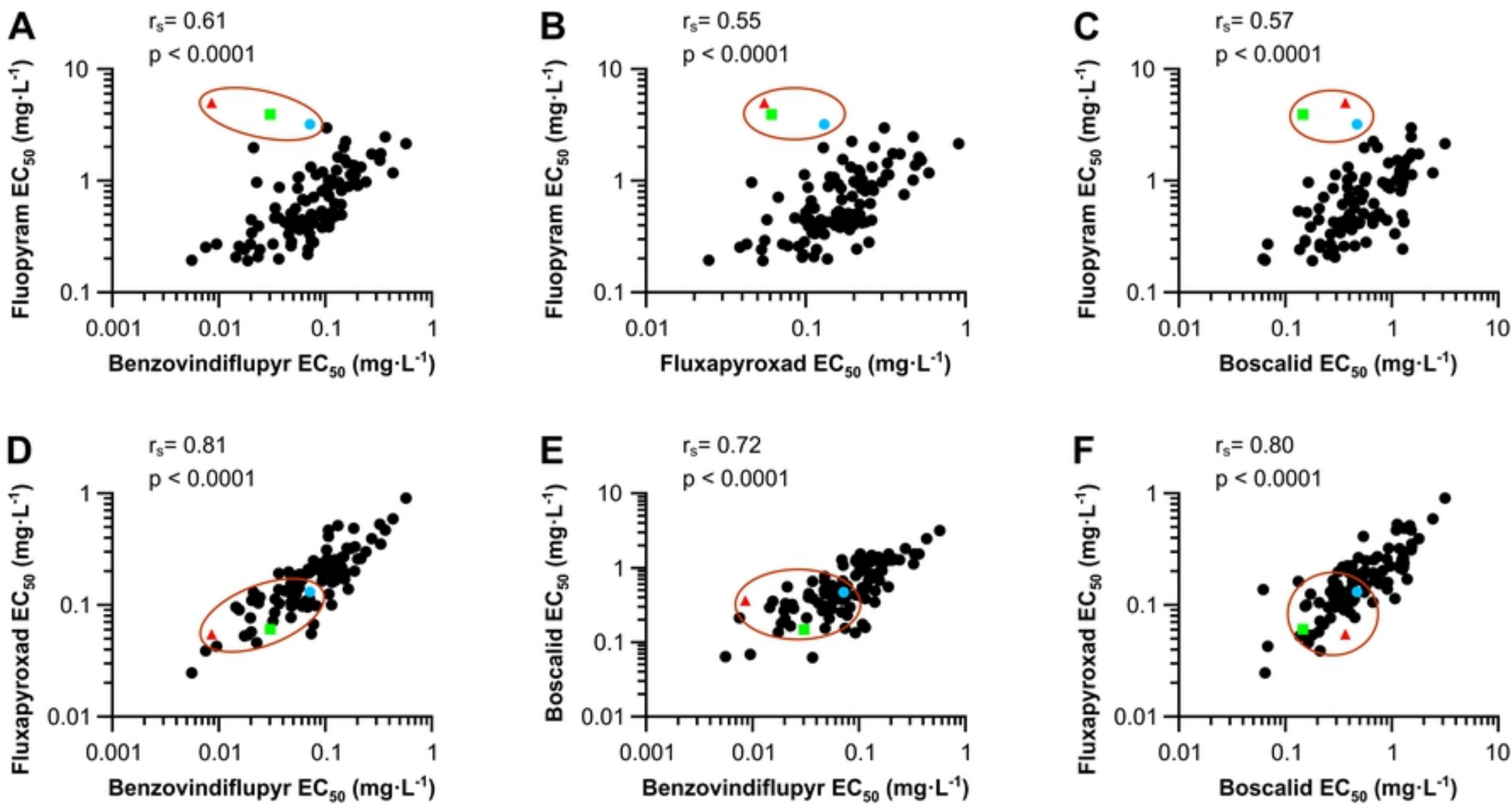


Figure 1

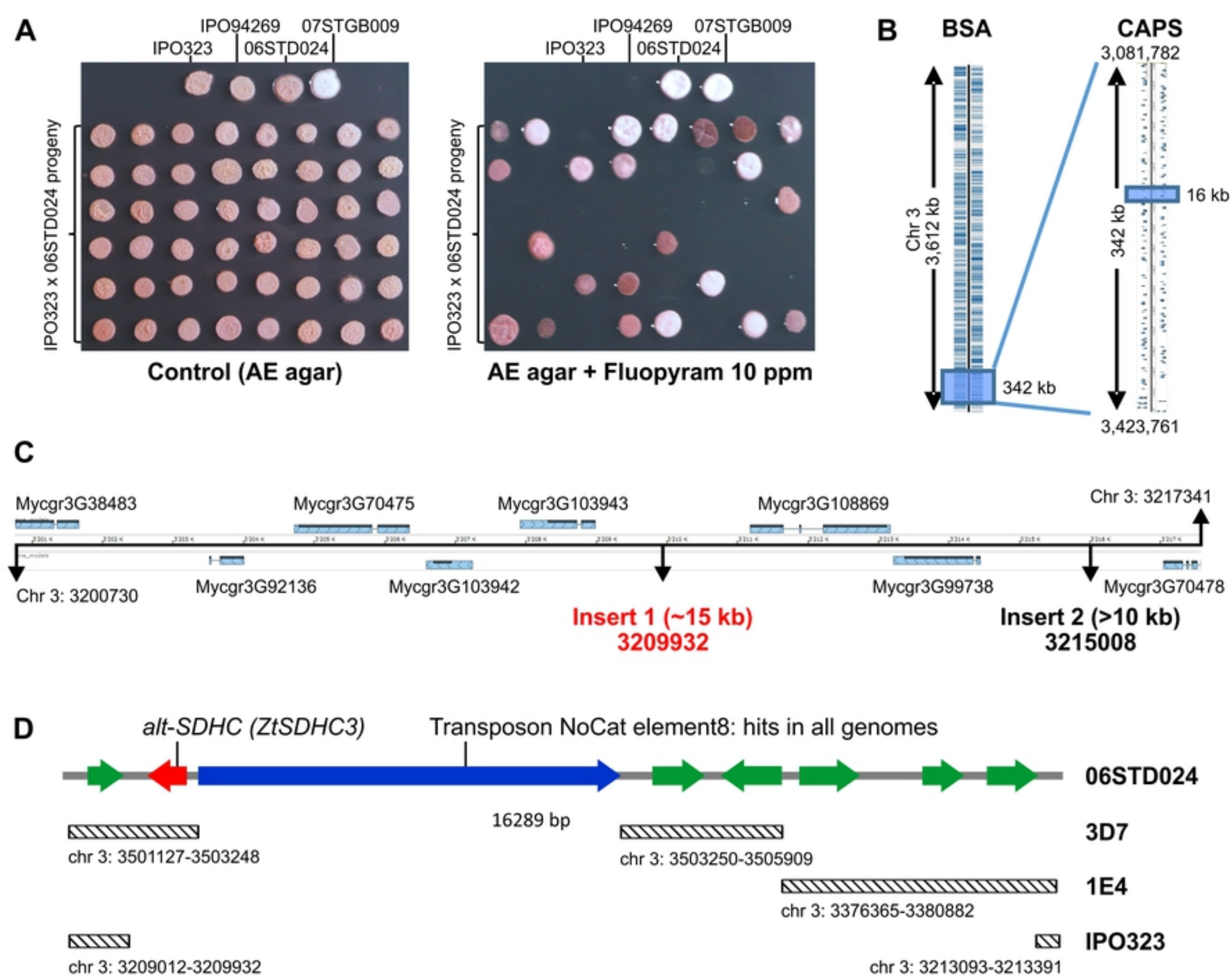


Figure 2



ZtSDHC3 (alt-SDHC)	1	- - - - ML	SR	T	A	R	Y	S	I	R	Q	G	A	L	G	L	S	G	C	R	P	V	T	N	A	M	F	A	A	R	-	-	-	-	Q	G	R	L	N	A	T	Q	T	G	P	D	P	T	A	S	P	S	Q	S	-	-	L	E	K	54				
ZtSDHC1 (SDHC)	1	- - -	ML	A	Q	K	L	T	Q	Q	S	L	R	R	L	A	L	Q	P	S	T	L	R	F	A	T	P	A	A	I	A	L	G	N	N	S	F	Q	Q	R	R	Q	V	T	A	A	V	S	E	S	H	A	R	N	E	I	-	-	L	A	K	60		
ZtSDHC2 (SDHC2)	1	M	S	R	T	V	S	R	I	G	Q	A	F	R	Q	D	G	L	A	L	S	R	S	V	Y	Q	P	F	V	N	T	F	A	G	R	Q	-	-	Q	Q	C	F	A	A	T	S	P	S	H	K	I	S	T	R	P	E	A	V	S	P	L	A	R	63

\*

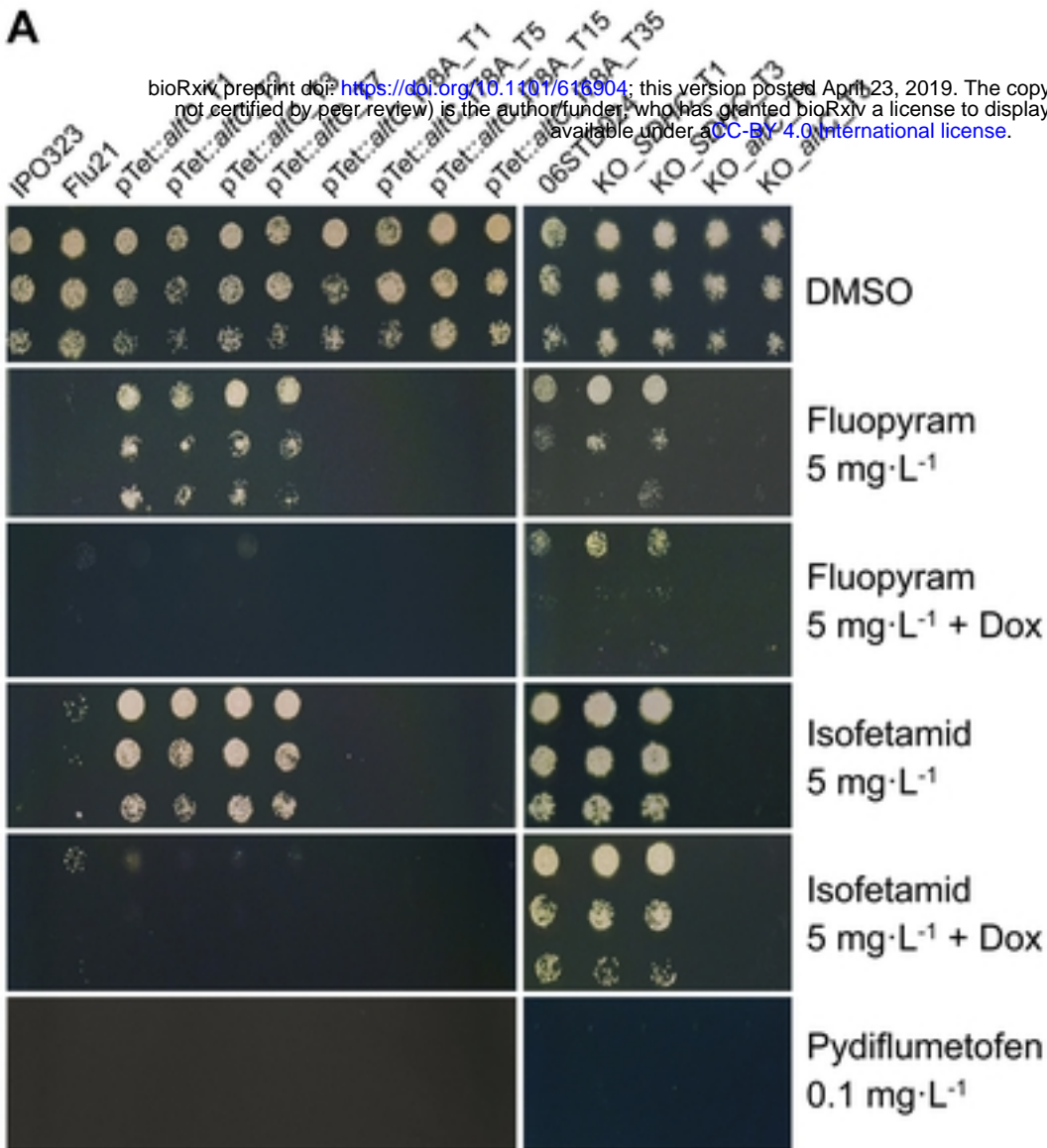
ZtSDHC3 (alt-SDHC)	55	Q	R	L	Q	R	P	V	S	P	H	L	S	I	Y	R	P	Q	I	T	W	Y	L	S	I	L	N	R	I	T	G	V	T	L	S	G	G	F	Y	L	F	G	A	A	Y	L	V	A	P	S	M	G	W	N	L	G	T	E	A	V	A	A	F	A	S	119	
ZtSDHC1 (SDHC)	61	Q	R	L	N	R	P	V	A	P	H	L	A	I	Y	K	P	Q	I	T	W	Y	L	S	A	L	N	R	V	T	G	V	A	A	S	G	A	F	Y	A	F	G	L	L	Y	L	A	A	P	S	L	G	W	H	L	E	S	A	A	L	A	A	S	F	G	A	125
ZtSDHC2 (SDHC2)	64	Q	R	L	N	R	P	I	A	P	H	L	T	T	Y	R	W	R	I	N	M	V	L	S	S	L	N	R	I	T	G	V	A	L	S	G	A	F	Y	A	F	G	A	I	Y	M	I	-	-	-	-	W	H	P	S	I	E	T	I	A	A	G	F	A	A	123	

↓

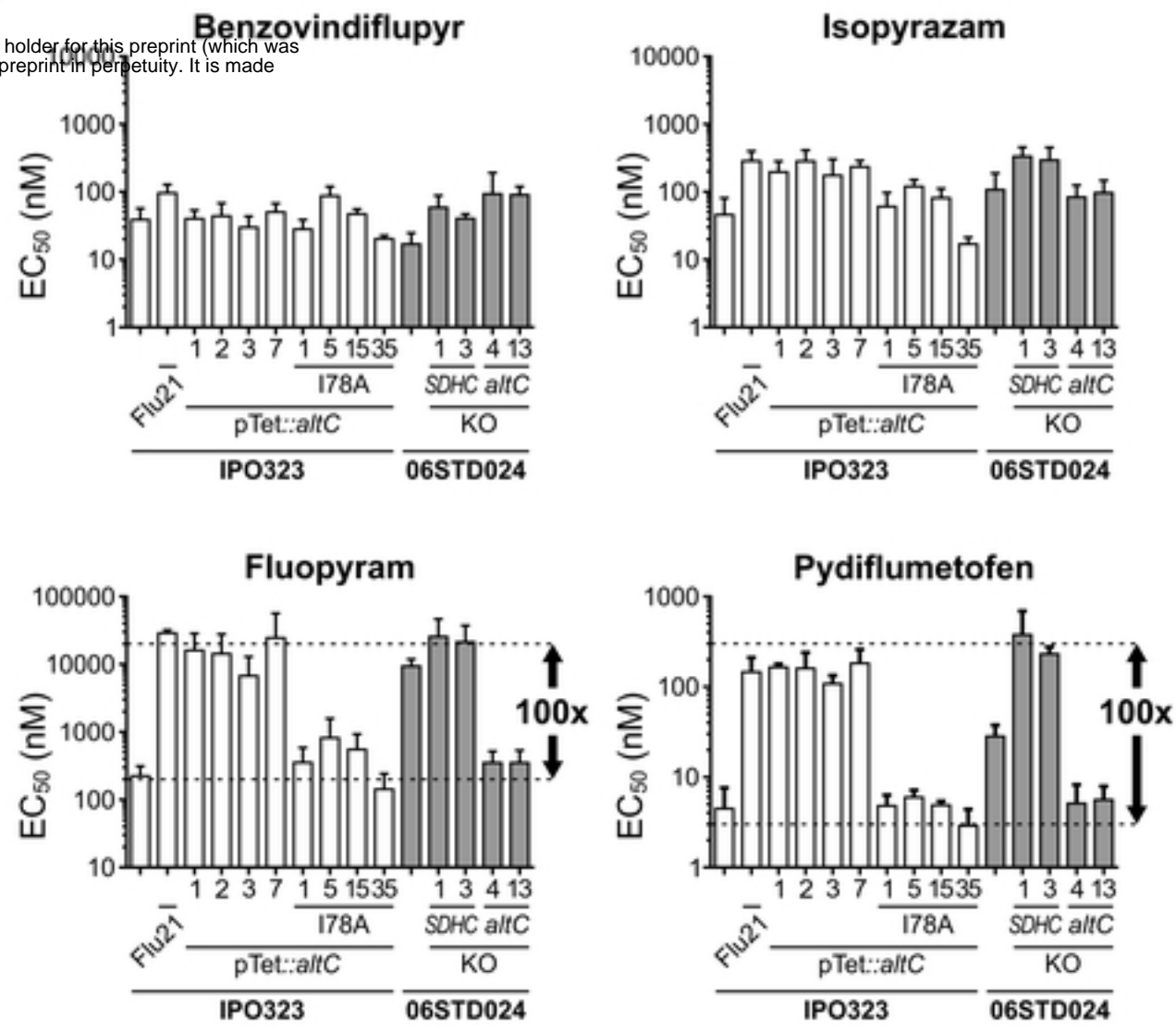
ZtSDHC3 (alt-SDHC)	120	W	P	A	V	V	Q	F	L	T	K	F	V	V	S	M	P	F	T	F	H	S	L	N	G	V	R	H	L	V	W	D	A	T	Y	M	M	T	N	K	Q	V	N	W	T	G	W	T	V	V	G	L	S	V	T	S	A	F	A	L	A	L	V	-	181
ZtSDHC1 (SDHC)	126	W	P	V	L	L	Q	V	L	T	K	T	I	L	A	L	P	V	T	F	H	S	L	N	G	V	R	H	L	V	W	D	T	A	S	M	I	T	N	K	Q	V	Q	T	T	G	W	T	V	V	G	L	S	V	A	S	A	L	G	L	A	F	L	-	187
ZtSDHC2 (SDHC2)	124	W	P	V	V	L	Q	V	A	A	K	F	G	V	A	L	P	F	T	F	H	C	F	N	G	A	S	H	L	V	W	D	A	A	K	M	I	T	N	R	Q	V	T	R	M	A	W	G	V	V	G	L	G	V	G	S	A	M	G	L	A	V	L	L	186

Figure 3

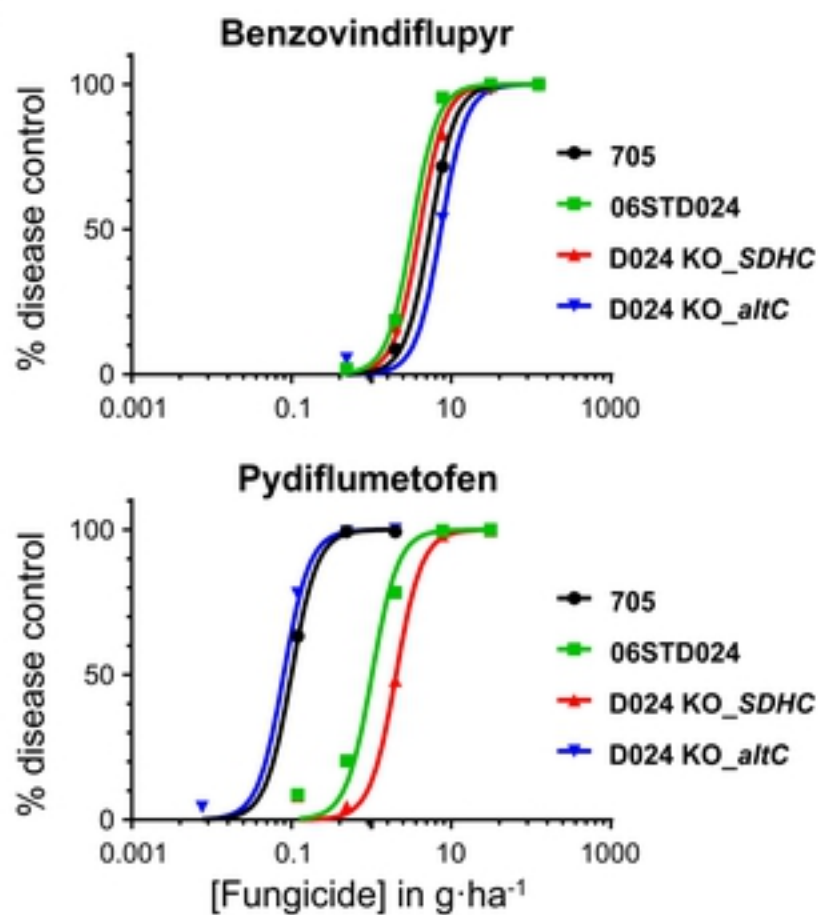
A



B



C



D

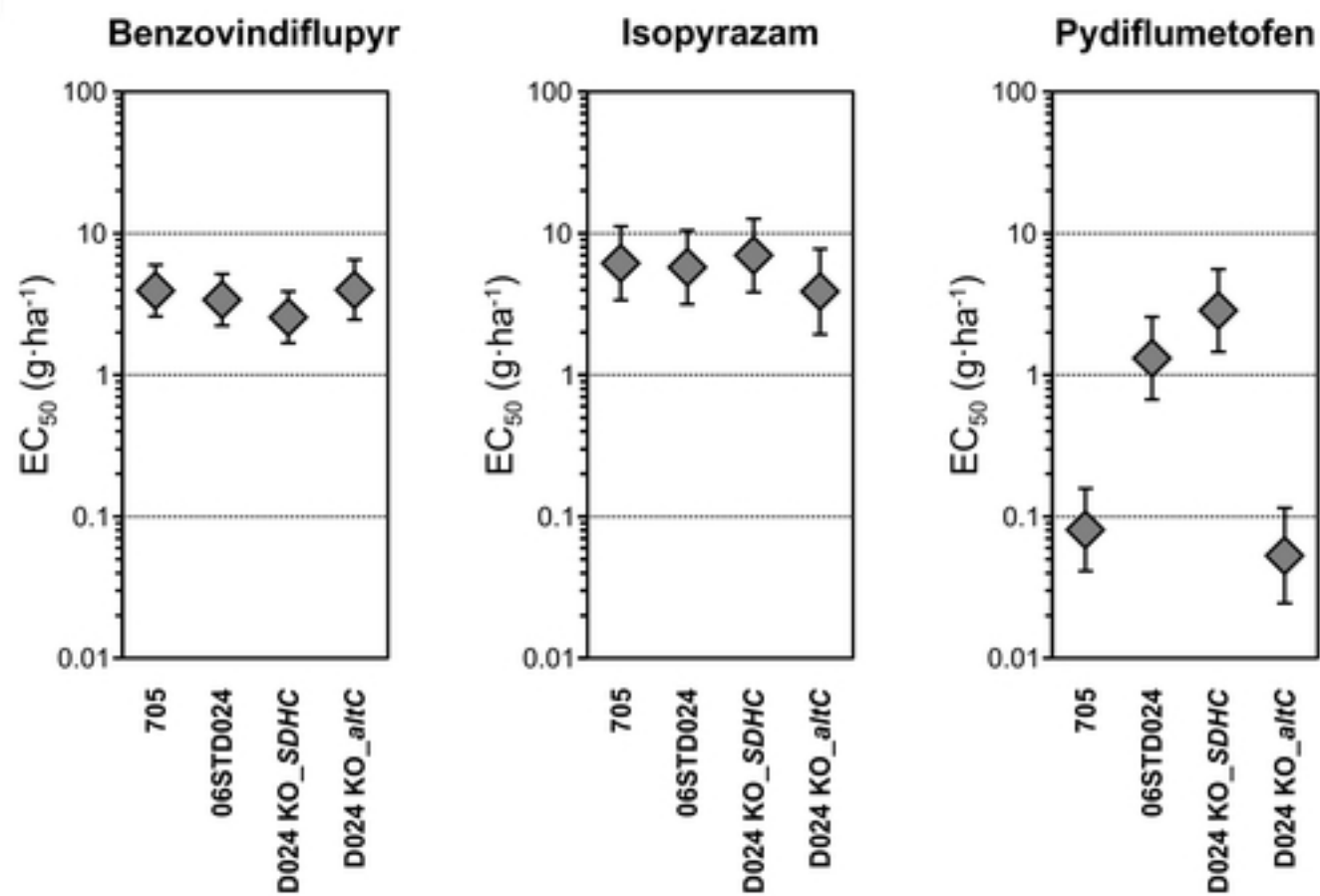


Figure 4