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Genomic sequence of the xylose fermenting, insect-inhabiting yeast, *Pichia stipitis*

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1 **ABSTRACT**

2 Xylose is a major constituent of angiosperm lignocellulose, so its fermentation is important for
3 bioconversion to fuels and chemicals. *Pichia stipitis* is the best-studied native xylose fermenting
4 yeast. Genes from *P. stipitis* have been used to engineer xylose metabolism in *Saccharomyces*
5 *cerevisiae*, and the regulation of the *P. stipitis* genome offers insights into the mechanisms of
6 xylose metabolism in yeasts. We have sequenced, assembled and finished the genome of *P.*
7 *stipitis*. As such, it is one of only a handful of completely finished eukaryotic organisms
8 undergoing analysis and manual curation. The sequence has revealed aspects of genome
9 organization, numerous genes for bioconversion, preliminary insights into regulation of central
10 metabolic pathways, numerous examples of co-localized genes with related functions, and
11 evidence of how *P. stipitis* manages to achieve redox balance while growing on xylose under
12 microaerobic conditions.

13 **INTRODUCTION**

14 Xylose is a five-carbon sugar that makes up about 15 to 25% of all hardwoods and agricultural
15 residues.¹ Its fermentation is therefore essential for the economic conversion of lignocellulose
16 to ethanol.²⁻⁴ *Pichia stipitis* Pignal (1967) is a predominantly haploid, homothallic,
17 hemiascomycetous yeast⁵⁻⁷ that has the highest native capacity for xylose fermentation of any
18 known microbe.^{8,9} Fed batch cultures of *P. stipitis* produce up to 47 g/L of ethanol from xylose
19 at 30°C¹⁰ with ethanol yields of 0.35 to 0.44 g/g xylose ([Fig. 1](#)),¹¹ and they are capable of
20 fermenting sugars from hemicellulosic acid hydrolysates with a yield equivalent to about 80% of
21 the maximum theoretical conversion efficiency.¹²

22 *P. stipitis* Pignal (1967) was originally isolated from insect larvae. It is closely related to several
23 yeast endosymbionts of passalid beetles¹³ that inhabit and degrade white-rotted hardwood.^{14, 15}
24 It forms yeast-like buds during exponential growth, hat-shaped spores, and pseudomycelia ([Fig.](#)
25 [2](#)). The genomic sequence reveals numerous features such as cellulases, xylanase, and other
26 degradative enzymes that would enable survival and growth in a wood-inhabiting, insect-gut
27 environment.¹³ *P. stipitis* has the capacity to grow on and ferment xylan^{16, 17}, and to use all of
28 the major sugars found in wood. In addition, it has been reported to use low-molecular weight
29 lignin moieties.¹⁸

30 *P. stipitis* has been a source of genes for engineering xylose metabolism in *Saccharomyces*
31 *cerevisiae*.¹⁹ Although metabolic engineering and adaptive evolution of *S. cerevisiae* for xylose

32 fermentation has been successful to varying degrees,²⁰⁻²² it does not possess the regulatory
33 mechanisms that coordinate ethanol production with xylose.²³ Unlike *S. cerevisiae*, which
34 regulates fermentation by sensing the presence of glucose, *P. stipitis* induces fermentative
35 activity in response to oxygen limitation.²⁴⁻²⁶ *P. stipitis* shunts most of its metabolic flux into
36 ethanol, and produces very little xylitol, but its xylose fermentation rate is low relative to *S.*
37 *cerevisiae* on glucose. Increasing the capacity of *P. stipitis* for rapid xylose fermentation could
38 therefore greatly improve its usefulness in commercial xylose fermentations.

39 We have sequenced the *P. stipitis* genome to better understand the biology, metabolic
40 machinery, and regulatory networks in this native xylose- fermenting yeast. The *P. stipitis*
41 genome sequence, predicted genes, and annotations are available through the JGI Genome
42 Portal at www.jgi.doe.gov/pichia. The results reveal a versatile lower eukaryote that has unusual
43 genetic and regulatory features for converting lignocellulosic feedstocks into ethanol and other
44 useful chemicals.

45 RESULTS

46 General genome features and comparative genomics

47 The 15.4 Mbp genome of *P. stipitis* genome was sequenced using a whole-genome shotgun
48 approach and finished to high quality (< 1 error in 100,000). The JGI assembler, JAZZ²⁷ was
49 used to assemble 261,986 reads into 96 scaffolds with 8.8x coverage and 4.4% gaps. The
50 assembly was then finished, gaps were closed, and the scaffolds were linked into 8
51 chromosomes ranging from 3.5 to 0.97 Mbp, which is similar to results from pulsed field
52 electrophoresis with various other strains of *P. stipitis*.²⁸ The finished chromosomes have no
53 gaps except one in the centromere region of chromosome 1,

54 The JGI Annotation Pipeline predicted 5,841 genes. A majority (4,204, or 72%), have a single
55 exon, which is typical for a yeast genome ([Table 1](#)). Average gene density, which is similar on
56 all 8 chromosomes, is 56%. Average gene, transcript, and protein lengths are 1.6 kb, 1.5 kb
57 and 493 amino acids, respectively. ESTs support 2,252 (40%) of the predicted genes, and an
58 absolute majority is supported by protein homology; including 4,879 (84%) with strong homology
59 in other fungi. Best bi-directional BLAST analysis of the gene models against the *D. hansenii*
60 genome identified putative orthologs for 4,912 (84%) of the *P. stipitis* genes. These had an
61 average identity of 58% at the amino acid level and average coverage of 91% in alignments
62 between the orthologs. No data base match was found for 154 ORFs. Additionally, analysis of
63 conservation between the genomes of *P. stipitis* and *D. hansenii* at the DNA level using VISTA

64 tools²⁹ provided support for exons in 3,940 (67.5%) of the *P. stipitis* genes. Approximately half
65 (2,750) of the gene models had been manually curated at the time of publication.

66 **Functional portrait**

67 Protein function can be tentatively assigned to about 70% of the genes according to KOG
68 (clusters of orthologous groups) classifications.³⁰ They are roughly equally split between 3 major
69 categories: cellular processes and signaling, information storage and processing, and
70 metabolism ([Fig. 3](#)). Protein domains were predicted in 4,083 (70%) of gene models. These
71 include 1,712 distinct Pfam domains.

72 We used the PhIGs tool (Phylogenetically Inferred Groups,³⁰ <http://phigs.org>) to compare the
73 gene set of *P. stipitis* with the gene sets of five other yeasts - *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*,
74 *Candida glabrata*, *Kluyveromyces lactis*, *Debaromyces hansenii* and *Yarrowia lipolytica* - whose
75 genomes have also been sequenced, assembled, and reported ([Fig. 4](#)).^{31, 32} This analysis
76 revealed 25 gene families representing 72 proteins that are specific to *P. stipitis* ([Table 2](#)).
77 These show no significant homology to any known proteins; neither do they have any predicted
78 domains. *P. stipitis* and *D. hansenii* share 151 gene families that are not found in the other 3
79 genomes used in this comparison. At the same time the *P. stipitis* gene set was missing 81
80 gene families relative to the other 5 yeast genomes in the analysis, which represents 442
81 individual proteins.

82 The most frequent domains in the *P. stipitis* genome include protein kinases, helicases,
83 transporters (sugar and MFS), and domains involved in transcriptional regulation (fungal specific
84 transcription factors, RNA recognition motifs and WD40 domains). A majority of domains are
85 shared with other hemiascomycota. These range from 1,534 domains common with *S. pombe*
86 to 1,639 with *D. hansenii*. One of the few *P. stipitis*-specific domains ([Table S1](#)) belongs to
87 glycosyl hydrolase Family 10, a subgroup of cellulases and xylanases. The only Family 10
88 glycosyl hydrolase in the *P. stipitis* genome is [XYN1](#). Among the domains consistently present
89 in hemiascomycetous yeasts, more than twenty were not found in the *P. stipitis* genome
90 including transposon-related domains removed from *P. stipitis* gene set by masking genomic
91 sequence. These include the integrase core domain, rve, which integrates a DNA copy of a
92 viral genome into the host chromosome,³³ RUT_2, which is indicative of a mobile element such
93 as a retrotransposon,³⁴ and the HHH domain, which is found in non-sequence specific DNA
94 binding proteins. Several gene families expanded in *P. stipitis* show some sequence similarity to
95 hyphally regulated cell wall proteins, cell surface flocculins, agglutinin-like proteins, and

96 cytochrome p450 non-specific monooxygenases, Members of these expanded families,
97 however, are poorly conserved and often occur near chromosome termini (within 35,000 bp)
98 where repeated sequences are prevalent.

99 **Syntenic relationships**

100 Co-linearity between chromosomal blocks has been reported in plants, animals,³⁵ and closely
101 related yeast genomes, e.g. *Saccharomyces sensu stricto*.^{35, 36} Co-linearity is harder to find in a
102 more diverse set of fungal genomes.³² With the relatively recent divergence between *P. stipitis*
103 and *D. hansenii*, chromosomal segments that retain the ancestral gene groupings can be
104 identified. The set of 3,209 genes determined to be orthologous from the PhIGs analysis were
105 used to link regions between the two genomes that represent orthologous chromosomal
106 segments with a minimum of four linking genes that are uninterrupted by other orthology
107 segments in either genome. A total of 263 orthology segments were found, encompassing 4456
108 (76.3%) genes and 10,950,900 bp in the *P. stipitis* genome, and 4689 (75.8%) genes and
109 9,057,788 bp in the *D. hansenii* genome. On average, each block in the *P. stipitis* genome
110 encompasses 16.9 genes and is 41.6 kb in length. The largest of these orthologous
111 chromosomal segments, 125 genes, which is 301.9 kb in length and encompasses 125 genes,
112 is between *P. stipitis* chromosome 6 and *D. hansenii* chromosome F ([Fig. 5](#)).

113 **Metabolic functions**

114 **Sugar transport:** *P. stipitis* possesses genes for a number of transporters that are similar to
115 putative xylose transporters from *Debaromyces hansenii* (NCBI AAR06925)³⁷ and *Candida*
116 *intermedia* ([GXF1](#), EMBL AJ937350; [GXS1](#), EMBL AJ875406).³⁸ *C. intermedia* [GXF1](#) has the
117 closest similarity to the previously described, closely related [SUT1](#), [SUT2](#) and [SUT3](#) genes of *P.*
118 *stipitis* and to the *P. stipitis* [SUT4](#) gene that was identified in the present genome sequence
119 (supplemental Fig. 1). Notably, [SUT2](#) and [SUT3](#) are each located very near one end of
120 chromosomes 4 and 6, respectively, and our EST data has not shown that they are expressed.

121 **Glycolytic and pentose phosphate pathways:** All of the genes for xylose assimilation, the
122 oxidative pentose phosphate pathway (PPP), glycolysis, the tricarboxylic acid cycle (TCA) and
123 ethanol production were present in isoforms similar to those found in other yeasts ([Fig. 6](#)). The
124 [XYL1](#), [XYL2](#) and [XKS1](#) (*XYL3*) genes, which are required for xylose assimilation, were present
125 in a single copy each. There are, however, several aldo/keto reductases homologous to *XYL1*
126 (e.g. [GCY1-3](#)) and a family of sorbitol dehydrogenases with homology to *XYL2*.

127 Glucose 6-P-dehydrogenase ([ZWF1](#)), and 6-phosphogluconate dehydrogenase ([GND1](#))
128 generate NADPH necessary for cell growth and xylose assimilation by their roles in the
129 oxidative phase of the PPP. Transcripts of the latter are strongly induced by growth on xylose
130 under both aerobic and oxygen limiting conditions ([Fig. 6](#)). Transketolase ([TKT1](#)) is used twice
131 in the non-oxidative phase of the PPP. It is strongly induced on xylose, and is one of the most
132 abundant transcripts in the cell under those conditions. A gene for a second transketolase-like
133 protein is present, but it is closer in structure to dihydroxyacetone synthase ([DHA1](#)) or
134 formaldehyde transketolase.

135 *P. stipitis* has a gene for a bacterial-like ribose-5-phosphate isomerase B ([RPI1](#)). This is
136 structurally similar to the *lacB* for galactose-6-P isomerase, which is found in *Streptococcus*,
137 *Staphylococcus*, *Lactococcus*, and other bacteria. Proximal to [RPI1](#), is [SPS23](#), which codes for
138 a glucose 1-dehydrogenase. A second glucose 1-dehydrogenase ([DHG2](#)) is also present. [RPI1](#)
139 is relatively uncommon in yeasts and fungi. All three of these genes are similar to bacterial
140 homologs (S3). The genome also includes a yeast ribose-5-phosphate ketol-isomerase ([RKI1](#)).
141 Transcripts for [PGI1](#), [PFK1](#), and [PFK2](#) were all induced on xylose under oxygen limitation, but
142 were relatively low under aerobic conditions ([Fig. 6](#)). Glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate
143 dehydrogenase isoform 3 ([TDH3](#)), which generates NADH and is the gateway for glycolysis,
144 was induced by oxygen limitation on both glucose and xylose. Transcript levels for [PDC1](#) and
145 [ADH1](#) might not be sufficient for high rates of ethanol production on xylose under oxygen-limited
146 conditions. The genome also codes for five NADP(H)-coupled alcohol dehydrogenases ([ADH3](#),
147 [4](#), [5](#), [6](#) and [7](#)), which might be important in maintaining cofactor balance between NADH and
148 NADPH. Transcripts for mitochondrial isocitrate dehydrogenases ([IDH1](#), [IDH2](#)) are elevated on
149 xylose under oxygen-limited conditions, as are those for malate dehydrogenase ([MDH1](#)),
150 fumarase ([FUM1](#)), and succinic dehydrogenase ([SDH1](#)). The transcript for 2-ketoglutarate
151 dehydrogenase ([KGD1](#)), which generates NADH in the TCA cycle, was reduced during
152 cultivation on xylose.

153 **Responses of other transcripts to carbon sources and oxygen limitation:** *P. stipitis*
154 possesses an NAD-specific glutamate dehydrogenase ([GDH2](#)), a glutamate decarboxylase
155 ([GAD2](#)), and two NADP-dependent succinate semialdehyde dehydrogenases ([UGA2](#), [UGA22](#)),
156 which constitute a bypass that can convert α -ketoglutarate into succinate and NADH into
157 NADPH when cells are growing on xylose. The NADH-specific *GDH2* is elevated on xylose
158 under oxygen limitation, while the NADPH-linked glutamate dehydrogenase 3 ([GDH3](#)) is not.

159 The increased level of *GDH2* could also account for the decreased level of [KGD2](#) when cells
160 are growing on xylose.

161 Distinctly different sets of genes are strongly induced under oxygen-limited growth on glucose
162 and xylose (Table S2). On xylose, the transcript for fatty acid synthase 2 ([FAS2](#)) and the
163 stearoyl-CoA desaturase, ([OLE1](#)), are strongly induced under oxygen limitation. This induction
164 corresponds with the onset of ethanol production. The *FAS2* transcript is about 1/3 as abundant
165 under the other three conditions tested. *OLE1* is about five fold higher under oxygen limitation
166 when growing on either carbon source. Transcripts for the Ca⁺⁺-transporting P-type ATPase,
167 [PCM1](#), are about 5-fold higher than the aerobic level when cells are grown under oxygen
168 limiting conditions. Transcript levels for the high-affinity inorganic phosphate transporter,
169 [PHO84](#), are induced about 10-fold under oxygen limiting conditions.

170 **Genes for polysaccharide degradation:** Aside from its capacity for xylose fermentation, *P.*
171 *stipitis* has several genes and gene families that make it particularly suitable for bioconversion
172 of lignocellulosics. These include an unusual xylanase, several endoglucanases, and numerous
173 β -glucosidases. A blast analysis of the genome with *Trichoderma reesei*, *Bacillus* Family 10
174 and Family 11 xylanases, and the xylanase ([XynA](#)) previously reported as cloned from *P. stipitis*
175 NRRL Y-11543³⁹ did not turn up any homologous proteins in the *P. stipitis* CBS 6054 genome,
176 and a *P. stipitis* xylanase ([XYN1](#)) became apparent only during manual annotation. It appears
177 to be a Family 10 glucosidase, but it is not closely related to any other known yeast
178 glycosidases. Domain analysis found this protein to be one of only four Pfam domains unique
179 to *P. stipitis* among the eight fungi examined. It is, however, highly similar to six Family 10
180 glycoside hydrolases found in *Phanerochaete chrysosporium*. Physically, *XYN1* is found near
181 one terminus of chromosome 4. Our EST data did not provide evidence for its expression.

182 Three endo, and three exo glucanases (glycoside hydrolases) are represented in the *P. stipitis*
183 genome. The endo-1,4- β -glucanases ([EGC1](#), [EGC2](#), and [EGC3](#)) are fairly closely related and
184 all belong to glycoside hydrolase Family 5. [ECG2](#) is strongly expressed in cells growing on
185 xylose (Table S2). The three exoglucanases ([EXG1](#), [EXG2](#), [EXG3](#)) are somewhat more
186 diverse. Two of these appear to be glucan 1,3- β -glucosidases but the function of the third is
187 less certain. The presence of active 1,3- β -glucosidases (laminarinases) can be expected since
188 passalid beetles are known to digest wood containing fungal hyphae, which have large 1,3-
189 β -glucan components.⁴⁰ These glycoside hydrolases belong to a family that has relatively low
190 substrate specificity. In addition, *P. stipitis* has three Family 17 soluble cell wall glucosidases

191 ([SCW4.1](#), [SCW4.2](#) and [SCW11](#)) along with two Family 17 exo-1,3- β -glucanases ([BGL2](#), [BOT2](#)),
192 all of which are most likely involved in cell wall expansion and growth.

193 The *P. stipitis* genome includes sequences for seven β -glucosidases ([BGL1-7](#)) belonging to
194 glycosyl hydrolase Family 3. Enzymes in this family can have activity against cellobiose or
195 xylobiose. Of these seven genes, [BGL4](#) codes for a protein most similar to classical cellobiases
196 or gentiobiases that have been studied in other yeasts and fungi and [BGL7](#) is expressed the
197 most when cells are growing on xylose (S2).

198 The genome contains two sequences for β -mannosidases ([BMS1](#), [MAN2](#)) that belong to
199 glycoside hydrolase Family 2, and which are probably responsible for the capacity of this yeast
200 to grow on and ferment mannan oligosaccharides. Two endo-1,6- α -mannosidases ([DCW1](#),
201 [DFG5](#)) are also present, but these are most likely involved in yeast cell wall expansion during
202 growth, rather than with external polysaccharide degradation, since both are present when cells
203 are growing on either glucose or xylose.

204 *P. stipitis* can readily use both glucose and maltose. It has four separate genes for α -
205 glucosidase ([MAL6](#), [7](#), [8](#) and [9](#)). *P. stipitis* also possesses a gene for a putative Family 31 α -
206 glucosidase/ α -xylosidase ([YIC1](#)), of which its closest orthologs are bacterial in origin. Of these,
207 transcripts, only [MAL8](#) was detected when cells were grown on xylose.

208 The genome contains almost 60 ORFs that are identified as chitinases according to KOG
209 classification. Only four of these ([CHT1](#), [CHT2](#), [CHT3](#), [CHT4](#)), however, appear to be true
210 chitinases that might be involved in degradation of insect or fungal cell walls. Many of the
211 remaining models are mucin-like proteins that occur in multiple copies throughout the genome.
212 [MUC1](#) appears at least four times in nearly identical copies. Segments of *MUC1* proteins exist
213 in approximately 25 copies in the genome, suggesting expansion through frequent duplication.

214 **Respiration system:** The respiration system of *P. stipitis* differs from that of *S. cerevisiae* in
215 many aspects. First, as has been documented previously, *P. stipitis* has a SHAM-sensitive
216 terminal alternative oxidase ([AOX1](#) or *STO1*) that enables the cells to oxidize ubiquinone.⁴¹ *S.*
217 *cerevisiae* lacks this alternative oxidase. *P. stipitis* has genes coding for the complete proton-
218 translocating NADH dehydrogenase complex ([Complex I](#)), which is also lacking in *S. cerevisiae*.
219 Based on these differences, Transcript levels for [AOX1](#) are up regulated on xylose under
220 aerobic conditions and on glucose under oxygen limitation, but was not found on xylose under
221 oxygen limitation.

222 **Aromatic catabolism:** The *P. stipitis* genome includes a number of genes that appear to be
223 involved in aromatic catabolism. Most conspicuous is a family of salicylate hydroxylases
224 ([NHG1.1](#), [NHG 1.2](#), [NHG2](#), [NHG3](#), [NHG4](#)) that are similar to homologs from *Pseudomonas*
225 *putida* and a series of plant-related proteins. These are not clustered, but rather are scattered
226 throughout the genome. Only *NHG2* shows conservation relative to *D. hansenii*. *The rest of the*
227 *genes and their surrounding loci have no identity to proteins found in C. albicans or D. hansenii.*
228 These findings suggest that the genes for salicylate hydroxylase are the result of relatively
229 recent introduction and amplification.

230 **Alternative codon usage:** *P. stipitis* uses the alternative yeast nuclear codon (12) that
231 substitutes serine for leucine when CUG is specified.⁴² To understand this feature better we
232 examined whether or not CUG codon usage was evenly distributed in the genome. A count of
233 CUG usage showed 15,265 occurrences in 4238 ORFs, or about 72% of all gene models (S4).
234 Nine out of the 21 ORFs having 18 or more CUGs in the gene model occurred at or near a
235 terminus of chromosomes 4, 8, 7 or 1. All gene models having a large number of CUGs in the
236 open reading frame were large (>2,500 bp), very large (>5,000 bp), repetitive, hypothetical, or
237 poorly defined. A plot of expression level vs. CUG usage for 94 annotated ORFs that contained
238 CUG codons generally showed higher expression levels with lower CUG frequency. Two
239 exceptions were the conserved sequences [ENA5](#) and [SEC31](#), which were both highly
240 expressed and which contained 4 and 14 CUGs, respectively (SF2).

241 **Adjacent and proximal genes with related functions:** This study found numerous intriguing
242 instances of adjacent and proximal genes with related functions. These included genes for
243 pentose phosphate metabolism, glycolysis, urea metabolism, sugar assimilation and possibly
244 aromatic catabolism.

245 [XYL1](#) is adjacent to a putative gene for [MIG1](#) (CREA), which is a transcription factor involved in
246 glucose repression. This is a complex locus that includes two other transcriptional regulators
247 ([SPT8](#) and [STB4](#)) and sorbitol dehydrogenase ([SOR4](#)) within about 19.8 kbp. The putative
248 sugar transporter, [XUT2](#) is adjacent to [SOR3](#), which appears to be L-arabinitol 4-
249 dehydrogenase that is highly similar to [XYL2](#), and [SOR3](#) is in turn is adjacent to formaldehyde
250 transketolase, [DHA1](#), which is a homolog to transketolase, [TKT1](#). This latter gene is
251 immediately adjacent to one of the two principal genes for NADH-coupled alcohol
252 dehydrogenase activity, [ADH2](#). [OLE1](#), which converts fatty acids into unsaturated fatty acids, is
253 also in this locus.

254 A gene for [DUR1](#) ([DUR1.2](#), urea amidolyase) - which codes for both urea carboxylase, and
255 allophanate hydrolase activities - is immediately adjacent to [DUR3.1](#), which codes for urea
256 transport, on chromosome 1. This latter protein shares strong similarity with the second gene
257 for urea transport, [DUR3.2](#), which is located on one terminus of chromosome 6, and [DUR5.1](#),
258 which is elsewhere on chromosome 6. Multiple copies of urea transporters (e.g. [DUR4](#), [DUR5.2](#),
259 [DUR5.3](#), [DUR8](#)) are found throughout the genome, which suggests that this function might be
260 required at a high level.

261 β -Glucosidases were often found adjacent or proximal to genes with related functions. For
262 example, on either side of the Family 5 β -1,4 endoglucanase [EGC2](#), one finds [BGL5](#) and the
263 probable hexose transporter, [HXT2.4](#). [BGL6](#) is adjacent to [EGC1](#), and [BGL3](#) is adjacent to the
264 sugar transporter, [SUT3](#). [BGL1](#) is adjacent to [SUT2](#) on chromosome 4. Both of the putative β -
265 mannosidases ([BMS1](#), [MAN2](#)) are adjacent or proximal to putative lactose permeases ([LAC3](#)
266 and [LAC2](#), respectively).

267 One of the most conspicuous examples of tandem genes with related functions was found in a
268 putative *MAL3* locus ([Fig. 7](#)). This site extends over approximately 16 kbp on chromosome 6.
269 Two out of the six genes appear to be conserved in *C. albicans*, and four out of the six are
270 conserved in *D. hansenii*. The site contains the putative maltose permease [MAL3](#), and the α -
271 glucosidase, [AGL1](#). Adjacent but in an opposite orientation to *MAL3*, is the putative maltose
272 permease, [MAL5](#), which is adjacent to [YIC1](#), a putative α -glucosidase belonging to glycosyl
273 hydrolase Family 31. Most of its closest orthologs appear to be bacterial genes (S3). Flanking
274 this complex of four genes are the putative fungal transcriptional regulatory protein, [SUC1.2](#),
275 which is similar to MAL-activator proteins in the complex *MAL3* locus of *S. cerevisiae*,⁴³ and a
276 second putative fungal-specific regulatory protein, [SUC1.4](#). Elsewhere in the genome, on
277 chromosome 6, the α -glucosidase, [MAL8](#), is immediately adjacent to the maltose permease,
278 [MAL4](#).

279 The putative salicylate hydroxylases also appear to have permeases, oxidases or genes coding
280 for aromatic degradation proximal to them on the chromosome. For example, [NHG4](#) is flanked
281 by two acetyl coenzyme A oxidases ([POX1](#) and [ACOX2](#)), and [NHG1.1](#) and [NHG1.2](#) are each
282 adjacent to the transporters [HOL41](#) and [HOL42](#), respectively. Adjacent to *NHG3* is the putative
283 allantoate permease, [DAL10](#) and nearby is an aromatic ring hydroxylase, [SAL1](#). Proximal to
284 [NHG1.1](#) is a putative cinnamyl Co-A reductase ([CAD1](#)) and a gene for 5-carboxymethyl-2-
285 hydroxyomuconate delta-isomerase, ([UMH1](#)), both of which could have roles in aromatic
286 catabolism. Also proximal to [NHG1.2](#) is the fumarylacetoacetate hydrolase, [FML1](#), which is

287 similar to genes for proteins involved in aromatic degradation. Finally [NHG2](#), the only gene in
288 this family that has any conservation in *D. hansenii*, is flanked on either side by the E1
289 component of α -ketoglutarate dehydrogenase, [KGD1](#), and a probable oxidoreductase.

290 A few other examples of tandem gene structures were noted. Two [MUC1](#)-like models ([MUC1.7](#)
291 and [MUC1.10](#)), segments of which also occur in multiple copies, are adjacent to one another in
292 chromosome 8. Two copies of similar, but not identical ESS1 genes ([ESS1.1](#), [ESS1.2](#)), which
293 code for peptidyl-prolyl cis-trans isomerase, exist in tandem adjacent to a hypothetical protein
294 that occurs in multiple copies (e.g. [HMC1](#)). Two [MUC1](#)-like models ([MUC1.7](#) and [MUC1.10](#)),
295 segments of which also occur in multiple copies, are adjacent to one another in chromosome 8.

296 **Viral and transposon elements**

297 We identified a number of transposable elements using a composite library of fungal repeats.⁴⁴
298 The most abundant elements include LTR retrotransposons Tdh5, Tdh2, Tse5, pCal, most of
299 which were previously reported in hemiascomycetes including the *D. hansenii* genome,⁴⁵ and
300 single copies of DNA mediated elements Ty1-I, Mariner-5, and Folyt1 were reported earlier in
301 fungi.⁴⁶ We have identified multiple copies of a highly variable element that appears to be similar
302 to the transposons Tdh5 and Tdh2, which we have termed [Tps5](#). These are scattered
303 throughout the genome with one well-defined locus on each chromosome (S4). Portions of
304 these elements are actively transcribed and can be detected as ESTs (S2). Certain genes in
305 proximity of these repeat elements appear in multiple copies throughout the genome (e.g., 10
306 copies of HMC-related genes).

307 **DISCUSSION**

308 By aligning gene models with expression profiles and vista analyses, we were able to determine
309 gene conservation, expression, and linkage patterns. Domain analysis was more useful in
310 identifying the genes absent from *P. stipitis* than in highlighting those present, because the latter
311 tend to be widespread rather than unique. The high number of homology based gene models
312 (84%), is probably attributable to improved identification resulting from better data sets and the
313 quality of our EST library. The average gene density falls between those of *D. hansenii* and *Y.*
314 *lipolytica* and is in line with their relative genome sizes.

315 **Codon usage**

316 Three lines of evidence point to *P. stipitis* using alternative yeast nuclear codon system (12), in
317 which CUG codes for serine rather than leucine. The first is that *P. stipitis* appears to be closely

318 related to other yeasts that use this system.⁶² Second, the *Sh ble* gene can impart resistance to
319 Zeocin in *P. stipitis* after its CUG codons are engineered into different leucine codons, but the
320 native gene does not.⁴² Third, the genome contains the characteristic [tRNA\(Ser\)CAG](#) gene that
321 is used to transfer serine to the nascent polypeptide.^{63, 64} The high frequency of CUG usage in
322 large putative ORFs occurring at chromosome termini has not been previously reported.

323 **Syntenic relationships**

324 *P. stipitis* chromosomes are evolving through both translocations within the genome and local
325 inversion. Translocations within any one chromosome do not appear to be favored over sites in
326 other chromosomes. The large number of genome rearrangements in yeasts seemingly
327 obliterates any meaningful syntenic relationships except between the most closely related yeast
328 species. In the present study only one strain was sequenced, so we cannot draw conclusions
329 about the frequency of translocations within the species, however, we used MAUVE⁴⁷ to
330 compare the synteny of fully assembled yeast genomes over greater taxonomic distances (*P.*
331 *stipitis* vs. *D. hansenii*, *C. albicans*, and *S. cerevisiae*), and we observed increasing
332 fragmentation with taxonomic divergence (data not shown). This technique, however, is based
333 on nucleotide sequence not protein identity, and it could not show whether local assemblages of
334 genes with related function were conserved over groups retained by chance. The high rates of
335 genomic rearrangement observed here between *P. stipitis* and *D. hansenii* are consistent with
336 previously reported rates of rearrangement for the closely-related species *D. hansenii* and *C.*
337 *albicans*.⁴⁸

338 **Regulation**

339 Fermentation requires coordinated regulation of the central metabolic pathways because the
340 substrate is being converted into more reduced and more oxidized portions at the same time.
341 This process is complicated during the conversion of xylose, since some oxygen is necessary to
342 enable cell growth. The EST analysis gave clear evidence of transcript levels in response to
343 carbon source and aeration. The ESTs also produced a high-quality genomic sequence and
344 annotations for *P. stipitis* to provide insights into the biology of this organism.

345 Genes for xylose assimilation were found only in the absence of glucose. *GND1* and *TKT1* were
346 significantly elevated on xylose, which reflects the increased activity of the PPP for xylose
347 metabolism. *PGI1*, *PFK1* and *PFK2* were elevated most with cells growing on xylose under
348 oxygen-limited conditions. Presumably elevated *PGI1* is necessary to cycle F6P through the

349 oxidative PPP while *PFK1* and 2 take F6P into glycolysis. *GLK1* was elevated in cells growing
350 on xylose aerobically, which could reflect carbon catabolite de-repression.

351 The *P. stipitis* genome has many traits that suit it well for the fermentation of xylose and other
352 sugars from lignocellulose. The CBS 6054 strain was isolated from insect larvae, and other
353 yeast strains closely related to *P. stipitis* have been isolated from the guts of wood-inhabiting
354 passalid beetles,¹⁴ which suggests that this yeast has evolved to inhabit an oxygen- limited
355 environment rich in partially digested wood. The presence of numerous genes for
356 endoglucanases and β -glucosidases, along with xylanase, mannanase, and chitinase activities
357 suggests that these yeasts could be metabolizing polysaccharides in the beetle gut. No clear
358 evidence was found for enzymes capable of degrading lignin-related compounds, but many
359 genes were present for salicylate catabolism. Various strains of *P. stipitis* previously have been
360 reported to ferment cellobiose to ethanol,⁴⁹⁻⁵¹ so it is likely that these are active during growth
361 and fermentation. Exo-1,4-cellobiohydrolases, which are responsible in part for the degradation
362 of cellulose, produce cellobiose from cellulose and most endo-1,4-xylanases produce a mixture
363 of xylose, xylobiose and xylotriose. β -glucosidases and β -xylosidase activities are therefore
364 very useful traits because cellobiose and xylobiose fermentation can increase cellulose
365 saccharification when combined with cellulose saccharification.

366 **Respiration and redox balancing:**

367 Excess NADH is generated during growth on xylose,⁵² which necessitates some mechanism to
368 balance cofactor oxidation. *KGD2*, which generates NADH in the TCA cycle, was three times
369 higher in cells growing on glucose over those on xylose. Gdh2 consumes NADH while
370 generating NAD⁺, and leads into a pathway that eventually consumes NADH while generating
371 NADPH. A similar pathway was previously engineered in *S. cerevisiae* to reduce cofactor
372 imbalances when cells are growing on xylose,⁵³ but it appears to exist naturally in *P. stipitis*.

373 *P. stipitis* has a complete mitochondrial respiration system including NADH dehydrogenase
374 [Complex I](#). *S. cerevisiae* lacks Complex I, so it has less capacity for ATP generation through
375 oxidative phosphorylation. The presence of *AOX1* suggests that this yeast can scavenge for
376 oxygen when it is present in trace amounts, but the exact role of this enzyme in xylose
377 metabolism is not clear since *AOX1* transcripts were present at a lower level when cells were
378 growing on xylose under oxygen limiting conditions.

379 The abundance of genes for NADP(H) oxidoreductase reactions suggests that *P. stipitis* is
380 capable of various strategies for balancing NAD and NADP-specific cofactors under oxygen

381 limiting conditions. Not least among these is *FAS2*, which appears to be highly active when
382 cells are growing under oxygen limited conditions on xylose, and which could be a redox sink for
383 the cell.

384 *Fas2* synthesizes long chain acyl-CoA precursors of fatty acids from malonyl-CoA, Acetyl-Co-A,
385 NADH and NADPH. As such, it could serve as a reductant sink when cells are growing under
386 oxygen limitation on xylose. Genes were present for the other activities in glutamate
387 dehydrogenase shunt, but transcripts were not detected, so further transcriptional and
388 metabolite studies are required to determine how this bypass might function. Transcripts for
389 fatty acid synthesis including *OLE1* and, particularly, *FAS2* were elevated in oxygen limited,
390 xylose-grown cells (XOL), indicating that substantial amounts of reductant might be channeled
391 into lipid synthesis under oxygen limitation. More reductant can be stored for each gram of
392 carbon in lipid than in ethanol, so this might enable the cells to consume excess reductant when
393 growing on xylose under oxygen limiting limited conditions.

394 **Functional localization**

395 Co-location of a gene from an expanded family with a gene having different but related function
396 (e.g. a permease with a hydrolase for maltose) seems to occur with high frequency in *P. stipitis*.
397 As we show here, co-location occurs between genes that have totally different origins – and
398 different members of the same closely related gene family are found co-located with various
399 genes having functions that are each related to members of that family in different ways. For
400 example, this was observed for the salicylate hydroxylases and the *SUT* family of sugar
401 transporters.

402 Similar examples are known in yeast. Members of multi-gene families are often found near *S.*
403 *cerevisiae* telomers and are repeated elsewhere in the genome. Zakian has proposed that the
404 concentration of multigene families in the telomere-adjacent regions may reflect a recombination
405 mediated dispersal mechanism.⁵⁴ The fact that some *P. stipitis* genes at chromosome termini
406 are found proximal to genes with related functions deeper within the chromosomes suggests
407 that duplication or translocation might confer a survival advantage.

408 Genes in telomeric regions might be under less selective pressure due to silencing. In *S.*
409 *cerevisiae* the COMPASS histone methyltransferase carries out telomeric silencing of gene
410 expression,⁵⁵ and the *P. stipitis* genome contains a homolog ([SET1](#)). Without selective
411 pressure, genes in the telomeric regions might diverge more rapidly. We noted that genes

412 occurring at chromosome termini often had a high frequency of CUG usage, which might be
413 indicative of genetic drift.

414 The proximal co-location of glucosidases to corresponding sugar transporters and urea
415 amidolyase adjacent to urea permease, suggests that these loci might be co-regulated. In *S.*
416 *cerevisiae*, genes for α -glucosidase and maltose permease are adjacent. Each complete MAL
417 locus consists of maltose permease, maltase, and a transcription activator.^{59, 60} The MAL loci
418 each map to the telomeric region of a different chromosome.⁶¹ The observations reported here
419 extend functional co-location to endoglucanase, β -glucosidase, and urea metabolism.

420 Co-regulated genes distal from one another are physically co-localized in nuclear
421 “transcriptional factories”. Osborne et al. have proposed that linked genes are more likely to
422 occupy a transcriptional factory than genes in trans. In the human transcriptional map, genes
423 occur in gene dense regions with increased gene expression.⁵⁶ Adjacent eukaryotic genes are
424 more frequently co-expressed than is expected by chance and co-expressed neighboring genes
425 are often functionally related. For example, in *Arabidopsis*, 10% of the genes occur in 266
426 groups of large-co-expressed chromosomal regions distributed throughout the genome.⁵⁷ The
427 model advanced by Bartlett et al.⁵⁸ encapsulates the advantages of proximal co-location of
428 actively transcribed genes: The concentration of RNA polymerase II is 1000-fold higher in a
429 transcription factory than in the whole nucleus; modifications occurring during transcription leave
430 the promoter open to new transcript initiation; after being released at the termination, promoters
431 in the vicinity of a transcription factory are more likely to encounter machinery for transcriptional
432 initiation again.

433 The adjacency of *DUR1,2* and *DUR3.1* in a single locus is notable because *DUR1,2* has
434 merged the functions for urea carboxylase and allophanate hydrolase activities into a single
435 protein, urea amidolyase. In bacteria, genes for sequential reactions in biochemical pathways
436 are often found in operons. In higher eukaryotes evolution tends to favor the fusion of proteins
437 coding for sequential related biochemical functions. In yeasts for example, separate genes code
438 for sequential steps in uracil synthesis. [URA3](#) codes for orotidine-5'-phosphate (OMP)
439 decarboxylase while two isozymes, [URA5](#) and [URA10](#), code for orotate
440 phosphoribosyltransferase. In *A. niger* a *URA3* homolog, [PYRF](#) is present and [two isozymes](#)
441 code for both uridine 5'- monophosphate synthase and orotate phosphoribosyltransferase. In
442 [Xenopus tropicalis](#) and [Populus trichocarpa](#) only genes for the fused proteins are present.

443 **Conclusions**

444 Clearly the *P. stipitis* genome is endowed with numerous genes and physiological features that
445 enable it to ferment a wide variety of sugars derived from lignocellulose. Surprisingly it also
446 seems to have a high capacity for cellobiose degradation. Evidence for lignin degradation is
447 less clear, but also present.

448 Because this is a completely finished genome, we have been able to discern structural features
449 that suggest evolutionary aspects: When genes with related functions are found proximal to
450 one another, the combined gene activities enhance survival. The separate genes can occur in
451 different regions of the genome, but proximal location could affect their mutual function and the
452 probability of co-inheritance. Duplicated genes might persist in the genome because activities
453 of their gene products are limiting and an increased copy number confers a selective
454 advantage. Following duplication, co-location with various other related genes could further
455 increase their functions and perhaps contribute to differentiation. In this model regulation of
456 expression is not just a function of transcriptional activators on individual promoters, but also the
457 product of the coding and non-coding elements in the locus.

458 One implication of this study is that expression, and perhaps regulated co-expression, may
459 depend greatly upon location in the genome. Aside from co-location, other chromosomal
460 elements such as transcriptional activators may be important for migration of promoters to
461 transcriptional factories. Alternately, such factories might arise dynamically by the co-location of
462 multiple genes under control of similar cis-acting promoters and transcriptional activators.
463 Expression mapping or detailed study of the corresponding cis-acting promoters could provide
464 more insight. If some gene families persist in multiple copies simply from the advantage of
465 higher transcript levels, then evolution toward higher promoter strength would seem sufficient. If
466 they have been acquired from divergent sources, however, codon usage might also limit
467 translational expression.

468 If chromosomal co-location does affect expression, this would have strong implications with
469 respect to the design and placement of genes for metabolic pathway engineering.

470 **METHODS**

471 **Yeast strain**

472 *Pichia stipitis* Pignat (1967), synonym *Yamadazyma stipitis* (Pignat) Bilon-Grand (1989), (NRRL
473 Y-11545 = ATCC 58785 = CBS 6054 = IFO 10063) was obtained as a lyophilized powder from
474 Dr. Cletus P. Kurtzman of the USDA ARS Culture Collection (NRRL), Peoria IL. It was revived

475 and streaked on YPD agar to obtain isolated colonies. A single colony was transferred to 150
476 ml of YPD broth. To test for contamination, the overnight was observed under the microscope
477 and streaked in both YPD and LB plates. For fermentation studies, cells were grown in 125 ml
478 Erlenmeyer flasks containing 50 ml of 1.67 g/l yeast nitrogen base (YNB) with 2.27 g/l urea and
479 80 g/l xylose. The YNB and urea solutions were filter sterilized in a 20x solution and added to
480 the sugar, which was sterilized separately by autoclaving. For mRNA preparation, cells were
481 growing in yeast extract, peptone, dextrose (YPD), which was prepared as described in Kaiser
482 et al.⁶⁵ except that sugars were autoclaved separately from the basal medium. Yeast peptone
483 xylose (YPX) was similar to YPD but replaced dextrose with xylose. Preparation of mRNA was
484 by the method previously described.⁴²

485 **DNA preparation**

486 Yeast genomic DNA was prepared following the protocol of Burke et al.⁶⁶ Two extra
487 phenol:chloroform/chloroform extractions and ethanol precipitation were carried out. To prevent
488 shredding of the DNA, the sample was never vortexed. The final gDNA concentration was 500
489 ng/ μ l as determined by optical density at 260 nm.

490 **cDNA library construction and sequencing:**

491 *P. stipitis* CBS 6054 was grown at 30 °C in 200 ml of either YPD or YPX in either a 2.8 l flask
492 shaken at 300 rpm or a 500 ml flask shaken at 50 rpm. Aerobic cultures were inoculated with a
493 low cell density (0.025 mg/ml), shaken at 200 rpm and harvested at a cell density of less than
494 0.5 mg/ml. Oxygen limited cultures were inoculated with a high cell density (2.5 mg/ml), shaken
495 at 100 rpm and harvested at 5 mg/ml. Cells were collected by centrifugation at 4 °C and 9279 x
496 g. Cells were suspended in water and centrifuged at 835xg for 5 min. Cells were then frozen in
497 liquid N₂. Poly A+ RNA was isolated from total RNA for all four *P. stipitis* samples using the
498 Absolutely mRNA Purification kit (Stratagene, La Jolla, CA). cDNA synthesis and cloning was
499 a modified procedure based on the "SuperScript plasmid system with Gateway technology for
500 cDNA synthesis and cloning" (Invitrogen). 1-2 μ g of poly A+ RNA, reverse transcriptase
501 SuperScript II (Invitrogen) and oligo dT primer (5'- GACTAGTTCTA
502 GATCGCGAGCGGCCGCC TTTTTTTTTTTTTTTT -3') were used to synthesize first strand
503 cDNA. Second strand synthesis was performed with *E. coli* DNA ligase, polymerase I, and
504 RNaseH followed by end repair using T4 DNA polymerase. The Sall adaptor (5'- TCGACC
505 CACGCGTCCG and 5'- CGGACGCGTGGG) was ligated to the cDNA, digested with NotI
506 (NEB), and subsequently size selected by gel electrophoresis (1.1% agarose). Size ranges of

507 cDNA were cut out of the gel (L: 600-1.2kb, M: 1.2kb-2kb, H: >2kb) and directionally ligated into
508 the Sall and NotI digested vector pCMVSPORT6 (Invitrogen). The ligation was transformed into
509 ElectroMAX T1 DH10B cells (Invitrogen).

510 Library quality was first assessed by PCR amplification the cDNA inserts of 20 clones with the
511 primers M13-F (GTAAAACGACGGCCAGT) and M13-R (AGGAAACAGCTATGACCAT) to
512 determine insert rate. Clones for each library were inoculated into 384 well plates (Nunc) and
513 grown in LB for 18 hours at 37 C. DNA template for each clone was prepared by RCA and
514 sequenced using primers (FW: 5'- ATTTAGGTGACACTA TAGAA and RV 5' –
515 TAATACGACTCACTATAGGG) using Big Dye chemistry (Applied Biosystems). The average
516 read length and pass rate were 753 (Q20 bases) and 96%, respectively.

517 **EST sequence processing and assembly:**

518 The JGI EST Pipeline begins with the cleanup of DNA sequences derived from the 5' and 3' end
519 reads from a library of cDNA clones. The Phred software⁶⁷ is used to call the bases and
520 generate quality scores. Vector, linker, adapter, poly-A/T, and other artifact sequences are
521 removed using the Cross_match software,⁶⁷ and an internally developed short pattern finder.
522 Low quality regions of the read are identified using internally developed software, which masks
523 regions with a combined quality score of less than 15. The longest high quality region of each
524 read is used as the EST. ESTs shorter than 150 bp are removed from the data set. ESTs
525 containing common contaminants such as *Escherichia coli*, common vectors, and sequencing
526 standards are also removed from the data set.

527 EST Clustering is performed ab-initio, based on alignments between each pair of trimmed, high
528 quality ESTs. Pair-wise EST alignments are generated using the Malign software (Chapman,
529 et. al., Unpublished), a modified version of the Smith-Waterman algorithm,^{68, 69} which was
530 developed at the JGI for use in whole genome shotgun assembly. ESTs sharing an alignment
531 of at least 98% identity, and 150 bp overlap are assigned to the same cluster. These are
532 relatively strict clustering cutoffs, and are intended to avoid placing divergent members of gene
533 families in the same cluster. However, this could also have the effect of separating splice
534 variants into different clusters. Optionally, ESTs that do not share alignments are assigned to
535 the same cluster, if they are derived from the same cDNA clone.

536 EST cluster consensus sequences were generated by running the Phrap software⁶⁷ on the
537 ESTs comprising each cluster. All alignments generated by malign are restricted such that they
538 will always extend to within a few bases of the ends of both ESTs. Therefore, each cluster

539 looks more like a 'tiling path' across the gene, which matches well with the genome based
540 assumptions underlying the Phrap algorithm. Additional improvements were made to the phrap
541 assemblies by using the 'forcelevel 4' option, which decreases the chances of generating
542 multiple consensi for a single cluster, where the consensi differ only by sequencing errors.

543 **Genome Assembly**

544 The initial data set was derived from four whole-genome shotgun (WGS) libraries: one with an
545 insert size of 3 KB, two with insert sizes of 8 KB, and one with an insert size of 35 KB. The
546 reads were screened for vector using `cross_match`, then trimmed for vector and quality.²⁷
547 Reads shorter than 100 bases after trimming were then excluded. The data was assembled
548 using release 1.0.1b of Jazz, a WGS assembler developed at the JGI.^{27, 70} A word size of 14
549 was used for seeding alignments between reads. The unhashability threshold was set to 50,
550 preventing words present in more than 50 copies in the data set from being used to seed
551 alignments. A mismatch penalty of -30.0 was used, which will tend to assemble together
552 sequences that are more than about 97% identical. The genome size and sequence depth were
553 initially estimated to be 16.5 MB and 9.3, respectively. The assembly contained 394 scaffolds,
554 with 16.4 MB of sequence, of which 4.5% was gap. The scaffold N/L50 was 5/1.46 MB, while
555 the contig N/L50 was 21/262 KB. The sequence depth derived from the assembly was $8.77 \pm$
556 0.05.

557 **Gap closure and finishing**

558 To perform finishing, initial read layouts from the *P. stipitis* whole genome shotgun assembly
559 were converted into our Phred/Phrap/Consed pipeline.⁷¹ Following manual inspection of the
560 assembled sequences, finishing was performed by resequencing plasmid subclones and by
561 walking on plasmid subclones or fosmids using custom primers. All finishing reactions were
562 performed with 4:1 BigDye to dGTP BigDye terminator chemistry (Applied Biosystems).
563 Repeats in the sequence were resolved by transposon-hopping 8kb plasmid clones. Fosmid
564 clones were shotgun sequenced and finished to fill large gaps, resolve large repeats or to
565 resolve chromosome duplications and extend into chromosome telomere regions. Finished
566 chromosomes have no gaps and the sequence has less than 1 error in 100,000 bp.

567 **Gene prediction and annotation**

568 The JGI Annotation Pipeline combines a suite of gene prediction and annotation methods.
569 Gene prediction methods used for analysis of the *P. stipitis* genome include *ab initio* Fgenesh,⁷²

570 homology-based Fgenesh+ (www.softberry.com) and Genewise,⁷³ and an EST-based method
571 estExt [Grigoriev, unpublished]. Predictions from each of the methods were taken to produce
572 'the best' single gene model per every locus. The best model was determined on basis of
573 homology to GenBank proteins and EST support.

574 Every predicted gene was annotated using Double Affine Smith-Waterman alignments
575 (www.timelogic.com) with Swissprot and KEGG proteins. Protein domains were predicted using
576 InterProScan^{74,75} against various domain libraries (Prints, Prosite, PFAM, ProDom, SMART,
577 etc). Individual annotations have been then summarized according to Gene Ontology,⁷⁶
578 eukaryotic orthologous groups (KOGs),³⁰ and KEGG metabolic pathways.⁷⁷

579 **Phylogenetic tree reconstruction of sequenced fungal genomes**

580 A multiple sequence alignment of 94 single copy genes present in 26 taxa was constructed
581 using the MUSCLE 3.52 program,⁷⁸ trimmed using Gblocks 0.91b and was used as input for the
582 maximum likelihood tree reconstruction program PHYML (4 rate categories, gamma +
583 invariants, 100 bootstrap replicates) resulting in a fully resolved tree with all but one node
584 having bootstrap values of 100. Figure 4 represents the portion of the tree describing
585 relationships between the genomes of interest for this analysis.

586 **Comparative analysis of the 6 yeast genomes**

587 Comparisons of the phylic patterns of gene family distributions of *Pichia stipitis* and five hemi-
588 ascomycete yeasts (*P. stipitis*, *S. cerevisiae*, *C. glabrata*, *K. lactis*, *D. hansenii* and *Yarrowia*
589 *lipolytica*) were done using the PhIGs orthology database. The PhIGs resource generated
590 clusters of genes at each node on the evolutionary tree representing the descendants from a
591 single ancestral gene existing at that node. This allows for the comparisons of the
592 presence/absence patterns of gene families across the six species avoiding confusion from
593 paralogous genes. In this analysis, gene families specific to a single species are defined as
594 those having a minimum of two family members.

595 **Expression analysis**

596 To enable complete sampling of the expressed genes, we generated four separate EST libraries
597 by growing cells on glucose or xylose under aerobic or oxygen limited conditions. A set of
598 19,635 *P. stipitis* ESTs was sequenced from the four libraries and clustered into 4,085
599 consensus sequences. Ninety-four percent (3,839) of the clusters were mapped to the genome
600 and the numbers of hits for each consensus cluster was used to estimate EST frequency under

601 each growth condition. An absolute majority of unplaced ESTs had problems with the
602 sequences so the data indicates completeness and accurateness of genome assembly. Only
603 44% of the transcripts were represented by more than one EST cluster-hit under any one of the
604 four growth conditions. The cluster-hit enumeration represents only a single biological sample
605 for each off the four conditions, so these observations must be interpreted with care and be
606 limited to the 200 to 400 most abundant gene models in which at least 1 transcript was
607 recovered under each of the four conditions. However the relative abundances of these ESTs
608 under each of the four conditions provided a preliminary expression analysis.

609 **Nucleotide sequence accession**

610 [Note: accession numbers in process]

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624

625 **TABLES**

626 **Table 1. General characteristics of several yeast genomes**

627

Species	Genome Size (Mb)	Avg G+C Content (%)	Total CDS	Avg Gene Density (%)	Avg G+C in CDS (%)	Avg CDS size (codons)	Maximum CDS size (codons)	Source
<i>P. stipitis</i>	15.4	41.1	5841	55.9	42.7	493	4980	JGI
<i>S. cerevisiae</i>	12.1	38.3	5807	70.3	39.6	485	4911	Dujon ³²
<i>C. glabrata</i>	12.3	38.8	5283	65.0	41.0	493	4881	Dujon ³²
<i>K. lactis</i>	10.6	38.7	5329	71.6	40.1	461	4916	Dujon ³²
<i>D. hansenii</i>	12.2	36.3	6906	79.2	37.5	389	4190	Dujon ³²
<i>Y. lipolytica</i>	20.5	49.0	6703	46.3	52.9	476	6539	Dujon ³²

628

629 **Table 2 Phyletic patterns of yeast protein families¹**

630

Pattern ²	Families	Proteins
Families universal to all- Genes that occur more than once in each genome and have no matches to any other fungal genomes.		
sckdyp	2343	16,922
Families missing in one species		
_ckdyp	35	184
s_kdyp	54	359
sc_dyp	35	184
sck_yp	106	549
sckd_p	351	1977
sckdy_	81	442
Species-specific families		
s_____	35	92
__c__	5	12
__k__	21	53
___d__	30	87
____y_	121	338
_____p	25	72

631

632 ¹ Data generated using the PhIGs tool (Phylogenetically Inferred Groups), <http://phigs.org>

633 ² Abbreviations: p, *P. stipitis*; s, *S. cerevisiae*; c, *C. glabrata*; k, *K. lactis*; d, *D. hansenii*; y, *Y.*
 634 *lipolytica*

635 **FIGURES**

636 **Figure 1.**

637 Fermentation of xylose by *Pichia stipitis* CBS 6054 in minimal medium

638 **Figure 2.**

639 Morphology under various conditions. (A) *Pichia stipitis* growing exponentially with bud scars;
640 (B) *P. stipitis* hat-shaped spores seen from top and side; (C) Pseudomycelia formed under
641 carbon-limited continuous culture. Photo by Thomas Kuster, USDA, Forest Products
642 Laboratory.

643 **Figure 3.**

644 Distribution of gene models as determined by KOG (clusters of orthologous groups)
645 classification.

646 **Figure 4.**

647 Phylogenetic tree of seven sequenced hemiascomycetous yeast genomes based on multiple
648 alignment of 94 single copy genes conserved in 26 taxonomic groups (see Methods). Numbers
649 next to each branch correspond to the number of families (clusters) specific to a genome or a
650 group of genomes leading to this node.

651 **Figure 5.**

652 Orthologous chromosomal segments observed between *Pichia stipitis* and *Debaryomyces*
653 *hansenii*.

654 **Figure 6.**

655 Expression of transcripts in the central metabolic pathways of *Pichia stipitis*. Cells were grown
656 batch-wise on minimal defined medium under four conditions: glucose aerobic (GA), xylose
657 aerobic (XA), glucose oxygen limited (GOL) and xylose oxygen-limited (XOL). cDNA was
658 harvested and sequenced.

659 **Figure 7.**

660 The *MAL3* locus of *Pichia stipitis*. Two putative α -glucosidases ([YIC1](#), [AGL1](#)) and two putative
661 maltose permeases ([MAL3](#), [MAL5](#)) are co-located along with two putative fungal transcriptional
662 regulators ([SUC1.2](#), [SUC1.4](#)) within 16 kbp on chromosome 6.

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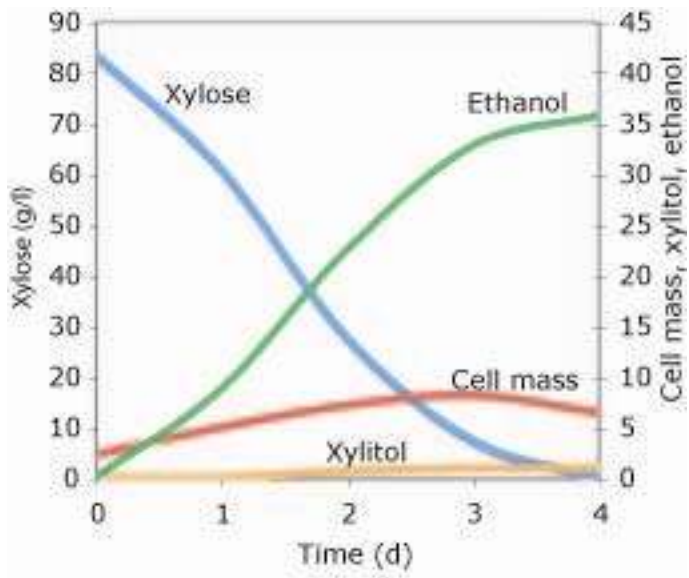


Figure 1 (Jeffries)

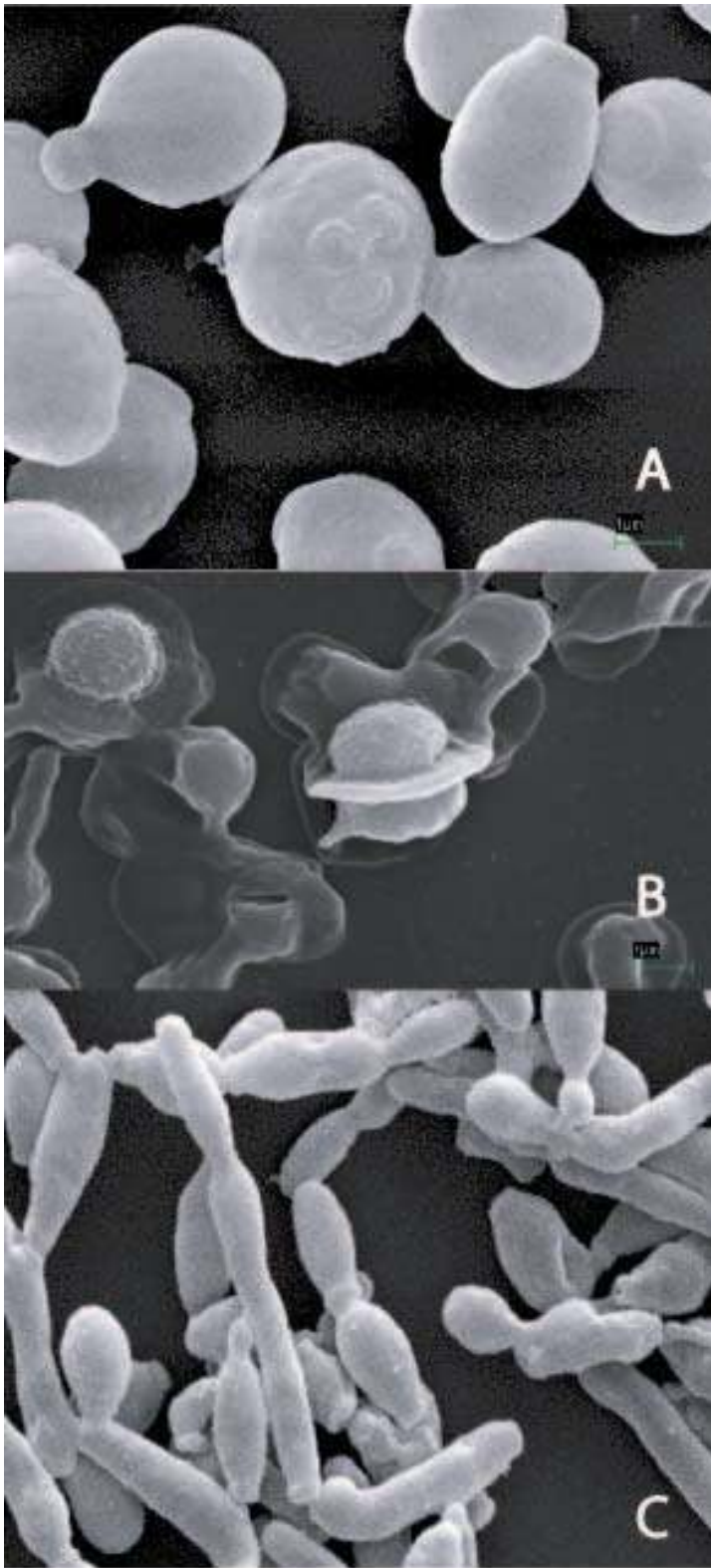


Figure 2 (Jeffries)

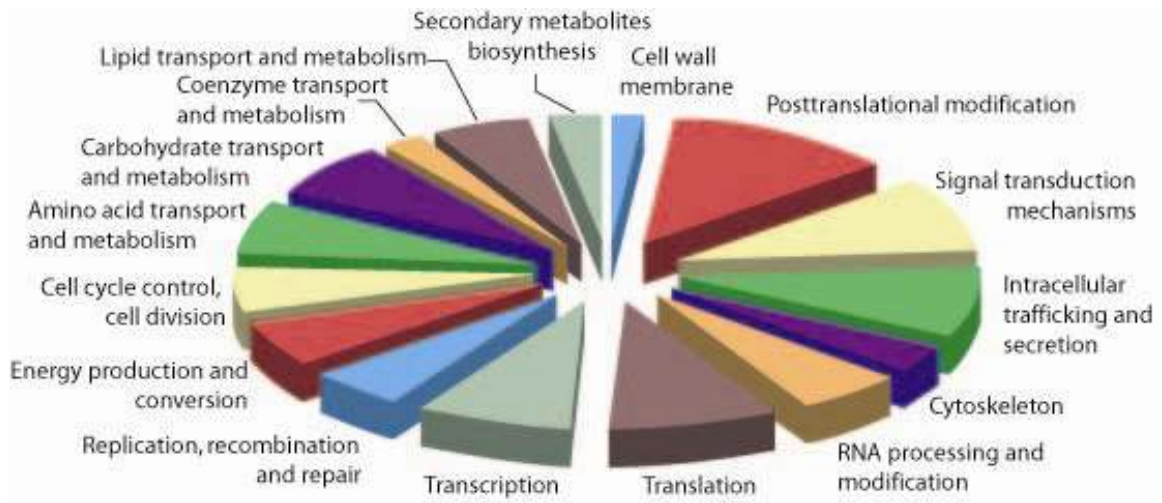


Figure 3 (Jeffries)

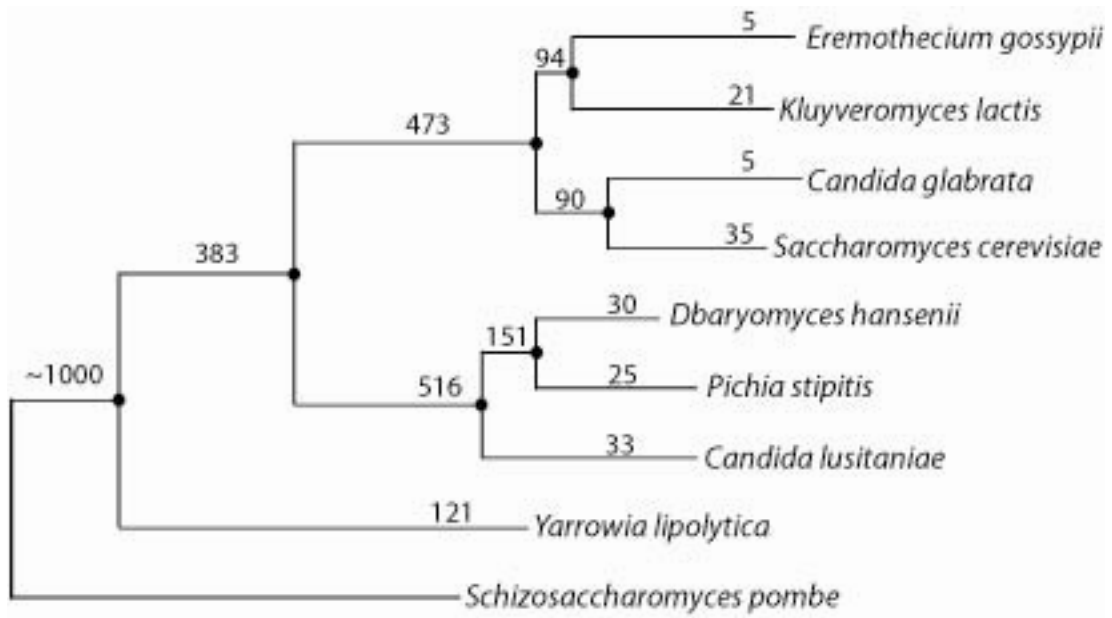


Figure 4 (Jeffries)

Pichia stipitis chromosomes

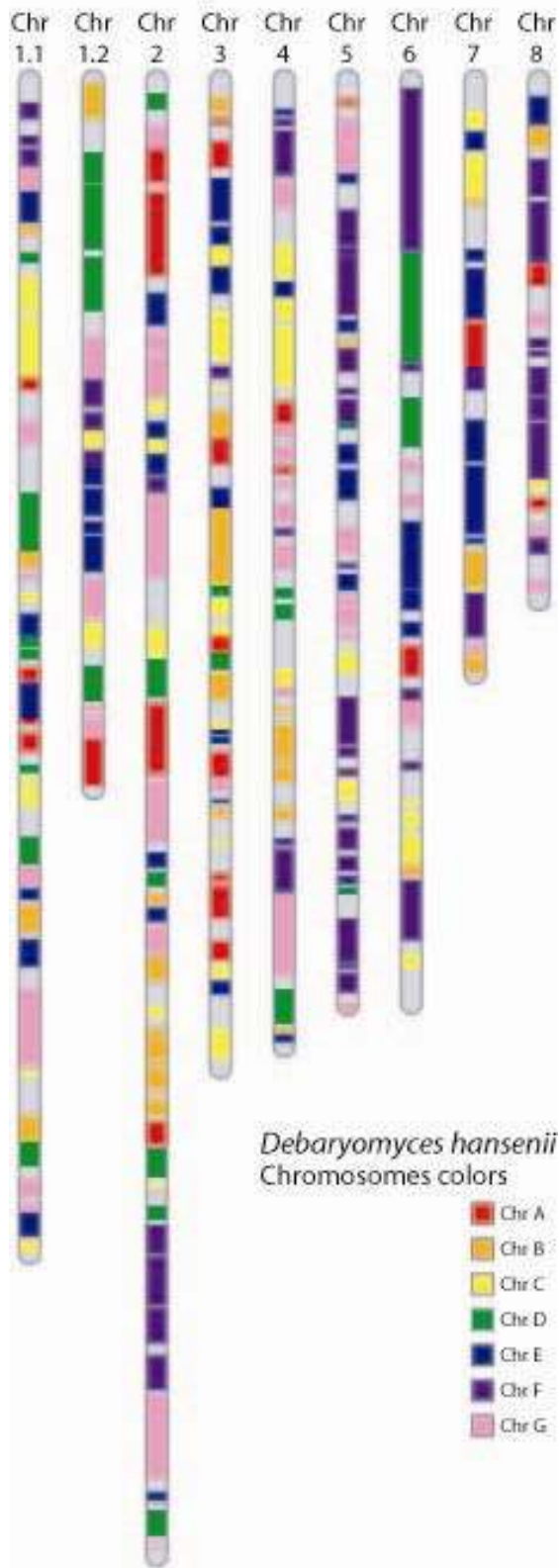


Figure 5 (Jeffries)

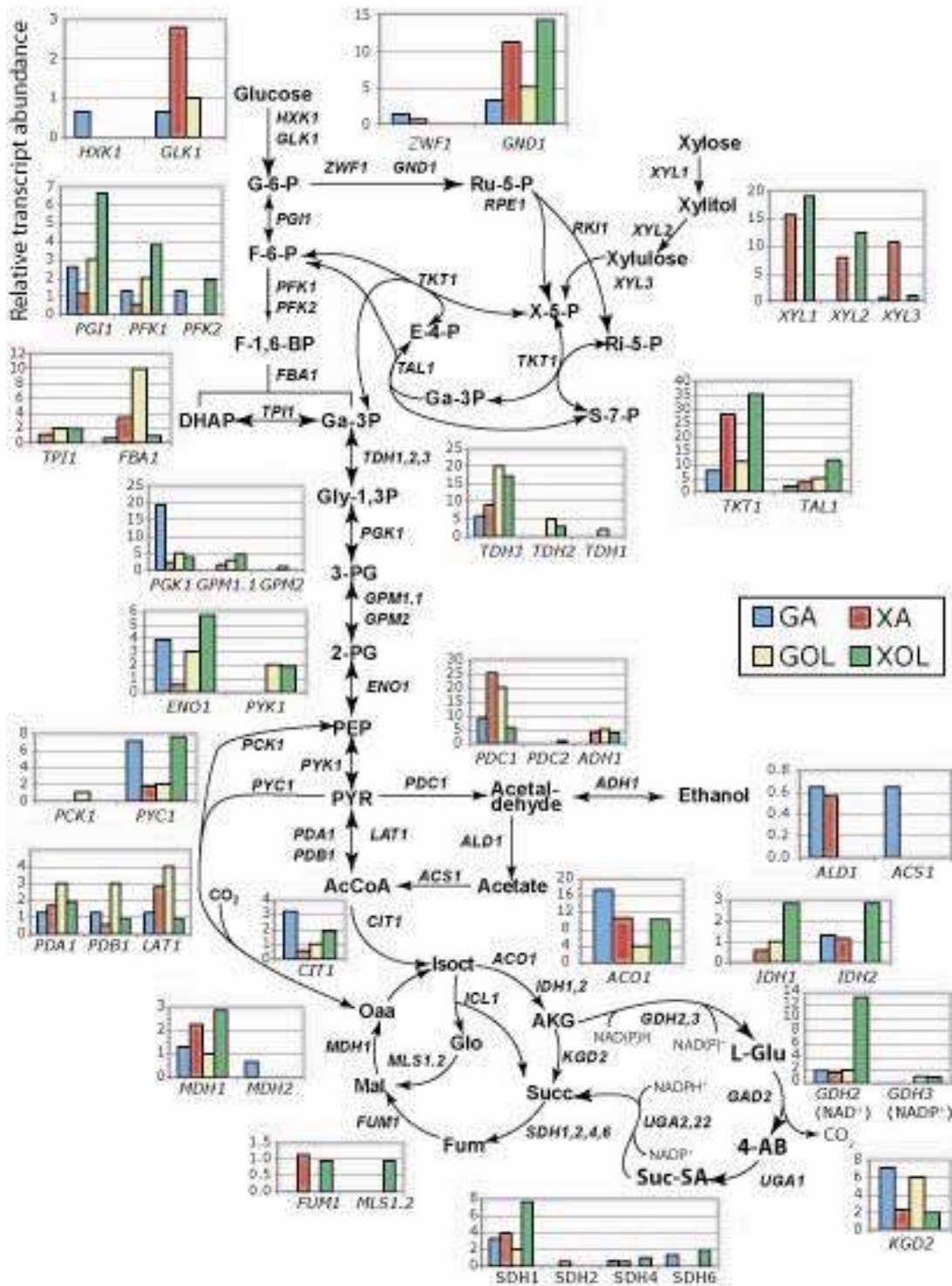
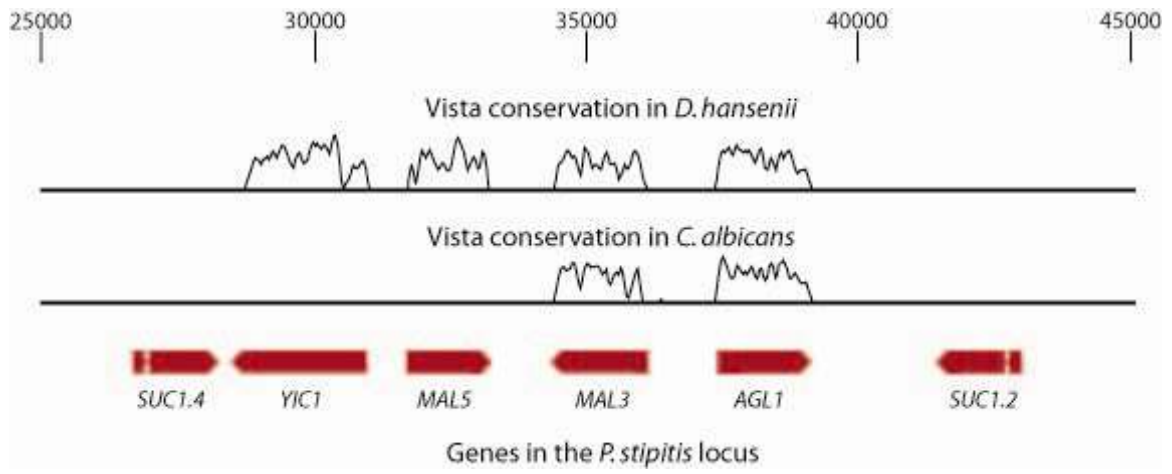
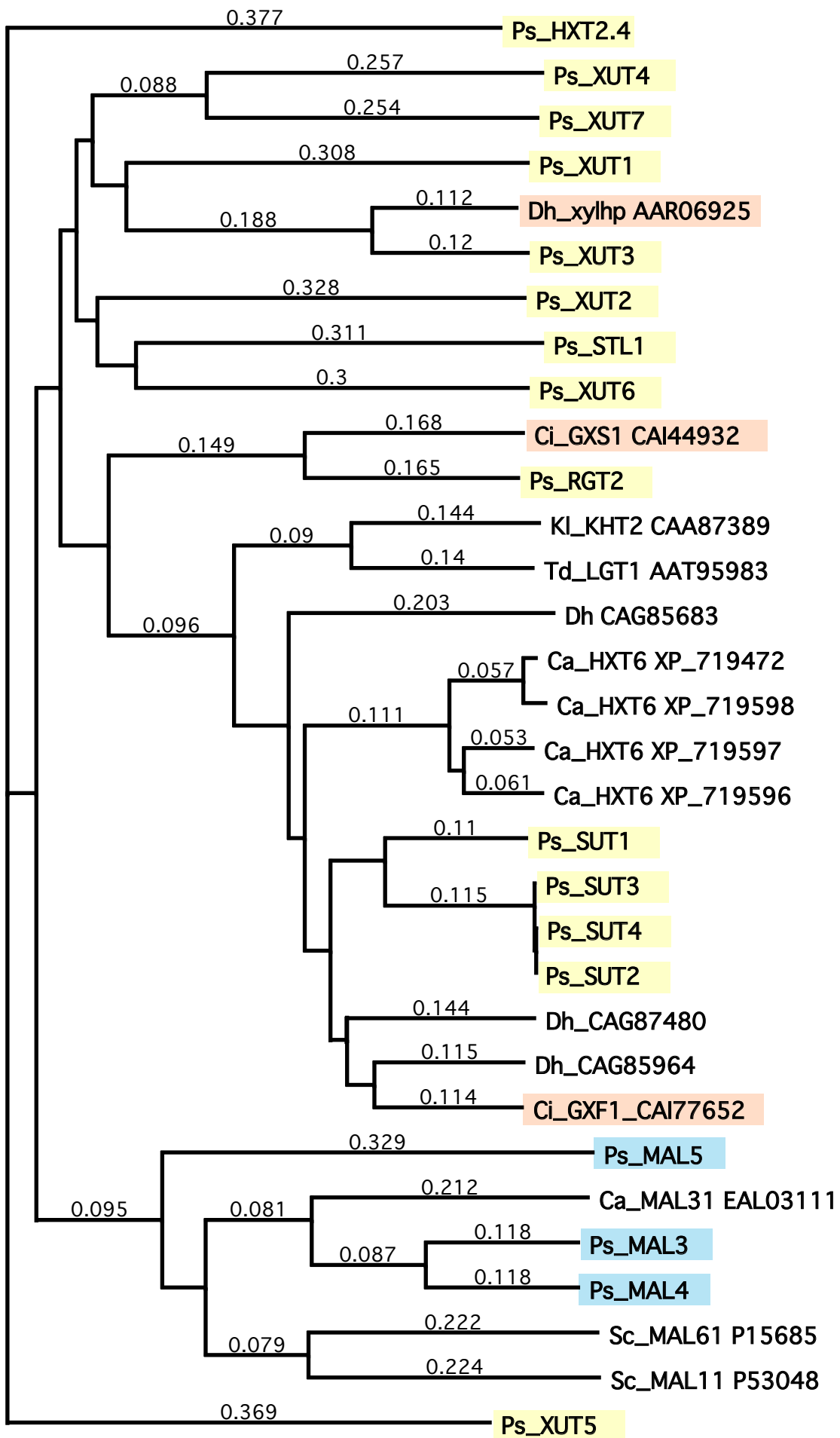


Figure 6 (Jeffries)





0.05

Figure Supplemental 1 (Jeffries)